

# 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)



**September 2026**

Volume 65 Number 1  
President's Message



Welcome Back to Square, Round, & Line Dancing in SWOSDA.

The wait is over, and everyone is excited to welcome dancers, experienced or new, for this season's good music, great company, laughter, and plenty of dancing. SWOSDA's clubs are organized and ready to welcome everyone to weekly dances.

SWOSDA Regional dances are held from September to May mostly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. All SWOSDA and Club announcements, flyers, dates, times, programs, and directions to dances are found on the SWOSDA website [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca)

With welcoming and energetic host clubs there are exciting regional dance programs planned for the coming season. There is wonderful music, talented callers and cuers, special events, and plenty of opportunities to dance, learn, and enjoy the spirit of square, round, and line dancing. Behind every successful season is a team of people working together. We are grateful to our membership's time and positive energy to make these dance events possible.

Come out, meet old friends, make new ones, and be part of a season filled with music, movement, laughter, and community. It is your enthusiasm and commitment that keeps our dance community thriving. Thank you!

See you soon,

Tom & Linda Charlton  
SWOSDA President



## 24<sup>th</sup> Canadian National Convention

July 15 – 18, 2026

The highlight of our summer was joining others to represent SWOSDA at the National Square and Round Dance Festival in Penticton, BC. July 15-18, 2026. This Festival began with the trail-in dance on Wednesday evening boasting a room full of dancers. The floor was packed to get everyone in the mood to dance. The Festival started Thursday with dancing 10-10 daily. A Grand March was held before the evening dancing with each country and province led by designation signs. Opening ceremonies followed with many dignitaries present. One comment was made that this was the most colourful group they had spoken to.

The Heritage Dancers from California performed each day putting on a great dancing exhibition. This group travels at their own expense and pays registration to attend our Canadian Festivals. Everyone enjoyed their performances.

We enjoyed dancing to many different callers and cuers from as far away as Australia. Many dancers also came from countries like China, Malaysia, Germany, Australia, and across Canada and the United States. Special dangle dances were held during the festival. Friday morning saw over 75 dancers gather at Kings Park to dance on the grounds of the Peach Festival held for over 50 years. At noon on Saturday over 28 squares of brave souls danced at a high level in the lake. There were more than 10 squares on the beach.

### SWOSDA Dancers at Penticton Convention



This year there was an option to preorder your dinner from the Convention Centre Caterers. This was a very convenient way to enjoy your meals without leaving the Centre. They were very good meals. We thoroughly enjoyed our time in Penticton despite the extremely hot weather outside and the extremely cold temperature inside. We danced to keep warm.

We are excitedly looking forward to the next convention being held in Fredericton, NB July 20-22nd, 2028. This will be the 25th anniversary festival.

Our first SWOSDA Dance for the season will be a Round Dance Party hosted by Shadowlight Rounds on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm. King Street Baptist Church, 361 King Street, Cambridge.

Ian & Debbie Hulley  
Public Relations

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## 2026 ONTARIO CAMPOREE The 47th Ontario Camporee

Held at the Blyth Campground August 7-10, 2026.

32 dancers registered with many more coming in to join us.

Dancing started Friday afternoon with Jeff Priest leading us through a warm-up/dance refresher. The evening saw the dance floor fill up for the trail in dance. Callers and cuers signed up to participate. It was a wonderful night of dancing with everyone meeting up with old friends and making memories with new ones.

Saturday morning started with games in the arena. Teams competed in bean bag toss and corn hole. There were plenty of cheerleaders on the sidelines.

Dancing continued in the afternoon starting with Advanced for the first hour with Jeff Priest calling then we danced Plus and ended the afternoon with some Mainstream tips called by Nora Kent and Wesley Knierim. The hall was transformed over for our potluck supper. Tables were filled with everyone's favourite dishes. It was a bountiful display with ample food for everyone. After first course we all enjoyed the dessert offerings. It probably was true that we all ate too much. Good thing there was still hours of dancing to help work it off.



Andrea Priest started with the Round Dance Party for the first hour. Then the floor was filled with squares. At least 7 squares were dancing to our great callers. Jeff Priest, Jim Davis, and Neva McVittie, Nora Kent and Wesley Knierim kept the floor hopping. Andrea and Jeff Priest and Keith and Cora Bertram provided a round dance each. It was a great day for all.

We woke up Sunday morning to a small hiccup in our plans for the church service. It was delayed a half hour due to the hall not being open. After some telephone calls and some scrambling to get set up we were treated to an excellent worship service by the Kent's. A slide show of a trip to Ethiopia with the Foodgrains Bank organization was truly educational and inspiring. Combined with hymns, scripture reading and prayers made this a special morning for our dancers.



Our annual meeting followed the church service. It was well attended and led to discussions that will be brought to the executive meeting for further action. The dancing continued for the afternoon starting again with Advanced for the first hour called by Jeff and Andrea Priest. Plus and Mainstream tips followed with some rounds during the afternoon. Our dancers enjoyed the great variety of music and were entertained by all the callers. We gathered again after supper for the Round Dance Party shared by Ian and Debbie Hulley and Keith and Cora Bertram. Another terrific evening of square dancing followed. All our callers and cuers outdid themselves. We closed off the evening with ice cream treats and watermelon.

We held a trail out dance for those who had still not had enough. We had a great turn out to finish out the weekend.

We wish to thank all the callers and cuers that gave up their time and talents to make this weekend another success. A special thank you to all the Executive who put in the extra time to perform the duties necessary for this weekend to run smoothly. We thank all the dancers that show up as this would not happen without you. We need to stress to you all that we need more dancers to attend for this weekend to be able to reach its 50th anniversary. Please reach out to fellow dancers and see if we can get more participation going forward. Accommodation is available if you are not a camper but it is a very busy weekend in Huron County so you need to book a spot to stay early. This is one of the last events in Ontario where you can dance for 4 days. See you next year. Save the date August 6-9th, 2027

Respectfully submitted by  
Ian and Debbie Hulley.



Another dance season is about to start. Let's get those dancing shoes dusted off and ready to go. Remember to keep all clubs informed by submitting your club information to the Bugle on a monthly basis.

Publishing dates are posted on the Website under "The Bugle" menu selection. You can also get to previous Bugles from this same location.

Looking forward to hearing from you.....

