

MERI SQUARES NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Hello Meri Squares members.

This will be my last newsletter as your President. On Thursday, April 16 we will elect a new Executive to guide the club over the next year. I know you will be in good hands as everyone just wants to continue to dance, make friends and have fun.

While being President was not on my radar for this year, it has, as always, been a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of people to provide a positive, fun environment for everyone. It is a lot of work but made so much easier because volunteers always come forward to lend a hand. This is a wonderful organization, made up of caring people. Thanks for trusting me with the lead. I know you will all support the new team.

Annual General Meeting – April 16

On that note, a reminder that the **AGM** is scheduled for **Thursday, April 16 at 8:45 pm** at Westminster Presbyterian Church, **470 Roosevelt Ave.** Dancing for both SSD and Plus starts at 7:15 pm. The meeting generally lasts about 45 minutes to an hour. Anyone who dances regularly with Meri Squares is invited to attend, vote, share suggestions and participate. We encourage our newest members, in particular, to attend and let us know your thoughts on how we are doing as a welcoming (or not!) organization. The **2026 AGM package** is available online at <https://merisquares.ca/wp/agm-reports/>.

Parking on Roosevelt Avenue

As many of you know, there is virtually no parking on church property. On-street parking is available as is use of the parking lot at the corner of Roosevelt and Kenwood. Please note: due to construction on Roosevelt, the street is closed at Kenwood. If you want to park in front of the church, you have to access it from the north, off Byron or Richmond Road.

End of year celebration and “graduation” – Thursday, April 30

Our **wrap-up party will be held on Thursday, April 30**, again at Westminster Church as it offers us more space to come together. We will celebrate our graduating SSD and new Plus dancers. It has been a busy year of learning! Anyone who wishes may bring a light snack to share and the club will provide cake, tea, coffee and water. Everyone is invited! See you at 7:15 pm to 9:15 pm on April 30.

Food Bank Drive

The Westboro Region Food Bank wishes to thank everyone who so generously donated to the Meri Squares food bank drive on March 31. Your bountiful contributions were very much appreciated and needed. Thank you!

Club t-shirts

Members asked for them and they are now available to order! Meri Squares will be offering club t-shirts in maroon with a white pocket logo in cotton and performance (wicking) fabric. Order forms will be available starting April 14. We hope to place the order on April 24. Delivery will be after the end of dancing, but we will make sure you get them! Samples will be available for sizing. We are confirming prices at this time but will be between \$15 and \$20 in most cases (long sleeve cotton may be more). Payment upon delivery.

Take this opportunity to purchase a Meri Squares shirt to wear proudly to dance nights, special dances, club demonstrations and to advertise square dancing!

Summer dancing

Plus members will dance at Westminster on Thursday, May 7 to make up for a cancelled winter date.

Both Plus and SSD members are encouraged to attend the **club dance nights** at J.A. Dulude Arena, 941 Clyde Avenue on **Tuesday, May 19, June 16, July 21 and August 18** from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This is a great time to perfect those moves you learned and stay in touch with dancing friends. And yes, there is AC at Dulude.

Other summer dancing

There are lots of opportunities to dance during the summer with other clubs and at other events. I know some of you are going to the National Festival in Penticton, B.C. in July. There is still time for others to register. This is always an amazing event where you can dance with folks from all over the world. Visit <https://festival2026.squaredance.bc.ca/> for all the details. SSD dancers are welcome!

Check out the summer dance flyers that are on the table on dance nights. Callers have planned special weekly summer events as well as special dances from Napanee to Cornwall. You can also find them online at <https://www.eodance.ca/calendar.php>. Avoid the rust in September, dance through the summer.

Thanks for another great year of fun, friendship and dancing!

Lamar Mason
President