

REVISED: TOLL-FREE DANCE INFOLINE REPORT (1-800-335-9433)

For the April 10, 2022 online Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Square and Round Dance Federation.

- Presented by Brian Elmer, West Kelowna, INFOLINE Receptionist

Note that a supplemental/interim INFOLINE report was submitted to the November 26, 2021 online meeting of the B.C. Federation's Board of Directors.

Since this reporting period relates to proceedings since the last Annual General Meeting in the Spring of 2021, the report from that meeting is reproduced below and is followed by calls received after the Board of Directors meeting, up to and including April 6, 2022.

Call period starting Spring 2021 to Friday November 26, 2021 inclusive

INFOLINE call received Spring, 2021

From: 604-584-5506 - Norm Cox called from Surrey, B.C., to share thoughts relative to a future vision for the square dance activity in light of pandemic limitations. Norm is a past-President of the B.C. Federation and was a lead organizer for Convention 2021 in Surrey. He felt that our club members should explore dancing by videoconferencing--possibly for an extended period--wherein a caller entertains via the internet.

INFOLINE call received 12:16 pm Monday Sept. 6, 2021

Inquiry re: Square Dance Instruction of Grade 2's

From: Sherry-Ann McNeil, Chilliwack

samcneil64@gmail.com, 604-751-1369

She's an elementary school teacher of grade 2's who saw one of the Fraser Valley Square & Round Dance Association's promotional banners posted along Lickman Road in Chilliwack and noted the INFOLINE number to call for more information. She wants to introduce square dancing to her students at the school in Mission where she teaches and she's also interested in post-pandemic square dance lessons in the Fraser Valley. She was assured that a dance representative will contact her. Sherry-Ann was also given information about the Moving and Grooving cd lesson series, a dance program for schools and community groups presented in 8 cd's with a 169 page instruction manual. The internet link for that program was furnished (<https://www.movingandgrooving.squaredance.bc.ca/program.html>).

Action taken:

An e-mail detailing Sherry-Ann's request was sent at 2:08 pm on the same day (Sept. 6), just under 2 hours after receiving the inquiry. It was sent to Wendy Krueger (our Federation secretary and a retired teacher), the President of the Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers--Steve Armstrong (604-769-0100) and Brent Mawdsley, Chairperson of the Region 2 Promotion Committee.

Update:

Wendy Krueger replied to say that she had indeed been in touch with Sherry-Ann and will follow-up further.

INFOLINE call received 10:52 am Tuesday Sept. 7, 2021

Inquiry via answering machine re: Square dance instruction in the Chilliwack area

From: Steven Adler, Chilliwack

hcci113@yahoo.ca, workplace: The Colt Store on Progress Way in Chilliwack: 604-392-7921

Also: DBAT Sports on South Fraser Way in Abbotsford: 604-744-0013

Action taken:

Multiple attempts to contact this caller met with no response, so it was not pursued further

INFOLINE call received 3:38 pm Tuesday Sept. 7, 2021

Inquiry via answering machine re:

Exploration of our membership's possible interest in fundraising through the sale of chocolates

From: Purdys Chocolate's Corporate Sales Division in Vancouver, 604-301-3902

It was also noted online that they have an e-mail address: fundraising@purdys.com

and a dedicated fundraising web page: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/>

Action taken:

The company indicated that further information would follow by mail but none was received

INFOLINE call received 12:21 pm Sunday Nov. 7, 2021

Inquiry re: Availability of the INFOLINE service

From: Brent Mawdsley, Chairperson, FVSRDA Promotion

Committee 604-594-8622 - brent.mawdsley@gmail.com

Brent called to ensure that the B.C. Federation's Dance INFOLINE (1-800-335-9433) was still in service. He also sought information about marketing methodology and the consequences when our leaders don't adhere to the components.

Action taken: Brent was satisfied that the INFOLINE continues to be available, especially since the FVSRDA has invested considerable funding into large exterior promotional banners and other literature, displaying the INFOLINE number, that are in public view around the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

INFOLINE call received 4:25 pm Sunday Nov. 7, 2021

Inquiry re: Testing the INFOLINE service

From: David McVige, 2nd Vice-President, B.C. Federation

604-864-7435 - hiflyr1@gmail.com

David called to test the INFOLINE and see if it still connects. He expressed concern that the plan is wrong to cancel the service as determined by the B.C. Federation's Executive and most but not all Directors-at-Large. He identified that Region 2 has a strategy to use the INFOLINE heavily in post-pandemic lesson promotions. (It was noted that Region 3, the Okanagan Valley, also plans to utilize the INFOLINE in its Valleywide lesson promotions.)

