

SQUARE TIME

Eastern Ontario
Square and Round Dance
Association



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Square Time Edition 71.4 December 2025

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This issue of Square Time will not be printed. It is available, free, online:

http://www.eodance.ca/square_time.php

Submissions to Square Time

We welcome letters, articles, advertisements and almost anything dance related. Each member club is encouraged to send us their news, and tell us about themselves. Separate text and pictures, please. Text is reformatted to present a uniform appearance and pictures have to be extracted. Please send them to SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca.

Next issue...

The next issue will be March 2026 Deadline for submission February 28.

Advertising in Square Time

To advertise in Square Time, please send a file to the editor, indicating the size the advertisement is to be (full page, half page etc.) Other than to fit the space, advertisements will not be reformatted. There is no charge for dance events.

	Member	Non-Member	Commercial
Full Page	\$0	\$0	\$100
Half Page	\$0	\$0	\$75

EOSARDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 - 2026

President	David Western	Chair Operations, Dance cCmmittee
Treasurer	Mary Thurston	
Secretary	Arlo Speer	Chair Technology
Director	Gerry Johnson	Square Time
Director	Barbara Englehart	Registrar
Director	Lamar Mason	Chair Publicity
Director	Ron Gardner	OACA Caller Rep
Director	Michelle Gravelle	
Director	Shirley Brown	Chair Club Liaison
Director	David Hutchinson	
Director	Debbie Penney	

We are always looking for new directors to be on the board, so we would be delighted to have your help. We also have committee members who are not directors, but fill important rolls.

Message from the President, December 2025

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As I write this the New Year is peeking around the corner, which means that we are about halfway through the new dance season. So, how's it going so far? From where I sit, the answer is "not bad".

Fall Registrations

When dancing resumed this Autumn, 572 registered dancers took to the dance floor . Of these, the greatest number (528) were Square Dancers and their Callers. But there were also 14 Round Dancers and 30 Cloggers. That means that for the second year in a row, our total membership has increased slightly, going from 556 in March 2025 to 560 this Autumn.

Admittedly, that's not a big increase, but is a step in the right direction. What's more, many of our Member Clubs will be undertaking a second recruiting drive in January, so it is likely that our numbers will increase yet again in the new year.

Board of Directors

I am very pleased to advise that Debbie Penney and Mary Thurston have joined the Board of Directors. Mary is taking on the job of EOSARDA Treasurer, while Debbie is proving to be an invaluable addition to Dance Committee. The Board now consists of the following:

Dave Western	President & Chair Dance Committee
Arlo Speer	Secretary & Chair Technology Committee
Barbara Englehart	Registrar
Mary Thurston	Treasurer
Shirley Brown	Chair Club Liaison Committee
Lamar Mason	Chair Publicity Committee
Ron Gardner	OACA representative
Michelle Gravelle	Director
David Hutchinson	Director
Gerry Johnson	Editor Square Time
Debbie Penney	Director
Bob Pitruniak -	Past Treasurer

We continue to look for new recruits for the Board of Directors. No previous experience is required We are looking for people who share our love and enthusiasm for dance and are willing to work hard to promote and encourage dancing in Eastern Ontario.

Dancing, dancing, dancing - Fun, fun, fun

There's lots of good dancing still ahead of us this year, including **Frosty Fling 2026**.

This year's Frosty Fling will be held on the afternoon of Saturday February 7, 2026 at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott.

Traditionally, Frosty Fling has been the first Open Dance that first-year dancers can attend. This year's dance will be no different. The dance program will provide our newest dancers with ample opportunity to practice their nascent dancing skills. However, the dance program will also provide lots of opportunities for experienced Mainstream, Plus and Advanced

While final details are still being worked out, this year's Frosty Fling will have a Beach Party theme. Pack your sun screen and shorts and we will see you on the "beach" in sunny - we hope - Prescott on February 7. (Passports, photo ID and fingerprints not required.)

A Special Note to all our experienced dancers

Please DO NOT send your new dancers to Frosty Fling.

BRING THEM WITH YOU

Show them just how much fun square dancing can be.

I look forward to meeting you all on the dance floor.

Dave Western
President,
EOSARDA

Message from the Editor

Do you have club badges from a club that no longer exists? I am planning to do articles on clubs that no longer dance. If you have badges or other historic material, and would like to share, please take a picture and send it along. I have a long list of clubs that have danced in our area over the years.

I am still waiting for articles to include in our *How We Got Here* column. This should be a paragraph or two about how you got interested in dancing and how it has affected your life.

I want to thank Gloria Bateman of the Swallows for her much appreciated proof reading and editing skills. ...

The cover is an AI-generated Santa doing his thing .. just because it's possible!

There are lots of dances coming up to take part in. Check the list of flyers toward the end of this issue.

Gerry Johnson

Square Time Editor

SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca



November 30, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The ONTARIO SQUARE and ROUND DANCE FEDERATION
(OSRDF) is searching for a Candidate for our Board of DIRECTORS.

Our longtime Secretary Barbara Englehart has done a magnificent job over the years keeping the Federation Meeting Minutes Books. Barb is looking to step away from the board after her many years with the Federation in numerous capacities.

Job Title: Board Secretary

- ♦ Organization: Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation (OSRDF)
- ♦ Location: Ontario
- ♦ Position Type: Volunteer

Key Responsibilities:

- Coordinate the scheduling of all board and committee meetings.
- Prepare and distribute meeting agendas and supporting materials.
- Accurately record and distribute meeting minutes.
- Maintain official records, such as governing documents and meeting minutes.
- Act as a primary point of contact for board members.
- Provide administrative and logistical support for board activities.
- Assist with board member on boarding and succession planning.

Qualifications:

- ♦ Exceptional organizational and time management skills.
- ♦ Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- ♦ Proficiency in minute-taking
- ♦ Knowledge of nonprofit governance best practices is a plus.
- ♦ Experience as an executive assistant or in a similar administrative role is beneficial.

How to Apply:

For further Information and to apply, please contact any of the members of the OSRDF Board of Directors or e-mail me :

Gerry Gregoire – geraldgregoire22@gmail.com

Vice-President OSRDF

Newsletter Editor OSRDF

We thank Barb for her many years of service to the Board and to Square Dancing in Ontario. It is so very much appreciated Barb.



