

Island Fling



May/June 2007

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
P.O. Box 30123, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet
Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

Executive Committee

President	TBD	
Past President	Bill Greig	250-246-1036
1st Vice President and Publicity	Joan McIntosh	477-2512
2nd Vice President and Membership	Maralynn Wilkinson	592-2234
Secretary	Keith Wilson	920-7599
Newsletter Editor	Sara Hatfield	474-1895
Treasurer	Jamie Orr	478-5338
Social Convener	Kathryn Deegan	kdeegan@shaw.ca
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	479-6719

Web address: www.viscds.ca

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2007/2008 Executive is a wonderful cross section of new and long-time members of VISCDS but unfortunately the position of President remains open. The nominating committee was unable to find any candidates and there were no nominations from the floor at the annual general meeting. As we start planning for the new dancing season the guidance of the President's role becomes more and more important. We need the membership's help in supporting the Executive to find a President. Please contact any member of the Executive if you have any ideas or could offer your talents to serve as President.

As there is no formal President's message, the new Executive would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Greig for his dedication over the last year. As most of you know Bill lives in Chemainus and has put many kilometers on his vehicle attending meetings, socials, events – and yes, even the recent May 21st parade. He has been a focal point for all activities and announcements and has kept us well informed through email notices. His guidance and concern for the new Executive have also been greatly appreciated.

Bill, thank you from all of us for a great year and offering your time, friendship and good advice!

September 10, 2007 VISCDS OPEN HOUSE – 7:30 PM McKenzie Elementary, 4005 Raymond St. N

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

RSCDS Memberships – coordinated through the Executive this year – Deadline June 15

Members wishing to renew membership with or join the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburgh may do so by contacting Maralynn Wilkinson at 592-234 or Maralynn@shaw.ca by **June 15**. Membership fee is 17 pounds (about \$37). This entitles you to receive the magazine "Scottish Country Dancer" and 10% off Society publications and recordings. Information about membership may be seen on their website www.rscds.org.

Publicity Plea

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help distribute or post flyers as part of our ongoing "recruiting campaign". For widespread advertising, we are looking for additional volunteers who are willing to assist with the distribution of posters approximately three times a year in their local areas. If you would like to help, please call Joan McIntosh at 477-2512 or email joanbmc@shaw.ca.

2007/2008 VISCDS Social Dates

September 10	Open House (also the first Basic Class)
October 20	Harvest Social
November 17	St. Andrews Social
December 8	Joint Christmas Social (VISCDS hosts)
January 26	Joint Burns Social
February 16	Valentines Social
April 26	Spring Fling

Annual General Meeting April 26, 2007

Please find enclosed the minutes of the AGM, the President's report and the Ball and Workshop Weekend report. If any VISCDS member would like a copy of other reports presented at the meeting please contact the newsletter editor.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society Annual General Meeting April 26, 2007 at St. Martin in the Fields

Thirty-eight (38) voting members signed and were registered at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm and the members welcomed by Bill Greig, President.

1. MINUTES

A motion to accept the Minutes of the last AGM was moved by Evelyn Murray and seconded by Lesley Brennand.

2. REPORTS

The following reports were read and printed copies submitted for filing.

Publicity: 1st Vice President. Joan McIntosh read and submitted report.

Membership: 2nd Vice President. Maralynn Wilkinson read and submitted report.

Finance: In the absence of the Treasurer, the President read and submitted report.

A motion to accept the Finance Report was moved by Gordon Robinson and seconded by Walter Roots. **CARRIED.**

Newsletter: Sara Hatfield read and submitted report.

Social Convener: Ian Danks read and submitted report.

Joint Teachers & Dem Team: In the absence of Bob Anderson and Joan Axford the President read and submitted joint report.

Victoria Joint Scottish Council: No report.

Workshop & Ball Committee: Lesley Brennand read and submitted report.

President: Bill Greig read and submitted report.

A motion to accept all other reports was made by Hugh Thompson and seconded by Kathryn Deegan.

3. Sign up sheets were available for the Highland Games on May 20, and the Victoria Day Parade on May 21.
Dancing in the Park will be July and August.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President, Bill Greig, turned the chair over to Lesley Brennand and Rick Deegan to conduct the Election of Officers.

