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The Olde Tymmer

*The Newsletter of
Canadian Olde Tyme
Square Dance Callers
Association
February 2020 Issue 66*

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

Presidents Report

Bill Russell

This is the 65th year of the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers Association. The dancing continues thanks to the efforts of many people. To name a few:

Thanks go to Ralph and Sandy Price for their help at the dances, with the share the wealth tickets and for their monthly bulletin. Thank you to past presidents Ken McCormack and Murray Smith who have kept up our presence on the Internet.

For the members without computers, it almost makes it worthwhile getting one.

Thank you to Wallace Boustead for continuing to publish the Olde Tymmer. Every issue is a treat to receive, either online or in the mail. Thank you to all who contribute to our newsletter.

Thank you to Bill Hands, Morley Batt, and all the callers and organisers who put on regular

dances and fiddle jams. Thank you to all the folks who are working with 4-H clubs and University of Guelph students. You are keeping the traditions alive.

As an executive, we are doing our best to support our members and to maintain the Association. Thank you to all the folks who help out at the dances and behind the scenes. Without you, life would be a lot harder.

And thank you to all the dancers who turn out to our and other's events. You are the reason we keep going.

Get to Know the Band

The Puslinch Country Squires

Paul McDonald:

At the age of 10 my parents thought I should play the violin, so without asking if I would like to play the violin, they ordered one from Eaton's and it was delivered to the

Campbellville train station, better known as Guelph Junction.

After many weeks of being forced to try and play the darn thing on one string I finally realized that there were 3 other strings and why not use them. No lessons were offered to me as my parents could not afford to drive me there let alone pay for them.

As the years passed and learning on my own I became more proficient and in the teen years I had formed a small country band (Country Squires) and was playing for local dances and parties.

In 1966 I met Wendy and as luck would have it, she could chord on the piano. We were married in 1969. Wendy and I, along with other members, continued to entertain (Puslinch Country Squires) through many years til present.

In the late 1990's I took several on-line and mail order violin building courses and discovered that it was something to enjoy in the retirement years. We now have a full violin repair shop setup for making and repairing violins along with bow rehairs.

In 2005 I started a small group of 5 interested fiddlers which would meet at our church on a monthly basis. In 2006 the Puslinch Fiddle Orchestra was born and we performed our first concert to help pay for the rental of the church hall. The Puslinch Fiddle Orchestra has now grown (2020) to approximately 45 members. It has been an overwhelming success for Wendy and I, and all proceeds of each show goes to a local charity. We are so thankful for all the member support we get, along with all those who help in any way.

To date, Wendy and I are both retired from our real jobs, Wendy as a teacher and I as a trades person specializing in Heating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration. We continue to score music, conduct the Puslinch Fiddle Orchestra, work in the violin shop, teach, play for dances, community events and retirement homes.

Paul & Wendy McDonald



**Rob Stark, Ken Gunson,
Norm Hughes, Jim Arnold,
Paul McDonald, Chris
Woroch
Wendy McDonald**

Robert Stark Bass Player

Robert grew up in Toronto, playing in school bands and orchestras and played trumpet in a community concert band. His dad taught him harmonica. He had a guitar since his teens but really took it up in his 30's and has played it since, adding bass and mandolin much later. He enjoys all styles of music and has tried most of them at one time or another.

Chris Woroch Drummer

Chris started playing drums at age eleven. After two years of formal lessons, Chris began to play in bands and played widely, recording, performing, doing television and radio work, while living in Toronto and Kitchener. Chris also began teaching, which he continues to do for Long and McQuade Music in Waterloo. He enjoys playing a wide variety of music including the music of The Puslinch Country Squires.

Norm Hughes Guitar

Norm started playing at a early age in Cobokonk Ontario.

He is self taught on guitar, mandolin and fiddle. Norm has played since he was 16 and is now an accomplished lead guitar player.

