

BUGLE

Square and Round Dancers of South Western Ontario Inc.

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



February 2026
Volume 63 Number 6
President's Message



Warmest greetings to SWOSDA membership. In a season of disappointing yet ever-so-wise decisions to cancel dances due to inclement winter weather, we can count on one thing, that weather patterns will change again for the better.

Thank you SWOSDA dance hosts. SWOSDA dances are extra special dances because of your member's warm hospitality and special event details that make everyone feel welcome.

We are appreciative that four more clubs are making plans and ensuring a warm welcome to everyone in the coming months. Thank you SWOSDA Executive members, dance programmers Jeff and Andrea, and each SWOSDA dance caller or cuer, keeping us all entertained and winners on the dance floor.



As our Executive continues to focus on collaborating but not duplicating resources with the Ontario Federation and Canadian Society, the best possible resources are available to suit the individual needs of each club.

Please review this month's Executive News that outlines some of Executive's work and includes direct links to information and resources.

Stay connected with your SWOSDA executive members. We appreciate your ideas and questions.

With kindest regards,

Tom & Linda Charlton

Sunny January Beach Days on Lake Erie. Photo by Linda



Saturday January 24, 2026

**Hosted by
Village Square Dance Club
Waterdown**

Our monthly SWOSDA dance was held Saturday January 24, 2026, hosted by Waterdown Village Squares at St James United Church in Waterdown. We were fortunate with a sunny day considering the many snow falls this January.

Bob Beck started the afternoon off with the Round dancing at 1:00 pm. This was followed by a welcome from SWOSDA President and Secretary, Tom and Linda Charlton. Following was an entertaining afternoon of Square and Round dances with host caller Jim Lee and guest callers and cuers Steve Goodman, Jeff and Andrea Priest and Bob Beck. We appreciate the donation of time and talent by all callers and cuers for today's dance.



Waterdown Village Squares did a great job of welcoming us and providing a selection of appetizers and desserts, tea and coffee. The attendance was 61 people and 11 clubs.

We hope to see you all again at our next dance hosted by Silver Streak Squares in Woodstock on February 28, 2026. We will begin with Round dance at 1:00 pm. Next Square dances to follow at 1:30 pm and continuing until 5:00 pm with Round tips mixed in.

Submitted by Susan Roat

Why English Is Hard To Learn

We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.
One fowl is a *goose*, and two are called *geese*,
Yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*

You may find a lone *mouse*, or a house full of *mice*,
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.
The plural of *man* is always *men*,
But the *pan* is never *pen*.

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*,
And I give you a *book*, would a pair be a *beek*?
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,
Why shouldn't two *booths* be called *beeth*?

If the singular's *this* and the plural is *these*,
Should the plural of *kiss* be ever called *keese*?

We speak of a *brother* and also if *brethren*,
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.
Then the, masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*;
But imagine the feminine ... *she shis*, and *shim*!

SWOSDA'S EXECUTIVE NEWS – FEBRUARY 2026

SWOSDA's next Monthly Dance Special

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church,
735 Frontenac Cres., **Woodstock**

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. \$8.00/person

Details: www.swosda.ca

Special thanks to our Hosts

Silver Streak Squares

HOW IS SWOSDA WORKING FOR & WITH CLUBS?

- Ontario Trillium Awards** – nominations are still open, please submit nominations to secretary@swosda.ca
FORMS: <https://swosda.ca/awards/>
- SWOSDA Merit Award** – honour your club member contributing with a minimum of 10 years of exceptional service to your club. Nominations are still open, please send a request for this award to secretary@swosda.ca
FORMS: <https://swosda.ca/awards/>

Notice of Change to the SWOSDA Constitution

Executive Approved Changes will be emailed by the SWOSDA Secretary to Club Reps by **February 24** for distribution to Club Members.

Notice of Change to the SWOSDA Bylaws
Executive Approved Changes will be emailed by the SWOSDA Secretary to Club Reps by **March 26** for distribution to Club Members.

Each document is to be member approved at the **SWOSDA AGM April 25, 2026**,
Owen Sound, ON
Same Location as the SWOSDA Dance.

