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The Olde Tymmer

*The Newsletter of
Canadian Olde Tyme
Square Dance Callers
Association
September 2023 Issue 72*

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

Presidents Report

Calvin Everitt



May I introduce the new executive?
Vice President - Gerry Gregoire;
Secretary - Lorna Irwin, Past
President - Bill Russell, Treasurer -
the position is open.

A little bit about myself :Calvin
Everitt I have lived in Gravenhurst
most of my life. Both of my parents
enjoyed square dancing. My mother
played the piano. My father was a
caller.

For most of my life, I have been
around and involved in square
dancing.

I learned to play the fiddle even
though I had no ear for music. I
turned to calling and have done that
for a number of years. It was my
pleasure to be president of the
Gravenhurst Music Club for several
years.

Thanks to Bill Hands I became a
member of COTSDCA.

I am calling in Bracebridge on the
third Friday of each month at the
Bracebridge Active Center for
Learning.

My main concern is getting more
dancers out to association dances.
How to achieve this is the question.
There are of course other issues that
need to be addressed.

Please share any and all thoughts
and suggestions with me or any of
the executives. My email address is
calvin.everitt1051@gmail.com

With everyone working together as
one there is no limit to what can and
will be achieved.



Secretary

Lorna Irwin



You'll spot Lorna on the square
dance floor in Guelph and Toronto
and lots of other places as well. She
learned square dancing in Toronto,
at Triangle Squares, a modern
square dance club, in 2013. It was
only when she moved to Guelph a
few years later that she discovered
her olde tyme roots, attending the
traditional square dances called by

Bill Hands at Duff's Church, south of Guelph.

As a young girl, she remembers watching Don Messer's Jubilee. Those square dances, songs and fiddles have stayed with her many decades later. Now retired after a six year stint as the Queen Bee of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, she not only dances but volunteers with a number of square dance organisations. She looks forward to supporting a flourishing olde tyme square dance tradition.

Vice-President

Gerry Gregoire



My introduction to square dancing happened during my childhood listening to my dad practicing his calls for teaching square dancing to his high school Phys -Ed students.

My first experience with square dancing was being taught the moves and dances in grade 7. I was hooked. Dip and Dive, Right Hand High Left Hand Low. All the classics.

Now in my later years I really enjoy Olde Tyme Square Dancing and Modern Western Square Dancing.

I wanted to become involved with COTSDCA to help carry on these traditional dances and to keep the spirit of square dancing alive.

I believe it is very important in this day and age to remember the past and be willing to move forward keeping these traditions and alive for future generations.

Spring Dance Report

Saturday April 29, 2023

On a very cold and wet/rainy afternoon, the Callers Association held another dance at the Westway United Church. We had 65 in attendance to enjoy the afternoon (new time 1 – 4 pm). Many commented that the highways were backed up everywhere and the poor weather probably deterred people from coming out. Those in attendance had a good time dancing to the music by Alan McKnight and Friends. We had 6 callers, who each had an opportunity to call twice in the afternoon.

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.





Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on October 25, 2023, at 7:30 pm. It will be held on Zoom so that members near and far can participate from their homes.

Last year, we held the meeting in a hybrid version, both in person and on the Internet. We rented a room with Internet access, set it up with a projector and screen, but only the Executive Committee members showed up in person. If there is sufficient interest in holding the meeting in person, we may be able to do so again.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

Due to the rising costs we all are encountering, the Executive Committee is proposing that the annual membership dues be raised from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

This will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting on October 25, 2023. Do note that the current annual dues of \$10.00 can be paid

for the fiscal year of September 1, 2023 thru August 31, 2024 up until the change is made.

Membership Dues

Dues are due

The membership year is Sept. 1st to Aug. 31st. Your renewal dues are only \$10.00 a year. Dues should be forwarded to.

Gerry Gregoire
106 Murray St,
Brampton, ON
L6X 2V8,

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

Bill Russell

Tradition is a double-edged sword. On the positive side, folks know their roles – where and how they fit in. It is very reassuring for an individual and for the group they are in. This is one reason why I love old-time square dance. On the negative side, if someone feels forced into a role, they feel trapped and not accepted for being who they feel they really are. We want to maintain our traditions. And we also want to welcome everybody into our dance communities.

