

SQUARE TIME

**Eastern Ontario Square
and
Round Dance Association**



LET'S GET DANCING

Square Time Edition 68.1 May 2022

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

http://www.eodance.ca/square_time.php

Submissions to Square Time

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

Next issue...

The next issue will be October 2022. Deadline for submission is September 30.

Advertising in Square Time

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

	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

Message from the President

April 26, 2022

(With apologies to Bill Shakespeare)

To dance or not to dance, that is the question.

Whether 'tis nobler in the face of a world-wide pandemic to suffer the slings and arrows of those eager to return to "normal" (whatever that may be) or by opposing them delay the return to the dance floor.

For some among us the answer to this dilemma is an easy one. Let's get back to dancing as soon as possible. The risk of contracting COVID is small and can be met by masking and vaccinations. On the other hand, we all need social contact and it's been much too long since we were forced to shut down. Let's put this whole unpleasant experience behind us and get back on the dance floor. Let's Dance!

Others are less certain. They perceive themselves and/or their loved ones to be at greater risk of contracting COVID. They are aware that the risk of serious consequences, or even death, from COVID, while lower than it was two years ago, is still not zero. They are concerned that in the rush to return to normality, people are overlooking the fact that the pandemic is not over and continues to hospitalize and kill people. Sure, let's dance, --- but maybe not just yet.

There's no easy answer to this one. We all live in unique circumstances and we all have very different tolerances for risk. That makes the decision of whether to return to the dance floor a highly personal one based on individual wants and needs.

The same can be said for our member clubs. Some of clubs are located in areas where the incidence of COVID is quite low, while others are in high infection areas. Some clubs may have a large number of dancers at risk of serious complications from COVID, others do not. Some club executives may be highly risk tolerant while others may be more conservative in their approach to risk.

To date, not only for clubs in Eastern Ontario, but for clubs across the province, we have seen a limited return to dancing by a few clubs, usually under strict COVID protocols and with limits on the numbers of dancers. I am aware that a few problems have been encountered, but as far as I know, there have been no serious COVID outbreaks attributable to dancing.

Of course, not all clubs have opted to start up this Spring. Many clubs have decided to delay re-opening until the Fall. As is the case for individual dancers, there is no right or wrong answer as to when clubs should start up again. It is very much a question of how clubs judge local conditions.

Whenever they do choose to start dancing again, all clubs are going to be faced with the same two challenges:

- how to get their experienced dancers back on the dance floor
- and
- how to attract new dancers.

Getting a core of experienced dancers back dancing is probably going to be most clubs' higher priority since it is their knowledge and abilities that will be needed to get things moving again.

But when it comes to experienced dancers, there will inevitably be some drop off in membership if only due to normal age-related attrition. After all, two years can make quite a difference to a person's health and well being.

Among those experienced dancers who are willing and fit to dance, there is going to be a reluctance on the part of some to engage in what they perceive as being a high risk activity. Others may be unwilling to dance under what to them seem to be unduly onerous conditions.

In order to attract as many experienced dancers as possible, clubs are going to have to make hard choices as to which COVID protocols to retain and which to discard. Given the current levels of civil discord over such COVID-related issues as masking and proofs of vaccination, that will not be an easy task. Inevitably some people are going to be upset at whatever course of action a club decides to take.

It is imperative, no matter what choices are made, that all club members be fully aware of what rules apply and when. Clubs also need to have in place a clear action plan for dealing with anyone who objects to club protocols.

Then there is the issue of recruiting new dancers. Given the expected drop off in the number of experienced dancers, for many clubs on-going survival may well depend on the club's ability to attract new dancers. But to attract new recruits, we are going to have to convince them that dancing is a fun and safe activity. At the same time we are going to have to deal with the divisions of opinion among potential recruits that are causing civil discord across the country.

In their search for new members clubs are once again going to be faced with difficult decisions as to their operating rules and will need to ensure that any potential new recruits are fully aware of the club's policies and procedures whatever they may be and are prepared to abide by them.

It won't always be easy and there may be bumps along the way, but I truly believe that with good planning and well understood rules, a safe return to dancing at some point in 2022 is possible. We can dance again, but we need to do it smartly and safely.

Wishing you all good health and good dancing.

Dave Western
President
EOSARDA

Message from the Editor

Well, it's finally spring! Some clubs have started to dance, although COVID is still a threat. My wife and I are looking forward to summer. We hope to be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on what is now actually our 52nd.

Welcome to this version of Square Time, - our first in over a year!. I hope that it will be a catalyst to get folks dancing again. We look forward to the fall, when hopefully our world will be back to some sort of normal. I have been doing some virtual dancing, but it sure will be great to be back on the dance floor.

Please note: I have removed the club listings from this issue. Most clubs are not dancing and some that have not updated the EOSARDA web site. It is very important that each club make sure that their information is up-to-date. Please contact the web master at webmaster@eoDance.ca, registrar@eosarda.ca Check with your club for the latest dancing schedule.

Unfortunately, some members have continued their journey onwards. We are grateful to those who have submitted memorials for them. Some have been included with club submissions, while others will follow.

