

**VANCOUVER BRANCH  
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

**AGENDA AND REPORTS**



**Vancouver**  
dance scottish



## BRANCH AGM NOTIFICATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St., Vancouver, on **Friday, September 15 commencing at 7:30 PM**. Members are urged to attend the meeting at which there will be the opportunity to offer feedback on past events, provide suggestions for future events and activities, and to vote in the election of Directors and Officers for the 2017-2018 season. Dancing to the music of the Kilbirnie Station will follow.

A complete document package comprising the minutes of the 2016 AGM, the financial statement for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, nominations and reports, will be posted to the Branch website by September 11th. It is requested that Reports from clubs, Board members, etc. which are to be included in the package, be sent to [chair@rscdsvancouver.org](mailto:chair@rscdsvancouver.org) by September 1, 2017.

Peter Richards

Chair, RSCDS Vancouve

# AGENDA

## RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGM, September 15, 2017

1. Call to order
2. Confirmation of quorum (25 members)
3. Safety Announcement
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of minutes of Sept. 16, 2016 AGM
6. Business arising from the minutes of the Sept. 16, 2016 AGM
7. Treasurer's report
8. Independent inspection of 2016-17 financial statements
9. Appointment of inspector of 2017-18 financial statements
10. Reports from Board of Directors
11. Reports from appointees and committees
12. Reports from area clubs
13. Report of the nominating committee
14. Election of Directors and Officers for 2017-18
15. Appreciation to outgoing Directors and all committee members
16. Presentation
17. New Business - items from the floor
18. Adjournment

## **Draft Minutes of Sept. 16, 2016 Annual General Meeting**

See AGM 2016 DRAFT Branch Minutes posted on the Branch website:

<http://www.rscdsvancouver.org> under Branch Board Documents under the About Us tab.

# REPORTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was my first year as the Chairman of your RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board and I would like to think of it as continuing the fine tradition of the work that my predecessors have accomplished and not stirring too many irons in the fire.

UBC provided the signature venue for TAC 2017 Summer School and by all accounts and feedback, this was both popular and very well run. Thanks go to our local TAC committee headed by Fran Caruth assisted by Rebecca Blackhall Peters, Alison Moen, Katherine Shearman and Denise Cunningham, all of them living onsite at UBC for the full ten days. The new facilities at UBC were a hit and I can vouch for the music. The musicians were superb.

As previous chairs have done, I have visited all the clubs in the lower mainland (save one) and I have enjoyed them all. We are fortunate to have such a diversity of enthusiastic teachers and classes that anyone who wishes to dance - from beginners to experienced dancers can find a welcoming venue to attend.

This year, we have looked at the Wednesday Evening Branch class and re-formulated the class a little to provide a venue for old friends to dance while asking teachers to prepare dancers for weekends and events farther afield. Look for classes in the future that feature dances at Asilomar and a few places in between. We hope that if your class teacher is teaching a Wednesday Evening class at the Center, that you might come and support them too.

Sadly this year, Patricia Jamieson is leaving the Board after many years. She finally wrestled the RSCDS website membership database to the ground in her final year. Patricia has given us sterling service over the years and it is largely thanks to her that our membership numbers are holding up well. However our ability to attract a new generation of younger members remains a challenge - as it is for all the member societies of the Cultural Centre. Farewell too to Gerry Stensgaard, our past chair. Enjoy those first Saturdays of the month uninterrupted by the Board meetings, Gerry. And we say goodbye to Laurie Johnston. No more Simply Accounting for you. I'm sure you will miss it!

This year has already started with a successful Fall Frolic - one of the best attended that I have been at. Sadly, I can no longer charge and park my electric vehicle at the West End Community Centre for free - but times change. Indeed we had a new group band to dance to - Two Thistles and a Rose and very stirring, they were.

Last Fall, our Lady Aberdeen Dance was hosted by the Fort Langley Voyageurs who raised \$2500 for various charities. Of note, our internationally recognized teacher, Rebecca Blackhall

Peters is leaving for the Okanagan - our loss, their gain.

