SQUARE TIME

Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association





Square Time Edition 69.1 February 2023

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This issue of Square Time will not be printed. It is available, free, online:

http://www.eodance.ca/square time.php

Submissions to Square Time

We welcome letters, articles, advertisements and almost anything dance related. Each member club is encouraged to send us their news, and tell us about themselves. Separate text and pictures, please. Text is reformatted to present a uniform appearance and pictures have to be extracted. Please send them to SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca.

Next issue...

The next issue will be May 2023. Deadline for submission is April 30.

Advertising in Square Time

To advertise in Square Time, please send a PDF file to the editor, indicating the size the advertisement is to be (full page, half page etc.) Other than to fit the space, advertisements will not be reformatted.

	Member	Non-Member	Commercial
Full Page	\$25	\$40	\$100
Half Page	\$20	\$30	\$75
Quarter Page	\$15	\$20	\$45
Full Column	\$20	\$35	\$75
Half Column	\$15	\$20	\$45

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We are always looking for new directors to be on the board, so we would be delighted to have your help. We also have committee members who are not directors, but fill important rolls.

Message from the President

To mask or not to mask, that is the question - at least in part.

But the issue currently dividing Canadians from coast to coast is much bigger than that. The great divide right now seems to be those who favour collective responsibility versus those who favour personal liberty: Maskers against Anti-maskers; Vaxxers against Anti-vaxxers; even to some extent - with lots and lots of exceptions - younger Canadians vs older Canadians. And the divide seems to be growing, with both sides increasingly more and more convinced that the other side is not just wrong, but is so egregiously wrong as to constitute a serious threat to peace, order and good government. The strength of these opposing views is being reinforced by disinformation and out-and-out lies on social media platforms around the world.

The dance community is not immune to such sentiments. Some dancers refuse to get vaccinated while others expect that everyone on the dance floor will be fully vaccinated (whatever that means these days). Some dancers expect that masks will be worn in the dance hall at all times, others will not attend a dance where they have to wear a mask at any time. It seems that, no matter what policy we adopt, we are going to upset someone, perhaps a large number of someones.

One result of this schism is a decrease in the number of experienced dancers. Of the approximately 840 registered dancers in May 2020, only about 590 have returned to the dance floor this year. Of course, some of this decrease is due to natural attrition. Over the past three years we have lost a goodly number of dancers due to old age, disease and death. But others are hesitant to return to the dance floor for reasons ranging from concerns about their personal vulnerability to either illness or the vaccines through concerns about personal liberty and freedom of choice.

Club executives, dance organizers and your Board of Directors are not immune to these differences of opinion. We all want to get as many people as possible back on the dance floor as quickly as possible. The big question, with which we are all wrestling, is how to accomplish this safely while satisfying the wants and needs of as many of our dancers as possible.

The problem is exacerbated both by the lack of clear government directions (as opposed to suggestions) and by our inability to purchase insurance against COVID-related claims at a time when facility owners are insisting that renters explicitly accept liability for any damages resulting from just such claims. Not surprisingly, under these circumstances most groups seeking to rent a dance hall are choosing to err, if error it be, on the side of mask and vaccine mandates, in order to limit their liability.\These problems are not going to go away any time soon. COVID is still with us and is still killing people - over 51,00 Canadians at the last count.

What's more, we have to recognize that since dancing takes place indoors, in a congregate setting, with close personal contact, there is a somewhat higher level of risk involved. That is why EOSARDA's Board of Directors recommends that we follow the current health authority guidelines for the Sports, Recreation and Fitness Sector. While there may be some slight variations among municipalities, the following is representative of what most public health units are advocating:

Ottawa Public Health is strongly recommending mask use in all indoor public settings and crowded outdoor settings to help limit transmission, protect the capacity of pediatric care, and reduce risks for severe illness requiring hospitalization. Ottawa Public Health also supports businesses, workplaces and organizations that encourage and welcome mask wearing.

Wearing masks indoors and outdoors in crowded spaces, staying up to date on your vaccines, staying home when sick and washing your hands are all behaviours that will help stop the spread of respiratory illnesses.

I know that this approach will not satisfy everyone. But it does seem to offer the greatest protection to the greatest number of our members and frankly, while I may not like wearing a mask, it's not that big a deal. What's more, I've had COVID and I sure as heck don't want it again. So my vaccines are up-to-date, not just to protect me but also to protect my wife, kids and fellow dancers.

I understand that some people may not be able to wear a mask or cannot tolerate the vaccines. I sympathize with them. But with their underlying problems, in many cases a dance floor is not where they should be at this time. For those for whom not wearing a mask or not getting vaccinated is a personal choice, I respect your right to make those choices. But you have to live with the consequences of your decisions, one of which is that you are unlikely to be welcomed back on the dance floor at this time.

Someday this may all be behind us. But we're not there yet. In the meanwhile, stay safe.

Dave Western
President
EOSARDA

Message from the Editor

I had hoped to publish a printed issue by now, but we have decided to postpone that until the fall. We need feedback on how important a printed issue is to our readers. The current issue is available online at no cost and can be easily printed as necessary. I will be sending a request for clubs to give me their thoughts of the availability of a printed version.

I have completed my Chemo, and am waiting for a surgery, probably in the middle of March.

We have lost two more callers; Harold Moore and François Desmarais. They will be missed. Please see them In Memoria pages.

The cobber shows a very successful Frosty Fling held recently in Ottawa. It is great being able of have open dances and have them so successful. Congratulations to the callers and volunteers who made it happen. It appears we may have a very good spring and summer of dancing; see the flyers toward the end of this issue.

Gerry Johnson

Square Time Editor

FROSTY FLING 2023: A HUGE SUCCESS

Frosty Fling was the last EOSARDA dance to be held before square dancing shut down in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the first to return three years later when dancing resumed.

And it came back with a BANG! There were 69 dancers present from 7 EOSARDA clubs. A great turnout.

Frosty Fling has always focused on giving Basic dancers a chance to practice their skills



and to dance to different callers. This year's version welcomed 16 new dancers at the Basic and Social Square Dancing (SSD) levels as well as over 50 "angels" at other dance levels who came to support our new dancers. It was wonderful to see 8 squares on the dance floor! The new venue of St. Mark's Church on Fisher Avenue in Ottawa accommodated everyone with a bit of room to spare.

