



CHATTER FROM THE CHIEF

Claudia Littlefair

High River Convention 2016

Kudos to the Rainbow Country Dancers in Nanton! Their club works their own Casino night, and in order to spend the money it must meet the Alberta Liquor & Gaming Control criteria. Convention fees qualify, as conventions offer workshops, learning opportunities to improve and upgrade dance skills, and a chance to make provincial and out-of-province contacts. The Nanton club offered to pay their members' registration fees. As a result, 28 couples and 4 singles signed up to come to Convention! A great opportunity to strengthen their club both socially and as dancers.

Square Dancing in 2050!

I came across an article written in 2001 by caller Patricia Wahle from California, who calls Basic through C4. Her article is titled "Solving the Age Gap". It was the original post to a new email list, "Square Dance 2050" which was to be a discussion group by people who expected to be square dancing in 2050 and wanted to discuss how to achieve that goal. In the end, not much happened with the group, but her article raised some interesting questions and comments that are still relevant 15 years later. The following are excerpts from the article (to read it in its entirety to:

<http://www.ceder.net/ArticleCoOp/viewsingle.php?RecordId=436>

"As I see it, one of our biggest obstacles to keeping square dancing alive is the age gap. I'm sure I don't need to inform any of you that square dancing hasn't done a very good job of being multi-generational. It needs to be multi-generational. In the 70's, square dancing was appealing to people between the ages of about 20 & 80, which was anybody born after 1950. Unfortunately, it is still appealing to anybody born after 1950, which is now people between the ages of 50 & 80. Having about 1/2 the attendance we had in the 70's is a mathematically sound result, because we're appealing to people within a 30 year span instead of in a 60 year span."

The article goes on to talk about some of the issues that plague square dancing such as lack of commitment to year-long lessons; music selection; singles; dress code; and competing activities. She ends her article by talking



about what the ideal square dance world would look like. **By comparison, how does your club measure up?**

"I guess my "dream" square dancing would:

- *Have a non-profit organization that leases a store front in a mall and holds beginner dances every night.*
 - *Regular dances would be either club run or organization run.*
 - *There'd be a singles rotation, or people would be welcome to square up as singles at all dances.*
 - *Couples would split up at least one tip each night and dance with singles or friends from other couples.*
 - *Families would be welcomed with a discount and people would make an effort to include the families.*
 - *Callers would choose music with a variety of types and ages for each dance.*
 - *There would be no dress code for dances.*
 - *Dances around the world would follow the same call lists.*
 - *There'd be 4 big "special" dances each year within each area, other dances would be more like workshops and smaller dances.*
 - *Dancers would be taught multiple applications of calls.*
 - *Dancers would be encouraged to "whoop it up" and add their own styling to the dance.*
 - *Dancers who are not fun to dance with would be talked to and possibly eventually asked to leave.*
- And I'm sure there are some other things I haven't thought about."*

The Off-Season

Does your club take a vacation during May to August? Or do you capitalize on this time by creating a presence in your community? Open dance nights are not new, but consider holding one or more Summertime Dance Parties.

Advertise in area churches, businesses, community clubs/associations, and ask members to bring family and friends. Keep the dances easy and fun, serve ice cream with sundae toppings, and invite your guests back for the next Dance Party. Most of all make it FUN!



INDEX

Chatter from the Chief	1
Sewing Corner	2
The Lighter Side of Darkness	2
Chatter Close-Up:	
Patricia Mahoney, Calgary	3
Big Picture-Where Do You Fit?	4
Alberta Convention Update	5
Past Conventions	5
One Great Convention	8

SEWING CORNER

- by Marie Brothers

BELT PURSE: You will require 2 pieces of fabric approximately 6 1/2" wide and 18" long. One piece is the right side (can match your blouse or a contrast to your skirt) and the second piece is the lining (can be plain cotton or lining fabric). Lay out both pieces of fabric together, right sides together. Pin them together. Fold in half lengthwise so all you have is 9" long to work with. At about 5" up each side, make a mark. At the top folded edge, mark 2" from the left side and mark 4 1/2" from the left side. The center 2 1/2" is the belt loop.



Taper the purse by cutting a straight line from the 5" mark to the top folded edge at the 2" mark and the other side from the 5" mark to the top 4 1/2" mark. Or you can cut in a curve to shape the purse.

