



OTONABEE SQUARES

March 2013

www.otonabeesquares.org

We are finally into the last stretch of winter and very soon daylight saving will give us longer evenings. We will be able to arrive in the daylight! Soon our snowbird dancers will be flocking home.

We are so glad to welcome our newest dancers to the club. They are doing so well that it is hard to believe that they have not been dancing a lot longer than two months! Many thanks to our mainstream "angels" who came out to help. If you attended at least four lessons, you can get an angel dangle. Thanks to callers Joe Uebelacker and Barry Clasper for making the lessons such fun.

Speaking of dangles, if you attended one of our demos over the past year, get your demo dangle. Also if you recruited two people who have joined the club since January 2012, you can also get a dangle.

On Monday, March 4th we will hold a clothing sale and the proceeds will be donated to the Brock Mission. Square dance attire is optional on club nights but we encourage dancers if they are attending outside special dances or conventions to dress more formally. Ladies do not have to wear "official" attire but should wear a skirt if dancing on the lady's side. Men should wear a long sleeved shirt. Please carry clean shoes for dancing.

Our mainstream dance on March 17th will be called by Joe Uebelacker. NOTE: **CHANGE OF LOCATION**. Due to the closure of roads for St. Patrick's Day parade, we have moved this dance to St. Anne's Parish Hall, 859 Barnardo Ave, Peterborough. Starts 2pm.

 Following the dance Joe will be doing a short presentation about what is involved in becoming a caller and his expectations of any dancer who wishes to attend caller school. We are aware that as Otonabee is such a new club many are not ready to learn calling but we hope that sometime in the future you might be interested. He will be looking for volunteer dancers to come in for some sessions to dance so it will be a good opportunity for you to come and see what is going on.

Our next fun night will be April 1st. This is our April Fool's dance. We would like some creative people to volunteer to co-ordinate this dance. If anyone has any April Fool ideas, please share them with one of the executive.
All attending this dance will receive a special dangle.

The executive meeting decided that the club would purchase a hearing assist unit. It consists of a transmitter (which is connected to the caller's equipment) and a receiver which is worn by the dancer. Impaired hearing can be a main cause of a dancer making errors. We encourage anyone who could benefit to consider using this. As it only comes with one receiver it is necessary for people to buy their own receiver. Estimated cost is about \$75. We purchase this equipment through our District association as they have negotiated a more favourable price. We have one on loan and if you wish to try it out, speak to Howard.



While we encourage people to laugh and have fun, we have observed that at times talking in a square prevents other dancers from hearing the caller, causing a breakdown. This is especially annoying for people who have trouble hearing.

When the caller is explaining a move, let others listen. Please leave the teaching to the caller. If you wish to explain a move to a dancer, wait until the tip is finished.

At the church we have access to a defibrillator but what we need to know is if we have any members who are trained to use it. If you have CPR training the church may be doing a training session and you may be able to attend free of charge. Please speak to Jennifer or Sandy.

We have been asked to participate in the Canada Day celebrations in Hastings by doing some square dancing. I know it is months away but if you are able to come out on July 1st we need to know now. The organizers need to know. There is a sign-up sheet out on the flyer table. Calls will be basic easy dancing and it will take a couple of hours in the afternoon.

A few words about our Mainstream Sundays. In addition to more floor time, the intent of the mainstream dances are for those people who wish to extend their understanding and ability in mainstream by listening and dancing to other callers. Many of our dancers are keen to improve their dancing skills and be confident dancing outside of the club at conventions or other clubs. This is the reason the executive decided to invite a different callers each month so that the dancers are exposed to a greater variety of moves; all according to the Callerlab definitions but just not called in the same sequence or way that Wayne may call them. They are asked to call FULL mainstream and are told that those attending the dance have learnt all 51 basic moves and the 17 mainstream moves. Wayne is very kind to our dancers and will stop when he sees any square having trouble and will often cue you through a move. However this does not happen in dances and visiting callers would not stop unless more than half the squares are down. If a square breaks down it is essential that you learn to regroup. The square should form two lines; the proper procedure for this is for the head couple to slide to the right – the square forming two lines facing side walls. When the caller sees a square standing like this he will soon say “forward up and back”. *This is the pick-up cue.* The visiting caller is asked to call for a dance and not a workshop.