Puslinch Country Squires

Old Time Country Fiddle Band

Country Waltzes, Two steps,

Fox trots, Jigs, Reels

Old Time Square Dancing

We are available for Dances,

Private Parties

1-2 hour shows for the

Retirement Community

For bookings call 519-763-9764

paulmcd61.pm@gmail.com

Dance Reports

The Association held its Fall dance on Nov.02 at Westway. While the attendance was down close to 20 people (84 versus over 100), those in attendance enjoyed a spirited night of dancing.



The New Buttonville Strings provided some great music and the enthusiastic crowd danced the night away.



Unfortunately, we still ended up with a loss on the night.

On January 04, we held our yearly "Buttonville" style dance where any aspiring callers were welcome to come out and show their "stuff". This year, we had 4 new callers participate, which was great to see.



Band: Anne Lederman, Ian Bell, Kate Murphy

The music was again provided by Ann Lederman and her band and was enjoyed by all in attendance. Unfortunately, attendance was down for this dance as well (75 in attendance) and we still posted a small loss (despite an increase in admission rate).



Overall, our dances were enjoyed by many and we are getting renewed interest in people for learning to call, so the Association is still working to keep the old-time traditions alive. Hope to see you in April!

Executive 2019-2020

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

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

Past President ----- Dave Lucas
oac86aggie@hotmail.com

Secretary ----- OPEN

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

The executive is currently seeking a willing individual for the secretary position. The meetings happen 3 or 4 times per year and are usually 2 hours in length. If anyone is

interested in this job, please contact someone on the exec.

Again, we congratulate the current exec for their successful return and look forward to another great year of dancing.
 Dave Lucas (Past President)

Royal Winter Fair Results

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Square Dance Competition was held on November 10th. Judges included Bill Hands & Wallace Boustead. The compulsory caller was Morley Batt all members of the C.O.T.S.D.C.A.

The 4H class

- 1st---Orms town 4H
- 2nd---West Carleton 4H
- 3rd---Wellington 4H

The Open class

- 1st---2021 Broncos



- 2nd---Jus' Friends
- 3rd---OAC 2022 Set 1

Russell's Ramblings

What is tradition? How do traditions change? These questions are at the core of our Association, which was formed to preserve and promote Canadian traditions.

A few things changed while I was in Quebec (1997-2014). Certain dances have almost been forgotten in the area around Toronto: the Varsovianna Waltz, the Isle of Capri, the Irish Waltz, Life on the Ocean Wave, Venus and Mars, and others. I recently called "Chase the Lady around the two; the Lady goes around but the Gent cuts through..." and had to walk folks through the figure. Many experienced dancers had never done this old-time staple.

Some changes have to do with the availability – or lack thereof – of the proper music, either live or recorded. When we had Genny and Bob Arbuckle, Tommy McQuestion and Sam McVanel with The Country Ramblers to play for us, we did not have to worry about the musicians knowing what to play. Now, the Association is looking for new bands who can play (and/or learn) the old repertoire.

We have also lost many callers. In the 1980's, we had plenty of callers to fill an evening of dance. Often 18 or 19 would show up to our Big Dances. Most of them had regular dances that they cancelled for the evening and encouraged their dancers to come along. We did not have to plan a program; we could just tell the callers when they would be calling. Most folks knew which figure each was most likely to call, so they knew not to impose by doing one of "their" calls. Nowadays, we get a dozen or so Caller Members at the Fall and Spring Dances. The Association is reaching out to new callers and providing workshops for them. Our

January dance is a venue for them to work with a crowd and a live band. Happily, newer callers are coming along, as we saw at the last dance.

Old-time square dancing has always been evolving. I like to think of it as like knitting: a couple of needles and some yarn, knit, purl, repeat and vary; and you get something new. For instance, a couple returning to Ontario from Florida showed the steps for a dance done in waltz time at a square dance in Nobleton. Bill Hands started teaching it, and it has become a regular staple for many of us, known locally as the "Nobleton Waltz". I used to dance the Jesse Polka steps only to the tune of that name. Nowadays, folks do the Jesse Polka steps to any polka tune. Maybe they always have. I enjoy dancing new (to me) square dances made up by Ernie Shoebridge and others.