Our two signature events, the Burns Supper and the Heather Ball, run by Sally and Sandy Marshall and Denise Cunningham and Rosemary Coupe respectively were well attended. Although it is not our intention to make money, we made a small profit from both events which was very welcome. The Board has taken to heart the comments made after the Heather Ball. We are trying to make the Ball a little bit more special this year, with more emphasis on the catering while holding the line on a very reasonable ticket price. Like last year, we are bringing back another of our favourite musicians, Muriel Johnstone accompanied by Judi Nicolson and Ian Muir. Last year's music was a special treat and the Sunday concert was very well attended. We heard another side to Luke Brady's music and the progression that he made from student to master musician. Muriel has agreed to host another Sunday concert this year in the same venue as last year. Make that a date in your calendar too.

Our other events, the B'twixt and B'tween Dance and Love to Dance workshop went off without a hitch, under the steady hands of Katherine Shearman and Fran Caruth respectively. A nod to the catering directors goes to Sandra Anderson, Denise Cunningham and a crew too numerous to mention who look after the eats at these events as well as providing for the all-important Love to Dance workshop, and ensuring the stooges are sustained at the Teacher's classes . Our thanks would not be complete without mention of Jean Wagstaff who heads the catering team for the stooges volunteering at the candidate classes.

Speaking of which, we had seven successful Teacher Candidates at this year's exams, three for their preliminary units and four for their final teaching certificate. Many of the candidates came from other areas of the Province but we regard it as our obligation to continue the teaching tradition of adding to the stock of Teachers in the Province. I am happy to note that this year, the teachers' clubs contributed to their candidate's training costs. While not required, it was pleasant to receive the social and financial recognition for the work we do in training new teachers. It is a huge task spread over the winter months and our thanks go to the tutors - Rebecca, Mary Murray, Rosemary Coupe and our coordinators extraordinaire, Fran Caruth who devotes enormous amounts of time to make sure it all goes smoothly.

In addition to the above mentioned events, the Branch runs two Monday night classes and the Wednesday night Program Class. Monthly Ceilidhs, open to all, organised by Duncan MacKenzie and led by Alison Moen and Katherine Shearman. We support the Demonstration Team led by my wife, Kay Sutherland who notes that the number of major events that they have participated in over the years have shrunk in number. They have instituted a more entertaining format than in the past, in order to keep up with the times. Kay Sutherland also leads a small dedicated band of step-dancers who add their talents to some of the demonstration dances and the Board supports the class although to date, it operates at a profit.

Finally, we run Dancing in the Park on Monday nights. It is one of the venues that seems to attract new or returning dancers. We were blessed this year with no rain but had to call off one night for poor air quality from the fires in the Interior. Thanks - once again - to Alison Moen - what would we do without her? and Francis O'Farrell and his little white truck without which the event would not be possible.

As has previously been reported to the membership, we did sustain a loss of funds due to internet fraud, a fact of life these days. However, your Board with the assistance of Paul Lowe and his IT skills have put in place measure that should prevent a repeat of this in the future.

So, there we are. A busy last year and a good start to the new one. Enjoy the AGM dance - a tradition since last year and do encourage friends and acquaintances to come along and find out all that Scottish Country Dancing has to offer.

Peter Richards

Chair RSCDS Vancouver Branch

## **VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Having spent 3 years as the Event Coordinator for the Branch, I was entirely surprised when the Nominating Committee approached me in June of 2016 to stand for the Vice-Chairman's position. Although I suggested names of people who have been more engaged with dancing beyond the Branch and would have the time and skills, the Committee stood firm. I spoke at length with Board members and others regarding the responsibilities and especially the amount of time that would be required. I was assured that the time would be manageable, not much at all, a piece of cake. Because I am involved with 2 other organizations, one as President, I wanted to be sure that I would meet the membership's expectations for the position.

After being elected last September for the first year of a two-year term, I was buttonholed by several members asking if I would be attending this or that event or visiting clubs and classes or travelling to out-of-town workshops and balls. Suddenly, the "not much at all", ballooned into "extensive and frequent". Peter calmed my fears by assuring me that the Vice-Chairman is not expected to attend events to the same degree that the Chairman does. Besides, he had other tasks in mind for me.

