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The Olde Tymmer

*The Newsletter of
Canadian Olde Tyme
Square Dance Callers
Association
April 2026 Issue 75*

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

President

Calvin Everitt



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.



Vice-President

Gerry Gregoire



Yours sincerely,
Calvin Everitt, President;
Gerry Grégoire, Vice President;
Marion Barker, Treasurer;
Bill Russell, Past President;
Lorna Irwin, Secretary;
Rick Wilson, Executive at Large.
Jack Rosien, Executive at Large

Secretary Loma Irwin



Membership Dues

Renew or Purchase for the Calendar Year 2025- 2026

Membership Year - September 1st to August 31st

Renewals and New Memberships - \$15.00 a year.

Shows your commitment to support Olde Tyme Square Dancing

Treasurer Marion Barker



Our new treasurer’s bio.

I learned about square dancing when I was a teenager living in the West Island of Montreal. I was invited by some of my friends at my high school to a weekly Friday night dance at a church. To my surprise 80 - 100 teenagers were doing Contra dances to live musicians. It was amazing, I got to make a lot of new friends and dance with all of them. I loved it! Fast forward half a century, I retired from teaching and found a square dance class at Bob Callaghan Flower City Seniors Centre in Brampton. The class was taught at that time by George and Greta Betts. In retirement I also tried line dancing, In taking numerous fitness classes, playing badminton and learning pickleball I found there were nice people. Who were the nicest people to 'play' with and socialize with?

You guessed it--the square dancers. They were warm, welcoming and did not mind that I had forgotten my dance steps from my teenage years. They patiently showed me again and I gradually learned the steps. My takeaway from this experience is: invite friends to classes and square dances, be patient, welcoming and warm. Your friends may come to love square dancing as I do. Keep on inviting, keep on playing live music, keep listening to the callers, and keep on dancing. See you on the dance floor. Marion

Awesome Foundation Micro Grant
The Awesome Foundation is a group of people operating in 9 countries who provide micro grants to arts and technology endeavours to support creative, community-driven projects. COTSDCA was awarded a \$1000. grant in February 2026 to use to support the training of newer callers by experienced callers. We thank the Awesome Foundation for this micro grant as it makes a big difference to us, an association with a small budget. On Saturday, April 25th some of this training will be done in the afternoon before our evening dance. If you are a newer caller or an aspiring caller who wants to come to the training please contact Bill Russell for more details at

418 670-4685 or
russell_bill@hotmail.com

Assists to provide cost certainty of Events

All members receive a reduced admission fee to dances at \$ 15.00 –

Non-Members \$ 20.00 Receive a copy of the Association Magazine “The Olde Tymer”

Choose one of these easy options:

Thank you to members who paid their membership for 2025-26. Reminder to those yet to pay its \$15 you can e-transfer to barkermgail@gmail.com or by Canada Post:
Marion Barker
Treasurer COTSDCA
37 Nanport Street
Brampton, ON
L6S 4E2

Cash, Cheque, April 25, 2026 Dance

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.

**Executive Member At Large
Jack Rosien**



I am proud to have been raised on a 150-acre farm in Eganville, Ontario, where, as the oldest of 4 boys I experienced all things farm related; among them daily stable cleaning, birthing calves and lambs, haying, and threshing bees. I had the good fortune to get my elementary education in a one room schoolhouse.

In my secondary school years, I represented Canada in a national public speaking competition.

In those days Friday /Saturday night square dances and starting a wedding reception with a bridal square were the norm. So was attending Sunday morning church because you wanted to...something I continue to do to this day.

