

Council of Dancers Meeting

1:30 Sunday 28 November 2021

Meeting conducted online via Zoom

1. Call to Order 1:33

Opening Remarks

Appendix A

- Dave Western

A quorum was confirmed

Appendix B

- Barbara Englehart/ Dave Western

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda be accepted as circulated.

3. Record of the 27 June 2021 Meeting

- Arlo Speer

MOTION: Speer // G. Currie that the record of the 27 June Council of Dancers meeting be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

4. Reports

4.1. Operations Committee

a) 2020-2021 Financial statements

Appendix C

- Bob Pitruniak

b) Registrar's Report

Appendix D

- Barbara Englehart

4.2. Dances

a) Dance Committee

Appendix E

- Wendy VanderMeulen

b) Swing into Spring

Appendix F

- Arlo Speer

4.3. Publicity Committee

Appendix G

- Lamar Mason

4.4. Ottawa Area Callers' Association

Appendix H

- Brian Crawford

4.5. Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association

Appendix I

– Marlene/Gerald Casselman

Lamar and Arlo offered to assist SVSRDA with setting up an online Zoom meeting for their members.

4.6. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

Appendix J

- Barbara Englehart

MOTION: Pitruniak // Mason that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

5. New Business

5.1. Budget Amendment

Appendix K

- Bob Pitruniak

MOTION: Pitruniak // Warriner that the budget be approved as revised. **CARRIED**

5.2. Square Time Plans

Appendix L

- Gerry Johnson

5.3. Return to Dancing

- Dave Western

5.3.1. Insurance update

- Dave Western

Dancer insurance remains in place at no cost for 2022, with the fees being covered by the Canadian Society.

The Canadian Society and the Ontario Federation have waived all fees for 2022.

The EOSARDA Board has waived the Association's registration fees for Dance Year 2021/22 – i.e., September 2021 through August 2022.

5.3.2. Registering Dancers

- Barbara Englehart

Although Society and Federation have waived the fees for 2021/2022, it is still necessary to add any new names to the current lists provided to them in 2019/2020 for insurance coverage to be in place.

“New names” does not necessarily mean new dancers...they can be folks that used to dance with a Club...didn't dance for a while...and are now coming back.

Please verify your records to make sure that all of your current dancers have been registered through EOSARDA for the 2021/2022 dance season.

Please contact registrar@eosarda.ca if you have names that need to be added.

5.3.3. Clubs' plans for returning to the dance floor

Appendix M

- All

- Bob Pitruniak reminded members that no insurance is available for any COVID-related issues.
- Sunshine Squares reported that an earlier survey provided split opinions about returning to dancing. Social distancing requirements remain problematic for square dancing. Although the facility seems willing to permit use without distancing (assuming other requirements are met), the Sunshine Squares board is still uncertain about returning to dancing. It would be helpful if EOSARDA could receive a clarification from Ottawa Public Health regarding physical distancing and square dancing.
- Grenville Gremlins reported that they had checked with their facility and the facility has indicated that masks are mandatory at all times except while dancing (personal choice, at this time). The Grenville Gremlins is scheduled to return to dancing with previous dancers in January without recruiting any new dancers.
- Date Squares will hold a holiday dance 18 December with participation limited to 25 persons per room. The club will hold a Fly-in over Easter Weekend. As well, the International Association of Gay Square Dancers convention – *Follow Your Northern Neighbour* – will be held in Ottawa 5-8 July, 2023.

Date Squares is planning to restart regular class/dancing every Wednesday starting on January 5, provided public health measures allow. Full vaccine and masking required everywhere. Wendy VanderMeulen and Mark Benoit calling.

- Meri Squares has been dancing with as many as 42 dancers. Information from the City of Ottawa is that square dancing is considered a recreational activity and, assuming capacity limits are satisfied, square dancing can be conducted. Proof of vaccination is required of every person entering the building. Meri Squares requires all dancers to wear masks at all times when they are in the building, including while they dance. Dancers report that it is quite possible to dance for 2 hours while wearing a mask. Dancers are required to sanitize hands before and after each tip. Meri Squares has had some visitors from other clubs.
- Lockits dance to a limited extent (as described in Appendix M) and hopes to continue early in 2022.
- Capital Carousels reported it has returned to dancing (as described in Appendix M) and plans to continue in January.
- Capital City Lines cannot dance yet as the community centre where they normally dance is currently unavailable to the club.
- Got Lines would have returned to dancing this fall; however, due to the leader's recent knee injury, he is not presently able to line dance.
- Limestone Dancers reported that while there is some dancing in the Kingston area, it is not done through the club. Some couples have found opportunities to dance privately. Until a venue is available and enough dancers are willing to return to dancing, the club remains in limbo. Next September is likely to be the earliest return time for the club. Line dancing is available at some seniors' centres. The high COVID rate in the area has resulted in reluctance to return to "normal" dancing.
- Glengarry Tartans has started dancing approximately every second week as described in Appendix M.
- Mississippi Squares is not currently dancing. A venue hasn't been available; however, school facilities are opening up to public activities. Most dancers are interested in returning.

