



TOPICS NEWS

Official Publication of the
Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association Inc.
December 2012 - January 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ken & Rose Marie Robinson



The weather has been so mild that you would never know that we're into the Christmas season - if it were not for the non-stop Christmas Carols in the malls and on the radio!

What I want for Christmas is a repaired knee! For the past month or so, my dancing has been limited to the occasional tip or round dance, thanks to a case of "Baker's Cyst" (although Ken will be the first to tell you that I haven't been baking nearly enough). Oddly, this affliction is sometimes also known as "Housemaid's Knee" - and no one will accuse me of housecleaning in the extreme!

Being side-lined for a period of time gives a person an opportunity to reflect on how important square and round-dancing is to

her well-being and state of mind! We all read the studies that show again and again how dancing improves our physical fitness and mental acuity, but who knew that it would be down-right depressing to miss all the fun!

For me, this is just a temporary set-back; and in the meantime, I can attend dances and enjoy the company of friends who mean a great deal to me. I am reminded to be grateful for my general good health and to be mindful of those who, due to accident or chronic illness, cannot participate in the activities they enjoy.

We hope that during this year's festivities, we all take time to spread some Christmas cheer among those who are sick or elderly, poor or disadvantaged. And we wish you all a very



CONVENTION CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Before rumours and speculation arise, as Convention Chairman I would like the dancers to hear the news from me first that the upcoming May, 2013 Convention will be Toronto and District's LAST Convention.

The Convention Committee has seen the 'writing on the wall' for some years and knew that the Convention would come to an end sooner or later. As it happens, it's coming sooner. This decision should come as no surprise to our dancers since almost every square and round dance club is experiencing dropping enrolment and every year two or three more clubs are folding.

Therefore, it is with regret that due to declining registrations and escalating costs, the Convention Committee has made the decision to discontinue the Convention after the 2013 dance. This choice was not made lightly but it was considered prudent to

take action while we were still on top. Together, we can make our Convention one last blast rather than just letting it fade away.

I've read stories about people travelling from all over the country to participate in a 'last train ride' (the latest was the last train to Timmins, the Northlander, on September 28, 2012) Well, the last train is pulling out of the station May 3rd, 2013 after a 52 year run. Come and join us and be a part of history!

On a personal note I will be sad to see the end of the T & D Convention. I attended the first T & D Convention at the Royal York Hotel and you can bet I'll be at the last one too!

I'll see you at the party!

Dave Williamson

FROM THE REGISTRARS

By now you are aware of the Committee's decision to make 2013 Convention our Grand Finale. During the time that we have been involved, the executive have spent innumerable hours researching alternatives, discussing issues and considering options to meet the combined challenges of increased demands and reduced resources.

We are proud to be part of this small group of dedicated volunteers, working to meet the needs of an evolving dancing public. Our eight years as registrars continue to be pure enjoyment; we consider the committee members friends, and they are a pleasure to work with.

We plan to go out with a "bang" - making this an opportunity to celebrate 52 years of successes! And

so far, our dancers seem to be supporting this objective: We have had a flurry of registrations in on time to meet the discounted registration deadline, and we look forward to a well-attended "send-off".

Just a reminder: If you haven't mailed your registration yet, now is the time! By sending in your registration early, you are not just helping the square and round dance programmers - you are helping yourself. Indicate the level you plan to dance, so that we may effectively plan for adequate space requirements, helping to make your Convention experience as enjoyable as possible.

...and we'll see you on the dance floor!

Ken & Rose Marie Robinson

"Happiness is in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."

Franklin Roosevelt

CONVENTION BUSINESS MANAGERS

Jeff & Andrea Priest, Brantford, Ontario

Greetings...

We hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer!

We have been busy working on our "52nd" Convention. As I am sure you have read the Chairman's letter, you know this is the last T&D Convention, be sure to join us for the "Final – Grand Finale".

The Best Western is fully booked at this time and the other hotels are filling up quickly.

It has been brought to our attention that there is another major dance event in Guelph that same weekend and there is a chance there will not be enough rooms to go around. The River Run is hosting a competitive dance championship event from Thursday to Sunday with their expected

attendance to be in the area of 4000 people, Hotel space will be at a premium. Book Soon!

The Best Western has provided T&D with a full registration list and it appears there are some folks booked in that are not registered with us. Please be aware the hotel rooms are reserved for T & D Guests ONLY! If you are holding a room but have not sent in your dance registration to Ken & Rose Marie, PLEASE do it now!! Also, if you have reserved a room for a friend under your name please advise them to register as well. If they will not be attending please release the room as soon as possible so those who have registered with T & D can book into the hotel. Thank you in advanced for your co-operation in this.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Guelph University on May 3, 4 & 5, 2013!

REGISTER EARLY - DO IT NOW!

CONVENTION PROGRAMMERS

Jeff & Andrea Priest
Brantford, Ontario

Well...Convention plans are well underway. We have a great staff & great dance facility!

We still have room for a few more Volunteers to help out on the calling/cueing side of things. There are a number of hours available for "Support Callers/Cuers". It is our desire to program all who wish to participate. Remember the deadline is January 31, 2013. Your dancers would love to dance to you at Convention. All we ask of you is an hour or two out of 24 hours scheduled dancing. The more volunteers we have the more variety the dancers get. Be a part of history and participate on our last Convention!

We will have improved signage this year to bring dancers in from the road as well as make it easier to navigate around the building to the various dance halls.

In order to accommodate the number of dancers in

the A-2 room last year we plan to move that program to a larger room and adjust the other dance spaces as well. We believe we can satisfy the space requirements but these changes depend on PRE-Registrations. If the PRE-Registration numbers are the same as last year, we will determine no changes are required.

If you are planning on attending, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, Pre-register now, so we can program the spaces accordingly.

If you have been to Convention, you know how wonderful it is. If you haven't, this is your last chance to attend the T&D Annual International Convention. Plan on joining us for the "Final – Grand Finale"

REGISTER EARLY – DO IT NOW!!