Callers Geoff Clarke and Wendy VanderMeulen created a dynamic duo at the microphone. Dancers were entertained, encouraged, and put through their calls, with lots of smiles, some mistakes (as happens at all levels and with all callers) and great energy!

Almost all EOSARDA's callers were present, so lots of dancers went home with purple hearts for dancing in a square with 3 callers. An extra bit of fun for everyone.

Thanks to the EOSARDA Dance Committee (Wendy VanderMeulen, Gavin Currie, Arlo Speer and David Western) for organizing the event, to the volunteers who helped with set up, refreshments, check-in, and Share the Wealth, and to all the dancers from across Eastern Ontario who confirmed that square dancing is about FUN and FRIENDSHIP.

Wendy VanderMeulen





In Memorium



January 4, 1936 - January 6, 202

Passed away peacefully at the St. Joseph's Villa in Cornwall on Friday, January 6, 2023, Harold Moore of Williamsburg, age 87. Loving husband of Marion Moore (nee McLean) for 65 years. Loving father of Stuart Moore of Belleville, Ronnie Moore at home and Danny Moore (Tina) of St. Thomas. Dear brother of Howard Moore (Lillian)

of Kemptville and Lorne Moore of Calgary. Harold will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren Kirk, Robin, Kial, Paul, Mary Lynn and his great-grandchildren Chelsea, Austin, Brea and Savanna. He was predeceased by his parents Lloyd and Luella Moore (nee Crowder), his daughter Erma Osborne and his brothers Ken and Cecil Moore. He is also survived by nieces and nephews.

Sympathy cards or notes may be sent to Marion, Moore, 13396 Country Road 18, RR#2, Williamsburg, ON. K0C 2H0

Harold Moore started calling in 1976; August 2019 is his last calling assignment at the Riverside Gypsy Squares.

Harold was a Charter Member of the Gypsy Squares when it first started in 1994. The Gypsy Squares are celebrating their 25th Anniversary in 2019, and Harold has called for every one of those years. Not only has he called, but Harold was instrumental in refurbishing the Gypsy's dance hall, installing a bathroom and a kitchen sink replacing windows in the hall, bringing in fans to cool the hall, etc.

Harold started calling for the Octopedes in Ingleside in 1976 and later, the Northfield Squares in Northfield Station. Then in 1988, Harold and Marion started the Seaway Squares at the public school in Morrisburg. A lot of dancers will fondly remember his annual "Dance for Knowledge" evening to raise money for the school. The club moved to Dunbar for the final few years before closing in 2018, just short of it's 30th anniversary.

Harold loved to call the "old time" square dances.

In Memorium



Desmarais, François 1951-2023

On Friday, January 27, 2023 at the age of seventy-one years and eleven months, François Desmarais, a beloved spouse, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully at the Carlingview Manor in Ottawa after a lengthy illness. Born in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, the last of eight children to the late Élisabeth Daviau and late Edmond Desmarais,

François spent most of his working life in the hi-tech field in Ottawa with Mitel and BreconRidge.

François was a man of many talents. Not only was he a fine golfer, he was a bridge player and teacher, and he especially had a life-long love of music and played bass guitar and keyboard with several bands starting in his teens with his home-town boy band "Les intendants". He was also a dancer, having learned how to dance with his older sisters, and in 1997 he was introduced to square dancing with the Meri Squares dance club in Ottawa. He loved it so much that he eventually became a caller and not only the club's Co-President but also the President of the Callers Association of Eastern Ontario as he was very much involved with the square dancing community of Eastern Ontario. He also called for the Swinging Swallows Dance Club in Pembroke and it was his commitment that resulted in the creation of the Glengarry Tartans Dance Club in Alexandria.

In his own words.

I started square dancing in 2007 thanks to my wife, Barbara, who convinced me to attend an Open House dance with the Meri Squares. We have remained members of that club, serving on the Board as President couple and are now past President. An introduction to calling was offered by the club callers in 2009 and I hoped my past musician experience would be useful. I have attended Callers school in Canada and the U.S. I have been the club caller for the Swinging Swallows in Pembroke for the past few years, calling basic, mainstream and plus. I have also been the club caller for a new square dance club, the Glengarry Tartans in Alexandria, On., calling basic. I have also called at the Ottawa Convention in 2014 as well as Regina in 2016 and London in 2018. I am so excited to be back dancing with the Meri Squares and calling for the Glengarry Tartans and I expect to be calling for the Swinging Swallows very soon.

Condolences may be sent to: Barbara McLellan 102-2019 Carling Avenue Ottawa K2A 4A2



We've now started the second half of the dance season and also just had our first "open" dance with a focus on our 'newest' dancers. So I thought this would be a good time to "inform" (or remind) everyone about a few things that you should be aware of & often don't know! Check it out, it's good stuff to know!!!



Square Dance - Points of Etiquette

Square dancing is all about having FUN!!

The fun of

Calls well executed:

Of a good laugh if your square does break down;
A social activity in a **friendly** atmosphere of **mutual respect and cooperation**.

To keep the **FUN** in square dancing, we must <u>all</u> consider a few guidelines. Some call them "do's and don'ts", or 'manners'. I refer to them as "Etiquette", or "being considerate of self & others".

After all, square dancing is a group activity!

Read the following points carefully & direct any questions to your Club President or Caller.

1. BE ON TIME:

- If dance starts at 7:30pm, then 'do your utmost' to be 'on time' so all can get dancing.
- Plan on staying for the full evening pace yourself if necessary to make that happen.
- On regular club night, as a courtesy to your Caller, let him/her know in advance, if you're planning to leave early!

