



The Thistle and Tartan Newsletter

Summer, 2017

President's Message

Welcome to the second communique or newsletter of the Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers.

I started writing this on Canada's 150th Birthday. I am reminded how we celebrate, "Twa Lands" on Robbie Burns Night Suppers in January. This memory is bittersweet. I am as fiercely proud to be Canadian as I am proud of my Scottish Heritage. After all, I am related to Sir John A. Macdonald, a Scottish immigrant, who became Canada's first Prime Minister 150 years ago. I am also reminded how Greta McDougall, delivered the "Twa Lands" address every Burns Night that I attended. We lost our beloved life member on June 11, 2017.

I didn't know Greta well as I joined the club after she retired from dancing. I met her at ceilidhs and Burns Nights. She had an incredible singing voice, a wonderful sense of humour, a generous spirit. It was not hard to pick up on her pride of her Scottish origins. This issue, is therefore, dedicated to Greta.

I have chosen to call the newsletter, "***The Thistle and Tartan***". The thistle is a powerful Scottish symbol and the tartan has a long history of Scottish culture.

Tartans are associated with clans. Clans are communities. We are a community. I have chosen to make this a newsletter every second month, instead of a monthly President's communique. This will allow me to continue to write after my term is up and take the pressure off future club Presidents.

Finally, although we just finished winding up our 2016-2017 season, it will not be long before the new season begins. The key to a healthy, vibrant and growing club, is for new and potential members to feel welcome. We are preparing posters advertising the **Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers**. We expect it to be ready in August. In the meantime, word of mouth is the most effective way to spread the word. Invite people you know to the open house on Wednesday September 6, 2017 at St. Mark's Hall, 7:00 p.m. I plan to distribute posters around my neighbourhood a couple of weeks before.

- *Marian Holmes*

**GET READY FOR ANOTHER
EXCITING DANCE SEASON!**

**SASKATOON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6, 2017**

Bring friends, family, and strangers to this event. Introduce them to a whole new world where exercise is fun, friendships are formed that last a lifetime, and Scottish traditions are honoured and begun. Best of all, you don't have to be Scottish! St. Mark's Hall.

Worth Repeating

2017-2018 Executive

Past President: Bill Pollock
President: Marian Holmes
Vice President: Tara Zrymiak
Treasurer: Robert Clark

Secretary: Diane Cross
Librarian: Bob McNaughton
Demo Team Convenor: Diane Davis
Teacher's Representative: Jean Gibson

Teachers: Jean Gibson and Bev Will

Lessons begin: Wednesday September 13. **Fridays:** The Demo Team, coached by Jean Gibson, practices at St. Mark's Hall on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

The **basic class** will return shortly after, on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. New members are encouraged to come. All are welcome. It is a small class and the teachers can spend more time teaching the techniques and dances. Much of the material in the basic class piggybacks on, or prepares us for, the Wednesday lessons.

The start date of the basic class will be determined after the open house, by the teachers. It is dependent on interest and the number of beginner or new dancers we have.

Membership Fees:

Membership fees were established at the AGM in May. New this year: membership categories (based on Saskatchewan Branch categories), are applicable only to returning members. You can pay in two installments, September and January if it is easier.

New Members (includes Friday basic class) - \$110.00

Returning Members (includes RSCDS Branch membership):

Individual - \$110.00

Youth (aged 12-17) - \$92

Youth (aged 18-24): \$103

Joint (two persons at the same address): \$103 each

Drop-In: \$5.00 per night (including Fridays)

Drop-In fees are for those who feel that they can't make every week. You can drop in and visit us anytime. We will never turn you away.

Remember: Our dancing is progressive, meaning we start off gently and before we know it, we are learning more complex and slightly more challenging dances. The more often you come, the easier it will be to grow and understand. It is the old adage, the more you participate, the more you will benefit from it, and the deeper the learning will be. Everyone helps each other grow. Beginner dancers are partnered with more experienced dancers. Those of us who have been dancing for a while, will guide everyone else. Remember, we all make gaffes. I have found myself correcting and guiding the teacher! NEVER, EVER, beat yourself up!

