

# Island Fling



**May 2022**

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o 3290 Woodburn Avenue

Victoria BC V8P 5B9

Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Web address:** [www.viscdis.ca](http://www.viscdis.ca)

## **Executive Committee**

President	Kathryn Knowles	250 598-3490	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>
Past President	June Robinson		
1st Vice President and Publicity	Louise Perry		
2nd Vice President and Membership	Barb Currie		
Secretary	Dawn Schell		
Newsletter Editor	Ray Fischer		
Treasurer	Martha Morrison		
Social Convenor Committee	Ellen Campbell		
	Donna Clements		
	Sheila Eaglestone		
	Lori Morrison		
Teacher Representative	Gordon Robinson		

## **President's Comments, May, 2022**

It is with pleasure that I write my first report as president of the VISCDS. Thank you all for your vote of confidence. I am looking forward to working together with the executive and class reps as we continue providing a safe and welcoming dancing experience for anyone interested in SCD.

I believe our club provides a truly enjoyable activity that fortifies the mind, body and spirit. It is one of the best values for your money in town! Now that the COVID restrictions are loosening up it is my hope that we can offer some events that will introduce new dancers to the joy of SCD.

With no intent to reinvent the wheel, I am asking for your feedback if you have ideas that might improve/complement our already well functioning society.

Thanks to everyone who pitches in to help make our classes and events run so smoothly. I would like to extend my congratulations to the latest life members; Edith Chapman, June Robinson and Gordon Robinson.

Please feel free to contact me anytime. I shall see you all on the dance floor.

Respectfully,

**Kathryn Knowles, President**

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**. Please submit any material to Ray Fischer at [ray@fischerperry.com](mailto:ray@fischerperry.com).

## **(New) Editor's Note:**

Thanks to Edith for all the years she has been doing our newsletter. I'll enjoy being your new newsletter editor.

**Ray Fischer**

**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 May 23, 2022

Tuesdays, January 4 to May 24, 2022

Tuesday afternoons, January 4 to May 24, 2022 (1:15 pm to 3:15 pm – note change of times)

Wednesdays - amalgamated with the Thursday class

Thursdays, January 6 to May 26, 2022

Ending dates of the classes have been extended to make up for classes missed due to the Covid 19 restrictions imposed at the beginning of the year. All the classes are held at the City Light Church, 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria V9A 1K5.

### Class Reps

Monday	Jan Beckett	<a href="mailto:beckettjanice@gmail.com">beckettjanice@gmail.com</a>	250 598-0464
	Barbara De Leebeeck	<a href="mailto:bdeleebeeck@yahoo.com">bdeleebeeck@yahoo.com</a>	778 677-3124
Tuesday afternoon	Lori Morrison	<a href="mailto:bruce.lori.morrison@telus.net">bruce.lori.morrison@telus.net</a>	250 478-7897
	Martha Morrison	<a href="mailto:mg.morrison@shaw.ca">mg.morrison@shaw.ca</a>	250 595-6089
Tuesday evening	David Morrival	<a href="mailto:dmorr@telus.net">dmorr@telus.net</a>	250 686-2811
Thursday	June Robinson	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>	250 477-8317
	Louise Perry	<a href="mailto:louise@fischerperry.com">louise@fischerperry.com</a>	250 896-4176

### Membership/Class Fees

This is a reminder to members who are paying their class fees in two (half-year) installments that the February to May fees are due now. Please give these fees (\$60.00) to your class rep, or to the Membership Secretary, Barb Currie. It's not too late to pay! Thank you.

### 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.

### Highland Games

The Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival will be held at Topaz Park on May 21 and 22. Scheduled events include Highland and Irish dancing, pipe bands, piping and drumming competitions, and heavy events (weights and caber tossing). There will be whisky and wine tasting schools. And there will be a special performance by the Strathcona Mounted Troop.

We will have an information table and tent at the Games, just for Saturday, May 21. Volunteers are needed to 'man' the table during that time. Your help would very much appreciated. Louise Perry will have sign-up sheets available during classes. Anyone volunteering to help will get a free pass for that day. Further details to follow.

