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# The Olde Tymer

*The Newsletter of  
Canadian Olde Tyme  
Square Dance Callers  
Association  
June 2020 Issue 67*

Website: <http://scauwaterloo.ca/cotsdca>

## Presidents Report

President's Report  
Bill Russell

What a time we are in! - You can say that again! - What a time we are in!

Although everything is "on pause" right now, we can still prepare for more normal times. Your executive committee is keeping in touch via email and seeing that the Association will be maintained. This issue of the Olde Tymer has that in mind. Planning for the reopening of our beloved activities must continue – even if it turns out to be farther down the road than we would like. If you don't plant the seed, you will never see the flower.

Congratulations to Lillian Cordell, who has become our newest Caller Member in Ontario. We had hoped to have her join in the calling at our Spring Dance, but you know... Many of us have danced to her calling. Here is hoping to do so again in the not too distant future.

We also welcome a new Caller Member from Quebec. James Allan has been calling for decades in the Eastern Townships communities of Inverness and Kinnear's Mills and in Quebec City. He was assessed using video recordings, which may be a first for the Association.

I hope you are able to keep in touch with your dancing friends. The folks from The Flowertown Promenaders have been sharing photos, videos and jokes to keep spirits up. Ralph Price has been keeping up his newsletter, but I have no idea what dance the bunnies are doing (you'll understand if you are on his mailing list). I have shared a few posts on the Facebook page for the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Association. If you have something appropriate you would like to share on the page, please do.

We have scheduled our dances for next season, so please mark your calendars for November 7, 2020, January 9 and April 17, 2021. Of course, we will have to see what the health department recommendations

are closer to the dates. We hope things will work out for all of us.

I look forward to a "tamaracker down on the old pine floor" sometime soon!

Correction: For the last issue of the Olde Tymer, I had already sent in my Russell's Ramblings when I got a call from Phyllis Barrack concerning the introduction of the Nobleton Waltz to Ontario. She told me that Ruby McCauley showed the steps for the dance at the square dance in Nobleton. Among others, Bill Hands started teaching it, and it has become a regular staple for the old-time waltzers among us.

Be well and stay safe.

## Vice Presidents Report

The onset of the Corona virus pandemic has caused us to become very aware of the behaviours which can easily transmit an undesirable danger to another person. In light of this heightened awareness, we will

be reviewing the behaviours we routinely engage in during our dances.

One infected person with a cold, flu, or other contagious illness could potentially transmit it to every person attending the dance. Since the very nature of square dances involves changing partners with multiple frequent hand contact, as well as changing the mix of people in squares between dance sets, a bacteria or virus on one infected person's hands could be present on everyone's hands by the end of the evening.

A virus, as with most illnesses, can be contagious for some time before you even have symptoms, or some may never have significant symptoms. The single best practice in preventing transmission of a virus or bacteria, is the frequent washing of hands. Going forward, in the interest of keeping all of our attendees healthy, we want to recommend all dancers to engage in frequent hand washing during dances. To make this practice more convenient, we will be looking at additional measures to alleviate line-ups for the washrooms while still encouraging hygiene and sanitation.

Initially, we felt that the square dance season would resume in the fall, however realistically, that may not be an option. At this time, until further notice, all square dance events are cancelled, however we ask you to please save the dance dates and we will inform you once it is safe to restart.

As always, if you are not well, or have other symptoms that could be contagious, please avoid attending dances to prevent the risk of spreading the illness.

Ralph Price sends out a monthly email about fiddle jams and dances in the surrounding areas; all have been cancelled. If you would like to subscribe to receive these notices, please email a request to him directly:

[ralph.sandyprice@sympatico.ca](mailto:ralph.sandyprice@sympatico.ca)

I have not been notified that any of our members have been infected with the virus so I am hoping that means all are well and finding other safe ways to stay active.

We will get through this trying time together by staying physically apart. We look forward to the days when we can celebrate and dance together once again.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Nancy Wheeler  
C.O.T.S.D.C.A. VP

**C.O.T.S.D.C.A on line**

Bill Russell

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

Murray Smith maintains our site, which was created with the help of Eric Praetzel. There have been a few updates and innovations lately, so do check them out:

First is a link to our Facebook page, for which Ken McCormack is the manager in chief. The page is open to all, and you are invited to make appropriate contributions. Please keep in mind that we are promoting **traditional** square and couple dancing.

