

BUGLE

Square and Round Dancers of South Western Ontario Inc.

WEBSITE: www.swosda.ca **E-MAIL:** bugle@swosda.ca



June 2020
Volume 58 Number 9
President's Message



A hearty hello to you, dear dancers!

To say these are strange times would be an understatement of huge proportions. I hardly know where to begin.

Given our clubs have remained closed since March, this edition of the Bugle will likely have a great deal fewer pages. Then again, perhaps we will learn a few tidbits about how each club has been dealing with our “down time”.

We surely do miss our regular dances and of course most importantly, seeing our friends.

We miss our family gatherings, special occasions and traditions, especially Easter, Mother's Day, soon Fathers' Day, birthdays and anniversaries, camping, summer dancing, picnics, bbq's and so much more.

While yes, we do miss these times we have come to take for granted, we need to be thankful for the many blessings we do enjoy. Just think, not long ago we did not have such technology as to allow us to communicate so easily with friends and family close or far away. We now have Skype, Face-time, Zoom, and many other ways to not only talk with others we cannot be with, but now we can see them. While I don't profess to have a grip on many of these new fangled offerings, they are available to those who have. They all help afford us the opportunity to manage conversations and meetings while staying apart. Many folks are working from home quite efficiently.

During these times of isolation, we in many cases have slowed our daily pace. This is not a bad thing. As is often the case when something bad happens, there can be a “silver lining”. We just need to see it. We need to have the “glass-half-full” attitude. Positive thinking helps us accomplish much.

We are able to get our daily news. We are able in many cases to take part in our church services on-line or on tv. We can catch up on long put off hobbies, perhaps we call our friends more often. We have become keenly aware of all the extraordinary folks in our healthcare facilities who put themselves at risk each day, for the well being of others. We acknowledge the cashiers in our grocery stores, and any and all services like fire and police who have stayed the course for our benefit. Simply put, we are finally taking time to realize how important these people are in our daily lives. We are reacquainting ourselves with thankfulness! We have soooooo much to be thankful for!

Hopefully we are all doing our best to follow the advice of our health professionals and government officials, and practicing safe distancing, mask wearing, and careful and frequent hand washing. Good for us!

We were of course sorry to miss holding our SWOSDA Executive Meeting and Dance in Strathroy. They were all ready for us, as we were to be with Swinging Duos.

Then, alas, as the virus made it's presence so very clear to the world, we realized our April Executive Meeting, Dance, and Annual General Meeting in Kitchener would not be taking place either. Guys 'Dolls was looking forward to hosting our friends once again. Such a disappointment for sure, to every one of us.

At this time, we have no news of a positive nature going forward. Our club calendars have been planned, and printed. The line-up of SWOSDA dances have been set for the next season. The slate of officers for the next season has been put forward, discussions are happening regarding our AGM, we are now in a holding pattern.

However, we must stay vigilant and maintain distancing until the scientists figure this awful virus out. No one will be happier than we, when we can once again share a “yellow-rock”, commiserate with friends and catch up on each other's happenings. We love to dance, as you all do. Just continue to keep safe, and remember, “SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING IS HAPPINESS SET TO MUSIC!”

Your President Couple
Jim Ferris and Dot Mitchell



www.facebook.com/swosda



Recruitment Assistance Funding Available

Over the past year some clubs have received funding for dance promotion, truck/car signs, etc, but some have yet to make a request.

\$100 can be requested per club (spending plan & receipts req'd).



John Bullock, London

Passed away Thursday May 14, 2020

We offer condolences to the friends and family of long time contributor to the square and round dance movement, in the recent passing of John Bullock. John was involved in all aspects of developing SWOSDA and square and round dance; years ago he was a caller, a Bugle Editor (with many interesting experiences mimeographing of the Bugle!), and positions through SWOSDA, Federation and Society. We are grateful for John and his wife Irene. They will always have a lasting legacy in building square and round dancing opportunities.



