

Island Fling



May 2014

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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Executive Committee

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President's Corner May 2014

First let me introduce myself as the new president for 2014/2015. My name is Margaret Mercer and part of my ancestry is Scottish on my mother's side, and I was born in Perth, Scotland. So it was natural for me to be attracted to Scottish Country Dancing. My beginner days were spent taking classes from Joan Axford at Sangster School, starting in 1992 to 1996.

I was very fortunate to attend this class as most, if not all of those dancing, were at a much higher level, and they were very helpful to me. I think this is a characteristic of our club, as many experienced dancers attend the basic and beyond basic classes to help out our newcomers.

I dropped out of dancing for one year (I thought) when I attended Royal Roads in 1996/97 to finish my degree in commerce, and found I was too exhausted at the end to take up dancing once again. So began a hiatus of 12 years, until I ran into Lesley Brennand one day, and she encouraged me to come to a ceilidh in 2007/08, and found my enthusiasm for dancing was stirred up again.

I served as the Membership coordinator in 2012/13, and had a baptism by fire as we added 59 new members to the club, quite exciting really as we welcomed the "Branch" of RSCDS to our membership, as well as many beginners.

Following on Dora's exceptional leadership and passion for the club for the past four years, I will carry on the tradition but with a less energetic style I'm sure. I am very happy to announce that Dora will continue to serve the club as the Promotions Co ordinator, so her considerable talents will continue to be put to good use as she promotes the club and organizes ceilidhs in the future.

At our AGM on April 10th we had a good turnout of 33 members to bid farewell to Dora as well as Keith Sinclair who had finished his term, and to elect our new committee.

Our grateful thanks to both them for their tireless service to the club, which in Keith's case meant driving back and forth from Duncan to our meetings, and maintaining our financial records in good order. Jamie Orr was voted in as our new treasurer, replacing Keith, and will most ably fill these shoes. Most of our executive committee was happy to remain active in their roles, so not too much change.

The Executive Committee for 2014/2015 is as follows -

- President – Margaret Mercer
- Publicity and 1st Vice President – Hilary Fedoruk
- Membership and 2nd Vice President- Rick Deegan
- Treasurer – Jamie Orr
- Newsletter Editor – Edith Chapman
- Social Convener – Sheila Eaglestone
- Secretary – Janet Yonge

On March 29th, our 40th anniversary dance was a great success, as you will read in Gael's report. How exciting to have such a well attended event after some years of declining attendance; kudos to the organizing committee, of Jamie & Maureen Orr, Hilary Fedoruk, Sheila McCall, Dora Dempster, Joan McIntosh, and the coordinator Gael Forster. This committee meets, plans and coordinates long before the actual event takes place and we do appreciate all of you. We will be looking for an energetic, passionate soul to replace Gael, and know that the right person is just waiting in the wings with great ideas and enthusiasm. As all of you know, it takes lots of volunteers to make any event a success, and our club certainly rose to the challenge. Thanks to all!

A good number of experienced dancers took advantage of the opportunity to brush up on their skills in the morning class, and I expect the new dancers were quite excited to take part in their afternoon class. This new venue proved quite popular with those non dancers able to sit at tables to watch and feel included in the evening. Former dancers and teachers were invited to attend this special anniversary and a good time was had by all with most dancers continuing until the last dance.

Coming up

The Spring Fling is scheduled for tonight, and will be reported on by the representative for the Basic class, I'm sure it will be well attended as we round out the club season.

The extra basic classes have commenced with 18 who signed up; 10 were basic dancers, one was a dancer who danced with us in the intermediate class about 8 years ago, two were new people, and the rest were experienced members. These classes will continue until May 20th.

Spring Mini Socials have begun on Thursday April 17th and will continue until May 29th, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Entry \$5.00

Saturdays May 31st to August 2nd, Bob Anderson will host summer dancing at the City Light Church, 7:30 to 10:30 pm. Bring some finger food to share, cost is \$8. Summer dancing is appropriate for all levels of dances.

We will have an information booth at the Highland Games May 17th and 18th, and our demonstration team will be performing at different times; please drop by and say hi.

June Ceilidh – Thursday, June 12th, live music; more info to follow.

Margaret Mercer, President

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 9, 2014**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

Look for photos of the 40th Anniversary Workshop and Social throughout the newsletter. Photography by Gael Forster, Sonata Yau and Hilary Fedoruk.

“40 + 40” Anniversary Dance, Saturday May 24

This is a little reminder that you are all invited by Maureen & Jamie Orr and Rosemary & Walter Balfour to our Scottish Country Dance on Saturday May 24, 2014 at 7:30 pm, at the City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue.