1st Vice President, Publicity – Joan McIntosh was nominated.

2nd Vice President, Membership – Maralynn Wilkinson was nominated.

Treasurer – Jamie Orr was nominated.

Newsletter – Sara Hatfield was nominated.

Social Convener - Kathryn Deegan was nominated.

Secretary – Keith Wilson was nominated.

There were no nominations for President.

There was a call three (3) times for further nominations for each position, as there were no further nominations; each officer was elected by acclamation.

A motion to close nominations was made by Walter Roots and seconded by Joan McIntosh.
CARRIED.

Rick Deegan gave a vote of thanks to the out going executive and adjourned the meeting.

Heather Danks, Secretary.

President's Report

The executive reports that have been previously given fairly well depict the present state of the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society. Starting after the AGM last year there was a learning period of what essential items needed to be progressed. Teachers concerns, namely music machines, a JVC and speakers for the Society's Technics machine were purchased thereby satisfying 2 teachers requirements. I would like to thank Walter Roots for building a proper locker to store the new speakers which also allowed for the Technics machine and speakers to be kept in a secure place here at the church. As the summer progressed Class/Social dates were identified and reported to the membership. During this time the church hall floor was refurbished, and further liaising with the Church revealed that because of increased costs of utilities, repairs and maintenance that an increase in hourly rental fees would be required. After some negotiation an hourly rate was agreed to, and as you can see, the affect is reflected in our Financial Report. I would like at this point to suggest to the membership that be prepared for another increase in the hourly rate this year, there are indications that this may be so.

Starting with the Open House, classes commenced in the late summer/early fall. Because of Easter falling later in 2007 than the previous year, it was decided, to extend the dancing year with a commensurate increase in class fees, to help cover the church hall rental and teachers fees. Our socials starting with the Spring Fling 2006 right up to our Workshop and Ball Weekend 2007 were well attended, with 2 joint socials, Christmas and the Burns Night, held jointly, being successful. Our Workshop and Ball Weekend after some apprehension and surprising to some, was quite successful, and assuredly could not have been so without the hard work of the Ball Committee volunteers. At this point I would like to mention with great appreciation all the good work of all our volunteers. Setting up for socials, decorating, garnering and laying out of food, and other numerous duties, we couldn't have done so well without them. A big Thank you.

During the evening of the Spring Fling 2006 last year I received information regarding applying for the Lottery Grant again, we had been informed we weren't eligible to receive any further grants. I then colluded with our Treasurer and after some discussion he obtained the requisite forms, and compiled an excellent report which was forwarded, and surprisingly to both of us, I believe, we had obtained another grant.

In November at the St Andrews social, an EGM was held to address some constitutional changes; all four amendments were passed and registered. If you wish a copy of them they are available through the Secretary.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the members of the Executive; I can say unequivocally, it was a pleasure to have worked with such a good group of people. A further final acknowledgement, the teachers, we cannot do without them, I say that with some tongue in cheek, because we all know that, but without the fun, enjoyment and their tricky dances, a suggestion, don't ever believe the following phrase "Okay, now we'll do an easy dance." we wouldn't enjoy dancing so much. In seriousness, teaching is not an easy task, I admire them for their conscientious work, they give us a good example to follow.

Classes this year, regrettably took a bit of a beating, largely because of weather, the way holidays fell and school/church requirements, yet we managed in the main to get them in.

Some recommendations:

We need to be aggressive in obtaining new members, and utilize every opportunity to gain them. It doesn't need to be reiterated here, it has been talked about enough what will happen if we don't recruit. Our membership is dwindling, with a resultant decrease in revenue, and there is a need to look at our membership, class fees, and other associated fees, which the executive will assuredly do.

Lastly, I should like to thank all the membership for their support to the Society, its functions, and activities. You are a good group of people and I am happy to be associated with you.

I submit this report for your acceptance.

Bill Greig, President

31st Annual Ball and Workshop Weekend

During the weekend of March 30, 31 and April 1 we celebrated our 31st Annual Ball and Workshop.