Second is a link to "Learn to Call", where there are plenty of helpful suggestions and examples for new callers to listen, watch and learn.

The other links are About Us; Resources; Callers, Basics/Calls, Couple Dances, Square Dance Events, Fiddling Events, Links, and Home.

Fiddlers, take note (or better, "take notes"): We recently added images for the sheet music for many of our traditional couple dances, thanks to the Ontario Traditional Music Library. The OTML also makes available many tune collections, including some of Jack Hayes' repertoire. The older folks among us will remember Jack's great contribution as a caller and fiddler in the Toronto area.

We try to be up to date, but we do need folks to help us. Please send corrections and/or additions to

Murray Smith at:  
[fiddledsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:fiddledsmith@hotmail.com)



## An Old-Time Music Journey

From the Buttonville W.I. to the ONTRAD Library

By Ian Bell

In the late 1970s, I was a fledgling guitarist and button accordion player, just starting to learn the ins and outs (so to speak) of traditional music. I had lately moved from the small town of Waterford, Ontario to the big city of Toronto. Once there, it didn't take me long to gravitate towards others of my kind, most importantly to piano and banjo player, Kate Murphy and fiddler, Anne Lederman, with whom I started the folk group *Muddy York*.

Kate was already involved with the old-time square dance scene at that point, playing with fiddlers like Ted Sinoski, and Tommy McQueston and with callers like Walter Cosburn, Alex Mulligan, and Jack Hayes. Over the next little while I was lucky enough to join her as a guitarist in trios with Ted and Tommy, playing in venues ranging from the Buttonville Women's Institute Hall to The Royal Ontario Museum. A few years after that I played guitar along with fiddler Dave Weir for weekly square dance classes taught every Tuesday night by Jack Hayes at Central Tech School on Harbord St. There I got to watch Jack teach all the old dances, and sometimes adapt new ones on the spot for whatever odd number of people might have shown up for the class that night. I also got to hear a lot of great stories of the old-time fiddlers, callers,

dancers and dance halls all over Southern Ontario.

I can't begin to say how grateful I am for the education I got from these players, (and others) many of whom were decades older than I was. I learned tunes and dances that most musicians my age had never heard of, - *The Roberts*, *The Jessie Polka*, *The Navy Two-step* and the like. These tunes still live on in my repertoire along with a million other jigs and reels, old parlour ballads, folk songs and sea chanties. I don't play them all that often these days, but it's great to have them there when I need them - and its lots of fun to be able to teach them to others. I recently found a brand-new way to do this.

### The ONTRAD Library

After forty years of collecting and playing early Ontario music in many different forms, I found I was regularly being asked about it by a lot of people. Partly just to avoid getting tired of answering questions, I put together the Ontario Traditional Music Library (ONTRAD Library) a free-access website of Ontario traditional songs and dance music for the use of musicians, students and museum workers.

At the core of the ONTRAD Library are the digitized contents of my collections (and parts of my brain). It includes hundreds of entries of songs, fiddle music, stories and other folklore. There are recordings, photos, reference material and sheet music that can be accessed - and

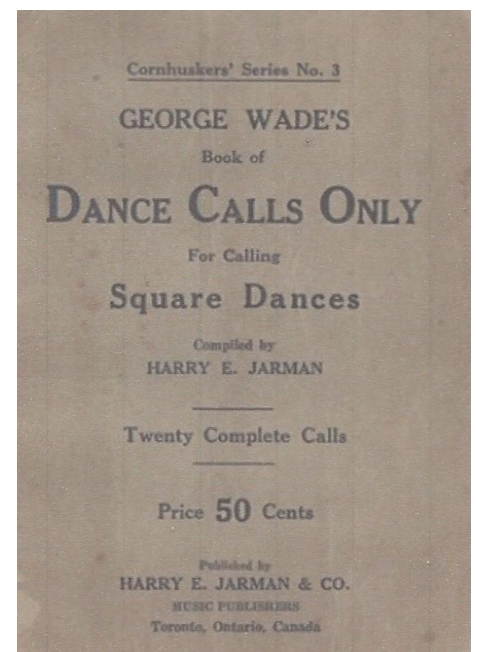
more than a few old-time Ontario dance tunes and calls.

