



TOPICS NEWS

Official Publication of the
Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association Inc.
October - November 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ken & Rose Marie Robinson

It happened on Thorncliffe Park Drive in East York: On Saturday, a nine-year-old boy stepped out in front of a bus that had stopped to pick up passengers. As he stepped toward the centre of the road, he was struck by a Lincoln Town Car and dragged nearly 15 metres. A crowd of witnesses rushed to help as he lay pinned beneath the vehicle, and several of the strangers banded together to lift the vehicle off the child. The boy was taken to Sick Kids hospital and it is believed that his injuries are serious but not life-threatening.

It is certainly remarkable what people can do when they work together! In our square and round dancing circles, we are often presented with examples of this. Our club executives meet to plan and execute plans for the dancing year. Your Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Association Inc. ("T&D") executive, and each Association in the province, across Canada, and ultimately around the world, work together to seek opportunities to promote our activity and meet the challenges of keeping current with a changing demographic. The results may be far less dramatic than the headlines, but they are nevertheless significant.

On September 15th and 16th, T&D and our neighbouring association, Square and Round Dancers of South Western Ontario Inc. ("SWOSDA") joined together at St. George, Ontario, to entertain for the annual Apple Festival. Callers included **Jim Lee, Dan Weatherby, Wayne Hall** and **Dave Williamson**, M.C. for the event. **Dave Williamson** and **Sharron Hall** cued rounds. Dancers representing Brantford Village Squares,

Galt Swinging Eights, Kitchener Guys'n'Dolls, Waterdown Village Squares, and Woodstock's Thames Valley Squares came out to support this promotional initiative - and we were not disappointed! Thousands of people flock to this event each year, and a good many joined our audience and took home club flyers. **Thank you to everyone who participated, by calling, cueing and dancing - we did it together!**

As reported in the previous edition of Topics, your T&D executive envisions a cross-association initiative with respect to hearing assistance in our dance halls. We are not re-inventing the wheel, but rather adopting the use of a system which has been successfully used in EOSARDA (Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association) venues. The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation is also supportive of this project, hoping to extend it province-wide. In this issue, you will find an order form, and dancers will have an opportunity to try out the system at T&D joint dances, beginning in Collingwood on October 13th. **We are very grateful to the people who conducted the initial inquiries and assessments that led to the selection of this system, and for them sharing their findings with us!**

Our world is getting ever smaller, and the key to keeping our square and round dancing organizations dynamic and relevant is working together and maintaining good communication - among individuals and groups. Together we can accomplish things that would be difficult or even impossible individually!

CLUB REPORTS

GUELPH'S ROYAL CITY SQUARES NEWS

In celebration of our **50th year**, **Royal City Squares** invited all members whom we could find, past and present, to an August potluck/cornroast. It was wonderful to get caught up with current dancers and others who hadn't danced in many years. Over 60 people turned up at Ennotville library to join the party with **Dave Williamson**, who has been calling for the club for ?? years there to put us through our paces.

Two sets of dancers from the **Elora Grand Squares** and our club, did a demo at **Fergus Fall Fair** with **Jeff Priest** engaging the crowd. We handed out about 200 flyers for both of the clubs and had a great time doing it.

Our club didn't get enough Basic and Mainstream dancers enrolled to run the class under the umbrella of Continuing Education so we're back to running the Tuesday night dancing on our own and looking for ways to raise enough money to continue to hold two nights of dancing. **Dave Williamson** keeps two enthusiastic sets laughing as they dance – double exercise!

Wednesday night dancing got off to a good start with **Beaux and Belles**, Kitchener, there to steal our banner. They got it, but not without a struggle!

Wednesday night dancing has changed too. **Andrea**

Priest will still cue round dancing from 7:30 to 8:00 on singing call nights, the last Wednesday of each month, but otherwise, we will be holding a **Plus Teach** during that time. For anyone wanting to attend only the Plus Teach, the cost is \$3.00, otherwise, it is covered in the \$7.00 admission for the evening. On non-singing call nights, square dancing will be interspersed with “Virtual Me”, as Andrea put it, as she will not be present but will provide Jeff with recorded cued music. We have danced to Andrea's recordings before and they are excellent.

