

METRO MATTERS

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METRO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION
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New Years Eve Gala

By Junior and Pauline Arsenault, Metro Chairpersons

Cole Harbour Place was the scene of beautiful balloons, streamers and an array of festive lights on New Year's Eve. Everyone enjoyed a fine meal, and a wonderful social evening of dancing to caller Terry Hebert from Fredericton, New Brunswick. The delicious meal, the great music, the decorations, the survivor game, the dancers and caller all contributed to a marvelous evening dancing away the end of 2002. The family of square dancers enjoyed ringing out the old year and bringing in the New Year together. We extend an invitation to all dancers, callers and cuers to join us again in 2003 as we celebrate the opportunity to share fun and fellowship with each other in this dancing activity that has brought so much happiness and friendship to all of us. We hope to see all of you on the dance floor soon. Thank you to all who helped in anyway.

Pancake Breakfast for Christmas Daddies Fund

By Frank and Darlene Higgins, Metro Publicity

The Metro Association hosted a marvelous Pancake Breakfast on Nov. 30th, 2002 at the Porters Lake Superstore to raise money for the Christmas Daddies Fundraiser on Dec.1. We were pleased to have so much help during the breakfast and happy to serve so many supportive dancers. Our greeters downstairs in the lobby were our Newfie friends, Mel & Jean Gosse, joined later by our Metro Chairs, Pauline & Junior Arsenault. Upstairs in the Community Room our cooks, servers and welcoming dancers were hard at work. Don Scott and Russ Trimper turned out mountains of delicious pancakes while Frank Higgins cooked the apple sausages. Our servers were Pat Briggs, Dottie Welch & Darlene Higgins. Jim Briggs and Junior Arsenault were busy with washing and drying the dishes. Carol Scott and Pauline Arsenault welcomed everyone upstairs, even Santa Claus. In total we raised \$300.00, including donations from Square & Round Dancers plus the public at the Superstore. It was a fun morning and a job well done. A big "thank you" to all of Santa's cooks and helpers.

METRO ASSOCIATION PLANS

Metro Class: We have a small but enthusiastic group of dancers started for the class on Saturday Mornings. It is in the HRM Community Recreation Centre on Cole Harbour Drive (207) opposite Fabricville. We dance from 10 – 12 a.m. We need more dancers and more support from the members of the association. It's not too late for additions so please encourage anyone who might be interested in joining. We are currently aiming for a 10 week introductory session at a cost of \$40 per dancer.

If at all possible we need you to attend the Saturday morning classes to help these new dancers and to promote your clubs to the class. Keep in mind that the class members will eventually go to the club of their choice. Positive relationships with members of your club will ensure its consideration. Wade Savage is doing an excellent job with the class and he is really enjoying being part of this adventure.

Dance for the Heart: This year it will be held at South Woodside School, Dartmouth on Friday 7 February. Metro area dancers are asked to bring a small "Heart Smart" lunch to share at the end of the evening. All proceeds will be donated to the NS Heart & Stroke Foundation. This is your once-a-year opportunity to dance to all the available Metro Area callers and cuers. There will be two dance halls with Mainstream, Plus and Rounds available.

Next Metro Meeting: Join us on February 16th, 2003 at Saint Mary's University, in room 310 of the Main section of the McNally Building at 2 p.m.

Summer Dances: Metro's Summer Dances will begin on Wednesday, June 11th and run weekly until Wednesday, August 27th. They will be held at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. Details are on the agenda for the next meeting. Please look for the caller schedule in April.

Natal Day Parades: Details are still in the planning stages, but mark your calendars for Float Dancing during the first week of August.

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

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

Federation Festival – The 11th biannual Federation Festival, which cycles around the 6 regions of Nova Scotia, is scheduled this summer for Truro on August 1st and 2nd. At last report the Guest Caller will be Jim Lee of Ontario supported by Maritime callers & cuers Kerry Fletcher, Pat Alguire, Ken Eagles, Bob Fiddes, Beth & John Dickinson and Larry & Margie Clark. Leaders for this event are chosen by the organizing committee, which this year is made up of representatives from clubs in the Fundy region. Please plan to join us for "A Dancing Spree in 2003".

