



Toronto & District Square and Round Dance Association

Newsletter - September 2020

September has arrived without our usual excitement of beginning a new dance season. This time of year many clubs would be involved with ideas for recruitment and just looking forward to getting together with our dance friends after a summer break.

Covid-19 has certainly redefined our lives, not for the better. Yes we have had time to read, sew, garden, creative cooking or other at home activities. But for most of us social isolation is not a way to live.

Both the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation and our Association cannot recommend that clubs start up now. We must abide by the health authorities and their recommended guidelines. At the present time most dance facilities, whether they are schools, churches or community centres are not renting their facilities for dancing.

Having said this there are opportunities for dancing in your own home. Virtual dancing through Zoom is being offered multiple times each week, from basic to challenge. The callers are calling two couple calls. Most people are doing this with just a couple or a single dancer but it will be easier if you can find four people to dance together. You will need to download the Zoom app and then it is easy to sign in. Even if you don't want to try dancing this way, listening to the calls and thinking about them will keep them in your memory. For a listing of virtual dancing visit the Federation webpage: <https://squaredance.on.ca/events-3/>

Congratulations to Don Peirce who was awarded the Trillium Long Service Award by the Federation in honour of his 73 years in dancing and his work in the various clubs he danced with. He is currently an active member of Lift Lock Squares and recently celebrated his 93rd birthday.

Congratulations to Susan Cox from Triangle Squares; Adele Pick from Arrowhead Squares and to Len and Helen Hachey from Cloverleaf Squares and Lift Lock Squares. They were awarded the Toronto & District Recognition Merit Award for their exceptional involvement in and promotion of square and round dancing.

If you or your club would like to nominate people for any of these awards, please go to the Federation and Association website for more information. (Federation for Trillium Awards and the Association for the Recognition Merit Award from T&D).

Some news from the Federation. Membership and insurance will be paid by the Canadian Society of Square and Round Dancing for the year 2020/21. The current membership lists will be used. However when you start dancing again and recruit new dancers, you must collect and remit their insurance and membership with their names, to the treasurer of the Federation.

Regarding claims for re-imbusement of expenses in relation to recruitment, please note that claims for caller fees for doing demos will not be reimbursed. It is expected that callers will donate their time for recruitment demos.

The joint T&D dance with Lift Lock Squares which was scheduled for Saturday, October 3 in Peterborough has been cancelled. Watch our events page for any further events which have to be cancelled because of Covid-19.

At this time we hope that all clubs are doing their best to keep contact with their members; whether it is through emails, the phone tree, zoom meetings or person to person contact. Many people are feeling isolated and rather bored! Some clubs have held outdoor. social distancing socials which have been well received. The friendliness and social aspect of our clubs is just as important as dancing so please, keep in touch with your members.

Hopefully 2021 will bring an end to this pandemic and we can all meet again on the dance floor. In the meantime, keep well.

Howard and Jean Lander

Presidents, T&D Association.