

BUGLE

Square and Round Dancers of South Western Ontario Inc.

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



January 2024
Volume 62 Number 4/5
President's Message



Time seems to be flying by as it only seems like yesterday we were dancing in Mitchell at the Chrystal Palace and now with Christmas and New Year celebrations behind us, our focus is back to dancing. Avril and I can't thank the Country Squares in Rostock enough for the great reception, yummy treats and hospitality the dance community received in Mitchell. We had a fantastic SWOSDA and it was so great to see so many people.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to the January regional dance in Waterdown, and we sincerely hope that all dancers will consider attending.

We are also excited to be going to Calgary in July to the (Sold Out – 600 max) Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention along with others from the area. We are looking forward to great dancing, seeing old friends, and possibly some touring of the foothills of the Rockies.

Dancing has opened so many doors for us, introduced us to so many new friends and provided us with many opportunities to travel, dance and enjoy these new people and places.

Our shortened SWOSDA executive, although lacking members, is eager and enthusiastic, working towards solutions, introducing new ideas and seeking out answers. Avril and I can't thank them enough for being a part of your leadership team. We would love to have you join us.

Check throughout this addition of the Bugle for upcoming dance dates and locations. Clubs love to have visitors and friends attend their events.

Trusting everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Avril and I wish all our friends and the entire dance community a healthy, a happy and prosperous New Year. See you in Waterdown on the 27th .

Austin & Avril Hayward
(SWOSDA President Couple)



Saturday November 25, 2023

Hosted by Country Squares

We are pleased to report that our SWOSDA Dances are growing in the numbers of attendees every month!

The November dance was hosted by the Country Squares Dance Club, in Mitchell. We had a great time with over 7 squares and spares dancing, and enjoying the snacks that were provided. Needless to say it was a big success!



Neva McVittie was the Host Caller for the event. Merv Reid, Ed Dolson, Dave Paulen and Tom Charlton also brought their talents for square dance calling. Round Dancing was provided by – Ed Dolson and Ian Hulley.

The next SWOSDA dance will take place on January 27, 2024 in Waterdown, hosted by the Village Squares. A Round Dance Party will begin at 1:00 pm followed by squares and rounds for the rest of the afternoon from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tom and Jo Kahnert,
Past-Presidents



Well, another year has passed us by! Here we are in 2024. When I think back at all the years that have gone by.....

We started square dancing in 1985; like so many others, we were invited by friends and got hooked. We loved the fact that this was something we could do together, as a couple.

We danced squares for a few years, then got exposed to round dancing at the Hanover Club. That year Cecile Lockrey was offering a 10-week summer course to learn 2-step; that was the beginning. A year later she offered a Waltz session; from there we were pretty well hooked on Rounds. Another few years and we took a Round Dance Leader course being offered by T&D in Barrie. Then came the fun part – practice, practice, practice.

Once I got the hang of it, I did a few rounds at the Tartan Twirlers club in Kincardine. Wanting to get more round dancing, we started attending the Happy Hearts RD club in Clinton.

Over the years we started and closed Sunset Rounds in Kincardine, we took over the Clinton Club when Lois Wise retired, then Covid came along. Recovering would have been difficult, so it was decided it was time to close the Clinton club.

Rhetha & I still love to dance, and continue to do so 3-4 times a week on Zoom; where there's a will, there's a way! We also attend and participate at the SWOSDA dances when we are available.

In 2024, we look back to so many things that we are thankful for, and look forward to many more opportunities where we can share time with family and friends.

Wishing all of you a Happy, Healthy New Year, also filled with opportunities.

Rhetha & Dan



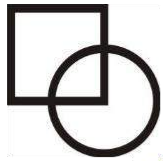
What a Wonderful Problem – SOLD OUT

Some of you probably heard through the Convention Newsletter that the 2024 Canadian National Convention is now SOLD OUT.

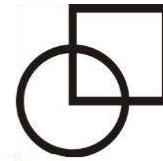
The organizing committee had to set a limit for the number of attendees (600) in order to ensure adequate dancing space. The host hotel was filled up some time ago, so a second hotel (Hotel Blackfoot) has been added and has convention rooms allocated. To help out with the dance space, all clogging will now take place at the Hotel Blackfoot.

If you have not registered yet, you still can, but your name will be added to a waiting list.

