

Island Fling



March 2010

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

Executive Committee

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Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	250-479-6719

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After nearly three years as President, my term of office nears an end. I have had the pleasure of working with a very dedicated and talented executive team and I thank each of them for their support and for carrying out their responsibilities so capably.

Five out of seven executive members will be leaving or retiring from their offices as of the AGM on April 20th. It is essential that these roles are filled to ensure the successful continuation of our Society. We hope you will consider being a nominee for one of these positions when our Nominating Committee calls within the next month.

Rosemary and her committee are well organized for our 34th Annual Ball weekend – see her update in this newsletter. Remember to mail in your registration form before the March 17th deadline to enjoy and be part of this exciting event. If you don't feel comfortable dancing, there are reduced rates for those guests interested in just listening to the wonderful live music of Muriel and Calum, watching the dancing and light refreshments.

As this will be the last newsletter before the Annual General Meeting, I look forward to seeing everyone at both events – the Ball weekend on March 27th and 28th and the AGM on April 20th.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

VISCDS Annual General Meeting

Second Notice - **Tuesday April 20, 2010**, St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue, 7:30 pm

All members are encouraged to attend. Please submit any business and/or proposals for the AGM in writing to Heather Shave (Secretary) no later than April 10, 2010. No new business will be taken from the floor.

Class schedule

Class	Day		Last Class
Experienced Social	Monday	No class March 29; there is a class on April 5	April 19
Daytime Social	Tuesday		April 13
Basic	Tuesday		April 13
Advanced	Wednesday		April 7
Intermediate	Thursday		April 8

Newsletter

Please send submissions for the April/May newsletter by April 23, 2010 to gael@shaw.ca. Please advise Riki Sato if you need your newsletter delivery changed. We have unclaimed newsletters often.



VISCDS 34th Annual Ball and Sunday Social Weekend, March 27-28, 2010

Your Ball Weekend committee, consisting of Rick Deegan, Dora Dempster, Maureen Orr, Joan McIntosh, Anne Scott and myself, has been working very hard to ensure that you all have a great weekend of dancing and music. Registrations are still being accepted. The deadline is March 17th.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to experience the superb combination of Muriel Johnstone, one of the finest musicians currently playing for Scottish dance, and the highly sought after performer Calum MacKinnon on fiddle. For full details of their musical accomplishments please check their websites <http://www.scotscores.com/aboutmuriel.html> and <http://www.calummackinnon.com/biography.php>

Non-dancers: Maureen Orr is selling tickets to anyone who wishes to come on Saturday evening and listen to the music of Muriel on the piano and Calum on the fiddle, watch the dancing, and enjoy light refreshments. You can reach Maureen at 250-478-5338 or VISCDS@yahoo.ca

Ball Practices: Our two ball practices will be held on Friday March 12 and Friday March 19 at 7.30 pm at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed. As these are "practice" sessions and not "teaching" classes, dancers should be familiar with the dances. All the crib sheets are on our website at <http://www.viscdis.ca/springball/dances.pdf>

On March 12 the dances on the first half of the ball programme will be practised. The dances following the intermission will be practised on March 19. A nominal charge of \$4 per session will help defray the costs of the hall rental and the honoraria for the teachers. Please bring correct change if you can thanks.

Volunteers needed: We are in need of volunteers to help us decorate the hall on the Saturday afternoon between 2 pm and 3 pm. We would also like to know if anyone will have some flowers in their garden that they could let us use. Please let me know if you can help out.

Rosemary Balfour VISCDS@shaw.ca, Ball Weekend Coordinator



Valentine's Social

As class reps for the Tuesday Evening Beginner's Class, we wanted to thank everyone who helped to make the Valentine's February 20th Social a joyous success. It was the first time any of us in the Beginner's level had ever attempted such a feat, but we all pulled together by bringing our favourite time-treasured family dishes. Forty-three people attended, which was not a huge gathering but a cosy one, considering winter socials compete

with family commitments, Olympics, and family vacations. It was a blessing to see all the members of the Beginner's Class bring such a variety of favourite taste treats, with a special mention to the Metchosin gals. The centrepiece was a site to behold.