2. FORM SQUARES QUICKLY

- When the music starts.....quickly get on the floor and start forming squares.
- Join the FIRST square you come to it's considered rude & unfriendly to pass by a forming square.
- Conversely, if you've got a 'open' space in your square & you're waiting for a particular couple to arrive but someone else jumps in, under <u>NO</u> circumstances do you <u>ever</u> tell them 'Sorry that space is taken'! (see #3)
- If your square is not full, raise your hand with as many fingers extended to indicate the # of couples that are needed to complete the square. Note that a single finger crossed with another means, one dancer!
- STAY PUT! Once in a square, <u>never</u> abandon it unless mutually agreed upon by the other dancers. (exception is a medical emergency).

3. BE A FRIENDLY DANCER:

- Do <u>not</u> arrange squares more than once in an evening nor re-arrange the square to fit in your friends or favourite dancers. In fact, it is best not to arrange a square at all.
- Friendliness is part of good manners. Make it a point to dance with as many different dancers as possible
 each evening. Take a chance and dance with new people ... you never know who you'll meet across the
 square.

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4. BE A COURTEOUS DANCER:

- Acknowledge <u>everyone</u> in your square. Introduce yourself & your partner to those you don't know & thank everyone for dancing with you after the tip.
- Refrain from using those extra twirls and kicks & bumps that can interfere with enjoyment of the other dancers in your square. Please do not put in those 'extras' when dancing with any new dancers.

5. BE A GOOD LISTENER:

- <u>Listen to the caller</u>. <u>do not talk</u> when the caller is talking or calling others need to hear!
- Remember there is room for only one teacher at a time. If help is needed, bring this to the attention of the
 Caller
- It is also rude to talk while announcements are being made, as said, be a good listener!!

6. BE A CONSIDERATE DANCER:

- There is NO acceptable excuse for the handling of other dancers...period! (ie: DO NOT TOUCH or yell, or push, or pull or grab!).
- Pushing or grabbing other dancers to get them into the correct position is totally unacceptable and does nothing to help the other dancer learn!
- Do **NOT** be critical of others. Not every square has to be step-for-step perfect to be fun. Remember, the next mistake may be your very own! ©
- If more help is needed... talk to your Caller!!

7. BE THANKFUL:

- Applaud at the end of a tip to thank the Caller; the other dancers in your square; & yourselves for a job well done!
- · At the end of the night, thanking the Caller before leaving is most appreciated.

8. BE CONSIDERATE OF YOURSELF:

- If you feel you are unable to dance, then sit out and do not be pressured into dancing if you don't feel up
 to it! Just say no thanks!
- You can learn a great deal by watching and listening. Also, be considerate if another dancer is watching and listening don't insist upon talking to them.

9. BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

- Personal cleanliness is important always shower or bathe before attending. Body odour is very unpleasant for those around you.
- Keep the use of deodorant, cologne or perfume <u>to moderation</u> as some people are allergic or sensitive to strong perfumes. If you can, don't use them at all when dancing.
- Don't forget to use something to sweeten your breath & avoid eating garlic and the like, before attending a dance.
- Don't come dancing if you have been drinking as square dancing requires your best mental and physical alertness & coordination.
- · Male dancers please wear long sleeves.
- · Ladies should avoid wearing excessive jewelry (on your hands) Yes, it can hurt!
- REMEMBER, it's 'hand contact' ... ie: NO SQUEEZING please!
- · Always wear your club badge, so everyone knows who you are!
- And finally, don't dance over your own dance 'level". If you've not learned to dance the 'announced' level, then sit out that tip and watch & learn!

ABOVE ALL - ENJOY YOURSELF--HAVE FUN!

Come to the dance expecting to have a good time and you'll have it !!

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News & Views

To accomplish the Publicity Committee's mission to raise awareness of our activities in Eastern Ontario, to assist clubs with recruiting and retaining dancers and to increase the visibility of EOSARDA, some of the plans for this year include the following:

- 1. Organize/coordinate at least one regional promotional activity in late summer 2023
- 2. Organize an in-person (preferably) or zoom meeting of club publicity personnel to share ideas and identify needs
- 3. Examine the possibility of re-creating an EOSARDA demonstration group
- 4. Raise awareness among clubs of the available promotional materials on eodance.ca and other sites
- 5. Continue to research and explore public events where EOSARDA can participate,
- i.e. fall fairs, spring festivals, and work with local clubs for representation
- 6. Work with the Technical Committee to continue to enhance the New Dancer page and resource section
- 7. Provide clubs with information on potential social media options for club promotion and new dancer recruitment

Develop a PowerPoint presentation that can be used at demonstrations and promotional events

As you can imagine, we are busy. Already a location has been suggested for a publicity event in early August: Springfield Farm's Field and Feast, entertaining in the evening. Thanks for the idea, Carole! We continue to watch for another venue in Eastern Ontario (like Confederation Park, Kingston or the Byward Market, Ottawa). If you have an idea, please send it to publicity@eosarda.ca.

As we make progress in our 'To Do' list, we will be in touch with you, and we always welcome your suggestions.

Gloria, with Lamar & Shirley Your Publicity Committee

Club News Bay Waves

Well it's been a tough start to the second half of our season due to bad weather, holidays, and illness. We have only been able to dance 3 times since Christmas (yikes).

That being said, we had 3 couples show up for our Valentines Dance so we danced in a triangle. Ron called for most of the night and Dave called one tip. We danced SSD, basic, mainstream, and plus then enjoyed potluck snacks and opened the bar.

We dance Fridays, 7:30pm at the Northwind Community Centre in Constance Bay. We welcome dancers from other clubs - SSD, basic, mainstream, plus. We call to the level of the square on the floor.

Hope to see you on the dance floor

Ron and Charlene
The Bay Waves

Club News Harbour Lites

Harbour Lites members decided in January to take a winter break until March 1st,2023. It seemed reasonable to try this as many of our members are dealing with health—issues, or away on trips. There were only on average 13 members coming to dance and this is not enough to keep dancing as the members who were there are unable to dance every dance.

Our potluck dinner In December was a success, keeping in mind Covid is still out there. The majority of our members were in attendance and we had over two squares on the floor. It was a great party.

We miss our friends from the states, Skirts & Flirts, as we would have at least a square visiting our club every Wednesday. Currently, we have two members joining us every week.

Our club used to have over four squares on the floor until Covid closed us down for two years. Two years is a long time, we get a little older, and family members become ill. Members become ill and wait for test to be done which takes a long time nowadays.