See the website - <https://squaredance.ab.ca/festival-2024-canadian-square-and-round-dance-society/>



SWOSDA



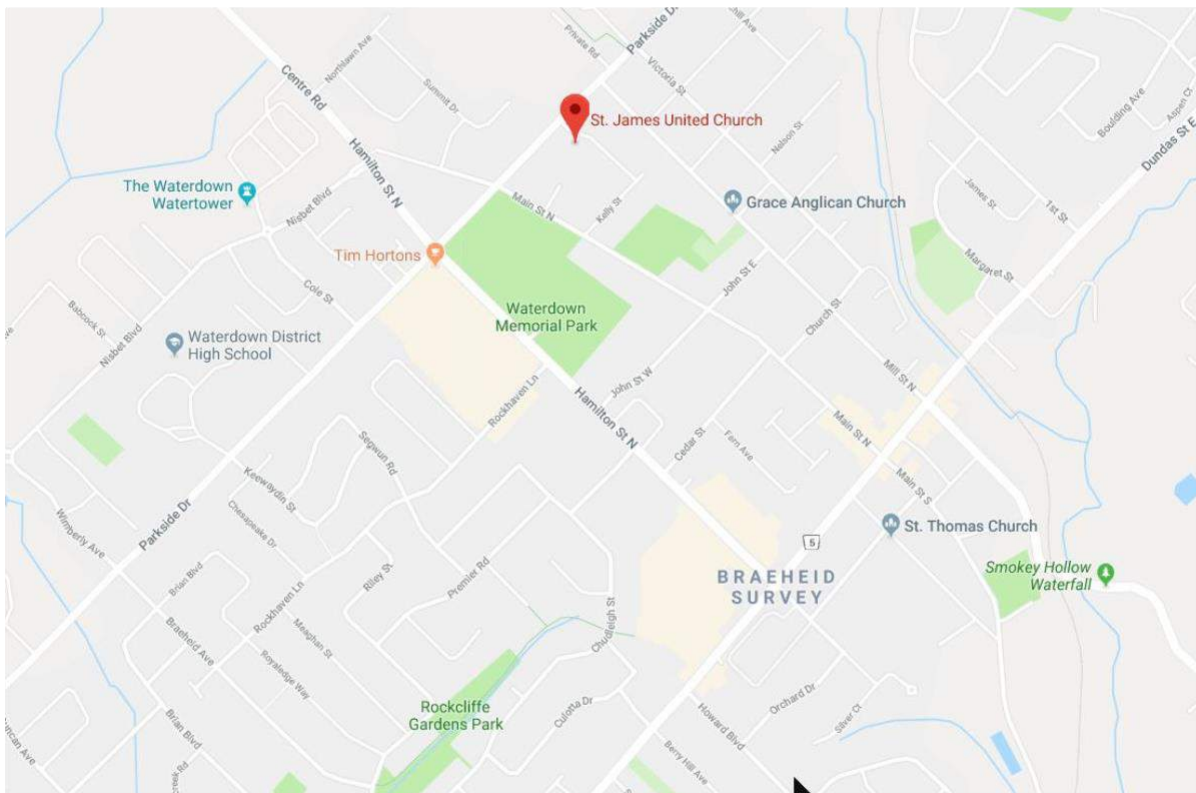
Square & Round Dancers Of South Western Ontario

Monthly Special In Waterdown January 27, 2024

Afternoon ONLY ~ 1:00 – 5:00 ~ \$7.00 per dancer

Hosted by: Waterdown Village Squares

**Location: St. James United Church,
306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown, ON**



For further information or program details Please visit: www.swosda.ca

Or Contact:

Hosts: Susan Roat

e-mail: suroat14@gmail.com ~ Ph: 905-628-4143

SWOSDA Contact: Dan & Rhetha Roy ~ dan.roy1950@gmail.com

SWOSDA is a member run organization!

SWOSDA Executive News, January 2024

Start Planning your SWOSDA Dance

Hosting a SWOSDA dance can be great fun for clubs: you have the chance to showcase your caller, your club bakers, and your club spirit. You can also make some money for your club with, for example, a square dance clothing sale, like Royal City is planning. Your club might also use the occasion to invite community members out to watch, free of charge, to see what they're missing out on. If your club is itching to throw a party, contact secretary@swosda.ca and pick your month for the 2024-25 dance season. First come, first choice.

We have a dozen square dance clubs and half a dozen SWOSDA dances/year so, if your club didn't host this year...well, you do the math.

