SQUARE TIME

Eastern Ontario Square and



Round Dance Association

www.eosarda.ca



*** NEW LOCATION ***

Thousand Islands Secondary School 2510 Parkedale Ave, Brockville

May 3, 4, & 5, 2024

Swing & Spring

Included in this issue is an article titled 'Meet Your Callers', a Flyer and a Registration Form. We hope that dancers will send in their form as soon as possible and encourage their dancer friends to do the same!

Watch for updates about Swing into Spring 2024 on the Swing into Spring webpage, at www.Facebook.com/brockvilleSiS, and watch for future EOSARDA Bulletins.

Plan to join in the fun! With your help, it will be a fantastic weekend!

Square Time Edition 70.1 February 2024

Material contained in Square Time is for the information, convenience and enjoyment of the dancers. Presented information, and the views expressed, are not necessarily those of EOSARDA, its Directors / Officers or of the Square Time Editor. The Editor reserves the right to condense, omit or rewrite all or part of the material submitted. The decision to publish or withhold copy received after the deadline rests with the Editor. Other publications may reproduce material published in Square Time, provided credit for the source is given.

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 April 2024. Deadline for submission March 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
Half Page	\$20	\$30	\$75
Quarter Page	\$15	\$20	\$45
Full Column	\$20	\$35	\$75
Half Column	\$15	\$20	\$45

EOSARDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 – 2024

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Director Wendy Vander Meulen Chair Dance Committee

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 February 1, 2024

Yeah but Hey you.				
Who? Me?				
Yeah, you.				
What do you want?				
Have you ever thought about joining EOSARDA's Board of Directors?				
Me? No way, I'm not a good enough dancer.				
Your dancing skills don't matter.				
Yeah, but - I only dance Basic / Mainstream / Plus (choose one).				
Your dance level doesn't matter.				
Well, what does matter?				
Do you love dancing?				
Yeah.				
Does the future of dancing matter to you?				
Yeah.				
Do you have any ideas about how to make things better?				
Yeah, but - who cares what I think?				
We do. We need all the ideas we can get. Brainstorming leads to better ideas.				
Yeah, but - I hate travelling to meetings especially when the weather is bad				
The Board meets on Zoom so the weather doesn't matter.				
Yeah, but - we like to go away for a couple of weeks every year.				

With Zoom you can attend Board meetings from anywhere. But no one is expected to attend every

meeting. Just do your best.

Yeah, but - my spouse/significant other isn't interested.

You don't need to be accompanied by your spouse or significant other to be a Director. Yeah, but - I hate meetings.

Who doesn't? But the Board deals with issues that matter to you and that makes it more interesting.

Yeah, but - I'm pretty busy already. How will I find the time to sit on the Board?

We're all busy, but when it comes to things that matter we don't find time, we make time. Yeah, but - I don't want to be in charge of anything.

You don't have to be in charge of anything, you just have to take an active part on the team.

Yeah, but - the Board isn't interested in my club's problems.

If you want your club to be heard, someone from your club needs to sit at the table. Why not you?

Why should I be bothered? What does EOSARDA do for me and my club?

Well, EOSARDA:

Organizes and administers the club and dancer registration process

Publishes Square Time Magazine

Maintains the eoDance.ca web site

Operates an Electronic Bulletins Service

Represents our region on the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Board

Administers the New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy Program

Administers the Dance Leader Training and Development Subsidy Program

Recognizes major club anniversaries

Promotes special club dances

Supports new dancer celebrations

Coordinates our region's nominations for Trillium Awards

Coordinates a regional publicity program

Provides publicity advice to clubs as required.

Sponsors Regional Dances

Organizes semi-annual Councils of Dancers

But to do all this, we need people like you to take on a little piece of the work. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work".

If you don't do it, who will?

Dave Western President EOSARDA

Message from the Editor

We must live right. Fall and winter have been quite pleasant. The days are getting longer. Don't ask me where January disappeared. My wife hasn't said, "Oh well, we live in Canada, eh" once this winter.

Do you have club badges from a club that no longer exists? I am planning to do articles on clubs that no longer dance. If you have badges or other historic material, and would like to share, just take a picture and send it along. I have a long list of clubs that danced in our area over the years. Please let me know.

Still waiting for articles on how we got here; <u>a</u> history of how you got into dancing and how it has affected your life.

As you can tell from the front cover, we are excited about the upcoming Swing into Spring event. There is much information on this, and I am sure many of you will be registering and planning to have a great time. This is EOSARDA's premier event of the year.

We have an article about our updated by-laws and a plea to attract new board members for EOSAR-DA. We have some articles on how you can improve your dancing, an update on our 'dance dangle' program and an article for those with a hearing issue. Again, we have an article from the Australian publication "Around the Square'.

There is an article on how you can nominate a worthy dancer for a Trillium Award. You can read some recent awards under club news. We have flyers to announce upcoming dances and, oh yes, we have lots of club news.

You may have learned that the National Square Dance Convention in Calgary this summer is sold out. News Flash!! More floor space has been acquired which raises our capacity to 650 dancers. It's still not too late to register for the wait list. There's plenty of time and the wait list is fluid. Please complete a registration form but do not pay at this time. We will let people know as spots become available. Festival 2024 - Alberta Square and Round Dance Federation (squaredance.ab.ca)

I want to thank Gloria Bateman of the Swallows for her much appreciated proof reading and editing for this issue as well as my wife Margaret.

Gerry Johnson

Square Time Editor

Rewrite to accommodate new requirements



The Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association, OSARDA was first incorporated in 1979 as a "corporation without share capital" under Ontario's *Corporation Act*. At that time, EOSARDA created a constitution and by-laws to guide the association's operation. The constitution and by-laws have been revised periodically since then – the last by-laws revision was in 2003.

www.eosarda.ca In 2010, a new act (the *Not-for-profit Corporations Act*) was introduced to regulate not-for-profit organizations in Ontario. Aside from simplifying some administra-

tive procedures, the new act required organizations like EOSARDA to review our by-laws and make any needed updates. The new act also made it possible for EOSARDA to combine its constitution and by-laws into a single document – now just called the by-laws.

Your Board of Directors completed the required review over the past year and presented an amended set of by-laws at the November 2023 Council of Dancers meeting. The Council of Dancers agreed to repeal the previous constitution and incorporate that document into an amended set of by-laws. The new Act required us to complete the work by October of 2024 – EOSARDA managed to get the job done nearly one year before the deadline.

The new document is much shorter than the previous ones. Most of the changes are editorial in nature, have been made to comply with requirements of the new Act, or to introduce recommended wording for not-for-profit organizations. Very few changes will impact how EOSARDA operates.

Examples of changes include:

- The number of directors down from 20 to 3, since we've not been able to elect 20 directors for years! (Section 2.01a)
- Previously, the only actual EOSARDA members were clubs and directors; now membership includes clubs (that have voting privileges) along with dancers and dance leaders (who are nonvoting members). (Section 8.01)
- Clubs continue to vote through delegates chosen by the club; however, rather than every club having 2 votes, clubs now have 1 vote each. (Section 9.06c)

The amended by-laws are posted on our <u>website</u> under "Associations/EOSARDA/By-laws" or you can reach the by-laws directly at this link: <u>https://www.eosarda.ca/associations/eosarda_By-laws.php</u>

Any questions relating to the amended by-laws should be directed to Secretary@EOSARDA.ca

REMINDER Visit Dangle Program for 2023-2024 is Underway!

REMINDER - 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!

So, how do Lyou_earn a dangle? A visit to another EOSARDA member club on it's regular club night 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!

Moved pic up

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

Up and coming......

February 3 - Frosty Fling hosted by EOSARDA

February 11 - Valentine's Day hosted by the Swinging B's

February 24 – Merri Mingle hosted by Meri Squares

February 25 – Winter Wonderland to be hosted by the Swinging Swallows

March 16 – Dance to be hosted Kingston Limestone Dancers

April 13th – 50th Anniversary Dance hosted by the Grenville Gremlins

May 3-5 – Swing into Spring weekend square dance

So many exciting dances to pick from!!!!! 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!!!!!

Michelle Gravelle







Open Letter to all our New Dancers - Part II

Last time I introduced you to the 'cast of characters' that you will encounter in this new world of square dancing that you've now entered! So, let's see if I can explain what learning square dancing is all about!!