Harbour Lites starts dancing again March 1st, 2023. Hopefully, most of our members will come and dance again.

Our 45th anniversary in 2019 was well attended with at least 40 members in attendance. It is sad to see how things have changed within the club in three years. We are staying positive and look forward to getting on the dance floor again.

Submitted by Marlene Casselman

Club News Grenville Gremlin's Square Dance Club February 2023

Our last dance of 2022 was a pot luck supper which was enjoyed by all who attended. Along with the delicious food, we had a wonderful selection of Christmas music from our caller, Geoff Clarke.



In January we added ½ hour of dance time so we could practice our full mainstream moves. We have the hall from 7:00- 9:30pm. We then alternate between basic and mainstream teach. We are currently dancing with 4 squares on the floor.

We had 13 dancers attend the Frosty Fling held in Ottawa and all 5 of our new dancers were there. They also all received a purple heart at this dance by dancing in a square with 3 callers in that square. Well done.

We will be entertaining the residents of Kemptville Retirement Living which they are eagerly awaiting.

We will have our General Meeting on April 3rd at which time a new executive will be announced. Our new dancer celebration is on April 17th and our wrap up pot luck supper is on April 24.

Enjoy the rest of the dance season and will see you on the dance floor soon.

Peter & Geraldine Matthew



Club News Kanata Squares

Kanata Squares has had a successful restart after the Christmas break although like most clubs, we've had a couple cancellations thanks to our Crazy Weather.

The Valentine's dance was well attended with Pie to end the afternoon!

We are dancing Basic and Mainstream on Thursday afternoons, 1:30 to 3:30. Easy to find us on Castlefrank Rd in the Lions Community Centre.

There is always room for more dancers.

Stewart Brook



Glengarry Tartans – Alexandria - February 2023



In memory of Francois Desmarais,

Francois was our amazing Caller when Bernie and I started a new Modern Square Dance Group (the Glengarry Tartans) in 2018 in Alexandria. He was and is instrumental in the success of our Club. Should you ever meet a kinder, energetic and a fun and dedicated person in your life you will be Blessed! He often stated "If life gives you lemons make lemonade"... More than the cliché... He lived it, even when he was ill.

Francois will be sincerely missed by us all.

Many thanks to Lynn Trepanier & Wendy VanderMeulen for stepping in as our new Callers.



NEWS:

Recruitment Efforts: The Glengarry Tartans held a total of seven Open Houses/workshops during the 2022-2023 dance season. One each in June, July, August. Two in September and two in January. We also presented a dance demo at a craft show and gathered a list of potential dancers.



Total open houses resulted in seventeen attendees. Five couples and seven singles.

To date nine dancers remain (one is a returning dancer) plus one experienced couple who will dance with us occasionally.

We advertised using all the available means. Postings in numerous Facebook groups, paid ads, flyers, word of mouth, etc.



Our membership is dwindling due to dancer age & illness. Continuous advertising & promotion will be required to keep our club viable. We are however happy to be dancing 3 Sundays a month once again!



Welcome to the Glengarry Tartans: Carolyn & Sandra, Reina, Joe & Dee, Sharon, Mary, Jaimin, Pierrette, Jeannie & Real.



Some of our Glengarry Tartans attending Tartans & Kilts 2022 hosted by the Swinging Bs Cornwall





Finally, we have started square dancing again! After months of searching for an ffordable place to hold our weekly dance/class, the School Board finally open the schools for community use and we obtained the necessary permit. This year we are dancing on Thursday evenings and we were to start on Thursday January 19th – but a major blizzard shut us down so we waited for January 26th – and wham the weather hit us again with the School Board shutting down schools and cancelling our event!! February 2nd found us finally on the dance floor. Our caller Dave Hutchinson, who has made an amazing recovery from some serious health issues over the past 2 years, was in fine form and started our dance season with lots of review of Basic, Mainstream & Plus.

Like many Clubs we are struggling to build membership and have placed notices on Facebook, Meetup, Nextdoor, and a half page ad in our local senior's association monthly magazine. We have had mixed results but are slowly building to a minimum of 3 squares on the floor at the Basic and 2 at Mainstream levels and 1 at the Plus level. We will continue to accept new dancers for the first 4 weeks. We were not able to get into our Thursday night schedule at the school, so have change that dance night from Feb 16th to 14th and will be having a Valentine Celebration!

There are also plans underway to host at least one Plus/Advance dance on a Saturday in spring, with a 2 hour session in the morning and one in the afternoon — watch for details. Unfortunately, we are not starting Round Dance at this time, perhaps in September we will be in a position to start up again.

Till we meet in a square – stay safe Shirley Brown



Limestone Square & Round Dance Club Valentine's Dance - 3+ Squares - lots of goodies!



Lockits

LOCKITS Advanced Dance Club

Geoff & Teena Clarke

February 2023

AWESOME, here we are, February 2023 and we've been able to continue our dancing, almost "un-interrupted" except for a couple of nasty weather days!! Of course, COVID is still 'out there' and so, our club continues to dance fully masked (by choice), and although unfortunately several of our members have tangled with the virus (& all have recovered, returning to dance), none picked it up from our dance floor! We'll continue the 'mask wearing' practice until the end of this dance season & revisit the topic before next fall.



LOCKITS - Christmas 2022

Each week we continue to have 1-2 squares dancing A2 & 4-5 squares for A1, & for the most part, the 'pandemic rust' has been eliminated & certainly everyone is enjoying the comradeship that we've missed so badly over the last 3 years!

SO....Hey! - if you're an Advanced Dancer and like to dance in the daytime, then come on out & have fun with us on Wednesday mornings – A2 starts at 9:30am, followed by A1 at 10:30am through until noon! Note that we take a "winter break", namely the last three weeks of March & then dance through the month of April!



You're welcome to come & dance with us.

Check our website at: www.lockits.ca for all the details!

Square Dancing IS all about Fun & Friendship So, come & join us, won't you?

