Island Fling



September 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

President
Publicity
2nd Vice President and Membership
Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Treasurer
Social Convener
Teacher Representative

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VISCDS Open House Tuesday, September 8, 2009 7:30 pm- 9:30 pm St Martin-in-the-Fields Church Hall 550 0bed Avenue

I hope to see you all at the Open House in September. Bring an interested friend or couple and encourage them to try out Scottish Country Dancing. There is no charge for the Open House and we continue to offer three additional free dance lessons on the Tuesdays following the Open House.

An attractive new poster has been created for the Open House using pictures taken by photographer Matthew Kerr who was recommended by Maureen and Jamie Orr. I am looking for volunteers to help put the posters up on community boards in their area. Please contact me by email or phone if you are able to help. **Dora Dempster**, 598-0207 or <u>doradempster@shaw.ca</u>

VISCDS CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH 15, 2009

All Teachers are certified by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Dancers should consult with their current teacher before moving to a more advanced class. All dancers are encouraged to dance in other classes below their level as this makes less experienced dancers progress faster and the classes more enjoyable.

Classes begin with an Open House on Tuesday, September 8th at St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall (this is also the first night for the Basic Class).

BASIC CLASS (starts September 8)

Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue Teacher: Gordon Robinson

In the basic class you will learn the five basic steps of Scottish Country Dancing and the various formations that make up the dances. You will become familiar with the concept of sets, progressions, technique and teamwork and you will experience the joy of moving to the lively music in a relaxed social setting. By the end of the year you will be able to dance many basic dances with some degree of confidence.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS (starts September 10)

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue Teachers: Una Lennam and Rob & Sue Langridge

For those who have attended a basic class and are familiar with basic formations and dances. This class will continue to work on all basic steps and formations as well provide dancers with the opportunity to experience a broader range of formations and movements.

ADVANCED CLASS (starts September 9)

Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:30 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue Teacher: Monica Roots and Bob Anderson

For experienced and upper intermediate level (minimum 2 years) dancers who wish to maintain and improve their dancing skills. Dancers will work on all aspects of technique including "tidy up" old formations and introducing more complex formations and transitions.

EXPERIENCED SOCIAL (starts September 14)

Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue Teacher: Bob Anderson

For those truly experienced dancers who do not wish to choose the intensity of an advanced technique class but wish to dance more challenging dances and formations. Dancers in this class should have a good knowledge of all common formations and steps and be able to dance those dances with common formations with just a brief walk-through.

DAYTIME SOCIAL (starts September 15)

Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue Teachers: Pat Blair and Gordon Robinson

A daytime social class for dancers who have attended a basic class and are familiar with basic formations and dances. Emphasis will be on Core dances, new dances and upcoming social program dances.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As our executive and teachers are preparing for another new dancing season, I must admit that I am still in my holiday mood and am struggling to accept that this fabulous summer is nearing an end. On the other hand, I am also eager to be dancing again and look forward to seeing everyone at our **Open House**. (See details in this newsletter).

I am happy to report that there will be no class/membership fee increases this year. There is one change of teachers - we welcome Pat Blair who will be sharing the Daytime Social class with Gordon Robinson. You will find the 2009/2010 Registration forms included with this newsletter.

The executive have been planning changes to the traditional Ball/Workshop weekend as a result of the membership's responses to the Survey in April. We sincerely thank the members who took the time to fill out and return the survey. In

this newsletter we've also included: a summarization of the survey results compiled by Kathryn Deegan; decisions and plans we have made to date for a Ceilidh, Workshops, Ball/Brunch; and the minutes of the 2009 AGM last spring.

Remember to spread the word about Scottish Country Dancing to your friends, relatives and/or co-workers and bring them along on September 8th to join in the fun and exercise!

Happy dancing, Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

2010 Workshops, Ceilidh, Ball & Brunch

The Executive has made the following decisions and plans to date, taking into consideration members' opinions and comments on the April Survey:

Workshops

Date: January 23rd, 2010 Location: TBD Levels: Basic/Intermediate (afternoon); Advanced (morning) Teacher: Ruth Jappy (Vancouver) <u>Ceilidh/Robbie Burns Social</u> Date: January 23rd, 2010 Location: St. Martin-in-the-Fields Time: 7:30pm – 11:00pm <u>Ball & Brunch</u> Dates: March 27th & 28th, 2010 Ball location: Victoria Edelweiss Club Brunch location: CPO's Mess Live Music: Muriel Johnstone & Calum MacKinnon (Ball & Brunch)

We need additional committee members and volunteers to assist with organizing these events in order for them to be a success. **Two positions that should be filled immediately** are **Ball Coordinator** and **Registrar**. We would appreciate your help and if you are interested in either of these roles, please contact any executive member (see phone numbers on front of newsletter).