Now open the two pieces of fabric out and stitch along each edge between the 5" mark on the front and back on each side. Now stitch the front to the back along the sides below the 5" mark. Turn right side out. Stitch the bottom of the outside fabric from through the bottom of the lining fabric. Turn the lining right side out, pin up the raw edge and stitch along the bottom.

Slide your belt through the "handle"/loop of the purse. Just enough for your car keys, ticket or cash for the dance and a kleenex or hankie!

POCKETS IN PURCHASED SQUARE DANCE SKIRTS OR DRESSES: For two pockets, double these instructions. Obtain any piece of fabric approximately 6" wide by about 10" long. Cut off one corner from approximately half way up the long side to approximately half way along the short top side. Sew the uncut long sides together, across the bottom, up the cut side to where the cut started.

Measure the length of the opening (from the cut at the top to the cut on the side, a diagonal measurement). Measure down the side seam from the waist of the skirt you are adding the pocket to. Double sew or otherwise reinforce the seam from that measurement down the seam. Open up the seam from the waist to the reinforcement.

Place right sides together (pocket on outside of skirt) and stitch around the cut diagonal sides of the pocket onto the skirt with a 1/2" seam. Fold the pocket inside the skirt and top stitch around the new opening to keep the pocket invisible. Fold the pocket towards the front of the skirt. Fasten the top edge of the pocket to the waist band by hand stitching or top stitching. Press well.

NEXT ISSUE: How to make a circle skirt! Many have requested this. Thank you for the feedback.

See you across the square,
Marie

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF DARKNESS

- by Dee Jackins

Dee is an avid square and round dancer, and enjoys writing. She shares the lighter side of some of her experiences, challenges and near disasters as a sight impaired person.



A number of years ago, not long after I went totally blind I went out one evening with this gentleman. In the midst of our conversation we were discussing what activities or projects we had accomplished today. He said that he was changing water taps in someone's house, so I asked him if he was a plumber by trade. He said not officially but he could do this kind of work. So I inquired about it and asked him if he could fix the shower valve in the bathroom off my master bedroom and he agreed to check it out.

On the appointed day after another evening out he wanted to take a look at this problem that needed to be repaired. As he started working on this tap, he realized he might just get soaked and commented that he had no other clothes to change into. I certainly couldn't help him out in that department so I suggested he remove his clothes and I'll stay out of the bathroom while he's working, and besides I can't see him anyway.

"Do your thing and holler if you need help!" So this is what he did and started taking the tap apart. Wouldn't you know it, after about twenty minutes he called me and asked me to hold the light as he had taken the chrome cover plate off to see how much trouble it would be to change the valve if need be. Now he couldn't hold the plate, the screws, the screwdriver and the light, too, so I sprung into action. I went in carefully and hollered out "Close your eyes, I'm coming in!" I felt for the shower door knowing this was in very close quarters. I didn't want to touch him but that was the only way to find him. He especially didn't want me to get too close to him with that hot trouble light. However, he got the screws in and I was out of there like a shot - "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!"

He finished the job, got dressed and came out to the kitchen where I had a glass of wine waiting for him which he very much appreciated. Later he asked me if he was the only guy to come into my bedroom, take all his clothes off, then work on a shower water valve? We had a good chuckle and it made me wonder what other projects were in store??? One never knows - could be interesting!

 FESTIVAL 2016 	
July 28, 29 & 30	
Hosted by Saskatchewan Square and Round Dance Federation Inc.	
Saskatchewan Trade and Convention Centre Delta Regina	
Register online at www.saskfestival2016.com	
Information: Bll 306-560-7161 tree-line@hotmail.com Denise 305-543-5626 barygruel@sasktel.net Bert 306-692-7278 rt@sasktel.net Kay 360-878-2761 hau_hh@shaw.ca	 Partner Up! <i>Prairie Style</i> Sponsored in part by LOTTERIES

CHATTER CLOSE-UP

Our Dance Community is an interesting mix of people, each with a story to tell. If you know of someone you would like to see featured in this section, email claudia.littlefair@gmail.com and I would be happy to contact them.



Patricia Mahoney, Calgary

I was born in Drumheller, and spent the first eight years of my life there. My father was a CN fireman, then engineer, and when the division point was moved to Hanna, my family

(including one sister and one brother) re-located there, where I completed high school. In those days, we learned square dancing in school, and I loved it. I was not to square dance again for many years.