September's singing call night, **Legends of the 60s**, was a hoot with many visitors and Royal City dancers wearing 60s gear dug out of attic and basement trunks. Come join the ghouls, princesses and pirates on **Hallowe'en, October 31** to find out what music Jeff and Andrea have in store for us. Of course, if you don't feel like dressing up, that's ok too.

On **Saturday, October 27**, **Royal City Squares** is hosting a **SWOSDA dance** at Trinity United Church, 400 Stevenson St, Guelph. Come and dance all day to a great lineup of callers and cuers. See the poster at <http://www.swosda.ca/12-Oct-Prog.pdf> for details.

By Ruth Slavin

EVERYONE WELCOME

"Summer is **Chassee-ing** past" and as we **Do-si-do** into the fall, the **Happy Hoppers** are looking forward to our **Fall Fantasy Dance** on **Saturday October 27th**.

We hope that everyone will **Grand Chain** over to **Newmarket**. for a day of dancing with **Doug Holmes**, **Jim Lee**, **Aaron Goodman** and **Susan Connors**; and **Load their Boats** with **fun** and **friendship**.

Please call Ron and Judith Williams at 705-426-3000 for information.

WATERDOWN VILLAGE SQUARES

“Youth is wasted on the young.” If George Bernard Shaw were to visit Waterdown Village Squares one evening, he might have had a very different point of view! While few of us would claim to be “young” in the physical sense, there is certainly a lot of youthful gaiety and fun happening among our membership!

We are very happy to welcome a great group of new “Basic” (or “Class”) dancers this year. **Bill Everett** has once again worked his magic – even those who claim to have two left feet are dosado-ing and promenading, and generally having a wonderful time! If you don’t usually dance on Thursday evenings, you should come for a visit – it’s our “high energy” night at Waterdown!

Not to be out-done, our Monday and Tuesday groups are well into the Plus and A1 programs. We have such fun with **Jim Lee’s** entertaining style, we’re hardly aware that we are learning – using our brains and exercising our bodies, which we’re told is critical in keeping us youthful and alert!

As you will see in articles elsewhere in this newsletter, Waterdown dancers have participated in a number of demonstration squares this year, and Jim Lee has played a very important part in all of those events. Together, we have promoted our activity at the **Dundas Cactus Festival, Milton Steam Show, St. George Applefest, and Ancaster Fair**. Jim will also be calling at the **Rockton World’s Fair** on Saturday, October, 6th; and we hope that our membership will sign up to support him for this special occasion, undertaken in memory of **Beverly Barrowcliffe**.

It turns out that young people do not have a monopoly on love and romance! We want to congratulate two of our couples, **Faye Evenden & Doug Irwin** and **Gayle Lewis & Bob Dugdale**, on their recent engagements! Best wishes to them for a long and happy future together, as they start this new chapter in their lives.

Whatever our chronological age, let’s keep the magic, the spontaneity and the wonder of youth in our lives.

We have read : *“We do not stop playing because we grow old; We grow old because we stop playing ...”* Perhaps we should change that quote to:
“We do not stop dancing because we grow old; We grow old because we stop dancing!”

“Yellow Rock”

Rose Marie & Ken Robinson
President Couple

New Waterdown Village Squares Website Launched

We have recently updated our website. The original design was crafted by Reg Wesson who managed and hosted the site on his personal web space for a number of years. We wish to thank Reg for all his work and dedication to the original site.

When we were asked to help out with the site, we registered the WaterdownVillageSquares.ca domain and moved the site to a hosting service. We copied Reg’s design and www.WaterdownVillageSquares.ca was launched. Marion and I have maintained the site since.

This summer we decided to try our hand at web design and used the Waterdown Village Squares site as our guinea pig. Please check out the new site and its new design. Use the site to keep up to date on the happenings at Waterdown.

Tom Petersen

Challenge: “Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

Persistence: “Never, Never, Never Quit.”