Square dancers generally use gendered terms: “Ladies and Gents” or “Boys and Girls”. A lot of dances and patters appear to be telling the men what to do: “Do-si-do your corner. She’s the one in calico” – “Swing her ‘til she hollers ‘whoa!’” – “Chain the ladies” – “Take your Lady by the wrist and go around the next Lady for a grapevine twist” and so on, but not everybody enjoys hearing it called that way.

We are used to women dancing with women, often because there are more women than men willing and able to dance. Many of us are less comfortable with men dancing with men. However, men have historically danced with men in isolated lumber and mining camps or wherever there was a surplus of men. The dancer roles were well defined. Folks knew where they stood.

“Larks live on the left. Robins reside on the right.” You may or may not have come across this terminology. It is being adopted primarily by urban contra dancers, but is also being adopted in smaller centres where contra dancing is popular. They want to welcome new dancers, anybody who might want to try it out. By renaming the Gents’ role as the Lark and the Ladies’ role as the Robin, they hope to be as inclusive as possible.

For those of us who have danced half a century to the calls we know, it can be initially confusing. However, for a newcomer it may be just as clear or even clearer: If I am dancing the Robin role, I am on the

right in our couple. If I am dancing the Lark role, I am on the left in our couple. When I end my swing, I will stand on my side of my partner.

I am not advocating that you change your way of calling if you and your dance community are doing fine. However, if you are in an urban area with plenty of newcomers, you might consider incorporating Larks and Robins into your calling: "Robins to the centre and back to the bar/Larks to the centre with a right-hand star..."

Traditions adapt to changing times.

Note: the original choice of terms was "Larks and Ravens", Ravens having the same vowel sound as Ladies, but it was quickly realized that ravens are held in high status in many indigenous communities. To be respectful, "Robins" is being adopted.

Executive 2023-2024

President ----- Calvin Everitt
calvin.everitt1051@gmail.com

705-706-4396;

Vice President ---- Gerry Gregoire
geraldgregoire22@gmail.com

647-639-7376

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

416-658-5162

Secretary ----- Lorna Irwin
lornagirwin@gmail.com

416-487-2170

Treasurer.----- Open

The executive is currently seeking a willing individual for the treasurer 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 executive.



The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair old-time square dance competition. Is happening, on Sunday November 12, 2023, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

LOCATION: OLG Stage,
Heritage Court - Enercare Centre,
Exhibition Place, Toronto.

JUDGES: Wallace Boustead,
Sharon Grose, Iris Perriman,

CALLER: Dave Lucas

If you have a set that you would like to enter

Classes:

1) 4-H Set

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

2) College & University Set

Open to Dancers and Callers currently enrolled in university or college.

3) Open Set

Open to dancers of all ages and all sets.

Up Coming Dances

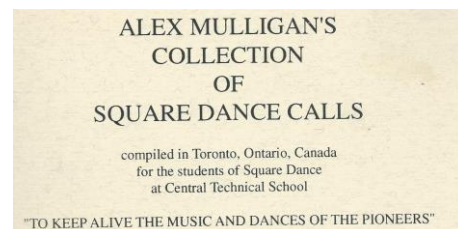
Callers Dance on Saturday, November 11, 2023, from 1-4 pm, at Westway United Church. The band will be The Missing Link. The fiddler will be Bruce Woods, brother of the better-known Scott Woods.

Admittance will be \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members (cash or cheque at the door). Membership dues may also be paid at the door. If the rate is raised on October 25th, it will be \$15 at the door.

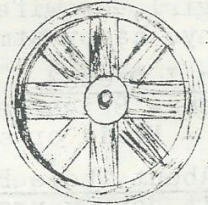
Our January callers sign up dance will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 1-4 pm, at Westway United Church. Band to be announced.

The upcoming dates for the Duff's Square Dances called by Bill Hands are October 14, 2023, November 18, 2023, January 20, 2024, February 10, 2024, March 9, 2024, and April 20, 2024.

Get to Know the Past



Don't forget the Association has copies of this book for sale.



**HIDDEN VALLEY
SUMMER
SQUARE DANCE CLUB**

Original old tyme
Canadian square
dancing in a
beautiful setting,
surrounded by the
scenic Hills of
the Credit Valley.

