



This newsletter provides promotion and marketing ideas, shines a light on people in our dance community, provides history and general information about our much loved activity, and highlights provincial and national events. If you wish to contribute an article, or see an event, topic, person, or club featured, contact the editor.



### WHO KNEW? - by Editor Claudia Littlefair

I guess I'm one of the lucky few who didn't take square dancing in school. I always wondered, though, WHY it left such a negative impression on the majority who did. I found answers in a couple of humorous articles – see Chris Kania's blog who likens it to child abuse and BC new dancer, Jordi Guri's article on his own 'conversion' to square dancing. As funny and entertaining as these articles are, they also shed a true light on what we're up against when we try to sell square dancing to the public. Our image is tarnished by misconceptions, negative childhood experiences, and misrepresentations by media. For whatever reasons, most people think square dancing is corny and out-of-date, and many are surprised that the activity still exists. Effective marketing and promotion is one way to create a new and current image of our activity. People will look twice when they see an image that contradicts their preconceived outdated one.

### INDEX

Editor: Who Knew? .....	1
Forced Square Dancing Equal To Child Abuse.....	1
My First Ever Season in Dancing	2
Sound Bites: What To Say Online	3
How To Look Good When You Are Dancing .....	5
Lighter Side of Darkness .....	7
Kelly's Korner – Dance or Curl ..	8
Glimpse the Past - Thoughts For A New Year .....	9
AB Dance Convention 2020 .....	10
BC National Convention 2020 ...	10

### FORCED SQUARE DANCING EQUAL TO CHILD ABUSE

- by blogger Chris Kania, November 26, 2013

In fourth grade, I had a teacher that thought square dancing was a beautiful American tradition, and that children square dancing was just the cutest thing ever. It was my bad luck that my early school career, and this woman's penchant for square dancing, would intersect in a horrible-nightmarish-way.

**Introvert's Nightmare** I'm a dyed-in-the-wool introvert. Growing up, most people thought my "shyness" was an affliction to be overcome, I always felt guilty for not enjoying any kind of "forced" social activity. This was even more acute when I was younger. I can remember feeling drained by social events, wanting to retreat to a quiet place to recharge, and did not know why I felt and behaved this way.

I've learned since then, that introversion is not shyness. It's a psychological temperament that we are born with, and it does not need to be "cured" but simply needs to be understood. Since then, knowing my introversion tendencies, I can get through any social situation by carefully balancing the social-draining-activity, with the recharging-quiet-alone-time. In fourth grade, I was very socially awkward. I barely fit in among my male peers and thought of my female peers as mysterious creatures to be admired from afar.

**The Dreaded Record Player...** I can remember the first time the teacher wheeled and old-fashioned record player into the classroom. She plugged it in, and removed a long-playing record from the sleeve, and placed it on the turntable. She instructed to the boys to re-arrange the desks in a circle around a large clearing in the center of the room. My mind raced. What is she doing?

**Do As I Say, Your Feelings Are Irrelevant** She pointed out four girls by name, and asked them to stand in the room at North, South, East, and West locations. She then went to each girl in turn, and selected a suitable male student to be her "partner". Partner? Partner! What is she doing? My mind raced. This could not be a good, comfortable social experience. A feeling of dread started to cover me slowly and suffocatingly.

"And Chris, you'll dance with Margaret." Oh my God. She called my name. Margaret was the gravitationally-challenged girl in our class. She was a nice kid, but she battled with her weight, even at a young age. I was small for my age, being a year younger, so this was a physical mismatch of disastrous proportions. A child version of the Mike and Sculley size-mismatch.

**Nauseous Training Begins** In the next few minutes, we learned to meet our partner, grab each other by the arms, promenade in a circle, and other hellish dancing moves, that made that day a nightmare to remember. There was no asking if anyone thought this was a good idea. There was no feedback to the teacher on our feelings about what we were doing. We were trapped by this maniacal cruel woman and her power trip. Eventually the song would end. The dancers would retreat to their desks, to be replaced with 8 new dancers ready to go, and the nightmare would cycle again for another hellish round.

Knowing what I know now, I should have contacted the division of youth and family services for immediate disciplinary action, and perhaps even criminal prosecution, post haste, of this evil child-abusing woman. But of course, I was a fourth grader. Powerless. I could not even speak up about my obvious visceral objection.