The first was the Vice-Chairman's primary job, which is to secure dates and venues for the major events that the Branch sponsors during the year. Because of conflicting bookings at the Scottish Cultural Centre (SCC), my attention was immediately required to sort out the January, 2017, date for the Branch Burns Supper. Each year, the last Saturday in January is reserved for Moray, Nairn and Banff. This limits the RSCDS to earlier dates in January or the first Saturday in February, which we prefer to avoid. We also want to schedule the Branch Burns

Supper on a different date from that of the Tam o'Shanter Dancers. With their kind acceptance of January 27 for their event, the Branch was able to secure January 20. Many thanks, Tams!

In the summer of 2017, we learned that an outside group wanted the Hebridean Room every Monday evening for the foreseeable future. Because paid bookings take precedence over free ones, the Highland Games rehearsals were to be bumped to Thursdays. In the end, the group decided to rent elsewhere and the emergency evaporated. Whew!

The Vice-Chair is also tasked with assembling the Calendar of Events each year. With many emails and phone calls, the 2017-2018 Calendar was compiled and sent to Stewart Cunningham for printing in a format with larger print to make for easier reading. Patsy will give one to each new and renewing member. Please post yours on your fridge.

The most pressing task that Peter delegated to me was the transition of the RSCDS Vancouver (Branch) Constitution and By-laws into compliance with the new British Columbia Societies Act, which came into effect on November 28, 2016. Societies have until November 28, 2018, to file. Essentially, the Act requires that the Constitution contain only the name and the purposes of the Society. Everything else must be moved into the By-laws with no revisions. Any amending of the By-laws must be done after the transition.

I spoke with lawyers, some of whom are members of the Branch; ordered and read the transition package provided by the BC Registry Services; compared their Model By-laws with ours; met with Thomas Budd, Secretary of the United Scottish Cultural Society who successfully filed their transition in July; and called the Registries Analyst to confirm that our proposed changes would comply with the Act. The transition will be filed this month. I also applied to the Business Law Clinic at the Allard School of Law at UBC for their help with future amendments to our By-laws to follow the Model By-laws. We will receive a reply by the end of September.

Now that these "pieces of cake" are underway or completed, it's time to dance!

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Hankin  
Vice-Chair

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial statements for the 2016-17 year show very satisfactory results. At the end of the year, the Member's Equity remains roughly unchanged and the same applies to the Mary Wattum and Pearl Holmberg funds. Even though the Mary Wattum Dance Fund is quite low, it was still enough to defray deficits on events. During the year, all the usual Branch activities

occurred with the addition of the Luke Brady concert. Branch classes at the Scottish Centre came close to breaking even. The Branch events did very well financially especially the Heather Ball the Love to Dance Workshop and Luke Brady concert. The expenses for the Dem. Team include \$650 that was spent on attire. But this was covered by the established reserve, so there was actually a small profit made on their operation. A new Branch logo was created during the year and, as you can see, it already appears on our publicity materials. But the cost of producing these materials – roughly \$3,500 – doesn't appear in the Statement of Operations. This is because it wasn't incurred during the 2016-17 fiscal year. So look for it in next year's report. I would add that, while this is a nontrivial amount, we can certainly afford it and, given the positive reception so far, its money well spent. This was my final year as Treasurer of the Branch. Not having previous accounting experience, the learning curve was not as steep as I had anticipated. Thanks to those who assisted me in the learning process. I have enjoyed being of service to you and thank you for your friendship and understanding during my tenure.

Laurie Johnston  
Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY DELEGATE'S REPORT

### Club Membership 2016/17 Season

	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>257</b>
Burnaby	24	27	30	27	27	32	31
Deep Cove	21	20	22	23	22	21	19
Delta Borderers	11	13	14	16	12	12	14
Fort Langley	6	9	9	9	7	6	8
Glenayre	40	39	40	44	45	40	43
Gleneagles	29	31	30	29	29	33	30
Vancouver Branch	64	66	70	73	67	67	70
<b>Club Membership 2016/17 Season</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
West End							
White Rock	14	12	11	12	9	9	9
Others	26	24	30	34	26	22	23
Unaffiliated	3	3	8	5	4	4	5

All Branch members are encouraged to update their personal information on the Edinburgh

website. Once members are registered they simply log onto the website using their email address or membership number and go to **My Account**.

