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# The Olde Tyme

*The Newsletter of  
Canadian Olde Tyme  
Square Dance Callers  
Association  
Jan. 2019 Issue 63*

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

## Presidents Report

Happy and healthy New Year. I am writing this report soon after our January dance. I had a ball; I hope you did, too. It made me appreciate the great commitment of our executive. Dave Lucas came through at the last minute to supply our sound system, even though he had an overseas visitor and would not be able to attend the dance himself. Deborah Jefferson took the equipment home - until Dave could come and get it. Nancy Wheeler was our emcee, after not being sure whether her health would allow her to come until the last minute. Later in this issue, you will find reports on both our fall and winter dances. I really love what we do.

At our Annual General Meeting in October, we discussed changing the name of our organisation with an eye toward encouraging more folks to join. After tossing out a few ideas, we decided not to change the name as far as our constitution or the bank or the insurance company are concerned, but to change our public presence to the "Canadian

Olde Tyme Square Dance Association". While callers are still central to our mission - to preserve and foster Canadian traditional square and couple dancing - we have long included non-callers as members (aka "associate members"). Our website and Facebook pages have been updated to reflect this change.

May I encourage you to visit our website, administered by Murray Smith:

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

If you find any inaccuracies, there is a contact link. If the link does not work for you, please phone me or any member of the executive. I just received this week a phone call from someone I have never met regarding our posted information. The gentleman said that there was an error in our dance listings that he has "noticed for five years", but that he "was not going to be the one who called". However, when he saw that a few recent updates had been made, he decided to actually make the call. No need to wait that long! I am sure

that Murray would love to hear from you. Thank you, Murray.

If you are on Facebook, please "like" our page. If you start typing "Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance" in the search space at the top of your home "wall" (or whatever they call it now), our page will show up as a possibility. Ken McCormack is handling our presence there. Thank you, Ken.

Would you like to host an Olde Tyme dance in your area? The Association's insurance would allow us to hold one more dance per year than we currently organise. Please contact me if you know of a venue and are interested.

I am very pleased that Ralph Price accepted the invitation to write up the Callers Corner for this issue. I do hope each of us will have something to add to his suggestions. Please remember that all of us on the executive (as well as Ralph) want to hear from you. We all want to see our Canadian style of square and couple dance keep going.

Elsewhere in this issue is an announcement that our next meeting of the Executive will be at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 3rd, at Williams Fresh Café in Brampton. All members are welcome to attend. If you are interested, call ahead to make sure that the date has not been changed.

Until next time, let's dance all we can.

Bill Russell, President

### Executive 2018-2019

President ----- Bill Russell  
[russell\\_bill@hotmail.com](mailto:russell_bill@hotmail.com)

Vice President ---- Nancy Wheeler  
[nancy7298@hotmail.com](mailto:nancy7298@hotmail.com)

Past President ----- Dave Lucas  
[oac86aggie@hotmail.com](mailto:oac86aggie@hotmail.com)

Secretary ----- Sue Stone  
[ca.sue.stone@gmail.com](mailto:ca.sue.stone@gmail.com)

Treasurer-----Deborah Jefferson  
[d14jefferson@gmail.com](mailto:d14jefferson@gmail.com)

### Our New Secretary

Sue Stone has recently become a member of the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers Association and has taken on the position of secretary. She has been married to James since 1980 and has 3 children, 2 boys and a girl who are all in their 30's now. The oldest Sylvia is married with 2 children; Peter 4, and Emily, 2. They live in Newmarket and Sue & James go to take care of them

every Friday. It is the best part of the week.

Sue now works half time as a general practitioner and James has been retired for many years. In past years she looked after homeless folks only.



She grew up in Ottawa and was introduced to square dancing in grade 7, 8. Sue had been wanting to start again for many years but work & family took up too much time. Finally 3 years ago, Sue & James started to attend Bill Hands lessons at Armour Heights, very near their home. She met Bill, Marilyn and Nancy and was impressed by their patience & kindness in teaching them. The second year they branched out into modern square dancing and now enjoy doing both.

