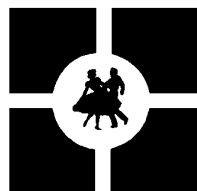


# METRO MATTERS

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### WELCOME TO THE NEW GRADUATES

The Metro Square and Round Dance Association extends a warm welcome to our newest set of graduating dancers. We hope your class experience has been enjoyable and eagerly await our first chance to dance with you. As you make the transition to club dancer please remember that all of us have experienced the same period of uncertainty as we tried our new skills in unfamiliar surroundings. Just as others helped us through the first few dances, so will we be there to help you. Making mistakes is part of the game; just do your best, listen carefully to the caller for helping words, watch for the helpful hand and above all -- Have Fun!

Metro Association sponsors Tuesday evening dances in June, July and early August especially for New Graduates. These are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall on School Street in Dartmouth from 8 to 10 p.m. Local callers will be there providing a program designed to drill the Basic list and review the Mainstream moves that you learned towards the end of the year. We strongly recommend that you attend as many of these dances as possible so that you will feel confident when club dancing begins in the fall. The detailed schedule is attached to this publication.

If you wish to attend dances outside the Metro Area, remember to look for the words "Basic" or "Mainstream" to determine if the program will be appropriate for your skills. "Plus", "Advanced" and "Challenge" are programs where the dancers are expected to be able to respond to a larger vocabulary of moves. They are there for dancers who wish to further explore the possible patterns of movement for eight dancers. There is a National Directory published in the United States which lists square and round dance clubs around the world. Everywhere the calls are given in English (sometimes heavily accented) so there is a world of new friends waiting to meet you. Probably someone in your club has a copy of the National Directory, so ask around if you are planning to travel.

The requirements for Square Dance Attire are in transition. But, you will always be dressed acceptably if ladies wear prairie skirts (mid-calf length skirts full enough to use in skirt work) or full skirts with crinolines and pettipants with tasteful blouses, and men wear long pants and long sleeved shirts with neck decoration. Avoid fancy jewelry, as it tends to catch on clothing. Also, if you haven't done so already, it is time to purchase proper square dance shoes. Comfortable and appropriate footwear is critical to your long-term enjoyment of the activity.

Once again, Welcome to Our Wonderful World of Square Dancing!

## **METRO ACTIVITIES DURING THE WINTER OF 2001**

**January Jig 2001** - The January Jig / Post-New Year's Dance was cut short by a snowstorm. Only a small number of dancers attended the afternoon workshop. With snow continuing to fall, the evening dance was cancelled. It was decided not to re-schedule, as there were few suitable dates before the next Metro Association event.

**February Demonstration Dancing** - Thanks to the hard work of the METRO Publicity couple, Don & Verna Ward, four squares of Metro dancers strutted their stuff on ASN's Breakfast Television, with Jason Baxter, early in the morning on Valentine Day. All had a great time and comments about the colourful performance have been received from all over the Atlantic Provinces. It's hoped to have more frequent TV appearances during the coming year.

Dedicated volunteers came out to Northwood Centre in February to perform at the their Winter Carnival activities. Dottie Welch called a number of favourite seasonal singing calls for the enthusiastic two squares of dancers. The audience of residents and staff surely enjoyed the songs.

**Heart Fund Dance** - The METRO Heart Dance was planned for Friday 23 February at the Bedford Jr. High School, but was cancelled because the School Board closed the schools due to a forecast for bad weather (false alarm). Subsequently, the President of Stardusters offered to arrange for the dance to be held at the South Woodside Community Centre on 23 March. It was very successful, with 10 Squares of Round & Square dancers in attendance despite the foggy, rainy night. The Heart & Stroke Foundation received \$789 in donations from the dance. Their Representative expressed much appreciation. The dancers enjoyed a nice evening thanks to the volunteer work of the Metro Callers & Cuers in attendance.

**New Member Club** - The Association decided to invite the newest club in the Province to join METRO as it is located so close to the HRM. The Raspberry Squares are graduating a class in Elmsdale this spring. Vicky Elliott and Pat Matheson share the calling.