JOINT DANCES

BLUE MOUNTAIN PROMENADERS - October 13, 2012

Submitted by David Ripley

On Saturday October 13, a joint dance with **Toronto and District Square Dance Association** and the **Blue Mountain Promenaders** was held at the Nottawasaga Community Centre where the Promenaders hold their regular dances. Participants were challenged to a full and enjoyable day with an excellent program provided by Callers **Dean Fisher** (Host) and **Doug Holmes** and this was enhanced by clear, competent Round Dance cueing by **Bob Beck** assisted by Betty Beck.

The host club received compliments from many of the dancers for the excellent staging of the event and the pleasant dance hall we have at our disposal. It was great that we were able to attract more than nine squares for the dance and nature provided some beautiful fall colours for the drive to the dance hall. Dancers came from both T&D and SWOSDA with many travelling more than 100 km.

The Club Member Team that worked on behalf of the Promenaders under the leadership of **Sheila and Wayne Bannerman** are congratulated for bringing this successful event to fruition. It was a pleasure having the enthusiastic guidance and cooperation of the T&D Association in what was required to make the event comply with acceptable standards.

Blue Mountain Promenaders are an active club and extend a warm welcome to all who would like to join us for our regular dances. Our schedule and events are available with a bit of our history at www.bluemountainpromenaders.com. Blue Mountain Promenaders have had an active club in the Collingwood area for more than **50 years**.

PETERBOROUGH HOSTS T&D DANCE – Saturday, November 10, 2012

A great afternoon was had by all who attended the joint T&D, **Lift Lock Squares** and **Otonabee Squares** dance this past Saturday afternoon. Callers **Joe Uebelacker** and **Wayne Whatman** and cuer **Bob Beck** provided an outstanding afternoon of dancing and entertainment. The music was great and the dancers enjoyed the duets provided by Wayne and Joe. This is a first dance “out” for many of the new dancers who started in September and judging by the smiling faces, they enjoyed it. The dance level was basic and mainstream, except for one plus tip at the end of the afternoon while the first group lined up for refreshments.

We had representatives from the following 10 clubs: Pairs and Squares, Trenton; Oshawa Squares, Oshawa; Triangle Squares, Toronto; Quinte Twirlers, Belleville; Pioneer Squares, Napanee; Clover Leafs, Lindsay; Niagara Round Dance Club, Thorold; Village Squares, Waterdown; and of course Lift Lock Squares and Otonabee Squares, Peterborough. If everyone had got up all at once we would have had 15 squares on the floor – a great turn out and we were very glad that we moved to a larger hall!

A highlight of the dance was the presentation of an award to **Joe Uebelacker** for **48 years** of service to the world of square dancing. On behalf of the

Ontario Federation of Square and Round Dancing, **Ken and Rose Marie Robinson** presented a **Trillium Long Service Award** to Joe Uebelacker. Joe's many accomplishments include:

- Developed and produced two-couple teach tapes for levels A1 through C3B and one tape of C4.
- Called for many US State Conventions and many festivals including our own T&D Convention.
- Recorded 8 records for Green Records. Produced and published 2 books for teachers to teach square dancing to kids; "Square Dancing for Kids of All Ages". He produced and published caller's books of A1, A2 and C1 choreography "The Best of the Canadian Connection".
- During his long career he has been club caller for 18+ clubs, in the US and Canada. He has called in every state in the US except Alaska, taught in caller schools in many States and Provinces. He founded (with Anne Uebelacker) **Triangle Squares** in Toronto 25 years ago and has **called for them for 25 years!**

- In addition to Triangle Squares, he currently calls for **Lift Lock Squares**, Peterborough and Pairs and Squares in Trenton. He has taught round dancing for over 20 years and currently runs a class in Peterborough. Gail, his wife was present at our dance for his presentation. On a personal note Joe and Gail made history when they married in a hot-air balloon in 1993! Joe is a man of many talents.

Wayne Whatman told the dancers that he had learned his calling skill from Joe.

The winners for share the wealth were **Ross Derry** from Oshawa and **Stan Lawson** from Otonabee . Winners of a **free admission to the Spring Spree Dance** next April were **Bill Widdicombe** from Oshawa and **David MacDonald** from Otonabee. Otonabee Squares gave away **two free tickets for Frosty Fling in January**; winners were **Mary Ellen Herring** and **Annette Bourie** both from Otonabee Squares.

Otonabee Squares members provided a great selection of pies while **Lift Lock** kept the coffee and tea pots going.

Many thanks to all who came out to dance – it makes all the organization worth it when we see a full hall!

CLUB REPORTS

ARROWHEAD SQUARES CLUB NEWS

submitted by Adele Pick

Arrowhead Squares is in action again after too many years of rest. We meet every Tuesday afternoon 1:30 to 3:30 pm at Christ the King Church, 475 Rathburn Rd in Etobicoke. **Aaron Goodman** has recently graduated two classes of Basic dancers and some have moved on to Mainstream.

We would love to have you come and share our wonderful activity. We always welcome new

dancers whose only recollection of square dancing is what they experienced as teenagers. A special basic--mainstream dance was scheduled for Saturday afternoon November 24, 2012 at the same location.

Won't you join us? For information please call: Aaron @ 905-896-4217 OR agvmg@rogers.com

ARROWHEAD SQUARE DANCE CLUB - SPECIAL BASIC- MAINSTREAM DANCE

What a great afternoon of dancing we had on November 24th ! **Aaron Goodman** hosted a **basic** and **mainstream** dance for all to enjoy. He claimed it was for rookie dancers and we were so happy with the turn-out. New dancers and experienced dancers arrived from their clubs. Some from Barrie, Waterdown, North York Oshawa and Etobicoke.

It was thrilling to have our new dancers hear calls from our visiting callers. **Grant Logan** from **Willow Weavers** and **Doug Holmes** from **Happy Hoppers** provided a variety of calls which

entertained everyone.