**Dosey Do, Promenade...** To this day, I hate any kind of dancing. Not dancing per se, but ME dancing in any way. It has been a life long curse. People talk about "Dancing with the Stars" and the fun of the competition in the latest episode. Good God. Are they insane?

**Deep, Deep, Scars** If I ever hear square dance music, I get an immediate and very negative physical reaction, basically Post Traumatic Square-Dancing (PTSD) of monumental proportions. Even seeing a woman in a plaid skirt with boots on, can bring on a terrible anxiety attack.

**Dead, but Not Forgiven** That teacher probably has long since died. She was old then, so the chances of her being alive now are practically impossible. Perhaps someday I might, but for now, I cannot forgive her for the evil she has done to little children.

**Think Before You Force Dancing** For now, I make my plea to the teachers of the world. Never, never, never force a child to dance, especially a fragile young child, in a socially-infused, complicated ritual such as square dancing. It's cruel and unusual punishment — so important it makes up our Eighth Amendment. So save a child today, it's up to you.

### **MY FIRST EVER SEASON IN DANCING by Jordi Guri, Williams Lake, BC**

This is for all of you guys out there that may have had your partner say to you, "Honey, we should try square dancing sometime. It would be so good for us." . I understand and I feel your pain.

**When I was a young teenager I remember occasionally seeing parts of "Don Messer's Jubilee" on CBC TV.** My parents would regularly watch this show. Back then I tried to comprehend why anyone especially my immigrant parents, would willingly waste their time watching such nonsense. I tried to understand my parents. So I would sometimes watch parts of this show. Baffled I thought, "Am I really their biological son?" There were large groups of people square dancing during some episodes. "They're all nuts. You'll never see me square dancing. Please shoot me if I ever become one of them."

That was 1964 to 1969. **A few years later I graduated from high-school, and in preparation for our graduation festivities all of us grads had to learn (heaven forbid) ballroom dancing.** Thus many of us guys especially, were ecstatic when our grad dance was over with. We could now get on with our own lives and forget about silly outfits and dancing.

Years later since then, the "dance" subject would enter my mind the odd time. I liked music, and dance after all (I finally admitted to myself) was an expression of music. But I wasn't about to utter such nonsense to any of my friends at the time.

Enter the fall of 2018 . It was just another fall season where I would maybe sign-up for a "night school" class or two, to try and learn something and keep busy. Then one day during this time my friend Karen Piffko (from the Stampede Whirlaways) says to me, "**You should try Square Dancing.**"

**... A tiny bug entered my head and it began chewing away what was left of my rational brain ...** Maybe it was the images that had been imprinted in my mind over the many years which finally crushed me. Seriously troubling images like; goofy dance outfits & regalia, tacky dangles & ribbons, my parents looking like zombies wearing scary grins while watching "Don

Messer's Jubilee", and me having to dance with someone much smellier than I during the grad dance.

Or maybe it was because as an older guy I realized that the team sport of square dancing was probably much safer than many other team sports. One in which I could still survive and not be maimed or killed, and it was friendly and musical, too. It seemed like a "win-win".

**So last fall I attended my first "beginners square dance" class.** These sessions were held at the Cariboo Arts Center one evening each week during the months of September & October. I think I started there very late in the second month of the beginners lessons and got just 2 evening lessons (if even that). This was not enough for me. But Nick and Mary Anne Turner, and a number of their experienced dancers were all very kind and generous. They, along with my friend Karen, all got together to make up a dance square for a square dance session just for me at Nick & Mary Anne's home, so that I could get caught up with the other beginners. With everyone's help, kindness, patience and support, along with the help of the "Saddlebrook Squares" DVD set and the YouTube videos, which can be found on the internet at:

<https://videosquaredancelessons.com/lessons/>

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL\\_Oe8oaX\\_keaihUilspgiu0cE7P\\_CBodX](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_Oe8oaX_keaihUilspgiu0cE7P_CBodX)

I was able to get caught up so that I could continue the 2018-2019 Square Dance season and become a square dancer in the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways club. A first ever for me for any form of dancing. All thanks to these wonderful folks.

Later that season in May/2019, Karen and I attended the Williams Lake Jamboree. **Not only did I survive through that just fine, but I really enjoyed the time there square dancing** and taking part in our skit and helping out. I met many new people including Neil & Susan Hunter who are distant friends that I knew from the 1980's.

Then in July/2019 Karen and I went to the Salmon Arm Festival for 5 days, along with other Stampede Whirlaways members and friends (Bill & Jan, Ray & Betz, Dana, Kae & Dave, Glen & Cathy).