Once upon a time folks would simply attend a square dance and although they stumbled around a bit, they'd "learn by doing"! By the end of the evening, the first-timer would be almost as proficient as the veteran. But, like everything else these days.... square dancing has changed!

Today we have a language which is "peculiar" to this activity that must be committed to memory. Another reason why we need to attend each and every week of your first year! Learning the basics is one reason, the other is so that you can learn to dance, to

react automatically to the calls and move to the music. There's yet another goal - in square dancing, seven other people in your square depend on you doing your part correctly! So learning to square dance is one thing – learning to be a thoughtful and smooth dancer is another!

During your first few weeks it won't matter too much what basics you learn – they'll ALL be important! What will matter is that you *learn to listen*! Hearing the calls is important – understanding what you're supposed to do with them is imperative! Actually, there are only a limited number of things that we do in square dancing. Oh sure, there are lots of calls, but most of them require walking (moving or dancing to the music) and turning (sometimes alone, sometimes with one hand or arm, sometimes with your partner in your arms)



Much of the language you hear will be just simple, garden-variety English – terms such as 'circle; forward; back; to the right; to the left; halfway; three quarters'; and so forth. You'll find these quick to pick up. And don't worry about the language 'peculiar' to square dancing as we depend upon these calls to tell you what to do. Your Caller will be 'doling these out' to you over the coming weeks and before you know it, they'll become as much a part of your personal vocabulary as all the other everyday words you use!



Actually, a basic command that tells the dancer what to do is a simple key phrase made up of the fewest possible and most easily understood words. For instance – unless the Caller is teaching a brand-new dancer the very first steps, the Caller doesn't have to say "Men face right, Ladies face left. With the person you face, move forward, and pass right shoulders; then move to your right as the other person moves to your left; Now back up, pass the other person on your left until you are again facing the same dancer". In the first place, there just wouldn't be time – in the second place it isn't necessary to

use all these ~50 words to get the desired result – all the Caller has to say is "**Partners - Dosado**"! And so it is with every good basic movement in square dancing!



A square dance is just a combination of the basics. A good square dance is one where the basics it contains are well-chosen and blended with the help of clear descriptive calling in such a way that they complement each other and tend to flow comfortable from one to the next. For example, by flowing comfortably, we mean without static or awkward body maneuvers. Right-hand movements would, of necessity, alternative with left-hand movements. You would find it most awkward to turn your corner by the left arm and then also turn your partner by the same left arm!

There is another point concerning basics. Because of the general acceptance of these movements, it is possible for a person to learn all that there is to know about square dancing in a normal progression. Each basic that is taught is dependent, to some degree, on what has already been learned. Another reason why it is so important that you attend your basic session regularly!!

Even more important than learning new movements however, is the value of first learning to react, automatically, to the easy movements. The new dancer discovers as he/she goes along, that eventually a fairly difficult movement becomes quite simple to learn. This is because he/she has developed their reflexes to the point where you (1) listens, and (2) apply the previous knowledge in moving automatically and effortlessly in the direction called for!!





Whatever it was that brought you into this activity, whether the recommendations of friends, curiosity, or just the desire to learn something different, you will soon be finding reason after reason to be glad you took that **FIRST BIG STEP!!**

In conclusion then, to all our New Dancers, this is your basic introduction to Square Dancing. We hope that you will enjoy it more and more with each passing month and year!! From "Circle Left" onwards, enjoy the journey!!



Correct dancing for better success.

(Disclaimer: The following is MY opinion only. Wendy VanderMeulen)

When I sit on the sidelines at a dance and watch the dancers, I notice things that are done "sloppily" that could use some improvement. And we know that anything that improves how we dance improves the overall dance experience. Let's take a look.

- Right & Left Grand / Weave the Ring Why do we let the circle get SO large? I notice that some people even back up a couple steps at the beginning of the call. Why? When the circle is too large it takes longer to go around than it should, which can be problematic, especially in a singing call!
- Keep the Square (and Circle) compact We all know that square dancing is good for the brain because you have to learn the calls and react in time to execute the call as soon as the callers says it. Something else your brain has to do while you dance is stay aware of how big the square is getting and work at keeping the square compact. Many times, that means just taking a step forward to bring the dancers closer together or taking smaller steps. But it take concentration so you know when to adjust.
- Keep your elbows tucked into your waist This is another way to keep the square compact. If you ever notice that your arm is outstretched, bring it back to your side. You don't have to GLUE your elbow to your waist, but it should never be more than an inch or two away from it.
- Extend When executing this call, EVERYONE takes a step forward. I often notice that when the call is called especially after, let's say, Heads Pass the Ocean that the outside dancers don't Extend. When they don't step forward, that's the start of the square getting TOO big!
- Spread No one ever is supposed to take a backward step when doing this call. Wherever the call is used, some dancers will step forward and some will step sideways, but NO ONE ever steps back.
- Slide Thru When did "Swish" become part of this call? I don't understand why, but when dancers do this call with the "Swish", as soon as it is done from anywhere but a Standard formation, SOMEONE is going to end out facing the wrong direction. If the call is danced as it is meant to be danced Pass Thru, then the Men face right and the Ladies face left you will never go wrong. Also, remember that at the end of Slide Thru, you don't always end out facing someone!
- Recycle We have to get out of the habit of the women spinning on the spot as "their part" of Recycle. Executing the move correctly from the moment you learn it makes it much easier to do when you first encounter it from a position in which the MEN are where the women usually are.

Grand Square – Okay, I won't even say anything about this call...... (32 beats...)

When it gets right down to it, all dancing would be improved, and dancing would be smoother and more fun as we all dance correctly and we all do the calls the same way. We won't have to worry about being confused because another dancer is doing WHAT???

Okay, so all that is MY opinion, but maybe you have picked up some pointers and will find them useful in improving your dancing skill.

12 RULES For More Dancing Enjoyment

A DOZEN RULES FOR MORE FUN: Important Things To Remember About Dancing By Definition

By Linda Coene, Bade, Pa.

- **1.HOLD HANDS:** If you are standing beside someone, take hands (a light touch to establish contact). It helps you to see your position within the formation. If you can't see it, you can't dance it.
- **2. DON'T LET YOURSELF BE INTIMIDATED:** Stand your ground! If you think you are right, stay there. Usually, the person that is trying to get you to turn around or send you to some other position, is the one that is incorrect.
- 3. STAY WHERE YOU ARE: Don't look around to see where the other dancers are and attempt to make yourself fit the pattern. If you try to look around, more often than not that will make you turn around, and you may not be in a position to execute the next call. In today's dancing situations where DBD may be used, you may not be in a 'normal' position. Put you trust in your caller and leave it to him/her to get you out.
- **4. LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD:** It also assists to look ahead by turning to look either to the right or left, that may put your body in opposition to the direction that the next call sends you. If you turn to the right to look around, that shifts your body in that direction making it difficult and awkward if you need to move otherwise.

- **5. BE GENTLE:** Don't cause bruises or broken bones. All hand holds should just be touches only... **never a death grip.** Usually a strong grip is the sign of a weak or inexperienced dancer.
- **6. LOOK AT THE CALL ITSELF, NOT JUST A POSITION:** See what the call does. Where does it start; where does it end, and what are the different positions doing? If you want practice on a call from a different position or arrangement, just ask the caller.
- **7. LEARN YOUR RIGHT FROM YOUR LEFT:** For many, this is the hardest part! Find a trick that works for you. It must be guick and simple.
- **8. DANCE TO THE MUSIC:** We are dancing! Each call has a designated number of beats (steps) and you need them all to be smooth. Dancing fast will make the dance jerky; moving too slowly will cause breakdowns, since you will not be ready for the next call. Remember it is not a race to see who finishes each movement the fastest...it is meant to be smooth dancing by dancing to the beat of the music with the correct footwork, you will be amazed how smooth it feels! **9. LISTEN:** You cannot talk and listen at the same time. Most breakdowns among good dancers happen when the just did not hear the call!
- 10: FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you happen to get lost at some point, just look at the square. If there appears to be an empty spot, fill it. It is sure better than just standing there. Strong dancers in a square often see what happens and may just be able to point to where you where you need to be.
- 11. GET IN LINES: If you break down, get into lines, and keep dancing. If sex roles are reversed, just try to go on until you can fix it easily. The standardised way to get into lines is to square up and have the Heads slide sideways to the right to form a line with the Sides at the Side position. In this position each dancer can see the caller, as well as giving the caller a better opportunity to see the squares. Most callers will pick up on a broken square within just a few calls and get them moving again. Never just square up and wait for the next Allemande Left!
- 12. HAVE FUN: No matter what the program you are dancing, Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced or the Challenge levels, have fun! If you are not having fun, you are at the wrong program. If you are frustrated and upset all the time, drop back to the next program. If you are bored, then move forward to the next program. The different programs (often referred to as levels) are not meant to be like grades in a school system you do not have to "graduate" up! The programs are designed only to give everyone a place to dance. Everyone does not want to put the same amount of time or energy into dancing. Don't let others decide where you will be most happy in our activity. There are enough programs to suit the needs of everyone. You must decide for yourself where you are the most comfortable and happy.

