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# The Olde Tymmer

*The Newsletter of  
Canadian Olde Tyme  
Square Dance Callers  
Association  
March 2023 Issue 71*

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

## Presidents Report

Bill Russell

Election of officers

Folks, it is time to figure out where we should go from here. The first step is putting together the people who will make the decisions.

Dave Lucas and Deborah Jefferson have each put it over a dozen years of service on the Executive Committee. They will be retiring at the end of August. I am overdue to become the Past President, having served as President for longer than the term limit of three years. Calvin Everitt has joined the committee for now.

The positions needing to be filled are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Along with the Call for Nominations elsewhere in this issue of the Olde Tymmer, Dave will describe what it really entails to serve on the Executive.

Thanks to the Internet, you do not have to live in or near Toronto, or even in Ontario. Ideally, our Executive should represent callers, dancers, and even musicians who love the traditional dances and music wherever they live.

Please consider stepping forward. If you would like to talk about it, please feel free to contact me: [russell\\_bill@hotmail.com](mailto:russell_bill@hotmail.com) (that is a “\_” between “russell” and “bill”). If you prefer to use the telephone: (416) 658-5162, always leave a message. Or contact Dave or Deborah if you prefer.

Whither the Association?

Most folks are only aware of our “Big” dances. Other activities that are less visible:

Murray Smith has been updating our website. In particular, there are more resources for learning to call: <http://sca.uwaterloo.ca/cotsdca/>

Our Facebook page, managed by Ken McCormack, is a place for notices about dances and fiddle jams and other activities:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianOldeTymeSquareDanceCallersAssociation>

Thanks to Ralph Price's monthly updates in Ontario, the above pages are getting more timely information.

Deborah Jefferson has many recordings donated by retiring callers. A list is available on our website.

We have also been individually and collectively helping beginning callers and teaching new dancers some of our traditions.

Dave Lucas has been involved in preparing dancers and callers for the College Royal at U Guelph.

Murray Smith and I have been helping new member Jack Rosien who is teaching old-time square dancing in Eganville, Ontario, while

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also learning how to call. Thanks to this collaboration, Murray has been able to post more useful music on our website.

It has been suggested that we need an “influencer”, a young person on TikTok or Twitter who will show how much fun and how cool old-time square dancing is.

The Association is more than the Executive committee, but without one, it cannot succeed. By pulling together, we can continue having fun with our Canadian style square and couple dances.

### Appeal for Executive Members

Past President Dave Lucas

During the past few years, the executive has remained largely unchanged. However, that is about to change. After serving the Association for the past 13 years, both Deborah Jefferson and I have decided to step away from our roles. Bill Russell has completed his term as President and is not eligible for another term (as president) at this time. He will however be remaining on the executive as the Past President. So the Association is in need of a whole new executive. Calvin Everitt has joined us for part of this year but all members are eligible for election to the executive.

The executive is responsible for the general running of the Association. We do that through the use of our own efforts and the

assistance of volunteers. The jobs are as large or small as you want to make them. Our main events have been the 3 dances a year we have been holding. We also act as contacts, for members or the public, in answering general questions and promoting Canadian old tyme square dancing.

The executive can meet in person or by Zoom (or a hybrid method, if chosen). The meetings are up to 2 hours in length, depending on the business to be conducted, and happen anywhere from 2-4 times per year.

The following are the duties of the executive positions.

**President:** responsible for calling meetings and the running of these

Meetings. Acts as a point of contact for general inquiries.

**Vice-President:** acts as president when the president is unavailable.

Assists with general management.

**Secretary:** Handles correspondence within the Association and responsible for taking minutes of all meetings.

**Treasurer:** Maintains inventory of the Association and handles the banking duties of the Association.

Any projects that the Association wants to take on do not have to be run solely by the executive. We are a volunteer organization and rely on help from our members.

Please consider who you can nominate or consider volunteering yourself for a position. If the Association is to survive and move forward, it is in need of new members and a new executive!

### 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.

All positions will be vacant as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, as all current terms have been filled for length.

