SQUARE TIME

Eastern Ontario Square and



www.eosarda.ca





Square Time Edition 69.4 December 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 February 2024. Deadline for submission January 31.

Advertising in Square Time

To advertise in Square Time, please send a 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
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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

It's hard to believe but in only a few more weeks it will be 2024.

Twenty twenty-four!

Holy mackerel what the heck happened to 2023? or 2022 for that matter? How can we be almost a quarter of the way into the twenty-first century when it seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the start of a brand new century?

Well, for one thing the pandemic chopped a hole almost 3 years wide in our lives. Three years of masking, social isolation and very little dancing. We may not have seen it coming, but we sure as heck knew it was here! Now that it's over - sort of - we are picking up the pieces and getting our lives back to some semblance of normality.

The dance world was hit particularly hard by the pandemic. Just about every dancer and Caller I know came down with COVID at some point during the pandemic, some more than once. Thankfully we appear not to have suffered many, if any, COVID-relate deaths. But, over the past three years, time, age and illness have taken their inevitable toll on the dancing community.

When the pandemic hit, all in-person dancing halted abruptly. It would be two and a half years or more before most of us returned to the dance floor, wearing masks and sanitizing our hands after every tip. There was also an understandable hesitancy on the part of many square dancers to resume an activity that inevitably brings you into close contact with other people. While much abated following last year's successful return to dancing, this hesitancy has nonetheless contributed to the loss of experience dancers.

Consequently, post-pandemic there are fewer active dancers than there were before the whole mess started and we have lost a few Member clubs along the way. Unfortunately we have also had to bid a fond farewell to some of our most experienced Callers who are now calling for the big square dance in the sky.

But all is not lost, there is hope on the horizon. With the return to dancing this September we successfully began our second post-pandemic dance year. What's more, of the 14 square dance clubs that registered with EOSARDA this Fall, five reported an increase in the number of registered dancers when compared to last year and one club reported no change in membership.

Even more encouraging is that our Registrar reports that we registered 130 new dancers last year and 90 new dancers so far this year. It would appear that our recruiting efforts are paying off, at least to some degree.

Enthusiasm for square dancing remains high. Dancers are dancing; Callers are calling; fun is being had by all. There are even rumours that six dancers are seriously considering picking up the mic and stepping onto the Callers' podium, a much-to-be-desired eventuality.

There is much work still to be done both in terms of experienced dancer retention and new dancer recruitment. The road ahead is long, but I know that collectively we are up to the challenge. I am confident that square dancing in Eastern Ontario will continue to be full of fun, fitness and friendship set to music for many years to come.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and lots of dancing fun.

Dave Western
President EOSARDA

Message from the Editor

First of all, I want to thank the board of EOSARDA for nominating Margaret and I for a "long time service" award. We wee both very surprised and delighted. We have been dancing for a very long time, 1976, and have enjoyed the whole adventure. Square and round dancing have been a major part of our lives, esppecially the friends we have made. The picture shows us receiving the award from EOSARDA president Dave Western at Harbour Lites.



In this issue, I have included two articles from the Australian magazine "Arround the Square". The first talks about retaining new dancers; the second is an article focusing on the very important concept of touching hands in a square.

We lost another long time caller, though retired, who had contributed much to our activity. Keith Waters will be missed. R ead the memorial.

Geoff Clarke's "callers corner" presents some thoughts for new dancers in his usual upbeat style.

Michelle Gravelle presents an overview of the EOSARDA Dance Dangle program. This program encourages dancers to travel to other clubs, to meet new friends, and to dance to different callers.

We have the latest club news and some flyers for upcoming events.

Once you have downloaded your copy of Square Time, make sure that other members of your club know about it and make sure they get a copy. You might even want to print a copy for some dancers who have no access to the internet. Those who receive bulletins will have a direct link to the latest issue, but not all dancers receive bulletins. If you wish to receive this terrific sources 0f information, please visit the eoDance.ca web site to sign up for bulletins by providing your email address.

Here is a big thank you to all the club executives out there. They are the ones keeping your club going; they need all the help and support you can give them. Volunteer to help so that not all the work falls on a few .

There is a list of contacts and a list of the square, round and line dance clubs at the end of the issue. There is also a list of the EOSARDA Board members on page 2.

Enjoy your dancing, smile a lot and Live Lively.

Gerry Johnson

Square Time Editor



In Memoria Keith Watters

Retired area caller, Keith Watters, died on Tuesday 31 October. After 56 years of calling, Keith retired in 2015. The following was taken from an article by Paul Adams

Keith and Rita started Square Dancing in 1958 and Keith started Calling in 1959. Keith was the Club Caller for the Cross Trailers in 1959 and called his first Jamboree that same year. In 1960 he was the Club Caller for Sunshine Squares, and in 1962 formed his Advanced Club Watter Wheels then in 1977 became the club Caller for Spinning Spurs. Back in 1962 Keith was referred to as The Caller's Caller because many Callers danced at Watter Wheels. Keith's favourite people were Les Goucher, Cam Heatherington, Dave Taylor, Ken Anderson, Glen Maynard, and I think Paul Adams. For approximately ten years Keith & Rita and Paul & Judy hosted a sold out 15 Square, New Year's Eve Square Dance. These Dances ended when health and family loss became more than could be tolerated. Keith was always ready to give assistance and guidance to new Callers, always inviting them to Call a Tip when they dropped in on his Clubs. Two of Keith's favourite sayings were "Drive safely and don't let anyone pass you", and "You did very well, but no better than I expected". His favourite pass times were fishing for bass and eating what he caught