BUSY, BUSY SUMMER

Al & Renia Calhoun have spent this past summer teaching "**Teenagers**" to square dance. They have done 16 Summer Camps (150 to 300 teens at a dance), 2 Weddings, 4 Birthday Parties, 2 Anniversaries, 1 party at a 100 year old Cottage, with 200 direct descendants present, 3 Barn dances, 1 Barn dance with a live Band, 2 schools in June (grades 5 to 8) and 3 Seniors Homes.

WOW!! What a wonderful life we have, this has been the most rewarding year ever.

We are now teaching teens, whose parents we taught in Pioneer Camps 30 years ago. We are doing weddings of the teens that we have taught in OELC (a leaders camp).

Most of our summer camps are ongoing each year and the leaders dress in Ladies costumes of different colours. This is to let the teens recognize their Leader by the colour of the dress. Each leader will have 25 teens to look after.

Al & Renia Calhoun

GREETINGS FROM JUBILEE ROUNDS IN ST. JACOBS:

Jubilee Rounds is off to a great season! We are pleased to see our previous members return after some refreshing time off. As well, we are welcoming some new class members into the club.

Our new dancer class is starting right off with some Waltz basics while the more experience group has enjoyed one week of "just dancing" to refresh memories and a couple of weeks of phase II dance teaches. Next week we'll look at a phase III for the more experienced dancers.

We'll be celebrating Hallowe'en on October 25th with lots of spooky music and atmosphere. This gives you a chance to get your "costumes" warmed up before the actual date – but remember, dressing up is optional. Don't stay home just because you want to be "you" – come & join us anyway!

We are still at St. James Lutheran Church in beautiful St. Jacobs. Our regular phase II & III dancing is 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Feel free to come at 7:00 and join in with our new dancers.

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.

Visitors are always welcome!

If you wish to join us, please feel free to come out any Thursday at 7:30.

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

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE.

SHADOWLIGHT DANCE CLUB

Greetings! Hope you are all now back dancing on a regular basis and supporting your club and other clubs who are holding specials for your enjoyment.

Our daytime Advanced clubs, A-1 on Monday in Cambridge and A-2 on Wednesday in Brampton have both started and are going well. Our A-1 is a progressive teach but if you are knowledgeable on the A-1 calls, please feel free to join when you can. Our A-2 is a full dance with review and in-depth look at some of the more versatile calls. Again, if you are knowledgeable on the A-2 program, please feel free to join us.

We hosted a Foxtrot Clinic on the afternoon of Saturday September 29th and by all accounts those who attended had a great time. Andrea taught several Phase III Foxtrot figures and the dancers got plenty of floor time for practice. If you have never attended one of our Round Dance Clinics, keep an eye out for our future clinics. Andrea has a very relaxed and thorough teaching method that creates a very fun (sometimes at Jeff's expense) and enjoyable way to learn and spend an afternoon dancing with friends. Many clinics are designed specifically for non-round dancers.

We also hosted a Funtime Event on that evening called "Get The Rust Out". This was a Plus dance with Rounds and was a great evening according to those who attended. Although the dance was named "Get The Rust Out", the theme was "A Night At The Awards". Jeff wore a tuxedo and Andrea wore a gorgeous sparkly outfit to host the event - See Picture!. They gave a full introduction to each tune they did - as all tunes were either winners or nominees from the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, or the Golden Globe Awards. The dancers did manage to get most of the "rust out" but also got

What is Fun Badge Frenzy?

Over the years we have had a tremendous amount of FUN square dancing! I know there are some of you around who, like me, have been in the dance movement for well over a hundred years!! Here are a couple of things that I have learned along the way: 1) there is no time limit on FUN and 2) what is old

a great education on the music they were dancing to. Many commented on what a great night it was. According to one dancer "it was just an amazing evening" Thanks to all who came and made it so much 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 parties, 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 (see below) 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.

We will be hosting an afternoon of Ballroom Style Line Dancing for Beginners. Plan to join us Saturday afternoon on November 3, 2012 in St. Jacobs. Check out our flyer on the T&D website Calendar. NO EXPERIENCE required so BRING a Non-Dancing Friend! Come and enjoy an afternoon of dancing with Jeff and Andrea!