**Changes to Metro Dancer's Handbook** - Metro clubs are invited to submit any necessary changes or additions to the Dancer's Handbook. These should be sent to Dottie Welch as soon as possible. New editions will be available in the fall.

New clothing source - **MY BEST FRIEND'S CLOSET**, 96 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth. Mrs. Rooney, 466-0416, has designed clothes suitable for square dancing.

## **METRO PLANS FOR THE SUMMER**

**Summer Dance** plans were finalized at our April meeting. Look for details on the attached sheet. Regular Tuesday and Thursday Metro Summer Dances begin the first week of June and continue through August 16th. Tuesday evenings are designed to review the newly learned skills of our recent graduates. Thursday evenings are intended for experienced Mainstream and / or Plus dancers.

**50 Plus EXPO** - The Federation will be sponsoring a booth in the 50 Plus (Seniors) EXPO at the Halifax World Trade & Convention Centre on July 6th and 7th. Dancers from throughout the Province, but particularly from Metro, will be asked to volunteer to dance at the EXPO. The Federation Central Region (Metro) Representatives, Don & Carol Scott (865-5780) will be making the arrangements for this big event.

**Natal Day Parades** - Pauline Arsenault will again be coordinating the dancing in the 3 Natal Day Parades. If you are interested in dancing in one of the parades please contact Pauline at (434-3648). Last summer's Natal Day parades were very successful and stimulated some interest from the public. Remember to bring water, a hat and sunscreen.

### **METRO PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR**

**Volunteers Needed** - Barry and Dyanna Bendle will be taking over as Metro Chair at our fall meeting. This is our Annual General Meeting and it will be October 28th in MM310 (3rd floor of the McNally Building) at Saint Mary's University. If you have ideas and suggestions that you think would improve dancing in the Metro Area, please attend. We really need new volunteers including a Vice Chair Couple. The Vice Chair position is intended as a learning and backup position. For more information on METRO Association activities and plans contact: Bob & Inge Ruohoniemi <bobruoho@ns.sympatico.ca> or 902-757-3884.

A **New Year's Eve Gala** dance has been proposed. The plan is to hold it at Cole Harbour Place on 31 Dec 2001. They will provide a cold buffet 7:30-9:00. The dancing would be from 9:30 - 12:30 with Kerry Fletcher calling. Cost would be \$40 per couple. We need an indication of at least 75 interested dancers to continue with the plans. **Please indicate your interest by calling Pauline Arsenault (434-3648) before May 15th.**

### **SPECIAL DANCE DATES**

The following special dances are currently listed for the Metro area for next year

20 October 2001	SRDFNS	AGM & Dance, Belmont/Truro
27 October 2001	Lake City Swingers	Swing Into Fall
17 November 2001	Ocean Waves / MMM	Harvest Moon Dance
24 November 2001	Stardusters	Sweetheart Dance
31 December 2001	Metro	New Year's Eve Gala (tentative)
19 January 2001	Metro	January Jig (tentative)
22 February 2002	Metro	Heart Fund Dance
20 April 2002	Scotia Dancers	Spring Fling

Checking the schedule is the best way to avoid scheduling your club's special dance on a date when dancers have planned to visit elsewhere. Please check the Federation Web Site or contact Alex Ritchie (469-1492) for an up-to-date listing of scheduled specials.

Square & Round Dance Federation of NS <chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/SRDFNS/>  
Canadian Square & Round Dance Society <csrds.ca>

## **OTHER MAJOR EVENTS IN THE MARITIMES**

### **FEDERATION FESTIVAL IN THE VALLEY**

July 20 and 21 Federation Festival 2001 at Old Orchard Inn

Callers: Nelson Labor, Dave Paulen, Kerry Fletcher, Mary Dunlop, Barry Walker, Jack MacArthur; Cuers: Ken & Jan Pineo, Alex Ritchie and Bernice Thurber.

The halls are air-conditioned and there is a hard floor for rounds.