KEITH WATTERS RETIRES AFTER 56 YEARS CALLING 1959 – 2015

A neighbour's knock on the door in September of 1958 introduced Keith and Rita to the world of "Square Dancing". Their first club was The Whirlybirds with Bob Potter calling. They enjoyed square dancing from the very first lesson! At the time Bob felt there were not enough callers in town and encouraged Ray Sauve and Keith to become callers - and so the process began. In the spring of 1959 Keith found himself calling at the Jamboree with Bob Potter holding onto the back of Keith's pants to control timing, and to encourage him. Keith and Rita were both born and raised in Ottawa and have been married for 62 years. Their daughter, Cathy, her husband Jim, and their grandson Michael, reside in Brantford. The first club that Keith called for was the Crosstrailers in 1959. This club met at the "West End Y" on Gladstone Avenue. In 1960, Art Wilson, who was the caller for Sunshine Squares, asked Keith to become the club caller. The dancers approved this selection and in September of 1960 he became their caller for both the Graduates and the New Dancers. Who could believe that he would be with the club for the next 55 years! Keith was also the caller for another well known Ottawa club called Sash-Shayers until 1975. He was also involved with Circle Squares for two seasons. In 1962 a group of very enthusiastic dancers asked Keith to form a workshop club for experienced dancers - and thus Watter Wheels was born. Their first dance was held at "The Square Spot" on Albion Road, and they met every second Saturday night for seventeen years. In January 1977 he took over Spinning Spurs (Mainstream) and Spinettes (Basic) and merged them into a tri-level club under the supervision of Sunshine Squares. Keith has always been among the first leaders to volunteer his time whether it be a ski weekend, our annual curling day, promotion dances, the Grey Cup dance, or any other charitable dance that needed a caller. In 1991 he supported the club when Sunshine Squares organized a dance to raise funds for the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and for the next 15 years he organized area callers to donate their time in support of this cause. His inspired calling and Rita's continued support carried them through 56 years of life immersed in the Square Dance World.

THEY'RE IN THE DOOR, NOW WHAT?

(from a keynote address by Roy Gotta) reprinted from Around the Squuare

You've done all your marketing. You've done your best to get dancers in the door, and you have a group of eager dancers ready to join our activity. What are you doing to keep them? What are you doing to make them want to continue being a part of your club? During her Chairman's speech at this year's CALLERLAB convention, Patty Greene said, "It's what happens when we get them in the door that we don't do such a good job with." She was focused on the caller's responsibility to be open, welcoming, encouraging, respectful, and friendly. We as dancers and club leaders need to focus on those same attributes and qualities that embody our motto, "friendship set to music."

We have become so focused on the dance, the successful execution of the figures, and the quality of the callers, that we have forgotten one of the main reasons square dancing became so popular when it did. That reason is the sociability, the fun and friendship that made the activity so inviting. Sure, the music, the choreography, and the exercise with your partner are major factors, but you need the full package to remain a viable club. The clubs that are retaining their members, and growing, are those that have realized that the appeal of square dancing is more than just the dance.

How do we fix this? It really isn't that hard.

Personal contact:

Do you know their names? Do you know what they do or did for a living? Do you know if they have any children or grandchildren? Do you know where they live? Have a conversation with these people. Engage them. Now don't go badgering them with all these questions all at once, but say hello to them at each dance, talk to them for a little while, get to know them, BE FRIENDLY. Think back to when you started. Did this make a difference?

Treatment at the dance:

Did you invite them to square up with you? It doesn't have to be every tip, or even every dance or class, but at least every once in a while. If a number of the established club members are doing this, it creates a welcoming atmosphere that will make them want to come back. At the very least it will not make them not want to come back. Newer dancers are going to make mistakes. These are indirectly pointed out to them when they are corrected while dancing. This is negative reinforcement. Be sure to comment on all the things they did correct, how well they are doing. Say something like "You should have seen us when we started." Always say something positive. At the end of the evening, they may not know exactly why, but they will have had a good time and will want to come back.

When you go square dancing, is it just to go to a club to execute some figures, hopefully listen to some good songs, and hope the other dancers don't mess up the squares? Or perhaps do you go to socialize with some friends who you probably met through square dancing and still share your fondness of the square dance activity?

A couple months ago I was at a Hunterdon Flutterwheels dance. This is a club that is growing and thriving. I was impressed with something I saw. There was a dancer who is no longer able to drive or dance. I believe is wife is in a nursing home and he is in an assisted living facility. One of the club members picked him up and brought him to the dance, so he could socialize with friends and enjoy the sights and sounds of the square dance. The disabled dancer just missed being around his square dance friends. I was impressed by this action and thought to myself, "This is why this club is so successful." Have you lost dancers because they no longer like to drive at night? How about offering to give them a ride to and from the dance?

We want our dancers to feel good when they leave a dance. Good calling and good dancing go a long way towards achieving this, but other aspects of the dance will also affect this. For instance, have you ever had members of the club complain about this or that during the dance? Whether or not they are part of the discussion, this will affect other dancers. Maybe not directly, but negative vibes pile up, just as easily as positive ones. If you feel the need to complain, try to do it one on one, and quietly. On the other hand, if you feel really good about something, let lots of people know.

Does your club have any non-dancing activities? A lot of clubs have a summer picnic. Sometimes, you already have people interested in taking lessons in the fall. Why not invite them to the picnic? How about inviting some of your non-dancing friends to the picnic? You are exposing them to the square dance "community". It gets them into the conversation. Does your club do any other social activities, like a bowling outing, or going to a ballgame, or a movie night. If so, have you included your students?

Finally, after the dance, some of us sometimes go out to get a bite to eat. Sometimes some of us get together before the dance. Is it always with the same people, or have you invited the newest members of your club?

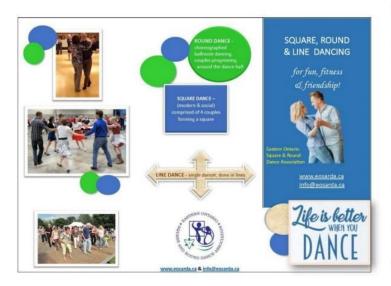
All I am really trying to say here, is that it's easy for us to fall into familiar patterns. We go to the dance, we talk to the same people, and we go home. We need to make a concerted effort to engage our newest members, to make them feel welcome, to make them want to come back. Not just because they like the dancing, but because they like the atmosphere, the sense of community, and most of all, the people.

