



2 0 1 7 F A L L E D I T I O N

# The CARIBOO CONNECTION

ISSUE # 55

EDITORS: MARY ANNE & NICK TURNER



## THANK YOU -

Once again we should all thank our club treasurers and our Region 5 treasurer, **Bill Cocker**.

They have been working hard to fill in the necessary forms and complete the fee collections for this dance season.

After receiving the money and forms from each club, Bill Cocker (Prince George) has to complete many other forms and submit them to the BC Square & Round Dance Federation treasurer, **Pat Zeeman** of Victoria.

Pat submits all of BC's information to the Canadian Square and Round Dance treasurer, **Beth McGifford** (Penticton.)

We seldom stop to think about it, but we are so lucky to have people that volunteer to take on tasks like this on our behalf so that we can all dance knowing that our clubs, our dancers, and our executives have 3rd party liability insurance.

## Way to Go, Treasurers!

## A Stressful Summer

For many of the dancers in Region 5, this past summer was one filled with wildfire alerts, evacuations, property losses and many, many smokey days.

Dancers in the southern and central parts of our region spent much of the summer on alert, packed and ready to go at short notice. Day after day they gazed at horizons through smokey skies looking for approaching flames and watching helicopters with water buckets flying overhead.

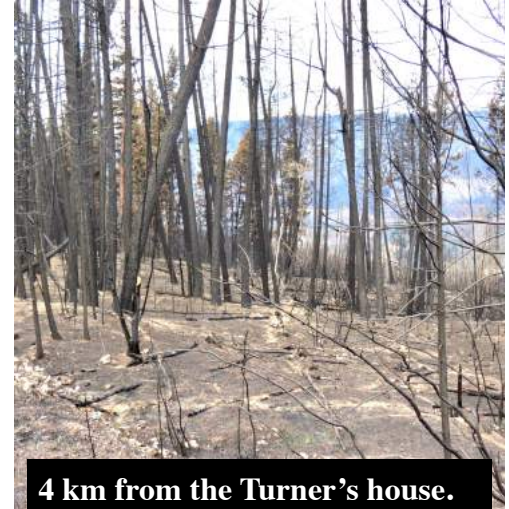
100 Mile House, Williams Lake and surrounding areas were finally given the order to leave. For Williams Lake, most of them went southeast to Kamloops not knowing what awaited in terms of accommodation as they had planned to head north - but fire blocked the road when the Order came. This resulted in a trip of fourteen and more hours, bumper to bumper through the night, down Highway 24 to Little Fort and on to Kamloops as 12,000 evacuated Williams Lake.

Many of them were away from their homes for three weeks or more before being allowed to return. Some took an unscheduled holiday and took their RVs east to Alberta and elsewhere not knowing if they would have a home or a pile of ash to come home to. Many billeted with family, friends, or even with complete strangers.

It was a discouraging summer and there are so many stories to relate but thankfully no tragedies. As far as we know, none of our dancers lost their homes to the huge wildfires devouring the Cariboo, although some of our non-dancing friends were not as lucky.

In the northern part of our region, Prince George dancers rallied magnificently to offer places to stay or a back yard to park. Many served as volunteers in shelters and Evacuation centres.

Outside our region, square dancers sent messages of concern and offers of help via email and Facebook. Square dancers are indeed a family. We thank you sincerely for your friendship and service.



4 km from the Turner's house.



## A Unique Evacuation Adventure

by Patricia McKay  
(Williams Lake dancer)

Like hundreds of other people I was evacuated during the wildfire season this past summer. My sister Susan, (who was on holiday from England) and I were on vacation in Wells, B.C. On the day we were due to leave the roads were closed. Later we heard people were coming north from Williams Lake, so I presumed we could travel south. However, there was a road block at McAllister and we were turned back and told to go to Quesnel or Prince George. Instead we chose to return to Wells and the Hubs Motel where we remained for the duration of the evacuation period.

Every day we drove into Barkerville where we always found plenty to occupy us during those three weeks. While exploring the town we became well acquainted with the various street musicians, actors, staff at the front desks and those working in the stores as well as the ones who took part twice a day in the theatre shows.