Gerry Johnson

Dancer registration for new club dancers

Some Clubs have been dancing and some intend to dance over the summer. Please remember that if there is anyone that was not registered with an EOSARDA Club in 2019/2020 their names will have to be provided to registrar@eosarda.ca in order that they can be included in the list of names to Federation for insurance purposes.

The Canadian Society of Square and Round Dancing intends to meet in July. It is expected that they will decide as to whether or not the fees will increase for the 2022/2023 dance season. As soon as that information is confirmed, the Clubs will be advised accordingly.

We are hopeful that there will be a 2022/2023 dance season in which case registration packages will be sent out late summer to all current EOSARDA clubs. Please ensure that the registrar has the most current contact information so that the packages are received by the correct person(s).

Barbara

In Memoriam

Tribute to Joe Thompson, Village Squares – Orleans

Earlier this year the Village Squares lost a dear friend and talented, long-time club webmaster/photographer. Joe Thompson passed away on January 7, 2021, at the age of 82, after nearly a year-long battle with cancer.

Joe and Evelyn joined the Village Squares in the fall of 1998 and went on to become active members of the club executive volunteering many hours of their time to Publicity and they also took on other responsibilities as necessary to help in the operation of the club. Needless to say that over the years they developed many friendships at the Village Squares that continue to flourish to this day. While pursuing his interest in technology, Joe created the club's website that he continued to update until his illness prevented him from doing so. Even a move away from the east end of the city in 2017 did not keep Joe and Evelyn from attending the club's special gatherings to socialize and of course for Joe to take more photos for the website. The last event that he covered was our 2019 Christmas Dinner/Dance that included, as usual, the challenging task for Joe to successfully organize club members for the annual "family" photo ... an event, in itself, that resulted in much laughter and added to the festive atmosphere. In viewing his photos, with their colourful/decorative backgrounds, and reading the captions, it was evident that Joe was a master of his craft.

Joe leaves his wife and partner of 59 years Evelyn, son Mike, daughter Susan and their families. His ashes were interred in Ottawa at the Beechwood Cemetery – Canadian Military section. Joe proudly served 30+ years in the Canadian Forces followed by eight years as a member of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. Joe will be missed but fondly remembered for his enthusiasm, his sense of humour and definitely for his valuable contribution of time in capturing those special Village Squares moments. Forever grateful to you, dear friend, Joe Thompson!

Submitted by Bob and Gabrielle Forsyth on behalf of the Village Squares



Jack Loosemore, former EOSARDA Board member and dancer, died earlier this year at the age of 89.

Jack was a fan of big band and jazz music and of square dancing. Jack and wife Susan danced with Meri Squares and with the Trackers Plus Club in the early 2000s. Jack also served as EOSARDA Secretary from 2004 through 2006.





For the Moment...

The *Swing into Spring* Organizing Committee was disappointed that we felt cancelling the 2022 event was best/safest/smarest/necessary. However, we would like you to save the dates May 5 through 7, 2023 and plan to attend next spring. Some fantastic callers and cuers have already confirmed they will join us; we will introduce them to you before long.



The Committee is looking for volunteers to help us to ensure that *Swing into Spring* 2023 is a success. If you are interested in joining us please contact Arlo (arlo@rogers.com) or Gloria (bateman.gloria@gmail.com) and we can give you some details.

At the moment, we are optimistic that things will get back to normal soon. The committee will work diligently to ensure that *Swing into Spring* 2023 is a wonderful dance with a lot of fun and laughs, challenges and probably a few missteps, but we hope you will enjoy making more great memories.



Watch the [SiS webpage](#) and our [Facebook page](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Meanwhile, we wait patiently *for the moment* we can throw open the doors to welcome you to 2023 *Swing into Spring*!

Gloria Bateman

<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottSiS/>

www.SwingIntoSpring.ca

Promotional Idea

The topic of Promoting Square Dancing has come up many times. An easy way to do that is by owning a Square Dance License Plate

You can purchase a “Square Dance” Graphic license plate for your vehicle!

Funds from the sale of these Graphic license plates (\$82.15) helps the Ontario Federation to promote square dancing in Ontario. These plates can be requested from your local Service Ontario office. Plates can be serialized or include requested text (Restrictions Apply).






Your Publicity Committee, working with you to promote square, round and line dancing

Increasing Visibility & Building Our Numbers

Now is the time! Clubs are beginning to plan for fall dancing and recruiting. We cannot miss this opportunity to engage people as they look to restart their social activity! Square, round and line dancing need to be seen and be part of that reopening.

Your Publicity Committee has been and will be active on many fronts. From small promotional materials (thinking about lawn signs or window decals?) to social media to major events. We also hope to finally connect with Club publicity folks in person (or maybe by Zoom) to share ideas and energy. Sharing information on many different fronts is a key component to promote our dancing activities and ensure that you, the dancers, are able to help spread the word. As we all know, one of the most successful methods of growing our clubs is dancers talking with and bringing new people to dance with us.

Together with the Technical Committee, the Publicity Committee has developed some fresh information for the www.eoDance.ca website that is aimed specifically at people who are curious and need some information. When they (and you) visit the Home page, they will see a bright yellow box with the question “Interested in Dancing?” Give it a click and see what you think. Your feedback is welcome!

