



Square roots

Students face off against teachers in the square dance competition at Stouffville District Secondary School last Thursday. The school spring tradition is more than 50 years old.



Teacher Dawn Mossop ends the dance in the stripe-shirted arms of colleague and teammate Lisa Ornisto.

Hip to be square. At Stouffville District Secondary School, square dancing day has been a spring tradition for more than 50 years. It began to accommodate gym classes at the old campus on Edward Street during Music Mania's run.

With the gym decked out with an extended stage, speakers hanging from the ceiling and props aligning the sides and back, teachers needed to accommodate an activity that didn't crash the variety show's party.

Enter square dancing and, later, line dancing.

Teams worked up routines in gym class. On competition day, they'd bring in hay bales and farm animals.

Numbers fell when SDSS went to semesters and there were fewer gym classes to draw and teach dancers from.

But it's still a big deal.

"Everybody participates, old to young and every ethnicity is represented, every learning style from developmentally delayed to the

returning Grade 13s are all on the floor during line dancing," said Sue LeRoy, who has taught at the school since 1986. "It's a tradition."

Grads have been known to come back just to watch the competitions.

Grade 9 student Lara Mackie witnessed her first square and line

dancing competition at last week's championships.

"It was very fun, I was surprised at the whole dramatic entrances at the beginning," Ms Mackie said. "It's easy to remember and fun to be able get up and say 'I can do this'."

- Stephanie West

Photography by Sjoerd Witteveen



A mass line dance ends the competition. Go to yorkregion.com for more photographs.

VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND AT PEPPERTREE KLASSICS

WOMEN'S FASHIONS, FOOTWEAR AND ACCESSORIES

35% OFF* All Spring and Summer Items

We have received lots of fabulous new items!

Holiday Weekend Hours:

Sat: 10 am to 5:30 pm

Sun: Noon to 4:30 pm

Mon: Noon to 4:30 pm

SEE YOU SOON!

REGULAR PRICES *ALL SALES FINAL

137 MAIN STREET NORTH, MARKHAM • 905-294-3882 • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AND HOLIDAYS