We were the only evacuees at the time and were spoilt by everyone - which, of course, we enjoyed. At C. Strouss I was handed a free coffee each morning, and other Barkerville staff treated us to supper occasionally and sometimes even a glass of wine! One afternoon we were ushered into the theatre free of charge, and the owners of the Saloon offered us the use of their house in Quesnel if, for any reason, we had to leave Wells. The owners of The Hubs Motel were extremely kind and supportive during our stay, even going as far as to pick up our medication in Quesnel. The lady who ran one of the bed and breakfast hotels invited us for afternoon tea. Later she gave us a tour of the beautifully furnished house as it would have been in the late 1800's - early 1900's. Another time the blacksmith surprised us with a handsome gift each of a piece of ironwork we had been watching him create in the forge.

Although Barkerville was not as crowded as usual nor the stores as busy, visitors still walked the main

street, taking in the historical enactments and entertainment offered on and off all day. Several rode the horse-drawn wagon to the Richfield Courthouse - including Susan and I, to watch the re-enactment of a murder trial that had occurred during the town's early days, while others took a turn around the settlement in a stagecoach.

However, the numbers were far below the usual and entertainers found themselves playing to scant audiences at times, but never-the-less the shows still went on. Cemetery and town tours were on offer every day, and services were held at regular times in St. Saviour's Church.

As much as we were able, Susan and I helped advertise the fact that, in spite of the fires, the historic town of Barkerville was open for business as usual. We appeared on their website as well as on the radio, although unfortunately we were listed as being from Clinton instead of Williams Lake.

On our last day of evacuation we dressed in period costume - courtesy of L.A. Blanc Photography Gallery. We paraded up and down the main street in long frocks, cute old-fashioned boots and hats decorated with flowers, feathers and ribbons. As we watched the last afternoon street show of the day, given by the musicians, we were pulled out of the audience to join in the final performance of the "Rattling Bog" action song - a song we had finally learned after three weeks of trying! We were then presented with a certificate each of Honorary Citizenship and were told we were now official "Barkervillians"! We were also adopted into the Barkerville 'Family'.

We truly appreciated the kindness and friendship offered to us by the people of this small community - including Wells. In spite of the trauma of those three weeks of evacuation they had made our stay one of enjoyment by offering us friendship, laughter and support.

On returning to Williams Lake I found my home was unscarred, the garden had bravely carried on without me, and my sister was finally able to fly back to her home - just three weeks later than originally planned. We were - and are - amongst the lucky ones.

# REGION REFLECTIONS

## Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways

by Anne Christie

Some of our dancers had exciting spring travels including **Jan and Bill Cave**, and **Cathy and Glen Davidson**, who did a historic hiking trip along Hadrian's Wall in northern England. **Madge Struthers and Gil McCall** enjoyed a long cruise voyage through the Panama Canal. **Dana Ball** was treated (for a significant birthday!) to a trip through the US with her granddaughters.

The Whirlaways danced in downtown Williams Lake on July 1st to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary. We had one square dancing and lots of spares to trade off, a good thing considering the 30+ degrees heat. It was fun with **Nick** and also **Bill Cave** calling. Unfortunately the audience was small as there were many activities spread out across the city.

It was a summer we will never forget with Williams Lake surrounded on all sides by fire. Some of our dancers who attended the Cloverdale Festival faced highway closures and were not able to return home by their usual direct routes. Many of us left Williams Lake early due to the proximity of fires to residences, and the thick smoke. It was hard to believe when the entire city of Williams Lake and surrounding areas were evacuated on July 15th. Most of our club members were fortunate to have relatives or friends to stay with in Prince George, Kamloops area, Okanagan and the Coast. Some of our club members were evacuated from their homes for a full month.

Williams Lake residents are so thankful to the host cities who went above and beyond in offering services to evacuees and their animals. Numerous friendly volunteers worked long hours cooking meals and processing various ESS forms, and also walking and feeding dogs and horses. Host cities also offered significant discounts to

evacuees at local stores and restaurants, and free admission to city facilities. Some Prince George dancers graciously offered their homes and properties to evacuated Whirlaway dancers.

