SQUARE TIME

Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association

www.eosarda.ca



Ottawa Date Squares were one of the host clubs for the incredibly successful IAGSDC convention in Montréal, **Montréal Mix 2026**, this past July 1-5, at which we welcomed almost 800 dancers who got to dance to some of the best callers in the world.

Volume 72.3 October 2026

Square Time Edition 72.3 Oct 2026

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 January 2027. Deadline for submission is January 31, 2027.

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. There is no charge for dance events.

	Member	Non-Member	Commercial
Full Page	$0	$0	$100
Half Page	$0	$0	$75

EOSARDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026 – 2027

President	David Western	Chair Operations, Dance Committee
Treasurer	Mary Thurston	
Secretary	Arlo Speer	Chair Technology
Director	Gerry Johnson	Square Time Editor
Director	Barbara Englehart	Registrar
Director	Ron Gardner	OACA Caller Rep
Director	Shirley Brown	Chair Club Liaison
Director	David Hutchinson	Chair Dance
Director	Bob Pitruniak	

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

President's Message - October 2026

Trillium Awards

We begin the new dance year with the welcome news that the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation has awarded Trillium Long Service Awards to:

- the Grenville Gremlins' Robert and Sandra Lamarche and
- the Meri Squares' Marilyn Collins

Plans are underway to formally present the recipients with their awards later in the season.

The square and round dance movement in our region relies on the hard work and dedication of a large number of volunteers. The Trillium Awards are one way to recognize their contribution. We will soon be looking for Trillium Award nominees for 2027. Do you know someone who might qualify for either a Merit Award or a Long Service Award? If you do, why not take a few minutes to ensure that their contributions are recognized? Check out the criteria for these awards and instructions on how to apply for one on our web site at http://www.eosarda.ca/associations/eosarda_Trillium_Awards.php If you have questions or need help to complete the nomination process, please feel free to contact me at president@eosarda.ca

Return to Dancing

Along with the brilliant colours of the trees, the crisp cool nights, the breathtakingly blue autumn skies and the cry of the wild geese on the wing, a sure sign of Autumn in Eastern Ontario is the return to dancing across our region.

The summer rust is falling off our returning dancers, clubs have held their annual Open Houses and we are in the process of welcoming a crop of new dancers to the activity. While initial returns from our clubs give some reason for optimism, it is too soon to know how many experienced dancers have returned or how many new dancers there are. Now we wait for clubs to submit their registration numbers. Last year we increased our membership by 5%. Was this a blip or the start of a trend? Time will tell. But if the dedication and energy of our volunteers and the enthusiasm of our dancers is any indication, it's going to be a great year!

Regional Dances

EOSARDA hit the dance floor swinging with our second ever Welcome Back Dance. Held in Ottawa on a beautiful September day, it was the first Regional Dance of the new dance year. Unfortunately attendance much less than anticipated with fewer than 50 dancers participating. However, a good time was had by those who were there. We are hopeful that the annual Christmas Dance Party scheduled to be held in Prescott on December 5 will attract many more dancers to the dance floor.

EOSARDA's Board of Directors

Our clubs and their dancers are the essential building blocks of our movement. EOSARDA is the glue that holds us all together. Whether it is through:

- subsidizing new dancer recruitment and dance leader training initiatives
- providing dance related news and views through our Square Time magazine
- encouraging inter-club visits through our club visit dangle program
- providing and maintaining a regional web site
- promoting dancing through our Social Media pages
- recognizing significant club anniversaries and accomplishments

- recognizing meritorious conduct through the Trillium Awards program
- representing the region at the provincial level

the Association's Board of Directors is hard at work supporting our dancers and our clubs. But this year the work of the Board is falling on the shoulders of a reduced number of Directors and volunteers. If you can help either as a Director or as a volunteer serving on one of our standing committees (Dance, Publicity, Club Liaison or Communications and Technology) we would love to have you join us. No previous experience is required, just a love of dancing and a desire to foster its growth and development in all corners of our region. Interested? Send me an e-mail.

So now we get down to the serious business of having fun on the dance floor. I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor some time soon.

Dave Western

President

EOSARDA

president@eosarda.ca

Message from the Editor

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

I am still waiting for articles to include in our *'How We Got Here'* column. This should be a paragraph or two about how you got interested in dancing and how it has affected your life. Perhaps clubs could suggest dancers who might like to take part in this project.

The cover is a picture from the Montréal Mix 2026, this past July 1-5.

There are lots of dances coming up to take part in. Check the list of flyers toward the end of this issue, and watch the EOSARDA Calendar on-line!

I was sad to hear of the passing of June Tripp. She started dancing the same year that my wife and I did in Montreal.

Bill Shield, who recently passed, will be remembered for his friendliness and humour. Bill and I curled together in Montreal many years ago.

Gerry Johnson

Square Time Editor

SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca

In Memory of June Tripp



We are sad at the passing of long-time dancer and previous member of the Boards of Directors of boththe Ontario Square and Roundance Federation and EOSARDA, June Tripp on July 18.
June began dancing in 1976 with the Circles & Squares in Pointe Claire, Québec. Between 1987 and 1991 June held a number of executive positions with the Circles & Squares including: Secretary, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and Club President. She was an active participant in Border Boosters dances.

