

***Square and Round Dance Federation of Nova Scotia
Annual Report to
Canadian Square and Round Dance Society***

June 27, 2026

Our challenge to recruit and retain dancers continues with some success., although there are clubs surviving with small classes of one or two couples or singles. Travelling amongst clubs has been enough to keep our remaining square dancing groups going. Over the past year, we have lost dancers to health issues, noting the small numbers gained has off set the losses enough to keep our remaining clubs operating.

Cape Breton Region, and **Highland Region**:

At this time, there are no active clubs and no active callers in either Region.

Fundy Region:

Cumberland Twirlers (MS) continue to have an active group, dancing every Monday evening. Cumberland Twirlers are aggressively recruiting for a class commencing in September 2026 or January 2027. Since Cumberland Twirlers caller retired for health reasons, five callers from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia alternate calling for Cumberland Twirlers, keep the club active until they can find a regular caller. Many thanks to Christine Belanger(PEI), Terry Hebert(NB), Laurie Illsley(NS), Kerry Fletcher(NS) and Palma Heming(NS) who stepped up.

NB - NS Border Rounders is dancing only and no longer offers classes.

Central Region:

Lake City Swingers (MS) - The Club alternates between afternoon and evening dances. The club continues to operate with small numbers adding 1 new member this year.

Stardusters (MS), also continues to put their efforts into recruiting new dancers and is following up on potential dancers for their fall opening.

Harmony Squares (Plus), continues to dance on most Sunday afternoons, usually with 2 squares plus a spare couple or two on rotation.

Sail Sets Dances Plus, Advance and Challenge. All levels are struggling with low numbers.

Fun Time Rounds remains active with small numbers.

Halifax Contra Dances are continuing and the numbers for their dances remain stable.

Contra Time Dancers are continuing and the numbers have increased this year.

In addition to leading Contra Time Dancers, **Dottie Welch** is Caller for Lake City Swingers and Sail Sets.

Valley Region:

Fundy Squares (MS) retained the 8 MS dancers they graduated in 2025 and graduated another class of 8 dancers this past spring. The club continues to recruit new dancers for their September 2025 startup. In addition, this club's dancers are enthusiastic supporters of South Shore Squares.

South Shore Region:

South Shore Squares (MS) at the close of this season had a total of 24 insured members and an average attendance of 18 dancers. The couple gained offset the loss of a couple last year. Amongst our members this year is a 12 year old whose partner is his Grandmother. Regular support by dancers from other clubs, especially Fundy Squares, Stardusters and Harmony Squares has been a great help in keeping SSS going.

At this time, the club is still very much in building mode. SSS promotes all year long with bookmarks, brochures, posters, PSA notices in community newsletters and radio for our September startup. SSS again will have presence at Seniors Expo 2026. The signature event for South Shore Squares is its annual Buccaneers' Bash held this year on Friday in May 1, with guest caller, Kerry Fletcher. This years "Bash" saw our largest attendance to date with dancers from New Brunswick and all active Nova Scotia clubs.

Marketing

The Marketing lead for the Square and Round Dance Federation of Nova Scotia is available to assist clubs with their promotions providing rack cards, brochures and bookmarks for placement in libraries, bookmobiles, used book stores and texts for PSAs.

Clubs are encouraged to participate in their local community fairs and seniors expos: where practical, partner with other active seniors groups to offer intros to square dancing to their memberships and use message boards outside their dance venues promoting square dancing at that site; and use local radio and community newspapers PSAs. Social media continues to be used to promote our activity.

In addition to aging dancers, we are also facing the challenge of recruiting new Callers to replace those who have or are retiring.

Fundy Region is served by 5 callers on rotation from NB, PEI and NS; plus 1 Cuer.

Central Region has 2 full-time callers, 2-part time callers and 1 Cuer.

South Shore Region has no Caller (Caller travels from Valley Region)

Valley Region has 2 callers (one supports South Shore Region)

All dancers are encouraged to provide support to other clubs in mingling and hearten their dancers and Caller. It is well worth the travel!

Respectfully submitted,

Square and Round Dance Federation of Nova Scotia

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