

METRO MATTERS

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METRO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION
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WELCOME TO THE NEW GRADUATES

Metro Square and Round Dance Association extends a warm welcome to our newest set of graduating dancers. We hope your class experience has been enjoyable and eagerly await our first chance to dance with you. As you make the transition to club dancer please remember that all of us have experienced the same period of uncertainty as we tried our new skills in unfamiliar surroundings. Just as others helped us through the first few dances, so will we be there to help you. Making mistakes is part of the game; just do your best, listen carefully to the caller for helping words, watch for the helpful hand, and above all -- Have Fun!

Metro Association sponsors Tuesday evening dances in June, July and early August especially for New Graduates. These are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall on School Street and Dartmouth from 8 to 10 p.m. Local callers will be there providing a program designed to drill the Basic list and review the Mainstream moves that you learned towards the end of the year. We strongly recommend that you attend as many of these dances as possible so that you will feel confident when club dancing begins in the fall. The detailed schedule is attached to this publication.

If you wish to attend dances outside the Metro Area, remember to look for the words "Basic" or "Mainstream" to determine if the program will be appropriate for your skills. "Plus", "Advanced" and "Challenge" are programs where the dancers are expected to be able to respond to a larger vocabulary of moves. They are there for dancers who wish to further explore the possible patterns of movement for eight dancers. There is a National Directory published in the United States which lists square and round dance clubs around the world. Everywhere the calls are given in English (sometimes heavily accented) so there is a world of new friends waiting to meet you. Probably someone in your club has a copy of the National Directory, so ask around if you are planning to travel.

The requirements for Square Dance Attire are in transition, but you will always be dressed acceptably if ladies wear prairie skirts (mid-calf length skirts full enough to use in skirt work) or full skirts with crinolines and pettipants with tasteful blouses, and men wear long pants and long sleeved shirts with neck decoration. Avoid fancy jewelry as it tends to catch on clothing. Also, if you haven't done so already, it is time to purchase proper square dance shoes. Comfortable and appropriate footwear is critical to your long term enjoyment of the activity.

Once again, Welcome to Our Wonderful World of Square Dancing!

SCOTIA DANCERS SPRING FLING 2000

The Scotia Dancers celebrated the new Millennium with their 17th Annual Spring Fling on Saturday 15 April. There had been considerable turmoil during the winter as the club was unable to reserve the normal hall and was bumped out of the replacement after the first advertising was sent out. Numerous club visits and a new set of flyers seemed to do the trick for most dancers as there was a very big turnout at the Sackville Heights Junior High School. Most dancers thought the school had the best floor and acoustics in Metro.

The afternoon workshop had 12 squares on the floor learning new movements and combinations from the caller, Dave Paulen. Dave & Blanche hail from Margaree on Cape Breton Island as Blanche carefully pointed out to the Emcee at the opening announcements.

The famous Scotia Dancer Hip of Beef Dinner was a tasty treat for all the advance ticket holders. As he has done for so many years, Herm Wills produced a new combination of edibles to delight everyone. The most common comment heard was: "It was sooo good."

After dinner, Blanche Paulen put the Round Dancers through a series of easy rounds that gave round dancers good experience and a fun hour of dancing.

Dancer's Duds & Frills Shop from Moncton and George's Western Wear from Dartmouth had a brisk trade throughout the day, with many dancers eager to update their outfits. Both shops generously donated gift certificates as raffle prizes for the attendees.

The Scotia Dancers were very pleased to have former Club members, Walter & Norma Allen, pay a visit to see many old friends from the very earliest days of Square Dancing in Halifax. They began dancing in 1958 and continued to enjoy the activity until their last dance together in 1998.

There were plenty of door prizes handed out so that almost every third couple had something to take home from the dance. The generosity of the Scotia Dancers is becoming legendary!

The evening dancers enjoyed the skills of two callers, with Pat Alguire joining Dave for the square dancing. Blanche provided the easy rounds. The traditional Grand March was a special experience for all the new and recently graduated Dancers. Most were wide-eyed upon joining 34 squares of dancers lined up in rows across the floor.

At announcement time, the Scotia Dancers paid tribute to the dedicated supporters who had attended all 17 Spring Flings. Special Millennium certificates were given to:

Ron & Dot Connell, Don & Jean Killam, Earle & Glenna Kinsman,
Harold & Clara Redden, and Alex Ritchie & Bernice Thurber.

The main evening dance concluded with the Friendship Ring(s) and a blessing by Rev. Jim Fraser. There was lots of laughter and conversation as everyone then enjoyed the dessert sweets, coffee, and tea provided by the hardworking Scotia Dancer volunteers.

As dancers left the school there were many promises to return again next year to share in the fellowship and fun of the Annual Scotia Dancers Spring Fling.

