

Newsletter #5



24th Canadian National Square, Round and Clog Dance Festival Newsletter #5

In just a few weeks, you will be among hundreds of square, round and clog dancers converging on Penticton BC once again for an exciting and memorable dance festival. Penticton is a jewel of a city where many thousands have gathered in the past, back to 1947 when the Penticton Square Dance Jamboree started. In about 2005, the Jamboree merged with Penticton's annual Peachfest to be renamed the Peachfest Square Dance Festival. That is 79 years of dance leaders and dancers making new friends and enjoying BC's supernatural hospitality. It's a proud legacy to ponder and to bask in and to revive.



Come join in the fun and relive the excitement of summer dancing in Penticton with the 2026 Canadian National Festival, July 15th to 18th, at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre!

The committee has been working to provide you all the information you need to get all the details straight, so you can come and relax and just have fun.

Let's have a look together at the ever-evolving website for this Festival:

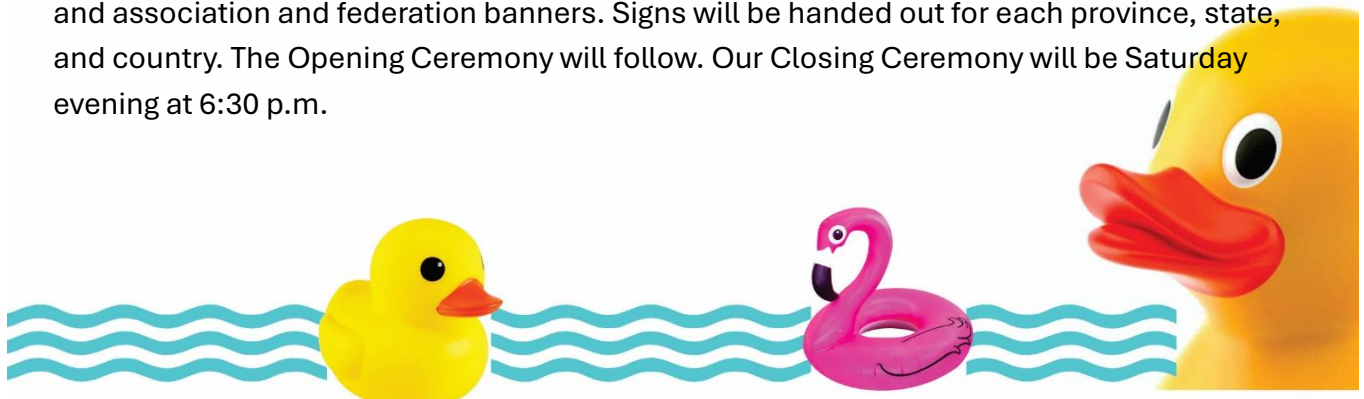
Home - festival2026.squaredance.bc.ca



Here are some highlights we don't want you to miss—

A general schedule has been posted on the landing page to help you see the overall pulse of the Festival. It is also included here in this newsletter for your convenience with a diagram of the venue. A detailed schedule is under construction and will be posted when it is ready and included in your registration package.

We will have a Grand March—participants will be gathering at 6:30 p.m. Thursday with club and association and federation banners. Signs will be handed out for each province, state, and country. The Opening Ceremony will follow. Our Closing Ceremony will be Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m.



Click PHOTOS See photos of clubs who are coming to the festival, sending you a welcome.

Click LEADERS You are going to dance to many callers, cuers and/prompters at the festival. See who is coming.

Advertise your club, association, or special dance at the Festival. You can place an ad in the souvenir booklet. The details are found on the landing page. You can also bring a display and flyers to put on a table in the FLEX HALL.

Ballroom 2/FLEX HALL—It will be a happening space! Registration table, display tables for flyers you bring to promote events, local vendors can give away samples; you can shop for BC Federation merchandise and previously-worn square dance attire; Solo dancers meeting space.

NEW!--FESTIVAL Apparel is now available!! View the catalogue and place your order online today. Check out hoodies, T-shirts, and golf shirts, something for everyone!

