

NEWSLETTER FALL 2013

What a great beginning to our 5th year of Otonabee Squares! A full hall the first night back and so many smiling faces and new people joining. A big thank you to all who brought friends and family to our club. We look forward to a good year ahead. (Calendar attached to this newsletter).

Wayne will be teaching basic and mainstream every Monday night. Some people may not realize that we have extended the evening for everyone to 9:30pm. We notice some are leaving at 9pm but please stay for the extra 30 minutes. If you are confident in dancing all your basic moves you may get up for the mainstream teach. If in doubt, please speak to the caller. If you started dancing in January this year, you may not be ready to start learning mainstream. From 9:30-10pm will be mainstream only.

You will see from the club calendar that we have some fun activities and dances this coming year. The first one we should mention is on Saturday, Oct 5h. **“Celebrate Fall”**!. It will be held at Thomas S. Stewart Secondary school, 1009 Armour Rd North. Starting at 2:30pm until 5pm and then again from 7-9:30pm. There will be two halls and two callers. In the afternoon one hall will be basic level only and the other will alternate between mainstream and plus. In the evening one hall will have plus only and the other will alternate basic and mainstream. The dinner we were offering has been cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Please all come out and support this dance; if you can't come for both sessions, please be there for one. Coffee/tea and cookies will be available during both sessions but please do not take refreshments into the gyms. Also please wear **clean** indoor shoes. The school has reminded us that we must be careful of their gym floors.

Our brand new dancers will be able to attend the afternoon session, free of charge. The callers will mix full basic tips with new basic tips. (Square dance terminology - When a caller gets you up he will call a “patter” followed by a “singing call”. This sequence is called a “tip”).

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. Tickets are now on sale for \$25pp. Colum Diamond and his committee members have tickets for sale. Limited numbers so get your ticket soon!!

This newsletter has a lot of housekeeping information, so if you are an old hand in the club, please have patience!! (Sometimes we all need a little reminder). To cut down printing costs, we distribute our newsletter by email and have a few hard copies for those without email.

The executive all have a smiley face sticker on their name badge so if you have any questions, please ask one of them. Presidents are Sandy Martin and Jennifer Moore; vice-president is Bill Holley; treasurers are Anne Hare and Suzanne Barker; secretary is Anne Diamond; social convenors are Lynda Hainer and Antoinette Mylan; publicity Howard and Jean Lander; past-president Sharon Rae.

We are fortunate to have couples and singles in our club. When the caller tells you to square up, please get in a square promptly. If you need a dance partner, raise your hand on the side on which you need a partner. Don't sit and wait for someone to get you up. If you stay sitting people assume you want to sit this one out. If there is a single in the square who needs a partner, a couple cannot bump this person out of the square. The first person in the square has the right to stay there! Occasionally a couple may have to split up to partner a single.

Our club has a casual dress policy but anyone who wants to wear square dance attire is welcome to do so. If you attend dances outside the club, those dancing as ladies should wear a skirt (or dress) and the men should wear a long sleeved shirt. From time to time we hold a used square dance clothing sale as we get clothes donated to us however no one is forced to buy square dance attire.

Our social convenors co-ordinate the volunteers who make the refreshments each night and do the clean-up. There is a sign-up sheet so please put your name in. If everyone takes a couple of turns during the year it is not a big job for anyone. We encourage everyone to “lug a mug”. It cuts down on our costs but it is the environmentally right thing to do.

As you can see, the floor has been refinished over the summer. Please carry clean shoes for dancing. Dancers are very hard on the floor and we want to do what we can to lessen the damage.

Sharon Rae is taking orders for name badges. The cost is \$10. We have a few dances over the year which are free to those with a name badges so you essentially get this money back.

If you know someone who could not start in September, we will again be having a six week basic teach session starting January 7th.

We encourage you to attend outside dances, appropriate for your dance level. We have flyers out for your information or they are in the red binder. Our club pays .22¢ per km (up to \$60) if you attend a special dance (not their club night dance). To qualify you must have 3 passengers plus the driver.

Please visit our website: www.otonabeesquares.org. If you want to see what dances/events are taking place in our district, click on the link to T&D website. (That stands for Toronto and District)

Also in the red binder is information about when and where other local clubs dance. Not only do you get more practice by attending other clubs, you meet lots of nice people.

We endeavour to keep in touch with absentee dancers so if you know of a member who is ill or unable to attend for other reasons, please mention it to Sharon Rae or one of the executive.

If you have any suggestions, comments, etc., please bring them to the attention of the executive. It is your club and your feedback is essential.

For those who don't know, next July in Ottawa the National Square Dance Convention will take place. Normally these are only held every two years. These events attract over 1000 dancers, with different halls from basic level to challenge. Our club is organizing a coach tour to this big event and we encourage you to attend. Anyone who starts this year will be proficient to attend. Our coach tour will leave July 17, returning July 20. Cost at the present time is \$350 per person based on double occupancy. (Transportation and 3 nights accommodation). This is likely to be reduced if we have a full coach (to be decided before the time of final payment in April 2014). This does not include registration for the convention which is \$125 per person. To hold your place in the coach we need a deposit of \$50pp. We currently have 33 people booked so it is filling up! (I have someone looking for another lady to share her room). If you are interested and need more information, please email me at hjlander@gmail.com or phone 905 342 5450. Registration forms available on the flyer table.

OTONABEE CALENDAR

Mainstream only Sunday Dances: Our visiting callers assume you know all your mainstream moves. These dances are not teach sessions. The callers may expand your knowledge of the moves. Our executive organize these dances to give our mainstream dancers more floor time. Please come out and support them.

October 20: Caller: Dave Williamson

November 10: Caller Don Moger

January 12: Caller: Joe Uebelacker

February 16: Caller: Dave Hutchinson

March 16: Caller: Berry Chumbley

Free Club Dances: (wear your Otonabee Squares badge to get in free)

November 4, December 9, January 20 & April 28

Theme Dances:

October 28: Halloween – come in costume, if you dare!

November 25: Flower Power – the flowers may be gone for the year, but come in your “floweriest” dress and brighten up the dance floor. Men can wear flowers too – be creative.

February 17: Ice Cream Night – special treat for all dancers

March 17: Chase the Winter Blues Away – Winter is almost over: how creatively can you wear blue??

Special Dances:

Saturday, Oct 5: Celebrate Fall. 2:30-5:00 pm and 7:00-9:30 pm. Basic/mainstream/plus dance – two halls: Callers Joe Uebelacker and Wayne Whatman: Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School

Tuesday, Dec 31: NEW YEAR’S EVE DINNER/DANCE. 6:30pm-12:00 midnight Basic/mainstream: Caller Wayne Whatman: George Street United Church

Sunday, Jan 26: Frosty Fling. 2:00-5:00pm Basic/mainstream - Callers: Jim Lee and Wayne Whatman: Westdale United Church hall

Saturday, April 12: SPRING SPREE. 2:00-5:00pm and 7:00-10:30pm. Basic/mainstream/plus/A1/A2 - Four halls. Callers: Jack Pladdys (Ohio), Don Moger (Montreal), Andy Hindburg-Larsen (Ottawa) and Joe Uebelacker (Peterborough): Crestwood Secondary School

Thursday July 17 – Sunday July 20: Bus trip to National Convention Ottawa