

# BUGLE

Square and Round Dancers of South Western Ontario Inc.

WEBSITE: [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca) E-MAIL: [bugle@swosda.ca](mailto:bugle@swosda.ca)



**January 2023**  
Volume 61 Number 5  
President's Message



## ***'Keeping in Touch' - PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE***

Greetings Fellow Dancers:

Happy New Year to everyone! With a lot of anticipation, we finally started dancing again in the Fall and we look forward to continuing our fun in 2023!

Mark your calendars for our next '**SWOSDA Regional Dance**' which will take place on January 28, 2023 at the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in St. Thomas, ON. This will be a SWOSDA hosted dance. The location is great as it is within easy reach of many dancers in the SW Ontario Region. The afternoon will commence with 30 minutes of round dancing at 1:00 pm, with alternating round and square dancing from 1:30 pm till 4:30 pm.

A number of Clubs are planning to offer an **Introduction to Modern Square Dancing** program in 2023 to attract new dancers in view of the 'hit' that the past few years has had on memberships. Clubs can always reach out to SWOSDA's **Helping Clubs Grow Committee** to assist with marketing ideas and target marketing in your areas. Contact us at (519)245-3929.

The pandemic caused a pent-up demand for couples looking for new activities to pursue. Square dancing fills that void very nicely. So, for those Clubs wishing to grow, there is a large portion of people looking to get involved in a new activity which guarantees fun and laughter for all!

Our SWOSDA Executive Committee is looking for new volunteers to become a distinct part of our future in square dancing, round dancing, callers and cuers. This personal commitment involves a small amount of time. The result is getting to know others who are like-minded people who love square and round dancing as a key activity. Not only can this be a wonderful opportunity to give back but also to expand leadership skills and gain a greater appreciation for the whole dancing experience. Call any member of the Executive Committee for more information or talk to us at the next SWOSDA Dance in St. Thomas, ON. ***We Want You!!***

Stay in touch with your dance friends and stay warm!

Tom and Jo Kahnert,  
SWOSDA Presidents



**Saturday November 26, 2022**

**Kitchener, Ontario  
Hosted by your SWOSDA Executive**

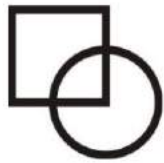
Our November SWOSDA Dance in Kitchener was a success with over four squares and many round dancers attending.

Dan Weatherby did a great job as Host Caller. Dan and Merv Reid both added tips and rounds to their schedule to fill in for Ed Dolson who was unable to attend due to illness. Gail Mottashed also stepped up to cue the Round Dance Party at the beginning of the afternoon.

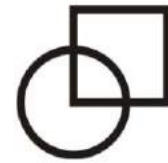
The next SWOSDA hosted dance will take place on **January 28, 2023** at 641 Elm Street, St. Thomas, starting with a Round Dance Party at 1:00 pm and square and round dances for the rest of the afternoon from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.