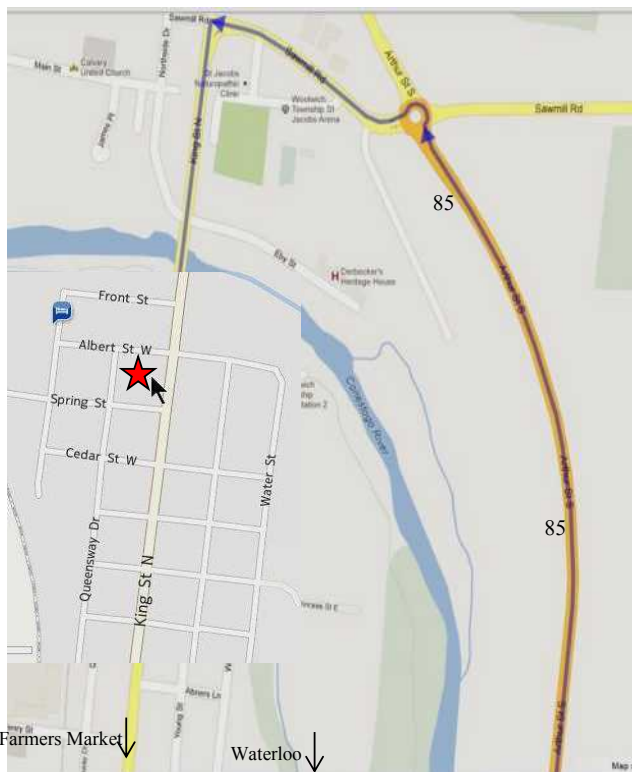
Square & Round Dancers Of South Western Ontario

ROUND DANCE PARTY SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 ST. JACOBS, ON

2:00pm – 4:30pm - Phase II – IV

Program will be posted at the Dance

Cost: \$ 6.00 per person – Incl. Refreshments



**Hosted by:
Jubilee Rounds**

Location:

**St. James Lutheran Church
1407 King St. N. - St. Jacobs**

GPS Coordinates: N43*32.359 – W080*33.238

For further information or program details

Please visit: www.swosda.ca

Or Contact:

Hosts: Andrea & Jeff Priest

519.752.2172

jeff@shadowlightdance.com

SWOSDA is a member run organization!



SWOSDA

Remember When...

Looking Back – 2020 – 06

Before looking back to earlier days of SWOSDA activities in the summer months, I'll give you a look at some bits in the life of your SWOSDA historian during covid-19 lockdown.

I usually start my working day with a quick run through the house, tidying up and putting away all the "stuff" that I should have put where it belonged when I quit using it the day before and then start on what I think should be focus for the day.

Early in May I decided to get a start on my article for the Bugle due on the 20th so I headed downstairs to my SWOSDA zone to pull the Bugles for the summer months. It is only since 2011 that June Bugles have been regularly published. Before that time, you can find items referring to summer months in the April or September issues. But where are the missing ones? OH, OH, they are in the bin marked TO BE FILED. I set to sorting them by year, then putting them in order by month. I was almost finished sorting all the ones from 2011 when the phone rang.

I always enjoy receiving calls, emails, or in less restricted times, visits from my friends, especially so in this time of isolation so spent quite a time talking. I was just getting back in the swing of dancing when everything shut down. I have enjoyed the challenge of the square dance quizzes which Linda Charlton passed on to the SWOSDA members. They just proved that I'll have to start right back at the beginning when we get back dancing. On my office bulletin board, I have posted "It's amazing the great people I have in my life that I wouldn't have ever met if it wasn't for dancing!" I really regret the loss of personal contact caused by the virus. In addition In the last few months we have lost far too many former square dancers who made great contributions to SWOSDA, the latest being John Bullock who had served in many positions across the district.

