

## CALLERS CORNER

A forum for the exchange of information  
between Callers & Dancers

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### “Let’s all join hands in friendship, for everyone to see.....”

Is the first line of the “Friendship Song” which is often sung at the very end of a great evening of square dancing. It’s also the very first line of this final column, as I bring to an end, the Callers Corner after 4 years. I do it with some regret, but recall that the reason I started it was to create something new & different, to create a dialogue between dancers & callers by answering your questions and providing information on an array of topics of common interest to all. In the last few months, those questions seemed to have ‘dried up’ and despite my efforts to generate new interest, nothing has been forthcoming. Thus it’s time to retire the column !

#### ***But before I go, a few thoughts .....***

We live in an era of ‘high speed’! Today it seems like everything has to be done quickly without concern for some of the important things in life.

We ‘talk’ to each other via email, websites, cell phones at any time day or night & from anywhere in the world. We rush from place to place; we rush to get things done; we rush, we rush,,,,, but, do we really communicate? There’s really nothing better than a ‘face-to face’ chat and no, not through the magic of ‘virtual reality’ but with a real live human being!

One of my favourite times is having that Timmies XL decaf after dancing. A time to sit & chat with friends,, to really communicate - to see smiles, to hear comments (from the heart) - so unlike email, which removes all the human contact! What’s the rush?... Where are you **really** going? We’re here for such a short time, why rush through it?

We are so fortunate to be involved in an activity that requires real live interaction with other human beings - Square Dancers! We must talk to each other; cooperate to attain success in the dance; touch each other; and we shake hands regularly to say ‘thanks’! We makes new friends almost every week & have the chance to meet with our ‘old’ friends often. The more you dance, the more friends you meet, the more fun you can have, the more you can relax & enjoy life to the fullest. And yet,,,,,, we still want to “rush” through Square Dancing? Why is that?

We come into our first square dance hall as a ‘newbie’, not knowing what this new activity holds for us, and meet a bunch of strangers for the first time. We like what we find; we stay; we join the club; we learn to square dance; we meet new people; we develop new friendships; we’re enjoying life in a new way we never thought possible. And yet, we still want to rush ! We’ve learned our ‘Basics’, so now let’s ‘charge on’ and do our Mainstream. Good, that’s done, so let’s now go learn Plus, after all, they seem to be having more fun at Plus? OK, Plus is now done, let’s look at learning Advance..... and then,,,,,, **WHOA!** .....what’s the rush?

And one thing that disturbs me greatly that I see in all this “rush” , is that we forget that not everybody wants to rush at the same pace as we do. We’re so wanting to get ‘there’ (?) so fast, that we expect that others around us should be also moving at ‘our’ pace. When we find that they’re not, we become critical, impatient & intolerant of others - we **forget** the prime reason we joined in the first place - for **the fun & friendship** we found that very first night! Step back for moment & look in your mirror & ask yourself .... is that me, have I become that way? Am I in a rush?

Folks, **ENJOY THE JOURNEY** it doesn’t last that long, why rush through it?

Hope to see you in Montreal in July !!



Cheers ..... Geoff