3. Dance Promotion – Growing Your Club
“Growing your square or round dance Club is more critical today than ever,” explains Tom and Jo Kahnert, Strathroy Swinging Duos Executive and Past Presidents of SWOSDA. “Another way to look at growth is EXISTING, and often Clubs and organizations may not have paid enough consistent attention to this key trend.” Tom and Jo share their program knowledge freely with any SWOSDA Club with vision for growing and the desire ‘to exist’ in the future within the Association. SWOSDA Executive will provide more information soon, but you can make your new beginning in promotion today by contacting Tom & Jo. Email Tom: tomk2005@gmail.com
Email Jo: jokahnert24@gmail.com

- Recruitment** - The Ontario Federation Recruitment Bursary is available to any member club in SWOSDA as members of OSRDF (Square, Round, Line, and/or Clogging club) by showing strong evidence of a well-organized recruitment program and going beyond the call of duty. Through SWOSDA's membership in OSRDF our members can receive help from Provincial funding.
- Ontario Federation Caller/Cuer Schools & Clinics including information on SWOSDA, Federation, and Society Bursaries** – Please contact Jeff Priest to learn about calling and cuing training opportunities. Jeff and Andrea are long-time SWOSDA Executive members and SWOSDA Square and Round Dance Programmers, including Canadian Callers School owner (a division of ShadowLight Dance Club) jeff@shadowlightdance.com
- Bursary Links for Clubs**
SWOSDA <https://swosda.ca/funding/>
CSRDS <https://csrds.ca/bursary/>
OSRDF <https://squaredance.on.ca/funding/>
- Special Club Anniversary Dates** – please share news of your special event. Email secretary@swosda.ca An Executive member will be pleased to attend and present a Special Anniversary award certificate at your Club

SWOSDA'S EXECUTIVE NEWS – FEBRUARY 2026

Special Event or help plan a special recognition at a SWOSDA event.

8. Dance Club Cancellations due to Inclement Weather

Weather - Please contact Dan Roy (Web) (bugle@swosda.ca) Dance cancellations can be posted on the front page of the SWOSDA Website.

9. SWOSDA Monthly Dance Special Hosting

The 2026-27 Dance Season will soon be confirmed. Speak to Executive Member Don Procter to volunteer as a future event host. Highlight your club on a bigger scale in your community when hosting a SWOSDA event. Email: donprocter21@gmail.com

10. Ontario Federation – The Annual General Meeting date is Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m. (Virtual Zoom Meeting). Special thanks to Doug Turvey and Merv & Janice Reid, our SWOSDA representatives to OFSRD, and SWOSDA members Dan & Rhetha Roy, Presidents of OFSRD (Reps of Canadian Square & Round Dance Society). Everyone is welcome. Register online. <https://squaredance.on.ca/> or by contacting Dan Roy <https://swosda.ca/executive/>

11. National Square & Round Dance Convention 2026

– July 15-18, 2026, Penticton, British Columbia. Website is active, registration can be sent online or by downloading a pdf form here: <https://csrds.ca/news-26/>

12. SWOSDA Visitations – It is a privilege for us to visit your club, to dance and share the good news about our Association and SWOSDA Monthly Dance Specials. Email:

John Stemmler johnnystemmler@gmail.com or Norma Khan khannorma91@gmail.com

For all those interested in History, please Contact a SWOSDA Executive Member OR SWOSDA Historian Dorothy Dahm familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com

Training is available to help with a transition period into the SWOSDA Historian Position

Coming Soon!
Frosh Dances for Beginning Square Dancers
Provided by Caller's Clinic
Everyone is Welcome
Dancing is geared toward newer and early level square dancing.
March 14, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.,
Richard's Memorial Church, **London**
Callers Ed Dolson, Doug Turvey, and Tom Charlton
April 11, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.,
Ingersoll Seniors Centre,
250 Ingersoll Street S., **Ingersoll**
Callers Neva McVittie, Jeff Priest, and Wesley Knierim

Membership in the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society (CSRDS) gives us immediate and free access to Promotion visuals. Other resources are highlighted on the following link too. Use it well!



<https://csrds.ca/promotion/>



SWOSDA

Remember When...

Looking Back at SWOSDA March Bugles - 2026 in ten- year leaps

On a single legal sized page, on Mar. 6, 1966, editor Wally Manning managed to report on dances in London, Sarnia, Seaforth, and Kitchener. Callers mentioned were Ernie Holland, Lawrence Mitchell, Ron Thornton, Frank Burgess, Gerry & Cecilia Lavigne and Johnny Davidson, Clubs mentioned were Princess Elizabeth Club, Stratford Club, Circle 'N Star SD Club, Seaforth Swirl-A-Ways, Exeter Promenaders, Circle 4, and Beaux & Belles. This was all on page one, but if there were other pages I didn't find them.

