

Island Fling



January 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.viscnds.ca

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all members and I hope everyone managed to celebrate the season safely with family and/or friends, despite the inclement weather. "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas" became a rare reality for Victorians – beautiful to look at, but it certainly created havoc for pedestrians, vehicles and air travel for those who planned to spend the holidays with distant relatives. Thankfully, it seems the worst is behind us for now as we look forward to 2009.

Our winter/spring dancing season begins with the **OPEN HOUSE** this **Tuesday, January 6th**, and I encourage everyone to attend - shine up those dance shoes and get ready to shed those excess calories gained through the past two weeks. Gordon Robinson will brief and guide us through a variety of basic dances and footwork to introduce newcomers to the fun of Scottish Country Dancing – be sure to bring a friend along to show and share your enthusiasm!

The first social of 2009, on January 24, celebrates the birth of Robbie Burns and will be hosted by the Monday Experienced Social class. For those who are relatively new to our Society, this evening will follow the format of our regular monthly socials; however at the food/beverage break, Haggis will be piped in and one of our members will recite Burns' "Address to the Haggis". You will find the dance programme in the November newsletter. There will not be a dinner this year and admission will be paid at the door. For any members who are interested, this year is the 250th anniversary of Burns' birth on January 25th. For those interested, you can learn more about the worldwide celebration in honour of the occasion by visiting these websites: www.burnssupper2009.com/ or www.homecomingscotland.com/

I look forward to seeing everyone on the dance floor this Tuesday.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Membership

Reminder that class fees (\$55.00) for the spring session (January to April) are now due for those who paid only for the first half of the year or for those who were paying drop in for the fall. Please send your cheques as soon as possible to:

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

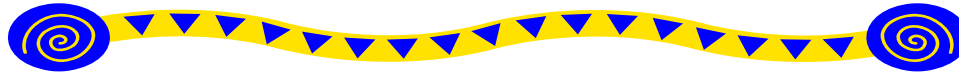
2009 Class Startup

Class	2009 Start up date
VISCDS Open House	Tuesday January 6
Advanced	Wednesday January 7
Intermediate	Thursday January 8
Experienced Social	Monday January 12
Daytime Social	Tuesday January 13
Basic	Tuesday January 13

Newsletter

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER is January 30, 2009.

Gael Forster



VISCDS Spring Workshop and Ball Weekend

Mark it on your calendar! **Friday March 27th to Sunday March 29th** is our **33rd Annual Workshop and Ball Weekend** starting with a Ceilidh on Friday night designed to include everyone in a fun evening of song and dance. The Ceilidh dance program is included in the January Fling and features a half dozen dances appropriate for basic level dancers.

This year we have two levels of workshops on Saturday: Advanced Level and Intermediate Level. Both intermediate dancers and basic dancers who started in September will find the Intermediate Level workshop suited to their needs. Multi-talented Patrick Fly from Seattle will lead this workshop while Vancouver's Rebecca Blackhall-Peters' extensive background will challenge advanced dancers with more complex formations and advanced techniques.

On Saturday night you are all invited to the 33rd annual Ball which attracts visitors from as far away as Australia. Get your registration forms in soon so as not to miss this sparkling event commencing with the Grand March and bagpiper Jamie Orr leading the procession of kilted and colourfully gowned dancers. The Tartan Players, a talented trio from Vancouver, will provide the music for the evening. Those who feel they are not yet ready to participate in the Ball are offered the opportunity to attend the banquet and watch the Ball...just select "banquet only" on the registration form. The weekend draws to a close Sunday with the ever popular Social & Brunch held at the scenic C & PO's Mess.

The flyer and registration forms were distributed with the December newsletter and are also available on the VISCDS website. Read the flyer to learn more about our teachers and musicians and to review the Ball program of dances. Contact Jill Leslie If you are unable to get the forms off the web. Tel: 250-391-3908 or jleslie@uoguelph.ca

How You Can Help: Volunteer, Donate or Billet

Maureen Orr will be collecting items for the Friday night **Silent Auction**. Our experience last year taught us that our buyers favour more practical items as many of us attempt to downsize. Call Maureen if you have questions and if you are able to donate items for this year's auction. Also let her know if you are able to **billet** any dancers from out of town Tel: 478-5338.

As the event draws nearer we will be looking for **volunteers** to help us out with the myriad last minute jobs which need to be done....decorating, driving teachers to the events, hosting classes. Call me if you'd like to lend a hand.