Patsy Jamieson  
Membership Secretary

## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

As the conduit for communications from the RSCDS Head Office in Edinburgh, other Branches and members of the Vancouver Branch, the Corresponding Secretary is responsible for disseminating information received to the appropriate Board Members, and sending out notices to all the Branch Membership.

The Corresponding Secretary is also responsible, on behalf of the Board, for writing to Branch Members - sending Congratulations and Thanks, as well as Get Well Wishes, Condolences, and offering Support.

As I finish my second year as Corresponding Secretary, I wish to thank all the other members of the Board for their support and encouragement, particularly Peter Richards and Paul Lowe for helping me with the technical side! It has been an interesting year and I have agreed to put my name forward for a second term.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gillian Beattie

## **PUBLICITY REPORT**

The year began with our participation in a photo shoot for the BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival advertising campaign. The slogan for the Highland Games advertising "*Come to the Games at the End of the Train*" meant that the filming took place on one of the Skytrain carriages at the Stadium/Chinatown station. Despite it being a chilly February morning, 25 from our dancing community came along to be showcased as Scottish country dancers or as passengers to fill the train. Prior to the Games the pictures appeared on their website, on Skytrain, in brochures and magazines and was certainly good advertising not only for the Games but also for our Scottish country dancing.

The Highland Games in mid-June enjoyed fine weather which made it a perfect day for dancing in contrast to last year. In the morning the massed demonstration composed of 40 dancers put on a fine show. Later in the day the demonstration team entertained the crowds with a wonderful display of jigs, strathspeys and reels. The ceilidh dancing was well attended by visitors who seemed to enjoy the music and dances. Our advertising tent displaying our

brochures and continuous DVD play on the TV attracted a good number of visitors.

Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration parade was a highlight of the year. Our dancers turned out in force, a record number 44, all dressed in red & white and wearing maple leaf sashes for team effect. We paraded with banners, flags, our truck bedecked with 150 signs and emblems marking this special anniversary and, under a very hot sun, the dancers (and one on a scooter) magnificently entertained the huge crowds lining Georgia and Howe streets to huge applause and appreciation. The newly designed RSCDS banners and feather flags made their debut at the event.

To promote Scottish country dancing and enlist new members, our promo rack cards are displayed in as many areas as possible. They are distributed when the demonstration team performs at various venues, at the summer dancing Mondays at Stanley Park, at our display booth, at multi-cultural events and at Duncan's monthly ceilidhs. Several wedding ceilidhs have been booked as a result of the wedding promo card being displayed at the monthly ceilidhs and in places such as wedding hire locations in Scottish stores.

The events described above have been successful because of the involvement, dedication and enthusiasm of many people. To all of you, I pass on my heartfelt thanks for giving so generously of your time and effort. In this way we will continue to promote "dance scottish" and encourage our dancing community to thrive in the years ahead.

Submitted by Janet Mason  
Publicity Director

## **ARCHIVES REPORT**

Early in 2017 Vancouver City Archives began processing our Vancouver Branch records (1964-2002). Those records had been transferred from the Scottish Cultural Centre to the City in 2011. Over the ensuing years there was regular communication between the Branch Archivist and the City Archivist but because of staff shortages and backlog of City records our relatively small donation was not processed.

Last year I came into contact with Heather Gordon of the management group at the Vancouver City Archives. Following numerous email communications, Heather was finally able to fit our project into their 2017 work plan. As a result, the file descriptions can be viewed at <http://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/royal-scottish-country-dance-society-fonds>. The actual records are now publicly available for viewing in person at the City Archives Reading Room.

The City Archives is located on Chestnut Street in Kitsilano. A considerable amount of work by Rosemary Coupe went into preparing those records for transfer in 2011. The culmination of many years of patience was the processing which was finally completed in April 2017. This was indeed the highlight of the year for our Archives.

Monthly meeting minutes continue to be filed in our library and the White Cockade is filed regularly in our safe. Also, all memorabilia of Branch events is filed as documents become available.

During this year a donation was received from the children's classes. This consisted of many books related to dancing for young people as well as many photographs and newspaper clippings.

If you have any documents which you believe should be placed in the archives, please don't hesitate to contact [archives@rscdsvancouver.org](mailto:archives@rscdsvancouver.org).