I didn't get back downstairs to pick up the pulled issues for a number of days because warm days had disappeared and were replaced by cold, rain and even snow and I ended up with inflammation in my knees and a flare up of my sciatica. Going up and downstairs was painful.

In the June '11 Bugle the reporter from the Sarnia club commented, "I guess that spring is here although you wouldn't know it with the snow we've had in April." (*We can go them one better. We had snow in May. I think the last one was the 11th*)

Not surprisingly in these June issues there were many accounts of Windup potlucks, catered meals and annual meetings, with frequent comments of good attendance and participation in the meetings. There were descriptions of upcoming chances to update our skills throughout the summer months. There were accounts of dance weekends like the Trillium Fling at Port Glasgow for many years, then moved to Rock Glen or special dances like Hanover's Sundae on a Saturday Night, and last but not least, buildup to the upcoming National Conventions.

I'm running out of space, way past deadline time and feeling a bit down because of the opportunities we are missing this year due to covid19 so I have a suggestion for you --- you send me an account

of your favourite memory from summer dancing. Be sure to tell where and when. I'll compile them, perhaps share online and add to the SWOSDA albums. Pictures will be welcome too. **Stay safe, stay well. We will make it through this together.** I'm hoping to see you in a square sometime this year.

Dorothy Dahm, your SWOSDA historian dndahm@sympatico.ca



To keep limited distancing has been the norm since mid-March. Life goes on, but our circle has become much smaller.

You may have to stay close to home, but don't forget, you can still reach out and touch someone. There are many avenues to keep us in touch. You can phone, email, Face time, and many are using Zoom for video conferences.

In case you don't know, Zoom can be used for FREE for 40 minutes. A lot can be said in that time. The system is easy to use. If anyone would like to try Zoom, feel free to contact me (reach out!). I would be only too happy to take you through the motions.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Email: dan.roy1950@gmail.com

FEATURE

Dancing Post-COVID-19

Dave Western, President of EOSARDA provided the following notes from discussions he has had with his executive. With his permission, I have included it below for your information. It makes for interesting reading and is meant to make you think of some of the hurdles we will face to get dancing going again.

Planning Assumption

There will be Square, Round and Line dancing post COVID-19

Challenges

1. We don't know when dancing will be able to start again.
2. We don't know under what conditions we will be allowed to resume dancing
3. Some dancers may be hesitant to return due to concerns about COVID-19
4. The "New Normal" might make it difficult to recruit new dancers
5. Higher fees
6. Possible loss of access to dance halls
7. Possible loss of Callers, Cuers, etc – some may not continue or quit.

Analysis

1. Timetable for resuming dancing
 - a) The earliest resumption date may be different for Line, Round and Square dancing due to differences in the degree of physical distancing and inter-personal contact.
 - b) A decision on the earliest date on which dancing may resume is out of our hands since we do not control access to the dance facilities. That date will be determined by

government based on public health and safety concerns.

- c) However we can control any delay in resuming dancing once the go-ahead is given by government.

2. Conditions for resuming dancing

- a) Until such time as a reliable vaccine can be developed, produced and administered to a large number of people. It is likely that government will impose restrictions on the nature of social gatherings and the conditions under which they may take place.
- b) These conditions could include *inter alia*:
 - i) Limits on the number of people who may gather in one location at the same time
 - ii) Requirements for physical distancing, including no hand contact
 - iii) Requirements to wear masks
 - iv) Provision for frequent hand washing or hand sanitization
 - v) Possibly testing for fever prior to being allowed to participate
 - vi) Submission of a written statement of health status
- c) These conditions will impact the three dance styles to varying degrees:
 - i) Line dancing will likely be the least impacted due to the ease of imposing physical distancing and the lack of inter-personal contact, but the wearing of masks would be difficult due to the level of aerobic activity. It is not unreasonable to suppose that whatever limitations are placed on exercise classes will also apply to Line Dancing;
 - ii) Round Dancing (CBD) clubs may have to insist that dancers only dance with their regular dance partners. In most cases this will not be a serious problem since for most Round Dancers that is already the norm. Physical distancing should be relatively easy to impose on Round Dancers but the wearing of masks will pose the same problem for Round Dancers as for Line Dancers;
 - iii) Square Dancing will be the most impacted by requirements for physical distancing and no hand contact. Until such time as any formal requirements are repealed it is difficult to see how Square Dancing can take place. The negative influence of these requirements may continue to be felt even after formal restrictions are lifted since for many people physical distancing and no hand contact will be the new norm due to many months of habituation.
 - d) In light of the above the start-up dates for the various dance styles may vary significantly with Square Dancing being the last to get back up and running.

