



TRIANGLE SQUARES

Newsletter

May 2017

A Modern Old Tyme Girl * Summer Dancing Across the T&D

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Here's what we were up to in May:

- A big welcome to the newest Mainstream dancers. The last class of the season was held at The 519, where we put them through their paces, and handed them a certificate *Doctor of Philosophy (Quadratis Grandis)*. We look



- forward to dancing with you at future events, and hope this is the beginning of a journey of discovery into the wider world of square dance. Thanks to **Don St. Jean** and the other callers for making the class fun and successful. And thanks to all the angels who came out and made things lively, and kept the squares square.
- Our annual Fly-in went back to its usual weekend at the end of May. We were pleased with the attendance, and had dancers from as far as Los Angeles, Vancouver, Boston and New York. Good contingents were in from Ottawa and Philadelphia, who were promoting their 2019 Convention. We also saw a good showing of dancers from Toronto &

District clubs. Kudos to our newest dancers: now you know what it's all about. Lots of fun was had with the last square standing and hot hash tips. The Triangle Tarts stepped up the theme of ***Rainbow is the New Black*** with their usual flair. Look for them wearing the same colours at the Church Street fair during Pride Week.

A lot of credit goes to the two callers: **Barry Clasper and Todd Fellegy**. It really is quite a feat to keep people so well entertained over the three days. Thanks also go to **Don St. Jean** for kicking off the



weekend with the Trail-in dance. A big thanks to the volunteers who organized the decor, snacks, and brunch, and for the hard work from the Fly-in Committee: Marge, Gaylene and Niall. Plans are already well underway for next year, May 25-27, 2018: **Pearl Promenade**. In honour of the club's 30th anniversary, we've got two callers you won't want to miss: **Vic Ceder and Don St. Jean!**





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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A Modern Old Tyme Girl

by Lorna I.

I knew that modern western square dancing evolved from the kind of old tyme dancing my grandparents – and their kids, my mom and uncles – did at barn dances on Saturday nights in the 40s and 50s in a small farm community in Saskatchewan. I wasn't aware until recently that the old tyme style continued to flourish as the paths of modern and old tyme diverged.

Because of a happy accident of geography, I've started exploring the old tyme side of square dancing and I'm loving it. Old tyme seems so dancerly. I like the way it flows along, kind of like contra but in a square. I like the way it looks, as I'm dancing or just watching. I like the interesting regional variations. The caller makes the calls, but the dancers generally know the steps associated with the song being played, so contrary to all my modern training, I'm allowed to anticipate the next move.

Having grown from similar roots, old tyme and modern square dancing share many common calls, although they may be performed slightly differently in terms of the style. For example, we don't use a ballroom hold to swing, instead joining left hands in front, which allows for a lot more traction and action. Old tyme uses a smaller set of steps and a caller will usually do a quick walk-through before starting the dance. In contrast, modern western dancers are

expected to have learned and mastered a specified, and fairly lengthy, set of standardised calls by taking lessons and progressing through the program.

There's a monthly old tyme dance at Duff's Church, just off the 401 at Aberfoyle (near my home in Guelph), called by **Bill Hands**. He calls monthly in Etobicoke as well, which means twice a month dances close by. There's a lot of good energy at both locations, with five or six squares (or more) on the go. At



Duff's there's often a group of young folks, who've learned to dance at 4H or Jr. Farmer's clubs and they're lots of fun to dance with. They're good dancers, good enough to compete annually at UofG's College Royal. Old tyme is a great workout with shorter breaks than I'm used to. As is traditional, Bill sprinkles in a few couple or line dances that just roll along without being cued or called, like the Jessie Polka or the Gay Gordon. "Lunch" – a sociable and eclectic collection of sandwiches, devilled eggs, dips, squares and loaves, is provided after these dances.

In Toronto, check out the **Hogtown Hoedown** dances at Dovercourt House, the third Friday of the month, between September and May, with instruction, caller and live music, followed by an Appalachian old time music jam.

Want to explore some **square dance history**? View some of my favourite videos below, but I should warn you: you could become truly addicted, after which you may have to enter a 12-step program!

**Duck and Dive Texas Star Wagon Wheel Double Birdie
My Darling Nellie Gray**

Summer Dancing Across the T&D Region

reprinted from the Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Association

Don't put away those dancing shoes! There's lots of dancing going on this summer. Here are the various groups and events across the region. If you're

passing through, pop in, say Hi, and dance a few tips.

Etobicoke Arrowhead Squares [flyer](#)

Wednesdays, starting May 17, Basic review & intro to Mainstream

Fridays, starting May 19, review of Mainstream and intro to Plus

Shadowlight Summer Plus DBD, Cambridge [flyer](#)

Monday afternoons weekly from Jun 5-Aug 28

Peterborough Otonabee Squares [flyer](#)

Basic & Mainstream, Mondays, June 5, 19, July 10

Peterborough Lift Lock Squares [flyer](#)

Plus & A1, Wednesdays, Jun 7, 21, July 12

Lakeshore Rolling Waves [flyer](#)

Camping weekends, Mainstream & Plus, May 27, Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 12

30th Anniversary dance, Sept 16

Blyth Camporee [flyer](#)

Aug 4-7, Mainstream, Plus with Rounds. RV camping and local accommodation available.

Cornwall Summer Magic [flyer](#)

Summer ends with a huge bang, which is not to be missed.

Aug 25-27, Plus to C1 and Rounds

Info on all these in our calendar. Stay tuned to our [Events](#) page as updates come in.

SUMMER PLANS

We're working on dates for a summer picnic by the pond, as well as Sunday afternoon workshops at The 519, just so you don't forget everything over the summer. We also encourage you to explore opportunities to dance around the region.

Contributors

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

Photos courtesy of Niall O'Reilly, Terri Rothman, Ed Guckin.

Don't forget to save the dates **May 25-27, 2018** for our next Fly-in: ***Pearl Promenade***, in honour of our club's 30th anniversary. We've got two great callers lined up: **Vic Ceder and Don St. Jean**. Super-early-bird pricing is available until Aug 15. Register via the IAGSDC [Events](#) page.

Feel free to contribute either photos or a feature article. Send them to the club Publicity Coordinator: publicity@trianglesquares.com.

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