1976 - We're in the big time now! Tom & Addie Parmenter certainly put that new machinery to working in creating March's Bugle. Green titles and other headings on the white cover front with an executive list on the inner side including their responsibilities and contact info. Doug & Zilla Thibideau included a detailed report of the leaders for the SWOSDA dance hosted by the Calico Cats and Les Greenwood. Other dance leaders were Ken Battram, John & Peggy Wilson, Perry Stuart, Lois & Ed Wise, Denny Howlett; 37 squares turned up. Refreshments for the supper hour were provided by the Calico Cats and was followed by a business meeting. Round Dance Hour was conducted by Lois & Ed Wise. The evening program of square dancing consisted of Ruth Dunn, Denny Howlett and Mack Thompson. Don Fields also included a fine report on the Callers' Clinic Meeting. Other items included in this edition were a map and program list for the next SWOSDA dance in Kitchener, followed by a SWOSDA BASIC move list - 93 pages), KNOW YOUR CALLER, 4 pages of info on dance moves, 10 pages of MAILBAG with club news, club posters and a dancing calendar. Did they forget anything?

1986 – Editors Jim & Eleanor Silcox had made some changes but kept some features e.g. same style cover in green but black accents. Added was the Presidents' Message in which Charlie & Bea Bodfish made some excellent points about pleasing the majority of the membership. **“We consider most of the dancers we have met to be happy, congenial people. They do not expect everything to be done according to their own wishes. If you have constructive criticism, you have every opportunity to become a member of the executive and work to improve our dances.”** Seasonal clippings or thoughts for the month are increasing in use, e.g. The Irish Blessing. (*I hope Dan has included it somewhere in the Bugle.*) Stan & Rugh Melling reported on the previous SWOSDA Dance hosted in London by the Circle T Squares with Host Caller Alex Piggot. Glenn Patterson replaced John Lenart due to illness. Other dance leaders listed were Jim & Lerine Gillespie, Len Rowe, Ron Fleming, Peter Chandler, Lois Wise, Hilda Hibbert, Les Greenwood, George Watson. As before, programs, maps, were advertised for the next SWOSDA dance in Chatham. The Flashback was highlighted at dances in 1973 by Mary Steward. Caller of the month was Les Greenwood. Speakers at Callers Clinic focused on **Ways to keep dancers**. The 5th Canadian Square and Round Dance Convention to be held in Calgary was advertised. It was called Saddle up for Calgary and offered some of the activities available to wet interest of the dancers. Four pages of club reports reinforced the idea that you find some really good times if you check out the Dance Calendars.

1996 – In the President's message, Ed and Lois Wise urged dancers to step forward and work with them, on the SWOSDA executive. This is a familiar message as a complete slate of officers is needed to deal with issues that come along, in order that proper decisions are made. Mary Stewart's Flashback focused on 1984,

