

Island Fling



May 2017

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 Report May 2017

We had a lovely Spring Fling social on April 22nd and I was delighted to see so many of our newer dancers up on the dance floor. I think in part this can be attributed to Sheila McCall's recent introduction of Basic class "mini socials" every six weeks which gave new dancers a chance to meet many of the experienced dancers in a social setting. A big thank you to Sheila and the basic class for hosting the Spring Social which was well attended by over 40 dancers.

My congratulations to the Workshop Ball Committee for putting on a very successful event. The decision to hold an individual Basic class was very much appreciated and well attended. The Grand March went off without a hitch this year and we danced away the night to the music of the Tartan Players. It was a lovely evening.

Ceilidhs and spring classes

The spring classes are well subscribed with twenty-seven dancers including two newcomers. We will wind up with a **Ceilidh dance on Saturday May 27th** at the City Light church. We encourage members to bring friends who may be interested in dancing with us in the future. We will also be promoting this event at the Highland games on the long weekend. The Elastic Ceilidh band and guest musicians will be playing for us and Anita and Sarah will be leading the dancing.

Celebrating Canada 150 - August 19th Ceilidh in the Dance Victoria Ballroom

We are planning a very special Ceilidh to celebrate Canada's one hundred and fiftieth birthday, featuring lots of Scottish country dances, interspersed with a variety of ceilidh performances, much like our former Dance Days ceilidhs. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be helping us and other clubs across Canada to promote this very special occasion. Please put this date in your calendar and plan to bring along some your friends. It starts at 7:30 pm at **Dance Victoria, 2750 Quadra Street** near Hillside Avenue.

President's Report, continued

Spring and summer dancing

Our spring mini socials are on Thursday nights starting on April 27th and running until May 25th. \$5 at the door. Bob's Saturday night summer socials start on June 3rd and continue until the end of July. He is also running practice classes on Tuesday nights starting on May 30th 7:30 to 9:30 pm. He'll be handing out his booklet of dances over the next month and we hope to get it up on the website as well.

At the annual general meeting we elected a new membership Director, June Robinson, who takes over from Rick Deegan. Thanks very much to Rick for his contributions to the Executive over the last four years and a big thank you also to Edith Chapman who has done a wonderful job of producing our Newsletter for the last four years. We are still looking for someone who is willing to become our new editor and hope that someone will step forward soon.

We are also currently looking for a new venue for our Wednesday night classes as the hall at the City Light Church is no longer available to us on Wednesdays. The Daytime Social will move to **Tuesday** afternoons at the City Light Church. Although we have enjoyed offering classes in Colwood over the last three years we have not been able to attract enough new members to keep that class running next year. Thank you very much to Joan Axford who has been teaching that class, at times alternating with Liz Gray and Louise McGillivray.

I hope you will all have a lovely summer and if I don't see you at summer dancing I hope to see you all again in the fall.

Dora Dempster, President

Highland Games

The 154th Highland Games and Celtic Festival will take place on the May long weekend, May 20 - 22, at Topaz Park. We will have our information tent once again this year, which will be 'manned' by our generous volunteers. There will be a draw for a set of free classes and we will have brochures and business cards to give out. We are looking forward to a wonderful games. Please come and visit and remind people who you know will be attending the games to drop by the tent. Word of mouth is our best P.R. tool.

Unfortunately with too many of its members away in May our Demonstration Team is unable to perform at the Games this year.

Martha G. Morrison
Publicity Chair

Spring Fling 2017

We had a great turnout for this year's Spring Fling. Forty-four dancers showed up to have a good time, and by all accounts they did. We were able to maintain four to five sets over the whole evening.

Beginner's class teacher Sheila McCall set an excellent program for this year's dance. One-half of the eighteen dances were for beginners. Only two were advanced dances and the remaining seven were intermediate-level dances. I am pleased to report that Beginners class members who joined in January this year were the ones who attended this year's Spring Fling. Hats off to them!

Without exception these people took on the challenge of dancing some of the Intermediate dances. Our guests and some of the more experienced members of our Beginners class helped them do this. This is the spirit of Scottish Country Dancing: people helping other people learn to dance and have fun.

The Barmkin was the last dance before the break and it left everyone ready for lemonade and food.

50:50 tickets were then sold to those who had not bought them when they arrived. Tension then built as we waited to hear the name of the winner. Robin Gubby took home the pot.

After dancing their hearts these Beginning class members still had the energy to stay to the very end and help clean up and put away chairs and tables.

Sandy Currie
Beginners' Class Representative

Brentwood Ceilidh

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.

