

Island Fling



March 2016

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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President's Report March 2016

Since I last wrote we've enjoyed the traditional Burn's Dance and the lovely Tea Dance. Thank you very much to teachers Bob Anderson and Pat Blair for putting together some excellent dance programs and to the Elastic Ceilidh Band who livened up the evening at the Burn's Dance. Despite limitations at the church for decorating the hall we were pleased to see the wonderful Burns hangings from Bob Anderson and Ian Sutherland's collections and the Tea dance looked lovely with all the flowers provided by Pat Blair and members of the Wednesday afternoon class. A special thanks to all those who helped with the set-up, supplied the beautiful china and contributed a delectable array of goodies for the Tea dance.

Our next Social event is the Workshop, Banquet and Ball on April 2nd which promises to be a very special event. Be sure and get your registration in by March 18th (more on page 5)

Most classes will end the week of April 4th and the Basic classes end a week later but the dancing still goes on! You can look forward to Springtime mini socials on Thursday nights from April 21 to May 26 followed by Bob's summer dancing on Saturdays from June 4th to July 30th. We will also be offering Basic **Spring classes** which start on April 19th and run until May 24th.

Dora Dempster, President

Highland Games

The annual Highland Games will take place on May 21 – 23 (the May long weekend) at Topaz Park. Our Demonstration Team will be performing. We will have an information tent and we will be looking for volunteers to help 'man' the table. Further information and an opportunity to sign up will be given in classes as well as in the next newsletter.

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **April 24, 2016**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

VISCDS Annual General Meeting First Notice

Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 14th, 2016

City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave, 7:30 p.m.

All members are encouraged to attend. Please submit any business and/or proposals for the AGM in writing to Janet Yonge, Secretary, no later than April 1st.

Nominations for Executive positions for 2016/2017

The nominating committee consists of Margaret Mercer and Sue Langridge. Please contact any member of the nominating committee if you are interested in applying for, or want to know more about any of the vacant positions. The following positions are being vacated by the current Executive members:

Secretary
First Vice President and Publicity
Social Convenor

These are 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 these executive roles.

Nominating Committee

Margaret Mercer, phone 250-478-5996

Sue Langridge, phone 250-592-5086

Spring and Summer Dancing

Classes come to an end in about a month's time, but don't put away those dance shoes. There will be plenty of opportunity to dance in the coming months. All classes and socials will be held at the City Light Church Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

Spring classes – held on Tuesday's, starting April 19 and running to May 24, these classes are a continuation of the Basic class. They will be entry-level, so encourage your friends and other acquaintances to try their hand – or feet – at Scottish Country Dancing. The teacher will be Sheila McCall. The cost will be \$36.00 for the six classes.

Mini socials – these popular socials will be held on Thursday's, April 21 – May 26, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Van Isle teachers will take turns running the socials. Everyone is welcome. The cost will be \$5.00 per night.

Summer Dancing – once again, Bob is running his ever-popular socials on Saturday evenings, June 4 – July 30, 7:30 – 10:30 pm. All levels are welcome. The cost is \$8.00. Refreshments will be served, with dancers taking turns bringing the goodies, so watch out for the sign-up sheets.

For Sale

A gentleman at the Brentwood Centre wants to sell his two ties, two sporrans and two kilts. All are in good condition. One sporran has fur. There are also two kilt pins and one set of green "flashes" for above the socks. The kilts would suit a man of about 5 feet 6 inches tall. One is made by Thomas Gordon and Sons Ltd of Glasgow. The other is from Highland Outfitters John Morrison Ltd. of Edinburgh. Both are Black Watch and are of excellent quality. Contact: janet.mitchell@shaw.ca.

Burns Night Social 2016

Hosted by the Monday night dance class led by Bob Anderson, the Robbie Burns social of January 16th was a great success.

We had a good turnout with about 50 people, comprising 5 sets for most of the evening. Jane signed everyone in as she collected the dance fees. Jan Beckett added \$37 to our budget as she sold the 50/50 tickets, which was won by Thelma.

Bob gave us a varied program with many of my personal favourites, mixing basic dances with more advanced ones so that all could participate, as they did with gusto. Thanks to all the teachers who prepared your class to enjoy the evening.

Thanks to the Elastic Ceilidh Band with Tony and Phil Lambert, Gordon Robinson and Bergen Nixon, who kept up the energy as they accompanied the dance program with ease. Live music adds that certain something special to our dances and is appreciated by all.

The highlight of the evening, of course, is the parade of the Haggis, with Jamie Orr piping it in, Sheila Eaglestone carrying the honoured guest, Rick Deegan holding the sword, Peter Bailey the whiskey glasses and of course, Walter Balfour, who gave the Address to the Haggis. Every year we are amazed at the recitation skills required to make this address and Walter does not disappoint as we delight in his accent and demeanor as he performs this important task. Recitation is a dying art and we honour those who keep up this tradition.

