

Island Fling



February 2011

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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President's Corner February 2011

We had five newcomers join us at our January 4th Open House which was held at the Victoria Dance Studios on Quadra. Four of the newcomers joined us at the Basic class and one, Wanda Crawford, has joined the club along with Margaret Dohan from Newfoundland, now dancing in the intermediate class. We are delighted to have Alastair Wilson join us again in the intermediate class. We also welcome back Jill Leslie, Christine Rushforth and Lorraine Irving who have returned from last year's season.

I am pleased to report that the Workshops and Burns Ceilidh on January 22nd were very successful. Elinor Vandegrift started her workshops with an inventive and vigorous workout which had us all smiling with delight. Bob Anderson, who was managing the music, found it highly amusing. Too bad he didn't have a camera! The music of the Tartan players at the evening Ceilidh was enchanting with a lovely blending of piano flute and fiddle and we had a wonderful array of Ceilidh acts.

I was very grateful for the assistance of Joan McIntosh who coordinated the whole event from Workshops to Ceilidh, making sure everything ran smoothly. Her team included Gael Forster, workshop/musician coordinator; Jane Matthews, Chief Haggis Chef; Maureen Orr, Auctioneer; Alice Anderson, Chief Decorator and Wendy and Leona our very capable Social Conveners. Thank you to the Experienced Social Class for hosting the event and to Bob Anderson who determined the program and called the dances. I would also like to thank Gordon Robinson who was our Sound expert. Well done everyone!

On February 4th we have our "Dance Days" Ceilidh to come, followed by our Valentines Social on February 19th. Mark it on your calendar!

Dora Dempster, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

VISCDs Annual General Meeting

First Notice: Thursday April 21st, Eastern Star Lodge, 3281 Harriet Street, 7:30 p.m.

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 11th. No new business will be taken from the floor.

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.

Membership and 2nd Vice-President
Social Convener

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.

Dora Dempster

Newsletter

Please send submissions for the next newsletter by February 27, 2011 to aharley@shaw.ca or give to me in class.

VISCDs Robbie Burn's Social & Ceilidh



Wow! What an impressive sight!

The Burn's Social hosted by the Monday night class was an outstanding success. The bright, clean and beautifully decorated Les Passmore Centre welcomed dancers to a relaxing but lively night of entertainment and dance. A picture of Robbie Burns surrounded in lights was just the right touch to remind us of why we were all there.

The evening started out with a few good warm up dances briefed by Bob Anderson along with the music from the fantastic Scottish Country Dance Band, "The Tartan Players"

We were then entertained by a group called the "The Island Thyme Morris Dancers" who with their own musical band demonstrated a unique style of English dance. Thank you to Sarah Kell and friends for this experience. Our own VISCDs Dem Team put on a remarkable show for us under the direction of Joan Axford. Terry Jones then recited a poem he had written about "The Joneses and the Campbells"

More dancing and more entertainment from the Dem Team and Morris Dancers and also Margaret Chapman, who belongs to the Gaelic Choir, sang a couple of Gaelic songs to put us in the spirit of the occasion. We really appreciate you Margaret.

A huge applause must go out to Maureen Orr for her fabulous job of collecting and organizing items for the Silent Auction also held on this night. There were over 60 items to bid on to help fund the Ball Weekend coming up in March. Over \$900 was raised and a few bidding wars made it even more interesting.

Gordon Robinson was also recognized with a round of applause for his efforts ensuring this night's great success.

This year once again the Haggis was piped in with fine style by Jamie Orr along with Rick Deegan "bearing the sword". Noel Kinnon carried the drinks and Rob Langridge was "the bearer of the Haggis". Alex McAuley recited the "Address to the Haggis" with a heartfelt flare to make us all proud. There was the table packed with sandwiches and special treats for all to enjoy, and a huge, wonderful cake that disappeared very quickly.

We were honoured by the presence of Elinor and Dave Vandegrift at our social. Even after teaching two workshops this day, Elinor seemed to really enjoy the evening celebrations.

The evening ended with a few couples clinging to the last moments of the night by waltzing, carefree and happy together

Sheila Eaglestone

VISCDs Workshop Jan 22 2011

The Basic Intermediate Workshop of Jan 22nd, 2011 taught by Elinor Vandegrift was very well attended by 25 dancers from Victoria and a few ladies from up island, as well.

Elinor's high energy African music started us out with a really invigorating warm up. We were put through our paces with routines using all of the Basic Scottish Country Dance steps. Moving onto formations, we then progressed to actual dances. We completed two dances. One was called "Rovin' Robin" and another from Miss Milligan's Strathspeys.

