

Island Fling



March 2025

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	Hilary Fedoruk		
2nd Vice President and Membership	Jane King		
Secretary	June Robinson		
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: Christmas and New Years. Workshop and Ball! Spring Fling! AGM (Association General Meeting)!

President's commentary, March 2025

Spring Greetings!

Last night [March 17th] saw Mary Ross playing our Burns' Social program on St. Patrick's Day. Bob entertained us, most of whom were decked out with various shades of green, with stories from Robbie Burns' life. Keen dancers that we are, Bob managed to see us through most of the dances from the program. Mary's playing was exceptional, as usual. We welcomed Allyn Chard, one of the musicians joining Mary to play for the ball, who came to observe our enthusiastic group in action.

I am looking forward to the Workshop and Ball on April 5th!

Spring classes will be held on Thursday evenings from April 24th to May 29th, preregistration required.

Bob's Summer Dancing will include a review class on Mondays and a Social on Thursdays, starting Monday June 2nd and running through to Thursday July 31st.

The AGM, including the annual election of officers, will be on Thursday April 10th, followed by dancing. Details will be circulated to members by email prior to the meeting. I hope to see many of you there.

I would like to thank the teachers, class reps, and executive members for all their hard work throughout the year keeping our society up and running!

With gratitude, Kathryn

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **May 18th**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at ray@fischerperry.com

Class Descriptions – Spring/Summer 2025

Spring classes will be held Thursdays, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, April 24th through May 29th, with various teachers leading. The cost is \$60 and the sign-up sheet is being circulated in classes. At least 17 people need to sign up. [last I checked there were 16 names on the list]

Bob Anderson's summer dancing will start Monday June 2nd and run through July 31st. Social evenings will be Thursdays starting June 5th.

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.

Thanks...

VISCDS wishes to thank Elsa Shoop and her family for donating a comprehensive collection of Scottish Country dancing attire to raise funds for our group. The clothing items included kilts, jackets, tartan skirts, accessories and shoes. You can see a picture of Elsa's aunt and uncle decked out in some of the gear in the photo.

The majority of the kit was sold to our members at an affordable price, and will likely be seen at our various social events. The funds raised are being used to purchase the feather banner presently being made to aid in our publicity efforts.

We are hoping that Elsa's aunt and uncle would be pleased to know their attire is being appreciated by other dancers, and that the proceeds will help encourage others to try out Scottish Country dancing

Kathryn Knowles



I was walking my dogs up the park. Guy comes up and says, excuse me they Jack Russells?
I said naw mate they're mine.

Local Scottish Country Dance Events

Victoria (for more details see [here](#))

Walk Scottish Tuesday, April 8th, 1:15pm
 AGM and dance Thursday April 10th, 7:30pm
 Spring Fling Saturday, April 26th, 7:30 PM
 Highland Games Sat. & Sun, May 17th & 18th (*see below*)

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

Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

Nanaimo

May 4th Spring Social Dance (*see poster to right*)

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

Apr 12th Glenayre Spring Dance
 Apr 26th Heather Ball
 May 25th Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance
 May 28th White Rock Spring Dance
 June 21st, 22nd ScotFestBC 2025

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

Apr 12th Tea Dance
 Apr 26th Heather Spring Tea Dance
 May 17th AGM and Dance

Lethbridge, AB

April 4th to 6th Lethbridge SCDC 2025 Workshop & Ball

More about local events

Highland Games


Teacher Joan Axford and musician Mary Ross will be in the Heritage Tent at the Highland Game on May 17th from 1:00 to 1:50, and May 18th from 2:00 to 2:50. There will be demonstrations of the various styles of jigs, strathspeys and reels using tempos suitable for dancing as well as a demonstration of Scottish country dancing. Those already familiar with country dance can come on by and help out.