Following this we retired to the back room to partake of the groaning table of goodies, sweet and savoury, and helpings of haggis. Comments were heard as to the impressive display and appreciation of same. Thanks to Sheila for coordinating, setting up, serving our feast and cleaning up. Thanks also to kitchen helpers Sue, Jacquie and Rosemary, and all those who contributed to decorating and bringing such good food.

Dancing continued as the program was not over yet, and we went home tired, full and happy, with good memories of haggis to last us a year.

Margaret Mercer

Valentine's Tea Dance

Patricia Blair's Afternoon Class once again hosted the Valentine's Tea Dance on February 20, 2016.

This dance is a huge endeavour and requires a lot of volunteers and cooperation from our members. The afternoon class would like to extend a big "thank you" to the Monday Evening class for lending a helping hand or two to ensure the success of this special occasion.

We must recognize Heather Hermanson, Donna Clements, Lori Morrison and Heather Shave for their efforts in many different positions of responsibilities every year at this event. Also to all the men who arrived early to do the heavy lifting and to the ladies who assisted the organizing team in decorating and set up and clean up.

Thank you to Dora for selling the 50/50 tickets and congratulations to Lori Morrison who was the big winner of \$42.00. Jane Matthews once again did a great job taking admissions at the door and Joan McIntosh was a much appreciated asset in the kitchen. So many others were involved in volunteering and donating food items and we are grateful to you.

What is it about the Tea Dance that has people commenting for days afterwards about the wonderful time they had? Is it the flowers from Patricia Blair's garden and Pat Warman's all dressed up potted primroses decorating the tables and entrance? Is it the fine china or the grated carrot and ginger sandwiches on yam poppyseed bread? Is it the white tablecloths and the extra time to socialize over tea? Is it the dance program with a dance suitable for everyone? I think it is safe to say, "It is all of the above."

Sheila Eaglestone

Dance Shoes Wanted

Do you have a pair of dance shoes that are in reasonable shape, that you are not using anymore? Perhaps you are no longer able to dance, and are wondering what to do with the shoes you are no longer using. If this is the case, please consider donating them so that a fellow dancer, who is perhaps new to Scottish Country Dance, can use them. Contact Sheila McCall, sheilamccall@shaw.ca; or 250-721-4078, if you are able to help.



Spring Fling

Saturday, April 16, 2016
\$10.00



<u>Dance</u>	<u>Bars</u>	<u>Core</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Source</u>
It Should Be Fun	4x32J		B	Graded & Social 3
The Flowers of Edinburgh *	8x32R	C	B	Book 1
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6x32S	C	B	Book 27
Jennifer's Jig	8x32J	C	I	Silver City Book
The Rutland Reel	8x40R		A	Book 48
Miss Eleanor	3x32S		B	Book 49
The Wild Geese	8x32J		B	Book 24
Fisherman's Reel	5x32R	C	I	Dunblane Holiday
Tweedbridge Court	8x32S		B	All Around the Circle
MacLeod's Fancy	4x32J	C	A	Book 33
City of Belfast	3x32S		I	Book 48
The De'il Amang the Tailors *	8x32R	C	B	Book 14
	Break			
The Coanwood Stuarts	4x32J		B	24 Graded & Social
Sugar Candie	8x32S	C	I	Book 26
Craigleith	1x88R		B	3rd Graded Book
Seton's Ceilidh Band	4x64J	C	I	Morison's Bush Collection
Summer on the Clyde	4x32S	C	B	Archives 22
The Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32R	C	B	RSCDS Leaflet Book
* Brief only Hosted by the Basic Classes				

Brentwood Dancers Ceilidh

The Brentwood Dancers are holding a Ceilidh on Friday, May 6, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, at the Brentwood Centre, 1229 Clarke Road in Brentwood.

The Scottish Country Dance group in Brentwood has two Ceilidh dances each dance season. These are fundraisers for the Centre. Cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. All ages are welcome. Dances are easy and are called. Refreshments will be served. Come and have fun. Contact: janet.mitchell@shaw.ca for more information.



Workshop Banquet & Ball ~ April 2nd 2016

It has been said that a dedicated dance teacher is one who is truly devoted to dance and will be completely in love with the idea of teaching others. An instructor who respects, encourages and corrects students individually and collectively while helping them to gradually build their technique.

Wow !!! We are so fortunate to have 2 such teachers in Linda Mae Dennis from the RSCDS Portland Branch and Louise McGillivray from the Edmonton Caledonian Branch lead us in this year's divided workshops. Whether at the Basic/Intermediate or the Experienced level each participant will have a separate session with Linda Mae and Louise all to the accompaniment of live music provided by Mary Ross and Julie Smith. The workshops at James Bay locations will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 allowing a restful and unhurried afternoon for those later joining in a tremendous evening of friendship, food, music and dance.