Also, on November 3rd (in the evening) we will host a PLUS dance called "Funbadge Frenzy". This is for all PLUS dancers to enjoy! Join us on November 3, 2012 in the evening in St. Jacobs. See our Flyer on the T&D website Calendar. .

becomes new again. So, with that in mind, I have to tell you that I was doing some Spring Cleaning in my home recently (yes, I know it's September but house cleaning is never very far up on my to-do list!) and I came across our Fun Badges. Fun danglers they were also called. My "rack" of

dangles was not as long as my mother-in-law's – (who had been in the square dance movement for well over two hundred years) but it was impressive, AND it was a great deal of fun to amass. Let me explain... back in the day, square dances were held and usually there was a tip available for those who wanted to earn a new badge or dangle. Many of you have already danced some of the criteria to qualify for a badge, usually when you have been Banner Stealing (another "old" that has become "new" again – but that's another subject!) Examples are: dancing in a square with no hands... The "Venus de Milo" dangle or dancing with two squares intermixed to one big square... The "Double Trouble" dangle. So, you see, it's easy to acquire a new dangle. There are some guidelines, though, and here they are:

The Caller must be knowledgeable of what is needed to earn a dangle. That means that he/she must be willing to call what is required to earn the badge. Callers who have been calling for a while are all very capable but should be asked well in advance if they would be willing to do this. Don't assume that it can happen on the spur of the moment! Some fun badges NEED to be set up beforehand with the caller specifically, so keep those ones for special handling. Callers must also be willing to verify that the dancers receiving the dangle have completed the criteria.

Fun Badge tips only qualify for dangles when they are done outside of your normal club activities. This means that your club night does not count for your fun dangle although, if a fun dangle tip is done when you have an official visit from another club, their club members would qualify. This actually leaves plenty of venues to line up your fun badge tips: Open dances, Camp and Dance weekends, Square dance trips to name a few. The exception to the home club rule is that if a "special night" falls on your club night, and you dance, then you are eligible for a dangle. Hallowe'en or St. Paddy's day would fall into this category.

Fun badges are inexpensive and addictive but their purchase is not required. You can certainly have a great time achieving the fun badge without actually purchasing and/or displaying your dangle. Most fun badges are a dollar apiece.

Jeff's brother-in-law, Terry Lee has been making

badges and dangles for the square dance community and beyond for many, many years. He has assured us that he has all the templates for the fun badges listed on his original sheet and would be more than willing to supply them. Usually, the caller who has performed the fun badge tip applies for the dangles but you can also contact either Terry directly at 905-839-5394 or submit your order to Jeff to obtain your dangles.

ShadowLight Dance Club will be holding a Fun Badge Frenzie dance on November 3 in St Jacobs for anyone wishing to "jump start" your collection! Remember, you don't HAVE to buy the dangle – earning it is the best fun! For that matter, anyone can attend a dance where fun badges are being earned. It's common for only one square at the dance to be working on a badge tip while the rest of the floor is just dancing their regular stuff. So, join the frenzy!

Hope to see your dangles on the dancefloor soon!!
(submitted by Andrea)

**** Funtime Events: Periodically, ShadowLight Dance Club will hold "Funtime Events". These are dance events that will include a specific aspect to make them even more FUN, whether it's a theme, or a location, or just that little something extra. Each attendee couple at a Funtime Event will receive a punch card and, when they have attended 4 Funtime Events they get into the 4th for half price. A little something for just coming out and having fun! Our first Event was Swing into Summer – our second was the Hallowe'en Howl, our third was the Crocus Capers and the fourth was "Get The Rust Out" on September 29th. We had three couples at this dance claim their half price reward for attending their fourth dance. Our next Funtime Event will be the "Fun Badge Frenzie" November 3rd - Mark your calendar now, you won't want to miss it.

Happy Dancing and More – Much More!

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

OTONABEE SQUARES WELCOMES NEW DANCERS

Another dance season has begun with a bang. Even before our first night we were out doing a demo dance at the Warkworth Fall Fair on Sept 8th. As Warkworth encompasses areas of other clubs, we invited Lakeshore Waves in Baltimore and Quinte Twirlers from Belleville to join us. We had 4 squares out and I did attract a couple of new dancers. Our caller Wayne Whatman called for this and we brought people from the audience into the squares to teach them a few moves.