She & James travel a lot, enjoy their cottage in the summer and love to play bridge. And to the amazement of most people, they go up every January to a small

town near Winnipeg, where she work in indigenous communities for a month.

### Fall Dance Report

The Association held its fall dance back on Nov. 03 with great success. We had 14 sets up at the peak of the evening and we had 14 callers in attendance.

Everyone seemed to have a great time and the issues we had with the sound system in the past seemed to be, for the most part, corrected. The weather was also cooperative for those who had to travel a distance for the evening.

We also enjoyed the music of a new band (or at least new to us) for the evening. This was the first time the Karen Reed Trio has played for us, but considering the feedback from the dancers, it probably won't be the last. Thanks to everyone who attended!

### January 5th Dance Report

Deborah Jefferson & Bill Russell

The Association would like to thank all those who attended the January 5th dance. We had a good turnout of 95 people, who all enjoyed the evening listening and dancing to music by the band of Anne Lederman, Ian Bell and Tom Leighton. The evening was emceed by Nancy Wheeler, with the following caller members participating: Calvin Everitt, Bill Hands, Wayne Lowdon, Ralph Price, Bill Russell, and Ernie

Shoebridge. Thank you to associate members Al Coulas and Peter Renzland. The former sang the national anthem, and the latter taught a version of the Canadian Progressive Barn Dance mixer. Thank you to Ralph and Sandy Price for managing the "Share the Wealth" draw.

### In Memoriam

## Grant Logan

July 21, 1936 – October 18, 2018



Passed away on October 18, 2018. He is survived by his wife Ann, son Jeffrey (Sophie and Teresa) and his grand-cat Max. Dear brother of Jack and sisters Lorna and Mary. Predeceased by his daughter Kelly. Fondly remembered by his family, friends, and the Square Dance World. A Celebration of his Life was held at the Jerrett Life Celebration Centre, 8088 Yonge St, Thornhill (south of Hwy 7) on Tuesday, October 23,

### In Memoriam

## Marilyn Jane Boustead

July 6, 1940 – October 26, 2018



Long time GTA resident, passed away peacefully on October 26th, 2018 in Hospital after a short battle with cancer. Marilyn, born July 6th 1940, enjoyed 78 years of life, family, love, happiness and adventure. Marilyn will be missed by family and friends alike, as many of her friends were considered part of her family.

Marilyn, Mom, Nana; is survived by her best-friend and husband of 54 years Wallace, along with her 3 sons and daughter-in-law's; Clarke & Joanne, Keith & Sara, Ross & Zöe, and 6 loving grandchildren; Robert, Amanda, Tommy, Emily, Logan and Quinn. Along with

many cousins, nephews, and nieces. She was laid to rest at Park Lawn Cemetery next to her parents Mary and George Ewing. Marilyn is predeceased by her sister Carolyn Stephenson.

Marilyn was involved in many different things during her life, including Olde Tyme Square Dancing, Scouting, Happy Hoofers Hiking Club, Swansea Historical Society; Marilyn celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday square dancing live on CKVR-TV and following her husband on many different adventures, usually including train travel.

Marilyn worked the admission table at the spring and fall dances for many years with her friend Gwen Henderson.

### Memberships

## Dues are now past due

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 the Treasurer.

**Deborah Jefferson**  
**13495 The Gore Road,**  
**Bolton, Ontario, L7E 0W8**

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.

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## Callers Corner

**Callers Corner**  
**Ralph Price**

### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

In my mind, the above question applies to old time square dancing, fiddling and the old time music jams/dances that Sandy and I regularly attend.

We retired in 1999, moved from Scarborough and built our dream home in Horseshoe Valley, about 80 miles North of Toronto. In 2000, Sandy embarked on a “bucket list” item of learning to play the fiddle as her father had done when she was growing up in Nova Scotia. This led us to start attending fiddle club old time music jams/dances and gave us the exposure to the old time dances and square dances.