Your Publicity Committee, working with you
to promote square, round and line dancing.

News & Views, 2025 December



The Publicity Committee wishes all the dance community a wonderful Christmas season: safe, healthy and happy! Attend as many of the festivities as possible and enjoy this very special holiday season with those you love and care about!

Come the new year, we will be sharing ideas and looking for suggestions from you to help promote and grow our great activity.

Lamar, Dave & Val, and Gloria

EOSARDA's Christmas Dance Party

When is a dance more than just a dance?..... When it's a Dance Party!

And a Dance Party is just what took place at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott on the afternoon of December 6 when seventy-nine square dancers gathered to celebrate the Christmas season.

The afternoon included square dancing at all levels from full Basic/SSD through A2 in two halls. Dancing was lead by veteran Callers John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen and featured selections of seasonal music, old favourites and some new favourites too.

In a true party atmosphere dancing was interspersed with a series of fun-filled Reindeer games including:

- * a Jingle Mingle Bingo
- * a Snowball Launch
- * a TP unrolling contest
- * multiple door prizes and
- * a four-part ugly sweater contest that saw prizes awarded for the most original, tacky, sparkly and retro sweaters

Attendees were also given the opportunity to take home a complementary Christmas tree ornament courtesy of EOSARDA.

Of course, no dance would be complete without lots of tasty treats and this one was no exception. The delicious snacks ranged from Christmas Cake through home-made cookies with just about everything in between. I'm pretty sure that no one went home hungry.

All-in-all the dance was a great success. We are looking forward to doing it again next Christmas, with even more dancing guests.

A great big thank you to all the volunteers who gave freely of their time to make the dance a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

Congratulations to the members of EOSARDA's Dance Committee for a fun-filled dancing experience.

Dave Western
Chair
Dance Committee



Supported by EOSARDA

Swing^{into}Spring

It with reluctance and disappointment that we inform you EOSARDA and the Swing into Spring Committee have made the very difficult decision to cancel Swing into Spring, not only for May 2026 but permanently. As the number square dancers shrinks and the newer dancers do not travel it has become harder and harder to find volunteers to join the planning committee and to work this weekend event. We just were not able to convince, bribe, or threaten enough EOSARDA members to become committee members to insure a successful and fun dance event.

Since its inception, Swing into Spring has been a successful weekend of dancing and friendship, attracting dancers not only from Eastern Ontario but from as far west as Calgary, east as Montreal, and south as Pennsylvania. Over the years it has featured many forms of dance - old fashioned square dance, modern square dance, round dance, line dance, whatever style was popular. Swing into Spring has hosted many international callers and leaders providing a weekend of excellent experiences and a weekend many dancers attended annually.

The decision to discontinue the event was not made lightly. We thank the hundreds of dancers and many volunteers who have supported this event, particularly over the past six challenging years.

Sincerely,

Swing Into Spring Organizing Committee

PS: The email links are currently still active: Treasurer@SwingIntoSpring.ca and Secretary@SwingIntoSpring.ca.

Hello Danglers!

Happy Fall & Winter! I am sure that you are enjoying an incredible dance season!

As a reminder, the best way for any dancer to become stronger is to dance more often, and visiting another club is a great way to do this. A different caller or cuer will present things in a slightly different way and this is a fabulous way to improve your skills!



Congratulations to the following dancers who earned dangles in the 2024-2025 dance season!

Grenville Gremlins

Geraldine and Peter Mathews
Harold Tompkins

Limestone Dancers

Noreen Peters

Meri Squares

Marie Andree Auclair
Joy and John Edmond
Michelle Gravelle and Sandy Rosen
Wendy McCracken and Harold Hedley
Colleen McEwan and Gerry Lelievre
Robert Milburn
Barbara Pearson
Lynn Wilson

Mississippi Squares

Diane and Howard Marsh

Napanee Pioneers

Karen Wilson P

Ottawa Date Squares

Marc Gauthier
Kathy Higgs
Leo MacIntyre
Jean Francois Martin
Jean-Marc Robichaud
Sarah Vandergeest

Quinte Twirlers

Lynda and Al Lesperance

You, too, can earn a Dangle and join the list next fall! Keep reading!

We want to remind all dancers about the EOSARDA Visit Dangle Program!

So how do you earn a dangle?

Check out [Calendar on eodance.ca](#) to learn what events are happening over the next while. Remember that changes were made to the Visit Dangle Program to make it THAT much easier for you to track and participate! Dancers no longer need to obtain a signature at each event.

Attendance at any club other than the club where the dancer pays the EOSARDA registration fee qualifies. This also includes dancers who may dance with a second or third club on a regular basis, limited to one visit per club.

Attendance at any workshop, special event, summer dance and/or convention, including outside Canada, also counts in the Visit Dangle Program.

To obtain your dance dangle:

Complete the required number of visits during a single dance year and submit your completed application form to dancedagles@eosarda.ca on or before September 30, 2026.

So get out visit other clubs so those forms come rolling in come fall! Let's increase the number of dancers who will earn their dangles for 2025-2026!

If you're not sure how the program works, send an email to dancedagles@eosarda.ca and I will be happy to chat with you.

See you on the dance floor!

Michelle Gravelle



Crazy A's

A1

J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Wendy VanderMeulen



Crazy A's have been dancing for 7 years already. I find that hard to believe! I even had to look it up to be sure. We started in the fall of 2018 at St. Mark's Anglican Church on Fisher Avenue on Friday nights with a split program - A1 for an hour and a half followed by A2 for an hour and a half. COVID interrupted our schedule and we've had a few changes since then. We now dance at the J. A. Dulude Arena on Friday afternoons, and we dance 2 hours of A1. We've done an A1 teach a couple times in those years and we continue to perfect our skills. From time to time, we've had dancers who learned their A1 elsewhere come to dance with us for extra dance time.

John does his best to make sure that all the calls can be done from more than one formation. As the dancers will tell you, some are easier than others! But we keep at it and we do improve - unless it's a full-moon afternoon. Then.... well, let's not talk about those days!