5.3.4. How can EOSARDA help clubs?

- All

- A fund to help with COVID-related costs would help clubs.

MOTION: Mason // Robichaud that EOSARDA establish a fund to support COVID-related costs for a return to dancing. The fund would provide an EOSARDA-wide total fund of \$2000 for dance year 2021-2022 to reimburse 100% of the club's expenses up to a maximum of \$100 per club, receipts to be provided.

CARRIED

MOTION: Pitruniak // Currie that the Treasurer be directed to revise the budget to reflect the above fund.

CARRIED

- Since clubs are having difficulties getting clear direction from health and civic authorities about the ability to conduct square dancing, it would help if EOSARDA could reach out to authorities for a definitive statement of requirements.

Dave has information from Ontario Ministry of Health which he will share.
- Many clubs expressed concerned over responsibility and liability resulting from things like a COVID outbreak of health. It seems clear that organisers of events and activities are the likely ones to be held responsible. A good defence would be evidence that all mandatory and recommended procedures have been followed. It was also pointed out that, should someone contract COVID, it would be difficult to demonstrate that the infection came from dancing.

6. Next Council of Dancers Meeting
24 April 2022 at 1:30

7. Adjournment – 3:50

Appendix A – Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and welcome to EOSARDA's November 2021 Council of Dancers

< review ZOOM operation and meeting protocols>

Normally at this point I would point out where the washrooms are and announce break times. I'm guessing that you already know where your washroom is. As for breaks, we will take a 15-minute break around 2:45, but you are going to have to provide your own tea, coffee and cookies, sorry about that.

Under EOSARDA's Constitution and By-laws:

- \$ Any registered dancer may attend Council and speak at the meeting
- \$ But only designated Club Representatives have a vote.
- \$ Each registered club may have up to 2 representatives both of whom may vote on any issue before Council.
- \$ However, no individual Club Rep may vote more than once on any issue (you don't get two votes if you are the only rep from your club or if you represent more than one club)
- \$ Directors cannot vote unless they are also Club Reps.
- \$ The Board is bound by any decision or direction issued by this Council.

Arlo and Lamar will be watching for blue hands indicating that someone wishes to address the meeting. We will do our best to make sure that all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so, please be patient. A reminder that when not speaking, please mute your microphone to help reduce background noise, but don't forget to turn it back on to speak.

To enable this Council to make decisions a quorum of 25% of Members is required. We currently have 23 Members, so a quorum is 6. Given today's participation level, I can safely declare that we have a quorum and can continue with the meeting.

This afternoon, among other things, we will:

- present a revised Operating Budget for Dance Year 2021/22 based on what we think we know at this time
- receive reports on the activities and plans of our standing committees

But more importantly, we want to hear your thoughts about a possible return to dancing. Is it time to get back on the dance floor or is it too soon? Has your club elected to delay its return to the dance floor or is your club already dancing or considering starting soon? What COVID-related protocols, if any, has, or will, your club put in place? What can EOSARDA do to help your club transition back to dancing once it is ready to do so? What problems do you have to overcome? What information or support do you need?

To be perfectly clear, your Board of Directors is not advocating either for or against an early return to dancing. That is a decision that each club, and indeed each dancer, has to take based on local pandemic conditions, their personal situation and their degree of risk tolerance. Some members are already back on the dance floor, some clubs are considering starting in January while others are looking at next September. There is no one-size-fits-all solution, no right answer. But what we all must keep in mind is that this pandemic is far from over. Whatever your club decides to do, COVID continues to sicken and kill Canadians. Accordingly, the new normal, whatever it is, cannot be the same as the old normal. Caution and prudence should continue to be the order of the day.