Dora Dempster, For the Ball Committee
Tel: 250-598-0207 Email: doradempster@shaw.ca

Auction Preparations

Yes, it's time to be thinking about our silent auction – remember this is an important fund raiser for our Workshop and Ball weekend. We don't have a lot of storage space so please hold on to your auction pieces until February, but give some thought now to what you might donate.

Some items that have proven popular are:

Gardening equipment; Tableware, including candles, (please, no chipped or unmatched china); Food and/or drink; Car care or golf items; Grandchild goodies; Personal care items (no opened toiletries, though); and there are lots of others – let your imagination run!

Any large baskets you have would also be appreciated. Thanks!

Maureen Orr

CEILIDH PROGRAM March 27 2009

Welcome to the Dance*	4X32 Jig	Let's All Dance E. Vandergrift
Shiftn Bobbins*	8X32 Reel	Roy Clowes Ormskirk Book No. 6
Northern Lights	3X32 Strathspey	Charlie Dobie
Ceilidh Items		
Gay Gordons*		
Bonnie Ina Campbell	8X32 Strathspey	George Will
Pines of Pitlochry	8X48 Jig	Scottish Dance Archives, Sam Frith
Ceilidh Items		
Let's Have a Ceilidh	4X32 Reel	Robert Campbell 1976 Glasgow Assembly
Butterscotch and Honey*	4X32 Strathspey	Jean Attwood 1984
Hooper's Jig*	8X32 Jig	RSCDS Misc II
Ceilidh Items		
Mairi's Wedding	8X40 Reel	James Cosh 22 plus 2 dances
Summer on the Clyde*	4X32 Strathspey	Scottish Dance Archives, Catherine Dewar
Joe McDiarmid's Jig*	4X32 Jig	RSCDS Book Five for 1982

All will be walked and talked but the star designates the beginner/easier dances



St Andrew's Social

Forty-five dancers, plus several guests brought by Anita Mathur of the Branch, gathered together at St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall on November 22 to celebrate St. Andrew's Day. The evening was sponsored by the Advanced class and the program was devised by their teachers, Monica Roots and Bob Anderson. The program was a lively one and included the *Clansman* and the 'terrible' targe, beautifully performed by many. The hall was decorated with different clan tartan swaths, a brand new St. Andrew's flag, multiple tartan rosettes, and clusters of newly blooming winter heather. In good Scottish tradition, the foods donated for the supper table were varied, very tasty (the ginger cake is a real winner!), and greatly enjoyed by all the company. I heartily thank my classmates for their contributions of food, time, and energy to prepare for the dance, and we thank June and Gordon Robinson for their donation of two prizes, ably administered by Kathryn Deegan. A special thank you goes to Thelma Bell for graciously loaning her tartan fabrics and rosettes for the decorations. The dancing was good and the evening much enjoyed!

Merle Peterson, Rep for the Advanced Class



Christmas Social

First, a great big thank you to the Branch for their wonderful hospitality at the Christmas Social. On December 6, dancers congregated from near and far at the Cadboro Bay United Church for the annual Christmas Social. As we entered the beautiful hall, festooned in tartans and large poinsettia decorations, we were personally welcomed by Sheila McCall and Anne Scott. Then the dancing began! Ed Pitkin, the MC kept us on track while Joan Axford and Anita Mathur took turns introducing the varied program of old and new dances to 8-10 sets of dancers. Muriel Johnstone provided beautiful piano music to keep our toes flying. She even incorporated some Christmas carols into the tunes. You could also hear bells ringing as some dancers were festooned with their own jingle bells. At the break, the Branch nourished us with beverages and lots of tasty sweets and savouries. Then the dancing resumed. When we left, the hall had been heated by our energy and the windows were all steamy. It was a great evening. Lots of fun was had by all! Thank you.

Kathryn Deegan



Zimbabwe benefit dance

Thank you to all who attended the benefit dance. It was a great success and I am sure you all enjoyed it. Although I cannot name everyone, I would like to say a special thank you to Pat Blair, the organizer, and to her assistant Heather Hermanson. Alice Anderson, as always did an incredible amount and she was there so early on Friday we wondered if she had spent the previous night at the hall. Thank you Bob Anderson and all teachers for the talk throughs; Maureen and Jamie Orr for the silent auction; Dianne and Rob Robinson for the 50-50; and Linda Jeaurond, even though not a dancer, came in to take tickets.

As I write this I want you to know that the thanks also come from the staff and patients at Howard, they do appreciate being remembered, especially during these very difficult times.

I have just had an e-mail from Dr Paul Thistle: the hospital is very busy with over 40 patients on all wards with only 26 beds so lots of "floor beds". Food is being obtained from Botswana and it is good to hear that a feeding program has been restarted.

