

Island Fling



February 2009

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

Web address: www.viscds.ca

Executive Committee

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Treasurer	Jamie Orr	250-478-5338
Social Convener	Kathryn Deegan	kdeegan@shaw.ca
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	250-479-6719

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

January was a busy month with our Open House on the 6th and the Robbie Burns' celebration, hosted by the Monday Social Class, on the 24th. Both were very well attended which ensured an excellent start to our 2009 dancing season. The Open House attracted three new members who have registered and there will likely be an additional two more to come. The Basic Class is thriving with 24-26 participants each Tuesday – this includes some experienced dancers, but more would be most welcome and appreciated to help guide newcomers through the dances.

The Ball/workshop committee has plans well organized for the 27th, 28th & 29th of March. Please see notes in this newsletter for an update and volunteer positions to be filled. In order to finalize planning, it is most helpful for the committee to have **numbers** attending the various events – **please send in your registration form as soon as possible.**

The next upcoming event is our Valentine Social on February 21st, hosted by the Basic Class. As this will be the first social for some members of this class, we need our experienced dancers to please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend in support of our newcomers. Once again, I hope to see everyone there.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Classes

The Social class on Tuesday afternoons has had low numbers of members attending. This is a trial class so we encourage your attendance or it may not continue next dancing season.

VISCDS Annual General Meeting - First Notice - Tuesday April 21, 2009

at 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, 2009. No new business will be taken from the floor. Dancing will follow the meeting.

The Executive will be asking for volunteers to serve on the **Nominating Committee**, which consists of at least two members. Please contact any executive member if you are interested or have any questions. The following positions are being vacated by current executive members:

1. Membership and 2nd Vice-President
2. Publicity and 1st Vice-President (one candidate has come forward)
3. Treasurer

These are all essential positions that need to be filled to ensure the continuation and success of our Society – please consider contributing your expertise or skills by taking on one of the executive roles.

Newsletter

Deadline for the next newsletter is Wednesday, February 25, 2009. Please send submissions to gael@shaw.ca



Burns Social Night

Congratulations to the Monday Social class who hosted 57 people (more than 6 sets!) for the annual Burns Social. All the attendees were smiling and laughing through a fun night of social dances at all levels of complexity. Bob created a wonderfully varied program with some lovely music. Although, I am still stumped as to how Waltzing Matilda connects with Robbie Burns?? At the break, a piped procession - dressed in their finest, all with kilts of some shade of green - gave the haggis its due. Many thanks to the procession volunteers: Jamie Orr - the piper; Alex McAuley who animatedly recited the "Address to the haggis"; Rick Deegan - the sword bearer; Walter Balfour who carried the liquid gold; and Gordon Simpson - bearer of the haggis. Walter returned to say the Selkirk Grace and then we feasted on haggis and many tasty nibbles. After the break it was back into the hall for a few more dances. Thanks to Heather Hermanson who did a great job organizing the night and to her volunteers for a successful social!

Kathryn Deegan

LOST AND FOUND

At the Burns Social, Linda Foley lost a silver brooch that she used to pin her sash at the hip. It is circular with about a 2 inch diameter and has an orange-brown stone set in massive claws in the centre. Sadly, it is very old, so doesn't have a safety clasp on the pin. If anyone found her brooch, please phone: 250-881-1536.

We have collected several water bottles that have been left behind. They are in the Teacher's cupboard. If people have lost one, they should ask their teacher to have a look.



Over the Hills and Far Away (Thoughts about Scotland #9) Mairi Chisholm—A Remarkable Scot

Trevor Royle's book "The Flowers of the Forest" is a recent study of the Scots, and Scotland, in the First World War. Highly researched and thorough it contains some fascinating information, not the least of which is an intriguing reference to a remarkable woman called Mairi Chisholm.

Mairi Chisholm was eighteen when the war started. One of the few people in Britain with a motor cycle, she quickly drove down to London and joined the Women's Emergency Corps as a dispatch rider. (The WAC was almost exclusively populated by suffragettes who had suspended their political activities in order to join the war effort.)