Square Time – February 2023

Club News Meri Squares

The Good News

Meri Squares had a great end to its fall dance session. We saw 16 dancers graduate from our first SSD (Social Square Dancing) program in December. It is very exciting to welcome so many new dancers to the Club. The pandemic took a toll, but SSD seems to be a great way to invite others to join us. Thanks to Geoff and Teena Clarke for making the EOSARDA presentation to graduates and to Wendy VanderMeulen for her wonderful teaching.



On December 3, Meri Squares, along with the Ottawa Dates Squares, held a second successful SSD dance called Ring the Bells. This time, an afternoon session for Plus and Advanced dancers was held along with the evening SSD dance. Dave Hutchinson did a fabulous job of entertaining everyone and keeping all levels on their toes. His skills were highlighted with his calling of a progressive square with 8 squares on the floor. This was a new experience for most of the dancers and a huge hit! Amazement and appreciation for the caller when everyone ended up where they had started.

All Meri Squares members came together in mid December for the annual Christmas Party. While somewhat lower key than previous holiday celebrations, due to continued health safety restrictions, it was great to have all members together at one location. The Club raised significant funds and clothing for the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund. Thank you to everyone who contributed!





This event was combined with a used square dance clothing sale. A number of members picked up some great deals and will be looking very fancy in their new outfits at upcoming dances!

January saw the start of a new SSD program at the J.A. Dulude Arena. We have a smaller group this session, but they are very enthusiastic and seem to be catching on to the moves quickly. Returning "graduate" SSD dancers are enjoying their own hour of dancing after the end of the SSD teach. It gives them time to perfect their newly acquired skills and gain confidence. Meri Squares "angels" of all levels regularly come out on Tuesdays to lend a hand and their support is appreciated.

It is a very different case for our Plus teach and Plus dancers on Thursday nights. Mother Nature has NOT been kind to us. We have had 3 of 5 Thursday nights cancelled due to weather! Ridiculous! Fingers are all crossed that things go well the rest of the session and we hope to extend dancing into May to make up for missed nights. New and experienced Plus dancers are always welcome to join us. Check the **merisquares.ca** website for times and the latest news.

Lastly, we are working with the Ottawa Dates Squares again to host two fabulous days of dancing for all levels: Saturday, March 11 and Saturday, April 29. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for the flyers!

The Very Sad News

Meri Squares has lost a number of former members since September. But the Club has been especially saddened by the passing of a current member, François Desmarais. François and his wife Barb McLellan began dancing with Meri Squares back in 1997 and his passion for the activity steadily grew. He and Barb were the President Couple of Meri Squares from 2018 to 2020. As a caller, François travelled to the far reaches of the EOSARDA region, assuming the caller duties in Pembroke with the Swinging Swallows and in Alexandria for the Glengarry Tartans. He strongly believed that square dancing was for everyone and created a unique fun format with the Tartans that encouraged anyone to come out and dance and socialize!

And then there was his sense of humour! Everyone waited during announcements on Thursday nights at Meri Squares for François' latest joke...he had a gift for "groaners" but he always made us smile.

Our condolences go out to Barb and the entire family. François was a man of many gifts, with some of his greatest ones being his positivity and ability to make others smile. Rest in peace, François, you will always be remembered fondly.

By Lamar Mason, President



Club News Opeongo Squares

Yes we are active and no new dancers but we have had our difficulties. Covid, Appointments, sickness etc. It is best to phone if a visit is intended.

Roger

Square Dancing in Russell Frank Kinnaird Community Centre 1084 Concession St., Russell, ON Wendy VanderMeulen

Square dancing has returned to Russell! A member of the pre-COVID Stonebridge Squares contacted me several weeks ago looking for assistance in starting up dancing in Russell again. It didn't take long before we had arranged to dance in the Russell Arena in the Frank Kinnaird Community Centre – a room in the Arena that overlooks the ice rink. We dance Tuesday afternoons, from 1:00 – 3:00. We have several brand new dancers and several who danced prior to COVID, so we are teaching SSD – but we're not glued to the teaching schedule. We'll do what we can each week.

The program is officially part of the Russell 55+ Club which means that members of the square dance club HAVE to be members of the 55+ Club. (Although most EOSARDA clubs are made up of seniors, we are the only club that HAS to be made up of seniors – well, those 55 and over, anyway. □) But visitors are welcome ANY time! And the Russell Arena is easy to find, so add us to your list of clubs to come visit sometime! We'd love to see you there.

By the time this Square Time goes to print, we will have a club name, but not yet... We're considering ...

Club News Riverside Gypsy Squares:

Hello again from the Gypsy Squares. We have only a little news as we do not dance during the winter. We will be getting together on February 26th for our Mid-Winter Dance in Johnstown during the afternoon. It is a "Callers Showcase" dance. This get together gives us a chance to dust off our dancing shoes, and catch up with some of the members who are able to attend. Our members come from as far away as Chateauquay, QC, Odessa, Belleville, Ottawa and Cornwall and towns in between so we do not see each other in the Winter. Did I mention that as usual with the Gypsies that the dance is followed by a potluck supper.

On a more somber note: we will miss Harold Moore, one of the original members of the Riverside Gypsy Squares, a Caller who loved to call some of the "old time" dance sets and loved to dance and encouraged new dancers to join him on the floor.

Some of us have taken our trailers/rigs across the Border to enjoy some warmer weather down South but the rest of us will be doing our spring cleaning in April/May in preparation for our first campout the May 12 to 14 weekend. In the previous edition of Square Time I described the campground at Lower Beverly Lake and the various activities that we enjoy. You are most welcome to come and dance with us at any of our campouts.

Enjoy the remainder of the winter and let's hope for an early, warm spring.

Mary Anne Reinhard Riverside Gypsy Squares

Club News Square Dance Ottawa

www.SquareDanceOttawa.ca Wendy VanderMeulen

Square Dance Ottawa ended the 2022 dance year with 3 squares packed into a room that could really only comfortably hold 2 ... but we made it work! Here's the long story:

From August through November, we had been "kicked out of" our contracted hall in the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre due to some unexpected renovations ... due to mold??? Whatever it was, we learned that the hall would not be available until possibly as late as March 2023! Due to the inconvenience, we were moved – at no charge – to the Heron Road Community Centre.

