

Island Fling



January 2007

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
P.O. Box 30123, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet
Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

Executive Committee

President	Bill Greig	250-246-1036
Past President	James Scott	370-2359
1st Vice President and Publicity	Joan McIntosh	477-2512
2nd Vice President and Membership	Maralynn Wilkinson	592-2234
Secretary	Heather Danks	477-0346
Newsletter Editor	Sara Hatfield	474-1895
Treasurer	Jamie Orr	478-5338
Social Convener	Ian Danks	477-0346
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	479-6719

Web address: www.viscds.ca

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone had wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations and safe ones at that. Our Society has been active throughout the year although our membership has dropped slightly to 129. We have had open houses to regain some of the lost membership. To keep our society viable we need the help of everyone to suggest and recommend to interested individuals, friends, neighbours and relatives that Scottish country dancing is the only way to a healthy and happy life! That may be a little over the top, but the intention is two fold; not only is it good for them, but it's also good for increasing our membership.

Financially we are keeping our heads above water. In the fall some of our operating costs increased including Obed's hall rental fee. We also purchased speakers for the Society's CD/tape player and a locker to store them.

The Ball weekend information is posted on our website and you can see the committee has been working very hard to make this another successful Workshop and Ball weekend.

As this Fling is being published, the 2007 dancing session will have commenced and our first social activity will be the Burns Night January 20. Fifty-two tickets have been sold and the sales thus far are even for both clubs. Further information follows.

As in previous years we plan to man a booth at the Highland Games and to provide an enthusiastic group to walk in the Victoria May Parade. More information will be provided in future newsletters. We hope you can participate in these worthwhile community activities.

In the coming dancing season starting September 2007, three executive positions will need to be filled: **Social Convener, Secretary and President**. I ask you all to give this some serious consideration.

Finally, I look forward to another wonderful year of dancing and seeing everyone at the various social occasions and in classes. Of course this could not happen without our teachers, who provide us with interesting class and social dancing experiences and devising teaching programmes that are never boring.

Bill Greig, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Membership

Reminder class fees (\$55.00) for the spring session (January to April) are due for those who paid only for the fall session. Please send your cheques as soon as possible to:

Maralynn Wilkinson
1456 St. Patrick Street
Victoria, B.C.V8S 4Y4 (tel: 250-592-2234)

Newsletter

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing articles and information for the Fling. All contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the 69 members who print their Fling directly from the web. Cost savings for printing, labels and mailing continue to have a direct impact on our finances and we hope you benefit from the convenience. If you are having troubles printing or do not receive the monthly notification emails that the Fling is posted, please let the newsletter editor know. We can easily fix that!



Joint Christmas Social

The dulcet tones of Muriel Johnstone and Calum MacKinnon lifted our weary pre-holiday souls and happily distracted us from the coming holiday stress. This joint RSCDS and VISCDS event was yet another warm coming-together of the great SCD community we have in Victoria. When reflecting on such wonderful events I feel blessed to have found a place among the happy hearts of SCD dancers.

Aside from the magnificent music and lovely company, the hall was decorated with spirit (the non-alcoholic variety) and great taste and, as usual, the food was terrific. None of it would have happened without the sacrifice of many volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the evening merrily roll along.

Denise Yeo

In Memoriam – it is with great regret that we announce the death of Hugh Thurston of Vancouver in late October, 2006.

Hugh, originally from Bristol, England, was a very well-respected teacher of Scottish Country Dance. In his professional life, he was a Professor of Mathematics and this showed, both in his teaching and in his devising of dances. He devised many dances, including 'The Last of the Lairds' and 'The Flying Scotsman', both of which have been danced locally. He also devised the figure 'Schiehallion Reels', which first appeared in his dance 'Schiehallion'. Hugh was interested in and knowledgeable about all forms of dance in Scotland, not just those practiced by the RSCDS. His book, *Scotland's Dances*, which is still in print, is an excellent source of information on the history of dance as well as the various styles of dance in Scotland. Hugh was also interested in International Folk Dancing and he was very well-versed in the dances of many nations.

Hugh was pre-deceased by his wife, Nina.

