

Island Fling



March 2017

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
PO Box 30123, Reynolds RPO
3943C Quadra Street, Victoria BC V8X 1J5, Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
Web address: www.viscnds.ca

Executive Committee

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President's Report, March 2017

Membership now stands at a healthy one hundred and twenty eight dancers. We've welcomed eleven new members since January and have had two more inquires just in the last two weeks.

Snowy weather visited Victoria again the week of February 6th when both the Monday and Wednesday night classes had to be cancelled. Make up classes have been scheduled on Wednesday night April 19th and on Monday April 17th.

At the Burns social Bob challenged us to answer questions about Robbie Burns' life while delivering a lovely mix of the dances we all love to dance. John Duffus videotaped our performance of the "Call of the Island" strathspey, one of Bob's more recent creations which included a new formation he named the call of the island setting step.....a very pretty dance to watch! The Monday night class did a great job getting everything organized. A special thanks to Jan who earned her wee dram of Scotch and to Walter for his dramatic Address to the Haggis.

Congratulations to Pat Blair and the Wednesday afternoon class for putting on a lovely Valentine's Tea dance. Heather Hermanson led a team of willing volunteers who made us feel special as we enjoyed the delightful goodies and the ambience created with beautiful china and lovely teapots poured by charming hostesses! Thank you to Pat Blair for a program full of favorite dances and the not to be missed "Bonnie Ina Campbell".

Spring and Summer Dancing

We are once again planning to offer basic level classes in the Spring and will be promoting them through our publicity channels. If you have friends who want to try Scottish country dancing please invite them to join us. We offer six classes for \$36 (no membership fee required). The classes will run from the 18th of April until May 23rd. We will end up with a Ceilidh dance on Saturday the 27th of May which we will also be promoting at the Highland Games.

From April 27th to May 25th we will be running mini socials from 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Thursday evenings (\$5 drop in) and Bob will be hosting his summer socials on Saturday nights in June and July (\$8 entry). We are in the early stages of planning practice classes for those who like to review the dances ahead of time.

President's Report, continued Workshop and Ball

Coming up on Saturday March 25th we have our much anticipated 2017 Workshop and Ball. Workshops are being offered at the Basic, Intermediate and Experienced levels and we are lucky to have pianist Julie Smith and our own Mary Ross on accordion providing the music for the classes. We welcome workshop teachers Irene Townshend, Hazel Macdonald and Evelyn Nixon, and the ever popular Tartan Players return again to provide the music for the Ball, so we have much to look forward to.

Dora Dempster, President

DROP-IN FEES

You'll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60.00 on the membership form; please be sure to mark Punch Card, and it will come to you through your class rep. Cards do not expire, and more can be purchased as yours runs out.

Class Reps

Experienced Social:	Robin Gubby	250-595-6813
	Jan Beckett	250-598-0464
Basic class:	Sandy Currie	250-595-0533
Intermediate:	Sheila Eaglestone	250-727-6225
Daytime social:	Heather Hermanson	250-595-5868
	Lori Morrison	250-478-7897
Intermediate Social:	June Robinson	250-477-8317
	Tony Lambert	250-477-2052
Westshore Class	Vicki White	250-361-0024

VISCDS Annual General Meeting First Notice

Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 20th, 2017

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 Susannah Andersen, Secretary, no later than April 1st.

Nominations for Executive positions for 2017/2018

The nominating committee consists of Sheila Eaglestone and Heather Hermanson. 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:

2nd Vice President and Membership
Newsletter Editor

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

Sheila Eaglestone, phone 250-727-6225
Heather Hermanson, phone 250-595-5868

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, April 23, 2017**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

Highland Games

The annual Highland Games will take place on May 20 – 22 (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.

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 18 and running to May 23, 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 Gael Forster. The cost will be \$36.00 for the six classes.

Mini socials – these popular socials will be held on Thursday’s, April 27 – May 25, 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 29, 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.

