

(Wendy Krueger's interview with Skaha Matters for Festival 2026 in Penticton)

The 24th Canadian National Square, Round and Clog Festival Penticton, BC

by Rosalyn Garnett, OSRDA President

The 24th Canadian National Square, Round and Clog Festival in Penticton, B.C., took place July 16 to 18 at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre.

Wendy Krueger, co-chair of the biennial celebration, was very pleased with the 586 pre-registered dancers and anticipated that the final total would be over 600 dancers, counting those who just come for a day or two. There were 400+ dancers at the Wed. July 15 "Trail In" Dance

Dancers came from Australia, Germany, China, Malaysia, the US and most of Canada. As all square dancing is done with standardized English calls, people from different countries with different languages can all dance together.

Another dance style on the program was a choreographed form of ballroom done to live cues known as Round Dancing. The dancers enjoyed waltz, two step, cha cha and rhumba. Watching some of those dancers, especially the teens and young adults who have competed in the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival, makes it look like they should be on "Dancing With the Stars."

Also at the Festival there was Contra (danced in interactive columns), Clogging (a flat foot shuffle in double taps) and Line dancing (where dancers move in unison but don't interact with each other). With all these types of dancing and the many levels of square dancing, there were 7 different dance halls in use from 10 am to 10 pm except for meal breaks. You know you need to keep your energy up to keep on dancing. There were also "Try It" dances available to the general public on Saturday afternoon.

The dancers were dressed from very casual in shorts and t-shirts to very fancy, sparkly dresses and crinolines (even metallic gold & silver) and fancy shirts and ties.

Also, bathing suits were necessary on Saturday afternoon for the Aqua Ducks square & round dance IN Okanagan Lake, just off the beach. A 12 foot high inflated yellow duck on the sand showed you the spot to splash your corner and dip and dive. There were over 250 dancers taking part in that water fun.

Of course, all of this doesn't happen without the efforts of a lot of people: 74 leaders and 107 volunteers (probably more than that) who participated because of their love of dancing.

Krueger and her co-chair Dennis Sutton were very happy how the Festival has turned out and truly wish to thank everyone who helped plan and execute the event, as well as all the hotels, restaurants, facilities and the Penticton Chamber of Commerce in the city.

The fun of seeing long time friends and making new ones is definitely one of the best things about the time spent at these gatherings.

If you missed this Festival in Penticton you will have to wait 2 years and travel to Fredericton, N.B., for the next one. Also, it's a great way and a good reason to see our wonderful country.

For more information about square, round or clog dance lessons starting this Fall around the Okanagan Valley, call the Toll Free Dance INFOLINE: 1-800-335-9433 or email dancinglikethestars@gmail.com