

**Report to the April 10, 2022 B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation  
Annual General Meeting via the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform  
By Brian Elmer, Director-at-Large for Region 3, Okanagan Valley**

**Summary of Activity in Region 3**

Throughout most of 2021, dance activity was largely on-hold in the Okanagan Valley due to the pandemic but some dancing did take place only to be put on hold again as the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus presented itself.

The Okanagan Square & Round Dance Association has experienced a full change of executive and is undergoing realignment. An important goal will be to assist its member clubs in launching a strong recruitment effort for the fall of 2022.

In brief, at April 2022, it is our round dance and clog dance clubs that have reopened for accomplished dancers to get back on the dance floor. The Okanagan Cloggin' club will again present their annual 3-day Clogover Vine clogging workshop at West Kelowna in June.

The two square dance clubs and the Youth Club that teaches primarily in elementary schools don't expect to open to their accomplished dancers or welcome newcomers until the fall of 2022. It's possible that some special square dances for those accomplished will yet be scheduled prior to the fall.

**Specific Club Reports**

**Star Country Squares, Vernon**

The Star Country club of Vernon plans to restart in September with a blend of Social Square Dancing (SSD) and will include some Mainstream program dancing later in the season, as both a refresher and new dancer program. The dates and details have yet to be decided.

The club hopes to do some park dancing this summer but that, too, has to be detailed in the near future. (The club has enjoyed many such summer dances, usually at Polson Park, prior to the onset of the pandemic.)

The wait and see Covid issues are the club's main stumbling block. Some of the club members are eager to go and do attend dances at other clubs; some of the dancers are reluctant to travel and some do not feel ready to participate in such a non-social distance activity yet.

The Star Country Squares hope that Covid concerns will be less by September and ALL can dance together comfortably and the halls will be relaxed in all covid regulations (vaccination restrictions).

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The club has plans for promotion, appearing at the Interior Provincial Exhibition, advertising, etc. but, again, it wants to wait and see what happens with the April 8th Govt. rulings concerning Covid restrictions.

The club leaders expect that by May or June they'll be ready to start detailing their plans.

–Submitted by Mae Fawcett, President, Star Country Squares dance club

### **Rhythm Rounds, Vernon**

The Rhythm Rounds round dance club, led by cuer-teachers Peter & Stella Tennant, has started back up with Covid protocols in place. The dancers must show their provincial Vaccination Card to confirm that they are fully vaccinated. Masks must be worn at all times. Their venue is the Halina Seniors Centre.

The club regrets that their attendance is down to about half the dancers that they had prior to the pandemic.

Peter and Stella will conduct sessions for accomplished dancers and it's anticipated that cuer-teachers Gary & Annette Richards will start a class for new dancers.

### **Okanagan Cloggin', Central Okanagan**

Clog dance cuer and club leader, Barb Bizovie of West Kelowna, has been conducting clogging sessions for accomplished dancers at two different locations since February 28 of this year (2022). Those locations are in Kelowna and West Kelowna.

The club won't be welcoming brand new beginners until September of this year (2022).

Of particular note is that the club will resume its annual clogging workshop, called Clogover Vine (an actual clogging step), featuring a guest instructor, on June 3, 4 & 5, 2022. Always well-attended, it will take place in the usual venue, the Westbank Lions Community Centre in West Kelowna.

An extensive Facebook post of June 24, 2018, detailed that year's Clogover Vine event held June 15 to 17. Many photos show the fun. See it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation/posts/1892806450764703>

Although adjustments are ongoing, COVID protocols have been in force, as identified by the facility operators. All of the dancers are to be fully vaccinated in order to be able to participate in sessions. They wear masks until each dancer is in place on the dance floor and then they can be removed to dance. They also mask-up when entering and exiting the building. Hand sanitizer is available.

– Information submitted by Barbara Bizovie, instructor and leader, Okanagan Cloggin', Central Okanagan

## **Got 2 B Cloggin, Central Okanagan**

No specific information about this club's current status was furnished but the club's website (<https://www.got2bcloggin.com/>) reads that, when Covid-19 hit, they were forced to draw back, take stock and adjust their routines.

They now meet Monday and Wednesday evenings where there's lots of room to dance in the Peachland 50+ Activity Centre and on Saturday mornings in West Kelowna at the Seniors' Centre.

The website relates that clog dancing allows for plenty of space to maintain social distancing.

## **Westsyde Squares, Central Okanagan**

The Westsyde Squares square & round dance club has undergone revitalization and now has a new executive group.

There is no dancing for accomplished dancers at this time but the club might bring in a guest caller/cuer to present one or two special Mainstream program dances in the months ahead.

It's projected that new square dancer sessions will be launched in the fall of 2022.

For purposes of building the very important element of awareness of the dance form, there's been discussion about presenting a wide range of promotional dances with public participation, such as at clubs, churches and public markets.

The club has a very low membership and needs to build its membership list as a first priority, primarily by attracting new dancers.

## **Westside Youth Square Dance Club, Central Okanagan**

The focus in the recent past for this initiative has been upon square dance instruction by Brian Elmer to elementary school students at Central Okanagan schools. That goal will be pursued again, perhaps in the fall of 2022.

Those engagements have often involved all the students in all grades at a given school, K to 6, and a total of 6 sessions has been common by scheduling that number of days for the whole school to receive instruction.

Some very basic instruction has also been furnished to participants at Pathways Abilities Society in Kelowna, presenting a little dance fun to physically and mentally disabled adults. They wish to resume that in the near future.