Practices for summer dancing – back by popular demand. Further information, including dates and cost, will be in the next newsletter.

Ceilidhs

We will be holding two ceilidhs over the summer. Mark your calendars for **May 27** and **August 19**. The ceilidhs will be held at the City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue, from 7:00 – 10:00 pm. The cost for each night will be \$5.00. Encourage all your friends, relatives, neighbours, co-workers and other acquaintances to come and enjoy the evening of Scottish Country Dancing.

The **Brentwood Scottish Dancers** will be holding a ceilidh on Friday, June 2, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, at the Brentwood Centre, 1229 Clarke Road in Brentwood. Cost is \$5.00 each or \$10.00 for families. Come and help the Brentwood dancers celebrate their 15th Anniversary. Donations of refreshments would be welcome. Please let Janet Mitchell know if you are coming, janet.mitchell@shaw.ca.



© Can Stock Photo

Have you registered for the March 25 Van Isle Workshop and Ball?

If **not**, Prince Charming will be looking for you!

Please register **by March 17** for the discounted registration fee of \$35 for the workshop and \$40 for the Ball. Go to: <http://viscds.ca/workshop-and-spring-social/> to register on-line, or pick up a registration form at your weekly class or from the January Fling. We are planning for **three** dance class levels at the workshop: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Registrants are needed in the Intermediate level workshop. With spectacular teachers and musicians this will be a great time! All dancers are welcome!! We hope to see everyone there!

The Van Isle Ball Committee

Workshop and Ball – have you registered yet?

You've heard us talking about what a great experience the workshop and ball will be on March 25. Perhaps it's time that you heard from your peers - former attendees - and potentially the biggest critics! Here are some kudos from last year's participants. This is from an anonymous survey and we are referring to the callers by number.

I thought it was wonderful once again to have some formality. It was really a pleasure to see everyone dressed for the occasion and this indeed with the lovely decorated hall, the banquet and band set the tone for a lovely evening, not just another night to dance. It was truly a special occasion. #31

Thanks Caller 31...everyone feels good when dressed for the ball - a nice dress or a crisp shirt actually enhances one's dancing!

The quality of the food was very good... As usual the Tartan Players were very good. #25

Thanks Caller 25. We have the same caterer and the same band - so food and music should be epic once more!

Teachers were very good. Length of workshop perfect. #30

Thanks Caller 30... I think we have some great teachers this year as well - hope you enjoy them!

The music was wonderful. What a wonderful city to visit. Hope to return in 2017. #24

Thanks Caller 24 - we are so glad you enjoyed the event enough to want to travel back for another one!

Don't try to fix what ain't broken: great experience all round. #18

You got it, Caller 18 - we haven't broken anything and are bringing you a great experience again!

Hope we can do it again - let's build on the success of this event! #28

Thanks Caller 28.... The operative word here is "we" - your committee is providing teachers, music, food, and venue. You - come and dance - and together - we will build a successful event!

You heard it from those who participated: an amazing experience is in store for you on March 25...have you registered? See you there!

Anita Mathur

Workshop and Ball 2017 Chair

Valentine Social

WOW!! What a great afternoon hosted by Pat Blair's class.

It was so very nice to walk in and see those beautiful table covers set with decorative china so elegantly set out with teapots and heather and flower arrangements.

This was a real traditional afternoon tea with a great spread of savoury and sweet treats. Thanks to all who supplied the delicious selection. It was terrific to have so many dancers from the other classes and out of town guests contributing to the event.

The hall was almost filled to capacity. The dancing programme covered all levels with the briefing shared by Pat and Bob Anderson. The dances were engaging, enjoyable and just plain fun. After 17 dances with some repeats, tired bodies and feet drifted out at 6:00 PM.

The afternoon was a GREAT success. Thanks to Pat and Bob as well as all the other teachers for preparing the dancers. Thanks to all who helped with the setup and clearing. Thanks especially to our class representative Heather Hermanson for her excellent and tireless organisation and coordination.