Described as a Scottish Country Dance Teacher, a teacher of teachers and an examiner of teachers, we were fortunate to have this opportunity to gain experience from such a fine instructor.

Elinor left us with the message that Scottish Country Dancing will not only exercise our bodies and minds but also strengthens our abilities to grow socially.

Thank you Elinor

Sheila Eaglestone

From the workshop chair:

Thanks to the 35 enthusiastic participants who registered for the two workshops on January 22 with Elinor Vandegrift. From all accounts, her warm-ups were particularly memorable and her love of Scottish Country Dancing was obvious. We were delighted to have dancers join us from Parksville and Qualicum. Anita Mathur was the lucky recipient of a free ceilidh ticket in the evening. Thanks to Heather Shave doing the random draw from her registration process yet again this year. Many people assisted with hosting our visiting teacher and musicians: A big thank you to Sue and Rob Langridge as well as to Anita Mathur for providing accommodation and meals. Dora Dempster and Bob and Alice Anderson were chauffeur and local dining experts. We are also grateful to Joan McIntosh for her workshop catering.

Several other members assisted with other tasks and made it all run smoothly. I have it all documented for a repeat next year! I would particularly like to mention Gordon Robinson who stepped in and became the local sound man for The Tartan Players in the evening. This involved a considerable amount of communication and testing in advance; as well as equipment logistics during and between events. All in all it was a great day of dancing to celebrate Robbie Burns.

Gael Forster

Demonstration Team Write-up

Robbie Burns' celebrations keep the demonstration team busy but it is great to have the opportunity to show Scottish country dancing. The group works very hard to learn the choreography and I don't make it easy for them but we have lots of laughs as we learn it. If you like to learn new things and work together with others, the demo team may be for you-we are always looking for new members. Practices are the third Wednesday of the month with more scheduled in the spring as we get close to the Highland Games and the Cultural Dance Festival. Recently, the team danced for the Union Club and our own Ceilidh, will dance at Cook Street Activity Centre on January 30 and at Dance days on Feb 4. At many of these activities we are not only performing but looking to attract new members by handing out flyers, having crowd participation or showing some simpler dances.

Submitted by Joan Axford

January 23, 2011

VISCDs Spring Ball and Sunday Social

Spring Ball News!

Come out on March 26 and dance to Ken Nattrass and Ron Krug. Their lively music has thrilled Scottish country dancers across the country, including here in Victoria. We're looking forward to a great night at the redecorated Edelweiss Club.

And... they will also be playing at the Sunday Social the next day. Work out any stiffness by joining us for breakfast and more dancing at the Chiefs and Petty Officers club by CFB Naden.

This will be the last time we are able to enjoy the CPO's club, with its waterside view of the strait, so don't miss this chance. We thank Anne and Jim Scott for hosting us over the last few years.

Maureen Orr is the Registrar, registration forms were included in the January Fling, and are also available on the website. You can register by email or by mail to the addresses on the registration form.

More information is available on the website at www.viscds.ca or by emailing viscds@yahoo.ca – you can also call Jamie or Maureen Orr at 478-5338.

Jamie Orr

Details on the Ball program are available in the January Fling or from the website at : www.viscds.ca

DON'T MISS SUNDAY BREAKFAST AT THE MESS!

This year's Ball Weekend will include breakfast with dancing to follow at the CPO Mess on the Esquimalt Base. The dances for Sunday morning will be selected from the following list:

Hooper's Jig
Silver Tassie
Trip to Bavaria
Sauchie Haugh
On the Quarter Deck
Cape Breton Hornpipe
Scotland

Twixt Don and Dee
 The Lass of Richmond Hill
 Hamilton Welcome
 Three Creeks Shore
 Clutha

Half are popular dances from the Core Book and the remainder will be taught in various classes over the next few weeks. You may already have danced some of the newer dances – Rob and Sue included Cape Breton Hornpipe on the Harvest Social and Pat has taught the easy strathspey, Hamilton Welcome, in her classes. All have been chosen to be easy on your brains and feet on the Sunday morning after the ball. Crib sheets for the dances will be posted on the web shortly. So if you haven't already registered for the Ball, or even if you can't make the evening event, be sure to sign up for the Breakfast Dance. More information and registration forms are available at <http://viscds.ca/ball-weekend> or from your class rep.