At our first night we had 12 squares of basic and mainstream dancers. Many new ones and our returning dancers. We have since gained more and lost some who decided square dancing was not for them (at least at this time). When things settle down at the end of this month we hope to have three squares of new dancers (a few are returning to square dancing after being away for some time). We lost a few who have moved to Lift Lock to learn plus but we hope they will continue to come back to Otonabee to socialize with old friends and help the new dancers. We are almost at full capacity in the hall we use so if we grow larger we may be looking for more space!

Our busy month included two Sunday afternoon dances. One was for Mainstream only. We recognize that the mainstream dancers do not get the same floor time each week as do the basic dancers. So this year we will continue our once a month Mainstream only dance. See our website www.otonabeesquares.org for more information or see the T&D Events site.

The last Sunday of the month we offered a Basic Booster dance. This was to try and get all the new dancers at the same point of instruction. As Wayne is also calling for Lakeshore Waves we invited new dancers from that club to join in.

Two of our dancers, Rob Peckover and Mandy Smith celebrated their wedding on Sept. 29th and about 30 members of the club were able to attend their wedding dance that evening. Our congratulations to the happy couple. For their

honeymoon, they will be attending the Northeast Caller School in New Hampshire over the Thanksgiving weekend. (runs from Thursday to the Monday). Rob is hoping to learn the art of calling. We wish him well.

This is the second wedding this year of club members!

On Saturday, October 20th we will be holding a Mainstream Blitz to finish teaching the mainstream list. Over the summer dances they were introduced to one move each dance and Wayne has continued the instruction through September and up to the Blitz. As there are only 17 moves on this list they should be ready to dance mainstream on club nights after this weekend. On Sunday October 21st we will have our monthly Mainstream dance to which we have invited other clubs to join us. They take place at George Street United Church hall, cnr George and McDonnell Streets, Peterborough from 2-4:30pm. If you do not have internet phone Sandy 705 741 2582 for more information.

We are looking forward to co-hosting (with Lift Lock Squares) the T&D joint dance on November 10th from 2-4:30 pm at Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St West, Peterborough. Dance levels will be basic and mainstream. Wayne Whatman and Joe Uebelacker will be calling. Otonabee Squares will be providing the pies for refreshments.

We will be hosting a New Year's Eve Dance on December 31st. This will be a roast beef dinner and dance, starting 6:30 pm. Cost \$25pp. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Phone Sharon 705 743 8699 for information.

Dance levels will be Basic and Mainstream and singles and couples, are welcome. We have negotiated a special rates at a couple of hotels so phone for information.

We are looking forward to a successful and fun year ahead.

LIFTLOCK SQUARES PETERBOROUGH

The **Liftlock Squares** in Peterborough have enjoyed a very successful start to the 2012/2013 square dance season. We changed our format this fall from plus and A2 dancing to two hours of a plus teach session followed by an hour of A2 dancing. We start at 7:00 and finish at 10:00 every Wednesday at St Anne's Parish Hall in Peterborough.

Our caller, **Joe Uebelacker**, is doing a great job of teaching our dancers new to plus. We are very happy to have welcomed about 30 new dancers and with our 40 odd original members we have up to eight squares dancing the night away. Many of our new dancers have learned basic and mainstream at the very successful **Otonabee Squares** club formed some years ago. As well we are happy to have several dancers from the Oshawa area. We welcome them all and appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication to square dancing.

We have several special dances this fall.

An A1/A2 dance **Sunday, October 21**, 2:00 to 4:00

pm at St. Anne's Parish Hall, 859 Barnardo Avenue Peterborough, **Joe Uebelacker** calling.

A **Joint dance** sponsored by **T&D, Otonabee and Liftlock, Saturday, November 10, Basic and Mainstream** 2:00 to 5:00pm. Callers **Joe Uebelacker** and **Wayne Whatman**. Westdale United Church Hall, 1059 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough.

