

TOLL-FREE INFOLINE REPORT **PLUS E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE & FACEBOOK INQUIRIES**

Report to the Board of Directors Meeting of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation, Victoria – March 30, 2019. By Brian Elmer, volunteer receptionist

Note that this report contains active internet links that should be “clickable” as long as the document is in electronic form

Background

The B.C. Square and Round Dance Federation’s toll-free INFOLINE was established many years ago as an overall source of dance information via telephone for the dance community and the general public.

Furthermore, it serves as the non-profit B.C. Federation’s “telephone number” in matters relating to the organization.

The number 1-800-335-9433 “re-directs” to the home of volunteer receptionists Brian Elmer and his wife, Rosalyn Garnett, in West Kelowna. Contracted with Telus, charges incurred to the number are billed to the treasurer of the Federation. The number currently connects only within B.C. but North American-wide expansion is being explored.

Inquiries also come via e-mail and those are documented below. Some inquiries were prompted by persons viewing the promotional internet “landing page” when they click on paid advertising (SquareDanceFun.info) or by free publicity (such as on Twitter) done by SQUAREUPB.C.

Additional inquiries sometimes come to us through the B.C. Federation’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation>) and those are documented below, if any.

Note that the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society has closed its toll-free information line which was 1-866-206-6696.

Note that the previous INFOLINE call-tracking report for the period March 18 to August 6, 2018, prepared for the August 10, 2018 A.G.M. in Penticton, can be read online in PDF format at: <http://www.squaredance.bc.ca/images/agm2018/InfolineTracking-FinalReport-Edited-AGM-Penticton-August10-2018.pdf>

INFOLINE Call-tracking –August 7, 2018 to March 25, 2019

As calls come in to the INFOLINE, an effort is made to document each, noting the name & city of the caller, the nature of the inquiry and the action taken to satisfy the caller. For cost efficiency, most responses are sent by e-mail when queries cannot be answered immediately over the phone.

For privacy purposes, names and contact information in this report have been abbreviated or deleted. That information can be furnished to eligible persons through a request sent to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com

The following list of calls received is chronological:

Wednesday August 8, 2018 – 9:14 am – Call from Michele C. of Penticton, BC. As an activities co-ordinator at Cherry Park Retirement Assisted Living, she requested contact information for the local square dance club, seeking them to conduct some display dancing at their “Hoedown,” 2 pm Sat. Sept. 22, 2018. Facility contact information: 250-492-2447 – e-mail (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

Initial contact information was given over the phone then followed up with an e-mail response within about an hour. She was given contacts for the Penticton Squares' president and publicity persons as well as the general club e-mail address.

Copy of actual e-mail response:

Hello Michele.

Thank you for your phone call of this morning inquiring about the possibility of a dance display on Sept. 22. The following contact information should assist in your quest to locate someone in the Penticton Squares dance club:

Diane Tucker, Publicity - Okanagan Falls - 250-497-6970 -e-mail: dmtucker@shaw.ca

Penny Brawn, President - Penticton - e-mail: penden39@shaw.ca

Club e-mail: PentictonSquares@shaw.ca

Note that the annual 4-day Peachfest Square Dance Festival ([click for web page](#)) is underway this week at the Drop-in Centre. It encompasses 6 different dance events. Diane and Penny are surely attending that. Diane has said that she'll be hosting 6 to 7 dancers at her home during this week.

I trust that the club can accommodate you with a dance display. If not, please call or e-mail me and we'll look at other options.

Thanks for calling the toll-free INFOLINE.

Best regards.

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna - Volunteer Receptionist

Toll-free INFOLINE of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation (1-800-335-9433)

brian@squaredance.bc.ca

Thurs. August 9, 2018 – 9:12 am – Call from Stephanie S., an event organizer based in Summerland who is planning an auction and dinner event for Giant Head Winery (www.giantheadwinery.com) in that city on Aug. 29. She asked if there are square dance callers who are also auctioneers. It was explained that there may be some with that skill but it's more probable that callers who perform auctioneer-style singing calls can be identified. She prefers to utilize local area (South Okanagan) talent. Contact: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action:

Information was sent by e-mail that furnished contacts for the Penticton Squares dance club and their caller.

Actual e-mailed response:

12:10 pm Aug. 9/18

Hello Stephanie. It was great to speak with you upon your call to our toll-free INFOLINE this morning.

Is the following an accurate summarization of your inquiry?:

You're a photographer/videographer/web & graphic designer based in Summerland who is helping the city's Giant Head Winery (<https://www.giantheadwinery.com>) plan an auction and dinner event on about August 29. You're wondering if there are square dance callers who are also auctioneers. As I explained, there may be some with that skill but it's more probable that callers who perform auctioneer-style singing calls can be identified. Having square dancers with a caller perform at the event are of interest. You prefer to utilize South Okanagan talent.