- **Folkfest:** The Demo Team will dance at the Scottish Pavilion at various times during Folkfest, August 17 – 19. Check it out and help us spread the word about us. We do not have a table this year, so your support is even more appreciated.
- **Tea Time:** Scottish Country Dancing is the social dance of Scotland. We work hard, but we make sure we take the time to socialize and rest our weary bones and brains. Last year, we introduced tea preparation as shared duties. Carol Gronsdal is kicking things off by re-writing the list of duties. We urge you to bring your own mug or tea cup. If you forget, no problem, we have them – just wash it yourself afterwards.

Social Nights: Held the last Wednesday of the month, except September. Our first social is the Open House. If you wish, you may bring finger food, especially related to the theme. Most of our socials feature live music featuring The Peat Fire Flame. Jokes, entertainment and of course, dancing, rule the night!

Special Social Nights and Events for 2017

All events take place at St. Mark's Church Hall unless otherwise noted! 1406 8th Ave N. Start time is 7:00 p.m. until around 9:30 p.m.

- **September 6** – Annual Open House
- **October 25** – Halloween Social – bring finger foods (optional), costumes (optional and encouraged)
- **November 29** – St. Andrews Day Celebration – Potluck. St. Andrew's Day is Scotland's most important holiday. Like our Canada Day. I will look at this more closely in the next newsletter.
- **December 13** – Annual Christmas Ceildh. Finger food, entertainment, and merriment all around. Celebrate the holiday season with us! All are welcome!
- **December 30** – Old Year Dance. The date is to be confirmed, depending on when we are able to get the hall. Celebrate a great year behind us and get ready to welcome 2018! More on this in the next issue.
- **December 31** – Hogmanay. Jean Gibson hosts this Annual event. A come and go at her place to welcome the New Year. Stay tuned for more information.

Last Formal Dancing for 2017 is the Christmas Ceildh. Classes resume January 10, 2018.

Special Social Nights and Events for 2018 include: Burns Night, Valentine Day Social, St. Patrick's Day Social, Spring Ceildh, and our AGM and Potluck, More information to come later in the year!

"If I met a man with a Scottish accent, I would marry him tomorrow." Karen Weeks

Finally, some fun! (You may want to read this when the kids are in bed)!

THE DRUNKEN SCOTSMAN (Traditional)

Well a Scotsman clad in kilt left a bar one evening fair.
And one could tell by how he walked that he'd drunk more than his share.
He fumbled round until he could no longer keep his feet.
Then he stumbled off into the grass to sleep beside the street.

**Ring ding diddle diddle I de oh ring di diddly I oh
He stumbled off into the grass to sleep beside the street.**

About that time two young and lovely girls just happened by
And one says to the other with a twinkle in her eye
See young sleeping Scotsman so strong and handsome built
I wonder if it's true what they don't wear beneath the kilt

**Ring ding diddle diddle I de oh ring di diddly I oh
I wonder if it's true what they don't wear beneath the kilt**

They crept up on that sleeping Scotsman quiet as could be
Lifted up his kilt about an inch so they could see
And there behold, for them to view, beneath his Scottish skirt
Was nothing more than God had graced him with upon his birth

**Ring ding diddle diddle I de oh ring di diddly I oh
Was nothing more than God had graced him with upon his birth**

They marveled for a moment, then one said we must be gone
Let's leave a present for our friend, before we move along
As a gift they left a blue silk ribbon, tied into a bow
Around the bonnie star, the Scots kilt did lift and show

**Ring ding diddle diddle I de oh ring di diddly I oh
Around the bonnie star, the Scots kilt did lift and show**

Now the Scotsman woke to nature's call and stumbled toward the trees
Behind a bush, he lifts his kilt and gawks at what he sees
And in a startled voice he says to what's before his eyes.
O lad I don't know where you been but I see you won first prize

**Ring ding diddle diddle I de oh ring di diddly I oh
O lad I don't know where you been but I see you won first prize.**