3. Infection Concerns - Experienced Dancers

- a) We have a large number of older dancers who are in the demographic the most vulnerable to COVID-19
 - i) Many of these dancers may be very reluctant to return to the dance floor until such time as a reliable vaccine can be developed, produced and administered to a large number of people.
 - ii) While steps can be taken to reduce the possibility of infection, none of these measure can guarantee a risk-free environment.

4. Dealing with **The New Norm**

- a) Recruiting new dancers is one of our twin objectives (the other being retention of experienced dancers).
 - i) Over the past several weeks the general public has become used to the requirements for physical distancing, frequent hand washing, wearing masks etc this is often referred to as **The New Norm**.
 - ii) As already pointed out, the very nature of square dancing in particular, combined with whatever restrictions are imposed on us may make it very difficult to convince potential new dancers to take up the activity. What was often a very hard sell pre-COVID-19 may be an impossible sell for some time in the post-COVID-19 era.

- b) In light of the above, initially and for several months after square dancing resumes, it may be prudent to focus all of our energies on getting as many experienced dancers as possible back on the dance floor, leaving recruiting new dancers until a later date.
- c) Line Dancing and Round dancing might resume recruiting new dancers some time before Square dancing does, the problem with both being the lack of registered Dance Leaders.

5. Fee Increases

- a) There are a several factors that could result in per capita increases in costs
 - i) Restrictions on the number of people who may gather in a single place at the same time could result in smaller dance classes
 - ii) Any significant reduction in the number of returning dancers would spread the cost base over fewer dancers
 - iii) Failure to attract new dancers, combined with normal age-related attrition, will also spread the cost base over fewer dancers
 - iv) Municipalities could decide to raise their hall rental rates in an attempt to recover some of the losses incurred during the pandemic.
- b) Significant increases in the cost of dancing may further discourage some people from participating resulting in a downward spiral from which it might be difficult for a club to recover.

6) Loss of access to dance halls

- a) Generally speaking, current contracts for hall rentals expire this spring and require renewal prior to commencement of the new dance year in the Fall
- b) While renewal of these contracts is not guaranteed, for most clubs there is an unofficial “grand fathering” arrangement or understanding in place that gives them preference when it comes to renewing their usual time slots.
- c) Most of the halls we rent are popular venues. There are lots of other candidates for our usual time slots
- d) Given a choice between an empty hall and rental income, the hall owners will always opt for the latter, especially after such a long hiatus when they had no rental income at all.
- e) Thus any delay in renewing hall rental contracts could result in the loss of the desired time slot.
- f) Clubs that do not sign rental contracts for this Fall may find it very difficult to obtain any suitable time slots at a later date.

There are two courses of action open to EOSARDA’s Board of Directors.

- 1) We can sit back and wait for events to unfold organically leaving it up to clubs to decide if and when they should resume normal activities
- 2) We can take on a leadership role and begin working with our Member Clubs now to develop coordinated strategies for dealing with the challenges outlined above.



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CLUB NEWS

Send Club News to bugle@swosda.ca

Centennial Beavers - London

A hearty greeting from the Beavers. Like you, we are all in lock down and have no idea what tomorrow will hold for us. We have not danced since the Frosh on March 14th.