After completing business college in Edmonton following high school, I worked in Drumheller in the electrical utility office. Wanting a new beginning following a brief unsuccessful marriage, I moved to Calgary in 1969. I worked for the next 22 years in the oil & gas industry. I completed a B-Comm degree by attending the University of Calgary nights, and was consequently able to move through the ranks to several supervisory, then managerial positions. After leaving the industry in 1990, I again attended University to study real estate appraisal. I didn't like measuring houses at minus thirty, so did not stay long in that field. One of my friends in oil and gas, and her husband, owned a limousine company, and, as I loved driving, I thought I would like to drive for them. I passed the required tests, upgraded my license, and enjoyed driving for about ten years before retiring.

In 1991 or 2, I decided to go back to square dancing. Dennis and Frances Levitt were the caller and cuer for the Single Eights. As soon as I saw round dancing being done, I knew that that was for me. Fitzroy Boyd wanted to learn round dancing as well, so we became partners, and were together until his death in 2008. We round danced with Ron & Bette Berglund of the Rhythm B's, and I learned to cue from Bette. During her illness, I assisted Ron in teaching, and was a regular cuer on the weekly program.

Cuing has been a major part of my life, and I have been able to cue in many different venues as well as at a lot of conventions and jamborees, not only in Alberta, but in British Columbia, Montana, and Washington. I am looking forward to being on the programs for the upcoming Canadian National in Regina and the Provincial in High River. I am grateful for every opportunity to cue at our regular square and round dances.

I have travelled quite extensively – to England, Europe, Hong Kong, Korea, South America, several U.S. states and Mexico. I also enjoy social dancing, golfing, walking/hiking, movies, gourmet dining, cooking, and gardening. I even tried downhill skiing for a year or two many years ago, but am too afraid of breaking bones to do that now. I have belonged to many organizations over the years, and served on many boards and committees therein.

I hope I can continue these activities as well as square and round dancing for many years to come. I am especially grateful for the many friendships gained over the years.

A store that sells new husbands has opened in Edmonton, just off Jasper where a woman may go to choose a husband. Among the instructions at the entrance is a description of how the store operates: You may visit this store **ONLY ONCE!** There are six floors and the value of the products increase as the shopper ascends the flights. The shopper may choose any item from a particular floor, or may choose to go up to the next floor, but you cannot go back down except to exit the building!