**[www.facebook.com/swosda](https://www.facebook.com/swosda)**



**SWOSDA**  
Square & Round Dancers Of South Western Ontario



## **MONTHLY SPECIAL IN ST. THOMAS** **JANUARY 28, 2023**

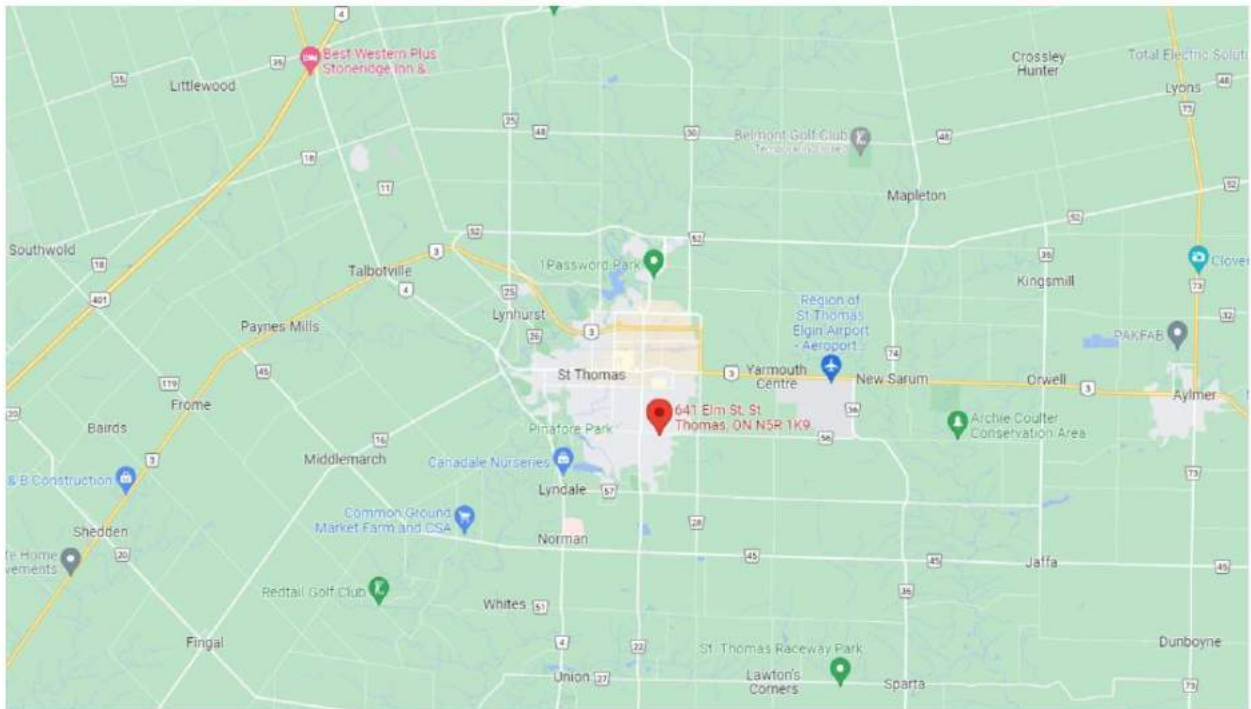
**Afternoon Dance ONLY: 1:00 – 4:30 ~ \$7.00 per dancer**

**Hosted by: SWOSDA Executive**

**Location: Fellowship Church**

**641 Elm St. St. Thomas - N5R 1K9**

**Refreshments are NOT provided – Please bring your own snacks**



**Hand Sanitizer available – Masks optional!**

**For further information Please visit: [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca)**

**Or Contact: Mark & Heather Ackersviller**

**e-mail: [ackersviller@rogers.com](mailto:ackersviller@rogers.com) ~ Ph: (519) 742-0653**

**SWOSDA Contact: Merv & Janice Reid ~ [mervreid@rogers.com](mailto:mervreid@rogers.com)**

**SWOSDA is a member run organization!**



# SWOSDA

## *Remember When...*

### Looking Back – 2023-01

in (10 year increments from the Bugle) – submitted by Dorothy Dahm

First of all, let's start in the present and take a minute to say how nice it is to see square and round dancers in actions again. **My very best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy fun-filled 2023. So Kick Up Your Heels!**

2013 – First items that caught my eyes were the announcement by the presidents of a change in the SWOSDA dance program where they would be beginning the afternoon with a **round dance teach for the first half hour**. This was being implemented in **Courtland** when my home club, **Tri-County Squares** were hosting the dance on Jan. 26. Also featured in this issue was an excellent article, **Round Dancing As I See It** by Austin (and Avril) Hayward outlining reasons to dance and encouragement to give it a try.

2003 – The January **SWOSDA dance** was hosted in Shedden by the **St. Thomas Awaywego Squares** which had been organized in 1995. Lots of opportunities for special dances appeared in this issue – Friendship Circle, Square Dance for Heart, T&D International Square & Round Dance Convention. I hope you enjoyed a really good time while learning, meeting friends, and dancing for a good cause.

1993 – Calico Cats hosted the SWOSDA Dance in St. Thomas in January

I can't *bypass sharing a really good poem - **I Know Something Good About You** Origin Unknown*

*Wouldn't this old world be better if the folks we meet would say,*

*"I know something good about you" and then treat us just that way.*

*Wouldn't it be fine and dandy, if each handclasp warm and true,*

*Carried with it this assurance," I know something good about you".*

*Wouldn't life be lots more happy if we praised the good we see?*

*For there's such a lot of goodness in the worst of you and me*

*Wouldn't it be nice to practice that fine way of thinking, too?*

*"You know something good about me!" "I know something good about you"!*

This issue also contained a report on the Square And Round Dance Convention Of The World which had been held in the Hague, Holland in August. Although no names were given they spoke of a group of Canadians who participated including some leaders. Were you there? Also advertised was the convention to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany the following year.