I remembered square dancing from my school days going back about 50 years then. Since I’m not particularly musical, there was no hope of me learning to play an instrument, but I thought, I can square dance again. I found there were lots of “widow” ladies who were more than happy to re-acquaint me with the square dancing.

After a couple of years, I started looking at the ages of the “callers” and thought “who is going to do this when they are gone”? I wondered, could I learn to call? I talked with many of the callers and they were more than happy to lend me or give

me square dance books. So, I set out to see what I could do.

One advantage I had, is that I was not afraid of a microphone. When I worked, I had to address large meetings and I had done race commentary at sports car races at various tracks in Ontario and Quebec. These days, I’ve been known to say “I never met a microphone I didn’t like”. In 2004, I started working on learning calls and honed my skills at the various fiddle club jams/dances around. In 2007, I was encouraged to join COTSDCA and was accepted as a “Caller” member. Here we are 12 years later and still at it.

Sandy and I have travelled all across North America, from Nova Scotia, to Arizona, to Alberta and attended fiddle and square dance events along the way, as well as many in Ontario every month. What we notice, is that participation has gradually fallen off at local events, including the COTSDCA dances and the same at out of province events where we have gone more than once. Also, many of the jam/dances have folded because of lack of attendance or the organizers got too old to do it and no one else would take it over. Look back at your last issue of the Olde Tymer, where in 1992 there was a list of 35 square dance events. How many today? Further, the average age of the current participants just keeps getting older. People pass away or lose their mobility and very few new people come along to replace them. Our activities don’t seem to attract

“new and younger blood”! Why not?

Most of us come from a generation where we had to make our own fun and entertainment. People today are accustomed to having their fun and entertainment presented to them on TV, the internet and their “smartphones”. Our idea of “friends” is people we see face to face and dialogue and participate with them, rather than a “friend” on Facebook. Further, I don’t believe square dancing is taught in the schools now.

In 5 years how many old time square dances and fiddle club music jam/dances will there be? In 10 years will there be any?

### WHAT DO WE DO?

**I DON’T THINK I HAVE ANY MAGIC ANSWERS, BUT I DO HAVE SOME IDEAS!**

1) We have to promote our activity. You can get free advertising in Community newspapers, but you have to ask for it and/or write an article for them. If you don’t ask, you don’t get. The Association should be collecting e-mail addresses from non-members so that they can communicate with them about upcoming events. At our dances, put out copies of the latest “Olde Tymer”, so that non-members can pick them up and see what they are missing. When we are in the Maritimes at events, the latest issue of the Maritime Fiddlers Association quarterly newsletter is usually there, so that non-members



can pick it up. We get ours by mail as Sandy is a member of the MFA.

2) We have to teach square dancing! If we teach it, we must give the people the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned. How be we start our dances at 7PM and for the first hour we teach new people the basics, with the regular dance starting at 8PM as it does now. We usually walk people through each dance, so that together with knowing the basics, should get them off on the right foot.

3) Where we have new people like that, encourage them to split up and dance with an experienced couple who will also split, so that you have knowledgeable people guiding the rookies. If they have fun and don't feel lost, they will come back.

4) Try not to have too many novices in one square, especially if they are friends. They will want to talk with each other and will miss calls.

5) Encourage people to bring out their children and grandchildren. A number of people we see at the jam/dances are bringing their grandchildren. Pair them with an experienced dancer and they do fine and really seem to enjoy themselves. At the dance on January 5<sup>th</sup>, I saw a lot of new faces and some younger people, even some teenagers. Who were they? How did they come to be there? Who encouraged them to come? How can we ensure they come back and bring others?

6) If you are experienced dancers, bring your friends. If they don't know how to dance, teach them the

basics before you come and then do as I noted in 3) above.