Best wishes for good health and happiness, and Happy Dancing in 2009.

Lorraine Irvine



Over the Hills and Far Away (Thoughts about Scotland #8)

Òran Mór—Glasgow

Stepping out in Glasgow recently with one of Scotland's finest poets and playwrights, Liz Lochhead, I was treated to a lunchtime ritual at a unique arts centre called Òran Mór—formerly Kelvinside Parish Church. For \$20 there you get a pie, a pint (or a glass of wine) and a play. The play I saw was “Raspberry” by Gary Robson, and it was performed by handicapped actors and musicians.

The centre was packed, and the play was remarkable; earthy, roll-up-your-sleeves stuff—theatre in the half-round, with great production values, and in-your-face, but un-oppressive, performances. The music by Gordon Dougall was original and lyrical, and Claire Cunningham's dance-with-crutches near the end was one of the most poignantly beautiful pieces I've seen, anywhere.

Being with Liz, I was allowed into the magnificent upstairs auditorium to see Alasdair Gray's fantastic ceiling-in-progress. Gray is regarded by many as Scotland's greatest 20th century novelist. A graduate of Glasgow's College of Art, he is also a well-recognised artist. The scope and the scale of the mural he is painting on the ceiling is enormous. The vividness of its colours and concepts are breathtaking, and the subtle light from the great stained glass window at its north side gives it an intense, ethereal air.

Òran Mór is a treasure. It works in Glasgow because it taps into the essence and the character of the city. It's very different from anything you've seen on this side of the Pond, and more than worth a visit if you're over there.

Michael Elcock



In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Frank Porter. Frank was a founding member of VISCDS and was an early President. He owned the Indian Craft Shoppe and his ‘business smarts’ proved invaluable to VISCDS in its early days. He was a reasonably good dancer and was always fun to be with. He supported workshops and balls locally as well as in Vancouver and Banff. Frank stopped dancing in the early 1980's but maintained an interest in SCD – his obituary in the Times Colonist stated that he ‘had a flair for Scottish Country Dancing’. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Nadine, and to his family.

Edith Chapman

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Jan 17 2009** **Victoria Branch, Winter Celebration** at 7:30pm at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Hall, an event that embraces everything good about the winter season. The dance program will reflect things wintry and the dancers are asked to wear some of their cosiest winter clothing. \$6 at the door. Contact Kathryn Knowles at 250-598-3490.
- Jan 24** **VISCDS Burns Social** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Jan 25** **Burns Memorial Tea and Concert** sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council (the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns). Heather-laying Ceremony at the Burns statue at 2pm in Beacon Hill Park followed by concert and tea at the Kirk Hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Courtney Street at 2:30pm. By donation.
- 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, \$10 general admission, \$5 for students. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Caledonians' travel fund for members to attend Youth Weekend West 2009 in San Francisco in May.
- Feb 21** **VISCDS Valentines Social** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Mar 27-29** **VISCDS Ball and Workshop Weekend**
- Apr 18** **VISCDS Spring Fling** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Apr 19** **KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN service** sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council at Knox Presbyterian Church, 2964 Richmond Road.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb 14 2009** **COMOX VALLEY SCD VALENTINES BALL**
- Feb 27-Mar1** **EDMONTON CALEDONIAN BRANCH 39th WORKSHOP & BALL** Teachers are Ruth Jappy, Muriel Johnstone, and Bill Zobel. www.rscdsedmonton.org
- Mar 7** **PORT ALBERNI CLUB St PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE** with music by Mary Ross
- Mar 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 McKinnon and Lisa Scott (workshop)
- April 4** **OCEANSIDE SCD 4th ANNUAL SPRING GALA**
- Apr 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
- Jun 12-14** **SALT SPRING ISLAND SIMPLY SCOTTISH** at Harbour House. Teachers are Jean Dodds, Simon Scott & Bill Zobel. Musicians are Muriel Johnstone, Calum MacKinnon & Mary Ross. Contact Rita Robertson (Registrar) struan2@telus.net or <http://saltspringscottishdancers.org/>
- Jul 26 – Aug 2** **TAC SUMMER SCHOOL** at Shawnigan Lake School see <http://www.tac-rscds.org> for details and forms.
- Dec 28 2009** **NEW ZEALAND BRANCH SUMMER SCHOOL**, AUT, Akoranga Campus, North Shore City, Auckland. Registration opens January 1, 2009.
- Jan 5 2010 <http://ssakl.rscdsnz.org.nz> organiser.ssakl@rscdsnz.org.nz

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