

Island Fling



February 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
Past President	Bill Greig	250-246-1036
Publicity	Edna Kinnon	727-2977
2nd Vice President and Membership	Maralynn Wilkinson	592-2234
Secretary	Keith Wilson	920-7599
Newsletter Editor	Sara Hatfield	474-1895
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

The 2008 dancing season began with our Open House on January 7 attracting approximately 5-6 sets of dancers, including at least 6 newcomers. Thank you to those who brought a friend along to give SCD a try. Gordon Robinson's basic program challenged the lateral flexibility, memory and footwork of participants - new and experienced! Participants appreciated a brief rest to unscramble their minds and bodies while being entertained by our demonstration team who performed "A Strathspey for Graham", written by Joan Axford, August 2007, in memory of Graham Rice who was a strong supporter of VISCDS and the Demo Team.

Apparently all tickets have sold out for the Robbie Burns Social on January 26th. With dance tickets also being sold at the door, the hall will be well filled. With nine sets maximum on the floor per dance, unfortunately a few attendees might need to sit out. I hope everyone has a fabulous evening at this event.

The Annual General Meeting is set for April 24, 2008; we hope you will mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. The only position being vacated this year is that of the Newsletter Editor. Sara Hatfield has done a fantastic job in this role for three consecutive years – the Executive will miss her dedication, cheerfulness and **reminders**. Fortunately, we possibly have lined up an equally capable member to replace Sara.

The Valentine's Social on February 16 is hosted by the Basic Class. I encourage the membership to come and support this enthusiastic group of new dancers. This is an opportunity to **get to know each of them**, to help guide them through the maze of intricate formations and to make it an enjoyable evening for all.

Joan McIntosh, 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 cheque to:

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

Anyone who has still not received a core book update can pick one up at any class or request one from me.
Maralynn Wilkinson

VISCDs Annual General Meeting - First Notice - April 24, 2008

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 1, 2008. No new business will be taken from the floor. Dancing will follow the meeting.



Welcome everyone to another season of dancing!

On January 7, 2008, we held an Open House at McKenzie School with over 45 dancers, including 8 new participants. This was a fun and enjoyable ceilidh night for everyone. After Joan McIntosh welcomed us, Gordon Robinson took the lead. He talked us through a program that had us dancing in circles and in sets. Thankfully it was a program designed for new dancers and for those of us that indulged too much over the holiday season. The dem team awed us with the inaugural performance of a Strathspey for Graham at the break. Beautiful patterns! We closed the evening with Gordon playing his violin while Patti Whitehouse led us in singing Loch Lomond and Auld Lang Syne. Thanks everyone for another fun night.

See you at the rest of the socials this year.

Kathryn Deegan, Social Convener

SPRING 2008 WORKSHOP AND BALL WEEKEND

DRIVERS NEEDED

The Ball Committee is looking for drivers to transport the teachers and musicians to and from teaching venues and to and from the airport. Some transport will also be needed to the Comfort Inn as well as to social events. If you are interested and available anytime from Friday March 28th to Sunday March 30th, please contact Dora Dempster at 598-0207 or by email at doradempster@shaw.ca.

SILENT AUCTION

Maureen Orr is looking for donations of large baskets and items to fill them; we must be the cleanest dancing group for miles around because she was swamped with too many gifts of soap last year! Along with a few smelly items, Maureen suggests small packages of food and things that you would personally like to receive. If you are in doubt about what to donate, give Maureen a call at 478-5338.

Lesley Brennand Workshop & Ball Coordinator

If you are attending special events or visiting other SCD groups over the next month and would like to take ball brochures and registration forms with you to promote the Ball weekend, please contact:

Jill Leslie at 391-3908 or jleslie@uoguelph.ca

Mark your calendars ... Ball Dance Practice Sessions (on Fridays this year)

Victoria-based dancers registered for the Ball may attend Ball dance practices on three consecutive **Fridays** (March 7, 14 and 21) from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. A nominal charge of \$3.00 will be levied each evening to cover hall rental costs.



2008 Valentine's Social

February 16th, 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin In-The-Fields, Obed

Cost: \$8

PROGRAM

Cutty Sark	32/J/3	B	Core (RSCDS Book 40)
Sugar Candie	32/S/3	B	Core (RSCDS Book 26)
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	32/R/5	I	14 Social Dances for 2000
The Hunting Horn *	32/J/3	I	Scottish Dance Archives
Cherrybank Gardens	32/S/3	I	Core (Bankhead Book)
De'il Amang the Tailors	32/R/3	B	Core (RSCDS Book 14)
Roaring Jelly	32/J/3	B	Core (Glendarroch)
Lover's Knot	40/S/3	B	RSCDS Book 4
The Dancers' Wedding	32/R/3	I	Core (RSCDS Book 41)
Quarrie's Jig	32/J/3	A	Core (RSCDS Book 36)
Sauchie Haugh	32/S/2	I	Core (RSCDS Leaflets)
Clutha	32/R/4sq	I	Core (RSCDS Book 31)

Break

The Craven Jig	32/J/4	A	RSCDS Three Dances 2006
Mairi's Wedding	40/R/3	I	Core (Twenty-two plus Two)
Bonnie Ina Campbell	32/S/3	A	Core (RSCDS Book 37)
Blooms of Bon Accord	32/R/4	I	Core (Deeside Book)

Extras

Balmoral Strathspey	32/S/4	B	Core (RSCDS Book 22)
White Cockade	32/R/3	B	Core (RSCDS Book 5)

* briefing only

HOSTED BY THE MONDAY BASIC CLASS

See the January Island Fling newsletter for non core book dance directions



Scotland is a land of five million people. A proud people, passionate about their country and her rich, noble heritage. For every single Scot in their native land, there are thought to be at least five more overseas who can claim Scottish ancestry - that's many, many millions spread throughout the globe.