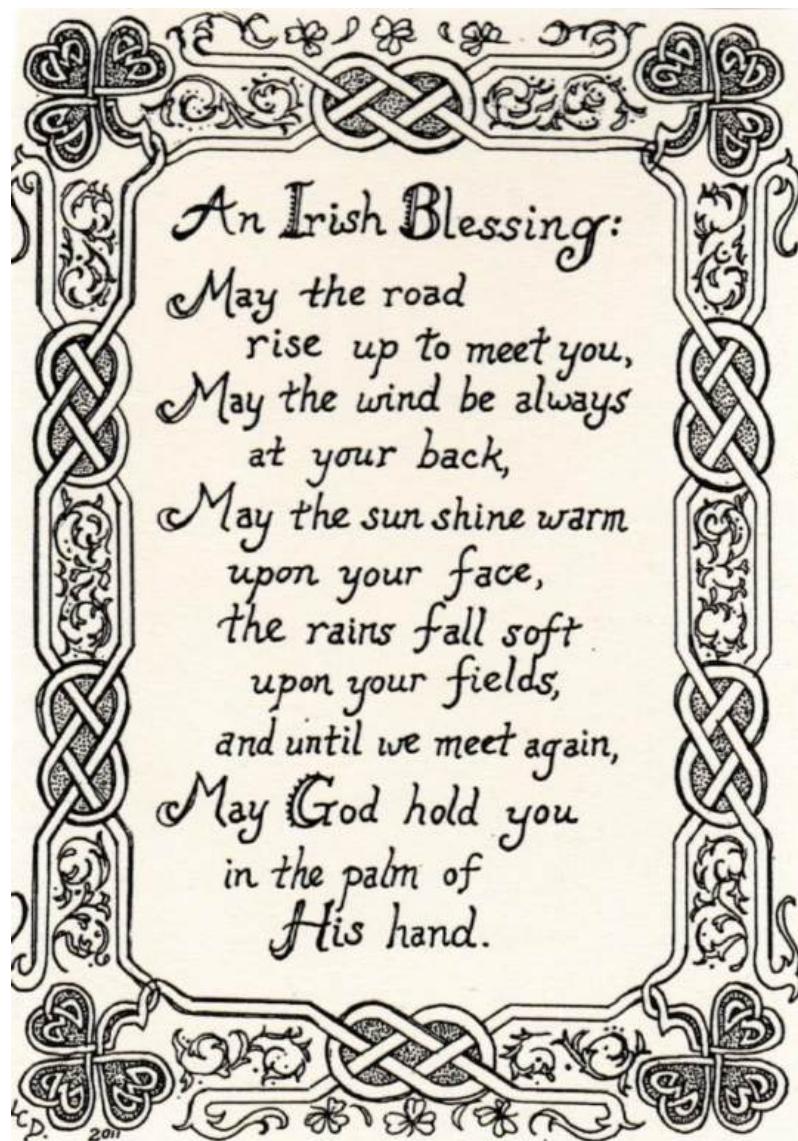
when it seemed that many dancers and callers were on the road. Mary Brennan described the February 1996 SWOSDA dance as one with good weather, good location (London), good host club, good callers and cuers and a great group of dancers. Lighthouse Squares celebrated their 33rd season of dancing. Nancy Dolson wrote a very amusing article for Callers Clinic. (*If you're curious let me know and I'll send you a copy.*) A Sewingly Yours page had been submitted by Marilyn Bond. Editors John & Irene Bullock had saved a few lines to inform us of an increase in the Bugle subscription Pick up -\$8 and by Mail \$14.

I dropped a lot of names of clubs and dance leaders in the hopes that it would bring back memories of interesting items involving them that can be shared in the SWOSDA albums. Just drop a message with pictures and/or words to me at familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com. Please include your name so I can give you credit for it.

Submitted by Dorothy Dahm, current SWOSDA historian

Wishing you all many good days to come.

I hope to come out to a few dances, to make contact with friends.



FEATURE

The Introduction of Square Dancing in Southwestern Ontario

In 1954, Harold Harton of the Community Programs Branch, Department of Education, Toronto, held his second Summer School of Modern Square Dancing at Geneva Park in Muskoka. Some of his dance literature was mailed to the Recreation Director in Kitchener who, in turn, gave it to Kay Sehl because of her interest in square dancing. Kay and her sister, Teresa White, enrolled at the school and soon learned that modern square dancing was far removed from the old-time "hillbilly" style.



From this initial start, the Kitchener Recreation Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pete Christilaw, invited Harry and Kay Sehl to organize a group of dancers. An executive was appointed at the first meeting with 13 dancers in attendance. Harry and Kay Sehl were the first presidents of the club known as "Couples 'n' Squares" Dance Club. Plans were proposed to hold a dance every other week at the Victoria Park Pavilion and within weeks this hobby became so popular that membership was closed at 981 couples. A waiting list of over 40 couples was held over until the following year, 1955, when the second club, known as "Swing and Whirl", was organized.

Enthusiasm for square dancing soon spread and, over the next few years, many clubs were organized in the surrounding towns and cities. Owing to the limited number of callers and leaders, the need for a "Callers' Clinic" was apparent and workshops were held in London, Stratford, Woodstock and Kitchener at which Mr. Harton gave freely of his time and guidance.

A small exert taken from the **SWOSDA History** section of the website. So many interesting facts.