Thanks for listening.

Roy Gotta



News & Views, Winter 2023



You may have heard about it...here it is: the **new EOSARDA Promotional Brochure** — an updated promotional brochure describing square, round, and line dancing, answering common questions and providing links to EOSARDA's website and FB page. This brochure can be used by ANY EOSARDA club as part of their recruitment tools. If the club emails us indicating the number of copies needed, we will provide clubs with a limited number so each club does not incur the cost directly.

On left, reduced in size, is the outside page, blue area is the front, the logo is the outside back of the tri-fold document.

Next is the inside page, folded in the order shown (if you can imagine it ...).

A while ago, the Publicity Committee sent out an email to Club Presidents and Publicity Contacts providing information on useful resources for posters, videos, etc. as well as an electronic copy of the new promotional brochure. It can be downloaded and then printed for individual club use, or as mentioned above, we can help!

What do clubs want/need from the Publicity Committee? While we are willing and able to assist clubs, we do not know what is needed. If you or a member of your club has a suggestion about an event that can be used to recruit/demonstrate our dancing, we can help with additional material and resources.

Dancing is fun and a great way to exercise without even realizing it. and Round Dance Associ website for info and to find a · No experience or partner are Especially check out the . Dancing within EOSARDA, a not-for-'Interested in Dancing?' page eck us out on The caller/cuer/dance leader will teach everything you need to know in order to be a good dancer. There are no exams or competitions; we dance for fun, not for perfection! Dancing is 'friendship set to A wide variety of music is used to SEEDS OF Casual attire and comfortable shoes Dancing is a very social activity will make new friends, connect wold ones. & come square, round or line Make dance night your DATE NIGHT
 -- get up and dance! dancing!

We are waiting to hear from you! Email us at publicity@eoDance.ca with comments and suggestions.

Last, but certainly not least, our other news: Dave Western has kindly agreed to give Lamar and myself a hand working with us on the Publicity Committee...he has already provided some very good suggestions!

Gloria Bateman, on behalf of your Publicity Committee









🖿 An Open (& light) Letter to all our New Dancers...

Welcome to the world of "what did he say?" and "which is my left hand?" and "A pass thru is what?". You might as well leave all your cares behind for the few hours each week that you're out square dancing in your first year, because you'll have your hands, feet & mind zeroed in on the pleasures & mechanics of square dancing!

First let me introduce you to your 'cast of characters'! These folks will be playing a large part in your emergence from plain Jane & John Doe to Square Dancers, 1st class!!

CALLER: (also known as teacher, coach, your highness etc...) This is where all the trouble starts. This is the person who issues the commands (calls), who makes you Split Two, go around one, dive thru, swing and much more. But most of all, this person is the one with all the answers!! Make it a point to get acquainted with him (or her). It never hurts to know the brass! You'll find out as time goes by that the caller really wants you to succeed. He/she really does! So don't be shy about asking your questions. The prime

favour the caller will ask of you is simply – be on time; be a good listener; and let the caller do the teaching! Okay? !!!

<u>Helpers</u> (also called Angels): these great people are usually regular members of your club & experienced dancers. Their main job is to help fill out squares so that you never have to 'sit out'! You'll notice that the truly helpful angels will be hard to distinguish, as

they'll leave all the teaching and calling up to the caller and simply be in the right place at the right time!

Caller's Partner: (usually the caller's wife or husband). Get to know this one!! He or she can be your communications link with the Caller just in case, between the tips he's busy planning the next phase of his program, or trying to figure out what went wrong with the last one? The CP (Caller's Partner) quite frequently will assist the caller in teaching the basics and so forth, so he/she should be well qualified to come up with an answer to

such questions as "which hand do I use for ...?" or "which direction do I go when?"

Fellow dancers (frequently referred to as corner, right-hand lady, opposite, head couple, side couple or 'hey, you'!) At first, you'll look upon these folks as hands stretching out to take yours for a swing, a promenade, or even box your gnat! Gradually they'll become people with faces & names & smiles. You may even discover that they talk & eat and they may even sing along on some of the

singing calls. One note of caution though! As you get truly bitten by the square dance bug, these faces & hands and smiles could materialize into good lasting friends! SO treat them with care!!

Stay tuned for the next edition of Caller's Corner for "Part 2" of this letter!!

A CALLER'S VIEW: TOUCHING HANDS

By Skip Brown (from Northeast Square Dance Magazine, Feb 1988)

Reprinted from Around the Square

Valentine's Day comes this month (in February) and with it, all those little "Valentine Cupids" flitting about, shooting arrows into unsuspecting hearts, and causing a yearning for a little physical contact with persons of the opposite gender. Aren't we fortunate to be Square Dancers, for as such, we have "Valentine's Day" every time we dance? Just think of how much physical contact there is in Square Dancing. We get to hold hands with our partner; we get to hold hands with our corner; we get to hold hands with our opposite dancer; we get to have forearm holds; we get to hold another dancer in our arms when we swing each other; and sometimes we even get a full nose to nose hug when our caller is in a "Yellow Rockin" mood. Some of us dancers miss a lot of physical contact in dancing - some by short-cutting, and some is missed because we have become just a bit complacent.

Take a look at short-cutting. When we are all home with our partner, and the heads or sides are asked to Square Thru, we get a lot of hand-holding while doing this movement. If, however, we short-cut, by merely stepping forward then turning to face our corners, we have missed all that physical contact - that hand shaking and turning in and brushing shoulders as we pull each other by. We have also spoiled the rhythm of the dance. When four ladies are asked to Chain across, there is a Courtesy Turn involved, We get to hold each other's left hands in front of the lady and our right hands behind her as the man's arm goes around the lady's waist as we finish with that sweeping, flowing turn to face in. But if we are short-cutting, we eliminate that Courtesy Turn and just do a star thru type action. Ends up the same way, but again, we have spoiled the rhythm of the dance.

