

# Island Fling



**June 2024**

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](http://www.viscds.ca)

## **Executive Committee**

President	Kathryn Knowles	250 598-3490	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>
1st Vice President and Publicity	Hilary Fedoruk		
2nd Vice President and Membership	Jane King		
Secretary	Linda Carmichael		
Newsletter Editor	Ray Fischer		
Treasurer	Martha Morrison		
Social Convenor Committee	Ellen Campbell		
	Donna Clements		
	Sheila Eaglestone		
	Lori Morrison		
Teacher Representative	Joan Axford		

**In This Issue:** The Spring Fling, the Highland Games, Travels Abroad, and 50 years!

## **President's Reflections, May 2024**

VISCDs has certainly been busy since our last newsletter went out. As well as our spring classes and socials, there was the Workshop and Ball at the Edelweiss Club, our Spring Fling social, the Orr's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and our participation at the Highland Games. It was a real treat to have Mary Ross play for most of those special events!

Yesterday, in preparation for our demonstration team's practice, I was watching some YouTube videos of the dances we are including in our routine – demos from Scotland, Japan, Australia and France. It reminded me of the fact that you can dance anywhere in the world. I would be fascinated to take a poll and see where our members have danced in their travels!

Locally, it's great to know summer dancing starts on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Programs available on the website. Thanks again to Bob Anderson for masterminding two months of interesting dance programs, and for coaching us through some of the intricacies of those dances prior to the socials.

Our Open House is on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>, so think about who you can encourage to attend it with you. The September classes are free to new dancers.

I wish all of you a fabulous summer!

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Knowles

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

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at [ray@fischerperry.com](mailto:ray@fischerperry.com).

## Class Descriptions – Fall 2024

### **Experienced Social - Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Teacher: Bob Anderson.**

Experienced social for dancers with a good knowledge of all common formations who wish to dance more challenging dances and formations.

### **Daytime Social-Tuesdays 1:15 – 3:15 pm, Teachers: Louise McGillivray and Gordon Robinson**

This is the class for those who prefer a daytime class. We learn/review formations, work on phrasing, covering, handing and the “teamwork” in Scottish Country dancing. We do old and new favourites, and dances from upcoming socials. A friendly group that would love to have you join them, regularly or occasionally!

### **Basic Class - Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Teacher: Sheila McCall.**

In the Basic class you will learn the five steps used in Scottish Country Dancing. You will learn basic formations and become familiar with the concept of sets, progression, and teamwork while you experience the joy of moving to lively Scottish music. You don't need to come with a partner, just come and join us for fun evenings as you learn.

### **Intermediate - Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Teachers: Gael Forster and Sarah Kell**

For dancers who want to move beyond basic formations and expand their repertoire, this class will teach a range of formations, and work on phrasing and handing. We will cover a mix of traditional favourites and newer dances at the basic and intermediate levels. \ For more experienced dancers, this will be an opportunity to review dance formations in a social dance setting. Dances from upcoming social programs will also be included.

### **Demonstration Team – Teacher: Joan Axford**

VISCDS also offers a demonstration team to perform at community events as part of the ethnic culture in Victoria. The team dances at seniors' residences and centres, the Highland Games, Burns celebrations, Folkloria, Greekfest, etc. It is an opportunity to share our dance and music, and to encourage others to join our group. Each year, the team learns a new routine. You do not have to be an expert dancer and the team is always welcoming new members. If you like being part of a team and attending community events, this could be for you. The team meets on Tuesday at 7:30 pm about twice a month.

For more information, please call Joan Axford at 250-474-1018 or e-mail at [joanaaxford@gmail.com](mailto:joanaaxford@gmail.com).

## Teacher's Corner

Thank you so much for the dancers that came to help at the Highland Games. It was great to see others from the crowd join you in some simple dances. Of course, dancing to the music of Mary Ross added to the enjoyment of the afternoon. Information about our classes was shared and we hope brings in new basic dancers in the fall.

As we have finished our regular dance classes, now is a good time to consider if you want to move up a class. Please speak to your teacher about whether you are ready for the next level class. We like to see dancers move to a new class or add an additional class (at no additional charge!) when they are ready for the next step.

Summer dancing is also a good opportunity to improve your dancing. Also, Bob makes all the sessions fun.