Our first dance there was in August – and they assigned us to the gym, which was the only room even close in size to what we had at JDRC. But the SOUND there is Soooooo bad, we moved into a little room that overlooked the gym. Two squares there was VERY tight... So, for September, October, and November, we were put in the Heron Room (which was very familiar to me, as my earlier – as in several years ago – once-a-month dance club, the Saturday Squares, danced in that very room for about 3 years!). That was fine in September and October, but some of the October dancers enjoyed it so much, they really pushed their friends to come in November, and we ended out with $3\frac{1}{2}$ squares that month. What a way to end the year!

In the meantime, I had managed to book the J.A. Dulude Arena for Square Dance Ottawa all through 2023. Good thing, as the January dance was SDO's largest dance yet $-4\frac{1}{2}$ squares! What a great way to start the year. Here's hoping it continues!!!!

When I first started Square Dance Ottawa, I had visions of eventually having a "Square Dance [every town around Ottawa]". Think Big or Go Home, right!

Well, the first "offspring" of SDO is about to start – Square Dance Russell! I recently started calling in Russell for a program within the Russell 55+ Club – it was spearheaded by some Stonebridge Squares dancers, but is operating as a 55+ Club program. Because of that, members of the club HAVE to be age 55 or over and HAVE to be a member of the 55+ Club. I thought this might be a good time to introduce Modern Square Dancing to the younger crowd in Russell, too. And so, Square Dance Russell was born. Our first dance will be Thursday night, March 9th. Keeping fingers crossed – and working hard to make it work! Stay tuned....

Club News Sunshine Squares (Plus level) Canterbury Community Centre, Ottawa Wednesdays (7:30 – 9:30) pm

We started off the dance season in the Fall full of wonder, that is, wondering whether the Club had survived Covid, wondering whether our longstanding members would still want to dance or be able to dance and wondering whether we would remember how to dance. Well the first night added to our "wonderings" when the only members to show up were the Executive.

However, things have been looking up since then. In fact, some new members presented themselves the following week and our numbers gradually increased over the Fall session.



Winter dancing commenced a little bumpy with some static from our "landlord", however, our traditional room was secured at the Canterbury Community Centre and we are pleased to see that some additional dancers have shown an interest in adding to our numbers. We are pleased to hear how enthusiastic our new members are. It must be Bob's success at mixing Mainstream and Plus dancers. And all of us don't mind making some mistakes and having a good laugh.

We had our Valentine's Day party early, and everyone (just about) dressed in their best for the occasion!



One pattern we have noticed is that most of our new members are women (some of whom dance the male's position). Where are all the men? Why don't you come and join us! We would love to see more new faces.

By Jim and Diane Kearns

9 February, 2023

Club News Swinging Swallows

As the Swallows look forward, we also look back!



Submitted by Gloria Bateman



Francois - ours for awhile

Francois was a true blessing, coming to call for the Swinging Swallows when we were so in need! He was a gentle man, thoughtful and considerate. He was always positive and could see a solution to any issue. Francois came up with many suggestions for increasing the number of dancers and worked hard to do just that!

He had a wonderful sense of humour and loved to tell a joke.

Having called squares for the Swallows since the fall of 2016, he looked after us until he could no longer call for our squares and square Angels.

When next you hear thunder, stop and think: *Is* that thunder, or is Francois calling a square for God's Angels?

Submitted by Gloria Bateman



What a Contribution They Have Made

- Honouring Bill & Wendy Shields

Meet Bill and Wendy Shields if you haven't already had an opportunity to share a square with them.



They first signed in at an Open House in September 2008 and have been valuable members of the Swinging Swallows ever since. Even now, troubled by hip and knee problems, they are unable to dance, but they attend each week.

Wendy and Bill have both held various positions on the Executive Committee. Until our recent club elections, Wendy held positions as the acting Treasurer and the Secretary for the club and Bill continues as the Past President! What would we do without them?!

Not long after becoming Swallows, Wendy provided the materials, her time and talent, and created two banners as long as the flatbed trailer that was used in the Pembroke Santa Parade – one for each side, white with black lettering, dancers and swallows! Both Wendy and Bill helped to decorate the float and participated in the parade!

In 2015, prior to the Swinging Swallows' 30th Anniversary Dance, Wendy replicated the original club banner (designed by Alf



Allwright), twice – one for display at the club and the other for banner napping. Wendy also designed, purchased materials, and provided Swinging Swallows shoe bags, which were available for sale at the Anniversary Dance.

The Swallows have always depended on Bill and Wendy to participate both in demonstration dances for recruitment and to dance at local retirement residences and nursing homes. They even enjoyed being the fourth couple when workshops were organized for newer dancers to hone their skills.



They attended the National Convention in 2014 and danced on Parliament Hill in Ottawa; they have attended a number of Swing into Spring weekends and a variety of dances in eastern Ontario.

Bill and Wendy were both on the Dance Committee for our Shades of Autumn dance in





There is no end to their energy and involvement. What a wonderful, kind and considerate couple!

Submitted by Gloria Bateman

Summer 2023

Mainstream Jeach & Review



Thursdays, May 4 thru August 24 (except June 8 and July 6)
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Mel Baker Hall, J.A. Dulude Arena 941 Clyde Ave. (about ½ km south of Carling, at Woodward)



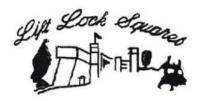
Caller: Wendy Vander Meulen

\$10 per person per night

(Payment accepted by eTransfer to wendyv@sympatico.ca, cash at the door, or credit card at the door)

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com or 613-282-0575







58th

Join Us In Peterborough Lift Lock Squares Presents The 58th Annual

58th

SPRING SPREE

22 April 2023

Afternoon 2:00 to 4:30 Evening 6:30 to 9:00

Mainstream, Plus & A1/A2 3 Dance Halls 3 Fabulous Callers

Brian Crawford

Don Moger

Jeff Priest

Crestwood Secondary School 1885 Sherbrooke Street West Peterborough ON K9J 0E5



Please wear clean shoes in dance halls
In consideration of others, NO perfumes or scents

