

Island Fling



May 2019

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

President	June Robinson	250-477-8317	june.robinson@shaw.ca
Past President	Dora Dempster	250-598-0207	doradempster@shaw.ca
1st Vice President and Publicity	Martha Morrison	250-595-6089	mg.morrison@shaw.ca
2nd Vice President and Membership	Rick Deegan	250-477-6271	rdeegan@shaw.ca
Secretary	Betsy Lockhart	250-995-3190	lockhart001@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Edith Chapman	250-592-0143	enchapma@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Sue Langridge	250-592-5086	langridgesue@shaw.ca
Social Convener	Theresa Harbidge	250-658-3834	bharbidge@shaw.ca
Teacher Representative	Sarah Kell	250-598-2612	smkell@shaw.ca

Summer Dancing

Don't put away those dance shoes! There are plenty of opportunities to dance during the summer.

Our **basic classes**, which started on Tuesday, April 30, will continue until Tuesday, May 28. The classes are being held at the City Light Church Hall from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm. We are offering a package deal of five classes for \$25.00. Experienced dancers are welcome to drop into the classes - \$5.00 per night, exact change please.

The **mini socials**, which started on Thursday, April 18, will run to Thursday, May 23. They are being held at the City Light Church Hall from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, \$5.00 drop-in.

Our **ceilidh dance** will be held on Saturday, June 1 at the **St Matthias Church Hall**, 600 Richmond Road, starting at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$5.00. Mary Ross will be playing. Bring all your non-dancing friends and relatives, in the hope that they, too, will become hooked on SCD! Refreshments will be served.

Bob's **summer dancing** socials will start on Thursday, June 6, at City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm. Cost is \$8.00. Look out for the sign-up sheets for refreshments.

Practice classes for Bob's summer dancing socials will be held on Mondays, starting on June 3, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, at the City Light Church Hall, \$5.00. Bob will go over the more difficult dances on the upcoming program.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, August 18, 2019**. Please submit any material to Edith Chapman at enchapma@shaw.ca.

President's report, May 2019

I am pleased to introduce myself as the newly elected President of V.I.S.C.D.S. Many of you may already know me as the membership chair for two years and as a member of the workshop/ball committee. My husband Gordon and I have been members of Van Isle club for 20 years! We started Scottish country dancing in Yellowknife where the club had an excellent teacher and helpful, experienced fellow dancers. I was attracted by the music and the fun of learning the formations and with a distant Scottish heritage (my maiden name was Dewar – like the whiskey) I really enjoy Scottish country dancing! There are many, many dances I like but a couple of my favorites are “City of Belfast” (I love the music) and “Mrs. Stewart’s Jig”! Prior to dancing (life does go back that far!) I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan and before retiring I taught Special Education with the Greater Victoria School District. I am pleased to serve as President of the Society and encourage all members to participate in the activities and responsibilities needed to operate our club.

June Robinson, President



June Robinson
(Photo: Dr Erin Grant)

Highland Games

This year's Highland Games will be held at Topaz Park from May 18 – 20 (long weekend). Games times: Saturday and Sunday – 8:00 am – 7:00 pm; Monday – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. There will be the usual events: dancing, drumming, piping and athletic events. Our Dem Team will be performing on Saturday, May 18 at 4:00 pm. Watch out for our information booth. Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help ‘man’ the booth!

Folkloria

This year's event will be held at Centennial Square on June 8 and 9, noon to 9:00 pm on both days. It is a free event – no charge. As mentioned in the March newsletter, this event is being organized with a view to resurrect the highly-successful Folkfest as it was when it was held at Centennial Square in the 1970's and early 1980's. Our Dem Team will be performing on June 9 from 1:45 pm to 2:00 pm.

TAC Summer School

The Summer School, organized and run by the Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada), better known as Teachers' Association (Canada), is being held in Calgary AB from July 28 – August 4. This event has proved to be extremely popular and is *now fully-booked*. You can still register without paying and be put on a waiting list. If you are willing to attend as a non-resident, contact the Registrar, seregistrar@tac-rscds.org. Teachers please note that this also applies to the Teachers' Conference Weekend, July 26 – July 28.

