

Island Fling



April 2008

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	Joan McIntosh	477-2512
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2nd Vice President and Membership	Maralynn Wilkinson	592-2234
Secretary	Keith Wilson	920-7599
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Treasurer	Jamie Orr	478-5338
Social Convener	Kathryn Deegan	kdeegan@shaw.ca
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	479-6719

Web address: www.viscds.ca

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here it is the last week of March and as I write this message snow is falling to lightly cover the ground. Hopefully this colder system will pass quickly before the Ball and Workshops over the weekend. This major event of the year for our Society is planned and organized over a period of 12 months by a Committee of 9-10 dedicated members under the capable leadership of Lesley Brennand. This ensures the weekend is a successful one and it truly is an exciting and rewarding experience.

Attached to this newsletter is a survey sponsored by the Executive. Your feedback/opinions are important considerations in terms of our planning for the next dance year. We would appreciate members taking the time to complete the survey and returning it to your class representative, emailing it to Kathryn Deegan, or mailing it to arrive by the deadline indicated.

This will be the last reminder for the **Annual General Meeting on April 24th**. Please mark this date on your calendar, if you haven't already, and plan to attend. The Nominating Committee is still searching for a Newsletter Editor to replace Sara Hatfield. If you have any questions, I'm sure Sara will be happy to fill you in on the duties of this position.

I want to thank this year's Executive members for their support and I appreciate their contributions of individual expertise throughout the year. I look forward to continuing to work with those who will carry on in their current positions through the 2008/09 dancing season.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

VISCDS Annual General Meeting - Third Notice - April 24, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue. All members are encouraged to attend. Please submit any business and/or proposals for the AGM in writing to Keith Wilson (Secretary) no later than April 14, 2008. Dancing will follow the meeting.

The position of Newsletter Editor is open. Interested members should speak with Rick Deegan or Lesley Brennand (our Nominating Committee) or any member of the Executive. It's a great job!

VISCDS Website

We are looking for volunteers to work as a group to redesign our website. If you are interested please speak to a member of the Executive.

Dem Team

Demonstration dancing is a good opportunity to have fun dancing as a team. It is a wonderful opportunity to share Scottish dance and music at many community events. The team practices approximately two Thursday evenings a month and has lots of laughs. You do not need to be an advanced dancer to join. *The team is looking for new members and if you are interested, give Joan Axford a call at 474-1018.*



VISCDS News

On March 24 Barbara Watt sent me an email that one of our founding and life members, Annie Jones, recently had a stroke and is in VGH. Grant, her husband, told Barbara that Annie is having physio and doing quite well (he says she is still bossing him, and they agreed that this is a good sign!). I called Grant to confirm it would be OK to include this information in the newsletter and he told me that Annie continues to recover slowly and they are taking each day at a time. If anyone would like to send a card the address is 17- 4560 W. Saanich Road, Victoria, V8Z 3G4.

Margaret Prevost would like to remind those planning to attend the gathering in memory of John Stewart on April 5th that it is a luncheon at the Chief and PO's Mess from 1-4 pm. If you have any questions please contact Margaret at mikprevost@shaw.ca or 658-8797.

Looking for Volunteers

Highland Games

The Highland Games is being held on May 17/18 at **Topaz Park** this year. We plan to have a booth again and will need volunteers to man it. Please consider giving a couple of hours of time to help – we will have a sign up sheet at the AGM on April 24th if you are interested.

Maritime Festival / Maritime Mosaics

This summer the Tall Ships Festival will include a multi-cultural component (Maritime Mosaics) showcasing all the cultural groups in Victoria and their contributions to Victoria and BC over the past 150 years. There will be a Scottish display which will need manning from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on four days - June 26-29 inclusive. The hope is to get volunteers from all the various Scottish groups in town. If you can help with a few hours please contact Jim Scott at fairfieldscotts@shaw.ca.

