



The Thistle and Tartan Newsletter

Summer 2018

President's Message



I want to start my first President's Message with a thank you to Marian for continuing to produce this entertaining and informative newsletter even past her term as President. I appreciate her efforts and talents that take the pressure off me in this new role.

I trust that the summer break is providing much relaxation and sun worship for all, but I hope that our dancing family isn't too far from your minds. My mantra is that whenever there is music, there is dance, and when there isn't music, you make your own.

In addition to the physical benefits from the movement, and the social benefits from interacting with others, I firmly believe that dance provides significant mental and emotional benefits – it's hard not to smile when you are dancing, especially with good friends. That is the message we want to get out to the community this year.

It is our hope to get lots of new members – let's aim for 3-4 full sets every week! I'd appreciate everyone's help in this effort – please spread the word about the Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers and make everyone feel welcome to join us for our Open House on Sept. 5! We have posters, brochures, and business cards prepared to advertise the club and its activities – if you would like any of them to hand out yourself, please contact any member of the executive and we'll hook you up!

I'm looking forward to working with our dedicated Executive Committee and teachers over the next year as we all strive to continue the fitness, friendship, and fun that we all know and love with this club.

Editor's Message

The changing of the guards has taken place. I am confident in the leadership of Tara Zrymiak. I am proud to be a part of this group and will continue to do so for a long time. Also, Alice Gibson joined the executive committee in the new role of Publicity Coordinator.

I haven't felt a strong pull to volunteer or be a part of the executive of any club for a very long time. In fact, I tend to get bored with the same activity. But here I feel welcomed, respected and supported by the members.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve you as President. I can never praise the executive committee and teachers enough. And a thousand thanks to you for supporting me. It is what makes this club so special.

I will continue writing and editing this newsletter for the upcoming year. I have received positive feedback. Communication with the membership was my number one goal the past year.

2018-2019 Executive

Past President: Marian Holmes
President: Tara Zrymiak
Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Robert Clark
Secretary: Diane Cross

Librarian: Bob McNaughton
Publicity Coordinator: Alice Gibson
Demo Team Convenor: Diane Davis
Teacher's Representative: Jean Gibson

Teachers: Jean Gibson and Bev Will

2018-2019 Membership Fees

\$80.00 (Club fee) + Branch Fee

Individual Adult and New Member*	\$120.00
Couple (same address)	\$112.50 each
Youth (12-17 years)	\$102.00
Young Adult (18-24 years)	\$106.00
Drop-In	\$6.00

*New members are not branch members. However, we offer Basic classes to help new members and anyone else, improve their technical skills. You may pay in two installments. Cheques Payable to Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers.

Think About This

There are 40 weeks of lessons and social dance events from September 5 (Open House) to May 8 (week before the club AGM). Breaking this down, individual adult and new members pay just \$3.00 a week. Where are you going to get dance lessons, meet new friends, and socialize on a weekly basis? Nowhere. Scottish Country Dancing benefits your physical, mental and emotional health.

All dancers are welcome. You do not need a partner and you do not need to be Scottish!

About Classes

- Classes will be taught by Jean Gibson and Bev Will, alternating throughout the season.
- Classes begin at 7:00 and go until 8:00. Please be prompt as the teachers work hard to prepare a program including technique and formations. Lessons begin easy but are progressive.
- After the dance lesson, we have social dancing for the rest of the evening, as well as a tea break for socializing and tea. Bring your own mug, or borrow ours, just wash it after.
- Basic dance lessons are usually held every second Friday at the beginning of the season. This is reliant on interest and attendance. Poor attendance may lead to cancellation. The teachers are devoting their extra time and energy to do this.
- The basic lessons are open to all members who want to improve their technical skills. These lessons also piggy back on Wednesday's lesson, either reinforcing or looking ahead. Cost is built into a new membership. For returning members, a donation for the use of the hall is required.

News from the Executive Committee

There is a vacancy for the Vice President. The Vice President typically arranges for the coordinators to do the monthly social program and arranges for tea preparation helpers.

