

Triangle Squares

Box 57, 552 Church Street

Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2E3

July 1995

Graduate Festival, McMaster University

Roger Halfacre

With some trepidation, eight of us from the Basic / Mainstream class attended the 17th Annual Graduate Festival on May 12th at McMaster University in Hamilton. First of all, we would be dancing in public (would we remember all the calls?). Secondly, would eight gay guys blend in unnoticed as we wove the ring with gusto? (In our smashing, but discrete black and white ensemble.) Thirdly, would this venture into a heterosexual domain be without incident (after all, this was the first time I've held hands in mixed company with another guy). So many questions and thoughts sashayed through the brain as we passed-thru the congested hallways and circulated into the gymnasium.

"Square Up", the caller proclaimed! Ends up to the centre and back! Our square dancing reflexes were promenaded in front of the grand family, with no time to lose. The caller called, the music played, dozens of eyes were upon us. Smiles, whispers and more smiles. Allemande left! Chain down the line! (What did I get myself into, and what are those people thinking?) Ladies dancing! Oh, oh, ... Grand Square! What about the styling? Oh yes, with moderation! Oh, do we have style! The tip ended too soon and another started up! Faster and with rapidity, the calls came but we twirled with the best of them as we wheeled and dealed.

The first break and we all rushed outside for fresh air. A man came to talk to us. "Where are you from? You guys dance great!"

"Glad to see you here, it takes guts to do that", someone else said.

An older woman stopped by and asked us to show her the Do-Sa-Do styling. "So graceful", she said.

The short break ended and we were back dancing again. More breaks and more questions. Two teenage girls asked if they could dance with us for the next tip. Throughout the evening, couples came up to us and asked to join our square. Some solo ladies joined us at first invitation to fill a square. "Be gentle with me", one teased. So quickly did our nervousness disappear only to be replaced with the warmth that hospitality provides. The universality of the fondness for square dancing was what brought us here, despite differences.

This is what dancing is all about. It was fun; it was hundreds of people gathering together to enjoy the evening. This event gave us the opportunity to demonstrate to ourselves how much we had learned from Joe, and how well we actually dance together. But it was also an empowering event for us all, because we were visible, good natured, inclusive and genuine. Perhaps more goodwill was generated by our presence than is possible by political means. We showed our humanity with humour, grace and of course, style. Our fears faded that evening to be replaced with comments such as: "Come and see these guys, they dance great"; "Can you show me that move again?"; "My son is gay, and likes square dancing, Where does your club meet?"; "Will you be here tomorrow?"; "I'm glad you came!"

Triangle Squares is a member of the Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association. Events such as these are an excellent opportunity to mix with the larger community, as well as to promote the presence of our club. The next T&D Association event will be the Modern Square Dance Day at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto on Sunday, August 20th, from 12:00 noon. Let's participate and have fun!

A Reminder that there will be no dancing on Thursday, June 29. This is the date of the AIDS candlelight memorial service in Cawthra Park.

Thursdays' Summer Dance Schedule

Caller: Joe Uebelacker

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

At The "519"

July 6	Mainstream / Plus
July 13	Introductory Session
July 20	A1 / A2
July 27	Mainstream / Plus
August 3	A1 / A2
August 10	Mainstream / Plus
August 17	A1 / A2
August 24	Mainstream / Plus
August 31	Trail-End Dance, Scoot Across the Border '95

There will also be an **Introductory Night of Dancing**, on July 13 at The '519". Bring Friends or attend Just For the Fun Of It (...isn't there a music segue in here somewhere ..!!)

Fall Dance Schedule

Basic: Intro Sessions: Wednesdays, Sept 6 & 13, at 7:30 p.m., at Jesse Ketchum School

Classes begin the 20th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Plus: Thursdays, 8:30 - 10 p.m., at The "519"
First Class: September 7

C1: Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

First Class: September 6, at Jesse Ketchum.

Another Gentle Reminder for next season, that we're requested to wear only rubber-soled shoes in the Jesse Ketchum gym, as the flooring was recently refinished.

Pride Day

The club is still looking for volunteers to help at the club table, by handing out flyers & cards, and answering questions about the club. You can call Richard Stoveld to volunteer. We should have T-Shirts on sale, and are hoping to walk in the parade as a group. Our table will be situated at the North-West corner of Church & Alexander Streets. Come and support the Performance Team at 1:45 p.m., and join us in a general dance at 4:45 p.m.

Picnic - Hanlan's Point

Sunday, July 30, 1 - 5 p.m., Site #110

Tickets: \$6, available from John Bailey

Includes catered chicken lunch

(vegetarian selection available)

The Club would like to extend
July **Birthday Greetings** to:

Colin Lamont
Gene Ouimette
Arthur Wong

Janet Naylor
David Shaw
John Mills



Miss Manners would like to give a **Gentle Reminder**, to please apply colognes and perfumes sparingly as some people suffer from allergies, and have had some bad reactions or breathing difficulties as a result. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Track 2 Convention, Chicago

Was a great time, with a terrific turn out: there were 28 of us from Toronto, with a convention total of around 1,100 dancers! Although, it seems some people spent more time in the hotel lobby ogling people in leather, than they did dancing!

It was also ~~nasty~~, er, nice, to see Lois-Carmen Denominator of Chicago (finally) win for Honky-Tonk Queen! Her perseverance paid off (or, at least, someone got paid off ...!!) Also, Kudos to the Demo Team for a terrific performance. Watch for them at Gay Pride Day, and cheer 'em on!

The **Fly-In** Committee has been meeting monthly, working diligently to bring together, what promises to be, the highlight event of late-summer! Register soon, as it's only a couple months away! You can find registration forms at the info table on dance night.

Club Steering Committee

	<i>all (416)</i>
Richard Stoveld (President)	964-2471
John Mills (Treasurer)	421-9625
Andy Chong (IAGSDC™ Rep)	925-2602
John Bailey (Secretary)	921-0571
Chris Homer (Publicity)	960-5458
Brian Croker (Associate Class Rep)	652-3174

Items for inclusion in the next Newsletter can be left with any of the above Steering Committee members.