Our final dance of this session is on Friday, December 12. Goodies will be enjoyed and Christmas tunes will be part of the program. Just an easy afternoon of dancing before a 4-week break! We'll be back at it on January 9. Come dance with us....



It's Crazy, Eh! ☺

Crazy A's - A1 Dancing Winter 2026



☺ !hE, yzarC s'tl

With John Charman

Friday Afternoons 1:00 - 3:00

J. A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa

(approx. ½ km south of Carling, at Woodward)

Winter 2026 session: Jan.9 – Apr.24 (15 weeks)

(except Apr.3)

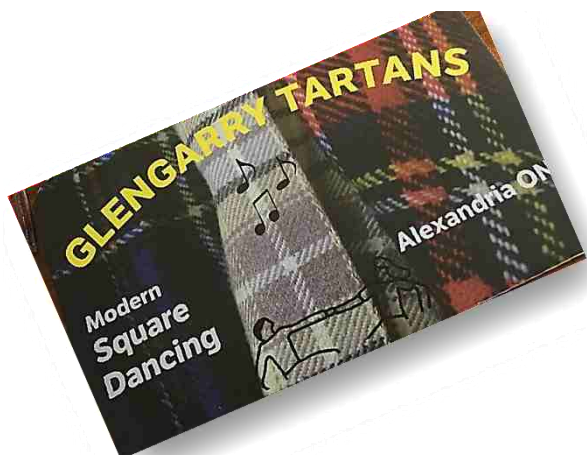
\$150 upfront or \$12 per class (per person)*

**Payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit, or credit.*

For information, contact: Wendy VanderMeulen at:

Call or Text: 613-282-0575 or Email WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Club News The Glengarry Tartans Alexandria



December 2025 - Our club is experiencing more & more difficulties in recruiting new dancers but also retaining new and existing dancers.

Our two September open houses resulted in 3 new dancers adding to our small membership. Two existing dancers have left due to health concerns.

However, we seem to balance out somewhat with a membership that wavers between 2 to 3 squares.

We will be holding January 2026 "Dance the Winter Away" open houses.

Summer 2026 will see us participating in the Glengarry Township sponsored "Meet Me on Main Street" events in the surrounding community: Alexandria, Glen Robertson, Dalkeith, Green Valley, Vankleek Hill, and so on. We will attend every event possible - advertising spaces are at no cost for non-profits!



Falling Leaves and the Canadian Tartan October 19, 2025 at the Sports Palace in Alexandria was AMAZING to say the least. Brian Crawford led a fun and entertaining dance! Thank you for the continued support from EOSARDA & BBS&RDA clubs at our events.

Once again, we signed up some extra entertainment. The Roadhouse Line Dancers graced the floor with demos and added a teaching segment wherein pretty much everyone in attendance joined in. Guests inquired on their way out when will you have your next event



Club News Grenville Gremlins



We have had a busy and a bit chaotic fall, since our usual dance space was not available for 4 evenings. While we were able to pivot for 3 of those weeks, it meant our open house was delayed. Despite this we were happy to welcome 11 new dancers to the club. Below is the presentation of nametags (two were absent). In addition, we had a guest dancer from Manchester, UK for several weeks and we were heartened to see some members return after an absence of a year or two.



On Nov 24, we held our annual silent auction, which is a major fundraiser for our club. As you can see from the photos we were fortunate to be presented with an amazing array of baked goodies to bid on, along with books, puzzles, etc. We exceeded last year's total which was exciting.





On Dec 1, Brian Crawford, on behalf of EOSARDA presented gold level dangles to 3 of our dancers. Congratulations to Peter Matthew, Geraldine Matthew and Harold Tompkins on your achievement.

Mary Cruse

Grenville Gremlins



Club News LOCKITS Advanced Dance Club



Geoff & Teena Clarke

December 2025

Hi there ST readers!

Sorry that there hasn't been much Lockits Club News for quite some time as it's been a very busy year for yours truly primarily on the 'family' side of things. As a result, despite your ST editor's 'reminders', I haven't got 'around tuit' most of the time. This issue is the last one for 2025, so the least I can do is to submit a club report before 2026 rolls around! Although I've been MIA when it comes to our club report, it doesn't mean that anything has happened to this great club, we are still alive and well and dancing every Wednesday at our usual place and time!!

After our A1 teach last season we added a few new dancers to our floor, but at the same time a few of our 'veterans' have stopped dancing primarily for health reasons. Nonetheless, each week we're dancing 3-4 squares of A1 and 2-3 of A2 on any given week. So, all is good!! Our new hall location is great except we've struggled with sound issues (echo), and despite the fact that the Township added some 'sound baffles' (that helped), it took a change in speaker types to give us good sound beyond two squares. Again, all is now good!

As I write this, our final dance for the fall session is December 10th and then we return to the floor on January 7th, 2026 until March 4th when we take our 'winter break' for the full month. Our regular dance schedule is posted on the EOSARDA website (under Clubs) and we dance A2 @ 10am following by A1 until 12:30pm.

We have a great group of folks dancing with us each week with everyone enjoying the FUN & FRIENDSHIP!



SO, if you're an Advanced Dancer and like to *dance in the daytime*, then come on out & have fun with us on Wednesday mornings!

You're welcome to come & dance with us at any time!

Square Dancing IS all about Fun & Friendship

So, come & join us, won't you?



Club News Mississippi Squares

Welcome to our second Mississippi Squares club news article for the 2025 - 2026 season. In this edition we'll be updating you on:

How things went at our Hallowe'en Dance;
Brian's very favourable impression on how well our new dancers are getting along; and,
Preparations underway to host our *Mississippi Squares 40th Anniversary Dance*.

Hallowe'en Dance - Tuesday, October 28th

The first thing to point out about our Hallowe'en Dance night is that we had a great turn-out this year.



You have probably already noted from a quick scan of the above image, most folks didn't **stint** when it came to dressing up for the occasion. Here's a bit more visual detail on just a few of those special ensembles in evidence that night.



expected, there was a contest for best costume. The judges had a very hard time deciding, but here are our winners!