What a large gathering there, and what a variety of dances and callers and cuers! **Battalions of people walking around town shamelessly wearing colorful outfits & regalia, sparkling dangles & ribbons, and annoying all of those other people around Salmon Arm that were having to do their real jobs.**

Karen and I also attended a couple of beginners round dance lessons while we were there. At the end of the Festival all of us were pretty much "danced-out". But for all of us I think it was a wonderful and memorable experience. It certainly was for me.

Our time in Salmon Arm was fantastic and the people there were very friendly. Many thanks to all of the Stampede Whirlaways and the help that I received from them. They were the reason I made it to the Salmon Arm Festival. It was one of the best experiences for me. Don Messer and my parents understood all of this long ago. My only regret is that I should have tried this years ago. But no matter, it's wonderful now and hopefully for many more years to come. **So go ahead, I guess you can shoot me now. :)**



#### CHURCH BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENT BLOOPERS

- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- If you are going to be hospitalized for an operation, contact the pastor. Special prayer also for those who are seriously sick by request.
- We have received word of sudden passing of Rev. Smith this morning during the worship service. Now let's sing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".
- Lift up our Messianic brothers and sisters in Israel who are suffering during our prayer time.
- Glory of God to all and peas to his people on earth.
- The pastor will light his candle from the altar candles. The ushers will light their candle from the pastor's candle. The ushers will turn and light each worshipper in the first pew.

## **SOUND BITES: WHAT TO SAY ON-LINE**

### **- Excerpt from Article by Justin Russell, Caller, Memphis, TN, CALLERLAB Convention 2015**

Over the past decade, we have seen the internet just explode with content and data. The way we receive information has changed. Within the square dance activity, we have been behind the times for using these new features to our advantage. Many people in the activity have blamed technology as a reason for the decline in square dancing. I don't know if that statement is true, but I do know that **social media can help us to promote, advertise, and engage both dancers and non-dancers.**

#### **Ways To Communicate Your Message**

- **Email and Email Newsletters:** Electronic mail is the oldest way to communicate online and works much like traditional mail that is sent from one person to one or more people. While it does deliver a message, it does not allow people to communicate easily between one another like social sites like Facebook. Currently some callers have newsletters that dancers can subscribe to.
- **Forums:** Either through an email list or part of a website that allows for group discussion. Members, not just one leader, can start a discussion that others can read and reply to.
- **Blog:** An online journal usually written by one person. This can be used for many different reasons depending on the writer – a personal diary, provide information or tutorial.
- **Website:** A semi-permanent home on the internet and a great way for people to find you or your group. Websites can be as basic or complex as you wish. Some great information to include would be: biography, schedule, promo picture, home program information, and links.
- **Social Media:** A user creates a profile and is granted access to the site where they can view other user profiles and connect with them. On Facebook, users can create a personal page, a group page, and even a fan page.
- **Youtube:** Allows you to upload a video for others to discover and watch.
- **Newspapers:** Many newspapers have gone from paper print to digital/online editions. Articles are a great way to promote the activity in your area and most newspapers are begging for good content and color photos.



#### **Ten Important Things to Remember**

1. **Have a Plan:** Before you start, have a clear idea of your purpose. Are you informing current dancers? Are you trying to recruit non-dancers? The type of information you include will vary as well as the language you use.
2. **Stay Focused and Be Consistent:** There are a lot of websites that litter the World Wide Web. Have you searched for your favorite caller only to find out what their calling schedule was for 2009? Be sure to keep it updated with relevant information. Some helpful hints are to post the schedule for the entire year or use language like “recently”, “last month”, or “soon”. Make sure phone numbers are up to date and watch for spelling and grammar.
3. **Create/Know Your Personal Brand:** A brand is anything that separates you from someone else. This can be a symbol, design, name, reputation, tone, etc. Be positive and upbeat. This can get you recognition in your field and better contacts. Maybe it's a tag line “Thanks for coming and thanks for staying!” or maybe you always tell a story about your adventures. Be unique.
4. **Pictures REALLY Are Better Than A 1000 Words:** Research shows that **87% of all interactions of a Facebook page happen on photo posts.** To compare, posts with links receive 4% of all interactions. Choose a photo that is appealing. Crop and edit photos and remember who your audience will be. Tag people in photos as a way to share.
5. **Call To Action:** Leave your readers with a clear call to action. Try to only promote one objective at a time. You can talk about multiple things but have a clear conclusion.
6. **Mix It Up:** Try some different things to keep an audience engaged. Have a contest and offer a prize. Ask for people to submit photos or answer a question. Poll the audience for feedback.