1983 – Komoka Kloverleafs hosted the January SWOSDA in Komoka. Simcoe Star-a-Naders reported that they had one of their largest and best Panorama dances. With twenty-four squares they had to move to the auditorium of the Simcoe High School. Historian Mary Seward reported in 1967 there appeared to be many clubs no longer around or who had possibly changed their names. Where did everybody go? That question could be asked for us currently.



1973 – Forest City Squares in London were hosts for the January SWOSDA , the Sweetheart Ball was in Feb., and Forest City Festival was being advertised in April. What a mecca of activity!

**Question.** When Nick started to learn to call, Les Greenwood and John Lenart were first to provide support by passing along some notes and materials for his use. Among the items are square dance LPs, SETS in Order from 1967 to about 1980 which provide samples of calling by a varied number of well-known callers. I struggled how to make use of them. I woke up the other morning thinking that someone might want a look at them to see if there was a routine from one of those earlier dates that they could teach their group and demonstrate a blast from the past at the next anniversary celebration. If anyone is interested I will put the bag of LPs in my vehicle and you can look them over at the Jan. SWOSDA in St. Thomas. I plan to be there, to visit more than dance, and possibly take some pictures for the albums. Because Nick's former office now a bathroom, I was forced to relocate his materials. There are some materials that he had found quite helpful, like Norm Wilcox's notes, Calvin Campbell's Singing Calls & Modules, Jeff Priest's module. I have set aside the Bursleson Square Dance Encyclopedia – SD terms, rules, diagrams, movements , to satisfy my own curiosity whenever I hear a call with which I am not familiar.

If you have questions at any time, contact me and I will be glad to search for an answer in the materials I still have available. My email address is [familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com](mailto:familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com) .

Please share for the albums any interesting events that happen in the square dance world.  
Dorothy Dahm

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## **To: ALL my Square Dancing Friends**

### **Christmas 2022**

A lot has happened in 2022 already.

First our 3 Great Granddaughters are growing up very fast; talking, running, and just a joy to be with. We also have 2 new great-grandsons to add, Josh and Katie welcome Cameron to their family. We now have 17 grandchildren.

The sad part of my life is that Shirley passed away on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Pneumonia, Covid and old age, 92 years old, and I miss her so much. When you are married for 72 years and we dated for 7 years before that, neither of us ever dated anyone else. We were meant for each other, and remained faithful as well; very proud of that. I am learning to cook and do chores, etc., as well. Our kids are helping more and more every day of the week.

I was at Pike Bay and caught some perch and bass this year. A lot of good meals were enjoyed with Barb and Curtis. I was up to the cottage 4 or 5 times this summer and enjoyed every trip.

My knees are giving me trouble so my Square Dancing Days are over. Have had over 35 years of fun and exercise and friendship with great friends.

Well, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a great 2023.

Ross Lehman



*Letter  
to the  
Editor*

# ***FEATURE***

## **Anxiety**

“A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome.”

Anxiety is an emotion, identified by feelings of tension or stress, possible changes in our physical health like a rise in blood pressure, or anxious thoughts such as excessive worrying.

Dancing, post pandemic, can bring on such anxieties because we fear we have forgotten our figures, are about to meet new people or other possible reasons. Are you aware that it is common to experience anxieties? Anxiety occurs more often in women than in men, but the feelings experienced are the same.

We want to look good on the dance floor. We do not want to make mistakes, but we will, and some of us get a little anxious on how to handle the situation. (Some of us more than others)

I am not talking about an anxiety attack where one is sweating, having overwhelming fear, shortness of breath or having chest pains. Nor am I trying to tell you that you have an anxiety disorder, simply that it is common to get anxious over a given situation.

Beyond medications, advertised “miracle” cures and counselling, there are some simple ways to relieve your anxiety on the dance floor or any place else.

AdultMentalHealth.org explains how you can calm down quickly.

- (1) Breathe (The best thing you can do when feelings of anxiety are coming on)
- (2) Talk to others and reach out about how you are feeling. (Other dancers understand)
- (3) Think about something funny. (Change your line of thinking)
- (4) Distract yourself. (laugh)
- (5) Run ... (not suggested while on the dance floor)
- (6) Take a cold shower ... (Again, as above)
- (7) Drink some water or tea.
- (8) Listen to music

Remember, we dance to have fun, to enjoy the fellowship of others and for our own physical well being. We are all in this together. We all experience anxieties from time to time.

Soren Kierkegaard once said, “To venture causes anxiety, but not to venture is to lose one’s self ....”