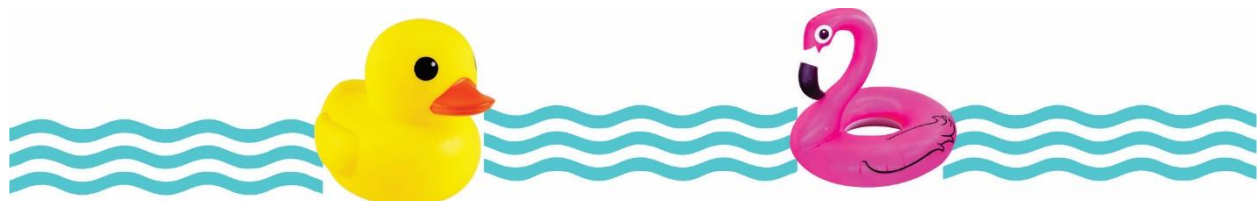


Delicious, convenient and well-priced meals—the caterers at PTCC have our dinners planned for us. Granted, PTCC is in the heart of Penticton with dozens of restaurants all around, and you will want to get out and try some. Consider, though, the convenience and relaxation of pre-ordering supper, sitting down with your friends right in the Atrium of PTCC, and having a meal right on site. **Click the button to go to the caterer’s order form. Pre-orders must be in by July 6th!!** That’s 9 days before the festival starts, so please take a few minutes now and place your order. You will wish you did if your or your partner’s feet are sore and it’s hot out and you don’t want to walk to a restaurant. Right?!

“Dangle Dances” Two unique experiences at this festival will take you back to Peachfest days. One is a dance at King’s Park, where the Jamboree was held on sheets of plywood laid down on the field, and the other is AquaDucks, dancing in the warm waters of Okanagan Lake at the beach just north of PTCC. You will get a specially designed dangle for dancing at these “dangle dances”!!



Try-It! Sessions are for anyone who wants to try Clog dance, Line Dance, Square dance, Contra dance. The non-dancing public is invited, and so are you. Stretch your comfort zone and try a new dance form.





New callers at the Festival--Callers School is a 5-day course that is being taught in Penticton leading up to the festival by two Canadian caller coaches, Barry Clasper and Dottie Welch. We are putting time into the schedule for these brand new and newer callers to call for you at the Festival. Please support their efforts and aspirations and come dance to new callers on Thursday and Friday in Ballroom 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Local attractions, sights, and activities abound in the Okanagan Valley. One attraction is being pre-planned by a committee member and requires you to sign up in advance, and the capacity is only 20 participants. Mark Garstin will lead a tour of the **Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory**, a 35-minute drive south of PTCC. Look for the sign-up poster in the North Lobby. (If you don't manage to get on the list for Saturday's tour, you can go Sunday for a tour with an on-site tour guide.)



Two Trail Out Dances to choose from, one in Castlegar in southeastern BC at 7:00 p.m., and one in Aldergrove in the Fraser Valley at 1:00 p.m., both on Sunday, July 19th.

So that's all the news for this time! The excitement is building for a wonderful Festival!!

"B.C.'ing you in Penticton"

Cordially,

Co-Chairs Dennis Sutton and Wendy Krueger



2026 NATIONAL FESTIVAL

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Lunch break daily 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner break daily 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Concession open 9:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Pre-ordered dinner pickup daily 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15th

2:00 p.m. Registration table open

4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Solo participants Meet & Greet

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Trail In Dance Salon A

Thursday, July 16th

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. scheduled festival sessions

(Registration table opens 9:30 a.m.)

11:00 a.m. BC Federation members meeting

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. Heritage Dancers performance

6:30 p.m. assemble for the Grand March

6:45 p.m. Opening Ceremonies, followed by dancing till 10:00 p.m.

Friday, July 17th

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. scheduled festival sessions

(Registration table opens 9:30 a.m.)

11:00 a.m. Canadian Society Annual General Meeting—all invited

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. “Dangle Dance” Square Dance at Kings Park

Dancing till 10:00 p.m.

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. Heritage Dancers performance

Saturday, July 18th

(Early start of 9:00 a.m. for Showcase of Rounds; Registration table opens 9:30 a.m.)

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. scheduled festival sessions

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. "Dancing With The Stars", a guided tour of the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory. Sign-up sheet in the North Lobby. Limit of 20 participants.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. “AquaDucks Dangle Dance” Square Dance in Okanagan Lake

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Try It! sessions for the public in Ballroom 2

6:30 p.m. Closing Ceremony, Heritage Dancers 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dancing till 10:00 p.m.

9:00 to 10:00 p.m. All Dancers and Leaders come to the Plus hall to dance the last hour at Mainstream level together in Salon A.