Gordon Robinson



Valentine's Social
Saturday February 19th, 7:30 p.m.
St Luke's Anglican Church, 3281 Cedar Hill Cross Road,
\$8

Dance name	Bars type	level	Source
It Should Be Fun	4x32J	B	Graded and Social Dances 3
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32S	I	RSCDS Leaflet (C)
Flowers of Edinburgh**	8x32R	B	RSCDS Book 1 (C)
A Capital Jig	8x32J	I	RSCDS 5 Dances 2009
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6x32S	B	RSCDS Book 27 (C)
Fisherman's Reel	5x32R (sq + 1)	I	Dunblane Holiday (C)
Highland Fair / Muirland Willie	8x32J	B/A	RSCDS Graded/Book21 (C)
The Dream Catcher	1x96S (sq)	I	RSCDS Book 45 (C)
Swiss Lassie	8x32R	I	RSCDS Book 39 (C)
Quarries Jig	8x32J	A	RSCDS Book 36 (C)
Glengarry Homestead	4x32S	I	Kangaroo Paw (C)
Irish Rover	8x32R	I	22 SCD and... (Cosh) (C)
Break			
Tribute to the Borders	8x32J	I	RSCDS Leaflet (C)
Sands of Morar	8x32S	A	RSCDS Book 45 (C)
Lady Home's Jig	8x32J	B	Miss Milligan's Misc. Vol. 1
De'il Amang the Tailors**	8x32R	B	RSCDS Book 14 (C)
Extras			
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32S	I	Glendarroch SCD Sheet 8 (C)
Reel of the 51 st Division	8x32R	B	RSCDS Book 13 (C)

**** Briefing Only**
Hosted by Basic Class

(C) – core book dance

VISCDS SPRING FLING, April 16, 2011

St Luke's Anglican Church

Please join us for the final social of this dancing year. We will be publishing the scripts for three new dances on the Spring Fling program, "Links with St. Petersburg", "The Flower of Glasgow" and "The Compleat Gardener". These will be published in the Fling during the months of Feb, March and April. These dances will also be taught during all the classes.

The program for this social is in January Fling and on the website at: www.viscnds.ca

Links with St Petersburg

32-bar Jig for three couples.

- 1 – 4 1st and 2nd men, 1st and 2nd women set and link to finish across the set with nearer hands joined with partner, 2nd couple facing down and 1st couple facing up.
- 5 – 8 2nd and 1st couples set and link to finish on opposite sides, 2nd couple in first place and 1st couple in second place.
- 9 – 16 1st couple followed by 2nd couple, dance down the middle for three steps. On bars 12-13, retaining hold of hands, women turn under partner's arms while the men dance below them to face up on own sides. 2nd and 1st couples dance up to first and second places, 2nd couple facing out.
- 17 – 20 2nd and 1st men, giving left hands, 2nd and 1st lady, giving right hands, turn once round.
- 21 – 24 1st and 3rd men, giving right hands, 1st and 3rd women giving left hands turn once round to finish 1st couple back to back in the middle facing first corners.
- 25 – 32 1st couple set to first corners, set to each other across the set, set to second corners to finish facing each other up and down the set and then dance a petronella turn to second place on own sides.

Repeat, having passed a couple

Devised by Malcolm Brown, York and North Humberside

Presented to the St Petersburg group in February 2009

RSCDS Victoria Branch Tea Dance

February 12th, 2011 at Les Passmore Hall

Music by Mary Ross

Dancing 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Valentine Tea to follow

In Remembrance

We have two perspectives of the life and contributions to VISCDS by Frances Clermont

Tribute to Frances Clermont

Frances Clermont was a co-founder of the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society together with Stuart Walker. Fran was a petite, trim, vivacious dance enthusiast with a real passion for dancing and for teaching Scottish Country Dancing. Encouraged by Stuart Walker and his dedication to the RSCDS standards, Fran attended St Andrew's Summer School in Scotland in 1973 and received her teaching certificate from the Royal Scottish Country Dance

Society. She was examined for this by Miss Milligan who she described as “a daunting person” dedicated to maintaining the standards of RSCDS and dancing etiquette.

Scottish Country Dancing was well established in Victoria by the 1960's with several different informal groups. In 1974, a group of dancers from Fran's and Stuart's classes decided to organize a more formal group, with Fran and Stuart as teachers. Designated the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Group so as to include dancers from Duncan, it was formally registered as a society in 1979. Later, Fran had classes many nights of the week from Beginners to Advanced levels in addition to teaching the Demonstration Team. Friday evenings were devoted to teaching teenagers at Fran's home. She also taught school children in several local schools and her students participated in dance competitions in the Victoria area. Her devotion to dancing and to 'Van Isle' continued until 1991 when she moved to the B.C. Interior. When in March 2007 Fran had to move from her home to a care facility, she donated to VISCDs her accumulated collection of dance books and dance notes. These were indexed and are now available for any teacher to use. In late November, Val, Fran's son, informed us that Fran died in August 2010 at the age of 84. As he said, “After being completely paralyzed through her last eight months of life I am happy to know she is dancing again.”