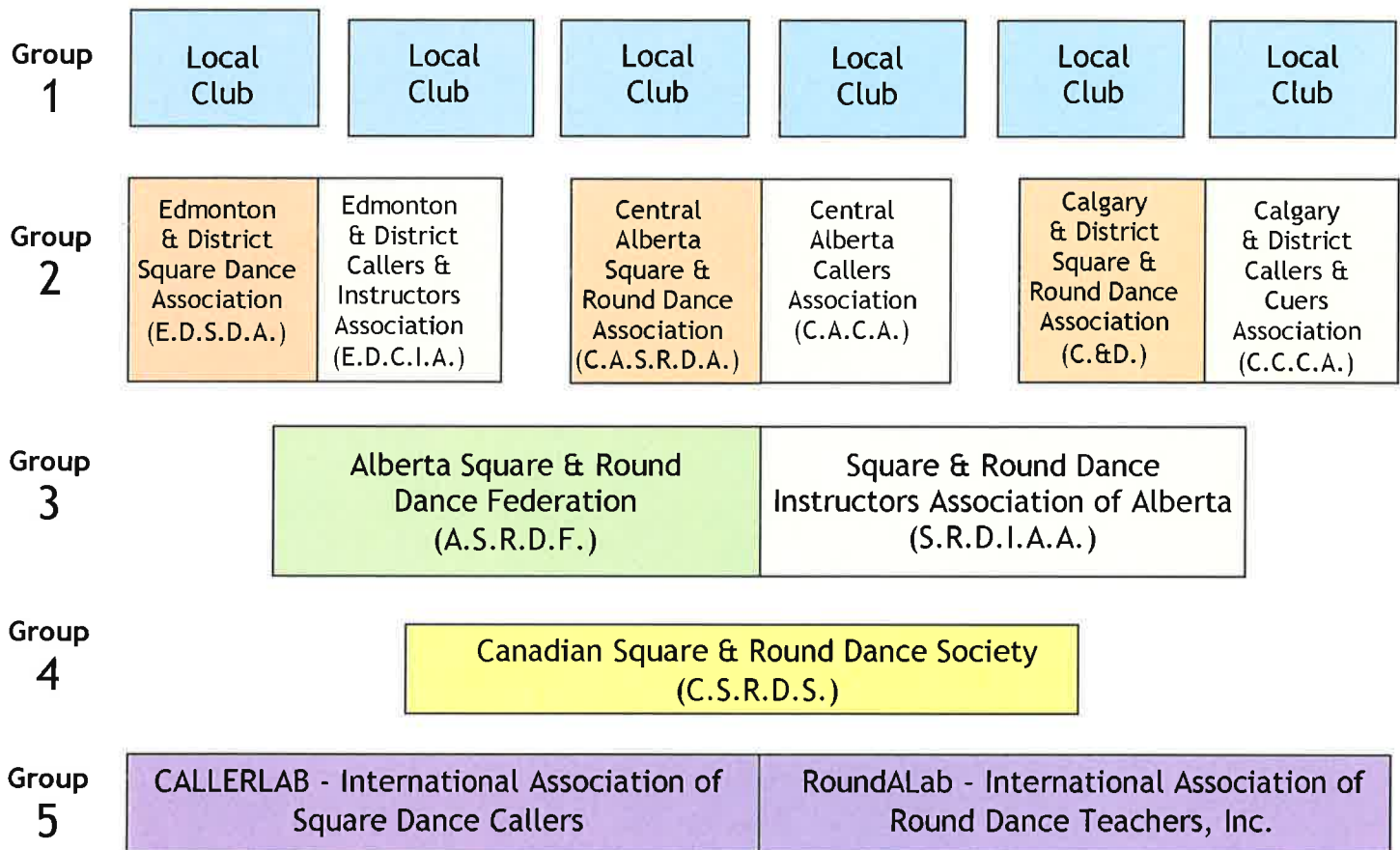
So, a woman goes to the Husband Store to find a husband. On the first floor the sign on the door reads: "FLOOR 1 - These Men Have Jobs." She is intrigued, but continues to the second floor, where the sign reads: "FLOOR 2 - These Men Have Jobs and Love Kids." 'That's nice,' she thinks, 'but I want more.' So she continues upward. The third floor sign reads: "FLOOR 3 - These Men Have Jobs, Love Kids, and Are Extremely Good Looking."

'Wow,' she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going. She goes to the fourth floor and the sign reads: "FLOOR 4 - These Men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-Dead Good Looking and Help With Housework." 'Oh, mercy me!' she exclaims, 'I can hardly stand it!' Still, she goes to the fifth floor and the sign reads: "FLOOR 5 - These Men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Gorgeous, Help with Housework, and Have a Strong Romantic Streak."

She is so tempted to stay, but she goes to the sixth floor, where the sign reads: "FLOOR 6 - You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor. There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at the Husband Store."

PLEASE NOTE: To avoid gender bias charges, the store's owner opened a New Wives store just across the street with the same rules. The first floor has wives that love sex. The second floor has wives that love sex and have money and like beer. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors have never been visited.

THE BIG PICTURE - WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?



- 1. LOCAL GROUP:** The first group of our organization are the **Local Clubs**. They provide the members for ALL the other groups. All of the groups are comprised of volunteers, and all of the groups support and help the Local Clubs, either directly or indirectly.
- 2. ZONE GROUP:** Of the seven Zones that make up Alberta, three have active **Associations**: Edmonton & District, Central Alberta, and Calgary & District. Each district has a **Dance Association**, comprised of dancer representatives from Local Clubs, and a **Callers/Instructors Association**, comprised of local callers, cuers and instructors, and membership is voluntary.
- 3. PROVINCIAL GROUP:** The object of the **Alberta Federation** is to promote square and round dancing and the enjoyment thereof in Alberta. Members are dancer and caller/cuer representatives from each of the Zones. One of Federation's functions is to loan the seed money for the annual provincial conventions. The object of the **Alberta Instructors Association** is to foster education for new and experienced instructors and provide a province wide forum. Membership is voluntary.
- 4. NATIONAL GROUP:** The **Canadian Society** is active in supporting and promoting our five dance forms - square, round, contra, clogging and line; assisting with national festivals; coordinating third party liability insurance; and providing a national voice. Members are representatives from the provincial Federations.
- 5. INTERNATIONAL GROUP:** **CALLERLAB** and **RoundALab** are international organizations that foster the art of square and round dancing by improving calling, cueing and teaching skills, and by promoting the dance activity. Membership is voluntary.