In 1992 June relocated to BC and began dancing with the Town & Country Swingers, in Maple Ridge, B.C. She was also a member of Buttons and Bows, Chuckwagon 8s and Century House Squares. While living in British Columbia, June was the Town & Country Swingers' representative to the Fraser Valley Square and Round Dance Association and was co-leader of the Century House square dancing program for several years.

In 2006, June relocated to Ontario and began dancing with Meri Squares, where she held \executive position responsible for membership for 3 years and served for two years as one of the club representatives to EOSARDA's Council of Dancer meetings.

In 2014, June volunteered to be a Member of EOSARDA's Board of Directors, a position that she held for six years.

In 2017, she also volunteered to serve on the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation as a Director and EOSARDA representative, a position that she held for three years.

In 2020, in recognition of her service to the square and round dance movement, the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation presented June the Trillium Long Service Award.

June was the mother of EOSARDA's long-serving Registrar, Barbara Englehart.

You can find June's obituary and additional information at:

https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/capital/obituaries/june-briscoe-tripp/164339.h

In Memory of Bill Shield



he Swinging Bees have lost one of their long-time members, Bill Shield.

Bill was a long time member of Cornwall's Swinging Bees and served as Treasurer for the Seaway Valley Square and Round Association for many of years. He will be remembered for his love of dancing and encouragement for new dancers.

OBITUARY
www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/cornwall-on/william-shield-13065274

Attention Club Presidents and/or Treasurers

- Did you know that EOSARDA has set aside $3000 to assist member clubs with new dancer recruitment expenses and that you are eligible for up to $300 each year? Here are the details.
- These funds are allocated on a first come, first served basis and applications are generally submitted in October as these expenses generally occur at the start of the dance season.
- Member Clubs may file up to two subsidy applications in the same Dance Year, but the second application will only be accepted after January 1 of that dance year. Each application will be limited to a reimbursement of $300.
- Eligible expenses must be over and above the club's normal operating expenses – advertising, printing costs, caller, etc.
- Simply filled out the Application Form, download it here **https://www.eodance.ca/associations/eosarda_form_reimburse_4_club_promotion.pdf**, attach the receipts for all expenses being claimed and then email all documents as pdf's to **financialsupport@eosarda.ca**
- The Club Liaison Committee will review all applications for completeness and will ensure that they meet all applicable criteria. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant with an explanation and may be resubmitted later.
- Once approved, the treasurer is notified and authorized to proceed with payment.
- "Dance year" is defined as the period from July 1 of one year to August 31 of the next year

Full details can be found at: **https://eodance.ca/associations/eosarda_financial_support.php**

Full details can be found at **https://squaredance.on.ca/funding/recruitment-bursary-program/**

There are also funds available from Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Recruitment Bursary. Although this program functions independently from EOSARDA's subsidy program however application for a Federation Recruitment Bursary is made first to EOSARDA and may be made at the same time as an application for an EOSARDA subsidy. Once the application is reviewed for completeness and accuracy, it will be submitted to OSRDF.

Criteria for Approving Clubs for the Recruitment Bursary Program

- Shows an outstanding, organized and well-planned member recruitment program;
- Show evidence of going beyond the call of duty by utilizing unusual or creative ways of recruiting new members (For Example: by doing more than just handing out occasional flyers.);
- Have a system for gathering contact information from potential new recruits for the purpose of doing follow up calls (For Example: draws for free instruction);
- Complete and submit an evaluation of the Recruitment Program and determine what worked and what did not.
- Provide detailed receipts for money spent. It is advantageous to include copies of Flyers, Local Newspaper Advertisements, social Media Promotions, etc.

Complete the Federation Recruitment Bursary Application form. Download it from the Federation link in

https://squaredance.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/recruitment-application.pdf

If you have questions – please email **financialsupport@eosarda.ca**

Hello Danglers!

Happy Fall!!!! I am sure that you are starting to get back into the swing of things and enjoying an incredible new dance season! And that means.....another dangle season is underway!!!!

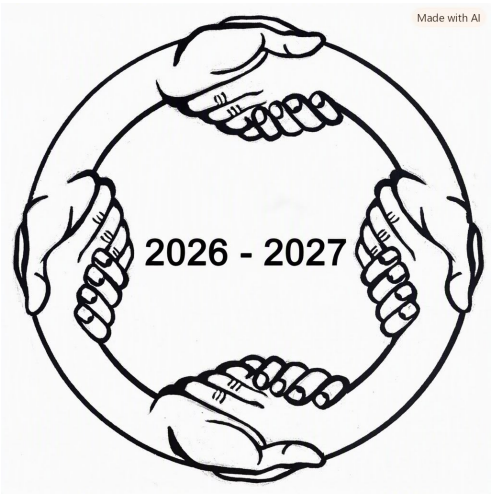
As a reminder, the best way for any dancer to become stronger is to dance more often, and visiting another club is a great way to do this. A different caller or cuer will present things in a slightly different way and this is a fabulous way to improve your skills.!

Congratulations to the following dancers who earned dangles in the 2025-2026 dance season!

Grenville Gremlins
Lorna Driscoll
Geraldine and Peter Mathews

Limestone Dancers
Tammy and Scott Miller
Connie Snuden

Meri Squares
Marie Andree Auclair
Anahis Gharibian
Wendy McCraken and Harold Hedley
Colleen McEwan and Gerry Lelievre
Richard McGill
Robert Milburn
Barbara Pearson
Sandy Rosen
Lynn Wilson



Mississippi Squares
Diane and Howard Marsh

Napanee Pioneers
Carrie Salter

Swinging B's
Nicole and Adam Polley

We want to remind all dancers about the EOSARDA Visit Dangle Program!