Sincere thanks to Rosemary Coupe of the Vancouver Branch RSCDS, for her help with this article. Thanks to Edith Chapman for submitting to the Fling.

Joint Burns Celebration – January 20, 2006

The 2007 Burns Celebration will be a joint event with the RSCDS Victoria Branch held at St. Martin-In-The-Fields on January 20. The evening will start with a dinner at 6:00 p.m., including the traditional speeches and address to the haggis, followed by dancing at 8:00 p.m.

Ticket sales are going well, so don't wait too long to purchase your ticket. Kathryn Knowles is the ticket coordinator so please give her a call at 598-3490.

PLEASE NOTE:

* Dinner and Dance \$12 / Dinner only \$8 / Dance only \$8

* Everyone coming to the dinner will need to contribute to the "organized pot luck" meal. Kathryn Knowles has the donation list – please call her at 598-3490.

* **Everyone coming to the dinner is responsible for bringing their own dishes and cutlery**

The social dancing part of the evening will be organized by the VISCDS Monday Night Advanced Social Class. There will be refreshments available later in the evening.

Ian Danks, Social Convener

January 20th – Workers Needed

In order to transform St. Martin's hall into an Assembly Room worthy of the Scottish Bard, a few workers are needed on the afternoon of Jan 20 to set up and decorate. Men are requested to set up tables and chairs at 2:30 pm and decorators of any gender to deck the halls at 3:00 pm. If you can offer some assistance, please call or email Penny Catton at 595-8626 or penanded@shaw.ca. Many hands can complete the task in under 90 minutes.

In addition to willing workers, I would like to have some heather for the dinner tables. If anyone has some in bloom in January that they are willing to pick (or to let me come and pick) please contact me at one of the above addresses. Thank you very much for your support.

Penny Catton



BURNS MEMORIAL TEA AND CONCERT

sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council

Sunday, January 28, 2007

2:00 – Heather Laying, Burns Statue, Beacon Hill Park

2:30 – Concert and Tea at St. Andrew's Kirk Hall, Courtney Street

Cost: Tea and Concert by donation

Come and celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's Immortal Bard. Thank you to the Sons of Scotland for organizing the Heather Ceremony, to the RSCDS and the VHGA for looking after the tea, and to the Gaelic Choir for arranging the Concert.

Members of the organizations of the Victoria Joint Scottish Council are asked to bring a plate of "goodies" to share.

Teachers Association of Canada-Summer School

We have been asked to pass the word along to our membership, and in particular those interested in the TAC Summer School July 29-August 5, 2007, that the summer school at Shawnigan Lake is filling up very quickly. Therefore, it has been suggested that locals that are interested might need to get their application forms in as soon as possible if they want to go. For further information and registration form see the TAC website www.tac-rscds.org

SPRING 2007 WORKSHOP AND BALL WEEKEND

News from the Workshop & Ball Registrar

The brochure and registration form were included as the last three pages of the December issue of the *Fling*. Both can also be obtained from the Society's Workshop and Ball web pages (<http://www.viscds/springball.html>) where the Registration Form will be activated on January 4, or you can contact me directly for these forms. You may register for the full weekend package or make your preferred choices from several options. Beginning dancers (Basic and Lower Intermediate) are encouraged to participate in the Level I Workshops where emphasis is placed on meeting their needs and level of dancing. The Saturday afternoon option with Evelyn Nixon, *Having Confidence at Socials*, is particularly, but not exclusively, envisioned for beginning dancers.

As in previous years, the maximum number of dancers at the Ball is 128, and priority is given to full package registrants until January 30. Partial registrations are numbered in the order received and acknowledged after January 31. Study the brochure and make your choices in good time.

Merle Peterson, Registrar

merlep@shaw.ca

We Need Stuff!

How time flies! The Spring Workshop and Ball is only two months away, I hope you all have your registrations in. And if you haven't decided what to donate to the Silent Auction, now's the time. There are no rules about this; the same things that went in the raffle in past years are perfect for the silent auction. (One idea though, if there are any knitters out there, I need some new hose!) We are going to make up theme baskets of smaller items, and of course the big-ticket pieces are always welcome.