Another fun thing about old-time square dancing is that it varies from place to place and from caller to caller. In Québec, Cut Off Six is known as "Coupez six, quatre, deux" and is danced just like in Ontario. However, in some versions of Cut Off Six, the active lady and gent cross to the opposite corner when they cut off four, then cross back to their own sides to cut off two. In another version, the sides right and left through while a head couple cuts off six, the right and left back while the head couple cuts off four. In another version, the three inactive ladies swing the gent to their right after each cut, getting back to their partners for the all swing at the end. Every version

came from somebody's innovation. Each version is correct and is fun in its own way.

Bill Russell

Memberships DUES

Dues are 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.

Web Sites Of Interest

If you have not checked out the Association's website recently, you might want to see what is new:

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

In particular, we have added some pictures of the sheet music for many of the couple dances. Fiddlers should be able to download them and learn the tunes.

Associate Member Lorna Irwin has been looking for old-time square dances that she would like to learn to call. Seeing them in action can really help. Here are a few sites she sent me recently:

Square dance History
<https://squaredancehistory.org/>

Here's a dance with Ladies home place: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzOfDm6xo18>

I like this one! Wagon Wheel. Goes on for 8 minutes!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AiqS0EQT88>

And this one with some swing type moves. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPSNhhLBDA8>

If you have found any interesting traditional square dance web sites, please pass them along to me at russell_bill@hotmail.com

Bill Russell

Yes officer, I did see the 'speed limit' sign, I just didn't see you.

Well, I was going to turn all my guns over to the government; but I did a background check and none of them were mentally stable.

Henry & Clara Ford Dancing at Henry Ford II Wedding



This is what I saw at Edison and Ford winter Estates in Florida

Henry and Clara Ford July, 1940

The Fords enjoy a dance at the wedding of their grandson, Henry II to Anne McDonnell.

In the 1920s Henry Ford noted,

"The younger people do not know (old-fashioned) dances, and the older people – those who really need dancing – have grown rusty. They thought they were too old. One never gets too old to dance!"

Henry Ford published a set of Square Dance books in the 1930's or 1940's, I'm not sure when.

College Royal Square Dance Competition

The annual College Royal Square Dancing Competition is happening on Saturday, March 21st in the main gym of the Athletic Center. See students of 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.

I replaced my litter box
with a FedEx box, now
when it's full I just
tape it shut and put
it on my porch for
someone to steal.

GOODLIVINGGUIDE.COM



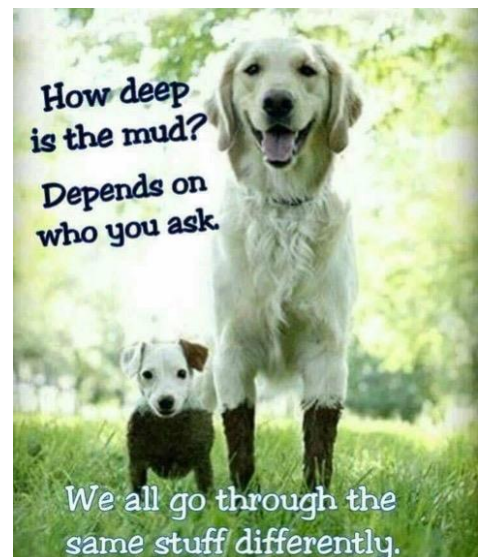
On this road called life,
you have to take the
good with the bad,
smile when your sad,
love what you got, &
remember what you had.
Always forgive,
but never forget. People change.
Things go wrong. But just
remember, the ride goes on.



YOU KNOW
YOU'RE OLD
WHEN YOU GO
TO BED AT THE
TIME YOU USED
TO GO OUT.



"Anybody that can do at 65 what he was doin' at 25 wasn't doin much at 25!"



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

CANADIAN OLDE TYME SQUARE DANCE ASSOCIATION



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

8:00PM

SAT. APRIL. 4th 2020

\$12.00

WESTWAY UNITED CHURCH

8 Templar Dr, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9R 3C7

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

Puslinch Country Squires

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

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!