If you miss out on this year, there is always next year – the Summer School is returning to Calgary for 2020!

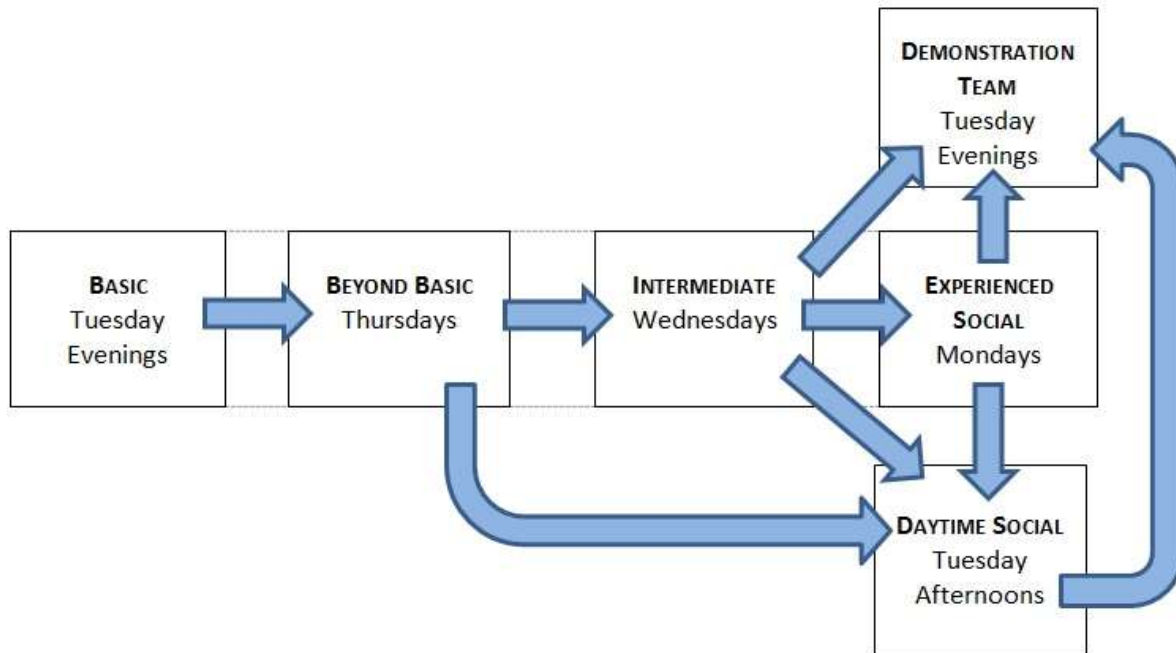
Teachers' Corner

Our dance group is lucky to have enough members to offer classes at the basic, beyond basic, intermediate, advanced social and demonstration levels. The teachers believe that this provides dancers with the best opportunity to learn to dance, along with others with similar dance experience. This should result in the most enjoyable dancing for our members. We hope that dancers will want to work their way through the various levels, and that more experienced dancers will join the basic and beyond basic classes to help others learn the dancing. VISCDs allows you to register and pay for one class level and dance in other classes below your level without further fees.

Should you feel ready to try the next class level, please talk with your present teacher and, if you are ready, they will pave the way for you with the next class. The teacher may suggest that you dance in your current level and the next level for a period of time. Teachers may also approach you to indicate that you are ready for the next class, and if so, please try it out – we have all been new to a class, and you will find lots of friendly faces in that next class.

For the demonstration class, you do not need to be an advanced dancer but enjoy performing and being at community events and learning a dance routine with a team of dancers. If this interests you, please contact Joan Axford at 250-474-1018 or joanaaxford@gmail.com.

Joan Axford



Membership

The society continues to have a membership of 125 members now with 9 “Life Members”. Congratulations to Dora Dempster on receiving a life membership at the AGM. Publicity from Ceilidhs, Open Houses and the Highland Games continues to result in attracting people to Scottish Country Dancing. Retention is important, too, and continued friendliness toward and welcoming of new comers by members is very important. I have enjoyed serving as membership chair on the Executive for the past two years; however, I am pleased to take on the challenge of President. I would like to welcome Rick Deegan as Membership chair and, as Rick has had this position before, he will be a great addition to the Executive again.