The above article by Linda Coene was originally published in the New England Caller magazine in the early 80's. I have updated some of the wording and added a few other sections to bring into a format representative of today's square dance world - Barry

The search is on

As happens every year, the search is on for dancers and dance leaders whose hard work and dedication to square and round dancing deserve to be formally recognized through the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation's Trillium Award programs.

You know who they are:

They're the ones who serve on your club's executive year after year.

They decorate the hall for special events (and take down the decorations after it's over).

They look after tea and coffee, staff the sign-in table and act as Angels for new dancers.

They show up for demo dances, put up posters, hand out flyers and attend Open Houses.

They plan and organize social events and special club dances.

They welcomed you to the club when you were a new dancer and are still dancing, if perhaps a little slower.

They sit on regional, provincial and national executives.

They are the volunteers who are the lifeblood of our organization.

These are the people who deserve to be recognized through either a Trillium Long Service Award or a Trillium Merit Award, but so often their contributions go unrecognized. It's not that we don't appreciate them or that we don't care. But club records are often incomplete and club history can go unrecorded or get lost over time. The situation is even worse at the regional level, our regional corporate memory is essentially non-existent.

We don't know how long Bob and Susie have been dancing or what clubs they have danced with.

We don't know who was on your club executive 10 years ago.

We don't know who sat on the EOSARDA Board of Directors in 1990 or for how long they served.

And we certainly don't know what impact their service has had on square and round dancing.

As a result, many deserving volunteers go unrecognized - out of sight, out of mind.

This is where you come in. You know who the people are who are making and have made a difference. You know who have been dancing seemingly forever; who have been sitting on your club executive as long as you can remember; who can be relied on to do whatever job needs doing. With a little digging you can probably fill in much of the needed information, even if that means you have to ask a lot of questions to a lot of people.

So, what information do you need?

The Trillium Long Service Award recognizes individuals who have devoted many years of faithful ser no hyphens at the end of a page

vice to the square and/or round dance community in Ontario. To nominate someone for this award, at the very least you need to know:

how long a person has been dancing (must total at least 20 years) what clubs they have belonged to and when

in what leadership capacities they have served at the club level and when; and how they have helped recruit new dancers and/or leaders.

The Trillium Merit Award recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the square and/or round dance community in Ontario beyond the scope of the normal and regular activities of a dancer or dance leader. To nominate someone for this award, at the very least you need to be able to show that they have:

- i) served as an executive or committee member at the regional, provincial, and/or national level;
- ii) been involved with square and/or round dancing for at least 5 years;
- iii) made a significant contribution to dancing in Ontario;
- iv) served in leadership capacities at the club level;
- v) participated in dancer and/or leader recruitment events;
- vi) supported dancer and/or leader development through mentoring, serving as an angel, and/or serving in leaders' clinics;
- vii) participated in non-club events such as conventions and dance events outside of their own home area; and
- viii) volunteered time and effort to contribute beyond the minimum level expected of most dancers or leaders.

For more information about either award, see http://www.eodance.ca/associations/eosarda_procedures_manual/chpt%2012-%20Trillium%20Awards.pdf

or go to https://squaredance.on.ca/trillium-awards/

As Joe Friday is reputed to have said: "The facts ma'am, all we need are the facts." We can help you fill out the nomination form, but we need you to get the facts.

But, deadlines are tight. In order to allow sufficient time for nominations to be reviewed by EOSAR-DA's Board of Directors, they must be submitted to the President of EOSARDA on or before March 1 and forwarded by the Board to Federation by April 30th at the latest

Our region is allowed to put forward to Federation two Merit Award and two Long Service nominations every year. Let's not lose the opportunity to recognize the contributions of the people who are doing so much to keep square and round dancing alive and well in our region.

Dave Western

President EOSARDA



NOT HEARING THE CALLS?



If you're having difficulty hearing the calls due to a personal hearing loss, believe me, you are not alone. BUT, there is an answer - read on!

Not hearing the calls clearly is not only very frustrating for the dancer experiencing it, but very often results in square break-down.

Sometimes it's where you're dancing within the hall (echo, or a dead spot); sometimes it's a poor loudspeaker; perhaps a Caller's voice that you're not used to hearing, but, sadly **QUITE OFTEN** it's the result of a personal hearing difficulty!

Unfortunately as we age, so does our hearing. Certain words & phrases start to muffle a bit; specific voices can be difficult to understand where before it was never a problem, & picking out words amongst other sounds (such as music), becomes an increasing challenge.

None of us like to admit that we're getting older & certainly very few people will admit that they're having a hearing problem. So, very often dancers just try to cope & 'soldier on' hoping that even if they miss the odd call, they can figure out where to go & maybe even look for others to help them be in the right place. That may work fine for a while, but eventually, even that no longer works. What now then? Sadly, sometimes they just 'quit dancing', and when that happens, then we all lose!

HOLD ON FOLKS, DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THE CASE!!



Hearing aid (HA) technology has moved along quite well in the last number of years, particularly since Bluetooth (BT) came on the scene!! We have hearing aid products on the market today that provide audio streaming connectivity to hearing aids using a Bluetooth transmitter. What I've seen so far, it's being marketed to allow you to hear your TV



sound via BT connectivity (pairing) with a transmitter connected at the TV & the user wearing a 'receiver', which then sends the signal directly to their hearing aids! With some hearing aid manufacturers it's provided as an 'option', others appear to provide it as standard feature.

I "uncovered" this (HA & BT) information when one of my dancers told me about it back in 2019 (pre-Covid) At that time, as an 'experiment', I purchased a **1Mii Long Range Bluetooth Transmitter/Receiver**, connected it my amplifier (same hookup as the old Landmark & Williams hearing assist units) and found that it pairs up easily to any Bluetooth receiver. In this particular case, the hearing aid BT product that my dancer was using was **'Phonak ComPilot Air II'**. (there are as many variables of this as there are HA providers!)

The "pairing up" of the dancer's BT receiver was very quick & easy and I found that there is *NO* delay at all, with the user hearing my calls instantly & clearly, directly in her hearing aids even at the back of the hall (~50' back). Since that initial 'trial' in 2019 and upon our recent return to dancing, I've been able to have other dancers connect their BT receivers successfully!! Each is somewhat unique, but it only takes a few minutes to see if it works - & generally it does, so.....certainly a "win-win"!!

Interestingly, I've found that once 'paired' up the first time with a user, the BT transmitter stores the information until 'next time' - so at the next dance, that same user just has to turn on their receiver & is immediately connected to the same BT transmitter again! (assuming the BT Tx hasn't been used for another user in the interim).

At this point in time (2024), there is a '2 devices only' restriction for these kinds of BT transmitters. Even though the "Bluetooth Standards" allow for pairing of up to 8 devices simultaneously, the current BT transmitter manufacturers are only allowing for two simultaneous connections. Hopefully in time, they will eventually expand their function to work up to the limits of BT protocol specifications (ie: >2!)

I haven't tried it out yet, but I'm pretty sure that if we had to connect a second transmitter, we would be able to connect 4 devices/users simultaneously!

The 1Mii BT transmitter is small & light & thus easily portable!! As well, it 'won't break the bank' if you wanted to purchase for yourself! A more recent version (of the 1Mii) is available on Amazon for <\$100 CDN

To my knowledge, I'm the only caller in EOSARDA who actively has any dancer using this technology, but as it is a 'new idea', it will take a bit more to time to 'catch on' – more so than the BT Headsets that so many are using to listen to music &/or their TV!!