– Joan Axford

## FOLKTORIA

The cultural festival Folkloria was June 1 and 2, 2024 and our demonstration teams did a nice medley of reel, strathspey, and waltz. There was a light rain but an appreciative audience, nonetheless.



The people who organize Folkloria did an amazing job once again, with an amazing variety of performers. They are looking for people to help them organize next year's Folkloria. Interested? Contact them at: [folkfestivalinfo@gmail.com](mailto:folkfestivalinfo@gmail.com)

## Local Scottish Country Dance Events

Open House! Tuesday Sept. 10th, 7:30PM at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue

Victoria Summer Dances, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue

Classes on Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30, are \$7

Socials on Thursdays, 7:30 to 10:30, are \$10

More info: Bob Anderson at [boband01@shaw.ca](mailto:boband01@shaw.ca) or 250 479 6719

## Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

Vancouver (for full calendar see [here](#))

**June 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>** [ScotFestBC](#) – BC Highland Games, Coquitlam.

Seattle (for full calendar see [here](#))

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>** [Fort Worden Workshop](#)

Calgary (for full calendar see [here](#))

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** Calgary Branch AGM & Dance

Lethbridge, AB

**April 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>** [2025 Workshop & Ball](#). Signature Sandman Lethbridge Lodge, Alberta



Rhymes With Orange

Hilary Price



## Victoria Summer Dances

Summer dancing has started! See the note above under “Local Scottish Country Dance Events” for details.

Mondays many of the dances and formations are taught for the Thursday socials, where tea, coffee, and snacks are provided.



## 160<sup>th</sup> Highland Games

The Highland Games took place on the May Long Weekend at Topaz Park. Once again, the VISCDs tent was in the Clan area, providing us with a visible presence. Our volunteers spoke enthusiastically about the fun and benefits of Scottish Country Dancing and the varied activities of the club. Over the course of the 2 days 18 names were taken to be added to the VISCD mailing list, and more than 100 posters, bookmarks, flyers and business cards were handed out to interested visitors. The impression this year was that there was a greater interest in trying SCD by many who were spoken to, including a group of young fiddlers.

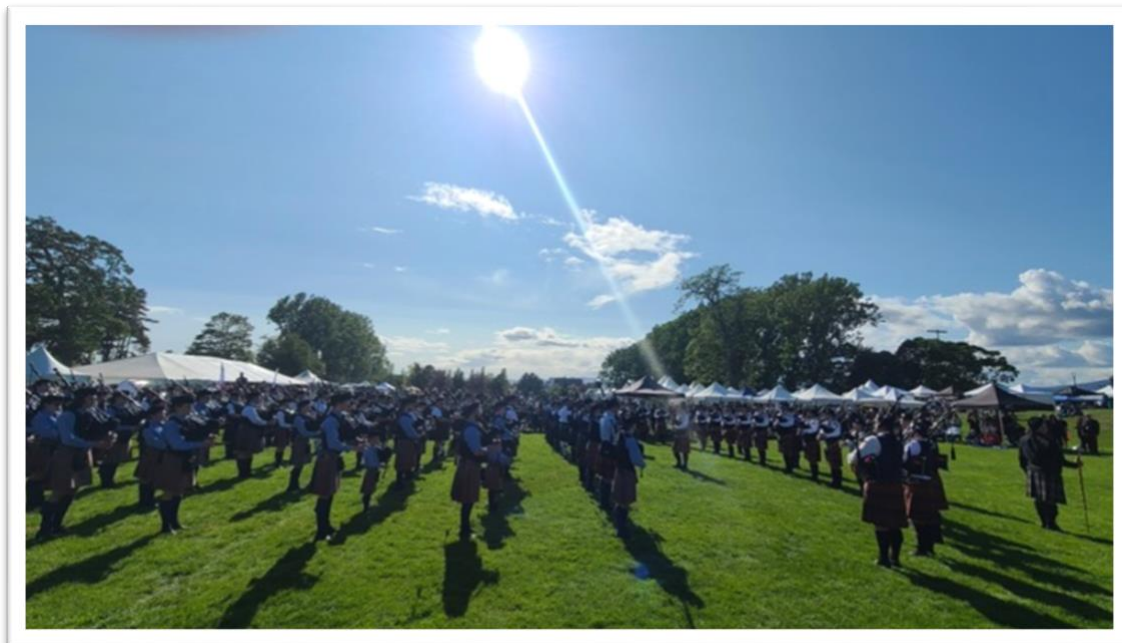
Thank you once again to the 12 enthusiastic volunteers who stood firm against the gale force winds, the rain and cold and the