I've enjoyed looking after the archives and have learned a lot. But now after two years in the Archivist role, I will be passing over my duties to my successor for the new season.

Submitted by Janet Mason  
Archivist

## EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The first event of the 2016–2017 Social Calendar was the popular and well attended **Betwixt & Between**. Dancers, both new and seasoned, enjoyed the program and the music provided by Mary Ross. Sandwiches, savories and vegetable plates were prepared by a great group of able volunteers. Desserts, fruit and other treats were gratefully received from many of the dancers. At the intermission we were able to provide everyone with plenty of tasty food, tea and coffee with a fair bit left over, which was taken home by those who wished to do so. An enjoyable evening, made possible by the stalwart crew of volunteers who assisted with all the food preparations and the kitchen cleanup at the end of the night.

The **Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance** was held on February 18th. Refreshments and home baking for workshop participants were once again provided by Jean Wagstaff and Fran Hillier. We've all come to rely on those pancakes to start us off on the right foot! Sandwiches, fruit and desserts were provided by my kitchen volunteers, ready for the enjoyment of the dancers and musicians at the end of their long day of dancing. Unfortunately many of the dancers were unable to stay for the tea, but those did stay, thankfully ensured very little was left on the tables for us to dispose of at the end.

Neither of these two events would be possible or successful without the willing participation of the volunteers who have always done what has been asked of them, whether it is sandwich making, serving the tea and coffee, or running the dishwasher and subsequent kitchen clean

up. To those members and volunteers who have done any of these tasks I, and the dancers who enjoy these socials, sincerely thank you.

To all the people who devised the dance program, briefed the dancers, decorated the hall or helped in any other way, thank you for making my role as events coordinator less stressful and more enjoyable.

Sandra Anderson  
Events Coordinator

## **REPORTS FROM APPOINTEES AND COMMITTEES**

### **WEBSITE REPORT**

The Branch website provides up-to-date information on Scottish Country Dancing in the Vancouver area, event photos, current news, the Branch Board members & appointments contact information, Branch documents, the White Cockade (newsletter) online, Branch membership information, and numerous other resources (articles of interest and links to other related sites).

The website now opens to the News & Updates page rather than a home page. This came with mixed reviews. While there is a news box at the top of every page, it is small and only gives part of the information. You need to go the news page to see full details and it was felt that some information was possibly being missed.

This past year, we started posting the Branch Board Meeting Minutes to the Board Documents page. Attachments and “in camera” minutes are not included. I continue to update the Event Photos, Events Calendar, Board Documents, Articles, and information as it is received. I have posted the link to the List of Clubs & Classes for the 2017-2018 season on the Home page and Branch page, and the New Branch Logo information pages on the Board Documents page.

A very big thank you to our webmaster, Darrell McLeod who keeps our website up-to-date with the most current version, runs interference when problems arise, and performs those tricky tasks that are beyond my abilities. And a special thank you to Paul Lowe, who sets up all those online registrations, PayPal, and maintains the Membership database.

I encourage all our members to check out our website for more than just the Events Calendar and Facebook. You might find some interesting information! And if you find any amiss, please let me know immediately.

Submitted by  
Mary Ann McDevitt

## WHITE COCKADE REPORT

I have now finished my first year as Editor for the newsletter and started on my second year. It is a challenging, but very gratifying position. I had to learn - in fact still learning - a new publishing program. It has some great features which help make me look good.

A July/August White Cockade was added this year, so we now are a bi-monthly newsletter. It was felt the lag from May to September was too long and we were reporting some news/events that were four months old. Plus the September/October issue is usually large due to the new season starting. There was less pressure on what may have to be cut. Even then, I already have an article for the November/December issue.

Thank you to my co-editor and husband, Kerry McDevitt, for his invaluable input. He is also my photo guru. He not only provides a number of photos, he crops and photoshops all photos for me to get the best possible pictures. They don't always turn out as well in black & white. Please send your photos in the highest resolution.

I would also like to thank Merry Wood and Cathrine Conings. They not only do a wonderful job proofing for typos, they also offer suggestions on grammar, wording and more! While we might not find every little missed comma, they certainly are a big help in producing a clean, clear newsletter.

