

Island Fling



May 2018

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 2018

We had a wonderful Ball on April 7th which was held at the Ambrosia Event Center on Fisgard Street. It was a very attractive Center and the appetizers served later in the evening were superb. The workshops went off very well and I heard lots of positive reports from the participants.

At the Annual General Meeting we voted in three new members of the executive for 2018 2019. Susan Langridge will take over as Treasurer from Jamie Orr who has served for the last four years. Thank you Jamie! Edith Chapman is returning to the position of Newsletter Editor and a big thanks to John Duffus who has done an excellent job editing the Fling for the last year. Also many thanks to Susannah Andersen who has been our secretary for the last two years and welcome to Betsy Lockhart who will be taking over this position.

This has been an interesting and sometimes challenging year for the teachers with quite a few changes from the past year. We had a huge influx of new dancers to the Basic class. Out of thirty-eight new members, twenty-eight joined the Basic class. The Basic class teacher Sheila McCall has done a masterful job of teaching this large group which included seventeen newcomers in January. We had anywhere from three to five sets in attendance with support from many experienced dancers. It's been a very enjoyable class with lots of enthusiasm and laughter. Having mini socials after every six classes works well and the group brought along very nice snacks for break time. This Saturday we had the Spring Fling Social hosted by the Basic class and I was pleased to see so many new dancers joining in.

The intermediate class also saw a large increase in numbers with three to four sets in attendance. This year Sarah Kell and Gordon Robinson took turns running the class and there was a lot of high energy in the room. It was a challenging class to teach however as there was a disproportionate number of more advanced dancers to the smaller number of quite new intermediate dancers. We hope that some of the more experienced dancers from the Basic class will be interested in moving up to the next level and expect to reintroduce the Beyond Basic social dancing class on Thursdays.

As we no longer have access to the church hall at Obed on Wednesday nights, this year we had to move both the daytime Social and the Wednesday night class. The daytime social moved to Tuesday afternoon at Obed but also lost

President's Report, continued

some regulars who could not attend on Tuesdays. The Wednesday night class moved to a new location and also changed its format, becoming the Scottish country and step dancing class. The attendance was strong in the fall but dropped when the class relocated from the St Peter and Paul's Anglican Church in Esquimalt to the Lutheran church on Cedar Hill Cross Road. We are reviewing alternate venues for this class.

Spring Ceilidh, Mini socials and Introductory beginner classes

Spring classes have started with twenty-eight people signed up, and the Mini socials began on Thursday April 26th. Please bring exact change for the mini-socials (\$5 drop in). We will round out the spring season with a **Ceilidh Dance on Saturday May 26th** at Dance Victoria. Music by **Mary Ross and Fiddler Janette Polson** from Nanaimo. You won't want to miss this one! Be sure to bring your friends along as there is lots of space at Dance Victoria.

Summer Dancing

The **summer dancing socials** hosted by Bob Anderson have been moved to **Thursday nights 7:30 to 10:30 pm** as the Hall is no longer available to us on Saturday nights in the summer. The first summer dance is on **Thursday May 31st** at the City Light Church Hall. **\$8 at the door**. Bob is also holding **practice classes** on the Tuesday night preceding the Social and they start on **Tuesday May 29th 7:30 to 9:30 pm; \$5 drop in fee....exact change please**.

Coming up

The demonstration team will soon start their practices for upcoming performances starting with the Highland Games on Saturday May 19th. We will also have a booth at the Games and anyone wishing to help out should contact our Publicity Director Martha Morrison. The demonstration team will also be performing at Folkfest on July 8th at Centennial Square. I would also like to commend the demonstration team for winning a technical Merit award (High Honour) at the Performing Arts Festival. Well done!

Hope to see you at the Ceilidh on Saturday May 26th at Dance Victoria.

Dora Dempster
President

Highland Games

The annual Highland Games will take place on the May 2018 long weekend at Topaz Park. VISCDs will have an information tent staffed by volunteers who will hand out Ceilidh posters, class and socials brochures, and business cards while talking about the fun and benefits of Scottish Country Dancing. Our Demonstration Team will be performing on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all those who so generously offered their time to man the tent. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Martha G. Morrison

For Sale: Women's dance shoes, size 7.5. Like new, all leather 'Jazz' shoe by Bloch. Half inch heel, lace up with cotton lining. Worn once. \$35. 250 744-1096



Newsletter deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, August 19, 2018**. Please submit any material to Edith Chapman at enchapma@shaw.ca. My thanks to June Robinson for her help with the Ball photos.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society Annual Workshop and Ball

The Van Isle annual workshop and ball was held on Saturday, April 7 and it was a very successful event. In total 74 dancers registered for the morning workshops and the evening ball. Three levels of workshops were offered at the James Bay Athletic Association and the James Bay Community Centre and featured teachers Fred Demarse from San Francisco, Katherine Shearman from Vancouver and Hazel MacDonald from Nanaimo. Hazel taught the beginner's class with her usual clear instruction and good humour and the dancers came away with a new appreciation of Scottish Country dancing. Fred and Katherine inter-changed between the Intermediate and Experienced classes. With precise detail and energetic instruction from Katherine and Fred, the dancers sharpened their skills and enjoyed learning interesting dances.