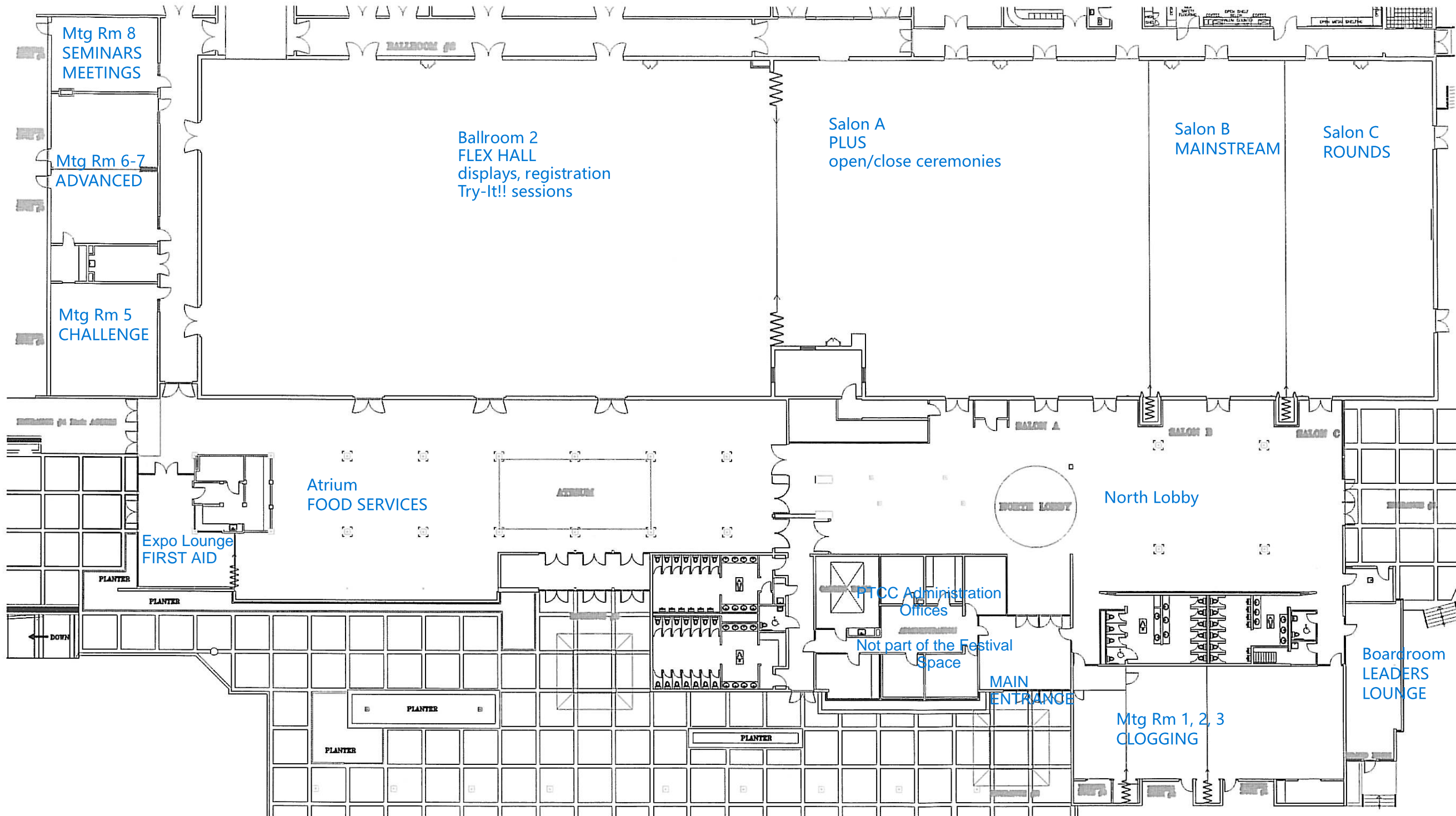
(All other halls will shut down at 9:00 p.m.)

Come to Castlegar BC for the Southeast BC [Trail out Dance - Sunday, July 19 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.](#)

[In Castlegar - link to the POSTER](#)

Come to Aldergrove BC for the Fraser Valley Trail Out Dance—Sunday, July 19 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

[Link to the POSTER](#)



Mtg Rm 8
SEMINARS
MEETINGS

Mtg Rm 6-7
ADVANCED

Mtg Rm 5
CHALLENGE

BALLROOM #8

Ballroom 2
FLEX HALL
displays, registration
Try-It!! sessions

Salon A
PLUS
open/close ceremonies

Salon B
MAINSTREAM

Salon C
ROUNDS

Atrium
FOOD SERVICES

Expo Lounge
FIRST AID

PLANTER

PLANTER

ATRIUM

NORTH LOBBY

North Lobby

SALON A

SALON B

SALON C

PTCC Administration
Offices

Not part of the Festival
Space

MAIN
ENTRANCE

Boardroom
LEADERS
LOUNGE

Mtg Rm 1, 2, 3
CLOGGING

PLANTER

PLANTER

PLANTER

DOWN