IF this is something that you think you can benefit from, then talk to your caller and express your needs to see if steps can be taken to help you out with your BT equipped hearing aids!

SO DANCERS, HELP IS AVAILABLE!!
All you have to do is ask & then you'll be dancing with a smile instead of a frown!

YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!!

If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me & I'll be more than glad to help!!

Caller Geoff Clarke, Email: caller.geoff@bell.net

EOSARDA Christmas Dance Saturday, December 9, 2023

It seems strange to refer to this dance at the "EOSARDA" Christmas dance after it had been the "SVSRDA" Christmas dance for so many years. With the demise of the SVSRDA (Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association) earlier in the year, EOSARDA kept its promise of doing whatever it could to see this dance carry on in the SVSRDA area. So, with promised support from the Seaway Valley area clubs, we went ahead with the plans.

But this year's dance was special in another way – the Harbour Lites club of Prescott are celebrating their 50th anniversary, and we decided that celebrating at the Christmas dance was a great way to do



that! They came out in their blue/white/black outfits, put up a club display, and even provided two cakes for the refreshment table. (THAT was much appreciate by all the dancers! ②) A certificate from EOSARDA was presented to the president couple, Norm and Donna Plume, by Dave Western, the EOSARDA president.

John Charman and Geoff Clarke kept the 6 squares of dancers well entertained for 2 ½ hours – and we even had 6 squares still dancing for the last tip of the day. That's a sure sign of dancers enjoying themselves!!! Hmmmmm.... Maybe it was just the op-

portunity to have ONE MORE piece of cake No. That's

not it. It WAS the good dancing! I heard many people comment on how much fun it was. It's just GOOD to get out and dance with dancers from all around the EOSARDA area!

Now, to plan for the 2024 Christmas Dance and make it bigger and better!!!! We can do it!



Wendy Vander Meulen





Glengarry Tartans - Alexandria





Recap September 2023 to January 2024

September open houses harvested 12 interested dancers- 3 remain. This left our Executive Committee with the task of deciphering how to improve the retention of new dancers. This is a work in progress.



Our Falling Leaves & the Canadian Tartan event in November was attended by 31 dancers and 9 non dancers (who joined in to view the dancing and enjoy the meal at half price). Many thanks goes out to Meri Squares dancers who joined us in expressing our gratitude to Barbara for all she has done to support her spouse — Francois our original Caller. Barbara & Francois were instrumental in the success

of our new club in 2018.





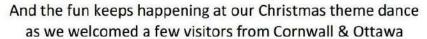


Lots of Fun at our Black & White theme dance!!

Could this be the beginnings of a Glengarry Tartans

Bowling Team!













Happy New Year!

The Glengarry Tartans are members of the following Associations.

Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association http://www.eodance.ca/

Border Boosters Square and Round Dance Association http://www.borderboosters.qc.ca/

You're invited to join the EOSARDA Facebook page: https://

www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda

As well as the BBSRDA Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/dansecarreeMontreal

PINTEREST - Canadian Square & Round Dance Society https://www.pinterest.com/canadiansquarea/

Carole Lauzon

Advertising & Promotion - Glengarry Tartans Alexandria

The dance season is not over until you Spring Flutterwheel with us (some surprises await you)



Club News Grenville Gremlins

The Gremlins had our Christmas PotLuck Party Dec 18 which was a very fun night. There was great music provided by our own Geoff Clarke, with lots of laughs. We started at 6:30 with everyone bringing food and desserts. We had 4 squares on the dance floor most of the night which helped get rid of some of the calories we had consumed.



Peter and Geraldine Matthew did an amazing job of organizing the New Years Eve dance which

was at St. John's Church in Kemptville. It was an afternoon dance with more than 80 people who danced the afternoon away. Geoff Clarke provided the music and a special shuffle dance around the room where we got to dance with a new partner every few seconds as well as his usual talent of calling.

There were 27 door prizes given out as well as a few spot dance prizes.

At the end of the dance night, we all got into a circle and sang Auld Lang Syne then proceeded to the tables that were set up with lots of delicious food followed by amazing desserts. All the food and desserts were provided and cooked by members of the Gremlins.

There were a lot of compliments given on what a great time everyone had. It was a great way to end 2023 and bring in 2024.

Debbie Armstrong
Grenville Gremlins
President











Hello,

I had the pleasure of attending the Grenville Gremlins' New Year's dance held in Kemptville on Sunday Dec 31st.

Geoff Clarke provided a variety of dancing with a program to delight all. We all learned the Jiffy Mixer too!

The buffet was hearty and the home baked desserts the best way to ring in 2024.

I didn't notice anyone taking pictures and doubt any of their club members would brag about their success — so I am giving them a shout out and thank you.

Here's a pic of Geoff wrapping up for the day.

Diana Zubac



Club News Harbour Lites

Many thanks to Gerald and Marlene Casselman for their many years of dedication to Harbour Lites. Their loyalty and enthusiasm helped carry the Club over the past few years and they are sincerely missed. Donna and Norm Plume have stepped up to the plate assuming the leadership role for a few months as the Club faces future decisions. Our appreciation is also extended to our caller, John Charman who travels from St. Albert to Prescott for our dances.

At our December potluck those present felt that the Club would take a break during January and February and resume dancing in March.

We want to thank EOSARDA for recognising our 50th anniversary at the Christmas dance. See Wendy's earlier article and pictures on the <u>B</u> Christmas dance. There were six squares and the event was a wonderful success. It was a fine celebration that we could not that have pulled off ourselves.

So in March, plan to come and visit our club on a Wednesday evening. We always have a great time.

Brenda Bennett





Club News Limestone Square Dance Club – Kingston

Our Club continues to dance every Thursday evening and the dancers who graduated last year are now busy learning Plus and we have 3 new dancers who are diligently completing Basic and will soon start Mainstream. Dave's goal is to prepare them to be able to attend Spring Spree in Peterborough and Swing into Spring in Brockville – both very fun events! We continue to average 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. We even have recent graduates travelling to the 23rd Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival. July 17 – 20, 2024. Calgary, Alberta.

At the first class of the 2024 we had a Happy New Year's Party. The gym was decorated, finger food and a punch were served and the dancers came dressed in their finest or funniest. Dave called a great evening of dancing – no teaching as it was a Party. Limestone Dancers brought in the New Year if not in style, certainly with enthusiasm. We are hoping to host a dance on March 16th. As we are a much smaller Club, it will not be as large as our St Patrick's Dance in pervious years – but it will be the 21st We are planning a fun afternoon of alternating Basic and Plus dancing – and even an Advance tip if there are enough dancers to participate.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge an important member of our Club and extend a special thank you Mary Thurston, Dave's partner. Every week Mary comes to class with coffee supplies and immediately sets up the coffee station and then dances any position in any tip that she is needed. Mary continues to be a calm and kind mentor – not only to our new students but even to

those of us who have danced for many years but occasional ly suffer "errors of enthusiasm".

Shirley Brown



Garth Mitchell & Rob Harrison Rob is not that short -Garth's hat is that tall



Cindy Mitchell, Noreen Peters & Linda Romaniec
Our ladies who were ready to say goodbye to 2023!
Hyphenation error



Club News LOCKITS Advanced Dance Club

Geoff & Teena Clarke January 2024



Pictured above is many/most of our dancers, gathered for our regular Wednesday morning dancing, and of course, as you can tell by all the 'reds' this is our Christmas Celebration 2023! As always, we had a great time and this time, after 4 years of 'not sharing', we had a great spread of 'finger foods' to enjoy!!



As you can readily see from above, we're dancing ~4+ squares each Wednesday morning. Our A2 teach continues to go well as we're now 'about' halfway thru the 43 or so moves of the program. All of those dancing A2 stay for the A1 dancing that follows so we always have a good & lively energy in the room for the whole morning!!

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 11 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 you?

Club News Meri Squares

Things have been very busy since the beginning of December 2023. Meri Squares hosted the All Day Sashay with the Ottawa Date Squares on December 2. What an event! A very long day of dancing at levels from SSD to A2 but a great success. ODS took the lead on this major event and should be proud of how much everyone enjoyed it.

As part of the Sashay, Meri Squares offered a used square dance clothing sale that saw participants purchase over 40 individual items from crinolines to men's shirts. There should be some well dressed dancers at future dances.