Appendix B: -- Attendees

Club	Surname	First name	Club	Surname	First name
Capital Carousels	Segstro	Ziggy	Meri Squares	Chesnais	Jacques
	Currie	Gavin		Mason	Lamar
Capital City Lines	Blondeau	Janet		* Courdin	Peter
Crazy A's	VanderMeulen	Wendy		* Gravel	Michelle
EOSARDA	* Clarke	Geoff		* Rosen	Sandy
	* Englehart	Barbara		* Warriner	Lee
	* Johnson	Gerry	Mississippi Squares	Guthro	Debbie
	* Speer	Arlo		Guthro	Vince
	* Summers	Bob	OACA	Brian	Crawford
Glengarry Tartans	Lauzon	Bernie	Ottawa Date Squares	Robichaud	Jean-Marc
	Lauzon	Carole		Vaquette	Jacqueline
Got Lines	Pitruniak	Bob	Sunshine Squares	Kearns	Diane
	Western	Dave		Kearns	Jim
Grenville Gremlins	Matthew	Geraldine	SVSRDA	Casselman	Gerald
	Matthew	Peter		Huntley	Jeannie
Harbour Lites	Casselman	Marlene		* Finney	Russ
	Gerhard	Regina	Swinging B's	Frappier	Roger
Kanata Squares	Currie	David	Swinging Swallows	Blais	André
	Currie	Marie		Patterson	Renton
Limestone Dancers	Chapman	Linda	Village Squares	Forsyth	Bob
Lockits	Clarke	Teena		Forsyth	Gabrielle
	Goodwin	Valerie			
	* Goodwin	Les			
Total Participants	46	Voting Delegates	35	Non-Voting Delegates	11
Clubs Attending	17	Clubs Absent	2	Clubs Not Responding	3

EOSARDA Member Clubs are each allowed 2 voting delegates.

Names with an * are non-voting observers.

EOSARDA Directors not representing a club are non-voting observers.

Appendix C – Financial Statements

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon Request to Secretary@EOSARDA.ca

Review of past year financials

November 1, 2021

To: The Board of Directors and Members of Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association

I have completed a review of the records related to the revenues and expenditures of EOSARDA as of June 30, 2021. This review was limited to the amounts listed in the records, bank statements and deposit slips. With the exception of one missing receipt, which was satisfactorily explained by the treasurer, I found the records to be well documented and nothing appeared to be false or inaccurate; therefore, I believe they present the true financial position of the Association.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Power". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'P'.

Mary Power

Appendix D – Registrar

Some Clubs are getting together with limited numbers for some dancing.

Although Society and Federation have waived the fees for 2021/2022, it is still necessary to add any new names to the current lists provided to them in 2019/2020 for insurance coverage to be in place. “New names” does not necessarily mean new dancers...they can be folks that used to dance with a Club...didn’t dance for a while...and are now coming back.

Please verify your records to make sure they were included in the registrations of the 2019/2020 dance year.

Please contact registrar@eosarda.ca if you have names that need to be added.

Thank you.

Barbara Englehart, Registrar

Appendix E – Dance Committee

At the June meeting, the Dance Committee reported that it had investigated holding an open dance on Sunday afternoon, February 13, 2022, at Mother Teresa School, Nepean. We expect to make the final decision in early January. The decision will be based on a number of factors:

1. If Ottawa Health protocols permit such a gathering.
2. If those protocols - and any additional ones enforced by the school - are manageable.
3. How many EOSARDA clubs are back dancing, which would indicate a possible reasonable attendance at the dance.

A Bulletin will be sent out as soon as the final decision is made.

Wendy VanderMeulen, Chair
Dance Committee

Appendix F – Swing into Spring



Swing into Spring is an eastern Ontario dance weekend established under the joint auspices of the *Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association* and the *Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association*. The event is planned, organized and operated by volunteers from each sponsoring association:

Gloria Bateman (Swinging Swallows)	Simone Cyr (Swinging B's)
Kathleen Pitruniak (Grenville Gremlins)	Bob Pitruniak (Grenville Gremlins)
Arlo Speer, Secretary (Capital Carousels)	
Wendy VanderMeulen, Treasurer (Charmin' Promenaders)	

Our Organizing Committee currently has fewer than our usual complement of members. We would welcome an additional member from an SVSRDA affiliated club. Interested dancers are invited to contact secretary@swingintospring.ca or reach out to any committee member. (Meetings have been online, using Zoom.)