For additional information on the scheduled events, as well as ticket purchase, check the Highland Games website <https://victoriahighlandgames.com/>.

### Edith Chapman

### Membership

If you haven't been dancing this year, why not come to summer dancing with Bob Anderson? You don't need to renew your VISCDs membership to dance at Bob's drop-in sessions so you save \$30.00. See article on page 3.

### Barb Currie, Membership VP

# FOLKTORIA

produced by the Greater Victoria Folk Festival Society

Each year FolkToria is held in Centennial Square in downtown Victoria. It is a two-day festival providing food, music, and dance. The goal is to share and preserve the cultures that make up our community. This is the fifth year for the festival and is being held on Saturday, June 4 from 12:00 to 8:00 pm, and Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Our demonstration team will perform at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 5. We are very excited because Mary Ross will join us in this performance and provide some great music for our dancing.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Folkathome>

## Joan Axford

### Summer Dancing

Once again, after a two-year hiatus, Bob Anderson is having his summer dancing socials. On Monday's, Bob will go over some of the more challenging dances that are on the program for that week. These sessions will start on Monday, May 30 and will go to July 25, from 7:30 – 9:30 pm, \$5.00 per night. The socials will start on Thursday, June 2 and will go to July 28, from 7:30 – 10:30 pm, \$10.00 per night. Tea, coffee and refreshments in accordance with the guidelines from the Provincial Health Office will be served (no sign-up sheets for refreshments). Both practice sessions and socials will be held at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. They are open to all levels of dancers, and all dances will be walked through. *Full vaccination is mandatory*; masks are advisable. The booklets with the programs will be available shortly. *Please note that, for safety's sake, if the temperature outside is 30° C or higher, dancing will be cancelled for that evening. This applies to both the practice sessions and the socials.*

Summer dancing started in 1989, when three couples – Peter and Irene Pabsdorf, Ian and Ethel Sutherland and Bob and Alice Anderson – decided that they would like to continue dancing during the summer, and they were certain that other dancers in the area would like the opportunity to join them. These socials proved to be so successful that they have been held every year since then, except for the past couple of years. Bob and Alice are the last active couple of the three originals.

## Edith Chapman

### In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of two former members of the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society.

*Patricia Blair* passed away this spring. Patricia came to Canada from Glasgow, Scotland. She completed her Teacher's Certificate in 2005. Pat and her husband lived on Salt Spring Island for a time and she taught Scottish Country dancing there as well as in Crofton and Chemainus. Upon moving to Victoria, Pat taught the Tuesday afternoon class until May 2018. VISCDs afternoon class members commented on Pat's teaching skills and great dance programme choices. Her favourite SCD Band was Colin Dewar, and she was always delighted when the other teachers used his recordings in the socials they hosted. Pat will be remembered for her annual Valentine's Tea Dance in February. The tables were set with white tablecloths and fresh spring flowers from her garden on Gorge Road. Tea was made in tea pots and poured into her bone china teacups. Sandwiches and an assortment of sweets were also served. For many years Pat organized the Zimbabwe Dances to benefit Lorraine Irvine's work in Africa. Pat was honoured with a Life Membership in September 2019.

My thanks to Barb Currie for allowing me to use part of her report to the AGM as the basis for this memorial.

## Edith Chapman

*Ann Whittaker* and her husband, Vernon joined Joan Axford's Western Community class around 1990. They enjoyed dancing and took part in humorous skits produced by the group. Ann continued to dance with Van Isle after Vernon died. She was profoundly deaf but managed to lip read instructions and sense the rhythm of the music. She was warm hearted and regularly opened up her home to Pearson College students needing respite from dormitory life. Over one hundred thankful, international students stayed in touch with her via Facebook. A tribute to her kindness.

## Sue Langridge

## Workshop and Ball Committee Report

Those of you who attended the April 2nd Workshop and Ball at City Light Church on Obed Avenue really don't need me to tell you that this year's event was a huge success. In keeping with the desire to host a social dancing celebration, while still honouring the current health restrictions, the committee focused on the "keep it simple" and "keep it local" theme.