December saw our first Club Christmas dinner since 2019. For the first time, we celebrated with a potluck dinner



A wonderful variety of great food was enjoyed by the over 40 members present. Looks like this will become an annual feature.

Christmas dinner was also a time to celebrate the achievements of several club members. Robert Milburn, Rosie Schur, Colleen McEwan and Gerry Lelievre received their EOSARDA Dangles in recognition of visiting numerous clubs and attending several EOSARDA and club dances in the 2022-2023 dance season. Well done! Everyone's dancing can only improve by visiting other clubs and dancing to different callers. *hyphen*



Dave Western and Gavin Currie, representing the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation and EOSAR-DA, were on hand to present the Trillium Merit Award to Lamar Mason. This award recognizes significant contributions to square dancing at the club level and beyond over a period of time.



David Shackleton (Pres), Dave Western (OSRDF), Lamar Mason, Gavin Currie (EOSARDA)

The award was a wonderful surprise for Lamar, and she is honoured to receive it and appreciative of all her fellow dancers who work so hard to keep square dancing growing in Eastern Ontario.

December wrapped up with a celebration of Meri Squares' new SSD dancers. This session we graduated 5 new dancers. Barb Englehart presented CSRDS pins and EOSARDA letters to the graduates while David Shackleton, our President, and Wendy VanderMeulen, our SSD caller, presented certificates. Needless to say there was cake! We look forward to seeing these new dancers return in January.



Meri Squares' new SSD dancers with Wendy VanderMeulen, David Shackleton and Barb Englehart (EOSARDA)

As this is being written, Meri Squares in winding up its new SSD registration for the January to April session. We had 17 newcomers at our free kick-off dance and can't wait to welcome dancers to the full program.

Lastly, Meri Squares is hosting a Plus dance on Saturday, February 24, 2024. This will be an event for dancers who have completed the Plus program or above. Geoff Clarke is preparing an exciting afternoon of Plus dancing so come prepared for lots of fun! See the flyer elsewhere in Square Time for details. Coordinate your calendars for 2:00 to 4:30 pm on February 24 in Ottawa! Hope to see lots of you there!

Submitted by Lamar Mason Past President

Club News Mississippi Squares

It's square dancing show and tell time from the friendly folks in Carleton Place. Please note, for example, all the smiling faces at our Christmas Dance held on December 12th, 2023 at Brunton Hall.



One of the evening's scheduled events included presentation of Ontario Trillium Merit and Long Service Awards to Brian and Amy Crawford, Sharen (and Helgi - posthumously) Goodman, Betty Goodwin, and to Jean and Don Clingin. Brief summaries of just some of the illustrious individual background which make all of these recipients so richly deserving of this recognition may be found at the end of this Mississippi Squares Club News article.



We are also quite proud of the fact that our food bank cash-only collection effort that evening resulted in a \$400 donation to the Lanark County Food Bank.



Next, let's take a quick peak at what happened at our Snowflake Swing dance event held upstairs at the Carleton Place Arena on Saturday afternoon, January 13th, 2024. Despite the inclement weather, a total of 60 people braved the elements in order to be able to join in the fun. At the conclusion of this event, we all got together to Join Hands in Friendship. Betty, Melanie and Vince were the banner holders for the singing of the Friendship song.





Well, that's it for another issue of Club News Mississippi Squares. Once again, 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 in Carleton Place. We're doing Basic and Mainstream on Tuesdays and Plus on Fridays. If you have any questions or concerns regarding anything to do with our club, please get in touch with our co-presidents, Vince and Debbie Guthro at 613-296-1817.

Charles Henderson

Jean & Don Clingin – Trillium Merit Award – 2019/2020



Jean and Don Clingin are known across Eastern Ontario for their dedication to square and round dancing. They have been particularly active in promoting round dancing locally and regionally through the operation of their own club and by supporting other local square dance clubs. Don and Jean have travelled for dancing and taught and cued at a number of local, inter-provincial and national dance weekends and conventions – even making it onto the high seas as part of a round dance cruise!

Don and Jean have given freely of the time and talents in numerous volunteer positions at multiple levels of various Square and Round Dance organizations. They served on the executive of Kemptville's Grenville Gremlins, including a term as President Couple. Jean and Don are Roundalab members, have served on

the EOSARDA Board of Directors and on the executive of the Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association, including serving as President Couple from 2003 to 2006.

Congratulations to Ontario Trillium Merit Award recipients, Jean and Don!

Brian & Amy Crawford - Trillium Merit Award - 2019/2020



In 1991 Brian and Amy, a young, energetic couple, joined Mississippi Squares as new Basic dancers. After having learned to dance Basic, Mainstream and Plus, Brian, in 1995, attended a Learn to Call workshop led by John Charman. In 1998, after many hours of practice, Brian and Amy together with fellow student caller Geoff Clarke and his wife Teena, co-founded the Town and Country Kickers, a Basic/Mainstream club in Stittsville. Later in 1998 Brian accepted the invitation to call the Basic/Mainstream program on Tuesdays for Mississippi Squares. Brian added Bytown Squares to his calling duties from 1999 to 2001, followed by Dynamite Tay Dancers, in Perth, from 1999 to 2010 and then Plus for the Singing Saints from 2002 to 2014. As Brian's skills expanded to include A1, he and Amy founded the Shadowcasters Club in Ottawa and later the Sunday in the country Club in Carleton Place.

Brian has served as Chair of the Ottawa Callers Association, and as Rep to EOSARDA. He has volunteered at many National Conventions, and donated his time calling for many, many fundraiser events.

Brian and Amy are still that young, energetic couple who started in 1991. A lot of people wait until retirement to call, but Brian and Amy do it while working full time. Their dedication to and support and promotion of the movement is exemplary, and they are most worthy of this award.

Congratulations to Ontario Trillium Merit Award recipients, Brian and Amy!

веtty Goodwin - Trillium Long Service Award - 2021



Betty has long been an avid participant and strong supporter of the square and round dance movement. She first danced in 1962 and she continues to dance, twice a week, with Mississippi Squares and seldom misses a dance night. Betty loves to dance and her love of dancing shows through as she strives to make the dancing experience pleasant and fun for club members, prospective club members and with guests from other clubs. During Covid Betty kept in touch with club members, always caring for her people and her club. She and her husband Rod (before his passing) attended many outside dances and participated in demonstrations held by the club.

Betty is an esteemed figure recognized across EOSARDA for her unwavering commitment to dance and community engagement in various volunteer roles. Betty takes an active role in the activities and operation of the club. She has a long history of serving on the club's executive in multiple capacities and just about every other job that needed doing.

When not dancing, Betty is active in her community. She sings with Valley Voices as well as in her church choir, volunteered with Puppets Up and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. She also enjoys gardening, sewing, photography and her family.

Congratulations to Ontario Trillium Long Service Award recipient, Betty!

Helgi & Sharen Goodman – Trillium Merit Award – 2023



This enthusiastic couple loves to dance, and for over 20 years their accomplishments say just that. They belong to Mississippi Squares, where they have held various executive positions, and also to Lockits. They have visited every other EOSARDA club several times and attended several National Conventions. Helgi and Sharen were Registration Chair couple for the 2014 National Convention, Chair of EOSARDA's Liaison Committee, Editors of SVSRDA calendar for several years as well as of the 35th Anniversary History of SVSRDA booklet. They have been involved in several other organizational and promotion events. Unfortunately, we lost Helgi in the fall of 2022. Sharen continues to dance and continues to be a strong supporter.

Congratulations to Ontario Trillium Merit Award recipients, Helgi and Sharen!

Club News Riverside Gypsy Squares C175

I am writing this note two days after a major snowfall and on the coldest day of our winter so far this season. The Riverside Gypsy Squares have followed nature's example and are hibernating until Spring. (We will be getting together for a social afternoon in February though.)

We are looking forward to the spring and a summer of camping and dancing. Our weekend dates for next year are set. We officially meet Friday to Sundays once a month at the Beverley Lake Campground in Delta, Ontario this is southeast of Smith Falls. The weekends are May 10-12, June 21-23, July 19-21, Aug. 16-18 & Sept. 20-22. You are welcome to come camp and dance with us.

More information about the park is available at this website: Lower Beverley Lake Park | Delta Ontario's #1 Family Campground. The park has sites for all sizes of RVs/trailers as well as tent sites. The lake is a nice one for swimming, kayaking, and fishing. You can reserve a site any time now if you would like to come for the weekend. The park also has small cottages and bunkies if you don't camp but wish to come for a night or two. Demand is high July/August though.

