

A Trip to Ottawa 2025

Ottawa English Dance invites you to join us for our annual TRIP TO OTTAWA weekend. The events will be held on November 7, 8 & 9, 2025.

CALLER: Jamie Hargrove

Jamie Hargrove was born in Ottawa, and has spent his entire life surrounded by dance. Jamie grew up learning all kinds of renaissance dance, including the earliest English country dances. In addition to English country dance, Jamie specializes in French and Italian dances of the Renaissance, and has many quite elaborate choreographies. Jamie joined the Ottawa English Country Dance Club in 2017, and very quickly became a popular caller.

CALLER: Denise Blais

After many years of international folk dancing, Denise began teaching those dances in 2005. At the same time, she began attending ECD workshops with Michel Landry in Montreal. In 2012, she started a new group dedicated to ECD, in Laval, near Montreal. She has been in charge of teaching there since then. She wrote her first dance in 2012, and to this day has written over a hundred, some easy, others challenging.

MUSICIANS: Gregannian Chant

Gregannian Chance is a trio of very experienced dance musicians, Greg Brown (fiddle, concertina), Ann Downey (bass, banjo) and Ian Clark (guitar).

Greg Brown is a multi-instrumentalist, with “pro”ficiency on fiddle, concertina, accordion, banjo, guitar, for starters. Greg has played for many dances, mainly contra, for over two decades and plays with great drive, expression, and improvisational skills.

Ann Downey grew up singing along in the backseat with harmonizing parents during long cross-country moving trips. A multi-instrumentalist on guitar, banjo and bass, she has played, toured and recorded with local Ottawa folk / roots groups Finest Kind, Sneezy Waters, Tony Turner, Pat Moore's Vinyl Frontier, The Toasted Westerns as well as the Old Sod Band, Ottawa's first contra dance band. When not performing, sewing and gardening, Ann teaches clawhammer banjo at Alcorn Music Studios.

Ian Clark has played for many dances over 3 decades, including Scottish Country dances, English Country dances, contra dances, and Cape Breton Ceilidhs. Ian joined The Old Sod Band, Ottawa's seminal contra dance band in 1994, at least 5 years after Ann! Ian also plays in diverse genres such as rockabilly and swing, and he brings flavours from all his diverse influences to his dance band playing.

WEEKEND PROGRAM

Friday, Nov. 7 7:30 – 10:00	Ball Review	Jamie Hargrove Gregannian Chant
Saturday, Nov. 8 10:00 – 12:00	*Workshop Challenging New Dances	Denise Blais Recorded music
Saturday, Nov. 8 7:30 – 10:30	TRIP TO OTTAWA BALL	Jamie Hargrove Gregannian Chant
Sunday, Nov. 9 9:30 – 12:15	Breakfast & Farewell Dance	Jamie Hargrove Gregannian Chant

*WORKSHOP: Participants are expected to know basic movements (e.g. heys for 3 or 4; dolphin hey; mirror back-to-back; etc.) The dances will be taught with a walk-through.

There is an additional cost for this workshop of \$15 (\$13 USD)

COST OF INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Ball Review	\$15 (\$13 USD)
Ball	\$75 (\$56 USD)
Breakfast & Farewell Dance	\$25 (\$20 USD)

There is an Early Bird Special for those who register and pay by October 17.

The Early Bird rate saving \$20 for the three events, noted above is \$95 (\$72 USD)

The “Challenging New Dances” workshop is an additional \$15 (\$13 USD)

Most events will take place at the Churchill Seniors Recreation Centre, 345 Richmond Road, Ottawa. The exception is the Ball Review, which will be held at the John G. Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Drive, Kanata.

You may change into your Ball attire at the Churchill Centre in assigned changing rooms. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

The list of Ball dances will be posted on our website as soon as they are confirmed.

The website address is below.

REGISTRATION CAN BE COMPLETED ON OUR WEBSITE AND PAYMENT OPTIONS WILL BE EXPLAINED.

REGISTRATION OPENS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

REGISTER BEFORE Oct. 17 TO GET THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL.

Mary Williams for TTO Committee

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Ottawa English Country Dance Club

www.OttawaEnglishDance.org