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# The Olde Tyme

*The Newsletter of  
Canadian Olde Tyme  
Square Dance Callers  
Association  
Feb. 2018 Issue 60*

**Website:** <http://sca.uwaterloo.ca/cotsdca>

## Presidents Report

### President's Report

Hello to one and all.

Another season of square dancing is underway. The weather has not been the most co-operative but the music and dancing have been great. Our Annual General Meeting came and went with the usual "robust" crowd in attendance. Most constitutional amendments were passed, but not all. This only stresses the importance of people coming out and getting involved.

Our executive, under the guidance of the members at the AGM, has been filled and we are once again dealing with the business of the COTSDCA. We thank the members for their guidance and also thank Deborah Jefferson for taking on the role of treasurer for this year. Nancy Wheeler has agreed to take over the job of secretary for the remainder of the year, since her "new wheels" will not prevent her from looking after that job.

For members who have not yet renewed or been to a dance this season, we hope you will join us soon. (and then you can collect your new badge and pin.)



We are still looking at a couple of projects that have yet to get off the ground. One would be a "demonstration" video of some of the couple dances that we do. The other is the possibility of hosting a caller's workshop. Keep your ears open as we will be letting you know more details later.

Finally, we want to make sure people realize that you do NOT have to be a caller to be a member of the Caller's Association. If you love olde tyme square dancing and the couple dances, you are welcome to join. Our purpose is to promote and preserve these dances. I realize that if you are reading this, you are

already a member so this is like "preaching to the choir". But if you know people who like to dance and are not members, pass the word on. The more, the merrier.

Have a great rest of the winter.



Dave Lucas, President

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### *Proposed Constitutional Amendments*

(area to be changed is underlined in italics)

1. Article V, Section 1.  
Currently reads "The  
nominations and elections of

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the officers shall take place annually during the month of June, and shall be conducted by a mail vote."

Changed to read "by a mail and/or email vote." **Carried**

- Article VII, section 4  
Currently reads "Mail-in voting will be allowed for members unable to attend the Business Meeting in person."

Changed to read "Mail-in or email" **Carried**

- Article VII, section 5  
Currently reads "A quorum at an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of four officers."

Change to read "three officers" **Rejected**

### Executive Results

The results for the 2017-2018 executive elections have been completed. By acclamation, as there were no contested positions, I am pleased to announce the results.

Past President: Ken McCormack (non elected)

President: Dave Lucas

Vice President: Bill Russell

**Appointed-**

Treasurer: Deborah Jefferson

**Appointed-**

Secretary: Nancy Wheeler

### Fall Dance November 4<sup>th</sup>

Dance Report Bill Russell

While we would have liked a slightly better turnout at our dance in November, we were very happy with the evening. Alan McKnight and Friends supplied lively music



Dave Lucas did a great job with the sound, so our sixteen callers came through clearly. Thanks to Bill Hands and George Betts for seeing that the squares dances had a lot of variety and a good flow over throughout. All the callers were on form. It was great to see all the smiling faces.



### Callers Corner

Olde Tymer - Winter 2018

Calling is all about the dancers.

Many of our dances, particularly the older ones, were danced without a caller. The creation of the dance caller had to do with the movement of people in North America. Folks from a particular community were used to doing their own dances, but when they came together with folks from other backgrounds, they needed somebody to make sure they were all working together: the caller. Over time, callers began to play with the intros and breaks, add patter to the calls while the movements were being carried out, and sing calls to popular tunes. But no matter how fancy the calling became, the main point has always been to give the dancers a good time.

How does a dancer have a good time? Every dancer will have his or her answers, but here are some of the ways:

First is socializing and hanging out with friends. I have heard square dancing described as "a smile in motion". In a square dance, you are blessed with seeing faces of the folks you are dancing with. Our first changes – visiting couple dances –

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are designed for hanging out. There is usually not a lot of stress in getting the figure's movements right, as they are generally fairly simple. The inactive couples have plenty of opportunity to socialize with their partners and even with the other inactive couple.

