

MERI SQUARES

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! What a glorious fall weekend we had...sunny skies, crisp temperatures and multi-coloured leaves. A perfect weekend to celebrate with friends and family.

SSD

Meri Squares has welcomed 7 new SSD dancers. They are all doing very well and keeping Wendy busy teaching new moves at a breakneck speed! This week (October 14) will be a slower week to allow everyone to take a break and consolidate what they have learned. Just a reminder...never hesitate to ask for a review of a move you are unsure of -- you can be certain you aren't the only one! Feeling a bit overwhelmed and can't remember a specific call? That's normal! You've only been dancing for a month...it takes time and practice. No one is expecting perfection.

Plus

We also have lots of new Plus dancers on Thursdays: some are our own experienced SSD dancers as well as a good group of dancers from Ottawa Date Squares and Kemptville Gremlins, who have joined us. Combined with returning Meri Squares Plus members, it makes for a good crowd on the dance floor. John has now taught all the Mainstream moves and will be launching into the Plus calls this week. As with new SSD dancers, don't hesitate to ask John if you need a call reviewed or you have a question. It is a TEACH program...we learn through practice.

Halloween Celebration – Tuesday, October 28 at Dulude Arena

This year ALL Meri Squares ghouls and goblins will be celebrating on Tuesday night, October 28 at the J.A. Dulude Arena. Costumes are encouraged but not required: feel free to break out your finest orange and black if you are not a costume person. Wendy is sure to have some great Halloween music to entertain us with.

We would encourage anyone whose last name begins with the letters A to M to bring along a tasty treat to share with members. Don't worry, those in the N to Z group will have their chance later in the year.

There will be regular dancing for Plus members on Thursday, October 30 but no specific Halloween celebration.

Tuesday, November 18 – Used square dance clothing sale

For the last few years, Meri Squares has held a sale of used square dance clothing. New dancers are often interested in acquiring a traditional short or skirt to wear at special events. Items are donated by dancers who are no longer dancing or individuals no longer wearing traditional attire. You can get great bargains! \$5 for almost all items: skirts, crinolines, shirts, etc. Plan to come early on November 18 and find some treasures.

Upcoming dances

There are many dances held throughout the dance year. Some are organized by individual clubs and some by the Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association (EOSARDA). Each dance specifies the levels that are being called. It may be a dance for newcomers: dancers who are only part-way through the SSD or Basic program. It may be for experienced dancers at the Plus or Advanced level.

Meri Squares strongly encourages its dancers at all levels to go to dances outside the club. This gives you a chance to hear other callers and meet other dancers. Callers always call a program that reflects the level of the dancers. You will NOT end up at a dance for new SSD dancers where they call moves you have not learned! That would not be fun for anyone. Dancing to other callers makes you a better dancer!

You do not need a partner to attend. If you need a ride, speak to Lamar and we will see what we can do.

You can check the EOSARDA calendar at <https://www.eodance.ca/calendar.php> and click on any listed dance. The details will be there. Meri Squares also puts out flyers on the table for upcoming dances. Feel free to pick one up. Questions: ask Lamar or another Exec member.

That said, here are a couple of dances that dancers might be interested in. Note that they are for graduate dancers. The Christmas dance on December 6 will be for our newest SSD dancers too!

- Falling Leaves and Canadian Tartan dance: October 19, 2025 in Alexandria
<https://www.eodance.ca/flyers/251019TartanFallingLeaves.pdf>
- All Day Sashay: November 15, 2025 in Ottawa
<https://www.eodance.ca/flyers/2151115AllDaySashay.pdf>
- Tartans and Kilts: November 23 in Cornwall
<https://www.eodance.ca/flyers/251123Tartans&Kilts.pdf>
- EOSARDA Christmas Party: December 6 in Prescott
SSD to Advanced dancing with our own John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen calling

Suggestions? Ideas for making dancing more fun? Questions? Please reach out to any member of the Meri Squares Executive team. You can find our pictures at <https://merisquares.ca/wp/about-us> so you know who we are!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in their Halloween finery on October 28. Till then, have fun dancing!

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