June Robinson

In Memoriam



Photo – Mairi Maxwell

ALEXANDER JAPPY

Alexander Jappy, affectionately known as the “Buckie Loon,” quietly took leave of this planet on the 8th of March 2019. He was born in Buckie Scotland and his musical talent was apparent from an early age. He showed skill at playing hymns on his grannie’s portable organ. At age sixteen his uncle gave him an accordion, and as they say, the rest is history. Alex immigrated to Canada in 1952. It was in Scarborough, Ont. that Alex met Ruth Gordon. This turned out to be “the perfect match made in heaven”. For the next sixty-three years they were a dynamic duo, sharing their love of music and dance to Scottish Country as well as Old Time Dancers.

Alex became the accordionist for pianist Don Bartlett’s band, providing music for many years. They produced two Scottish Country Dance Albums: “Don Bartlett and the Scotians Play Favourites” and “In Triumph”. These recordings remain favourites to this day, as the music does “tell the dancer what to do” - clear phrasing, precise steady tempos and great melodies.

Alex always loved the sea and the milder climate of the west coast, so made the move to Delta BC in 1978. After purchasing a municipal lot, Alex enlisted Ruth as his co-worker and together, they built their new home from the ground up. One year later, Ruth was teaching SCD at the Delta Borderers Club and Alex played for all the weekly classes for forty years.

Daughters, Donna, Maureen, and Melanie, were also involved in SCDancing and piano lessons. It was Maureen who would learn the Scottish style of piano accompaniment and take it to a professional level. Dancers were now in for a double treat with both Alex and Maureen performing together at classes, dances and workshops. Alex was always willing to share his musical knowledge with other musicians interested in learning the Scottish Idiom. Time never seemed to be a factor as he patiently tutored potential Scottish Country Dance musicians.

Alex first played for the Victoria RSCDS Branch in 1982. This was the beginning of a long time relationship with the Branch and all the other clubs on Vancouver Island. Alex made friends easily with his cheerful and outgoing personality. He had a wide range of interests and hobbies. He was a keen listener, always engaging people in conversation and was interested in their welfare.

Those of us who have been fortunate to meet Alex and dance to his music will realize how much he enriched our lives. Mention his name and our faces will light up as we recall the happy memories given to us by this wonderful kind hearted human being. If we could ask Alex to say a few words, I am fairly sure that he would quote his favourite motto: “Carry on Regardless.”

A Celebration of Life for Alex will be held on Sunday, May 19, at the Jappys’ home, 6496 - 108A Street, Delta, from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Please rsvp by May 13, via email, AlexRuthJappy@dccnet.com; or phone, 604 594-6807, if you plan on attending. See the notice on RSCDS Vancouver Branch’s website, <https://rscdsvancouver.org/>.

Mary Ross

The members of Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society extend sincere condolences to Ruth and family on Alex’s passing. Scottish Country Dance has lost a wonderful man and superb musician.

September 28, 2019 – Mark this date!

Dear Dancers,

We are not prepared to grow old gracefully, so you are invited to the

Septuagenarian Stomp!

to celebrate various milestones and kick off the new season of Scottish Country Dancing. We don't have a program for you yet, but besides a sampling of our personal favourites, there will be dances for every level including this year's newcomers (we stole a copy of the Spring Fling program). We want everyone to come.

Mary Ross will be providing her usual great music, and the City Light Church Hall is booked for the evening. Time: 7:30 pm. Admission will be free, but since it's a potluck, you will be bringing the food (you didn't think you were getting off scot-free, did you?)

So, keep that date open and we'll see you there!

Maureen and Jamie Orr

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society Annual Workshop and Ball

The annual Van Isle workshop and ball was held on "National Tartan Day" Saturday, April 6, 2019 in Victoria. Three levels of workshops were held (basic, intermediate & experienced) in the James Bay area. Workshops featured teachers Mary Murray from Vancouver, Alan Twhigg from San Francisco and Richard Bennett from Salt Spring Island. Also featured at the workshops were musicians: Julie Smith from Vancouver and our own Mary Ross and Janet Yonge from Victoria. This extraordinary group of excellent teachers, accompanied by very talented musicians, presided over an enthusiastic group of 53 people in a full morning of sharpening their dance skills, and learning engaging dances. By all reports, a happy and inspiring experience was had by all who attended. Providing an extra source of fun, photographs taken at workshops by Chris Kloosterman can be viewed on our website www.viscnds.ca.