Action taken: David resolved to be an advocate for continuing the INFOLINE service.

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INFOLINE call received 11:54 am Saturday Nov. 13, 2021

Inquiry re: Promotional banner about dance lessons with a "DanceForFun.ca" web address and Toll-free Dance INFOLINE number

From: Christine Walenski (spelling estimate), having a New Westminster cell number - 604-377-6077 - email not clear

In a recorded message, Christine explained that she saw a promotional banner on the Kennedy Hall building at Scott Road & 88th in Surrey. She's interested in what days square dance lessons are available. (The banner was placed by the Promotion Committee of the FVSRDA.)

Action taken:

Two separate return long-distance telephone calls were placed to Christine on Nov. 13 & 14 at which time messages were left on her answering machine. At Nov. 19/21, she had not yet returned the call. An e-mail was sent to Brent Mawdsley of the Promotion Committee for followup, furnishing Christine's phone number.

INFOLINE reports following the November 26, 2021 Board of Directors meeting...

Call period starting Friday November 26, 2021

INFOLINE call received 4:55 pm Friday November 26, 2021

Inquiry re: Square Dance New Dancer Instruction in the Fraser Valley

From: Kurt Ruginis of Langley - cell/text at: 778-255-3556

Kurt called to inquire about square dance lessons after seeing the FVSRDA promotional banner posted outside at Kennedy Hall in Surrey. He's interested in taking lessons as a single dancer and would like to be contacted when sessions are available. Kurt related that he has had the double vaccination against Covid-19. He does not have e-mail but can be contacted by cell/text at: 778-255-3556. He was very pleased to make contact with us, saying "glad you guys are here." It was explained to him that new dancer sessions are on-hold at this point but we'll contact him once lessons are set to take place. He suggested that perhaps we can consider some outdoor dancing with the use of propane heaters to maintain warmth. He wonders if the Heritage Park facility in Chilliwack might be a good venue. He's been a volunteer with the Nicomekl Enhancement Society in Langley and suggests that we present some square dancing to build awareness at their annual 6-hour "Fish Release" event in April that attracts between 700 and 800 people. (Website:

<https://nicomeklsalmonhatchery.com/>)

Caller's motivation:

Kurt explained that he had a great experience learning to square dance one evening on a trip to Montana state, attending a barn dance. He found it lots of fun, very social and appreciated that the event was substance-free (no alcohol). He liked the promotional banner with contact information at Kennedy Hall, Surrey, reading "Square Dance Here - Love the Fun - Fitness - Friendship."

Profile:

"I'm a blue collar worker" said Kurt, explaining that he's been a long-haul truck driver, a painter and a disc-jockey. As a disc jockey, he was pleased to see how music and dancing can bring euphoric moments to people. He's a past member of the Toastmaster's Club. He was proud to say that his parents were each school teachers.

Action taken: Kurt was assured that his request to be contacted will be passed along to FVSRDA promotion representatives.

INFOLINE call received

February, 2022

Inquiry re: Notification when square dancing resumes in the Central Okanagan

A fellow by the first name of Vic called the INFOLINE from the Kelowna area to ask about square dancing in the Central Okanagan. Aged 70 years, he detailed that he lived in Radium for 33 years and square danced there for 12 years. Before going to Kelowna, he danced the Mainstream and Plus programs in Abbotsford as a solo dancer for several months. He will be out of the country until September, 2022, but desires to be contacted when the fall dancing gets underway. He relates that he “loves helping new dancers.”

Action taken: Vic’s contact number was noted by the Westsyde Squares dance club and they’ll contact him as dancing resumes in the fall.

INFOLINE call received

6:35 pm Friday Feb. 25, 2022

From: Bernie Schroeder of Abbotsford (Yarrow). Phone: 604-798-8374. E-mail:

fuelefficientengine@hotmail.com

Address: 412867 #3 Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2R9 (map link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/8jLeCzrrWBrhweph9>)

Inquiry re:

Interested in square dance lessons in the Abbotsford/Chilliwack area. Bernie identified that he saw a banner promoting square dancing and furnishing the toll-free Dance INFOLINE number, displayed along Lickman Road in Chilliwack. Aged 65 (birthdate: Feb. 23, 1958), he explained that learning to square dance might be ideal for him to socialize as he undergoes a divorce.

Background information:

His preference for dance instruction is evenings by the fact that he owns a dairy farm and during the daytime he assists his son in its management. He's interested in any square dance instruction in the region but thinks that sessions in Chilliwack or Abbotsford would be best to avoid a long commute. In years past, he used to commute long distances to work.

