

Waterdown Village Squares



Newsletter

April 2007

From the Presidents

This is our last message to you as Presidents since a new Executive will take over at our Annual General Meeting and Hoedown on April 28. We want to thank all of you for being so supportive of our efforts over the period we have been honoured to be your Presidents. You are an amazing bunch!

As you might know already, Faye has sold her business and is moving away and Doug will, well, we're just not sure yet!! So we may not see as much of you all as we'd like but you will forever be in our memories and hearts.

We hope - and expect - that you will be as supportive of our current Vice-president **Gerry O'Halloran** who is presently forming a new Executive for his 2007-2008 term. We are particularly pleased that **Pat Coutts** has agreed to stand as his co-President. As we have said before, taking an active role in our Club is a great way to become knowledgeable about the Club's operation and to develop new skills and closer friendships - as well as having some of your good ideas incorporated into our operations! Don't wait to be asked - tell Gerry that you'd like to help and tell him what you'd like to do.

One important way that all members can help the Club is by being at the **Class Graduation on Thursday, April 19**. Let's all bet together and show them what a great group of people we are!

Finally, as we said last month, don't forget the Convention.

Your Presidents,
Faye Evenden and Doug Irwin



Convention Bound?

Are you attending the T&D Convention?

If you are and might be willing to drive others who might prefer not to drive, please let Doug Irwin or Faye Evenden know.

If you are not attending the Convention because you would rather not drive at night or for any other reason, also speak to

Night at the Races is cancelled

Linda and Bill Fraser who have organized the popular Night at the Races ever since its inception have told us that it can not be held this year due to policy changes at Flamborough Downs.

They emailed us with the following information: *This August 2007 we are unable to book the lovely dining area upstairs at "Top of The Turn" restaurant. Flamboro Downs could put us downstairs in the small dining area, but the viewing is very poor. They wanted a minimum of sixty people too. We also investigated the Mohawk Raceway, but we have to put a \$20.00 deposit guarantee for each person booked. This amount is due upon signing a contract.*

In the past, there have not been such restrictions and Bill and Linda have been able to have flexibility in numbers with no up-front payments and no minimum numbers. This made it easy to collect the money right up to the last minute and not have any pressure in terms of signing up a minimum number.

Because we have been having trouble in getting members to sign up early for many of our dances, there is a significant financial gamble for the Club in putting money in up-front and then a lot of pressure in trying to get people to participate. The decision has, therefore, been made to cancel the event. No-one wants to have the hassle of trying to persuade people to attend events. We are all volunteers and volunteering is supposed to be fun.

Too bad!

Visit our web site!

www.waterdownvillagesquares.ca

for news and pictures of our events

Doug or Faye and they will see if a match up can be made. It's always more fun if we "gang up" to go to events and get to know our fellow dancers a little better.

REMEMBER THE DATES: Thursday, May 10, Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12. See the flyers on the table at the back of the hall. It's never too late to decide to go.

It ' s time to start thinking!

Here is a reprint from one of last year's Newsletters which is important for everyone to read. Part of the fun of square dancing is not being stressed! Moving to a level you are not comfortable with can certainly do you in, so - It's time to start thinking!

We can hardly believe how the months have flown by! We are coming up to that soul-searching time of the year when we must each decide what direction our dancing "careers" take in the next year.

Do we stay at our current dancing level, or do we move on to the next?

We offer the following thoughts for your consideration:

► Some of us operate on a "rule of thumb" that we should spend three years at each level before moving on. This allows us to develop confidence at each step of the way, and make the dancing experience a pleasant one.

► Many dancers reach a level where they are comfortable and having fun, and have no desire to move to the next. This allows them to take advantage of the social aspects of square-dancing, enjoying the company of good friends while having fun and getting exercise every week.

► A percentage of our members will be ready for a new challenge, and want to tackle the next level. We encourage these people to be sure they are confident at their current dancing level before they move on.

Ask yourself: Am I having fun? Generally speaking, if you are confident in your ability to grasp new calls (after a few times through, and perhaps the occasional reminder), you will be having a good time. Not very many of us are comfortable when we're "in over our heads".

If you have spent some time (the length of time will vary with the dancer) developing a solid knowledge of the calls at the level you are now dancing, and are rarely the cause of a square "meltdown", you may be ready to tackle the next level.

It is a good idea to discuss this decision with your caller - he is probably in the best position to judge.

There are a few indicators that you may not be dancing at an appropriate level:

1. We all break down occasionally. We hear a call we're not familiar with, or haven't heard in a while; we become distracted and are not paying attention at that moment; or we simply have a "brain cramp".

It's all part of the experience, and square dancing is intended to be fun - we make lines and get back into the dance at the next opportunity. If, however, you find that the squares you are in often or always break down, you might want to be very honest with yourself and decide that perhaps you should spend another year at the previous level.

2. People don't like to be "pushed around". We do, however, appreciate a friendly shove from another dancer when we experience one of those "brain cramps" (see above). Not a problem - you'll find that dancers are happy to help out when you're learning. Nevertheless, if you find that you often need help to get through a tip, you probably need to get a solid grasp of the prior level dance calls.

3. Finally, are you having fun? Are you smiling? Generally, we come to square dancing to unwind and have a good time. If you find that you are stressed about not knowing what to do, or under pressure to learn too many calls too fast, chances are you would have a better time dancing at the previous level.

Our Club's goal is to make square dancing an enjoyable experience for all of our members and guests so remember that our individual decisions will impact on the success of the group as a whole - and we are all happier when we are doing well.

Summer Dancing

The announcements came out from our Caller **Jim Lee** recently about his Summer Dancing program. Here are the details. For more information see the flyers or speak to Jim.