On the website Select [About -> History](#)

SWOSDA EXECUTIVE 2025 - 2026

Presidents Tom & Linda Charlton	Square & Round Dance Section Leader Jeff & Andrea Priest
Vice Presidents John Stemmler & Norma Khan	Registration & Door Receipts Earl & Joan Jacques
Secretary Linda Charlton	Visitations John Stemmler & Norma Khan
Treasurer Stephen Kilbridge	Halls & Refreshments Don Proctor & Anne Melady
Publicity Ian & Debbie Hulley	Bugle Editors & Web Dan & Rhetha Roy

CLUB NEWS

Send Club News to bugle@swosda.ca

Centennial Beavers - London

Awww, the beautiful month of February has arrived, with the special day of love as our big day! Square Dancers love gathering on these days and it shows in their wearing of Red & White outfits or celebrating with cinnamon hearts or chocolates.

It's also a month when retailers gouge you for roses. Ed never did this for 15 or 20 years. The people at his work could not believe he never bought roses for his wife. Well, they hounded him for days and days until he actually brought a bouquet of fabulous roses. When he got home, I was in the kitchen making supper and he handed me the wrapped flowers and said "Happy Valentines Day"..... when's supper gonna be ready? I finished making and plating his meal, all the while staring at the package. Something in the pit of my stomach said ' This ain't right, why would he do this'. Then it hit me like shot in the dark. He must be having an affair...it's a guilt gift. Of course he denied it and long story short.



I thanked the cashiers then told them all about my thinking he was being unfaithful.....he was the talk of the store for weeks!

Be Good to your Valentine.

Club news is that we finally got our name badges so we are getting ready for our first FROSH DANCE on Sat March 14th from 2 to 430 at Richards Memorial United Church. It's our favourite dance and so much fun. You don't want to miss it!



Nancy Dolson...(519)281-6261...Sent from her iPhone

Clinton Wheel 'N' Dealers

Location Clinton Public School Perceval Street Clinton
Wednesday nights 7:15-9:15pm
President Couple Ian and Debbie Hulley (226-222-7972)
Callers Tom and Linda Charlton (519-765-4620)
Neva and Duncan McVittie (519-797-5623)
Donna Fielder (519-955-0850)

Please Lug a Mug

Clinton Wheel n Dealers have not danced in January due to the weather conditions. We are looking forward to our annual Valentines Potluck and dance on February 11th. Reminder to bring your dishes, cutlery, mug and your potluck meal. We will gather at 6pm and eat at 6:30pm.

Dancing will begin around 7:30 pm. This is always a wonderful night and we welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please bring something to share.



Reminder that we dance in a peanut and fragrance-free facility.

Respectfully submitted by Ian and Debbie Hulley
Bugle Correspondents.

Country Square – Rostock

Once again Mother Nature has fouled our attempts at our weekly square dance meeting. So far, we have only been able to meet once since our last dance mid-December.

We had plans for a tropical night in January but due to stormy weather it was decided to skip tropical night and all stay home safe and sound. Time will tell if the ground hog predictions are right for this year. I saw a sign on the side of the highway the other day... it said they were looking forward to mosquito bites and sun burn! Hopefully we have an early spring in 2026. Weather permitting, we plan on dancing Feb 3rd.



Our next fun night is a Valentine's dance on Feb 17th with finger foods. I know by then we will all be looking for some fun to help break up the winter.

Joanne Foster

Denim'N Lace - Flesherton

We finally had an evening of dancing after numerous weather cancellations. Caller Jim had to get us on track as there were lots of cobwebs to clear after a month and a half without dancing.



President Shirley gave an update to the attentive members. We were just shy of 4 square present and delighted to be back.

Next dance is our Valentines event.

Cheers,
David

Guys n' Dolls Square Dance Club – Kitchener

All is well with Guys 'N Dolls in Kitchener these days. We have had a few cancellations lately due to our Canadian winter, and look forward to getting back this Friday, Feb. 6th. We'll all be wearing red to celebrate Valentine's Day.

We've received information from our SWOSDA Presidents Tom and Linda Charlton regarding the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. These will be voted on at the AGM. Included in this information, was a link to several videos which will be helpful advertisements for membership purposes.



We attended the SWOSDA monthly dance in Waterdown in January, a good turnout for such a cold day. Great calling and cueing, a wonderful greeting, and absolutely scrumptious refreshments; thank you Waterdown! Guys 'N Dolls will do our best to share the same as we host SWOSDA next January! In January, our dancers were happy to welcome SWOSDA Vice Presidents John Stemmler and Norma Khan. They brought greetings from SWOSDA Executive. John gave our dancers an overview of what SWOSDA is all about, and encouraged members to attend the monthly dances, where they can dance to the skills of many different Callers and Cuers.