Then came a lovely spread of three tables of delicious snacks. The location in Etobicoke is very suitable as it has a large room, ample free parking , and a nice dance floor.

We are looking forward to hosting another Saturday afternoon dance here February 2, 2013. Mark your calendars for a great dance.

Submitted by Adele Pick of Arrowhead Squares

OAKVILLE ROUND DANCE CLUB CLOSES

By Bob Beck

It is with sadness that we announce the closing of our Oakville Round Dance Club on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. Declining attendance and increasing rental costs have left us in a position where we can no longer cover the cost of the evening. This is a brief history of our time in Oakville.

At the T. and D. Convention at McMaster University in May 1994, Betty and I were approached by **Mabel and Ted Nixon**, Presidents of **White Oak Square, Round and Line Dance Club**, and asked if we would like to teach Round Dancing to beginners for their club. I had been cueing rounds occasionally at Footnote Rounds and also for Swing and Whirl Square Dance Club (both in St. Catharines) for about a year. We thought that this was a good opportunity to get into teaching, so we accepted. It meant purchasing all new sound equipment from Hilton and Yak Stak, but was well worth the investment.

Our first year ended with 15 couples graduating. We continued on for a number of years at Queen Elizabeth Park School dancing in the cafeteria where Betty & I had to move all of the tables out of the way before we could set up the equipment. The room was sort of kidney shaped because of the stage and that made dancing very interesting. Our numbers continued to grow and after a couple of

years we started a second night on Thursdays to do beginners so that we could continue to advance our Tuesday night dancers. The club moved our Thursday night dancing to Eastview School on Hixon Street and we were there for a few years until the number of dancers started to decline. The club wanted to move square dancing to that school on Thursday nights and we were getting tired of going to Oakville two nights a week and also wanted to start a club in St. Catharines. By mutual agreement, we stopped teaching on Thursday nights, but kept our Tuesday night group going until the school board decided to start charging for schools. We couldn't afford what they were asking so in 2001, we departed from the White Oak Squared Dance Club and went on our own, renting the Pine Room at the Oakville Arena.

After our first year in Oakville, in 1994, we wanted to do a summer Round Dance programme. We didn't that first year, but started in the summer of 1996 at the Oakville Legion. We had a very large hall that had a fairly small dance floor and I'll always remember trying to teach 30 couples Folsom Prison Blues on that little floor. Some couples danced on the rug outside the dance floor because it was too crowded. The next two summers we were at the Seniors' Centre on Kerr Street. Here again, we had to move tables and a piano out of the way to create space, but with up to 35 couples coming out

we had to find a larger hall. We had looked at the Pine Room originally, but one of their air-conditioning units was broken and we didn't want to take a chance on a "hot" hall. By the summer of 1999, the air-conditioning unit was repaired (except occasionally when it "rained" inside from a unit that wasn't quite fixed) and we started round dancing there. In 2001 we moved the rest of our dancing there under the banner of Oakville Round Dance Club and have remained there until our closing.

For a while we had four hours a night, going from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. with various levels from beginners up to easy Phase IV. In the summer of 2005, we averaged about 35 couple per night – our best attendance – but as numbers began to drop, we started dropping time slots until we were back to two hours a night. For several years the club danced

year round with short breaks between sessions. However, over the last two or three years, we dropped first our summer dancing and then our winter dancing so that we had one session from September to December and another from April to June.

Over the last 18 ½ years, we have had the opportunity to teach round dancing to numerous people and we have made many friends. We have always tried to provide an enjoyable evening of dancing and I think for the most part we have succeeded.

To all of our dancers, past and present, Betty and I wish you good health and happiness and we want to say **"Thanks for the Memories"**.

THE ROBIN

An ancient Christmas legend concerning the Robin and his red breast --

According to the tale, the fire was burning low in the stable where Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus lay in that first, cold Christmas night. They stirred restlessly in their sleep as the cold Judean breezes chilled their weary bodies. But the Heavenly Father would let no harm come to them and sent a little brown bird to help.

The little bird flew in the window and perched on a log near the fire. He flapped his wings and fanned the coals until they caught fire and were blazing once again., the little bird's breast became redder and redder but he would not leave until the fire was safely burning and the Holy Family warm and dry.

The robin's breast has remained red ever since, and is a constant sign of his devotion to the new-born King.

*God Bless You
at Christmas*

Attention all Square Dancers who do a little round dancing...

Greetings from Jubilee Rounds in St. Jacobs

Jubilee Round dance club is a great place for “dancers who dance squares with a few rounds” to enjoy some more floor time. Our night consists of mostly phase II with some phase III dances so it’s really like a Round Dance Party that you would enjoy before a square dance. We do all the same rounds that you would find at a square dance, making it a very comfortable evening for “square dancers who round dance”. Coffee and cookies are available throughout the night for those who want a sit-out a dance or two. Come on out and give us a try!

Jubilee will be having our Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13. For this special night, we will be starting at 7:00 pm and dancing until 9:30. We will take a break during the evening to enjoy some pot-luck finger foods provided by our club members. We have decided again this year to dress just a little upscale for the night so if you own some bling – bring it on!

And, if you don’t, you might want to bring out your “red & green” for a festive appearance! There will be many seasonal music selections on the program for your enjoyment. Remember visitors are always welcome.

The SWOSDA executive have approved a change in

the monthly SWOSDA dances that will see a program change. The dances will begin at 2:00 pm with a half hour round dance teach. The Square and Round Dance Program will start at 2:30 and alternate Mainstream and Plus Tips with a round during the caller changes. We hope that all of you fellow round dancers, will come out at 2:00 and support this new format.

