



Triangle Squares Newsletter

Summer 2016



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POTLUCK PICNIC BY THE POND

Sun., August 14th

Hosted by Peter & Tom

See [here](#) for details

MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



The Convention Edition



Joe Uebelacker and Anne Uebelacker, founding callers of our club, kicked off Maple Leafs Regroup with an exuberant Trail-In dance, welcoming 800 dancers to Toronto.

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

~ Niall O'Reilly

It was a Convention. It was our Convention. Over 850 IAGSDC dancers and friends congregated in Toronto, had fun, danced, ate, toured the city and environs, and went home. Just like that, right? Well, not quite. It was actually six

years in planning, involved two years of heavy promotion, and a sizeable army of volunteers to pull it off. I

could tell Triangle Squares members were all experiencing heightened emotions in the months leading up to the event, and there's no wonder. The stakes were high: we all wanted a great convention and to show off our city in the best light we could.

But there can be no mistake, one of the big stories was how much was achieved by the volunteers. Everyone pitched in according to their special talents. It might have been juggling high finances in two currencies amid major fluctuations, talking fearlessly into a microphone in front of large assembled groups, getting the flooring across the border, editing the promotional video, keeping the website fresh and vibrant. Anyone who went on the Fun Badge Tour will tell you that it was



a feat of planning genius.

Marshalling the volunteers against lists of assigned tasks was a task in itself.

Staffing the Registration Booth and Women's Hospitality Suite, selling T-shirts, fluffing centrepieces, pushing equipment on and off the freight elevator, and on and on. The list was



endless. But even volunteers had time to dance to the great callers, catch up with old friends, and make new friends on the dance floor.

The hotel provided organizing support, and we're deeply grateful for their help. The food was great, and I can tell you, a huge sense of relief settled across Lorna's shoulders as 800 dinners were paraded from the kitchen to the banquet table and enjoyed, especially the maple leaf dessert.

During the orientation session, one person at the Royal York Hotel asked the Committee, "So, are you planning to hold the next one in 2030?" I think they just looked at her in stunned silence. One convention at a time... But thanks to all our volunteers, the years of planning, stress, and hard work, we did well. Really well. Bravo to us!



GCA CALLER SCHOOL, OR WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

~ Marge Coahran

For anyone interested in a new square dance challenge, especially those who are intrigued by puzzles and patterns, and those who would get a kick out of having an entire room full of people doing what you tell them to... I highly recommend the Gay Callers Association's Caller School that immediately precedes each IAGSDC Convention. I was one of three Triangle Squares members who attended this year, along with Anda and Johanna. It was a blast!

As you might expect of an event organized and run by expert square dance callers, the school operated like a well-oiled machine. The class was divided into two groups—absolute beginners and those with calling experience—to maximize everyone's learning. All the lessons were carefully planned, alternating between instructor presentations and student practice sessions, with each new challenge building upon what was learned and accomplished in previous sessions.

The topics covered were wide-ranging, including how to create choreography, work with music, resolve squares, acquire software and sound equipment, and even tips on best business practices. We also got plenty of mic time, where we practiced calling with choreography given to us, with choreo we created on the fly from pre-fab modules, and with choreo we had written ourselves. Then we were introduced to teaching calls to new dancers, singing calls, and drills (er, ahem... games) where we practiced sight calling and resolving squares.

If this sounds like a lot to do in a three-day course, you are getting the right idea. The school ran Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, with homework each night. It was intense and exhausting, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. This level of intensity made for a great bonding experience among the cohort.

A surprising number of us, students and instructors alike, were serious introverts. Apparently, this is not unusual at Caller School, as we were admonished before our first mic experience, "If you are going to throw up, please not on the table." Luckily, nobody did. Even so, we all were vulnerable, we all were brave, we all supported one



another, danced for one another, and marvelled at the growth and improvement we saw in one another.

This was capped off at the Caller School graduation dance, where I was completely blown away by the professionalism and proficiency of the budding callers, especially given that several of us had never held a mic just three days earlier.