Merle Peterson

Memories of Fran Clermont

It was with sorrow that I learned of Fran Clermont's passing. I've known Fran for over forty years. She was my first dance teacher; she co-taught the Victoria Scottish Country Dance Society's Beginners' class with Katie Dunn.

What I remember most about Fran is her complete dedication to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. She became a Life Member on the advice of her teacher, Stuart Walker, and she was a passionate ambassador for the Society. She began our first lesson by telling us about the RSCDS; Miss Milligan, co-founder of the RSCDS; and the Society's summer school at St Andrews, Scotland.

In 1971, Fran passed her Preliminary Test in Vancouver, and two years later, she traveled to St Andrews to obtain her Full Certificate. She made quite an impression on both her teacher and fellow class members. When I went to St Andrews myself a few years later, I met several dancers who remembered Fran with pleasure.

Within a year, armed with the knowledge and enthusiasm she had acquired at St Andrews, she was teaching the beginners' and intermediate classes of the fledgling Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society. She insisted that we uphold the Society's standards in our dancing but she made her classes so enjoyable that we found ourselves looking forward to classes each week.

Fran gave me the chance to try my hand at teaching, and it was she who insisted that I attend the first Fort Worden Weekend; this workshop has, for me, become a September tradition each year.

Fran put her heart and soul into the VISCDs during the 1970's and early 1980's, and VISCDs rewarded her with a life membership. She retired from teaching in the mid-1980s. A back injury prevented her from dancing but her interest in and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing remained undiminished. She moved to the Interior in 1991 to be near family and continued her interest in dancing, looking forward to receiving *The Fling* each month. She is no longer with us but, as her son Val said, 'she is dancing again'.

Thank you, Fran!

Edith Chapman

Regional Events

Heather Ball with Bobby Brown, March 2011

Tickets (\$70) for the Heather Ball to be held on March 19, 2011 in the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver with Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent will officially go on sale on January 29, 2011 at the Branch Burns Supper. Contact Mary Ann – 604-929-2944 or e-mail mamcdevitt@shaw.ca

Programme for the Ball is posted along with the crib notes on the Vancouver Branch website - www.rscdsvancouver.org

Duncan MacKenzie

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Feb 4th "Dance Days" Ceilidh, VISCDs event, sponsored by Dance Victoria
Feb 12 RSCDS Valentine's Social with Mary Ross, Les Passmore Seniors Centre
Feb 19 VISCDs Valentine's Social. St Luke's Anglican Church
3281 Cedar Hill Cross Road
Mar 12 RSCDS Victoria Social with the Elastic Ceilidh Band, Les Passmore Seniors Centre
Mar 26-27 VISCDs Ball and Brunch, Edelweiss Club/CPO's Mess
Apr 16 VISCDs Spring Fling. St Luke's Anglican Church
3281 Cedar Hill Cross Road

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb. 18 – 20 **The Hawaii Branch of RSCDS** is announcing its next Aloha Winter Weekend in Honolulu. The guest instructor for the weekend will be Alan Twigg from California, and live music will be provided by the Humuhumunukunukuapua'a and Society Strathspey Band, also from California.
Visit their [site](#) for details
Mar 12 **Port Alberni SCD St Patrick's Dinner/Dance, Royal Canadian Legion, Local 169 Port Alberni**
Mar 19 **Heather Ball with Bobby Brown. Scottish Cultural Centre Vancouver, \$70**
Apr 16 **Workshop and Tea Dance, Nanaimo. See web site**

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

Scottish Country Dance Web Sites, Local and Regional British Columbia



RSCDS Victoria Branch	http://www.rscdsvictoria.org/
Comox Valley Scottish Country Dancers	http://cvscottishcountrydance.org/
Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers	http://www.nanaimoscd.com/
Oceanside Scottish Country Dancers	http://www.oceansidescd.net/
Salt Spring Island Scottish Country Dance Club	http://www.saltspringsscottishdancers.org/
Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society	http://viscds.ca/
White Rock Scottish Country Dance Club	http://www.wrscdc.org/
Kamloops Scottish Country Dance Club	http://www.kamloopsscd.org/

Washington State

RSCDS Seattle Branch	http://www.rscds-seattle.org/
RSCDS Skagit Scottish Country Dancers	http://www.skagitscd.org/
Bellingham Scottish Country Dancers	http://www.bellinghamscd.org/