## Your SWOSDA Executive – 2026-27

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                              | Tom Charlton Aylmer, ON<br><a href="mailto:president@swosda.ca">president@swosda.ca</a>                                                                                               |
| Vice-President                         | Mary & Paul Eisler, Dublin, ON<br><a href="mailto:vicepresident@swosda.ca">vicepresident@swosda.ca</a>                                                                                |
| Secretary                              | Linda Charlton, Aylmer, ON<br><a href="mailto:secretary@swosda.ca">secretary@swosda.ca</a>                                                                                            |
| Treasurer                              | Stephen Kilbridge, Vanessa, ON<br><a href="mailto:treasurer@swosda.ca">treasurer@swosda.ca</a>                                                                                        |
| Square & Round Dance<br>Section Leader | Jeff & Andrea Priest, Brantford, ON<br><a href="mailto:jeff@shadowlightdance.com">jeff@shadowlightdance.com</a>                                                                       |
| Registration & Door Receipts           | Earl & Joan Jacques, St. Thomas, ON<br><a href="mailto:joanarmjacs@proton.me">joanarmjacs@proton.me</a>                                                                               |
| Visitations                            | To be Announced                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Halls & Refreshments                   | Don Procter, Belgrave, ON <a href="mailto:donprocter21@gmail.com">donprocter21@gmail.com</a><br>Anne Melady, Dublin, ON. <a href="mailto:jamelady@icloud.com">jamelady@icloud.com</a> |
| Publicity & Bugle Correspondent        | Ian & Debbie Hulley, Clinton, ON<br><a href="mailto:ianhulley157@gmail.com">ianhulley157@gmail.com</a>                                                                                |
| Webmaster & Bugle Editor               | Dan & Rhetha Roy, Kincardine, ON<br><a href="mailto:dan.roy1950@gmail.com">dan.roy1950@gmail.com</a>                                                                                  |

A full list of the Executive, along with a summarized list of their duties  
can also found on the SWOSDA Website

<https://swosda.ca/executive/>

Representing SWOSDA on the Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation

Merv & Janice Reid

Doug Turvey

Gail Jeffrey

## Help us keep our Dance Movement Strong & Growing!

**Comments and Suggestions**

are always Welcome.

Email: [bugle@swosda.ca](mailto:bugle@swosda.ca)





# SWOSDA

## *Remember When...*

### Looking Back – 26-09 SWOSDA Historian

**ROLE OF SWOSDA HISTORIAN** - (A fun job that can be done at a fairly leisurely pace!)

1. To maintain a complete set of the Bugle newsletters.
2. To prepare an article of historical interest for each issue of the Bugle (i.e. September through April + summer edition in June}.
3. To submit the article to the Bugle Editor by the due date per his notification and reminder on the website (usually around the first of the month.)
4. To keep SWOSDA's history and photograph albums up to date.
5. To encourage SWOSDA clubs to submit articles/photographs for inclusion in the history and photograph albums.

#### **Some Sources of Information –**

\*Clubs (photographs, newspaper clippings, etc

Host clubs write-up in Bugle prior to SWOSDA dances

\*Report on each SWOSDA dance by Bugle Correspondents \* Flyers and Other items/articles in the Bugle

\*Information issued by the Executive following each meeting

It was suggested that we should move toward digitizing important items. ( have been slowly doing so since I started as historian and will try to be sure that these will all be collected on a flash drive when the SWOSDA archives are passed over). DD

#### **Historians to Date**

Starting with **Kay Sehl**, who was the first President of SWOSDA, as well as the first Historian. Historians the of SWOSDA fulfilled the role in their own style. Kay started the history albums keeping track of events as they happened almost as if she was writing a letter augmented by pictures. The first photo was a newspaper clipping of 1959, taken at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, the first time the convention had been held in Canada. In 1968 **Roberta McConnell** took over the position and continued with the history book through the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. In 1982 she passed on the position to **Mary Steward**. As she had become the custodian of almost all the published Bugle issues to date she was asked to do writeups on the contents of these copies, the beginnings of the **Flashback** column in the Bugle. Next up were **Geoff and Rosemarie Edwards . Harry & Mary Phillips, Stan & Carol Down**. For a few years, the Historical materials stayed in storage at the Charlton's property. When we retired from Executive and the Ontario Board, and recognizing the importance of the role of historian to the members we (**Nick & Dorothy Dahm**) offered to take over responsibility as the historians. We enjoyed scouting back in earlier Bugles and interviewing older dances for information on important events. **Nick and I** collected the archive items and attempted to fill in the blanks – very hard to do after that length of time; I'm not quite finished. I am still working on putting finishing touches where possible. If you have any information on events that should be included in this later section of the SWOSDA history, please contact me as soon as possible.

So, I'll include my address here so you get a message to me at any time. DD [familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com](mailto:familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com) Throughout the years I have used the information in the archives to create some summary booklets. Some of these still need to be updated but will be part of the Archives when updated. They answer some of the questions of the missing years and events throughout the years to share with the dancers at later special events. **Min Gibson** has also worked with me on displays for the anniversary dances.

After Nick passed away, and Arthritis arrived, I stopped dancing, still remaining involved but finding it more difficult and requested a replacement. I carried on until a replacement was found. I agreed to provide assistance when needed and requested.

I am glad to report that we now have a replacement historian for SWOSDA and I will have updated and handed over the SWOSDA inventory including those items I have already digitized were to transfer the archival materials this summer (Because of my injury this has not happened) yet but we should be able to do that this coming month.

I am sending this on to **Paul Knierim** now so that he can introduce himself and the skills which will make him a great historian for SWOSDA in the coming years. **I hope you give him lots of support by making sure he gets messages about important SWOSDA events.**

I won't be dancing any more but I do plan to visit dances occasionally to make contact with some of the many friends I made through dancing. or an email from some of these friends would be appreciated.  
[familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com](mailto:familypatchwork.dd@gmail.com) Dorothy Dahm, Retiring Historian

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## Remembering Past Dancing Friends



### Dave Paulen

Our Wheel -N- Dealers remember Dave Paulen as our square dance caller. Dave's celebration of life was July 19, the day before his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. When he lived in B.C., he and Blanche started square dancing. Following their move to Nova Scotia, Margarie Valley, there was no square dancing. He learned to call and started a club. Before moving to Mitchell, he visited his parents there and our club in Clinton numerous times. He often arrived with a record in hand, ready to call a tip. His fresh, different sound was always a welcome change, bringing old tunes and an East Coast touch to our dance.

After Dave and Blanche moved to Mitchell, they visited area clubs, including the Wheel n' Dealer's, where he would call a tip each night. In 2012, after our longtime caller, Les Greenwood, retired, Dave filled the void by being our club caller and Blanche became our round dance cuer. They were part of the SWOSDA team of callers and continued in those roles until 2023, when they retired due to Blanche's failing health. Even after retiring, they returned for special occasions with a record in hand for Dave to call one more tip. We will remember Dave's patience whenever our squares broke down. He would review the calls and help us get back on track.