SWOSDA's 65th Anniversary

65 years seems like a significant milestone to me; what do you think? The SWOSDA executive has been mulling over the possibility of throwing a big party like the one that celebrated SWOSDA's 60th anniversary. Many of you probably remember that occasion: an afternoon dance in Malahide Township followed by a catered supper and then- big finish- a whirlwind evening program. I recall that the mayor of Aylmer attended and made a joke at Tom Charlton's expense. What fun! Let us know what kind of a party would suit the bill. Have your say and make it the kind of dance you'll love to attend. Ideas on this subject or, on any other, can be sent to secretary@swosda.ca.

59th Spring Spree in Peterborough

Break out your 2024 calendar and circle April 20th! Four halls dancing. Afternoon and evening program. Four fabulous callers. Dancing from Basic to C1. Carpool with some of your club members. Plan to stay overnight and enjoy the charms of the Peterborough area. Let's send a strong contingent to support this T&D tradition. Follow the link to see the flyer and to register. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HvNh7arE91gDRgk7d6XvSeoiLZi0a7J_/view

Swing into Spring

Isn't it wonderful to already be thinking ahead to May? This three-day dancing extravaganza returns to Prescott May 3-5, 2024. This Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association-hosted event is comprised of workshops, to take your dancing up a level and, plenty of dance time to show off what you've learned. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/PrescottSIS/>

Join the Fun!

If you ever wanted to be a fly on the wall at a SWOSDA executive meeting, then come on out! We'll even pull up a chair for you. Your experience may inspire you to join our ranks and sculpt SWOSDA into the organization you've been dreaming of...Or, at least, you'll enjoy some free coffee and muffins...



www.facebook.com/swosda

A man was telling his neighbor, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty.'



SWOSDA

Remember When...

Looking Back – January 2024 - Collected by Dorothy Dahm, SWOSDA Historian

Sprig of Brightness by Helen Lowrie Marshall

As we come away from Christmas
In our old routine again,
Let us work a little harder
Toward goodwill among all men.

A deeper understanding
And a great deal more of giving,
A bit more concentration
On the finer side of living.

One little sprig of brightness
To help us to remember
That love and cheer are not
Confined to one day in December.

Let us strengthen our resolve
To use at little more restraint,
A little more compassion and
A little less complaint.

As we take down our Christmas
tree and store the wreath away,
Let's keep the sprig of brightness
To remind us of this day.

Published in Jan '99 Bugle
from NSDCA Times

NEW YEAR'S WISH

May you dance as long as you want to, and want as long as you can.
May your toes never stop tapping to the beat of a square dance band.
I wish you a smile on your career, and a partner that can really swing.
And to each a hand clasp of friendship as you right and left grand round the ring.

May you never forget the struggle, when your lessons finally were through
May you always reach back with a helping hand, like someone extended to you.
May you never become a dancer that knows all and there's no more to learn.
In the midst of the muddle, come out of your huddle - could be you that made the wrong turn.

As long as you're dancing - enjoy it and the friends that you'll make 'fore you're done.
With a smile and a song, promenade along cause you square dance, my friends, for the fun.
(Reprinted from American Square Dance Magazine, Dec. 95 to Jan. 1998 Bugle)

During the last few months, I have been spending a bit more than the several hours I try to focus on the archives each month. I try to complete tasks suggested by questions from various dancers. Often those questions lead me to search through Bugles and/or photo albums for answers and lead me to other items which may be of interest to readers of the Bugle so I now am keeping a journal with lists of possible topics and the relevant sources.

Beside my reading chair I have had Bugles from the 90s before we started dancing. One item which caught my eye was a notice for Square Dance Campers Special Events 1998 In April 1998 Bugle. "July31-Aug1,2,3 -NSDCA Ontario Camporee at Tillsonburg – Guests Welcome" In another issue I noticed a reference to "170 units set up for the camporee in Tillsonburg celebrating their tenth anniversary." Prior to our own square dancing, Nick's sister had invited us to come downtown to the Fairgrounds to see them dance.

Nick still was working at the time. We didn't start dancing until just before he retired. We did go to the dance site. The whole former ice surface in the Memorial Arena was covered with dancers. I've looked in the SWOSDA albums but didn't find any pictures concerning that event. I would appreciate your assistance if you were at this or any other Camporee event and could share pictures or information about the Camporee in Tillsonburg or other sites. Where else had it been held? In what different years was Camporee held? Today as I worked on this, I found 2 other references in other issues – You will hear more about this later.