Starting on March 4th we will offer an additional 30 minutes of mainstream on club nights. With this in mind we have asked Wayne to include an expanded program, including “left handed” calls and others.

If you want to practice you can form your own square and do some “basement” dancing. There are CD’s available from many caller. Speak to Howard Lander if you would like more information.

A word about Barry Clasper, our February Mainstream caller. Barry is on the executive of Callerlab (see www.callerlab.org) and as such is an expert on what calls may be called for each dance level. He teaches basic/mainstream at Triangle Squares in Toronto; teaches levels from basic to plus in Oshawa; calls C1 and C3a in Toronto and calls all 9 levels all over the US and internationally.

For those without internet we have a few DVD’s to help you learn your moves. For those with internet please go to www.saddlebrookesquares.com/lessons.htm. Or see www.tamtwirlers.org/tamination/ - animated moves showing many positions. For example there are about 14 different positions for “walk and dodge”. Remember when you are square dancing that it is also so good for your brain!!

The most important aspect of square dancing is having a good time. No one should feel pressured to move onto the next level just because it is available. Master the one you are at before learning another. Everyone should dance basic for a MINIMUM of one year. Because we have a January beginner class many people are then going into mainstream in September. Very few dancers can confidently dance the basic level after 6 months of dancing. Basic level is probably the most difficult level you will learn because you are going from no knowledge to having to master more than 51 moves. (There are 51 basic definitions but with all the variations of each move, there are actually a lot more to know). Progressing too quickly leads to a weak basic dancer becoming a weak mainstream dancer. Wayne keeps track of all his dancers so if you have questions about whether you should learn the next level, speak to him.

We will not be having the traditional “graduation” night this year. The executive feel it sends the wrong message and implies you now have to move to the next dance level. We **will** have some special celebration for our new dancers for this year.

There are a few events coming up for new dancers. Please see our Calendar. We encourage our dancers to go to other clubs and dance to a variety of callers. We have a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in a bus trip to Napanee for their Elvis Dance Party on Friday April 12th.



April 20th Please all keep this date free for *Spring Spree*. This will be at Crestwood Secondary School in Peterborough starting 2pm. There is a 2 hour supper break from 5-7 and dancing resumes at 7pm until 10:30. There are four callers and four halls (basic, mainstream, plus and A1) so **all** our dancers can attend. This is hosted by Lift Lock Squares and Wayne Hare has ribbons and registrations forms. Save some money by buying in advance.

Our Toronto and District Association will be holding their last convention this year. Declining enrollment has forced this decision which is unfortunate. It will be in Guelph from Friday May 3- Sunday May 5. There is no basic level but mainstream dancers have a dedicated hall. Some of our members are going – speak to Sandy. Please make the effort to support this final dance – lots of fun and great callers!

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/jerry.callen/td/flyers/ConventionGrandFinale.pdf>

During summer we will again be dancing at St. Anne’s Parish Hall, 869 Barnardo Ave., for most (but not all) of the dances. This is an air-conditioned hall. Pick up a flyer which is now available giving dates, times, locations, etc. We will be holding a club picnic on July 28th. This year, it will be held at the home of Howard and Jean Lander. More information later and maps will be available. These dances are for ALL our members.

For anyone who wants to order an official name badge, please speak to Sharon Rae. Or email Sharon at coolnan@cogeco.ca. Cost is \$10 with a magnet and \$8 with a pin.

If you want more information about anything in this newsletter or wish to discuss any topic we have raised please feel free to speak to Jennifer, Sandy or Jean.

Finally, thanks to Joan Hobson for volunteering to take Gwen’s place on the executive as co-social convenor.

Happy Dancing!

Your executive