

# Island Fling



## March 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.viscdis.ca](http://www.viscdis.ca)

### Executive Committee

President	Kathryn Knowles	250 598-3490	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>
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:** Photos. Spring & Summer schedule. Remembering notable members. Programs. Humour?

Check out our new Facebook group: **Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dancers**. It will have the latest dates, latest photos, latest events, and occasional videos.

### President's Comments, March 19, 2023

As I write this message I realize that tomorrow is the first official day of spring!!

The daffodils and tulips seem to know instinctively, as I've seen their heads popping up in the garden for a while now.

The April 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop and Ball are fast approaching, as is our AGM on April 13<sup>th</sup>. I will try to keep the business portion of the AGM short, so we have more time for dancing afterwards! The current classes are winding up soon, to be followed by Spring Dancing on Tuesdays, and then Summer Dancing on Mondays and Thursdays – no rest for the dedicated dancers!

The two Saturday dances coming up are the Spring Fling on the evening of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Tribute to Edith Chapman on the afternoon of May 13<sup>th</sup>. Mary Ross will be playing for us at Edith's Dance!

We have such a wonderful group! I'm very grateful to be a part of it!

Kathryn

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **May 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit any material to Ray Fischer at [ray@fischerperry.com](mailto: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**

Final classes for this season:

Last Monday Evening Social class is April 17<sup>th</sup>

Last Tuesday Afternoon class is April 18<sup>th</sup>

Last Tuesday Evening class is April 11<sup>th</sup>

Last Thursday Evening class is April 6<sup>th</sup>

Summer dancing with Bob Anderson starts May 29<sup>th</sup> with Thursday socials starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, through July 27<sup>th</sup>

April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Sarah and Gordon are teaching a spring basic class. Six classes, \$36. Signup sheets in classes

All the classes are held at the City Light Church, 550 Obed Avenue in Victoria

### 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:mj.morrison@shaw.ca">mj.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

### 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

### Local Scottish Country Dance Events

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**      **Victoria Workshop and Ball**, at the Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara Street.  
Registration is closed.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**      **AGM** (Annual General Meeting) and dance.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**      **Spring Fling Social**, 7:30p.m. See the program below in this newsletter.

Events are held at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue unless otherwise noted. **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

**Mar 31<sup>st</sup> - Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> RSCDS Lethbridge Branch Milestones Workshop and Ball** in Alberta.

Details at: <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> RSCDS Vancouver Deep Cove Spring Dance**

Highlands United Church, 3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver

Details at: <https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/deep-cove-spring-dance-april-22/>

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> Nanaimo Spring Social, 1:15p.m.** See the program below in this newsletter.

Pleasant Valley Social Centre, 6100 Doumont Road, Nanaimo

**May 27<sup>th</sup> RSCDS Vancouver Heather Ball**

Details at: <https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/heather-ball-2023>



### TAC Summer School

### July 30 – August 6, 2023



Nova Scotia  
TAC 50<sup>th</sup>  
Summer School

**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

Celebrate!



Check website for updates and  
online registration

tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers'  
Association (Canada)



Registration  
opens in  
March

Enjoy a week of dancing in  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dancers of all levels welcome

March 1980

VANCOUVER ISLAND SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

We are also fast approaching the Annual General Meeting of the Society, which will be held on April 19th, 1980, and official notice of the meeting will be mailed to all members at the end of this month. In this regard, however, some of you may be approached in the next few weeks by the Nominating Committee to see if you are willing to be on the Board of Directors of the Society. The Board of Directors consists of five positions and the duties of the directors are as follows, as per the Constitution and By-Laws:

PRESIDENT	- is the Chief executive officer of the Society and shall supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties.
VICE-PRESIDENT	- shall carry out the duties of the president during his absence.
SECRETARY	- shall (a) conduct the correspondence of the

Teacher's Corner

# Tips for Dancing at the Ball

## The Grand March:

- The Grand March is often used to start off the ball. It is simply a march around the room with a partner, usually to the music of a piper. It is extremely easy — no fancy footwork or formations — and very suitable for normally non-dancing partners who may have attended the ball with you.
- The grand march leads directly into sets for the first dance, so you may want to look over that dance before the event.
- The leader(s) of the Grand March will direct you where to go once the music begins.

## Finding a Partner:

- It is customary to dance with many different partners throughout the evening.
- Beginners shouldn't be afraid to ask more experienced dancers to dance.
- Experienced dancers are strongly encouraged to invite beginners to dance
- If asked to dance at a ball, do not be afraid to politely decline if you are not confident that you can manage that dance. Don't feel pressured if the MC is calling for "one more couple".

## Forming Sets:

- Form sets when the dance is announced, or when the band signals the next dance by playing the opening bars of music
- When the dance is announced or introductory music is played, *walk* onto the floor with your partner.
- Always join sets from the bottom, never dash into the middle or the top of a set that has already formed.
- If you are the top couple, it is customary to count off the couples so each dancer knows if they are first couple, second couple, etc. If after counting off the sets you find that more couples are needed to complete the set, hold up fingers indicating how many couples are needed. The teacher or MC will usually announce it.

## More Survival Tips:

- Be aware of and open to cues your partner and the other members of the set may be giving you as you do the dance. A good partner will try to help you through a dance and remind you what comes next in a subtle way.
- If you mess up, which most people do during the evening, however experienced, don't panic! Sort out the set so that you can all dance the next time through.

## Most of All, Have Fun!!

Scottish bats....their struggle is real..