When the smoke finally cleared, **Nick and Mary Anne** hosted a potluck barbecue on August 31st. The weather cooperated nicely and it was great to get together after the crazy summer and hear all the stories. The question of the evening was, "Where did you go for the evacuation?" Some of the guests stayed for a bit of square dancing afterwards. Nick even had some fire theme songs to dance to!

Congratulations to several of our dancers who returned from the 55+ Games in Vernon with medals: **Pat Harton** with four gold medals in track and field; and **Ellen Wieve and Madge Struthers** with a silver medal in floor curling.

The Whirlaways have enjoyed having Lac La Hache dancers **Kai and Irene Rasmussen** joining us on Thursday nights this fall.

*Merry Christmas*

Join the Stampede Whirlaways  
for their

**Christmas Dinner and  
Dance**

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017**

Child Development Center  
690 North 2nd Avenue  
Williams Lake

**Dinner at 6:00 PM - Dancing will Follow  
Mainstream and New Dancers**

**Whirlaway Members - \$5.00  
Guests - \$8.00**

Donations to the Food Bank Hamper will  
be most appreciated.

**Dana** [dball@telus.net](mailto:dball@telus.net)  
**Nick** [nmtturner@telus.net](mailto:nmtturner@telus.net)

(If possible, let us know you are  
coming so we can be sure to have  
the right amount of food available.)

**The Vanderhoof Drifting Squares.**

By Sandi Jespersen

For such a busy summer, I feel very little got done. The smokey skies prevented some traveling and the lack of rain made it hard to get the gardens to produce. We had the sprinkler on most days (good thing there is a well-supplied well).

We were very lucky and saw only a handful of smokey days (unlike Kamloops, Williams Lake and Prince George.) Some of our dancers didn't let the forest fires stop them from traveling and others just stayed home.

Several of the group (**Dave, Jerita, Terry, Dolores and Steve**) made it to the Prince George Jamboree. **Sandi and Heather** were at the Jamboree selling used square dance dresses and men's shirts. Heather was enticed to join in one square and tried out Mainstream for a tip. Good experience!

Jerita and Terry also went to the **Williams Lake Jamboree** at the end of May. Sandi and Bob were in Victoria in April, down to the Fraser Valley for Sandi's brother-in-law's funeral, and then to Sunshine Valley and Chilliwack for 2 weeks in September.

Weeds in my garden took over the spuds but we still watered and we got some rain, which other parts of the Cariboo didn't get.

In the summer, the Vanderhoof Drifting Squares danced in Fort St. James with **Dolores** and **Gys** calling. At the Vanderhoof Fall Fair in August, we danced for the fair crowd (all three of us calling) and now we are back to dancing at the hall.

On October 19th, we held our "youth" dance (any inexperienced dancers) and there were 9 children out to learn the skills of square dancing. For one hour they smiled and laughed and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I look forward to seeing a few or more of them come to join our regular new dancers' group with the Drifting Squares.

This fall we have had 3 new dancers join the group. **Ray and Fay Bartsch and AnneEve Riggen.** Ray

is a recently retired teacher (non dancer!) who has a subbing job one day a week teaching beginning square dance using the Moving and Grooving programme. He's getting his square dance feet wet with our group, and staying one step ahead of his students. Glad to have you on board.

We continue to dance Thursdays at the United Church Hall on Church Street in Vanderhoof. Call Sandi 250-567-2088 for further info. Usually we start with rounds at 6:30, new dancers at 7:00 for one hour, and Mainstream until 9:30. We have three callers: **Sandi** and **Dolores** call every week and **Gys Koops** comes from PG to help with calling the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Our next fun dance - our Christmas dance, will be December 14th. Pot luck dinner at 5:30, rounds at 6:30, New Dancers at 7:00 and Mainstream at about 8:00 until 9:30. We are not dancing from December 15th until we return on January 4th. The first dance in January is our Hat Dance. Come and wear a hat and dance for free.