Knowing this year we would have competition from other on and off island dancing events we were expecting our numbers to be down considerably from last year, but after a slow response the numbers came rolling in, and at the end we had a respectable 161 registrants for the weekend. Although we had to increase the prices a little, and I kept everyone on a very tight budget, I am delighted to tell you we made a profit of \$664.00, which I might add I will be requesting to be used on replacement purchases for critically needed supplies for decorating.

119 attended the Friday night Ceilidh where numerous ceilidh acts performed by local and out of town guests were interspersed between dances. Our very talented musicians for the evening and throughout the weekend were Ken Natrass and Ron Krug from Winnipeg.

We listened to our members concerns about selling raffles tickets and changed to a Silent Auction; I am pleased to announce a profit of \$1222.00. Thanks to all who donated.

84 dancers attended the Saturday morning workshops, 15 level 1, 26 level 2, 43 level 3.

The afternoon options were:

John Wilkinson's dances, 33 attended

Evelyn Nixon's Having Confidence at Socials, 11 attended

Bob Anderson Ball Walk Through, 21 attended

This year we tried to encourage more beginner dancers and offered an all day program for them, for the first time our own teachers Joan Axford and Bob Anderson taught the morning level 1 class, Evelyn Nixon the afternoon option.

We must thank Rob Robinson and his wife Diane for hosting the Ball at the Wardroom, 110 attended the banquet and 105 dancers took to the floor after the Grand March.

100 very happy social dancers were present at the ever-popular Sunday Dancing and Brunch at the CPO's Mess hosted by Jim and Anne Scott. Anne and the staff made a few changes for the better and once again the buffet was enjoyed by all.

Our teachers from away who brought their expertise were John Wilkinson, Duns Scotland and Evelyn Nixon, Comox. John and his wife Ruby stayed for another night and very kindly taught a social evening of dancing for all that cared to join them.

To my rookie committee and all the other volunteers who came together to make this a success in hosting a popular and happy dancing weekend, I thank you all.

Respectfully submitted Lesley Brennand, Ball & Workshop Coordinator



Congratulations Gordon !

VISCDs would like to congratulate Gordon Robinson on recently achieving his teacher's certificate. What a significant accomplishment and we share in the celebration of his success!

SUMMER DANCING OPPORTUNITIES

- June 1st to August 3rd - Fridays, 7:30pm. Summer Dancing at St Martin In-the-Fields, 550 Obed. (\$6 drop-in fee)
- July 5th to August 9th - Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Dancing in the Park. Beacon Hill, Cameron Bandshell. (free). If it is raining at 4:00 pm dancing will be cancelled.
- July 8th & July 15th - (both Sundays) 2:00 pm. Dancing on the Beach, Willows Beach. Wear sensible clothing and bring your friends and family to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. (Sponsored by the Victoria Branch).



Lower Intermediate Class – Spring Fling – April 28th

The best, as always, was saved for last and if you missed the Lower Intermediate Class “Spring Fling” you missed the Grande Finale of the Social Season. Spring was definitely in the air for the nearly fifty attendees who arrived dressed in an array of finery that brought the best of what had been a beautiful day indoors for the dance. With the ladies sporting the colours of spring and the gents in kilts and “troosers” this crowd was obviously expecting a great evening and the Lower Intermediate Class delivered. A great program put together by teachers Una Lennam and Sue and Rob Langridge had virtually everybody up for every dance save for those who had worn themselves out gardening earlier in the day or were doing the TC 10K the next day. A random poll of favourite dances included “Let’s Have a Ceilidh” (Mary Cooper), “Catch the Wind” (Kathryn Deegan), “Trip to Bavaria” (Jacquie Storey), “Dream Catcher” (Bill Greig), all of them (Howard and Faye Sturrock). The evening was given an international touch with three students from Pearson College; Lawa from Mongolia, Nora from Bulgaria who brought a Bulgarian cheese dish, and Maelena from Greenland who played the flute during the break (“Danny Boy” a traditional Irish air and “Minuet of the Blessed Spirits” by Gluck). And, speaking of the break, the nibblies were great. The Lower Intermediate Class isn’t large but you wouldn’t know it by the quantity and variety of goodies to choose from. For anyone thinking of joining this class be forewarned: you’ll have to dance twice as long to work off some of the treats this group produces. In all, a wonderful evening put on by a great class for a spirited group of guests

Best line of the evening: Sue Langridge announcing, “There are two more spot prizes. One of them is a nice little box of stationery; the other is the role of president.”

