

# METRO MATTERS

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METRO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION  
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DOTTIE WELCH



### METRO ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

#### **New Year's Eve**

Again this year Cole Harbour Place was decorated with colorful balloons drifting around the ceiling, streamers and festive lights on New Year's Eve. Eight person tables gave us a chance to meet new friends while enjoying our catered meal. Then Kerry Fletcher called a wonderful evening of dancing including some nice, new tunes. "Que Sera, Sera" brought back old memories and Auld Lang Syne reminded us of old friends. Thanks to Ron & Dot Connell for organizing two Survivor Games – a fun activity, but we wish they didn't remind us how Square Dancing itself seems to be a survivor activity these days. Thanks to all who helped our family of square dancers enjoy ringing out the old year and bringing in the New Year together.

#### **Dancing in the Schools**

Our efforts to promote Square Dancing in the public schools continue. Several local schools have taken advantage of our offer to present Square Dancing to their students as part of gym class, during lunch, or after school. So far we have called at or are scheduled at George Bissett, Admiral Westphal, Brookhouse, Creighton Park, and Ellenvale. We also have 3 sessions scheduled at Cole Harbour Place during the March Break Camp. We are hopeful that we can generate enough interest to begin a youth group next fall. We are also beginning work on a locally produced CD for use in the schools.

**Heart Fund Dance:** This year Metro Association will host its annual Heart Fund Dance in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia at South Woodside Community Centre in Dartmouth on Saturday, February 28th, 2004. This dance will feature live music by the Metro Fiddlers with Dottie Welch calling. It is open to the general public who will have an opportunity to try square dancing. We hope the entry fee of free-will donations to the Heart Fund will better our past records for generosity to this worthy cause. We have chosen to support this charity because of the obvious connection between the exercise provided by an evening of Square Dancing and the physical activity recommended for a healthy heart.

**Summer Dances:** Due to the blizzard on February 19th, the Metro Executive has not yet met to finalize plans for Metro's Summer Dances. We are planning weekly dances during June and July and perhaps into August. If you have suggestions please pass them on to your club representative or answer our questionnaire. Look for details in April.

**Natal Day Parades:** Details are still in the planning stages. Finding sufficient participants is always a challenge in years when there is a Canadian National, so please let the Metro Executive know if you would like to assist.

## **SCOTIA DANCERS -- MOVED BUT STILL GOING STRONG**

Rumors that the Scotia Dancers club has expired are premature and should be ignored! There is no truth to that one. Instead, since 7 January 2004, the club (the senior one in Metro at 36 years) is going strong in new digs at the Sackville Heights Community Centre. The centre was formerly the Sackville Heights Primary School, but the HRM has refurbished the building to create a wonderful facility for several organizations in the area. It is located off Connolly Road that connects the Old Sackville Road to Highway 1 (Sackville Drive) just west of the Beaverbank Connector.

Scotia Dancers gather every Wednesday night in the gym to form 2 to 3 squares of enthusiastic dancers. The club has a small class that receives instruction from the club caller Pat Matheson assisted by "Angels" who arrive early to complete the class square. Pat provides them with a new challenge every evening, but the new dancers take it all "in stride".

The Grand "Open House" held on 11 February, saw 5 squares of class, club and visitors dancing to the calls provided by Pat Matheson, Pat Alquire, and Barry Bendle. The test of the dancing hall and the large adjacent dining room for a fine lunch, proved to satisfy all in attendance. The collection of items for the Metro Food Bank as the admission fee was very successful.

Next on the agenda for Scotia Dancers is an "extra" special St. Patrick's dance on the 17th of March; which is the club's regular dance night! Dancers are invited to come and join Scotia Dancers for an Irish dance celebration. The club will accept orders for a special dangle to mark this unique event.

On April 17th, the Scotia Dancer's annual Spring Fling will take place in the Community Centre. A keen group of members are busy making preparations for the gala evening. Advertising flyers will soon be posted with all the pertinent details.

So despite the sad loss of one of the club's hardest workers, Ernie Smith, the Scotia Dancers move forward as he would like to see them carry-on; sharing in the fun and fellowship of the greatest social activity - Square Dancing.