Reprinted from the website www.ancestralscotland.com

Over the Hills and Far Away (Thoughts about Scotland # 2)

Books

George MacDonald Fraser, author of the Flashman series, passed away recently at the ripe old age of 95. If you haven't read them, these are among the funniest books you'll ever pick up. For Scots though, two less well known books of Fraser's fall into the 'outstanding' category - "The General Danced At Dawn", and "MacAuslan In The Rough". These draw upon Fraser's wartime and immediate post-war experience as an officer in one of the Highland regiments. Fraser was a Scot, writing about Scots – often those unsung, down-to-earth types from the back streets of Glasgow or Dundee. You will have difficulty reading either one of them with a straight face. If you can't find them at a local bookstore, try one of the second hand bookshops - or go to www.abebooks.com where they will certainly be available.

Best wishes

Michael Elcock



THISTLE BALL & Buffet Dinner

Saturday, May 10, 2008

6:00 - Midnight, Cost \$75

Dancing to Scotland's

Neil Copland & his Band

Squamish Nations Recreation Centre
100 Capilano Road, North Vancouver

For tickets contact Kathryn Knowles, 250-598-3490 or email kathrynknowles@shaw.ca.
Further information at www.rscdsvancouver.org

Scottish Women!

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

Terry had married a woman from America and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning that needed done at their house. He said that it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmy had married a woman from Australia. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a Scottish girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye. Enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, fill the washing machine and call a landscaper.

God bless Scottish women!!!

Reprinted from the website www.electricscotland.com



PHRASING OR COVERING?

Both these terms are used in country dance classes, and both express important concepts. The concepts are, however, quite different.

"Phrasing" refers to the matching of the figures of the dance to the phrases of the music. Commonly, the phrasing of the dance corresponds to the phrasing of the music. Country dance music is extraordinarily regular, consisting of eight-bar phrases which can be further broken down into four-bar units. Many dance figures are equally regular. Ladies' chain, for example, is an eight-bar figure which readily breaks down into two four-bar units or four two-bar units if we count each time a hand is given. If a ladies' chain is well phrased, the dancers will use exactly two bars for each two-bar segment, but they will time their movements in such a way that they flow smoothly from one segment of the figure to another, always dancing through a position and never coming to a halt.

"Good phrasing," then, is a basic skill that enables us to relate to the other dancers in the set as well as to the music. The dancer who phrases well will always be in the right spot at the right time: halfway through an eight-bar reel at the end of bar 4 and facing down the men's side at the end of bar 4 of the allemande. In four- and eight-bar movements, good phrasing expresses the dancer's natural response to the music. However, in movements which are more arbitrarily fitted to the music (like down the middle for three, up for three, and cast for two) good phrasing must be more deliberately cultivated, the result of counting bars rather than simply listening to the music. Given time, that too can become second nature.

And what of covering? It refers to the matching of our movements with those of other dancers in the set. Covering most obviously enhances the appearance of the dance, when for example the loops in parallel reels of four are exactly matched, or everyone turns with the same extension of arms. But covering also enhances social pleasure and interaction: if the end people in a reel of three approach the middle together and glance across at each other, they will have a sense of dancing together with all others in the set, and if a long line of dancers in a ballroom are momentarily side by side on bar 5 of the allemande, they will feel a oneness that goes beyond their own set.

"Good covering" is clearly the result of good phrasing, and together they give that sense of being part of a larger whole which is the essence of country dancing. The very best dances (*Bratach Bana*, for example) are so good because the continuous motion of the dancers enables them to relate to all others in the set, not merely to their own partners. A moment in which phrasing and covering come together occurs near the end of *Maxwell's Rant* when the first couple have danced down between the third couple and cast to their own sides. Just as they pass through the middle, their movement is magically transmitted to those on the sidelines, and all turn as one to round off the dance. Both phrasing and covering are not an obligation, but a source of joy!

Rosemary Coupe
Editor, *The White Cockade*

[Based in part on an article by Ken Way in the New Haven Branch Newsletter; a comment by Evelyn Murray, editor of *The Tartan Times* of the Boston Branch; and on Strathspey server postings by Oberdan Otto, Kent Smith, Brian Mackintosh, and Priscilla Burrage.]