Second is a sense of accomplishment. When the group succeeds in getting through a series of calls, the feeling is wonderful. Our third changes (aka breakdowns) have everybody moving at the same time. When all are in sync, it feels and looks great. As well, the breaks in the other changes can also provide a challenge.

Sometimes callers and experienced dancers dismiss the first changes as being too easy or boring, but I love them, both to dance and to call. Many of them can be adapted for an odd number of couples, avoiding folks having to sit out. Our second changes – singing calls or three-couple dances, such as the Dip n Dive – provide a mix of the two. While usually not as challenging as some of the breakdowns, the singing calls often have the whole group moving together.

Third is the exercise. A friend once described a contra dance in Washington D C, where some of the dancers were checking their pulse between dances and getting annoyed if the caller took too long between dances. They did not want their heartbeats to slow down too much. For them, dancing was a form of aerobics! Good for them – but I prefer a dance that is well paced. Yes, I want a bit of exercise, but I

also like being able to catch my breath.

So callers, whether your dancers mostly want to socialize, overcome challenges or get their exercise, if you know your crowd, you can give them what they want.

Note: I invite callers to contribute to this column. Most folks post a call they have recently learned or would like to see danced more often, while I tend to talk more about the philosophy of what we do. So you can see, it is quite open to what you would like to say. Please contact me at [russell\\_bill@hotmail.com](mailto:russell_bill@hotmail.com) or phone me at 416-658-5162 if you would like to contribute to the Olde Tymers callers' corner.

### Dundalk Square Dance Competition At



### 60th Annual Canadian Open Clogging, Square Dance and Step Dance Competition

Dundalk results:

#### Amateur class –

1st -2020 Buffalo's

Caller: Serena Allardyce

#### Dancers:

Logan Emiry --- Kathryn Stanton

Jesse Vandenberg ----

Natalie Templeton

Matt Lange ----- Claire Coenen

Kurtis Pilkington----- Caitlyn Russel

Sarah Long

**Open class - 1st - Jus' Friends**

2nd - 2020 Buffalo's

**Mature class - 1st - Jus' Friends**

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Square Dance Competition Results

*The 95<sup>th</sup> Royal* AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR  
NOVEMBER 3-12, 2017

The Caller & Judges



George, Sharon, Dale & Wallace



#### Youth Class

1<sup>st</sup> ---- OAC 2020 Buffalo

2<sup>nd</sup> ---- OAC 2018 Timberwolves

3<sup>rd</sup> ---- Brant county Barnstormers

4<sup>th</sup> ---- OAC 2019 Grizzlies

5<sup>th</sup> ---- Brant 4H Junior Set



**OAC 2020 Buffalo's**



**OAC 2018 Timberwolves**



**Jus' Friends**

### **The Open Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ---- Jus' Friends
- 2<sup>nd</sup> --- OAC 2020 Buffalo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> --- OAC 2018 Timberwolves
- 4<sup>th</sup> --- Brant county Barnstormers
- 5<sup>th</sup> --- OAC 2019 Grizzlies

**Best Caller** – Shirley Anne Smyth



**Shirley Anne Smyth**

### **Winter Dance January 6th**

Dance Report      Bill Russell

The bitter cold surely deterred some of our dancers and callers in January. Those who were able to make it had a great time.



Anne Lederman, Ian Bell and Tom Leighton's music made the joint jump, while eight callers, Bill Hands, Bill Russell, Dave Lucas, Grant Logan, Ralph Price, Ernie Shoebridge, Nancy Wheeler and Nathan Klassen provided a great evening with well-known and less well-remembered calls. Bill Hands handled the organisation of the callers while Bill Russell emceed the evening.

We were all happy to see Nancy Wheeler call a dance for us at the January dance, after missing her in November. May your recovery go well.

