

Island Fling



January 2023

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o 3290 Woodburn Avenue

Victoria BC V8P 5B9

Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

Web address: www.viscds.ca

Executive Committee

President	Kathryn Knowles	250 598-3490	viscdspresident@shaw.ca
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		

In This Issue: Happy New Year! Nanaimo? Facebook?!? Programs for Socials. A wee bit 'o history.

Check out our new Facebook group: **Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dancers**. It's new and not much there yet, but it's a place to share events and photos and I look forward to people's contributions.

Also: News from our friends in Nanaimo, who are also on Vancouver Island. I'll be including class schedules, events, and maybe photos as I get them. Check out their Facebook page: Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers

President's Comments, January 2023

To those of you that I haven't seen yet in 2023, I extend a "Happy New Year" greeting.

It sounds like our two open houses were a great start to the year, with new dancers joining us at both events. The demonstration/entertainment team had practices on both those nights, so I was not able to attend myself. Rest assured that our group, as well, had a good night of dancing on both those evenings.

I am writing this note on the eve of Robbie Burns' Day so I will wish you all "Sláinte Mhath!" (Good Health!)

May this year provide us with many opportunities to enjoy the spirit of the dance! I recently read an article that talked about the history of SCD, and I loved the quote: "one thing which has not changed is the joy and sociability (not to mention exercise, both physical and mental) that Scottish Country Dancing provides to people of all ages."

So, here I am looking forward to participating in our socials, workshop and ball, as many classes as I can get to. I do hope to see you at some of these events!

Kind regards, Kathryn

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **March 6th**. Please submit any material to Ray Fischer at ray@fischerperry.com.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
Spring 2023 Classes
All Victoria classes (except the afternoon class) run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Mondays to April 3rd, 2023
Tuesdays to April 4th, 2023
Tuesday afternoons to April 11th, 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm
Thursdays to April 6th, 2023

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

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	David Morrical	dmorr@telus.net	250 686-2811
Thursday	June Robinson	viscdspresident@shaw.ca	250 477-8317
	Louise Perry	louise@fischerperry.com	250 896-4176

Membership/Class Fees

A reminder to members who are paying their class fees in two (half-year) installments that the January to April 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.

You'll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60 on the membership form – annual membership required except for out-of-town visitors; 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

Drop-in Fees

You'll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60 on the membership form – \$30 annual membership is required except for out-of-town visitors. Youths membership is \$20 and need not pay for classes. 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.

Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers Spring 2023 Classes

Tuesdays **7pm to 9pm**, for experienced dancers
Thursdays **7:30pm to 9:30pm** for both new and experienced dancers

Classes are held at the Pleasant Valley Hall, 6100 Doumont Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6G7
For latest info see the Facebook page: Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers

VANCOUVER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP – February 1978

Every year the usual stories about the origin and habits of the "haggis" surface and with the birthday of Robert Burns just passed, this year is no exception. The following is one of probably hundreds of poems written about this peculiar beast, second in fame to only the Loch Ness Monster, and is sent to us courtesy of the Vancouver Branch:

WHAT IS A HAGGIS?

The Haggis is a vicious breed, with habits like a sloth,
It builds a nest of Harris Tweed and bits of Tartan Cloth,
It only ventures out at night and hunts in packs like dogs,
It gives a green and ghostly light and makes a noise like frogs,
The natives catch them by their tails to dodge their beating wings,
Then fix a clothes peg on their nose . . . and eat the blooming things

Local Scottish Country Dance Events

- January 28th** **Burn's Night Social**, program below.
There will be haggis with mashed potatoes, along with sweets, tea, and coffee.
- February 25th** **February Social** starting at 2p.m., program below.
- April 1st** **Victoria Workshop and Ball**, at the Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara Street.
Registration on the web site and forms will also be available in classes
- April 22nd** **Spring Fling Social**, 7:30p.m.

Events are held at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. **Proof of vaccine is required at all our classes and social events. Masks are optional but are recommended for the time being.**

Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

- February 24th** **Vancouver Ceilidh** at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street.
Details at <https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/>
- March 4th** Vancouver **Love to Dance Workshop and Dance**.
Registration online at <https://rscdsvancouver.org/>
- Mar 31st - Apr 2nd** **RSCDS Lethbridge Branch Milestones Workshop and Ball** in Alberta.
Details at: <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>.