**2018 dance schedule:**

February 15th is our Pot Luck/Valentine's Dance (same times as Christmas dance - Sandi and Dolores calling)

March 22 is our St. Patty's Dance (same times as Christmas dance - all 3 callers)

April 12th is our club's 15th Birthday and pot luck... same times as Christmas dance - all 3 callers)

May 10th will be our last dance for the year.... pot luck and dance - all three callers - same times as Christmas Dance

We welcome out of town dancers and wish you safe travels and a Merry Christmas to all.

.....  
• **Tongue-in - Cheek Advice** from one Australian •  
• caller to another. Let's hope our callers don't pay •  
• attention! •  
•  
• *Take no notice of the speed of your delivery. If •*  
• *they break down because you are calling at a •*  
• *speed you like, then it is up to them to catch up to •*  
• *you. Remember it is their problem, not yours.* •  
•  
•.....

## Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

Here we are for another year of square and round dancing - catchy music, smiles, laughter, exercise for the mind and body. (We had one Monday in each of June, July, and August for us to keep in touch, and keep 'on our toes'. We had guest dancers who were traveling from Tennessee to Alaska, about to take their RV on a ferry up our west coast.)

We appreciate the skills of the ever motivated, mellow **Gys Koops**, our caller. We enjoy also, **Dolores Young** and **Jolanda Van Dyk** for stepping in now and then to call. **Gary Dean** is cueing the round dancing. We welcome our new President, **Bev Rein**, the rest of the Executive and volunteers, plus the returning dancers, (At a May ceremony 6 graduated, and 'Angel' danglers for name badges were presented to members who are positive helpers for learners.)...and we welcome 12 new ones for this season.

Near the end of last season our dance night was 'checked out' by The Citizen newspaper, and by CKPG TV for a video spot. We regularly had 4 squares of dancers. Our last regular dance was a Crocs night - a bit different.

Demo squares danced for Gateway Complex, and 11 dancers from our club traveled to Williams Lake for their jamboree. Dolores and Jolanda were guest callers on Sunday morning.

Last I heard, **Gervin and Cathy H.** took in 8 jamborees! Although I didn't get a 'blurb' from others in our club, I know we have several who take in dance weekends in other communities....each an excellent experience.

Our special June Jamboree, 'Lookin' Back' was in honor of our 60th anniversary; lots of reminiscing and conversation; some recognizing dancers and callers / cuers in the huge poster reprints of photos from the past many years. One hundred and seven dancers signed in from Saskatoon, Edmonton, Vancouver, New Westminster, Mission, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Hixon, Dawson Creek, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James and Terrace, plus many 'friends of



square and round dancing' who no longer dance. Up to 8 squares were on the floor. Special guests included: **Ken Crisp**, BCS&RD Federation President who presented our club with a certificate and the 60th anniversary crest for our banner, **Norm Cox**, for the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society, who also presented a congratulatory certificate, **Shirley Bond**, MLA for Prince George, Valemount, **Mike Morris**, MLA for Prince George Mackenzie, and **Murry Krause**, Councillor City of Prince George, representing Mayor Lyn Hall. Our renowned guest callers/cuers were high energy **Jerry Jestin and Murray Few**.

Members of our club danced at the band shell in Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park end of June. A thunderstorm threatened but didn't materialize, so 'on with the show!'

In August our club was invited to join in a demo dance for Caledonia Day at Fort St James National Historic Site.

Recently, end of September, we had enough dancers for 6 squares, and enjoyed visitors from Ireland, and guests from Manitoba who square danced in their earlier years.

In October we had Northern Twisters T-shirts for sale, a draw, and second hand dance clothing for sale, and a Hallowe'en costume dance.

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(Continued from Page 5)

We're looking forward to our Snowflake weekend November 3rd, 4th at Knox United with calling / cueing by **Merv Meyer** and **Sandy Gregson-Meyer** from Kamloops, bringing encouragement, challenge, and genuine warmth. Plans are to have new square dance clothing for sale.

'Live Lively...Square Dance'...ask about getting stickers for your vehicle.

Feel free to browse our website [www.northerntwisters.ca](http://www.northerntwisters.ca) and you can check us out on Face Book.