**HIDDEN VALLEY SUMMER SQUARE DANCE CLUB.
INFORMATION**

Open Air Square Dancing.
Directed by Keith Squires:

- Member of the Can.Old Tyme Square Dance Callers Assoc.
- Director of Square Dancing at Central Y.M.C.A. Toronto.
- New Cloverleaf Square Dance Group, Port Credit.
- Cumbea Square Club, Meadowvale.

Instruction given to beginners.

All persons entering must be members. (Guests sponsored by members allowed in for 1 night only, admission 1 person). Admission refused to persons under the influence or in possession of alcohol.

How do I dress???


Women: your brightest skirt/dress.
Men: plaid or summer shirt.

See programme for exceptions.
(Aug. 1, 15, 22, & Sept. 12).

**Square
DANCE
FOR FUN**

CANADIAN OLDE TYME CALLERS' ASSOCIATION

**LEARNING
TO
SQUARE
DANCE**



Social Recreation Section
Community Programmes Branch
Ontario Department of Education
206 Huron Street, Toronto 5

Square Dance music is in units of 16 counts
Figures are based on units of 4-8-16 steps
Most patterns can be used in a large circle
Without music:

Join hands in a circle - partners not necessary
Easy walk or shuffle - do NOT skip or run
Circle to the left 8 steps - start on L foot
Pivot on 8th step- circle to the right 8 steps
4 steps towards the centre- 4 steps back again
Alternate men and ladies in the circle:

ALLEMANDE - (4 count figure)

- Men turn right, ladies left, "Meet your Partner"
- Shake hands, hang on, walk around each other (this is an Allemande Right)
- Men turn left, ladies right, "Meet your Corner"
- Shake LEFT hands, hold, walk around each other (this is an Allemande Left)

Practice Call:

"Allemande left with your corner
And allemande right with your own" (8 counts)
DO-SI-DO - (8 count figure)

- Face your Partners, walk around each other
- Pass right shoulders first, back up to place
- Mens' arms folded, ladies' hands on hips
- Repeat with Corners (Tradition passes LEFT shoulders on corner)

HONOURS - (4 count figure)

- Men turns and bows to Partner or Corner
- Lady turns and curtseys

NOW - TRY ALL THESE FIGURES TO THE MUSIC!



PROMENADE - (16 count figure)

- Walk beside Partner to the right in the circle
- Two familiar positions:
Skating: Join hands in front (R in L, L in R)
Varsouvianna: R hands joined over lady's R shoulder, L joined in front

SWING - (length depends on Caller)

- Many variations (3 favourites):
Ballroom: Waltz position, R hips adjacent
Interlock: Man's R arm around lady's waist
L hands joined underneath, lady's R hand on man's L shoulder
Elbow: R elbows hooked, L hands joined above
- Buzz Step: ride on the R foot, push with the L "as if riding on a scooter"
- Walk Around: walk around each other in 4 steps

BALANCE - (4 counts or "the phrase")

Step-swing Pas de Bas(que)
Forward and Back Step Dancing (phrased)
(Step Dancing is varied - requires much skill)

SQUARE DANCE FORMATION - SETS

- 4 couples in a circle, each couple face a wall
- drop hands, stand in 8 to 10 foot square
- 1st couple has backs to Caller, 2nd on the R
- Couples are numbered counter-clockwise.

NOW - LET'S HAVE SOME FUN SQUARE DANCING!
when everyone is familiar with these -
- then try the following -

GRAND RIGHT AND LEFT or GRAND CHAIN

- Face Partners, join Right hands
- Walk past each other (2 counts)
- DO NOT TURN AROUND
- Let Go! Join L hands with the next person
- Walk past, join R hands with the next, etc.

Practice Call:

"Allemande left with the corners all;
Right hand to partner, grand chain all."
RIGHT AND LEFT - (16 counts)

- Two couples pass through each other, RIGHT shoulders passing (4 counts)
- Turn around as a couple (4 counts)
- Repeat back to place (8 counts)
(Turn as a couple means keep lady on the R)

LADIES CHAIN - (16 counts)

