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The Olde Tymmer

*The Newsletter of
Canadian Olde Tyme
Square Dance Callers
Association
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Website: <http://sca.uwaterloo.ca/cotsdca>

Presidents Report

I have been trying to find out what the traditional square dance scene looks like these days. It has been my great pleasure to get out to a number of fiddle jams and dances not too far from Toronto.

So far, I have been to fiddle jams in Fenelon Falls, Carden and Manilla. The jam starts with a good number of fiddlers playing together a few tunes. Singers, musicians and callers sign up on a list as they arrive, and the program is pretty much in that order. For the dancing, there are usually two squares at a time. During the country songs, folks waltz, two-step or fox-trot. When the fiddlers play, you see the Jesse polka (danced to any polka tune), Gay Gordons, Canadian four step and other couple dances. I would prefer more squares, but the fact that folks can get together and enjoy old time music with a bit of action is great. And a number of folks bring their grandchildren out to dance. If you are not getting Ralph and Sandy Price's monthly email newsletter, I

recommend you sign up:

ralph.sandyprice@sympatico.ca

Most of the jams are on weekend afternoons, and now that the weather should be improving – one date in Carden had to be cancelled due to frozen water pipes – a little drive in the country just might be the thing to do. Don't forget your favourite dancing shoes. I got to dance to the calling of Ralph Price, Ernie Shoebridge, Dave Lancaster, Morley Batt and one or two less well-known folks.

I have attended a few dances at Duff's Corner (Puslinch), organized by Heather and Peter Sullivan. Although I much prefer live music to recorded, Bill Hands does such a great job with every program that I really cannot quibble. He and Marilyn always include couple, line and round dances. A few younger dancers show up. The church hall being not too far from the University of Guelph has meant that a number of student dancers and callers have come out, not only to have fun dancing, but also to prepare for the College Royal competition. Bill is also very

generous with giving new callers a chance to gain experience. I also attended a couple of Bill and Marilyn's excellent dances at the Westway United Church.

For the first time, I managed to take in the College Royal. I really enjoyed seeing some dance figures that I had almost forgotten, in particular the Ladies Do-Ce Balinette and the Triple Arch. Association members took part: Dave Lucas was compulsory caller, while Ken McCormack and Bill Hands were judges; Karen Reed played for the competition. Wayne Lowdon, Dave Lucas and I gave a callers' and dancers' workshop a few weeks ahead of the competition, and it surely paid off.

Morley and Dottie Batt's dance at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place is worth your while if you are in the area. Callers who show up are invited to call. I was surprised that Morley himself did not call more. Deborah and Herb Jefferson and I attended the March dance. Similar to the fiddle jams, most of the dancing is done in couples, with

pairs of squares fitted in. This brings out non-square dancers and supplements the turnout for the square dancers. Morley always works in traditional couple and round dances. First Friday of the month.

Sadly, George Betts recently had a bad fall and is in rehab. He is currently unable to call for his groups, some of whom have been together for years. Gerry and Katherine Grégoire solicited some help from Georgina Downie in Streetsville and have been able to keep the Flower City group in Brampton going with recorded calls. I had my first experience ever dancing a complete program of recorded calls in Streetsville. It was fun (although I still prefer live music and callers). I also made it to a couple of the Brampton dances and was pleased to see the happy faces. It is great that people are keeping the dancing alive – and to see the dancing keeping the people alive. We hope that George can recover quickly. He has built a great community. He is missed.

Thank you to the folks who organize these events. Without you, we would all be a lot poorer. We dancers and callers all benefit from your good work.

Bill Russell, President

Executive 2018-2019

President ----- Bill Russell
russell_bill@hotmail.com

Vice President ---- Nancy Wheeler
nancy7298@hotmail.com

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oac86aggie@hotmail.com

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ca.sue.stone@gmail.com

Treasurer-----Deborah Jefferson
d14jefferson@gmail.com

Spring Dance Report

What a nice spring night for a dance. April 6 was the COTSDCA annual spring dance, with 127 in attendance. We had many new faces, including some members of the winning set of College Royal 2019 and other youth. Everyone enjoyed the music by the Puslinch Country Squires and danced to 15 caller members of the Association. Thank you to all who attended and all those who helped out and made the evening a success. Wayne Lowdon played the fiddle with the Country Squires



Wayne Lowdon also called



Memberships

Dues are now past due

The membership year is Sept. 1st to Aug. 31st. 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.

Callers Corner

Callers Corner
Bill Russell

My first copy of “Alex Mulligan’s Collection of Square Dance Calls, compiled in Toronto, Ontario, Canada for the students of Square Dance at Central Technical School” was printed by mimeograph sideways (landscape) on ordinary letter-size paper, folded over and stapled together. It was not very substantial. One caller I know told me, “I love that book. I have pages all over my living room.” It was

already a reference for starting callers.

In 1992, I approached my friend Skye Morrison about re-issuing the book. She had done her PhD dissertation about "Alex and his 'Stubble Jumpers': A True Folk Artist". Alex's widow Lilian had tasked Skye with dealing with his traditional legacy. She enthusiastically agreed, but with certain conditions. We were to keep the order of the instructions and calls precisely as Alex had them. Not a word was to be changed, except for obvious typos. However, I was to arrange the words to emphasize the poetry of the calls. We spent quite a few mornings and evenings using Skye's Apple computer in the office of the Canadian Museum of Textiles.

Skye wrote the introduction and provided the photographs. I added the two appendices to make the book more useful. We approached the Association to print and distribute the book. Murray Smith and Ernie McCullough added tributes to Alex and his contribution to traditional Ontario square and step dancing. A few years ago, I got an email from Dave Lucas asking permission for the Association to reprint the book, as the original run was finished. I immediately contacted Skye, and it was happily granted.