We were looking forward to our summer get together, but it was cancelled. Many of us were booked for the Canada Blooms Day Trip - Cancelled. The Federation and the SWOSDA advised us to cancel the Summer Dance Program - so yes Cancelled. The Convention was really an anticipated event but postponed until next year. With all this cancelling we have been good citizens and been in lockdown to make sure we and those we love are safe. Our dancing days will come back as soon as it is safe to be together. Have Faith!

Thanks to all that send us emails every Friday telling us you are missing square dancing and being with your friends. We all feel the same. It is great that you are keeping in contact with each other by phone, email and cards. It shows you care.

Linda Woods celebrated her 70th birthday on April 11th. A few of the Beavers had a car parade with balloons and car signs. She was surprised and very happy that we did this for her...why not....she is a very special person.

As far as what the future holds, right now we don't know. We are all getting used to our new normal, which is being wise, being safe and keeping others safe. So with that said, we all will be patient and pray for health and a world free of covid19.

No matter whatwhen its safe to dance we will be ready!

Ed and Nancy Dolson

Clinton Wheel 'N' Dealers

Clinton Wheel n dealers members hope everyone is staying home and staying safe at this time. It is nice to get out in the sunshine for long walks now that better weather is here.

We are extremely pleased to announce a full slate of executive for next year.

Some of our members have been enjoying virtual weekly dances. We are also being tested with the square dancing quiz sent by Tom and Linda Charlton. How quick we forget the names of our Calls!

Dancing in the fall is still to be determined.

Till we meet again stay safe everyone.

Denim'N Lace - Flesherton

In the April Bugle we expressed our regrets to cancel this year's Spring Fling due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the remaining weekly dances for the term.

We are hopeful and look forward to returning to our weekly Wednesday evening dances in September. The hall has been booked at the South East Grey Support Services Pavilion, as in previous years; Jim Lee is looking forward to be our Caller.

Last season we had 17 new dancers in our **Introduction to Modern Dancing** group. It is our intention to continue the program for the new dancers this fall with Graduation in December. Plus dancing will continue for our seasoned dancers.

We hope everyone enjoys the summer. Please **keep safe, keep healthy** and pray that Covid-19 makes an early exit!

Mel Chamberlain
Bugle Correspondent

[Guys n' Dolls Square Dance Club - Kitchener](#)

Well it continues to be a challenging time but we will survive and rebound stronger one day. Our group has been sharing some of the activities that keep them amused during the shutdown and it was good to touch base with them. We hope you all have been safe and practicing social distancing as recommended. With a lot of us having parents and friends now in long term care we hope none have experienced loss, if you have may we express our sympathies to you.

We will be posting our fall and winter dance schedule with the anticipation it will continue without too much difficulty. Please check it out from the Swosda web page.

Trusting to dance with you in the fall.

Guys and Dolls club
Donna

[Hanover Happy Twirlers - Hanover](#)

Hello everyone. Hope that everyone is safe and well at home. The staying at home is very hard at times, but it just emphasizes just how much we miss our family and friends. That also includes our square dance family of friends. We all are looking forward to when we can dance again.

Our Hanover Happy Twirlers Family is safe and well. It was good to have our winter travellers and world travellers back home safe and healthy.

The club received notice from Lorne and Cecile Lockrey that they are retiring from calling and cueing for health reasons. They have been our caller and cuer in Hanover for about 35 years. They will be missed. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

With the Covid 19 restrictions, the club has not been able to meet to set a path for our future.

Everyone keep safe and well. Hopefully we can meet in a square soon.

Eric & Joyce Fatum
Bugle Correspondents

[Huron Bruce Swingers - Lucknow](#)

Have you run out of toilet paper yet? Isn't this something - 2 1/2 months of physical distancing which means dancing as a couple (other than your husband/wife/companion!) is prohibited, let alone as a group. The year 2019-2020 was the Huron-Bruce Swingers 50th year as a club. Thank goodness we held a 50th anniversary dance back in November 2019 but it would have been great to have closed the season with another "special" dance.

