

Island Fling



May 2015

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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President's Report May 2015

Happy Spring everyone! We're off to a good start with thirty dancers signed up for the Tuesday night Spring classes including six newcomers. We will finish with a windup **Ceilidh on Tuesday June 2nd** and I hope you will all put the date in your calendar. Mary Ross will be playing and it is one more opportunity to introduce newcomers to Scottish country dancing. We'll be spreading the word at the Highland Games May 16th to 18th.

I would like to thank Sheila McCall and the basic class for organizing the Spring Fling social on April 18th. We had over four sets of dancers who thoroughly enjoyed the evening. March 28th was our Workshop and Social event which was a great success with 80 dancers in attendance in the evening accompanied by the delightful music of the Tartan Players. Fiona Miller was a very popular workshop teacher and what a treat to have Mary Ross providing music for the workshops. Many thanks to the hardworking and dedicated organizers: Gael Forster, Joan McIntosh, Hilary Fedoruk, Robin Gubby, Margaret Dohan, Sheila McCall and Maureen Orr.

The Thursday mini socials continue until May 28th with the teachers taking turns leading the dance. Bob's summer dancing will start on Saturday May 30th. He is handing out booklets with the programs for each of the dances which we will also plan to post on the website. We can look forward to the Zimbabwe benefit dance on August 15th and please come and join in a summer Ceilidh dance in August which is still in the early planning stages.

I wish to thank Margaret Mercer who did an excellent job leading the club as president last year. She was instrumental in establishing our classes in the Western communities which were held at the Colwood community hall on Friday nights. Thank you to teachers Joan Axford and Liz Gray for ensuring the success of these classes which will run again this year at Royal Roads University.

Have a lovely summer and if I don't see you at summer dancing I hope to see you all again in September!

Dora Dempster, President

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 9, 2015**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

VISCDS Spring and Summer Dancing 2015
City Light Church Hall 550 Obed Avenue

Spring dancing 7:30 to 9:30 pm:

Tuesdays (spring Classes) \$36.00 for 6 classes

April 21, 28

May 5, 12, 19, 26

Tuesday, June 2 Ceilidh Dance, 7:30 to 10:00 pm.

Thursdays (Mini socials) \$5.00 drop in

May 7, 14, 21, 28

Summer Dancing Saturdays 7:30 to 10:30 pm, \$8.00 drop in

May 30

June 6, 13, 20, 27

July 4, 11, 18, 25

August 1

Volunteers needed for the 152nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

The 152nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will feature an inaugural third day of events in 2015 and will take place on **Saturday May 16 – Monday May 18 at Topaz Park**. On Saturday and Sunday gates are open from 8am – 6pm. Monday gates are open from 10 am to 4 pm. In true Scottish (*and west coast*) fashion, the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place rain or shine. Along with other dancers, our dem team will be performing on stage **May 16 at 1:00 pm**, and they would appreciate your support! Check the website below for more information.

It is traditional for VISCDS to have a booth at the games. We will have a booth on Saturday and Sunday and hopefully also on Monday if we have enough volunteers. This is a good opportunity for us to promote our club and to entice potential members. Volunteers generally get a pass into the grounds so if you are able to spare a few hours, please let either Hilary or Dora know.

Hilaryfedoruk17@gmail.com, 250-477-0658

viscds@shaw.ca, 250-598-0207 (Dora)

Thank you to those who have already signed up. I will be in touch!

For more information on the games, go to www.victoriahighlandgames.com.

Hilary Fedoruk, publicity

Spring Fling

On April 18th, the Spring Fling was hosted by the Tuesday evening Basics Class. 40 enthusiastic guests attended and proceeded to dance the night away.

Thanks to our teacher, Sheila McCall, for planning and ably briefing a very lively programme that all could enjoy.

Special thanks to Sheila Eaglestone and her helpers for their work in laying out a delicious spread to revive us at break, and to the many other volunteers for their efforts in decorating, welcoming guests, and cleaning up. Your participation was essential in making this such a successful event.

The Basic Class would like to thank the VISCDS, who paid for the catering of the food; and Sheila Eaglestone who took the trouble to drive and pick it up.

Congratulations to Susan Jones, the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw, who took home \$31.00.