- The Three Amigas:
Cora Merchand - Debbie Cox - Cheryl Waters
- Two Cat Burglars:
Grace Meehan - Rob Hickson
- Angry Bird and Friend: J.D. Labelle - Linda Willman

And, just in case you were wondering, yes, there was dancing that night.



Brian's Impression on How Our New Dancers are Getting Along

At the end of the evening on Tuesday, November 11th, Brian made a point of congratulating our 17 new dancers on how well they were doing. In particular, he said that he was very impressed by the fact that while introducing them to the various iterations of Square Thru, he didn't see anyone trying to perform an inadvertent Courtesy Turn at the end of this move. This was despite the fact that these same 17 new dancers had already been taught how to do Right and Left Thru, a move which does conclude with a Courtesy Turn. Brian stated emphatically that in all the years he's been teaching square dancing, there has never been a group in which someone wasn't trying to erroneously do a Courtesy Turn at the end of their Square Thru. But not this year! Not this group of new dancers!

Mississippi Squares 40th Anniversary Dance

We've booked the hall, hired one of the best callers we know (actually, we think he is the best of the best), and are ironing out the logistics to make this event one you definitely don't want to miss! Ribbons will be going out shortly. For further details on who, when and where, please take a look at our preliminary ***Mississippi Squares 40th Anniversary Dance*** poster which can be found in the **Flyers** section of this issue of **Square Time**. Hoping to see you there to help us celebrate 40 great years of dancing here in Carleton Place!

So that's about it for this edition of **Mississippi Squares Club News**. To sum things up: as always we encourage dancers from other member clubs of EOSARDA (and elsewhere) to come out and see what all the fuss is about. Please feel free to drop in for a fun-filled evening of dancing in Carleton Place. We'd love to see you! We're doing Basic and Mainstream on Tuesdays and Plus on Fridays. Please note: we are normally dancing at the (relatively) new hall at 2022 Beckwith Park Lane. On some Fridays, however, we've been bumped from our usual place of residence. On those nights, you'll find us dancing at Zion-Memorial Church at 37 Franklin St. in Carleton Place.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding where we're dancing or anything else to do with our club, please feel free to contact our president, Betty Goodwin at 613-256-0551. Another excellent source for information about our club is to be found on our website at [Mississippi Squares Dance Club](#).

Many thanks to Diane Marsh, Melanie Jones, Brian Crawford and Sharen Goodman for supplying all of the awesome images found in this article.

Submitted by Charles Henderson

Club News Napanee Pioneers Square Dance Club



Into the New Dance Year

The Napanee Pioneers have had a great start to this year's dance season with many familiar faces and some exciting new additions to the club. We've been very happy that many of our new dancers have stuck with it and are well on the way to completing basic. Many of our returning dancers have knocked off the cobwebs from basic to plus dancing with some ups and downs along the way. It's always a joy to see new dancers learning new calls and making new friends with smiles on their faces. It is amazing to see how fast some confidence in their skills makes new dancers feel less like "new comers" and more like regular members of the club. We're continuing to dance this season at the North Fredericksburg Hall just south of Napanee (1178 County Rd 8, Greater Napanee), with our great caller Dave Hutchinson.

Club Events

In Napanee we love our special dances, and the start of this year has been no different. Every month there is something interesting to keep us on our toes and smiles bright.

Over the summer, we were happy to have had a demo dance at the Napanee fair where we were able to show off what we know and love. We even had several members of our community get up and try square dancing with us. Flowing right into the fall, nothing has changed with two theme nights; one for Halloween in October and an ugly sweater night in November, bringing laughter, smiles and fun games to all that were able to attend.

We are looking ahead to winter and the new year. We plan to keep the good times rolling with more theme nights and special activities. In December we will be having our Christmas dinner and holding a food drive for the local food bank on the 19th. Continuing into the New Year, on January 16th we will have a pizza night. In February our Red and White night for Valentines Day will be on February 13th.



Vice-President, James Hook

Club News Ottawa Date Squares

All Day Sashay a Huge Success

Our yearly fall dance, All Day Sashay, was very well attended in spite of some bad weather that had been looming all day.

We got to dance to some excellent calling by our many callers including: Brian Crawford, Dave Hutchinson, Wendy VanderMeulen, JM Robichaud, Joel Smith, Becca McCarthy, Mary Thurston, Leo MacIntyre, Laird Greene and Ron Gardner.

The special styling workshop was very well attended and our new dancers got to see how we do our Grand Square, Dosido and Weave the Ring.

Some very creative costumes were brought to bear in the evening and we got to dance to Brian's calling while Michaela and her Pawpaw played piano and fiddle for us.

Also, Ron and Charlene Gardner were recognized with the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation (OSRDF) Trillium Merit Award during a special presentation.



Not surprisingly, our new dancers were the last people standing at the end of the night and it was a real treat to see how much fun they were having.

A really big thank you goes out to all the callers, volunteers and dancers who made this special day of music and dance possible.



Convention Update

Are you registered for the Montréal convention yet? If you haven't registered, the number of days until the next price increase is limited because on January 1, the rate goes from \$315 to \$345.

That price includes a full weekend of amazing square dancing at all levels (SSD/MS through C4) to eleven of the best callers in the world, a banquet supper and a breakfast buffet meal. Also some really fun specialty tips like women's tip, bear tip, leather tip, last man standing, hot hash and many more.

If you've never attended an IAGSDC convention before, you qualify for a special first-timer rate of \$275. Check out the registration page of the website for details on how to get it.

If your reason for not attending the convention is financial, you should definitely check out the special subsidy that's available to anyone who can't afford to attend. Do it before the subsidies run out.

Either way, the host hotel (Le Centre Sheraton) is filling up fast. Rooms are 95% booked already so if you plan to attend, you should reserve your room asap. You can cancel the hotel up to 72 hours in advance with no penalty.

Free Intro - January 7

December 10 may be our graduation, but we will be dancing on December 17 as well and it will be our last class of the season.

We will be returning to classes on Wednesday, January 7 with a FREE open house/intro followed by the start of a brand new season of Social Square Dancing classes.