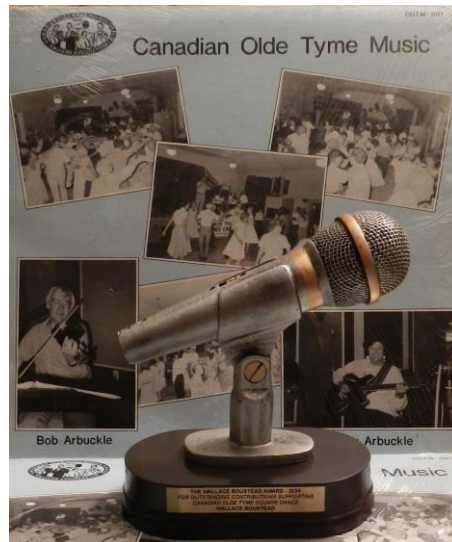
My careers have been in law and in teaching.

In those years I served on several executive positions in my church, my local law society and my teachers' union.

In retirement I am a member and volunteer in several organizations, among them the Eganville Legion; a place where the downstairs dance hall is named for my dad while the upstairs kitchen is named for my mom.

With the guidance of several great mentors, I have achieved a lifelong goal of learning to call square dances. I have expanded this to teaching square dance lessons to a great group of 20 to 30 people every second Friday evening. I am determined to recruit more participants, particularly from younger generations, to share and preserve the sheer exhilaration and enjoyment of olde tyme square dancing.

The Second W.B. Award Given to Murray Smith



In order to recognize the significant contributions of our volunteers to Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dancing, the COTSDCA Executive Committee has established the Wallace Boustead Award.

We are thrilled to announce our second recipient: Murray Smith.

Murray grew up where fiddling, square dancing and calling were all part of life. Through calling, dancing, teaching, leading, inspiring and fiddling, he has contributed to maintaining our traditions over many decades. He served many years on the Executive of COTSDCA, including ten years as President. His joy in finding out how things work and making them work led to teaching himself the computer language HTML. Murray is currently our webmaster, updating our site on a regular basis.

The Story of Murray Smith

He was raised on a farm in Muskoka where he called for the cattle and fiddled for his supper. He played piano for his dad, the local fiddler, for square dance in the one room school house that he attended. Once out of high school, he went to Cow College and graduated from Silo Tech with an Agricultural Engineering degree. The first job after university was with Ontario as an Agricultural Applications Engineer designing controlled housing for livestock. From this he worked on site development for Bruce and Darlington Generating Stations. He moved into Municipal Service and then to Rural Service which was later renamed Retail Service, Customer Service, Customer Connections and Policies, and finally Customer Relationship Management – Policies, Procedures & Commercial Standards.

He joined the Ontario Hydro Toastmasters Club in 1974 and helped start the noon hour club in 1978. When he was relocated to Place Nouveau, he started a club there. The club needed a set of timing lights and Murray made two units. The first one was a wooden structure and was battery operated. When the second club was started, he took a child's lunch box, the top of a deodorant stick, a second lid, some cord, a switch and some Christmas tree lights and made a second one.

His hobbies are to rescue broke appliances and fix them. He either fixes them so they continue to work

or donates their organs so that others may live. His love for dance, calling squares for parties, fiddling, zithering, piano plunking, and just making music on the bones has kept him out of most trouble.

In 1978, he played his fiddle in Wales for the Toronto Settlement Dancers and in 1982 was a member of the Bow River Band, which toured through England, Wales and Scotland. He joined the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers' Association in 1974 and still keeps their website up to date which he created. He has sucker fished barehanded, flung manure with the best of them, cut and split wood, milked cows, butcher pigs, chickens, beef, and rabbits, and dehorned baby calves, and big steers.

He has rode the cultivator, the dump rake, the bale stoker, mowed fields of hay, and cut grain with the binder. He stoked grain and enjoyed thrashing bees, built houses, sheds and verandas with his dad, picked blueberries, black berries and all the different kinds of vegetable with his mom. He flew over the handlebars of his young brother's motorcycle and flew out of the back of a half-ton truck when his older brother rolled their pickup truck. He earned his pilots' license in 1971 and flew micro-lites in 1985. Today he mostly flies by the seat of his pants.