The dance program was especially designed with attention to largely Beginner's dances in the first half and both Intermediate and Advanced Level dances in the second half. Our Valentine Hearts were all pumping after dancing the Circassian Circle five times through. Our teacher, Gordon Robinson, instructed the dances and prepared our class in advance by teaching us many of the dances beforehand. Thank you Gordon!

Monica Roots was honoured for her 25 years of dedicated teaching. Monica has been a wonderful and skillful teacher with VISCDs, in Victoria and also on Galiano and Saltspring Islands. The VISCDs Valentine's Social honoured her with a jig which Monica had written, "Monica's Way". Then Monica gave a heartwarming farewell speech about her love of teaching Beginners' Classes and then Intermediate Classes. Joan McIntosh baked a delicious farewell cake for Monica of which we all had a piece.

It was fun to have Kathryn and Rick Deegan's daughter, Karen, getting into the spirit with us, and it was great to see her having such a good time.

It was an honour for us to host the Valentine's Social, the first for our Basic Class and a real learning experience that we will remember for a long time. A special mention to Joan McIntosh and to Helen Hitchen, who manned the door, those who helped with the decorating, the kitchen helpers, and the cleanup crew. A huge thank-you also to Kathryn and Rick Deegan, Mary Warner, and Jenny Laing, who remained available to us throughout the evening for help, advice, encouragement and simply to cheer us on. And we would like to thank everyone in the Basic Class for preparing this whole endeavour with such flourish. Thank you.

Susannah Andersen and Sheila Eaglestone



To the membership of the V.I.S.C.D.S.

I would like to thank all of you for the generous Russell Nursery gift card. I will choose a special tree for my woodland garden which will be a lasting reminder of my years teaching dancing in Victoria. I have found teaching a challenge, scary and demanding, stimulating and satisfying, but always very enjoyable. I have taught many of you and found you all to be appreciative and forgiving and I think of you all as my friends. Now I look forward to joining you on the dance floor whenever I can.

Thank you,

Monica Roots

Family Class Pilot Project a Success

The Branch's pilot Family SCD Class ran on Saturday mornings from October through February, and was a lot of fun! Four dancers brought children, grandchildren, siblings and nieces to the fall session, and in the winter session we welcomed a new family of dad and daughters to the class. With spring upon us and outdoor sports starting up, we have decided to take a break from dancing for now - but look for the Family Class again in September, and plan to bring your family! Also look for Family Class members at Dancing in the Park this summer: You will meet young people who can do beautiful Rights and Lefts, Reels of Three ... and their favourite, "Crazy Eights"! Many thanks to Mary Howarth, Penny Catton, and Ed Pitkin for their excellent teaching of an intergenerational class.

Sarah Kell

Youth Weekend West, a Scottish Country Dance workshop for youth (in their teens through early 30s), will be held in Victoria from May 21 to 23 this year. As in past years, one of the dances will be open to everybody in the community, but in addition, we will have two other events open to all ages as well.

On Friday the 21st from 1:30 to 3:30 we will offer a Scottish Country dance class for all ages with our guest teacher, Graham Donald from Cardiff, Wales, at the James Bay Athletic Hall. On Saturday the 22nd from 1:30 to 3:00 at the Edelweiss Club we will offer a music class (for instrumentalists) with Calum MacKinnon and Lisa Scott. That night at

7:00 will be the Youth Weekend Ball at the Edelweiss Club. Music will be provided by Calum on fiddle and Lisa on piano.

If you would like to register for any or all of these events, look for a flyer at your class, visit our website at www.youthweekendwest.com, or contact Deborah Mullan - e-mail: deborah.mullan@mac.com, phone: 250-590-2214. Please spread the word about these events. We look forward to seeing you there!

Deborah Mullan

Member Spotlight

This is an opportunity to match a name to a face and learn a wee bit more about our fellow dancers. If there is someone you would like to suggest for an interview, please contact Gael Forster.