So how do you earn a dangle?

Check out Calendar (eodance.ca) on www.eodance.ca to learn what events are happening over the next while. There are SO many to choose from! Remember that changes were made to the Visit Dangle Program to make it THAT much easier for you to track and participate! NO signatures are needed! Attendance at any club other than the club where the dancer pays the EOSARDA registration fee qualifies. This also includes dancers who dance with a second or third club on a regular basis, limited to one visit per club.

Attendance at any workshop, special event, summer dance and/or convention including outside Canada also counts!

So.....take up the challenge.....venture out and start visiting other clubs! Don't be shy.....take a look at all the dance opportunities with the various club open dances! The dangle program runs from Sept 1st 2026 - to August 31st, 2027.

If you're not sure how the program works, send an email to dancedangles@eosarda.ca and we will be happy to chat with you!

See you on the dance floor!

Michelle Gravelle

How We Got Here: Brian Crawford

Question and Answer with our Caller by Bruce Patterson



Q. How did you first get started in Square Dancing and how did you become a caller?

A. My wife, Amy, and I, were introduced to Square Dancing when we were in our very early twenties. Amy saw a flyer for an open house at the Mississippi Squares and convinced me to go. As they say, the rest is history. After a few years of dancing I had an opportunity to be a part of a multi weekend information course put on by John Charman. I was intrigued by how callers could entertain and move dancers around and find surprising ways of "getting us back". We were fortunate to have John and Mel Wilkerson as club callers as they helped immensely.

Brian Crawford

Q. Do you remember your very first dance as a caller? How did it go?

A. The very first "Open Dance" I called was a special event organized by Mel Wilkerson for all of us new callers at the time. Aptly named "It's Showtime," it was a wonderful success and a great ice-breaker for us newbies

Not long after, I landed my first paid gig with the Bytown Squares, a Jewish club that danced at the Kehillat Beth Israel synagogue. I had been training with Mel and attending the club's dances, where I was already doing some Plus calling. When Mel was scheduled to be away, the club asked me to step in and call for them. It was a huge milestone for me—and I bet if I dig through my old records, I can still find a copy of that very first cheque!

Q. What song always gets dancers smiling?

A. Seven Spanish Angels.

Q. What changes have you seen in Square Dancing over the years?

A. When we first started, the dress code was quite specific. Women were expected to wear skirts, while men had to wear long pants and long sleeves. Boutiques at all the big open dances sold Square Dance clothes, jewelry, and dance shoes. Couples often danced in coordinated outfits. While the dress code might have seemed restrictive and authoritarian, it added a certain visual element to the activity. However, I don't think it's changed the actual dance much, aside from the visual aspect. I also recall dancers visiting neighbouring clubs more frequently than we do now, though the EOSARDA dangle program is starting to encourage visits again.



Q. What advice do you have for beginning Square Dancers?

A. In your first year, try to avoid missing many lessons. Listen attentively and be present, but also allow yourself to have fun and forget about the rest of the world while you're dancing. Square Dancing has a way of bringing the nicest people together, it was and still is, a safe place to have fun.



Crazy A's

A1

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

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Wendy VanderMeulen



Crazy A's have been dancing for 8 years already. I find that hard to believe! I even had to look it up to be sure. We started in the fall of 2018 at St. Mark's Anglican Church on Fisher Avenue on Friday nights with a split program – A1 for an hour and a half followed by A2 for an hour and a half. COVID interrupted our schedule and we've had a few changes since then. We now dance at the J. A. Dulude Arena on Friday afternoons, and we dance 2 hours of A1. We've done an A1 teach a couple times in those years and we continue to perfect our skills. From time to time, we've had dancers who learned their A1 elsewhere come to dance with us for extra dance time.

John does his best to make sure that all the calls can be done from more than one formation. As the dancers will tell you, some are easier than others! But we keep at it and we do improve – unless it's a full-moon afternoon. Then…. well, let's not talk about those days! 😊

Our final dance of this session is on Friday, December 11. Goodies will be enjoyed and Christmas tunes will be part of the program. Just an easy afternoon of dancing before a 4-week break! We'll be back at it on January 8. Come dance with us….



Crazy A's – A1 Dancing

Winter 2027



It's Crazy, Eh! ☺

☺ !hE, yzarC s'tI

With John Charman

Friday Afternoons 1:00 – 3:00

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

(approx. ½ km south of Carling, at Woodward)

Winter 2026 session: Jan.8 – Apr.23 (15 weeks)

(except Mar.26)

$150 upfront or $12 per class (per person)*

**Payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit, or credit.*

For information, contact: Wendy VanderMeulen at:
Call or Text: 613-282-0575 or Email WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com



October 2026 Square Times

Our May 17th Spring Flutterwheel Event was a great success with Wendy calling. As well our October 18 Falling Leaves & the Canadian Tartan was wonderful with Brian Crawford calling and a special tip called by Jeff a new beginnings Caller.

We dedicated our Falling Leaves Event to Bill Shield. Memories of the fun times…..