### **Memorial for a Square Dancer**

Every time we form a square  
We have a feeling you are there;  
For you we say a square dance prayer  
To let you know we really care.

And there will come a day, perchance,  
We'll meet again in Heaven's expanse;  
Then we will have another chance  
To be your partner when we dance.

Although your face we cannot see,  
We pray that you will always be  
Our square dance partner dancing free  
In a square formed for eternity.

Until that day it is our prayer  
There truly is an eternal square;  
And express the hope in every prayer  
That someday we will all be there.

Reprinted from Legacy Log - May 2002 Author:Robert Price  
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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Ethel McDonell (10 February 1943 - 19 July 2003)**

Ethel and Roger McDonell began square dancing in the fall of 1964 with the second class of Tartan Twirlers and caller Lorne Tyler. They were enthusiastic members missing the Centennial Square Dance Train trip only because of pregnancy. They continued to be members of the Tartan Twirlers until the club closed in 1985. At that time two of the remaining squares joined the Lake City Swingers and Ethel and Roger were among them. They were in the Plus Class taught by Dottie Welch in 1989 that began the Coordinators. They began learning Advanced in September 1996 and danced with the Sail Sets until February of 1998 when her spreading cancer forced Ethel to stop.

In addition to their years of square dancing, they were long -time members of the Corte Ballroom Dance Club.

On July 19, 2003, just a week after their son's wedding, Ethel lost her long and valiant battle with cancer. In spite of her many health problems, Ethel always had a mischievous twinkle in her eye and was able to enjoy every moment to its fullest. We remember her determination with awe and sincerely miss her sparkle and gentle wit.

### **Wes Pettis (1931 – December 2003)**

The Scotia Dancers lost a staunch member of the club on December 12, 2003. Wes and his wife Anita (who passed away in December 1998) took up dancing with the club in 1973, graduating in 1974. Within two years of graduation Wes and Anita began a two-year term as club Presidents. Wes was a devoted dancer who attended all club events including the 2003 anniversary dance when he received his 30-year bar from Scotia Dancers.

In addition to his Mainstream dancing, during recent years, he enjoyed Plus with the Ocean Waves, Advanced with the Tidal Waves and Round Dancing with his special friend Dawn Fehr. The Square Dance Community will miss Wes' warm and friendly smile.

### **Ernie Smith (1930 – January 2004)**

Ernie Smith passed away in Dartmouth on January 9, 2004. Ernie and Pauline joined the Scotia Dancers club in 1992 to learn square dancing. Ernie enjoyed every moment he spent dancing whether it was with his own club or on many visits to other clubs throughout the province. He was a tireless worker for the Scotia Dancers serving as both Secretary and Publicity chair for many years. Many dancers in the province will remember receiving Ernie's personal letter inviting them to come to the Annual Spring Fling with Scotia Dancers. At both regular and special dances, Ernie was the first to get to work setting up chairs, making coffee, or doing whatever needed to be done. He and Pauline were always available to organize and attend demo dances or any other publicity event. The Scotia Dancers will sorely miss Ernie with his familiar smile and enthusiastic approach to life. His call from the floor "Come-on people, get up and join us!" will echo through many dance halls.

## Bill Cullen (28 September 1925 - 17 February 2004)

Just as this was going to press we were sad to learn of one more dancer gone. Bill Cullen passed away unexpectedly while traveling with friends along the Eastern Shore. Bill and Vera Cullen were in the 1969-70 class of Scotia Dancers when Vern Carmichael was the caller, and continued to be members of Scotia Dancers until 1978 when they joined the Bee Squares and danced there until caller Art & Marg Blumsum's auto accident in 1981. By the late 70's they had learned Plus and were also dancing with the Eager Eights to caller Lorne Tyler. In 1984 they were among the first Advanced Class taught by Dottie Welch and became founding members of the Sail Sets continuing to dance there until Vera's death in the summer of 1996. During those years Bill and Vera traveled to many square dance conventions throughout Canada and into the United States often with Wilf and Ethel Logan.