I'm also working on creating a binder with pictures of the executive groups through the years. I am including a picture of each group along with the lists through the years. Unfortunately, some of the pictures do not have the individuals identified. When I bring that binder to a SWOSDA dance, please help me out by taking a peek to see if you can name the mystery folks. If you have been on executive years and have not received a picture of your group from me it may be because I do not have a picture of you so have not completed the collage for that group. Please send me your picture and indicate the years you were on the executive and I can rectify that problem and make sure you get a copy.

Another discovery I have made this afternoon is how difficult it is to complete an article when one of my daughter's cats wants attention and sprawls across the base of the keyboard. His internal motor revved up frequently as a reminder that I was falling down on the job and not petting him as required.

Please pass on your condolences to Colin Aram on the loss of his wife prior to Christmas. She was one very special lady and will be greatly missed by the square dance community.

I hope you had a joyful Christmas and that 2024 is a healthy, happy year for all.
Dorothy Dahm, Historian, familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com

FEATURE

“Acknowledgement”

(Previously printed in April 2020 Edition of the Bugle)

The act of expressing gratitude or appreciation for something

The action of showing that one has noticed someone or something

A statement of indebtedness to others

I am of the mindset that, dependent upon circumstance, all the above are significant and are paramount when associated with our square and round dancing activities.

We know enough to thank all those in our square at the completion of a tip, but did we think to acknowledge the caller or cuer for their expertise and the time it took them to prepare the dance program?

Did we think that those yummy cookies and treats just magically appeared on the goodie table? Have you thought to thank those that prepared and brought those treats for your enjoyment?

Are we so naïve to think that booking the hall, decorating, setting out tables and chairs, sweeping floors and cleaning up was all done by the dance fairy?

When dancers come through the door to attend your dance, are you thinking that you are not needed to welcome them and that someone else will do it?

Have you ever thought of how much work, time and knowledge go into the production of your monthly newsletter or publication and that perhaps that she or he would love to hear how much they are appreciated?

Your club, association, Federation and Society executive members have taken a step forward and have committed their leadership time and talents to make our activity what it is, and they too appreciate acknowledgement with an occasional, simple thank-you.

Are you aware that a recent survey has indicated that nearly 50% of those that contribute freely of their time and talents, would not do so if they felt they were not appreciated?

Words of gratitude or of showing appreciation in our everyday lives can be powerful. We can all benefit from being recognized for things we have done. Gratitude is also an essential element of ones well-being. A sense of gratitude is a sincere and positive experience that plays a large part in increased moral and a happier life.

Square and Round Dance leaders are not looking for cards, gifts, acts of service or words of praise. A simple thank you goes a long way.

Whether you are grateful for something big such as an award or a recognition certificate for something you have done, or for something small, such as a caller offering words of support or a teach that has contributed to you being a better dancer, expressing your gratitude can mean a lot to that person who has helped you. This can also cultivate kindness and create positive relationships on the dance floor and in our personal lives.

Let's open our hearts. Let's acknowledge what others do for us, not only in association with dancing, but in our everyday lives. Show your appreciation for the little things in life as well as for those things of significance. Don't just think it, say it. Put a smile on someone's face and you might be surprised what it does for you as well.

Hop aboard the "Gratitude" train and watch it enhance your experiences of joy, connection, love and enthusiasm on the dance floor and in every aspect of your life.

A thank you for someone holding the door for you, a wave to the driver of the other car for yielding you the right of way or to the post man for delivering your mail. We all have so many opportunities to acknowledge kindness and to show gratitude.

Experience the rush, the feel good, the sensation of a warm feeling knowing you have put a smile or a happy thought in someone's heart and mind.

See you on the dance floor

Austin Hayward (Thames Valley Dance Club)

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

CLUB NEWS

Send Club News to bugle@swosda.ca

Centennial Beavers - London

We are writing this column from beautiful Bargeddie Scotland. Had 1 day of snow and 2 sunny days so far. The rest of our days have been wet and windy, but surprisingly we are thrilled to be able to hang with the family while it rains outside. We head back to Canada on Sunday Jan 7th 2024. It's been a wonderful Christmas & New Year's but we really miss our Square Dancers & friends.

The CB squares finished off their season with a beautiful Christmas Dance. Many showed up in full square dance attire, and enjoyed 'working their crinolines'. We had a lovely (grazing table) full of finger foods and some pretty fancy baking. Marie Lade brought in a lovely centrepiece for the RED Table, making a very inviting place for eating and talking to each other.

Some of us were very happy to also dance with the Thames Valley Dance Club in Woodstock the following Monday December 11th. Excellent fun had by all of us.