Dave and Blanche were true friends to everyone and did much to support and promote square dancing. He provided Saturday evening entertainment for the Huron Perth COR youth group in Dublin when they had retreats there. Dave would call for demonstrations at many events and entertained at senior lunches and nursing homes. Thank you, Dave, for being a friend to us all. We will always cherish our square dance memories.

Club Secretary Gerda Vanden Hoven



## Cecile Lockrey

Mary Cecile Wilson (Lockrey) of Southampton quietly passed away in the early hours of Thursday June 18 at the Southampton Hospital. Cecile was born in London, Ontario to Cecil and Jean Hardy. She is survived by Lorne Lockrey in Southampton (her partner of 52 years), her sister Helen Browning (Robert) of Port Elgin, sons Richard Wilson (passed away in 2025) (Sharon), Michael Wilson in Belleville and Terry Wilson (Gillian Wood) in Port Elgin. Grandchildren include Rick: Joanna (Edmonton) and Brian (Bradford); Mike: Elizabeth (Trenton) and Kimberly (Kitchener) and 7 great grandchildren.

Where do we start to tell the story of this lady? Active, busy, caring, passionate about genealogy and her deep roots in Bruce County, entrepreneur, baker, chef, volunteer, grandmother, gardener and more. Cecile was born in London, Ontario but spent her childhood summers either at her parent's cottage in Gobles Grove or with her aunts and uncles on their farms around the Port Elgin area.

This shaped her passion for family roots leading eventually to a decades long retracing of her family's heritage in Ireland and Scotland.

In 1976 after moving from London to Port Elgin, then Burgoyne, Sauble Beach and finally to Southampton, Cecile and Lorne stepped into the world of Square Dancing. They helped found the Wiarton Squares Club with Lorne calling "Squares" and Cecile calling "Rounds". They also called for at least 3 other clubs. For over 25 years they called weekly dances in the area, elsewhere across the province and hosted big Square Dance Jamborees, held in the Southampton Coliseum. Cecile enjoyed making their custom dance outfits as much as she enjoyed dancing and calling. Somehow in-between the family tree research, Square Dancing, volunteering, grandchildren and baking she found time for gardening. Slowly at first, but once she settled into Southampton her yard became an ever changing, ever growing garden including a 20-foot cascading rock waterfall that attracted birds, butterflies and small creatures into their yard.

She will be greatly missed but we know she is still tracking the family tree, adding flowers to her heavenly garden and watching butterflies dance amongst the blooms.

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### Car Keys -

They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the car park. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He was afraid that the car could be stolen.

As I looked around the car park, I realized he was right. The car park was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then, I made the most difficult call of all to my husband:.....

***"I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."***

There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice.

***"Are you kidding me?"*** he barked, ***"I dropped you off!"***

Now it was my turn to be silent..... Embarrassed, I said, ***"Well, come and get me."***

He retorted, .... ***"I will, as soon as I convince this police officer that I didn't steal your damn car!"***

**Welcome to the silver years...**

## SWOSDA'S EXECUTIVE NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2026

### SWOSDA's Round Dance Party

**Saturday, September 26, 2026**

King Street Baptist Church, 361 King Street,  
Cambridge

2:00 – 4:30 pm PHASE II, III, IV

**\$8.00/person**

Details: [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca)

Special thanks to SWOSDA's Round Dance Hosts

**SHADOWLIGHT ROUNDS**

### SWOSDA'S Square Dance

**Saturday, October 24, 2026**

An afternoon of Square Dancing  
(Mainstream and Plus) with Rounds

Brodhagen Community Centre, 6708 Perth Line  
44, West Perth, ON

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**\$8.00/person**

Half price admission coupons are available for  
any dancer attending a SWOSDA dance for the  
first time.

Special thanks SWOSDA Square Dance Hosts

**WHEEL 'N DEALERS, CLINTON**



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### Congratulations to SWOSDA's

2026 Ontario Trillium Award Recipients:

**Earl & Joan Jacques**  
**Ontario Trillium Merit Award**

This prestigious award is for those who make  
significant and above-and-beyond contributions  
to the square and round dance community in  
Ontario. Congratulations Joan & Earl.

We are proud of and grateful to you for your  
energy, vision, and leadership. Your  
contributions improve our Association and help  
move us forward.



### Dance Promotion – Growing Your Club

A friendly reminder that  
your dance club is offered a  
program with the goal to  
learn how to create a

successful and individualized approach to  
dance club growth.

The program includes discussion on retention  
of new dancers. "Growing Your Club" is a  
SWOSDA supported program made available  
free of charge to SWOSDA's membership.

To reserve a presentation date please contact  
Tom or Jo Kahnert

Tom: [tomk2005@gmail.com](mailto:tomk2005@gmail.com)

Jo: [jokahnert24@gmail.com](mailto:jokahnert24@gmail.com)

### Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation

Information for submitting Club fees for Ontario  
Federation, Canadian Square & Round Dance  
Society membership including insurance will be  
coming to Club Reps through the SWOSDA  
Secretary. SWOSDA Club Reps please watch for  
details through email in the coming weeks.

## Square and Round Dancers of South Western Ontario Inc. SEPTEMBER 2026

Tom Charlton.....President  
Linda Charlton.....Past President  
Paul & Mary Eisler.....Vice-President  
Earl & Joan Jacques.....Registrations & Door Receipts  
Don Procter, Anne Melady.....Halls & Refreshments

### 2026-27 Executive

Stephen Kilbridge.....Treasurer  
Linda Charlton.....Secretary  
Dan & Rhetha Roy.....Bugle Editor/Web  
Jeff & Andrea Priest.....Square & Round Dance Section Leader  
Ian & Debbie Hulley.....Publicity & Bugle Correspondents

# SWOSDA'S EXECUTIVE NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2026

## Attention: SWOSDA CLUB CONTACTS

We are now updating a list of SWOSDA Club Contacts. Email notices of current information & updates for clubs will be forwarded to clubs by the SWOSDA Secretary.

### A deadline of September 15 is appreciated.

Please provide an email address and telephone number of your club member to the Secretary.

The following club information will also be

forwarded by the Secretary to

Dan Roy, Bugle and Web

### Requested information:

- Dance location
- Date and times of regular dances
- 2026-27 Program Calendar
- Name of Club President **OR** one person who will take on the responsibility of SWOSDA Contact – include telephone and email address please.
- Club Anniversaries if relevant to the season
- All SWOSDA communications will be emailed to the club contacts by the Secretary. Please forward SWOSDA communications to your club Executives and members.