This will benefit our whole club, not only the folks attending the Workshop and Ball, so jump right in. Donations can be given to Maureen at the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening classes. (Yes, she's a bit of a fanatic, what can I say?) Or phone us at 478-5338 to arrange drop-off or pick-up.

Jamie and Maureen Orr



A Scottish joke for ye! (You don't need to read every word, just the gist!)

Tony Blair is visiting a hospital in Ayrshire. He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness and greets the first patient with a handshake. The patient replies:

"Fair fa your honest sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin' race,
Aboon them a you take your place,
Painch, tripe or thairm,
As lang's my airm".

Blair is confused, so he just grins and moves on to the next patient and greets him. The patient responds:

"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat,
So let the Lord be thankit".

Even more confused, and his grin now rictus-like, Blair moves on to the next patient, who immediately begins to chant:

"We sleekit, cowerin, timrous beastie,
Thou needna start awa sae hastie,
Wi bickering brattle".

Now seriously troubled, Blair turns to the accompanying doctor and asks:

"Is this a psychiatric ward?"

"No", replies the doctor. "This is the serious Burns unit".

Contributed by Merle Peterson



2007 Joint Burns Celebration

January 20 (Dinner 6:00 pm/Dancing 8:00 pm) at St. Martin In-The-Fields, Obed

PROGRAM

St. Andrews Fair	32J3	B	5SCD for 82 (Core)
The Piper and the Penguin	88R4	I	Scotia Suite (C)
The Silver Tassie	32S3	I	RSCDS Leaflets (C)
Speirs Bruce - The Pole Star	32J3	I	Scotia Suite
Reel of the Royal Scots	32R3	B	RSCDS Leaflets (C)
The Dream Catcher	96S4	I	Book 45
Tribute to the Borders	32J3	I	RSCDS Leaflets (C)
The White Cockade	32R3	B	Book 5 (C)
Butterscotch and Honey	32S4	B	J.Attwood (C)

Break

Mrs. Stewart's Jig	32J3	I	Book 35 (C)
Fisherman's Reel	32R5	I	S.Petyt (C)
Bonnie Stronshiray	32S3	I	Glasgow Assembly (C)
The White Heather Jig	40J4	A	22 SCD
Button Boy	32R3	I	Allanton Col. (C)
The Haggis Hunter	128M4	A	Reel Friends (C)
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	32J4	A	Canadian Book (C)
The Gentleman	32S3	I	Book 35 (C)
Maxwell's Rant	32R3	I	Book 18



2006 Valentines Social

February 17, 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin In-The-Fields, Obed, Cost: \$8

PROGRAM

Highland Fair	32J2	B	Graded Book (Core)
Saint John River	32S4	B	Canada's Centennial Dance (C)
Catch the Wind	32R3	B	Book 45
Haste to the Wedding	32J3	B	Book 25 (C)
Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir ***	32S3	B	Dunsmuir Dances
Reel of the 51 st Division	32R3	B	Book 13 (C)
Follow Me Home	32J3	I	Book 38 (C)
Autumn in Appin **	32S4	A	Book 31 (C)
Spiffin' ***	32R5 sq+	A	Devised Mt. Sidney, Virginia, 1992
Jennifer's Jig	32J3	I	Silver City Book (Drewry) (C)
Lover's Knot	40S3	I	Book 8 (C)
Farewell to Auchterarder **	128J4 sq	A	Hamilton (C)

Break

General Stuart's Reel	32R3	I	Book 10 (C)
Machine without Horses	32J3	B	Book 12
Seann Truibhas Willichan	32S2	B	Book 27 (C)
The De'il Amang the Tailors*	32R3	B	Book 14 (C)

Extras:

Sugar Candie	32S3	B	Book 26 (C)
Mairi's Wedding	40R3	I	22 SCDs and 2 (Cosh) (C)