The EOSARDA  page is up and running. We would like to see is many more dancers **join** the group so you can participate by providing comments and photos and then **SHARE** the information through your other groups. You can even share the information to many local community groups that promote events in your area. Post your fall dance schedule on the EOSARDA FB page and then share it to your local municipal events FB page, “What’s Up in the Ottawa Valley”, Kingston, Ontario Community/events, Local events and entertainment in Cornwall, etc.. The more folks who see the EOSARDA FB page, the more potential dancers we have!

Events in the works

We are in the planning and initial stages of a couple of events that we will be asking members to help with. Tentative plans for now, but please put us on your calendars in pencil!

- ♦ **A fun, promotional dance in Confederation Park, Kingston, during August. This event was cancelled in August 2020, but we are hoping to resurrect it. As we did at the Byward Market in 2019, we will be asking all dancers to attend – square, round and line – and we will welcome callers, cuers and line dance leaders willing to volunteer their time and talents. Confederation Park offers great visibility and a chance to attract new dancers. We are not confirmed yet but will send an EOSARDA Bulletin when we have a date and time, so keep it in mind.**

- ♦ The BIG event we hope to facilitate is at the International Plowing Match, September 20-24 in Kemptville, Ontario. This is a huge event that attracts some 80,000 people. We are planning to rent a booth and provide handouts and other promotional materials. We will have to “man” the booth each day and evening for the duration of the event. We have also applied to do demonstrations/dances on the entertainment stages. We are waiting to hear if we are accepted. Clearly, we will need help from the entire dance community. Email publicity@eosarda.ca you’re willing to chat with passersby or dance up a storm on stage.
- ♦ Check out the International Plowing Match at www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2022

Promotional materials

Your Publicity Committee is also looking to facilitate the purchase and distribution for clubs of small promotional materials to increase dance visibility. We are thinking of lawn signs (that you could share among members across your area) or decals for car windows. More information to come. Like the idea? Hate it? Let us know at publicity@eosarda.ca. Have something you think would help clubs spread the word, let us know we would love to hear from you!



Thank you, Carole!

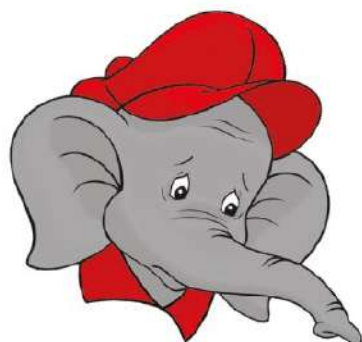
Carole Lauzon has decided to step down from the committee. We thank her for her amazing enthusiasm in promoting square dancing over the past couple of years. We will miss her on the Publicity Committee.

The Publicity Committee has so many ‘irons in the fire’, we are looking to build our team. If you’re interested in helping provide ideas, facilitate our events, assist with communications, and just have fun with other enthusiastic people wanting to promote square, round and line dancing, please email us at publicity@eosarda.ca . We need **YOUR** help to plan future publicity endeavours and assist all EOSARDA clubs to grow.

Your Publicity Committee -
Gloria & Lamar



CALLING TO ALL DANCERS !!



Unlike the sad looking elephant on the left who's looking a bit lost & thinks he's forgotten something - **YOU NEVER FORGET!!**

Oh, I'm sure many of you are thinking that after 2+ years of being locked down; isolated; restricted in where you can go, who you can see, what you can do and certainly NOT SQUARE DANCE, that you've forgotten what comes after CIRCLE LEFT?

NO, NO, NO.... folks, that ain't so! You've not forgotten how to do an Allemande Left, or a Star Thru, or that very complicated Square Thru. It's still there, tucked away in a corner of your brain just waiting to "get out" and have FUN again!!

Oh sure, those calls are not very likely to come 'rushing back' right away to your feet and hands, at least not for the first tip. But you've really not forgotten them, they've just gone a bit "rusty" from the lack of use over the past 24-30 months. ALL your Callers know that, and they're going to give you lots of time to "recall" the moves, allowing your brain to first "find it" in the library (*Rolodex to those that remember those things*), and then get the information to the rest of your body, particularly your feet! And, if needed, you can always bring along the greatest 'rust remover' known to man... a can of WD-40!!



So, when that call comes to let you know that it's **TIME TO START SQUARE DANCING AGAIN....** Just say... YAY, I'LL BE THERE and get ready to SOCIALIZE & HAVE FUN again with all your Square Dance friends, they're going to love seeing you again! ❤️



And I promise you, that each and every Caller out there in EOSARDA land is eager to see ALL OF YOU back on the dance floor again real soon! Be assured that they're going to take it 'nice & easy' and give you lots of time to "re-discover" all those moves you think you've forgotten! And you are going to be "mighty pleased" (with yourself) to find that "oh gosh, I really haven't forgotten after all, wow!" **WELCOME BACK!! Remember, I told you so!**

Square Time Issue April 2022

Club News Grenville Gremlins

It has not been since March 2020 that the Grenville Gremlin's have been together either socially or to dance so are all probably very rusty, so we know our caller, Geoff Clarke will have us back up to speed in a very short time. We were planning on returning in March 2022 but our response was low so we have decided to restart in September 2022. There will be a recruitment done in August with signage as well as a demo at the Kemptville Farmer's market. After 2 ½ years of not dancing some of our members will not be returning due to health and physical issues.

