

OTONABEE SQUARES NEWSLETTER FALL 2016

What a great beginning to our 8th year of Otonabee Squares! A full hall the first night back and so many smiling faces and new people. A big thank you to all who brought friends and family to our club. We look forward to a good year ahead.

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.

Club nights and Lessons

Wayne teaches basic and mainstream every Monday night. Beginners start at 6:30pm until 8pm. Mainstream teach is from 8-8:30pm and full mainstream is 8:30-9pm. Please arrive on time if possible! We do need our mainstream dancers to help with the beginner class.

We do not have enough of the single ladies willing to dance on the man's side. It is not too late to change sides. This is also the case at the mainstream teach. Please if you dance "man" at basic, stay on that side for mainstream. Unless you are a very experienced dancer, switching sides the same night will cause you problems. Those ladies dancing on the man's side will always find a partner whatever dance they go to.

Always remember to wear your club badge.

The Executive



Presidents: Fred Olson and Howard Lander
Vice-president: Doris Buttar and Allan Gault
Treasurers: Suzanne Barker and Karen Burleigh-Kerr
Registrars: Wayne Hare and Phillipa Cobb
Secretary: Marian Olson
Social Convenors: Heather Dummitt and vacant
Publicity: Jean Lander and vacant

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.

Name Badges

We encourage everyone to get a proper club badge. Sign up on the list at the sign-in table.

Visiting Other Dances and Clubs



We encourage you to attend outside dances at your dance level. The flyer table is near the water cooler. Not only do you get more practice by attending other clubs, you meet lots of nice people.

Refreshments

Our social convenors co-ordinate the volunteers who make refreshments and clean-up each night. Please sign up using the sign-up sheet. If everyone takes a couple of turns it is not a big job for anyone. Volunteers are NOT required to bring food; only help. We encourage everyone to "lug a mug". It cuts down on our costs and is good for the environment.

Absent Dancers

We endeavour to keep in touch with absentee dancers. If you know of a member who is ill or unable to attend for other reasons, please mention it to one of the executive. If you are going to be absent for more than 14 days, please let us know. It is very important for new dancers and those new to mainstream to attend regularly as new moves are taught each week.

Dancing Etiquette and Dress

When the caller tells you to square up, please get in a square promptly, don't wait for someone to get you up. If you need a partner, raise your hand on the side on which you need a partner. During the beginner teach, please will the mainstream and higher level dancers give up their place if there is a new dancer sitting out. It does not help anyone if new dancers sit out when Wayne is teaching new moves. Remember you do get more dancing after 8pm.

LISTEN TO THE CALLER! The caller is the professional teacher, resist the temptation to explain moves to others in your square *when the caller is talking* (experienced dancers are guilty of this), wait until the tip is finished. Please don't hesitate ask the caller to help you with any call you do not understand.

After each call, dancers need to establish hand contact with adjacent dancers in their formation. This keeps a good formation and prevents the square from getting "sloppy". Hand-holds should be light, avoid squeezing another's hand. At the end of any move you must be facing a head or side wall.

The caller has requested when swinging to only do one rotation. Please refrain from doing more because you hold up everyone else and cause the square to break down because they get behind the timing. If you have health reasons and do not want to swing, please inform your square. Buttons can be bought which say "Do not swing".

At the end of every dance be sure to applaud the caller and thank the others in your squares. Our club has stopped the practice of the men shaking hands after each tip but if you dance at other clubs or outside dances, this is the practice.

Our club has a casual dress policy but anyone is welcome to wear square dance attire. If you attend dances outside the club, those dancing as ladies should wear a skirt or dress and men should wear a long-sleeved shirt

Please carry **clean shoes** for dancing. The floor has been refinished over the summer and dancers are very hard on the floor. We want to do what we can to lessen the damage.

When the announcements are being given, please refrain from talking. If you do not have internet this may be your only way of finding out what is going on. We frequently get complaints that you did not know of something that was announced. If you did not "catch" what was announced, please ask the person who made the announcement to clarify.

Registration

If you have not yet paid registration and insurance, please do so as soon as possible. Speak to Wayne Hare.

Our Website and useful contact info.

Our email is otonabeesquares@gmail.com

We are at: www.otonabeesquares.org

Please familiarize yourself with all the information on our webpage.