Many thanks to our membership for their continued support at our events.

Glengarry Tartans will hold Open Houses in January 2027 only.
Looking forward to increasing our club membership.

CLUB NEWS: MERI SQUARES

The summer season saw our new executive take the reins, with Guy Quesnel as President. The club had a very busy summer!



We held 4 successful summer evening dances, May 19th, June 16th, July 21st and August 18th. Our thanks to John for his calling at these events. On July 9th we held a very special dance where we welcomed the Thunder Mountain Travellers (TMT) Club from Germany who had attended the Montreal Mix convention. After the dance many headed out to Chances R restaurant for continued fun and friendship and then back to the regularly scheduled workshop dance hosted by Wendy VanderMeulen. We created a special dangle with our Meri Squares logo to present as a memento and we received a specially made "travel bag" from our German friends. Our thanks Wendy for providing the calling for this special dance.

The club had many promotional events planned throughout the summer! These were a combination of PR, and recruitment and all helped spread the fun, friendship and fitness benefits of square dancing.

June 6th – Belair Community Association Ottawa 200 Summer Fest. We had a community booth but unfortunately our demo was cancelled due to thunderstorms…….that never did come!

June 7 - Emmanuelle United Church – we participated in their "Let's Stay together" community event following their service

June 8 - L'Arche Ottawa – our second time providing a demo and participating with residents and bringing joy to their afternoon.

July 22 - A demo at the Robertson House Retirement Community

We then moved into our recruitment efforts for August……..

August 8th - Community booth at the Westboro Farmers Market



August 22nd – Demo at the Carp Farmers Market

August 22nd – Demo at the Ottawa Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) first time Fun Fair

August 26th - Community booth at the Evening Parkdale Farmers Market

August 29th - Demo at the Westboro Farmers Market

Our thanks to all the members who came out to support these many initiatives and to Wendy for the calling!!! Many of our members were proudly sporting their new Meri Squares Club T- shirts.



In between all of the above, we also held our annual Meri Squares picnic on Saturday, August 8th at the Britania Park. A number of members came out, and we thank John and Wendy for providing the calling!

We held two open houses on September 1st and 8th! The various demos and the staffing community booths did result in a number of interested people coming out and giving square dancing a try! Our efforts resulted in 5 new dancers! Of course, we were hoping for more; and we did spend considerable time following up with participants to gain further insight into their experience!

Many are still interested and plan to potentially join for the next season! Overall we are happy with the exposure that participation in community booths and demos provide! However, the number one reason for giving square dancing try remains family and friends! Meanwhile our new dance year is off and running as we plan for Halloween, Christmas and other themed events!



Sadly, Meri Squares also said goodbye to a long-time member this summer: June Tripp passed away in July. June had square danced her way across Canada before landing with Meri Squares where she was always a kind, helpful individual. In 2020, June was presented with the OSRDF Trillium Long Service Award for her outstanding contribution to square dancing. She will be missed.

In closing, we are very pleased to announce that our very own Marilyn Collins has been awarded the OSRDF Trillium Long Service Award! Marilyn is truly a deserving recipient for her dedicated service to Meri Squares over her square dance career serving in many capacities on the executive, including President. The award will be presented to Marilyn at a future date to be confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you all on the dance floor!

Submitted by Michelle Gravelle

Club News Mississippi Squares

So folks, yet another year of dancing has begun in Carleton Place. We held two open house nights on Tuesday, September 8th and 15th where the dancing was free for beginners. It looks like the club will have 90 members for the 2026 – 2027 season, with 15 of them being new dancers.



On Friday, September 11th, we had our season opener for Plus dancing at Zion-Memorial United Church at 37 Franklin St. in Carleton Place. Please note that Plus dancing on Fridays will now take place there (i.e., at Zion-Memorial United Church (except on November 20th where it will be at St. James Anglican Church, 225 Edmund St., Carleton Place)).



- **As it turns out, 2025 - 2026 was the 40th anniversary of Mississippi Squares. Being in a healthy financial situation at the end of the year, the club made the following charitable donations as part of its closing the books procedure:**
- **Lanark County Food Bank $300.00;**
- **Lanark County Interval House $300.00.**

On Saturday, May 30th, a contingent of club members attended the "Spring into Summer" dance hosted by the Napanee Pioneers where Brian was calling.



On Tuesday, July 14th, our "Summer Dance" took place at Brunton Hall. We had 6+ squares out and much fun was had by all.



Here's a great pic of some Mississippi Squares at the EOSARDA "WELCOME BACK – TO 1959" dance held at Trinity United Church in Ottawa on Saturday, September 26th.



Two newsworthy club-related items to note

- Bruce Patterson, Director at Large in our Mississippi Squares Executive, has initiated production of a quarterly club newsletter, the first two editions of which have been released (May 2026 and August 2026 – really looking forward to more great issues in future, Bruce!);
- Brian Crawford, our caller, has volunteered to take over the role of webmaster for our Mississippi Squares Website (Mississippi Squares) after many years of creative excellence provided in that position by Vince Guthro – many thanks to you both, Vince and Brian!

One final point of interest, our annual interclub dance, the Mississippi Melt will be held on April 3rd. Please mark your calendars for this exceptional event – more details to follow in upcoming issues of Square Time and via EOSARDA Bulletins.