The Gremlins are planning on a picnic in June. The response has been very favourable as we look forward to our social time together.

We still have certificates for a Trillium Long Service Awards to be given to Bill and Gail Butler who were awarded this in 2020.

On a sadder note, the Gremlin's lost a long time Past President member of the club, Ray Isabelle passed away in Nov 2021.

Looking forward to seeing all back on dance floor

Peter & Geraldine Matthew

Club News Harbour Lites

Harbour Lites in Prescott will be dancing from April 13th to May 25th. Our dancing will be in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at the corner of Dibble & Centre St. The protocol at the hall we are dancing in requires dancers to wear their mask or face shield at all times except when sitting. The club will not be serving refreshments so all dancers are asked to bring their own beverage & snacks. The admission fee will be \$ 7.00 at this time. The club will welcome guests to join us but please follow the covid precautions. If you have any of the signs or have travelled outside of the country please stay home.

It's been a long time since we have danced and many of us have new aches & pains, sore knees, back and hips so we will start off at a slow pace and we may have forgotten our left from our right but we are fast learners and will catch up to where we were before the restrictions came in two years ago. Our members are looking forward to dancing again.

On a sad note, we have lost one of our members BOB MADDOCK known to some as Bob the banker. Bob along with his wife Joan have been great supporters to our club and have danced at Mississippi Squares. Grenville Gremlins & Swingin Saints among other clubs. Bob was also known for his talent of telling jokes. He will be missed.

Submitted by Marlene Casselman

News from SEAWAY VALLEY SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

The association has decided to cancel the Mother's Day Dance for 2022. The date would have been May 1st, 2022. It was not an easy decision but Covid is still a concern, especially in large crowds. This dance is for new dancers, to enjoy their first large dance after a year of learning how to square dance.

There are no new dancers and there are some clubs that are not dancing at this time. The association will look forward to planning the Christmas Dance for 2022.

Submitted by Marlene Casselman



LOCKITS Advanced Dance Club

Geoff & Teena Clarke

Here we are in April 2022 and it's over two years since we stopped dancing at our regular dance hall in Black's Corners!! But, fear not, we've now been advised that our hall IS available for September, so we're planning to be back there dancing on a regular basis. Keep an eye on our club website at www.lockits.ca for all the details later this month.

Being "off" for two years gave us time to "reflect" on our square dance experiences since we first started dancing. Where and when did it all start for us? For this edition of Square Time we thought we'd give you a **bit of history** on how "we" got to where we are right now!

On the right, is the newspaper clipping of our "graduation" at the Mississippi Squares in April 1994 some 28 years ago! OMG, where did all those years go? **How did it all start for us** & what have we been up to since that very first time we went to a Square Dance?

Bachelor of Square Dancing awarded to 12 graduates

By Audrey Kealey

Twelve graduate dancers were awarded with diplomas for having attended Modern Square Dance classes and completed the prescribed courses which entitled them to the degree and title of "Bachelor of Square Dancing" in a special ceremony at Carambeck Public School in Carleton Place on April 26.

The graduates were Geoff and Teena Clarke, George and Bernadette James, Gina LeGrow, Martin and Ruth Miller, Jim and Diane Robinson, Elsie Sargent and Chuck and Lois Wood.

Since its inception in 1986, Mississippi Squares has graduated 130 dancers into the modern square dance activity over the eight year period.

The graduation ceremony followed a social hour of square dancing for everyone. Brian Crawford and Amy Camelon escorted the graduates through an arch

formed by club dancers into the elegantly decorated hall for their program.

Achievement diplomas were presented by the class caller and leader, Mel Wilkerson; club badges were presented by the President couple, Jack and Shirley Wieler; a congratulatory diploma and best wishes were awarded by Bob Washington on behalf of the Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association (EOSARDA); and Don Sherwin and Barbara Bateman invited the grads to sign the Club's Graduation Register. The Vice-President couple, Brian and Audrey Kealey, were MCs.

The evening program concluded with an initiation dance tip by the graduates and joining of hands in a circle singing the 'Friendship Song'. A graduation cake and ice cream was enjoyed by everyone.

Modern square dancing is more than just dancing; it is

also the enjoyment found in the interaction with people. The social activity available to the dancer is as important as the dancing. It goes beyond holding hands in groups of eight to moves to music.

It is a friendly group of people who enjoy being together not only on the dance floor, but also at weekend dances, conventions, participating in demonstration dancing in the community, and much more. Modern Square dancing is fun. It gives you that 'great to be alive' feeling by combing a healthy atmosphere and mild exercise and many good times.

Mississippi Squares welcomes new dancers to the fall class commencing Tuesday, Sept. 13 at Carambeck Public School at 7:30 p.m. The first night is free. Everyone is welcome.

There is no age limit. For more information,



April 26, 1994

Teena and Geoff Clarke share a laugh as they try to complete this square dance without breaking the ribbon. The new Mississippi Squares modern square dance club graduates joined others for this traditional 'initiation' at the Carambeck Public School gym April 26.

Well, it all started several years prior to '94 when friends (who square danced) invited us to 'come & try it out'. "No way!" said Geoff & that went on for a few years before he finally 'capitulated' & agreed to attend an Open House, "*just once, and once only!*" That was the fall of 1993 & the rest is history!

