

Island Fling



March 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

President	Dora Dempster	viscnds@shaw.ca	250-598-0207
Publicity	Margaret Gray	mgray@shaw.ca	
2nd Vice President and Membership	Catherine Thomson	CatherineThomsonDesigns@shaw.ca	
Secretary	Heather Shave	hashave@shaw.ca	
Newsletter Editor	Andrew Harley	aharley@shaw.ca	
Treasurer	Keith Sinclair	klsinc@shaw.ca	
Social Convener	Wendy Turner	wgturner@shaw.ca	
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	250-479-6719	

President's Corner March 2011

Our **February 4th "Dance Days" Ceilidh** was a huge success on all fronts! Over one hundred and twenty two people attended out of whom seventy-five were guests. There was much laughter and joy and wonderful performances by Highland and Irish Dancers, Fiddlers (Sonya Legge, Karmen Legge, Erika Laverge) with flautist Julian Dewar, and Gaelic songs by **Margaret Chapman**. The **Elastic Ceilidh Band** enlivened the evening with several dance tunes for the first part of the dance program and bagpiper **Jamie Orr** and the **Van Isle Scottish Country Demonstration team** brought the evening to a close. Thank you all for ensuring our guests had a great time Scottish Country Dancing and to our teachers who planned and delivered a successful dance program. Many left asking when we were going to hold our next Ceilidh and follow up calls found twenty-eight people who would be interested in learning to Scottish Country Dance! One has already joined the club and two others came to the basic class and intend to join. Twenty-six guests came to the Ceilidh with VISCDS members, our publicity attracted nine people and Dance Victoria's publicity brought in another nine. I also want to thank Sarah Kell who invited me to a Contra Dance Social where I handed out about 30 flyers which attracted another nine dancers to the Ceilidh. The rest of the guests were performers or came with family or friends.

With great reluctance the Executive voted not to hold the March 26th Ball Weekend this year due to low registrations. We have decided instead to hold a Social on the same Saturday, March 26, with live music by Ron Krugg (pianist) and Ken Natras on the accordion. See the bulletin from Jamie Orr for more details.

Our members were very pleased with our attractive new venue, St Luke's Anglican Church, where we held our Valentine's Social. The Basic class did a great job of decorating the Hall, complete with decorative Chinese lanterns at the entrance to the Hall, and a plentiful supply of sandwiches and other fare to delight. Thank you also to Gordon Robinson for a wonderful dance program which included many favorites.

At the **Annual General Meeting on April 21st**, the Executive will be putting forward some important recommendations which will affect the dancing season for next year. Please be sure to attend this important Annual General Meeting to be held at **7:30 p. m. at the Eastern Star Lodge**. Elections will also be held for the Social Convener and Registrar's positions. Please note there will be dancing following meeting.

I would like to thank Wendy Turner, Social Convener, and Catherine Thomson, Registrar, for the excellent work they have done on the Executive over the past year. I have very much enjoyed working with them this year, but other commitments have had to take priority for both of them. We hope you will consider being a nominee for one of these positions when the Nominating Committee calls. Sally McAuley and Kathryn Deegan have graciously agreed to be on the nominating Committee. Please contact them or any of the Executive members if you want to know more about the positions and/or if you want to put you name forward. Being a part of the Executive is a rewarding experience and being able to get to know our members better always inspires us.

Dora Dempster, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

VISCDs Annual General Meeting

Second 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.

Nominations needed for:

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 March 29, 2011 to aharley@shaw.ca or give to me in class.

VISCDS Dance Days Ceilidh



The VISCDS Ceilidh held on Feb 4th, 2011 at 2750 Quadra Street was part of a ten day event sponsored by Dance Victoria to encourage the public to partake in free classes and demonstrations of a variety of dance styles happening in the city of Victoria.

Our Ceilidh was an outstanding success attracting approximately 70 guests plus many of our own members. The eldest of our guests was a gentleman at the age of 101 who was accompanied by two ladies and was enjoying himself by pointing out some of the missteps made by some of the dancers. I'm sure he must have been a Scottish Country Dancer in his earlier years.