To be complacent can mean to be "self-satisfied". I suppose a "self-satisfied" dancer doesn't really need to join hands after a Pass Thru because the caller just might call a "Tag the Line", and the "selfsatisfied" dancers would have to immediately let go - so why waste the time joining hands? Well, one reason for joining hands is that the caller may call a "Wheel AND Deal", and if we have a hand hold with our partner, we can properly dance a Wheel AND Deal. Another reason for joining all hands (and I do mean all hands) is that the caller may call a "Bend the Line". That's where the centre dancers back away to face each other, while the ends walk forward to face each other. If all hands are joined and you have no un-joined hands then you are a centre. If you have one hand free then you are an end: if your right hand is free then you walk forward turning left to face the other end dancer; while if your left hand is free, then you walk forward turning right to face the other end dancer. Think about it how many times have you gentlemen, while dancing a "Pass Thru" followed by a "Bend The Line", reached out to hold the lady's hand, only to find she had already bent the line and your hand was in the middle of her back? Conversely, how many of you ladies have danced the same moves, reached out to join hands, and found yourself looking at the side of the gentleman's head because he has already "Bent the Line"? How many times have you danced a "Bend the Line" movement after a "Pass Thru" and turned the wrong way just because you didn't join hands? Next time your caller calls an "Eight Chain" movement, watch whether the two dancers coming to the outside wait for each other

for the "Courtesy Turn", or whether your "Eight Chain" movement dissolves into an oval shaped Right AND Left Grand!

Remember, Keep making contact.

Barry's Comment:

The above article was of course originally written for dancers; however, it is still an important lesson for callers to remember. There are still many callers that do not stress the importance of touching hands. This establishes contact, shows who our temporary partner is, shows who is centre and who is on the ends of lines and establishes a specific formation, and also gives a feeling of confidence to the dancer.

By touching hands to establish a formation, there is far less chance and opportunity for error for the dancers. Of course, a problem can occur when we have the dancer who has little confidence, and then hangs on for grim death. We have all seen it happen, as well as suffered the consequences to our fingers. It is important to stress that we are just looking at establishing contact; touching hands. As we age, we often have some degree of arthritic problems in our hands, fingers, and joints, and it can be painful if someone inadvertently grabs us or holds too tight. No-one likes a death grip.

Many elements come together in any given call; the footwork we will be doing, the amount of turning our body will be executing, and the hand positions as we go through the motions to end in a specific spot, touching hands with the person beside you. We all want dancer success, so we need to look at every single aspect of what we are calling and teaching, in order for the dancers to gain that feeling of achievement.

That achievement is not just in getting to the correct spot at the end of the call. It is also how we get there - the "dance" aspect. This comes from smooth, flowing motion of the entire body, and the position of the hands is just as important as the footwork. By ending up in the correct position within the correct time frame, and by looking to establish that set-up by touching a hand (even momentarily) we set ourselves up for success for what is to follow.

EOSARDA Visit Dangle Program for 2023-2024 is Underway!

Great News!!!!! We wanted to remind all dancers that the EOSARDA Visit Dangle Program is underway for the 2023-2024 dance season! It is very encouraging to see so many Clubs hosting dances!

As a reminder, the best way for any dancer to become stronger is to dance more often, and visiting another club is a great way to do this!!!!! A different caller or cuer will present things in a slightly different way and this is a fabulous way to improve your skills! The program runs from September 1st, 2023 to August 31, 2024.

Last season we had five dancers track their participation and are pleased to acknowledge the following dancers:

Silver dangle (5 dances)

Gerry Lelievre – Meri Squares Diane Marsh – Mississippi Squares Colleen McEwan – Meri Squares Joey Walker - Mississippi Squares

Gold dangle (8 dances)

Robert Milburn – Meri Squares Rosie Schurr – Meri Squares



So how do I earn a dangle? A visit to a visit to another EOSARDA member club on it's regular club night also qualifies (one visit per club per year per applicant). The second way is attendance at any open dance sponsored by an EOSARDA member club or association or by EOSARDA itself. Since September the following dances have been held or will be held by EOSARDA Clubs, ALL of which qualify as a 'visit' for the Dangle Program!

October 7 - Autumn Leaves and Canadian Tartan hosted by the Glengarry Tartans

September 30/October 1 - A-2 Majic hosted by Don Moger

November 25 - November Nonsense - hosted by the Napanee Pioneers

November 26 - Tartan and Kilts Dance hosted by the Swinging B's

December 2 – All Day Sashay hosted by Meri Squares and Ottawa Date Squares

December 9 - EOSARDA Christmas Dance hosted by EOSARDA

December 31 - Ring in the New Year hosted by the Grenville Gremlins

January 13 – Snowflake Swing hosted by the Mississippi Squares

February 3 - Frosty Fling hosted by EOSARDA

May – Swing into Spring.....

Take a look at our <u>website information</u>, complete with the application form and do not hesitate to reach out to the <u>Dangle Dance Manager</u> for any information!

Let's triple the number of dancers who will earn their dangles for 2023-2024! See you on the dance floor!!!!!

Club News Limestone Square Dance Club – Kingston

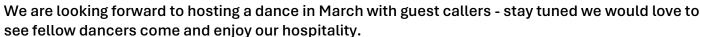
As with many clubs, our membership has been reduced significantly with only a small number of former dancers returning but the members we have are committed to having fun and becoming good square dancers. Last year we were fortunate to attract 9 new dancers who are very active – dancing not only in Kingston but often attending Napanee Pioneers as well. These dancers started last February and with lessons continuing through the summer months have mastered Basic, have learned Mainstream and working hard to master that level. As well as the usual Graduation night at class in May, in August, to celebrate their success, a pot luck dinner was held with a polka dot theme! A good time was had by all.