Yes, we started dancing with Mississippi Squares in Sept. 1993, graduating in 1994 and dancing there until 1998 when we started our first club, the **Town & Kountry Kickers** working with Brian & Amy Crawford. Geoff & Brian were also '**new**' Callers at that time, both having started to learn to call in 1995 - not long after we had first learned to dance!!

Along with the Kickers (1998-2011), Geoff & Teena established the **Trackers Plus Club** (2003-2015) and eventually **LOCKITS** was founded in 2006 and we're still in operation to this very day!

For the most part, like you, we've been "dark" since COVID-19 came along with our last regular dance being held on Feb 26, 2020. As you have, we've 'waited & watched & hoped' as time went by with no idea when, or even if, we'd be dancing again. As the situation started to change & 'ease up' in the middle of last year, Geoff contacted the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Health Unit to find out what COVID protocols would apply if dancing was held in our dance hall at home. After getting their OK, & adhering to those protocols, we started dancing in October through to early December and 'planned' to continue in the new year. Of course, that was before Omicron appeared & so we were sidelined again until March 2022 and the relaxation of many of the mandates that have kept us all home & safe!

Currently, we're still dancing in our home dance studio with restricted numbers and most of the COVID protocols still in place including being fully vaccinated & dancing with masks on. Everyone is very happy to be back on the dance floor & we're gradually 'chipping away the rust' that's accumulated over the past couple of years. Dancers are delighted to find that, **they really hadn't forgotten everything** – it was just a bit rusty and with a quick spray of WD-40, it has all started to come back!! **YAY!!**

We'll wrap things up at the end of April and then look forward to getting back into our regular dance hall in September where we can welcome YOU, to come and join us as we ALL celebrate the "return of Square Dancing" with all the **social fun & friendship** that we've been missing over the last couple of years!



Come September 2022, you're welcome to come & dance with us.
Check our website at : www.lockits.ca for all the details!

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

Square Time – April 2022

REMEMBERING SOME OF OUR DANCERS



Clayton Davies - Oct. 2021



Clayton square danced with several Clubs in the area including Meri Squares, Capital Steppers, our Trackers Plus Club & he has been a **regular Lockits dancer since 2008**. His Round dancing took him to several clubs - Rhapsody Rounds, Take-A-Step Rounds, with Capital Carousels being the most current.

Very much a "gentle" man, we never heard a cross word from him and his smile was infectious!

Rest in Peace Clayton, we are all going to miss you!

Tom Edwards - Jan 6, 2022

Tom & Marilyn danced with our **Lockits Club** since "Day 1" when the club was launched in 2007-2008. He was also an active member of Mississippi Squares for many years as well as a constant support for our Square & Round Dance activity. Although not able to dance in the last few years, you would still find him at the hall socializing as usual. Right up to the shutdown of dancing in Feb 2020, & when he was unable to come out to Brunton, Marilyn would go & pick him up so he could still join us on occasion for our Wednesday "lunch after dance"! Rickard's Red was his favourite beer!



We have never seen him without a smile on his face - ever!!

[Obituary for Thomas Edwards | Alan R. Barker Funeral Home & Chapel Inc. \(barkerfh.com\)](#)

Don Shepherd - Jan 7, 2022



Don & Sandra were very active square dancers for many years hanging up their dancing shoes in Sept 2019. Over the years they danced at a number of clubs, including Limestone Dancers (Kingston); Swinging Saints (Brockville); Cookie Club (Ottawa); and joined the **LOCKITS in September 2014**. They were almost the first to arrive each week, even in a snowstorm!! Don had a great sense of humour & even though he suffered a stroke a few years ago, he battled through that adversity to return back to dancing, an incredible example of his will & determination to dance!

He will be very much missed by all who knew him!

[Shepherd, Donald - Death Notices | \(casshomes.ca\)](#)

Craig Hobbs - Jan 7, 2022

Although never a member of our Lockits Club **Craig & Joyce** joined our **Town & Kountry Kickers Club** in Sept 2000 and danced with our Kickers & our **Trackers Plus Club** for ~10 years or so. After they stopped dancing, we'd still run into them on occasion, the most recent being July 2019 when we saw Craig at a mutual friend's memorial service. Over the years, they never seem to age!!! Our club records show that Craig would have turned **90** in Dec 2021! **RIP Craig, it was great to have you dancing with us!**

[Craig HOBBS | Obituary | Ottawa Citizen \(remembering.ca\)](#)



CALLERLAB

Since being elected to the Board of Governors of CALLERLAB, I've been asked "What is CALLERLAB anyway?" Before I got around to writing anything, I came across this great article written by Gary & Dottie Welch for a square dance newsletter down in Nova Scotia called "The Phantom." With permission from them, it is reprinted here, as I couldn't say it any better!

Wendy VanderMeulen

Most of us take the following for granted:

When we attend a Mainstream dance at another club down the road a bit, in another province, in the States, or even in Europe or Japan, we don't need to worry about being confronted with a bunch of calls we've never heard of. It doesn't happen.

At a Maritime Convention, or at a Canadian or US National, the Plus Hall always includes a group of calls ... — the same group wherever you dance Plus. Likewise, the Advanced Hall always includes the same set of calls in addition to Plus; you can depend on it.