We were entertained by an incredible mix of talent in between dances. The young girls from the Bon Accord Highland Dance group and the girls from the Irish School of Dance simply amazed everyone. The older girls dancing hard shoe Irish Dancing displayed incredible energy and kept the audience spellbound. The younger girls were so light on their feet that they seemed like fairies dancing. Almost magical. These girls are so fortunate to have dance in their lives at such an early age.

And if you enjoy fiddle music, this was your lucky night. Not only were we entertained by the Elastic Ceilidh Band but also by members of the Fiddle Orchestra along with a flautist from Folkestra. It was especially moving to listen to the young fiddlers who were clearly on their way to mastering the fiddle.

Our Dem Team once again filled us with pride by dancing intricate dance formations orchestrated by Joan Axford. I'm sure many newcomers were inspired by their sprightly, invigorating performance.

Many of the audience were introduced for the first time to Gaelic tunes sung by our own Margaret Chapman who is a member of a Gaelic Choir. She received an enthusiastic applause for the beautiful music she shared with us.

The success of this Ceilidh is partly due to the dedication and efforts of many of our members. Our president, Dora Dempster, deserves recognition for her extra efforts in promoting Scottish Country Dancing in Victoria. She also did a good job of MC'ing this event.

Big thank yous must go out to Catherine Thomson and new member, Bonnie Baychuk, for working the sign-in table. Also to Heather Shave and Alice Anderson and Wendy Turner for taking on all the kitchen duties. Thank you to everyone else who helped out to make this night the success it was.

What this Ceilidh really brought to light was the demonstration of the caliber of the VISCDS teachers. It was no small feat to take a lot of first time dancers and walk them through a number of dances and actually make it happen. But they did, and they are incredible. We are so fortunate to have Pat Blair, Gordon Robinson, Bob Anderson and Sue and Rob Langridge as pillars of our society and we thank you.

We all enjoyed the wonderful treats and drinks during a break and it was a chance to share comments with a lot of our guests. It was obvious that people were really enjoying the evening and even congratulating each other for dances well done.

Jamie Orr with his bagpipes called everyone back from the break for a few more dances and to wind down the night.

Sheila Eaglestone

VISCDS Burns Ceilidh and Social

Our tribute to Robbie Burns was a happy and enjoyable beginning to our Social Season for 2011. As many as seven sets took to the floor to the wonderful toe tapping music of the Tartan Players trio – Julie Smith on piano, Deborah Jones on fiddle and Carole Berger on the flute/tin whistle. It was a good evening to welcome several visitors as we were so well entertained by the many and varied talents of our Ceilidh acts; Sarah Kell and her happy band of Morris Dancers, Terry Jones reciting his conundrum of a poem, two beautiful Gaelic songs by Margaret Chapman and the treat of two dances by our amazing and “seamless” demonstration team under the creative and imaginative instruction of Joan Axford. It

was wonderful to see all our presenters looking so happy as they performed too! Our class teacher Bob Anderson patiently talked and walked us through the evening's dance program he had chosen. It was quite clear that many were favourites and there were several encores.

A silent auction, in support of the Spring Ball was skillfully organised and overseen by Maureen Orr, ably assisted by Jamie.

We had a resplendent team for the Piping In and Address to the Haggis with Jamie Orr, our piper, Rick Deegan, Rob Langridge, Noel Kinnon and Alex McAuley who delivered the address. This was followed by our refreshment break, time to sample the ample selection which included a special "red, red, rose cake".

The unfamiliarity of our new venue at the Les Passmore Seniors Centre presented a few challenges. Our decorating team rose to the occasion and it was lovely see Bob and Alice's Burns Cameos again, augmented by Ian Sutherlands collection. There were several positive comments about the hall and it was great to have such a large floor space.