The Gypsies would like to extend an invitation to Main stream or Plus dancers who might like to come just for the dance hours. Friday usually from 7 pm to 9 pm and Saturdays 1:30 to 3:30. After the dance Friday there is a campfire and on Saturdays there will be a quick club meeting, happy hour and then often there is a gathering for either a meal or dessert. May is the exception to this but if you let us know that you are coming by contacting Helen McCallum who is our club contact then she can let you know what is happening that month. Her contact information is: 1-613-330-4873

helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca

Each month a different group of dancers organizes the events for the weekend. In May we will be having a welcome brunch for an hour or two on the Saturday morning. This gives us the opportunity for the dancers to visit and catch up with their winter adventures.

Spring will return soon and then we can meet up and dance out in the fresh air again. I am including a couple of pictures from last year's May weekend campfire.

For now: "Happy New Year" to all, from the Riverside Gypsy Squares.

Mary Anne Reinhard





Club News Russell Squares

Mother Teresa School, Russell, ON

Fridays, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Wendy Vander Meulen

As I write this, on Friday, January 26, it is freezing rain outside. Not what we want to happen when it's a dance day (or night). We especially don't want it to happen when tonight's dance was to be the FIRST DANCE NIGHT for the revived Russell Squares!

Yes, working with the Township of Russell to offer "Modern Square Dancing, Part 1" as part of their winter recreation program worked! As of Thursday, January 25, 16 people were registered for the 10-week program. One person from the "old" Stonebridge Squares registered. Everyone else is totally new. You can imagine how excited I was when I got the word!

And you can imagine my disappointment when we had to cancel the first class due to this crazy weather. Aaaaarrrggghhhh!!!

Here's to "never give up". This is the FOURTH attempt to get square dancing active in Russell again and it's finally looking like it'll work. I'll tell you how it's going in the next Square Time.

Club News Square Dance Ottawa

4th Sunday of the Month

J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave.

Wendy VanderMeulen

Well, what can I say about the 2024 opening dance! SIX squares! Of course, 3 of the squares were there to show two City of Ottawa councillors how much fun square dancing is. I think all of you know, by now, that City staff have recommended that our clubs do not qualify for the Not-For-Profit rate even though all EOSARDA Clubs are NFP. The invitation for them to participate in one of our dances was to show them how important the activity is to the dancers who have been dancing for a long time as well as giving an opportunity for non-dancers to "give it a try." We can hope that they went back to their offices with a determination to continue to support us!

Notice I said that 3 of the 6 squares were there for that purpose. Yes, 3 squares of the people there were either Brand New or were some of my regular attendees at SDO dances. And I've subsequently heard that several of the first-timers had so much fun that they plan to come again in February! That's the WHOLE POINT of Square Dance Ottawa – give them a great introduction to the activity ... hope they come back a few times ... encourage them to join their local club for weekly lessons when they indicate they want more. It has worked well, so far.



I'll keep the club going as long as new people come out every month – and they ALWAYS do! I know I don't have to remind you – but I will anyway! – feel free to encourage potential new dancers to come to SDO to try it out. Don't wait 'til September! Get them hooked NOW. ANYONE is welcome to dance at SDO.

Club News Swinging B's

The Swing B's news letter (Jan - Feb 2024) Happy New Year and wishing everyone all the best for a prosperous new year. We are 1/2 way through our dance season and lessons are going pretty well for our new dancers.

At Halloween we had a few costumes and lots of fun music. Our big event for November was the Tartans & Kilts dance with lots of short bread cookies and other goodies to eat. The weather was great! 7 clubs came to join us. I missed the Christmas dance due to a cold and didn't want to past it on to fellow dancers.

Bob Summers is calling for us from January through to end of March. The Valentine dance is February 9th at the church on 12th Street. This is a Club Dance, but of course, everyone is welcome.

March has a few changes for us: there will be no dancing on Friday, March 8th because the St Patrick's Dance is on Sunday, March 10th with Corry Lowden calling for us. On Friday March 15th, please note the location change for just that one evening. Location is the Senior Building at 119 Pitt Street across from the Chinese Restaurant, at our regular time.

That's the update for now. See you on the dance floor.

Yellow rocks to all,

Penny E Lafave

















A Swinging Swallows Christmas, and more!

Although our numbers are down from pre-COVID years, we still know how to throw a party!



Our 'Décor Diva', Norma Crozier-Grant, came well-prepared to deck the hall and to make everything beautiful. It surely put us in the mood for Christmas! After dancer Dan Lefebvre said grace, we enjoyed a fantastic pot-luck dinner. Christmas tunes played in the background, and we sampled all the different contributions to our dinner.



Roger Moreau, who recently stopped calling and dancing, provided this wonderful cake for dessert! Past dancers, Mary Dament and Barry Woermke, stopped in to share the evening with us, and our

newest dancer, Barbara-Anne Leduc-Laroque, took a minute to pose with Roger for a photo.



Caller Ron & Charlene



Dianne & Cecli Ray

came to us from the Toronto area.



Bill & Wendy Shields



On the right, Anne Jarcew, our photographer, and Norma, our Décor Diva.



The Swallows: small in number but BIG in spirit!

And after the meal, we danced and danced. It was a wonderful Christmas square dance party!

In late December and early January, we advertized to encourage the community to come out and see what our modern square dancing is and to meet the Caller Ron and the Swallows. As a result we have two very keen new dancers, with the possibility of a couple more coming next week!

We are making arrangements for our Winter Wonderland, Leap Year 2024. We will hold it, as in the past, in the village of Beachburg (near Pembroke) on Sunday, February 25 starting at 10:30 a.m. – so those from 'away' can travel in daylight. Our Caller, Ron Gardner, will put us through our paces, calling the level to please those on the dance floor. We will provide warm apple cider and a mini muffin as dancers arrive, dancing – including a tip in the snow (earn a dangle!), a hot lunch, dancing all afternoon, with a group photo before folks make the return trip home. See the EOSARDA Calendar for the flyer and more intormation. Since space is limited and lunch provided, we ask that danc-

ers reserve a spot in a square and at the table by emailing me, bateman.gloria@gmail.com or Norma, normacrozier-grant@gmail.com.

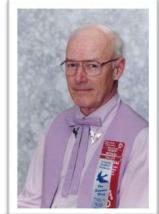
Photo from dancing in the snow in a park in Pembroke, 2018.

PS: Remember to wear appropriate footwear if you plan to dance in the snow and earn the snow dance dangle!

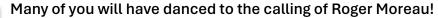
Submitted by Gloria Bateman



Roger Moreau - in Tune with the Times





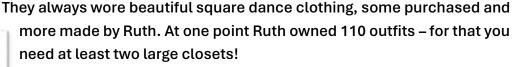


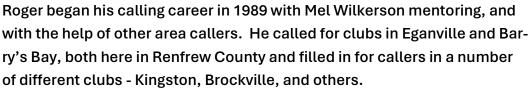
He and his wife, Ruth, met while they were both involved with the Cub Scouts organization; she as a Cub Leader and he as the District Cub Commissioner. That was the beginning of their story; they were married for over 42 years when Ruth passed away three years ago. But they enjoyed a busy square dance life – dancing and Roger calling!

They began dancing around 1968 while he was in the Army, working as an electronics technician. He worked hard and very quickly achieved the rank of Master Warrant Officer before he retired from the military in 1980 after a 25 year career.

The next day, Roger began working for Atomic Energy of Canada at the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories as a radiation surveyor and as a lab technician doing air effluents monitor. He retired in 1997 at the age of 60. Imagine: two very interesting careers before the age of 60!

Roger and Ruth began square dancing around 1968 and danced at many conventions: Edmonton, Halifax, two in Ottawa were the ones he remembered off the top of his head. They also travelled to many other events in the Eastern Ontario area, and even further away!





His and Ruth's career was extra special because Roger called in area schools for a number of years and for a number of schools and grades. Places like Palmer Rapids for 3 years (grades 1 through 5), Killaloe for 6 years (grades Kindergarden through 7), Barry's Bay for 1 year, a school in

Pembroke for the fall semester (an introduction to modern square dancing). When still living in Lansdowne Roger called at a school where the teachers were so impressed, they asked that the dancers put on a recital and all the children/dancers were dressed in black and white. Needless to say, the show was a big hit!