While we are small in numbers, our enthusiasm is wonderful. Our newer dancers attend regularly, and our caller Dan Weatherby welcomes all levels from Basic to Plus, and a couple of Rounds.

Our location is 121 Westmount Rd. E in Kitchener, where we dance every second Friday. We would love it to have you join us.

Due to weather conditions, please check with our Presidents Paul and Peggy Senior to be sure we're on for that night. They can be contacted at pstimes2@gmail.com.

See you on the dance floor!

Jubilee Rounds - St. Jacobs

Greetings from Jubilee Rounds on Zoom

Wow... what a Winter this has turned out to be. One of the great advantages of Zoom dancing - stay in the comfort of your own home!!

Sunday January 11th. We hosted our Jive Clinic in St. George, ON. It was originally planned for Cambridge but with the city ban on parking due to the weather, we had to make a change. We were so glad to be able to move our dance to this new hall - thanks to one of our member couples, Ken and Rose Marie Robinson. The registration was great; we had a dozen couples for this very informative and fun afternoon of exploring Jive.

And of course, after limited dancing throughout the holidays, there was great social & tasty refreshments, as well.

Be sure to join us for our **Bolero Clinic Sunday March 1st**. [Registration](#)



Up Coming Events!

Saturday February 14th we will be hosting a Valentines Round Dance in Cambridge - [Flyer](#)

Sunday March 1st we will be hosting a Bolero Clinic - [Flyer](#)

Sunday March 15th we will be hosting a St. Paddy's Day Round Special - [Flyer](#)

Visit our [Website](#) to sign up for any of these special dances.

***Remember to check out more dance happenings in the write-up from our sister club, ShadowLight Rounds

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom or in person!!!

For info: Andrea or Jeff at: 1.519.752.2172 or jeff@shadowlightdance.com

Printable flyers are on our website: www.shadowlightdance.com

Jeff Priest ☺

[Rhythm Rounds - London](#)

Happy Valentines Day. We will have our "Don't Step On My Toes" dance on Feb 11th.

We had a new couple join us last night. They know it will be hard to catch up to the rest, but we all have their backs and are cheering them on.

Many of us are attending Andrea's Valentines Dance on the 14th. Other than that, we are just enjoying our rounds & friends.

Nancy Dolson

[Royal City Squares - Guelph](#)

Hope everyone is staying warm. It's been a hard winter with many cancellations. We did get to dance on our Singing call night – Beach Night. Not many braved dressing in their beach wear. Wesley Knierim who



called a tip for us along with Jeff Priest dressed the part.

JOIN US for Plus at 7 pm to 8:15 on Tuesday nights. Nice to have 2 squares for Plus with a lot of young people.

Next singing call night will be Tuesday February 10 - Theme is Love Songs (Valentines).

[ShadowLight Dance Club - SW Ontario](#)

Greetings from the ShadowLight Dance Club... We hope you are keeping warm and staying healthy!

This has been quite the Winter! We cancelled a number of dances in January for weather related storms and parking bans put in place by the City of Cambridge. These actions caused us to look around for a new location to dance in that actually has a parking lot and we found one! Hooray! No more cancellations for City parking bans. In fact, we have found two locations that we can use that have their own parking. One in Cambridge and one in St. George. Both have very nice halls and good floors for dancing on.



Our Jive Clinic on January 11th was held in St. George and we had a dozen couples join in. It was a great event and all those who attended indicated it was a fun afternoon of dancing. The social was also wonderful and the food was pretty good too.

SWOSDA on January 24th in Waterdown was also a great dance. We had about 6 squares in attendance and the hosts, Waterdown Village Squares, did a fine job with their hospitality and refreshments. Andrea and I had



a good time calling & cueing and we even got in a few dances! Even the snow held off so that, too, was a bonus!

SHADOWLIGHT DANCE CLUBS

Upcoming events!

We have a few dance events planned! Have a look....

A Valentines Phase 3/4 Round Dance on February 14th.

A Bolero Clinic on March 1st

A St. Paddy's Day Phase 2++ Round Dance Special March 15th.

And the Frosh Dance by SWOSDA Caller Clinic April 11th in Ingersoll (a Square Dance for Basic Dancers and anyone else who would like to support!)

Royal City Squares has a number of Theme nights planned this season. Be sure to download the [Flyer](#) and support as many of these as you are able on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings – or both!! They will be fun....