## 7. Know & Use Your Symbols:

- **Hashtags:** The pound sign (#) turns any words or group of words into a searchable link. #squaredancing, #CALLERLAB, #TeachingOldDogsNewTricks. Don't use spaces. Everything is one word. Numbers are okay.
- **The "@" sign:** Is used to call out usernames in Tweets - "Hello@twitter!" People will use your @username to mention you in Tweets, send you a message or link to your profile.

**8. Start Slow & Run A Marathon:** It will take a while to build followers. This is usually a good thing because it will give you time to figure out your message. You don't have to create every account today. Start with one and watch it develop over time.

**9. Don't Try To Hardsell:** If you have been on social media awhile, you all know that one person you try to avoid because they will twist your arm to try "the latest thing that will change your life". Don't be that type of person. Create Awareness or start a conversation that can possibly translate into them becoming a dancer.

**10. Articles Online:** A free way to gain exposure. Have one person in charge of writing the articles and one for taking pictures. Three to four paragraphs are all that's needed. Give the basic description of the group and event. Pictures are a huge plus. List the dancers' names and where they are from. Email the same article to various newspapers and just change the names of the dancers listed.



**About the Author:** Justin Russell has been in the square dance activity since 2001. In 2008, Tony Oxendine and Jerry Story asked him to record for Royal Records. Currently, Justin lives in Memphis, TN and works full time for a local credit union. For more information, please visit his website [www.justin-russell.com](http://www.justin-russell.com).

## HOW TO LOOK GOOD WHEN YOU ARE DANCING - by Ed Foote, Caller

Many people watch you while you dance; others in the set, dancers and visitors on the sidelines, and the caller. Do you impress them with good styling and appearance? We all want to look good to others when we dance – here is how to do it.

### GOOD DANCE HABITS

- Keep your head raised.** Do not look at the floor. In addition to giving you a good appearance, it also lets you see what is going on in the entire set, and this will result in fewer breakdowns. Also, stand erect – do not slouch.
- Take hands immediately after every call.** This allows everyone in the square to be aware of the formation, and aids in proper execution of the next call, thereby averting a possible breakdown of the set.
- Eliminate rough dancing.** Such techniques as hip-bumping, jumping, extra swinging and twirling, kicking, etc., are seen as great fun by some dancers. They tend to do these actions when other dancers are not doing them, often disrupting the timing of the dancers who wish to dance smoothly. **Rule:** All eight dancers should work together as a group, using the same styling as the majority of the square.
- Dance in time to the music.** Some people, concerned about doing a figure correctly, have a tendency to rush through the steps. If you do your part of a call too quickly, others may not see their position and cause your set to break down. It is better to relax and move to the beat of the music. **Rule:** Dance 2-4 beats behind the caller.
- Counterdance.** This means moving your body so the transition from one call to another is made smoothly. It also means adjusting slightly to allow others room to do a call. (Example: heads move forward and back when the sides are told to Promenade Halfway.) Think of flowing smoothly through the calls.



### STYLING AND DRESS

- GIRLS: Consider a left-face turn back into a promenade.** On a Right and Left Grand, immediately after pulling by the fourth man with the left hand – do a looping U-Turn Back to your left. Time this so you finish just as your partner is stepping up beside you to Promenade. It looks sharp and impressive.
- GIRLS: Use skirt work.** It really makes you look distinctive.
  - How to hold skirt:** Let your free hand hang at the side of your skirt. Grasp your skirt where your hand is, bend your elbow, lift your hand slightly about your waist, roll your hand backward 90° so that your palm is facing up with your skirt on top of your palm (you should not be able to see your hand).

