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Line dancing the new rage sweeping the land

By Colin Gibson

There's a bit of struttin'; a bit of hoppin'; a bit of hip grindin'; a bit of butt bouncin'; a bit of swayin' and a lot of socializin'. It's called line dancing.

As performed by accomplished 'liners' it is a joy to watch. And surprise surprise, oh boots and saddle people, the music doesn't have to be restricted to country and western.

Line dancing has been introduced to Georgetown at the McGibbon Hotel on Main St. and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 7-9 p.m., instruction is offered by Mary Ann Briscoe and Robert Young who live just outside Hillsburgh.

The personable line dance instructors are much in demand, and will be making an appearance at the Ballinafad Springtime

Country dance scheduled for April 24 at the community centre.

As explained by Robert, who has been teaching for five years, "Line dancing is for individuals who enjoy dancing, simply for the sake of dancing and of course, the social aspect also comes into play. As a rule, line dancers are fun people."

Mary Ann, who has been teaching for just under two years, echoes

Robert's thoughts and advises potential dancers, "Don't take yourself too seriously - have fun. We mess up at times, just like everybody does, but it's part of the enjoyment."

Robert and Mary Ann have music, instructions and patterns for 150 different line dances and note that line dancing also includes round dancing and variations and different steps and patterns are emerging almost daily.

It is estimated by line dancing aficionados that upwards of one million people are enjoying the new dance rage across the continent.

Mary Ann chimed in with "It's the thing now, all over the place. I have friends in California who are really into it and we've heard reports its the 'in thing' now on cruise ships."

Line dancing is for people of all ages, said Robert, and he pointed out that even those people who don't consider themselves "good dancers" have taken to line dancing with a passion.

"Basically," said Mary Ann, "We teach synchronized dancing and encourage people to join in. People can learn a sense of rhythm and beat, because we start with easy steps and progress from there."

Both agreed as well, that line dancing is healthful and that a good session can be just as beneficial as a fitness workout.

All that may be well and good, but line dancers are fun to watch.