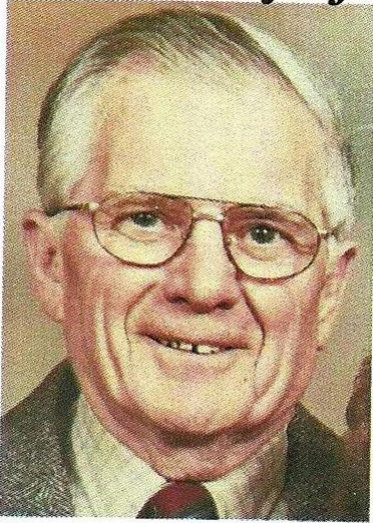
Thank you to Ralph and Sandy Price for handling the Share the Wealth draw at both dances. Glad y'all are still with us in Ontario. And thank you to the Scouts who handled the snacks and helped with tidying the room afterwards.

I do have one concern about the January dance. A lone, but quite capable, gentleman dancer came, but was unable to find anyone to dance with him. He left shortly after arriving. When I saw him at another dance evening, he suggested that we advertise that you "absolutely must bring a partner". I hope that lonesome gents will not be frozen out in the future.

While it is true that the last two dances did not break even, the Association is by no means in financial trouble. If we get a good turnout for our upcoming dance on April 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be quite happy. And if we do not get the turnout we hope for, we will still be happy if the folks who showed up are satisfied. Be there and get square – and invite friends and family to join in!

**Collage Royal Square Dance  
March 17 2018**



**Jim Fitzpatrick***In Memory of****James P. Fitzpatrick***

James Patrick Fitzpatrick  
Apr 10, 1924 - Nov 16, 2017

Jim Fitzpatrick was born and raised in Carbonear, a small outpost fishing community on the east coast of Newfoundland, also known for its importance as a shipbuilding centre and international port of trade. Jim was born to Ellen and Patrick Fitzpatrick; he was one of three boys and four girls. Jim left Newfoundland and moved to Toronto, Ontario in 1949, the year of confederation when Newfoundland joined Canada... or the year Canada joined Newfoundland, as Jim would say, and laugh.

Jim and Florence, a mainlander, were married on October 10, 1970. For many years, Jim and Flo square danced every night of the week. They danced all across Canada and the USA until Flo passed away on Jan 5, 2002. Jim was also predeceased by his parents, two

brothers and two sisters. After 30 years of service, Jim retired from the Ford Motor Company of Canada manufacturing plant parts department in Toronto.

On September 28, 2017, Jim was admitted into the North York General Hospital with bleeding on the brain. Once we tracked him down, Mom (Gloria) and I (escaping from rehab in my wheelchair) went to visit him on October 16, 2017. We weren't sure how he would be but were relieved to see that he was conscious, alert, and still had his sense of humour and sharp wits about him. We had a great visit; us writing things down and him reading it and talking to us, as he didn't have his hearing aids in. His sister Pat and niece Regina had previously come to Ontario to fly him back to Newfoundland. They flew out just two days later on October 18, 2017 back to his hometown, where he visited his family faithfully every summer. Jim was staying at the Lyons Manor nursing home in Placentia about 100km southwest of Carbonear where he peacefully passed away on November 16, 2017 at the age of 93 years. His funeral service was held in Carbonear at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church on November 20, 2017. He was then flown back to Ontario on November 22, 2017 and had a graveside service on November 23, 2017 at the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Thornhill, where he was buried with his wife Flo.

Jim was a long time member of the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers Association. He had a zest for life and continued olde tyme

square dancing right up to the end at the CNIB, Armour Heights Community Centre, Fairbanks Senior Centre and the Westway United Church. He will be sorely missed by the association and his square dance partners.