Mystery of the Depths of the Sporrans Revealed: Not a shy group of gents at this social they were happy to spill the beans (and the contents of their sporrans). Handkerchiefs, money, car keys, driver’s license, cell phone and a pewter flask purported to be empty. It’s not worth trying to rob a Scot in a kilt by the way. The most money any sporran sported was \$10.00.

Happy Spring Everyone!
Linda Adams, Class Rep

Highland Games and May Day Parade

Well it’s a good thing it was the “High Land” games taking place on May 20th at Bullen Park and not the “Low Land” games or we would have been drowned out for sure! It was barely past 8:00 a.m. and the Danks Clan had just put up our booth when the rain starting pouring. Unfortunately it didn’t get any better for the rest of the day. Brightly clad with tartan, banner and flags our booth made a wonderful gathering place and we were all able to share a few laughs with VISCDS members who stopped by. We thoroughly enjoyed talking to everyone and collected 6 to 8 names of interested people for classes, and had a great opportunity to promote dancing in the park to newcomers. Ian Danks would like to thank Rick Deegan, Sara Hatfield and Mary Roberts for taking a shift and helping out at the booth.

The highlight of the day was a dancing demonstration by our Dem Team. Quick to adapt to any surroundings the team found themselves dancing on the grass, thankfully under a tent, and had an appreciative crowd who enjoyed the performance very much.

Many thanks to Ian and Heather Danks who organized, assembled/disassembled and decorated the booth plus stayed for the full day.

On May 21st Bill Greig, Merle Peterson, Gordon Robinson and June Robinson stepped out smartly in the May Day Parade. They handed out over 150 flyers and proudly represented VISCDS in the festivities. Bill is particularly hoping you all saw them on TV!

Ruth and Jamie MacKendrick

VISCDS members were sorry to hear that Jamie MacKendrick died of pneumonia on May 4th at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital. A celebration of his life was held May 20th at the Bay Street Armoury, Canadian Scottish Officers Mess. Jamie was a long-time member of VISCDS and kindly sponsored our annual Ball at the Wardroom, CFB Esquimalt for many years.

Earlier in the spring Ruth was one of the honoured guests to participate in the Vimy Ridge Memorial Re-dedication. Anne Scott has submitted the following write-up:

Vimy Ridge Memorial Re-dedication

On Monday April 9 at 7 a.m. PDT many Canadians watched the re-dedication of the Vimy Ridge memorial on CTV. Amongst the honoured guests - Ruth MacKendrick, a World War 2 veteran was one of two Canadian delegates chosen to represent the Nursing Sisters of Canada Association. Upon her return, I spoke with her and quote "it was an honour and very thrilling to be chosen and to attend such a moving ceremony". It was a very proud moment for all of us and especially Jamie, to see the Queen nod and Ruth respond in kind, then the President of France and his wife stopped to chat with Ruth! A wonderful honour for such a delightful lady.

Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse - opened May 1, 2007

The Craigflower Manor, Farm, and Schoolhouse are a National Historic Site and part of The Land Conservancy. 151 years ago, the MacKenzie family moved into the Manor House and, along with many other Scottish immigrants, "built" Craigflower Farm. Come and visit this interesting place and watch for the new developments this summer. For more information, visit the webpage: www.conservancy.bc.ca.

CELTIFEST 2007

Sponsored by the Pacific Institute of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts, July 8-13, 2007, Tigh-Na-Mara Resort, Parksville. There is an enormous amount of information about classes and teachers and concerts – please check www.celticperformingarts.com or contact Rene and Carolyn Cusson at (250)758-0208.