One of our club members sent me this bit of humour

Not saying who

-editor

## Demonstration Team Report

The team was very busy in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January for the many Robbie Burns celebrations. We were pleased to be able to return to performing at senior's residences. So many of the residents have Scottish heritage and so enjoy the music and dance. We were able to perform for a former member – Sheila Blake. We also performed at the Kirk Hall Tea hosted by the Gaelic Choir. Many of our members were in attendance.

Our significant performance was at Christ Church Cathedral on January 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful event. Mary Ross joined us to provide the music for our dance performance and a moving solo of Highland Cathedral.

It was a busy week with five performances, culminating in our Burns dance on January 28.

Thank you to the members of the team for their dedication to practice and performances and their important representation of Scottish culture in our community.

*Joan Axford – Instructor*



In Memoriam :  
KATHLEEN ( Katie) DUNN 1924-2022

We mourn the passing of Katie Dunn who, with husband Gerry, was for many years a leading light on the Victoria dance scene.

In 1973 they helped form the Victoria Branch of the RSCDS which soon established itself as one of the chief focal points of SCD in the area.

Katie and Gerry were already prominent in the local ballroom dance world and Gerry was teaching a regular folk dance class at the YMCA. This system of cross pollination allowed them to persuade many dancers to give SCD a try.

In 1975 Miss Milligan arrived in town to conduct the teacher candidate exams. Miss Milligan declined hotel accommodation and Katie put her up at their house on Rockland Ave.(see picture below)



By this time Miss Milligan was too elderly to dance the night away and so they sat up and talked the night away: and argued. Both women were, shall we say, of determined character and notably disinclined to give way in an argument. Katie always said that in her experience, Miss Milligan was sometimes overly hasty in judging a candidate. But occasionally Katie Dunn out -wrangled Jean Milligan, and Miss Milligan was persuaded to reconsider. If you were in a tight corner Katie Dunn was the one to have on your side. Katie undoubtedly possessed an obstinate streak and was no stranger to controversy. If the conversation became too enthusiastic as to the many virtues of Scottish Country Dance she would happily interject that it all came from Ireland anyway. And then sit back and enjoy the general consternation.

Although music and dance were the breath of life to Katie, her teaching style was methodical: very calm and deliberate. At that time it wasn't the custom to continually brief dances so they had to be mastered in class.

In practice she often left teaching chores to Gerry because her real forte was organizing the Social Weekends to which she brought a remarkable combination of vigour and glamour. The splendid Leprechaun Frolic of 1978 was one perfect example.(see March 2021 newsletter).

In later years ,she continued to work for VISDCS acting on our Ball Committee and representing the club on the Joint Scottish Council to which she brought an unrivalled knowledge of the local dance scene.

This brief glimpse into Katie's world might conclude that she possessed a generous nature combined with an indomitable spirit.Perhaps these were, in fact, among the chief characteristics of her whole generation-a generation now, alas, passing from us.

Rob Langridge

## Spring Fling

April 22, 2023 7:30pm

550 Obed Avenue, Cost \$10

Charlestown Chaser	4X32J	B	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded
The Flowers of Edinburgh	8X32R	B	RSCDS Bk 1
The Enchanted Garden	8X32S	B	Boyd
White Heather Jig	4X40J	A	Cosh 22+2
The Dancing Bees	8X32R	B	Goldring, 24 Social
Wisp of Thistle	8X32S	B	RSCDS Bk 37
The Hunting Horn	8X32J	I	Archives #66
12 Coates Crescent	4X32S	B	RSCDS Bk 40
The Glens of Angus	4X32R	A	RSCDS Bk 23
EH3 7AF	8X32J	B	RSCDS Bk 40
Tweedbridge Court	8X32S	B	All Around the Circle
Craigleith	1X88R	B	Gr & Soc 2

### Break

Tribute to the Borders	8X32J	B	RSCDS Pkt '87
Muse Cottage	3X32S	B	Let's All Dance, Too
The Spring Fling Reel	8X40R	I	RSCDS Bk 50
The Pipe Opener	5X32J	B	Goldring, Gr & Soc 3
City of Belfast	3X32S	I	RSCDS Bk 48
The Deil Amang the Tailors	8X32R	B	RSCDS Bk 14



***Spring Social Dance  
Celebrating 100 years of the RSCDS (1923-2023)***

***23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023  
Pleasant Valley Social Centre  
6100 Doumont Road, Nanaimo  
Doors open 12.45p.m. Dancing 1.15 p.m.  
Dancers pay \$15.00 Non-dancers \$8.00 (Cash only)***

***Program***

- 1. The Flowers of Edinburgh 8x32 Reel Book 1 (1923-1932)***
- 2. Machine without Horses 8x32J Book 12 (1933-1942)***
- 3. Jimmy's Fancy 8x32 Strathspey Book 14 (1943-1952)***
- 4. Maxwell's Rant 8x32 Reel Book 18 (1953-1962)***
- 5. Neidpath Castle 3x32 Strathspey Book 22 (1963-1972)***
- 6. Round Reel of Eight 88 bar Reel Book 27 (1973-1982)***
- 7. Mrs Stewart's Jig 8x32 Jig Book 35 (1983-1992)***
- 8. Mr Robert H. MacKay 8x32 Strathspey Book 38 (1993-2002)***
- 9. Scott Meikle 4x32 Reel Book 46 (2003-2012)***
- 10. Farewell to Balfour Road Jig 1x96 Book 52 (2013-2022)***
- 11. Miss Eleanor 3x32 Strathspey Book 49***
- 12. Duke of Atholl's Reel 8x32 Jig Book 16***
- 13. Reel of 51st Division 8x32 Reel Book 13  
Waltz***

***Thank you for coming!***