If your anxieties persist or if you feel you need help to control your panic attacks, reach out. There are many avenues to help you. Begin by discussing your feelings with your home doctor.

See you on the dance floor

Austin Hayward (Thames Valley Dance Club)

# SWOSDA Executive News, January 2023

## Last Chance to Host for 2023

If your club is itching to throw a party, there is one regional dance still up for grabs. Who would like to host the March SWOSDA? First dibs goes to a club in the northern region of SWOSDA. Contact Mark and Heather Ackersviller at [ackersviller@rogers.com](mailto:ackersviller@rogers.com).

## Third Person Liability

If your club's rental hall requires a certificate proving Third Person Liability coverage, simply go to the Federation Website ([squaredance.on.ca](http://squaredance.on.ca)) click on *Members- Get More Information* and fill out the form, *Request for Named Insured Certificate*. Within a day or two you will receive the required certificate.

## Spring Spree/Swing into Spring

The frost may be on your windows now, but it is not too early to plan for spring. SWOSDA is heading to Peterborough **April 22** for a shindig! Leave your winter boots at home and be prepared to kick up your heels at the annual **Spring Spree**. Make a weekend of it to enjoy the beauty of the Kawarthas! Check out the flyer: <http://td-dance.ca/flyers/2023%20Spring%20Spree%20Flyer%20Corel.pdf>

Also, the Eastern Ontario **Swing into Spring 2023** Committee is hard at work planning for a weekend of dance and fun **May 5 – 7, 2023** in the Prescott /Cornwall area. Mark your calendars!

## Ottawa 2023- International Convention

Canada has been chosen to host the IAGSDC (International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs) International Square Dance Convention in 2023! Save the dates: **July 6-8**. For details and to register go to: [Ottawa2023.com](http://Ottawa2023.com). No need to be gay- all are welcome. You will not want to miss this epic square dance extravaganza!

## Dance and Dine- St. Thomas

Come out for dinner with us after the January 28 SWOSDA dance! If you let me know you're coming, I'll reserve us a block of tables at the Boston Pizza at 860 Talbot Street. ([secretary@swosda.ca](mailto:secretary@swosda.ca)) Breaking (flat)bread together is a great way to make new friends. Hope to see you there!

## Join the Fun!

Serving on the SWOSDA Executive just got more fun! If you want to find out what's afoot, contact [secretary@swosda.ca](mailto:secretary@swosda.ca) Spice up your 2023 by joining our crew.

## SMILE - Senior Road Trip



While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes.

By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy man. He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card.

# ***CLUB NEWS***

Send Club News to [bugle@swosda.ca](mailto:bugle@swosda.ca)

## Centennial Beavers - London

Christmas with the Centennial Beavers was a night to remember. We had a total of 32 dancers and it was hopping all night. Some of the dancers wore their Square Dance outfits and had a few laughs about the crinolines. Such good fun. We did not have a sit down dinner, instead we decided to have a "Grazing Table" like we had at Halloween. The table was absolutely packed, as a matter of fact, we had to bring in another table to hold it all. There were a couple of spot dances and some people went home with gift cards for Christmas. Ed kept the music going all night. We never heard so much laughter and it has been a long time since we had honestly smiley happy faces for the entire evening. We had also been invited to share a Christmas Potluck with the Thames Valley Dance Club on their Christmas Party night. Again, we had so much laughter and smiling that our faces were sore by the end of the dance. It was a great night of dancing with a full hall and Ed again kept us hopping. These are the dances that make this activity an addiction. Just good fun with great friends. At the end of both evenings we all got together in a friendship circle and everyone sang loud and clear.



We are looking forward to our Friday night dancing starting up on Jan 6th. We are going to open the doors for new dancers on the 6th and on the 13th, at which time we will close the group to new dancers so that we can get on with our learning.

We are looking forward to our FROSH DANCES in March and April. Watch the Bugle for the flyers. 2023 is going to be a New Year, with exciting and more dancing, being happy and carefree and being a friend to all we dance with. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

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## Clinton Wheel 'N' Dealers

Clinton Public School 27 Percival Street Clinton  
Presidents Fred and Deb Hakkers 5195258640/5199557277  
Caller Dave and Blanche Paulen 5199498336

Happy New Year Everyone.

Clinton Wheel n Dealers celebrated an early Christmas with their Christmas banquet and dance on December 7th. We gathered at the Clinton United Church at 5:30 for some social time and then enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings presented by the United Church Women.