HOMECOMING SCOTLAND

2009 is the 250th anniversary of the birthday of Robert Burns. Scotland is planning a year of celebration and hopes you will go for a visit. You can keep up with developments on www.homecomingscotland.com.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Jun 1-Aug 3 SUMMER DANCING, Fridays, 7:30 pm, \$6, St. Martin's, 550 Obed**
- Jul 5 -Aug 9 DANCING IN THE PARK, Thursdays, 7-8:30pm, Cameron Bandshell (free), Beacon Hill Park. Dancing cancelled if it is raining at 4 pm.**
- Jul 8-13 '07 CELTIFEST 2007** Tigh-Na-Mara Resort, Parksville, www.celticperformingarts.com
- Jul 29- Aug 5 '07 TAC SUMMER SCHOOL 2007** Shawnigan Lake. Contact Anita Mathur dmanita@telus.net or TAC website www.tac-rscds.org
- Sep 10 '07 VISCDS OPEN HOUSE** at the Beginner's class. 7:30 PM, McKenzie Elementary 4005 Raymond St N
- Sep 17 '07 VISCDS EXPERIENCED SOCIAL CLASS BEGINS**
- Sep 29 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE** 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Oct 20 '07 VISCDS HARVEST SOCIAL** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Nov 03 '07 VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE** 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
- Nov 17 '07 VISCDS ST. ANDREW'S SOCIAL** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Dec 08 '07 JOINT CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** Cadboro Bay United Church Hall, 2625 Arbutus

- Jan 26 '08 **JOINT BURNS SOCIAL** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
 Feb 02 '08 **VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE** 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
 Feb 16 '08 **VISCDS VALENTINES SOCIAL** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
 Mar 01 '08 **VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE** 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
 Apr 12 '08 **VICTORIA BRANCH DANCE** 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Martin's, 550 Obed
 Apr 26 '08 **VISCDS SPRING FLING** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Jun 16 '07 **PUGET SOUND CROSSROADS** Held in Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands. Dancers will be piped up the hill from the ferry followed by dancing from 1:00 - 4:30 pm. More information at www.rscds-seattle.org or contact Elinor 425-488-7643
- Jun 30 '07 **BC HIGHLAND GAMES** Percy Perry Stadium, Vancouver, General Admission \$12, Gates open at 8:00 a.m., Opening Ceremonies at 12:00 p.m.
<http://www.bchighlandgames.com/generalinfo/index.php>
- Jul 22 - **RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL** takes place in the historic Fife town of
 Aug 19 '07 St. Andrews. Registration & deposit requested by Feb 1/07. www.rscds.org
- Jul 25-29'07 **HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL SCD SCHOOL** at University of King's College, Music: Tullochgorum & The Macadians. Teachers are Mary Murray (BC), Robert McOwen (MA), Joe Wallin (NS), Duncan & Maggie Keppie (NS) and Merrill Heubach (NS). Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033
lydiahedge@accesswave.ca.
- Sep 21-23'07 **FORT WORDEN ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND BALL** Musicians: Deby Benton Grosjean, Aptos, CA. Calum MacKinnon, Edmonds, WA. Ralph Gordon, Charles Town, WV. Andy Imbrie, Santa Clara, CA. Teachers: Helen Frame, Ayrshire, Scotland. Irene Paterson, Mukilteo, WA. Fred DeMarse, Alameda, CA. Arthur McNair, Pittsburgh, PA. Registration forms <http://www.rscds-seattle.org/images/Ft%20W%20Registration%202007.pdf>. More info at www.rscds-seattle.org/.
- Sep 28-30'07 **27TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH FALL WORKSHOP** at Kenosee Inn Resort Hotel, Moose Mountain Provincial Park. Teachers are Keith and Deirdre Bark (Mississauga). Music by Ron Krug and Ken Natrass (Winnipeg). Kenosee Inn Resort Hotel information at www.kenoseeinn.com. Contact (Workshop Registrar) 306-569-8509 info.sscd@lauraig.ca.
- Feb 21-28 '08 **RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL** in Pitlochry, Scotland. Watch www.rscds.org for more details.
- Mar 29 '08 **NANOOSE SCD 3RD ANNUAL SPRING GALA**, Qualicum Beach Community Hall. Live music with Mary Ross.

NOTE: Dance Programs for many of the listed events are available from the VISCDS newsletter editor or the listed contacts/websites.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER, August 15, 2007

Send your submissions to the news editor please

sdhatfield@shaw.ca or mail 1139 Greenwood Avenue, Victoria, BC V9A 5L9