

# Island Fling



## August 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.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	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:** Summer Dancing, Summer demonstrations, Classes Start!

### President's commentary, August 2024

Welcome back to an abundance of dancing opportunities!!

Our Open House is on Tuesday September 10th at 7:30PM, everyone is invited! Please encourage your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to attend! The more the merrier!

Classes start on September 9th.

We are waiting on the church to confirm rental availability for the dates of our socials for the coming year, they will be posted on the website as soon as we have word! Some of the socials during the dark winter months will be held in the afternoon, rather than the evening, in response to the poll results from members last year.

At the moment we are planning to keep the classes and teachers as they were last year. Membership forms are available on the website! The church has just notified us of a substantial rent increase starting in September and the executive is working hard to come up with the best working scenario to minimize that impact. We will keep you updated if there are any changes necessary.

Summer Dancing was greatly enjoyed by dancers throughout June and July. Thanks go to Bob Anderson for providing that opportunity for us, once again.

It is such a pleasure to be part of this dancing community

See you on the dance floor,

Kathryn Knowles

#### 256-some Reel

Ian Price has received a certificate from the Guinness people, stating that the 256-some Reel performed last April in Burnaby, has officially been recognized as 'the world's most complex Scottish Country Dance'. The record of it will appear in the 1989 Edition of the "Book of World Records". Congratulations to Ian and to all who took part.

## **Check out our Facebook group: Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dancers.**

It will have dates, latest photos, latest events, and occasional videos, and anything else our members contribute

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at [ray@fischerperry.com](mailto:ray@fischerperry.com).

## **Class Descriptions – Fall 2024**

**New!** For all classes the hall will be open **15 minutes before the start** of class. Tuesday classes are now 90 minutes.

### **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 – 2:45 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 - 9:00 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**

Welcome back to regular dance classes. Your teachers are excited to be back and looking forward to another great year of dancing. The class structure is the same as last year. The basic class is hoping for some new dancers to join the class, so encourage your friends to join. The Intermediate class is looking forward to welcoming dancers ready to join from the basic class. Bob will put you through your paces at the Monday night class and the Tuesday afternoon is always a good learning and social experience.

If you took the summer off dancing, remember to take it easy at first, take advantage of the warmup and cool down exercises. There is often a formation or pattern that you have danced at a social but feel you missed the opportunity to really learn it, please let your teacher know and it can be added to a class.

Have fun and enjoy Scottish country dancing which exercises both the body and the mind.

– Joan Axford

## **Demonstration Team**

The team has been busy this summer dancing at Folkloria in June and on Canada Day in View Royal. The team will perform next on August 31 at GreekFest at 2:40 pm which is always a lot of fun.

If you are interested in joining the team, now is a good time as we work on a new program starting in September. You do not have to be an advanced dancer. We practice on Tuesday evenings with about two practices a month and perform about 8 times per year.

If you are interested in joining the team or just coming to a practice to watch and see what it is about, please call me at 250-415-2540 or e-mail me at [joanaaxford@gmail.com](mailto:joanaaxford@gmail.com).

– Joan Axford

From June of 1989...

Congratulations to our Demonstration Team, who once again achieved an 'excellent' rating in the Music Festival at the end of April. The Team is trained by Joan Axford.

## Local Scottish Country Dance Events

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Brentwood Scottish Country Dance group Ceilidh. 2pm at 1229 Clarke Road in Brentwood  
Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> **Free Open House!** 7:30PM at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue

**Tentative** dates for Socials, all at City Light Church Hall.

Harvest	Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30 PM
St. Andrew's	Saturday, November 16 <sup>th</sup> , (afternoon) 2:00 PM
Christmas	Saturday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> , either 2:00 PM or 7:30 PM
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> , 6:00 PM
Burns' Night	Saturday, February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 7:30 PM
Valentine's	Saturday, Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , (afternoon) 2:00 PM
Spring Fling	Saturday, April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30 PM

Cost is \$20 for socials with live music, and \$15 for other socials.

## Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

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

Sept 19<sup>th</sup> [Dem Team Open House](#)

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> [Vancouver AGM and Dance](#)

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> [White Rock Beginner Workshop](#)

Penticton

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> [Naramata 20th Anniversary Workshop](#)

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

Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> [Fort Worden Practice Session](#)

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

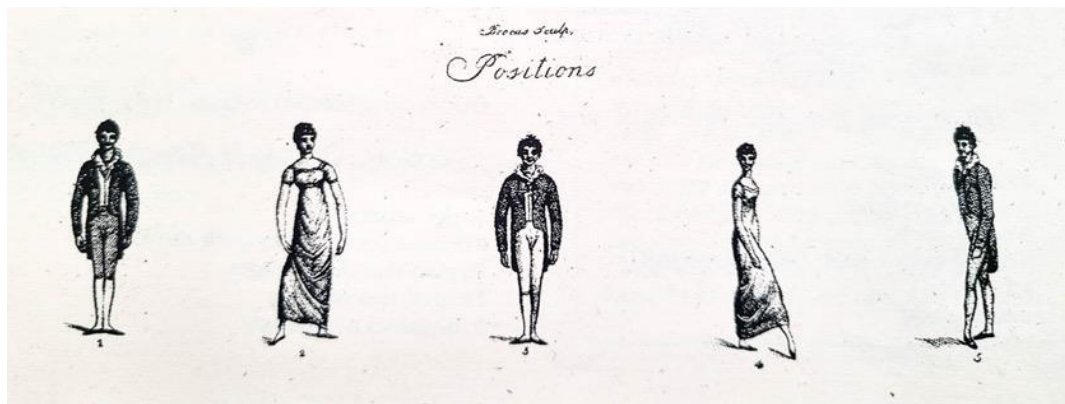
Oct 14<sup>th</sup> [Fall Ceilidh](#)

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

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> [Calgary One Day Workshop](#)

Lethbridge, AB

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



## An interview with Bob Anderson, Teacher

by June Robinson

This summer VISCDS dancers were fortunate to again enjoy ten weeks of summer dancing, from June 3<sup>rd</sup> through to August 1<sup>st</sup>. This opportunity was, of course, thanks to Bob Anderson, who organizes and conducts the summer dancing. Bob and his wife Alice and friends started the summer dancing **35 years** ago and it has been running ever since, except for missing two years during the Covid pandemic. Alice is now unable to participate and sadly some of the friends who also started summer dancing have since passed away. Luckily for the VISCDS, Bob is still interested in continuing the tradition. I thought I would interview Bob and ask him about his summer dancing experience.

**Q: How did summer dancing get started?**

Summer dancing started in 1989! A group of dancers, which included myself and Alice, Ian and Ethel Sutherland and Irene and Peter Pabsdorf, thought it would be a good idea to keep dancing through the summer months when classes had finished. We rented Obed Hall (now City Lights) and provided the evening launch. Ian and I conducted the dancing. The admission was \$3.00! Summer dancing was only held on Saturday night. It was a big hit, with eventually up to as many as 8 sets of dancers. People drove down from up island to participate. Eventually the evening had to be changed to Friday evening as the church wanted the hall available Saturday night and then over the last number of years it was moved to Thursday evening for the same reason.

**Q: How has it changed over the years?**

The number of dancers is down considerably, especially after Covid. It was decided, when Dora Dempster was President, to add a class on Monday night to encourage less experienced dancers to come out ahead of time and learn the dances. This has been a success as all dancers benefit from the extra night of dancing and are more prepared for the Thursday night event.

**Q: How do you choose the dances?**

I usually start with a jig, strathspey, and reel in that order. I choose 15 dances. Sometimes I include a medley and try to choose popular dances. I include a variety of levels of dances and new dances as well as old dances that we don't often do anymore. In the past I have left the most difficult dances until after the refreshment break (called Extras) but it has now been suggested that we do them earlier in the evening so people aren't so tired!

**Q: To what do you account the lasting popularity of summer dancing?**

The popularity is due to the fact that people love to dance, and they want to continue to dance through the summer. I think people enjoy the social aspect of summer dancing. It is a casual and relaxing evening of dancing and there is mixing by all levels of dancers. Summer dancing would not have lasted this long if people did not enjoy it.

**Q: Who helps you with summer dancing now?**

We have a committee of dedicated dancers who help week after week with all of the tasks of the evening. They are Lori Morrison, Sheila Eaglestone, Donna Clements, Ellen Campbell, and Robin Gubby, and David Walde. Many others help with bringing food, setting up and taking down and other tasks. Summer dancing wouldn't happen without the support of the dancers.

In conclusion, Bob said he plans to continue summer dancing for as long as people are willing to come out and Father Time cooperates. The dancers would like to thank Bob for summer dancing and look forward to many more years. We look forward to summer dancing again in 2025!



Photo David Walde