In closing, Mississippi Squares would like to issue the following invitation to dancers from other member clubs of EOSARDA and elsewhere. Please feel free to drop in for a fun-filled evening of dancing in Carleton Place. We'd love to see you! We'll be doing Mainstream on Tuesdays (at Brunton Hall, 2022 Beckwith Park Lane) and Plus on Fridays (at Zion-Memorial United Church, 37 Franklin St., Carleton Place (except on November 20th where it will be done at St. James Anglican Church, 225 Edmund St., Carleton Place)). If you have any questions or concerns regarding anything to do with our club, please feel free to contact our president, Betty Goodwin at 613-256-0551.

Many thanks to Diane Marsh, Sharen Goodman and Diana Zubac for supplying the wonderful images found is this article.

Submitted by Charles Henderson

CLUB NEWS: Ottawa Date Squares

Ottawa Date Squares were one of the host clubs for the incredibly successful IAGSDC convention in Montréal, Montréal Mix 2026, this past July 1-5, at which we welcomed almost 800 dancers who got to dance to some of the best callers in the world.

The Gay Callers Association held their yearly caller school during Montréal Mix and graduated two of our club's dancers. They are already hard at work honing their craft so you will undoubtedly see them calling at dances around the region very soon.

A very successful recruitment drive that spanned August and September has resulted in quite a few new dancers joining our ranks.

A new semester of dancing is now well underway with new students and angels alike burning up the dance floor in the new Mainstream program (Wednesday evenings), Plus (Mondays) and A1/A2 (Wednesday).

The club is also busy organizing their upcoming All Day Sashay dance on November 14 as well as a fun holiday dance on December 12.

More information on these dances and opportunities to join our classes is available on our web-site at OttawaDateSquares.ca.

- Yellow Rocks *

Information for the upcoming All Day Sashay

Welcome to All Day Sashay, the spectacular and highly anticipated dance of the winter season and one amazing day full of music, dance and friendship.
This year’s theme for the evening dance will be Hawaiian Luau!
Organized by the Ottawa Date Squares and promoted by the Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association (EOSARDA), this event is for everyone from SSD/Mainstream through C1.
All dancing will take place at the Courtyard Ottawa Downtown (350 Dalhousie Street) where three separate dance spaces will be open at all times allowing you to dance your favourite level as much as you want.
Workshops (including styling) will be on the schedule including several amazing up-and-coming callers from the area.
Hotel rooms are not included in your registration but for people who don't want to drive home in the dark you can contact the hotel directly to book a room at (613)241-1000 and ask for the Ottawa Date Squares rate ($164). The special rate is good until October 21 so reserve today. You can cancel up to 48 hours before arrival.

See the flyer in the list of flyers toward the end of this issue.



Jean-Marc Robichaud
President

Ottawa Date Squares
www.ottawadatesquares.ca
info@ottawadatesquares.ca

CLUB NEWS: QUINTE TWIRLERS

QUINTE TWIRLERS STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT !

Quinte Twirlers was thrilled to prepare a dance for the half time show of ***Dancing With the Stars Quinte***, an annual fundraiser held on May 29, 2026 by the Volunteer and Information Centre of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.

Just imagine the preparations required to finesse our dance steps and the excitement as we waited behind the stage at the Empire Theatre in Belleville for half time. Beyond the curtain, nearly 500 people filled the venue, talking and cheering as they waited in between dancers.

Dave Hutchinson was our lively caller, singing and calling a fantastic version of ***Mr. Bassman***. His voice rang out and we moved together—stepping, turning, circling, and swinging in time. Bright lights shone down on us while the crowd watched and started clapping to the beat of the song. It was a fantastic experience for our dancers – hearing the audience clap and cheer made for a very special dance event. From a spectator perspective, we were all so proud of our caller and 8 dancers who had practiced hard to share a great version of Plus Level square dancing. They did a fabulous job!

By the time the final note played, our dancers and caller were all smiling from ear to ear. Quinte Twirler spectators in the audience were beaming with pride for our dancers and the hobby we all share.

Performing a square dance in front of 500 people was exciting, challenging, and unforgettable. We hope to have another opportunity in future !







Quinte Twirlers was also thrilled to celebrate having 14 new dancers graduate in May. (Two missing from picture) A wonderful group of enthusiastic dancers ! Congratulations !

Val Dunham
Quinte Twirlers



Square Dance Ottawa
Intro to Square Dancing
J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa
4th Sunday of the Month
Wendy VanderMeulen

Please note that after the November 22 dance, Square Dance Ottawa will no longer be dancing under this format. Lately, attendance has been one square, maybe a couple extra. Not really viable. Who knows what will happen further down the line…..



Russell Squares
Russell Public School, 14 Mill Street, Russell, ON
Teaching and Dancing the Mainstream program
Fridays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Wendy VanderMeulen

Russell Squares are doing something a bit different this fall season. For the last 3 years, we've *had* to take in new dancers with each session we offered – because we operated under the Township of Russell's Parks & Recreation program. So, it took the dancers we've had since the beginning 2 years to get through the full SSD (now Mainstream) program. And we also had 6 dancers who were only halfway through the program. So, this fall, we booked with the Upper Canada District School Board, where we have more flexibility with what we want to do. And we wanted to get all our dancers through the full Mainstream program before bringing new dancers in in January.