Remember us if you are planning a party. We introduce Square and Round dancing to various new groups all through the year. Keep us in mind if you know of a group that might be interested in a “Square Dance Party” or a group that may be interested in a Rumba or Cha-Cha afternoon clinic. We do many private parties for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Pre-wedding parties, as well as “just because parties”

See you on the Dance Floor ... Happy Dancing and More – Much More!

Andrea & Jeff Priest

ShadowLight Dance Club

Check out our website for flyers and have a look at our calendar page - www.shadowlightdance.com

Silver Streak Squares - Woodstock

It is February and Silver Streak Squares are excited to be hosting the SWOSDA dance on Saturday, February 28. This day and date will not occur again until 2037.

The dance is an afternoon dance of squares and rounds and will be held at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, 735 Frontenac Crescent, Woodstock. There is a good line up of callers and curers so come on out and shake the winter blues.

..... the Merkleys

Sound Steppers - Owen Sound

Hello fellow dancers and Friends. Mother Nature has issued us some very stormy days and nights so, we up in the north have been affected by this a lot and we have had dance nights canceled. But everybody's favorite groundhog did not see his shadow so which means we are hopefully in for an early spring so we are all looking forward to that.

Our next specialty dance for February will be our Valentine's dance night on Thursday February 12th at 7pm. So come on out in your red and white and join in the fun for a very special evening of dancing, Fellowship, and fun themed games and treats.

Our club has had a great turnout every week (weather permitting) We have had many visitors come from Flesherton Denim and Lace club.



We dance every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m at our venue the Harmony Center at 890 4th Avenue East in Owen Sound (around the west side of the building). Everyone is welcome

For pictures, videos and updates of coming events for our club check out our Facebook page.
www.facebook.com/owensoundsteppers.ca.

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

A journey with dancing friends is measured in smiles.... not miles.
Linda Wedow Bugle rep

Strathroy Swinging Duos

Despite missing a dance due to weather, our Club's members have been dedicated to attend dance nights throughout the very cold and snowy January. Square dancing sure beats sitting all evening and watching television, which is one inactive other idea!

Every Club goes through similar challenges at this time of the dance season. These mainly include the weather. The Club might cancel a dance evening due to poor driving conditions (and rightly so!). Also, some members elect not to drive at night if the forecast calls for any amount of snowfall. Of course, revenues decrease when the number of squares decreases accordingly, making it more difficult to cover expenses. With the amount of growth that we have had since the last ***Introduction to Modern Square Dancing program***, our Club has been fortunate to be able to cover expenses on those lower revenue nights. However, many Clubs in SWOSDA are not as fortunate since they have not made 'membership growth' one of the *key priorities every year*.

So, if your Club is experiencing a low membership count or, worse yet, a decreasing membership due to many factors including health, *now is the perfect time of the year to plan for growth*.

Our Club, the Strathroy Swinging Duos, is doing exactly that in order to offer an Introduction program again in the Fall. Our first small step is to offer a "Family and Friends" night in April which is geared to a very enjoyable dance evening with a view to bringing some folks back for our Introduction program. Each of our members strives to bring at least one or two family members or friends to that event.

Allowing a club to "fold" (ie. shut down) is not an option for those who enjoy square dancing. EXISTING is the goal! There are many people that every Club can approach for help or ideas for growth, starting with the SWOSDA Executive Members.

Remember to smile at everyone you meet!

Tom Kuhnert,
Strathroy Swinging Duos Publicity.

Thames Valley Dance Club – Woodstock

January has come and gone, along with a winter thaw, many winter storms with school and event cancellations, lots of cold days and even colder nights. BUT... have you noticed the days getting longer?

Have you felt the warmth of the sun through a window? Groundhog Day on Feb 2nd signals the midway point of the winter season, which makes us as close to the coming spring as we are to last fall, no matter what the overgrown rodent says! These are all positive signs that spring will be here before we know it. We just need to persevere a few more weeks! We can do it!

Our weekly square dance is a brilliant way to help pass the winter! We returned to dance after our Christmas break and were fortunate to be able to dance 3 of the 4 Mondays in January. We held our Tropical Dance on Jan 12th – lots of bright, bold colours were worn, along with floral leis, the hall was decorated, and everyone had a great time!

We were set to host a large group of young 4-H members on Jan 19th, but this was the week Mother Nature suggested we stay home. And it is a good thing we did - the weather was nasty that night. We have rescheduled their visit to Feb 2nd. We are looking forward to having their young energy and enthusiasm in the hall.

