

Newsletter #3



Can you believe it is a scant 6 months until the biggest Canadian Square, Round and Clog dance party of the year?! There is a momentum swelling in our activity. We are rediscovering the joy of music and dance and happy friends all around us. I hope you are as excited as we are to make the 2026 Canadian National Festival the focal point of your summer. We have a vibrant city, the best of beautiful British Columbia as our Festival's backdrop, dozens of dance leaders and hundreds of dancers to entice you to spend July 15 to 18, 2026 with us. We are deservedly "house proud" about the venue, the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre. Spread the word, encourage your friends to register, and make this event memorable for great music, great friends, and the greatest pastime (or is it our secret obsession?)

This newsletter is an update on progress, as well as giving general information which we hope is of help.

December was a very busy month with registrants taking advantage of our Early-Bird rates before they expired. So far, in addition to dancers from Canada, we were pleased to know we shall be welcoming guests from the USA, Germany, China and Australia. We shall enjoy dancing to at least 56 leaders over our core dance areas of Squares, Rounds and Clogging. All levels are represented with the heaviest registrations being of Plus Squares and Intermediate Cloggers. There are a significant number of singles, so our planning will take this into account.

The easiest way to register is online with its advantage of providing quick confirmation. Forms can be downloaded from our website squaredance.bc.ca. Click on the Festival heading on our landing page and you shall be taken immediately to the section giving detailed information including hotels with which we have arranged special rates and RV Camping information. Risking repetition, we remind you that the Okanagan Valley and Penticton in particular are very popular summer resort areas and are usually fully booked. So early advanced booking is strongly recommended. The Penticton Trade and Convention Centre is large enough that we do not foresee a possibility of exceeding its capacity. It has sufficient halls and rooms that each level of dancing shall have its own space.

Like all events we shall be requesting volunteers to step forward and become part of the team ensuring things run smoothly. Our organizing committee covers the planning requirements. Where we shall need assistance is during the Festival itself. Our secretary, Arlene Laing, is maintaining a list of volunteers. The areas where we need help include the registration desk, security for the leaders' room and hall monitors. Please email her at arlenelaing2@gmail.com if you can join the team.

Should you have questions or require further information, we invite you to forward them to Arlene Laing who shall forward them to the appropriate committee member for response.