Our facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/otonabee8squares/>

If you want to see what dances/events are taking place in our district, go to

<http://www.td-dance.ca/calendar/default.html>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, phone: Fred 705 743 4582 or Howard 905 342 5450.

Want help learning your moves?

On the Otonabee webpage, on the right-hand side of the main page go to Web Resources. Click on [Saddlebrook Squares](#) where you will find video lessons using real people. At [Taminations](#) there are animated demonstrations of the moves. Each move has an official definition and you will find these on taminations. Some people find the written definition helpful.

Special Events

You will see from the club calendar that we have some fun activities and dances this coming year.

We have a flyer table near the water cooler. Flyers of interest to our dancers are put out there.

Executive Vacancies

Our executive positions are shared and we have a Social Convenor vacancy. Please speak to Heather Dummitt if you can help. We would also like another person on publicity. Speak to Jean Lander.

Please consider volunteering. All our positions are shared which makes less responsibilities for each person. Also it allows for continuity on the committee when one incumbent has more experience than the other.

On our webpage read the Bylaws which outline the duties of all the executive positions. If you want a hard copy of the Bylaws, speak to Jean Lander.



Otonabee Squares

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 and the opportunity to dance to other callers. You will become a better dancer the more callers you dance to because each caller has their own way of putting the moves together. Please come out and support them.

October 30: Caller: Don Moger

November 27: Caller Dave Hutchinson

Feb 19: Caller: TBA

March 19: Caller: TBA

Share the Wealth funds

Two-thirds of the money is given in prizes. Each year, the remainder of the money is used to subsidize two busses to other dances. One is usually in late April to Belleville and the other has yet to be decided.

Special Dances: Please mark your calendar now!



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER/DANCE -

Saturday, Dec 31. 6:30pm-12:00 midnight. \$30pp.

Basic/mainstream: Caller

Doug Holmes: Dancers who started in September will not be able to dance at this event but are welcome to attend the dinner and the musical entertainment and enjoy the social time. Musical entertainment is provided by our talented members. If you play an instrument, sing or wish to offer your talents to the entertainment, speak to Fred Olson. Speak to Suzanne Barker or Fred Olson for tickets.

Sunday, Jan 29: Frosty Fling. 2:00-5:00pm

Basic/mainstream - This dance is for ALL our dancers. It is our chance to host an invitational dance and welcome dancers from other clubs. More information later.

Saturday, April 22: SPRING SPREE. 2:00-5:00pm and 7:00-10:00pm. Basic/mainstream/plus/A1/A2 - Four halls. 4 Callers: Barry Clasper (Toronto), Don Moger (Montreal), Dave Williamson (Brampton) and Joe Uebelacker (Peterborough): Crestwood Secondary School. This dance is hosted by Lift Lock Squares.

New dancer Class

It has been our custom to accept new dancers in January of each year. Last year we had a full day teach session on a Saturday and in previous years, if we had sufficient new dancers, we did evening sessions over a few weeks. If you know of people who could not join now, please tell them to get in touch with us so we can plan for a new class starting sometime in January. It is also a great chance for our new September dancers to do a review. Please email me at

otonabeesquares@gmail.com

or phone Fred at 705 743 4582

Email protocol

We have requested your email address on the registration form. As explained above, we send out notices and reminders by email. This gets the information to you quickly and in a written format so there is no confusion. We do not share your email address with anyone and I have an excellent anti-virus program to avoid problems with malware, viruses etc. If you give us an email address we will assume you check it regularly. I only print off the number of hard-copies for those people without email. (About 10% of our last membership list). However not all emails are printed up because the information, reminders, etc., would be redundant by the next club night.

We will be setting up a phone tree and use this for emergency cancellations due to weather or other unforeseen circumstance. If you can assist in being a team leader on the phone tree, speak to Fred or Howard. Each leader will be given approximately 8 people to phone.

If you don't have email but want to know the contents of all emails, please find a "buddy" who has email and who would be willing to keep you informed about the contents of all emails.

Executive meeting

If you wish to bring any matter to the attention of the executive, please speak to Fred or Howard. We will be having a meeting in November.

Halloween jokes!

What do ghosts dance to?

Soul Music

Why didn't the skeleton dance at the disco?

He had no body to dance with!

***DON'T FORGET A SMILE
ON YOUR FACE HELPS
YOUR FEET WORK
BETTER.***