The evening at the Edelweiss Club hall commences with a welcoming no host bar preceding a fantastic buffet dinner prepared by Chef John Annear of Moonlight Catering. Seventy p.m. sees piper Jamie Orr and marshal Alex McAuley lead us ceremoniously in a *Grande March to begin* a wonderful evening of dancing to the lively playing and signature sound of Vancouver's *The Tartan Players*. The ballroom graced in a charming tribute to spring will complement the sprightly selection of dance favorites thoughtfully selected by our own dedicated teachers.

If you haven't signed up already, please do join in and support the wonderful day prepared for you by a phenomenal volunteer team of fellow VISCDS dancers. Whether for the workshops, the banquet & ball or both you can register online through our website at viscnds.ca by mail or by telephone to Ned Easton at 250-383-0068. Mórán taing !



COMING EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2016

- Apr 2nd** Workshop, banquet and ball. Teachers – Linda Mae Dennis, Portland OR; and Louise McGillivray, Edmonton AB. Music by the Tartan Players. See article in this newsletter. The application form is available on our website. The deadline for registration is March 18.
- Apr 14th** Annual General Meeting, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.
- Apr 16th** Spring Fling social. \$10.00. Hosted by the Basic class.
- Apr 19th – May 24th** Entry level classes, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.
- Apr 21st – May 26th** Thursdays. Mini socials, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.
- May 6th** Brentwood Dancers Ceilidh, Community Centre, 1229 Clarke Road, 7:00 - 10:00 pm, \$5.00. For further information, contact Janet Mitchell, janet.mitchell@shaw.ca. See article in this newsletter. Note this is a Friday.
- May 21st – 23rd** Victoria Highland Games, Topaz Park. See article in this newsletter.
- Jun 4th – Jul 30th** Summer Dancing, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.

All VISCDS Socials take place from 7:30 to 10:30 pm Saturday evening. All socials are held at the City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue, except for the Workshop Ball, which will be held at the Edelweiss Hall on Niagara Street.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2016

- Mar 18th – 19th** St Giles Scottish Country Dance Club, Calgary, Workshop and Ball. Gordon Robinson is one of the teachers. Info - Contact Karen Hyde, 403 283-8488, Karenhyde@telus.net; or Janyne Bertram, 403 585-3842, janyne_bertram@hotmail.com.
- Mar 19th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Heather Ball. Music by Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish Dance Band from Scotland plus Judi Nicolson from Texas. Tickets, program and other info – www.rscdsvancouver.org. Payment may be made online with Paypal until March 12; after that date, contact Fran Caruth, caruth@telus.net, to arrange for tickets.
- Apr 16** RSCDS Ottawa Branch Golden Anniversary Ball. Music by Laird Brown and the Scotch Mist. Tickets - \$100.00; first year dancers or dinner only - \$70.00. Info – www.rscdsottawa.ca.
- Apr 23rd** Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers Tea Dance, Wellington Community Hall, 1:30 – 5:00 pm, \$15.00. Afternoon tea will be served. See www.nanaimoscd.com for the program and further information. Please note – there will be no workshop this year.
- Apr 23rd** RSCDS Winnipeg Branch 45th Annual Spring Workshop and Ball. Further info - <http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/>.
- Apr 30th** Vernon Scottish Country Dancers 20th Annual One-Day Workshop. Teacher – Ruth Jappy; Musician – Mary Ross. Info - Kathy Drew, 250 542-4139; or vernonscd.wix.com/vernonscd.
- May 20th – 22nd** Youth Weekend West, for dancers 16 – 35 years of age; the Ball is open to everyone. This year it is being held in Seattle WA. Info - <http://www.youthweekendwest.com/>.
- Jun 24th – 30th** Prague Scottish Country Dance Week. Teacher – Ron Wallace; Musician – Muriel Johnstone. Info - <http://www.dvorana.cz/>.
- Jun 25th** RSCDS Seattle Branch and Friday Harbor Dancers “Puget Sound Crossroads”. US \$15.00. Donations of finger food appreciated. Bring your group name tag. Check Washington State Ferries’ website for schedule; there appears to be only one (1) ferry to/from Sidney each day. <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/pdf/2016Spring.pdf>. You will need to arrange overnight accommodation.
- Aug 15th – 19th** Valley Scottish Country Dancers “Scotch on the Rocks”, Wolfville NS. SCD classes, ceilidh dance with live music and massage, plus local excursions. Accommodation is separate. Info from Duncan Keppie, keppie@eastlink.ca; or phone 902 542-5320. See also http://vscd.info/2016_Scotch_on_Rocks.pdf.
- Sep 9th – 11th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Teachers – Sharon Osborne Barker, Linda Henderson, Ron Wallace and Andrew Smith. Musicians – Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Further info - <http://www.rscds-seattle.org/ftworden/index.htm>. Watch for application forms in April.