Jan Beckett and Susannah Andersen



Van Isle Workshop and Dance March 28, 2015

The workshop committee this year consisted of Gael Forster, Maureen Orr, Jamie Orr, Joan McIntosh, Sheila McCall, Hilary Fedoruk, Robin Gubby and Margaret Dohan. As no one stepped forward to take over the role of coordinator from Gael, the committee members shared the responsibilities. Robin Gubby took on the role of secretary and kept everything well organized, and other members took turns hosting meetings and acting as chairperson.

By all accounts the day was a great success with organizers fielding many compliments. There was a glitch with the women's toilet so the women used the men's and the men went outside to the next building, but other than that any concerns raised from last year seemed to have been remedied.

In the morning, Fiona Miller, wearing her socks for the directionally challenged, taught an experienced class of 31 registrants. The class learned three dances: Sueno's Stone, Lake Geneva and The Snow Eater, which was devised by Fiona and referred to the Chinook winds common in Southern Alberta. In the afternoon the Basic/Intermediate class had 27 dancers. The class again learned three dances: The Rambling Pitchfork, Moulin Brae and Magic Moments. Mary Ross provided the music for both classes and was excellent as usual. Fiona's warm ups were interesting as were the choices of dances she taught. The lunch between classes was thoroughly enjoyed by 36 people. It consisted of 5 varieties of delicious home-made soups, cold buffet plus home-made sweets. Many thanks to Sheila McCall for organizing the lunch, to soup makers Thelma Legge (cock-a-leekie), Janet Bailey (carrot, squash, ginger), Joan McIntosh (pea), Maureen Orr (squash and tomato) and Linda Foley (turkey vegetable), and to the kitchen crew.

Thank you to Jane Matthews and others for coming early to set up the Colwood Community Hall for the day and to Penny Catton for bringing flowers and decorating for the evening dance. The hall looked lovely.

The evening dance this year started at 7pm with the Grand March led by piper, Jamie Orr. Eighty dancers registered and were ready to enjoy the wonderful dance program. Briefing the dances were: Joan Axford, Sarah Kell, Gordon Robinson, Pat Blair, Fiona Miller, Irene Paterson, (who briefed "The Compleat Gardener" which she devised), Gael Forster and Bob Anderson. The music was by The Tartan Players quartet: Julie Smith, Deborah Jones, Lukasz Wiczorek, and Carole Berger and was a treat. This year we had a mini-break with fruit and snacks part way through the program and then enjoyed purchased sandwiches and goodies at the end of the evening. Thanks to Joan McIntosh for organizing all that. Many people stayed to help put away the tables and chairs so the clean-up was done and doors locked by midnight.

The treasurer's report shows a loss on the day of \$106 but at the AGM Jamie indicated that, once deposits for the hall are returned, there should be a balance of \$4. The aim was to break even, so well done!

Thank you to all who volunteered on the day, those who billeted and fed our guests, and to the committee members who made the event truly enjoyable.

Hilary Fedoruk, Publicity 2015



Fiona leads the afternoon class in warmup exercises



More Workshop Photos *(photography by Hilary Fedoruk)*



Mary Ross accompanied the classes



Fiona's leg warmers for the directionally challenged

Musicians for our Evening Social



The Tartan Players
Photo supplied by The Tartan Players



Performing Arts Festival

Again this year the demonstration group of the society entered the Victoria Performing Arts Festival. We enter for three reasons, one to represent Scottish culture and dance in the ethnic division, two to continue awareness for Scottish country dancing among those interested in ethnic dance in our community, and three to receive some outside review of our dancing.

This year, we welcomed new dancers to our performance: Janet Yonge, Fiona Warman, Ellen Campbell, Sheila Eaglestone, Robin Gubby, and Thelma Legge. It was great to see them enjoy the dancing and do such a good job – for some it was a first time dancing on stage.

It was challenging choreography as we had to fit it into exactly 5 minutes and show both reel and strathspey. Some of the adjudicator's comments were:

1. Nice bright entrance
2. You're very light on your feet
3. Very good change in patterns
4. Need to keep those heels up at all times
5. Very smooth and effortless transitions
6. Nice change of rhythm in the strathspey
7. Everyone broke into a smile as the music changed - try to maintain that
8. It is so well rehearsed – that the slightest mistake becomes obvious
9. Smooth and polished performance

I thought they did a wonderful performance and so did the Festival as they have asked the group to perform in the Honors Performance. And the Team won the Festival's **Ethnic Dance Award**. Congratulations to the Dancers!