CALLERLAB is largely responsible for that predictability. It's the international organization of square dance callers — total membership of roughly 1500. CALLERLAB publishes the lists of square dance calls that make up the various programs: Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and Challenge. Those lists are used throughout the world; they're what make Modern Square Dancing an international activity. Without them you couldn't be sure of what you were getting into when you squared up in the ... Mainstream Hall to dance to a caller from another province. [See comments on "BEING SURE" below.]

Chances are that your present caller taught you many of the calls you know. He or she taught you the "definition" of the call — what to do when you hear "Swing Thru" for example. Where do these definitions come from? CALLERLAB!

In class you learned calls in a sequence — very likely the teaching sequence specified by CALLERLAB. The sequence is carefully arranged so that less complicated calls are taught early and the more complex ones only after you've "got your feet under you".

CALLERLAB has resources to help callers improve their teaching skills, such as suggestions for arranging dancers in a *standard starting position* before each call. The logic, of course, is that practice doing a call from the same starting position increases the chance of success. Once you're happy with that, maybe your caller will tippy-toe into trying some non-standard starting positions.

Different folks have different ways of learning — through various combinations of reading the definition of the call, by watching a video of dancers doing the call, or by repeatedly dancing it. CALLERLAB's annual meetings usually have sessions on how callers can help dancers who learn in different ways.

It isn't easy to move dancers smoothly through a sequence of calls while keeping them entertained!

Square dance callers aren't just "born to call"; they need to learn the craft. Schools which teach calling, such as the Maritime's Alguire Memorial Caller School, use a program of instruction created by CALLERLAB. About three dozen callers who have demonstrated mastery of that program over several years are recognized as CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coaches. They are the nucleus of CALLERLAB's training efforts.

Like the rest of us, CALLERLAB is concerned about maintaining our wonderful activity. The formerly rigid dress code has been relaxed. Ideas for shortening the teaching time for new dancers are bubbling forth. Suggestions for offering a series of "teach whoever comes through the door" dances are being followed up. The difficult problem of raising public awareness is being tackled.

The bottom line seems to be this: The square dance activity, as we "old timers" have known it, is changing. Modern Square Dancing will surely survive, but in a new form. CALLERLAB will be helping to define its future.

BEING SURE

The CALLERLAB lists lay out the ground rules for each level. But surprises often pop up — *teehee!* If the hall is listed as "DBD" or "Nonstandard", or perhaps "Take no Prisoners" then expect the unexpected! But even under normal circumstances, callers occasionally wander away from the list. During a convention they sometimes forget which hall they're in (Dancers are very quick to correct such memory lapses!) Some realize too late that the dancers in front of them aren't used to starting the next call from the position they're in — even though it's technically OK. Callers have a variety of accents and delivery habits which sometimes get in the way. A dancer's attention can be distracted at just the wrong moment. The mic can suddenly drop out. All the above adds an element of "interest" ("anticipation"?, "trepidation"?) to our glorious activity. We dance in the real world of human limitations. ***Hurrah!!***

Club News Kingston Limestone Dancers

The past 2 years have certainly been a challenge for all of us - and no more so than for our social activities which keep us connected to each other. Square dancing clubs have struggled to keep members connected and to keep the interest in dancing alive. Some of our members participated in Zoom dances at the Plus, Advance & Challenge levels with great success - ask our plus dancers **Mary Kennedy & Dave**

Doucette who learned (and mastered) phantoms as Dave called 4-couple calls - during a 2-couple virtual dance! Kingston, like others, has used emails and Facebook to reach out to members, but certainly one of the most successful was Quizzes.

Dave Hutchinson and his partner, **Mary Thurston** designed, and we forwarded to our members, a series of square dance quizzes back in the spring of 2020. Their object was to keep us busy during the early days of COVID-19 and to keep square dancing active in our minds! There was something for dancers of all levels, from Basic through Advance. If you were like me, you started doing some of the quizzes and then maybe slacked off a bit, hoping to get back to them later. Good News! The quizzes are NOT lost; you still have a chance to finish them. They now are available on the [EOSARDA](https://www.eosarda.com/) website where you and future dancers can see them forever. The original quizzes have been preserved and are even created as interactive versions, where you can enter your answer and verify it directly on the web page -- which, along with a list of the moves of each level, will help refresh your memory.

It is with sadness we report the loss of so many of our members who have passed away during this lockdown - **Carol Pederson, Keith Mellow, Ted Thomson** and **Elroy Shaule**, all long time active members of our club. Ted and Janet are very well known in the dancing community as they were avid dancers for many years and enjoyed both rounds and squares and would travel to dances all around Eastern Ontario - Ted was a quiet, kind man, always welcoming and encouraging to our new dancers. Elroy and Rosemary were also active square dancers for a number of years and Elroy continued to attend our Plus classes regularly, even when his wife no longer danced. He was a kind man with many interests and was always a pleasure to dance with - or to sit on the sidelines and chat with. Keith and Jean loved square dancing and could always be counted on to attend our weekly classes to angel and to encourage. Carol was rather late to square dancing, but loved it and, being a member of our Club, she regularly attended our classes. She would do whatever chore to help out when we had a social event - or our yearly St. Pat's dance. All of these members will be sorely missed when we return to dancing.