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](mailto:oac86aggie@hotmail.com) or by mail at:

Dave Lucas

1888 5<sup>th</sup> Line, RR#1

Lefroy, Ont. L0L 1W0

If mailed, nominations must be postmarked by June 2nd.



**Winter Dance Report**

By Deborah Jefferson



After 3 year of COVID dancing one more commenced on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Westway United Church. We had 89 in attendance to enjoy the afternoon (new time 1—4 pm). Many commented that they liked the new time, as they are finding it difficult to drive at night now.



The floor was always full to the music by Anne Lederman, Ian Bell and Tom Leighton. It was certainly nice to see so many people once again After 3 years of COVID, dancing once commenced on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Westway United Church. We had 89 in attendance to enjoy the afternoon (new time 1pm—4pm). Many commented

dancing and having a good time. We need to thank Bill Hands for organizing the callers for the afternoon. Caller members participating were,

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Bill Russell     | Dave Lucas |
| Bill Hands       | Bob Vernon |
| Ernie Shoebridge | Jack Irwin |
| Calvin Everitt   | Ron Nobbs  |



We also had 2 young aspiring callers call at the dance. Wesley Knierim & Laura Bateman both of these callers had winning sets in the 2022 Royal Winter Fair.

A thank you also goes to Larry Large for leading the singing of the National Anthem, Master of Ceremonies Bill Hands and Calvin Everitt and to Peter Renzland for teaching a Progressive Barn Dance mixer after the half.



The Association would like to thank the Caller members, Associate members and dancers for their continued support of the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers Association dances.



**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR RESULTS**  
Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2022



The judges for this year's fair where Sharon Grose, Iris Perriman, & Wallace Boustead.

The Compulsory caller was Dave Lucas

Class 1 open to 4-H club members only. Only one set entered. Wellington County 4-H with caller Wesley Knierim

Class 2-- College & University  
1<sup>st</sup> Place -- U of Guelph Junior Farmers

Caller---Laura Bateman

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2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- OAC 2023 Coyotes  
Caller—Vince Severino



3<sup>rd</sup> Place -- Wild Boars  
Caller—John Arts

Class 3 Open to all dancers of all ages and all sets.

1<sup>st</sup> Place -- OAC 2023 Coyotes.  
Caller--Vincent Severino

2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- Wellington County 4-H  
Caller—Wesley Knierim

3<sup>rd</sup> Place -- Red Royals  
Caller—Wesley Knierim

#### Callers Comer

Bill Russell

A very important part of being a caller is teaching new dancers. Here is Ralph Price's approach:

#### HOW I TEACH SQUARE DANCING

Since I became a Caller Member of the Association, Sandy and I have gone out and done square dance "gigs" for many groups for various occasions. Most of the people at these functions had never danced before, so it is a matter of teaching them the "basics" in order to get started.

(A) I start by telling people there are 4 very important things in square dancing.

- 1) Listening! Listen to me, I'm telling you what to do.
- 2) Know your right!
- 3) Know your left!
- 4) Have fun!

(B) I explain about partner and corner

(C) I explain a square is made up of 4 couples and which is which and I make them number off and then I will throw out at random, requests for certain couples to raise their hands. I do the same for Heads and Sides and the Foot.

(D) I explain the following and make them do it.

- 1) A-la-Main left & A-la Main right.
- 2) Dos-a-Do.
- 3) Promenade.
- 4) Grand Chain.
- 5) Swing
- 6) Right and Left Through and courtesy turn.
- 7) Chain the Ladies

At his point, I tell them we are going to combine a number of these moves and they will just walk through them and do them. I'll do that a few times and then I add some music to it. I always tell Sandy, not too fast.

At that point I'm ready to teach a specific dance, with the appropriate walk-throughs.

I use a cordless headset microphone, so that I can get off the stage and get on the floor to help guide people as I teach.