Thank you to all who were able to attend and make the evening a success. A big vote of thanks to all those who helped in so many ways to make it possible, often quietly in the background. Special thanks to Joan McIntosh who so thoughtfully and thoroughly convened the whole evening, to our intrepid social convenors Wendy Turner and Leona Brown assisted by Mark; Bob and Alice Anderson for all their hard work, support and the special Burns cake and our tireless and encouraging President Dora Dempster who M.C'd the evening for us.

Our guest teacher Elinor Vandegrift stressed the importance of team work in our dancing at her very enjoyable morning workshop. Our Burns evening was a wonderful example of teamwork in action. All this facilitated by the blessing of a balmy and mostly dry evening!

"A great time was had by all!"

**Jane Matthews,
Class rep Monday evening Social Class**

Editor's note: Jane's contribution would have been in the February Fling were it not for the misdirection by Canada Post!

Out of the Ashes -- Spring Social on March 26!

Yes, as noted in the President's Corner, we have had to cancel this year's Spring Ball and Sunday Social. The registrations received, plus those we expected to receive, did not add up to a successful event. Dancers who had registered have been notified, and refunds are on the way.

However, there will be dancing on March 26! We have booked the church hall at St. Martins in the Field on Obed, and we will use the Ball program with music provided by Ken Natrass and Ron Krug as planned. Refreshments will be served. In short, we are retaining as much of the planned Ball as we can, to offer a great evening of Scottish country dance as a much reduced price.

Some details are not settled yet, however the cost at the door is expected to be \$15. We look forward to seeing you there
Jamie Orr



VISCDS Valentine's Social

Our Valentine's Social on Feb 19th was held at St. Luke's Anglican Hall. This was a first time experience for many dancers at this hall. St Luke's has a wonderful spacious dance floor with a cosy little, well stocked, kitchen conveniently located off the dance hall. This hall is very popular and is usually booked solid. Our executive is welcoming any comments you may have concerning this hall as a dance location for us in the future.

Approximately 50 people attended our social. We began with many beginner level dances, interspersed with intermediate dances which we had, in grateful foresight, practiced in our classes. There was also Quarries Jig, The Sands of Morar and the Irish Rover to challenge us to add to our repertoire.

Gordon Robinson briefed the dances, which was commendable, as he had the day before returned from a gymnastics event in Halifax. Thanks are extended to Gordon for making us a priority in his busy schedule.

Members of the Basic Class provided enough food for at least 70 people. Two tables with red and white tablecloths and Valentine theme dishes were carried into the hall loaded with plates of sandwiches and all sorts of other goodies to satisfy any taste.

The Irish Rover, which was the last dance before the break, had everyone so mesmerized that extra tea bags were quickly stirred into the pot as it was pulled and pushed out to the hall. A comment from one of our guests was overheard that “this is a nice cup of tea, not too strong”

Thank you to all our members who pitched in to make this dance the wonderful time it was and also to Bonnie Baychuk and her guest Susan, a Scottish Country Dancer from Nanaimo, who helped out selling tickets at the door and also in the kitchen.

We only regretted the 11:00 pm curfew as it caused us to withdraw the food immediately after the break, and prevented us from finishing our dance quota.

**Susannah Anderson, Sheila Eaglestone,
Social Convenors, Basic Class**

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.

VISCDS SPRING FLING PROGRAM

APRIL 16, 2011

Dance name	Bars type	Source
Machine Without Horses	8x32J	B RSCDS Bk 12
The Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32R	I Core Book
Bruce's Men	3x32S	B Scotia Suite
Luckenbooth Broach	8x32J	I Glendarroch Sh
The Irish Rover	8x32R	I Core Book
Sugar Candie	8x32S	I Core Book
Links with St. Petersburg	8x32J	I RSCDS Bk46
Maxwell's Rant	8x32R	B Core Book
Intermission		
The Flower of Glasgow	3x32S	B RSCDS Bk46
The Compleat Gardener	8x32J	I Irene Paterson
A Reel for Alice	5x32R	B Core Book
Summer on the Clyde	4x32S	I Core Book
Quarrie's Jig	8x32J	A Core Book
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	6x32R	B RSCDS Bk16
Northern Lights	3x32S	I Core Book
Cape Breton Hornpipe	4x32J	I 25 Dncs – 25yrs
Intermission		
Bonnie Ina Campbell	8x32S	A Core Book
Trip to Bavaria	4x32R	I Core Book

and on the website at: www.viscds.ca

The Flower of Glasgow

32-bar strathspey for three couples in a three couple longwise set..