A very big thank you to our webmaster, Darrell McLeod who keeps our website up-to-date with the most current version, runs interference when problems arise, and performs those tricky tasks that are beyond my abilities. And a special thank you to Paul Lowe, who sets up all those online registrations, PayPal, and maintains the Membership database.

A special thank you goes to Helen Hughes for her years of being responsible for picking up the newsletter from the Print shop, getting the mailing labels from the membership secretary (many thanks to her), buying the stamps & envelopes and mailing the newsletters – all in a very timely fashion. We will miss her array of stamps as she retired this year!

The White Cockade is published on the 1st of September, November, January, March, May and July. The deadline for submissions is the 10th day of the preceding month (i.e. October 10 for the November/December issue). All contributions of letters, articles, photos, etc are welcome. We will do our best to accommodate everyone as space permits. The newsletter must be in multiples of four pages, otherwise there will be blank pages. It may be necessary to reduce an article or put it over to another month.

Lastly, thank you everyone for your compliments on and contributions to the newsletter.

Submitted by  
Mary Ann McDevitt

## **DEMONSTRATION TEAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Please refer to my previous reports of January 2, 2017 and March 4, 2017.

The Team had a break from classes for three weeks following the busy Burns Season. Since then, there have been three Dems including a performance at the Lower Mainland Quarterhorse Event in Langley attended by lots of families and young people.

Practices for the Highland Games started on May 18, 2017 under the direction of Mary Murray. Many dancers were out of town during May and June making it a challenge to gather enough extra experienced dancers to make a large team. However, the eventual Team enjoyed performing on a lovely sunny day with much audience appreciation.

The Team danced to the music of the Vancouver Police Pipe Band at the Branch's night at Dancing in the Park on June 26, 2017. A second dance was dedicated to Drew Simpson, who had danced with the Team for many years until his final illness and sadly recent death.

The Dem Team has had a good year with much enthusiasm and support for our new members. We still need more men in general but actually had more men than women signed up for our last two Dems.

There were no requests for Dems over the summer months although there are two engagements booked for September. For some years there have been fewer and fewer formal events involving the Dem Team. Some events of the past are no longer taking place or other groups are performing instead. Consequently there is less opportunity to perform with a large team with most Dems being in a smaller venue.

There is a need to generate more interest in the Team and hence more engagements.

The Activity Records including financial details for March 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017 have been forwarded to you separately. The Activity Records for September 2016 to February 2017 were provided by Sandy Caruth as Team manager at that time.

Board members are always welcome to attend practices.

Kay Sutherland  
Dem Team Director

## **VANCOUVER BRANCH LADIES STEP DANCE REPORT**

The report for the Fall 2016 session of Ladies Step Dance has already been submitted.

Roberta Gotfried (North America West Coast correspondent) included a report on "Vancouver

Branch's Ladies Step Dance Workshop" of April 2016 in the **Scottish Country Dancer** magazine (No 23 October 2016).

Since then there have been no formal classes. The Teacher Candidate program was scheduled to take place on Saturdays from January until the end of April, 2017. This involved many of the Step dancers who would otherwise not have been able to participate.

Many of the ladies of the Dem Team also attend the Step Dance classes. Many of the Dem Team performances now include some Step Dancing which helps to vary the longer programs. I review these dances either before Dem class begins or at the end of Dem Team rehearsals.

Another series of Step Dance classes is planned for the Fall beginning with a free class on Saturday September 30, 2017.

Kay Sutherland

## **Ceilidh Dance Report**

The Ceilidh Dances which are sponsored by the Branch are entering their 19th year which is a lot of playing by the members of the band at least one member (Cathy Gregory) of that band has been playing since day 1. The band members turn up without being asked and are ready to play for any dance that we have found and think might be suitable. The Ceilidh dancers are indebted to the members of the resident band "Calanais" who are led by Cathy Gibson Gregory and include Carole Berger, Catherine Conings, Kate Dillon, Duncan Whamond and Janet Wright. They are the main reason these dances are so popular.

Alison Moen has taken on the bulk of the teaching and she is due a hearty vote of thanks from all of us but especially from me. She is very able and is well liked by all the dancers. She has also taken on most of the weddings and such events.