Our caller, **Dave Hutchinson**, is currently facing serious circulatory issues - but is bouncing back with the attitude that losing a foot is not going to keep him down, he will be back to calling as soon as possible - even if it is from a wheelchair. (Collin says we should finish this with "Dave is now foot loose and fancy free!" He is so bad!!)

On a more positive note, our good news is - Congratulations to **Linda & Rob Harrison** on receiving the Trillium Long Service Award! This award gives recognition to them for the years of hard work and dedication, not only to our Club, but also to the square dancing community! We are lucky to have them as our members. Thank you, Linda & Rob!!

Our intent is to try to organize regular monthly dances/classes, if we find that the interest to attend is strong enough to make the events financially feasible. Our plan would be to bring dancers back and bring them up to speed after the 2+ years hiatus! At the time of writing this article, space rental on a weekly basis is not yet available but we hope to have something settled by the Fall so we can get back to dancing.

We also extend our thanks to **Linda Chapman**, who, as Secretary, has kept the emails going out and our membership connected!

Linda Chapman & Shirley Brown

Club News Meri Squares Square Dance Club

What we've been up to

Fall 2021

Meri Squares was very fortunate in fall 2021 to gain access to its regular dance venue, Westminster Presbyterian Church, in October 2021. With COVID restrictions eased, we started dancing with tight precautions. Masks were worn at all times, all participants had to show proof of two vaccinations and hand sanitizer was at a premium, being used before and after each square. People laughed about getting their alcohol fix by dancing!

But all joking aside, the members (and friends from other clubs) who attended in from mid-October to mid-December were thrilled to be dancing in person. John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen slowly reactivated our dance brain cells and after a couple of nights, dancers were feeling pretty good about their dancing! Even wearing masks while dancing has proven not to be the issue we thought it might be. Dancers are very adaptable!



December 16 was our last dance night in 2021 and everyone came in their best Christmas attire. No treats but lots of fun!

2022

Of course, right after our last dance, things started to shut down again with the rapid spread of the latest COVID variant. But as things eased, we were back on the dance floor. Once again, all precautions are being taken and now you need a booster to get in the doors. We are only dancing Thursday nights as numbers are quite low – between 25 and 30 most nights. And we are only dancing Mainstream and Plus. We do have some visitors from other clubs that have not yet been able to access their dance venues. Everyone is welcome!

Some of our members have experienced health issues over the past two years and aren't able to dance at this time. Others are still cautious of dancing given our close contact. We are in contact with all members regularly and are optimistic that September 2022 will be the restart of regular dancing. We can't wait to see all our friends back on the dance floor!



Celebrating

Meri Squares had a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17. For the first (and so far only) time, we encouraged dancers to bring treats. Again, COVID precautions! Only individual servings and people could only remove their masks while eating and remained socially distanced while doing so. It was a bit odd, but the enthusiasm was definitely there, as were smiles and lots of green attire!



Looking ahead

Meri Squares will dance until April 28, when it will hold its first in-person AGM in two years. We are very lucky to have members who agree each year to help keep the organization running. We are grateful to all Executive members for their work over the past two years...it has been interesting!\

SSD

At its AGM, Meri Squares will vote on introducing Social Square Dancing (SSD) in fall 2022. This will be a new endeavour as we look to try something different to attract more people to square dancing. We hope that a new format will make learning and dancing easier and even more fun! Wish us luck!

Lamar Mason
President

Club News Riverside Gypsy Squares:

As you all know, the winter season is a very quiet time for the Riverside Gypsy Squares, except for those of our group who are lucky enough to be able to head to a warmer climate and escape the cold weather.

We were lucky enough to have some of our members gather for a Sunday Brunch out in Johnstown, ON. It was a blustery day at times outside, but the atmosphere inside was warm and cheery.



As we start looking forward to our camping season, our first campout is May 13-14. And of course, our new campground is Lower Beverley Lake Park at Delta, Ontario. If you are interested in joining us for camping, dancing, and FUN, please contact Helen MacCallum on cell # (613) 330-4873, or by email helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca That way we can make sure you have a lot within our group of campsites.

Our schedule for the rest of the summer is as follows:

June 17-18, July 15-16, August 19-20, and September 16-17.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of campers out for our summer campouts. The more people we have the more FUN we have.

Submitted by
Helen MacCallum
Publicity, RGS

Club News Swinging B's

“Hi, from the Swinging B's”

Like most Clubs, I suppose, we do not have much to report. The Swinging B's have been very quiet. At the moment, Wendy VanderMeulen is calling in Cornwall on Friday evenings at the Senior Centre at 119 Pitt Street. This gives the more adventurous people an opportunity to get some of the rust off their dancing moves. They usually have a square of dancers and maybe 1 or 2 spares. They dance at the Mainstream Level with a couple of Plus moves thrown in to keep things interesting.

The Swinging B's have been approached by a couple of newcomers to Cornwall about dancing and asking when we will be starting up again, so we are looking forward to meeting these new people and getting to know them.

The Swinging B's went out for a buffet supper to one of the restaurants here in Cornwall in March. It was really great to see those who joined us and to get caught up on their news.