**(2) When to use skirt work:**

- a. **On Weave the Ring.** It looks beautiful and outstanding. Do the skirt work very slowly. Alternately raise and lower the skirt on the side nearest the man you are passing. Do not swish the skirt swiftly from side-to-side – skirt work should be elegant.
  - b. **On Promenade.** Consider only holding the man's right hand with your left hand and using your right hand to raise your skirt. It looks great.
  - c. **If you are the end of a line.** Use skirt work with your free hand when the caller says "up to the middle and back".
  - d. **On Right and Left Thru and Ladies Chain.** On the pull by, use left skirt work; on the Courtesy Turn, use right skirt work.
  - e. **On selected calls, when you are on the outside of the set.** For example: Circulate, Load the Boat, Allemande Thar and Wrong Way Thar, Pass Thru, Wheel and Deal.
  - f. **On Teacup Chain.** Use skirt work with your free hand.
- C. GIRLS: Wear a full or semi-full petticoat.** It gives your dress a crisper look than a limp one would, and presents an overall better appearance.
- D. BOYS: Remove western hat while dancing.** Wearing a western hat indoors is improper etiquette, and conveys the old-fashioned image of square dancing that modern western dancing is trying to eliminate.

**POOR DANCE HABITS**

- A. Not Taking hands** immediately after every call.
- B. Rushing through a Grand Square,** using only 12-14 beats for each half of the call instead of 16 beats. Thus, dancers finish in 26-28 beats when they should not finish until the 32<sup>nd</sup> beat. If dancers have time to Swing their partner halfway through or at the end of the call, then the call is not being danced in time to the music. **Solution:** Allow 4 beats for each 4 steps of the Grand Square.
- C. Ignoring the music.** Dancers will lose the rhythm by:
- (1) Hip-bumping or high-kicking on a Right and Left Grand.
  - (2) Side-jumping or hopping in a Grand Square.
  - (3) Walking the calls rather than dancing them. The difference between walking and dancing: Walking – the heel of your foot touches the ground first. Dancing – the front of your foot touches the ground first. (Clide on the balls of your feet.)
- D. Being sloppy on position.** Instead of occupying a position firmly, dancers are hesitant and either over-turn or under-turn the move.
- E. Moving up to the middle and back (from facing lines) when the caller has not said to do so.** The fact that the caller says to "make a line" or "you have lines", does not mean that dancers should move up and back. This throws timing off for everyone in the set, because the caller has usually timed the next command to flow smoothly from the previous command. Dancers should only move "up and back" if this is called by the caller. **Rule:** Do exactly what the caller says; do not add anything or leave anything out.
- F. Centers of facing lines slapping hands.** When the callers says "up to the middle and back", hands should always be joined with adjacent dancers to maintain formation awareness. If the centers patty cake hands, they probably won't hold hands with the adjacent center on other calls either.
- G. Doing an improper Do Sa Do** by swinging the person in front instead of going back-to-back with them. This action demonstrates a disregard of, and lack of concern for, the correct definition of the call. Also, most people who do a "swinging Do Sa Do" will automatically form a wave, but this is not the correct ending position – the correct ending position is two people facing. So if people automatically form a wave, they could be out of position for the next call, thus causing the set to break down.



**About the Author:** Ed Foote is considered by many to be one of the foremost authorities on the activity of Modern Western Style Square Dancing. He began his calling career in 1965 and calls all square dance programs thru Challenge. Ed has so many credits to his name in the Square Dance Community that a complete listing here would not be possible. He is seen by many as the "Callers Caller" and has been known to provide dancers with some of the most dynamic and entertaining choreography in the world. Ed is a full time International Caller who makes his home in the Pittsburgh area when he is not traveling.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF DARKNESS - by Dee Jackins

*Dee is an avid square and round dancer, and enjoys writing. She shares the lighter side of some of her experiences, challenges and near disasters as a sight impaired person. See issue #2015-6 for her complete story under "Chatter Close-up".*



*Dee and her husband square danced from 1969 to 1971. In 1975, she lost sight in her left eye, and by 1989 her vision was completely gone. While trying to cope with her blindness, Dee's husband was diagnosed with cancer. He died 10 months later in October, 1991. A friend suggested that she try square dancing again, and in 1995 she joined Calgary's singles club. Dee has been dancing ever since. She dances by visualizing the calls and positions, and with the gentle guidance of dancers' hands for no-hand calls such as weave the ring.*

There are many items to be aware of that never existed before my blindness. One of the most inconvenient is identifying containers that don't have labels or the label has fallen away, which is mainly my fault or carelessness on my part. Whenever I'm packing my bags, I will pour lotions, soaps etc. into smaller more convenient containers and sometimes the Braille tape doesn't stick very well. Some fall off and it's so easy to grab any label that may be on the loose and glue it back on without checking it more carefully. This is certainly not the proper way to solve the problem. Not too long ago a bottle was brailed 'lotion'. Without any hesitation I started to use it for that purpose. Whoa! Something was amiss so I tossed it aside to look into it later. Sure enough, it wasn't lotion by any means - it was shampoo. The next day I used it as such and it worked just great. There seemed to be a few bottles without labels that were collecting so the time had come to identify their content - one down, only a few more to go.