Thanks are due to the many volunteers without whom we would not be able to continue. The main volunteers are Bonnie Volker, Francis O'Farrell and Gil & Richard Beattie but many more come and quietly do all the small things that make the dances run smoothly.

The average attendance was 66 for the seven dances last season with a large percentage of males and young dancers. Everyone seems to have fun and there are still a few who sign up for regular SCD classes each year. The hall has been reserved through to April 2018 and again this season we are running 7 dances. We also run Ceilidh dances for various other functions – fund raisers, weddings, etc. at which we promote S.C.D. and the Ceilidh Dances.

Ceilidh Dancing has its own website [www.vancouverceilidh.org](http://www.vancouverceilidh.org) where anyone can "subscribe" – it's free! - to receive the newsletter. I have been sending out this weekly e-mail "Ceilidh

Dance newsletter” for many years which apart from promoting the Ceilidh dances also lists all the local RSCDS and club events as well as other Scottish happenings.

My thanks to the Branch for continuing to sponsor these events – the financial aspects are included in the Branch financial report and continue to show a net profit. We are proud that we have never needed to ask for any monetary assistance.

Duncan MacKenzie

[ceilidh@rscdsvancouver.org](mailto:ceilidh@rscdsvancouver.org)

## REPORTS FROM AREA CLUBS

### BURNABY SCD CLUB

The Burnaby Club continues to meet on Monday evenings with beginner class starting at 7:00pm and regular class from 7:30 to 10:00pm at the Scandinavian Community Centre located at 6540 Thomas Street in Burnaby (just north of the Kensington/Hwy #1 interchange).

This year was an eventful one in that after teaching our club for 26 years, Rosemary retired. The Executive set up a process to find a new teacher and in October our members cast their ballots which resulted in Diane Coulombe being selected. Diane has taken up the challenge with zest and has done a wonderful job as our new teacher this past season.

This past season membership declined to 23 regular members. Our club policy is that all of our members are also members of the Vancouver Branch RSCDS.

Aside from the fun we have at our regular Monday night classes, there were several special highlights during this past dance season including the following:

1. An annual picnic in the Coupe’s park like yard in August.
2. A Christmas Ceilidh in early December included musical performances, singing, special dancing, and fancy food.
3. The Burnaby annual dance to the beautiful music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra held at Confederation House on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Burnaby Entertainment Team under the direction of Rosemary Coupe performed at five different venues through January, February and March.
5. Burnaby Night in Stanley Park (June 20<sup>th</sup>) the crowds and the weather were perfect.

It was a fun year for the Burnaby Club and our thanks go out to Diane Coulombe for a great year of teaching and also to Rosemary Coupe for her leading the entertainment team.

Respectfully submitted

David Jackson, Past President

## **GLENAYRE SCD CLUB**

Glenayre club meets at Burquist Community Centre in Coquitlam at the intersection of Mariner Way and Dewdney Trunk Rd (2 blocks from Coquitlam Centre) on Tuesday evenings. Beginners/intermediates start at 7 pm to 9 pm and Advanced members start at 7:45 till 10 pm. Membership stood at 36. Our teachers are Jean Wagstaff and Fran Hillier.

It was another busy year for our club with several opportunities to join other clubs and activities in the lower mainland. Unfortunately we have had several of our members not able to rejoin us due to health issues and injuries.

A few of our members participated in the Kidney walk in Coquitlam at Lafarge Lake in honour of Bill and Louise. October we had a fabulous Halloween dress-up/dance class. We never know who is going to turn up at this class. We joined Fort Langley club for their St. Andrews dance in November, held our successful Christmas dance in December and attended the Betwixt/Between dance. Twelve of our members put on a demonstration for Robbie Burns Day celebration at the Astoria home in Port Coquitlam. We were well received again this year. In February we held a red/white/pink class. Several members of our club attended Love to Dance workshop and dance on February 18. Burns night well attended. Our spring dance was held on April 1. Many members danced at the Highland Games in June and several manned the RSCDS tent. July 16 we held our annual BBQ at Bill and Louise McKIntosh's home with past and present club members in attendance. July 17 saw a great turnout of members for our night at DITP. Approximately 15 of our members attended classes and/or dances at TAC this July at UBC.

Your executive is looking forward to another year with great teachers and wonderful dance members, commencing September 12 for all returning members and September 19 and 26 for new members.