Newsletter

Deadline for the next newsletter is September 21, 2009. Please send submissions to gael@shaw.ca

Membership

The registration form for 2009/10 is available on the website or mailed with this Island Fling issue. Please submit your forms promptly to Riki Sato. Fees are due September 1, 2009.

VISCDS Annual General Meeting Minutes April 21, 2009

Place St. Martin's In the Fields Church Hall,

Forty three (43) voting members in attendance as documented by their signatures.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., President Joan McIntosh presiding.

Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were read by Keith Wilson, and a **motion** to accept the minutes was made by Jamie Orr and seconded by Walter Roots. **Carried.**

Reports

The following reports were presented and printed copies submitted for filing:

Publicity – written by Edna Kinnon, read by Joan McIntosh.

Membership - presented by Maralynn Wilkinson

Treasurer - presented by Jamie Orr-Questions about the notes were answered by Jamie Orr.

Questions were presented from the membership about why the Society is keeping funds in the investment account and what the monies are to be used for. Various uses include "Rainy day fund", subsidizing of class fees, replacement of equipment, other uses as deemed necessary. The point was made that our yearly budget is more than we have in the investment account, so this is not unseemly. The feeling from the floor was that we could leave the investment account alone, with the aim of looking for some other uses in the future.

Newsletter - presented by Gael Forster

Social Convenor - presented by Kathryn Deegan

Teacher's Report - presented by Bob Anderson

Demonstration Team – written by Joan Axford, read by Joan McIntosh

Victoria Joint Scottish Council - presented by Ann Scott

Workshop and Ball Committee - presented by Lesley Brennand-Questions about the cancellation of this year's ball were answered by the Chair and by the President.

Points raised by the membership were:

The committee recommended earlier registration cut-offs in the future.

President's Report - presented by Joan McIntosh

As our dancing season has come to an end once again it is time to reflect back on the activities, events, and contributions of the past year.

Our Open Houses in fall 2008 and winter 2009 were both well attended and successfully introduced each of our two terms of dancing on a positive note, with 20 new guests on September 9th and 8-10 on January 6th. Overall, we had 18 new members register this year. The Basic class enjoyed a boost of 12 new members, which increased that class size significantly and there were at least three sets of eight dancers each Tuesday throughout the season. Next year, we hope that some of the more experienced members of this class will also join the Thursday Intermediate group to challenge their skills further. The Intermediate and Daytime Social groups had decent numbers with approximately two sets in each class and the Monday Social had an average of four sets. Total registration as of March 31st was 137, as compared to 126 last year at the same time. Thank you to all those dancers who brought a friend or relative along to share their enthusiasm as it helped to increase and strengthen our membership.

All of the monthly Socials throughout the year began with six to seven sets and were, as always, very successful evenings. It was great to see many of the new dancers attend these events to test their memory, patience and the skills they were taught in the Basic class – kudos to all of you for your participation. The only change to socials this year was the Robbie Burns format. It was decided this year that we would return to a less formal evening of dancing, Piping in and Address to the Haggis and snacks. Thank you to the teachers, class reps and volunteers who contributed their time and talents to make these events such a success.

Leslie Brennand once again coordinated the Ball Committee throughout the year as they planned for the annual Ball/Workshop weekend in March 2009. Unfortunately registrations were very slow to come in and by the end of February the numbers were too low for any of the events to be a success. The executive, in consultation with Ball committee representatives, reluctantly had to make the decision to cancel the full weekend. The Ball committee instead hosted a Ceilidh on March 20th which included a Silent Auction and entertainment. I wish to thank Leslie for her commitment, experience and capably guiding her committee in the past three years and kudos to the committee members for volunteering their time and talents to assist with organizing this event.

A Ball/Workshop survey was put together by Kathryn Deegan and distributed to members in early April. The results will be presented at our AGM tonight and your opinions and comments will be taken into consideration by the new Executive in future planning for 2009/10.

In December 2008 photos and an excellent article on Scottish Country Dance, written by Vernice Shostal, appeared in the Vancouver Island Seniors Living magazine. Gordon Robinson, Joan McIntosh and Dora Dempster were interviewed

for this column which gave a fairly comprehensive glimpse of SCD world wide and our Society. Thank you to Dora for arranging this – all promotion is valuable and greatly appreciated.