Mairi was soon recruited to Dr. Hector Munro's fledgling Flying Ambulance Corps, and she left for Belgium just as the German Army was threatening to overrun the whole country. Realising that they would save more lives if they were as close as possible to the fighting, she and her colleague Elsie Knocker established an advanced dressing station right at the front lines in a village called Pervyse. Mairi put it succinctly in an interview years later "*We filled our knapsacks and things with such as we required... and walked up with the soldiers... we must have marched about ten kilometres up into the trenches in the pitch dark... and we installed ourselves up there in the cellar of a house.*"

According to papers in the Imperial War Museum, Mairi and Elsie were the only women to be granted full access to the front lines—a dispensation that King Albert of the Belgians himself ensured. They ran the advanced medical station for four years until British troops arrived in 1917 to reinforce this Belgian sector of the lines. During this time the two women were caught in artillery fire, bayonet charges, and in gas attacks. Both of them were decorated for their bravery and resourcefulness. Because of this, and the spiritual solace they brought to the wounded soldiers, they were known to the Belgians as the 'Madonnas of Pervyse'.

Michael Elcock

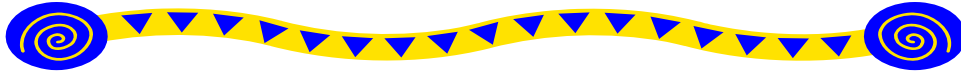


A website to surf:

'Scotster' (www.scotster.com) - a website dedicated to bringing Scots and friends of Scotland together online and offline. The launch of the new networking site is timely as 2009 is the first year of 'Homecoming Scotland', designed to promote a social and events programme worldwide. And now, Scotster's user-friendly features will connect international visitors to Scotland with existing residents. The Facebook of all things North of the border, Scotster provides an online community where members can promote local events, share photos and memories, and find new friends with similar interests. Members can even create opinion polls and run their own guestlists.

Demonstration Team

The team of dancers ably led by Joan Axford was busy in January with four performances within 9 days to entertain and promote VISCDs and Scottish Country dancing. We had between 6 and 14 dancers performing. At the performance on Robbie Burns' Day, we were able to present to Thelma Bell a dance that Joan had written to acknowledge all the time and contributions she made to the demonstration team over the years, now that she has "retired". The dance is aptly named *Thelma's Strathspey*. Thank you, Thelma. We miss you.



Ball Weekend: Volunteers Please

The Ball weekend is just a month away and we are getting down to the final stages of preparation. There are several areas in which we need your help.

Drivers: Our teachers and musicians will need to be transported to and from events and workshops. On Saturday we need to get them from the Comfort Inn to the Colwood Community Centre for the workshops and later in the day to transport them back to the Inn. In the evening they need to be transported to and from the Ball. Drivers will also be needed on Friday for the Ceilidh and Sunday for the Brunch. Let Dora know if you can help on any of these days.

Miscellaneous: do any of you have portable **coat racks** for the Colwood Community Hall on Friday evening and for the workshops/luncheon on Saturday?

Maureen will be accepting donations for the silent auction in February. She'll need some large baskets too.

We are starting to get requests for billeting. Please contact Jill Leslie at jleslie@uoguelph.ca (250-391-3908) to let her know if you are willing to billet dancers for the Ball weekend.

Please get your registrations in soon. We hope to see many of you on the dance floor on this special weekend.

Dora Dempster, Ball Committee
250-598-0207 doradempster@shaw.ca

Ball Practices 2009

Friday, March 6

J St. Andrews Fair
R John of Bon Accord
S The Northern Lights
J The Pines of Pitlochry
R Trip to Bavaria
S Staffin Harvest
R Maxwell's Rant
J The Luckenbooth Brooch
S The Laird of Milton's Daughter

Friday, March 13

J St. Andrews Fair
R Trip to Bavaria
S Bonnie Stronshiray
J Roaring Jelly
R Polharrow Burn
S The Laird of Milton's Daughter
R Mairi's Wedding
S Bonnie Ina Campbell

Friday, March 20

J St. Andrews Fair
R John of Bon Accord
S The Gentleman
J The Luckenbooth Brooch
R Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder
S The Robertson Rant
R Bonnie Ina Campbell
J The Pines of Pitlochry
R The Clansman