Teachers

Sharon Barker (Canada)
Gary Coull (Scotland)
Alan Twhigg (USA)
Ron Wallace (USA)

Musicians

Kathy Fraser Collins (Director)
Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Judi
Nicolson, Gary Thomas, Don
Wood

TAC Summer School July 30 – August 6, 2023



*Enjoy a week of dancing in
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Dancers of all levels welcome



Check website for updates and
online registration

tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers'
Association (Canada)



Teachers Corner Dancing Awa'

One of the aspects of participating in Scottish country dancing which was hit very hard by pandemic of the last 3 years, is the opportunity to dance with many other dancers from around the world – in the same room! As you know, our club is planning a one-day Workshop and Ball for April 1. Last year this was a fairly scaled down affair, almost exclusively for our local dancers. This year it will be expanded, and we hope to have a number of dancers from Vancouver Island and around the Salish Sea.

Other groups are returning to hosting their events as well. The Vancouver Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society has hosted the Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance in the early spring for a number of years. This year the event will be held on March 4th at the Scottish Cultural Centre in South Vancouver. The teachers will be Rebecca Blackhall Peters and our own Gael Forster. This event has workshop classes at the basic and intermediate levels with live music for the classes. Another Victoria connection is Mary Ross who will be playing for the Tea Dance.

Also returning this year is the Portland Branch workshop and ball which is in its 41st year. I am the guest teacher this year. The musicians for the classes and evening ball are the fiddler Elke Baker and pianist Lisa Scott. The Portland and Vancouver, Washington, dancers are a very friendly group, and they have warmly invited others to join June and I at their event in Portland on March 11th. I have further details for anyone who is interested.

If you're feeling a bit keener, there are weeklong "schools". Every summer the TAC (essentially the SCD teachers' association for North America) puts on a Summer School for dancers of all levels (not just teachers). At this event there are classes every morning, optional activities in the afternoons and social dances most evenings. It all culminates in a fantastic banquet and ball on Saturday evening. This is a great opportunity for dancers to experience a range of teachers from around the world and outstanding music for classes and dances. The 50th anniversary edition of TAC Summer School will be held in Halifax from Sunday, July 30 - Sunday, August 6. All the details are on the TAC website (<https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>). *Editor's note: also see the ad in this newsletter*

And if you are thinking of traveling overseas (no, I don't mean to Vancouver) you could set your sights on the RSCDS Summer School in St Andrews, Scotland. Similar to the TAC summer school, this event will be running for four one-week sessions from July 16th to August 13th. Several of our teachers and dancers have attended the St Andrews Summer School as well as the TAC Summer School and can give you a good idea of what to expect.

I encourage you to consider traveling to events in other locations. It is a great way to meet other dancers and expand your Scottish country dance experience.

-- Gordon Robinson

ASILOMAR
RSCDS San Francisco Branch
Workshop and Ball November 4-6, 2022

What is Asilomar or where is Asilomar you may ask? Long time Victoria dancers may know that Asilomar is the location of the annual workshop held every fall by the San Francisco branch of the RSCDS. Asilomar is a resort located at Pacific Grove, California, just west of Monterey. The Asilomar resort was originally a YWCA camp. The resort has expanded considerably over the years in the lovely setting by the beach in Pacific Grove State Park overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Gordon and I had the opportunity to attend this year's event. Our son lives in Oakland, California only about two hours' drive away so we have combined a visit with our son and attending Asilomar several times. This year was especially significant being the first time the event has been held in 2 years due to the Covid pandemic. The theme "Dancing Together Again" was very appropriate, and people were very glad to be dancing together again. Nearly 200 dancers, musicians and teachers attended the event.

The music, the dancing and the classes were fantastic! Teachers at this year's event included: Jeff Corrigan, Arthur McNair, Jennifer Reiner, Helen Russell, and Katherine Shearman from Vancouver.

Musicians included Fred Collins, Katy Fraser-Collins, Andy Imbrie, Ian Muir and Judi Nicolson, all world-class Scottish country dance musicians.

