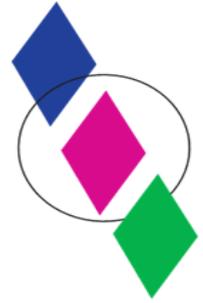


OTONABEE SQUARES

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2013



Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to square dancing. We look forward to many happy hours of dancing during this year!

Many thanks to our **New Year's Eve** dance committee, chaired by Sharon Rae, and to caller Wayne Whatman, who put on a great evening of dining and dancing. The roast beef dinner was excellent, as were all the other refreshments during the night. Local businesses donated some wonderful door-prizes and we thank Joan Hobson for her work in this regard. We will post a list of these businesses both on our website and in our red binder and we ask that you try and support them whenever possible. Many of you have indicated that you would like to see this New Year's Eve dance repeated. If you have any suggestions or comments that would help the planning for the future, please pass it on to the executive.



At our first night back we especially welcome all the new dancers. They will be introduced to the club on January 7th and lessons start on Tuesday, 8th. The caller for the 6 week lessons session will be Joe Uebelacker as Wayne is not available. Please remember the location! Keith Wightman Public School, 860 St. Mary's Street. 7-9:30pm. Some of the September new dancers have indicated that want to go for a refresher course. Some people are going to "learn the other side". Remember - if you pay to dance on Monday, you attend free on Tuesday. Hearing it from a different caller sometimes makes things "click". If you want to go as a helper it is a great way to improve your dancing!

We will need to collect membership (\$5) from the new dancers by the end of January because we have a deadline to purchase insurance for 2013. If you were missed in the fall, please make sure you speak to Mandy.

Mainstream Sunday Dance. Sunday, January 13 from 2-4:30pm. Caller will be Grant Logan. The reason we have these mainstream dances is twofold: we recognize that you do not get a lot of mainstream time on club nights *and* it is very good to dance to other callers. Grant is the caller for the Willow Weaver's Club in Thornhill. Please come and support this event!



Every year Otonabee Squares hosts **FROSTY FLING**, an invitational dance at the end of January. This will take place on Sunday afternoon, January 27th from 2-5pm. Please mark your calendar and plan to be there! Wayne will share the calling with guest caller, Aaron Goodman. Some will remember him when he filled in one day for Wayne. This dance will be held at Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St

W. The Frosty Fling committee will be appealing for help from you all. Sign-up sheets will be out for the next few weeks. We ask for various donations of food and for people to help in the kitchen; set-up, clean up, decorating the hall and clean up at the end. If you sign up for food please bring it ready to serve.

There are some issues which came up at our December executive meeting which we need to bring to your attention.

Dangles: there will be a list in the red binder of dangles which you can earn. If you have questions or think you qualify for a dangle, ask Mandy or Jean. Those who attended the Lift Lock Christmas dance can receive their Christmas dance dangle. Recruiter dangles and Demo dangles are on order as some are waiting for these.

The following dances will be free dances: Feb 11 (Valentine Party); April 1 (April Fool's party); May 6 (Open House).



We have been asked to dance at the  Canada Day festivities in Hastings on July 1st. Before we can confirm with the organizers of this event, we need to know we will have a minimum of 2 squares. We realize that it is 6 months away but please will you let us know if you could attend. We have to give them a definitive answer by the end of the month. Speak to either Howard or myself, phone us 905 342 5450 or email us at hjlander@gmail.com. We need you for about an hour in the afternoon. There are lot of things going on so there will be things for you to do other than square dance.

We would like to remind people about a long standing policy of the club. If you are involved in other activities, charities or businesses and wish to advertise them to the club members, you can place a business card or flyer on the flyer table (space permitting). All selling of non-square dance related items must be done outside club time. Any promotional material left on the flyer table must be removed at the end of the evening. Only square dance announcements are allowed. Also, please do not use our club contact list for anything other than social contact with another member.

A Square Dance Caller School will be held in Peterborough on two consecutive weekends. May 31, June 1-2; June 7-9. Joe Uebelacker will be the instructor. If square dancing is going to continue into the future, we need to train new callers. Our club and Lift Lock have committed \$500 each towards the cost. This will help keep the cost to participants affordable and members of these two clubs will be charged less than non-members. \$150 for our club's members and \$200 for non-members. This is less than half what you would pay at other caller schools (before travel and accommodation). After the mainstream dance on March 17, from 4-5pm Joe will be giving a presentation on the upcoming caller school. Everyone is welcome to attend. One can attend caller school even if you do not want to become a caller but are interested to learn what is involved. Further details to follow but if you are interested, plan to attend Joe's talk and/or please give your name to Howard or Jean Lander. We hope to be able to offer billeting to participants from out of town so if you can put anyone up, please let us know.

Donna keeps a list of people who will help to make tea/coffee on club nights and help clean it up. If everyone takes their turn, it is not a big job. So please sign-up! Please bring a mug for your tea/coffee – we try and reduce our use of Styrofoam. Gwen Wybenga has resigned as co-social convenor so we are asking for

someone who can step up and fill in until elections in May. Speak to Donna VanDrunen to see what is required. We thank Gwen for all her help these past few months.

We encourage you all to visit other clubs and attend their special invitational dances. Remember if you take a minimum of 2 passengers with you our club will pay .22c mileage. Also you can earn a dangle for attending outside dances. For other club flyers, see the red book. Or visit our website: www.otonabeesquares.org.; then click on the link to T&D website and go to "Events". Our club Calendar is on-line and lists some outside dances.

Some house-keeping reminders. Please bring clean shoes to dance in. We need to protect wear and tear on the floor because dancing takes a toll on the floor finish.

The following is about square dance etiquette so if you have heard it before, please have patience because not everyone has!

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!

About hand-holds. The person in the gent's position holds their hand palm up and their partner's palm is down. In the hands-up position it is also just palms touching. DO NOT THUMB GRAB! That means wrapping thumbs together. If anyone asks you to hold hands lightly, please don't be offended because you are probably not aware of what you are doing. New dancers have so many things to think of that they are often not aware that they are squeezing someone's hand.

Our club dress code is casual but if you wish to wear square dance attire on club nights, please do so! If you go to another club for their special dances, those dancing as ladies should wear a skirt and the gent should wear long sleeved shirt. However I don't believe any dancer has got turned away should they not conform!!! The most important thing is to go out and dance.

If you have any concerns, question, etc., please talk to any of the executive.



So again, we wish you a wonderful 2013!

Your executive:

Jennifer Sandy Anne Ingrid Mandy Donna Bill
Rob Jean Howard Sharon