### Other PG News

**Ray L.** at 83, has taken leave of square dancing for some months now awaiting surgery on one knee (likely from jumping off and on boxcars, signaling / switching over his 35 years on the railroad). He's active in other ways: in June volunteering for a Railroad And Forestry Museum with train rides and his music; for a touring Vintage Car Club of around 200 supper guests and on hand as conductor of the mini train for Downtown Summer Fest, then for 2 days at the museum for a Hallowe'en theme.

I (Julie) was grateful to be able to go on a bus adventure with my youngest grandchild, age 7, mainly to take in all the West Edmonton Mall has to offer: bookstore, midway, climbing maze, aquarium and show, mini golf....but, the Rockies, Science World, McEwan University dorms, and even city bus routes, were an education.

I also took my annual 'vacation from reality' and drove to Penticton, and met up with 5 friends for the Elvis Festival. I love the emotions and memories stirred up by the singular focus for 3 days. I just got home and some main highways were closed due to forest fires. My sister from 150 Mile House, and husband, with 2 large dogs were evacuated to Prince George for over 16 days. No power back home all that time meant 2 deep freezes and 2 fridges full of food were lost but.....grateful that their home and home business weren't destroyed.) Williams Lake square dancers were on my mind....a stressful and demanding time.

I made monthly Dawson Creek road trips to see friends and family and found out I had taught the 2 grandchildren of a fellow from my school days around 1959....small and cozy world!

**Maurice and Adele Mingay** spent September traveling around Ireland with their daughter and son-in-law. He grew up in Ireland so was able to talk about the history and show them places of interest. They had their own tour guide. Roads were narrow and winding with lots of traffic in cities. Lush countryside. People were fun and very friendly.

### Theme Idea to Add to Your Collection

At a CALLERLAB convention the suggestion of "Family Night" was given as a fun theme for a dance.

It was suggested that everyone bring their baby pictures & have a game/contest to try and match the photos to the person as they are now.

The caller and cuer could use songs that reference the family and some of the suggestions are:

Daddy Sang Bass  
He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother,  
Papa Was A Rolling Stone,  
Baby Face,  
Beautiful Baby,  
When I'm 64,  
Good Hearted Woman,  
Grandma's Feather Bed,  
Grandpa,  
Old Time Preacher Man,  
Only Daddy That Will Walk the Line,  
Thank Heaven for Little Girls.  
Mom and Dad's Waltz  
Sing the Blues to Daddy  
Santa Looks a lot like Daddy  
Daddy's Little Girl Waltz  
Hello Mother, Hello Father  
Sister Kate  
Grandfather's Clock



*The B.C. Square and Round Dance Federation*

*wishes you and yours  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year !*

**Ken Crisp, President**  
**Bill Wood, 1st VP**  
**Bill Morey, 2nd VP**  
**Pat Zeeman, Treasurer**  
**Carla Gyle, Secretary**  
**Norm Cox, Past President**



## LAC LA HACHE CARIBOOTERS

by Bill Rose

The Lac La Hache Caribooters met on Monday October 16th , 2017 to decide if we were going to carry on dancing for the upcoming season.

It was decided that starting October 23rd, 2017 we will commence dancing every two weeks. The schedule will be - 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. for Rounds and 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. for Squares.

Anyone that would like to join us would be most welcome. Please phone prior to leaving in case of a problem, Helen at 250-396-4311 or Laverne at 250-396-7322.

As our group ages it is getting more and more difficult for some members to dance every tip, so we may end up with some rests between.

It was also decided that we would try to advertise in the local media to recruit some new dancers.

We are holding our Christmas Dance and supper on December 11th, 2017 , dancing from our usual times starting at 1:30. Dinner is going to be catered and will start at 5:00 P.M.. Further details to follow regarding costs and times of all events.

### **Do you know how Allemande Left got its name?**

An Australian newsletter for callers reports that because this is such an important step, a naming committee was formed in 1887.

A long, hard debate ensued. Near the end, Al Carmichael and his wife gave up and went home to milk the cows.

When the committee chairman got up to announce the verdict, he first noted that **Al and Mandy left.** (Groan!)