Joan Axford



Photo – David Godkin

Zimbabwe Benefit Dance

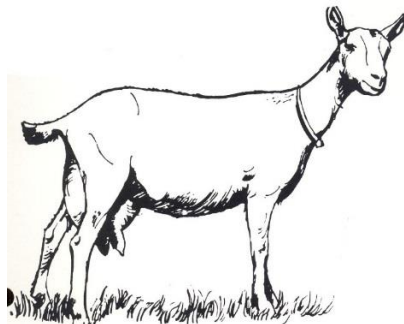
August 15, 2015
City Light Church Hall
Doors: 7:00 pm
Dancing: 7:30 pm
\$10.00

Dance name	Bars type	Level	Core	Source
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	6x32J	1	X	RSCDS Book 16, No 3
Lady Dumfries	8x32R	1	X	Miss M's Misc Vol 1
Linnea's Strathspey	8x32S	3		RSCDS Book 47, No 2
Argyll is My Name	8x32J	3		London Branch 75th Anniv Coll
The Montgomeries' Rant	8x32R	3	X	RSCDS Book 10, No 1
Bonnie Ina Campbell	8x32S	3	X	RSCDS Book 37, No 6
Scott Meikle	4x32R	2		RSCDS Book 46, No 3
The Dancing Master	1x96J	4	X	London Branch 75th Anniv Coll
Break				
The Music Will Tell You	4x32R	1		RSCDS Book 41, No 6
Gang the Same Gate	8x32S	3	X	RSCDS Book 36, No 4
The Piper and the Penguin	1x88R	2	X	RSCDS Scotia Suite
Jennifer's Jig	8x32J	2	X	Silver City Book
The Cairn Strathspey	4x32S	1		Auld Friends Meet
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32S	3	X	Bankhead Vol 1
Awa' O'er the Border	4x32J	2		Auld Friends Meet
Bratach Bana	8x32R	4	X	Bon Accord Book
				Note the dance rate:
				1. Beginners
				2. Beginner/Intermediate
				3. Intermediate
				4. Advanced

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 is involved with while in Zimbabwe. For the information of our newer members who may wonder why we do this, Lorraine wrote an excellent article which was published in the May 2014 issue of "The Island Fling". Funds contributed by dancers as well as many other generous donors are collected by the Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), and Lorraine takes the funds with her to Zimbabwe and distributes them to the schools. Last year, the funds paid tuition fees for 160 orphaned students. Lorraine collects receipts for each child, with the child's name, age, grade and school, and brings them back for VIDEA's information. To learn more about VIDEA, visit <http://www.videa.ca/index.php?pageid=126>.

Funds collected at the door (admission fees to the dance) are used for the very successful "Goats for Orphans" project. The goats that are purchased provide nutritious milk as well as income for the orphans.

See the photo of Lorraine on page 9.



Memorials

It is with great regret that we announce the sudden passing of Ken Natrass of Winnipeg. Ken was accordionist for RSCDS Winnipeg Branch's dance band, Scotch Measure. He played for us at several of our events, both with the band and as a duo with pianist Ron Krug. Our long-time members will remember dancing to their music. Our heartfelt condolences go to Ken's family and friends.

Ron has written the memorial below to his friend and colleague. Sincere thanks to Ron for allowing me to print this memorial; and to Anita Mathur, for sending it to me.

Edith Chapman

March 10, 2015

Less than three weeks ago, Ken Natrass and I were playing for the wonderful Edmonton weekend. We had no idea that would be our last gig together. For more than 20 years I have had the immense pleasure of teaming with Ken for these weekends all across western Canada and at TAC. Ken's dedication to the RSCDS music world included his leadership of our 4-piece band in Winnipeg – Scotch Measure – and his tireless arranging of tunes to suit dances for many, many workshop balls. His admiration for Bobby Brown and his music inspired him greatly.

Now I am left with my admiration for Ken. His death came as a tremendous shock to us all, and we will sorely miss his gracious presence and his excellent musical skill.

Ken and I not only played Scottish music together, but Ken was the accordionist for The Bunch of Grapes who did many performances, recordings and tv shows over a more than 30-year span.

His passing will end our partnership, and will certainly change my direction in playing for Scottish Country Dancing.

I miss you Ken.

Ron Krug

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of two former members.