In contacting many of the club members or hearing about others for this issue of the Bugle - the word is Huron-Bruce Swingers are healthy and safe - heard of one visit to hospital for stitches from a "tumble" but all

is well. We are keeping busy. Those on farms always have things to do - feeding animals, chores, etc. And there is gardening to do, "spring" cleaning in houses, sheds, property, building a garden shed, etc. and some play/listen to music. Some are able to keep working - safely. Some, if in private camp grounds are now camping but confined to their private locations - with others hoping the camping season will open up and they can move about. Some who are crafty are getting projects done - sewing, knitting, etc. It is amazing how busy one can be when our "social" life is not available. But we do miss that socializing.

There are celebrations being missed but one to be reported here is to congratulate our Presidents Tony and Fran McQuail who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in May and they also celebrated the arrival of a granddaughter who is now 12 weeks old. Being the families are in the same household, they are doing a little "dancing about" with her. Their "Mother's Day open house" was done virtually and went well.

"Virtual" - the new word in our vocabulary - if you are able to make use of it? So as the summer is approaching and the weather is improving, we hope that the "curve" on this Covid-19 pandemic will flatten. Please stay healthy and STAY SAFE. Sending out a "virtual" yellow rock to all.

Sharon McDonald,
Bugle correspondent

[Huron Happy Hearts - Clinton](#)

Well these are certainly different times. Schools have all been closed, and so we have not been able to dance since March. The closure also had us cancel the May SWOSDA dance that Happy Hearts were looking forward to hosting; maybe next year?

Hope everyone is keeping well. We have been fortunate that our health has been good; no sickness to report! We keep distancing as suggested by our health officials and look to the future when we can hopefully dance again in a new normal, whatever that may be.

The Bugle Guy

[Jubilee Rounds - St. Jacobs](#)

Greetings from Jubilee Rounds in St. Jacobs:

We hope you all have lots to do around the house to keep busy during this extended time of self-isolation!

The current situation around the world has made for interesting times and challenges due to Covid-19! We miss seeing our dancers very much, especially the socializing and keeping up with folks and the goings on in their lives. We really hope that this will all be behind us very soon.

Folks have asked about the start-up of Jubilee, we of course have no information at this time. It will be dependent on the church and the government restrictions on group size. We are hopeful that we will be able to start our regular dance season in the fall but time will tell. Please continue to check our website for updates to all our activities.

We are very much looking forward to getting back to our normal dance routine and seeing all those wonderful smiling faces we are missing right now. Feel free to drop us a note to let us know how you're doing!

Enjoy your summer – Stay safe & healthy....

For info: Andrea or Jeff at: 1-519-752-2172 or andrea@jeffreypriest.com
Printable flyers are on our website: www.jeffreypriest.com

Happy Dancing,
Jeff Priest ☺

[Royal City Squares - Guelph](#)

As the world, and the world of our square dance community, watches and waits, small beacons of light do shine.

Our members report engaging in a circle of activities to stay active and healthy and connected in covid times:

- taking advantage of online dance activities and classes ranging from line dancing, dancing in home-based pairs in 2-person garage or driveway "squares", zooming into online contras and folk dancing, among the many offerings that have sprung up
- brushing up on square dance calls via online review on Taminations or Saddlebrooke Squares
- puzzling, including tackling Kingston-area caller Dave Hutchinson's square dance quizzes and crosswords
- learning (or brushing up on) a new language, again so easy and accessible online
- dusting off that harmonica, keyboard or ukulele and making unexpected music again
- spring cleaning
- sewing new square dance outfits (and making and donating many covid masks) or teaching sewing, knitting and crocheting to house-bound family members who now have the time to learn
- baking, gardening and curling up with good book or movie

We don't know when we'll be able to square dance again, or what it will look like when we do. Outside, where possible rather than inside? Wearing masks and bidding adieu to Yellow Rocks? Certainly the dancing landscape will change, likely dramatically and perhaps even permanently.