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You do not need to be a caller to teach or "refresh" the basics. Here is Heather Sullivan's list of moves that she uses before Bill Hands calls the dances at Duff's Corners:

**Basic Square Dance Moves:  
Remind people who their partner and corner are, which couples are heads and sides, and that couples are numbered 1 through 4.**

**Do sa do**

**Swing**

**Allemande left/right**

**Grand chain/left hand grand chain**

**Weave the ring**

**Reverse the chain**

**Promenade (1/2 way/all the way)**

**Forward and back**

**Right and left through/pass through**

**Ladies chain/4 ladies chain**

**Grand Square (heads face/sides face/reverse)**

**Right/left star**

**Roll away**

**1/2 promenade**

**Basic Description of Forming lines...what it means to go around 1 or 2 etc.**

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Some of my own observations:

Beginners require particular treatment. I never say that a dance is

“easy”. If beginners have trouble understanding or remembering what they are supposed to do, and they have been told that what they are doing is “easy”, they feel like they cannot do it at all and will likely drop out. All dances are “easy” – if you know what to do. As well, beginning dancers have not built up stamina, so I try to keep the dances as short as possible.

At my Sundays at Seven Old-Time Socials, my focus is on fun. I tend to call dances that have a playful element in them, such as Take a ‘lil Peek; Lady Round the Lady, gent also, Lady round the gent, gent don’t go; variations of Birdie in the Cage; and so on. Old-time (aka traditional) square dances are the ones that have survived because they are fun to do.

I am often calling for almost entirely beginners and not always with a good number of folks to comfortably form up squares. If I have 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 or however many couples ready to dance, I will adapt the formation: two sets of three; a big circle of couples facing in; a big circle of couples facing couples; two lines; and so on. And I will call while dancing if it means that everybody who would like to dance can do so.

As well, I will call dances for whatever ages show up, from small children to “well-matured” folks. Very young children will need to cling to a parent, so I will choose figures and dances that let them stay together. Independent children can follow just about any old-time call that has been explained.

Obviously, if you have some experienced dancers available, mixing them with the newcomers is helpful.

Finally, we experienced callers need to encourage and mentor newer callers. Most of us already do this, but if you have not been doing so, please do make an effort.

### Remembering Keith Squires 1928-2022



Stanley Keith Squires peacefully passed away on Thursday, November 24th, 2022. Keith fought a long battle with dementia.

He was born in East York and was the youngest of three siblings, a sister, Alice Godley, and a brother, Douglas Squires. both of whom predeceased Keith.

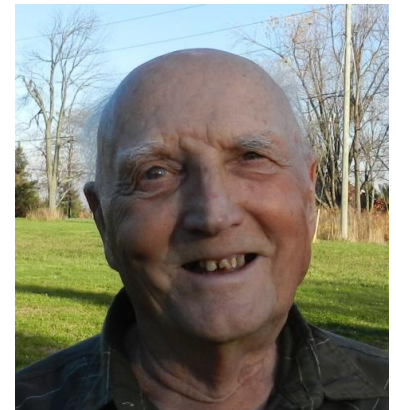
Keith dedicated his life to growing perennial plants (about 5 to 6 thousand different species and varieties). He owned and operated Country Squires Garden for 74 years. He was also a member of the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers Association for over 60 years. Keith is survived by his wife, Carolyn, his daughter, Kay, and sons, Charlie, Bruce and Stan.

He is also survived by his several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### Get to Know Members #9

The Olde Tymer issue #53 had a “get to know Keith article” and here is the copy of that article.

### Keith Squires



Many who know Keith through Square Dancing may not know what he did with the rest of his time. Keith is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Canadian gardener. His Great-Grandfather emigrated with his wife and one daughter from England in 1854. He was a market-gardener and had a Green Grocery Store. They also had 2 more daughters and a son.

The Squires lived in East York near O’Connor his grandfather near St. Clair and his parents near Pape Ave. (Squires Avenue is named for his grandfather.)

In 1938, at the age of 10 Keith and the family moved to 1<sup>st</sup> Line West, Dixie (now Cawthra Road, Mississauga). Keith took on more

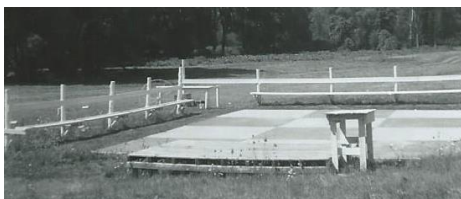
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responsibilities having to feed and look after the horse as well as helping in the market garden & nursery and keeping up his schoolwork.