- Full training is provided. We always welcome new ideas and perspectives to the executive and would love to have you! We have meetings about once every two months for about 1 ½ hours. If you are interested, let one of the executive know, asap.
- Until a Vice-President is found, Marian will perform the VP's task in addition to Past-President duties.

Saskatchewan Branch Workshop & Ball September 28-30

Heritage Inn & Convention Centre Moose Jaw

Contact Michael Blanchard at micblanchard@sasktel.net

http://www.rscdssask.org/sask_events.htm

A full and fun weekend – Plan to attend!

4 Reasons Why You Should Plan to Attend the Branch Workshop?

1. You elevate your skills as a dancer. It doesn't matter what level you start at, you will learn. There are classes both Saturday and Sunday, plus an opportunity to dance socially on Friday and Saturday. With all that dancing, even the most experienced dancers grow.
2. You meet new friends. There will be a Ceilidh on Friday night and the Ball on Saturday night. Mix with those you don't know. Get to know them. Everyone is there because of a personal interest in dance, or because of a spouse.
3. Low cost: \$130.00 for 4 dance lessons, a ceilidh and a Banquet and Ball. The weekend includes two lunches and the banquet and ball.
4. We help and support each other. Saskatchewan is a small branch consisting of clubs in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Yorkton. Regina has decided to form its own branch. We wish them well. Saskatoon is now the largest club. By attending the branch workshop in Moose Jaw, you are showing your support for the community of Scottish Country Dancers and keeping this activity strong and healthy.

Did You Know?

Dull in Scotland has been twinned with the town of **Boring**, Oregon since 2012. In 2013, the town of **Bland**, Australia joined them in what has become known as the '**Trinity of Tedium**'. – Kick Ass Facts <http://www.kickassfacts.com/scotland-facts/> or <https://www.good.is/articles/trinity-of-tedium> (full article)

I came across this hilarious sketch from STANLEY BAXTER - WHICKER'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i870IQRYPJI&t=123s> Check it out. Probably from the 1970's so quality is compromised. This link starts mid-skit, so you have to scroll back to the beginning.

Mark Your Calendars - Special Events and Social Nights for 2018-2019

All Events are at St. Mark's Hall unless noted

Sept 5 – Annual Open House – Open to the Public
Sept 12 - Classes begin
Sept 26 - Open Ceilidh Dance (just dances; open to the general public)
Sept 28-30 – Saskatchewan Branch 40th Annual Workshop and Ball – Moose Jaw
Oct 31 – Halloween (Dressing Up is encouraged!)
Nov 28 – St. Andrew's Day Potluck
Dec 19 – Christmas Ceilidh
Dec 28 – Old Year Dance
Jan 9 – Classes begin
Jan 30 – Club Social (Burns' themed)
Feb 2 – Burns Night – St. Andrew's College
Feb 27 – Club Social (Valentine's themed)
Mar 27 – Club Social (St. Patrick's Day themed)
Apr 24 – Year End Ceilidh
May 15 – Club Potluck and AGM



The SSCD logo has been digitised for embroidering. The result is illustrated in the attached photo.

With the digitising done, any of us can take whatever shirt, jacket, hat etc. we wish to Jeff's Crestwear (A1 - 116 103rd St. E., Sutherland) to have the logo embroidered on to it for \$15.00 plus tax. For more information, contact Bob McNaughton.

Some Scottish Gaelic Words:

Aisling – Dream

Alba – Scotland

Beannachdan – Blessings

Cairdeas – Friendship

Dannsa – Dance

Eacarsaich – Exercise

Fallain – Healthy

Miann - Wish

Sonrachadh – Socialize

Sporsail – Fun!

Tapadh Leat – Thank You

Tlachd – Enjoyment

Tha mi an dòchas gum bi samhradh math agad! Faicibh san t-Sultain!

I hope you have a great summer! See you in September!

Folkfest 2018

The demo team will be at Folkfest – Scottish Pavilion! August 16-18
Various times throughout the weekend!

Come support your fellow dancers; or check us out for the first time!