

Island Fling



August 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

David Morrical

2nd Vice President and Membership

Jane King

Secretary

June Robinson

Newsletter Editor

Ray Fischer

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Janet Bailey

Social Convenor Committee

Ellen Campbell

Donna Clements

Sheila Eaglestone

Lori Morrison

Teacher Representative

Joan Axford

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **October 19th**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at ray@fischerperry.com.

In This Issue: Classes start Monday Sep 8th; Open House is Tue Sep 9th. There's a new class! See descriptions!

Plea for help with social media fundraising project!

Our group has been gifted an assortment of Scottish gear (kilts, jackets, etc.).

It would be wonderful if someone comfortable with Facebook/Market Place/Garage Sale platforms could assist in posting these items for sale. This would be a great fundraiser for VISCDS.

Any willing parties please contact Kathryn Knowles at viscdspresident@shaw.ca, or 250-598-3490.

Thank you so much!! -- Kathryn

"Tundra", by Chad Carpenter



President's Comments, August 2025:

As I write this there are three weeks until the Open House on Sept. 9th!

Who have you invited to join us?

This summer I was at a wedding ceilidh with a group of uninitiated dancers. It was a thrill to see their joy and enthusiasm as they got caught up in the music and started to see the patterns of the dances. What a privilege it is to share that with others!

Our executive, teachers, and Ball Committee have been working behind the scenes to organize the coming dancing year for your pleasure. The classes will be the same as last year, with the addition of a step dancing class for the month of September. The Workshop and Ball will be on April 11th, with the same musicians as last year, brought back by popular demand. My sincere thanks to the executive members, teachers, and Ball committee for making our VISCDs upcoming year so fantastic!

A huge thank you goes out to Bob for running the Summer Dancing program for yet another year. It is a treasured tradition for many of our dancers and truly appreciated by everyone who attends.

Check the website for further details.

See you on September 9th!

Kathryn

Thanks

A thank you and congratulations to Bob Anderson for another successful season of summer dancing, and a very big thank you to Bob for the donation of \$300 to VISCDs from surplus funds.

Teachers' Corner and Demonstration Update

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. Remember that the basic class always appreciates more experienced dancers coming to help out and if you want to dance at another level, please discuss with your teacher.

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

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 September 1 at GreekFest at 2:20 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.

Joan Axford

Teacher Representative

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Local Scottish Country Dance Events

GreekFest. Our demonstration team will perform on Monday, Sep 1st, at 2:20pm.

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

Workshop & Ball April 11th, 2026

Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

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

Oct 26th [North Shore Dance Scottish Fall Tea Dance](#)

Nov 11th [Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance](#)

Nov 29th [St. Andrew's Ball](#)

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

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

Sep 8th Classes resume

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

Oct 18th [Calgary One-Day Fall Workshop and Dance](#)

Larry Scott

Many of you will be familiar with the Scottish Newsletter which Kathryn forwards to you every month. This Newsletter was published by Larry Scott, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on August 9th.

Larry was a retired United Church minister, who was born in 1951 in the very Scottish, Glengarry County, in eastern Ontario. The farm home was an 1813 log house and Larry started his schooling in the nearby one room school. In due course, he graduated from University of Toronto and Princeton. After graduation, Larry took up post as a student minister in a small town in southern Saskatchewan. He went on to serve in several churches in Saskatchewan, Banff, and finally in British Columbia, in Victoria (Cordova Bay and James Bay United Churches) and Kitimat.

Immersed in the Scottish culture of Glengarry County, Larry took up the bag pipes at the age of 16 and played in several pipe bands including the Lorne Scots Pipes and Drums with whom he performed at the Edinburgh Tattoo in 1970.

After retiring in Victoria, he directed his considerable talents and time, in part, to creating, editing and publishing the Scottish Newsletter "serving the Scottish community of Greater Victoria". The Newsletter is now in its tenth year. Each issue contained articles from and about Scotland and things Scottish, cartoons of a Caledonian bent and details of local Scottish activities. A semi-regular subject was the kilted highlander Murdo MacMarmot. As a reporter and photographer, he could be seen at many significant Scottish events gathering material for the newsletter.

Apart from the newsletter, Larry had many interests ranging from languages and travel, through rose gardening to keeping parrots. He was a member of the Saltire Society where he gave presentations on his British travels, the origins of languages of Scotland and a critical assessment of Prime John A. MacDonald. Recently, building on his training as a minister and travels in the Middle East, he gave an hour and a half, illustrated lecture detailing the historical background to the current conflict in Israel and Gaza.

A celebration of life was held at Broad View United (the former St. Aidan's) on August 25th. A more extended obituary is available at the Times Colonist or [Affordable Cremation & Burial](#).

There has been no decision yet, about whether the Scottish Newsletter will continue to be published.

-- Gordon Robinson



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.

NEW! Step Dance Class! Thursdays in September 6:30 - 7:15. Teacher: Joan Axford.

This type of dance is a combination of highland and Scottish country dance steps and is open to both men and women. The classes are being offered at cost of the hall rental, so the more dancers who attend the lower the cost per person but expect about \$10 per class.

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.