* Briefing Only ** No briefing *** Directions last page of newsletter



COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Jan 08 '07 VISCDS LOW IMPACT AND BASIC CLASSES RESUME
- Jan 09 '07 VISCDS LOWER INTERMEDIATE CLASSES RESUME
- Jan 10 '07 VISCDS ADVANCED TECHNIQUE CLASSES RESUME
- Jan 11 '07 VISCDS UPPER INTERMEDIATE CLASSES RESUME
- Jan 12 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Jan 15 '07 VISCDS EXPERIENCED SOCIAL RESUMES
- Jan 20 '07 JOINT BURNS CELEBRATION St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Jan 26 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Jan 28 '07 BURNS MEMORIAL TEA & CONCERT (see page 3)
- Feb 09 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Feb 17 '07 VISCDS VALENTINES SOCIAL St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Feb 23 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE with Mary Ross, 7:30-9:30 pm, 550 Obed
- Mar 09 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Mar 23 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE with Muriel Johnstone, 7:30-9:30 pm, Obed
- Mar 30-
Apr 1 '07 VISCDS WORKSHOP AND BALL WEEKEND
- Apr 06 '07 TARTAN DAY
- Apr 07 '07 VICTORIA JOINT SCOTTISH COUNCIL TARTAN BALL, Edelweiss Club
- Apr 14 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH ANNUAL BEGINNERS' DANCE
- Apr 19 '07 VISCDS AGM (tentative) St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Apr 27 '07 OLD TIME BALL, sponsored by Old Time Dance, Victoria, McMorran's
- Apr 28 '07 VISCDS SPRING FLING St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Jul 29-
Aug 5 '07 TAC SUMMER SCHOOL 2007 Shawnigan Lake.
Teachers: Eric Finley (Ayrshire, Scotland), Ron Wallace (Santa Rosa, California) & Jean Noble (Toronto). Music: Muriel Johnstone & Keith Smith.
Contact Anita Mathur dmanita@telus.net or TAC website www.tac-rscds.org

NOTE: Dance Programs for all Victoria Branch Dances are available from the newsletter editor or www.rscdsvictoria.org

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Jan 27 '07 **5th BURNS SUPPER AND CEILIDH FOR CANCER RESEARCH**
Sponsored by Celtic Chaos, Community Hall in Qualicum, Cost: \$40.00
Contact Joyce Beaton jbeaton@shaw.ca
- Feb 10 '07 **COMOX VALLEY SCD VALENTINES BALL** Native Sons Hall, 360 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay. Music: Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Dinner & Dance. Tickets: \$35 for dancers, \$20 for non-dancers. Payment for tickets must be received by January 31, 2007. Contact: Matthew Nicoll at 250-337-8491

- Feb 16-18'07 EDMONTON ANNUAL WORKSHOP & BALL** www.geocities.com/eccds/
- Feb 17 '07 VANCOUVER LOVE TO DANCE WORKSHOP & VALENTINES PARTY**
Full day workshop with evening party. Music: Muriel Johnstone & Keith Smith
More info contact Fran Caruth 604-224-6838 or caruth@telus.net.
- Feb 22-27'07 RSCSDS WINTER SCHOOL** at Pitlochry, Scotland
- Mar 10 '07 PORT ALBERNI SCD ST. PATRICK'S DINNER /DANCE** (more details to follow) For more information contact Rosemary Drayton at rad04@telus.net
- Mar 17 '07 DELTA SPRING FLING** Gizeh Temple, 3550 Wayburne, Burnaby 6:30 p.m.
\$50, Music: Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent. Contact: Mairi Maxwell at 604-946-2448. Social hour, dancing and light buffet at 11 p.m.
- Mar 31 '07 NANOOSE SPRING GALA** Qualicum Beach Community Hall, Live Music, \$25 Dinner & Dance, \$30 after March 10. Contact Jill Atwood atwood@island.net
- Mar 31 '07 RSCDS SAN DIEGO SPRING BALL** at the Balboa Park Club
Music by: Andy Imbrie & Calum MacKinnon. Info: Ellen 858-453-8286
- Apr 13-15'07 LETHBRIDGE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SCD & MUSIC WORKSHOP & BALL**
Teachers are Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Mairi Hand, Robert McOwen. Music by Scotch Measure. Contact Fiona Miller 403-329-3582 or www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/news.html
- Apr 21 '07 NANAIMO WORKSHOP & TEA DANCE** Teachers: Ruth Jappy and Rebecca Blackhall-Peters. Music by Alex Jappy and Julie Smith.
Inquiries: Marguerite Bell 250-756-9836 or mhjbelle@telus.net
- May 11-13'07 BELLINGHAM YOUTH WEEKEND WEST** at Western Washington University. Fri: bbq 5-7; Sat: classes 9:30-11am, 11:30am-1pm, 2-3:30pm, Thistle Ball 7-11pm; Sun: classes & ceilidh. Teachers are Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Fred DeMarse & Bill Zobel. US\$85. A workshop for dancers 13-30 ish. Contact Tom Read 360-734-1295 ttread2@yahoo.com.
- May 12 '07 THISTLE BALL** held in conjunction with Youth Weekend West, Bellingham www.bellinghamscd.org. Tickets go on sale in January 2007. \$65.00 US or Cdn. Contact Kathryn Knowles for tickets at 250-598-3490 or kathrynknowles@shaw.ca
- Jul 22 - Aug 19 '07 RSCSDS SUMMER SCHOOL** takes place in the historic Fife town of St. Andrews. Registration & deposit requested by Feb 1/07. www.rscds.org
- Jul 25-29'07 HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL SCD SCHOOL** at University of King's College, Coburg Rd. Music by Tullochgorum and The Macadians. Teachers are Mary Murray (BC), Robert McOwen (MA), Joe Wallin (NS), Duncan & Maggie Keppie (NS) and Merrill Heubach (NS). There will be a class for Young People (aged 8-14). Places will be reserved on a First-come, First-served basis. Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033 lydiahedge@accesswave.ca.
- Sep 21-23'07 FORT WORDEN** Scottish Dance Weekend

