

Island Fling



January 2022

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
c/o 2070 Renfrew Road
Victoria BC V8P 1S4
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
Web address: www.viscds.ca

Executive Committee

President	June Robinson	250-477-8317	viscdspresident@shaw.ca
1st Vice President and Publicity	Louise Perry		
2nd Vice President and Membership	Barb Currie		
Secretary	Betsy Lockhart		
Newsletter Editor	Edith Chapman		
Treasurer	Sue Langridge		
Social Convenor Committee	Ellen Campbell		
	Donna Clements		
	Sheila Eaglestone		
	Lori Morrison		
Teacher Representative	Gordon Robinson		

President's Report, January, 2022

We did it! We returned to Scottish Country Dancing this Fall and it is a relief to say all went well! Thanks to our great teachers we were able to offer 5 classes a week. Dancers showed their vaccine passports and amazingly managed to dance wearing masks! We are almost used to them now! We had three successful dance events starting with our Harvest Social on October 16. A very special tribute and dance afternoon for Joan Axford was held on November 20 and then the long-awaited Christmas evening on December 11.

Unfortunately as this issue of the *Fling* is being prepared in early January our dancing has again come to a complete stop due to a resurgence of Covid. Our plans to start dancing classes in early January will be delayed. Unfortunately this also means the Burns Night scheduled for January 22 will be cancelled again this year. With any luck we will be back to dancing in February and our Valentine's afternoon tea on February 26 will go ahead. Stay tuned.

Plans continue to be made for the Workshop and Ball on April 2 and a special dance in tribute to Dora Dempster on May 7. We are hopeful we can go ahead with all of these dates in the Spring. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and healthy New Year!

June Robinson, President

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, February 20, 2022**. Please submit any material to Edith Chapman at enchapma@shaw.ca.

Photos of Joan's celebration dance and the Christmas event are by Ray Fischer. My thanks to Ray.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
Winter 2022 Classes
All classes (except the afternoon class) run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Mondays, January 3 to April 4, 2022

Tuesdays, January 4 to April 5, 2022

Tuesday afternoons, January 4 to April 5, 2022 (1:15 pm to 3:15 pm – note change of times)

Wednesdays - amalgamated with the Thursday class

Thursdays, January 6 to April 7, 2022

Thursday, April 21 - AGM

All the classes are held at the City Light Church, 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria V9A 1K5.

At this time all dance classes are cancelled due to Provincial Public Health Orders. Notice will be sent out by e-mail upon resumption of classes and dance activities. Also please check the website for up-dated information: www.viscds.ca

Drop-in Fees

You'll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60 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

Monday	Jan Beckett	beckettjanice@gmail.com	250 598-0464
	Barbara De Leebeeck	bdeleebeeck@yahoo.com	778 677-3124
Tuesday afternoon	Lori Morrison	bruce.lori.morrison@telus.net	250 478-7897
	Martha Morrison	mg.morrison@shaw.ca	250 595-6089
Tuesday evening	Susan Jones	susannmjones4@shaw.ca	250 595-2117
	Susan Fraser	susanleefraser@shaw.ca	250 514-6378
Thursday	June Robinson	viscdspresident@shaw.ca	250 477-8317
	Louise Perry	louise@fischerperry.com	250 896-4176

Membership/Class Fees

This is a reminder to members who are paying their class fees in half-year installments that January to April fees are now due. Please give these fees (\$60.00) to your class rep, or to the Membership Secretary. Thank you.

Membership renewals are still being taken for the 2021/2022 year. Membership forms are available online on the VISCDs website or from your class rep. Both returning and new members must pay the \$30.00 membership fee. Class fees can be paid using a Punch card (10 classes for \$60.00) or by paying the half-year fee of \$60.00 for returning members or \$48.00 for new members.

Barb Currie, Membership Secretary

Weather Cancellation Policy

After having our classes disrupted by the snow event of a few years ago, the teachers and Executive came up with the following weather cancellation policy. Let's hope we don't have to use it too often!

If a class is cancelled due to winter weather, the president will notify members by email by 5pm (or 11am for the afternoon class). Once a class has been cancelled, it will stay cancelled for that day, even if the weather improves later on. If in doubt about whether a class is going ahead, please remember to check your email. (The teacher will telephone members without email.)