We are still at St. James Lutheran Church in beautiful St. Jacobs on Thursday nights. Last week on our dance night, St Jacobs celebrated their “Twinkle” which is when most of the merchants turn on their Christmas lights & music. Our regular phase II & III dancing is 7:30 – 9:30pm. Feel free to come at 7:00 and join in with our new dancers. Or better yet, feel free to come early for dinner in town and take pleasure in a very lovely time of year in St. Jacobs before enjoying a great night of Round Dancing!

For info: Andrea or Jeff at 1-519-752-2172 or andrea@jeffreypriest.com
Printable flyers are on our website: www.jeffreypriest.com

Happy dancing!
Jeff Priest ☺

KINDNESS

That best portion of a good man’s life, his little,
nameless, unremembered, acts of kindness of love’
William Wordsworth

How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches
it. J. Elliston

Kind words are the .music of the world.
J. W. Faber

Do not forget little kindnesses, and do not remember

small faults. Chinese Proverb

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard
battle. Plato

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never
know how soon it will be too late.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Every act of love is a work of peace no matter how
small. Mother Teresa

SHADOWLIGHT DANCE CLUB

Greetings! Wow.... what great weather we have been enjoying.

ShadowLight presents two daytime clubs / weekly dances for your enjoyment: Our daytime A-1 club in Cambridge on Monday afternoon is going well. However, we do have room for a few more bodies if you wish to join us. It is a progressive teach but if you are knowledgeable on the A-1 calls, you are more than welcome to come out for some additional floor time.

On Wednesday afternoons we usually dance 3-4 squares of A-2 in Brampton. This year we have been working a lot of positional figures as well as “All 4 Couples & All 8” figures. Again, if you are knowledgeable on the A-2 program, please feel free to join us.

ShadowLight hosted a Ballroom Style Line Dance event on November 3rd. This was a great success with 35 dancers attending to enjoy a great afternoon of learning, dancing & wonderful music. That evening we also hosted a “Funtime Event” called FunBadge Frenzie. This too was a great party with many participants. The dancers enjoyed some great tips with Jeff who gave them the opportunity to earn some “dangles” for doing some special activities while dancing. The dangles that were presented were: Church Mouse, Stinker, Venus, Double Trouble, Rooster and Lefty. Be sure to pick up the Fun Badge sheets on your local flyer table and join in the fun!!

ShadowLight Enterprises is very involved in introducing Square, Round and Line dancing to

various Non-Dancing groups all through the year. Keep us in mind if you know of a group that might be interested in a “Square Dance Party – Round Dance Party or Line Dance Party. We do many private parties for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings and pre-wedding party’s, as well as “just because parties”

ShadowLight is also very involved in introducing current dancers to various aspects of the dance movement. We have held sessions on Hex Dancing, Rectangle Dancing and 2 Couple dancing and Line Dancing. So if you’re one of the more adventurous, progressive or just downright inquisitive dancers come out and join us for a new experience.

Watch for our next FunTime Event in the new year! Many dancers who have attended before will be eligible for their half-price admission. Why not join us and work towards yours!

Jeff sends out an email with our schedule on a weekly basis. Many dancers find it invaluable when planning their weekly dance outings. If you would like to receive this, please drop us a quick email at jeff@jeffreypriest.com and he will add you to our list of recipients.

Happy Dancing and More – Much More!

Andrea & Jeff Priest
ShadowLight Dance Club
www.shadowlightdance.com
519-752-2172

“Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to.”

Henry Van Dyke

“Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.”

Henry Ford

WATERDOWN VILLAGE SQUARES

Presidents' Message

The daily news has been quite disturbing lately with all the turmoil and killing in the Mideast. It seems ironic as we enter the Christmas season celebrating events of more than two thousand years ago in that same region. For us, during this time of year, the greatest stressors are shopping for that perfect gift and finding a parking spot at the malls. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for.

At **Waterdown Village Squares** we know that the annual **Christmas Potluck** dinner, carol sing and dance **for all levels** will be as wonderful as ever. We will sit down to a veritable feast fit for a king. The songs will be joyous and the dancing merry. Be sure you have **Dec 17th** marked on your calendar. Many of us will welcome 2013 with our annual **New Years Eve** dance. This year Jim Lee will not be available. We are fortunate that **Jeff and Andrea Priest** will be able to join us to call and to cue. Once again we can expect to sit down to a sumptuous feast while we kid ourselves that we can

burn off the calories with an evening of spirited dancing. Even better: We'll feel great the next morning!

Looking forward to 2013, we can look forward to the **Snow Bunny Dance** for Basic and Mainstream dancers on **January 26th**, the **Beef a la King** for Plus and A1 on **February 23rd**, and **T&D Joint Dance** for Plus and A1 on **April 6th**. Why would anyone go south?

Watch the bulletin board or our website <http://www.waterdownvillagesquares.ca> for details on these and all the other events coming up. Make sure you get all the **dancing and "yellow rocks"** you can handle!

We wish you all a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

Ken & Rose Marie

GUELPH'S ROYAL CITY SQUARES

By Ruth Slavin & Yvonne Patterson

Season's Greetings! Most of us, regardless of our backgrounds, have some holiday to celebrate in the upcoming weeks. For we dancers there are many fun-sounding events including Royal City Square's "Formals Night". Dig out that bridesmaid dress or grandpa's kilt you never thought you'd wear and swan yourself to Paisley Road gym on Wednesday, December 14. If you don't feel like dressing up or don't have time, that's fine. Many don't, but as Caller Jeff always reminds us, "Fancy dress is optional, clothing is not". Come join us. We guarantee a good time.

Our singing call nights are always great fun. Take a look at photos from our Hallowe'en party on October 31 showing Mme president Susan Klein

flanked by Chef Debbie McKinnon and Pirate Laura Bailey or Louise Watson as a wonderful witch.

Elora retrieved their banner with the usual laughter and fanfare. Their visit always causes a flurry of activity in Guelph's kitchens as our members attempt but always fail to match Elora's famous groaning board of goodies.

We'll talk again next year, but meanwhile, countering goodie over consumption with lots of dancing actually works!