The new season starts on Friday January 12/24. We will focus on Mainstream level in preparation for those going to Calgary for the National Square & Round Dance in July. However, we definitely will review the 1st couple of days for those who forget what the moves are. So, expecting a full hall so we can get moving after our time off. Looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing our Christmas stories.

❄️ Happy New Year to all ❄️

- **We wish you to have 365 days of never-ending joy and happiness in 2024.**

Clinton Wheel 'N' Dealers

27 Percival Street Clinton
Celebrating 60 years 1963/4 -2023/4

Presidents - Fred and Deb Hakkers 519-525-8640/519-955-7277

Incoming Presidents -Ian and Debbie Hulley 519-482-7972

Shared Callers - Neva and Duncan McVittie 519-477-2028
Tom and Linda Charlton 519-763-4020

Dancing Dates - January 10th to May 1, 2024.

Note - Please Lug a mug and dress is casual.

Clinton Wheel n Dealers celebrated Christmas with a potluck turkey dinner and dance on November 29th with 30 members, callers and some former dancers in attendance. We thank Fred and Deb Hakkers for roasting the turkey and making the dressing and gravy. Club members brought potluck sides and delicious desserts enjoyed by all. We enjoyed a wonderful night of squares by Neva and Duncan McVittie, Tom and Linda Charlton, and rounds by Ian Hulley. We also



enjoyed Donna Fielders calling. She is progressing very well.

We were all relieved after hearing of Tom Charlton's accident on his way home that he was not seriously hurt. He is recovering and we look forward to his calling in the new year.

We will resume dancing on Wednesday January 10th beginning with our annual meeting at 6:45 prior to our evenings dance.

We ask that anyone wishing to join us at our club dance call ahead to be sure that we are dancing as we may have to cancel nights this winter due to weather or reduced members.

Clinton Wheel n Dealers hopes everyone had a wonderful Christmas and we wish all a happy New Year.

Please remember that we dance in a peanut free and fragrance free facility.

Country Square – Rostock

Greetings from Rostock County Squares

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! By now all the hub bub is past and we have entered into 2024. We at



Rostock enjoyed an excellent roast beef supper with the remainder of the evening dancing off what we ate! We had a great crowd with spouses. Even Mr and Mrs Claus showed up and with a couple of helpers to help pass out some treats!

We enjoyed the evening with a visit from Elvis as well as a line dancing and clogging lesson. We were also entertained with a bag pipe and drum rendition. It was a great evening and the weather even cooperated!

With a bit of a break we will certainly be ready to kick up our heels once again in January.

[Denim'N Lace - Flesherton](#)

It's 2024 and Leap Year! Easter is early this year, on March 31st, some would say it's a sign of an early Spring. At time of writing, it looks like an early spring already - no snow, but feels more like a nasty day in November. Anyway, we wish a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year to all.

Denim 'n Lace is looking forward to 2024 and another great year of friendship, fellowship and dancing to our Caller, Jim Lee. Our first dance will be on Wednesday evening January 10, 2024 at South East Grey Support Services Pavilion, Flesherton from 7:00 to 9:30. Dancing will be at the Mainstream and Plus levels.

Our special dance in November was Ice Cream Night convened by Sam and Marilyn Lemon, a full house enjoyed the Markdale produced Chapman's Ice Cream and a lot of great dancing.

We closed out the 2023 year with our Christmas Dance on December 13. It was a Pot Luck dinner and dance party; ate at 6:00 and danced at 7:00 pm. The dinner was second to none prepared by club members and enjoyed by all. Jim Lee favoured us with many of his great Christmas calls, including Santa Got Run Over By A Reindeer. Our dancers wore their Christmas attire and two Christmas baskets as door prizes were won by the lucky winners.

A Special Dance will be held each month in 2024. The January special dance will be Western Night and held on January 17th. Dancers are invited to wear their Western outfits and to bring food/treats if they wish.

Several Denim 'n Lace members attended the November 25, 2023 SWOSDA Dance in Mitchell, Ontario. Denim 'n Lace Dance Club is hosting the April 27' 2024 SWOSDA Dance at the Kinplex Hall in Flesherton, Ontario. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Mel Chamberlain
Bugle Correspondent

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

Happy New Year 2024 to all. We trust that all experienced the love and peace of this joyful Christmas season. With the mild temperatures this past month travel was easier and less pulled muscles from shovelling.