The booth is not an advertisement for individual groups - it is simply to show the Scottish contribution to the development of BC in general and Victoria in particular. If you have any information/books/pictures/pamphlets which you would like to share for this venture (please do not bring any heirlooms, copies would be much better), please let Irene Feir know at kifeir@shaw.ca.



Summer Dancing

Throonie Nights

May 5, 12, 19 and 26 this year. Note there will be dancing on May 19 (Victoria Day long weekend).

Summer Dancing at Obed

June 6 – August 8, 7:30 p.m. at St Martin In-the-Fields, 550 Obed, \$6 drop-in fee.

Dancing in the Park

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Beacon Hill Park, Cameron Bandshell. (free). If it is raining at 4:00 pm dancing will be cancelled.



2008 Spring Fling

April 26th, 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin In-The-Fields, Obed, Cost: \$8

PROGRAM

Highland Fair	32/J/2	B	Core
Let's Have a Ceilidh	32/R/4	I	
Greenmantle	32/S/3	B	John Wilkinson
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	32/J/3	B	Core
Trip to Bavaria	32/R/4	I	Core
Wisp of Thistle	32/S/3	B	RSCDS Bk 37
The Hazel Tree	32/J/3	I	Core
The Flirtation Hornpipe	32/H/4	B	J. Wallace
Shamrock Girl	32/S/4	I	Roy Goldring
Cutty Sark	32/J/3	B	Core
The Robertson Rant	80/S/4	I	Core
The White Heather Jig	40/J/4	I	Core

Break

Pelorus Jack	32/J/3	I	Core
Ray Milbourne	32/R/4	I	Core
The Spirit of the Dance	32/S/3	I	Irene Patterson
Bratach Bana	32/R/3	I	Core

Extras

Macdonald of the Isles	32/R/3	I	Core
Wind that Shakes the Barley	32/R/3	I	J. Duthrie

HOSTED BY THE TUESDAY LOWER INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Over the Hills and Far Away

(Thoughts about Scotland # 4)

Stone Circles

Monica and Walter Roots were speaking of a recent stay at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, and of its Victorian gardens which are steadily being brought back to their former glory by the hotel's two gardeners, Innes and Kenny. The Atholl Palace is a grand old railway hotel (and spa), now with Irish owners who are

fixing it up with great taste and discretion, preserving its high ceilings and large rooms, its grand public areas and . . . well, they just don't build places like this any more.

This area of central Scotland, on the edge of Breadalbane, has a number of fascinating stone circles—most within easy reach of Pitlochry. Robert Burns was said to be particularly fond of one at Croftmoraig, which stands in a field beside the main road (the A827)—west of Aberfeldy—and at the top of the hill that drops down to Kenmore (a pretty village at the north end of Loch Tay). Croftmoraig has always struck me as more of a spiral than a circle. The first time I sat on one of its stones and closed my eyes I experienced an almost overwhelming sense of motion.

Another interesting circle stands in a field by Acharn, on the north side of Loch Tay—about 8 kms south on the A827. This one gives you a definite sense that unhappy things have happened here, that it's not a place to linger. But nearby, at Lawers village, you can find a horn carver's studio and workshop; a place well worth checking out for unique and unusual gifts. According to legend the two round hills across the loch from here are where Fiann would kneel when he bent down to drink the waters.

The village of Fortingall lies over towards Glenlyon. Most of the houses in Fortingall have thatched roofs, a quaint Victorian idea because thatch was rarely used traditionally in Scotland. Legend says that Pontius Pilate was born here when his father was serving with one of the Roman legions, and the churchyard has a yew tree which is over 3,000 years old. The fields to the east of Fortingall contain at least two stone circles, while a prominent standing stone in front of the village marks the site of a barrow, a burial site for the victims of the Black Death in the mid 14th century.