We are looking forward to starting up again in September with Don Moger as our Club Caller. The Schedule will be created and posted soon. We will be returning to dance in the Hall of Knox-St. Paul's United Church, 12th Street, Cornwall. And, we are looking forward to seeing all members of the Swinging B's back on the dance floor.

Yellow Rocks to all!

Penny Lafave & Helen MacCallum

Club News Swinging Swallows

A 'Tip of the Hat' for Ben Weatherbie, Swinging Swallows

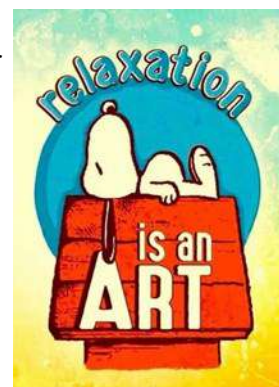


A new home for Ben where he is not alone is the latest news from him. He has been very sick, celebrated his 83rd birthday in hospital in January and recently moved to Country Haven Retirement Home in Beachburg – the small town where we held our 'Winter Wonderland' party for a couple of years (and hope to again).

Ben seems well but is now on oxygen full time. He is nicely set up in his room with a lot of family and military pictures. He has his own chair and a few pieces of furniture. He passes the time doing puzzles, reading, watching stuff on a pad and TV. His oxygen supply is at the end of a long delivery tube which limits his travels, although he is often seen in the hall waiting for an exchange with passersby! These days, Ben has to work on a new skill – he has to learn how to relax!

Ben was in the army for 33 years and Andy Himberg-Larsen, a previous caller for the Valley Squares (Petawawa) and for the Swinging Swallows, also has a military history. They had a good-natured banter while Ben was in the square -- heads position in the square on Andy's left was *a must* for Ben!

Ben has been a strong supporter of the clubs he has danced with and was the Swallows' President for many years. He was on our Ontario Trillium Federation Application Committee in 2007/08. He has always been there to set out tables and chairs and to help clean up at the end of our dance evening. Some of you may remember him from *The Shades of Autumn* dance in Pembroke; he was our 'welcoming host' at the door! He has been a trusted and loyal dancer and we hope that we can enjoy his company at a couple of the Swallows' party evenings this fall.



Ben has been a good dancer; he knows all the moves, Basic through Plus – and he performed them with military precision, and he always has a smart remark for a laugh. He says "I'm too good for the Devil, and too bad for God, so I have to wait awhile".

If you've danced with Ben in a square and would like to wish him well, his address is:

Country Haven Retirement Home, 1387 Beachburg Road, Beachburg, ON K0J 1C0, or call him at his new number: 613 582-7021...as long as he is feeling well, he loves to chat! ". He welcomes visitors -- with hugs on arrival and departure.

Submitted by Gloria Bateman

The Swallows Will Soon Return To the Nest

The Swallows plan to return to the dance floor (contingent on the continued improvement of health indicators) on May 12 for an old-fashioned social and dance. The social portion of the evening will come first, to give us all a chance to catch up on everyone's news, have a bite to eat and something to drink. The dance portion of the evening will be an opportunity for all of us to have a chance to remember some of the moves from two years ago and see if we have retained anything! We plan to review all the Basic and MS moves...no new teach; we'll see if it really is "like riding a bike"!



Dancers have recently indicated that they would feel more comfortable if everyone is asked to show proof of vaccination, use hand sanitizer that will be provided (thanks, EOSARDA) and that masks should be voluntary but encouraged. We want the dancers to have fun rather than worry about going home sick. We are all cautious, but anxious to get some fun exercise.



Photo from 2017)

Depending on the turnout in May, we will organize some fun dancing during the summer, and perhaps offer an evening 'workshop' for people to see if their 'two left feet' will work together to be able to dance! We're aiming for more visibility in our community.

Our hopes are that we can 'grow the club' this fall with lots of publicity, contacting some past dancers to encourage them to return to the dance floor, and inviting brand-new dancers to come and bring a friend! We'll be waiting for new Swallows with open arms!

Gloria Bateman



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Convention 2022 Fredericton
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REGISTRATION FORM - July 20-23, 2022
Website: www.squaredancenb.ca/convention-2022

Vaccination Requirement: *In accordance with existing Canadian regulations, to qualify as a fully vaccinated attendee at Convention 2022, you must have received at least two doses of a Government of Canada accepted COVID-19 vaccine or mix of two accepted vaccines or at least one dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine. You must have received your second dose fourteen days prior to the day you enter the Convention. Proof of vaccination will be verified upon entry.*

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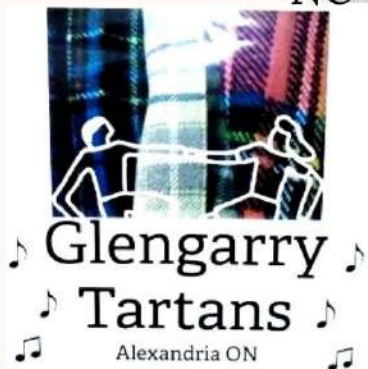
Existing dancers brush up your steps, New dancers pre-Covid an opportunity to review and also opened to the public! Club executives kindly share with your Members. Thank you - together let's grow the Square Dance Community! :) Lynn Trepanier will be calling.x

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