### SWOSDA Secretary:

Linda Charlton at [secretary@swosda.ca](mailto:secretary@swosda.ca)

### Grants & Bursaries

Please review the financial support application process for square dance clubs and other and available through SWOSDA and Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca) and [www.squaredance.on.ca/funding/](http://www.squaredance.on.ca/funding/) and [www.csrds.ca/bursary/](http://www.csrds.ca/bursary/)

Deadlines are listed for each. Please note that ample time for application to the Ontario Federation and Canadian Society must allow time for applications to be received and reviewed by the SWOSDA Executive before

submission to the Ontario Federation and Canadian Society.

### Funding available:

- Planning Recruitment Strategy
- Leadership Training Grants
- New Club startups
- Tech Support
- Caller/Cuer Leadership Bursary

### SWOSDA Ontario Federation Reps:

Merv & Janice Reid, Treasurer/Membership

Doug Turvey, Training Bursaries

Gail Jeffrey, Secretary

### SWOSDA Members on Canadian Society:

Ontario Directors

Dan & Rhetha Roy

### SWOSDA Historian:

Dorothy Dahm

Paul Knierim

## The Bugle

*"Another way that SWOSDA supports clubs"*

### Bugle Dates

Sept. 4, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 4, 2026

Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 9, Jun 4, 2027

Please submit Club contributions one week prior to our Bugle Editor, Dan Roy at [bugle@swosda.ca](mailto:bugle@swosda.ca)

### SWOSDA HOSTS 2026-27

SWOSDA Clubs, thank you for your welcome and support.

Rounds - ShadowLight Rounds – 9/26/26

Wheel 'n Dealers – 10/24/26

Swinging Duos – 11/28/26

Guys 'n Dolls – \*01/16/27

Thames Valley Dance Club – 2/27/27

Denim 'n Lace – 3/27/27

Country Squares – 4/24/27

Rounds - TBA – 5/22/27

Programs & Flyers [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca)

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# ***CLUB NEWS***

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

## Centennial Beavers - London

East Lions Community Centre, 1731 Churchill St., London, ON. N5W 5P4  
Friday's from 7- 9 pm

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## Clinton Wheel 'N' Dealers

Location Clinton Public School Perceval Street Clinton  
Wednesday nights 7:00 - 9:00pm  
President Couple Ian and Debbie Hulley (226-222-7972)  
Callers Neva and Duncan McVittie (519-797-5623)  
Donna Fielder (519-955-0850)

Clinton Wheel n Dealers are enjoying their summer break. Some of our members have been busy with summer dances. Donna Fielder has been calling dances at the home of Rob Reid in Seaforth twice a month for the summer. It is a great opportunity for our newer dancers to get extra dancing experience. We thank Donna and Rob for making this opportunity available.

There has been some dancing in Blyth with Horseshoe Squares weekend in July. Dancing was held both Friday and Saturday nights. Ian and Debbie Hulley and Paul and Mary Eisner represented our club at the Canadian National Square and Round Dance Festival in Penticton

This was a fantastic experience with callers, cuers and dancers from many countries and all over the United States. The convention centre is now housing fire evacuees. We just got our dancing in at the best time. The club held a summer gathering and potluck on July 11 followed by dancing with the Horseshoe Squares for the evening. We thank Fred and Deb Hakkers for hosting.

We will be leading a program for children at the Huron Pioneer Threshers and Hobby Show. We will have 4 groups of 50 children grades 4,5,6. Neva will call for us.  
This is always a great day.

Our club dances will start on Wednesday, October 7th at 7pm-9pm until May 5th. NOTE NEW TIME  
We will also be hosting the October SWOSDA at Brodhagen hall on October 24, 2026.  
We are looking forward to seeing everyone back on the dance floor.

We dance in a peanut and fragrance free facility.

Respectfully submitted by Ian and Debbie Hulley  
Bugle Correspondents.



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## Country Square – Rostock

Rostock Optimist Hall, Rostock, ON  
Tuesdays

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## Denim'N Lace - Flesherton

South-East Grey Support Services Pavilion, 774292 Hwy 10 North, Flesherton, ON N0C 1E0  
Wednesday's 6:30 – 9:00 pm

A warm welcome back to everybody. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It is time to kick up our heels again.

The Denim 'n Lace Square Dance Club is ready for another great year of dancing, fun and friendship with caller Jim Lee. Our location will remain the same at the South East Grey Support Services Pavilion, 774292 Hwy 10 North, Flesherton.

Our first night will be Wednesday, Sept 9, starting with a BURGER or TACCO NIGHT. Come early. Eat at 6:00 pm and dance at 7:00 pm. The main food will be provided by the club, if you want to bring sweets, please do so.

Levels of dancing: Mainstream and Plus with Plus teach.

Dance Schedule: Our fall term is Sept 9. to December 9. 14 dances. Dance time 6:30-9:00 pm

Our winter term is January 6. to May 26. 20 dances. Dance time: 6:30 to 9:00 pm.

Dance fees: Fall Term, Pay in Advance, \$82.50 for single and \$165 for a couple.

Winter term, \$125 for single and \$250 per couple.

Pay as you go per evening is \$8/single and \$16/ per couple.

We encourage dancers to pay for the season to assist in bookkeeping. Please make your cheques out to: Denim 'n Lace Square Dance Club. Thank you.

Insurance Fees: The club will cover the \$6 fee per dancer for the 2025-2026 season.

The Denim 'n Lace Club Executive:

- President - Sue King
- Secretary – Dorothy Hiltz
- Treasurer - Mel Chamberlain, with backup from Al and Joan Boyce
- Bugle Correspondent and photographer – David Ripley
- Coordinators of Special Events - Faye and Abe Boogerman with convenors selected for special dances
- Executive – Olive and Ken Stickwood, Eric and Joyce Fatum, Linda Wedow and Glenn Chamberlain

We have some fun new theme nights selected for this year.

See you there! Sue King , President

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

Forest Hill United Church, 121 Westmount Rd. E, Kitchener, ON N2M 4Y6

Every other Friday – check schedule

It was a beautiful and hot summer day this July 1st, as many members of our club met at the Waterloo Regional Museum on Huron Rd. The turnout was great!

We were invited to be part of the celebrations for CANADA DAY, of course to demo our dancing skills. While we were happy to participate, the event earned the club a nice honorarium, and an opportunity to perhaps interest folks in our much loved activity.

After a set or two, Dan Weatherby, our caller welcomed the public to join in. That turned out to be quite interesting, when after that portion, one very animated gentleman assumed he could jump in any time. What followed was to say the least, a bit of mayhem! 9 in a square presents a little challenge, but he appeared to enjoy it.