- 1 – 6 1st woman, followed by her partner, casts off two places, crosses over below 3rd couple and casts up while her partner dances up the middle of the set. 1st couple finish in second place on opposite sides. 2nd couple dance up on the side lines to first place on bars 5-6.
- 7 – 8 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples set advancing to finish in the middle in promenade hold, 2nd and 3rd couples facing up and 1st couple facing down.
- 9 – 16 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance a circulating allemande:
2nd and 3rd couples dance as first and third couples of a standard allemande to finish in third and first places on own sides. At the same time, 1st couple, from second place, dance an allemande but dance out to the men's side and down to begin.
Finish in the order 3,1,2 with 1st couple on opposite sides.
- 17 – 20 1st woman dances a half figure of eight around 3rd couple and 1st man dances a half figure of eight round 2nd couple.
- 21 – 24 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples, giving both hands, turn partners once round
- 25 – 32 1st and 2nd couples dance a pousette right round.

Repeat with new top couple.

Devised by Ruth Taylor, Kingston (Ontario) Branch

Note: the 'circulating allemande' in bars 9-16 was devised by Terry Glasspool.

For Kay Munn, who is originally from Glasgow, to celebrate a special birthday.

RSCDS Tea Dance, February 12, with Mary Ross



The Les Passmore complex is rather formidable and seems to attract the kind of rain that never lets up. But when we entered the big hall the Valentine decorations made the place look warm and cozy. The sweet sounds of Mary Ross's preliminary accordion chords filled the hall with the enchanting music that invited us to participate in our favourite pastime: Scottish Country Dancing. Forty-four people signed in and enjoyed a robust program of reels, jigs, and strathspeys one can easily write home about. (I am still waiting for my spell check to accept the word "strathspey." It is difficult to explain to a machine that we are talking about the strongest and most beautiful dances in the SCD repertoire.)



Mary Ross's skill and feeling for the dances are marvellous and I think she is getting better all the time. Kathryn and Raymond put the program together and were the MCs. The order of some of the dances had to be rearranged because of the invasion of the Family Class but all in all it worked out well and we admired the flexibility and good cheer of all concerned.

Thanks to Christine and Jean and their teams who were responsible for the decorations and the great tea after the dance. Sarah Kell, good show! All your hard work made the Family Class a grand success. The demo dance they put on during the Tea Dance break was outstanding and bodes well for the future of Scottish Country Dancing in Victoria.

A bow to the players who provided the music for the family Class: Sonya and Karmen Legge (Thelma's granddaughters), and Tony and Phil Lambert. A tip of the hat to Mary H. who kept tight reins on the troupe, and to Penny and Ed who were involved in the preparations.

To all who pitched in to make this Tea Dance a true social. Well Done!

- *Johanna Cutcher*

RSCDS Victoria Branch Social, March 12th, 2011

Music by Elastic Ceilidh Band

Les Passmore Hall, 7:30 pm, \$10.00

Program: <http://www.rscdsvictoria.org/Social.htm>

Regional Events

Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers One-Day Workshop & Afternoon Tea Dance

Saturday, April 16, 2011, Dover Bay Secondary School

6135 McGirr Road, Nanaimo, BC

Teachers: Ruth Jappy, Rebecca Blackhall-Peters

Musicians: Alex Jappy, Julie Smith, Deborah Jones

Registration form: <http://nanaimoscd.com/cms/images/stories/nanaimoteadance2011brochure.pdf>

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

- 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

- 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



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| 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.saltspingscottishdancers.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

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| 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/ |