



Meri Squares was formed in September 1969 when new caller couple Bob and Lise Desrosiers and four couples started dancing at MERIvale High School. An Executive was elected for the 1970-71 dance season. Caller Ross (Margaret) Hoople was engaged beginning with the 1971-72 season. Meri Squares commenced Plus dancing in 1980.

Over the past 50 years, Meri Squares has moved locations several times and has danced at the following venues: Merivale High School (1969-1977); J.S. Woodsworth Secondary School (1977-1984); Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School (1984-1985); J.H. Putnam Public School (1985-1996 with the Plus group at Agincourt Public School 1988-1996); St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall (1996-1999); St. Martin's Anglican Church Hall (1999-2003); Westminster Presbyterian Church Hall (2003-present). Since September 2003, the Basic dancers and the Mainstream dancers have danced in separate halls on Tuesday evenings. The Plus dancers have danced on Thursday evenings.

At the Meri Squares' *Silver Swing* 25th Anniversary dance the club's original banner was retired and the current banner and badge were created – burgundy with white graphics. For over 25 years, the Meri Squares and its members have supported The Snowsuit Fund - at our Christmas dinner/dance the Mitten Tree has been decorated with knitted items and cash donations. Other charitable organizations supported over the years include the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Westboro Food Bank.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

	Presidents	Callers		
		Basic	Mainstream	Plus
1969-70		Bob Desrosiers		
1970-71	Gerry & June Cheverie	“		
1971-72	Verne & Lavonne Rheault	Ross Hoople		
1972-73	Frank & Marge Minty	“		
1973-74	Lorne & Connie Bowerman	“		
1974-75	Micky & Lucy Whelan	“		
1975-76	Pete & Lois Olive	“		
1976-77	Jack & Louise Kelly	“		
1977-78	Maurice & Claire Armstrong	“		
1978-79	Jim & Margaret Jackson	“		
1979-80	Gerry & Gail Clarke	“		
1980-81	Ron & Robbie Horton	“		
1981-82	Jim & Judy Wakeman	“		
1982-83	Ed & Mary Lou Middlemis	“		
1983-84	Del & Marina Christensen	“		
1984-85	David & Fern McGale	Ross Hoople & Gary Young ¹		Ross Hoople & Gary Young ¹
1985-86	Tom & Joan Steward	John Charman ²	Ross Hoople	Ross Hoople
1986-88	Bruce & Joan Riley	“	“	“
1988-90	Phil & Shirley Conquer	“	“	“
1990-91	Jim & Margaret Jackson	“	“	“
1991-92	Frank & Carine Murphy	Ross Hoople	“	“

1992-94	Harold & Dalanah Harrison	Les Brekstad ³ & Ross Hoople	“	“
1994-95	Rick Street & Lois Bain	Ross Hoople	“	“
1995-97	David and Doris Moore	Wayne Ruahala ⁴ & John Charman ⁵	Ross Hoople & John Charman ⁵	“
1997-98	Joanne Braaksma & Bob Washington	John Charman	John Charman	John Charman ⁵
1998-00	Kevin & Lori Spence	“	“	“
2000-02	Anne Graham & Earl Gregor	“	“	“
2002-04	Alex Beaton & Lila Mallette	John Charman & Wendy VanderMeulen ⁶	“	“
2004-06	Ken & Theresa Grolway	Wendy VanderMeulen	“	“
2006-09	Jacky Scheel	“	“	“
2009-10	Anne Graham & Bob Jackson	“	“	“
2010-11	Marilyn Collins	“	“	“
2011-12	Maurice & Joannie Demers	“	“	“
2012-14	Marilyn Collins	“	“	“
2014-16	Ann Davelaar	“	“	“
2016-18	Harold Hedley & Wendy McCracken	“	“	“
2018-20	Francois Desmarais & Barbara McLellan	“	“	“
2020-23	Lamar Mason ⁷	Wendy VanderMeulen ⁸		“

1 Gary Young did fill in calling in 1984 and 1985 when Ross Hoople had medical problems

2 John Charman called for the Basics in January 1986 to April 1991

3 Les Brekstad called for the Basics from September to December 1992

4 Wayne Ruahala called for the Basics from September 1995 to February 1996

5 John Charman started calling for the Basics and Mainstream in 1996 and the Plus in 1997

6 Wendy VanderMeulen started calling for the Basics in September 2003

7 COVID 19 disrupted dancing in March 2020 and the first regular return to dance was September 2022

8 The Club introduced Social Square Dancing (SSD) in September 2022

TRILLIUM AWARDS

1997 – Ross Hoople

2004 – John Charman & Wendy VanderMeulen

2010 – Ken & Theresa Grolway

2013 – Anne Graham

2020 – June Tripp (Long Service Award)

2021 – Barbara Englehart

2023 – Lamar Mason