That day our first dancing since our last night in May, which as we like to do- we ate ice cream! Several members danced once a week in Woodstock, to "Summer Sounds", an annual event offered by Andrea Priest. Always glad to keep the rust away from the bones!

As well, several of our members supported the "PLUS 8 BLAST" conducted by Jeff Priest, some attending both presentations at King St. Baptist Church in Cambridge. We hope our memories kick in when we get back next week, and we don't forget all we learned.

We all felt the teach was well presented and very helpful, certainly lots of fun.

Our regular fall season of dance begins next Friday night, September 11th. We are dancing every second Friday, on Westmount Rd in Kitchener. See the list of Clubs on the SWOSDA WEBSITE for specifics. We offer beginner, mainstream and plus, along with a round or two. Welcome always!

Your friend in dancing,  
Dot Mitchell, Bugle

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### Jubilee Rounds – Virtual Dancing

Dancing on Zoom – Thursday from 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Wow... what a summer!! The heat this year was plentiful!! Lots of pool time and sitting in the shade whenever possible. We hope you have all been able to stay healthy and enjoy the summer and had some time to sit and relax as we did.

We did get more time in our trailer this summer than last summer but more would have still been nice 😊

We were able to attend the Ontario Camporee “Camp and Dance Weekend” in August in Blyth. It was a great weekend with almost 8 squares of enthusiastic dancers over the weekend. The staff was terrific, including three of our newer callers participating on the program this year.



Jubilee Rounds on Zoom will start back dancing on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Our program is Phase 2/3 with the occasional 4. The time-frame is the same as previous years: Thursday evenings 7:00pm – 8:00pm.

If you wish to join us, please click [HERE](#) to sign up or simply visit our website. [www.shadowlightdance.com](http://www.shadowlightdance.com) and sign up from there. [Flyer](#)

Once again this year, we will plan to have an “in person” event once a month to offer either a Rhythm Clinic, Teach or a Dance. These events will be mentioned on our dance nights as well as posted here in the Bugle, on our website, in our weekly mailer and on the SWOSDA and T & D websites.

*We have a number of dance events planned for this fall! Here are a few...  
PUT ALL THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY... DON'T MISS THEM!!*

### **Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>**

We will be hosting a “Welcome Back” Phase 3 Round Dance Special in Cambridge.

[Flyer – Registration](#)

### **Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>**

We are hosting The September SWOSDA Round Dance in Cambridge at King Street Baptist Church

[Flyer ~ Program](#)

### **Saturday October 3<sup>th</sup>**

We are hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Fall Flirt” Phase 3/4 Round Dance Special in Cambridge.

[Flyer - Register](#)

### **Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Annual “Falling Leaves” dance with Andrea and Dan Roy in Cambridge

[Flyer - Registration](#)

ShadowLight Dance is hosting the SWOSDA Round Dance Special in Cambridge on **September 26<sup>th</sup>**. We do hope you will be able to join us from 2:00 – 4:30. The Flyer and program are available on our website @ [www.shadowlightdance.com](http://www.shadowlightdance.com) and the SWOSDA website @ [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca) or here in the Bugle...

[Flyer ~ Program](#)

### **Want to learn Two Step and Waltz??? There is a new in person class starting!**

Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge ~ 10:30am – 12:15pm every Thursday. Registration Required!

If you, or people you know, are interested in learning the Two Step and Waltz – this is for you!! No experience necessary! If you wish to join us, please register on our website or feel free to contact us.

[Flyer – Registration](#)

Our sister club - “**ShadowLight Rounds**” is Phase 2 & 3 Dancing with Teaches and is on Thursday MORNINGS starting September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. If you wish to join us, please register on our website or feel free to contact us.

[Flyer – Registration](#)

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

For info: Andrea or Jeff at: 1.519.752.2172 or [jeff@jeffreypriest.com](mailto:jeff@jeffreypriest.com)

Printable flyers are on our website: [www.jeffreypriest.com](http://www.jeffreypriest.com)

Jeff Priest ☺

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

Lambeth Public School, 6820 Duffield St., Lambeth (London), ON N6P 1A4

Dancing Wednesday evenings

This has been the hottest and most humid summer I can remember. Mind you, I have not been out and about in any kind of humidity for a long time.

This summer Ed was off to Penticton BC and he and Min danced until they dropped. There was a lot of great rounds, especially in the PH3, 4, 5. The dance floor was nice and the air conditioning was always on. Cool until you worked up a good sweat, then it was comfortable. Then he came home on the Monday (after a 28 hour delay)...not a happy bunch, but what did they do while waiting for the next flight they all danced in the airport. It was a real "pick me upper for those too angry" but they sure got some happy smiles. It's what we do, right. Ed got home Tuesday, did his laundry and repacked his suitcase for a 3 week stay in Scotland with our son.

So this is why I was out in all types of weather. Doing "Lunch", going to the theatre, SHOPPING!!! and anything else I could do. I did pay the piper, especially the days after a hot & humid day but it hurts to have too much fun. By the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week, I have to admit that I could barely get up in the mornings and I really missed him so much. He is back and ready to get dancing again. The thing he loves almost more than me. Almost,,, So here we are starting our 2026/27 season.

Our season is starting on Sept 23 rd, due to the school blocking off their first 3 weeks for school stuff. I am hoping that the "meet the teacher" night will be included in the 3 weeks prior.

We will have the same hall as always, open at 6:15 for the beginners. I have printed up some tickets for a first night free for any friends you bring or other dancers wishing to get into the rounds. I have copied them here in hopes that the Bugle Boss can find a spot on the back of the bugle that you can rip off and cut them and take them everywhere you go. I have also done up our flyer for those going to the Legion or want to post in their apartment building. Looking Forward to seeing you all!

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### Royal City Squares - Guelph

Paisley Road Public School, 406 Paisley Road, Guelph, ON N1H 2R3

Welcome Back. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone after a very humid summer.

**Changes to our Calendar is as follows:** We are only dancing one night per week  
Tuesdays –September 22 – December 15, 2026. - Paisley Road School Gym (back of school)  
Plus: Second and Fourth Tuesdays (Sept 22, Oct 13, Oct 27, Nov. 10, Nov 24, Dec 8)  
A1: First, Third, and Fifth Tuesdays (Sept 29, Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 3, Nov 17, Dec 1, Dec 15)

### **OPEN HOUSE**

September 22 and September 29 from 6:30 to 8:00 NO Charge for NEW DANCERS  
For information email [royalcitysquaresguelph@gmail.com](mailto:royalcitysquaresguelph@gmail.com) or call Terry at 519-830-9383

### **It has been a fun Summer**

Montreal Convention in July was a blast with 12 dancers from our club attending. Many fun events were attended by our group, such as Canada Day celebration, Pool Square dancing, Skirt work –Workshop. Dancers come from all over the world. It was a pleasure to hear the Japanese sing their anthem in cultural dress.