IN MEMORY OF NORMA SLADE

The following obituary was written for Metro Matters by Marion McCormack in memory of Norma Slade who was half the founding couple of the Benny Slade Stardusters.

Benny Slade's Stardusters Square Dance Club lost a wonderful charter member in the death of Benny's wife of 53 years, Norma Joan Slade, 71. Norma passed away on March 21, 2000, after a long courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Dartmouth and a life long resident here. Norma was the daughter of the late Harvey and Dora (Morash) Patterson. She was a member of Woodlawn United Church, the Stardusters Square Club and the Dartmouth Lawn Bowling Club. As well Norma was very talented in making crafts.

Surviving, besides her husband Benny, are daughter, Christine and husband Christopher Dunn, in Sharon, Ontario; sons James and wife Linda, Windsor Jct., and Harvey and wife, Marilyn, Woodlawn; eight grandchildren; sisters, Helen (Russell) Conrad, Dartmouth and Doreen (Cecil) Boutilier, Dartmouth; sister-in-law and very close friend, Gwendolyn (Ronald) Crawford (former Starduster members), Dartmouth.

The high esteem in which Norma was held was witnessed at her funeral on March 23 when the Woodlawn United Church was filled to capacity with family and friends. The service was conducted by Mrs. Dianne Hill and Rev. Gordon Murray. Mrs. Hill spoke of the cheerful smile Norma always had and her expression "I'm fine." when asked how she was feeling. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Benny and family. We will never forget the person she was with her kind gentle manner and compassion for all.

METRO ACTIVITY CALENDAR

6 June - Mainstream for New Graduates Summer dancing begins.

8 June - Mainstream and Plus Summer dancing begins.

1 July - Canada Day demo dancing on the Dartmouth waterfront.

14/15 July - "Seniors" Expo demo dancing at the Trade & Convention Centre, Halifax

6/7/12 August - Natal Day Parades & demos in Halifax, Dartmouth, & Eastern Passage.

13/14/15 September - Mall demo dancing at MicMac Mall, Dartmouth,
Bedford Place Mall, Bedford, & Bayers Road Shopping Centre, Halifax.

23 September – Square and Round Dance Federation of Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting at Bloomfield School on Saturday afternoon with a dance in the evening called and cued by ANSSRDT members at Bedford Junior High.

22 October - METRO Association Annual General Meeting,
St. Mary's University, Halifax.

NEWS FROM THE METRO ASSOCIATION MEETING 9 April 2000

1) Canada Day Activities - METRO members have again been invited to perform at the year 2000 Canada Day festivities on the Dartmouth waterfront. Volunteers should contact Don & Verna Ward at 465-7648. E-mail: <the.wards@ns.sympatico.ca>

2) Seniors Expo 2000 - 14 & 15 July. The Provincial Square & Round Dance Federation have rented a booth at this year's Expo (The name may change from Seniors to something else). Volunteer dancers are needed for demo dancing. Contact Bob & Inge Ruohoniemi 757-3884. E-mail: <bobruoho@ns.sympatico.ca>

3) Natal Day Parades - The Federation Float has been reserved to take part in three parades in the HRM! Mark your calendars for Float Dancing and parade walking on Sunday 6 August in Halifax (start at the Grand Parade), on Monday 7 August in Dartmouth (start at Sullivan's Pond), & Saturday 12 August in Eastern Passage (start point TBA). Assembly times have not yet been determined. Float Coordinators - Ron & Dot Connell are looking for Decorators, Dancers & Walkers. Phone 434-3023. E-mail: <ronconne@supercity.ns.ca> If you plan to come out be sure to wear a hat!

4) Summer Dances - The Summer Dances will begin on Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 June. The schedule and workshop plan are included in this newsletter. Please note the METRO demonstration dance dates will be in September this year to avoid "Back to School" promotions and late heat waves at our clubs. They are 13, 14, & 15 September. Volunteer lists will be available at the Summer dances.

5) Guidelines for METRO - Clubs wishing to submit changes to the "Guidelines for METRO" should submit them to the Chaircouple by 1 August 2000. Accepted changes will be discussed / approved at the Annual General Meeting.

6) January Jig 2001 - It was decided to hold the next January Jig on Saturday, 6 January 2001. There will be an afternoon workshop, potluck supper, & evening dance. More information at a later date.

7) Next Meeting: Sunday 22 October, 2pm, Room MM310, McNally Building, St. Mary's University. Try to make sure *your* club is represented.

For more information and updates check these Web Sites:

METRO Square & Round Dance Association <is.dal.ca/~nlee>

Dance Nova Scotia (DANS) <chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/DANS>

Square & Round Dance Federation of NS <chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/SRDFNS/>

Canadian Square & Round Dance Society <csrds.ca>