Above all, I want to give kudos and my heart-felt thanks to all the instructors and teaching assistants. The amount of preparation they did was apparent in the quality of the course materials and the organization of the lessons. The welcoming and nurturing environment they created was fundamental to our learning and enjoyment of the course. And the degree of personalized attention, advice, and feedback they gave to each and every one of us was astonishing. To all of you (Anne Uebelacker, Barry Clasper, Brian Jarvis, and Kris Jensen), thank you so much for making the Caller School such a wonderful and memorable experience! And finally, my thanks as well to All Join Hands and All Join Hands Canada for underwriting the GCA Caller School and making it all possible.

HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO FUN BADGE ADVENTURE

~ Terri Rothman

Beavers, and Bears, and Foxes, and Cougars, and Loons... Oh My! Despite being a native Torontonian, I eagerly awaited being a participant on the ***Hinterland Who's Who Fun Badge Tour***, which tracked through the streets of downtown Toronto early on Sunday morning. Being part of an adventure organized by fellow club members — the Triangle Tarts — was going to be a hoot.

Before the convention, we were encouraged to choose an animal and sign up for a bus. I chose the Beaver bus, which was a lodge for dancers from Triangle Squares, Ottawa Date Squares, and other clubs. Nancy (the Beaver) and Joanne (the Reader) kept us entertained with Toronto trivia, beaver jokes, games, and our own cheer, which was the envy of the other buses.

Overheard at Stop #2, ROM: BEAVER >>> DAM!

Another way of getting into the mood was by dressing to the theme. Ten members of the DC Lambda Squares wore custom designed “Looney Bus” T-shirts. Even our callers, Don Moger and Tim Crawford, had special T-shirts created for this trip into unknown, yet Canadian, territory, because each stop was a closely-guarded secret, known to just the Who’s Who of the planning committee.

Coordinated by Steve McKeown, Steve Sterritt, Don Cheff, and David Whitney, with a herd of volunteers, the logistics of guiding five buses on the morning of the Pride Parade was nothing less than phenomenal. Imagine dancing at the heart of it all

— Church & Wellesley — mere hours before the street fair took over... Waving to people on a double-decker tour bus who thought you were an exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum... Trying to park five motor coaches along Bay and Queen Streets without a police escort... Sitting in awe while driving

Overheard at Stop #3, City Hall: “Nice OTNOROT sign.”



along Yonge Street to Yonge-Dundas Square in between sound checks and before thousands of people descended for a prime view of the parade... Dancing in a cool breeze coming off the lake at Sugar Beach. A Fun Badge Tour in my local habitat opened my eyes to the nature in our city.

Completing our Canadian experience, gifts that were left on our seats at the last stop included a Muskoka pewter pin of our bus animal and a Fun Badge Tour dangle (of course). Being part of a travelling flash mob was a wild trip in the outdoors.

“..this was the best FBT of
the eight I have been on.”
~ Colleen

The IAGSDC History Project is looking for video footage. If you have video from the convention, upload it here: exchangethegears.com

To see more photos from the 2016 convention, including the club photos, visit Byron's [Flickr page](#)

HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO FUN BADGE ADVENTURE



Triangle Tarts
and friends
displayed their
creative Who's
Who personas



The next IAGSDC Convention will be held in Palm Springs, California, June 30 - July 3, 2017, featuring a host of great callers, lots of dancing, swimming pools, and bathing beauties. Watch the promo [video](#) and scope out all the [details](#).

IN THE FRAME: THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL

She's one of Toronto's grand dames. The Royal York Hotel opened in 1929 by Canadian Pacific Railway to cash in on the 1920s travel craze. At the time it was Toronto's tallest building by far, and in fact the largest in the British Commonwealth. It received a charter to use the name "Royal," being named after Prince Albert, later George VI. It is still the place where members of the Royal Family stay when coming through town. It's always been a go-to



destination for dancers, and in the height of the Big Band era, live radio broadcasts carried sounds from the Imperial Room coast-to-coast.

Triangle Squares' previous Convention, ***Clover Leafs and Maple Leafs***, was held there in 2002, which was remembered fondly by attendees, especially for its food. As a huge bonus, the Grand Ballroom and Concert Hall had lovely wooden dance floors as a legacy from the Big Band era. For Maple Leafs Regroup, only two rooms needed to have outside flooring installed, which made set up and take down unusually quick.

