

Island Fling



June 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

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 17th**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at ray@fischerperry.com.

In This Issue

In this issue we have information about the coming 2025/2026 season. Updated descriptions of the classes are here, the schedule for the year's socials, and information about the new membership/class fees. Plus, photos from the ball and more.

The new membership application forms for the 2025-2026 season are available on our web site, www.viscds.ca. The fees are somewhat higher for this upcoming year. This is why:

City Light Church has been our home for many years, and thankfully so since places in the CRD that can accommodate dancers are scarce and in considerable demand, and we are extraordinarily fortunate that the church continues to provide us with such a pleasant space. However, the church staff also have a duty to well manage their finances, and even though they've been renting the space to us for many, many years, and for much cheaper than other places charge, new staff at the church is being more professional and updating their fees to reflect the value of the hall.

While that means that the church staff has been a pleasure to work with, it also means that our club's executive team has had to raise the fees charged to our members. We continue to offer a discount to new members as a welcome, youth fees have stayed the same, and members still get to attend as many classes as they like. Also, as the club is still a bit smaller than the days before the pandemic-that-shall-not-be-named, we have fewer people to share the cost.

Somewhat related: Did you see the segment on CHEK news on Saturday May 17th? Tess van Straaten did an easy dance led by Joan Axford in front of our tent at the Highland Games. Several people who had seen her news segment stopped by our tent the next day to try it out and, of course, were invited to join us in September when classes are free. You can see if it looks like people were having fun in the photos below.

President's commentary, June 2025

I am feeling especially appreciative of Scottish Country Dancing today, having just got home from performing with the demonstration team at Folkloria. Joan Axford has put together a particularly joyful program, our dancers portrayed that joy with smiles, enthusiasm and teamwork, and it was so exhilarating to be a part of that. The weather was perfect, and the crowd correspondingly large. Our first dance was done to the singing of *Hey Johnnie Cope* by the Gaelic Choir, a true joint endeavour. Sarah Kell was our spokesperson today, and she clearly relayed information about our group to the attendees, including our Open House on September 9th.

The workshops and ball were a raging success! The workshops taught by Alan Thwigg and accompanied by Mary Ross' music were well received. Mary Ross and her friends provided an evening of brilliant music. Many thanks to the committee for organizing that event for all of us to enjoy! Our AGM on April 10th was well attended and we significantly surpassed our quorum! David Morrical became our new 1st Vice President/Publicity person, and Janet Bailey our new Treasurer; thank you both for stepping forward. My gratitude goes to Hilary Fedoruk for her contributions this past year, and to Martha Morrison for hers over the past three years. Spring classes were well attended by dancers of all levels. Thanks to Gordon Robinson, Joan Axford, Sheila McCall, Sarah Kell, and Anita Mathur for instructing!

Summer dancing starts June 2nd, with review evenings on Mondays and the socials on Thursdays. Thank you, Bob, for putting together such rich dancing programs, and for taking us through our paces so we can enjoy the socials with more confidence!

Open House is on September 9th. Everyone is welcome, so invite your family, friends and neighbours to join us! Let's strive to spread the joy of Scottish Country dancing and add some new dancers to our membership this year!

My gratitude goes out to all those members who contribute so much to the society to make it such a pleasure to belong to. You know who you are!!

Respectfully,
Kathryn Knowles

Local Scottish Country Dance Events

Dates for 2025/2026 Socials, all at City Light Church Hall.

The cost is \$25 for socials with live music, and \$15 for other socials.

Harvest Social	Oct. 18, 2025 at 7:30PM
St. Andrew's Social	Nov. 15, 2025 at 2:00PM
Christmas Social	Dec. 13, 2025 at 2:00PM
New Year's Eve supper and dance starting at 6:00PM	
Burns' Social	Jan. 31, 2026 at 7:30PM
Valentine's Social	Feb. 21, 2026 at 2:00PM
Spring Fling	March 21, 2026 at 7:30PM

From the 1960s. Prices are in shillings and pence. The phone number is just four digits. They're still doing the same business today

Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

Vancouver (for full calendar see [here](#))
June 20-21 [ScotFestBC 2025](#) (BC Highland Games)
Jun-Aug [Dancing in the Park](#), Mondays

Seattle (for full calendar see [here](#))
June 8th [An Afternoon Ball for New Dancers](#)

Portland

Calgary (for full calendar see [here](#))
Oct 8th Calgary One-Day Fall Workshop and Dance

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"HOMMY'S FANCY"
A new featherweight ghillie lace sandal, with extra soft glove and upper, and supple non-skid chrome leather sole. Made in stone and half sizes in Black and Red. Red stocked shoe 2 to 7 only.
Prices: 11 to 14, 45/-; 2 to 5, 40/11; 5 1/2 to 12, 97/-

THE "BRIGADOON"
Ladies' and Gents' Ghillie Lace Dance Sandal in soft Glace Kid uppers with Ballet Type sole, made in stone and half sizes. Black only.
Extra lace for all Country Dance Sandals: 1/9 per pair

THE "NEW CHILDISH PUMP"
Designed for special lightness and support on a different form of construction than off previous Ghillie Lace Sandals, in Black Canvas. Made in stone and half sizes.
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MEN'S DRESS KILT BROGUES, Ghillie Lace style, in Black patent leather, fully lined by "Keltic". Sizes 6 to 12, £7-7-6. red. & wide fitting.