On December 1, 2023 our club held its Christmas dance. Our President Mark Ackersviller welcomed all with cheery Christmas tidings and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday as they came in. While our numbers were down either with health concerns, prior commitments or the travelling globe-trotters had not yet returned, all that came had a wonderful time. Decked out in their green and red colourful outfits Dan Weatherby, our talented caller, kept us all moving to the many festive and jolly music he selected for this evening.

The many delicious treats were displayed early in the evening and the aroma of hot apple cider filled the air. It was a veritable feast at the end of the evening and all left with high spirits and hugs ready to spend the next few weeks shopping and visiting family and friends.

Our next dance is January 5. Our theme for that dance is "Hat" night so find your funny, sporty, ugly, classy or fancy hat and come out for what should be a great night. 2nd dance of January is on the 19th and the theme for that is Tartan or Lumberjack Plaid. Hope you can join us....Dance like no one is watching.

Bugle Gal, Donna Reed,
Guys and Dolls Dance Club.

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 2024 with some cheer and good friends.

Our “In Person” dance club, ShadowLight Rounds, had a great dance season and a fun Christmas party on December 14th. We are continuing our program of Waltz and moving into Phase 3 Cha Cha starting on Thursday February 8th. If you wish to join us for the weekly classes, be sure to sign up [HERE](#) on our website.

We had a wonderful Virtual Christmas party with Jubilee Rounds also on December 14th. It was so nice to see all the red and green and the decorations in some folks’ homes.

Our special “in-person” Christmas Round Dance on December 2nd was great and it was nice to see all the red and green in person.

We will be hosting an in person Valentine’s Dance on Saturday February 10th. If you haven’t signed up yet, Please visit our website soon as numbers are limited.

Jubilee rounds will resume on Thursday February 8th. Our Zoom codes remain the same but if you have lost the code it will go out again to those who are on the attendance list for last fall.

If you would like to join us, 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 and select “Register Here”, then select the appropriate option and complete the form.

Remember the SWOSDA dance on January 27th in Waterdown. Visit the SWOSDA Website for the flyer and program.

We plan to be home February 3rd so

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

Check out our website and sign up for upcoming Virtual or “In Person” Dancing:
www.shadowlightdance.com

Happy New Year Happy Dancing,
Jeff Priest

Rhythm Rounds - London

We had our final dance of 2024 on Wednesday, December 13th. We had a beautiful Christmas Dance with a table full of goodies, cheeses, crackers and chocolate.

The beginner class (who are not really beginners anymore) stayed with the main group and enjoyed some beautiful waltzing, fun rumbas, technical boleros and fast and furious Cha Cha’s. There were a couple of spot dances and lots of laughs.

<p>A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.</p>

We are back on January 10th 2024. Looking forward to more learning, laughing and dancing our hearts out.



Royal City Squares - Guelph

We ended the season in mid-December with Winter Wonderland Singing Call dances for both our Basic / Mainstream class on Tuesday night, and our Plus class on Wednesday night.

The Club is taking a break in January, re-starting our regular programming in February.

However.... **We are hosting a Special Dance on Tuesday, January 30th! Olde Tyme Squares called by our own Wesley Knierim. Everyone welcome, and we do mean everyone.** No experience necessary - there will be a quick walk-through for each dance. These are fun, and easy to learn and do. No dance experience or square dance experience necessary. New dancers, traditional dancers, modern square dancers are all welcome. All ages welcome too. 7 - 9:15 pm at Paisley Road Public School, 406 Paisley Road, Guelph. \$10 per person.



Join us in February, starting Tuesday, February 6th for our Basic (7 - 8:15 pm) and Mainstream (8:15 - 9:15 pm) Class nights at Paisley Road Public School, 406 Paisley Road, Guelph. \$10 per person.

Our Plus Classes will resume on Wednesday, February 7th (7 to 9:15 pm), but NOT at Paisley Road School. For location information please call or text Theresa Knierim at (519) 830-9383 or p.t.knierim@gmail.com.

And, mark your calendar and join us in Guelph for a SWOSDA Dance, on Saturday, February 24, 2024 (1 - 5 pm), at Paisley Road Public School, 406 Paisley Road, Guelph. \$7 per person. Clothing Sale!

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.

More Holiday Dancing Fun...

Triangle Square Holiday Dance



Arrowhead Squares



[ShadowLight Dance Club - SW Ontario](#)

Greetings from Sunny Florida.

We have arrived safe and sound! The drive down was good and the weather was also very good.

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

Please Note: We return Home February 3rd.