We started this tradition of celebrating our special anniversaries by sponsoring a dance to celebrate our Silver Weddings in 1999, and followed up for our 30th and 35th. Our wonderful accordionist Mary Ross has played the music on each occasion, and will do so this time as well.

Remember that admission is free, no cards or gifts please, but a small plate of goodies for the dancers would be appreciated. Please bring your own cup and plate.

We are really looking forward to seeing you there. The full program was in the April VISCDS Newsletter.

Rosemary and Walter Balfour

Maureen and Jamie Orr

Summer Dancing

Twenty-five years ago, Irene and Peter Pabsdorf, Ethel and Ian Sutherland and Alice and Bob Anderson decided that they would like to continue to dance throughout the summer months and, they reasoned, so would a lot of other dancers. And so they organized a season of dancing on Friday evenings (we switched to Saturday evenings in 2012), using St Martin in the Fields Church Hall, now the City Light Church Hall. It was so successful that they organized another season the following year, and twenty-five years later, summer dancing is still going strong. Bob makes up the dance programs, publishes them in booklet form and distributes them to interested dancers. Several teachers help with briefing the dances and there are many volunteers who help in the kitchen and with other chores. Many of us sign up to bring goodies which ensure that hungry dancers are well-fed. The dances after the break are more difficult, for those of us who enjoy a challenge.

This year, summer dancing starts on May 31st and runs to August 2nd, at our usual venue, starting at 7:30 pm. The cost this year is \$8.00. Each program contains dances suitable for all levels, and newer dancers will find that the experienced dancers are eager to help them through each dance. The program booklets will be available at the Tuesday classes and Thursday social dances.

Edith Chapman

A note from Pat Blair

A Very, Very heart felt thank you to all the Dancers in the Wednesday Afternoon Class.



The group was extremely kind in giving me a very generous "Gift Certificate" for a favourite nursery of mine. I have already picked out an item that I've been looking at. I was a bit overwhelmed by this gift, and it has made me realize what a thoughtful group of dancers they are.

I've enjoyed teaching the class and putting them through their paces as well as watching them successfully dance the dances most of the time. They always end the dancing with happy smiling faces. That makes it all worthwhile. Sincerely, Pat

Workshop – Morning Class



A Note from Lorraine

Lorraine Irvine, who is a member of Van Isle, volunteers at a hospital in Zimbabwe every year, and she has witnessed the deprivation of families and orphans in the area. For many years, some of the members of Van Isle have organized a benefit dance to raise funds for the projects that Lorraine has described below. For the information of our newer members who may wonder why we do this, Lorraine writes the following explanation. To learn more about VIDEA visit <http://www.vida.ca/index.php?pageid=126>.

1996 was my first time to Zimbabwe to volunteer at Howard Hospital, a rural Salvation Army Mission hospital. I spent 6 months there that year and returned yearly; my last visit was 4 months ending Jan 2012. I do medical work only but for the last few years I have been involved in funding goats for orphans and also through the Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), a Victoria based charity that is involved with education; school fees are paid for needy children, mainly orphans.

Dr Paul Thistle was with Howard Hospital for 17 years. He is now at Karanda, a remote American Mission hospital. That is where I went last fall, in 2013 and plan to go again this fall. I hope to continue with support for children via the two projects. All admission fees from the dance will go VIDEA for these projects. In addition, members who wish to make personal donations may provide a cheque to me, made out to VIDEA, who will give tax receipts for all donations. I will bring receipts for each child or young adult or school to VIDEA on my return.

Dr Dan Stephens, a general surgeon, is in charge of Karanda and his father, an orthopedic surgeon, just retired a year ago after 50 years of service.

There are many orphans and needy children all over Zimbabwe and last year I did get to a school near Karanda.

I would appreciate any comments from the dancers who have kindly given their time and donations. The help is appreciated very much

Dr Jim Watt was medical director at Howard Hospital when I first went; he is now retired in Calgary. Many of you may have met him when he visited here, as well as Paul and his family. Dr Watt and family will visit me this summer and anyone will be welcome to see him here.

Thank you for your continued support.

I would like to mention Lovemore Katumbe, a dear friend, and he has started the goats for orphans and has taken me on his motor bike to the schools around Howard, we had good times doing this. Last year fees were paid for 102 children for the year 2014.