This is your big chance to invite your friends who have been chomping at the bit to try square dancing for themselves. Today would be a good time to get them to put it on their calendar before they get booked up.



Free Open House

- No dance experience required
- You don't need a partner
- Come make some new friends!

Cost: Free!

LGBTQ+ Social Square Dancing

Wednesday, January 7 @ 6:30pm
Jack Purcell Community Centre
320 Jack Purcell Lane

Ottawa Date Squares

IAGSDC
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS
an LGBTQ+ organization

OttawaDateSquares.ca

The poster features a central oval photo of four smiling people (three men and one woman) with rainbow-themed backgrounds. To the left, a man and a woman are dancing. To the right, two women are dancing. The background is a vibrant rainbow gradient.

For those who will be graduating, this is not the end of the road. We need angels to help with the new dancers that we will be welcoming to the club and as we've done in the past, the last 45 minutes of dancing will be at full SSD level so you can keep up your dance skills. We promise to keep it interesting.



Russell Squares

Saint Mother Teresa School, 1035 Concession St., Russell K4R 1G7

Dancing the SSD program

Fridays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Wendy VanderMeulen

I can't believe our fall session is already over – actually, we have one more dance (Friday, December 12) – but it's been an exciting fall! Finally, after 2 years of dancing, we celebrated our first "graduation" on Friday, December 5. Because of the schedule that Township of Russell imposed on us, we've had 5 separate dance sessions since January 2024. With each session bringing in new dancers (some who stayed, some who did not), it took this long to get the ones who "stuck with it" through the SSD program. But WE DID IT! Here are 9 of the 12 who have been part of Russell Squares since the beginning:



We worked very hard to get them through the program because they were very keen to attend the EOSARDA Christmas dance on December 6. So, it took a few Saturday afternoons in my basement to make it work, but make it work we did. SEVEN of the 9 were able to attend the dance. I must say, I was very proud of them!



We are now looking forward to the Winter 2026 session which begins with an Open House on Friday, January 30. Aiming to double our number of dancers who love it as much as we all do!



Square Dance Ottawa
Intro to Square Dancing
J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa
4th Sunday of the Month
Wendy VanderMeulen

Square Dance Ottawa continues to be a great venue for:

1. People who love to square dance but can't commit to a weekly series of lessons, so they dance from time to time,
2. People who are curious to see what this "Modern Square Dancing" is all about and just want to give it a try, and
3. People who dance with local clubs on a weekly basis but just want a break from lessons and have an easy afternoon of dancing.

Our last 2 sessions of 2025 were perfect examples:

- October had 29 dancers – 12 who were friends and family of people who had danced with SDO before and don't dance anywhere else, 13 who were there to check it out, and 4 from local clubs.
- November had 14 dancers – 10 who were checking it out, and 4 from local clubs.

The numbers tell you how different one dance can be from another (!), but it also shows the need for people to have a place to go for each of the 3 reasons given above.

Check out the flyer elsewhere in this Square Time for the 2026 dates. Feel free to come on out to dance with us and bring a friend or send an interested person to get them "hooked" this early in the year so you don't lose them between now and September!

New in 2026 – a dancer from an existing club who comes with a non-dancing friend to show them what square dancing is all about pays \$0 at the door! The non-dancer fee is \$12. So.... Two people can dance for the price of one. 😊

MODERN SQUARE DANCING

No experience necessary!!



COME DANCE AT SQUARE DANCE OTTAWA IN 2026

J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave. (1/2 km south of Carling at Woodward)

4th Sunday of the month, 2:30 – 4:30

Jan.25, Feb.22, Mar.22, Apr.26, May.24, Jun.28,

Jul.26, Aug.23, Sep.27, Oct.25, Nov.22



Everyone is welcome (including people with 2 left feet). No judgement! 😊

Ages 10 and up.

For more information, call or text Wendy VanderMeulen at 613-282-0575

Email her at WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Check the website www.SquareDanceOttawa.ca or www.meetup.com/square-dance-ottawa-meetup-group

Small print: \$12 per person – payment in advance by eTransfer to wendyv@sympatico.ca, or at the door by cash, or credit/debit.

Club News - Swinging Bs

Don Moger's 50th Anniversary Party

Sponsored by Border Boosters Square and Round dance Association.

The executive of BBS&RDA have a history of holding a spring dance. This dance had a theme of welcoming new dancers. As we know with clubs folding and fewer new dancers and the number of club special dances in April and early May, finding a date for this dance became difficult. Another thing is the scarcity of halls to hold such dances. With the occasion of Don Moger having called for 50 years and sharing his talent with dancers from around the world, the executive decided to celebrate with Don and hold the dance in his honour. Don is a part of the planning and from the poster, you will note that the dancing level is basic and plus. With all the different words used to describe the level of dancing, it is difficult to use a word for clubs to decide if their new dancers would feel welcome. Don is most anxious to see new dancers at this party. BBS&RDA invite all club members and club callers to make a special effort to bring their new dancers and share what dancing can be outside their club. Rumour has it that callers attending should pack a song in their pocket.

If you have pictures or stories you would like to share please contact Shelia, email heandshe@sympatico.ca

Teresa MacInnis

Club News, The Swinging Swallows, Pembroke

The Swallows are planning our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner and Dance for December 18. Our 'Décor Diva' always displays a warm and friendly atmosphere with her wonderful decorations, and at Christmastime this is especially true! The dinner never fails to be one of the absolute best: all homemade and a wide variety. This event always provides a great dinner and fantastic dancing, with our club caller, Ron Gardner, afterwards!

Again this fall, the Swallows donated to a local Food Bank and we collected \$160 to donate to the Wesley United Church, where we dance, for their 'Adopt a Family' effort to provide extra for a family in need.



We will be reaching out to the nearby communities to challenge them to join us on the dance floor for a lot of fun in the new year! We will host Open Houses on January 8 and 15.

Meanwhile, the Swallows wish everyone in the dance community good health and happiness, and tremendous fun on the dance floor in the new year!

Submitted by Gloria Bateman

Riverside Gypsy Squares



Do you Love Square Dancing?