An enjoyable evening of dancing followed with Dave and Blanche Paulen calling and Ian and Debbie Hulley cueing. It is always fun to dance to all the Christmas music this time of year.

Donations were gathered for the Salvation Army.

Our dancing will resume on Wednesday nights beginning January 11th, 2023 at Clinton Public School. 7:30 - 9:30pm.



We remind all our dancers that Clinton Public School is a peanut and fragrance free facility.

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### [Country Square - Rostock](#)

Merry Christmas from all of us at Rostock Country Squares! It will soon be time to flip the calendar from December to January. We wish you all happiness, health and joy.

Recently we all had the opportunity to have a Christmas get together at the home of Dave & Joanne Foster. As usual a great time was had by all who attended. We all enjoyed dancing the afternoon away. We also enjoyed the bagpipes... thanks goes out to Don and Marlene Martin! As well we all got to try a bit of clogging with Joanne Foster. After we enjoyed a bountiful potluck supper and fellowship.

A big thanks goes out to Neva and Duncan for the lovely poinsettia. Thanks so much!



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### [Denim'N Lace - Flesherton](#)

Denim 'n Lace Square Dance Club, Flesherton is looking forward to 2023 with a vision for great friendship, fellowship and dancing within our Club and other clubs in our part of Ontario. Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to all!

Our Christmas Season? - well we had a white Christmas - called a Blizzard - over three days and snow over

four feet deep. The good news is the power only had one short outage; we kept warm, snow shovelling kept us warm when we were outside. We didn't leave home so had a quiet Christmas - a Christmas to remember.

We closed out the 2022 year with our Christmas Dance which was special again this year. Jim Lee favoured us many of his great Christmas calls, we had live music by Elwin and Al on violin and guitar prior to the dance and at intermission and dancers wore their Christmas attire. Two Christmas baskets were prepared and raffled off to the lucky winners. We had food too, an extensive buffet of Christmas treats was enjoyed by all. Denim 'n Lace members were great cooks - and great eaters too.



Our first dance for 2023 will be on Wednesday, January 11 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at our same location; South East Grey Support Services Pavilion 774292 Highway 10N Flesherton, ON. Our original Introduction to Square Dancing group has completed the basic calls and Jim Lee will start introducing mainstream calls in January. Plus dancing will also be part of each evening. Dancers are asked to bring their own beverage.

A Special Dance will be held each month in 2023. The January special dance will be Western Night and held on January 25th. Dancers are invited to don Western outfits and bring items on the Western theme to add to the decor. Food/treats are welcome at special dances.

Looking ahead to the Fall 2023 - at our November 27, 2022 Executive meeting the possibility of organizing another Introduction to Modern Square Dancing Group was discussed. A planning committee will be formed and reaching out to other dancers/clubs for ideas will be part of the plan.

Mel Chamberlain  
Bugle Correspondent

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

#### **Make a Note!**

The club has a new dance location, as of Jan 6, 2023  
Forest Hill United Church, 121 Westmount Rd., E.  
Kitchener, ON. N2M 4Y6

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### [Jubilee Rounds - St. Jacobs](#)

#### ***Greetings from Jubilee Rounds on Zoom:***

Greetings from Sunny Florida.....

We hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas and were able to spend some time with family and friends over the holidays as well as ushering 2023 with some cheer and good friends.

Our "In Person" dance club, ShadowLight Rounds, had a great dance season but the poor weather cancelled our Christmas party, unfortunately.

We will resume with this group on February 2<sup>nd</sup> with Phase 2 Twostep. If you wish to join us for the weekly Twostep classes, be sure to sign up [HERE](#) on our website.

We had a wonderful Virtual Christmas party with Jubilee Rounds. It was so nice to see all the red and green and the decorations in some folks' homes.

Our special "in-person" Round Dance in December went very well and we are hoping to plan another one when we return home in February.



Jubilee rounds will resume on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have our Zoom codes sent out by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Remember, *if you have been attending regularly, you will receive the code automatically. You Do Not need to sign up.*

If you haven't been joining us on a regularly basis, please sign up so we can include you in our programs. To register please visit our website.

We don't publish our codes; they are sent only to those who attend Regularly or REGISTER.

Please visit our website: [www.shadowlightdance.com](http://www.shadowlightdance.com) and select "Register Here", then select the appropriate option and complete the form.

We are in a campground that has many Canadians so we feel pretty comfortable here.

We are enjoying the weather - average temp is 24c – 28c and sunny most days but must admit we miss you and our dance time together!!