Glen Lyon, less than one km to the west of Fortingall, is well worth a visit. It's the longest glen in Scotland, and was said to be the heartland of the *Fiann*—the giants who ruled Scotland in ancient times. Fifteen or twenty kilometres up the glen you can find the remains of the forts of the *Fiann*. There are seven of them, although I have only ever been able to make out four. They're now more like piles of great, tumbled boulders that look as if they might be the remains of ancient brochs. In a field just to the south of the narrow road stands the Dog Stone, to which hunters used to tie their deerhounds, and more recently a relic of the times when the women, children and cattle spent their summers up at the shielings in the high country. But more of that another day.

Michael Elcock



TARTAN DAY – April 6

proclaimed by the Government of B.C.

Scottish Tartans

Tartan is, without doubt, one of the nation's major 'brands' - instantly recognised the world over as uniquely Scottish. What makes tartan different from other chequered materials is the history and romance of the Highlands that is seemingly woven into every aspect of the fabric. In reality however, this mythologising of tartan is a surprisingly modern development and although tartan has come to be identified as particularly Scottish, any individual, family or institution can commission and register their own tartan.

Early History

Some writers give the origin of term 'tartan' as the French *tiretane* although this may simply refer to a type of material of French origin, rather than any pattern on the cloth. In earliest times, Highlanders were known to wear clothes dyed with local plants, mosses and berries and woven into distinctive striped or checked patterns. However, the weave of the cloth, and the way it was worn, tended to be dictated by the custom in a particular area, rather than a family or clan.

The use of different patterns and colours of tartan to identify different families and clans is a very contentious issue amongst historians. In the absence of any real evidence to the contrary, it seems that this practice dates back only as far as the early 19th century. Prior to this, clansmen of all standing seemed to have worn a mixture of tartans without any sense of a standardised 'clan' design.

Probably the first known mention of tartan in Scotland dates from 1538: in the records of the Exchequer Rooms of the James V's Lord Treasurer, there is an order for a bale of cloth of 'Heland tartane', the material being used for 'hoiss to the Kingis Grace', perhaps a new pair of tartan trews (trousers) for the king.

The Tartan Explosion

The growth of clan and family tartans began with the standardising of the tartans used by Highland regiments in the British army during the years when tartan was proscribed (1747-1782). The principle was given impetus by the romanticisation of the Gael during the early 1800s and by the explosion of tartan weavers seeking new markets for their products. There also emerged from this time the practice of producing a number of variants of a particular tartan such as Ancient, Modern, Reproduction, Weathered or Muted.

Reprinted from the website www.visitscotland.com

Kirkin' o' the Tartan - April 6

Sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Obed Ave. Church Service begins at 9:30 am and during the Service the Pipeing and Blessing will be done. Afterwards we will go into the hall for a demo of Scottish Dancing by both VISCDs and the Branch (with possibly some audience participation). Refreshments to follow.



Victoria Branch Beginner's Dance - April 12

The Beginner's Dance is held by the RSCDS Victoria Branch in April every year to honour new dancers. The program is designed to be comfortable for dancers who started Scottish Country Dancing this past year (either last September or in January) and they are given free admission for the evening. Join us on Saturday April 12th at St. Martin-in-the-Fields (550 Obed Ave) at 7:30 pm, where for only \$12 you can enjoy the lively music of Mary Ross, our dancer friendly program, and delicious food. Tickets at the door. If anyone would like to, please bring a plate of finger food to share. The program, and instructions, are on the Branch website www.rscdsvictoria.org.

Kathryn Knowles

Thistle Ball & Buffet Dinner - May 10

Saturday, 6:00 pm – Midnight, Cost \$75

Dancing to Scotland's Neil Copland & his Band

Squamish Nations Recreation Centre, 100 Capilano Road, North Vancouver

Tickets still available: contact Kathryn Knowles, 250-598-3490 or email kathryknowles@shaw.ca.