These days, the book has become the go-to Ontario source for learning callers, which pleases me greatly. However, I would caution that one should not necessarily replicate the

calls word for word. As Dave Lucas pointed out at our U of Guelph callers' workshop, every caller has to choose his or her own words: "What fit Alex's mouth might not fit yours". The phrasing on the page can be deceiving. It was designed to look good and does not always match the phrasing of the music or the movement of the dancers. If you want to use the same words, you have to figure out when to start the call so that the dancers get the instruction on time.

Please remember that there are many traditional square dances that are not in the book. I recently danced a few squares that I had never done before – all old time. However you use it, the idea behind Alex's collection was and remains: "TO KEEP ALIVE THE MUSIC AND DANCES OF THE PIONEERS"

College Royal Square Dance Competition Results



The latest edition of College Royal at the University of Guelph took place on March 16 and 17. Their annual Square Dance competition was on Saturday, March 16 and was well attended.

There were 6 undergrad sets competing as well as a few other sets of Alumni who participated.

In the undergrad competition, the placings were as follows:

1st – 2020 Buffalos

2nd – 2021 Broncos

3rd – 2019 Grizzlies

4th – Junior Farmers

5th – 2022 Longhorns #1

6th – 2022 Longhorns #2

Best Caller – Karly Rumpel 2019 Grizzlies

Runner up – Josh Moran

Best couple – Clay Williams and Sam Kennedy

Couple #1, 2021 Broncos

Runner up – Kyle Farquarson and Margaret Alexioux

Couple #1, 2022 Longhorns #2

The judges were all on the same page for the placings in the competition. The best caller received a copy of our CD of music and the best set received 12 passes to our April dance. (Hope to see them there.)



In the open competition, the sets jockeyed around in their positions. When the dust settled, the final placings were:

1st – 2021 Broncos

2nd – 2020 Buffalos

3rd – Junior Farmers

4th – 2019 Grizzlies

5th – 2022 Longhorns #1

6th – 2022 Longhorns #2

Members of the Association that were participants during the day were -- Bill Hands – judge,
 ---Ken McCormack – judge,
 --- Gary Baker -- dancer,
 --- Brenda Watson -- dancer,
 ---Shirley-Anne Smyth – caller, and Dave Lucas – compulsory (guest) caller.
 Music was provided by the Karen Reed Band.
 (Report was submitted by notes from Bill Hands and Ken McCormack.)

Call for Constitution Amendments

In accordance with the constitution of the Association, the executive calls for any proposed amendments that the membership wishes to put forth.
 All proposed amendments are to be submitted to the executive not later than May 31st for review and publication prior to the Annual General Meeting in October.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

Proposed amendment to the constitution:

In response to an ongoing struggle for quorum, the Executive proposes that ONE of the following amendments be adopted:

Proposal #1
 “Article VII, Section 5: Replace “A quorum at an Executive Committee

meeting shall consist of four officers.” with “three officers”.

Proposal #2

To add to Article VII, Section 5:
 “A member of the Executive may send a substitute, who will act and vote in that member’s stead.”

Proposal #3

To add to a section to Article V Election of Officers:
 “Article V, Section 5: The Executive may appoint one or two Member(s)-at-Large.”

Call for Nominations

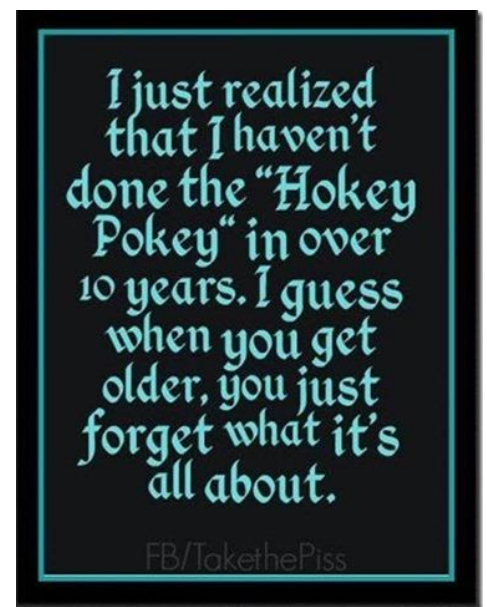
It is coming to that time of year again. The constitution states that elections for the Association are to take place each year in the month of June. In accordance with this, I am opening the nominations process for the 4 elected positions of our Association, namely President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Sue Stone, our current secretary, has already indicated to us that she will not be standing for re-election and we thank her for her service this past year. The other three members (Bill Russell – president, Nancy Wheeler – vice president, Deborah Jefferson – treasurer) are all *eligible* for re-election to their current positions. We, of course, welcome any new nominations for all positions. If nothing changes, the executive would still be short 1 member for the coming year due to the retirement of Sue.
 Please consider either nominating or standing for any of the positions on the executive. Meeting commitments are approximately 3 –

4 meetings per year of 2 to 2 ½ hours in length.

Nominations are to be sent to the past President (Dave Lucas) at oac86aggie@hotmail.com or by mail at:

Dave Lucas
 1888 5th Line, RR#1
 Lefroy, Ont. L0L 1W0

If mailed, nominations must be postmarked by May 31.



Publisher/Editor

Articles and items for sharing or comments should be sent to:
 Wallace Boustead 70 Willowridge Rd.
 Toronto ON M9R-3Z4 416-249-0147
mj-wc_boustead@sympatico.ca

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SAT. NOV. 2nd 2019

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

LIVE BAND

For information call Bill Russell 416-658-5162 or Bill Hands 416-241-9930

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!