There were 65 registrants; 45 dancers at the workshop, and 62 people at the Ball. The hall accommodated all our masked (and vaccinated) dancers, it was just full enough to give it a cozy feeling! Thanks to those who set up the hall in preparation. The workshop, with dance instruction from Richard Bennett accompanied by the music of Mary Ross, was both enjoyable and informative.

The evening event started off with a Grand March, piped in by Jamie Orr and marshalled by Maureen Orr, setting it apart from our socials. The masters of ceremony Anita Mathur and Jamie Orr kept the evening's activities running smoothly. The dance program was a nice balance of dances with various levels of challenge, all enhanced by Mary Ross' accordion music. The simple individually wrapped refreshments, served with tea and coffee, were well received. The kitchen crew did a seamless job of organizing and presenting them. The event made a small profit and together with some recent donations the finances for the Ball of 2023 is off to a good start.

Thanks to the members of the committee, and all the people who helped us, for making the 2022 event a realization!! Committee members were: June Robinson, Gael Forster, Lori Morrison, Barb Currie, Anita Mathur and Kathryn Knowles. We'll never think of a masked ball the same way again!

**Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Knowles  
for the Workshop and Ball Committee 2021/2022**

## 2022 Workshop and Ball Committee



L – R: Gael Forster, Kathryn Knowles, Barb Currie, June Robinson, Anita Mathur, Lori Morrison  
photo by Ray Fischer

Photos from the Workshop ...  
Photography by Ray Fischer



... And photos from the Ball



## Life Memberships

At the annual general meeting on April 20, three dancers were recognized with life memberships in the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society.

### *Edith Chapman*

Edith has a long relationship with the Society and she is and has been a loyal, enthusiastic and committed member. Edith Chapman started Scottish Country dance classes in Victoria in 1970 where her teachers were Fran Clermont and Katie Dunn. Both these teachers were instrumental in forming the VISCDS. Edith is a qualified Scottish country dance teacher and if you want to know instructions for a dance or who wrote a dance, the source of the dance, call on Edith, she is a wealth of information. I met Edith in 1977 and admired her dancing technique and watched her dance with the demonstration team. Edith was also a strong supporter of the Victoria Branch.

Her support of our society is historic and commendable. Here is the list:

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership 1976-1977, 1989-1991 (which also included the newsletter)  
Secretary and Newsletter 1988-89  
Newsletter Editor 1991, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022

We all know how important the newsletter is in connecting us with the society. Edith has been pivotal in making sure we all know what is happening and when. She always gave us clear newsletter deadlines and reminders for articles and dance programs. Most of all the newsletter is interesting and members looked forward to reading it. Edith is a role model for all of us who are challenged physically with our dancing. She took on other roles to stay connected and involved. Edith, you are so deserving of this life membership. Congratulations.

### *June and Gordon Robinson*

There is so much that can be said about June and Gordon Robinson, most of all is that we can call them our friends and of course dance partners. They started dancing with VISCDS in 1998-99, coming from Yellowknife which was definitely their loss and our gain.

Their work with the Society includes:

June – Membership Chair and member of the Ball Committee – 2 years  
Secretary from 2002 to 2004  
President from 2018-2022

The members knew we could count on June to be committed to anything she took on and to listen to our input and represent all of us with caring and grace. She kept communication lines open during the pandemic and she is the reason the group was able to start back up so easily. She is a great ambassador for the group and for Scottish country dancing. Most of all she is a joy to dance with and shows her love of dancing every time she is on the floor.

Gordon – Started teaching the Basic class in September 2005 and continued through 2012-13. He has taught the beyond basic and intermediate class since. Gordon has organized zoom classes and programs, briefed dances, played fiddle, connected speakers and mics and supported all our many socials and Ceilidhs and we know that his expertise in music and equipment has saved our socials more than once.