An interesting element in his life is that he's designing a fuel efficient gas-powered engine that looks promising.

Regarding Covid-19 vaccinations, Bernie relates that he's had the double Covid vaccination and anticipates getting the booster shot in March. He's also had the annual flu shot.

Bernie expressed his appreciation that the B.C. Federation is maintaining an avenue of person-to-person communication via the Toll-free Dance INFOLINE.

Action taken:

Bernie was assured that various club leaders would be contacted with regard to his inquiry and some would surely contact him.

He was welcomed to reconnect with the INFOLINE should he not get the information desired.

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INFOLINE call received

2:11 pm Sunday March 27, 2022

From: Faly Paz, Vancouver - Cell phone: 604-837-1346.

Inquiry re:

The caller identified that she was seeking the telephone number to book space at Kennedy Hall in Surrey. She was visiting outside the hall and found that there was no answer at the apparent booking number: 604-596-6066. Noting the "Square Dance Here" promotional banner posted outside the hall displaying the toll-free Dance INFOLINE number, she called us to inquire about hall rental. She particularly wondered if any of our dance clubs have the hall booked for Saturday July 2, 2022. That is the date on which she wishes to celebrate her 75th birthday with friends at the hall. Also, our leaders might be able to furnish the correct booking number for the hall.

Action taken:

On behalf of Ms. Paz, the Recreation Department for the City of Surrey was contacted by e-mail to inquire about the availability of Kennedy Hall on the date in question but no response has been received as of this report. In addition, an email was sent to leaders in the Surrey Square Wheelers dance club and FVSRDA representatives to inquire if any of our dance clubs have the hall booked for July 2, 2022. Faly was welcomed to reconnect with the INFOLINE should she not get the information desired. She's a ballroom dancer who will surely speak well of our dance form participants when given the opportunity.

Followup:

Roiane Evans of the Surrey Square Wheelers responded that she left on Faly's voice messaging system a notice that Jerry Phillips is the person to call about booking Kennedy Hall (604-574-9118). Also, John Corrigan arranged for Jerry to call Faly about renting the hall. John detailed: "Apparently the number she called was from the phone book. Jerry's number is on the hall door."

INFOLINE call received

1:50 pm Wednesday April 6, 2022

From: Polok Roy, Surrey - Cell phone/text: 604-671-1059 (both a work and personal phone). E-mail: polokroy2007@yahoo.com

Inquiry re:

The caller, by the first name of Polok, identified that he and his wife, Urmi, saw square dancing promoted on the banner outside Kennedy Hall in Surrey. They noted the toll-free Dance INFOLINE number and called us. They wish to learn the details about the dance form and the lessons. They have a 3-year old son for whom they may be able to seek childcare while they learn to dance but it cannot be on Saturday or Sunday when such care is not available to them. Polok and Urmi are from Bangladesh and it was found that his accent made communication in English somewhat challenging but he was happy to repeat a comment for clarification. He initially used the speakerphone feature on his telephone but his voice was clearer when that was turned off. It was cute to hear their young son's voice in the background.

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Action taken:

An e-mail was sent to Polok with notes about square dance lessons in the Fraser Valley but it was identified how the few dance clubs that have offered new dancer sessions in early 2022 are generally closed now to newcomers. Among the lesson details furnished was that the Surrey Square Wheelers had started lessons on Wednesday nights at the Brookwood Seniors Centre but those were now closed to additional newcomers. Dance lesson offerings in Aldergrove and Chilliwack were also identified but those have closed to new dancers. He felt that lessons in Aldergrove or Chilliwack were a little too far for them to travel. It was speculated that he and his wife would have to wait until the fall for the next round of lessons.

General information about square dancing was requested by Polok, so details about the square dance as a dance form were e-mailed. Those included the 1-minute "Social Square Dancing Fun" video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqfPSu7t1UM>) and the 2-minute ARTS video, in their "You 2 Can Dance" series, explaining square dancing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2Yq7SNCCbc>).

Added was the 10-minute "Dancing Keeps You Young" video in which Steve Edlund appears as the caller, produced by the B.C. Federation and posted on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my8Ckx0bGG4>.

That video originally had the shorter referral address of DancingKeepsYouYoung.ca which redirected people to the YouTube location but that simpler address was cancelled by the Federation, possibly as a cost-saving measure.

Polok was assured that his inquiry would be passed along to leaders in the Fraser Valley dance community and he was welcomed to reconnect with the INFOLINE should he not get the information desired.

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