Dear Fellow Dancers, Festival Goers, and Friends,

Although B.C. Festival 2017 is now finished, the smiles, the friendships, and the enthusiasm will go on as we all return home and share our stories with our friends. The Festival could not have been the success it was without the support and encouragement of all square and round dancers in your region, and you all deserve to take a bow for coming over to dance and enjoy the first Festival that B.C. has seen in a long time. It was gratifying, after the work, the planning, and the arranging of everything that a Festival entails, to see such a wonderful turnout of dancers from far and wide, both regionally and internationally. We hope your investment of dancing time and visiting will pay you dividends in memories and stories for years to come. We welcome you all again, anytime, and encourage you to put some thought into registering soon for B. C. Festival 2019, July 10-14, 2019 in Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada, contact [www.bcfestival2019](http://www.bcfestival2019), phone 1-800-335-9433 or 1-250-833-9227/1-250-462-5217. And again, many thanks and best wishes from our committee, our region, and ourselves.

Yours truly,  
Wendy Krueger and David McVige, Co-Chairpersons  
B. C. Festival 2017

## On Safari with Williams Lake Square Dancers

by Anne Christie

On May 26-28, 2017 it was “Safari Fun” at the Long House as the Williams Lake square and round dancers gathered for their 59th Jamboree weekend of non-stop dancing fun.

The hall had been transformed into the African plains with large murals of animals, colorful birds, exotic foliage, and even a Safari jeep adorning the stage. These fantastic decorations were the result of months of work by **Mary Anne Turner** and other members of the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways Square Dance Club.



Visitors, dressed in vibrant jungle and leopard prints, or pith helmets and khaki, attended the jamboree from all over the province, including Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan, Prince George, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Dawson Creek, and Skeena.

Guest caller **Dustin McGifford**, from Kelowna, who celebrated his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and local callers **Nick and Mary Anne Turner** kept up a lively atmosphere for more than eight hours of dancing fun and great exercise over the weekend.

Guests were entertained during dancing intermissions with a safari skit, where sound effects were created with various humorous implements; and a group who drummed out a tribal beat with sticks on cardboard giraffe necks.

Sunday morning's events included guest callers **Jim and Liz Ellis** from Enderby River Dancers, **Jolanda VanDyk** and **Dolores Young** from the Prince George Northern Twisters, and **Ken Crisp**, President of the BC Square and Round Dance Federation

Over the weekend, guests kept saying “You have such a great club!” And I have to agree, it is remarkable how much energy all the club volunteers cheerfully devote to the event to ensure our visitors have a wonderful time.

At the end of the event, I was amazed that our club took down and packed away the extensive decorations, packed away all the food, cleaned the kitchen and washed the floors, all in less than an hour. Great teamwork!

**Stay tuned for details about our next Jamboree. We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Stampede Whirlaways and honouring our caller, Nick Turner, for 40 years of service to the club.**

**The theme will be “Under the Big Top”. It will be held May 25th - 27th, 2018  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**



## **BC Festival 2017** by Jan and Bill Cave

(who reside in Kersley and dance with the Stampede Whirlaways in Williams Lake )

Early July found us at our first B.C. Square and Round Dance Festival. Held at the Cloverdale fair grounds, it was three and a half days of opportunity, and what a great experience!

Each afternoon and evening there were regular Mainstream and Round dance tips (with callers from B.C., Alberta, Washington and Idaho) plus a variety of workshops at varying levels.

We attended an “Introduction to Plus” and also a Phase Two Waltz workshop, really enjoying both. We also had a great time just taking a break to watch workshops on Phase Three Rumba and Phase Four Bolero (a little over our heads, but “wow”)!

There was a remarkable range of Callers and Cuers, some of whom were truly amazing, with several duets and trios and even a quartet for the final square. **Bill**, who is learning to call, volunteered to do a couple of tips and was given one on the first afternoon and another that evening. He enjoyed getting experience preparing for, and guest calling at a larger event.

We met dancers from all around and **Jan** even met a lady from Australia who just happened to see a poster for the event while visiting B.C. She insisted that “Australia has the best Callers” ..... hmmm .... may have to check it out!