Gordon has also been on the Ball committee and has been the Teacher Representative in 2011-12 and 2020 to 2022 and I can tell you that keeping us teachers organized is a major task.

Gordon has lots of energy on the dance floor and I have appreciated more than once his helpful guidance in the dance.

Both June and Gordon have danced on the demonstration team.

Gordon and June – you are most deserving of the life memberships which express our gratitude and friendship and honors all that you have done for the Society. We all hope dancing with you will continue for many years to come.

Congratulations to you both!!

**Presented by Joan Axford**

### **Note from Edith**

I would like to extend my thanks to the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society for honouring me with a Life Membership. As I said at the time, it was quite a shock – but a pleasant one! If the work I've done over the years has helped Van Isle, I'm pleased.

**Edith Chapman**

### **Note from June and Gordon**

We would like to thank the Society for the honour of receiving Life Memberships. It was a big surprise! Thank you to Joan Axford for her lovely presentation and again to the Society. We hope to continue serving V.I.S.C.D.S. for many years to come.

**June and Gordon Robinson**

## EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

**2022**

**May 21st – 22nd** Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Topaz Park. See article in this newsletter.

**May 30th – Jul 25th** Practice sessions for Summer Dancing socials, 7:30 pm, \$5.00. See article in this issue.

**Jun 2nd – Jul 28th** Summer Dancing socials, 7:30 – 10:30 pm, \$10.00. See article in this issue.

*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, including this year's Workshop and Ball. Proof of vaccine is required at all our classes and social events. Masks are optional but are recommended for the time being.*



You're invited to our

# WELCOME BACK DANCE



**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 2-5 pm \$15**  
**Scottish Cultural Centre Music-Kilbirnie Station**

- \*Kelly's Kaper 3 x 32 J
- \*Da Rain Dancin' 8 x 32 R
- Northern Lights 3 x 32 S
- \*Joie de Vivre 8 x 32 J
- Oh Canada 5 x 32 R
- \*MacDonald of the Isles 3 x 32 S
- \*Terrace Logger's Jig 4 x 32 J

- Irish Rover 8 x 32 R
- Slytherin House 8 x 32 S
- \*Catch the Wind 8 x 32 R
- Laird of Milton's Daughter 8 x 32 J
- \*12 Coates Crescent 4 x 32 S
- \*De'il Among the Tailors 8 x 32 R
- \*Easier

**Fully vaccinated dancers only Refreshments by donation**

**Brush up on the dances! \$10**  
**Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 11 - 7:30pm**  
**Scottish Cultural Centre**

More photos from the workshop...



## OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

Most SCD groups have had to stop operations during Covid19, just as we have. They are just beginning to think about resuming activities. As a result, there aren't many out of town events to list. *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

- May 14th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Welcome Back Dance, 2:00 – 5:00 pm, \$15.00, Scottish Cultural Centre. See poster in this issue.
- Jun 20th – Aug 15th** Mondays. RSCDS Vancouver Branch Dancing in the Park, Stanley Park Ceperley Playground (new entrance). Info – <https://rscdsvancouver.org/>.
- Jul 8th – 11th** RSCDS Boston Branch Pinewoods Scottish Dance Session I.
- Jul 11th – 16th** RSCDS Boston Branch Pinewoods Scottish Dance Session II. Online applications for both sessions were due by April 1; applications received now will be placed on a wait list. Info for both sessions – <http://rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html>. (Not secure)
- Jul 24th – 31st** Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) (TAC) Summer School, Calgary AB. Registrations open in early March. See notice in this issue.
- Jul 24th – Aug 14th** RSCDS Summer School, St Andrews Scotland. Registrations are now open. Info - <https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022>.
- Nov 4th – 6th** RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend, Monterey California. Further info later. Info - <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>.

### 2023

- Mar 31st - Apr 2nd** RSCDS Lethbridge Branch Milestones Workshop and Ball. Info (not secure) - <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>.



**Registration now open!**

**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

**For registration information, go to:**  
**[tac-rscds.org](http://tac-rscds.org)**

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)