Further information at www.rscdsvancouver.org



Puget Sound (Friday Harbor) Dance - June 28

Puget Sound Crossroads dance will be June 28 this year, at the Grange in Friday Harbor, to the music of Brian Crisafulli and friends. Time will be a bit dependent on the summer ferry schedule to Friday Harbor: typically it is 1 pm to 4 pm. While the timing inevitably poses a challenge for Victoria dancers, Friday Harbor dancers are most accommodating, giving Victorians first crack at local hosting so that we, too, can enjoy the dance. Mark the date, and feel free to make further enquiries of Elinor Vandegrift elinor3@verizon.net or if you want an idea who might be going from Victoria, contact Anita at dmanita@telus.net or 382-8808.



Bulletin Board

Toes 'n' Taps Dance Shoes - 1733 Cook Street has donated 8 pairs of women's pump style (ballet slipper) shoes to VISCDs. They will no longer be carrying the pump style as most women have changed over to the ghillie or jazz shoe. The donated shoes are the last of their stock and are James Senior of St. Andrews dance pumps hand make in Scotland.

The pumps don't fit street shoe sizes, and stretch a minimum of one full size longer and wider. I have the following sizes: Red - 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5 and Black - 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5.

Please contact Sara Hatfield at 474-1985 if you know of anyone who would like a pair or has a contact where they would be put to good use.

Homecoming Scotland 2009 - keep up with the developments at www.homecomingscotland.com.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Apr 06' 08 TARTAN DAY** - officially proclaimed by the Government; Wear your Tartan proudly as you go about the business of your day.
- Apr 06' 08 KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN** sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Obed Ave. Church Service at 9:30 am followed by a demo of Scottish Dancing in the Hall and refreshments. (see pg 5)
- Apr 12 '08 VICTORIA BRANCH BEGINNERS' DANCE** 7:30 pm, St. Martin's 550 Obed
- Apr 24 '08 VISCDs Annual General Meeting** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Apr 25 '08 OLD-TIME DANCE BALL** sponsored by Old Time Dance Victoria, at McMorrans. Contact Willie at 250-743-5312 or wmb@shaw.ca
- Apr 26 '08 VISCDs SPRING FLING** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- May 17-18'08 HIGHLAND GAMES** at Topaz Park. VISCDs will have a booth on May 17th.
- Jun 26-29'08 TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL / MARITIME MOSAICS**

NOTE: Dance Programs for the Branch are available from the VISCDs newsletter editor or their website www.rscdsvictoria.org

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Apr 4-6'08 RED DEER SCD WORKSHOP AND BALL** Teachers: Margaret Boyle, Simon Scott, and Eileen Hsu. Music by Christine Baker and Fiona Carnie. More info: ddraves@telusplanet.net or www.rdsctishcountrydancers.freespaces.com
- Apr 19 '08 NANAIMO WORKSHOP AND TEA DANCE** Teachers are Ruth Jappy and Rebecca Blackhall Peters. Music Alex Jappy, Julie Smith and Deborah Jones Contact Edith Morgan edithmorgan@shaw.ca Brochure and registration form available on the website www.nanaimoscd.00it.com/
- Apr 19 '08 RSCDS SEATTLE BRANCH SPRING WORKSHOP AND DANCE** at Trinity Parish Church, 609 Eighth Avenue. Teacher: Sara Gratiot (Monerey, CA)