Murray has made a drop spindle, spun wool with it, repaired his wife's spinning wheel and helped her with her loom. He made her a warping mill and a nitty-knotty. He made weaving cards out of shredded wheat boxes and wove

waist bands and camera straps with them. He has made bread, muffins, pies, and gingerbread houses. His granola bars and bean brownies are great for long trips. He has made soap, maple syrup, a doll's bed, a baby buggy, swing sets, and an arched rose trestle; a display set for his wife's craft, shelving units, cupboards, a tape of calls, a record, a TV commercial, and a radio.

Murray has taken a fiddle apart, repaired, and glued it back together, completed a piano tuning technician's course, been on Pokka Dot Door, fixed a marxophone, and carved a rocking horse out of pine.

He has rushed chair seats, caned chairs seats and backs, refinished press-back chairs and table. He has repairs lawn mowers, electric motors, humidifiers, toasters, microwaves, stoves, dishwashers, razors, telephones, clocks, bicycle chains, and has re-spoked bicycle wheels. He loves dancing and has called square dancing since 1968 and has participated in competitions at College Royal-Guelph, the Royal Winter Fair and at Dundalk. He has ballroom danced in Arizona and Tennessee, English Country Danced in Ottawa, Vermont and Italy, and is organizing one for the Probus Club in Owen Sound.

Today he runs a fiddle jam in Chatsworth and volunteers at the Repair Café in Owen Sound.



Our friend Judy Greenhill writes from Whitehorse, Yukon:

Our dances are going quite well, and I am concentrating on calling almost all contras with a few squares-hoping to gradually build our community and work in a few more interesting dances. So far, even though people are struggling a bit with the newer dances, people are still laughing a lot and having fun, which is the most important thing. Some have actually thanked me for challenging them a bit!

We've changed halls, and that also seems to have helped a bit. Younger people here seem to have a problem with church halls, and in fact, churches in general. We're now dancing in a community theatre space. It has taken a few months to work out how to best set up in the space, but I think we've got it now. My only concern now is the real possibility that we might outgrow it. Finding a larger space that we can afford will be a

challenge, but I guess we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

Anyone visiting Whitehorse is welcome to get in touch to see what is happening in the community. They can check out our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/relativeharmony1>

Our December 6th dance at

**Duff's Presbyterian Church
319 Brock Road South
Aberfoyle, Ontario, N0B 2J0**



This is the same location for our APRIL 25th DANCE
With no snow



Our Newest Caller Members



Allison Leroux



Wesley Knierim

We hope we have some people come to 'Learn to call workshop 4-6 pm at

our next dance on the April 25th Duff's Presbyterian Church 319 Brock Road South, Puslinch Ontario.

Bill Russell found A link to a little history of old-time square dancing in the Kawarthas

The interview below really tells a story of how things have developed over time in the Kawarthas:

<https://www.kawartha411.ca/2025/12/07/jim-hopkins-remembers-the-neighbourhood-dance-parties-of-the-1940s/>

I remember the same house parties at my parents home dinning room cleaned out to dance and going to other homes by street car all over the city.

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



CELEBRATE OVER 70 YEARS OF TRADITIONAL CANADIAN SQUARE DANCING ANNUAL DANCE

7:00PM – 10:00PM

SAT. April 25th 2026

Members \$15.00 Non-Members \$20.00

DUFF'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

319 Brock Road South, Puslinch, Ontario,

(South of Guelph, Just off #401 at Brock Road S., Exit #299)

LIVE BAND -

For information call or Text Lorna 416-487-2170
Always Leave a Message

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Spring onto the Dance Floor!

Square Dance

Mostly Squares, a Line or two, a few Couple dances & more.

Multiple Callers ■ **Everyone** is very welcome

Live Music featuring Paul and Friends

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Dancing 7 – 10 pm | Potluck Lunch & Social follows
Mini Lesson | Refresher 6:30 pm

Duff's Presbyterian Church
[319 Brock Road South, Puslinch](#)
(South of Guelph, just off #401 at Brock Road S., Exit #299)



No dance experience or partner needed.

Two left feet? Bring both!

Quick walk-thru of every dance.

Easy to learn.
Fabulously fun & friendly.