**OUR 48TH ANNIVERSARY
 WORKSHOP AND BALL**




5 APRIL 2025
 WORKSHOP TEACHER: ALAN THWIGG
 MUSIC: MARY ROSS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS
 TICKETS FOR EVENT: \$70
 LOCATION: EDELWEISS CLUB



Spring Social Dance

Sunday, 4th May 2025
 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 at the door)

Program

1. Hooper's Jig 8x32J MMM
2. Piper and the Penguin 88R Scotia Centenary Suite
3. Miss Gibson's Strathspey 8x32 S Leaflet
4. Barley Bree 4x40 J RSCDS Bk 13
5. General Stuart's Reel 8x32R RSCDS Bk. 10
6. MacDonald of the Isles 3x32S Haynes
7. Mrs Stewart's Jig 8x32J Bk 35
8. Highland Rambler 8x40 R Roy Goldring

BREAK (10 mins.)

9. The Hunting Horn 8x32J SCD Archives
10. Orpington Caledonians 8x32R RSCDS Bk. 49
11. Seann Triubhas Willichan S RSCDS Bk 27
12. Laird of Milton's Daughter 8x32J RSCDS Bk 22
13. Montgomerie's Rant 8x32R RSCDS Bk.10
14. Staffin Harvest 4x32S RSCDS 4/78
15. Reel of 51st Division RSCDS Bk. 13

Waltz and Light refreshments

Have you heard about “Walk Scottish”?

The motto of the Royal Scottish Dance Society is “Dance Scottish” – but lately we’ve been hearing about “*Walk Scottish*”- and it seems to resonate with those of us who are getting older (or feeling older!) and who are finding actually “dancing” a bit physically challenging. Still, we know where to be, and when, in a dance, and we love the music, love the friendly atmosphere and want to stay involved!

Walk Scottish might just be the answer! It provides an opportunity to move to the great music, do some familiar older dances and stay in touch with the folks from dancing.

Walk Scottish programs are designed to be fun for all levels of dancers (and “former” dancers) and can be walked or danced. The programs avoid some of the more challenging figures – and also suggest accommodations – say in Flowers of Edinburgh – why not cast off only one place instead of two? Turn one and a half? – nope, a half turn works.

In December 2023 VISCDS hosted a “Golden Oldies for Golden Oldies” social. It was very well attended and we were thrilled to see many of our former members out and joining in the dancing. Several folks have recently asked if we will hold another one.

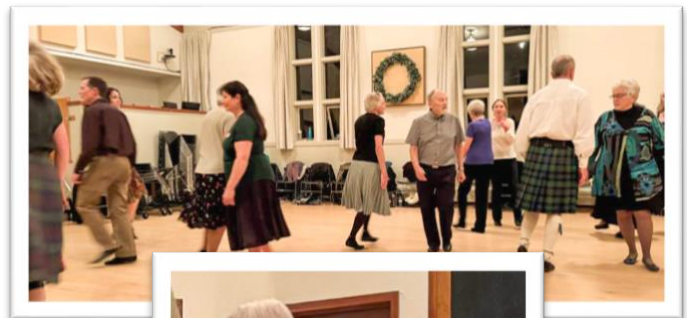
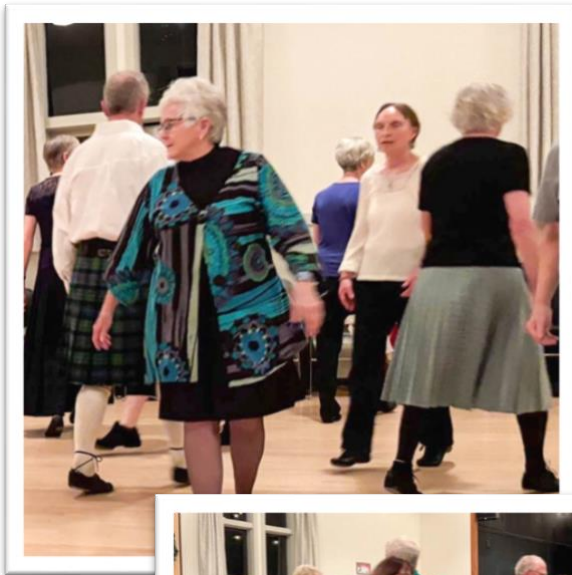
On April 8, 2025 at 1:15 p.m., VISCDS will be hosting a “Walk Scottish” social – we want even more former dancers to join us – knowing that walking is not only OK, it is encouraged.