Although COVID restrictions remain in place, the *Swing into Spring* Committee remains hopeful for an event in 2022 but, of course, we cannot absolutely confirm things at this point.

Callers and cuers are already on board and promise us an exciting dance event!

JL and Linda Pelton from Plano, Texas will keep our round dancers busy.

Ted Lizotte (from Manchester, New Hampshire) and **Tom Miller** (from western Pennsylvania) will get the square dancers moving.

To expand our dancers' experience and repertoire, this year **Dave Western** (of EOSARDA) will lead an introductory line dance workshop.

Of course, it all depends on what the nasty virus has in store for us, but your committee remains positive and hopeful. We hope you'll mark **29 April to 01 May 2022** on your calendar!

You can keep up to date through Square Time articles. Also, check us out on our webpage and on Facebook – the links are in the footer of this report.

Be safe, Stay well!

Submitted on behalf of the *Swing into Spring Committee* November 2021, by:
Simone Cyr, Liaison to SVSRDA & Arlo Speer, Liaison to EOSARDA

Appendix G – Publicity Committee

Since the last Council of Dancers meeting in June 2021, the Publicity Committee was undertaken the following activities:

1. EOSARDA Facebook page: With the assistance of Wendy VanderMeulen, the Publicity Committee developed and launched the EOSARDA Facebook page. We encourage all dancers and clubs to post related information to site. The purpose of the EOSARDA Facebook page is to provide information to individuals seeking information about square dancing as well as to keep existing dancers connected and informed. The more we show people how much fun we have, the more likely we are to attract new dancers. Please consider joining the group! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda>
2. EOSARDA Website: With the assistance of the Technology Committee and Bob Summers, the Publicity Committee is contributing to updating the EOSARDA website. Stay tuned for the new look!
3. Advertising/visibility: The Publicity Committee is working on potential advertising/visibility materials to make available to clubs as we begin to look toward recruiting new dancers in the new year. We would love to hear your suggestions.

Lamar Mason, Chair
Publicity Committee

Appendix H – Ottawa Area Callers Association

The OACA met via Zoom on November 7, 2021

Membership: although not confirmed by treasurer, I expect our membership to be eleven.

Geoff Clark and Wendy VanderMeulen have kept us updated on any CALLERLAB changes.

Our members are ready to resume when clubs are ready and halls are available.

Brian Crawford
OACA Chair

Appendix I – Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association

There have been no official meetings but during this time, we have contacted each club by phone.

August 2021, each club was again contacted, Grenville Gremlins, Mississippi Squares, Swinging B's, Harbour Lites, Skirts & Flirts, Limestone, decided to wait until the New Year and then decide when they will start up again. Charmin Promenades will be dancing soon.

Meri Squares, and Glengarry Tartans, have been dancing with great success since the fall.

It was decided not to plan a Christmas Dance due to Covid-19 protocols.

A flyer for Mother's Day will be completed and sent out to all clubs.

Seaway Valley will have an official meeting at a later date.

Gerald & Marlene Casselman President Couple

Appendix J – Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation met September 12, 2021 via Zoom Video Conference Call. All four Associations were represented.

Bob Pitruniak has decided to step down from the Board and Ron Gardner has volunteered to be Bob's replacement as an EOSARDA representative as well as the Recruitment Rep for the Federation.

The website has been updated and positive feedback has been received.

At a previous meeting, Federation had decided to look into any Provincial or Federal grants that may be available to Ontario clubs to stimulate club growth and aid in repairing any damage caused by COVID-19 as a way to provide assistance in revitalizing square and round dancing. Letters were sent to both Provincial and Federal members of parliament in the SWOSDA area. The responses to these letters are available and clubs and/or associations wishing to utilize this information to apply for grants are encouraged to do so. OSDRF requests that information regarding success or failure of acquiring these grants be shared with all other associations and clubs within the province.

A suggestion was put forth to promote licence plates for square dancing. Federation is to provide suggested wording to the Associations so that bulletins can be sent out. A suggestion was also made to look into modernizing the current logo to something more generic to both square and round dancing. There is a cost for the new artwork and the process would take about 6 months as there are several approvals required along the process. There were also to be a minimum order of 30 plates which would have to be sold through OSDRF as part of the Logo update process.

Insurance Costs for 2021/2022 is being covered by Society again this coming dance season based on 2019/2020 information received from Clubs and Associations. Society may have to increase costs for next year. For Clubs starting up this dance season, please provide names of any new dancers or dancers that perhaps did not dance in 2019/2020 to the EOSARDA registrar so that those names can be added to the list for insurance purposes. No fees will be collected for 2022.