ALBERTA CONVENTION 2016 UPDATE

HIGH RIVER - SEPTEMBER 3-5



AL & CAROL MOODY General Chair Couple

It's shaping up to be a great Convention, registrations at 250, including 22 leaders! We are excited to announce **TWO TRAIL-IN**

DANCES – Mainstream and Plus – on Friday, September 2! Both Dances start at 7:30pm Pre-Rounds, 8pm Squares, \$5 at the door, featuring:

Cuers: JERRY JESTIN, Mesa, AZ/Delburn, AB
PETER & STELLA TENNANT, Vernon, BC

Callers: GARY WINTER, Edmonton, AB
JERRY JESTIN, Mesa, AZ/Delburn, AB

If you have an item or two you want to donate to the **Silent Auction** please bring it with you to Convention. Auction Coordinators are Rita Manderson and Frances Hanzel.

Are you planning to come, but haven't registered yet? Now's the time! After June 30, the cost goes up from \$45 to \$50/person. Please remember that early registrations make it easier for the Committee to plan the program so **we can deliver great dancing in High River!**

A GLIMPSE AT PAST CONVENTIONS

- by Myrna Kornak, Calgary

1979 GRIMSHAW - 11th Convention

- 550 dancers attended from as far away as California and Yellowknife.
- As well as regular square dance and round dance programs, there was wheelchair dancing.
- Mayor Evan Hurley welcomed dancers and cut the ribbon.



1980 CALGARY - 12th Convention "Corral Yr' Pal For Convention Calgary"

- Held in Henry Wisewood School.
- Square dancing for every level from newer dancers to Plus.
- Round dancing from beginner to Intermediate.
- 60 callers and cuers provided great dancing for all levels.
- Calgary Mayor, Ross Alger, welcomed the dancers.
- An unplanned spontaneous dance was held for teens at Saturday lunch time.
- Memory Lane was a fascinating place for those with memories of yesteryear and also for those who were new to the activity.
- Attendance was 846 registered dancers with 100 more on Saturday evening.

1981 RED DEER - 13th Convention

- 1110 dancers were in attendance!

1984 GRANDE PRAIRIE - 16th Convention "Go North For More in '84."

- Dancing was mainly centered in the Composite High School Complex.
- A block of time was set aside for Advanced dancers to get together.
- Buses were chartered to take dancers to this convention because of the distance. These charters were a great success.

1985 SUNDRE - 17th Convention "Come Alive In '85"

1989 COCHRANE - 21st Convention "Cochrane's Fine in '89"

- Dancing took place in Cochrane arena and school complex.
- Levels for square dances were available for new graduates, mainstream, plus and advance A1/A2.
- Round dancers levels were Phase 1&2, Phase 3&4 and Phase 5&6.



- There was also Clog, Contra & Ol'Tyme dancing.
- A barbecue was held on Saturday night which was very well attended. In fact, maybe over attended as those of us at the end and volunteers got only potatoes.

1991 MEDICINE HAT - 23rd Convention ***"The Hat For Fun in '91"***

- A good time was had by all and a good program was provided.
- The weather was a factor not because of rain but of extreme heat with temperatures 30+.
- Camping in trailers was pretty uncomfortable.

1993 STRATHMORE - 25th Convention ***"Let's Make A Roar In Strathmore"***

- This convention was originally to be held in Airdrie but negotiations with the school boards fell through and Strathmore was happy to have it there.
- This is the very first 25th annual Provincial Convention to be held in Canada.
- Programs were provided for square dancers for Basic to Challenge, rounds from Phase 1 – 5, Cloggers, teens, and singles.
- 500 enjoyed the Friday Night Trail-In Dance.
- 970 dancers were registered and there were 199 RVs.
- A fashion show was held.
- Entertainment on Saturday night featured a variety of dancers; Calgary Show time Dancers, Chinook City Cloggers and 224 square dancers from Edmonton promoting 1994 Convention in Edmonton.