The evening featured a ball with the Tartan Players band from Vancouver and was held at the Ambrosia Event Centre in downtown Victoria. The dance started with Jamie Orr piping the dancers into the hall. Maureen Orr was the Grand Marshal and aptly directed the dancers in the Grand March which concluded in the forming of sets. Heather Hermanson, Master of Ceremonies for the first part of the evening and Anita Mathur, Chair of the workshop and ball committee welcomed everyone. The first set of dances began with the briefing by Sheila McCall, followed throughout the evening by the local and guest teachers helping the dancers by giving the briefings. The lively music of the Tartan Players filled the hall and the dance began. David Walde was the concluding Master of Ceremonies. At approximately two-thirds of the way through the 16 dance program a delicious buffet lunch was provided by the Ambrosia Centre. Following lunch, Anita Mathur thanked everyone for coming and introduced the out-of-town guests. The members of the committee were also introduced and thanked by the President of the Van Isle Club Dora Dempster for their efforts in organizing the event. Thank you to all who attended and also to the members who volunteered. We hope to see you at next year's workshop and ball!

June Robinson

Workshop and Ball Committee

VISCDS



Penny and Ed



Sarah and David



Sheila and Joan



Teachers' Corner

Thinking of moving to another class in September? Please check with your current teacher if you would like to move up to the next level. Watch the website and the August/September newsletter for next season's class offerings and schedule. We hope to offer a Beyond Basic class to bridge the gap between the current Basic and Intermediate classes. Remember that if you pay for classes by the year or term, you can attend classes at and below your level for the same price! Intermediate and experienced dancers are especially welcome to attend the Basic class to help out.

Sarah Kell

A note from Lorraine

Lorraine Irvine is a long-time member of Van Isle. She is a doctor who for many years did volunteer work at various hospitals in Zimbabwe. Each year, we held a benefit dance to raise funds for Lorraine to take with her to pay school fees for the numerous orphaned children.

Dear dancing teachers and dancing friends,

Thank you to all of you who have given me so much pleasure and happiness over the years. A special thank you to Pat Blair for putting on all the Zimbabwe dances. And thank you to Bob Anderson for all the happy hours of summer dancing. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the Zimbabwe dances and to those who donated to VIDEO. Your kindness has made a great deal of difference to many children in Zimbabwe. I have had the privilege of working in Africa for the past 30 years but my most meaningful have been the past 22 in Zimbabwe, where I have served as physician and Ambuya (Granny) to many. While at Howard hospital in Zimbabwe, I had the good fortune to work with Dr. Paul Thistle, the most dedicated young doctor that I've ever met. In all the years I have known him I've never heard him say or do an unkind thing. He works long hours and has devoted his life to helping the poor of Zimbabwe. I have also made close friendships with many other volunteers as well as many more Zimbabweans such as Julie, Lovemore and Bigboy who are like my own family. My philosophy has been "humanity is love, love is a service, and the service must meet the need". I heard a similar statement in a Scottish sermon over 50 years ago. I've tried to live by this and have I succeeded? Not always. But I will keep trying. Wishing you all good health and happiness,

Lorraine



Lorraine, with Dr. Paul Thistle



*Dr. ('Grandma') Lorraine visiting the schools
- From "The Thistle Epistle", February 2015,
newsletter of Karanda Mission Hospital*



Memorials

Alastair Wilson

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Alastair Wilson in March. Alastair and his wife, Carole, danced for many years, starting with the Victoria Branch before joining Van Isle. Alastair served as Van Isle's Newsletter Editor from 1997 – 1999. Both Alastair and Carole were enthusiastic dancers who supported various social events, both in the Victoria area and further afield. Our condolences go to their family.

Rob and Sue Langridge have added a personal comment:

Alastair taught at South Park Family school with Sue who subjected him to gentle persuasion to join the dance. He and Carole were part of a large contingent of new dancers at that time which included ourselves and Bob and Alice Anderson. We all mingled well and learned from each other. Although Alastair was a very private man, he was an enthusiastic Scot, and Carole happened to be an enthusiast of the Napoleonic era; so between them they soon fell in love with the early dances like "White Cockade" and "Wild Geese". History encrusted with music and dance! How sublime! He was soon helping organize a demonstration of those dances, together with "Dalkeith's Strathspey", in front of his school. The children were astonished to see their teachers perform. And in such fancy dress!

Alastair was a very humane and sensitive man whose friendship was highly prized. He will be sorely missed by all who shared his friendship.