competing piping and drumming going on by the booth in the mornings, to those who participated in the dancing in the Heritage Tent while Mary Ross was playing on Saturday and again Sunday, to Rosemary MacNeil who, in addition to her shift at the booth, enthusiastically handed out flyers etc. outside the heritage tent while the dancing was happening, to Robin Gubby who did a

double shift on short notice and to Brent Morrison who also stepped in to cover setup, tear down and cover a volunteer shift when needed and finally to Louise Perry co-chair. All our efforts made the VISCDs participation in the Games a success.

– Martha Morrison  
Co-chair VISCDs Highland games committee.



## Spring Fling

Attendees of the annual Spring Fling on April 27<sup>th</sup> did not let the showers outside dampen their enthusiasm one bit. A well-thought-out list of dances kept everyone on their toes and not too many chances for a break. Sheila was the intrepid leader and she helped things run smoothly and walked us through each dance before letting us go. To be fair, some of us needed a double walk through, but no one seemed to mind the extra practice.

The 50/50 was well patronized with Donna C. taking home the winning prize of \$45. Awesome!

The two tables of goodies at the break were deeply appreciated and a huge thanks to those who contributed. Cleanup was a snap with all the helping hands in the kitchen and it was back to dancing once again.

Much fun was had by all but none of this would have been possible without all the help and volunteers who stepped up and helped with everything from ticket sales, chairs, food, dance selection and all points in between. It was a great way to wrap up the season and hope to see you all again soon.

– Sarah CK

If anyone is travelling in the Maritimes and has their dancing



shoes with them, the

Beaconsfield Scottish Country Dance club will give you a warm welcome!

– Susan Morrival

## Dancing on Prince Edward Island

The Morrivals spent 7 days driving across Canada at the end of March before arriving on beautiful Prince Edward Island, where we have since been busy renovating our second home in Summerside. However, we were able to quickly connect with the Beaconsfield Heritage Social dance club in Charlottetown and have enjoyed dancing with them each Wednesday.

The club dances in the Carriage house of the Beaconsfield Historic House on the waterfront in the beautiful old centre of Charlottetown. Teachers Brenda Porter and Christine Scott run a multi-level class that is a mix of Scottish Country and English Country dancing. The class separates into 2 midways through so the experienced and beginner dancers can learn something new separately. Last week it was Burns Bicentenary, and before that, Bonnie Stronshiray. There are quite a few new dancers, as well as many long-time dancers, including Susan Henry, who is Dr. Bonny Henry's mum! David and I have been quickly embraced by the club and made to feel very welcome. We have really enjoyed learning some English Country dances, although I find I tend to bounce a bit too much whilst others are walking...



## Jamie & Maureen Orr's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance

On Saturday afternoon May 11<sup>th</sup> Van Isle dancers were invited to a dance at the City Life Church, Obed Avenue. The occasion was to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Maureen and Jamie Orr.

Dancers gathered at the church hall admiring the special décor arranged by Martha Morrison as they changed into their ghillies and chatted with friends. Mary Ross accordionist and partner Deg checked sound levels. In the foyer, Joan Axford had assembled a video program of special dance events from years past. Two lovely wedding photos completed the display.

Bob Anderson led the first half of the program and Jamie welcomed everyone. The dance program included the Orr's favourite dances. At the break, Jamie introduced Nonie Sundstrom who played the Scottish Small Pipes. Her program of favourite melodies included "The Skye Boat Song" which was accompanied by the audience humming softly. It was quite magical.

The Orr's son and daughter-in-law came to visit, staying a while to watch the dancing. Then, the tables were set for the buffet refreshment. What a super spread it was plus, of course, a delicious celebration cake.

The second half of the program was led by Joan Axford. The highlight was the Glasgow Highlanders, a strathspey danced in a longwise set. The last dance of the evening was Mairi's Wedding followed by the Waltz of the Bells.

There was a huge applause for Mary Ross and thanks given to all the helpers and volunteers who made this such a splendid event.

– Jennifer and Andrew Harley