We all look forward to the next event.

David Walde



Spring Fling

April 22, 2017

7:30 pm

\$10.00



Dance	Bars	Core	Level	Source
Good-Hearted Glasgow	8x32J	C	B	Knapman
The Kissing Bridge	8x32R		B	Book 47
Wisp of Thistle	8x32S		B	Book 37
MacLeod's Fancy	4x32J	C	A	Book 33
The Spring Fling Reel	8x40R		I	Book 50
The Paisley Weavers	3x32S		B	3rd Graded Book
Swashbuckling Iain	6x32J		B	San Francisco Coll
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	8x32R		A	Book 49
12 Coates Crescent	4x32S	C	B	Book 40
Roaring Jelly *	8x32J	C	I	Glendarroch Coll No 6
The Gentleman	8x32S	C	I	Book 35
The Barmkin	1x88R	C	B	2nd Graded Book
Break				
The Waratah Weaver	4x32J		B	2nd Graded Bok
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32S	C	I	Glendarroch Coll No 8
Currie Mountain	8x32R		B	New Brunswick Coll
Pelorus Jack	8x32J	C	I	Book 41
The Belle of Bon Accord	4x32S	C	B	Deeside Book Part 2
The Deil Amang the Tailors *	8x32R	C	B	Book 14
* - Brief only				
Hosted by the Basic Class				



2017 Burns Social

Our Robert Burns Social on 28th January 2017 was a highlight event in the VISCDs calendar, with many participants in formal evening dress conveying a very distinguished air on the gathering. We welcomed more than 50 dancers, including a number of guests from out of town.

The Hall, beautifully decorated by Alice, Lori, Margaret, Terry and Glyn, showed plaques depicting various events in Robert Burns' relatively short, but very full, life, nicely set off by a colourful array of Tartans.

Mary Ross-Klektau and her incredible Invisible Band kept our feet twinkling all evening - thank you Mary!

Bob Anderson's excellent dance program had something for everyone's taste, at all experience levels, including some of Bob's own creations. As an added bonus Bob held a running quiz about details of Robert Burns' life and times (Question: how many poems did Robert Burns write – Answer: at least 242 that we know of - plus at least 292 songs!).

It was very encouraging to see a number of young people in attendance clearly enjoying themselves immensely; we hope to see them at our classes soon.

The Haggis was rousingly piped in by Jamie, with Jan as the official Bearer, followed by Walter, Robin with the whisky, and Bob Barbulak as the Ceremonial Guard. I venture to say that the VISCDs puts on one of the best Burns/Haggis ceremonies in BC. Walter's superb rendition of the Address vividly brought to life the culinary customs and cultural attitudes of rural Scotland in the latter half of the 18th Century (I had visions of gushing entrails jauping in luggies for days afterwards).

Sheila McCall was the lucky winner of \$52 from the 50/50 draw.

Thanks to Jan for selling the tickets, Dora for running the 50/50 draw, kitchen volunteers Susannah, June, Gordon, Ellen, Alan, and Catherine, and last but not least to Jan, our Class Representative and our Social Convenor, Theresa, for organizing everything so marvelously.

A huge thank-you to everybody that helped make this event such a success - profuse apologies if I've missed anyone (I'm told the volunteer sign-up sheet was destroyed immediately after the event for security reasons) - without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers, none of these events would be possible.

Footnote: A beautiful pearl earring was handed in after the dance, I'm sure someone must have been wearing it (definitely not Johnny Depp); it is in an envelope in the Class Rep box.

Footnote #2: John Duffus video'd "Call of the Island"; check it out at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfOZ9hEUHKg&list=PLfjDC0BDr3IMKx0EeP6KujPRuOSr2Vw4z&index=42>

Robin Gubby

Monday Class Rep (*in absentia* on demo duty)

Here is some information on a few of the dances that are popular in this area.

