



OTONABEE SQUARES

MAY 2014

NEWS WRAP UP FOR OUR 2013-14 REGULAR DANCE SEASON

Another successful year at Otonabee Squares has come to an end BUT not dancing! Remember summer dancing starts on Monday, May 26 at St. Anne's Parish Hall, 859 Barnardo Ave. , 7-9:30pm. This hall is air-conditioned. Sandy Martin has kindly agreed to co-ordinate summer dancing so if you have any questions, please contact her at 705 741 2582. For mainstream dancers please remember Monday, June 2nd for the mainstream all position session. See flyer.

On behalf of the club we extend special thanks to Wayne Whatman for calling for us this year and look forward to him returning for our 2014/15 season. He has amazing patience teaching both basic and mainstream and every week makes sure we all have a fun night of dancing.

A busy year with many highlights; Halloween party; flower power dance; our New Year's Eve dance; ice-cream sundae night; celebration of new dancers; new caller dances and our Sunday mainstream dances. And of course, our own special BIG dance, Frosty Fling. On behalf of the executive we thank all of you who have so enthusiastically participated in these events. Something else to be proud of is how many of you have gone to other club's special dances. This is something Otonabee Squares has promoted from the beginning of the club. Our dancers have also supported Lakeshore Waves and the Cloverleaves clubs on their regular club nights. One of the great things about square dancing is the friends you make from all over! We have subsidized two busses to Oshawa and Belleville and hope to do more during our 2014/15 dance season. Our Share-the-wealth money is used to support the cost of these busses to attend other clubs' special dances.

Another event we have organized is the coach/hotel trip to Ottawa for the Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention (Festival 2014). The last convention was four years ago in Halifax and who knows if or when the next will be. It is increasingly difficult to find a city to host this event. We have 37 people registered for our coach and it is still possible to add a few more (subject to rooms at the hotel being available). The Festival 2014 committee have decided to sell day passes for those who can only dance one day. Dress code this year will be casual but it is hoped people will dress up a little for the evening sessions. If you registrar on-line for the convention, you can get the old price of \$125pp (and not \$150).

Doris Buttar and her committee are busy organizing our 5th Anniversary Celebration which will be at the summer picnic and driveway dance, Sunday, July 27 from 3-7pm at the home of Howard and Jean Lander. We are asking all our members to bring a salad or dessert; the club will provide meat and beverages. For catering purposes please notify us if you plan to attend. We are hoping to invite former members of our club who, for various reasons, do not dance with us anymore. However they all contributed to making this club as successful as it is today. If you know of such people, please will you get the message to them or better yet, pick up an invitation and deliver it to them personally. There are also flyers for this event and maps available. If you want more information, please email us at hjlander@gmail.com or phone 905 342 5450 or speak to Margaret Kean 705 749 6284.

We frequently communicate to our membership by email if we wish to bring specific issues to your attention. However as we realize not everyone has email we will have a special binder on the flyer table which will contain copies of any email that has been circulated to the membership. We ask that you check this frequently to keep up to date on announcements. It has other information of general interest to square dancers.

We have been asked to participate in the Purple Onion Festival at Millennium Park on September 21st. The time given to us (between 3-4pm) conflicts with our mainstream dance which we cannot change as the caller has been booked. (Doug Holmes). We would like to participate in this event as it is a good time for trying to recruit new dancers so we will need all of those people who cannot attend the mainstream dance (mostly our basic level dancers) to participate in the demo dance. We need you to sign up today as we have to commit (or decline) to the organizers of this festival.

You will have seen some of us wearing shirts with the Otonabee logo. If you would like to order these, please speak to Howard Lander or Margaret Kean. Howard can order a shirt for \$30. Margaret has more variety of colour and quality but cannot give you a fixed price due to requiring a minimum order quantity of 12 shirts. If you are going to Ottawa for the Convention you can wear these shirts as daytime dancing is casual. So it is OK for men to have short sleeved shirts!

This year, although we recruited many beginners (over 40), we lost half of them. So the need to recruit new dancers is an ongoing exercise. Most dancers come because someone invited them so we ask all of you to talk it up and invite new dancers to join us in September.

At the time of writing, we do not have any volunteers to take over publicity.. We need two people who will take this on. If you need any information about what is required, please speak to me, Jean Lander. I am willing to help you through the first year if needed.

Please remember to go to our website: www.otonabeesquares.org to check for club news. Also for other clubs' event go to the Toronto and District Square Dance page: <http://www.td-dance.ca/>. (There is a link in our website).

Joe Uebelacker is again holding a caller school the first two weekends of June. Please contact him if you are interested. 705 657 9084. The Ontario Federation of Square and Round Dancing does offer a scholarship for trainee callers. T&D also offer a \$100 scholarship (Norm Wilcox Scholarship).

There is a camping square dance organization. They hold 5 camp weekends in Keene during the summer and the dance level is mainstream and plus. Anyone can attend their Saturday night dances which are at Shady Acres campground. For more information contact Ray and Iva at 905 372 2438 or email rayilsley@sympatico.ca. There is a flyer in our binder. First dance is May 24.

We start up on Monday, September 8th. New dancers will be welcome to join that night and September 15th. Coupons to hand out are available but coupon or not, they will be admitted free the first night.

Many thanks to everyone for another great year of dancing!

Your executive

Ps The above was written prior to the Annual Meeting. Some updates as to decisions made at this meeting.

The new executive is as follows:

Co-president: Bill Holley and Howard Lander

Vice- president: Fred Olson

Co-treasurers: Anne Hare and Suzanne Barker

Co-social convenors: Lynda Hainer and Antoinette Mylan

Co-registrars: Margaret Kean and Maureen Newby

Secretary: Myla Bell

Publicity: vacant

Non-executive positions: Financial reviewer for 2015: Debbie Andrews

Nominating Committee: Jill Cobb and Wayne Hare

The meeting was over in 40 minutes and an enjoyable evening of dancing followed.