Isabel Vroom and her husband, Bob, danced with Van Isle in the mid-1970's and during much of the 1980's. They enjoyed dancing, both locally and at workshops in the area and further afield. I particularly remember them attending the Calgary Scottish Country Dance Society's Banff Weekend workshops, held each Thanksgiving weekend. Later on, Bob and Isabel took up square dancing.

Long-time dancers in the Victoria area will remember the ceilidhs, organized by the Sidney group, which Bob and Isabel hosted. Dancers came from all over to enjoy themselves. Unfortunately, a move to Nanaimo put an end to the ceilidhs.

We extend sincere condolences to Isabel's family.

Dorothy Williams was a long-time member of the Victoria Branch, and she was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable dancer. She held office in several positions on the Executive Committee. When the Branch disbanded, Dorothy joined Van Isle and danced with us, attending classes and socials, before becoming unable to dance. Dorothy was also a member of the Victoria Gaelic Choir. She was a student of the Gaelic language, and she earned her Bronze Card in the language.

Our sincere condolences go to Dorothy's family.

Edith Chapman



COMING EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2015

- Apr 21st – May 26th** Spring Classes continue. See article in this issue.
May 7th – May 28th Mini socials, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. \$5.00 drop in. Exact change, please.
May 22nd Friday. Ceilidh, Brentwood Bay, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, Brentwood Centre, 1229 Clarke Road. \$5.00 per person, or \$10.00 per family. All dances walked through. Donations of refreshments are appreciated. For further information, contact Janet Mitchell, janet.mitchell@shaw.ca.
May 30th–Aug 1st Summer Dancing, 7:30 pm. City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. \$8.00.
Jun 2nd Tuesday. Wind-up Ceilidh, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm. \$5.00. Music by Mary Ross.
Aug 15th Benefit dance, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm, \$10.00. Please bring a small plate of refreshments. See article and program in this issue.
Sep 8th Open House, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm.
Sep 11th Open House, Royal Roads, 7:30 pm.

All VISCDs Socials take place from 7:30 to 10:30 pm Saturday evening.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2015

- May 30th** Fort Langley Voyagers 15th Anniversary Gala, Scottish Cultural Centre, Vancouver. Music: Torridon Scottish Dance Band. Tickets \$65.00. Info - Larry Onotera, lonotera@shaw.ca, phone 604 576-6371.
Jun 16th – Aug 18th Dancing in Stanley Park, Ceperley Playground, Vancouver. Info and programs – www.rscdsvancouver.org.
Jun 27th Silver State Scottish Country Dancers, Reno Nevada, Truckee Workshop and Dance. Info - <http://silverstatescd.wix.com/sscds#!truckee-workshop/cee5>.
Jul 26th-Aug 2nd Teachers Association (Canada) (TAC) Summer School, Farmville VA. Open to all levels of dancers. Info - <http://www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school/summer-school-2015>.
Aug 24th – 28th Valley Scottish Country Dancers, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, “Scotch on the Rocks”, SCD classes and excursions. Further info - keppie@eastlink.ca, or phone 902-542-5320.
Sep 5th West End Scottish Country Dance Club 5th Fall Frolic, West End Community Centre, 7:30 – 11:30 pm, \$15.00. Music by the Tartan Players. A small donation of food would be greatly appreciated. See www.rscdsvancouver.org for the program.
Sep 11th – 13th RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend, Port Townsend WA. Gordon Robinson is one of the teachers. Live music for classes and socials. There will be a musicians’ workshop on the Friday. Info and forms: www.rscds-seattle.org.
Oct 9th – 12th RSCDS Calgary Branch and the St. Andrew Caledonian Society of Calgary “Scots Gathering Weekend”, a unique cultural gathering, featuring workshops in various dance forms, including Scottish Country Dancing; Musicians’ Workshop, Gaelic Lessons, Celtic Knotwork and more. Info – www.calgaryscots.org.
Nov 13th – 15th RSCDS San Francisco Branch 50th Asilomar Weekend. Info and registration forms available at asilomar.rscds-sf.org. The registration deadline has passed, but contact Patti Cobb at 510 858-7588 or pkcobb23@gmail.com to be put on a waitlist, if you are interested in going.





Dr. ('Grandma') Lorraine visiting the schools

- From "The Thistle Epistle", February 2015, newsletter of Karanda Mission Hospital

Lorraine tells me that it was their first time visiting the school where this photo was taken. It is an extremely poor school. She hopes to visit there again this year while in Zimbabwe.