The Society AGM is scheduled for November 21, 2021. Anyone can participate in the AGM via Zoom. A notice will be sent out as to how to register for the meeting.

Reports were submitted by each of the represented Associations who had something to report. They are available for viewing on the Federation website as part of the meeting record for September 12, 2021.

There were two Trillium Merit Awards and four Trillium Long Service Awards received and approved by Federation. Letters were sent to recipients and to each Association advising them of the award approvals.

A project team, working with Society, has been established to seek a renewed agreement with Entandem (representing SOCAN and Re:Sound) to address the reimbursements paid for the use of music while dancing. The project team consists of four EOSARDA directors: Dave Western, Gavin Currie, Geoff Clarke, and Arlo Speer. Initial contact has been made with Entandem and discussions are under way.

The next Federation board meeting is scheduled to take place December 12, 2021 via Zoom.

Submitted by: Barbara Englehart, Secretary, OSDRF

Appendix K – Budget Amendment

Budget Assumptions for budget dated 2021-10-17

1. General

Most dancing will resume in January 2022. Thus, expenses will be for half a year of operations.

2. Revenue

EOSARDA Dues: EOSARDA has waived fees this dance year.
Dance revenue: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance this year.
Square Time: There will be fewer dances advertised so reduced income here.

3. Expenses

OSRDF Dues: There will be no fees to remit to OSRDF.
Board meetings: We pay for Zoom again for EOSARDA Board and Council of Dancers meetings.
Office expenses: All stamp purchases lately BUT added \$200 here to account for expenses to become compliant with Province of Ontario corporate reporting requirements,
Publicity: By the end of 2020/21, publicity will begin promoting the 2021/22 dance year to get new dancers interested for 2022
Website/hosting: A fixed cost unrelated to the number of dancers.
Repairs etc.: Carry forward of past amount.
Leader training: We really need to start advertising for new leaders and paying Wendy/John for what they are doing.
Square Time: We will print hard copies beginning in winter 2022.
Celebrations: There will likely be no new dancers to celebrate but there is a small amount provided “in case ...”.
Dance expenses: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance this year.

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon Request to Secretary@EOSARDA.ca

Appendix L – Square Time

As we all know, this has been another unusual year. Only one issue of Square Time, March 2021, was created. Because of the pandemic, this issue went only to the eoDance web site. So far, we have no further submissions. However, some clubs are considering a possible January or February start-up. Would any of our member clubs, or organizations be interested in submitting something for a January or February issue?

The budget submitted by Treasurer Bob Pitruniak looks to be what one would expect when there has been no dancing. We are hoping to have a printed version of Square Time early in 2022. Please remember that Square Time is published for the benefit of dancers and clubs. We would like to hear from you.

Gerry Johnson
Square Time Editor

Appendix M – Club Plans for Resuming Dancing

Club: Capital Carousels

Last Fall, we prepared our protocols and submitted them to Ottawa Health. We received concurrence from Ottawa Health to dance. However, Parkdale United Church, where we normally dance, had not opened up so we had no place to dance.

This summer, we upgraded/refined our protocols and included detailed procedures. Unfortunately, Parkdale was still not open to us. So, we inquired at Carleton Heights Community Centre for availability. It had one morning open for us – Wednesday mornings. We started dancing there on Oct. 20th and will do so until Dec. 15th. Nine couples returned to dancing.

Indications are that Parkdale will be open for us in January so we look forward to dancing there next year. If that does not happen for some reason, Carleton will be available next year on a Thursday morning.

COVID19PROTOCOLS

1. Every time before you come dancing, please go over the Capital Carousels COVID 19 Screening Questionnaire. If you answer “yes” to any of the questions, please stay home.
2. Dancers must be fully vaccinated. i.e., have had two doses at least 14 days prior to coming to dance. Proof of vaccinations (as provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health) is required the first time you come dancing.
3. Please bring your own pen when signing in/registering.
4. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be provided for your use. You are also asked to bring your own sanitizer as well, so that you can use it during the session as you see fit. Please sanitize the chair that you will be using and sanitize it again when you leave.
5. Please practise proper hand hygiene (washing hands/sanitizing) and sanitize everything that was touched before leaving the bathroom.
6. You must wear a face mask that covers your nose, mouth and chin at all times except when consuming food or drink.
7. Individuals must physical distance (6 feet) from other individuals. Exception: individuals dancing together (couples) need not physically distance from each other.
8. Couples must physical distance themselves from other couples while dancing or socializing.
9. Please don't change dance partners.
10. Please bring your own refreshments as they will not be provided. The kitchen will not be open for use.
11. Even complying with our safety procedures, there is still a risk of exposure to the virus.
12. A dancer testing positive for COVID 19 must notify secretary@capitalcarousels.ca