Remember the SWOSDA dance on January 28<sup>th</sup> in St. Thomas. See the flyer [HERE](#) or visit the SWOSDA website.

We plan to be home by the end of January so ....

In the meantime – Stay safe & healthy....

Check out our website and sign up for Virtual or "In Person" Dancing: [www.shadowlightdance.com](http://www.shadowlightdance.com)

Happy New Year .... Happy Dancing,

Jeff Priest

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### [Rhythm Rounds - London](#)

What an exciting year we have planned for the Rhythm Rounds.

To start with we are going to have a new beginner group starting on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. (see the flyer).

We have had a tremendous response from new, past dancers and people who have never danced rounds before. It is going to be a challenge but the Rhythm Rounds are ready for growth and some new faces. They are all on board to help and to welcome all the new dancers.



Our numbers have been dwindling due to health issues, covid after effects and just plain tiredness. We thought to put it out there, thinking we could get maybe 3 or 4 couples but we were overwhelmed with the response. It will take a bit of adjusting to get all levels covered but Ed says we can do it, so we will do it. If it goes as well as we are hoping, we may have to look at a separate night. Wouldn't that be just magic!!!

We are all looking forward to the next few months and we hope that if you or someone you know wants to Round Dance (or Choreographed Ballroom) please make them aware by giving them the flyer or the email address to register. We will only be taking new dancers on JANUARY 11th and on the 18th. The next time they will be able to get into a class will be in September.

Wishing you all health, happiness and of course lots of dancing in 2023.


Rhythm Rounds Presents


## "Beginner Round Dance Experience"

Starting Wednesday January 11, 2023 (until May)

At Lambeth Public School (6820 Duffield St.)


from 6:45P to 7:45PM


Covering the basics of.... Rumba, Waltz, Cha Cha, 2 Step, Fox Trot, Tango & Jive

Easy learning modules and homework to get you started and keep you dancing!

Cost is \$14 per couple (you need a partner)

No previous dance experience needed (but helps)

PLEASE R.S.V.P if you are interested, to  
[beginnerdance@hotmail.com](mailto:beginnerdance@hotmail.com)




Start the year with dance, fun and great exercise for balance and form

### Royal City Squares - Guelph

Royal City Squares ended the season on a warm note with our Winter Wonderland Singing Call night in December. We welcomed visitors from Waterdown Village Squares and Silver Streaks and tucked into - in these covid times - some rare seasonal treats.

We had a good turnout of our Club dancers at the December SWOSDA dance in Kitchener. And some of our dancers visited nearby Clubs for their really fun holiday dances, including Guys and Dolls in Kitchener, Toronto's Triangle Squares and Waterdown Village Squares. Alas, the Silver Streaks holiday dance was cancelled due to weather, as some of us had plans to visit there too.

We kick off our season on Wednesday, January 25th with a Dance Party with Brian MacIsaac calling and Wes Knierem calling a couple of Olde Tyme dances. We hope to have enough dancers to continue our regular Wednesday night Plus classes beginning the following week at Paisley Road School. Everyone very welcome!

A good number of local modern square dancers attend the popular monthly olde tyme square dances at Duff's Church, south of Guelph. Easy to learn in a high energy, friendly setting, with lots of familiar faces. First dance of the year is Saturday, January 21st, 7:30 pm, Bill Hands, caller.

Dance weekends are starting up again. Dancers from Guelph are already planning to visit Peterborough in April (*Spring Spree*, April 22nd), and *Swing into Spring* in Prescott, May 5th and 6th. And of course, some of our dancers will be heading to the [premier square dance event in Canada this year](#), in Ottawa July 5 - 8, hosted by Ottawa Date Squares. The IAGSDC Square Dance Convention will be making a rare stop in Canada, as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. Amazing callers, all levels of dance from SSD to C2, special events, pre- and post-Convention tours, Caller School. All dancers are welcome to attend this epic event.



From the Royal City of Guelph, we send wishes to all our friends for a happy new year of dancing.

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### ShadowLight Dance Club - SW Ontario

*Greetings from Sunny Florida.*

We have arrived safe and sound! The drive down was not too bad. We got away a day late due to the storm in Ontario which closed the borders in Windsor/Detroit as well as Niagara Falls/Buffalo. Once we got underway the weather did co-operate for us but unfortunately, the traffic did not. Many delays for construction and accidents.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Years and were able to spend some time with family and friends this Holiday Season.