- Musician: Brian Crisafulli (Whidbey Island). Contact Eileen Hsu 425-653-2106 or neelie8888@yahoo.com. Registration form www.rscds-seattle.org
- Apr 26 '08 VERNON WORKSHOP AND DANCE** Teacher: Elinor Vandegrift (Seattle)
Music for dance: Kristi Lind and the MacNamarata Band. Contact Ruth Hurst 250-545-2626 or kenhurst@shaw.ca
- May 02-04'08 RSCDS TORONTO YOUTH WEEKEND** for dancers 15-30 at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. Full weekend program. Teachers: Cathy Bertics, Rebecca Roman and Colin Philip. For info and registration forms see www.rscdstoronto.org.
- May 03 '08 RSCDS WINNIPEG BRANCH 37TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP** Teacher: Fiona Miller. Class Musicians: Ken Natrass & Ron Krug. Evening Social Music: Scotch Measure. Info call 204-254-3208 or www.rscdswinnipeg.ca
- May 04 '08 WHITE ROCK SCD SPRING TEA** at the Star of the Sea Hall 15262 Pacific Ave., White Rock. Cost \$15. Time: 5-8 p.m. Music by John Carmichael's Ceilidh band from Glasgow Contact: Janice Lowe at 604-536-7660. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
- May 09-11'08 YOUTH WEEKEND WEST** in Vancouver
- May 10 '08 THISTLE BALL** in Vancouver at Squamish Nation Recreation Centre, Capilano Road. 6 pm. Music by Neil Copland and his Band. Formal attire. Buffet supper. Cost \$75. Contact Kathryn Knowles 250-598-3490 (tickets) or www.rscdsvancouver.org
- May 16-18'08 KELOWNA SCD WORKSHOP BANQUET & BALL** at UBC Okanagan Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall Peters (Vcr) & Pat Coyle (Niagara Falls), Music: Tartan Remix (Vcr). Registration deadline April 9. Registrar: Gwen Johnson 250-862-8124 or ggjohnson@shaw.ca
- June 28 '08 PUGET SOUND CROSSROADS**, located at the Grange Hall, 152-1st Street N., Friday Harbor, WA. (San Juan Island) Music by Brian Crisafulli and Friends. Co-hosted by Seattle and Friday Harbor. Time dependent on the summer ferry schedule to Friday Harbor: typically it is 1 pm to 4 pm. Contact Elinor Vandegrift elinor3@verizon.net or if you want an idea who might be going from Victoria, contact Anita Mathur at dmanita@telus.net or 382-8808.
- July 20- RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL**, University Hall, St. Andrews Scotland
Aug 17'08 More info at www.rscds.org
- Aug 10-17'08 T.A.C. SUMMER SCHOOL** in Waterloo, Ontario
- Sep 12-14'08 SEATTLE BRANCH FORT WORDEN WORKSHOP** Teachers: Eric Finley, Marjorie McLaughlin, Ruth Jappy & Geoffrey Selling. Music by Deby Benton Grosjean, Calum MacKinnon, Muriel Johnstone & Ralph Gordon. Contact Elizabeth Miller 206-782-8345 fwreg@rscds-seattle.org /www.rscds-seattle.org
- Oct 3-5 '08 RSCDS SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH FALL WORKSHOP** Guest Teachers: Elinor Vandegrift (Washington State), John Middleton (Hamilton, Ont) Guest Musicians: Ron Krug & Ken Natrass. Ongoing updates at: www.rscdssaskatchewan.org or email workshop@rscdssask.org
- Oct 3-5 '08 OTTAWA VALLEY DANCE SCOTTISH WEEKEND**, Ottawa. Guest Teachers: Ruth Jappy (Delta), Helen & Malcolm Brown (York, England).

Music: Colin Dewar and his SCD Band (Stirling, Scotland). Contact:
www.ottawadancescottish.org or email info@ottawadancescottish.org.

Oct 31-
Nov 02'08

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH ASILOMAR WORKSHOP & BALL at Asilomar Conferene Center, Pacific Grove, CA (near Monterey). Friday welcome dance; Sat classes, ball & ceilidh; Sunday class. Formal attire for ball. Meals provided from dinner on Friday through lunch on Sunday. Applications available on the San Francisco website after April 1, 2008. Contact Julee Montes 650-722-0473 or julm-hcs@pacbell.net or www.rscds-sf.org

NOTE: Dance Programs for many of the listed events are available from the VISCDs newsletter editor or the listed contact/websites.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER, April 30, 2008

Send your submissions to the news editor please

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