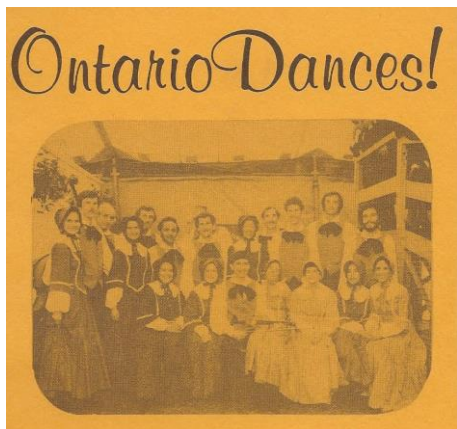
- Opposite ladies join right hands
- Walk past each other, give L hands to the opposite men (4 counts)
- Men turn ladies around (4 counts)
- Repeat back to place (8 counts)

STAR - (4 or 8 counts)

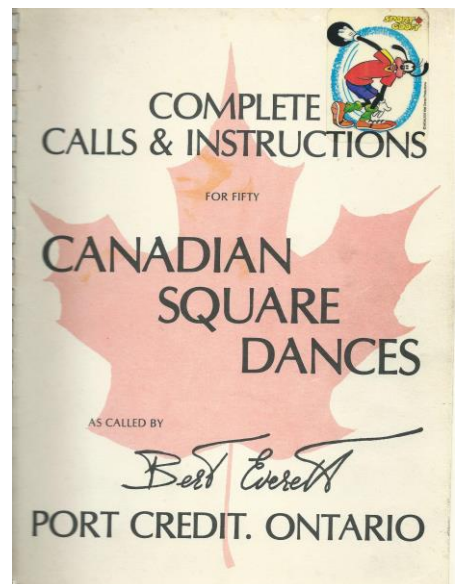
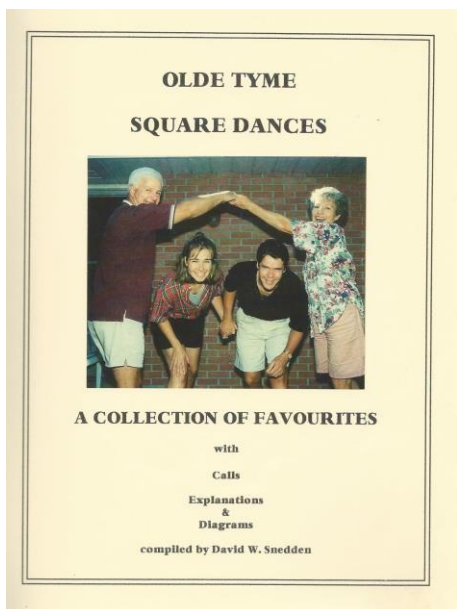
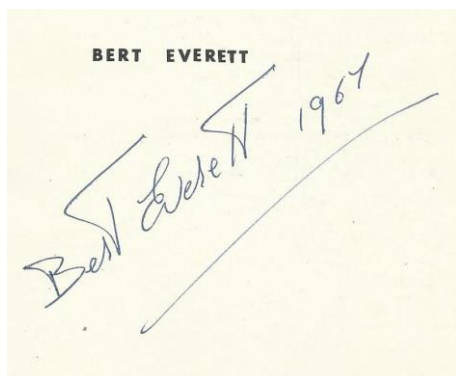
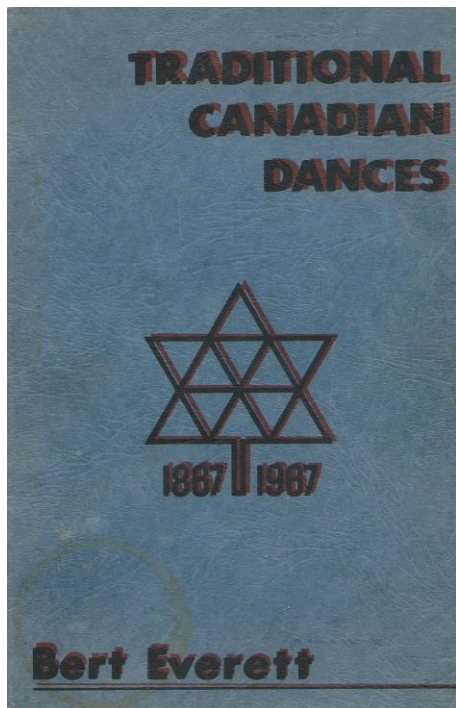
- Usually done by 4 or more people:
Right hand: touch R hands in the centre and rotate clockwise
Left hand: touch L hands in the centre and rotate counter-clockwise

RELAX - TAKE IT EASY - EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES
SQUARE DANCING IS FUN!