Capital Carousels PROCEDURES

Preparation

- Obtain sanitizer and wipes from storage box
- Set up two tables (registration and sound equipment) then sanitize them
- Set up one chair at registration table and sanitize
- Place sanitizer and wipes on registration table
- Obtain sign in sheet unless the Treasurer brings them.
- Set up sound equipment
- Chairs will be removed/stacked and grouped in pairs, separating each pair 6 feet from each other. Preferably toward the front (kitchen) of the hall.

Greeter

This person will be “stationed” outside the north parking lot entrance for the first dance only. He/she will have a copy of the questionnaire and the protocols. He/she will remind dancers to social distance outside and “screen” each couple/dancer by asking if they

- answered the questions in the questionnaire before coming here. If not, provide them with a copy of our questionnaire. If any of the questions are answered in the affirmative, entrance is denied.
- have “proof” of double vaccination. If not, entrance is denied. If so, check the proof and ensure that the date of the last dose was at least 14 days ago.
- have read the protocols and will they abide by them. If they have not read them, provide them with a copy

Treasurer

He will have a supply of sanitized pens available.

- For first time dancers (after the first dance), he will ask for proof of vaccination ensuring that the last dose was at least 14 days ago.
- Ask each couple/dancer to enter their names and telephone number in the sign- in sheet and initial it. If they did not bring their own pen provide them with one and then place aside for later sanitizing.
- Remind dancers to sanitize their chairs using the wipes provided.

The Treasurer will retain the sign-in sheets in a folder/binder and will create a dancer list from this information.

Club: Glengarry Tartans Alexandria

Our club is only dancing every other week for now.

Our executive disinfects all door handles and railings before dancers' arrival. On outside entrance door there's a COVID posting (do not enter if.....)

Upon entering there's COVID posting again (& wear a facemask) & instructions on how to pick up the free disposable facemasks. Also, a hand sanitizing station.

Up the stairway before they enter the hall, we have a screening table manned by our President.

The President enters info on a dancer listing which is created beforehand & includes dancers' names, telephone #s and an area to indicate proof of double vax (this prevents dancers from picking up pens and signing in). Dancers only need to show proof of vax once.

A health Canada screening form is read to each dancer - if they answer yes to any question they have to leave.

Chairs are socially distanced throughout the hall. We do not offer snacks, coffee or water - bring your own.

Hand sanitizer stations available in the hall plus a mini hand sanitizing bottles was handed out to each dancer and advised to keep these only for dancing - this prevents all dancers from using the same containers after each dance segment. Dancers were frequently reminded to sanitize hands before getting up to dance and after each dance segment.

Dancers are shown how to disinfect their chairs after dancing & disinfecting wipes are handed out.

We then clean all door handles, railings, tables used & washroom faucets etc. at the end of the dance.

A temperature check would be nice but funds don't allow for a fancy unit just now.

Carole Lauzon Advertising & Promotion
Glengarry Tartans Alexandria

Club: Harbour Lites

Harbour Lite members decided to wait until December and see how things are with Covid-19. At the end of December, we will look at it again. The church where we dance, has strict regulations in place and we have to respect this decision on their part. The health unit in Prescott was contacted and they did not recommend square dancing would be able to start at the time due to the close contact in order to dance. They also require masks to be worn at all times. A lot of our dancers cannot dance with a mask on. The church will only let us return once the health unit tells us it's safe to do so.

Once we are able to dance again, our protocols will be what is required at the time. The dancers will have to be fully vaccinated and show proof at the door. They will be screened weekly at the door. They will bring their own refreshments as the kitchen will not be available. The washrooms would also need to be sanitized and this is a necessity, it will need to be open so there will be sanitized wipes and Lysol spray, provided by the club, left in each washroom stall. There will be hand sanitizer provided throughout the hall and each dancer will be required to sanitize before dancing and then after dancing.

There will be more information to share once we get the permission from the health unit, then from the church as to whenever we dance again.