Submitted by Nancy Wheeler



When I returned to Toronto a couple of years ago, I was very pleased to reacquaint myself with Jim Fitzpatrick. He and his wife Flo were regular dancers at the Friday Nighters dances in Scarborough decades ago. I remember the two of them as always being good natured and ready to help wherever help was needed. Although Flo and some of our mutual friends were already gone, Jim's spirit brightened the world around him. It turned out that occasionally I could pick him up on my way to the dances at the Westway, and I looked forward to having a chat about the old times, the new times and the coming times. He kept dancing until bad health stopped him. May we all live as well as he did.

Submitted by Bill Russell

**Get to Know Members #14**

Associate member Lorna Irwin

**A Modern Olde Tyme Girl**

I knew that modern western square dancing evolved from the kind of olde tyme dancing my grandparents – and their kids, my mom and uncles – did at barn dances on Saturday nights in the 40s and 50s in a small farm community in Saskatchewan. I wasn't aware until recently that the olde tyme style continued to flourish as the paths of modern and old tyme diverged.

Because of a happy accident of geography, I've started exploring the olde tyme side of square dancing and I'm loving it. Olde tyme seems so dancier. I like the way it flows along, kind of like contra but in a square. I like the way it looks, as I'm dancing or just watching. I like the interesting regional variations. The caller makes the calls, but the dancers generally know the steps associated with the song being played, so contrary to all my modern training, I'm allowed to anticipate the next move.

Having grown from similar roots, olde tyme and modern square dancing share many common calls, although they may be performed slightly differently in terms of the style. For example, we don't use a ballroom hold to swing, instead joining left hands in front, which allows for a lot more traction and action. Olde tyme uses a smaller set of steps and a caller will usually do a quick walk-through before starting the dance. In contrast, modern western dancers are expected to have learned and mastered a

specified, and fairly lengthy, set of standardised calls by taking lessons and progressing through the program.

There's a monthly olde tyme dance at Duff's Church, just off the 401 at Aberfoyle (near my home in Guelph), called by [Bill Hands](#). He calls monthly in Etobicoke as well, which means twice a month dances close by. There's a lot of good energy at both locations, with five or six squares (or more) on the go. At Duff's there's often a group of young folks, who've learned to dance at 4H or Jr. Farmer's clubs and they're lots of fun to dance with. They're good dancers, good enough to compete annually at UofG's College Royal. Olde tyme is a great workout with shorter breaks than I'm used to. As is traditional, Bill sprinkles in a few couple or line dances that just roll along without being cued or called, like the Jessie Polka or the Gay Gordons. "Lunch" – a sociable and eclectic collection of sandwiches, devilled eggs, dips, squares and loaves, is provided after these dances.

Right in the city, check out the [Hogtown Hoedown](#) dances at Dovercourt House, the third Friday of the month, between September and May, with instruction, caller and live music, followed by an Appalachian old time music jam.

Want to explore some [square dance history](#)? View some of my favourite videos below, but I should warn you: you could become truly addicted, after which you may have to enter a 12-step program!

[Duck and Dive](#) [Texas Star](#)  
[Wagon Wheel](#) [My Darling Nellie](#)  
[Gray](#) [Double Birdie](#)

[By Lorna](#)**Memberships**

The membership year is Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. Your renewal dues are only \$10.00 a year. Dues should be forwarded to.

**Nancy Wheeler**  
**Unit #416,**  
**1 Rowntree Road,**  
**Toronto, Ontario, M9V 5G7**

In an effort to keep your membership dues low we will be trying to send this newsletter by email from now on so we need your email address.

The next executive meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> if you want to attend let someone on the executive know.

**Executive 2017-2018**

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# **CANADIAN OLDE TYME SQUARE DANCE CALLERS ASSOCIATION**



## **CELEBRATES OVER 60 YEARS OF TRADITIONAL CANADIAN SQUARE DANCING ANNUAL SPRING DANCE**

**8:00PM**

**SAT APRIL. 7th 2018**

**\$10.00**

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(1 block north of the Westway & 1 block east of Kipling at Holywell)

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