*With acknowledgement to Rosemary Coupe; reprinted from www.rscdsvancouver.org
Articles Previously Published in the *The White Cockade**

Fraser Highlanders

The Victoria Joint Scottish Council has had a request from Norman Pope, Ensign, 78th Fraser Highlanders, who lives in Victoria and has been asked to form, in Victoria, an Outpost of the Fort Fraser Garrison in Vancouver. He is looking for possible members. One does not require a military background nor Scottish ancestry, simply a patriotic nature and a desire to participate in the work and social events of the 78th Fraser Highlanders. It is open to both ladies and gentlemen and participation can be as involved as one desires. You can find further information at www.thefreserhighlanders.com and/or email Norman Pope at Norman.pope@sympatico.ca.

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

In 2009 we are inviting you to celebrate with us. Whether you live in Scotland, are part of our extended global family, or maybe you just love Scotland, join us in our 2009 celebrations.

Why 2009? 2009 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of our national poet and international cultural icon Robert Burns whose message of friendship and 'Auld Lang Syne' lives on.

2009 will be a celebration of not only Robert Burns but some of Scotland's great contributions to the world: Burns, Golf, Whisky, The Enlightenment and Innovation, as well as our rich culture and heritage which lives on at home and through the many people of Scots descent who live out with our shores.

The Homecoming Scotland programme will involve a calendar of exciting and inspirational events and activities throughout 2009. So whether you are Scottish or simply love Scotland, come to the home of Burns, Golf, Whisky, Enlightenment and Innovation. Come to the home of your ancestors, experience our living culture.

Come Home!

Reprinted from the Homecoming Scotland website

Friday Night Dancing Opportunity

Raymond Thomson teaches a multi-level dancing class on Friday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at James Bay New Horizons – everyone is welcome! Please feel free to join him, there is a \$4 drop-in fee per class for people who are not members of the James Bay New Horizons Centre.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Feb 02 '08** VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE with Muriel Johnstone, 7:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed, Cost \$12
- Feb 16 '08** VISCDS VALENTINES SOCIAL St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Mar 01 '08** CEILIDH at the Bay St. Armoury, 7:00 pm
- Mar 08 '08** VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE 7:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Mar 28-30'08** VISCDS WORKSHOP AND BALL WEEKEND
- Apr 05 '08** TARTAN BALL sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council.
The Council has regretfully cancelled the Tartan Ball for this year.
- 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
- NOTE:** Dance Programs for the Branch are available from the VISCDS newsletter editor or their website www.rscdsvictoria.org

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb 08-11'08** **EDMONTON SCD ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND BALL WEEKEND** Contact Barbara Johnston 780-456-8122 barb.johnston@shaw.ca Teachers are Fred DeMarse (California) & Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (Vcr). Music by Muriel Johnstone & Jim Lindsay (Perth, Scotland).
- Feb 15-17'08** **HONOLULU ALOHA WINTER WEEKEND** in Waikiki. US\$150. Contact Bruce McEwan 808-538-7707 bemac@hawaii.rr.com / www.rscdshawaii.org
- Feb 16 '08** **COMOX VALLEY SCD VALENTINES BALL** in Courtenay at the Native Sons Hall, 360 Cliffe Ave. Music by Muriel Johnstone & Jim Lindsay. Cost: \$35 for dancers, \$20 for non-dancers. Registrar: Matthew Nicoll at 250-337-8491 or menicoll@telus.net.
- Feb 16 '08** **VANCOUVER BRANCH "LOVE TO DANCE" WORKSHOP & DANCE** Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St., Vcr. Teachers: Barbara Johnston (Edm), Simon Scott (Vcr), Hazel MacDonald (Nanaimo), Rosemary Coupe (Vcr), Barbara Campbell (Vcr), Class Musicians: Mary Ross Accordion and Julie Smith Piano. Evening dance music provided by The MacKinnon Trio. Registrar: Denise Cunningham 604-261-0162 or deniseyc@telus.net
- Feb 21-28'08** **RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL** in Pitlochry, Scotland. www.rscds.org
- Mar 08 '08** **PORT ALBERNI SCD ST. PATRICK'S DINNER/DANCE** at Alberni Valley United Church, 3747 Church Street. Doors open 5:30 pm, Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm. Cost \$28.00 / person. For Info contact Leslie Holland at 250-723-0516 or superdoc6@shaw.ca
- Mar 09 '08** **WHITE ROCK WORKSHOP** at the Sullivan Hall, 6306 152nd Street, Surrey. Teacher: Maureen Lyon. Cost \$10. To register, contact Janice Lowe 604-536-7660.
- Mar 15 '08** **DELTA BORDERERS "SPRING FLING" BALL**
- Mar 29 '08** **NANOOSE SCD 3RD ANNUAL SPRING GALA**, Qualicum Beach Community Hall, Memorial Avenue & Veteran's Way. Live music with Mary Ross. Contact Alistair McVey (752-1980) (lamcvey@shaw.ca)
- 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.rscottishcountrydancers.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

- 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
- 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 gjohnson@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. More details later. Save
the date for this great summertime event.
- 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 31-** **SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH ASILOMAR WORKSHOP & BALL** at Asilomar
Nov 02'08 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, February 20, 2008

Send your submissions to the news editor please

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