Lorraine Irvine

**Zimbabwe Benefit Dance
Saturday, August 31, 2014
7:30 pm
\$10.00**

Dance	Bars type	Level	Source
Awa' O'er the Border	4x32J	B	Auld Friends Meet
The Vancouver Island Reel	8x32R	I	Auld Friends Meet
John McAlpin	8x32S	I	RSCDS 3 Dances
Best Set in the Hall	8x32J	A	RSCDS Book 46
Scotia Sea	8x32R	I	Scotia Suite Series
Odd Thoughts	8x32S	B	Miss Milligan's Miscellany 2
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	8x32J	B	30 Popular Dances
Salute to Miss Milligan	8x32R	I	Canadian Book of SCD's
Aging Gracefully	8x32S	B	RSCDS Book 47
Bill Clement MBE	8x32J	B	RSCDS Book 47
A Trip to Bavaria	4x32R	I	Collins Reference Book
Sands of Morar	8x32S	I	RSCDS Book 45
Follow Me home	8x32J	I	RSCDS Book 38
Bratach Bana	8x32R	A	Bon Accord Book
Culla Bay	4x32S	I	RSCDS Book 41
MacLeod's Fancy	4x32J	A	RSCDS Book 33
All dances will be walked through and briefed			

Spring Fling

This event was held on April 26th, at the City Light Church Hall. It was hosted by the Basic Class which is taught by Gordon Robinson.

Dancers were welcomed by Jan Beckett who was selling tickets at the door, and also by Bob Warman who sold the 50/50 tickets. The hall was nicely decorated by Susannah Andersen, Pat Warman, Fiona Warman, and Kathryn Mitchell.

As the evening got underway, Sheila McCall welcomed the 46 dancers. Sarah Kell gave a special welcome to Krista and Rob from the Brentwood Club. Sarah and Sheila took turns briefing the dances on the program compiled by Gordon. There were four sets to begin with, and by the third dance enough people had arrived to make a fifth set.

There was a welcome break during which we all enjoyed the delicious refreshments that were provided by the Basic Class. Many thanks to our kitchen crew led by Sheila Eaglestone which included Gloria Gillingham, Theresa Harbidge, and Rhonda Gait. Bob Warman drew the winning ticket on the 50/50 draw, and David Campbell won \$31.50.

Walter Balfour told those assembled that there will be a dance on May 24th to celebrate the fortieth wedding anniversaries of Rosemary and Walter Balfour, and Maureen and Jamie Orr. Admission is free and the music will be provided by Mary Ross.

After the break, we continued to dance, and at the end there were three sets on the floor. Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening.

Margaret Chapman

The Minister on the Loch



The Reverend Robert Walker
Skating on Duddingston Loch
Edinburgh Scotland

The dance, “The Minister on the Loch”, was devised by Roy Goldring, and it was on the program for the recent social which was hosted by the Basic Class. Before briefing the dance, Sheila McCall displayed a picture of the painting, and several dancers have expressed an interest in it.

The painting is entitled “The Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch”, or by its shortened name, “The Skating Minister”. It is a painting by Sir Henry Raeburn, who was a contemporary of the good Reverend, and it hangs in the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The Reverend Robert Walker was a Minister of the Church of Scotland. Although he was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, as a young boy, he lived for a time in the Netherlands and so he learned to skate on their frozen canals. He was minister for the Canongate Kirk during the late 1700’s. The church still exists (today, the Canongate is part of the Royal Mile). He was a member of the Edinburgh Skating Club, the first figure skating club formed anywhere in the world. The Club met on Duddingston Loch in Edinburgh, as shown in the painting.

Thank you to Sheila Eaglestone for suggesting that I publish a copy of the painting in this newsletter.
- information from Wikipedia

Edith Chapman

Van Isle Workshop and 40th Anniversary Dance March 29 2014

We had several goals this year for this event and all were met: confirm specifics sooner to enable earlier advertising, provide an opportunity for advanced dancers to have a workshop class, have revenue exceed expenses, and celebrate the club's 40th anniversary.

In the morning, Mary Murray taught an Experienced class of 50 registrants (6 sets). In the afternoon was the Basic/Intermediate class (32 registrants; 4 sets). Julie Smith provided the music for both classes. We had many attendees from out of town and many people participated in both classes. The Experienced class danced Not I; Milngavie (pronounced Milguy) Strathspey; and Tribute to Talent. The afternoon class enjoyed The Royal Patron; The Green Mantle Strathspey; and The Pride of Dunblane. Evelyn Nixon and Margaret Chapman thanked Mary and Julie at each class conclusion.

The lunch between classes was thoroughly enjoyed by 43 people: home-made soups and cold buffet plus home-made sweets. Many thanks to Pat Warman, Beth Weston, Joan McIntosh, Maureen Orr, Linda Foley, Barbara Currie and Jennifer Harley for all their contributions to the luncheon.