Please mark Tuesday, April 8th 1:15 pm at Obed on your calendar for a fun social afternoon – and spread the word to all the people you know who used to dance, but can now **WALK SCOTTISH**.

Ask Anita Mathur or Louise McGillivray for more details.

Burn’s Night / St.Patrick’s Day

Our scheduled Burn’s Night social was cancelled because of icy roads, so we had a makeup social during Bob’s class on March 17th with Mary Ross providing the music. Nonie Sundstrom was there and got a few impromptu photos.



Valentine's Social

This year the Valentine's Social was held in the afternoon of Feb 22nd at the City Light Church hall on Obed Avenue. The social was hosted by the Tuesday afternoon class taught by Louise McGillivray and Gordon Robinson.

There was a wonderful turn out of 40 dancers who met for an afternoon of Scottish country dancing. The weather was cloudy and drizzly, but as dancers arrived just before 2:00 the rain really set in. As President Kathryn Knowles said: what better way to spend a rainy winter afternoon than to be Scottish country dancing!



Gordon Robinson was MC and briefed the fifteen dances which included a number of Van Isle favorites. The program included *The Barmkin*, *Pelorus Jack*, and *Flowers of Edinburgh* and in the second half, *Saint John River*, *Sandy's Scotch Broth* and concluded with *Mari's Wedding*.

A delicious lunch, provided by the dancers of the Tuesday afternoon class, was served between the first and second half of the program. The 50/50 draw was very well supported resulting in a prize of \$50 to lucky winner Robin Gubby.

The Tuesday afternoon class would like to thank all who came out that day, the special team of the Social Committee, Lori, Donna, Robin, and

Ellen and all others who helped with the tasks and brought food. Thanks to Gordon and Louise for planning the enjoyable dance program. Afternoon socials in the winter dance season are proving to be popular.

- June Robinson, photos Ray Fischer



Demonstration Team

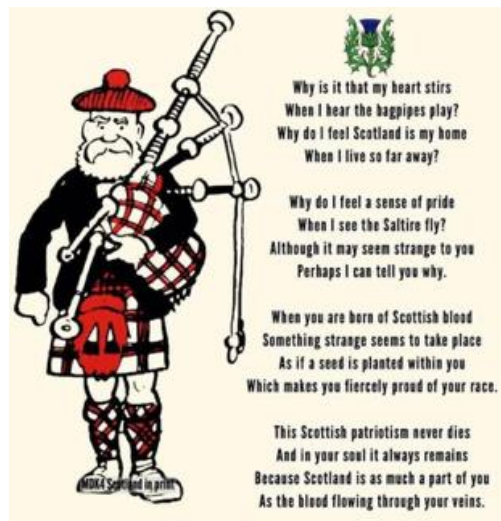
The team was very busy in the third week of January for the many Robbie Burns celebrations. We were pleased to be able to perform at senior's residences (Sandringham, Marianne Mazule, and Berwick Royal Oak). So many of the residents have Scottish heritage and so enjoy the music and dance. We were also able to perform for a former member, Sheila Blake, and at the Kirk Hall Tea hosted by the Gaelic Choir and for Eastern Star.

It was a busy week with five performances. Below are some pictures of the Kirk Hall performance.

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



New Year's Celebration

To ring in the 2025, Dec. 31st found a merry gathering of dancers joining in a potluck supper hosted by the Morrival family. Surrounded by the festive decorations bedecking the hall, we were able to finally agree on a table configuration that had the whole group seated at one dining table. I am grateful to the ladies of the social committee who deftly sorted out the coffee maker.

Sheila McCall organized the program with many familiar and well-loved favourites, and Kathryn Knowles assisted in calling the dances. We had a prolonged dessert break at 9:30 as we were joined by the Quicksbottom Border Morris dancers who presented a Mummer's play. The costumes were marvelous – the Green Man went all in with his full green face paint and beard, the “lady” was elegant in pink and even the Horse made an entrance. There was much thwacking of sticks, but no injuries. Some of the VISCDs members were even brave enough to cheer and boo the characters as the play unfolded. A frypan was passed at the conclusion so that we could make our appreciation known, and the resounding click of coins let them know how much we enjoyed the presentation! It was a great start to 2025! -- Susan Morrival