Our **Christmas dance, Saturday, December 15** 7:00 to 10:00pm **Mainstream** and **Plus Tips** Joe Uebelacker calling. St Anne's Parish Hall 859 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough. We may change the location of this dance to accommodate the large numbers attending. We will keep you posted.

Happy Dancing Everyone

Cathy & Wayne VanVolkenburg Publicity
Liftlock Squares

OUR TRIP TO OTTAWA

By Bob Beck

We recently travelled to Ottawa to attend the **Roundalab Mini-Lab**. Since I was asked by one of the organizing committee to do a report on the Mini-Lab, which they would include in their report to Roundalab for the Journal, and since Betty is always looking for articles for TOPICSNews, I thought I might as well do a travelogue on our trip to Ottawa. This is actually two separate articles. One on our trip and the article that I submitted to the Ottawa committee.

A while back (actually prior to WOW Weekend at the beginning of June) I was sent an e-mail by Jenny and Ziggy Segstro who were helping to form a new executive run round dance club (Capital Carousels) which would take over from Rhapsody Rounds (run by Don and Daphne Pearson) when the Pearson's decided to retire.

One of their goals was to try to get Roundalab to

have a Mini-Lab in Ottawa. Since I e-mailed them back with as much encouragement as I could, I thought that we should support the Mini-Lab when we found out that it was going to be September 14-16, 2012.

We asked Mary Hinkle, who is a round dance leader and T. and D. Member, if she would like to go to the Mini-Lab. Since she had never been to Ottawa, she said yes, and so we made plans for the trip. We decided to go a day early so that we could show her some of Ottawa and also have a chance to get together with Betty's sister's family. Early Thursday morning we picked Mary up at her home on Grand Island, New York and set off down the New York State Thruway.

Travelling in the United States has several advantages. Now that we have Nexus, it is easy to cross the border. Gasoline is a lot less expensive

and the Thruway has very reasonable tolls. Also the Thruway has a lot less traffic than the 401 or even the 407 (which Betty insists on driving on even though we have to mortgage the house to drive its length).

Now we don't have a GPS because I don't want any machine telling me where to go, but Mary wouldn't go anywhere without one and even though we were driving and even though I threatened to make her ride in the trunk if she brought it along, "Stella" was with Mary the whole trip - although "she" (Stella, not Mary) was quiet.

The three of us had a great time both going to Ottawa and coming home and even though I usually get sleepy driving, I drove the whole trip to Ottawa and a good part of the way home.

After checking in to Webb's Motel on Carling Avenue, we retraced part of our route back to Betty's sister, who lives in the Barrhaven area of Nepean, now part of Ottawa. Joanne (Betty's sister) had invited us there for supper so it gave Mary a chance to meet part of our family and for us to visit with them since we don't see them too often. Two of our other nieces were also visiting Betty's sister.

On returning to Ottawa, we drove downtown so we

could see the Parliament Buildings lit up at night and also drove down Sussex Drive as far as Rideau Hall.

Friday morning after breakfast we went back downtown and had a tour of the Parliament Buildings and went up the Peace Tower. We wanted to tour Rideau Hall (the Governor General's residence) but there were no tours that day. When we came out of the Parliament Buildings it was raining a bit, but we walked over to the Chateau Laurier hotel and through the lobby - I've always felt that these big railway hotels are what a hotel should really look like. In the afternoon we drove along the Ottawa River, then over to the Rideau Canal and back to Parliament Buildings before returning to the motel.

Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday morning was the Mini-Lab (see other article) and we returned to Thorold by the same route that we took, stopping on Grand Island for supper before taking Mary home. Betty & I thank Mary for joining us to make the weekend truly delightful.

P.S. "Stella" really was a very good girl. She was quiet most of the trip and helped us find the right street on a very dark, wet Friday night when we were going to the dance.

ROUNDALAB MINI-LAB
Ottawa - September 14 - 16, 2012
By Bob Beck

Betty and I, along with Mary Hinkle, from Grand Island, New York, had the opportunity to attend the **Roundalab Mini-Lab** hosted by **Rhapsody Rounds** and **Capital Carousels** in Ottawa.