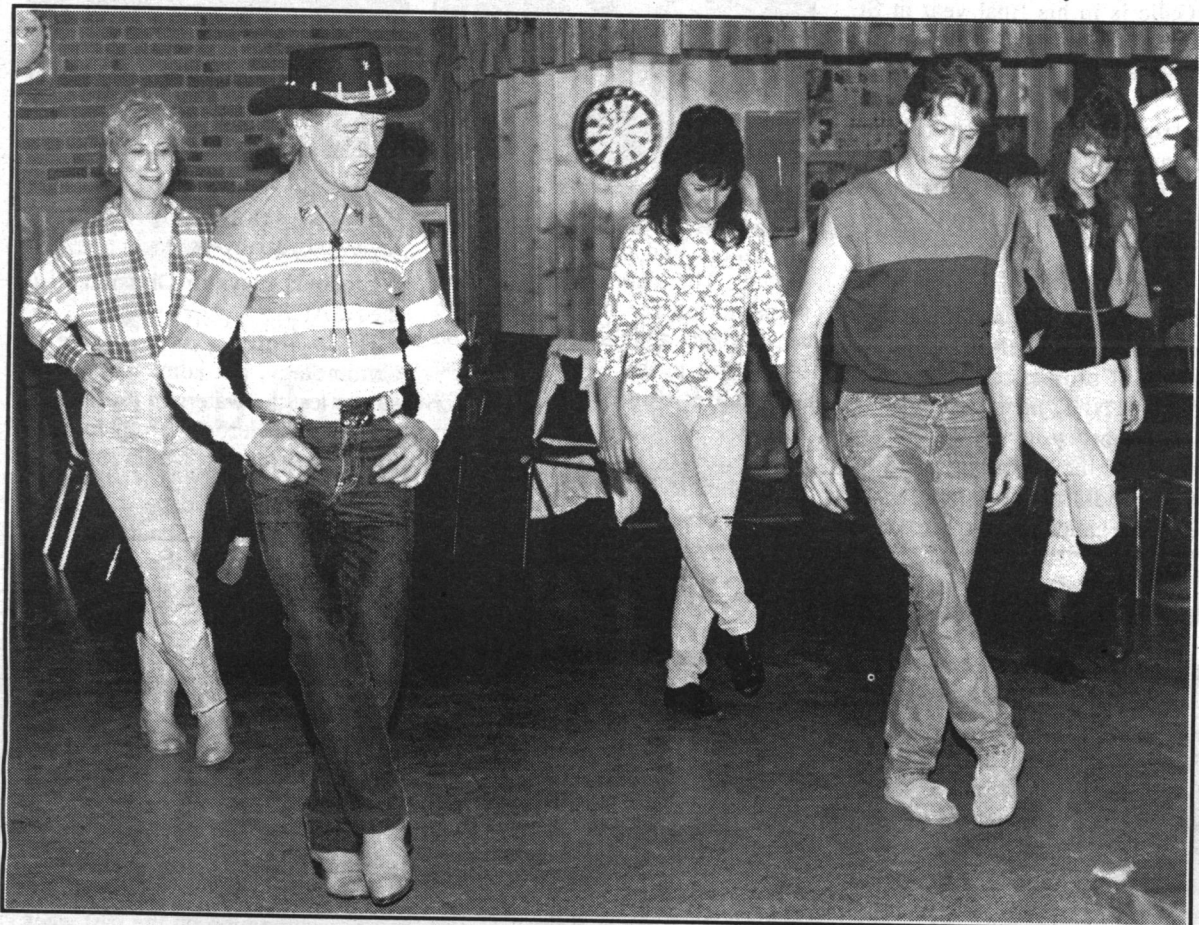
There is the swaying to the music, a step here, a step forward, a step back, a swirl-around, hand clapping and at times, tantalizing swivel of the hips.

It's a mood altering form of entertainment that envelops the watchers as well as the dancers.

One almost gets the sense of going back in time to the old town hall dances, where everyone got on the dance floor and let the feet fall where they may.

Sometimes your partner too.

But a good time was had by all by evening's end, and that's what all forms of dancing is all about.



Line dancing is the new rage sweeping the continent, with an estimated one million participants - of all ages - struttin' their stuff and kicking up their heels. The McGibbon Hotel, on Main St. in Georgetown, is now offering two hours of line dancing instruction, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday with experienced instructors Robert Young (front row left) and Mary Ann Briscoe (second row left).

photo by Colin Gibson/HHTW

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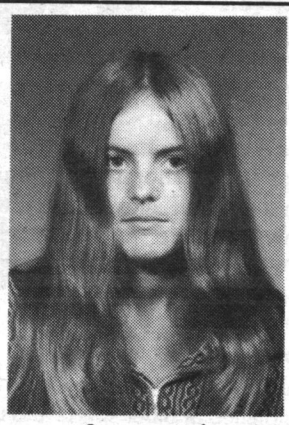
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5:30 TV Story Time 6:00 Halton's Health 6:30 "Notsomuch" Music 7:00 Dan Wagstaffe talks with Garth Turner 7:30 Garth Turner - Live Phone-In 8:30 One of the Gang	5:30 Religion 6:00 Optimists TV Bingo 7:00 How to make your home energy efficient 7:30 Sportszone Live (phone-in) 8:30 From Rags to Riches	5:30 TV Story Time 6:00 Community Calendar 6:30 Money in the Bank 7:00 Halton Seniors' TV 8:00 Lyn McLeod's Ontario 8:30 Theories - Vague Excuses	5:30 Religion 6:00 Community Calendar 6:30 Change on Life 7:00 Sportszone 7:30 Focus on Europe 8:00 Germany Live	5:30 Community Calendar 6:00 Sportszone 6:30 Halton Region Council (Mar.31/93)


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