A-1 Review with A-2 Teach

Every Tuesday starting on May 15, 2007; last day: August 7
Cost: \$12.00 per couple.

Location: Mainway Arena Auditorium
Walker's Line and Mainway, Burlington

Plus with an Introduction to A-1

Every Monday starting on May 14, 2007; last day: August 6
Cost: \$12.00 per couple.

Location: Rotary Youth Center
560 Guelph Line, Burlington

Contact Jim for more details at 905 544 2669

We shall have more details about Summer Dancing in May.

Marion Petersen's famous carrot cake

It seems that **Marion Petersen's** carrot cake made such a big hit at the dance the other night that people were begging for the recipe - so here it is.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It must be said that your editor prides himself on being a carrot cake connoisseur. Unfortunately, such was the rush to the table that he stumbled and fell in the stampede and when he finally got back to his feet it was all gone! It seems only fair, therefore, for those who make a cake from this recipe to think of him and bring a piece along to the next dance for his assessment!

Marion's comment: It's simple to prepare, moist and a good keeper!

| | | |
|-----|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 ½ | cups | Cooking oil |
| 2 | cups | Sugar |
| 4 | | Eggs |
| 2 | cups | All Purpose Flour (I use whole wheat) |
| ½ | tsp | Baking powder |
| 2 | tsp | Baking soda |
| ½ | tsp | Salt |
| 1 | cup | Chopped walnuts |
| 14 | oz | Crushed pineapple, drained |
| 2 | cups | Grated carrots |

1. Mix oil and sugar
2. Add beaten eggs and blend thoroughly
3. Add sifted dry ingredients
4. Add nuts, drained pineapple and carrots
5. Bake in a large greased loaf pan (9" x 13") at 325° F for one hour or until done

Topping:

| | | |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| 3 | oz | Cream cheese |
| 2 | tsp | Vanilla |
| ¼ | lb | Butter or margarine |
| ½ | lb | Icing sugar |

Beat all ingredients together with electric beater and spread on cool cake.

Thanks **Marion** for sending this along.

A-1 Dance was a good one!

We had a good crowd - six and a half squares - out to our Full A-1 dance on March 31, 2007. There were several couples from other clubs, which was good to see, and everyone appeared to have a good time

It seems that the Church had left the room set for an event on the following day - Sunday - so instead of putting them away we used them to good effect and we placed the chairs which usually go around the perimeter of the room around the table instead. This led to greater social contact and a "homier" atmosphere.

Definitions

Flabbergasted: appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Coffee: the person upon whom one coughs

Abdicate: to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach

Willy-nilly: impotent

Gargoyle: olive-flavored mouthwash

Coming Events

Graduation

Thursday, April 19, 2007
All levels welcome

Hoedown Night and Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2007
All levels and dress in Western wear for this event.

T & D Convention

May 10 to 12, 2007 - Let's all go and have a good time!



Do you have any dress and skirt patterns?

Do you have any square dance skirt and dress patterns you are willing to share with others? If so, why not bring them and put them on the back table with your name on them. Those who wish to borrow them could let you know they wish to take them and discuss them with you..



Remember our Hoedown and AGM

Remember our Annual General Meeting and Hoedown on April 26. **It is our last dance of the season!**

Come early at 6:00 pm and have a KFC dinner at \$5.00 each (you **MUST** order ahead of time). Or come at 7:00 pm for the meeting and dance - also \$5.00 each (\$10.00 per couple).

Remember: wear Western garb - that hat you got in Calgary and never wear - or that fringed shirt or dress with all those fly dissuaders along the sleeves. Even cowboy boots!



Sign on a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING.
(PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE
DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

In an office:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER.....
PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

Your Executive for 2006-07

Presidents:

Doug Irwin
905 528-6479
Faye Evenden
905 546-0855

Past-Presidents:

Ken and Rose Marie
Robinson

Secretary:

Tom and Marion
Petersen
905 824 4647 Mississauga

Vice-President:

Gerry O'Halloran
905 844 9159 (Oakville)

Treasurer:

Bev Barrowcliffe

Publicity:

Diana & Peter Hill
905 525 0333

Membership:

Eleanor and Bill Shugan
905 632 6027

Conveners:

Class/Mainstream:

Edith Berki & Al Berry
Barb & Joe Winer

A-1:

Lise & Al Johnson
Doreen & Frank Ley

Plus:

Pat & Ralph Coutts
Lucy & Jim Fratoni

Callers:

Jim Lee: Plus and A1
Bill Everett: Class &
Mainstream

Contact us:

*For information about events or
the Club, call any of the
numbers above or visit our website.*

Jorgen - you make a difference!

WVS member **Jorgen Hansen** is someone who contributes to our club in his own way. You will remember the renaissance of the Club's beaten up old clock - we now have a showpiece! Those who come close enough to the spinning 50/50 drum will have noticed that it no longer wobbles, has a wooden handle that turns with your hand and, importantly, closes properly! All of these masterpieces of craftsmanship have been created by our own Jorgen.

Now, his crowing achievement is there for all to see. We have had trouble with our banner falling of its pole for some time and it was suggested that he might be able to fix it - and fix it he did! Look at the top of the banner pole and you will see a carved and painted three-dimensional crown - the symbol of our club.

Now that's how members can contribute according to their talents. You don't need to sit on a committee or bring food, you just need to suggest what little you are able and would like to do. Just like Jorgen.

We print this Newsletter every month. If you would like to submit something, the deadline is any time before the first of the month for that month. **Contact the Publicity Chairs, Diana & Peter Hill** (e-mail: peterhill@mcmaster.ca)