Another event most of us attended was the Camporee in Blyth in August. We were thrilled by the young people doing Rounds and also by our trio of New callers (all related); they did an excellent job calling together. Camporee is not just for campers. Come and camp, Air B&B or just come for the day next year



Don't forget our open house.

### [ShadowLight Dance Club - SW Ontario](#) South Western Ontario

Greetings! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. The weather has been great - hot and humid and good for spending time around the pool or in the air conditioning. 😊

We finally started to landscape our pool area and back patio and were able to spend some time in our yard enjoying both. I'll be glad to get back dancing for a rest 😊



Our summer dance program was well supported this summer. We had an A-1 Review and a PLUS teach. It was hot and humid most Wednesday afternoons and our hall does not have air conditioning but we did have as many as 5 fans around the room and the dancers were very supportive.... and appreciative!

Our summer youth groups and wedding events are still going strong. We have been kept very busy this summer calling for a number of these special events. And they continue right through November. Here is a picture of our event at Camp Crossroads. This only shows a portion of the dance space – we actually had almost 40 squares of teens this year!



We had a wonderful weekend in Blyth at the Ontario Camporee “Camp and Dance Weekend” this year (not just for campers anymore). We had a good floor for the weekend and the enthusiasm was great!! There was a terrific staff – Squares: Jim Davis (Ohio), Nora Kent, Wesley Knierim, Mikayla Kent & Jeff Priest and Rounds: Keith Bertram, Ian Hulley, Andrea Priest. Tom Charlton was unable to attend this year (due to the weather) and we were fortunate to have Neva McVittie (who just came to camp & dance) agree to fill one of Tom’s times slots. The “kids” covered the rest, giving them some great calling stage time! Everyone had a ball!



The dance season is about to “Blast off” and in preparation...

Our PLUS 8 BLAST was again a great success and hopefully those who attended one or both of these sessions are feeling more comfortable with the new PLUS calls they will be dancing this year.

*Regular weekly clubs include:*

**Squares**

**Daytime A-1 TEACH in Cambridge** – Wednesday Afternoons September 9<sup>th</sup> Registration required

**Daytime A-2 dance / Review Cambridge:** – Wednesday Afternoons September 9<sup>th</sup> Registration required.

Visit our website to register. [Flyer](#) – [Registration](#)

**Rounds:**

**Want to learn Two Step and Waltz??? There is a new class starting ~**

Starting Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge ~ 10:30am – 12:15pm every Thursday.

If you, or people you know, are interested in learning the Two Step and Waltz – this session is for you!! No experience necessary! If you wish to join us, please register on our website or feel free to contact us.

[Flyer](#) – [Registration](#)

**“ShadowLight Rounds”** Phase 2 & 3 Dancing with Teaches is on Thursday MORNINGS starting September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. If you wish to join us, please register on our website or feel free to contact us.

[Flyer – Registration](#)

**In addition to our own clubs, we also call for:**

**Royal City Squares: hosting a FREE OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Guelph - [Flyer](#)**

**Royal City Squares:** Is starting the new program system on Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> with Mainstream (NEW DANCERS) at 6:30pm – 8:00pm and PLUS on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 8:00pm – 9:30pm and A-1 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 8:00pm – 9:30pm at Paisley Rd School.

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ShadowLight Dance is hosting the SWOSDA Round Dance Special in Cambridge on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We do hope you will be able to join us from 2:00 – 4:30. The Flyer and program are available on our website @ [www.shadowlightdance.com](http://www.shadowlightdance.com) and the SWOSDA website @ [www.swosda.ca](http://www.swosda.ca) or here

[Flyer ~ Program](#)

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### **Upcoming events!**

*We have a number of dance events planned for this fall! Here are a few...  
PUT ALL THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY... DON'T MISS THEM!!*

### **Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>**

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[Flyer – Registration](#)

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[Flyer ~ Program](#)

### **Saturday October 3<sup>th</sup>**

We are hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Fall Flirt” Phase 3/4 Round Dance Special in Cambridge.

[Flyer - Register](#)

### **Saturday October 31st The Halloween Howl... Squares with Rounds an Afternoon Event ...**

You will be home in time to see the ghosts and goblins..

Squares with Rounds from 1:00pm – 3:30pm.

[Flyer – Registration](#)

### **Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Annual “Falling Leaves” dance with Andrea and Dan Roy in Cambridge

[Flyer - Registration](#)

ShadowLight Enterprises is involved in introducing 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](http://www.shadowlightdance.com) or phone: 519-752-2172**

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### [Silver Streaks - Springfield](#)

Malahide Community Place, 12105 Whittaker Rd.

Dancing Thursday Evenings – check schedule

This season our club is looking forward to dancing in a new and bright facility in Springfield. The first dance at Malahide Community Place, [12105 Whittaker Road](#) will be on September 24. We had the opportunity to tour the place with our caller, Tom Charlton and were impressed.

Dates selected this year are second and fourth Thursdays and are posted on the SWOSDA website. Dancing starts at 7:00 and finished at 9:00 p.m.

Please bring your own water.

the Merkleys

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### [Sound Steppers - Owen Sound](#)

Harmony Center, 940 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound, ON. N4K 2N7

Thursday 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Hello fellow dancers and Friends.

Hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer. It's that time of year for the last of the crops to be taken off the fields, enjoying the fall fairs and the changing of the leaves.

As fast as the summer came and is coming to a close the days become shorter with cooler temperatures it is time for square dancing again.

Our first night is Thursday September 10th at 7:00 p.m. at our same venue the Harmony Center at 890 4th Avenue East in Owen Sound (around the west side of the building). Everyone is welcome.

Our club celebrated four special birthdays and a milestone anniversary during our summer off.

At our season end party in May we had our potluck supper and played games.

Our club is going to be doing a square dancing demo at the International Plowing Match on Thursday September 24th from 2-3pm, west of Walkerton.

For updates on upcoming events as well as videos and pictures of what we enjoy doing, check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/owen\\_soundsteppers.ca](http://www.facebook.com/owen_soundsteppers.ca).

Square dancing is good for your mind, body and soul. Come join in the fun and see what a great club we have.

Hope to see you all on the Dance Floor.