VISCDS Workshop and Ball March 25, 2017

The Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society annual workshop and ball was held on March 25 and it was a resounding success. In total, 81 dancers, musicians, teachers and guests attended the event. Dancers were welcomed from up-Island, the Lower Mainland, Powell River, Summerland BC; Sault Ste. Marie Ont.; Burlington Washington, and a dancer from Yorkshire, England. Three levels of workshops were offered with teachers Evelyn Nixon from Comox, Hazel MacDonald from Nanaimo and Irene Townshend from Edmonton. Dancers enjoyed their workshop with clear direction, humor and great instruction provided by our guest teachers. And, great accompaniment was provided by musicians Mary Ross and Julie Smith. Workshop classes ran from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Edelweiss Club and the James Bay Athletic Association.

After an afternoon at leisure, the dancers gathered again at 7:30 for the evening ball. The Grand March began with pipers Bob and Bonnie Barbulak piping everyone into the hall. Grand Marshall, Maureen Orr directed the arrangement of the sets. The dancing was accompanied by the wonderful music of the Tartan Players from Vancouver. Getting the evening underway was the first MC Heather Hermanson later followed by MC David Walde. A program of spritely and interesting dances was originated by the club teachers including Gael Forster and briefed by teachers Sheila McCall, Gordon Robinson, Louise McGillivray and Bob Anderson. Guest teachers Evelyn Nixon, Hazel MacDonald and Irene Townshend also briefed dances.

Just over half way through the program refreshments were delivered by Moonlight Catering and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. The evening concluded with more dancing and great music. Members of the ball committee this year worked hard to bring the event together and they were: Anita Mathur, Robin Gubby, Sheila McCall, Janet Yonge, Barb Currie and June Robinson. The committee would like to thank the many volunteers who helped with the workshop and ball and the dancers of VISCDS for coming out for this special event.

June Robinson



Dancers at VISCDS Annual Ball
March 25, 2017 Victoria, BC

Photo by Fiona Warman

EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2017

- Apr 27th – May 25th** Thursdays. Mini socials, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.
- May 27th** Ceilidh, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 – 9:30 pm (note correction). \$5.00. Music by the Elastic Ceilidh Band and Friends.
- May 30th – Jul 25th** Tuesdays. Practices for summer dancing, City Light Church Hall 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Cost \$5.00.
- Jun 2nd** Friday. Brentwood Scottish Dancers ceilidh, 7:00 – 10:00 pm. See notice in this issue.
- Jun 3rd – Jul 29th** Saturdays. Summer dancing, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 – 10:30 pm. Cost \$8.00. Watch for sign-up sheets for donations of refreshments.
- Aug 19th** Ceilidh, **Dance Victoria, 2750 Quadra Street** near Hillside Avenue, 7:30 – 10:00 pm (note correction), \$8.00. Music by Mary Ross.
- Sep 5th** Open House, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

- Jun 9th – 11th** Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee Scottish Country Dance Groups. Midwest Scottish Weekend, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Teachers - Stella Fogg and Chandi McCracken. Registration now open. Info - <https://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/>.
- Jun 19th – Aug 24th** Mondays. RSCDS Vancouver Branch Dancing in Stanley Park, Ceperley Playground. No dancing if wet at 5:00 pm. Further info – www.rscdsvancouver.org.
- Jun 24th** Friday Harbor Dancers and RSCDS Seattle Branch - Puget Sound Crossroads, Grange Hall, Friday Harbor WA, 4:30 – 7:30 pm. Cost – US\$15.00. Live music. All dances will be walked through. Further details - <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. There are a few spaces left. Further info – Duncan Keppie, 902-542-5320, or keppie@eastlink.ca.
- Sep 8th – 10th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Registrations open now. Details 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 21st** Salt Spring Island Scottish Country Dance Club Simply Scottish Day of Dance. Cost tba. Further info - <http://www.saltspringsscottishdancers.org>.
- 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 now open. Info - asilomar.rscds-sf.org.
- Nov 25th** Oceanside Scottish Country Dance Club (Qualicum Beach) St Andrews Tea Dance. Afternoon event. The venue will be the Bradley Centre in Coombs. Further information later. Also check their website in September. <https://oceansidescottishcountrydancers.com/>.

Newsletter Editor

For the past four years, it has been my pleasure to produce the “Island Fling”. But now it is time for me to bow out. I have enjoyed doing the job. I would like to thank Van Isle members for their kind comments and helpful suggestions. My thanks, also, to the Executive Committees, teachers and class reps, for their support. I sincerely hope that my successor – there will be a successor? – will enjoy serving as the Newsletter Editor as much as I have.

Edith Chapman