The Mini-Lab began on the Friday evening with a dance at which a number of Round Dance Leaders had chosen to be critiqued on their cueing, by the Mini-Lab instructors, **Irv & Betty Easterday**. As the critiques were done privately, we don't know what was pointed out to the cuers, but I felt all of them cued very well considering they were using a sound system different from their own, in a strange hall and knowing that someone was out there waiting to "judge" their efforts. I know that Irv and Betty would only have offered constructive

criticism, but it is still unnerving for someone to perform under those circumstances.

The Mini-Lab began in earnest on Saturday morning and went from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.. Even with coffee breaks, lunch and supper breaks, it was a very long day, especially towards the end when your brain begins to turn to mush with all of the information and practice.

Having been cueing and teaching for the past 18 years, I felt that we would attend more to support the hosting clubs than to actually learn a lot that we would be able to use, but Irv and Betty, with over fifty years of teaching experience, gave us fresh ideas on how to teach various figures and rhythms,

at least one of which I have already used in our teaching.

Irv and Betty tried to cover as much as possible in a one day session – Everything from the “Purpose of Roundalab” to “Body Mechanics” to “Alternate methods of teaching beginners”, with a lot more in between. Although it is difficult to remember everything, I think we all took away something that can help us to be better leaders.

A breakfast wind-up session at a local restaurant completed the Mini-Lab on Sunday morning.

For us, it was a chance to renew acquaintances with

people we knew, a chance to get to know some others a little better and a chance to meet some new Round Dance Leaders.

Our thanks to **Irv** and **Betty** for a well conducted clinic and to all of the organizing committee for a job well done!

To view picture from Mini Lab:

http://www.learningcreations.ca/Capital_Carousels/Photo_Albums/Pages/MiniLab-Sept_2012.html#63

ROUND DANCES TAUGHT

Bob & Betty Beck - Thorold, ON

I Can't Believe – Phase IV – Foxtrot (Beck)

Jerry & Bonnie Callen - Guelph, ON

I've Got a Rock and Roll Heart – Phase IV+2 – Cha (Gloodt)

You've Got a Friend in Me – Phase VI – Foxtrot (Preskitt)

Mucho Mambo – Phase IV+1 – Rumba/Cha (Worlock)

First Flower – Phase III – Waltz (Nelson)

West Coast Swing Basics

Stuck On You III – Phase III – Jive (Callen)

Lawdy Jive – Phase III+2 – Jive (Krug)

Mary Hinkle - Grand Island, N.Y.

Back In Baby's Arms - Phase III+1 CH (Helton)

Deadline for next TOPICSNEWS Newsletter Saturday, November 10, 2012

The next issue will cover December - January. . 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

Friday, October 12, 2012: Round Dance Party (Party Party). **Take-a-Step Rounds** is celebrating **10 years** of dancing at Churchill Senior Centre, 345 Richmond Road, Ottawa, Ontario from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. **Everyone is Welcome!** Cake will be served from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. and there will be round dancing from 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. For further information contact **Jean & Don Clingin** at 613-989-3194 or e-mail take-a-step@xplor.net

Saturday, October 13, 2012: A Joint Special Dance presented by **Toronto & District Square & Round Dance Association** and the **Blue Mountain Promenaders** will be held at the Nottawasaga Community Centre, 9025 County Road 91, Duntroon, Ontario. Callers **Dean Fisher**(host) and **Doug Holmes** will be calling Mainstream and Plus Squares and Cues, **Bob (& Betty) Beck** will be cueing and teaching rounds from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Cost \$9.00 per person. For information contact Wayne & Sheila Bannerman at 705-428- 5577 or e-mail wbannerman@aol.com or Tom & Marion Petersen at 905-824-4647 or e-mail tom@tomar.ca Full details are available on the T. & D. Website: www.td-dance.ca

Sundays Beginning October 21, 2012: Mainly Contrás (Contra, ECD, Quadrilles, Old Tyme Dances, etc).will be presented by Willowdale Willow Weavers at the Islington Seniors Centre, 4968 Dundas Street West, Etobicoke. From 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. every first & third Sunday of the Month. For information call Ann & Grant Logan at 905-709-9241 or e-mail grant.logan@3web.com