Linda Wedow

Bugle Rep

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### [Strathroy Swinging Duos](#)

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 34 Head St. N., Strathroy, ON N7G 2G7

Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:30 pm

We hope that everyone had a great summer, enjoying the warm, sunny weather with family and friends, and maybe doing a little traveling. It's now time to dust off your dancing shoes and prepare for another terrific season of square dancing.

The first dance for the Swinging Duos is on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in our usual location – St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 34 Head Street North in Strathroy. Everybody is welcome and we're looking forward to renewing our friendships with those we haven't seen since last spring.

We are running an introductory program again this fall, beginning on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the only way to grow our club and continue its viability. We can only exist if we have enough regular dancers to cover our weekly overhead costs and so we need all club members to support this endeavour. There are many, many health benefits to square dancing so please spread the word.

A big event for the Swinging Duos this year is the **November 28<sup>th</sup> SWOSDA dance**. We are hosting it at the East Christian Reformed Church, 476 Metcalfe Street East in Strathroy. Details will be coming in the coming weeks. This will be a celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Strathroy Swinging Duos so we encourage all of you to make sure this important date is on your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you very soon – all with a spring in our step and dancing joy in our hearts.

Janneke Newitt  
Strathroy Swinging Duos

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

Ingersoll Pipe Band Armoury & Hall, 108 Wonham St. S., Ingersoll, ON N5C 2Z3  
Mondays 6:00 – 9:00

September is here already! Though I'm not fond of how quickly this summer flew by, I am excited to be getting back to Monday night square dancing!

Our club held a couple of summer "refresher" dance sessions to keep everyone's memory in tip-top shape. We met at the home of our President, Julie, and Doug provided a few singing calls. The refreshing was good for all of us, and so was the social!

Nine of our club members attended the Canadian National Festival in Penticton - such a beautiful city! We danced mostly in the Convention Centre, but we also danced in the park, and we even danced in the lake! Many of you will have seen pictures from friends or facebook posts from those who were there, but here are a couple from us, taken on the beach of and in Okanagan Lake. I think it is safe to say we all enjoyed ourselves immensely, and most of us are hoping to get to the next festival in Fredericton, 2028.



Judy, Ruth and Cathy on the beach with the big duck. Norm and Cathy with others in the lake.



The annual TVDC Summer Picnic was held on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We always look forward to seeing everyone there. I think we picked the soggiest day of the year, but fortunately for us, our dance hall was

available and we moved the party there. We had a smaller crowd than anticipated, but we had a great afternoon catching up with friends, enjoying a wonderful barbecue and potluck, playing some games, and dancing.

Our Executive held an organizational meeting to firm up details for our 2026-27 dance season. We have lots of fun theme nights planned! We look forward to welcoming friends and family to try square dancing when we begin our season on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>. We hope they will see just how much fun it can be to dance, to laugh, and to learn, and will return each Monday after the 14<sup>th</sup> to “repeat”!

We will be at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. on Mondays from 7-9pm. Come and join us!

Lois Turvey

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### [The Towne Squares – Waterford](#)

76 Main Street South, Waterford, ON

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### [Waterdown Village Squares – Waterdown](#)

St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown, Ontario. L0R 2H0

Tuesdays 5:45 – 9:00 pm

We hope that you all had a wonderful and fun summer. We at Waterdown Village Squares are gearing up for a great fall season of Dancing .

**Our first dance of the season will be a Welcome Back Dance and also OPEN HOUSE.**

We welcome friends, neighbours and family to join us on this first night.

**Square Dance Tuesday September 15 7:00 – 9:00 pm caller Jim Lee**

**Round Dance Tuesday September 15 5:45 – 6:45 pm cuer Bob Beck**

Free admission for everyone on first night.

Mark your calendars for our **Fall Special Dance on Saturday, November 14, 2026**. This will be an afternoon dance, Western Dance, details to follow.

Club Web Page – [www.waterdownvillagesquares.com](http://www.waterdownvillagesquares.com)

Club Facebook Page – Waterdown Village Squares

Submitted by

Susan Roat

Bugle correspondent



## **Square Dancing's Destiny**

**Are square dance clubs across the country on their last legs?**

How sad it would be if the withering tradition of square dancing in Canada were to become entirely obsolete. Therein lies the sentiment of dancers from coast to coast, including Ontario-based couple Nancy and Willis

Davidson. They have been dancing for 16 years, deeply love the square-dancing tradition and confess that they would be greatly saddened to see it dissolve. Nevertheless, the existing reality of club closures and dwindling dancer numbers has led them to believe that the death of the tradition is not a matter of “if” it might happen, but when.” Dan Roy, president of the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation doesn’t necessarily disagree. “It may die out some day but it would happen over a long period. Clubs across the country took a big hit during Covid but, for the present, I remain optimistic,” he said. Roy and the Davidsons both agree that the lifeblood and future of square dancing largely depend on the challenges of retention and recruitment – with both of these weighing heavily on the current state of the dance.

“Young people today are simply not interested in this particular form of dancing and, without increasing numbers, the tradition cannot survive,” say the Davidsons. A marked decline in both square dancers and club memberships – both of them critical to the dance’s continuance – are rooted in several negating factors. Chief among these is the generational issue. “Clubs today are generally made up of retirees and senior citizens whose advancing years are consequential to the future of clubs across the country,” said Roy. The message is clear: without a change in the existing age demographic, the matter of attrition would be left to take its toll. Many of today’s elder dancers most likely grew up in the culture of the dance, which has continued to be part of their lives and heritage since they were old enough to participate. In spite of their loyalty and continued love of the tradition, it’s abundantly evident that infusions of new, younger dancers are fundamentally essential in order to offset the current generational divide. To date, such an uptick in young joiners is thin, an issue that bodes poorly for the future of the dance.

The Davidsons offer several reasons for the lack of interest from the younger generation. “Typically, there’s a steep learning curve to master today’s modern form of square dancing; it’s considerably more complex and complicated than the old-style barn dances of years past,” they say. “People are either unwilling to commit the amount of time needed to learn the dozens of different moves and steps or, are otherwise overcome by the sheer intricacies of the learning process. Square dancing is no longer a simple dance routine of the allemande left, do-si-do and dip-and-dive which were cornerstone moves of old-time square dancing,” say the Davidsons. They point out that the style of the dance has advanced over the years and, for the most part, the younger dancing public is not currently buying into it. Some try it briefly and then leave when faced with the difficult, time-consuming learning process; some never join in the first place, deciding that the expenditure of time is not worth the investment. Making matters even worse is the loss of senior members to club closures – people who were part of square dancing’s vital backbone.