Our "In Person" groups start up again on Monday February 5th.

ShadowLight Squares Intro to A-1, Monday February 5th

ShadowLight Squares A-2 Dance, Wednesday February 7th

ShadowLight Rounds Waltz and Cha Cha Thursday February 8th.

We will be calling for Royal City Squares again starting on Tuesday February 6th & Wednesday February 7th.

See the Royal City Squares report for details.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Happy Dancing and More – Much More!

Andrea & Jeff Priest

ShadowLight Dance Club: www.shadowlightdance.com for info or to register.

[Sound Steppers - Owen Sound](#)

Happy new year to our square dancing friends. Hope everyone had a blessed and safe Christmas holiday season get-togethers with family and friends.

Our club's Christmas party was a huge success.

With plenty of food, Lots of laughs, a share the wealth draw as well as a draw for a gingerbread house, singing Christmas carols with members playing their violin and guitar, Door prizes, a very special Visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and of course the elves. We had dancing contests doing the "twist" Then to end the evening with a harmonica playing silent night made for a very special night.

Check out our facebook page for videos and pics to see how it all went. Great times.
www.facebook.com/owensoundsteppers.ca.

We have had many visitors come and join in the fun with us from Flesherton Denim and Lace, the Blue Mountain Promenaders club to help make up our over 4 squares attendance.



Our next specialty dance night Is our pajama party on Thursday January 18th, starting at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Take care of each other and be kind to one another. Keep on dancing!! It's good for your mind, your body and your soul.



Hope to see you all on the dance floor.
Linda Wedow
Bugle Rep

[Strathroy Swinging Duo's](#)

The past two months have been quite eventful for our club. We trust everyone enjoyed Christmas and the New Year.

We had our Sports Jersey dance on November 21 and there were quite a variety of sports jerseys on the dance floor. Tom and Jo Kahnert presented Ed and Mary Faber with their Past President pins.



Tom Charlton sustained minor injuries in a motor vehicle accident on his way home from a Clinton dance. We are thankful that he only received minor injuries and pray he will have a speedy recovery. As Tom was home recuperating, Merv Reid did a remarkable job calling for us on December 5 and kept us moving on the dance floor. Ed Dolson joined us for our Christmas pot luck on December 12 and called and cued for us that evening. It was an enjoyable dance. A hearty Thank you to Merv and Ed for stepping in for Tom. After enjoying a delicious Christmas meal, Gord Bell entertained us by singing a couple of carols. Thank you, Gord, for sharing your beautiful gift of music which was well received by the club.

Clarke Rollings had successful triple by-pass surgery on December 19. We pray that he may have complete recovery and will soon be able to dance. Jean Fink had hip replacement at the end of November and pray for healing for her as well. We have been missing her on the dance floor prior to her surgery and hope she will be able to return soon. Our new dancer Mary Stratton, has been faithfully coming to observe us on the dance floor while recuperating from hip surgery. She is now dancing again and keeping up with the others in the square! We are saddened that Swinging Duos founding member Andreas Aerts has passed away on December 9 at the age of 90.

On January 9, 2024 we will resume dancing and Tom Charlton will be able to call. Then on January 16, dig out your square dance clothes for our Traditional Attire Dance and join us for lunch after the dance.

Looking forward to another great year of dancing in 2024!

Jake and Jean Hamstra

[Thames Valley Dance Club – Woodstock](#)

A lot has happened at Thames Valley Dance Club since the last Bugle. We have been dancing and having so much fun!

On November 20 we had our Nationality dance. Many different nationalities were represented by t-shirts, hats, outfits and even footwear!

On December 4th, we had a very fun Baby Shower for one of our young dance couples! I am not certain, but would be willing to bet that not many clubs get a chance to celebrate an upcoming bundle of joy! We surprised Sam and Nicole (no easy feat!) with decorations, gifts and cake! This is the second year Sam and Nicole have been dancing with us. We love having them as members – their enthusiasm is contagious and so welcome in the club! Their baby is due in February, and we all wish them so much joy as they plan for Baby's arrival.



Our annual Christmas party was held on Monday December 11th! We were joined by some of the Centennial Beavers. Unfortunately, due to sickness, we were missing quite a few of our own members. Those who were there enjoyed punch and a social time before supper. We then feasted on a varied and delicious potluck, including turkey, dressing and gravy. We finished up the evening with a dance, lots of laughter, and a warm feeling in our hearts.