February Event

February 26, 2022

2 – 5 pm

City Light Church

\$10.00



Dance name	Bars type	Level	Core	Source
Flowers of Edinburgh (B)	8X32R	B	X	RSCDS Book 1
John McAlpin (B)	8X32S	BB	X	Foss: Magazine Dances
Joe McDiarmid's Jig	4X32J	B	X	RSCDS 5 SCDs 1982
Catch the Wind	8X32H	BB		RSCDS Book 45
Sands of Morar	8X32S	I	X	RSCDS Book 45
Tribute to the Borders	8X32J	BB	X	RSCDS Leaflets
Bratach Bana (B)	8X32R	A	X	Drewry – Bon Accord
City of Belfast	3X32S	I	X	RSCDS Book 48
Joie de Vivre (B)	8X32J	B		RSCDS Book 39
Mairi's Wedding (B)	8X40R	I	X	Cosh: 22 SCD
The Paisley Weaver	3X32S	BB		RSCDS Graded Book 3
Pelorous Jack (B)	8X32J	I	X	RSCDS Book 41
Break				
The Lass of Richmond Hill (B)	8X32R	BB	X	RSCDS Graded 2
Midsummer Common (B)	8X32S	I		RSCDS Book 49
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	4X32J	A		Drewry – Canadian Book
The De'il Amang the Tailors (B)	8X32R	B	X	RSCDS Book 14
Extras				
The Reel of the Royal Scots	8X32R	I		RSCDS Leaflet Dances
The Gentleman	8X32S	I		RSCDS Book 35
Hosted by Tuesday afternoon class				
All dances will be briefed				
B on April Ball program				

Workshop and Ball 2022

As you look forward to 2022, please include the VISCDS Workshop and Mini Ball on Saturday, April 2nd in your plans. The workshop will be a single multi-level class in the morning taught by Richard Bennett from Salt Spring Island with music provided by Mary Ross. The Mini Ball will kick off with Jamie Orr piping us in for the Grand March, the evening's music will be provided by the ever popular Mary Ross, and everyone will be encouraged to turn up in their best bib and tucker. Both events will be held at The City Light Church on Obed Avenue. The food offerings will be modified to comply with any current health restrictions. We are offering an all-inclusive registration for both the workshop and the ball. Registration will be opening in late February.

The Ball and Workshop Committee would welcome any new members. If you enjoy being involved in planning and organizing social events with a fabulous group of people, this is for you!! Anyone interested please contact Kathryn at kathrynknowles@shaw.ca. No experience necessary, just a willingness to contribute your time.

Kathryn Knowles, Committee Chair

VISCDS Ball April 2, 2022				
Dance Name	Bars & Type	Level	Core	Source
Good Hearted Glasgow*	8x32 J	B	X	Guide to SCD (Collins)
Flowers of Edinburgh	8x32 R	B	X	Book 1
John McAlpin	8x32 S	BB	X	Three Dances by Foss
Farewell to Balfour Road**	96 J for 5c	A	X	Book 52
Orpington Caledonians	8x32 R	I	X	Book 49
Culla Bay	4x32 S sq	I	X	Book 41
Muirland Willie / Highland Fair	8x32 J	A/B	X	Book 21 / Graded Book
The Lass of Richmond Hill	8x32 R	BB	X	Second Graded Book
Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell**	4x32 S	A	X	Book 52
The De'il Amang the Tailors*	8x32 R	B	X	Book 14
BREAK				
Joie de Vivre	8x32 J	B	no	Thirty Popular SCDs v2
Midsummer Common	8x32 S	I	X	Book 49
Bratach Bana	8x32R	A	X	Bon Accord
Pelorus Jack	8x32 J	I	X	Book 41
The Belle of Bon Accord	4x32 S	BB	X	Deeside Part 2
Mairi's Wedding	8x40 R	I	X	22 SCD's (Cosh)

* Briefing only, no walk through

** No briefing

Photos of Joan's 40th Anniversary Event – see pages 5 and 6



Nominating Committee



April seems like a long way off right now but that is the month of our AGM, which will be on April 21, 2022. It is not too early to think about how you might contribute to the future successful operation of V.I.S.C.D.S.

Four Executive members will complete their term this year so members are welcome to join the Executive for the positions of: President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in putting your name forward for any of these positions please contact a member of the Executive or Martha Morrison for further information. If recruitment is your forte, Martha would be pleased to receive your help on the Nominating Committee.

June Robinson

A Thank You from Joan



Thank you so much for the wonderful event on November 20th that celebrated my 40 plus years of teaching for the VISCDS. It was so special and so perfect.