If you can walk energetically, you can square dance.

Come on your own... bring a partner... or lasso a group of family & friends.

\$15 (COTSDCA member) ■ \$20 non-member

Children, Teens & Students are Free. Please bring a light lunch contribution.

Questions? *Want to Learn to Call? Text|Call (leave a message): Lore 416 487-2170

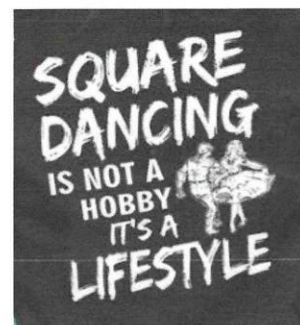




FIDDLE MUSIC AND SQUARE DANCE EVENTS APRIL 2026



<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
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
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. Waubaushene ON.	Old Time Circle Jam/Kitchen Party Starts 3:00PM Info. CHECK FACEBOOK Bring Snack to Share at End of Jam
APRIL 12	Toronto ON. Roncesvalles United Church 240 Roncesvalles Ave.	Old Time Social & Square Dance Starts 7PM Live Band Always confirm: http://sundays.alanr.ca
APRIL 14	Thornton, ON., at The Arena-Upstairs	Barrie/Thornton Fiddle Club, Jam/Dance, Starts 1pm Info. Ross or Doreen 705-733-2061
APRIL 18	Fenelon Falls, ON at United Church	Seven Hills Fiddle Band-"Ceilidh" SEE FLYER
APRIL 19	Carden Twp. ON., at the Comm. Centre Lake Dalrymple	Carden Fiddlers Jam Session/Dance Starts 1pm Info. Leigh 705-325-0009
APRIL 28	Bond Head, ON., at The Community Hall Junction Hwys. 27 & 88	Bond Head Fiddle Club Jam /Dance. STARTS 1PM Info. 519-941-2134
APRIL 25	Puslinch, ON., Duff's Presb. Church 319 Brock Rd. S.	COTSDCA Square Dance Starts 7PM Info. 416-487-2170 SEE FLYER --Potluck supper after dance.
APRIL 26	Manilla, ON. at the Community Hall	Fiddle Jam/Dance Starts 1pm Info. 705-357-3637
EVERY TUESDAY	Katrine, ON., at The Comm. Centre	Square Dance. 7PM--9PM Info. Brian, 705-636-1171
APRIL 8 & 23	Chatsworth, ON. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	Old Time Fiddle Circle Jam, Starts 1:00PM Info --Murray, 226-three79-three679
APRIL 15	Eady, ON, Eady Community Hall 73 Eady Stn. Rd.	Acoustic Old Time Fiddle Circle Jam 1:30PM-4:00PM NEW EVENT--SEE FLYER. INFO. SANDY 705-835-3159
APRIL 19	Toronto ON. Holy Trinity Church 19 Trinity Square	Old Time Social Barn Dance Starts 2PM SEE FLYER-CHURCH FUNDRAISER
MAY 16	Eady, ON. Eady Community Hall	FIDDLE DAY COPE DOGS FUNDRAISER SEE FLYER
MAY 23	Udora, ON. Udora Comm. Hall	Square Dance SEE FLYER





NATIONAL & WORLD FIDDLE DAY



SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

5TH ANNUAL FIDDLE/OLD TIME MUSIC JAM/ OLD TIME DANCE & SQUARE DANCE

FUNDRAISER 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 KM. NORTH OF
THE HORSESHOE VALLEY RD. TURN OFF HV RD. AT JARRATT-MAP ON BACK)



TIME: 1:00PM TO 5:00PM



AN ACOUSTIC JAM FOR ALL MUSICIANS
COME AND PLAY, SING, DANCE OR LISTEN

ADMISSION FREE

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR COPE SERVICE DOGS

(DOGS IN TRAINING WILL BE THERE)

REFRESHMENTS: CASH SNACK BAR-CRAIGHURST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

INFORMATION : RALPH OR SANDY PRICE (705 835-3159)