There is definitely one particular square dance singing call known as "The Auctioneer" that's a traditional call, going back many years. See a 4-minute video on YouTube where it's being called to dancers. The video features a live old-time music band whereas recorded music is more commonly used today.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXPlfZOPtqU>

(also see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBCElrznG9M>)

Caller Ralph Halsall of Penticton might have The Auctioneer singing call in his repertoire. I'll "cc" Ralph with this message to give him a heads up. His e-mail address is: rehalsall@shaw.ca. At last notice, he works at the Penticton Safeway.

The following contacts for the Penticton Squares dance club may be fruitful--I'll "cc" them here too:

Diane Tucker, Publicity - Okanagan Falls - 250-497-6970 -e-mail: dmtucker@shaw.ca

Penny Brawn, President - Penticton - e-mail: penden39@shaw.ca

Note that the annual 4-day Peachfest Square Dance Festival ([click for web page](#)) is underway this week at the Drop-in Centre. It encompasses 6 different dance events. These contacts are probably busy at this point attending the Festival. Diane has said that she'll be hosting 6 to 7 dancers at her home during this week.

I trust that the club will give your request fair consideration. If not fruitful, please call or e-mail me and we'll look at other options. (I'm thinking that a retired caller in Vernon by the name of Rene Bourget has done The Auctioneer singing call for his dancers.)

Thanks for calling the toll-free INFOLINE.

Best regards.

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Volunteer Receptionist

Toll-free INFOLINE of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation (1-800-335-9433)

brian@squaredance.bc.ca

Sat. Aug. 11, 2018 – 9:09 am – Call from Karin S. of Courtenay. Although the call was missed and no message left, the number was familiar and allowed for a return inquiry by e-mail. Contact: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

An e-mail inquiring about the purpose of the call along with some links to information that might be helpful was sent within about 90 minutes of receipt. She made contact by e-mail later on Sat. Aug. 11, clarifying that she wanted the e-mail address for the Federation's secretary, Carla Gyle, because she could not find a list of the executive on our Dance Connection web site. Her club, the Ocean Waves, wants to find out if the secretary has any more information about when the club started and the certificates that they have received.

Actual e-mail response of 4:27 pm the same day:

Hello Karin in Courtenay.

Good to hear from you. Yes, the B.C. Seniors Games in the Comox Valley were enjoyable and memorable. Thanks, again, for all you did for that.

Carla has moved within West Kelowna to a different place. The following contact information for her should be valid:

Phone - 250-863-1068

carlagyle@gmail.com

I sympathize with your frustration in looking at the Dance Connection web site and not being able to find a list of the Executive. I took a look myself and couldn't find such a list. I'll have to let the webmaster, Frank McNeil, know about it.

The Federation's 2nd Vice-President, Bill Morey, is exploring an upgrade of the web site but it's a slow process getting launched.

Best regards,

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Volunteer Receptionist - Toll-free INFOLINE

Chairperson, SQUAREUPB.C. - brian@squaredance.bc.ca

Fri. Aug. 24, 2018 – 10:30 am – Call from dancers Hans & Ev in the Central Okanagan to ask what hotels are closest to the Festival 2019 venue in Salmon Arm. They'd like to be able to walk, if possible. Contact: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

They were informed that the two closest properties to the Shaw Centre Complex are the Super 8 and the Comfort Inn and they both offer discounted rates. They were directed to the Festival's web site section regarding accommodations and told how the first section identifies properties offering discounts followed by a complete list of all properties where each shows the distance from the Shaw Centre. They did locate the information online and were appreciative of the assistance.

Fri. Dec. 21, 2018 – 10:40 am – Call from George B. of South Kamloops to ask how a site is secured for dry camping during Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm. Contact: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

He was told of the information posted under "accommodations" on the Festival's web page and given the basic information. He said that he had just graduated in the Mainstream program and is looking forward to the Festival in July. By e-mail he was sent a web link to the information.

Actual e-mail response of 11:09 am same day to:

George B. – Dancer – Thompson Valley Stars, Kamloops

Query re: Dry Camping at B.C. Festival 2019, Salmon Arm

Hello George. Thanks very much for using our toll-free Dance INFOLINE to inquire about dry camping at the Festival.

Here's the contact information excerpted from the Festival's web page:

DRY CAMPING

Dry Camping is available at \$10 per night.

Shuttle Service will be available for those without transportation.