In the last hour of class each week we do Plus with one call each week being taught and most of our newly graduated dancers are staying for that extra hour and slowing learning some calls. Although we had 6 people attend our introductory workshops, only 3 have stayed – 2 dropped out because of a family event but have indicated they were very interested in returning next fall. We are averaging 3 squares a week; rebuilding the membership will take time but with the newer dancers working hard to promote square dancing and our Club, we are optimistic that the Club will grow.

At our Halloween themed class evening on October 24^{th,} we had many interesting and fun costumes participate in our "Parade of Creativity" and with the decorations and delicious treats, there was no need for anyone to play "tricks" – except perhaps our caller, Dave Hutchinson, who often "tricks" us with his choreography!

We will not be having a Christmas dance this year as it was not possible to find a day and time where both space was available and Dave was free (he calls for Napanee, Belleville and Peterborough clubs as well as Kingston). But we





On a sad note, we will not be returning to Round Dancing.

Shirley Brown, Interim President







Club News LOCKITS Advanced Dance Club

Geoff & Teena Clarke

November 2023

There's really not a "lot" of 'new news' to add to our club report of September 2023 so this report is going to quite a bit shorter than usual!

We're still dancing 4+ squares each Wednesday morning. Our A2 teach at 10am is going really well as we gradually work through the 43 or so moves of the program and we will have completed about one third of the calls in the A2 program by the time you read this. All of those dancing A2 so stay for the A1 dancing that follows so we have a good & lively energy in the room for the whole morning!!

Unfortunately, we had to "de-commission" our website due to an astronomical rise in hosting costs! So for all things "Lockits" (including our dance schedule) please contact me at caller.geoff@bell.net

If you're an Advanced Dancer and like to dance in the daytime, then come on out & have fun with us on Wednesday mornings! The A2 teach starts at 10am, followed by A1 dancing from 11am to 12:30pm. Note that we take a "winter break" for all of March 2024 returning to dance through April!



You're welcome to come & dance with us at any time!

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



Club News Meri Squares

Meri Squares has had a busy autumn. We celebrated Halloween with 2 special nights, both for our SSD and Plus dancers. Costumes and food were scary good!

We then enjoyed a craft and bake sale night, and a very successful square dance apparel sale, all held in November. The weather didn't always cooperate but Meri Square dancers are a hardy bunch and we also love a good bargain.

December will see Meri Squares partnering with the Ottawa Date Squares, to host a joint "All Day Sashay" on Saturday December 2. This is a full day extravaganza, to be held in downtown Ottawa. With 4 callers and all dance levels, we know it will be a wonderful day of fun and friendship.

Our SSD dancers are invited to their graduation night on December 19th. The new group is small but enthusiastic, with caller Wendy VanderMeulen working her usual magic after just 14 weeks.

We have a very special announcement as Lamar Mason, our past club President, has been honoured with the Trillium Merit Award. Dancing 5 years or more, with a significant amount of their dancing experience in Ontario, Merit Award winners have made a significant contribution to dancing in Ontario, served in leadership capacities at the club level, and been involved in an executive of committee level at the regional, provincial, or national level. Congratulations Lamar!

We end the season with our Pot Luck Christmas Party, on December 14 th. The party is for all of our dancers, and we know it will be a wonderful celebration to close 2023.



Our Plus dancers at the Meri Squares Halloween Party



Our Big & Beautiful Square Dance Clothing Sale - bargain hunters galore (Submitted by Pat McLachlan & Michelle Gravelle)

Club News Mississippi Squares

Square dancing is once again really rocking on Tuesday and Friday nights here in Carleton Place. On most nights, folks at Brunton Hall might look something like those shown below.

On Tuesday, October 31st, however, it must be reported that things took an abnormal



turn. Something quite strange came over many of those in attendance. Our caller and his trusty partnerin-crime, for some reason thought it was raining inside the hall.



Others came dressed in unusual fashion. It was later determined that it might have had something to do with the fact that it was Hallowe'en Night. Once that was made known to all, it was determined that there should be a contest for best costume.







But enough of that ...

It is important to note that Mississippi Squares has been blessed with a total of 18 new dancers this year and that they have been doing a great job making Tuesday nights lively!

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify in a little more detail what will be happening at our Snowflake Swing event being held on January 13th, 2024. Here is an extract from a letter sent by Vince Guthro, our club co-president, to EOSARDA:

" ... I am writing to inform you about some adjustments to our upcoming event, the Snowflake Swing, which will differ from our traditional Halfway dance due to several factors ...

Unfortunately, we've encountered a few challenges that have led to these changes. Firstly, we are unable to secure the high school venue to host the event. Secondly, our current membership numbers are lower. Moreover, with the onset of winter and the rising levels of COVID and flu cases, we must adapt.

Therefore, the Snowflake Swing will be a scaled-down afternoon dance from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, featuring a single caller, Brian Crawford. The event will focus on Basic dances suitable for new dancers, Mainstream, and Plus levels, rotating through these levels. We've managed to secure the upstairs area at the Arena in Carleton Place, which will provide a single dance floor for our activities.

Please note that in lieu of a hearty dinner, we will offer light snacks throughout the dance. Tickets will be available at the door for your convenience."

Well, that about does it for this issue of *Club News Mississippi Squares*. If you are ever wondering what to do with yourself on a Tuesday or Friday night, please feel free to drop in for a fun-filled evening of dancing with the friendly folks at Brunton Hall in Blacks Corners, just outside Carleton Place. If you have any questions or concerns regarding anything to do with our club, please get in contact with our co-presidents, Vince and Debbie Guthro at 613-296-1817.

Charles Henderson

Club News Ottawa Date Squares

We Sashayed All Day

s The Ottawa Date Squares has been blessed with an infusion of new dancers thanks to some creative marketing, tireless organizing and a sport whose time seems to have come around again in the LGBTQ community in Ottawa.