THE "NEW PRINCESS PUMP"
A country dance sandal that looks like an unstocked ballet shoe, but has a flexible non-skid chrome leather sole.
Prices: Children's sizes—11 to 13, 28/-; Ladies—2 to 5, 33/-; 5 1/2 to 9, 37/-.
Colors: Black, Red, Royal Blue, Dark Green.

SOFT TOED BALLET SHOES
Children's and Ladies' Unstocked Ballet Shoes for Opera, practice ballet and country dancing with soft Glace uppers, and stocked in Black, Red, Pink, Leaf Green, Emerald Green, Dark Green, Sky Blue, Royal Blue, White, Brown (Dark), Grey, Beige.
Children's Sizes: Prices: 6 to 10, 30/-; 11 to 14, 32/-; Ladies' Sizes: 2 to 5, 38/-; 5 1/2 to 9, 40/-; 9 to 12, 48/-.

Available in 3 widths and half sizes. Ribbons to match 1/- per pair. All Prices subject to alteration.
Perhaps charged only on single pair orders 1/-.

telephone 3355 **james senior** telephone 3355
132 Market Street, ST. ANDREWS, Scotland

Class Descriptions – September 2025

Information about the different classes:

Scottish Country Dancing is lots of fun and sometimes challenging. Our classes are set up in levels so that dancers can learn at an appropriate pace. It is important for our dancers to encourage newcomers to the class and for new dancers to be ready to join the class. Therefore, if you are considering joining a new level class, please speak with your current teacher and the teacher in the class you would like to attend. Here are some tips on the formations you should be ready to dance at each level:

- For the Experienced Social, you should know the basic and intermediate formations without a reminder
- For the Daytime Social class, you should have danced the basic formations and be ready to put them into a dance
- For the Intermediate class, you should know the basic formations without a reminder

Basic Formations: Advance and retire, Hands round, Hands across, leading and dancing down and up, Rights and lefts. Casting, Back to back, Pousette, Allemande, figures of 8, know your corners, Promenade, Figure 8, Grand chain, Ladies' chain and simple reels of three and four

Intermediate Formations: The Rondel, The Knot, Reels of 3 on opposite side and own side, Corners pass and turn, Double triangles, Rights and lefts for 3 couples, Pousette right round (Strathspey pousette), Half pousette, Set to corners and partner (Hello-good bye), Set and link, Set and link for 3 couples, Set and rotate, Men's chain, Reels of 3 and 4 (side, across, diagonal)

For all classes the hall rental begins 15 minutes before class to allow for set up and getting your shoes on.

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

Experienced social for dancers with a good knowledge of the basic and intermediate formations and who wish to dance more challenging dances and formations.

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

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 Class - Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Teachers: Gael Forster and Joan Axford

For dancers who know the basic formations and want to expand their repertoire, this class will teach a range of formations, work on phrasing, handling and learn 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. 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 or text Joan Axford at 250-415-2540 or e-mail at joanaaxford@gmail.com.

The Victoria Workshop and Ball, 48th Anniversary

This year's workshop and ball, now a fond memory from way back at the beginning of April, was once again a great success. Alan Thwigg came up from the San Francisco Bay Area to teach the workshop, and Mary Ross, along with her professional musician friends Janet Rendell, (piano), Kate Rhodes (violin), and Allyn Chard (violin), provided excellent music. We had several people attending from the United States, and when it came time for the last dance, nobody seemed very tired.



162nd Victoria Highland Games

This year was the 162nd highland games in Victoria, making it the longest *continuously running* highland games in the world, and we were there. Our club had a table set up with info and invited people to try out some simple dances. Most seemed to be having plenty of fun, and after CHEK news with Tess van Straaten broadcast a segment Saturday night, we had more people having fun on Sunday.



Walk Scottish

Does the “HOP” part of “hop, step, close, step,” fill you with dread? Or if you’ve done it all evening, is it tough the next day to get out of bed? A growing movement, dubbed “Walk Scottish” might just be the ticket!

On Tuesday, April 8th VISCDS hosted a “Walk Scottish” social at City Lights Church on Obed and it was very well received. There were four plus sets of dancers/walkers both locals and guests. The dances were old favourites, like Flowers of Edinburgh, Montgomerie’s Rant, and Machine without Horses, but every one of them could be walked, rather than danced, if folks so desired. Right place, at the right time and in time to the music of course!

We welcomed folks who danced with VISCDS years ago, friends from Vancouver who had heard about this new approach and wanted to see what it was all about, and of course the Tuesday afternoon regulars who got to dance AND enjoy the bonus of cookies and juice at the break.

We have heard that several of the groups in Vancouver are planning to host similar events – so maybe we are at the forefront of the next big thing! Watch for future events that keep us all involved and connected to this wonderful pastime!

-- Louise McGillivray

Spring Fling