Spring Fling

April 18, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

at St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue

Cost: \$8

Jubilee Jig	J 8x32	B	Core
Jessie's Hornpipe	R 8x32	B	Core
The Celtic Cross	S 4x32 (Sq)	I	Doune Collection (Ron Arrowsmith)
The Chequered Court	J 8x32	I	Core
Fisherman's Reel	R 5x32 (Sq+1)	B	Core
Deer Friends	S 8x32	A	Core
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J 4x64	I	Core
The Meeting of the Waters	R 8x48	A	Core
The Belle of Bon Accord	S 4x32	B	Core
Dancing Dolphins	J 8x32	I	Dolphin Book (Barry Skelton)
The Moray Rant	S 3x48	I	Core
West's Hornpipe	R 4x32	B	Core
 Break			
The Machine without Horses	J 8x32	B	RSCDS Book 12
The Reel of the 51 st Division	R 8x32	I	Core
Autumn in Appin	S 4x32	A	Core
The De'il Among the Tailors*	R 8x32	B	Core
 Extras			
The White Heather Jig	J 4x32	I	Core
Invercauld's Reel	S 8x32	I	Core

* Briefing Only

Hosted by Tuesday Afternoon Social

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Feb 7** **Social with the Elastic Ceilidh Band** hosted jointly by RSCDS Victoria Branch and the UVic Caledonian Club. 7:30pm at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
\$10 general admission, \$5 for students.
- Feb 21** **VISCDS Valentines Social** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm (see December Fling for program)
- Mar 6, 13, 20** **Ball Practice nights**
- Mar 27-29** **VISCDS Ball and Workshop Weekend**
- Apr 18** **VISCDS Spring Fling** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm (program in this Fling)
- Apr 19** **Kirkin' o' the Tartan service** at Knox Presbyterian Church, 2964 Richmond Road.
- April 21** **VISCDS Annual General Meeting** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb 14 2009** **Comox Valley SCD Valentines Ball**
- Feb 21** **"Love to Dance" Workshop and Dance** Vancouver BC <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org>
- Feb 27-Mar1** **Edmonton Caledonian Branch 39th Workshop & Ball** Teachers are Ruth Jappy, Muriel Johnstone, and Bill Zobel. www.rscdsedmonton.org
- March 7** **Port Alberni Club St Patrick's Dinner Dance** United Church, Port Alberni with music by Mary Ross RSVP by Friday February 27 2009 to: Marian Pickton 250-723-1136 or pfmcj@shaw.ca \$36 per person Doors open 5.30pm
- March 14** **Portland Branch 30th Workshop & Ball**, at Friendship Masonic Lodge. Teachers: Bill Zobel (Courtney BC) and Marjorie McLaughlin (San Diego CA). Musicians: Muriel Johnstone, Calum MacKinnon and Lisa Scott (workshop)
- April 4** **Oceanside (formerly Nanoose) SCD 4th Annual Spring Gala** 644 Memorial Avenue, Qualicum Beach. Doors open 6 pm Wine and Finger Food 6:30 pm Dancing to the music of Mary Ross 7:30 - 11:00, followed by light snack. Tickets before March 29: \$28 and \$18 for non-dancers; after March 29: \$33 and \$23. Alistair McVey 250-752-1980 lamcvey@shaw.ca The Dance Program, is available www.oceansidescd.net
- April 3-5** **Lethbridge SCD & Music Workshop** at Lethbridge Lodge Hotel. Contact Fiona Miller 403-329-3582 or Joanna Fraser 403-320-0357 jo-jo@telus.net.
- May 9** **Cowichan Valley Scottish Country Dance Club May Social**, Roberts Street, Crofton at 7:30pm, \$10
- June 12-14** **SALT SPRING ISLAND SIMPLY SCOTTISH** at Harbour House. Teachers: Jean Dodds, Simon Scott & Bill Zobel. Musicians: Muriel Johnstone, Calum MacKinnon & Mary Ross. Contact Rita Robertson struan2@telus.net or <http://saltspringscottishdancers.org/>
- Jul 19–Aug 16** **RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews Scotland.** Feb 1 deadline but Editor has a registration booklet. May not be too late.
- Jul 26–Aug 2** **TAC SUMMER SCHOOL** at Shawnigan Lake School see <http://www.tac-rscds.org>
- Dec 28 2009** **NEW ZEALAND BRANCH SUMMER SCHOOL**, AUT, Akoranga Campus, North Shore City, Auckland. Registration opens January 1, 2009. <http://ssaki.rscdsnz.org.nz>
- Jan 5 2010 organiser.ssaki@rscdsnz.org.nz

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