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**Please Note: We return Home the end of January. Our “In Person” groups (ShadowLight Squares and ShadowLight Rounds) will start up on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively.**

**ShadowLight Squares will start a review of A-2 following the A-1 review from the fall.  
ShadowLight Rounds will be a teach on Phase 2 Twostep following our teach on Phase 2 Waltz last fall.**

**Remember: if you attended either of these fall sessions, you don’t need to sign up again. If you have not attended these sessions you must register on our website before February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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We will be calling for Royal City Squares starting again on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>. Elora Grand Squares will not resume until Monday February 27<sup>th</sup>.

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We look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Happy Dancing and More – Much More!

Andrea & Jeff Priest

ShadowLight Dance Club: [www.shadowlightdance.com](http://www.shadowlightdance.com) for info or to register.

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### Silver Streak Square Dance Club - Woodstock

Our festive dance just before Christmas was cancelled because of the weather and the one that makes it so enjoyable had laryngitis. Please check the SWOSDA website for our 2023 dancing dates.

Happy New Year

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### Sound Steppers - Owen Sound

Hi fellow dancers and friends. Hope you are all doing well with the holiday seasons and unpredictable weather we have had.

The Owen Sound club has had a busy last month of dancing with our Christmas dances and pot luck dinner. Everyone dressed in their holiday attire and enjoyed many Christmas themed dances. We also had some members taking part in telling jokes and doing a Christmas carol sing-a-long.



Our next specialty dance in January will be our Hawaiian Night on Thursday January 19th at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

To follow the club info and updates, check out our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/owensoundsteppersdanceclub.com](http://www.facebook.com/owensoundsteppersdanceclub.com). Our new facility for dancing this year is at the Harmony center at 890 4th Ave. East from 7pm to 9pm every Thursday evening.

Our club hopes everyone had a blessed Christmas and happy new year of good health and enjoying dancing. Hope to see you all on the dance floor.

Linda Wedow  
Bugle Rep

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### Strathroy Swinging Duo's

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year.

Our club has had good times on the dance floor the last two months. On November 22, we had a large turnout to dancing with Merv Reid. After a few burps with the sound system, we had a toe tapping, swinging good time.

Our dancers in the Introduction to Modern Square dance program are a fun bunch and we have an enjoyable time with them every week. They have been invited to our Christmas Pot Luck on December 13. We danced the basic level with them for the first three tips and they were invited to stay and watch the Mainstream and Plus level dances. Many of them stayed for the entire evening and thoroughly enjoyed watching the club dance. Our guests for the evening were Dorothy Wilton, Carl & Marilyn Thomas, Denny Howlett, Linda Charlton, and some dancers from other clubs. Tom encouraged Denny to call a couple of tips which he graciously accepted. Being near blind and not calling for several years Denny did an amazing job calling from memory which he thoroughly enjoyed. It was good to be able to dance with him again. Jake had set up a video display of pictures and video clips taken at our dances and some special lighting effects. Everyone enjoyed watching the short video presentation.



After the New year, we resume dancing on Tuesday January 10. The following week, January 17, we invite you to dress up and come to our Semi Formal Dress Dance with lunch following the dance.

A few of our dancers are wintering South, so our numbers will be down for the winter. We wish them a safe, relaxing time away and look forward to seeing them in the Spring.

Keep safe and warm,

Jake and Jean Hamstra  
[www.squaredancestrathroy.ca](http://www.squaredancestrathroy.ca)

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### [Thames Valley Dance Club - Woodstock](#)



Again, we have had to say good-bye to one of our faithful dancers. Sylvia Markvoort passed away on December 7<sup>th</sup> after fighting lung cancer for several years. Sylvia and her husband, Arie, have been dancing with Thames Valley Dance Club for many years, and were our club presidents a few years back. Sylvia was a lovely lady with a ready smile, a good dancer, and a wonderful friend. We will all miss her dearly.

In November, we had a “Nationality Dance”. Members had the chance to celebrate their nationality and heritage, and many came with colours, or costumes. The Dutch contingent was strong that night, as were the Canadians!





December saw us dancing at a different location in Woodstock, as our own hall was booked for The Christmas Place. Donated gifts are sorted and displayed here and those less fortunate are given the opportunity to purchase these gifts for their loved ones.

We celebrated Christmas with a potluck and dance on Mon Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Many members from the Centennial Beavers joined us. The feasting and dancing and laughter were a balm for the soul – what a great night that was!