As of this writing, we've had 5 classes so far this fall, and the plan seems to be working! The dancers are doing great and we are "moving right along" with the lessons. I'm confident that they'll all be "Full Mainstream" by Christmas!



But before that, we are *very excited* to have our first-ever open dance! 😊 We hope to see lots of you there to help welcome Russell Squares dancers to the wider experience of open dances!

You've probably seen the flyer you see here somewhere already. We feel like royalty hosting our first dance. If you want to look like royalty when you join us, you may. Not required, of course!

A larger version of the flyer can be seen here:
www.eodance.ca/flyers/261107RussellRoyalDance.jpg

CLUB NEWS: Swinging Swallows

Dancers Celebrated the Valley and Enjoyed
The Summer Breezes – the Swallows/EOSARDA all day dance event



Square dancers visited the Swinging Swallows Square Dance Club at Owl Rafting, Foresters Falls, on June 20. They came from across Eastern Ontario, Peterborough, New Castle, North Bay and four came from Germany, especially for The Summer Breezes all day dance event! We had coffee, juice and home-made cookies waiting for them – to warm their hearts and bodies!



Three fantastic callers kept the dancing energetic and a lot of fun! In the photo, from left is Brian Crawford (Carleton Place), Dave Hutchinson (Marlbank) and Ron Gardner (Dunrobin). Four other callers were also in attendance (including a caller trainee from Germany). When they were not calling, they were dancing.

Owl Rafting provided the wonderful venue and the scenery, the bbq chicken and salads lunch and served dessert to dancers on board their large pontoon boat while we cruised on the Ottawa River. On the return trip to the dock, dancers 'squared up' (there was room for four squares) and danced all the way back to shore. Next, we danced the afternoon away in the Pavilion finishing up by dancing to 'Happy Trails to You' and then joining hands in "The Friendship Song". The Swallows handed out small 'dangles' picturing an owl in appreciation for their attending our event and as a memento for them.









Submitted by
Gloria Bateman

Our Fall Campaign began around the end of April when we submitted our annual article to a military publication (Petawawa) called The Garrison Guide. It is provided, free of charge, to everyone on Base and living in Petawawa…and may be given out to residents of Pembroke as well, I'm not sure. Then in early May, we participated in Pembroke's EXPO 2026 for two days. Quite a few people, especially younger folks, stopped to watch the two videos we had on display, said what fun it looked like, and took our business card and handouts!
From that time on, club members handed out and posted the flyer where they could – neighbours, friends, family, grocery stores, legions, and so on. We put ads on the radio and in four local newspapers and on their websites, as well as local town/city websites,and two electronic signs.



We set up and hosted an Info Table for two days in early September at a busy grocery store in Petawawa. We participated in 'A Taste of the Valley' in Petawawa along with 113 other organizations. We had some fun doing all this and thought we were getting our message out there for all to see and hear!



Thanks to the friends who brought them out, we have two new, and very promising, dancers. AND we are very happy they have joined us.

We are looking forward to a Hallowe'en Party soon and to collecting for an area Food Bank and for the Christmas Adopt-a-Family through the church where we have danced for nearly 40 years. Then will come our Christmas party!

The club is not very big, but we have a lot of fun. We continue to dance at a local mall (free of charge) once a week just for fun! You can be small and still make an impact, and we hope the community will see that and maybe join us in January!

Submitted by Gloria Bateman



All Day Sashay

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026



CLASS-LEVEL MS THRU C1
DAVE HUTCHINSON
BRIAN CRAWFORD
+CALLER SHOWCASE WITH LOCAL CALLERS

9:00-NOON : $15 ($20 DOOR)
1:30-4:30: $15 ($20 DOOR)
6:30-10:00: $15 ($20 DOOR)
ALL THREE SESSIONS:
$35 ADVANCE / $40 DOOR

THREE DANCE SPACES
VENUE:
COURTYARD OTTAWA DOWNTOWN

REGISTER ONLINE AND SAVE!

GET YOUR LEI AT ALL DAY SASHAY



EASTERN ONTARIO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION
www.eosarda.ca

Ottawa Date Squares

THEME: HAWAIIAN LUAU

REGISTER AT OTTAWADATESQUARES.CA OR USE THIS FORM:

NAME 1:
NAME 2:
DANCE LEVEL:
DANCE LEVEL:
ADDRESS:
EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER:

SESSION (QUANTITY):

- ◯ ALL DAY ($35)
  OR
- ◯ MORNING (9:00-NOON, $15)
- ◯ AFTERNOON (1:30-4:30, $15)
- ◯ EVENING (6:30-10:00, $15)

TOTAL AMOUNT:

*NOTE: DANCING WILL BE ON CARPET
MAINSTREAM WILL BE CLASS-LEVEL

PAYMENT:
CREDIT CARD
NAME ON CARD:
CARD NUMBER:
EXPIRY: /
CVV:

OR

MAIL CHEQUE TO:
ALL DAY SASHAY
450 ROCHEFORT CIRCLE
OTTAWA, ON K4A 0M9

OR

E-TRANSFER TO:
INFO@OTTAWADATESQUARES.CA

All Day Sashay

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

REGISTER NOW: OTTAWADATESQUARES.CA/SASHAY







FULL DAY SCHEDULE

Morning	SSD/MS	PLUS	A and C
9:00am - 9:30am	Styling Workshop	Becca	Brian - A1 (Class)
9:30am - 10:30am	Dave	JM	Brian - A1/A2
10:30am - 11:30am	Brian	Ron	
11:30am - Noon	JF	Joel	Dave - A/C