Do you Love Camping?

Combine these two great activities and join us!



Dancing level is full Mainstream with Plus tips, and easy line dancing. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to join us for our Open Dances on Friday evening and on Saturday afternoon. Our Friday dances are from 7:00 – 9:00 PM and our Saturday dances are in the afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. They are held in the open air Pavillion just near the entrance gate. Our dress code is "relaxed", so please wear something comfortable and appropriate for the weather as we could be outside.

You can find us at Lower Beverley Lake Park Campground, **146 Lower Beverley Lake Park Road.**, Delta, ON. Phone (613) 928-2881 on the following week-ends:

Summer 2026 Schedule

May	June	July	August	September
22-23	19-20	17-18	21-22	18-19

You may camp with us for up to a maximum of 2 weekends, then we would expect you to join our group. Our Membership fees are \$40.00 per couple. Otherwise, there is also a small fee of \$5.00 per person to dance.

For more information please contact Chris or Christine Slater at: 613-925-1712 or (Cell) 613-246-3053 (call or text) or email at: cslaterfamily@gmail.com





EOSARDA invites you to Dance on the Beach 2026

Frosty Fling on the Beach

PERFECT TIMING FOR OUR FIRST YEAR DANCERS TO GET INVOLVED

Leaving from
Ottawa, Canada (YOW-...



Going to
Fort Lauderdale, FL, Unit...



Date
Feb 7



Travellers, Cabin class
1 traveller, First class

*Staying in Canada this winter thanks to President Trump?
No Passports, Fingerprints or Visas required*

Join us for a day of sun and fun at the beach
with Callers **Brian Crawford** and **Ron Gardner**

Resort Destination: South Grenville District High School
1000 Edward St N, Prescott, ON K0E 1T0



Date: Saturday February 7th, 2026

Time: 1 – 4 pm

Tickets: \$15.00 at the door \$10.00 for New 2025/2026 Dancers

Two Halls for All Levels of Dance including Teach Levels of 2025/2026

Beach attire encouraged "but not required"

Tropical Refreshments served on the patio

Share the wealth and Door Prize by the Pool

It's February...^{} In case of inclement weather, a notice will be posted on the EOSARDA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda>) and website (www.eodance.ca) by 11:00 AM that day.**



Riverside Gypsy Squares

Midwinter Dance

Sunday, February 22, 2026



Share the Wealth

Dancing from 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Caller Showcase

Featuring New Callers

Full Mainstream/Plus Tips

\$7.50 per person

Tea/Coffee and Homemade Cookies



Eastbound: Take 721B exit South
Westbound: Take 721 Exit South
Follow to Hwy #2 and go east.
Take Sophia North and Sutton East
to #24 to Johnstown Communitiy Centre, Johnstown, On

For info contact Chris or Christine Slater at: 613-925-1712 or (Cell) 613-246-3053 (call or text)
or email at: cslaterfamily@gmail.com



The *Swinging B's*

50th Anniversary

Dance and Dinner

Sunday March 8, 2026
2:00 – 4:30 PM

Tickets: \$25.00 (Advanced Sales Only)
Hot and cold buffet dinner, draws, and more!
Mainstream with Plus Tips
Caller: Dave Hutchinson

Knox-St. Paul's United Church
800 Twelfth St E, Cornwall ON



For more information, contact Bob or Helen:
(613) 933-4052 | hmacallum49@gmail.com



HEY DANCERS!

CHASE RIGHT OVER TO THE
MERI SQUARES

MERI MINGLE PLUS DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

ST. MARKS ANGLICAN CHURCH

1606 FISHER AVENUE, OTTAWA

COORDINATE YOUR SCHEDULES TO DANCE TO THE GREAT CALLING OF
JOHN CHARMAN

FULL PLUS

SPECIAL FEATURE: LEARN AN A1 CALL



\$15 AT THE DOOR OR PAY IN ADVANCE BY ETRANSFER TO TREASURER@MERISQUARES.CA

LOTS OF PARKING REFRESHMENTS

CONTACT: LAMARMASON4@GMAIL.COM 613-221-9188



Please Join Us To Celebrate the
Mississippi Squares
40th Anniversary

Share the
Wealth &
Door Prizes!

**Basic, SSD,
Mainstream, Plus**

**Saturday March 28, 2026
2-4pm**

**Carleton Place Arena
Upper Hall
75 Neelin Street
Carleton Place
Ont**

Light Snacks
throughout
the
Afternoon

Caller: Brian Crawford

**Info: call 613-256-0551
Email: betty.goodwin@gmail.com**

**Ribbons \$12.00 in advance
\$15.00 at the door
www.mississippisquares.ca**

"A Look
back on
40 Years"
Display



**Soft Soled Shoes
Please**

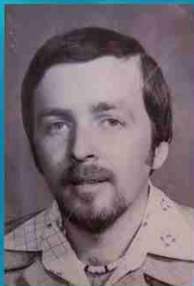
B.B.S. & R.D.A.



BBS&RDA

Invites all dancers
and friends of

Don Moger



To celebrate **50** years of superb calling
for BBS&RDA clubs and clubs all around the world.

Saturday May 2, 2026

At Charles Claude Emile Centre

1468 Chevrier Ave, Cornwall ON, K6H 1S1

Dancing 2:00 - 4:30 pm

2 Basic (this year's class) and 1 Plus

Refreshments - Pot of Gold

Donations: \$10

Directions from HWY 401:

Take exit 792

Turn right onto McConnell Ave for about 4,6 km

Turn right onto Chevrier Ave

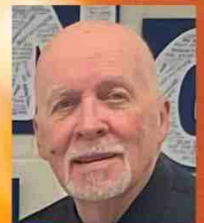
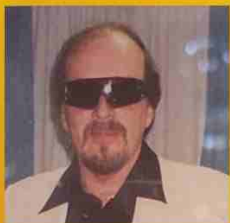
Destination will be on your left

For information contact: Sheila Marcus sheandhe@sympatico.ca

Live Lively -



Square Dance!





