

OTONABEE SQUARES NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2011

Greetings to all our dancers!

The dance season is drawing to a close and we can all be proud of our achievements for this 2nd year of the Otonabee Square dance club. You have all been wonderful bringing in friends and family to swell our numbers. Learning has been a little difficult this year as there are many new dancers in each square. However the advantage of this is that you have to learn the moves and not rely so much on an experienced dancer getting you into position. We have made new friends and had a lot of fun in this learning process.

Next month we have some special nights. The first is **May 2nd** which will be our Graduation Night. It is a tradition in the square dance movement to recognize all the dancers who have completed the basic level instruction of 51 moves. We have invited the members of Lift Lock Squares to be our guests for the night. There will be some fun activities and it will be a party dance. Please come prepared to stay until 9:30pm as we will be alternating mainstream with basic throughout the evening so will all finish together. Please feel free to wear square dance attire for this evening. This is not mandatory but some of the members feel they would like to dress up for this occasion.

May 9th will be our Open House. We hope you will invite as many people as possible to come out to see what we are up to every Monday night! Wayne will get them up to try some of the easy basic steps. There are invitations available to take away and hand out. If you need more, contact us at hjlander@gmail.com or 905 342 5450. If you are allowed to put a notice about our Open House in your church bulletin, we would be grateful. Or advertise it in any of the organizations, etc., to which you belong. If you have not brought any eats for coffee time up to now, this will be your chance to bring some treats for our guests. Speak to Jill or Cathy if you can help.

May 16th is our last night of the season. We will start the evening off with a pot luck supper at 6:30pm. In addition to some food to share, please bring plates and eating utensils for yourself and serving spoons for the food you bring. You can bring either first or second course. It is strictly pot luck so we hope we get a balance of first and second courses but we take our luck on that score! Following dinner we will have our Annual General Meeting. This will include election of the executive. We are asking people to step forward to fill the positions of Vice-president and Social Convenor but feel free to stand for any executive position. The duties of all the executive positions are laid out in the revised Bylaws. (See a copy of this document on our web page or pick up a hard copy on club night if you do not have internet). Alan Bigelow is our sole nominating committee member and as he is ill, speak to any executive member. Or email at otonabeesquares@gmail.com Hopefully our meeting will not take too long and then we will wind up the evening at 9:30 with some fun dancing (no teaching!) If you have anything you would like put on the agenda, please contact the president, Sharon Rae.

Summer dancing starts on Monday, June 6th - 7pm to 9pm. As per majority vote on the survey, the format will be fun dancing; alternating basic and mainstream tips. There will be minimal teaching so as to give you the chance to dance a whole tip without all the stopping for instruction. If you break down it is not the end of the world; either get into two facing lines until the caller picks you up again or square up. The first caller each month will be Joe Uebelacker and the second dance will be Wayne Whatman. See the schedule on the web page or pick up a hard copy at the club. If we have volunteers to make tea and coffee, these will be available. If not we will just provide water and lemonade for the evening. Please note that it will be presumed that you will have had the **full mainstream teach** if you get up for mainstream tips. (If you are unsure of the moves you know, visit the web page to see a list of all the moves in both basic and mainstream levels)

When we resume in September, we hope to have many new dancers. (These are the people you will be recruiting over the summer!) The format from 7-9pm will be alternating basic teaching tips with mainstream teaching tips. We realize that not all of the graduating dancers this year feel confident enough to learn mainstream so they should stay at the basic level until they feel they have mastered these moves. Some of you started in January and therefore have not had as much time to learn this basic level as those who started in September. Dancing should be fun and there is no point getting discouraged by trying to advance a level if you are not ready. From 9-9:30pm the format will be the same as it has been from January - full mainstream for those people who have completed learning the mainstream level. So if you will be starting to learn mainstream in September this is not for you. Or if you started a little now (Wayne is starting to teach some moves), again this is not for you. By the end of December Wayne will have finished teaching the mainstream program and then you will be able to join in full mainstream. I hope this clears up the confusion which seems to have existed these past couple of months.

A reminder about upcoming dances. See **otonabeesquares.org** or the red binder on club nights.

Sunday May 1st – Belleville 1pm – 4:30pm

Sunday May 8th – Oshawa 1:30pm to 4pm

Thursday – Saturday, May 12th to 14th – Toronto and District Square Dance Convention, St Catherine's. Dancing for the basic level is ONLY on Sat 14th.

Saturday, May 14th – Fundraising dance in Bewdley 2-4pm

Saturday, May 28th – Keene (must be confident mainstream dancer – program is alternating mainstream and plus)

Summer events

June 11th (rain date June 12th) – Picnic and driveway dance at the home of Howard and Jean Lander. 3pm to 8pm . We will do some dancing to CD's and have a picnic supper. Bring your lawn chairs and come to have some fun. 5109 Tower Manor Road, Bewdley. Maps will be available before we close for the season.

August 6 (rain date Aug 13th) Vivian Menzies will host a driveway dance and barbecue at her home on 683 Johnston Drive, Peterborough. 2-8:30pm. Square dance attire would be appreciated. More details later.

Something new which we are hoping to start later this year. Once a month we would like to have a "Community Square Dance". This is a program which only incorporates about 24 of the basic calls. The idea is that you can learn these in a short time and then just let it rip! It could cater not only to our members where they could get more practice, but those people who, for whatever reason, cannot commit themselves to coming every week. (It is impossible to learn the full square dance program without attending weekly on a regular basis). We would like this dance not to compete with other monthly dances held in Peterborough so if you know of regular possible conflicts, please let us know.

Many thanks to Jackie Deschenes who has set up and maintained our web page this past year. It has certainly been a boost for the club as I know from dancers in other areas that they look at it quite often and are rather envious! As most of you are on the internet it is a good way to keep you informed not only about our club's activities, but about other events and links related to square dancing. Many thanks for a job well done Jackie! Please open this site at least every week. **otonabeesquares.org**

Many thanks too to all those people who have stepped up to help in the kitchen; have brought goodies for our coffee/tea breaks; who have come out to other clubs dances and who made our own Frosty Fling dance such a success.

A big thanks to our caller, Wayne, for making Monday nights such fun and for his patience while we all learn.

Howard and Jean Lander -