



TRIANGLE SQUARES

Newsletter

January 2017

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RECENT HAPPENINGS

After the manic time during the Convention, and a long hot summer which wasn't especially conducive to square dancing, the activity schedule picked up again in the Fall. Here are some highlights:

- We held our AGM in Nov. Many thanks to out-going Treasurer Mike M. Dan G. takes over as Treasurer, and by massive acclaim, Bob H. is now the IAGSDC Rep.
- Our annual Holiday Dance was a gala affair, with lots of loose ends to tie up, including a special thank you presentation for club founder **Joe Uebelacker**, and special badges for newly instituted members of the **Silver Triangle Awards**.

And to top it all off, the event was catered



spectacularly, as a thank you to convention volunteers, courtesy of the Maple Leafs Regroup Committee.

- We had a good contingent of dancers for the New Year's Eve dance in Etobicoke, hosted by Aaron Goodman and the Arrowhead Squares.

- The Toronto Contra Dancers held a Basic Blast for Contra Dancers, some of whom will hopefully join our Mainstream class in February. Thanks to Maxine, Marge and Barry Clasper for organizing that.



- We recently hosted our January Open House. And much to our surprise, Richard, who danced with our club in the 1990s, showed up, sporting his heritage badge, and ready to dance. He remembered the names of the club founders, and was especially warm in his reminiscences of long-time callers Anne and Joe Uebelacker.



Lots more photos of these and other happenings in our [Flickr group](#). Feel free to add your own photos, or send them to me and I'll add them. Social media publicity lives on photos.

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OTTAWA DATE SQUARES UPDATE

Guy Brassard

LOSING OUR CALLER AND DANCE SPACE:

In January, the Ottawa Date Squares saw big changes, with a new dance location and a new caller. Since being resurrected by Richard Sharman in Sept. 2013, after a dormant period that had lasted some five years, the club has prospered and is now a very active member of the Ottawa and eastern Ontario square dance scene. However, it is now time for renewal, with Richard

Sharman, our caller and host (we danced in his basement in the west end!) heading for British Columbia. We will be sorry to lose Richard, but wish him and Ben (his partner) well in their eventual new location and endeavours, which will hopefully include square dancing!

NEW CALLER AND LOCATION – MOVING DOWNTOWN:

The Date Squares are now dancing in downtown Ottawa at the Jack Purcell Community Centre (located centrally downtown), still on Wednesday nights, with an hour and a half of Basic Teach, followed by an hour of Plus Teach. We were pleased to persuade Dave Currie to call for us, which is a new experience for him as well since he has had to adapt to a gay dance club: single dancers, several of whom dance either boy or girl; styling, with the simpler moves (e.g. Dosado; Promenade) introduced at the Basic level; and enthusiastic but occasionally rather undisciplined dancers). But Dave and his wife Marie are themselves enthusiastic about square dancing, and this will be a good match.

NEW EXECUTIVE:

James Williamson is our new President, Guy Brassard – Treasurer (returning), and Rene Dick - Communications.

NEW BUDGET:

Moving from a free caller and free space to a paid caller and paid space has brought a lot of required financial planning and discipline to the club and much larger dues (\$20/month); this, along with our large recruitment campaign, has been challenging for the club but we feel we have the funds and stability in place to thrive under this new model.

NEW WEBSITE:

Our website is now based on WordPress, which allows it to be mobile friendly out of the box and easily managed and updated by James going forward – OttawaDateSquares.ca - check it out!

RECRUITMENT:

After considerable advance publicity in December, we attracted 20 newbies to two free intro sessions (of whom seven are now learning Basic), and our total membership is about 30.

FUTURE:

We are certainly hoping to continue as an active club, one which thrives and is an integral part of not just EOSARDA (Eastern Ontario Square & Round Dance Association) but also IAGSDC. We feel especially close to our sister gay club, the Toronto Triangle Squares, and several of our members are looking forward to its **Rainbow is the New Black fly-in** in May, where we may reconnect with a couple of our former dancers who have moved to Toronto.



FLY-IN NEWS

We're very pleased (ecstatic, actually) to see the partition functional again at Jesse Ketchum School. We began a search for alternative venues, and the list of affordable ones was not promising. Having the partition makes the job of planning *much* easier.



We're also pleased (exuberant, even) to announce alternating registration and pricing options. We've introduced two sessional options:

- for Mainstream dancers, we've reduced the amount of sitting around time by scheduling mainstream tips on Fri and Sun only, with a special price of \$45.

- for Plus, A and C dancers, who only want to dance one day, we have a Saturday-only option at \$50.
- And here's the really big news: For anyone who's never danced at our Fly-in before, All Join Hands Canada will subsidize 50% of your registration. That makes it crazy cheap, no matter which option you choose.

Everything you need to know is on the [Fly-in](#) page on our website.

We also encourage our members to attend these two regional Toronto-area dances. They're always fun, and a full square from our club will help us a *lot* to promote our Fly-in to other clubs.

- Mar 4, the Joint T&D Dance in Guelph. As a bonus, Lorna, who lives there, has invited us back to her new condo for supper.
- Apr 22, Spring Spree, which is one of Ontario's premier events. You'll see lots of familiar faces, including Howard and Jean, Joe, and a team of great callers.

Contact [me](#) if you are interested in carpooling.

WHAT'S NEXT

We have some great callers and events lined up. Get out your pens and daytimers, and mark these off now:

- **The Lady in Red** – Sunday Feb 12, 2:30-5:00pm at The 519. Ottawa-area caller Wendy VanderMeulen and Don St. Jean will be calling. [flyer](#)
- **Pond Skating Party** at Peter and Tom's, Sunday Feb 19, 2:00-4:00pm. See [Calendar](#) for details.
- **The Wearing of the Green** – Sunday Mar 12, 2:30-5:00pm at The 519. Tim Crawford calling. [flyer](#)
- **Rainbow is the New Black:** May 26-28 2017, Barry Clasper and Todd Fellegay callers. More details [here](#).



Keep an eye on our [What's New](#) page to stay informed about all future club happenings. We also post regional Fly-Ins and T&D dances in our [Calendar](#).

Angel Sign-Up

It's not enough to advertise for prospective dancers and have them show up at Intro Nights. We need to make them feel welcome and have fun right through the Basic class. Please, please choose one or two dates when you can come downtown, meet the new dancers, and brush up on those forgotten calls like Arch and Dive Through. Here's our [sign up sheet](#). Invite a friend and make a night of it in The Village. The Church Mouse is my fave.

Contributors

Thanks to Niall O'Reilly and Guy Brassard for articles in this issue, and Terri Rothman as editor-in-chief.

Photos courtesy of Niall O'Reilly, Pam Clasper, and Richard Sharman.

Feel free to contribute either photos or a feature article. Send them to the club

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