Another time a similar problem arose again with lotion. I grabbed what I thought was the only tube in my bag but there were two. The 'light bulb' came on - I had thrown in a tube of hair gel and as one would expect I grabbed the wrong one. Needless to say, back to the shower...

Medical prescriptions tend to be a bit more difficult. When I still had a bit of sight, I had ordered a refill for some eye drops but the container didn't seem to be the same as the previous one, so I looked into it a little further and after contacting my eye specialist, it was confirmed what I had suspected. Ever since then I take the necessary precautions before using any prescribed medication.

Sometime ago in the past, I required some dental work to be taken care of. There were a few problems that needed attention and after multi trips to the same office, it didn't look very promising. Things were not improving. Somehow I got an infection in my mouth, which probably came from the same establishment with so many visits. A prescription was given to me to remedy this problem and after handing it over to the pharmacist, she disappeared to the back of the store. It only took a few minutes when she returned and questioned me as to what kind of a doctor had prescribed this medication. Normally this common medicine for infections is prescribed by a gynecologist or family doctor. She was just checking to be sure it was correct. All I could say was, "You've got to be kidding! There must be some mistake..." After a few minutes of discussion she agreed to give the Dentist a call.

By this time we were starting to have a good laugh, when she came back and said, "That's what the Dentist has ordered." and continued to give a lot more information than this fine gentleman I was with needed to hear. She topped it off with the remark, "In that case, I don't imagine you'll need this handy little applicator." (I wanted to ask her, "If this is a multipurpose medication, it should be a little bit more palatable to the taste.") Thank goodness she kept her voice low; it might have raised a few eyebrows! We all had a good laugh as we hurried out the door.

We were still laughing when we got to the vehicle when someone started rapping on the window. This kind 'younger' looking gentleman with a grin from ear to ear remarked, "I just have to let you know that it's so wonderful to see an older couple having such a great time." Well, that was the icing on the cake! (This 'older' part got my attention - age is just a number but let's think positive and call it 'young at heart' - it is so much more acceptable.)

What a course of events in such a short time. Everyone needs a good hardy laugh and we sure got our share of it that day. Keep smiling - makes people wonder what you're thinking about...

### MORE BLOOPERS . . .

- Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and heave a hearty lunch.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

## KELLY'S KORNER - by Kelly Thompson

*Kelly started square dancing in 2016 after being coerced by his sister. He admits that he would have never walked into the club on his own. He has since found a whole new way of looking at life, a community of new friends and personal confidence that didn't exist before.*



### DANCE OR CURL?

For quite some time I have compared what we do as round/square dance participants to the sport of curling. There are quite a few similarities as well as the obvious differences, but in any case, the reasons we participate have a lot in common.

We are probably aware of the sport of curling mostly due to the news we receive regarding the Olympic Games, and the various world championship tournaments. Curling for the most part is quite well known, but round/square dancing is barely heard of, and very often when we do speak of it to people they get a funny look on their face as they seem to leave town. I suspect we have something of an image problem, and of course not much in the way of media coverage.

I think historically we have mostly seen curling as a sport for those somewhat younger than the average age of our dance members. In the back rooms though we will see curlers of all ages, but quite astounding is one I curled against who was 97 years old. As we watch curling we see people down on their knees and we would most likely figure that to be impossible. It is however this 97 year old put a piece of rubber onto his push broom and pushed his rock ahead of him. He was the first to invent stick curling. It frustrated me to no end, because if it wasn't for those sticks these fellows wouldn't be playing the game, and surely then, they wouldn't be beating me as badly as they did. A bunch of guys who you wouldn't think should be there, made me look like the rooky I always was.

Fun, fitness, exercise for the mind and body are the same reasons those guys curl and we round/square dance. With either, a retirement age of 97 and beyond is well within a reasonable expectation. Only a few will ever get to the Olympics, but I seriously doubt that is the reason any of us participate.

To be an Olympic curler chances are you need to practice 18 hours a day every day leading up to the tournament. We differ somewhat with that, in that, I don't know anyone that could dance for 18 consecutive hours. We work a lot harder at what we do. They need to know angles and speeds, but we need to memorize and act without hesitation. We can also practice several times per week, or only a few, but we likely can never know everything there is to know about round/square dance.