To reserve a site, please contact:

Don & Marlene (10km)	250-832-8420	marlene_krebs@telus.net	60 sites available
Bill & Jean (8km)	250-833-9227	wjilwood@telus.net	10 sites available
Rennie Heare (23km)	250-835-8510	bcrheare10@gmail.com	20 sites available

You'll find it online at: <http://bcfestival2019.com/accommodations/#drycamp>

You might like to view a list of all the callers and cuers on the dance program so far. You'll find Mery Meyer of the Thompson Valley Stars as one of the caller/entertainers at: <http://bcfestival2019.com/callers-cuers> (Merv & his wife, Sandy, are also on the round dance cuers list).

The main page is: <http://bcfestival2019.com>

Also find continuous updates as posts on our Festival Facebook page at: [Facebook.com/BCFestival2019](https://www.facebook.com/BCFestival2019)

Enjoy your dancing at the Festival. It promises to be one of the largest in some time.

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Volunteer Receptionist

Toll-free Dance INFOLINE (1-800-335-9433)

A service of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation

Thurs. Jan. 24, 2019 – 9:53 am – Call from Diana S., a retired Vancouverite living near Granville Island. She expressed great interest in wanting to learn to square dance and wondered if lessons are available in Vancouver. She has done some ballroom dancing and some other dance forms. She has a lady friend who could drive the two of them to lessons and would consider city transit. Contacts: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

Phoned the caller to discuss lesson options in the Lower Mainland in Jan/Feb 2019. Followed up with the following e-mail response:

Actual e-mail response of about 8:30 pm same day:

Subject line: Followup to Inquiry About Square Dance Lessons - Diana, Vancouver

Hello again, Diana. It was an absolute pleasure to speak with you by telephone tonight (Thurs. Jan. 24/19)!

I never thought to ask but I expect that you dialed the toll-free Dance INFOLINE?: 1-800-335-9433

It was good to learn that you live in the Outer Crossing complex near Cambie & Granville & Granville Island in Vancouver.

Our SQUAREUPB.C. marketing initiative of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation has a promotional page on which we list all our member dance clubs around the province. Those listings are for the clubs conducting new dancer lessons in square dancing, round dancing or clog dancing.

See the particular listing for the lessons at Century House in New Westminster, presented by the club named "Century House Squares," at the following link:

<http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/#CenturyHouseNewSquareDancers>

You can learn more about square dancing and our other dance forms at the top of that web page at: SquareDanceFun.info

Take note of the 10 minute video entitled "Dancing Keeps You Young" because it tells of the many benefits of square dancing and shows how you learn. (The caller teaching in the video is the very popular Steve Edlund of Surrey).

If you have access to Facebook, paid 15-second Facebook and Instagram ads ran recently in New Westminster for the club's lesson startup. See it as follows:

As it appeared on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/423356377709725/posts/331357734381079>

As it appeared on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/BsXtm_VD1bc/#

I realize that you'll probably travel to the dancing in a vehicle but we also spoke on the phone about what routing would be involved for you to take transit to Century House in New West. I entered your location and that of Century House into the Translink Trip Planning web page and you can see the result at:

[Bus, SkyTrain & Bus - Granville Island to Century House, New West.](#)

Yes, they say to take bus #50 (westbound, West 2nd at Anderson, to Granville at Dunsmuir then walk to Granville Station--platform 2 and take the Skytrain Expo line toward King George--getting off at the New Westminster Station. Transfer to bus #123-Brentwood Stn. and get off near Moody Park northbound at 8th street & 6th Avenue. It takes about an hour if you catch the #50 bus at 10:28 am.

[Click here for the return trip departing New West. at 1:30 pm & travelling by bus, SkyTrain & bus.](#)

If the round dance lessons in Burnaby starting Sunday February 3 should interest you, they'll take place at Charles Rummel Hall, 3630 Lozells Ave., Burnaby. That will run from 6:30 to 8:30 and they'll begin with the round dance version of the waltz. Again, round dancing is a common companion dance to square dancing and it consists of choreographed ballroom steps done to a live "cuer." The young brother & sister duo, Nicholas & Caitlyn Brendzy, will be teaching. The contact person is: Eva Matheson – 604-437-7715

We maintain several web pages and social media pages to keep dancers informed. Some of the following might interest you:

Provincial Federation web page:

SquareDance.bc.ca

Provincial Federation Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation](https://www.facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation)

Provincial Federation Twitter pages:

[Twitter.com/bcfeddancenews](https://twitter.com/bcfeddancenews)

[Twitter.com/bcfedlive](https://twitter.com/bcfedlive)

Web page for the biennial dance convention, B.C. Festival 2019, July 11 to 13 in Salmon Arm:

BCFestival2019.com (note the many "tabs" that provide more information such as regarding accommodation, registration and the entertainers committed so far to the event - about 48 different callers & cuers)