As I said on the day, I view this as a celebration of the VISCDS as much as my milestone of 40 years of teaching for VISCDS. It is the society that has given me the opportunity to dance and teach the Scottish dance that I love and be involved in community with the demo team. Many teachers reach this milestone but not with the same dance group.

The society has grown and adjusted to continue to be relevant to dancers over the years. We have had presidents like Thelma Bell and Barbara Watt who did this while respecting the traditions; Jim Scott and

Dora Dempster who worked so hard to recruit members; Lorne Duncan who made sure our finances were healthy; and June Robinson who brought us through a pandemic.

Our group has always had good teachers and I have enjoyed working with and learning from all of them; there have been 21 over the years. Our current teachers – Bob Anderson, Gordon Robinson, Louise McGillivray, Sheila McCall, Gael Forster and Sarah Kell - are some of the best.

I can't say enough about the commitment of the demo teams - they make me look good and they work with me on my crazy skit ideas and last-minute changes to choreography. There have been 79 dancers on the team since 1989 when I started directing the demonstration team.

Thank you to all the organizers: the Wednesday class; Gael, Sarah, Lori, Barb; to Robin, David and Jamie who marched me into the hall; Ray who took photos; Gordon and Pattie who spoke; Gael, Gordon and Sarah who briefed dances; Bob who wrote a lovely dance and original music by Chris Dewhurst; Monica Roots who came from Galiano Island; and all the dancers who attended.

I appreciate so much that I am still able to teach and participate in the dancing that I love.

Joan Axford



Celebration of Joan Axford's 40 Years of Contribution to the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

On Saturday afternoon, November 20th, the Wednesday night class hosted the long-anticipated dance honoring Joan Axford for her 40+ years teaching. It was a well-attended event with 50 club members and six guests present.

The afternoon started with Jamie Orr piping Joan into the hall, escorted by Robin Gubby and David Walde. June Robinson welcomed everyone to the special afternoon. The dancers were then called to the floor by M.C. Gael Forster who briefed the first dance and then the dancing began! The entire program was a selection of dances with special significance to Joan.

Some highlights:

- Pattie Whitehouse's tribute to Joan, which included a poem she wrote in appreciation.
- Lori Morrison and Gael Forster presenting Joan with a specially decorated cake and a bouquet of roses.
- Gordon Robinson's speech recounting Joan's many accomplishments over the years in her dance life and her professional life.
- A demonstration of a dance written and briefed by Bob Anderson for Joan, called 'Joan's Ruby Jubilee'.
- A presentation to Joan of a CD with music commissioned and written for 'Joan's Ruby Jubilee' by Chris Dewhurst.
- Special guests attending were Pattie Whitehouse and Robert Irvine, Monica Roots, Kurt Bandelou, Penny Catton and Ed Pitkin.
- Sarah Kell helped to organize the event, but was unable to attend due to illness. Still, she phoned in and was able to brief a dance!

It was a great celebration of our very talented Joan Axford. The afternoon just flew by.

Thank you to Gael Forster and Sarah Kell, who co-planned the celebration. Also, many thanks to Lori Morrison and the Social Committee, and the Wednesday night class, for their help with all the details of the event. And thank you to all who helped clean-up. There was such a warm feeling of community after nearly two years of isolation, to listen and share stories about Joan, to socialize with friends, and be back together to dance!

Louise Perry



Christmas Event 2021

Twos two weeks before Christmas and 51 dancers arrived to celebrate this festive holiday season. A taste of normalcy in a safe environment in our world turned upside down.

Thank you, Thank you to Mary Ross for making this evening a magical experience. We are so fortunate to be able to dance to such fantastic music. Three cheers to all our members from the Basic Class for coming out and joining in the celebration. Welcome to you, and we hope you had a wonderful time this evening. Congratulations to Sheila McCall for winning the 50/50 pot of \$64.00. An early Christmas treat for Sheila. And thank you to all who supported our 50/50 fundraiser. What makes this night almost perfect was Joan Axford kindly calling the dances. We want you to know how much we appreciate this, Joan. Notice I said "almost perfect". Did I hear someone calling out plaintively for egg sandwiches? What was missing was a table filled with treats made with loving care for all to share. And a hot cup of tea or coffee with the chit chat that naturally happens before the music calls us back to the dance floor. We must still be patient and hopeful that by next year we will see better times for all.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Sheila Eaglestone



Get ready ... get set ... and plan to join the fun at



2022 TAC Summer School
Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada
July 24-31, 2022



Welcoming, supportive classes
For dancers of all levels
Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet |
evening after parties | ceilidh | silent auction

Teachers

Raphaëlle Orgeret (France)
Robert McOwen (USA)
Jeanne Moody (USA)
Barbara Johnston (Canada)

Musicians

Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins,
Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins,
not pictured:
Terry Traub, Mary Ross



tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)



Teachers' Corner (reprinted from the November 2018 *Fling*)

RSCDS Membership

One of our newer members recently asked me if she should join a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). I said "absolutely, yes!"