On returning to the area, Roger was asked by the Seniors Center to return to the club in Barry's Bay and he called there for many dancers for 18 years.

Roger (and Ruth when she was able) assisted the Swinging Swallows at demonstrations and our community events -- at area nursing homes, retirement complexes. He also called at a demonstration held at Garrison Petawawa for their annual fall event that provides information about all the various clubs in the area, and for the same type of event in Pembroke. These were for the public and for new





military families and residents of the Petawawa/
Pembroke area. Roger has called as a guest, weekly, since Ron Gardner began calling for the Swallows nearly two years ago.

Roger recently realized that it was time to pack away the dance shoes and to hang up the microphone. He has difficulty hearing the music versus his voice when calling because of his hearing aids, and he sometimes gets dizzy when turning quickly.\(\) (In photo, Roger – back to us - helps at a senior citizen demo.)

Now he attends the Swallows fun events as an honoured guest and we get to learn from him and his dancing experience, and laugh at some of his funnier memories.

He is missed in the dance hall and on the floor, but we can not ask for anything more from him. He has certainly done his part for modern square dancing!

Thanks, Roger, for all you have done for our wonderful activity, both as a caller and as an example of what a square dancer should strive to be!



Submitted by Gloria Bateman

Club NewSUNSHINE SQUARES (Plus level)







Canterbury Community Centre, Ottawa Wednesdays (7:30 – 9:30) pm

We have some good news to report on the hall rental with the City of Ottawa. The City staff informed us in late November, 2023 that they are prepared to offer the Not-For-Profit rates for our dance nights at the Canterbury Community Centre until the City's policy on hall rental is revisited in 2024. This decision was as a result of a virtual meeting between Dave Western, President of EOSARDA, affected Club representatives and interested Councillors in November. This offer, however, is contingent upon our Clubs actively promoting and opening its events to all City of Ottawa residents, not solely to our members. We are still contemplating the best ways to promoting square dancing to all Ottawa residents.

Unfortunately, we have lost 4 dancers in the Winter term as they are not prepared to drive at night during the winter months. However, we continue to have 2 squares at our nightly dance.

Bob Summers and Ron Gardner continue to share the calling duties in alternative weeks, and challenge our dancers with different call sequences.

We welcome anyone who is interested in dancing at the Plus Level. We offer a free night of square dancing for those who come to our Club for the first time.

Sophie and Peter Kwok

*** NEW LOCATION ***



Thousand Islands Secondary School 2510 Parkedale Ave, Brockville

May 3, 4, & 5, 2024

Swing & Spring

Swing into Spring 2024 – Back in Step

One of the first of our changes that readers may notice is our **new logo** at the top of this page. Spring flowers!

The next change to realize is the **new location**: Swing into Spring will move to Brockville this year. Dancing will be at the Thousand Islands Secondary School, which will provide us with a great dance venue and, being in Brockville, there will be more choices in overnight accommodation (although there will still be 'dry camping' in the parking lot). A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn (information on our <u>webpage</u>). There is a variety of restaurants in the area that dancers can explore for lunch and dinner.



The next change is a **program change** which has a two-fold reason for being. First, each year there are fewer round dancers (who do not square dance) in attendance, certainly not the numbers needed to cover the cost of the cuers. Secondly, there have been several requests for a higher level of square dancing, and most of the attendees are plus or advanced level dancers. Like yours at home – our books have to balance. As a result, this year *Swing into Spring* will offer only square dancing – from basic and SSD through advanced. With three halls and three callers there should be an abundance of tired dancers by the end of the weekend!

In keeping with our mandate to provide guest out-of-town callers and cuers, the weekend will feature **Jet Roberts** from Alabama and **Sandie Bryant** from Chicago. Our third caller will be **Brian Crawford**, from right around the corner. As well as calling in one of our three halls on Friday/ Saturday,, Brian will be the feature caller at Sunday's Mother's Day Dance.

Not everything is changing. Recognizing that everyone (including our dancers) is battling increased costs in all parts of their lives, we have decided to keep our registration fee the same as the last *Swing into Spring* dance that took place (2019). The timing of the event has not changed either; *Swing into Spring* will still take place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the weekend of the first Sunday in May. As in other years, we appreciate volunteeres stepping up to assist at the event. Offer to help by

sending an email to promotion@SwingintoSpring.ca.

Included in this issue is an article titled 'Meet Your Callers', a Flyer and a Registration Form. We hope that dancers will send in their form as soon as possible and encourage their dancer friends to do the same!

Watch for updates about *Swing into Spring 2024* on the <u>Swing into Spring</u> webpage, at <u>www.Facebook.com/brockvilleSiS</u>, and watch for future EOSARDA Bulletins.

Plan to join in the fun! With your help, it will be a fantastic weekend!

Gloria Bateman, for the Swing into Spring Committee



Swing & Spring

May 3, 4 & 5, 2024





Sandie Bryant, Chcago, IL



Jet Roberts Owens Crossroads, AL



Brian Crawford. Carleton Place, ON

3 Rooms & 3 Great Callers - SSD - Plus - A1 & A2

Thousand Islands Secondary School 2510 Parkedale Ave, Brockville

Friday	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM - Noon; 2:00 - 4:30 PM; 7:00 -9:30 PM
Sunday	10:00 AM - Noon
	Mother's Day Dance 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

\$80.00 for the full weekend \$70.00 for Saturday and Sunday \$60.00 for Saturday only

\$10 discount if registered by March 31!

For those attending only the Mother's Day Dance \$12.00

A block of rooms has been reserved at Comfort Inn, 7777 Kent Blvd, Brockville, ON K6V 6N7 Phone: (613) 345-0042

The hotel is within a 10 minute walk or a very short ride to the Thousand Island Secondary School. To make reservations, call the hotel directly and ask for group rate for Swing into Spring. Our rate includes breakfast.

TO REGISTER

Download a registration form at www.SwingintoSpring.ca, or email treasurer@swingintospring.ca and a form will be sent to you. Completed forms can be sent as a pdf to same address or mailed

Pay fees either with e-transfer or email or at the door. But register! Full details are on the form

www.SwingintoSpring.ca

www.facebook.com/brockvilleSiS



** NEW LOCATION **

Thousand Islands Secondary School 2510 Parkedale Ave, Brockville May 3, 4, & 5, 2024

Swing & Spring

Swing into Spring - Meet Your Callers





Jet Roberts, Owens Crossroads, Alabama, started calling in 1971 at the young age of eight years old. Three years later he was calling for three local clubs in the Sacramento, California area. He always dreamed of making calling his full-time occupation and by age 19 he was established as a full-time caller on the west coast. To date Jet has called throughout the USA and has been featured in other countries such as Sweden, Denmark, Holland, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Finland, New Zealand, and Canada a. He spent two years calling full time in Perth, Australia. Jet and His wife, Sylvia have been featured on many square dance cruises and Jet is on staff for the sold-out top of the line cruise February 2024 with 75 squares of dancers registered. Jet calls levels from basic through A-2 including the new SSD program. Jet is known for his smooth & interesting choreography & always puts his heart and soul into the singing calls. Don't miss this opportunity to dance in a fun filled & lively atmosphere.



Sandie Bryant, Chicago, Illinois, was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. She first tried square dancing when she was eight years old. After college, Sandie returned to square dancing in 1978. She went from a non-dancer to C4 in one year! By the summer of 1980, Sandie called her first National Convention and proceeded to become one of the premiere callers in the country. Ron Goodman called her informing her that they were a gay club; Sandie's response was basically, "And I'm a black caller!" They had a little laugh and never had an issue. Sandie is internationally known, having called in Japan, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Mexico and Canada. She still lives on the South Side of Chicago with her husband and daughter. Her dances are energetic and exciting as she calls with an emphasis on fun! It is hard to find a match for her enthusiasm.