Bob Barbulak

It is with great sorrow that we announce the sudden death of Bob Barbulak, after a short illness. Bob and his wife, Bonnie, were enthusiastic dancers who enjoyed themselves, both in class and at socials. On occasion, they would play their bagpipes at socials. Our heartfelt condolences go to Bonnie and their family.

Art Sutherland

Long-time dancers were saddened to learn of Art Sutherland's passing. Art and his wife, Margery, danced for many years in the Victoria area and were always willing to help out with any job that needed doing. Art was brother to Ian, who is well-known to Van Isle dancers. Our sincere condolences go to Margery and their family.

Here is some information on dances that will appear on the programs for summer dancing.

Bonnie Stronshiray – Stronshiray was part of lands in Argyll designated to a MacIver, whose son forfeited them for his part in the rebellion by Archibald, 9th Earl of Argyll. After the Revolution the lands were restored to the grandson on the condition that he and the heirs of the family of MacIver should assume the name and bear the arms of Campbell. The dance, a strathspey, was devised by Robert (Bob) Campbell, whose family came from this area.
- from "Glasgow Assembly and other SCD", Robert Campbell, 1980 Ed. and from Wikipedia

James Senior of St Andrews – James Senior was the proprietor of a shoe store in St Andrews, which specialized in dance shoes suitable for both SCD and Highland dance. Over the years, he welcomed thousands of dancers from around the world and helped outfit them in dance shoes. He was a delightful gentleman. The store is still in business. The dance is a strathspey devised by Jenny Bradley.

Lochanora – or Lochan Ora, translates as "Golden Loch Liqueur". It was produced by the Chivas Brothers and was made from 100% Scotch whiskies sweetened with heather honey and herbs. Chivas Brothers discontinued production in 2010. The dance was devised by John Drewry and is a strathspey. Long-time dancers will remember King and Margaret Wardell ('King of the Bin'). The dance was a favourite of King's.
- from Wikipedia

The Wapenshaw – or wapinshaw, Old English for "weapon show" was a gathering and review of troops held in every district in Scotland, in order to satisfy the military chiefs that the arms of their retainers were in good condition and that the men were properly trained in their use. The dance is a jig by John Drewry.
- From Wikipedia

EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2017

- Apr 17th – May 22nd** Tuesdays. Spring classes, suitable for beginners, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm. Package 6 classes for \$36.00.
- Apr 26th – May 24th** Thursdays. Mini socials, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. \$5.00 per night. Some SCD experience required.
- May 26th** Ceilidh Dance, Dance Victoria, 2750 Quadra Street, 7:30 pm. \$10.00. Music by Mary Ross and Janette Polson.
- May 29th – Jul 31st** Tuesdays. Practices for summer dancing, City Light Church Hall 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Cost \$5.00.
- May 31st – Aug 2nd** Thursdays. Summer dancing, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 – 10:30 pm. Cost \$8.00. Watch for sign-up sheets for donations of refreshments.
- Aug 18th** Ceilidh. Details to follow.
- Sep 4th** Open House, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

- Jun 18th – Aug 13th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Dancing in Stanley Park, Ceperley Playground, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. No dancing if it is raining at 5:00 pm. Info - <https://rscdsvancouver.org>.
- Jun 23rd** Puget Sound Crossroads, Friday Harbor WA. Info - <http://www.rscds-seattle.org/>.
- Jul 8th – 15th** 43rd Australian Winter School Hunter Valley 2018. Info - <https://HVWS2018.com>. Email cometohvws@gmail.com.
- Jul 29th – Aug 5th** TAC Summer School, Minneapolis MN. Classes for all levels. Early bird registration to May 18. Info - <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school/ss-registration-info-2018>.
- Aug 13th – 17th** Scotch on the Rocks – Scottish Country Dance week, intermediate to advanced level. Info – Duncan Keppie, 902-542-5320; email keppie@eastlink.ca.
- Sep 7th – 9th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Our Bob Anderson is one of the teachers. Info - <http://www.rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden-workshop.html>. Registration is now open.
- Sep 28th – 30th** RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch Biannual Workshop, Moose Jaw SK. Info – Mike Blanchard, micblanchard@sasktel.net; phone 306-690-5182.
- Oct 5th – 7th** St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary and RSCDS Calgary Branch Scots' Gathering 2018, Canmore AB. Ceilidh, SCD classes, ball; Gaelic, culture/history lectures, piping, whisky tasting and more. Info - www.calgaryscots.org, or Ann Vanderwal 403-968-7866.
- Oct 13th** RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch Dartmouth Fall Workshop. Info – Lydia Hedge, 902-482-6577, or www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/Oct_2018_Ad.html.
- Oct 26th – 28th** RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend. Info - asilomar.rscds-sf.org.
- Dec 9th** Sunday. 55th Annual Gleneagles Ball. Details and dance cribs will be available in September. Info - Gillian Muir, 778-279-3995 or muirnet@shaw.ca.

More Ball Photos



Janet and Theresa



Anita and Fred