Friday: 7-8 Opening, 8-11 Dancing Basic, Mainstream, Plus and Phase II-IV Rounds

Saturday: 10 - noon Round Dance Workshop and Square Dancing

2 - 4 Square Dance Workshop, 8 -10:30 All halls dancing, 10:30 - 11 Closing

### **MARITIME CONVENTION COMING TO HALIFAX**

Next November 2-3 the 32<sup>nd</sup> Maritime Square and Round Dance Convention will be held in Halifax at the Westin Nova Scotian. Since this convention cycles through the three Maritime provinces, this is a once in every 3 years opportunity to attend. Don't miss it!

### **2002 CANADIAN NATIONAL IN SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK**

July 18 to 20, 2002. Plan now to be in Saint John to help welcome the square dancers of the world to the Maritimes. National Conventions offer a unique opportunity to dance with visitors from around the world. The latest news is that a tour group is coming from Japan. Have you ever had an opportunity to dance to a Japanese caller? Make your reservations now and help Saint John with the difficult job of allocating the correct amount of space for the various dance programs. Also be aware that 4000 dancers will probably entirely fill the hotel rooms in Saint John, so make your reservations now and plan to share a room or take your RV if possible.

## **CALLERLAB REPORT**

CALLERLAB met in April 2001 in Saint Louis, Missouri. The theme was Unity, Marketing and Growth. There were 363 attendees including 216 callers.

We are in Phase 1 of a ten-year marketing effort. The current focus is market research to find out how outsiders view Square Dancing and to find out what kind of people are already square dancers. We have already discovered that the Baby Boomers are not joiners and this is primarily responsible for our declining numbers. Finding ways to overcome this problem is the challenge facing us.

This year we are beginning to implement a new Program Policy that includes adjusting the program lists to make each program comfortably teachable in a season. Accordingly the Mainstream list is now being shortened by vote of the Mainstream Committee. The plan is to remove 3 moves this year and more in the future. The Plus Program may pick up these moves but they will be also be voting on adjusting the Plus list. Expect changes in September.

Choreographically the emphasis is on encouraging callers to inject spice into their calling by using moves in slightly different ways without making things too difficult.

For some extra excitement, we came out of our awards banquet on Tuesday evening to find a spectacular thunderstorm with tornado warnings. High winds and golf ball sized hail dimpled all the cars in the parking lot and broke several windshields.

On the tourist side, Saint Louis is considered to be the "Gateway to the West" since it is at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. In 1804, Lewis and Clark began their two-year journey to explore the Louisiana Purchase traveling from here up the Missouri and on west to the Pacific. Riverboats can travel up the Mississippi to this point so many pioneers transferred from river travel to covered wagon here and stocked up for their long trip across the prairies. As a symbol of this, the Gateway Arch was completed in 1965. This is a very impressive structure of stainless steel that reaches 630 feet into the sky curving gracefully over the water front park. A short ride up an interior tram consisting of eight 5-person cars takes tourists to a viewing hallway at the top of the arch.

Southeastern Missouri is Ozark Mountain country. In April the redbud and dogwood trees were in bloom amid oak forests just turning green. With a thick layer of limestone from an ancient seabed on top of a gentle granite dome, it is a land of deep valleys and unexpected big springs and caves. The Mark Twain National Forest is in several pieces surrounded by horse, cattle and sheep farms on acres of gently rolling green fields.

### **WALTER AND NORMA ALLEN**

For many years Walter and Norma Allen were one of our most senior dance couples. With years of loyal attendance at every local special dance and many around the province and the Maritimes, including nearly all of the Maritime Conventions, they were widely known as the "little couple". Although quiet and unassuming, they brought gentle and competent dancing to each square they joined during the more than forty years that they took advantage of every opportunity to participate in this activity that they loved.

They began dancing in 1956 when they attended a short course of approximately 6 weeks at Cornwallis Junior High School with Alf Johnson. That was followed by several dances at Newman Hall in the old Saint Mary's University building on Windsor Street. In the fall of 1956 they joined the Happy Whirlers dancing at Maxwell School in Upper Sackville to the calling of Maurice Hennigar, Ron Duffy, Horace Williams and Graham Geddes. They also attended dances with the Eights and Squares called by George Raine and Neil Patterson. The Happy Whirlers Club combined with the Merry Millers in 1967 to form the Scotia Dancers dancing to caller Vern Carmichael. The Allens later danced with the Tartan Twirlers to the calling of Lorne Tyler and with the Bee Squares to Art Blumsum. Somewhere along the way, they learned to dance Phase II Rounds.