Brian Crawford, Carleton Place, ON, and his wife, Amy, began dancing with the Mississippi Squares in 1991. He has been calling for Mississippi. Squares since 1999. He started learning to call in 1997, taking an intro course that was led by John Charman. In 1998, Brian and another local caller, Geoff Clarke, started the Town and Kountry Kickers in Stittsville. Geoff took over as full-time caller for the Kickers in 1999 and Brian started calling for the Mississippi Squares. Over the years, Brian has called for a number of clubs in the area, as well as having had the opportunity to call for various clubs in Quebec and across Ontario, as well as the USA — a privilege that he and Amy very much appreciate. Brian is a very popular caller in the Eastern Ontario district, and we are sure that you will enjoy his calling!

www.SwingintoSpring.ca

www.facebook.com/BrockvilleSiS





Registration Form

Dancer #1_

Mailing	Address:						
				_ Posta	al Code: _		
Phone:	Email:						
Please o	ircle the highest level of square dance you w	vill perform: SSD	Basic	MS	Plus	A1	A2
(Snacks,	coffee and tea will be available during the e	vent. There are n	nany resto	urants to	o choose	from for lu	ınch i
Watch t	he SiS website for a partial list of accommod	ations: there will b	e dry can	npina in t	he parkin	a lot 1	
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Join Us In Peterborough
Lift Lock Squares Presents The
59th Annual

59th

SPRING SPREE 20 April 2024

1:30 to 4:30 PM - 6:30 to 9:30 PM

Crestwood Secondary School

1885 Sherbrooke Street West Peterborough K9J 0E5
Four Great Callers: Four Halls
Barry Clasper - Tim Crawford
Dave Eno - Dave Hutchinson
Basic, Mainstream, Plus, A1/2

Pre-registration: – Two Sessions \$22.00 PP, One Session \$12.00 PP Registration At The Door –Two Sessions \$25.00 PP, One Session \$15.00 PP

Please wear clean shoes in dance halls: NO perfumes or scents please

For Information: email: springspreedance@gmail.com or phone 905 342 5450

First Name	
D ·	
Province	Postal Code
Email	
Afternoon Only	Evening Only
Amount Enclosed	
k Square Dance Club or E transfer to	o annewayne644@gmail.com
ne Hare 107 Douro 2nd Line D	Douro-Dummer K0L 2B0
1	Afternoon OnlyAmount Enclosed k Square Dance Club or E transfer t

Dance Level: Basic MainstreamPlus A1 A2

Proposed Outline Of Program

Afternoon Session 1:30 to 4:30

Dedicated halls for Basic, Mainstream and Plus
Advance hall will have 1 hour A1 and 2 hours A2
Computer Squares in Advance Hall
Coffee/Tea and cookies available during afternoon dancing

Evening Session

Callers Showcase from 6:30 to 7 PM In Mainstream hall
C1 session in Plus hall
A1 in Cafetorium

7:00 to 9:00

Four halls will resume regular schedule

9:00 to 9:15

Grande finale in large gym with all callers

9:15

Refreshments Served

Refund policy: Prior to the dance less \$4.00 handling fee. Or roll-over to 2025 at no charge

Peterborough Hotels

Super 8, 1257 Lansdowne St W., 705 876 8898 Spring Spree Rate \$96.00 Plus Taxes For Standard Guest Room Free Continental Breakfast from 6AM to 10AM Book Before 30 March 2024

Comfort Inn, 1209 Lansdowne St. W., 705 740 7000 Spring Spree Rate \$124.00 Plus Taxes Includes Hot Breakfast.

For Special Rates Please Book Directly With The Local Hotel and Mention The Spring Spree Group Rate

For Lift Lock Records					
Date Received	.Ribbons Sent	Given Out	CQ	CA	E-Tr



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

HEY DANCERS!

CHASE RIGHT ON OVER TO THE MERI SQUARES MERI MINGLE PLUS DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 2:00 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M. ST. MARKS ANGLICAN CHURCH 1606 FISHER AVENUE, OTTAWA

COORDINATE YOUR SCHEDULES TO DANCE TO THE GREAT CALLING OF

GEOFF CLARKE





\$15 AT THE DOOR MASKING OPTIONAL CONTACT: LAMARMASON4@GMAIL.COM 613-221-9188



BBS&RDA Invites you to our



Allan Marjerison Spring Jambore Spring Jambore

Callers: Wendy VanderMeulen + John Charman

Saturday April 20, 2024

Glengarry Sports Palace
170 MacDonald blvd, Alexandria, ON K0C 2J0

Program:

2:00 - 2:30 pm: A1

2:30 - 5:00 pm: SSD, Mainstream & Plus

Refreshments & pot of gold

Donations: \$12 at the door

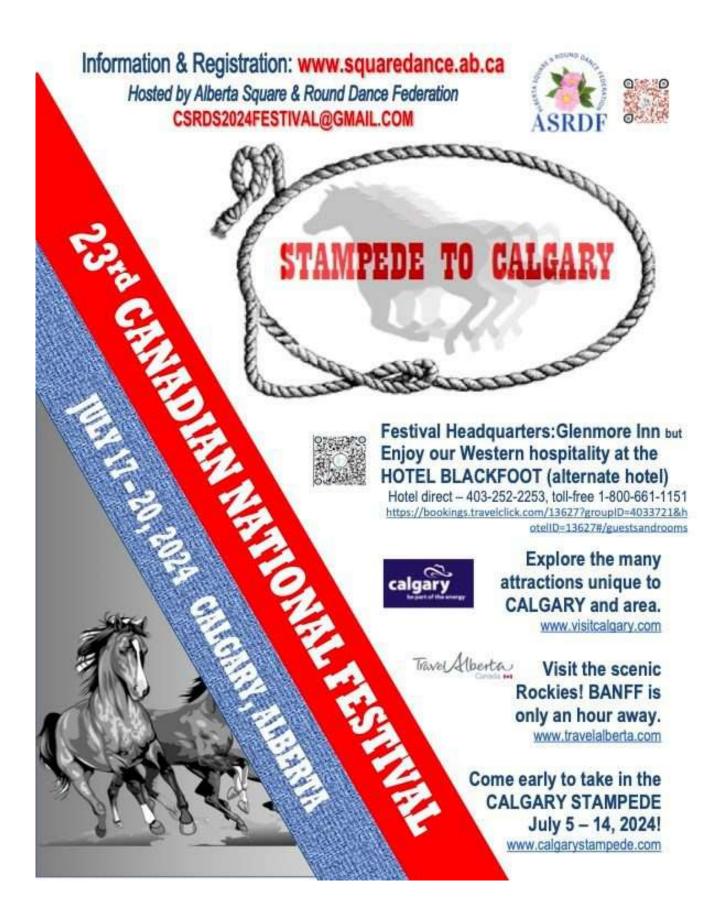
or \$10 in advance - eTransfer to bbsrdazoom@gmail.com

Please include your full name and club in the etransfer comment area

BBS&RDA's graduates dance for free

To get to Alexandria from highway 401, take exit 814 to County Rd 34, drive for 22 km, turn left on Kenyon St W/County Rd 43 W, drive 400 m and turn right on MacDonald Blvd From highway 417 take exit for County Rd 23, turn right on County Rd 23, drive for 1,4 km and turn right on County Rd 34, drive for 13,7 km and turn right on McDougald St, after 400 m turn left on MacDonald Blvd.

Information: Carole Lauzon—clauzon55@sympatico.ca—www.borderboosters.qc.ca



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 SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca

Email: Bulletins bulletins@eosarda.ca
Email: Webmaster webmaster@eoDance.ca

EOSARDA Dance Clubs

Grenville Grem_lins Grenville Gremlins

Kanata Squares Kanata Squares

Limestone Dancers Limestone Dancers

Meri Squares Meri Squares

Mississippi Squares
Napanee Pioneers
Ottawa Date Squares

Ottawa Date Squares

Quinte Twirlers Quinte Twirlers

Square Dance Ottawa
Swinging Swallows
Swinging Swallows

Square Dance Clubs

Crazy A's A1 Friday 1:00pm - 3:00pm

J.A. Dulúde Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., 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 Wendy VanderMeulen

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, Kemptvillé, 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

Mainstream 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

<u>Limestone Dancers</u> 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 - 10:00 to 11:00am A1 - 11:00am to 12:30 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 Atemating 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

<u>Meri Squares</u>

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

Ottawa Date Squares SSD*/MS

LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:45pm Room B203, Jack Purcell Community Centre 320 Jack Púrcell Lane, Ottawa Caller: Brian Crawford Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud 613-806-3138 OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

A1

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

Sunshine Squares

Plus. Plus Teach 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: Jeanie Mastine 613-401-4907 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