The on-site camping offered a host couple, power, frequent shuttles to the dance venues, showers and restrooms (clean!) and round-the-clock security patrols. Of course, the best part was spending some of our “free” time visiting with old friends and making new ones.

Attending the BCS&RDF Annual General Meeting was an education in itself and worth the time to show representation from our region.

Did we mention it was unusually hot?!! Temperatures were blistering at times and even multiple huge cooling fans had difficulty keeping up.

Many dancers ignored their usual attire to opt for cooler shorts or no crinolines. Thankfully, there was plenty of water provided by the organizers.

Of course, the heat we experienced couldn't compare with the wildfires that started up our way that weekend, so we headed home a bit early sadly missing the “Trail out dance” in Abbotsford. Bet it was great, too!

Even the thirteen-and-a-half-hour drive home (so many roads were closed by then) didn't dampen our enjoyment - what a wonderful time!



**Bill Cave calling at the Festival**

## Representing Region 5 by Karen Piffko

It was a beautiful April morning when **Dana Ball** and I set out for the BCS&RDF Board of Directors Meeting in Abbotsford. We were two of the Region 5 delegates and it was all new to us. I felt like I was on holiday as we drove down Highway 97 and into the Fraser Canyon.

Traveling down the canyon in April is like taking a trip into spring. The sun was shining on the beautiful fresh green leaves of the trees and soon we began to see flowers in bloom.

The next morning we all met at the hall for the meeting. It was a bit overwhelming to sit with all those people from around the province who keep the BCS&RD Federation operating. **Bill and Jan Cave** were there as the other two Region 5 Delegates. Bill is a great delegate as he has ability and experience at speaking at, and later, reporting on meetings. Since he has already reported on this BOD, (see Bulletin # 21) I'll go on to the dance.

The Abbotsford Grand Squares hosted a square dance at the hall in the evening. Dana and I had talked earlier about how great it would be if people could be made aware of the 'fun' of square dancing. Well, if they had been at the hall that night they'd have certainly seen it!

The dancers were dressed in square dance clothes and wore smiles on their faces and they made all of us 'out of towners' feel so welcome. They were a joy to watch as they danced to the great calling of **Heather Wallace-Reynolds** and several guest callers.

The Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways are looking forward to welcoming those participants and other dancers from around the province to join us for our 60th Jamboree on May 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2018. It is always such a pleasure to see our old friends again. The club is already working on making it the best we've ever had and many of you know how enjoyable they have been.

Dana and I also attended the Region 5 A.G.M. in Prince George on June 3rd, 2017. It was great to meet representatives from the northern areas of our Region and to learn a bit more about how the group

operates. **Kae Stafford** was also there as a representative of the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways. A report on the business of this meeting is available on the Region 5 website at <http://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca>

'Looking Back' was the theme of the Northern Twisters 60th Jamboree which was held that evening. The wall photos of past jamborees and other memorabilia that decorated the hall brought back wonderful memories for us all.

Callers **Murray Few and Jerry Jestin** did their usual great job of keeping the dancers whirling around the floor. It was good to see so many familiar faces from all the clubs and we hope to see them all at the Whirlaways Jamboree in May 2018.

Dana and I have enjoyed the experience of representing Region 5 this year and look forward to next year's Federation B.O.D

*(Editors' note: Thank you Karen, Dana, Bill and Jan for taking the time to be Region 5 Delegates. We appreciate your dedication to the Region and to square dancing.)*

# CONVENTION 2018

London, Ontario, Canada  
July 19, 20, 21, 2018



LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE  
300 YORK ST.  
[www.londoncc.com](http://www.londoncc.com)

Enquiries:  
Phone: 519-396-9877 or 519-396-7228  
Toll free 1-866-206-6696 (in Canada)

Web: [www.squaredance.ca/2018](http://www.squaredance.ca/2018)

E-mail: [convention2018@squaredance.ca](mailto:convention2018@squaredance.ca)  
Post Office Mail: Convention 2018, c/o Lee & Sharon Cox  
12 Anne Marie Crescent, Kincardine, ON N2Z 2M9



20<sup>TH</sup> Canadian National Square & Round Dance Convention

## Bits n' Pieces

### The New Dancer Blues

Is your club finding it difficult to add new dancers to the membership? Is it discouraging? You are not alone. Below is a conversation that callers were having recently in a Facebook page that I follow.