The Bees of MaggieKnockater - MaggieKnockater is a hamlet between Craigellachie and Mulben in Scotland. Until the early 1970s there was large **apiary** which well known in the region. The Scottish country dance "The Bees of MaggieKnockater" ensures that the apiary will not be forgotten. The meaning of MaggieKnockater is "field of the fuller" or "plain of the hilly ridge". The dance was devised by John Drewry; it is a jig.
- from Wikipedia

Clutha – a passenger ferry service, which ran up and down the River Clyde in Glasgow, began in 1884 and continued until 1903. There was a total of twelve steamer boats, all named 'Clutha' (Gaelic for the River Clyde). The service was used by workers commuting to the docks and industries along the river. The dance is a hornpipe; it is from a publication dated around 1890.

- From RSCDS Book 31 and Wikipedia

The Reel of the 51st Division – this dance was devised by a couple of officers of the 51st Highland Division during World War II, while they were incarcerated in a POW camp in Germany. It is one of the most popular dances of all time. It was the first modern dance published by the Scottish Country Dance Society (later 'Royal'); they did so at the request of the then-Queen, later Her Majesty the Queen Mother. The dance is often performed by a set composed entirely of men. For more information on the dance, plus a couple of videos, check the website <http://www.electricscotland.com/music/wardance.htm>. The dance is a reel.

- from Wikipedia

The Falls of Rogie - Rogie Falls are a series of waterfalls on the Black Water, a river in Ross-shire in the Highlands of Scotland. The falls are about two km north-west of the village of Contin. They are a popular tourist attraction, with several forest walks. The bridge will support a maximum of five people and is quite wobbly. The dance is a reel which was devised by Jean Attwood.

- from Wikipedia

The 2017 heather ball weekend

Wednesday, March 15 HEATHER BALL WALK-THROUGH

Scottish Cultural Centre - 7:30 pm

\$8

We are delighted to have Luke Brady join us for the evening. The class will be extended to 10 pm to allow us to get through as many dances as possible, and will include a Grand March rehearsal.

Cost is not included in the combination Ball & Concert ticket

Saturday, March 18

THE HEATHER BALL

Scottish Cultural Centre - Reception 5:45 pm - Supper 6:15 pm

\$80



Start with a champagne reception, followed by supper, the Grand March and dancing to the fabulous music of Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band! After the dance mingle and enjoy a hot cider or shandy and shortbread.

Tickets are still available.

Online tickets sales close on March 11th. After that date, contact Fran Caruth at 604.922.6842 or dancing@rscdsvancouver.org for availability of tickets. For billets contact Catherine Conings at ccmusic@telus.net.

Visit our website Events Calendar page for programme & dance notes.

Sunday, March 19

LUKE BRADY IN CONCERT

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - 3:00 pm

\$20

1440 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver



Luke Brady is a talented and versatile young accordionist and pianist from Scotland. His concert highlights musicians who have inspired him and reflect events and travels in his life as a musician. Dancers and non-dancers alike will love listening to his lively Scottish tunes. The concert also boasts a variety of music genres and styles.

Tickets still available online, or can be purchased at the door while they last, or contact Fran Caruth at dancing@rscdsvancouver.org or 604.922.6842

Basic Class Social Evening

The basic class held a social evening on February 21st, which happened to be my birthday, so it became a birthday party. 34 dancers attended and we all had a great evening of dancing. The dances were all ones that the class has been learning in the last few weeks and it was an opportunity for all the newer dancers to experience a social atmosphere without the stress of a regular social. There were lots of smiles and laughter as they all went through the evening. Some dances were encored as most of them were once and to the bottom, so they needed a second time through to get it right or just because they enjoyed the dance.

A few class members brought goodies and there was even a birthday cake with a candle and the singing of Happy Birthday.

So thank you to all who attended my "party" and making it a special day for me. The next "social evening" will be on the last class, April 11th, mark your calendars; everyone is welcome to join us.

