



TRIANGLE SQUARES

Newsletter

February 2017

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RECENT HAPPENINGS

Here's what we were up to in February:

- On February 12th we hosted our "Lady in Red" Dance. The wintry weather outside The 519 had us holding our breath to see if we would get even a square coming out. To our relief three squares, plus some spares, trickled in, including a group from Guelph, who braved the driving conditions. The callers for the afternoon were: club caller



Don St. Jean (l) and visiting caller Wendy VanderMeulen (r), who calls

in the Ottawa area, including the Meri Squares. Because of our "Lady in Red" theme, Wendy dutifully wore her skirt from the Ottawa 2014 Convention (she was the chief organizer), and had to trudge through blowing snow and drifts with bare legs. She has a great singing voice, and had everyone inspired and singing along with her selection of contemporary tunes. Her rendition of Lady Gaga's *On the Edge of*



Glory is not to be missed. The good costume theme inspired a visit from two Triangle Tarts, Donna-Marie and Tierra del Fuego.

- Thanks to the many angels, who have helped keep our Basic/Mainstream dance fun and interesting. The new dancers always enjoy seeing new faces and feeling connected to the club. Here's the sign-up [sheet](#) to help as an angel. Come on down and make an evening of it in The Village. Glad Day Bookshop is the new hot spot for literati and glitterati alike.



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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Square Dancing in Guelph: A Royal Experience

Lorna I.

I moved to Guelph this summer. On a good day it's less than an hour's drive from Toronto. But in some ways, it feels a world away, mostly in a good way.

I live in a spacious condo right downtown - a converted textile mill, with high ceilings and big windows - that's a 5-minute walk from everything: grocery store, weekly farmers' market, city hall, library, downtown shops, cafes and restaurants. Oh, and bars. And yes, I'm still working with bees and beekeepers. I love it!

My home is next to Guelph's iconic landmark, the Basilica of our Lady Immaculate, and not far from Paisley Road Public School, where Royal City Squares dance.

Before the dance season kicked off, I was fortunate to be connected (via an introduction by Terri and Niall), with Yvonne Paterson, a long time dancer and former club president. On the first night of classes, Yvonne hosted a potluck supper for a couple dozen people, so I started dancing already having met some club members.



That I had danced with Triangle Squares generated lots of lively dialogue. And welcome. And warmth. It still does, although now it's mostly when I'm out at other clubs.

RC extends the traditional hospitality you expect from the modern western square dancing community, and more. A forward-thinking posse of (mostly) RC women has led the way in SWOSDA (South Western Ontario Square Dance Association) in the past decade by challenging old-fashioned, couple-focused traditions and rigid gender roles. Yvonne, Judy and Rick, Linda, Nora, Corinne, Donna, Georgina, Pat, Cathie, and others dance follow and lead, as needed. Apparently, this once caused raised brows at local clubs, but, like so many social shifts, it is now accepted, if not always actively celebrated. So, as a single gay woman, I haven't had to do much to forge my own pathway here, as so much of the really hard work has already been done before me. A bow to these dancers....

Tuesday night Basic/Mainstream classes are offered through the Upper Grand District School Board - a great way to leverage the power and broad promotion of adult evening classes. Dave Williamson calls with great patience and humour, reminding me in many ways of my B/MS classes with Joe Uebelacker.

Wednesday night Plus classes are offered through the Club, with Plus teach starting the evening, followed by alternating tips with full Plus and those still learning. Once a month there are themed, all-singing call nights. Jeff Priest is our able caller.

New to me is visiting local clubs, something I didn't do while in Toronto. (Why? Why??) In my few months here, I've been out to dances, banner steals, and classes at Waterdown Village Squares, Thames Valley Squares (Woodstock),

Elora Grand Squares, Guys 'n Dolls (Kitchener), as well as Contra dancing in Fergus. On my to-do list is to check out the old time square dancing at Duff's Church in Puslinch, near Guelph.

On March 4th, Royal City and T&D are jointly hosting a dance in Guelph. Come on out! And if you're already out, come on down! Niall and Terri are organizing car-pooling. In addition, I'm offering to host a light supper for TS dancers traveling to my new hometown. We'll show you a royally, rollicking good time. And you can inspire us with Triangle Squares' fabulous gay styling.

FLY-IN NEWS

Our agent-provocateurs have been busy promoting our Fly-in at other IAGSDC Fly-Ins, including the recent AC/DC in Washington DC. Apparently politics is a touchy subject there right now - who knew? If you're going to another Fly-In between now and May, let **me** know, and I'll give you some printed flyers.

Meanwhile, there are a few things we've tweaked to tempt you and a few more people to sign up:

- Since we have two callers that are so well known in the Challenge circles, we thought we'd schedule some C2 in with the C1. Marge is still working on the schedule (which is harder than you'd think). But for sure, we'll have C2 on Saturday afternoon.
- In an attempt to lure regional dancers downtown, we've set up a ***Saturday-only pricing*** option (\$50 for the full day). Combined with the first-timer discount, it makes it crazy-cheap at \$25. Note to self, mention free parking on the **web page**.

Everything you need to know is on the **Fly-In** page on our website.

WHAT'S NEXT

We're also off to regional Toronto-area dances to show our colours, distribute flyers, and chat things up on the dance floor. Contact **me** if you are interested in carpooling.

- **Joint T&D Dance, Guelph**, hosted by the Royal City Squares - Saturday **Mar 4**, 2:00-9:30. Open invitation to visit Lorna's new digs for a light supper. [flyer](#)
- **The Wearing of the Green** – Sunday **Mar 12**, 2:30-5:00pm at The 519. Tim Crawford calling. [flyer](#)
- **Spring Spree in Peterborough** - one of Ontario's premiere events. Saturday **April 22**, 2:00-10:00 pm. [flyer](#) You'll see lots of familiar faces, including Howard and Jean, as well as a team of great callers: Joe Uebelacker, Don Moger, Barry Clasper, and Dave Williamson.
- **Rainbow is the New Black: May 26-28, 2017**, Barry Clasper and Todd Fellego 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

Our Basic/Mainstream class is a happenin' place, and that's in large part due to the angels who show up and encourage the new dancers. Please, please choose one or two dates when you can come downtown, meet the new dancers, and brush up on those forgotten calls like Do Paso. Here's our [sign up sheet](#). Invite a friend and make a night of it in The Village. The Churchmouse and Firkin is my fave.

Contributors

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

Photos courtesy of Niall O'Reilly and Yvonne Paterson

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

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