

Island Fling



May August 2026

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

1st Vice President and Publicity

2nd Vice President and Membership

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Paula Rennie

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Ray Fischer

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Ellen Campbell

Donna Clements

Sheila Eaglestone

Lori Morrison

Joan Axford

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Teacher Representative

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 23rd**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at ray@fischerperry.com. Have something you'd like to share with the rest of the club? I welcome photos, news, and events. Send me a note and I'll help with getting it published.

Webmaster wanted: We would like somebody to oversee updating our web site, and preferably somebody who isn't me. It'll be extremely part time, maybe an hour a month. Interested? Send me an email ray@fischerperry.com, or Doug at viscdspresident@shaw.ca - Ray

In This Issue:

Oops. Didn't happen in May. How about a Fling in August!

Welcome Doug, highland games, a farewell

Oh - The Pain!!

*Dancing is a way of life,
But it sometimes brings trouble and strife,
To parts of the body that used to work well,
When deterioration sets in - it sometimes
is hell.*

*Bending our legs is a must you'll agree,
But it's playing havoc with my gammy
knee!
The stretching and bending we have to do,
Is OK for some, but maybe not you.*

*Straining my head Left feels right for a sec.
But holding it there gives me a stiff neck.
Dancing was natural, I believe to St Vitus,
But it is not for me or my fibrositis!*

*Sometimes we get what we deserve,
It's definitely no good for the sciatic nerve!
In Tango it's good to have lots of attack,*

*But it's certainly no good for my aching
back.*

*Holding a leg line really gives me jip
It does no favours to my arthritic hip!
My toe is so painful when I'm dancing
about,
I think it's rheumatic - I hope it's not gout!*

*My arms are in position - my poor frozen
shoulder,
Is playing up again - I feel older and older*

*I'm nothing but a pain in the neck,
But dancing comes first - so what the heck
I'll carry on dancing - I'm sure you'll
agree,
All this pain is self inflicted injury!!*

Julie Taylor

President's Comments June, 2026

It's an honour and privilege to be your new President. While I'm a relative newcomer to VISCDS, I have been active in the world of Scottish Country Dance for over a decade as a dancer and as a member of the executive at the Gleneagles club in West Vancouver. Scottish Country Dancing certainly is an enjoyable activity that exercises both mind and body. The many classes I've attended over the years have always been friendly and welcoming – even at my very first class where I made plenty of mistakes.

I'm impressed with the ambitious schedule of classes and social events offered by VISCDS. The executive, social and ball committees and the class reps have done a great job organizing these activities. I've also been impressed by our strong group of very dedicated teachers who make it all happen. I'm looking forward to working with everyone over the next 4 years. Special thanks to Kathryn Knowles for her leadership over the past 4 years.

Recent events included the very successful Workshop and Ball on April 11th and the well attended AGM dance on April 20th, which welcomed Paula Rennie as the new membership Vice President.

The VISCDS has a healthy membership base, but we need to attract new dancers every year to maintain (or even increase) our numbers. The VISCDS conducts a variety of outreach activities to attract new members, most recently at the Highland Games on May 16/17. The demonstration team performed at the View Royal Canada Day celebration on July 1st, and an advertising blitz will get underway in August, but word of mouth advertising to family and friends is also an effective approach. If you know someone who might be interested, please encourage them to attend opening night on September 8. You can download a promotional brochure at our website.

I hope to meet everyone on the dance floor over the next year. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Doug Nelson, President

Teachers' Corner

Thank you for great attendance at the spring dance classes. They were lots of fun. We appreciated the support for dancers progressing to this class from the basic class. The teachers want to do more to support this progression so that all dancers feel comfortable and confident at classes and socials. Stay tuned for future announcements in this regard.

Joan Axford

[The demonstration team will be dancing at GreekFest on August 30th at 3pm. Come and support the team and join in the audience participation dancing! – ed]

Highland Games

On May 16th and 17th, we joined the Saltair Society at the Heritage Tent at the Highland Games to share the dances and music of Scottish Country Dancing. Mary Ross provided the wonderful music, Gordon Robinson provided a presentation on our form of dance, and Joan Axford led the dancing. We engaged the attendees with some simple dances. It was great fun with an enthusiastic group of participants.

Michael Elcock of the Saltair Society summed up as follows:

This is just a wee note to thank you for everything you and the dancers did over the in the pouring rain on Saturday! I hope you all managed to have hot baths with plenty of Epsom Salts afterwards, and maybe a hot toddy as well. Yesterday was a different day, and it was so good to see how you were able to get so many people—some from inside the tent and some passers-by—to give it a go. The enthusiasm was infectious.

We also had our own information booth, and Martha Morrison coordinated that part and she summed up the weekend as follows:

What a wonderful and supportive group you are. I can't thank you enough. From setup to take down, at every turn I was blown away with the efforts made by one and all. The volunteers who so enthusiastically touted Scottish Country Dance and encouraged those passing the booth to take a minute, take a brochure or business card and to leave a name for the mailing list were outstanding. The Saturday set up and putting away for the night were so easy thanks to you wonderful volunteers.