VISCDS as a group is Affiliated to the RSCDS, but individual club members need not be RSCDS members. All our teachers are RSCDS members, and hold RSCDS Teaching Certificates.

Becoming a member of the RSCDS connects you to a worldwide network of Scottish Country Dancers. Members receive *Scottish Country Dancer* magazine twice a year, with news from dance groups around the world, and can access additional resources in the members' area on www.rscds.org. Our "local" Branch, RSCDS Vancouver (www.rscdsvancouver.org) has members all over BC, and in northern Washington State. The Vancouver Branch website and newsletter provide great connections to dance events and classes in Greater Vancouver as well as down the west coast. Dancers around the world may also join the International Branch (www.rscds-ib.org).

The only downside of RSCDS membership is that it costs money! Annual dues (\$55 for Vancouver Branch and £28 for International Branch) make many of us frugal Scottish-Canadians think twice – all that just for a couple of magazines?

However, membership fees also support the RSCDS's overall work: publishing and circulating dances (Book 52 and counting), coordinating teacher training and certification, and running or supporting dance events around the world. The RSCDS hosts outstanding Summer and Winter Schools in Scotland, for dancers from Basic to Very Advanced, as well as the Spring Fling weekend for younger dancers (now paired with Spring Fringe for the rest of us!), held in a different European city each year. Ask Fiona and Pat Warman and Gael Forster about their adventures at Summer School this past August!

But perhaps the RSCDS's biggest success is in building a network of dancers worldwide and establishing standards such that members can attend a dance anywhere "from Aberdeen to Adelaide, Cape Town to Chicago, and Toronto to Tokyo" and feel at home on the dance floor. Get connected to the RSCDS and bring your dancing shoes wherever you travel!

Sarah Kell, Then-Teachers' Rep

Akana and Sydney came to Victoria earlier this fall and danced with every one of our classes! They truly enjoyed themselves (and also doing the tourist bit - they had never been to Victoria before). I met them at TAC Summer School in Vancouver (2017?) when I taught an afternoon optional class and they were new dancers. Saw them again at TAC Calgary. With luck will see them in Calgary next July. Akana and Sydney live in Troutdale, Oregon, near Portland.
- Louise McGillivray

My thanks to Louise for sending this to me.

DANCING DURING A PANDEMIC, OR HOW NOT TO CROSS THE CANADIAN BORDER

You're doomed as soon as you think you know it all. That was what my mentor in a former job told me over and over again. I was young and skeptical at the time, but of course he was right. Did I learn my lesson? Well, not completely....

This is a tale about finding a respite of joy during the pandemic and the travails to find it.

Like so many, Sydney and I have been sequestered on our property for nearly the entire pandemic. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I am still too busy with business that keeps me glued to a computer, and Sydney has more work than one human can do in a lifetime with managing our property.... and me.

We've generally been very vigilant about maintaining our health during the pandemic, but with an apparent downturn in Covid cases and an easing of travel restrictions, we decided to strike out on a road trip in September to find some Scottish Country Dancing that wasn't via a computer monitor. Not that everyone worldwide who has tried to keep the dance community connected shouldn't be praised for their efforts, but I just don't find virtual dancing that fulfilling. I have supported and followed all the protocols to keep the virus at bay, with the exception of injecting bleach and few other dubious "remedies," but I thought at the time the conditions were fine for a bit more safe social contact.

The question for us was where to find Scottish Country Dancing where we'd feel safe. So, it was with some trepidation that Sydney and I set out for a long drive and holiday in Victoria, BC - our first significant trip of any kind "off campus" since hunkering down 19 months ago.