The weekend began with a Friday night dance and mini-ceilidh in the main hall. An interesting variety of classes was offered Saturday morning and afternoon ranging from step dance to a class entitled "A Few Dances for Few Dancers" - very useful for when few dancers turn out to a class. Saturday evening was the Ball. No "walk-throughs" only briefing so studying ahead of time is recommended. For those who didn't stay too late at the "after-ball" party, Sunday morning offered an all-levels participation class, again with great music. The weekend concluded at lunch time on Sunday and then farewell to dancing friends.

Next year's event will be in late October. Perhaps we will plan to go to Asilomar again next year!

-- June Robinson

Merrill Hall, Asilomar Resort



New Year's Eve Social

I dropped in to take some photos just as dinner was wrapping up. What was left of dinner looked tasty and I had second thoughts before politely declining partaking since I was there for a purpose. As I was dressed in my grubbies and everybody else was looking nice, I stayed just long enough to get photos before easing out into the night. - editor



Burns Social

January 28 2023

7:30pm

550 Obed Avenue

		Level	Core	
Jubilee Jig	8 x 32 J	B		RSCDS Leaflets
Reel of the Royal Scots	8 x 32 R	BB		RSCDS Leaflets
Bonnie Stronshiray	8 x 32 S	I	C	Glasgow Assembly
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4 x 32 J	B	C	5 for 82
Orpington Caledonians	8 x 32 R	I	C	RSCDS Bk 49
Return to St Martins	4 x 40 S	I		St Martins 3
Good Hearted Glasgow	8 x 32 J	B	C	P Knapman
White Cockade	8 x 32 R	B	C	RSCDS Bk 5
City of Belfast	3 x 32 S	I	C	RSCDS Bk 48
Polharrow Burn	5 x 32 R	A		Glendarroch
The Dream Catcher	1 x 96 S	I	C	RSCDS Bk 45
The Machine Without Horses	8 x 32 J	B		RSCDS Bk 12

Break

Barmkin	1 x 88 R	B	C	Graded 2
The Belle of Bon Accord	4 x 32 S	BB	C	Deeside
Peat Fire Flame	8 x 40 R	A		Bon Accord

Extras

A Reel for Alice	5 x 32 R	BB	C	A Reel for Alice
Neidpath Castle	3 x 32 S	I	C	RSCDS Bk 22
Pelorus Jack	8 x 32 J	I	C	RSCDS Bk 41

All dances briefed



February Social
Saturday, February 25, 2023 2:00 pm
550 Obed Ave
\$10



		Level	Core	Source
Flowers of Edinburgh	8X32 R	B	X	RSCDS Bk 1
John McAlpin	8X32 S	BB	X	Galloway Album
Postie's Jig	4X32 J	I		Clowes Ormskirk 5
Catch the Wind	8X32 H	BB		RSCDS Bk 45
City of Belfast	3X32 S	I	X	RSCDS Bk 48
The Compleat Gardener	8X32 J	I	X	RSCDS Graded 3
Polharrow Burn	5X32 R	A		Glendarroch Sheets
Bonnie Stronshiray	8X32 S	I	X	Glasgow Assembly
Pelorus Jack	8X32 J	BB	X	RSCDS Bk 41
Mairi's Wedding	8X40 R	I	X	Cosh 22 SCDs
Break				
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4X32 J	B		RSCDS Five SCDs 1982
Midsummer Common	8X32 S	I	X	RSCDS Bk 49
The Montgomeries' Rant	8X32 R	I	X	RSCDS Bk 10
Sandy O'er the Lea	8X32 S	B		RSCDS MMM 2
Bees of Maggie Knockater	4X32 J	A		Drewry Canadian Book
De'il Amang the Tailors	8X32 R	B		RSCDS Bk 14
Extras				
Reel of the Royal Scots	8X32 R	I		RSCDS Leaflet Dances
The Gentleman	8X32 S	I		RSCDS Bk 35
Trip to Bavaria	4X32 R	I		Guide to SCD (ex Collins)

All dances will be briefed

Hosted by Tuesday afternoon class