The evening Ball (Semi-formal) was held at the Ambrosia Event Centre in Victoria and the Tartan Players Band from Vancouver provided the music. The dance program, compiled collectively by all our Van Isle teachers, consisted of sixteen well-chosen dances with a nice mix of basic, intermediate and advanced dances. Dr. Erin Grant was on site, capturing the spirit of the evening by taking many photographs. Ball attendees received access via email to a website link to view and or download the photos. Sixty-two people came out to enjoy this very special evening. We were delighted to welcomed dancers from BC including Nelson, Salt Spring Island, Vancouver and Vancouver Island and also Washington State and Scotland.

Piper Jamie Orr led the Grand March into the Hall and the Marshall, Maureen Orr, directed the dancers into sets. The Tartan Players struck up rousing, toe tapping music for the first dance of the evening "The Highland Fair". Masters of Ceremonies for the evening, Heather Hermanson and David Walde, directed the schedule with efficiency, charm and good humor. All of the guest teachers and our own local teachers took turns briefing the dances on the program. Just beyond midway through the program, tables and chairs were set in place for a delicious finger food buffet. Following the break, June Robinson (Chair of Workshop and Ball Committee) welcomed everyone, introduced and thanked all the members of the committee for all the hard work done. David Walde then thanked June for a job well done in organizing this year's workshops and ball and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from members of Van Isle Club including committee members. The evening continued with more enthusiastic dancing and concluded with words from the President of the Van Isle Club, Dora Dempster, who thanked emcees, musicians, teachers, Committee members, all of the numerous volunteers and the attendees, both local and from afar, all of whom contributed to make this year's event a resounding success.

Thank you all who attended and also the members who volunteered. We hope to see you at next year's workshop and ball!

Kathy Grant

Workshop and Ball Committee

VISCDS

Your Workshop and Ball Committee

Photo: Dr Erin Grant



Pictured left to right: Kathy Grant, June Robinson (Chair) Gordon Robinson, Barb Currie, Lori Morrison, Pat Warman, Anita Mathur, Janet Yonge

Workshop Photos (Basic class)

Photos: Chris Kloosterman



Spring Fling 2019

We have two write-ups this time. My thanks to Beverley and Theresa.

The April 27 Spring Fling was a big success, with over 40 people attending. A heartfelt, "Thank you!" goes out to Sheila for teaching the basic class in her calm, clear way, making new dancers feel empowered to take risks and not worry about making mistakes as they learn. At the Spring Fling, Sheila led dancers through a fun mix of basic and intermediate formations. It was a pleasure to spend the evening enjoying the selections of music, too!

Break time allowed dancers to refuel with a wide selection of tasty treats. The winner of the 50/50 draw was announced during break, so congratulations to lucky Gordon Hawkins, who won \$43 in the 50/50 draw.

Thank you to all volunteers who did their part for the Spring Fling. You are all appreciated:

Door: Joan

50/50 tickets: Margaret

Kitchen Prep: Sheila & Anne

Food: Dean, Dawn, Dora, Sushi, Anne, Sheila, Angela, Sue, Sandy, Jennifer, Marg, Kathy, and others who contributed.

Kitchen Clean Up: Alex, Bev, and others who generously pitched in

Hall Clean Up: Blair and others who, despite having danced for 3 hours, put in the energy to stack chairs

Set Up: there are no names recorded, but volunteers had the hall, ticket table and snacks table ready to go when the dancers arrived.

Thank you to everyone who joined the basic class for a lively night of music, dancing, conversation and laughter.

Beverley Ross, Class Rep

The Basic class hosted Spring Fling on April the 27 this year and it was attended by 41 dancers.

Sheila McCall, the Basic Class Teacher, led us through the dances and the floor was always full with many happy participants. The dancers from beginners were well represented and eager to give it a try!