Our club is not alone to adopt the new Social Square Dancing (SSD) program which promises a shorter learning period and a focus on making it as much fun as possible. The accent is on the social aspect of dancing and our new dancers are loving every minute of it.

But when all you do every week is learn new calls, it becomes easy to lose track of the spirit of SSD; that being to keep it fun.

As we did last year, we approached the Meri Squares to partner with us in order to put on a special dance that will give our respective clubs a chance to just dance. And to amp up the fun, we invited some out-of-towners (Don Moger and Dave Hutchinson) to add to our club callers (Brian Crawford and Wendy VanderMeulen) and make it a truly exciting event.

To improve the experience even further, we partnered with a local hotel (Courtyard Marriott Downtown) to bring affordable hotel accommodations and a very warm and welcoming environment where we could be together.

We even reserved a bunch of tables at Tucker's Marketplace for a fantastic buffet meal together!

And of course we invited our dancer friends far and wide and they heard our call. Contingents from Toronto, Montréal and Kingston made the trip to the capital to join us.

As with any planned event, we couldn't be sure how this new environment would be received by the dancers and while some of the dance spaces might not have been quite as spacious as we are accustomed to, the bright holiday decorations and the cozy atmosphere of the hotel ballrooms really set a festive mood that made our get together one of the best we've ever had.

The callers brought their a-game and the dancers poured their all into the dances, bringing an energy that has not been seen in a long time.

Feedback has been extremely positive with many already asking when we can do this again.

We are absolutely thrilled at how successful our dance was and we can't wait to make it happen again in the spring so stay tuned for details to come.

If you were unable to attend All Day Sashay this time, we hope you'll consider joining us for the next one and see for yourself how much fun square dancing is when good friends come together to celebrate their joy in dance.

Yellow Rocks





Jean-Marc Robichaud President

Ottawa Date Squares

www.ottawadatesquares.ca

info@ottawadatesquares.ca

Club News Riverside Gypsy Squares

The Gypsies had their last camping/dancing weekend on September 15-17th for this year. Geoff Clarke cued dances on Friday night and Saturday afternoon in the open-air pavilion at the campground in Delta, ON.

After the dancing on Saturday, we had our Annual General Meeting. We thank all our Executive members who have agreed to continue for the next year.

We enjoyed a potluck supper on Saturday night and as usual there was plenty of food and choices for all. With the cooler weather it was very nice to sit around the campfires on Friday and Saturday night.

Some Gypsies will be travelling this winter, but others have put their trailers, fifth wheels or campervans into storage for the winter.

We are eagerly awaiting our first campout of the season the weekend of May 10-12th. Rumour has it that the May Committee will be hosting a "welcome back" breakfast. A good time to catch up after the long winter. It's nice to think ahead to the warmer weather as I look out my window to see the snow on the ground. Campers are welcome to join us at Lower Beverley Lake Campground for the weekend or come down and dance on a Saturday afternoon through the summer.



See you on the dance floor.

Mary Anne Reinhard Riverside Gypsy Squares





Club News Russell Squares Russell, ON

Wendy Vander Meulen

Last Square Time's club news ended with "So, keeping fingers crossed that I'll have better news to report for the next Square Time!" Well... for now, it's still not certain. The switch to Friday nights did not work, and after two weeks of effort (first week got 5 people, second week got 3) it was cancelled.

HOWEVER, all is not lost. You may or may not notice that there is no report from Square Dance Russell in this Square Time. That is another venture that did not work out. But when I contacted the Township of Russell to cancel my contract for the hall rental for the rest of the year, I was asked "Are you still interested in doing a session of square dancing as part of the Russell Recreation Program for the winter?" I had completely forgotten that I'd even sent a message to that effect at the end of the summer. Of course, I say YES!

So, "Modern Square Dancing, Part 1" will be offered in the Township's Program Guide which comes out at the end of December. Registration starts the first week of January. Once the Guide is printed, I can also advertise with my own flyers, but the exposure through the Township will cover so much more territory than I ever could! I am optimistic that THIS effort will work.

Once again, I'm "keeping fingers crossed that I'll have better news to report for the next Square Time!"

Club News Square Dance Ottawa J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa 4th Sunday of the month, 2:30 – 4:30 Wendy VanderMeulen

This dancing venture has turned out to be an interesting one. At any given dance, the *majority* of dancers attending are from EOSARDA clubs! I guess they enjoy an afternoon of simple dancing and the pleasure of being angels to the first timers. A few of the attendees have been before, but not on a regular basis. They come one month, then come back a couple months later.... Some DO come consecutive months, but that may mean 2 or 3 times, then I don't see them for a long time, if at all. And then there are the first timers. There are ALWAYS first timers. And at the end of every dance, so many of them say "I never knew square dancing could be so much fun!" That's why I do this – to spread the word.

The November dance ended out being cancelled on very short notice as I came down with Covid the day before the dance. Emails were sent out; the website was updated; and messages were posted on Facebook and the Meetup page. Apparently one person showed up to find an empty room, and *then* found the message on Meetup. The good news is that I was able to reschedule the dance for SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10. We don't usually dance in December (because the 4th Sunday of the month is usually too close to Christmas), so now we have an excuse for a Real Christmas Dance! Yes, I would have used Christmas music at the November dance, but it just feels better in December. It'll be so much fun.

The hall is also booked for 2024. Remember to steer any interested people to Square Dance Ottawa on the 4th Sunday of the month in 2024. www.SquareDanceOttawa.ca.