These came from Keith Squires collection.



A book & record in 1979 with a past president in the picture.



The Ontario Dances, David Snedden's Olde Tyme Square dances Book, Bert Everett's books, All came from George Betts's collection.

All of the gentlemen in these book were members of C.O.T.S.D.C.A.

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.

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

Bill Russell



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

CANADIAN OLDE TYME SQUARE DANCE ASSOCIATION



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

1:00PM – 4:00PM

SAT. NOV. 11th 2023

Members \$15.00 Non-Members \$20.00

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 - The Missing Link

For information call Bill Russell 416-658-5162 or Bill Hands 416-241-9930
Always Leave a Message

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

The Following is a copy of Ralph Price's flyer of Fiddle Music & Square Dance Events

FIDDLE MUSIC AND SQUARE DANCE EVENTS-SEPTEMBER, 2023

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>DETAILS</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SEPT. 28 | Royal Cdn. Legion, Huntsville ON | Square Dance Starts 1:30pm Info. Mary 705-641-9968 |
| EVERY FRIDAY | Lindsay, ON., Queen Vic. Pub. School 11 John St. | Lindsay Social Dance Club, Old Time Dance.Set Band Not a Jam Starts 7:30PM Info. Eileen, 705-341-8757 See flyer. |
| EVERY WEDNESDAY | Bracebridge, ON, Active Living Centre 54 Dominion St. | Square Dance, Starts 1:00pm Set Band-Not a Jam Callers Welcome Info. Clare Taplin, 705-646-0324 |
| EVERY 2ND OR 4TH SATURDAY OR SUNDAY | Royal Cdn Legion, 23 Willow St. Waubashene ON. | Old Time Circle Jam/Kitchen Party Starts 3:00PM Info. CHECK FACEBOOK Bring Snack to Share at End of Jam |
| USUALLY EVERY SUNDAY RESTART OCTOBER | Toronto ON. Roncesvalles United Church 240 Roncesvalles Ave. | Old Time Social and Square Dance Starts 7pm Live Band Always call to confirm. 416-658-5162 leave message |
| SEPT. 12 | Thornton, ON., at The Arena-Upstairs | Barrie/Thornton Fiddle Club, Jam/Dance, Starts 1pm Info. Ross or Doreen 705-733-2061 |
| SEPT. 10 | Bognor Community Hall Bognor, ON | Old Time Dance/Music Jam Starts 1:30PM Info. Erwin King 519-376-0919 |
| SEPT. 17 | Carden Twp. ON., at the Comm. Centre Lake Dalrymple | Carden Fiddlers Jam Session/Dance Starts 1pm Info. Leigh 705-325-0009 |
| SEPT. 26 | Bond Head, ON., at The Community Hall Junction Hwys. 27 & 88 | Bond Head Fiddle Club Jam /Dance. Starts 1pm Info. 519-941-2134 |
| SEPT. 24 | Manilla, ON., at The Community Hall 16990 Simcoe St.(Cty. Rd. 2) | Fiddle jam/dance. Starts 1pm. Info 705-357-3637 |
| SEPT. 15 | Bracebridge, ON..Active Living Centre 54 Dominion St. | Square dance. Starts 7PM to 9PM Set Band Not a Jam Callers Welcome Info. Clare Taplin 705-646-0324 |
| EVERY TUESDAY | Katrine, ON., at The Comm. Centre | Square Dance. 7PM--9PM Info. Brian, 705-636-1171 |
| EVERY FRIDAY | Royal Cdn. Legion Chatsworth , ON. | Old Time Music Jam/Dance Starts 2:00PM Info. 519-794-2021 |
| RESTARTS OCT. 6 | Royal Cdn Legion 707 Srigley St. Dr., Newmarket, ON. | Happy Valley Dance. & Jam Starts 2PM Info. Morley/Dottie 905-939-2311 Dinner Available at 5:30pm |
| VARIOUS DATES | VARIOUS LOCATIONS | Ian Zinn Music jams/dances SEE ATTACHED FLYER Info. Ian 705-340-5132 |
| SEPT. 9 & 10 | Dundalk Fairgrounds | 64th Fiddle & Square Dance Competition Info. www.dundalkdance.com |
| OCT. 1 | Longford Mills Community Hall | Square Dance/Old Time Dance-More info. to Follow |