February will have us celebrating Valentine's Day on the 9th. March 2nd is "Bring a Friend Night", which is always good fun. Our St. Paddy's "Pie Night" is on March 16th, have a look at the flyer included in the Bugle for details on this dance, and make sure you clear your calendar so you can join us! We look forward to all of these dances and the others in between. Feel free to join us on a Monday night.

We are at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. on Mondays from 7-9pm.

Lois Turvey

Waterdown Village Squares – Waterdown

Special Theme Dance for January, our **ROBBIE BURNS DAY DANCE** was held on Tuesday January 20. Suggested attire was Scottish Tartan or plaid. Snacks were in the Scottish or English theme. The dancers were dressed in costumes and this was a fun social evening for our club.

On Saturday January 24, Waterdown Village Squares hosted the monthly SWOSDA dance. The dance was a huge success. A big thank you to our callers and cuers Jim Lee, Andrea & Jeff Priest, Steve Goodman and Bob Beck. We also thank all the volunteers who helped set up and brought delicious appetizers and desserts. We had 60 happy Dancers in attendance from 11 clubs



The special dance for February is the Valentine Dance which will be on Tuesday February 10. There will be lots of red and white outfits and valentine themed treats.

Submitted by Susan Roat,
Publicity@WaterdownVillageSquares.ca



www.facebook.com/swosda

Registrations now at 477



July 15 – 18, 2026

Dancing takes place in the Penticton Trade & Convention Centre
Square Dance, Round Dance, Clogging

To Register early is to allow for better planning – Register NOW

[Website](#)

[Registration](#)

Don't forget to take you Sweety out for a dance!

Swinging Duos Strathroy

Happy Valentine's Day

Let's wear red and white to Celebrate

Mainstream & Plus

Tues. Feb 10, 2026 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Refresher at 7:00 p.m.

\$8.00 per person

Caller: Tom Charlton

Come & Dance

Lunch after dancing

St.John the Evangelist Anglican Church Hall
34 Head Street N. Strathroy, ON.
(Lots of free parking)

 ShadowLight Presents....
Valentine's Special

A Phase 3/4 Round Dance Special
1:00pm – 3:30pm (with a Teach)

Saturday February 14, 2026

With
Andrea & Jeff Priest
In Cambridge, ON

Cost: \$20.00 / Cpl
Refreshments included

Pre-Registration Required
Visit: www.shadowlightdance.com
Select "Specials" and choose the correct link

Contact Andrea at 519-752-2172 or e-mail: jeff@jeffreypriest.com
Visit our websites: www.jeffreypriest.com or www.shadowlightdance.com



Round Dance Rhythm Concepts

Learn a Figure ... Learn a Dance



Sunday March 1, 2026



With *Andrea & Jeff Priest*



Bolero Clinic 1:00pm – 3:30pm

This is designed for dancers who are currently dancing phase 3 Rumba or would like to review Bolero. We will look at some Bolero basics including figure review and learn a new dance or two.



\$ 40.00/couple (cash at the door)



Pre-Registration Required

Visit: www.shadowlightdance.com

Select "Register Here" and choose the correct link

Contact Andrea at 519-752-2172

e-mail: jeff@shadowlightdance.com

Visit our website:
www.shadowlightdance.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
110 Francis Street, Cambridge

Caller's Clinic Presents....

March FROSH DANCE



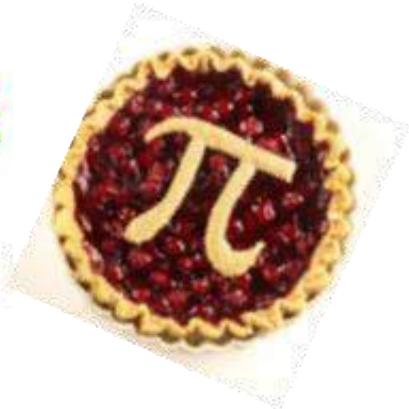
Ed Dolson
Tom Charlton
Doug Turvey

Saturday March 14, 2026

2:00 - 4:00 pm
\$7.50 per person



Richards Memorial United Church
360 Edgeworth Ave.
London, Ontario



St Paddy's Pie Night

March 16th, 2026

7-9 pm
Basic & Mainstream



Ingersoll Pipe
Band Hall
108 Wonham St S,
Ingersoll, ON