From the drumlins of Guelph we wait and yearn and hope to see our members and SWOSDA friends all back on the dance floor soon. In the meantime, bee well.

Submitted by Lorna Irwin, RC's Dancing Bee Girl

[ShadowLight Dance Club - SW Ontario](#)

Goodbye to Spring... Hello Summer!

Visit our website Calendar page for ALL our flyers www.shadowlightdance.com

At the current time, due to Covid-19, ALL our Clubs, Dances and Specials are Cancelled 😞

Camp & Dances:

June Camp and Dance in Port Glasgow has been cancelled due to the current Covid-19 restrictions on gathering size of groups.

We are still hoping to be able to host our "Advanced Extravaganza" for Advanced dancers September 10-13, 2020 – We have a few spots available if you would like to join us! The flyer/registration is on our website www.shadowlightdance.com or www.swosda.ca or contact us and we will get you registered.

Summer Dancing:

We are still hopeful that by July the group size restriction will be opened up and allow us to have our PLUS DBD sessions on Wednesday afternoons in St. Thomas The Apostle Church in Cambridge starting on July 1, 2020. Keep an eye on our website for updates.

We hope you all stay Healthy and Safe!

We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor when they all open again!

Happy Dancing and More – Much More!
Andrea & Jeff Priest
ShadowLight Dance Club
Check out our website for flyers - www.shadowlightdance.com
519-752-2172

Strathroy Swinging Duo's

It seems like such a long time that we were meeting everyone in a square and we are all missing our fellow dancers. We trust everyone is staying safe and staying home. Together we can win the battle against this virus and hopefully be together dancing again in the fall.

We have spent our days at home keeping busy with our daily routine, hobbies and making visits with our family and friends virtually and by phone. Sundays we dress up and attend our church service via livestream in the comfort of our home. We're quite sure that everyone is now living in clean homes, some may be freshly painted, and the handyman list is completed.

The summer dance we had planned for June has been canceled. We are hoping to be able to have our August dance on Saturday August 29. We will be making our final decision at the end of June or early July if we will have that summer dance. With major events and fall fairs canceled it is quite uncertain if we can commence dancing again in the fall. Tom Charlton has on occasion had us doing no contact dancing. So with masks on our face and hands behind our backs we may be able to square up and dance again.

We are missing everyone so much. Our lives have been fairly uneventful and we are aware of all the little things in life that we have taken for granted. We hope everyone is staying healthy physically and mentally as we go through this pandemic. Keep in touch with your family and friends, and be thankful for each day.

Till we meet again on the dance floor,
Jake and Jean Hamstra



A sign inspired by

Keith & Dorothy Wilton
and hand painted
by Jake Hamstra.

Located on Wilton's front lawn.

Swing'n Canadians C028 & Horseshoe Squares 'N' Wheels C112 - Port Glasgow

SWING'N CANADIANS
C-028



HORSESHOE SQUARES
'N' WHEELS C-112



Due to Covid-19 restrictions
it is not possible to hold
the June 12-14 Camping Weekend
at Port Glasgow



Caller's Clinic News

Next Meeting – TBD – see Website

See Website for Minutes of last meeting

Ontario Federation Holds Virtual AGM



The Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation held its Annual General Meeting on May 30, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, a regular meeting was not possible, but yet was required by law due to the Corporation Act.

The meeting was held on-line using the Zoom video conferencing software. By using this method we had 35 attendees plus the full Executive. There was representation from Eastern, Western, and Northern Ontario, as well as the T&D area.

Very favorable comments were received on the event, and I'm sure we'll be seeing more of this type of meeting.