Maritime Square and Round Dance Convention – The 34th annual Maritime Convention, which cycles around the 3 Maritime provinces, will this year be in Fredericton, New Brunswick on November 7th and 8th, 2003. 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. We have a new venue this year at the Fredericton Inn with plenty of room for a Singing Call Hall, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Rounds. Be sure to save this special date.

Canadian National -- The next and 14th biannual National Convention is scheduled for July 29-31, 2004 in Calgary, Alberta. Plan now to take advantage of this excuse to go west where "All Trails Lead to Calgary". Their website is www.festifval2004.org

For more information and updates check these Web Sites:

Square and Round Dance Federation of NS: www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/SRDFNS/
Dance Nova Scotia (DANS) <chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/DANS>
Canadian Square & Round Dance Society (CSRDS) <csrds.ca>

WORKING TOGETHER COUNTS UP

Ten dancing couples, having a wonderful time
One listened to a rumour, & then there were nine

Nine dancing couples, danced on every date
One didn't like the caller, & then there were eight

Eight dancing couples, said "Dancing's Heaven"
Feelings were hurt, and then there were seven

Seven dancing couples, but one took hard licks
They couldn't dance, & then there were six

Six dancing couples, all very much alive
One lost their partner, and then there were five

Five dancing couples, went recruiting to find more
One said "I'm tired" and then there were four

Four dancing couples, had a problem to fix
Welcomed some singles and then there were six

Six dancing couples, found some new friends
Brought them to dancing and then there were ten

Ten dancing couples, working together so keen
Inspired others to join and there were soon sixteen

Sixteen dancing couples showed others what to do
For fun, fitness and fellowship now there's thirty-two.

ALGUIRE MEMORIAL CALLERS SCHOOL

After Jim Alguire lost his battle with cancer in August 1993, several Nova Scotia callers decided to create a memorial fund in his memory. They had worked with Jim in ANSSRDT, MCCA and at the DANS Summer Leadership Course so they knew that one of his goals had been to further the education of callers in the Maritimes. Accordingly the fund was initially set up to provide bursaries to assist callers with the cost of attending callers schools. It has done this quite successfully since then, and dancers in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland have generously supported the fund. Now most of the original committee have reached their retirement time, so they decided to turn the fund over to ANSSRDT for future administration. Simultaneously, Gloria Roth, who has been running Callers Schools in the Maritimes for many years, also announced her retirement. Seeing the need for a local callers school, the retiring committee asked that ANSSRDT form a new committee and use the fund to organize a new school which would bring qualified leaders to Nova Scotia for the potential benefit of all Maritime leaders, rather than giving bursaries for callers to attend school elsewhere.

Now we are planning our first Alguire Memorial Callers School. It will begin Sunday evening, August 17, 2003 and end Friday evening August 22, 2003. It will be held in the Debert Hospitality Centre in Debert, Nova Scotia. This is a new and very promising facility on the old military base. The committee is delighted with this lucky find which has an appropriate set up including two nice dance spaces, reasonable accommodations and a convenient cafeteria. Also there are nearby motels and camping for those wanting more luxury or less cost.

The principal teacher will be Norm Wilcox from Ontario, and he will be assisted by Dottie Welch and Kerry Fletcher. Norm has many years of calling experience, writes a very useful Note Service, has conducted many workshops for callers in the Toronto area and at Canadian National Conventions and has taught at several callers schools. We are very pleased that Norm and Wendy have agreed to come to Nova Scotia for our first Alguire Memorial Callers School.

The school curriculum will follow Callerlab's guidelines and will be designed for both new and experienced callers. If you think you would like to become a caller or if, as a caller, you would like to improve your skills, please reserve the week of August 17-22. Also, if you know someone who might be interested, please pass the word along.