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER, January 24, 2007

Send your submissions to the new editor please

sdhatfield@shaw.ca or mail 1139 Greenwood Avenue, Victoria, BC V9A 5L9

Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir

32 Bar Strathspey for 3 couples in a four couple set.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1-4 | 1s dance in and up taking hands briefly and cast off into second place, 2s up on bars 3-4 |
| 5-8 | 1s dance a half figure of eight up through 2s |
| 9-12 | 2s, 1s and 3s set and cross with right hand |
| 13-16 | 2s and 3s set and cross right hand to place while 1s set and turn right hand 5/8 and pull back right shoulder (i.e. curling round towards the partner and in the direction of the turn) to face first corners |
| 17-24 | 1s turn first corners both hands, pass right shoulder in the middle, turn second corners both hands and pass right shoulder to second place on own side |
| 25-32 | 2s, 1s, and 3s dance six hands round and back. |

Devised by Tom Winter

Published in Dunsmuir Dances, 2003

Spiffin'

A 32 Bar Jig for 5 couples in a square set with 5th couple in the center

Bars

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1 – 8 | The centre couple (couple 5 first time through) dance parallel reels of three with couples 1 and 3, 5L giving left shoulder to 1M and 5M left shoulder to 1L. |
| 9 – 12 | Centre couple dance hands across, 5L right hand with 2s and 5M left hand with 4s. Centre couple meets facing up and giving nearer hands on bar 12. |
| 13 – 16 | Centre couple dance up between 1s and cast away from each other (5L casts right, 5M casts left) and around 1s into the centre to meet facing down. |
| 17 – 20 | Centre couple dance hands across, 5L left hand with 2s and 5M right hand with 4s. Centre couple meets facing down and giving nearer hands on bar 20. |
| 21 – 24 | Centre couple dance down between 3s and cast away from each other (5L casts left, 5M casts right) and around 3s into the centre to meet facing each other. |
| 25 – 28 | Centre couple turn clockwise for four bars finishing facing 1s with 5L on her partner's right. The original instructions suggest a Tulloch turn twice around or to taste but by agreement with partner could be replaced with a simple four bar right hand turn, if this is more comfortable. |
| 29 – 32 | Centre couple sets to 1s and dances left hands across half way to finish in first couple position. 1s finish in the centre facing 2s with 1L on 1M's right. |

The dance repeats with a new centre couple until each couple has been in the centre. Each time the dance begins again, the new centre couple begins facing the couple who were to their left to begin the reels. So, the second time through, the original 1s dance the reels with the 2s and 4s and hands across with 3s and 5s (now in position 1).

Note: These dances will be published in a larger font next newsletter for adding to your dance collection or contact the newsletter and I will send them to you.