



Otonabee Squares

To all Otonabee square dancers!

December 2011

The year is coming to a close and our Fall dance session almost over. We can look back to a successful 2011. We have welcomed many new dancers and are *so grateful* to all our seasoned members who have patiently helped these new people find their way around the square.

We are relying on all of you to bring in new dancers to join us in January. They are welcome to come to the Pizza Party Dance on Jan 2nd but will not be able to dance (maybe just a couple of tips as an introduction). They will be able to see what our club is all about. Beginning Tuesday Jan 10th their lessons will start at the McDonnell Activity Centre, 577 McDonnell St. 7-9:30pm. Please pick up flyers to hand out to everyone you meet and please take flyers to put up wherever you can. We would welcome any dancer to come out and help on Tuesday night. Tuesday is free for our Monday dancers! Even if you know your basic moves, helping others makes you a stronger dancer. If you are having trouble with some of the new moves, come out and get some review. In the last few weeks our attendance seems to have dropped from 10 squares to around 8+. It is a concern when we lose dancers, especially if we don't know the reason why. However this is also the reason we have to teach new dancers on a regular basis.

When these new dancers have finished their 4 weeks of lessons, they will join us on Monday nights. So beginning in February Wayne will call three levels of dancing; new basic, full basics and mainstream. After the **Mainstream Blitz** weekend which will take place 14/15 January 2012, all mainstream dancers should be able to dance full mainstream. It is recommended that those who started learning mainstream this September attend this weekend. Please fill in your registration forms before we close for Christmas so we know where we are at. Our members do not have to pay for lunch.

We are a relatively new club and try to find a balance of keeping all levels of dancers happy. Due to the timing of the TV program (was not our choice), we did end up catering a little more to new people. In January, separating the new dancers for the first few weeks is a new idea for us and we hope it helps to keep everyone happy! We realize that the mainstream dancers did not get the floor time they wanted. Would the mainstream dancers support an occasional mainstream only dance? We welcome feedback. Irregular attendance, especially if you are learning your moves, negatively impacts all the dancers. We want to remind all those people who have internet to go to **otonabeesquares.org** and click on the Saddlebrook Squares link where you can review your moves. This really helps. If you don't have internet, this same learning assist program is available for sale on DVD. If anyone is interested in buying this, let us know. Because we are only 2+ years old as a club, many of our members are new to square dancing or they have been away from it for some years, therefore the level on the floor may not be as strong as some people would like. But we are getting there!



PIZZA PARTY NIGHT - Jan 2nd

January 2nd will be a free dance. We plan on having a **PIZZA PARTY NIGHT**. Everyone has done enough cooking over the holidays! To get an idea of numbers we will have a bean jar for the next two weeks. If you plan on coming put a bean in the jar. If you are bringing new dancers, put beans in for the number you will bring. If anyone has leftover Christmas baking they want to get out of the house, we would welcome it for dessert!

January 7th Please come out and support our demonstration dance at Lansdowne Mall from 12noon to 2:30 approx. We hope to recruit new members but also to show people in Peterborough that modern square dancing is a going

concern. We need two identical portable tables for this. Any offers? We need people who can help get Wayne's equipment into and out of the mall, and the tables (we will be by the escalators). The image we want to project regarding attire is that both casual and square dance attire is OK in our club so feel free to wear what you wish. Thanks to the people who have signed up to be there. If you did not sign up but will be available, please come and join us.

FROSTY FLING - Sunday, Jan 29th. 2-5pm

This is our chance to entertain other clubs for an afternoon of dancing. **Please all plan to attend.** We will have a guest caller sharing the stage with Wayne. Dave Williamson is a great caller and also has a great singing voice!! More about this when you return in January but please mark your calendars. Clara Manning is organizing the door prizes and doing up gift baskets. If you have anything you can donate for these, please bring them in now and in early January. Speak to Clara if you want to know what kinds of things she is looking for.

Yes, January is a busy month for us but dancing will surely help us get through this long dreary month of the year. No good hibernating – get out and kick up your heels! Work off all those Christmas goodies!

It is great to see more people bringing their own mugs for tea/coffee. Maybe by the end of May we will not need styrofoam at all! Thanks for all those who have helped out every Monday. Without volunteers for this job, there will be no refreshment time! Remember you don't have to bring food or anything, merely help make tea/coffee and put out the cookies. Not a big job if we all take our turn. So sign up with Sandy Rudd.

Please have patience and listen to the announcements made every Monday night. Remember there are quite a few of our members who do not have internet so this is their only chance of finding out what is going on.

A BIG thanks to Jackie Deschenes who maintains our website. When you see changes, Jackie is the one who makes it happen. You should all subscribe to the option "**email subscription**" to receive an email when any new event/notice is added. See otonabeesquares.org.

Every week we have flyers out and in our red binder to advertise outside dances. Twelve of our members attended the recent dance in Stouffville. They had a lot of fun and hearing other callers will improve their dancing ability. Our club has a policy of paying a mileage allowance to car pool drivers – this is out of the Share the Wealth money.

Our Halloween Dance was a great success and we have had positive comments from people in other clubs. Many who wore costume are now wearing your Halloween dangle. Speaking of dangles, the list of possible ones to earn are listed on the webpage and in the red binder. There will be an Angel dangle for full mainstream dancers who come out for all four lessons in January to help our beginners. "Angel" is the term used in square dancing for higher level dancers who help people learn a lower level. Likewise, for plus dancers who come to help at the mainstream blitz. (The only fair way to recognize angels for different levels is for the angel to be currently dancing – for at least one full year - at a higher level than the level that is being taught.)

If anyone wants to learn round dancing, give Joe Uebelacker a call at 705 657 9084.

We hope, in this newsletter, that we have addressed some of the concerns which have been brought to our attention. Our executive meeting will be on Dec 10th so if you would like an issue discussed, please speak to Sharon very soon!

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas season.

Your executive!

Sharon

Sandy M

Eileen and Orren

Ingrid

Mike

Sandy R.

Jean and Howard