

# Gord Ruedig

Sillery Award Recipient for 2025

Article by Pat Zeeman from the Cross Trail News Fall edition

I am pleased to be here today on behalf of the British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation to present the Sillery Award. The Sillery Award is named in honour of Doreen Sillery for her extraordinary contribution to square dancing. It is given for outstanding service to square, round, contra, clogging or line dancing extending well beyond club level endeavours. The Award was first given in 2003 to Gerry and Elsie Rudiger. We are fortunate to have four Sillery Award recipients with us this afternoon – Cathy and her late husband Jean-Guy Moreau in 2013; Connie and her late husband Al Ritchie in 2015; Garry Dodds in 2016; and myself in 2016. (See next page for a complete list of Sillery Award recipients.) Today's recipient started dancing in 1998. In 2004, when his club caller announced his retirement, he stepped in to take on that role. He was instrumental in developing the West Coast program and using that program he was able to get new dancers dancing quickly in a spring or fall session. He has taught square and round dance classes for over 20 years and has never had to miss a class or club night due to sickness in all those years! JOINT UVISDA-LVIWSRDA DANCE By George Pattern On June 1st the Upper Vancouver Island Square Dance Association and the Lower Vancouver Island Western Square & Round Dance Association hosted their annual Joint Dance at Nanoose Place. Attendance was strong as one hundred and thirty dancers formed up into sixteen squares to hear caller-cuer Brent Mawdsley work his magic. Crinolines whirled and feet flew as Brent sang out calls at a speed that would leave an auctioneer tongue-tied. During a break in the activity, Gord Ruedig was presented with the Sillery Award for outstanding service to square, round, contra, clogging or line dancing extending well beyond club level endeavours. By Pat Zeeman With his musical abilities, he is constantly presenting new music to his dancers, and he has even choreographed several round dances, one of which was chosen as a BC Square & Round Dance Federation Round of the Month – “You Ain’t Going Nowhere” in October 2017. In addition to his local calling and cueing, he travels to other clubs to call dances several times per year. He mentors other callers and cuers. He has been a member of the Upper Vancouver Island Caller Teachers Association since 2004, where he has held a number of positions including President. He has been First Vice President and Librarian for the BC Square & Round Dance Federation from 2010 to 2012, and Second Vice President from 2012 to 2016. He continues to serve the Federation as a Director for the Upper Vancouver Island Caller Teachers Association. By now, I think that most of you have guessed the identity of our latest Sillery Award recipient. I am honoured, on behalf of the British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation, to present the Sillery Award for outstanding service to square and round dancing to Gord Ruedig from Powell River.