*CALLER # 1*

*Week five: What was supposed to be a group of 23 Basic dancers is suddenly 17. Two of the dancers who were going to repeat the Basic, decided to try Mainstream. One couple did not come back. One lady suddenly lost her husband, so we don't expect to see her back. And my one single man from last year who had planned to come back now has a new lady friend and has not decided what to do.... So, 17 dancers, one of which is a male. Fun times!!!!*

*CALLER # 2*

*I thought I had a challenge with 1 couple and 3 single ladies! How are you working with that?*

*CALLER # 1 I have several women dancing the man's part. Happens every year - that some women have to do that. Our club is 25% men and 75% women. This class will change those percentages!!!*

*CALLER # 3 It's pretty typical of what happens to us all. We get all excited about a new class and slowly over a few weeks, numbers drop off. The reasons are many and varied, but the result is usually the same. I've learned to be happy if I can keep half of what I start with. Doesn't matter whether I start with 40 or with 6, half is what stays.*

*CALLER # 4 Hang in there! I have about 16 and most of them are women..last night a 93 year old showed up and I hope she stays: she's slower but she seems to understand what I tell her! Problem is, not everybody comes at once and very few Angels....(two guys and my wife last night) I only had 14 souls in the room last night. I am doing a lot of 2 couple teaches and we are learning how to rotate.*

*CALLER #5 and a 60% dropout rate*

### Dancing Back East

by Anne Christie (Williams Lake dancer)

In Nova Scotia and PEI, square dancing is really dancing in the round. **Anne Christie and Ray Coupe** took in some step dancing and square dancing lessons, and attended two barn dances when they travelled to Cape Breton for Celtic Colours.

In PEI they learned the 3 part Souris Set with a caller which involves lots of fast spinning, promenading, and right and left grand with an overhead turn to the next partner. The fiddling fisherman, **JJ Chaisson**, provided the high energy music. They also did Strip the Willow and a variation on Virginia Reel. It was great to see lots of young adults having a great time at the dance.

In Nova Scotia, they thought they had mastered the basic step dances, but that was at about half speed. It was a lot more difficult at full speed at the dance at West Mabou. The dancers were doing the Cape Breton set (with no caller) with live fiddlers and piano. Towards the end of the evening dancers take turns demonstrating their step dancing skills.



## REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2017/2018

(We have tried to be accurate but suggest phoning to confirm the event before travelling.)



WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Nov. 3-4 2017	Prince George	Snowflake Dance	Merv & Sandy Meyer
Dec. 9, 2017	Williams Lake	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Dec. 11, 2017	Lac La Hache	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Dave Abbs, Helen Hall
Dec. 11, 2017	Prince George	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Gys Koops
Dec. 14, 2017	Vanderhoof	Christmas Potluck and Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Jan. 20, 2018	Prince George	Robbie Burns Dance	TBA
Feb. 12, 2018	Prince George	Valentine's Day Dance	Panel
Feb. 15, 2018	Vanderhoof	Potluck Valentine's Dance	Sandi, Dolores
Feb. 26, 2018	Prince George	Theme Night - 50s and 60s	Panel
Mar. 3, 2018	Williams Lake	March Merriment & Pie Night Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Mar. 12, 2018	Prince George	St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance	Panel
Mar. 22, 2018	Vanderhoof	St. Paddy's Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Apr. 9, 2018	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Panel
Apr. 12, 2018	Vanderhoof	Club's 15th Birthday	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
May 4-5, 2018	Prince George	61st Spring Jamboree Weekend	Murray Few calling and cueing
May 25-27, 2018	Williams Lake	60th Anniversary Jamboree -Under the Big Top theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
July 19-21, 2018	London, Ontario	Canadian National Festival 2018	Many Callers & Cuers

If you wish to submit an article to the Cariboo Connection, contact us at [nmturner@telus.net](mailto:nmturner@telus.net) The deadline date for the February issue is **January 18, 2018.**

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