



He started his dancing life at a very young age when he started square dancing in the Fredericton area at the YMCA where eventually the club Elm Tree Squares would ever come to life. Pauline Cunningham was the leader at the time and he would start his dancing career then.

He not only took up square dancing but he was one of the founders of another form of dancing within New Brunswick that would grow to crowds as large at times as what the square dance activity would see. He was instrumental in clogging coming to New Brunswick along with a few other pioneer leaders in that activity as well. He would teach the clogging program for close to 30 years within New Brunswick, attending workshops, teaching at workshops, holding classes 2-3 times a week and travelling extensively across the world at times to attend workshops or teach. He and his late wife were instrumental in a lot of us who had taken lessons in clogging would have crossed paths with him one time or another.

Not only being a teacher of the activity he choreographed several of his own dances throughout the years and supported local events whenever possible. He also had a travelling demonstration/competition team that would attend events to display their craft over the years. Triple C Cloggers was the name of his group and demonstration team. He worked tirelessly with them beyond the weekly classes teaching them routines and helping with costumes and other details that needed to be looked after. He was dedicated to this activity and probably today would still be teaching if there was still some interest in the form of dance in New Brunswick. Many of us would always wonder how he would never fall off his stage he had built over the years. The crowds were large enough he had himself a stage built that was about 8' off the floor. Still a good size how he never fell off some times we wondered.

Like most forms of dance there is always a new craze that came along and pushed the mind to wander and wonder what it was all about. Line dancing was on the rise as sort a form of clogging but with a bit more ease. The patterns were sometimes the same and maybe the jumps weren't as high but the enthusiasm he gave the activity was never wavering. He would go on to teach line dancing for several years at the Capital Exhibit Center in Fredericton on Monday evenings to a crowd of over 300. He jokes now and wonders how he ever kept everyone straight and the dances straight but like most in the craft

it took hard work, dedication and careful planning each week to make sure everything come together as it should. He would not stop there of course he also took up teaching Texas Two Step for a bit as well as come country partner dances along the way. Many would always say to us that the activity can be hard on the knees and when he was asked if something ever happened to his knees what then? As long as he could sit in a chair and still teach he would do so. Some nights he probably felt like he should but he gave it his all.

Amongst all this he and his late wife would still try to attend square dancing even as busy as they were. For one thing he made sure he attended every single Elm Tree Festival had over the years. He might have missed one but that even may be a stretch. His dedication to the activity is a whole hearted one. Always willing to give of his time when needed. He along with local square dance callers and round dance cuers always gave up one evening in May to gather all 3 forms of dancing to raise money for charity and see who would have the most in attendance at the Royal Stars Participaction Dance held annually. Some dancers may have said those cloggers were a little too loud but none the less the comradery among the dancer activity as whole always warmed the hearts of all who attended.

Despite the clogging and line dance activity dwindling in the Fredericton area at the time he remained a strong dancer in other forms. He always attended the Queenstown Friday night dances doing the Atlantic Polka and quadrilles to that old time fiddle music.

Today he keeps busy coming back into the square dance life again attending and dancing at Washademoak Swingers on Tuesday evenings as well as Elm Tree on Thursday evenings. He is part of the local garden club, MPN Club in Fredericton, several exercise groups, still shuttles cars periodically for the local dealerships or rental car companies and even in between all that he finds time to provide drives or help to friends who have lost their loved one with appointments or errands.

His passion for a lot of years many might say was his skiing and yes some of those trips were a good time but if the chance arose he was willing to dance. I mean he is even taking up Scottish Dancing as a new challenge right now!

We feel this individual is deserving of the Distinguished Service Award for all he has done in the past for the activity that we don't see as much of today but heard all the stories of the hay day. His dedication and enthusiasm to the activity today is as whole hearted as it was during all those clogging classes or on a line dance floor or even teaching a Texas Two Step at the Rodeo or Sweet Waters Night Club in Fredericton on a Sunday evening. Dedication and a true lover of the activity makes this man Wayne Beckett a true candidate of the Distinguished Service Award.