Although VISCDS has been financially in reasonable shape this year, the economical situation in the past 6 months has lowered the value of our investments by approximately 25%. For the past 3-4 years we have received Lottery Grants of \$2,000/year and this helps to subsidize and reduce fees our members pay for classes. There have been warnings that we may not qualify for another grant this year. Fees for next year will be reviewed in July based on whether we received another grant or not.

I would like pass on my appreciation to the Executive for their support throughout 2008/09 and to thank each one for carrying out his/her respective responsibilities so capably, as well as assuming additional duties as they arose. Your contributions helped our Society run smoothly and successfully.

To all of our teachers I thank you for sharing your expertise through instruction and guidance to all members, for your patience when we struggle and for putting together programs and briefings for our Socials.

I would also like to recognize the Class Representatives and thank them for keeping records, organizing socials and informing their group of upcoming events. As well, to all members who have volunteered to help throughout the year, we appreciate your assistance each of you do make a difference.

A motion to accept all the reports was made by Pattie Whitehouse, seconded by Mary Cooper, carried.

Other Business

1 Ball/Workshop Survey Analysis - presented by Kathryn Deegan

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dancing Society 2009 Survey Results Summary Report for Society Members

Response

65 surveys received - 10 more than last year

47.4% of membership responded - better than last year!

146 comments

Analysis Approach

Reviewed the votes, calculated percentages, captured trends

Added context using the comments

Priority

Adjusted score ranks Ceilidh first, Sunday Social close second, then Ball and Workshop with Ball and Banquet a distance last.

You either really wanted a Ball or it was the lowest priority, and preferred to not have a Banquet.

We just like to dance as shown by the high numbers for the Ceilidh, Sunday Social and the Ball.

For the workshops it was an even split between highest, middle and lowest priority.

Format

Only 11 people were willing to participate in the full event

Most people preferred a Ceilidh option vs a Ball option

Workshop attendance would be limited by stamina and advanced vs basic topics.

Much concern over the floor quality and the dancer's ability to dance the whole event due to injury, age and stamina.

Workshop

66% of the respondents answered this section of which two thirds were interested in having a workshop.

Preference is for a half day weekend or evening timeslot then a whole day on the weekend.

Teachers

94% agree to having a guest teacher for a workshop event.

The guest teacher could stay for classes too, but should not be brought in just for classes.

Concerns about the expense.

Our teachers are well liked and appreciated.

2009 Ball and Workshop Weekend

71% had registered for the some part of the weekend.

The people not attending had a scheduling conflict (10), concerned about fitness (5), procrastinated (3), cost (2), too many other events (1) and other (3).

Many comments received about the cost and value of the banquet and ball therefore people were signing up for fewer items.

Other

A third would consider volunteering in some capacity - committee, background or on the day.

54% think that every second year is a good idea, with an additional 20% undecided.

Lots of comments about timing (not same year as TAC), venue suggestions and value of banquet in terms of cost and dancing on full stomach.

Thank you to everyone who responded.

Discussions arising from the survey:

Volunteers need to be more forthcoming, there needs to be a firm commitment before the halls can be booked for next year. People would like to know more details about the duties and time commitments required before volunteering. More opportunities to volunteer are required - e.g. talking about the volunteer positions at the classes, email messaging as well as notices in the Fling. Recognition that people are busy and have limits on the time they can commit to volunteering.

June Robinson thanked the executive for the survey, and Joan McIntosh thanked Kathryn Deegan for her hard work in analyzing and presenting the results.

2 Waste Management, presented by Pattie Whitehouse

"The beginning of a habit is like an invisible thread, but every time we repeat the act we strengthen the strand, add to it another filament, until it becomes a great cable and binds us irrevocably, thought and act." (Orison Swett Marden)

I have been disturbed for some time by the amount of waste in the way of plastic, styrofoam and paper we produce at our socials because we are not in the habit of bringing our own cups and plates. I am disturbed both by the unnecessary use of renewable and nonrenewable resources and by the amount of recyclable and compostable waste we are instead bundling up in garbage bags and sending to the landfill.

Recently I decided I should do my best to be part of the solution, and that's why I am standing before you here tonight.

It is not difficult to bring a cup, something to eat from, even a reusable napkin if you're so inclined, to a social. What is hard is getting into the habit of doing it.

But habits can be changed. How many are taking reusable bags to the grocery store when you didn't ten years ago?