Marlene Casselman for Harbour Lites

Club: Lockits

The chart below details the “suggestions” provided to us in writing on October 4th, by the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Health Unit (LGL) in order for us to “host” square dancing as an **“Private, indoor Social Gathering”** (ie: in our home). This came about after Geoff wrote a letter to Dr. Paul Stewart, the Chief Medical Officer, asking for their guidance because the published provincial “rules” were not very clear for our Square Dancing activity.

After an exchange of emails “explaining” just what it is we actually physically do when square dancing, we got some clear answers. Their final comment was *“you should be fine to resume this activity with these measures in place and be in compliance with the regulations. I am sure your participants will appreciate being able to resume this activity that is great for their physical & mental health”*

The left-hand column shows the ‘suggested’ safety plan; the right-hand column is what we’ve put in place to ensure dancer safety, our first priority. Even though each dancer is fully vaccinated, we just can’t be ‘too careful’, and as your club executive, we must do our “due diligence”!!

NOTE: *We restarted dancing on October 20th, to continue to Dec 1st. See our website www.lockits.ca for further details.*

LGL SUGGESTED PROTOCOLS	LOCKITS Safety Plan
1] The ‘Indoor gathering’ limit applies, which currently is 25 persons in total.	Initially limiting the group size to 12 (10 dancers + caller + partner) for each dance session.
2] Conduct a COVID screening check.	We request that you “stay home” if you have any COVID symptoms or generally not feeling well. We have already had that happen once.
3] Proof of Vaccination (POV) required. Only fully vaccinated people can participate.	Initial protocol was ‘ <i>couples by invitation only</i> ’ & POV was requested in advance by email. POV also provided at the door for others. We also have a QR reader on hand which works well!
4] Record of Contact information (Contact Tracing)	A Sign-in sheet is provided for all dancers to complete upon arrival & is retained for follow-up.
5] Wear Masks ‘when possible’ for dancing/ and when not active.	Masks are optional while dancing, but mandatory when not. Dancers have chosen to wear them while dancing as well. Spares are on hand.
6] Consider having the same group of 4 couples at each session in order to decrease mixing.	We have 2 groups of 5 couples in each group & they are dancing at a different time on the same day. In January 2022, if our regular dance hall is still unavailable, we ‘may’ expand the groups to more than one square each.
7] Hand sanitizer at the entrance & key spots	Lots of hand sanitizer is on hand & it is used frequently.
8] No shared water or refreshments. Individually wrapped items only if food.	Dancers bring their own water. There are no snacks on hand.

9] Indoor airflow – do not use circulating fans. Best to have opened windows to give in/out fresh air circulation	We have two windows open (as the weather dictates) with a fan blowing out (not circulating in side), which gives us adequate fresh air cross-ventilation.
10] Washrooms to be cleaned & disinfected as frequently as necessary.	A dedicated washroom is available for dancer use & it is cleaned/disinfected after each dance session
11] Sanitation of other surfaces as needed.	The vinyl chairs used for sitting are also wiped down (disinfected) after each dance session.

Date: October 20th, 2021

Prepared by: Caller, Geoff Clarke

Club: Meri Squares

These are the procedures Meri Squares is following as it returns to dancing.

1. All participants must be fully vaccinated (two doses and 14 days after second dose) and show proof of vaccination and photo ID. Proof of vaccination is saved for Club members to speed up registration on subsequent nights. Sign in sheets for each evening are saved for tracking purposes.
2. All participants must wear a mask at all times, even during socializing.
3. Participants will be required to answer COVID screening questions each evening. If you are feeling ill in any way, please do not attend.
4. Participants are required to read and sign an “Acknowledgement of Risk” showing that they recognize that there is a risk of contracting COVID even with the precautions in place.
5. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Hands must be sanitized on entering the church, and before and after each tip.
6. Disinfecting wipes will be provided. All chairs and tables used during the evening will be wiped down before participants arrive, along with all door handles and frequently touched surfaces (bathroom).
7. Participants are responsible for wiping down and putting away their chair at the end of the evening.
8. Proper hand cleaning is required when using the washroom. Disinfecting wipes must be used to wipe down all touched surfaces in the washroom after each use.
9. Participants must bring their own refreshments as refreshments will not be provided. Masks must be worn except when drinking or eating. Please distance from others during these times.
10. Participants are asked to contact Lamar Mason (lamarmason4@gmail.com) (613-221-9188) if they test positive for COVID-19.