1995 SUNDRE - 27th Convention ***"Musically Alive in '95"***

- Utter's Undies (pink petti pants) were taken from Kathy Utter and erected as the happy hour flag.
- I enjoyed being in the fashion show.



1997 MEDICINE HAT - 29th Convention ***"Fun is Our Intention"***

- Once more Medicine Hat provided a good weekend of dancing, fun and fellowship.
- This time the weather was not quite as hot as last time.
- This time coincided with Princess Diana's tragic death.

1998 LLOYDMINSTER - 30th Convention ***"A Border Date in '98"***

- This convention was different that the other ones. Here we danced in two provinces as dances were held in both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

1999 STRATHMORE - 31st Convention

- Once again Strathmore is hosting the Provincial Convention.
- 754 full weekend registrations & 75 who attended for one dance or one day.
- 180 RVs.



2000 OLDS - 32nd Convention ***"Promenade into the New Millennium"***

2001 LEDUC - 33rd Convention

- The primary dance location is the Black Gold Center as well as school and facilities in close proximity.

2003 SPRINGBROOK - 35th Convention ***"Central The Place to be in 2003"***

- This is the former Canadian Forces Base Penhold

2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE - 38th Convention ***"Come Dance & Mix in 2006"***

- The weather was absolutely delightful.
- 458 dancers were registered, 100 RVs and 2 tents

- A raffle was held as well as a silent auction. Both were successful and provided funds to help with expenses.
- A display of ribbons from earlier conventions was put up.



2007 STRATHMORE - 39th Convention ***"Encore for Strathmore"***

- 396 dancers registered and 66 day passes sold.
- New callers were able to take part and call a tip or two.
- 250 dancers took in the BBQ supper which was enjoyed by all in spite of a shortage of dessert.
- A lot of spectators came to watch – the clogging especially caught some attention.

2008 WAINWRIGHT - 40th Convention ***"Chase Right Into Wainwright"***

- A great dancing weekend for the 165 dancers attending.
- Beef on a bun was served to all at the closing on Sunday night. This was a nice ending to a good weekend.

2010 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE - 42nd Convention ***"Chase Right Into Wainwright"***

2012 HIGH RIVER - 44th Convention ***"We Aim To Deliver Great Dancing in High River"***

- Held in Highwood Memorial Centre. All dancing was held in the same location.
- Attendance was 451 dancers.
- Highlight of the last evening was a huge friendship ring led by Hope Pennock.
- After party consisted of beef on a bun. Entertainment was provided by the Prairie Mountain



Fiddlers.

- Old tyme dancing was enjoyed and led by Arlo McCool.

2013 LACOMBE - 45th Convention ***"Let's Roam to Lacombe"***

- Held in Lacombe Memorial Center.
- 217 dancers registered with another 74 attending on either one day or one weekend dance.
- After party on Sunday evening was a beef on a bun and old time square dancing led by Arlo McCool.