Habits are most easily changed when there is support for making the change. Many organizations have developed programs to support their members in reducing waste. Programs are successful when they include setting specific, achievable goals, provide education, incentives for participation and disincentives for nonparticipation, incorporate flexibility, report progress and celebrate successes.

I am familiar with the principles of developing such programs, and if the society supports the motion I will shortly make, I will be glad to work with the executive or a committee to develop a program for us.

Before I make my motion, I would like to talk briefly about the benefits of undertaking such an initiative, and I'd like to place them in the context of the three elements of sustainability.

The environmental benefits are probably pretty obvious. Fewer trees are cut down for us and we use less in the way of petroleum products. We reduce our group's carbon footprint by the amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the manufacture of products we no longer use. And we reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

The financial benefits are also pretty obvious. Less money spent on plastic, styrofoam and paper plates means more money that can be put to more important uses.

The social benefits are less obvious, but no less real. A group that commits to an initiative like this benefits from increased social capital. Members tend to take more ownership in and more responsibility for the society and relationships within the society tend to be strengthened.

And there is opportunity for us to demonstrate leadership. As we report and celebrate our successes, we encourage other groups to set similar goals and reap similar benefits.

With those benefits in mind, I move that the executive be directed to develop a program to reduce waste at our socials and to make better use of the waste we produce.

Moved by Pattie Whitehouse that the executive introduce a program to reduce waste at the Socials. Seconded by Merle Peterson. After some discussion there was a call to the question, carried

Election of Officers:

Merle Peterson and Mary Roberts presented the slate of nominated officers. Publicity/1st Vice President - Dora Dempster Membership and 2nd Vice President - Riki Sato Secretary - Heather Shave Treasurer - Gordon Hawkins Social Convenor - Kathryn Deegan Newsletter Editor - Gael Forster President - Joan McIntosh There being no nominations from the floor, all positions were filled by acclamation There was a **motion** to accept the executive. **Carried**.

There being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was put forward by Pattie Whitehouse, seconded by Lesley Brennand. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm



Summer dancing in the park has once again come to a close, unearthing in the mind buried memories of the fall and coming winter. As usual, dancers from 5 to 90 years of age cavorted to the strains of the fiddle, piano, and accordian. Passers-by were treated to a colourful assembly whose assorted garb and sun blushed faces put the peacocks in the adjacent meadow to shame.

Not a minute of dancing was lost to the weather, although the actions of an errant park employee separated us from the power to create our music. This resulted in a memorable rendition of the Bacon Hill ramble, danced, walked or stumbled to a muttering undertoned singing of the Teedy Bear's Picnic.

Visitors there were from across Canada, USA, France and the Orient and to add a little spice a bevy of local teenagers whose feet seeemed to be off the ground. They were taken in hand by the dancers assembled under the able guidance of Joan and seemed to enjoy the dance with their newly acquired partners. The sessions were a furtive experience for dancers of all ages and capabilities. Hopefully many of those enticed to dance for the first time will have found the experience enjoyable and be tempted to take up Scottish Country Dancing on a regular basis.

Many thanks again to all the teachers who showed their skill and adaptability in providing successful programmes for such a diverse body of dancers. Of course thanks to all the dancers who braved the rough grassy terrain, flies, and mosquitoes to make the evenings successful. **Gordon Hawkins**



October Harvest Social

October 24, 2009, 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue Cost: \$8

Corn Rigs Rockside Miss Gibson's Strathspey Tribute to the Borders Staffin Harvest Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan Joe MacDiarmid's Jig Blue Mess Jacket Mairi's Wedding June Festival Bonnie Stronshiray Let's Have a Ceilidh	8x32R 96J 8x32S 8x32J 4x32S 5x32R 4x32J 4x32J 8x40R 4x32J 8x32S 4x32R	B B I I I B I B I I I I	Core R.Goldring Core Core R.Goldring Core Core Core Let's All Dance,Too Core
Break Seton's Ceilidh Band Cherry Bank Gardens Bratach Bana Maxwell's Rant Extras Pelorus Jack Belle of Bon Accord	4x64J 3x32S 8x32R 8x32 R 8x32 R 8x32J 4x32S	I I A I I I I	R. Campbell Core Core J. Drewry Core Core Core

Hosted by Intermediate Class



FAMILY DANCE CLASS!