We could have our own Olympic program, and as I hear, some teens and university types are organising competitions. We need to face the reality though, as far as square dancing goes, we are the stick curlers; we can cheer from the sidelines, but it the next generation that needs to carry the torch. We need to help, support and encourage the best we can, but more than anything else we need a new image. Let's cheer the next generation on, let's help them make our sport into an Olympic event, as has been done with such as the synchronised swimming, so we can watch the parade, as they bring the banner home.

This sounds pretty unrealistic, but I have thought for quite a few years; maybe dreams don't always come true, because maybe we simply don't dream big enough. Peter King had a dream that he could still keep curling, many others still might say he was a King. Big dreams are but a little hassle for ye who makes our dreams come true.

#### AND MORE BLOOPERS . . .

- When the 'Moms Who Care' prayer group meeting was cancelled, "There will be no Moms who care this week."
- During the congregational prayer for our unsaved loved ones, "Father, we just want to pray for our unloved saved ones."
- Men's Prayer Breakfast. No charge, but your damnation will be gratefully accepted.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on Oct. 14 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- The agenda was adopted, the minutes were approved, the financial secretary gave a grief report.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



## A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

**NOTE:** For this issue only, the following article takes the place of the regular column featuring excerpts from the book “As I See Saw It –Bob Osgood”. The article was written by the wife of the infamous “Pappy” Shaw, known as the ‘Father of Square Dancing’. This eloquently written article appeared in the January, 1960 issue of Bob Osgood’s “Sets in Order” square dance magazine.

## THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

- by Dorothy Stott Shaw, wife of “Pappy” Shaw, known as the Father of Square Dancing

### Did it ever occur to you that man is designed for dancing?

Watch a marsh hawk, cutting a clean edge of motion across a September sky. Watch a young horse in open pasture, running for pure delight; or a red setter coursing among willows and sedges near a duck-clotted lake. Watch a porpoise playing in the open sea and making of swimming a thing even surpassing the joy of fishes; or peer at a little green snake, making a shining whisper of movement through orchard grass.

**Then, take a look at man!** Oh, he *can* swim, and run and creep, and even fly – after a fashion, for he is resourceful even though he is awkward and physically inadequate. But he does not do these things one-tenth as well as the deer, the swallow, the salmon or the lizard.

Just a minute! **Take another look at him. He is built for dancing! There he excels all other creatures.** A vertical spine – great length of limb – beautifully swivelled joints (what other creature can stand on one foot and swing the other leg in a tall circle?) – a plantigrade foot – a head regally poised on slender hinges – and what a hand, so sensitively articulated at wrist and finger joints!

**Look closer. The hand is designed, as is the hand of no other being,** to take and clasp the hand of a fellow being: in meeting and greeting, in comforting and congratulating, in passing in a pattern. And the countenance on that poised head is capable of infinite gradations of joy, of tenderness, compassion, enthusiasm and fun. The lips can smile and laugh; the mouth can speak in friendliness, howl in glee, shout for joy. And hidden somewhere in that fragile skull, those slender veins (where *is* it hidden?), the curious capacity for keeping time: to a drum, to a fiddle, to a singing voice, to the steady in-beat of surf on a white strand. And he leads with his heart, man does, his heart that in most creatures is safely tucked in under, out of harm’s way.

Oh, man-designed-for-dancing, the rhythm of the year turns past the solstice; the blood quickens. Take that sweet woman on your arm, straighten the vertical spine, lift the poised head, step out, with that plantigrade foot pointed cleanly, onto the dance floor and right on into the new year.

Use your head for looks (you’ve been thinking with it all day) – cervicle vertebrae lined up straight, chin raised a little, eye flashing, lips laughing. Hold out that wonderful hand to clasp another hand; give the owner of the hand a happy grin; call across the floor at the top of your lungs – “room for another couple in this set!”

### And lead with your heart!

No other creature – no running, flying, leaping, swimming creature – can throw back its head, fling out its arm in a world-embracing gesture – feet unconsciously tapping to fiddle music in the background – and cry from a full heart,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY!**

### AND THE LAST OF THE BLOOPERS.

- Next week there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Missionary Bertha Belch from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. “Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.”
- The third verse of “Blessed Assurance” will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- Our next song is “Angels We Have Heard Get High”.
- The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, “Break Forth in Joy”.