After Vera's death, Bill took some time off before rejoining the dance community with his long time dancing friend, Mert Sellars as his partner. They danced with the Scotia Dancers and the Ocean Waves. Bill was always a cheery presence on the dance floor with a smile and a kind word for everyone. Ladies might remember that he was one of the best swingers – always perfectly in time with the music and very smooth. It is sad to know that we will never again see him across the square or meet him for a "Corner Swing".

### UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

Look for registration forms at your club for all of these very special events.

**National Convention** – Even years are National Convention years and this year the 14<sup>th</sup> biannual National Convention is scheduled for July 29-31, 2004 in Calgary, Alberta. Dancing will be in excellent facilities at the beautiful, new, air-conditioned Telus

Convention Centre. They have found a good solution to the wood floor problem and their plans are well organized. So far they have dancers registered from all Canadian provinces, 19 states of the US, 6 European Countries, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Plan now to take advantage of this excuse to go west where "All Trails Lead to Calgary".

Their website is [www.festifval2004.org](http://www.festifval2004.org)



**Maritime Square and Round Dance Convention** – The 35<sup>th</sup> annual Maritime Convention, which cycles around the 3 Maritime provinces, will this year be at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich, Nova Scotia on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004. This is your once-a-year opportunity to dance to callers and cuers from around the Maritimes who belong to MCCA (Maritime Callers and Cuers Association) and attend MCCA's yearly workshops for leader improvement. This is a new location for the Maritime Convention, but those who attended the Federation Festival there in 2001 will remember it as an excellent facility. We are celebrating 35 years so this will be a bit special. Please plan to join us.

**Federation Festival** – The 14<sup>th</sup> biannual Federation Festival, which cycles around the 6 regions of Nova Scotia on odd number years, is scheduled for Yarmouth, Nova Scotia on August 5 & 6 in 2005. The South Shore Region will host this event. Dancing will be at the Nova Scotia Community College. "Keep it Alive in 2005".

**For more information and updates check these Web Sites:**

Square and Round Dance Federation of NS: <[www.squaredance.ns.ca](http://www.squaredance.ns.ca)>

Dance Nova Scotia (DANS) <[chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/DANS](http://chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/DANS)>

Canadian Square & Round Dance Society (CSRDS) <[csrds.ca](http://csrds.ca)>

## **CALLERLAB NEWS**

**Program Changes:**

Eight Chain Thru and its associated variations Eight Chain 1,2,3,4, etc. has been moved from Plus back to Mainstream where it was until two years ago.

The little used version of See Saw, which was equivalent to a left shouldered Dosado, was deleted from the Mainstream list. If a caller desires that action in the future it should be called as Left Dosado.

The Advanced List is unchanged but "Left" has been added to the "Read Me First" part of the definitions. That means that Advanced Dancers should know that "Left" before a call means to do all the call replacing right actions with left actions and vice versa.

**Recommended Dance Time:**

Callerlab wants to encourage quality dancing at all Callerlab dance programs. They recommend that dancers stay and enjoy each program for as long as possible. Moving on is not implied nor expected simply because subsequent programs exist.

All dancers who wish to learn the next program should have:

1. Thorough comprehension (intellectual knowledge) of the material called at their current and prior programs.
2. Competency in execution of the calls (physical response).
3. Exposure to multiple callers at the current program (live or recorded).
4. The ability to execute calls according to the definition in one's current program and in all prior programs.
5. Sufficient floor time to give automatic dance response to the calls in one's current program. (The amount of this floor time will vary from individual to individual.)
6. The ability to help dancers on the floor at the current program.
7. The interest to explore more complex ideas found at the next program.
8. The time commitment to learn a new program.

Dancers who wish to learn the Advanced and Challenge Programs should also have:

1. The ability to recognize formations and one's position within a formation.
2. The ability to understand concepts and to apply this to unfamiliar situations.

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

(From a long-ago rural teacher recalled on a CBC radio program)

"Let me do as much as I can, as well as I can  
For as long as I can, for as many as I can."