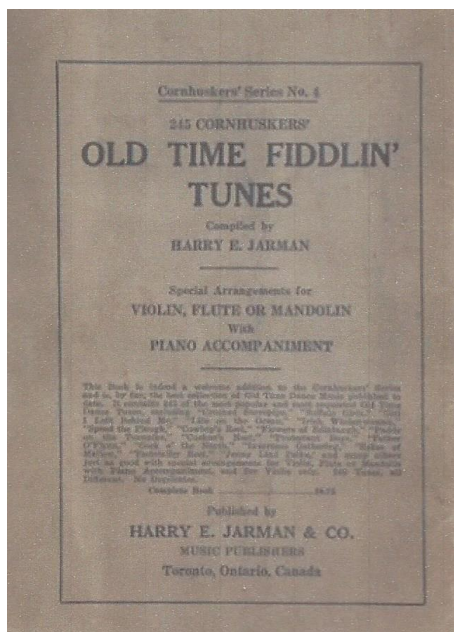
The Ontario Old-Time Square-Dancing community has been very helpful in finding information and photos of folks like Tommy McQueston and Jack Hayes and examples of the music they played and dances they called. You can find all this and much more at [www.ontariotraditionalmusic.ca](http://www.ontariotraditionalmusic.ca).

The ONTRAD Library also has an active Facebook Page. Please check them out sometime.

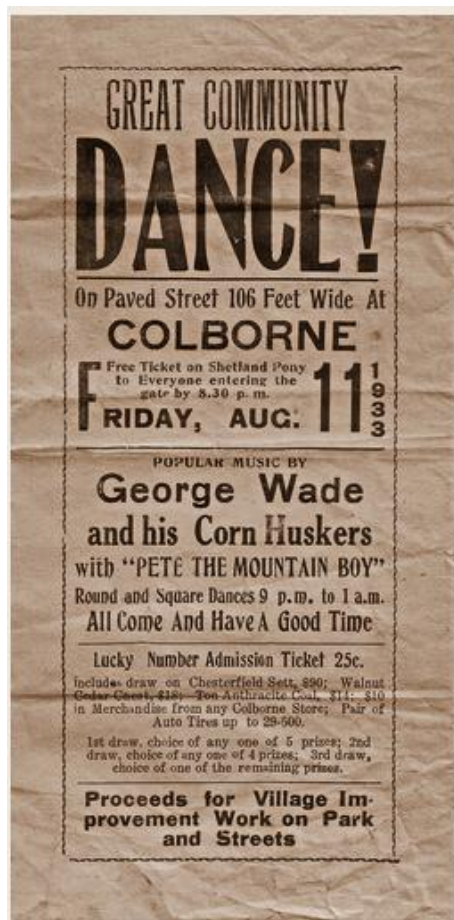
Ian Bell is a folk musician and former museum curator living in Paris, Ontario. [www.ianbellmusic.ca](http://www.ianbellmusic.ca)

### Cover of Cornhuskers' Square Dance book - 1930s

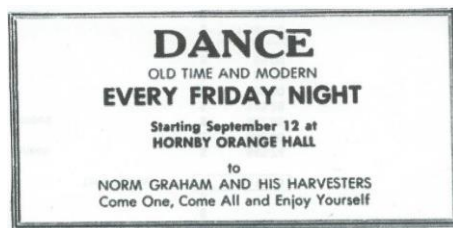




Poster for a dance with The Cornhuskers – 1933



## Hornby Dance Advertisement – 1952



Norm Graham Harvesters (1950s)



**Banjo** - Lloyd Speedy, **Fiddles** - Bill Crawford & Tommy McQueston, **Piano** - Carm Oliver, **Drums** - Ray Blades, Back Right - Norm Graham, **Square Dance Caller** - "Jack" Hayes - Photo Courtesy of John Hayes.

**Editors note:** I knew both fiddlers Tommy McQueston on the right and on the left is Danny Gatuzzi (not Bill Crawford).

## Memberships DUES

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.

## Dates to Plan for

The Dundalk Square Dance & the 165<sup>th</sup> Fall Fair is Postponed to September 10, 11 & 12, 2021.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Association is provisionally set for Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., at the Westway United Church (downstairs), 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke

We have scheduled our dances for next season, so please mark your calendars for November 7, 2020, January 9 and April 17, 2021.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair **Square Dance Competition** is on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, **FOR ALL** dates we will have to see what the health department recommendations.

## 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](mailto:mj-wc_boustead@sympatico.ca)



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



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

**8:00PM**

**SAT. NOV. 7nd 2020**

**\$10.00**

**WESTWAY UNITED CHURCH**

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

(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!**