Club News Swinging B's

Hello Fellow Dancers, It is so nice to see many familiar faces on the dance floor; it warms the heart to see the smiles or confused faces as our club caller, Don Moger, puts us through our "just basic steps"...Boy are we rusty! We did get a few new dancers and they are coming along pretty well. It is sad not see a few familiar faces, but we have been in contact with them and it is mostly health issues that is keeps them away. We have a couple returning from Alberta; It is great to have them in our Club. Our 2nd caller is due to return once Don heads south for the winter.. It is so great to have Bob Summers and Marguerite join us throughout the snowy season. The club members are gearing up for the Tartan & Kilts Dance this November. A few club members have gone traveling to other clubs to invite fellow dancers to come join us. Hopefully they will get the caller to sign their travel badge application. If you are a new member and if you Do Not know what this is all about, please ask the folks in your club.. This is just a little info on what's happened with the Swinging B's....hopefully we will see you on the dance floor and the familiar, smiling folks will give you a 'yellow rock'.

submitted by Penny E Lafave

Club News Sunshine Squares







Our season was about to start with the loss of the use of our hall at Canterbury Community Centre; the quadrupling of our rent at the available alternative, Heron Road CC; and then the renewed availability of Canterbury but at quadrupled rent. There was a lot of talking ably led by the Kearns. After the

smoke had cleared we were back at Canterbury with the same old rent plus inflation, good to the end of the winter term. Talk continues with EOSARDA, other clubs, city councillors, and community centres. The issue is whether we qualify for a not for profit rate which we did in the past or are just some private group. Heron Road Community Centre is now closed in order to be turned into a makeshift emergency shelter as of the end of November; we dodged a bullet.

Bob Summers and Ron Gardner have shared the calling duties. The club is operating in a teaching mode in order to improve the plus dancing of some newer or rusty dancers. We have been wearing masks and not having shared food; the dancers seem ok with that. Twenty dancers paid fall dues. There has been between one and three squares dancing per night sometimes with the caller also dancing to fill a square and that's amazing. We are having fun. At least one dancer had some serious Halloween spirit.



The sad news is the death of Keith Watters in October. He

retired in 2015 after calling for 56 years, 55 of them for Sunshine Squares. His wife Rita died in 2022. Your writers danced happily with Keith at Sunshine for twenty years and remember Keith and Rita fondly.



Doug Bennett and Laura Johnson.

A Busy, Rewarding Fall for the Swinging Swallows

The Swallows are a small club now, but we are determined to build it bigger! We will hold a 'Meet & Greet' in mid-January to encourage the community to join us in some fun dancing and to see if they will become Swallows!

The dancers we have are all enthusiastic and we have fun. During October we set out a box and asked dancers to bring a few non-perishable items that we collected over two evenings. Bill and Wendy Shields delivered the Swallows' donation to the Food Bank again this year.

A picture is worth a thousand words (or more!): what costumes! What fun!



Our Halloween party included, not only lots of fun dancing and imaginative costumes, but beautiful decorations and some snacks.









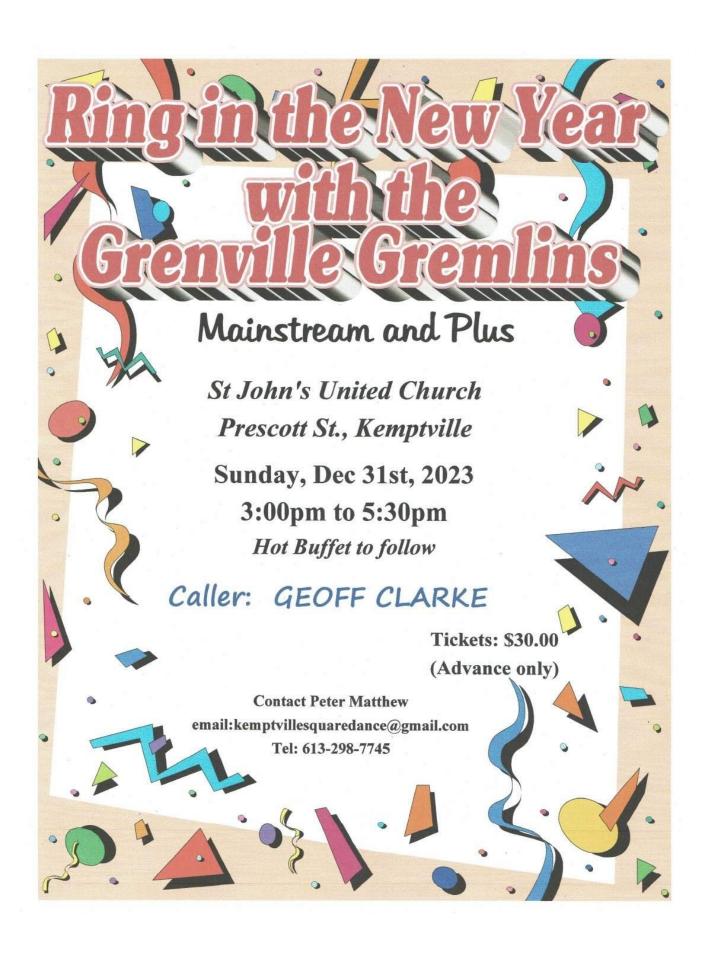




The last couple of weeks in November we used a Christmas stocking to collect donations (\$125) to help Wesley United Church, where we dance, to provide a better Christmas holiday for a family in need.

Our Christmas dance will be a tasty pot-luck dinner and dance. We plan to invite a few of our dancers who have not been able to join in the fun because of illness. After the new year we will focus on bringing some new Swallows to our nest!

Submitted by Gloria Bateman







SWing into Spring with a New Look and More!

Things have a way of working out!

Notice our new logo! We have replaced the mid-summer sunflowers with a bouquet of spring crocus and daffodils. Still the same weekend event, just with a bit of a new look!

The new look extends to a new location, too. We were unable to secure a reservation at our usual school in Prescott so we looked around and found the Thousand Islands Secondar School in Brock-ville. This city has more options for accommodations and more choices for restaurants. The school offers three halls for dancing with a cafeteria near by if we want to use it, with room for a registration table at the front entrance. We think it will be a great venue for our weekend of dancing.

The new look also extends to a new dance format: three halls, 3 callers and all square dancing! We were unable to engage round dance cuers that were available and came within our budget, and since the number of round dancers has constantly diminished over the last number of years, we chose to offer square dancing at levels Basic and SSD through Advanced -- workshops and dances -- in all three halls.