Afternoon	SSD/MS	PLUS	A and C
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Becca	JF	
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Sarah	Mary	Dave - A1 (Class)
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Dave (Workshop)	JM (Class)	Brian - A2
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Ron	Brian (Workshop)	Dave - A2 (4pm - C1)

Evening	SSD/MS	PLUS	A and C
6:30pm - 7:00pm	Special Event! - All Callers - Costume Contest		
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Dave	Brian	JM - A1
8:00pm - 9:00pm	Brian	JM	Dave - A2 (8:30 - C1)
9:00pm - 9:30pm	Mary	Dave	Brian - A2
9:30pm - 10:00pm	All Callers (special finale with Dave/Mary)		



EASTERN ONTARIO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

www.eosarda.ca

2026 Christmas Treat Dance

Saturday December 5th, 2026

Place: South Grenville District High School, Prescott, ON
1000 Edward St N, Prescott, ON K0E 1T0

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm ($15.00 at the door)

Callers: Brian Crawford and Geoff Clarke

Callers' Showcase

Program – 2 halls, Graduate SSD/Basic/Mainstream/Plus/Advance

PRIZES FOR THE BEST CHRISTMAS OUTFIT

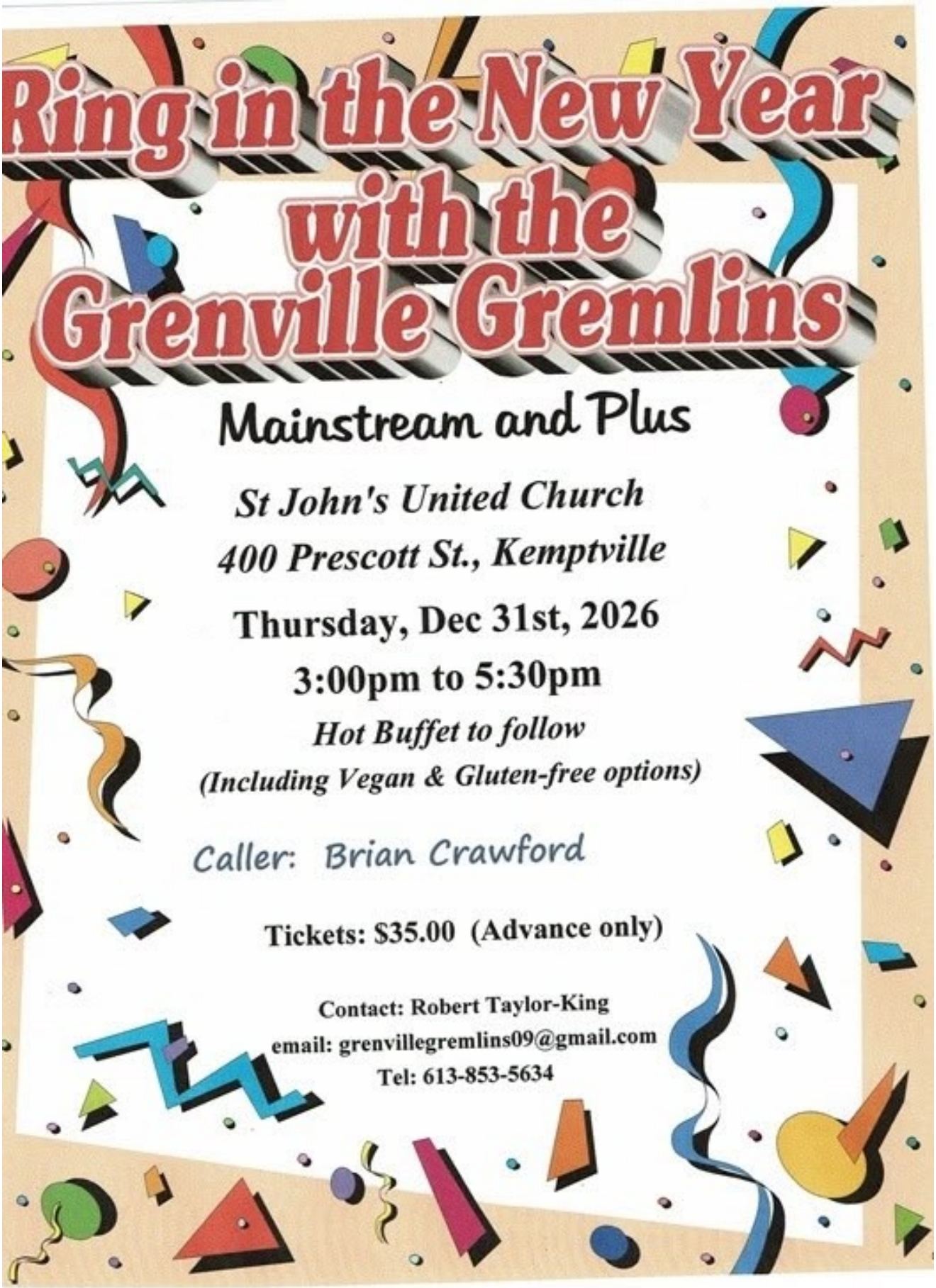
Refreshments: Please Bring a Sample of Your Best Christmas Goodies For Others to Share
A small plateful would be great!!!