Arriving on Sunday morning to discover Donna and Joan had already set up the booth was both amazing and a huge relief. Rosemary wandering around the area giving out flyers, while others manned the booth and took names was, as always, fabulous. And finally, the take down crew of eight who simply arrived at the booth to help after the participation dancing ended. I am still amazed at how efficiently that was done.

Thank you to the members who came to help out at the games with the dancing, handing out brochures, and encouraging others to join and try Scottish country dancing.

Joan Axford

Photos Martha Morrison



Tribute to Bob Aanderson's 30+ Years of Teaching

Monday, March 30, 2026, Van Ise Scottish Country Dance Club surprised and honored Bob for his 30+ years of teaching Scottish dancing with a special evening organized by Joan Axford. 50 people attended the dance along with some alumni dancers, Jane Matthews, Margaret Mercer and Maureen and Jamie Orr. Best wishes were sent from Rosemary Balfour and Patti Whitehouse.

We danced a program of some of the dances that Bob had devised. Sheila, Gael, Louise, Anita, Joan and Gordon taught and briefed the dances while Bob sat and enjoyed a wee dram of Scotch that Martha brought for him while watching his dances danced.

The memorabilia that Joan brought for people to enjoy, was a video of when Bob was on the Dem team, a picture album, 3 dance books of his dances, and a banner with a picture of him that everyone signed.

During the break Joan spoke about some of Bob's history with the club. She then read a letter of her recommendation that she had kept that Bob asked her to write for him when he took his teachers' exam. He could not believe it! Kathryn Knowles thanked Bob for his dedication to the club.



One of the statements that Bob says in all his Monday classes is "There Is Nothing To This Dance", so Joan devised a dance with that title, and the current Dem team danced it for everyone.

Janet and Peter Bailey brought a very special decadent cake for Bob that everyone enjoyed.

Bob was so surprised by the whole evening he said he has never been speechless before, but he truly was and was very touched and appreciative of the whole evening.

It was a huge success, and a good time was had by all celebrating with Bob.

A big thank you to Joan Axford for organizing this special evening.

- Lori Morrison



Summer of 2026 Potluck Social

Thursday, July 23rd, was Bob's summer dancing potluck evening with 4 sets of dancers attending. The Social was moved forward by a week from Thursday the 30th so that all the dancers that were heading to TAC could attend the potluck.

There was a great selection of food donated along with cold lemonade, iced tea and apple juice. We did not use the kitchen, and everyone brought their own dishes and napkins which worked out very well.

It was a great program that Bob created and briefed. A good time was had by all.

- Lori Morrison

Dancers at Market Square

A group of our dancers went to Market Square for the viewing of the soccer match between Scotland and Brazil to support the Downtown Business Association and team Scotland. We performed a couple of dances and got members of the audience up to try some simple dances. There was an enthusiastic crowd, and the Brazil fans were keen to join the fun as well. Thank you to Martha Morrison, Louise McGillivray, Lori Robinson, Andre De Leebeeck, Barbara De Leebeeck, David Walde, Janet Bailey, Peter Bailey, Kathryn Miller and Rosemary MacNeil.

- Joan Axford

Photo Barb Currie



David Aitken CAMPBELL Obituary

CAMPBELL, David Aitken M.A., F.R.S.C.

David died on June 24, 2026, after a week in the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Palliative Care Unit, age 98.

He was born at Killywhan, a small village in Galloway, Scotland, where his father was Station Master. His family moved from one place to another, and he attended six different schools, beginning at Beeswing and ending at Hamilton Academy. After taking degrees at Glasgow and Oxford Universities, he taught Classics in the University of Bristol, where he met and married Cynthia Dutton. In 1971 the family moved to Canada and David joined the Classics department at the University of Victoria, where he taught for 20 years. Music played an important role in his life, playing piano and singing in choirs with Cynthia until his deafness made it impossible. He remained active running into his sixties and enjoying Scottish Country Dancing into his eighties.

Cynthia died in 2011. David is survived by his dear daughters and sons-in-law, Alison (Andrew Prentice), Helen (Bill Erving) and Fiona (John Crisp). His beloved grandchildren, Carolyn (Alex Etchell) and Russell, Nigel and Amy (Kent Bernadet), Meggin and Kirsten and great grandson Liam Etchell.

A memorial service will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay on July 31st at 10 am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation.

Victoria Times Colonist, July 4, 2026



Local Scottish Country Dance Events

2026/2027 local events are at City Light Church Hall unless otherwise noted.

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

Free Open House! September 8th, 2026, at 7:30pm at the City Light Church.

Bring a friend! Bring several friends! This is a great opportunity to introduce people to Scottish Country Dance. Easy dances will be taught for new dancers, as well as some more advanced dances for the experienced.

Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Classes

Experienced Social – Mondays 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Teacher: Bob Anderson. Experienced Social for dancers with good knowledge of all basic and intermediate formations and who wish to dance more challenging dances and formations.

Basic Class – Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Teacher: Sheila McCall and Gael Forster. 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.

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!

Intermediate Class – Thursdays 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Teachers: Sarah Kell 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, handing 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.