The Tuition Fee is \$300.00 per student but will be reduced to \$150.00 for Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders. Both the NS Federation and the National Society have bursaries that can be applied for. Registration Forms are now available; if you are interested please contact Alex Ritchie or Dottie Welch. <alexandgaylan@email.msn.com> or <dwelch@orion.stmarys.ca>.

MARY SARGEANT RECEIVES QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDAL

On January 17th, 2003 at Government House, the Lieutenant Governor Myra Freeman presented Mary Sargeant with one of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals. The Girl Guides recommended that Mary receive this medal for her Guide service over more than 50 years including Area Treasurer, Bursary Committee, Archives Committee, Commissioner at several Levels, Brownie Leader, Camp Adviser and hours leading and booking camping trips. The next week, Mary regaled us with delighted reports of this special event where 49 Nova Scotians were similarly honoured. Coming from the Girl Guides, Canadian Red Cross, the Abilities Foundation and Military Reserve Personnel, they were some of 20,000 who are receiving this award in Canada during the Golden Jubilee Year. Each honoree was individually recognized with a citation being read, the medal presentation and an opportunity for photographs of the event. Mary received a special ovation when it was mentioned that she had been chosen 50 years ago to represent the Girl Guides of Nova Scotia at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

Although this award was given for Guide service, those of us in the Square Dance community know that Mary has given similar dedication to our organization, having been a member of the Executive for both Lake City Swingers and Coordinators for many years and having faithfully represented them at Metro Association for an equally long time. She also ably handled the task of Treasurer for the Halifax Canadian National in 1994.

In this Golden Jubilee Year, we thought it appropriate to recall a few highlights from her memories of her trip to the Coronation in 1953. She left Nova Scotia on May 13th bound first for Montreal, where she boarded the Empress of Scotland to sail across the ocean arriving in Greenock, Scotland on May 21st. The group spent a week in Edinburgh visiting Edinburgh Castle, the Hall of Honour for WW I, and the home of Sir Walter Scott in Abbotsford. They attended a Pre-Coronation Service in Chester Cathedral on their way to London and a second service in St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. On both occasions the youth of the Empire affirmed their allegiance to the Queen and dedicated their lives to uphold all that is good and true.

On June 2nd the group arose at 3 a.m. and after a hot drink boarded their buses for London to be in their seats on the Mall by 6 a.m. on a dark and dreary day. The action began with the Scotch, Welsh, and Irish Guards drilling and marching into their positions on the Mall. Next came the cars carrying the members of the Royal Family, the representatives from various countries, members of the Colonial Powers, Prime Ministers, and the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Finally the gold coach of the Queen and Prince Philip arrived – a fairyland moment. The vast crowd was remarkably quiet listening to the Abbey Service and then one great and deafening cheer went up when our Queen was crowned. After the service in Westminster Abbey, the four-mile procession began its slow march to Buckingham Palace with 29,000 men and women from all the armed forces in the Commonwealth including the R.C.M.P. in their colourful uniforms.

Their adventure continued with a June 3rd trip on the London underground to lunch with Lady Stratheden of Imperial Headquarters. Then they joined Guides from all over the world to be the guard of honour in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace when the Queen and Prince Philip left for the first of their Coronation Tours of London. Later they watched the Changing of the Guard when our Canadian forces took over from the Queen's Guard. The following Sunday, June 7th, they attended a service in Westminster /Abbey and were seated where the Lords and Ladies had sat for the Coronation. Each guide was allowed one step onto the gold carpet where the Queen had walked on the day she dedicated herself to her people.

Later they went to Brighton via Battle (site of the Battle of Hastings) to see the naval review at Spithead. It was a glorious sight to see the ships stretched for miles in all directions and to see the white hats of the sailors being tossed into the air as the Queen passed each ship on the tour of inspection. Mary says, "It made me feel proud to belong to so vast an empire."