2014 LEDUC - 46th Convention ***"Let's Swing in Leduc in 2014"***

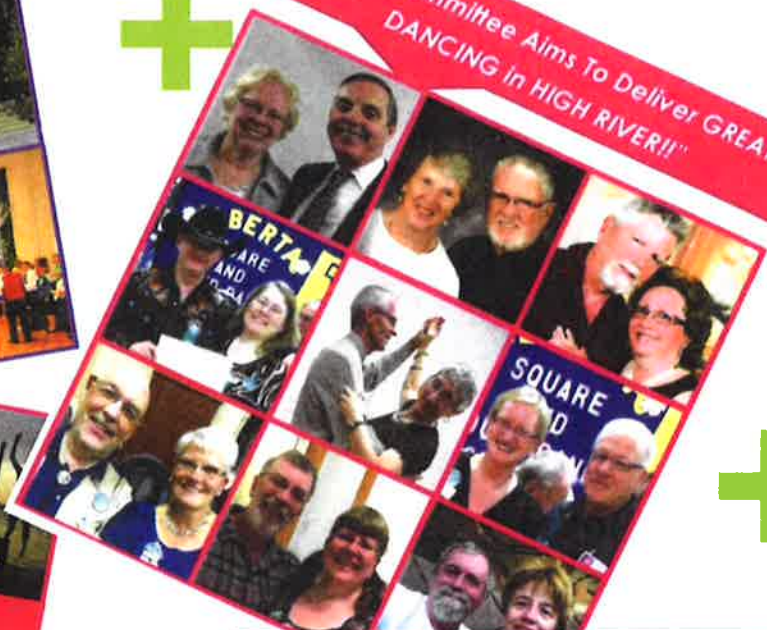
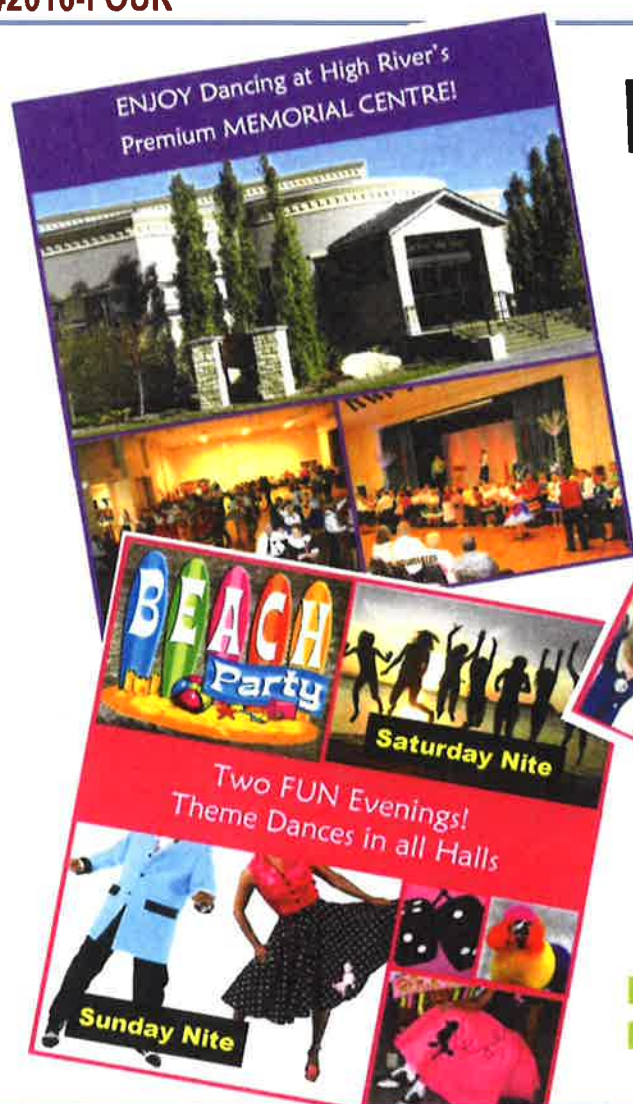
- Took place in Leduc Composite High School and the Jr. High School.
- 250 dancers were registered.
- Black & Gold were the official colors and a Black and Gold dance with dancers dressed in gold and black was held on Saturday night to honor Leduc history.
- An after party was held on the closing ceremony on Sunday evening.



2015 LACOMBE - 47th Convention ***"Lacombe is Home in 2015."***

- Held in Lacombe Memorial Center.
- 248 registered with 36 walk-ins.
- A good weekend of dancing took place.
- Following the closing ceremonies, food and refreshments were available. There was surprise entertainment from a group of yodeling "Old Ladies". This was enjoyed by all those in attendance.

HIGH RIVER 2016!



ONE G-G-G-GREAT CONVENTION!

September 3 – 5, 2016

48th ALBERTA CONVENTION

- Multiple Callers & Cuers
- Saturday Night "Beach Party" Theme
- Sunday Night "The '50's" Theme
- Sunday Night After-Party for All
- Monday Morning Trail-Out Dance
- Multi-Level Square & Round Dancing
- All Dancing In One Building
- Hardwood & Laminate Floors
- Air Conditioning
- Close to Camping, Restaurants, Hotels

Download Registration Form
www.SquareDanceCalgary.com

2 TRAIL-IN DANCES! MAINSTREAM & PLUS
 Callers **JERRY JESTIN** and **GARY WINTER**

Cuers **JERRY JESTIN** and
PETER & STELLA TENNANT

Friday, Sept. 2, 7:30-10pm \$5/Person at Door
 Hosted by Calgary & District Square Dancers Association

CONVENTION COST - Sat. Sun. Mon.

Before June 30 - \$45 After June 30 - \$50

PER DAY COST: \$25

PER SESSION COST: \$10

(Morning, Afternoon and Evening Sessions)