Sunday October 21, 2012: A1/A2 Dance hosted by Lift Lock Squares, 2:00 to 4:30 pm St Anne's Parish Hall, 859 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough ON, Caller **Joe Uebelacker**. For information call 905-342-5450 or e-mail hjlander@gmail.com

Saturday, October 27, 2012: Newmarket Happy Hoppers are hosting their **17th Annual Fall Fantasy Dance**. All levels of dance from **Basic to A-1** are offered as well as **Round Dances** between tips. We are returning to Sacred Heart High School in Newmarket, Ontario and will again offer afternoon (2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and evening (7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.) programs followed by light refreshments. We are excited to have **Jim Lee** and **Aaron Goodman** join our club caller, **Doug Holmes** and to welcome **Susan Connors** to cue the Rounds. We hope you can join us for a great dance. For information, please call Ron & Judith Williams at 705-426-3000

Saturday, November 10, 2012: A Joint Special Dance is presented by **Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Association** and **Lift Lock Squares & Otonabee Squares** will be held at Westdale United Church Hall, 1509 Sherbrooke Street West, Peterborough, Ontario. Dance **Basic** and **Mainstream** with **Joe Uebelacker & Wayne Whatman** from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. For information call Jean & Howard Lander at 905-342-5450 or e-mail hjlander@gmail.com or Tom & Marion Petersen at 905-824-4647 or e-mail tom@tomar.ca or marion.petersen@gmail.com Full details are available on the T & D Website

Saturday, November 17, 2012: Waterdown Village Squares present their **Winter Warm-Up Dance** at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown, Ontario with two great callers, **Jim Lee** and **Jeff Priest** calling **A1** with **A2 tips** and **rounds**. Dance from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00

p.m. Tickets for members are \$10.00 all day and \$8.00 afternoon or evening session. For tickets or information contact Bill Turnbull at 905-878-9573 or e-mail turnbullwt@yahoo.com or for info call Rose Marie or Ken Robinson at 519-448-3842 or e-mail rwoodley000@sympatico.ca.

Sunday, November 18, 2012: Mainstream Dance from 2-4:30 pm with Otonabee Squares, George Street United Church, corner of George and McDonnell Streets, Peterborough. Caller **Doug Holmes**. See www.otonabeesquares.org

Saturday, December 1, 2012: Jingle Bell Ball is once again being presented by your **WOW Committee**. Join us for a Christmas Dinner and Dance beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Hungarian Self Culture Society Hall, 361 Hellem Avenue, Welland, Ontario with cuers **Bob & Betty Beck, Jerry & Bonnie Callen, Mary Hinkle and Ken & Dot Lowery**. Dance Phase III, IV and V rounds from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Includes Turkey and Beef supper at 5:15 p.m. **Reserve early** – Start your Christmas festivities with us. The cost is \$75.00 per couple. The Best Western Rose City Suites is our host hotel and have offered dancers a preferred rate – just mention Round Dancers. For information contact Bob & Betty Beck at 905-227-7264 or e-mail bettytop@aol.com or rbeck9@cogeco.ca. Further information and flyer is available on the T. and D. Website.

Saturday December 15, 2012: Christmas Plus and Mainstream Dance hosted by Liftlock 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 31, 2012: New Years Eve Square Dance at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre St., Thornhill, 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**.

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

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

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 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 23, 2013: New Dancers WINDUP. A party dance 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. **Bring along friends from MS, Plus, etc..**

Saturday May 25, 2013: New Dancers Windup hosted by Ann & Grant Logan and the **Willowdale Willow Weavers**. A party dance for New Graduates & friends. Dancing the full **BASIC** program. At Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre Street, Thornhill. 7 to 10 pm. \$14.00 per couple/\$7.00 solo.

Friday, June 7 to Sunday, June 9, 2013: Western Ontario Weekend Committee 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

CHILDREN ARE QUICK

TEACHER: Why are you late?
STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?
JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?' **GLENN:** K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'
TEACHER: No, that's wrong
GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.
(I Love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?
DONALD: H I J K L M N O.
TEACHER: What are you talking about?
DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.
WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?
GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?
LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

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**

2012 - 2013 EXECUTIVE

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