In 1953 Keith bought a property on Steeles Avenue in what was then Chinguacousy Township, now Brampton and moved the entire nursery operation. In spite of losing most of his crop due to Hurricane Hazel. He worked hard and the crop was replaced the following year.



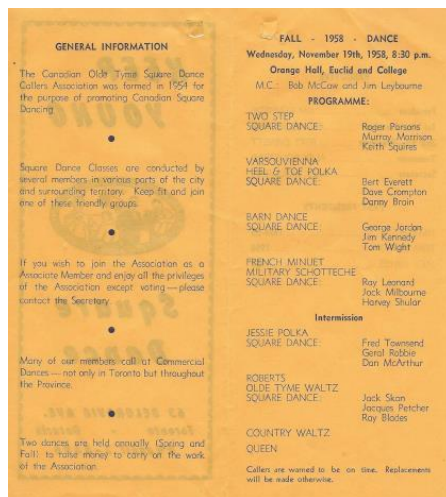
During this time Keith married and had 4 children. He also had regular Square Dances at his farm. The Hidden Valley Square Dances were held, in good weather, on a dance floor in the valley behind his house on Steeles Avenue.



On rainy evenings in the building that stored the Gladiolus corms over winter. There would be callers and dancers from miles around as the reputation grew. Now unfortunately his failing memory doesn't recall the names of the old-time callers, most of whom, if not all have passed away. (Editors Note; I remember dancing there and when a train would pass by we had to stop dancing as we could not hear the caller or music. It was the main line

to Owen Sound and had lots of steam then.)

Keith joined the COTSDCA before 1958 as this programme has him on it November 19<sup>th</sup> 1958 and only caller members could call at the spring and fall dances. If you note the dances were always held on Wednesdays or Thursday as to not interfere with the callers regular Friday or Saturday dances.



Keith and I (Carolyn) met through Square Dancing in 1982. He was teaching Square Dancing through North York Board of Education in the evening. Later, as a caller we would attend the semi-annual dances and Buttonville on occasion. He also called/taught for the city of Toronto. I remember that he could be out every week night (three nights a week teaching Perennial Plant Classes at either The Civic

Garden Centre, now the Toronto Botanic Garden. Humber College or the University of Guelph and at least one night regarding Square Dancing). We would also attend dances by Ernie McCullough, Bill Hands and others.

In 1989 Keith had an offer on the property and so we moved to 2601 Derry Road in Campbellville. He still runs the nursery and has the desire to grow perennials.

About 2005 there were a couple of books written about the area of Dixie and the Dixie Arena. In one book there was mention of a Flower/Gladiolus Convention held, for the first time outside the United States, at the new Dixie Arena. There was no mention of the Squires, although they had helped with the setup and both he and his father attended. Later there was a mention of young Mr. Keith Squires calling at a fund-raising Square Dance, for the new Dixie Arena. Keith laughed, when he read this part because there was no mention of the fiddler Tommy Hunter.

Keith is 87 now and misses Square Dancing, the camaraderie and the physical activity. He has difficulty in remembering some of the lines in most of the calls. Some of you may remember the radio program Art Drysdale Garden Show on CFRB. Keith was a regular guest.

Carolyn Squires



## Dundalk Square Dance Competition

For the first time in the history of the competition there were no square dance sets entered last year. We hope this year there will be some entries in the square dance categories.