7) Older experienced dancers need to be tolerant of inexperienced people who make mistakes. With that in mind, take the novices to the fiddle/club jam/dances and hone your skills there. Most of the dancers there are not particularly skilled and are very forgiving and do all they can to help and encourage newcomers.

8) What can we do to put our hobby out there in the mainstream somehow or other? I've got a few thoughts in this area and intend to explore them in the next few months. I'll work on them and let you know how they go in a future issue of the Olde Tymer.

(9) How many "caller members" go out to the music jam/dances in your area on a regular basis? At the events we go to in our area, the people I see are Ernie Shoebridge, Ray Avery, David Lancaster and myself. When we are out there, we are always promoting square dancing and the COTSDCA dances.

10) Can we get more people from the College Royal coming to our dances? What do we do to promote our events to the students? Should we be holding a COTSDCA dance at the College?

11) If you want to know about the fiddle club jam/dances and places to square dance in Ontario, I publish a monthly e-mail bulletin with a Schedule of Events. Send me an e-mail at

[ralph.sandyprice@sympatico.ca](mailto:ralph.sandyprice@sympatico.ca) and I will add you to my mailing list. I've been doing this now for nearly 9 years, with the view of encouraging people to get out there to dance, play the fiddle and have fun. A lot of people tell me they really appreciate it.

Well, I think that is enough from me for now and my comments, suggestions and ideas are all put forth with the focus of **"how do we get and keep people coming to our dances, so that this great hobby can continue"**.

If you have any thoughts, comments or want to discuss ideas with me, you can e-mail me as noted above or feel free to telephone me at 705-835-3159.

Happy Dancing, Ralph Price

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



### Square Dancing

The Final Sunday was filled with fiddle music as sets of 8 take the stage to compete in the Square Dancing competition. With entries both young and old this traditional dance gets its time in the spotlight each year at The Royal. Sorry I

(Wallace) have lost the result Sheets and this is all I can find.

### **4-H Set**

Open to 4-H clubs. Dancers must be 4-H members in the current year

**1<sup>st</sup> Megan Pollock,**  
Kitchener, ON



### **College / University Set**

Open to currently enrolled college/university students

**1<sup>st</sup> OAC 2020 Buffalo,**  
Brantford, ON



**2<sup>nd</sup> Cassir Allen,**  
Alfred, ON  
**3<sup>rd</sup> MacKenzie Mohon,**  
Komoka, ON

### **Open Set**

Open to dancers of all ages and sets

**1<sup>st</sup> Jus' Friends,**  
Lefroy, ON



**2<sup>nd</sup> OAC 2020 Buffalo,**  
Brantford, ON  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Cassie Allen,**  
Alfred, ON  
**4<sup>th</sup> MacKenzie Mahon,**  
Komoka, ON

### **Best Caller**

**Dave Lucas, Lefroy, ON**



### **Best Youth Caller**

**Serena Allardyce, Brantford, ON**

### **The Collage Royal Square Dance Competition**

The annual College Royal Square Dancing Competition is happening on Saturday, March 16th in the main gym of the Athletic Center. See students are local teams compete in this extremely fun competition. Everyone is welcome to come learn how to square dance or just sit back and enjoy the show.

Students can sign-up for the Square Dancing Competition and other great events will take place on Thursday, January 24th and Wednesday, January 30th from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm in the UC Courtyard.



Quoted from Sharon Grose on Facebook.

### **Publisher/Editor**

Articles and items for sharing or comments should be sent to:  
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Toronto ON M9R-3Z4 416-249-0147  
[mj-wc\\_boustead@sympatico.ca](mailto:mj-wc_boustead@sympatico.ca)

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



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

**8:00PM**

**SAT. April. 6th 2019**

**\$10.00**

**WESTWAY UNITED CHURCH**

**8 Templar Dr, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9R 3C7**

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**LIVE BAND**

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**COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**