Photography is about light, and the hotel's chandeliers and elegantly draped windows made for picturesque moments. The first time I saw the grand



Ballroom many years ago, I thought the space was totally crazy. Subsequently, I've travelled to Venice, and realized, okay, I see what's going on. By Venetian standards, and those of other royal courts in Europe, the Royal York's ballroom is tastefully restrained. It was certainly hard to pass up the opportunity to sell it as a "Royal Introduction to Square Dance," even though that didn't tie in especially well as a Pride theme.

The hotel interior features many themes from Canadian geography and history. Our American visitors were treated to a patriotic display of Canadian flags as they checked in July 1st. And I couldn't help chuckle at the juxtaposition in the Ontario Room of this dancer in front of General John Graves Simcoe's mural. He remained stoically calm at the sudden appearance of so many Americans at once.



GUERRILLA MARKETING

By publicity standards, it's a long time between July 1st and our Open House in early September. Nonetheless, it was hard not to piggy-back on an event as large as our Convention, so we rolled up our sleeves and brainstormed options. We tried to get media organizations interested in the Convention, but given the fact that Pride Toronto was going on at the same time, there was no interest, except for Village SnapD, who said "take lots of pictures, and submit them after the event."



I was anticipating more non-Convention foot traffic in the foyer, so I set up this presentation board. Alas, the only non-dancer traffic came from

the Intro and Contra dances. Despite being Canada Day and the big Trail-In Dance, the Intro Dance was scheduled for Friday night and registered as a Pride Toronto-affiliated event. That and other publicity resulted in more than 10 squares (thanks to the angels who came, as well). Hopefully, some will come back to our Summer Dance Parties in August, where we can pitch our September Open Houses.



The Contra Dance also attracted members of Toronto's social dance scene, who hopefully took away lingering memories. One of my fave photos comes from that dance, which for a while drew in

dancers on their way to the Leather Tip and Honky-Tonk Queen contest. "Folkies meet Leathermen," I call this sadly blurred photo.



We also marched in the Pride Parade, which nets us a crazy amount of eyeballs. Denise shook her crinoline shamelessly. The Fun Badge Tour was great fun, too, but for flash-mob purposes, the venues were quiet on Sunday morning. All in all, our club achieved a lot of attention through the efforts of the many volunteers who helped.

Email me anytime: publicity@trianglesquares.com



Triangle Squares presents
Summer Dance Parties

Thursday Evenings: August 11 & 25, 2016

**The 519 Community Centre
Church and Wellesley**

7:00-9:00 pm

\$10.00

Caller: Susan Cox

Featuring the live music of Sidewinder Stringband

Dance experience not necessary

trianglesquares.com

TRIANGLE SQUARES FLY-IN: MAY 26-28, 2017

RAINBOW

IS THE NEW BLACK

Toronto Triangle Squares Fly-In

May 26-28, 2017

Callers Barry Clasper

& Todd Fellegy

Mainstream thru C1

Jesse Ketchum School



trianglesquares.com/flyin

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Summer Dance Parties

Thursdays, August 11 & 25, 7:00-9:00 pm
Caller: Susan Cox,
featuring the Sidewinder Stringband
The 519, [details](#)

• Potluck Picnic by the Pond

Sunday, August 14, 2:00-5:00pm
Hosted by Peter & Tom near High Park

15 Coe Hill Drive

Please bring light snacks, salads, or munchies.
We will provide the beverages and tableware.

• Cornwall Summer Magic

August 26-28
Ontario's largest annual square dance event
Callers: Don Moger, Tim Marriner & others, [details](#)

• Triangle Squares Intro Dances

Thursdays, September 8 and 15
7:00-9:00pm, The 519

• Peterborough Pride Celebrations

September 24: Join Joe and Crystal Chandelier.
March in the parade, then join in Joe's
"Dance for Everyone." Details in our [calendar](#).

• Triangle Squares Fly-In

May 26-28, 2017
Rainbow is the New Black
Callers: Barry Clasper & Todd Fellegy
See [details](#) here, then [Register Online!](#)

Click [here](#) for upcoming IAGSDC Events,
and [here](#) for T&D dances.

Contact Us

If you would like to write an article for
the newsletter, please contact us:
[Newsletter Editors](#)

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Stay connected to the dance scene