43rd IAGSDC Square Dance Convention

July 1-5, 2026

Montréal, Québec

Levels: SSD/MS through C4

Barry Clasper

Toronto, ON

Brian Crawford

Ottawa, ON

Dave Hutchinson

Marlbank, ON

Don Moger

Montréal, QC

Ett McAtee

Severn, MD

Justin Russell

Memphis, TN

Kris Jensen

Albuquerque, NM

Michael Kellogg

Northridge, CA

Michael Levy

San Francisco, CA

Sandie Bryant

Chicago, IL

Ted Lizotte

Manchester, NH

Vic Ceder

Los Olivos, CA

Wendy VanderMeulen

Ottawa, ON

Register now at
MontrealMix2026.com

The Venue

All dancing, including brunch and banquet supper will take place under one roof. **Le Centre Sheraton Montréal** is in the heart of Montréal and steps away from public transit and tons of restaurants, bars and shopping.

**Registration Rate
Increases January 1!**

Register Today!



Scan to Register

PENTICTON

British Columbia, Canada



July 15th - 18th

2026



Canadian National Square, Round & Clog Dance Festival

squaredance.bc.ca



PENTICTON TRADE AND
CONVENTION CENTRE



Come to Penticton, with its rich history of square dancing.
Host of the Peach Festival Square Dance Jamboree for over 60 years.
Enjoy square dancing in Okanagan Lake, floating down the canal joining two
beautiful lakes, wine tasting tours, bountiful orchards and dancing
with friends old and new.

Welcome to the Okanagan!!

Look who you could be dancing to in Penticton BC in 2026:



Ray Brendzy



Betsy Gotta



Barry Clasper



Wendy Krueger



Lorne Smith

AND MANY MORE SUCH AS: *Patrick Aubert, Gary Baker, Black Sheep Steph, Caitlyn Brendzy, Nicholas Brendzy, Lionel Crowe, Gary Dean, Jim Decelle, Garry Dodds, John Fawcett, Joe Gonzalez, Roy Gotta, Terry Hebert, Dave Hutchinson, Laurie Illsely, Claudis & Dave Littlefair, Sandy Meyer, Vance Morrison, Steve Ocskasy, Connie Ritchie, Kirk Rocherbie, Dan Roy, Gordon Ruedig, Deb & Ray Schmidt, David Symington, Mary Thurston, and Dottie Welch!!*

CLOGGING LEADERS: *Rosalie Bodnarchuk, Barbara Bizovie, Lyle Boswall, Mary Dart, Barbara Guenette, Janet Guise, Mike McDow and Tracy Turner!!*

EARLY BIRD PRICING EXPIRES DECEMBER 31ST, 2025!!!!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 24TH CANADIAN NATIONAL SQUARE, ROUND & CLOG DANCE FESTIVAL: JULY 15TH – 18TH 2026

TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: squaredance.bc.ca/festivals

*****Reminder: special hotel pricing for this event expires soon*****

CANADIAN NATIONAL SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL 2026

. AND WHAT A PEACH OF A DEAL!

Please accept our invitation to the Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival 2026, to be held on July 15-18, 2026 in Penticton, BC, Canada. Here's a chance for you to get involved in a unique event that can give you the vacation memories of a lifetime. Penticton (pen-TIK-ton) is located in the central area of the southern interior of BC, westernmost province in Canada. It is one of just two cities in the world that is located between two lakes, Lake Okanagan to the north and Skaha Lake to the south, and boasts a semi-desert warm climate. So it's no wonder Penticton's known for both its water sports and its variety of home-grown produce, especially peaches. How many of us can fondly remember the aptly-named Peach Festival with its iconic Aquaduck square dance!

The venue is located by the south end of Okanagan Lake, so it's steps away from the Channel Float activity, where we can take a break from dancing to float from one lake to the other in lazy river fashion on giant rubber floats, courtesy of Coyote Cruises. And Saturday, at the Urban Farmer's Market, load up on fresh fruit goodies to energize those dancing feet.

Penticton is easy to find. It's located on Highway 97, one of the longest-stretching highways that runs from California to Alaska. Also, it is easily accessed from Highway #1 (Trans-Canada Hwy) to the north and Highway #3 (Crowsnest Hwy) to the south. Two airports serve Penticton. The Regional Airport hosts the Pacific Coastal Airline, with daily flights from Vancouver, BC to Penticton. For international flights, Kelowna International Airport is close by, to the north, and provides direct flights from Calgary and Edmonton on Westjet Airlines.

Here's a peach of an idea. Invest some thought into getting involved in the square dance vacation of a lifetime. And now's the time to do it, when it's at its lowest amount. Just fill in the on-line form at Festival2026Finance@gmail.com. It's as easy as pie – peach pie!

Keep in touch with us at squaredance.bc.ca or phone 1-800-335-9433, and thank you for your time and consideration.

- Advertising & Publicity, Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival 2026



BRITISH COLUMBIA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION

“The purpose of the Federation shall be to preserve, promote and perpetuate Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Contra Dancing, Clog Dancing and other related forms of dance in the Province of British Columbia”

October 10, 2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The BC Square and Round Dance Federation has given the go-ahead to investigate the possibility of having a Caller's School in conjunction with the 2026 Canadian National Festival in Penticton.

At this point, we have two Canadian Callerlab Accredited Coaches interested in being instructors and if necessary, we will be looking at a third Caller Coach.

With two Caller Coaches, the school would be restricted to 20 to 22 students. If more students are interested then we will look at arranging for the third Caller Coach.

Who would be the ideal student?

With the quality of instructors and two potential experienced teaching assistants, this school would be valuable to all callers from brand new to very experienced. In addition to joint sessions, students would likely be split into groups depending on experience and areas of interest.

Dates: Friday, July 10th to Tuesday, July 14th in the city of Penticton (still working on the venue). Friday will start later in the day but Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday will be all day and evening.

Other Details:

For students, funding should be available from Callerlab, the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society in addition to provincial associations and possibly state associations to help offset costs.

Anticipated tuition is \$500.00 CDN per participating student. Spouses and partners are also encouraged to attend and may be requested to assist by providing dancers on which the students can practice. We have also found that partners can be a real help to the students in their learning process.