Happy Holidays!
Royal City Squares Executive

"Motivation is a fire from within. If someone else tries to light that fire under you, chances are it will burn very briefly."

BLUE MOUNTAIN PROMENADER'S – Ryerson Picot honoured by Blue Mountain Promenaders:

By Dorothy Hiltz & David Ripley

On November 7, 2012, **Blue Mountain Promenaders** took time from our dance schedule to pay tribute to **Ryerson Picot**. Rye was honoured with a '**Life Membership**' in our square dance club. Rye has been with us since the beginning when dancing attempts were being made to form a club in 1954. Informal dances were being held in private homes in the Collingwood area. In September of 1958 a corp of 8 couples from this group formed into a club and officially took on the name Blue Mountain Promenaders in January of 1959.

Several members of the group took a try at calling with **Lorne Hay** taking the reigns in 1961 and continuing for the next 8 years. From 1968 to 1975 Rye and his late wife, Ina, taught Square Dance to beginners to help the club grow.



Rye has been president of our club three times and has served on many other executive positions always willing to pitch in and do more than his part.

Rye and his dear friend, Rose, continue to be regular active members of our club. Rye's association with our club has lasted more than fifty years and he and Rose Square Dance at the Plus level and are doing most of the club level round dances. They are both true inspirations to our club and are living proof that there is “**youth preserving magic**” in Square Dancing.

The Official Presentation was made by Vice President, **Darrel Muirhead**. Darrel's father, Austin, is the only other club member to receive this honour from Blue Mountain Promenaders. Austin and his wife were teaching round dancing while Rye was teaching Square Dancing.

ODE TO A VOLUNTEER

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there's a special place in Heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no committee chairperson
No group leaders or carpools.

No eager team that needs a coach
No bazaar with a bake sale
There will be nothing to staple

Not one thing to fold or mail,
Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
And rare treats fit for a king.

You'll ask, who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?
Why all those who reaped benefits,
And not once volunteered on earth.

Author Unknown

“Do what you love and love what you're doing and you will never have to work another day in your life.”

OTONABEE SQUARES WELCOMES NEW DANCERS

These are exciting times for Otonabee Squares right now with new & seasoned dancers' enthusiasm abounding. Several fun dances lined up for the cold weather months ahead ... we hope to see you out and about!

Our Mainstream Blitz, held on Saturday, Oct. 20th, an all-day session whereby all 17 moves were taught by caller/teacher Wayne Whatman, was very successful with 5 squares in attendance. Visitors from other clubs included Oshawa Squares and Lift Lock Squares. A light lunch was served at half time. All Mainstream members are now able to dance with workshopping as needed on our regular club nights ... no more teaching offered on regular club nights. 14 of our dancers joined together at a Chinese Buffet for dinner following the Blitz.

On Sunday, Oct. 21st, we held our monthly Mainstream dance. Our caller was Wayne Whatman. We had 5 squares in attendance, including several visitors from Quinte Twirlers of Belleville, Lift Lock Squares of Peterborough, Happy Hoppers of Newmarket, and Oshawa Squares. It was a great opportunity for our newest Mainstream dancers to practice what was taught on the preceding day. Wayne sure did put us through our paces! Several of our dancers joined together to eat dinner at Swiss Chalet following the dance.

Saturday, Nov. 10th we will be co-hosting with Lift Lock Squares the T & D Joint Dance from 2PM to 5PM. The venue has been changed from Westdale United Church on Sherbrooke Street to Crestwood Secondary School, 1885 Sherbrooke St. W., Peterborough. In addition to Otonabee & Lift Lock dancers, there will be representatives from T & D and the Ontario Federation and we hope to have many visitors from other clubs. Wayne Whatman and Joe Uebelacker will be calling and dance levels alternating between Basic and Mainstream. This dance is for ALL of our dancers. Otonabee Squares will be providing pies for refreshments.

Our New Years Eve Dinner & Dance December 31st ... Plans are well underway with more than half of our tickets purchased already. This will be a roast beef dinner & dance starting at 6:30PM and culminating just after midnight when all of our dancers will ring in the New Year and toast each other in celebration. Dance levels will be Basic & Mainstream with Wayne Whatman calling. We are optimistic there will be an impressive number of dancers in attendance for this, another first, for Otonabee Squares. Singles and couples welcome. Cost is \$25 pp. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For all other inquiries, contact Sharon @ 705-743-8699. Hope to see you there!

We invite you all to join us for our annual Frosty Fling, which will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27th from 2PM to 5PM. Dance levels will be Basic and Mainstream with callers Wayne Whatman and Aaron Goodman. This dance will be followed by a fantastic lunch. Please come out and join in the fun!

We are also currently gathering names of interested parties who wish to take square dance lessons in January 2013. It is presently our custom to offer lessons in September and January, and so far has worked well for our club. We plan to teach outside of regular club nights for about 6 weeks, possibly ending this 6-week session with an all-day Saturday teach before bringing the two groups together. Of course, the brand new dancers will have met and danced with several angels from our regular club during their 6-week session.

Be sure and check out our website at www.otonabeesquares.org or e-mail us at otonabeesquares@gmail.com
All in all, we are looking forward to a successful, fun, and exciting new year ahead. Happy dancing!

Sandy Martin, co-president
Otonabee Squares of Peterborough

Kindness: The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.

Albert Schweitzer

NEW DANCER CLASS IN PETERBOROUGH - January 8th, 2013

Beginning on Tuesday, January 8th, **Otonabee Squares** will be sponsoring a 6 week session for new square dancers. These are outside our regular club dance. Our dancers have indicated that they do not want to be taken back to absolute beginner teach sessions twice a year.

Joe Uebelacker will be teaching this class and it is hoped that when they are integrated into the club at the end of the session, the other dancers will help them with what they have learned and the integration will be hopefully, seamless! (We did a January class last year outside club time but we felt our 4 week session was not sufficient)

If other clubs have potential new dancers who do

not want to wait until next September, it is an opportunity for them to join in these lessons and at the end they can all return to their local clubs. Subject to the students' agreement, a full daytime Saturday session may be added towards the end of the 6 week session.