Facebook page for B.C. Festival 2019:

[Facebook.com/BCFestival2019](https://www.facebook.com/BCFestival2019)

Twitter page for B.C. Festival 2019:

[Twitter.com/BCFestival2019](https://twitter.com/BCFestival2019)

General inquiries can be directed to our provincial toll-free Dance INFOLINE at: 1-800-335-9433

General inquiries by e-mail can go to: dancinglikethestars@gmail.com

There's another exciting special event coming to British Columbia in 2020 and that's the Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention: Festival 2020. Limited to only 800 dancers, it will be held July 29 to August 1 at the Sheraton Guildford in Surrey. See the web page: <http://www.squaredance.bc.ca/2020>

Just for fun, it might interest you, Diana, to see a huge dance floor full of square dancers from the June, 2017, 66th Annual U.S. National Square Dance Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. In the 5 minute video you see 1,650 dancers, enough to make a Guinness World Record. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDHFN6bhp8I>

In 2020, there will be a U.S. National Convention in nearby Spokane, Washington, June 17 to 20. See their web page at: <http://www.69nsdc.org>

Should you wish to pursue having regular square dance lessons in Vancouver, the contacts for caller-teacher Wendy Krueger of Abbotsford are: e-mail - wkrueger@shaw.ca, landline phone - 604-853-3410, cell - 778-878-4244. She'll be back from her "retirement vacation" this Sunday, January 27.

Again, it was so nice to speak with you. I'd love to hear back how you find the instruction at Century House in New Westminster, please!

Sincerely,

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Chairperson - SQUAREUPB.C.

A marketing initiative of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation

Friday March 1, 2019 – 11:55 am – Call from Norman H. of Bowser on Vancouver Island. He called to clarify the mailing address for B.C. Festival 2019 registration forms. He had two attempts fail when the mail came back to him as “undeliverable” or “moved.”

Action taken:

There was an error on the address that he had so the correct one was furnished to him. He said that the address came from some earlier Festival registration/promotion material. He also wondered about commercial and dry RV camping during the Festival and was happy to learn that the information is shown on the Festival's web site. He was directed to the web page: www.BCFestival2019.com/accommodations - Phone no.: 250-757-2031

Sun. Mar. 3, 2019 – 1:28 pm – Call from Stephen A. of Abbotsford to inquire if clog dance instruction is available in the Fraser Valley. He explained that he learned to clog as a boy living in the southern U.S. Now in his early 70's with good health, he'd like to take it up again and have some fun. Caller's phone & e-mail: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Actual e-mail response of 6 pm the next day, March 4:

Hello Stephen from the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation. It was good to speak with you by telephone on Sunday about your interest in clog dancing in Abbotsford or beyond. Thanks for calling our toll-free Dance INFOLINE.

The possible contact for clog dance instruction in the Fraser Valley at Surrey is Darlene Cummings. Contact info: 604-542-9907 (a Surrey number) – e-mail: fancydouble@telus.net

She came to our attention upon seeing an online list of clogging clubs in North America, from January 2011 (over 8 years ago). Her group is listed thereon as: Fancy Double Dancers. See that list at:

<http://kerriclogs.tripod.com/cloggingclubs0192011.htm>

In recent times, there was an instructor in Port Coquitlam by the name of Helen LeCounte. Her club was called the Time Step Cloggers. She retired as an instructor and the club closed. If she has re-started the group, we're unaware but you can try contacting her. The last information on file for her is as follows:

Helen LeCounte
604-941-2375 (a PoCo number)
hlecounte@shaw.ca

The North American list also shows an "All Star Clogging" club based in Mission under leader Irene Civic (should be "Sevcik") at 604-826-5524. We doubt that they are still active.

As discussed by phone, clog dance clubs are very active on Vancouver Island; we have two member clubs in the Okanagan Valley (Peachland to Vernon) and the southeast corner of B.C. has the Rocky Mountain Cloggers in the Kimberley/Cranbrook area, based at Moyie, BC.

Clog instructor Barb Guenette lives on Vancouver Island and she anchors clog dancing there and beyond in a big way. She can be e-mailed at: bguenette@shaw.ca

Here are some web page links:

Got 2 B Cloggin' – Okanagan Valley: Peachland, West Kelowna & Vernon – <http://kelownaclogdancefun.info>