We are looking at the possibility that lunches may be provided as well as mid session snacks.

To assist with the planning we are seeking “expressions of interest” from those who are interested in attending the Caller's School.

To express your interest, please email me at garryd@dz-dancing.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at garryd@dz-dancing.com or 250-516-6525.

Garry Dodds

List of interesting web sites for our dancers

EOSARDA web site	https://www.eodance.ca/SD_clubs_full.php
EOSARDA Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/eosarda/
Ontario Federation	https://squaredance.on.ca/
Canadian Square Society	https://csrds.ca/
Toronto and District	http://www.td-dance.ca/
Southwest Ontario	https://swosda.ca/

EOSARDA Email Contacts

President	president@eosarda.ca
Registrar	registrar@eosarda.ca
Square Time Editor	SquareTimeEditor@eosarda.ca
Bulletins	bulletins@eosarda.ca
Webmaster	webmaster@eoDance.ca

EOSARDA Dance Clubs

Grenville Gremlins	<u>Grenville Gremlins</u>
Limestone Dancers	<u>Limestone Dancers</u>
Meri Squares	<u>Meri Squares</u>
Mississippi Squares	<u>Mississippi Squares</u>
Napanee Pioneers	<u>Napanee Pioneers</u>
Ottawa Date Squares	<u>Ottawa Date Squares</u>
Quinte Twirlers	<u>Quinte Twirlers</u>
Square Dance Ottawa	<u>Square Dance Ottawa</u>
Swinging Swallows	<u>Swinging Swallows</u>

Square Dance Clubs

Crazy A's

A1 Friday 1:00pm - 3:00pm
J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa
Caller: John Charman
Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen
613-282-0575 WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Glengarry Tartans

Basic Most Sundays
Check schedule 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Usually La Fraternite Hall
49 St Paul St, Alexandria—Check Schedule
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen, John Charman
Contact: Carole & Bernie Lauzon
613-931-1783 clauzon55@sympatico.ca\

Grenville Gremlins

Basic/MS Monday 7:30pm - 9:30pm
North Grenville Municipal Centre
285 County Road #44,
Kemptonville, ON
Caller: Brian Crawford
Contact: Debbie Armstrong
613-989-2784 kemptonvillesquaredance@gmail.com

Limestone Dancers

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 6:45pm - 9:30pm
Polson Park Public School
165 Robert Wallace Dr. Kingston
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: Noreen Peters
613-888-3170 noreenpeters1957@gmail.com

Lockits

A2, A1 Wednesday
A2 - 10:00 to 11:00am
A1 - 11:00am to 12:30
Brunton Community Hall
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place
Caller: Geoff Clarke
Contact: Geoff & Teena Clarke
613-724-8438 caller.geoff@bell.net

Meri Squares

SSD* Tuesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Alternating tips: SSD Teach & Full SSD
J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave, Ottawa
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Lamar Mason
613-221-9188 lamarmason4@gmail.com

Meri Squares

Plus / Plus Teach Thursday 7:15pm - 9:15pm
Westminister Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa
Caller: John Charman
Contact: Lamar Mason
613-221-9188 lamarmason4@gmail.com

Mississippi Squares

Basic/MS Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm Full MS
7:30pm - 9:30pm B/MS
Brunton Community Hall
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place
Caller: Brian Crawford

Contact: Betty Goodwin
613-852-3496 betty.goodwin@gmail.com

Mississippi Squares

Plus, Plus Teach Friday 7:30pm - 10:00pm
Brunton Community Hall
2022 Beckwith Park Lane, Carleton Place
Caller: Brian Crawford
Contact: Betty Goodwin
613-852-3496 betty.goodwin@gmail.com

Napanee Pioneers

Basic/MS/Plus Friday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
North Fredericksburgh Hall
1178 County Rd. 8, Napanee
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: Muriel Brough
613-354-4595 mrb47@cogeco.ca

Ottawa Date Squares

SSD*/MS LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:45pm
Room B203, Jack Purcell Community Centre
320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud
613-806-3138 OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

A2 LGBT friendly Wednesdays 6:45pm - 8:45pm
Room B201, Jack Purcell Community Centre
320 Jack Purcell Lane, -
Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud
613-806-3138 OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Ottawa Date Squares

Plus LGBT friendly Mondays 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Room 202, Jack Purcell Community Centre
320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Jean-Marc Robichaud
613-806-3138 OttawaDateSquares@gmail.com

Quinte Twirlers

Basic, MS, Plus Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Harmony Public School
Belleville
Caller: Dave Hutchinson
Contact: David Dunham
613-403-2882 quintetwirlers@gmail.com

Riverside Gypsy Squares

MS/Plus/Rounds/Lines May/ Jun/ Jul/ Aug/ Sep
3rd Weekend of every month
(Fri evening, Sat afternoon),
Lower Beverly Lake Campground, Delta, On
Caller: Various Callers and Cuers
Contact: Helen MacCallum
1-613-330-4873 helenmaccallum@sympatico.ca

Russell Squares

SSD Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Mother Teresa Catholic School, 1035 Concession St., Russell
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen
613-282-0575, WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Square Dance Ottawa

Beginner 4th Sunday of the Month 2:30pm - 4:30pm
J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Ave., Ottawa
Caller: Wendy VanderMeulen
Contact: Wendy VanderMeulen
613-282-0575, WendyGVanderMeulen@gmail.com

Swinging Bs

Basic/MS
Plus Tips Friday 6:30-7:00 pm (Plus)
7:00-9:00 pm (B/MS)
Knox - St. Paul United Church
800 Twelfth St E, Cornwall
Caller: Don Moger
Bob Summers
Contact: Iris Swerdfeger
613-937-3455 iris.swerdfeger@gmail.com

Swinging Swallows

Basic/MS/Plus Thursday 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Wesley United Church Hall
275 Pembroke St E, Pembroke
Caller: Ron Gardner
Contact: Jeannie Mastine
613-401-4907 j.mastine@outlook.com

Round Dance Clubs

Capital Carousels

Ph 3-4

Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm

Parkdale United Church

429 Parkdale Ave

Dancing to pre-recorded tapes

Contact Gavin Currie

613-739-9395