Thanks to Joan McIntosh and Margaret Dohan for helping at the front door, Sheila Eaglestone in the kitchen and all the Basic Class and others who provided a lovely table of goodies. Thanks as well to those who put the chairs down to start and back at the end.

Gordon Hawkins was the winner of the 50/50 draw and pocketed \$43.00!

Next social is in the fall, and hope to see everyone there.

Theresa Harbidge

Ball Photos

Photos: Dr. Erin Grant



Grand March

More Workshop photos
Photos: Chris Kloosterman



Basic Class



Intermediate class



Advanced class

More Ball Photos
Photos: Dr. Erin Grant



EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2019

- Apr 30th – May 28th** Spring classes, basic level, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm. Cost \$25.00 for five classes.
- Apr 18th – May 23rd** Mini socials, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 -9:30 pm. \$5.00 drop-in.
- Jun 1st** Ceilidh, St Matthias Church Hall, 600 Richmond Road. \$5.00. See notice in this newsletter.
- Jun 3rd** Mondays. Start of practice sessions for summer dancing, \$5.00 drop in, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. City Light Church Hall. (June 3 practice class; June 6 social).
- Jun 6th** Thursdays. Start of summer social dancing, 7:30 – 10:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. \$8.00 drop in. Look for sign-up sheets for donations of refreshments.
- Sep 3rd** Open House, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. Details in the September newsletter.
- Sep 28th** Jamie and Maureen’s Septuagenarian’s Stomp, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. See notice in this newsletter.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2019

- Jun 8th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Summer Ball, Leif Erickson Hall, Ballard, 7:30 pm. Music – The Giants’ Causeway SCD Band. Tickets (US \$): by May 24 - \$60.00; at the door - \$65.00. Info and registration form - <https://rscds-seattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Ball-Flyer-prototype-black-white-1.pdf>.
- Jun 17th – Aug 19th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Dancing in Stanley Park, Ceperley Playground, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Wear sturdy shoes as you will be dancing on cement. Note there is no dancing on Civic Holidays (July 1 and August 5). Note also the weather policy: no dancing if it is wet at 5:00 pm. This is Dancing in the Park’s 70th year – congratulations to Vancouver Branch!
- Jun 29th** Puget Sound Crossroads, Grange Hall, Friday Harbor, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Live music. Dancing begins at 2:00 pm. Admission fee tba. Info - <https://rscds-seattle.org/event/puget-sound-crossroads/>
- Jul 14th – Aug 11th** RSCDS Summer School, St Andrews Scotland. Registration now being accepted. Info - <https://www.rscds.org/article/book-now-for-summer-school-2019>.
- Jul 28th – Aug 4th** Teachers’ Association (Canada) Summer School, Mount Royal University, Calgary. Online registration available. *This event is now fully booked for residents of the School.* See notice in this newsletter. Info – www.tac-rscds.org.
- Aug 18th – 25th** Scottish Dance Week, Prague. For experienced dancers. Classes in Scottish Country Dance and Czech Folk Dance. SCD teacher – Ron Wallace; class musician – Muriel Johnstone. Info - <http://www.dvorana.cz/>.
- Sep 6th – 8th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Online registration open now. This is a very popular Weekend, so book early to avoid disappointment. Info - <https://rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden-workshop-main/>.
- Oct 11th – 13th** The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary Cultural Gathering, including Scottish Country Dancing and various other dance forms, music, art, Gaelic, history and more, Canmore AB. Info – www.calgaryscots.org.
- Nov 1st – 3rd** RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend. Registrations now being accepted. Info - <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>.
- Dec 6th – 8th** Scottish Country Dancing in Curia Portugal. Classes suitable for Intermediate and Advanced dancers. Info – www.moonluza.pt.
- Dec 8th** Gleneagles Ball. Information will be available in September. Ticket reservation - Gillian Muir, 778-279-3995 or muirnet@shaw.ca.

For Sale – Prince Charlie jacket, size 42; and a day jacket and vest size 36-38. These jackets are being sold on consignment at the House of Savoy, 1869 Oak Bay Avenue. Original owner was Jo Wigmore, who was given these jackets and who is unable to store them. Jo is a former Scottish Country Dancer. Contact the House of Savoy directly if you are interested.