Okanagan Cloggin' – Kelowna & West Kelowna - <http://www.okanagancloggin.com>

Rocky Mountain Cloggers - Cranbrook - <http://www.rockymountaincloggers.ca>

The instructor for this club, Susan Woods, also operates a clogging shoes and accessories shop called "Rocky Mountain Clogging Supply" and the web link for that

is: <http://www.rockymountaincloggingsupply.ca>

Our provincial dance Federation is sponsoring a 3-day dance Festival July 11 to 13 in Salmon Arm this year that will include square, round, contra, line and **clog** dancing. Several clog dance caller-instructors have pre-registered as entertainers at the event. Full days of clogging will be presented on each of the 3 days in a dedicated dance hall. There will be opportunities for the general public to try clogging as well. See the web page at: www.BCFestival2019.com

There's a clog demonstration/display group of young adults based in Utah called "Rhythm 'n Motion" and they are very good. See a YouTube video example at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNnM5osAVJ4>

Also see a video about "Clog America," also a Utah-based group that often tours overseas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsXA4ku4k-I>

Here's a link to a U.S.-based clogging web site: <https://www.clogdancing.com>

We'd love to get you onto the clog dance floor but, to the best of our knowledge, availability of the dance form is limited, if to be had at all, in the Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley.

Looking forward to your reply and where you might get on your exploration of clogging!

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna
Volunteer Receptionist
Toll-free Dance INFOLINE
B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation

Mon. March 4, 2019 – 10:46 am – Call from Sue M. of Maple Ridge asking if on the dates of July 11 & 12 there will be full days of dancing at B.C. Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm. Caller's phone & e-mail: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken--

E-mail response of same day:

Hello Sue.

Thank you for your call of this morning, Mon. March 4, to the toll-free Dance INFOLINE.

Yes, at the Festival in Salmon Arm on Thursday July 11 and Friday July 12 there will be dancing throughout the day as well as on the final day, Saturday July 13. All the dancing will be in one place; the Shaw Centre Complex. That address is 2600 10th Ave N.E. A Festival poster is attached.

So far, we have over 50 entertainers pre-registered to entertain you on the square, round, clog, contra or line dance floor.

In addition, also at the Shaw Complex, there's a Trail In Dance the evening of Wed. July 10 and a Trail Out Dance the morning of Sunday July 14 (posters for each attached).

The Shaw Centre is on the east side of the city. From the downtown, Trans Canada Highway #1 climbs a steep hill proceeding toward Sicamous and the Shaw Centre is located slightly off the highway at the top of the hill.

The closest hotels to the dancing are the Super 8 and the Comfort Inn. You could walk to the dancing from either of those. Just down the hill is the Hilltop Inn. Between the Comfort Inn and the Super 8 is a family-style restaurant called "Home." I know that you have one of those in Maple Ridge. There's also a McDonald's next to the Super 8 and a large grocery store called "Askew's Foods" nearby.

You'll find accommodation information on the Festival's web page at: BCFestival2019.com/accommodations

On that accommodation page, note that after a section about dry camping for RV'ers, there's a list of "partnering" hotels & campgrounds where each is offering a discount to Festival-goers. You have to specify to them, though, that you'll be attending B.C. Festival 2019. I'll also attach an article about Festival accommodation upon which you can note that Rennie Heare is our volunteer helping to co-ordinate accommodations (contact information for him is shown).

Also note that following the list of partnering properties is a full list of all the accommodation in the area.

I trust that this information will help you.

Please feel free to e-mail me at brian@squaredance.bc.ca or call the toll-free Dance INFOLINE again at: 1-800-335-9433.

Let me know, please, if this e-mail reaches you successfully.

Happy dancing!

Brian Elmer

Volunteer Promotion Assistant

B.C. Festival 2019, Salmon Arm

Response by e-mail from the caller:

On Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 1:57 PM Sue M. wrote:

Thank you so much, Brian. The information you sent to me today is fabulous. I'm all set now and looking forward to that weekend.

Sue

Monday March 18, 2019 – 11:00 am – Call from Sumitra R. of Abbotsford requesting a caller-teacher to entertain at a one-time “barn warming” in Abbotsford in the month of May, 2019. Contact info: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

An e-mail response was sent on the same day that the call was received and it was copied to the Executive of the Vancouver & District Caller Teacher Assn. It suggested that one or more caller-teachers could likely be identified to entertain at the event.

Actual e-mail response of same day:

Subject line: Request for a Square Dance Caller-Teacher for a One Time Abbotsford Event in May

Hello again, Sumitra.

Thanks very much for using the toll-free Dance INFOLINE of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation to make your inquiry earlier today (Mon. March 18/19).

I'll also send this message to the leaders of a group of Fraser Valley caller-teachers who will definitely consider your request.

Again, it's understood that you represent a church group of about 50, primarily family and friends, wanting a square dance caller-teacher for one social event in the month of May, where the exact date is to be yet announced.

The event will be a "barn-warming" in Abbotsford, at a location near Costco on Sumas Way. You wish the instruction & dancing to run between 90 minutes and 2 hours in duration.