These lessons will be held at Keith Wightman Public School, 860 St. Mary's St, Peterborough from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. The cost for 6 lessons will be \$30per person payable in advance. Pre-registration is necessary. Angels attend free. Contact **Jean Lander** 905 342 5450 or email hjlander@gmail.com

HEARING ASSIST SYSTEM

By Bob Wysocki

Hello to all

I purchased the hearing assist system in August and have been using it on my TV at home. It works better than the wireless headphones that I've been using up till now.

Last night was the first opportunity I had to use it at a dance. The acoustics at the hall are not that great and it seemed to be worse after they urethaned the floor. Using the hearing assist was just great. The tone and the clarity of the calls made it very enjoyable.

It was great for the first two tips and then I had very bad static in the headphones. I was using noise cancelling headphones and rechargeable batteries in the portable battery pack. It was determined that it was the fault of the battery pack. When I used the wall power-supply everything went back to normal and the system functioned great.

The problem was that I had just bought new metal hydrate rechargeable batteries and just charged them once, and they did not accept a proper full charge and ran down very quickly.

Tips

Use the wall power supply, or, ensure that the batteries, if rechargeable are fully charged.

Use the music and voice output from the callers audio

I'd like to thank Bryan Henry for his patience and help getting me set up properly.

Thanks Dave for your help getting this system to me.

I can highly recommend this system for those dancers that need a bit of assistance determining the clarity of the calls. I know I'm going to enjoy mine.

Thanks to all

Bob

Note: The sound enhancement system is being circulated to a variety of T & D clubs for trial runs. Contact Dave Williamson if you are interested in trying the system at your club. drwcaller@gmail.com

ROUND DANCES TAUGHT

Bob & Betty Beck - Thorold, ON

I Can't Believe – Phase IV – Foxtrot (Beck)
Back in Baby's Arms - Phase III + 1 - Cha (Helton)

Mary Hinkle - Grand Island, N.Y.

Christmas Wishes - Phase III+2 - Waltz (Speranzo)
First Flowers - Phase III - Waltz (Nelson)
Song of My Life - Phase II - Waltz (Nakaseko-Cho)
You Butterfly - Phase II - Two-Step (Wolff)
Why Don't We Just Dance - Phase II+2 - Two-Step (Bertram)
Back In Baby's Arms - Phase III+1 - Cha (Helton)



**Deadline for next TOPICSNEWS Newsletter
Saturday, January 12, 2013**

The next issue will cover February - March. . Please be sure to get your events into the newsletter. Thank you to all Clubs and Dancers who have contributed to the newsletter. Remember, I will be looking for your flyers, club reports, and any items of interest. Also, watch for your events on the website: www.td-dance.ca Also, please let me know if I have missed anything. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Betty

COMING EVENTS

Saturday December 15, 2012: Christmas Plus and Mainstream Dance hosted by **Lift Lock Squares**, 7:00 to 10:00 pm. **NEW LOCATION:** *George Street United Church corner of George and McDonnell Streets* Peterborough ON, Caller **Joe Uebelacker** For information call 905-342-5450 or e-mail hjlander@gmail.com

Monday, December 17, 2012 Christmas Pot Luck & Dance at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown. Pot Luck at 6:30 p.m. followed by a sing-a-long and Class, Mainstream, Plus & A-1 dancing with **Jim Lee & Bill Everett** from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Bring a salad, a main course or a dessert for 8 people. Cost Members - \$10.00 and non members - \$12.00. For information visit the website at www.waterdownvillagesquares.ca

Monday, December 31, 2012: NEW YEARS EVE Square Dance at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre St., Thornhil, Ontario. Dance Basics, Plus, A-1 and Rounds from 8:00 pm to after Midnight with **Grant Logan** calling. For information call Ann & Grant Logan at 905-709-9241 or e-mail grant.logan@3web.com Sponsored by **Willowdale Willow Weavers Square Dance Club.**

Monday, Dec 31, 2012 : NEW YEAR'S EVE Dinner and Dance. George Street United Church, cnr George and McDonnell Sts, Peterborough. Starting 6:30pm. Basic (included September basics) and Mainstream. Hosted by Otonabee Squares. Caller Wayne Whatman. \$25.00 per person. For tickets contact Sharon 705-743-8699 or email - coolnan@cogeco.ca

Monday, December 31, 2012: NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. with dancing **Mainstream, Plus** and **A-1** with **Jeff Priest** and **Andrea Priest** doing rounds starting at 9:30 p.m. into the New Year. Get your tickets early, maximum 12 squares. **Advanced ticket sales only.** Cost: members \$22.50 per person and non-members \$25.00 per person. For information or tickets contact Bill Turnbull at 905-878-9573 or tickets@waterdownvillagesquares.ca. or contact Rose Marie or Ken Robinson at 519-448-3842 or president@waterdownvillagesquares.ca

Sunday, January 13, 2013: Mainstream Dance from 2:00 - 4:30 pm. with caller **Grant Logan**. Hosted by **Otonabee Squares**, George Street United Church, corner of George and McDonnell Streets, Peterborough. \$5.00 per person. See www.otonabeesquares.org Phone 705-743-2072 for information.