Dundalk Dance Association  
Mary Fowler

## College Royal Square Dance Competition

It will happen on March 18, 2023

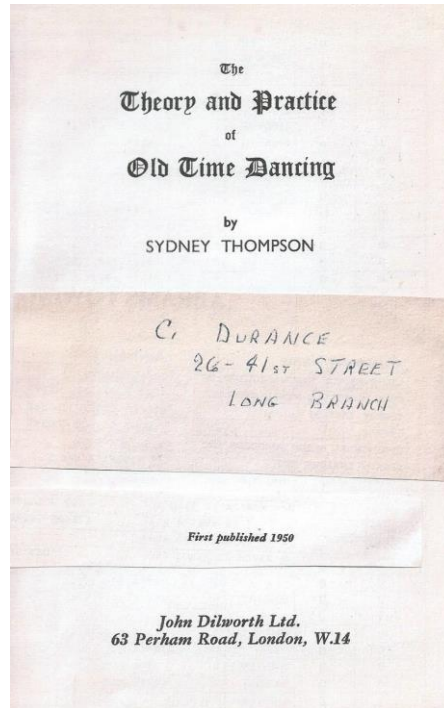
# An Annual Tradition Since 1925

College Royal is the largest university open house event of its kind in North America. Each March, the University of Guelph opens its doors to the general public in a campus-wide open house that attracts thousands of visitors every year. For students, staff, and alumni, College Royal is also a 12-day long event that includes popular events like Kick-Off Pub, Super Thursday, Livestock Shows, Square Dancing,

Kick It Up Fashion Show, and much, much more. College Royal is a 100% student run and organized event. Whether you are a member of the general public curious to see what goes on at the "university on the hill", or a student looking to become involved, we invite you to join us. Come and join the fun this March!

## George Betts Music

George Betts daughter Valerie has been in touch with me and would like her dads cassettes of the music he used for his dances to go to a new home. If you are interested contact me and I will pass your interest on to her. I did acquire two books.



Cyril Durance was a caller member of the COTSDCA

Also, instructions for Old Timer Square and Round Dance Records.



## National and World Fiddle Day-May 20, 2023

### FIDDLE JAM/OLD TIME DANCE/SQUARE DANCE FUNDRAISER FOR COPE SERVICE DOGS

Last Year, Ralph & Sandy Price's Fiddle Day fundraiser for COPE SERVICE DOGS raised **nearly \$2,300.00!** COPE brought dogs to Eady Hall, and an enthusiastic group of fiddlers, other musicians, dancers, square dancers and listeners came in numbers. They had a great back-up band to go along with the 10 fiddlers, 6 square dance callers and other musicians who came to demonstrate their talents.

Ralph and Sandy are doing it again. Come out to Eady Community Hall the afternoon of May 20, 2023. Details are on the poster.



## Spring Dance

The callers annual spring dance is to be held on Saturday April 29, 2023. It will be an afternoon dance 1pm till 4pm see attached Flyer.

## 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 ASSOCIATION



**\* \* \* BIG SPRING DANCE \* \* \***

## **SAT APR 29th 2023**

**AFTERNOON! 1:00-4:00PM\***

\*Brief lesson/refresher at 12:45PM

**\$15.00 per person**

**WESTWAY UNITED CHURCH**

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

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

**Music by Alan McKnight & Friends**

**Caller Members dance**

**Information: Bill Russell 416-658-5162 & Bill Hands 416-  
241-9930**

**Always leave a message**

**CELEBRATING OVER 65 YEARS**

**OF TRADITIONAL CANADIAN SQUARE DANCING**





# NATIONAL & WORLD FIDDLE DAY

## SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023



CELEBRATING WITH A  
**FIDDLE/OLD TIME MUSIC JAM/  
OLD TIME DANCE & SQUARE DANCE  
FUND RAISER FOR COPE SERVICE DOGS**

AT

**EADY COMMUNITY HALL**  
**73 EADY STATION RD., ORO-MEDONTE TWP.**  
(EADY STATION RD. RUNS OFF LINE 10 AND IS ,7.2 KMS., NORTH OF THE HORSESHOE VALLEY RD.,TURN OFF HV. RD. AT JARRATT-MAP ON BACK)

**TIME: 1:00PM TO 5:00PM**

**FORMAT: OPENING ACOUSTIC JAM FOR ALL MUSICIANS**  
**AFTER OPENING: SIGNED IN MUSICIANS PLAY 1 OR 2 TUNES OF CHOICE**  
**DANCING & SQUARE DANCING: LOTS OF IT!**  
**IF YOU DON'T DANCE: COME AND LISTEN**



**ADMISSION: FREE**  
**DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR COPE SERVICE DOGS**  
**(DOGS IN TRAINING WILL BE THERE)**

**REFRESHMENTS: CASH SNACK BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE**  
**INFORMATION: RALPH OR SANDY PRICE (705)835-3159**