You provided an out-of-area phone number having a Toronto area code, explaining that you've recently moved to Abbotsford. You did suggest that a cost-effective way to communicate would be by texting to that number. Otherwise, the e-mail address that you furnished is: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

I very much expect that one of more square dance caller-teachers will be interested in providing their entertainment services to your event. I'll check to be sure that someone contacts you regarding your request.

Sincerely,

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Volunteer Receptionist

Toll-free Dance INFOLINE

A service of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation

1-800-335-9433

Follow-up communication by e-mail next day, Tues. March 19:

It was determined that the building about which the dance would be held won't be ready until sometime in the Summer of 2019. Leaders in the Vancouver & Dist. Caller Teacher Assn. were notified of the update.

Tuesday March 19, 2019 – 2:00 pm – Call from Delores H. of Surrey asking where to find the registration form for Convention 2020 in Surrey. During the telephone dialogue, she did locate the document on the web page and was pleased to have the toll-free Dance INFOLINE available to assist (<http://squaredance.bc.ca/registration-2020.html>). She stated that she dances with the Surrey Square Wheelers and is a solo dancer. She hadn't thought about attending the B.C. Festival but, after a few of her questions about dry and commercial camping were answered, she'll give it consideration. She would appreciate a designated area for solos in dance halls both at B.C. Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm and at Convention 2020 in Surrey. Contact: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Action taken:

The issue was resolved during the telephone call wherein the Convention registration form was found online.

- end of telephone inquiries received -

E-mail inquiry tracking –August 8 to March 25, 2018

January 23, 2019, 10:55 am - Email from Richele G., Marketing Coordinator for Prairie Mountain Equipment in Chilliwack. She inquired about securing a square dance caller-teacher for the company's Christmas Party about Nov. 30, 2019 and what the cost would be.

Initial reply sent the same day (Jan. 23) with a promise to research the information and get back to her. The resultant reply was sent March 19, 2019:

Subject line: Square Dancing Event
Hello Richele.

Thank you for your e-mail inquiry to us at the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation.

Apologies for the delay in searching out the information for you about a possible square dance caller-teacher for your Christmas 2019 event on November 30 in Chilliwack.

You identified that your inquiry is on behalf of the business, Prairie Coast Equipment, and that you're looking for entertainment at your staff Christmas Party. It's assumed that the concept is to have your company employees & management learn some basic square dance "calls" then have fun dancing to them.

You have a local square and round dance club in Chilliwack called the Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers (Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rhythmreelers>).

The club's square dance caller-teacher is Mike Rohde, supported by his wife, Rose-Lynn. Mike can furnish you with details about the cost of engaging him for the party.

I'll "cc" this message to Mike and the club president, Steve Armstrong. Mike is also the Vice-President of the Vancouver & District Caller Teacher Assn., so he has connections should he not be available on that date to entertain.

Here's Mike's contact information:

E-mail: mikerohde@telus.net

Telephone: 604-858-3661

Noted on the Caller Teacher Association's web page is a second number which appears to be an Abbotsford destination: 604-556-1096.

Thank you for considering today's style of square dancing as entertainment at your Christmas gathering. It's the perfect fun, friendly, social and fitness-oriented recreation.

One caution is that the square dance requires good balance with lots of lateral movement and person-to-person interaction. Careful listening and the correct resultant motor-responses make the dance fun. If the party will include liquor, it would probably be best to only open the bar after the square dance portion of the event.

Have a great party at Christmas 2019!

Sincerely,

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Communications Volunteer

& Chairperson of the SQUAREUPB.C. marketing initiative

B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation

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Toll-free Dance INFOLINE: 1-800-335-9433

Original message of January 23, 2019:

We are currently planning our annual staff Christmas party, likely to take place on November 30th at 6pm in Chilliwack. I was curious to see how much it would cost to have a caller and square dancing music set up for about an hour and a half – 2 hours. Please let me know a price and what this would all include.

Thanks!

March 21, 2019, 6:54 pm - Email from Kathleen J. N. asking where lessons can be found near the border between Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam. E-mail contact: (furnished upon request to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com)

Wording of the inquiry:

“This sounds great - live on Coquitlam/PoCo border. Where could I take lessons?”

Initial reply sent the same day (March 21) with a request for more information as to what dance form she is interested in.

Subject line: Re: Dance Lessons Near Coquitlam/Poco Border

Hello Kathleen from the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation. Thanks for your e-mail message.

It's not clear to what you refer in your e-mail but it's assumed that you've seen one or more of our dance promotions.

What sparked your inquiry, please?

We embrace and promote several dance forms province-wide, including square dancing, round dancing, clog dancing and contra dancing.

