

MERI SQUARES

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Hello dancers:

We are already in the middle of March with only about 6 weeks left in our regular dance season. But it will be a very busy time: lots of club dancing and celebrations and lots of opportunities to dance with other clubs. I encourage you to check out the bulletins that you receive and seriously consider going to one of the available events. Your dancing skills will improve by dancing to different callers and with different dancers. And you will have FUN!

March dancing

Our Tuesday night dancing for Social Square Dancing (SSD) will be cancelled on March 17 as the hall at Dulude is unavailable. We have decided to not celebrate St. Patrick's Day officially on the Thursday for Plus, but you are, of course, welcome to wear your best green outfits!

Instead, we are planning a fun **Welcome to Spring Party on March 31** for both SSD and Plus at the Dulude Arena (941 Clyde Ave). We are hoping all Plus dancers will join the SSD members on this day. Wendy will be calling both Plus and SSD tips.

You can wear green for a late celebration of St. Patrick's Day, bunny ears for an early celebration of Easter, or fun spring clothes in hopes of encouraging the weather to be warm and sunny. If your last name begins with the letters M-Z, please consider bringing a snack to share if you are able.

Food Drive – March 31, 2026

March 31 will also be a food drive for Meri Squares. As many of us celebrate Passover and Easter, let's make this time of year also special for our less fortunate neighbours. The Westboro Region Food Bank has indicated that the following items, among others, would be appreciated: peanut butter 1kg and smaller; tooth brushes; tooth paste; baked beans in tomato sauce; macaroni and cheese; vegetarian stew or meat stew canned; oatmeal; canned sardines in tomato sauce; dates or date paste.

Mississippi Squares – March 28

Mississippi Squares is celebrating its 40th anniversary on March 28 from 2 to 4 pm. Advance tickets can be purchased from Colleen M. for \$12 or it is \$15 at the door. Mississippi Squares always puts on a great dance for ALL levels. I encourage everyone to consider this event in Carleton Place. Not sure about driving? Just ask an Exec member and we will see what can be arranged.

Meri Squares Annual General Meeting – April 16 – Executive positions

On Thursday, April 16, both SSD and Plus dancers are encouraged to come dance at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave at 7 pm. At 8:45 pm, we will begin our Annual General Meeting. Anyone who has paid their EOSARDA dues through Meri Squares (this includes all new SSD dancers), who pays sessional fees, or who dances regularly with Meri Squares is considered a “member” and entitled to participate and vote in the AGM.

You are also eligible to put your name forward for a position on the Executive. We need individuals committed to ensuring dancers have fun and positive dance opportunities and who are willing to assist in guiding the club. It is not onerous. All positions are open although we do have some returning incumbents. We are especially looking for someone willing to stand as Vice-President. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Executive, including Lamar or David Shackleton. Our Constitution can be found on the website:

<https://merisquares.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/MS-Constitution-2024-April-AGM.pdf>

Materials for the AGM will be distributed by April 1, 2026.

End of year celebration – April 30

Our SSD graduates will be celebrated at our end of year party on April 30, 2026. This will take place on Thursday at the Westminster location. More details will follow in a couple of weeks.

What happens next?

Meri Squares dances the third Tuesday of May, June, July and August from 7 to 9 pm at the Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Avenue. Both SSD and Plus will be called. If you are a new graduate of SSD, we encourage you to attend as many dance nights as possible during the summer to keep up your skills.

You will likely be seeing bulletins coming out from other clubs, and/or callers, in the next few weeks about other dance opportunities over the summer. This is a great way to keep your skills up or to learn a new level if you are very comfortable at your current level. Feel free to speak to your caller if you have any questions about dance levels.

Stay safe everyone as March’s unpredictable weather continues. Remember to check the website for cancellation announcements (merisquares.ca)

Lamar Mason
President