Pre-registration: – All Day \$20.00 PP, Half Day \$10.00 PP

Registration At The Door –All Day \$25.00 PP, Half Day \$15.00 PP Phone contact Howard & Jean Lander Tel: 905-342-5450 Email: springspreedance@gmail.com

st Last Name	First Name	
2nd Last Name	First Name	
Address		
City	Province	Postal Code
Phone	Email	
All Day	Afternoon Only	Evening Only
Square Dance Club	Amount Enclosed	

or Email to annewayne644@gmail.com

Specify	Number of Dance	ers at high	est level you plan to	dance. Danc	e in lower	level rooms as yo	ou wish.
	Dance Level:		Mainstream	Plus	A1	A2	

Date ReceivedRibbons SentGiven OutCQCAE-Tr	For Lift Lock Records Date Received	Ribbons Sent	Given Out	CQ	CA	E-Tr
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CALLERS' INFORMATION SESSION AND WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 18, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Mel Baker Hall, J.A. Dulude Arena 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa

Cost: FREE

This is a session for dancers interested - or curious - to know more about what it takes to get into the calling field. We will start with a presentation on what it takes to be a caller and things to keep in mind when deciding whether it is something you'd want to pursue or not.

Then there will be an opportunity for each person to be "behind the mic" while we review some basic calling "need to know" things.

If there is sufficient interest in pursuing more about calling, one or two single-day sessions will be arranged in the next 3 months where we will explore things like Singing Calls, writing choreography, understanding formations, and much more.

For more info and to reserve your spot at this introductory Session:

Contact John or Wendy Tel: 613-282-0575

john.charman@sympatico.ca or WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com



July 5-8, 2023 Square Dance Convention Ottawa2023.com



Barry Clasper Toronto, ON

Bill Eyler

Palm Springs, CA

Brian Crawford Carleton Place, ON

Chris PhillipsFort Lauderdale, FL

Darren Gallina Arlington, TX

Deborah Carroll-Jones Arlington, TX **Don Moger** Montréal, QC

Kris Jensen

Albuquerque, NM

Sandie Bryant Chicago, IL

Tim Crawford Burlington, ON

Vic Ceder Los Olivos, CA

Wendy VanderMeulen St-Albert, ON

Registration Includes

- Over 250 hours of dancing in 7 dance halls
- · All levels: SSD through C4
- Friday banquet gala and Saturday brunch
- Vendor fair
- · Country & Western, Line Dancing, Two-Step
- Contra Dancing
- 600+ already registered!

The Venue

The **Westin Ottawa** convention centre, located at 11 Colonel By Drive above the Rideau Centre is where all dancing will take place.



With halls dedicated to every level of dancing, you can dance your favourite level or dance to your favourite caller for four fun-filled days.

Rates

First Timer: \$230 until June 1

Past Attendees: \$295 Non-Dancer: \$160

Don't miss out on the best square dancing!

Register now at www.ottawa2023.com or contact us at 613-806-2474









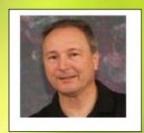


May 5 - 7, 2023

The Organizing Committee is happy to let you know that, providing we follow all COVID protocols and school board rules, we have our usual venue reserved for Swing into Spring 2023:

South Grenville District High School, 1000 Edward Street North in Prescott.

Callers **Ken Ritucci** and **Tom Miller** will put square dancers through their paces, and we are looking for a cuer who will provide some fun and interesting rounds for dancers!





There are more decisions to be made and much more work to be done. The square dance events focus on new and experienced dancers, and we are attempting to add SSD and more Advanced level dancing time.

The round dance programme includes dancing from easy rounds to phase 3 and 4 with some phase 5 dances.

Registration information, the programme and accommodations list will be posted to <u>our webpage</u> and on <u>fb/SwingintoSpring</u> as soon as possible. We will also issue an EOSARDA Bulletin containing the updates.

To volunteer to help at the event (sanitizing chairs, decorating, welcoming dancers, etc.) email promotion@SwingintoSpring.

Watch the <u>Swing into Spring</u> webpage and <u>fb/SwingintoSpring</u> for the most up-to-date plans and forms for 2023!

It'll be lots of fun...we hope to see you there!



ello Dancers!

The Organizing Committee would like to thank all of you who have attended Swing into Spring in recent years, with a special thank you to those who have trusted us with your event fees for the last few (COVID) years. We want to reassure you all that we are working diligently to plan and prepare for Swing into Spring 2023.

We have secured the usual venue, South Grenville District High School, and are endeavouring to arrange with the school to provide lunches, as before. We have square dance callers anxious to provide some interesting moves and lots of fun on the dance floor, and we are looking for round dance cuers who will do the same!!

We plan to include SSD in our square dance programme, along with more Advanced dancing, and to provide Phase 2 through 4 round dances with some at the Phase 5 level. There will be a variety of workshops to interest you.

Watch for updates on SwingintoSpring.ca and on our Facebook page. We will also issue an EOSARDA Bulletin containing the updates.

We do request that you have up-to-date vaccinations for COVID, since we must follow all local protocols and Upper Canada District School Board rules and regulations at our event.

If you would like to volunteer to help us (sanitize, set out chairs, welcome dancers) please email promotion@SwingintoSpring.ca.

We hope that you realize how much we appreciate your continued support and hope that you are able to attend, and enjoy, Swing into Spring 2023!

See you there!