But first, how to get there. Well, know before you go. Sounds simple right? Of course, I thought, as someone who reads and interprets convoluted federal regulations every day for a living, this should be easy to figure out. So, I looked up Canada's conditions necessary to cross the border, and indeed, U.S. residents were recently allowed to travel north in August 2021. Check. We were fully vaccinated. Check. As required for land travel, I had also registered and uploaded our passport and travel itinerary into ArriveCan, the Canadian travel registry. Check. Lastly, we had arranged to get Covid tests through our doctor's office, and results would be available within 72 hours of our crossing the border. Check.

Well, that's where things went haywire. For all you prospective venturers up north, be aware that your Covid test must be conducted within 72 hours of your border crossing. If your test results are dated within 72 hours (which I thought was what the regulations meant), you will be turned away at the border, probably with a frown by an unrelenting Canadian Customs officer, as were we. To add insult to injury, it didn't matter that we had just driven six ours from Troutdale, Oregon to the Blaine, Washington crossing.

After berating myself for misreading the regulations, and many phone calls to local pharmacies to no avail, we finally decided our only option on a cold, rainy, Sunday was to drive 3 hours south to Seattle airport to see if we could schedule a Covid test on Monday.

Needing a bit of luck, we found some in the form of an express Covid testing station that was still open at 5pm on a Sunday at the airport. Even better, they took us as walk-ins, and we got our negative test results in an hour, but at a hefty price. Given the possibilities, we considered ourselves fortunate, and headed back north.

As for dancing, (I know you thought I'd never get to it), we headed for Victoria on Vancouver Island. And yes, the dancing was glorious! In Victoria, BC, the local SCD branch has restarted classes and dances. Syd and I were elated to be invited to join any of their 5 classes held each week. Being the zealots that we are, we went to 6 classes over the span of 8 days in Victoria. I thought they mitigated the risk of virus infection very well by instituting measures that we have all discussed previously - vaccination and masking. All attendees of classes were required to show proof of vaccination and all needed to wear masks over nose and mouth the entire time in the dance hall, unless drinking water. Everyone knew the ground rules and everyone abided by them in all classes without exception.....and everything went quite smoothly.....and it was immensely enjoyable.

Continued on page 10

BE CALM ♥ BE KIND ♥ BE SAFE.

EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2022

Jan 22nd	Burns Event, 7:30 pm. This event has been CANCELLED.
Feb 26th	Valentine tea event, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. \$10.00. The program is in this issue.
Apr 2nd	Workshop and Ball. See article and program in this issue.
Apr 21st	Annual General Meeting, 7:30 pm. Further info later.
Apr 23rd	Spring Fling, 7:30 pm, \$10.00. Further info later.
May 7th	Tribute to Dora Dempster. Further info later.

All events are tentative, subject to the guidelines set by the provincial health authorities. All events are held at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue, with the exception of the Workshop and Ball.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

All events that have not either been cancelled or postponed are subject to the local Covid-19 conditions at the time the event is to take place.

2022

Feb 18th – 20th	RSCDS Hawaii Branch Aloha Winter Weekend. Email - Melissa, mlindsay@hawaii.rr.com . Info on their website - https://rscdshawaii.org/workshop/ . At the moment (early January 2022) it looks like this event is going ahead.
Feb 19th	RSCDS Vancouver Branch ‘Love to Dance’ Workshop, Dance and concert. These events have been CANCELLED. Info – www.rscdsvancouver.org .
Mar 19th	RSCDS Vancouver Branch Heather Ball. CANCELLED.
Apr 8th – 10th	RSCDS Lethbridge Branch Milestones Workshop and Ball <u>postponed to April 8 – 10, 2022</u> . Info (not secure) - http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html .
Jul 24th – Aug 14th	RSCDS Summer School, St Andrews Scotland. Provisional dates. If you are interested in attending the School, you can register your interest by filling out the online form. Info - https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022

Continued from page 9

I came to dancing later in life, but I think it’s never too late. And for me, the pandemic has not diminished my newfound love of Scottish Country Dancing. It has been a difficult hiatus, but it confirms for me how comforting and enjoyable the act of simple dance can be. To share a momentary gaze at your partner or the person opposite you – to feel the touch of another person’s hand – to see and feel the synchronicity of dancers covering in formation – to hear a beautiful reel, jig, or strathspey informing your step and cadence – these are all aspects of Scottish Country Dancing that I find immensely rewarding.

To be sure, I am not able to do or appreciate all of what dancing offers, but I look forward to our return to the dance floor and the opportunity to try once more.

Akana Ma

More photos of the Christmas Event