Santa is coming, are you?

It's December…In case of inclement weather, a notice will be posted on the EOSARDA Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda) and website (www.eosarda.ca) by 11:00 AM that day.




Ring in the New Year with the Grenville Gremlins
Mainstream and Plus
St John's United Church
400 Prescott St., Kemptville
Thursday, Dec 31st, 2026
3:00pm to 5:30pm
Hot Buffet to follow
(Including Vegan & Gluten-free options)
Caller: Brian Crawford
Tickets: $35.00 (Advance only)
Contact: Robert Taylor-King
email: grenvillegremlins09@gmail.com
Tel: 613-853-5634

List of interesting web sites for our dancers

EOSARDA web site	https://www.eodance.ca/SD_clubs_full.php
EOSARDA 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
Registrar	registrar@eosarda.ca
Square Time Editor	SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca
Bulletins	bulletins@eosarda.ca
Webmaster	webmaster@eoDance.ca

EOSARDA Dance Clubs

Dancing P's	**https://www.eoDance.ca/flyers/dancingPs.pdf**
Grenville Gremlins	**http://sites.google.com/site/grenvillegremlins09**
Limestone Dancers	**http://limestonedancers.org**
Meri Squares	**http://merisquares.ca/**
Mississippi Squares	**http://www.mississippisquares.ca**
Napanee Pioneers	**https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590661073068**
Ottawa Date Squares	**http://www.ottawadatesquares.ca**
Quinte Twirlers	**https://www.quintetwirlers.ca/**
Square Dance Ottawa	**http://www.squaredanceottawa.ca/**
Swinging Swallows	**https://swingingswallows.ca/**

Square Dance Clubs

Crazy A's

A1 Friday 1:00pm - 3:00pm
J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa
Caller: John Charman
Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen
613-282-0575 WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Dancing P's

Plus Wednesdays, starting Sept 16 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Cornwall Senior Citizens Club
119 Pitt St, Cornwall
Entrance & Parking in rear
Caller: Bob Summers
Contact: Marguerite Summers
cell: 13-850-4137 margueritebob@yahoo.ca

Glengarry Tartans

Basic Most Sundays
Check schedule 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Usually La Fraternité Hall
49 St Paul St, Alexandria
Check Schedule
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
John Charman
Contact: Carole & Bernie Lauzon
613-931-1783 clauzon55@sympatico.ca

Grenville Gremlins

MS Monday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
North Grenville Municipal Centre
285 County Road #44,
Kemptville, ON
Caller: Brian Crawford
Contact: Robert Taylor-King
613-853-5634 grenvillegremlins09@gmail.com

Limestone Dancers

MS/Plus Thursday 6:45pm - 9:30pm
Polson Park Public School
165 Robert Wallace Dr. Kingston
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: Noreen Peters
613-888-3170 noreenpeters1957@gmail.com

Lockits

A2, A1 Wednesday
A2 - 10:00 to 11:00am
A1 - 11:00am to 12:30
Brunton Community Hall
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place
Caller: Geoff Clarke
Contact: Geoff & Teena Clarke
613-724-8438 caller.geoff@bell.net

Meri Squares

MS Tuesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
J.A.Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Guy Quesnel
Cell: 613-818-5794 info@merisquares.ca

Meri Squares

Plus / Plus Teach Thursday 7:15pm - 9:15pm
Westminister Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa
Caller: John Charman
Contact: Guy Quesnel
Cell: 613-818-5794 info@merisquares.ca

Mississippi Squares

MS Tuesday 7:00pm - 7:30pm MS
7:30pm - 9:30pm
MS Teach / MS
Brunton Community Hall
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place
Caller: Brian Crawford

Contact: Betty Goodwin
613-852-3496 betty.goodwin@gmail.com

Mississippi Squares

Plus, Plus Teach Friday 7:30pm - 10:00pm
Zion Memorial United church
or St. James Anglican Church
Check their website schedule
Caller: Brian Crawford
Contact: Betty Goodwin
613-852-3496 betty.goodwin@gmail.com

Napanee Pioneers

MS/Plus Friday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
North Fredericksburgh Hall
1178 County Rd. 8, Napanee
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: Karen Wilson
613-328-3221 karcan59@hotmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

MS
LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:45pm
Room B203, 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

A2
LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:45pm - 8:45pm
Room B201, 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

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

MS, Plus Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Harmony Public School
Belleville
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: David Dunham
613-403-2882 quintetwirlers@gmail.com

Russell Squares

MS Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Mother Teresa Catholic School, 1035 Concession St., Russell
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen
613-282-0575, WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Square Dance Ottawa

Beginner 4th Sunday of the 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

Swinging Bs

MS
Plus Tips Friday 6:30-7:00 pm (Plus)
7:00-9:00 pm (B/MS)
Knox - St. Paul United Church
800 Twelfth St E, Cornwall
Caller: Don Moger
Bob Summers
Contact: Iris Swerdfeger
613-937-3455 iris.swerdfeger@gmail.com

Swinging Swallows

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 3-5
Monday 10:00am - 12:00pm
Parkdale United Church
429 Parkdale Ave
Dancing to pre-recorded tapes by Donna Stewart
Contact Gavin Currie
613-739-9593