**DO YOU KNOW THESE MASKERS?**  
**(AT LEAST ONE OF THEM WILL BE ATTENDING THE ALBERTA CONVENTION, LABOUR DAY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 2020!)**

## JOIN THE FUN! Sept 4th to 7th 2020!

Check out our website: [www.communitydance.org](http://www.communitydance.org) for the latest information!

FREE pre-convention dance at West Edmonton Mall, join the group for Jubilations Dinner Theatre, Mardi Gras masquerade dance Saturday night, FREE intro sessions for all dance forms on Saturday, plus much more!!

Register before April 30, 2020 for the best rates!



# 52<sup>ND</sup> ALBERTA DANCE CONVENTION - EDMONTON

## Information & Registration

[www.communitydance.org](http://www.communitydance.org)

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CANADIAN NATIONAL SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL

Sheraton Guildford, Surrey, B.C. , July 29 – August 1, 2010

Email: [Festival2020Registrations@hotmail.com](mailto:Festival2020Registrations@hotmail.com) Website: <https://squaredance.bc.ca/>



The LINE-UP OF LEADERS TO DATE for the National Festival in BC include:

**CALLERS:**

Aaron Goodman, Mississauga, ON  
Alan Ellis, Spruce Grove, AB  
Andy Chong, Toronto, ON  
Barry Clasper, Toronto, ON  
Betsy Gotta, North Brunswick, NJ  
Bill Mager, Andover, CT  
Brent Mawdsley, Delta, BC  
Caitlin Brendzy, Burnaby, BC  
Chuck Jordan, Coquitlam, BC  
Dave Harry, Lynnwood, WA  
David Symington, Calgary, AB  
Don Krebs, Salmon Arms, BC  
Don Moger, Montreal, QC  
Dottie Welch, Lawrencetown, NS  
Eldon Neudorf, Aberdeen, SK  
Francois Desmarais, Ottawa, ON  
Garry Dodds, Victoria, BC  
Gordon Ruedig, Powell River, BC

James DesBarres, Southampton, NS  
Jean Woods, Salmon Arms, BC  
Jeff Priest, Brantford, ON  
Heather Reynolds, New Westminster, BC  
Kendall Smith, Lloydminster, SK  
Lorne Smith, Calgary, AB  
Mavis Lawson, Hamilton, ON  
Merv Meyer, Kamloops, BC  
Merv Reid, Port Stanley, ON  
Mike Rohde, Chilliwack, BC  
Murray Few, Edmonton, AB  
Nicholas Brendzy, Burnaby, BC  
Patty Cameron, Stoney Creek, ON  
Ray Brendzy, Burnaby, BC  
Renziana Struik, Swift Current, SK  
Rick & Kathy Utter, Moyie Springs, ID  
Robert Dew, Wangan Hills, WA  
Steve Edlund, Surrey, BC  
Steve Ocskasy, Peekskill, NY  
Steve Noseck, Arlington, WA

Terry Hebert, Fredericton, NB  
Tim Crawford, Burlington, ON  
Tyler, Wagner, Surrey, BC  
Valerie Wright, Moose Jaw, SK  
Wayne Hall, St. Catharines, ON  
Wendy Krueger, Abbotsford, BC

**CUERS:**

Andrea Priest, Brantford, ON  
Bob Beck, Thorold, ON  
Cheryl Plume, Langley, BC  
Connie Ritchie, Victoria, BC  
Dan Roy, Kincardine, ON  
Dave Symington, Calgary, AB  
Dottie Welch, Lawrencetown, NS  
Eileen Webster, Spencerport, NY  
Gary Dean, Prince George, BC  
Glen Eliasson, Edmonton, AB  
Heather Reynolds, New Westminster, BC

Joan Tharme, Edmonton, AB  
Pat Zeeman, Victoria, BC  
Patricia Mahoney, Calgary, AB  
Peter Tennant, Vernon, BC  
Randy Preskitt, Everett, WA  
Regine Anderson, Penticton, BC  
Renziana Struik, Swift Current, BC  
Ron Hopkinson, Regina, SK  
Roy Gotta, North Brunswick, NJ  
Sandy Meyer, Kamloops, BC  
Sharron Hall, St. Catharines, ON  
Stan McKeen, Denfield, ON  
Stella Tennant, Vernon, BC  
Terry Hebert, Fredericton, NB  
Wendy Krueger, Abbotsford, BC

**CLOGGING LEADERS**

Darlene Cummings, Langley, BC  
Ida Murray, Red Deer, AB