Between our potluck and dance, as we let our dinner settle, we were treated to our President, Elaine Northmore, singing her heart out to the tune of "Turkey in the Straw". But, she had written her own lyrics! Have a look:

Grand Square You All

Lyrics by Elaine Northmore

>>>> tune -Turkey in the straw

1.(C)*Well we circle to the left, then we circle to the right,
Allemande left and (G)weave that ring
Oh, (C) Slap a butt, but don't touch a thing
(C)And when you get home, you (G)swing and (C) swing

Chorus: (C) *Shoot for the stars or box that gnat
(F) Wave to the ocean from the ferris wheel
(C) Yellow rock with all your (G7) might
For it's(C) square time in the (G) town (C) tonight

2.(C) *Oh you giggle and you wiggle to the centre you go
Then sashay to the left, then (G) wink just so
(C) Wheel and deal don't stop for a chat
Holler Yah-hoo, please don't(G) take(C) a nap

Chorus

3.(C) *Let's zoom to the star through, then dive right in
Bend those lines but don't(G) break a thing
(C) First couple left and second to the right
Trade by, swing through and (G) twirl your(C) girl

Chorus

4.(C) *Listen to Ed and heed his call,
Watch out for Nancy cause(G) she sees all
(C) Twirl and swirl, and stomp and shout
Thanks everyone for the(G) fun (C) tonight

Chorus

Now, after having 3 Monday nights off, we will be back to dancing this coming Monday, January 8th. I suspect many of us will want to get back on the dance floor to help shed a pound or two.

Jan 15th will be a "Tropical"-themed dance. That should warm us up on a cold January night!

Some of you will make a New Year's resolution or turn a new leaf, and some of you will enjoy the coming winter months while others will look forward to the spring. However you spend your next few weeks and months, dance and enjoy!

Happy New Year from our Club to yours!

Lois Turvey
The Bugle Correspondent for Thames Valley Dance Club



Elaine has even included the chords so you can play along on your ukulele, piano, or whatever instrument you choose!

Waterdown Village Squares – Waterdown

Waterdown Village Squares had a wonderfully busy November.

Firstly, we brought back Apple Treat Week and the dancers contributed enjoyed delicious apple treats, apple cider, and apple trivia questions.

Later in the month, we had our first Western Dance Night. Both our callers played Western theme music and the dancers dressed up as old west Cowboys or Cowgirls or as ranch hands and farmers.

Our club has a lot of new members this year. Therefore, we held a used clothing sale to give the new members a chance to get square dance attire.



We ended the fall season with our Christmas Hoedown. Both Tuesday and Thursday dancers were together on the same night with both callers. The night started in a Christmas decorated room, and delicious Potluck dinner. Next our own Bill Everett played the keyboards for our annual sing along carols. Bill and Jim Lee called all levels square dancing set to Christmas and winter theme music. We really felt that we finally are back to normal as square club.

The A Cappella Choir of St James United Church (our host location) who was practicing for their Christmas service in another part of the church, volunteered to perform for us during one of our breaks from dancing.



The Executive would like thank the many “angel” dancers that attend on Thursday (our beginner night) to help with teaching our new dancers.

The 2024 season will start Tuesday January 9 for the plus dancers and Thursday January 11 for basic and mainstream.

Special Theme Dance for January will be our Robbie Burns Day Dance. The date is Tuesday January 23 and Thursday January 25, . Suggested attire is Scottish, or plaid and snacks are to be Scottish or English theme.

The SWOSDA Monthly Special Dance will be hosted by Waterdown Village Squares on Saturday January 27. We invite you all to come to Waterdown and enjoy an afternoon dance on a frosty January afternoon .



Submitted by Susan Roat, Publicity at WaterdownVillageSquares

About the Bugle..

From a program capable of generating stats, I have gathered the following information.

Inquiring minds want to know.... Who reads the Bugle?

I can't tell you who reads it, but I can tell you that some people are! (or at least looking at it)

The chart below shows the number of times the Bugle has been accessed over the years.

The right-hand column shows totals for each year.

ie: in 2017 the Bugle was accessed 984 times

in 2023 the Bugle was accessed 865 times

Numbers also show there was a drop during Covid years, but still a fair amount of access.

Conclusion – with slight deviations, the readership seems to be holding.

These are program generated numbers for statistical purposes only, and we all know that statistics can be generated to tell you anything you want, but at this point it is an indication of activity.

All-time insights



The above numbers have been tabulated from the time the website was created

Dear God, my prayer for 2024 is a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.