Overall, the negative elements influencing today’s decline appear to have put square dancing in the crosshairs of becoming a dying tradition, a dance that dates back for centuries to England, France and Ireland. The lively dance form eventually migrated to Canada via European settlers who established the foundation of the country’s square-dancing history – a tradition currently besieged by the threat of dwindling numbers. It’s a dance form which, at its most basic level, is simple: four couples, eight dancers in total, arranged in a square with one couple on each side facing the middle of the square. A “caller” calls out various steps and moves to music, with dancers following along as instructed. While the basic format remains, it has morphed into the new and modern square dance of today in which the great majority of dancers participate.



In general, the prognosis for square-dancing clubs is not good, say the Davidsons along with others of their senior generation who share that opinion. Nevertheless, it is not an opinion shared by all. While some say that the dance is nearing the end of its relevance and popularity, others abide by the famous saying once uttered by

American baseball great, Yogi Berra, that “it ain’t over ‘til it’s over.” In fact, functioning under the auspices of the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society, there is a hard-working, dedicated contingent of dancers across the country unwilling to throw in the towel. Rightly or wrongly, they strongly believe that the future of square dancing is not lost. As a result, various latter-day strategies have been rolled out to stem the loss of numbers and to spark interest among all age groups – in particular, the younger generation. Change and accommodation have been the key elements in a blueprint for successful recruitment and retention. Relaxing the rigid, old-style dress code has been one of them. Traditional, country-style flared skirts for women and classic western-style shirts, ties and sashes for men are no longer expected attire. Ordinary casual clothing is now the norm, except for special occasions and dance festivals. In addition, many clubs have established an online platform promoting the fun and many positive health issues that square dancing has to offer. Some clubs have introduced free demonstration nights and “bring a friend” nights – both orchestrated to showcase the sheer fun and enjoyment which square dancing can provide. Other clubs have introduced short-term, streamlined teaching courses designed to have newcomers hitting the dance floor quickly without committing to years of intense lessons. Expanded musical variety is also part of the recruitment plan. Today’s modern clubs are increasingly dancing to the recorded music of pop, rock, country, disco and more – genres more likely to attract the younger generation. While the live music of old-time fiddles, banjos and guitars is less prominent today than it once was, it is still enjoyed in various clubs across the country.

In spite of dedicated efforts to keep the tradition of square dancing alive both now and in the future, there is a strong whiff in the air which suggests that its long-term survival is tenuous. “It’s definitely a struggle,” admits Roy. Only time will tell how the struggle plays out. For the present, there is no definitive evidence determining whether or not square dancing is on its last leg

By Donna Carter – CSA News – Summer edition

**Does exactly paint a pretty picture for our loving activity.  
Let’s prove her wrong and get things growing. – More people and more clubs**

In case you would like to see the actual magazine, here is a link.  
<https://www.snowbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/csaneews-139.pdf>



**Rest Your Mind**  
I know you have been laying awake at night wondering why baby diapers have brand names such as "Luvs", "Huggies," and "Pampers", while undergarments for old people are called "Depends".  
Well here is the low down on the whole thing.  
When babies crap in their pants, people are still gonna Luv'em, Hug'em and Pamper' em. When old people crap in their pants, it "Depends" on who's in the will!  
Glad I got that straightened out so you can rest your mind.



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

# ***Looking for something FUN to do?***

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***Interested in an activity that allows you to***

- Improve fitness
  - Laugh
  - Relieve stress
  - Fun
- 

## ***WE WANT YOU!!***

### **Introduction to Modern Square Dancing**

All ages welcome

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***Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
October 13, 2026 to March 7, 2027***

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***To register call:***

***Tom(519)709-8665 Jo (519)200-2715***

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**St.John the Evangelist Anglican Church Hall  
34 Head Street North  
Strathroy, ON (lots of free parking)**

**Strathroy Swinging Duos / [www.squaredancetoday.ca](http://www.squaredancetoday.ca)**



*Rhythm Rounds Presents*



(choreographed Ballroom)

## "Beginner Round Dance Experience"

Starting **Wednesday September 23, 2026** (until May 2027)

At **Lambeth Public School (6820 Duffield St.)**



from **6:15P to 7:15 PM**



**Beginners**

from **7:15P to 9:00 PM**

**Regular Dancers**

**Covering the basics of.....**

**Rumba, Waltz, Cha Cha, 2 Step, Foxtrot, Tango & Jive**

**Easy Learning Modules**

**and homework to get you started and keep you dancing!**

**Cost is \$8 per person (you need a partner)**

**No previous dance experience needed (but helps)**

**PLEASE R.S.V.P if you are interested, to [nancydolson0408@yahoo.ca](mailto:nancydolson0408@yahoo.ca)**



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

cut these out and keep them in your wallet or purse, just in case the subject comes up



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>"Beginner Round Dance Experience"</b><br/>(choreographed ballroom)<br/>Starting <b>Wednesday September 23, 2026</b><br/>At Lambeth Public School (6820 Duffield St.)</p>  <p>from 6:15P to 7:15PM</p>  <p>Covering the basics of..... Rumba, Waltz, Cha Cha, 2 Step,<br/>Fox Trot, Tango &amp; Jive<br/>Easy learning modules and homework to get you started and<br/>keep you dancing!</p> <p>Cost is \$8 per person (you need a partner)<br/>No previous dance experience needed (but helps)</p> <p>PLEASE R.S.V.P if you are interested<br/>to <a href="mailto:e.dolson@hotmail.com">e.dolson@hotmail.com</a> or call 519-281-6261 to register</p> <p><b>FREE 1st NIGHT</b></p>     | <p><b>"Beginner Round Dance Experience"</b><br/>(choreographed ballroom)<br/>Starting <b>Wednesday September 23, 2026</b><br/>At Lambeth Public School (6820 Duffield St.)</p>  <p>from 6:15P to 7:15PM</p>  <p>Covering the basics of..... Rumba, Waltz, Cha Cha, 2 Step,<br/>Fox Trot, Tango &amp; Jive<br/>Easy learning modules and homework to get you started and<br/>keep you dancing!</p> <p>Cost is \$8 per person (you need a partner)<br/>No previous dance experience needed (but helps)</p> <p>PLEASE R.S.V.P if you are interested<br/>to <a href="mailto:e.dolson@hotmail.com">e.dolson@hotmail.com</a> or call 519-281-6261 to register</p> <p><b>FREE 1st NIGHT</b></p>     |
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Let's all join hands in friendship  
For everyone to see  
Remember that a stranger  
Is just a friend to be  
Hold fast our hands in friendship  
For many years to come  
This friendship ring will always bring  
Good fun for everyone

Square Dancing is Friendship set to Music!