Which of those is of interest to you?

We have member clubs in Aldergrove/Langley and New Westminster that offer lessons year 'round. Aldergrove/Langley offers square dancing and round dancing (choreographed ballroom steps done to live cues). Their lessons are on Sunday afternoons. New Westminster offers square dance lessons on Monday afternoons.

Most all our other member clubs won't start lessons now until September/October.

We look forward to your reply.

Brian Elmer

Volunteer Chairperson

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Followup reply to Kathleen re: Contra Dancing in Lower Mainland - March 23, 2019

Hello again, Kathleen.

Thanks for identifying that it is contra dance that's of interest to you. We're still curious what it was that you saw/heard that sparked your interest--possibly our post about contra on Facebook?

We recently posted a contra dance article on our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation/posts/2280988615279816>

There is contra dancing available in the Lower Mainland but, unless you have your own transportation, it will require a Skytrain & bus trip.

Frankly, you'd have so much fun that you'll find it worth a little travelling! You might also like English Country Dancing.

Our organization is the non-profit B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation and, although by our constitution we embrace contra dancing, we don't currently have contra dance clubs as members. Our main dance forms are square, round and clog dancing.

Regardless, it's noted that contra is available in parts of B.C. such as the Central Okanagan Valley, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

You might like to take note of the dance opportunities presented by the organization named "Vancouver Contra Dance" (VCD), which is an affiliate of the Country Song & Dance Society. They offer both Contra Dancing and English Country Dancing (ECD), usually at separate events.

About Contra & English Country Dancing, they posted the following online:

January - June 2019
Vancouver B.C.

Conradances and
English Country Dances

Dynamic live fiddle music!

***No experience necessary — All dances taught on the spot
Come alone or bring a partner — Children admitted free
Light clothing, soft shoes, and a water bottle suggested
Please come fragrance-free***

**Dances are at St. James Hall for \$15
(except as noted)**

**Learn the basics 15 minutes before the dance starts.
Children are free.**

Also, they describe Contra Dance as follows:

What contradance is, is a lot of fun!

It's recreational dancing to live music in a forgiving atmosphere. Our tradition is to welcome newcomers at every dance and not to require special classes, although we often offer 15 minutes of special instruction at the start of the evening for the benefit of those who have never danced before. People feel free to change partners between dances and to ask strangers to dance. Women ask men to dance. We do not smoke or drink liquor at a dance.

The dance itself is a line of couples. Each couple stays together for the length of the dance, but they dance in turn with every other couple in the line. The figures are familiar from square dancing: do-si-do, allemande, etc., but the tempo and feel of the dance is different, emphasizing connection and giving weight.

Please tell whoever is at the door if you're new to dancing. We want to make sure you know your way around and feel comfortable.

Here's a video to see what we mean: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KevQxr-saFw> (9 minutes, 20 seconds).

And here's another: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSPmHoStI18> (about 10 minutes) — This one's specially made for instruction, so emphasizes some finer points beyond the beginner level.

They have a comprehensive events schedule posted on the internet

at: http://www.vcn.bc.ca/vcountry/current_schedule.html

Their next contra dance will be Saturday April 6, 2019, 7:30 pm to 10:15 pm at St. James Hall, 3214 West 10th Avenue (at Trutch St.) in Vancouver.

There will be a live band and the door admission is reasonable:

\$15/person or only \$10 if you bring snacks to share

The next contra dance event after that will be Sat. April 20, again at St. James Hall.

Is there perhaps a friend or family member who would attend the dance with you? (Partners are not necessary)

If you can't drive, curious about the Skytrain/bus route you'd be considering, we looked at Translink's Trip Planning web site. If on Sat. April 6 you depart Coquitlam at 5:58 pm, you'd arrive at 7:06 pm, close to the dance hall, after 1 hour 8 minutes. That's travelling from Coquitlam Central Station on the Millennium Line, then two bus transfers (#99 & #14) to a point that's just a short walk to the dance hall on West 10th.

See the following link for that information:

<https://tripplanning.translink.ca/hiwire?.a=itineraryDetail&.s=47c24e8f&useGoogleMap=1&StartDisplay=COQUITLAM+CENTRAL+STATION%2C+BARNET+HWY+%40+LOUGHEED+HWY%2C+COQUITLAM&EndDisplay=3214+W+10TH+AVE%2C+VANCOUVER&ItinSummary=991%2C++099%2C++014&Start=COQUITLAM+CENTRAL+STATION%2C+BARNET+HWY+%40+LOUGHEED+HWY%2C+COQUITLAM&End=3214+West+10th+Avenue%2C+Vancouver&StartGeo=COQUITLAM+CENTRAL+STATION%2C+BARNET+HWY+%40+LOUGHEED+HWY%2C+COQUITLAM%3B-122799277%3B49275581&EndGeo=3214+West+10th+Avenue%2C+Vancouver%3B-123176185%3B49263328&Date=04-06-2019&TripDirection=DEP&Time=+6%3A00p&SortBy=&Fare=&Accessibility=&ItinIndex=1&MapWidth=500&MapHeight=500&Option=None&SB=View+Detail+>

The big 3-day B.C. Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm (July 11-13) will include contra dancing, should you really want to do lots of dancing! See: BCFestival2019.com

What do you think?