December can be a whirlwind of activities and preparations as Christmas approaches. I hope you took some time for you – to relax with a good book, or watch a movie, or to simply “be”. Life can get away on us in a hurry, so make sure you don’t miss it!



From our club to yours, we wish you a Happy New Year! May you find hope and peace in the coming year and may your days be full of friendship and dancing!

Lois Turvey  
The Bugle Correspondent for Thames Valley Dance Club

"Old" is when your doctor doesn't give you x-rays anymore but just holds you up to the light.

Old" is when your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.



## SWOSDA: Then, Now and in the Fun Near-Future

As I lay in bed keeping company with COVID for a week or two, I had ample time to reflect on some of the challenges facing our square dancing organization. Like many of you, I love square and round dancing. I am relatively new to this passion for dancing but I would dearly miss it. Many of us are concerned for the future of square dancing. Perhaps, like me, you have heard tales of earlier times when halls were filled to the brim with laughing, hooting, hollering dancers; when floats, crowded with dancing squares, added colour and zest to local parades; when the local square dance club was the hub of people's social lives and when regular visits from club to club kept the mayhem rolling. This description probably bears little resemblance to your current dancing experience but, wouldn't you like it to?

As a time for reflection, New Year's is the perfect opportunity to come to terms with how modern square dancing has evolved over time and how we may wish it to evolve in a different direction going forward.

### **\*\*Origins of SWOSDA**

In 1959 a few keen dancers gathered together their dancing friends and started to organize regular social square dances. This grassroots association grew in size and complexity over the decades, evolving into numerous local clubs coordinated by a regional executive. SWOSDA was born.

The Association's mandate was to oversee and promote square and round dancing in South-Western Ontario. Callers had to be recruited and trained. Regular caller meetings were required for knowledge-sharing, and to improve skills. Regular monthly dances were held and hosted at different locations. Not only did this bring new friends together, but it also permitted much information-sharing.

This dance community grew as a unit. SWOSDA, with the support of its member clubs, hosted the Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention (London, ON) in 2008 with 1,800 dancers present and, once again, in 2018 with 800 dancers present. Both these events were large undertakings with huge financial obligations. With great committees, the commitment of many volunteers, and good budgeting, both events were a hit. Much of SWOSDA's current working capital is the result of these successful conventions.

### **The Future of SWOSDA**

This, of course, is the million-dollar question. Along with many other social organizations, SWOSDA has experienced a drop in the number of participants. Although COVID certainly didn't help, the downward trend predates the pandemic. Many clubs are taking steps to recruit new dancers and SWOSDA has the *Growing Clubs* committee to support their efforts. I believe, though, we need to focus on another prong, as well. **We need to make square dancing fun again.** I recently asked a long-time square dance couple what it was like in the "Golden Age" of square dancing. \*\*\*They described the costuming and the club colours; the shenanigans like banner stealing; clubs visiting back and forth for dances and potluck suppers; the practice of swapping callers so that dancers could appreciate the variation in dance patterns, a different voice and different tempos and so that dancers would have confidence to visit and dance at other clubs; the Demonstration Square which consisted of keen dancers, fancily-costumed, who travelled from club to club to demonstrate how beautiful square dancing could be; the visiting at long-term care facilities and schools to spread kindness, love and music; the hooting and hollering at club dances to express the joy and love of dancing together. **They were having fun together!** If dancers are the bricks of a club, the friendships are the mortar that binds us all together. Square dancing is something fun that friends love to do together; without the friendship, you may as well be going to the gym.

I think we have our work cut out for us- if we are to thrive as a square dance organization, we must look back to SWOSDA's roots, I mean the grassroots. We need enthusiastic people at every level of the organization- dancers, club executive members, SWOSDA executive members, callers, cuers- to decide to make square dancing fun again. Why don't we make this our New Year's resolution? I have some ideas to make SWOSDA more fun and so do you. **Let's get to work!**

**\*\* historical information provided by Dan Roy**

**\*\*\*personal experience shared by Austin and Avril Hayward**



## Guess What?

**Another Vacation is coming up!**

The February Bugle will be published a week early on  
**January 31**

\*\*\* A reminder will be sent out \*\*\*



### Two Little Boys

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddles through her kitchen window. The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole.

As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother ran to the yard in a panic. 'Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!' she asked as she shook the older boy in anger.

'We were just playing 'church' mommy,' he said.

'I was just baptizing him...in the name of the Father, the Son and in...the hole-he-goes..'



**72<sup>nd</sup> National**

**Square Dance Convention**

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