Gloria Bateman, with Arlo Speer, Bob Pitruniak & Shirley Brown

Square Dance Clubs

Bay Waves

Basic/MS Friday 7:30pm - 9:30pm Northwind Community Centre 262 Len Purcell Dr. Constance Bay

Caller: Ron Gardner Contact: Ron Gardner

613-878-7712

bay.waves@live.ca

Crazy A's

A1 Friday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver Street, Ottawa

Caller: John Charman

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Glengarry Tartans

Beginners + Basic at every dance Most Sundays Check schedule 2:00pm - 4:00pm Usually La Fraternité Hall 49 St Paul St. Alexandria Check Schedule

Caller: Lynn Trepanier

Contact: Carole & Bernie Lauzon

613-931-1783

clauzon55@sympatico.ca

Grenville Gremlins

Basic/MS Monday 7:30pm - 9:30pm Check their website location change for Oct 17 and 24 North Grenville Municipal Centre 285 County Road #44, Kemptville, ON

Caller: Geoff Clarke

Contact: Peter & Geraldine Matthews

613-258-3690

kemptvillesquaredance@gmail.com

Harbour Lites

Basic/MS Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Dancing resumes Mar 1

Presbyterian Church

Center & Dibble Streets, Prescott

Caller: John Charman

Contact: Gerald & Marlene Casselman

613-652-4232

gm.casselman@gmail.com

Kanata Squares

Basic/MS Thursday 1:30pm - 3:30pm

No dancing Feb 9: freezing rain

Dick Brulé Community Centre

170 Castlefrank Rd, Kanata

Caller: Bob Summers

Contact: Bob & Marguerite Summers

613-258-7511

summers_bob@yahoo.ca

Limestone Dancers

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 6:45pm - 9:30pm

Polson Park Public School

645 Robert Wallace Dr. Kingston

Caller: Dave Hutchinson Contact: Shirley Brown

613 767 6650

colshirl35@gmail.com

Lockits

A2

A1 Wednesday A2 - 9:30 to 10:30am

A1 - 10:30am to 12 noon

Brunton Community Hall

1702 9th Line, Beckwith (Carleton Place)

Caller: Geoff Clarke

Contact: Geoff & Teena Clarke

613-724-8438

caller.geoff@bell.net

Meri Squares

SSD* Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm Teach

8:30pm - 9:30pm Full SSD & MS

J.A.Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Lamar Mason

613-221-9188

lamarmason4@gmail.com

Meri Squares

Plus/Plus Teach Thursday 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Westminister Presbyterian Church

470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa

Caller: John Charman

Contact: Lamar Mason

613-221-9188

lamarmason4@gmail.com

Mississippi Squares

Basic/MS Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm Full MS

7:30pm - 9:30pm B/MS

Brunton Hall

1702 9th Line, Blacks Corners (Carleton Place)

Caller: Brian Crawford

Contact: Vince and Debbie Guthro

613-296-1817

Mississippi Squares

Plus, Plus Teach Friday 7:30pm - 10:00pm

Brunton Hall

1702 9th Line, Blacks Corners (Carleton Place)

Caller: Brian Crawford

Contact: Vince and Debbie Guthro

613-296-1817

Napanee Pioneers

Basic/MS/Plus Friday 7:00 pm Southview Public School 18 Golf Course Lane at Cty Rd 8, Napanee

Caller: Dave Hutchinson Contact: Muriel Brough

613-354-4595

brough@kingston.net

Opeongo Squares

Basic

some MS teach Tuesdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm call to confirm time & date Opeongo Seniors Centre 19 Stafford St, Barrys Bay

Caller: Roger Moreau

Contact: Roger J. Moreau

613-628-6626

jrmoreau@distributel.net

Ottawa Date Squares

SSD*/MS

LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 8:45pm Room 202, Jack Purcell Community Centre 320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud 613-424-2992

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

Plus

LGBT friendly Mondays 6:30 pm - 8:30pm Room 202, Jack Purcell Community Centre 320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud 613-424-2992

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Quinte Twirlers

Basic, MS, Plus Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Harmony Public School

Belleville

Caller: Dave Hutchinson Contact: david dunham

613-403-2882

quintetwirlers@gmail.com

Riverside Gypsy Squares

MS/Plus/Rounds/Lines May/Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep

Every 3rd Weekend

(Fri evening

Sat afternoon)

Lower Beverly Lake Campground, Delta, On

Caller: Various Callers and Cuers

Contact: Helen MacCallum

1-613-330-4873

helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca

Skirts 'n Flirts

B/MS Friday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Not Dancing until March 2023

Knights of Columbus Hall

30 Miner St

Canton, NY 13617

Caller: Ron Roy

Contact: Alan & Sandy Brown

315-543-2175

sadushbrown@gmail.com

Square Dance Ottawa

Beginner Sunday 2:30pm - 4:45pm

Jim Durrell Recreation Centre, 1265 Walkley Rd., Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575,

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Sunshine Squares

MS/Plus Wednesday 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Canterbury Community Centre

2185 Arch St, Ottawa Caller: Bob Summers

Contact: Doug Bennett & Laura Johnson

613-730-0002

douglas.bennett2@sympatico.ca

Swinging Bs

Basic/MS/Plus/Rounds Friday Class 7:00pm - 8:00pm

8:00pm - 10:00pm

Knox - St. Paul United Church

800 Twelfth St E, Cornwall

Caller: Don Moger

Bob Summers

Contact: Helen MacCallum

hm: (613) 933-4052

helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca

Swinging Swallows

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Wesley United Church Hall

275 Pembroke St E, Pembroke

Caller: Ron Gardner

Contact: Andre Blais

819-689-5487

andre.cathy@hotmail.com

Round Dance Clubs Capital Carousels

Ph 3-4
Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm
Parkdale United Church
429 Parkdale Ave
Dancing to pre-recorded tapes
Contact Gaven Currie
613-739-9593

Line Dance clubs

Capital City Lines

Beginner Beginner-Plus Starting Sep 7
Wed 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Alexander Community Center
960 Silver Street, Ottawa
(AJ) Diane Poulton
613-729-4974
clogger13@sympatico.ca

Got Lines

ntro/Beginner/Improver
No dancing until further notice
Tues 2:30 - 3:00 pm Easy Lines
3:00 - 4:00 pm Beginner/Improver
Richmond Arena
(Richmond Memorial Centre)
6095 Perth St Richmond
Dave Westerm
613-838-5428
dlwestern@yahoo.com

Got Lines

ntro/Beginner/Improver
No dancing until further notice
Thurs 7:00 - 7:30pm Easy Lines
7:30 - 8:30 pm Beginner/Improver
Upper Hall, Johnny Leroux Arena
10 Warner-Colpittts
Stittsville
Dave Westerm
613-838-5428
dlwestern@yahoo.com