Saturday, January 26, 2013: Waterdown Village Squares invite you to their Annual **Snow Bunny Dance** at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown. Dance **Basic & Mainstream** with **Bill Everett** calling from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. **Advance ticket sales only.** Cost: Members - \$10.00 and non-members - \$12.00. For information or tickets contact Bill Turnbull at 905-878-9573 or tickets@waterdownvillagesquares.ca or Hazell Collins at 905-627-4284 or Mark and Laura Proctor at 905-544-5274. Visit our website at www.waterdownvillagesquares.ca

Sunday, January 27, 2013:- 4th Annual Frosty Fling hosted by **Otonabee Squares**. 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. Callers: **Aaron Goodman** and **Wayne Whatman**. **Basic** and **Mainstream**. Westdale United Church hall, 1509 Sherbrooke St. W., Peterborough. See website -- www.otonabeesquares.org or call 705-741-2582 for more information

Saturday, February 2, 2013: A Joint Special Dance is presented by **Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association** and **Arrowhead Squares** at The Church of Christ the King, 465 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke, Ontario. Dance **Mainstream & Plus** with **Aaron Goodman** (host) and **Barry Clasper** 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$7.00 per person. For information call Aaron Goodman at 905-896-4217 or e-mail agvmg@roigers.com or Tom & Marion Petersen at 905-824-4647 or e-mail tom@tomar.ca or marion.petersen@gmail.com

Saturday, February 9, 2013: **New Dancers' Valentine's Dance** sponsored by the **Willow Weavers Square Dance Club** and called by **Grant Logan** and attending callers. Dance is geared to new dancers who started in Sept 2012 but all dancers welcome. Dance from 7:00 - 9:45 p.m. at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre Street, Thornhill, Ontario. For information call Ann and Grant Logan at 905-709-9241 or e-mail grant.logan@3web.com

Sunday, February 17, 2013: **Mainstream Dance** 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. Caller **Barry Clasper**. Hosted by **Otonabee Squares** at George Street United Church, corner of George and McDonnell Sts, Peterborough, Ontario. www.otonabeesquares.org. Phone 705-743-2072 for information.

Saturday, February 23, 2013: **Waterdown Village Squares** invite you to their Annual **Beef a La King Dance** at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. followed by Plus & A-1 Squares and Rounds with **Jim Lee calling**. **Advance tickets only**. Cost members - \$15.00 and non-members - \$17.50 per person. Contact Bill Turnbull for tickets at 905-878-9573 or tickets@waterdownvilagesquares.ca or contact Jamie Whitewood at 905-878-4005 or Sue Gaetan at 905-878-3052. Visit our website at www.waterdownvillagesquares.ca

Saturday, March 2, 2013: A Joint Special Dance is presented by **Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association** and **Royal City Squares** at Trinity United Church, 400 Stevenson Street North, Guelph, Ontario. Dance **Mainstream & Plus** with **Jeff Priest & Dave Williamson** (co-hosts) and **Rounds** with **Andrea Priest** from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (Round dance party from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.) Cost is \$9.00 per person. For information call Jim Neville at 519-824-7615 or e-mail jneville@sympatico.ca or Tom & Marion Petersen at 905-824-4647 or e-mail tom@tomar.ca or marion.petersen@gmail.com Further information is on the T. and D. Website www.td-dance.ca

Saturday, April 6, 2013: A Joint Special Dance is presented by **Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association** and **Waterdown Village Squares** at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown with Callers **Jim Lee** (host) and **Wayne Hall** doing **Plus & A-1 Squares** and cuer, **Jerry & Bonnie Callen** doing **Rounds** from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with a Round Dance Party from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$9.00 per person. For information call Ken & Rose Marie Robinson at 519-448-3842 or e-mail k.j.robinson@sympatico.ca or rwoodley000@sympatico.ca or Tom & Marion Petersen at 905-824-4647 or e-mail tom@tomar.ca or marion.petersen@gmail.com or check out our T. and D. Website at www.td-dance.ca

Saturday April 13, 2012: **New Dancers Hoedown** hosted by the **Willowdale Willow Weavers** at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre St. Thornhill. 7-9:45 followed by refreshments. Called by Grant Logan & attending callers. \$7.00 person. More info, call Ann Logan 905-709-9241 or email grant.logan@3web.com.

Saturday, April 20, 2013: Lift Lock Squares invite you to their **51st Annual Spring Spree** at Crestwood Secondary School, 1885 Sherbrooke Street West, Peterborough, Ontario. Featured Callers this year are **Don Moger, Dave Hutchinson, Jim Lee & Joe Uebelacker** with Round Dance Leaders, **Jerry & Bonnie Callen**, cueing rounds in the Plus and A-1 rooms, with a Round Dance party at 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. There are several rooms of dancing featuring **Basic, Mainstream, Plus & A-1** dancing. Dance from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. For information call Anne & Wayne Hare at 705-743-3077 or e-mail wayne.hare@sympatico.ca Register early.

Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5, 2013: Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association is very pleased to present our **52nd International Square and Round Dance Convention** at University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1. Dance Squares (Mainstream to A-2) with our wonderfully talented staff: **Steve Edlund**, Surrey, BC, **Jerry Jestin**, Pflugerville, TX, our own **Jeff Priest**, Brantford, ON, and **Ken Ritucci**, Springfield, MA. Dance Rounds (Phase II to VI) with **George & Pam Hurd**, Gilmer TX, and **Mark & Pam Prow**, Seabrook, TX. Dance rooms are all hardwood floors and all under one roof! For information and flyers contact Tom & Marion Petersen at 905-824-4647 or e-mail tom@tomar.ca or marion.petersen@gmail.com Register early, the host hotel, The Best Western, is filling up fast. See our website www.td-dance.ca for all the details on hotels, dance programs, etc. Hope to see you there.

