



MERI SQUARES NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

Happy 2026 dancers! The new year is just a few days away and I am always excited about what another year will bring. Despite the horrible weather that closed 2025, we will all cross our fingers that the winter storms of 2026 will choose to come on days that we are not scheduled to dance! Remember to check the website if the weather looks questionable: we will post any cancellations by 4 pm on a dance night.

Thank you!

A special thank you to the main organizers of our amazing Christmas Party on December 11: Joyce Fleury and Susan Vail. It was awesome! Thanks to all members who contributed to decorations and so much food! John and Wendy provided very celebration appropriate music, and a great time was had by everyone.

Inviting new dancers

We will hold two Open Houses on January 6 and 13, 2026 for anyone interested in giving square dancing a try. As we all know, once you try it, you get hooked! Please reach out to friends and family, community members and others and invite them to take that first step. The location is the J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Avenue, from 7 pm to 9 pm. If you would like a copy of the flyer to print and post, contact Lamar at lamarmason4@gmail.com.

January start-up for returning dancers

Plus and Plus Teach dancers will start on Thursday, January 8 at 7:15 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. John will continue working through the Plus moves with the goal of having everyone ready for the Meri Mingle dance on February 28. Please do your best not to miss a teach session and definitely check out the online videos and resources available to refresh your memories. They can be found on our website: <https://merisquares.ca/wp/instructional-resources/>

Returning SSD dancers (and Plus dancers) are encouraged to come dance on January 6 and 13 to help out any newcomers. Full teach and dance for SSD will begin on January 20 from 7 to 9:30 pm.

Congratulations to our SSD graduates

At the Christmas party, we also recognized our most recent graduates of the SSD program: Jane Flook, Norma Gelowsky, Walter Gelowsky, Brenda Heming, Richard McGill, Christine Rosenblatt and Wade Williams. We hope to see you all back in January to perfect your skills!

Ottawa Snowsuit Fund

Once again Meri Squares members have shown their generosity. You donated \$310 and over 60 clothing items to the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund during our Christmas drive. Be assured that your donations were very much appreciated by those who will receive them. You all have very big hearts.

Upcoming events

January is the start of a new year and a new exciting dance session. There are so many fun events planned.

January 27: Dig out your wackiest beach attire. Meri Squares will celebrate Hawaiian Night for SSD and Plus dancers at the Dulude Arena.

February 7: Don't put your Hawaiian shirts away because the theme of EOSARDA's Frosty Fling this year is a Beach Party! Given the fun had at the EOSARDA Christmas Dance, I can't wait to see what is in store next! This dance is for all levels (except January SSD starters). It will be held at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott from 1 to 4 pm. Mark your calendars!

February 28: Meri Squares' very own Meri Mingle Plus Dance. This is our 3rd year of hosting a dance specifically for Plus dancers. Dancers will get 2.5 hours of great calling by our own John Charman. John will also introduce an A1 move, just to keep things interesting! Plan to be there and test your skills. Dancing is from 2 to 4:30 pm at St. Marks Church at 1606 Fisher Ave.

Square Time magazine`

Everyone on our mailing list will have recently received the email with the announcement of the latest edition of *Square Time*. This magazine is produced by EOSARDA (Eastern Ontario Square

and Round Dance Association). It contains the latest news from many clubs, notices of upcoming dances and useful information. Please take a minute to read it and see what is happening across square dancing in Eastern Ontario.

Take care everyone and we will all reconvene on the dance floor on January 6 to welcome the newest group of dancers to the square dance community! Angels at all levels are always welcome!

Lamar Mason
President