Since we have three halls, we need three callers and we located two from out-of-town, as has been our mandate. Our third caller is one we all know and love. *Brian Crawford* will call for us on Saturday in one of the halls and will be the featured caller for the Mothers' Day Dance on Sunday afternoon. The out-of-town callers are *Jet Roberts* from Alabama and *Sandie Bryant* from Chicago. There will be

The one thing that remains the same is the cost of registration!

more about these callers a little later.

The Committee will provide a list of some accommodations in Brockville and a list of some of the restaurants in the area. Until then, you are invited to visit the city of Brockville's website for more information. Registration forms will be available on the Swing into Spring webpage by the first of January. We are working hard to provide dancers with a fun-filled weekend of workshops and dancing, friendships renewed and made, and to finish off the *Swing into Spring 2024* happy, exhausted, and waitingor spring 2025!

Plan to be there! Watch the **Swing into Spring** website, our fb **page**, and eBulletins for updates!

Gloria Bateman, with Arlo Speers, Shirley Brown, Carole Lauzon & Joel Smith The Swing into Spring Committee



Saturday April 13, 2024 2:00 to 4:30 pm

North Grenville Municipal Center 285 CR 44, Kemptville ON N 45° 01.460' / W 075° 39.276'

Alternating Basic & Mainstream tips Refreshments and Share the Wealth

Callers:

Geoff Clarke





Brian Crawford





For Information contact:

Debbie Armstrong 613-989-2784 d51r57@gmail.com

or

Janet Lockyer 613-774-5033 billandjanet1246@gmail.com

List of interesting web sites for our dancers

EOSARDA web site https://www.eodance.ca/SD_clubs_full.php

EOSAREDA Facebook hhttps://www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda/

Ontario Federation https://squaredance.on.ca/

Canadian Square Society https://csrds.ca/

Toronto and District http://www.td-dance.ca/

Southwest Ontario https://swosda.ca/

EOSARDA Email Contacts

President president@eosarda.ca

Email: Registrar registrar@eosarda.ca

Email: Square Time Editor Square Time Editor@eosarda.ca

Email: <u>Bulletins</u> <u>bulletins@eosarda.ca</u>
Email: <u>Webmaster</u> <u>webmaster@eoDance.ca</u>

EOSARDA Dance Clubs

Kanata Squares https://www.kanatasquares.ca

Limestone Dancers http://www.limestonedancers.org - HOME

Lockits http://www.lockits.ca/

Meri Squares http://merisquares.ca/

Mississippi Squares https://www.mississippisquares.ca/

Napanee Pioneers http://napaneesquaredance.com/

Ottawa Date Squares https://ottawadatesquares.ca/

Quinte Twirlers https://quintetwirlers.com/

Square Dance Ottawa https://www.squaredanceottawa.ca/

Swinging Swallows http://www.GetUpandDance.ca/

Square Dance Clubs

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

SSD* 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

North Grenville Municipal Centre

285 County Road #44,

Kemptville, ON

Caller: Geoff Clarke

Contact: Debbie Armstrong

613-989-2784

kemptvillesquaredance@gmail.com

Harbour Lites

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

Presbyterian Church

Center & Dibble Streets, Prescott

Caller: John Charman

Contact: Donna Plume

613-391-8895

dnmmchale@gmail.com

Kanata Squares

Basic/MS Thursday 1:30pm - 3:30pm Dick Brulé Community Centre

170 Castlefrank Rd, Kanata

Caller: Bob Summers

Contact: Marguerite Summers

613-258-7511

margueritebob@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

Wednesday A2 - 10:00 to 11:00am

A1 - 11:00am to 12:30pm

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 - 9:30pm

Aternating tips: SSD Teach & Full SSD J.A.Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen Contact: David Shackleton

613-832-2284

david@integraldesign.org

Meri Squares

Plus Thursday 7:15pm - 9:15pm Westminister Presbyterian Church 470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa

Caller: John Charman

Contact: David Shackleton

613-832-2284

david@integraldesign.org

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 7:00pm - 9:30pm

North Fredericksburgh Hall

1208 County Rd. 8, Napanee

Caller: Dave Hutchinson

Contact: Muriel Brough

613-354-4595

murielbrough@cogeco.ca

Jroger.moreau@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

SSD*/MS

LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:45pm Room B203, Jack Purcell Community Centre

320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa

Caller: Brian Crawford

Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud

613-806-3138

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

Α1

LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:45pm - 8:45pm Room B201, Jack Purcell Community Centre 320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud

613-806-3138

OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

Plus

LGBT friendly Mondays 6:30pm - 8:30pm Room 202, Jack Purcell Community Centre 320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud 613-806-3138 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

3rd Weekend of every month

(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

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 One Sunday a month 2:30pm - 4:30pm

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

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575,

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Square Dance Russel

Beginner One Thursday a month 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Frank Kinnaird Community Centre, 1084 Concession St, Russell

Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen

Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen

613-282-0575,

WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Sunshine Squares

Plus Wednesday 7:30pm - 9:30pm Canterbury Community Center 2185 Arch St

Caller: Bob Summers & Ron Gardner
Contact: Doug Bennett & Laura Johnson

613-730-0002

douglas.bennett2@sympatico.ca

Swinging Bs

Basic/MS
Plus Tip Friday
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Knox - St. Paul United Church
800 Twelfth St E, Cornwall

Caller: Don Moger & Bob Summers

Contact: Joan Gaudreau

613-936-2831

hogandonw@gmail.com

Swinging Swallows

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 7:00pm - 9:30pm Wesley United Church Hall 275 Pembroke St E, Pembroke

Caller: Ron Gardner

Contact: Jeannie Mastine

613-732-9289

j.mastine@outlook.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 Gavin Currie

613-739-9395

Line Dance clubs

Capital City Lines

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