As an experiment, and an encouragement to get youth involved in Scottish Country Dancing, RSCDS Victoria Branch is offering Saturday morning classes for children, parents, and grandparents! These classes will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 3787 Cedar Hill Rd., from 10:00 am - 11:30 am, and will run for six weeks from October 31 through to December 5. Penny Catton and Mary Howarth wil be teaching this class. Please pre-register by October 15 so we know if we have enough people to go ahead with this class. To register, or for more information, please contact Sarah at 598-2612 or sarahkell@shaw.ca. Suggested donation: \$20 per family for the six weeks.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

All local events held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm unless otherwise noted

2009

Sept 8	VISCDS Open House
Oct 3	RSCDS Victoria \$10 live music by the Elastic Ceilidh Band
Oct 24	VISCDS Harvest Social hosted by the Intermediate Class. Program in this newsletter
Nov 7	RSCDS Victoria A Gathering of the Clans
Nov 21	VISCDS St Andrews Social
Dec 5	Joint Christmas Social, time and details TBA
Dec 31	RSCDS Victoria time and details TBA
2010 Jan 23	VISCDS Workshop, Burns Social and Ceilidh
Feb 6	RSCDS Victoria Olympic Fever
Feb 20	VISCDS Valentine's Social
Mar 13	RSCDS Victoria \$15 live music by Muriel Johnstone
Apr 10	RSCDS Victoria \$12 live music by Mary Ross
Apr 24	VISCDS Spring Fling

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Sept 9 Oceanside SCD Open House, celebrating 25 years, 7-9pm at the Qualicum Beach Community Centre on Memorial Ave in Qualicum Beach
- Dec 5 Port Alberni SCD Christmas Dinner/Dance, Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 55) 3031 4th Ave Port Alberni
- Mar 13 Port Alberni SCD St Patrick's Dinner/Dance
- **NOTE:** Dance Programs for many of the listed events are available from the VISCDS newsletter editor or the listed contact/websites.

Two Dances for the Harvest Social

ROCKSIDE Jig 96 Square Set R Goldring

1-8 Ladies dance in for 2 bars, turn right about & out for 2, chase clockwise 1/2 way

9-16 Ladies dance Fig of 8 round new partner & corner

17-24 Men dance in for 2 bars, turn right about & out for 2, chase anticlockwise 1/2 way

25-32 Men dance Fig of 8 round own partner & corner

33-40 1s+3s dance R&L (end facing anticlockwise)

41-48 1s+3s chase anticlockwise 1/2 way & loop to place

49-64 2s+4s repeat bars 33-48

65-72 Ladies dance RH across & LH across back

73-80 Men dance LH across & RH across (end facing corners)

81-88 All set to corners, set to partners & turn RH into prom hold

89-96 All Promenade anticlockwise to place

JUNE FESTIVAL Jig 4X32

- 1-8 1's lead down the middle and back ending in the middle.
- 9-16 1's and 2's allemande.

17-20 1s and 3's dance RH across. 1L end facing out.

21-24 1L followed by 1M, cast off one place and cross the set. 3's step up on 23-24

25-28 1's and 4's dance LH across. 1L end facing out

29-32 1L followed by 1M cast off one place and cross the set. 4's step up on 31-32



Over the Hills and Far Away (Thoughts about Scotland #10)

Two interesting on-line magazines from Scotland are The Scottish Review, and For Argyll. The Scottish review was founded in the eighteenth century (I think) by James Boswell – writer, and amanuensis to Dr. Samuel Johnson. It is now produced by a non-profit foundation, and edited by Kenneth Roy – one of Scotland's foremost investigative reporters. The magazine tends to focus on matters Scottish, but not exclusively so. Recently it has included insightful articles on events in England and other parts of the world. The Scottish Review is available free at www.scottishreview.net. Just sign up, and you'll be on the 'subscriber' list.

For Argyll and the Islands is available at www.forargyll.com. Most of the news we hear about Scotland tends to come from one or other of the main cities; For Argyll gives us a perspective on the west coast and the islands – events, accommodations, controversies, the arts, sport, Burns, the environment – and a lot more. The current issue has a good piece on the 'This Is Who We Are Exhibition' - which is about Scotland's Canadian diaspora, and the place names that connect the two countries. The exhibition is on display on the western islands and the Hebrides, and is soon to open in the Parliament in Edinburgh.

For those who are interested in this project, which is strongly supported by Scotland's SNP government, and spearheaded by Graeme Murdoch and Harry McGrath in Edinburgh, the Cultural Connect website can be found at http://culturalconnectscotland.com/

Michael Elcock