Best regards & happy dancing!

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

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Additional followup – Sat. March 23, 2019:

Good to hear back from you, Kathleen.

Didn't know about the contra dance that opened the 3-day Festival du Bois on Friday night at Mackin Park (<http://www.festivaldubois.ca/friday-night-contra-dance>). That's a wonderful way to launch the event and it would have been a perfect try-out for you, not far from home.

Yes, those first steps into a new social atmosphere can be hard to take but the fact is that there will be many people just like you, venturing out possibly for the first time.

I like one particular video on YouTube about contra dancing from Atlanta, Georgia, where people talk about their tentative first steps and their pre-conceptions. It's called "Contra Dancing and New Dancers" and the duration is just over 5 minutes.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BjR-LuMPr4>

Our provincial Federation of dance clubs conducts two annual paid advertising campaigns on Facebook. In conjunction with that, we have a comprehensive list of lessons available around the province. Most lessons start in the Fall but some clubs conduct January/February start-ups.

That list, including square, round and clog dance clubs, is at: SquareDanceFun.info

Burnaby has a long-running singles square and round dance club called the "Swinging Singles (& Couples)." They conduct both new square dancer classes and new round dancer classes. Although their lessons generally start in the Fall, they did run a new round dancer class starting in January/February of this year. Their particular listing is at:

<http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/#SwingingSinglesDanceClub>

There's a Monday afternoon square dance group in New Westminster that always welcomes newcomers. You might like to try that. They dance at Century House in Moody Park.

Single women are welcome at "Century House Squares" and something many single ladies are doing today is learning the left hand partner's position, traditionally that of the man. That's especially practical because the greater interest in dancing is by women and being able to dance the left hand position pretty much guarantees that you'll be dancing all the time. See: <http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/#CenturyHouseNewSquareDancers>

If you'd like to do about a 30 minute drive out to Aldergrove for Sunday afternoon dancing, the "Guys 'n Gals" dance club is lots of fun and they welcome newcomers the year around. The round dance instruction is by Wendy Krueger but participation needs to be arranged with her beforehand (so she knows who to expect). Wendy also calls square dances and she works at the dance club with Tyler Wagner who's also an Elvis Tribute artist.

See: <http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/#GuysnGalsDanceClubLessons>

It would be wonderful to meet you on a dance floor sometime in the near future!

Best regards,

Brian Elmer

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Facebook inquiries during the period August 7, 2018 to March 25, 2019

Various topics of communication via the B.C. Federation's Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation) took place from early September 2018 to early January 2019.

Those topics included:

- Sept. 11/18 - Query from an Okanagan club's webmaster noting that the Facebook App (application) for smartphone or other mobile devices using the IOS platform was not allowing access to the "Info and Ads" section on the Federation's Facebook page. That section displays all the currently active paid Facebook ads launched by our SQUAREUPB.C. marketing initiative. (Facebook page in question: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation/ads>)
- Sept. 15/18 – Query from Sheila B. in Victoria who's interested in square dance lessons, prompted by the paid Facebook advertising, but she wonders about transportation options
- Sept. 17/18 – Query from Shannon H. of Kelowna, wondering about contact info for any square dancing groups in the Okanagan.
- Sept. 23/18 – Query from Susan L. of Vernon, asking about clog dance lessons in Vernon and what ages are participating. Her inquiry was prompted by our paid Facebook advertising of lessons in the city on behalf of our member club, Got 2 B Cloggin.
- Sept. 26/18 – Query from Navreet S. in Dawson Creek, asking when the first free square dance takes place in the city, subsequent fees and the number of lessons. Her inquiry was prompted by our paid Facebook advertising of lessons in the city on behalf of our member club, Mile Zero Grand Squares.
- Sept. 27/18 – Query from Linda B. identifying that she's interested in clog dancing and wondering if one of our Facebook ads relative to clogging applied to Port Coquitlam. She was directed to contact Darlene Cummings of Surrey to inquire if the Fancy Double Dancers clogging club is still active.
- Jan. 7/19 – Query from Dwight F. of Victoria to ask about having local events posted on the B.C. Federation's Facebook page

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