In the late 70's they joined the first local Plus Club which grew out of Lorne Tyler's workshop group and became the Eager Eights. They were one of the hard working and very important couples on the Registration Committee for the 1982 National Convention checking every one of the more than 5000 registrations. In 1984 they were members of the Advanced Class that eventually formed the Sail Sets. They continued to dance with the Sail Sets to the calling of Dottie Welch until December 1997 when Walter's ill health forced them to stop dancing. They continued to attend our lunch nights until June of 2000.

Norma was a graduate of Provincial Normal College in Truro and taught school in rural Nova Scotia and at Morris Street School in Halifax. Walter was a weatherman. Their other recreational love was playing Bridge, which they also did with quiet competence at many tournaments around the Maritimes.

Sadly, Norma (age 80) passed away at home the last week of April and Walter (age 83) is now living at Melville Lodge in Halifax. We are thankful for their long loyalty and their many years of happy dancing and we extend our deepest sympathy to Walter.

## SCOTIA DANCERS SPRING FLING 2001

(Contributed by Bob Ruohoniemi)

The 18th Annual Scotia Dancers' Spring Fling was held on Saturday April 21st. Again this year, location, location, location was the issue. The strike in HRM schools forced the Club to look for a new venue after all the flyers had been mailed out. Luckily, the Multi-Purpose Room at Mount Saint Vincent University was available for that day. With phone-calls and e-mails, the word was successfully passed around throughout the Province so dancers were fully informed.

Early on in their planning, the Scotia Dancers had decided not to provide the usual roast beef dinner so this was one item not upset by the change in location. The University Cafeteria was available for snacks, drinks, and for the evening meal. This made things very easy for dancers looking for refreshments during the day.

Nelson Labor put the square dancers through a full program in the afternoon session. The newer dancers particularly enjoyed the different movements he incorporated into the Mainstream dancing. The 10 squares on the floor had a great time with smiles and laughter the common denominators.

A number of dancers enjoyed a nice meal together in the Cafeteria and then made the cash registers hum at the two Shops that had their dance supplies on display. Both George's Western Wear and Dancer's Duds & Frills generously donated gift certificates as door prizes. Several tables were also set up to sell registrations for Convention 2002, Festival 2001, and tickets on the Scotia Dancers Raffles.

To begin the evening, Alex Ritchie and Bernice Thurber led an easy round dance hour that was enjoyed by all the participants.

The Scotia Dancers were pleased to introduce a representative from the Metro Foodbank Society who thanked the dancers for their previous contributions and made special mention of Edna Myers, the Senior Scotia Dancer who has been collecting pennies for the Foodbank for many years.

The traditional Grand March was a challenge for Nelson to arrange with 32 squares on the floor of a hall that was wider than it was long! After some adjustments everyone was lined up and counted. The final attendance count from the attendance register was recorded as over 37 squares in total. The entire evening was filled with good music and friendship.

The main evening dance concluded with the Friendship Ring(s) and a blessing given by Rev. Jim Fraser. There was lots of laughter and conversation as everyone then moved to the Cafeteria for an all-you-can-eat lunch provided by the hardworking Scotia Dancer volunteers.

The consensus of dancers departing the University was that it was an excellent venue and they looked forward to returning next year to enjoy the traditional hospitality of the Scotia Dancers.

As **Bob and Inge Ruohoniemi** are completing their two-year term as Chaircouple of Metro Association, we would like to express our thanks for their hours of volunteer work for the benefit of the square dance community. They were Chaircouple for our very successful Federation Festival held in Halifax in July of 1999. Since then their organization and efficiency has kept Metro on track. Now they are Chaircouple for the Provincial Federation. Please express your thanks when you meet them in a square.