Saturday May 25, 2013: New Dancers WINDUP. A party for new graduates & friends. Sponsored by the **Willow Weavers** and called by **Grant Logan** and attending callers. Dance the full **BASIC** program from 7:00 - 9:45 p.m. at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre Street, Thornhill., Ontario. For information contact Ann & Grant Logan at 905-709-9241 or e-mail grant.logan@3web.com Cost: \$14.00 per couple/\$7.00 solo. **Bring along friends from MS, Plus, etc.**

Friday, June 7 to Sunday, June 9, 2013: Western Ontario Weekend Committe is very pleased to present **Susi & Gert-Jan Rotscheid**, from Zeist, The Netherlands, at our **18th Western Ontario Round Dance Weekend** at John Paul Secondary School, Oxford & Highbury Avenue, London, Ontario. Susi & Gert-Jan will be Teaching Phase III, IV & V and cueing Phase III to VI dances from Friday at 8:00 p.m. to Sunday at 12:00 noon. Cost is \$165.00 per couple which includes Saturday Lunch and Dinner with coffee breaks. The Host Hotel is the Airport Inn & Suites, 2230 Dundas St. E, London, ON. Ask for the "dancer weekend rates". For information call Bob & Betty Beck at 905-227-7264 or e-mail rbeck9@cogeco.ca. The flyers are available on the T. and D. Website www.td-dance.ca

Wednesday, June 26 to Saturday, June 29, 2013: 62nd National Square Dance Convention, Oklahoma City, OK, U.S.A. **"The Sooner the Better"** For Info Call Registration office at 405-381-3164 or e-mail: vcregistration@62nsdc.com or visit their web site at www.62ndnsdc.com



May you all be blessed with the gifts of peace and joy this Christmas & a very happy, healthy New Year. Betty & Bob

SQUARE DANCE HANDBOOKS

Basic/Mainstream – \$2.60

Plus – \$2.00

Mailing costs are extra. Please contact Bob Beck if you wish to order books.

Bob Beck
905-227-7264
or e-mail: rbeck9@cogeco.ca

WANTED: WRITERS

Amateur writers wanted to participate in writing an article on Square dancing--as to it's Fun--- health factors and social aspects.

If you are interested please send an e-mail to Aaron Goodman at agvmg@rogers.com

We need your help, as I am not a good writer, but I will certainly work on getting our thoughts out to non-dancers and organizations.

Please don't pass up this chance to help increase square dance knowledge to non-dancers.

Aaron Goodman agvmg@rogers.com



**Toronto & District
Square & Round Dance Association Inc.
The 52nd International
Square & Round Dance Convention
May 3, 4 & 5, 2013
At University of Guelph,
50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON**

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?
Why not DO IT TODAY?**

**If you need flyers, or information, please contact
Tom & Marion Petersen 905-824-4647 or e-mail: tom@tomar.ca
Or Ken & Rose Marie Robinson
519-448-3842 or k.j.robinson@sympatico.ca**

Hi Betty

A dancer friend in Tennessee recently broke her ankle and wrote this poem. With her permission, I am forwarding it to you thinking you might want to include it in Topics. Jean Lander

Say a prayer, a heartfelt plea
That I'm excused by my MD!
Dance partner called and Asheville bound
Heart skipped a beat ...I heard it pound!

I'm tired of thumping here and there
And using walker 'stead of chair
I want to dance, I want to bike.
And paddle some, and ride a bike.

And it's October of all things

And autumn colors my heart sings.
I need my freedom, need to shout...
I need to whirl and twirl and weave about!

So put a plug in for my plight
And get me dancing day and night!
I thank you for each wishful thought
And hope your words are not for naught!

By Joanne Hayden
Tennessee

ANNOUNCEMENT

To: **All Ontario Federation Associations, Clubs,
and Dancers**

Re: **2013 Ontario Federation
Membership/Insurance**

Effective January 1, 2013 Membership in the Ontario Federation will include Third Party Liability Insurance provided by the Intact Insurance Company. This new policy will provide the same coverage as previously provided by the Canadian Society.

Third Party Liability Insurance coverage, until this year, was provided through membership in the

Canadian Square & Round Dance Society. Because of administrative concerns and the Federation commitment to its members to provide Insurance it was necessary that The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation arrange for a new policy to ensure those that require insurance will have it.

Membership in the Ontario Federation will not include membership in the Canadian Society at this time. In the meantime all other benefits obtained through Federation membership will remain the same.

Questions on this subject can be answered by your Association representative or you can contact me directly.

Peter Piazza
Treasurer/Membership Director
OSRDF
peterpiazza@sympatico.ca

Wayne & Sharron Hall - 905-641-1872 or
e-mail: whall3@cogeco.ca or
Ken & Rose Marie Robinson- 519-448-3842
e-mail k.j.robinson@sympatico.ca or
rwoodley000@sympatico.ca

Kindness

“On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it.”

Jules Reward

DON'T LET HEARING DIFFICULTIES SPOIL YOUR DANCING ENJOYMENT!

Deluxe FM Personal Listening Systems and the compatible Digital Tuning FM radio receivers are now available through Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Association Inc.

T&D is dealing directly with the supplier from whom the EOSARDA clubs have ordered the same hearing assist equipment. They have reported huge success, and our intent is to encourage the use of the systems province-wide. The benefits are obvious - dancers who invest in the personal receivers will be able to "tune in" to any caller or cuer who is using the Listening System, thus enhancing their dancing pleasure!

Some dancers have chosen to purchase the entire

FM Personal Listening System for their personal use, as they can be used with your television, stereo or computer system.

The systems will be operating at each of the T & D Joint Dances (see "Upcoming Events in this publication), where you will have an opportunity to "test drive" a receiver. T&D member clubs are encouraged to borrow the system for evaluation by your caller/cuer and dancers - arrangements may be made with Dave Williamson @ (905) 451-5059. The Listening Systems will also be in use at our annual Convention. You may order the equipment by mailing in the order form below, or by contacting Ken & Rose Marie Robinson at (519) 448-3842 or k.j.robinson@sympatic.ca.

To: Ken & Rose Marie Robinson
P.O.Box 53
St. George, ON N0E 1N0

Deluxe FM Personal Listening System
(Transmitter and receiver)

No. _____ x \$ 180.00 = _____

Digital Tuning FM radio/ALD 72-72 MHz
FM Receiver

No. _____ x \$ 70.00 = _____

(Prices include taxes & duty.)

TOTAL: _____

*Please enclose cheque payable to **T & D Association.***

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

2012 - 2013 EXECUTIVE

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