This month: Lorne Duncan

How did you get introduced to SCD and when did you join VISCDS? *I started Scottish dancing with a group of social friends in Kitimat prior to coming to Victoria and naturally wanted to continue. Strictly by chance, the first advertisement I saw was VISCDS (Peter Pabsdorf the officer), I contacted him, was happy with his information and thus started with VISCDS in 1988.*

Which class do you usually attend? *I attend both the Monday night Experienced Social class and the Wednesday night Advanced class.*

What appeals to you about SCD? *The primary aim is that people enjoy themselves. Oh yes, it is possible that we might learn something new, and if so, that is an added joy.*

What other hobbies do you enjoy? *Golfing, ballroom dancing, ice skating, bike riding.*

What occupation do you have? *I am a retired professional engineer; spent most of my working life in northern Quebec.*

What is your ideal vacation? *To roam around the countryside of unique places like Scotland or Newfoundland.*

Thoughtful Scottish Husband?

Did you hear about the thoughtful Scotsman who was heading out to the pub? He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, 'Maggie - put your hat and coat on, lassie.' She replied, 'Awe Jock that's nice - are you taking me tae the pub with you?' 'Nay,' Jock replied, 'I'm switching the heat off while I'm out.'



Man's casual jacket, not greatly used. Grey/Green tweedy fabric, epoulettes, stitched cuffs, bone buttons. Chest 44, Sleeves 18. Price negotiable. Contact Rosemary Cameron at 250-598-1918.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

All local events held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm unless otherwise noted; please bring your own cup, plate and napkin to the socials.

- Mar 12 & 19** **Ball practices**, \$4 per session, (details also in this Fling), on March 12 the dances on the first half of the ball programme will be practised. The dances following the intermission will be practised on March 19.
- Mar 13** **RSCDS Victoria** \$15, music by Muriel Johnstone
- Mar 27-28** **VISCDS 34th Annual Ball and Sunday Social**, details in this Fling
- Apr 6** **Tartan Day**, wear your tartan to work or just out and about.
- Apr 10** **RSCDS Victoria**, \$12, music by Mary Ross
- Apr 11** **Kirkin of the Tartan**, St. Aidan's United Church, meet in the Church Hall by 9:40am and be piped into the Church for the service. Tea and coffee will be provided after.
- Apr 20** **VISCDS AGM**
- Apr 24** **VISCDS Spring Fling**, Program in February Island Fling
- May 21-23** **Youth Weekend West**, Graham Donald (Cardiff, Wales), Fred DeMarse (San Francisco, CA), and Eileen Hsu (Seattle, WA). Musicians: Calum MacKinnon (Seattle, WA) on fiddle, Lisa Scott (Portland, OR) on piano, and Mary Ross (Victoria, BC) on accordion.
<http://www.youthweekendwest.com/>
- May 22-23** **Victoria Highland Games, Topaz Park**

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Mar 13** **Port Alberni SCD St Patrick's Dinner/Dance**, Royal Canadian Legion #169 (North Port - near Victoria Quay); music by Mary Ross; \$36 each (includes dinner and dancing); \$23 for non-dancers; doors open 5.30 PM
- Mar 14** **White Rock Spring Workshop**, Sullivan Hall, 6303 152nd Street, Surrey; \$10; Experienced Dancers 9:30 a.m. – noon; Beginner Class 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Mar 20** **Oceanside Spring Gala**. Qualicum Beach Community Hall, 644 Memorial Ave.
- Apr 17** **Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers One Day Workshop and Tea Dance**, in Nanaimo at Dover Bay Secondary School. Teachers Ruth Jappy and Rebeca Blackhall-Peters. This workshop is especially instructive for Basic and Intermediate dancers. We look forward to seeing previous participants and newcomers and welcome everyone to this event. More info: Donald & Hazel MacDonald at kirco@telus.net
- Jul28-Aug1** **Windsor NS ISCDS 2010**, www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/ISCDS_2010/ISCDS10
- Aug 8-15** **TAC Summer School**, Wilfred Laurier University Waterloo, Ontario Canada for Scottish Dancers of ALL levels. Core Teachers: Alex Gray Cardiff, Wales; Jean Dodds Linden Park, Australia; Alan Twigg San Francisco, CA; Gail Michener Lethbridge, AB; Pat Coyle St. Catharine's, ON; Colin Philip Toronto, ON **Musicians:** Bobby Brown Mississauga, ON; Laird Brown Brampton, ON; Colin Dewar Blairlogie, Scotland; Judi Nicolson Katy, TX, USA; Don Wood Aurora, ON; Jim Stevenson-Mathews Port Washington, NY

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