Sheila

EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2017

Mar 25th	Annual Workshop and Ball. See articles in this issue.
Apr 18th – May 23rd	Spring classes, Tuesdays, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. See notice in this issue. 6 classes \$36.00.
Apr 20th	Thursday. Annual General Meeting, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. Dancing will follow the meeting.
Apr 27th – May 25th	Thursdays. Mini socials, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. See notice in this issue.
Apr 22nd	Spring Fling Social, 7:30 pm, \$10.00. Program is in this issue.
May 27th	Ceilidh, City Light Church Hall, 7:00 – 10:00 pm. \$5.00.
May – Jul	Practices for summer dancing, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Further information in the May newsletter.
Jun 2nd	Friday. Brentwood Scottish Dancers ceilidh, 7:00 – 10:00 pm. See notice in this issue.
Jun 3rd – Jul 29th	Summer dancing, 7:30 – 10:30 pm. See notice in this issue.
Aug 19th	Ceilidh, City Light Church Hall, 7:00 – 10:00 pm. \$5.00.

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, 108 Niagara Street.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2017

Mar 18th	RSCDS Vancouver Branch Heather Ball 2017. Music by Luke Brady. Further info – http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/heather-ball-2017/ . See also the poster in this issue.
Mar 25th	Regina Scottish Country Dancers Workshop and Ball. Teacher – Peter McClure, Winnipeg. The deadline is March 17. Further info - reginascottishcountrydancers@gmail.com ; or 306-525-3260.
Apr 7th – 9th	Lethbridge SCD Group Weekend Dance and Music Workshop. Teachers – Marjorie McLaughlin, Arthur McNair and Vicky Zeltins. Teacher for music workshop – Fiona Carnie. Further info - www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html .
Apr 21st – 23rd	RSCDS Winnipeg Branch Weekend Workshop. Teachers – Barbara Johnston and David Booz. Musicians – Ron Krug and Dennis Orr. Deadline for registration is April 12. Further info - http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/docs/WorkshopBrochure2017.pdf .
Apr 29th	Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers Spring Tea Dance. Info – Hazel MacDonald, 250-758-6224; or website – www.nanaimoscottishcountrydancers.ca . Note date correction.
Apr 29th	Vernon Scottish Country Dancers Workshop. Teacher – Bernadette Thill. Musician – Mary Ross. Info – Kathy Drew, 250-542-4139.
May 20th	RSCDS Seattle Branch May Ball. Reserve by April 15. Info - http://www.rscds-seattle.org .
Jul 16th – Aug 13th	RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews. Classes for all levels of dancers; also classes for junior dancers and musicians. Further details - www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017 .
Jul 23rd – 30th	Teachers Association (Canada) – TAC – Summer School 2017, UBC, Vancouver. Classes are held for all levels. Further info - www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school .
Aug 14th – 18th	Duncan and Maggie Keppie - “Scotch on the Rocks”, Wolfville NS. Classes, excursions, ceilidh, dance, massage. Limited to 32 dancers. Further info – Duncan Keppie, 902-542-5320, or keppie@eastlink.ca .
Sep 8th – 10th	RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Further details available in mid-March. Details also available on their website - http://www.rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden-workshop.html .
Oct 6th – 8th	RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch - Dartmouth 35th Anniversary Fall Workshop. Teachers – Ron Wallace (USA) and Jim Stott (Scotland). Musicians – Dean Herington and Mara Shea. Further info - www.rscdsnovascotia.ca .
Oct 24th - Nov 6th	Dancing tour of New Zealand, by Chris Grobler. Limited to 8 or 9 dancers. Further info – www.toursbychris.com ; email - chrisgrobler@cox.net ; or phone (949) 412-2088.
Oct 28th – 30th	RSCDS Medicine Hat Annual Workshop, Banquet and Ball. Teachers – Barbara Johnston and Craig Williams. Info - http://nonprofit.memlane.com/scottish/workshop.html .
Nov 17th – 19th	RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend. Registrations will be accepted after April 1. Info - asilomar.rscds-sf.org .