Thank you to Fiona & Pat Warman and Jane Matthews for coming early to set up the Colwood Community Hall for the day. Hilary Fedoruk did her best to provide us with signage and balloons outside to help people find their way but the rain weighed them down. Michelle Campbell provided a wide array of fragrant floral arrangements. Kate & David Preston and Joan McIntosh decorated the hall in the afternoon. The tartan runners looked so elegant on the tables and pillars. Thank you to Rick Deegan for the supersized programs. All day we had a display of club memorabilia organized by Joan Axford. She also sent all the invitations to former members and hosted Mary Murray for the weekend. The Orrs hosted Julie Smith and Margaret Mercer billeted two musicians. Gordon Robinson took care of sound equipment matters and Tony Lambert and Jamie Orr ably assisted him.

For the evening we enjoyed music by The Tartan Players quartet: Julie Smith, Deborah Jones, Lukasz Wieczorek, and Carole Berger. I loved the string plucking on the violin and also the pennywhistle as almost musical surprises to catch my attention. We started the evening with 10 sets, after our Grand March directed by Walter Balfour and piper Jamie Orr. Our two MCs for the evening were Rob Langridge and Joan Axford. Pat Blair, Sheila McCall, Mary Murray, Joan Axford, Sue Langridge, Bob Anderson, Sarah Kell and Gordon Robinson took turns briefing the dances. There were two *no briefing* dances and thanks to our expert class tutelage there were just as many dancers up for those. Again this year we purchased the food, mostly from Athlone Gourmet Coffee – our thanks to Dora for sorting out those logistics. We had an anniversary cake as an extra treat for the still rather full crowd at the end of the evening.

Many former members were able to attend and share some memories. Quite a few dancers were from other places such as Galiano Island, Vancouver, Gold River, Saltspring Island, Washington, California, Gabriola Island, Powell River, Nanaimo, Lantzville, Comox, and Coquitlam. The 50/50 prize of \$76 went to a lucky Kirsty MacDonald from Nanaimo. Thank you to the Deegans for selling the tickets. Blane McIntosh volunteered to be our parking attendant, guiding us into spaces for which we are most grateful; I saw him up a ladder undecorating later too. Thanks to all who swung into disassembly at the end of the night - in particular Amanda Cavanaugh who was our designated furniture mover. All in all, we did quite well on the factors of fun, fitness and friendship with 100 people in attendance.

I wish to thank my fellow committee members: Jamie and Maureen Orr, Dora Dempster, Hilary Fedoruk, Joan McIntosh, and Sheila McCall. You were a delight to work with and we were all pleased with the support of the VISCDS membership for this event. I will not be able to continue as coordinator next year and although some will continue to be involved, we will need some new committee members to ensure 2015 is as successful. **Please consider volunteering.** There are roles to fit any hours budget!

Gael Forster VISCDS 2014 Workshop and Dance Coordinator



COMING EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Events

- May 1st – 29th** Thursdays – Mini socials, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue, 7:30 pm. \$5.00 per evening.
May 17th – 18th Victoria Highland Games. We will have an information booth. Further information and sign-up sheets will be available at the basic classes and social dances in April and May.
- May 24th** 40 + 40 Anniversary Dance, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue, 7:30 pm. Hosted by Rosemary and Walter Balfour and Maureen and Jamie Orr. Music by Mary Ross. Admission is free, but please bring a small plate of goodies to share. Please bring your own plates and cups. See program in April newsletter.
- May 31 – Aug 2** Summer Dancing, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm. \$8.00. Further details in this issue.
June 12th Ceilidh. Music by Mary Ross. Further details to be determined.
Aug 30th Zimbabwe Benefit Dance, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue, 7:30 pm. \$10.00. Please bring a donation of finger food to share. The program is in this issue.
- Sep 8th** Classes start this week.
Sep 9th Open House, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. Further info in next newsletter.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Events

- Jun 23 – Aug 18** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Dancing in Stanley Park, Ceperley Playground, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, weather permitting.
- Jun 28th** RSCDS Seattle Branch and Friday Harbor Dancers Puget Sounds Crossroads, approx 2:00 pm, Grange Hall, Friday Harbor. Fee: US\$10.00; students: US\$.00. Correct change preferred. Program available. A donation of finger food would be appreciated; there might be a chance to purchase something in Friday Harbor. Info: www.rscds-seattle.org.
- Sep 12th – 14th** RSCDS Seattle Branch 40th Fort Worden Weekend, held at Fort Worden State Park and Conference Centre near Port Townsend WA. Application forms are available now. Forms and further information: www.rscds-seattle.org. Get your forms in asap in order to avoid disappointment as this will be an extremely popular Weekend.