Submitted by Sue Sochasky  
Club President

## **DEEP COVE SCD CLUB**

2016 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Deep Cove Scottish Country Dance Club, and we celebrated in September with a lunch at the Seymour Golf Club for present and past members.

Dorothy Hargreaves who founded the club, and taught us for all the 30 years, surprised us by introducing many of the original members of her first class piped in by one of the class.

Speeches and presentations were followed by dancing.

Kay Sutherland has continued to teach the Monday class and Alison Moen the Tuesday class, with Dorothy Hargreaves as backup. We had several new dancers enroll in the beginner class in September. Our Bring a Friend night in September still seems to be the best way to increase our numbers, although two people indicated that they found out about the club from the web site.

Mary Ross played for our dance in April. The dance went well with about 80 dancers attending. We ended the year by hosting 2 evenings at Dancing in the Park.

Respectfully submitted.

Annabel Herdman, President

## **FORT LANGLEY VOYAGEURS**

The Fort Langley Voyageurs have again had a very successful year. We have had a number of young beginners with loads of enthusiasm and energy start dancing with the club and they have remarked how much they have enjoyed the year.

Last November, Fort Langley hosted the Lady Aberdeen Tea dance and we had many people remark on its' success. Our usual parties, the Halloween night in October to St Andrews Dance in November and from Burns night in January to our final Tea Dance in May and our slightly delayed year end Barbecue (end of June), we have had a wonderful and eventful year.

Next year will bring a major change in that our teacher from the beginning of the club 15 years ago, Rebecca Blackhall-Peters will be leaving to live in the Interior of BC. We wish her the very best and great big THANKYOU from Fort Langley.

We have hired Dianne Coulombe to be our new teacher in September.

Submitted by Larry Onotera

## **GLENEAGLES SCD CLUB**

Gleneagles Club gathered at Hollyburn School on the first three evenings of the week from September 2016 until April 2017.

Louise Murphy continued to introduce our newer members to the beginning joys of Scottish Country Dancing at our Monday evening classes. She guided and encouraged them so that they are able to attend social dance activities and events.

On Tuesdays, Simon Scott lead the challenge class for those interested in furthering their own personal dancing and learning less familiar dances. This class attracts dancers from other areas.

The dancers who attend our Wednesday class, also taught by Simon are the core of our Gleneagles Club and on this evening, dances are taught in preparation for upcoming dance programs of our club as well as those in the Greater Vancouver area. We also prepare for our **Annual Gleneagles Ball in December.**

At the Ball, held in the Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Vancouver Hotel with music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Gleneagles welcomes dancers from around the Lower Mainland, Washington State and Alberta, and this last year from Scotland as well.

The Club's summer event is an afternoon barbeque held in the garden of long time members, May and Ian Loudon. This annual party, which is very well attended by current and former Gleneagles members, is a summer highlight of Gleneagles.

In August, Gleneagles again hosted the last evening of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch sponsored series - Dancing in the Park.

Simon Scott

## **WEST END SCD CLUB**

Although a small club, the West End enjoyed another year of fun and dancing. We have a small group of core members (usually one set) and another set of part time drop-in members. We have lost a few members to injuries, moving or other interests/reasons. New dancers are very transient. We were lucky to have three eager new dancers, who started in later in the season and stayed to the end of May. Two have consistently been to DITP this year.

We started the year with our 2016 Fall Frolic. The numbers were slightly lower, but it was still a success and enjoyed by all who came. We prepared for the Lady Aberdeen Dance to encourage everyone, and especially the new dancers, to attend this popular dance. It is a great introduction – with little stress – to Club socials.

After Love to Dance, we concentrated mostly on Fort Langley – another dance my class usually attends. Eight of us met for lunch in Fort Langley, and then enjoyed an afternoon of dancing and strawberries!

We missed our night of DITP due to the smoke from the BC wild fires. The air quality was high risk and advisories warned not to do outdoor exercising. The health of our members came first.

We lost our live music the last half of the year, as our musicians were busy with other projects. However, we are lucky to have two of them return for the new 2017 – 2018 season.

Our experienced dancers are great in assisting beginners, but also enjoy doing a more difficult dance just for them. And the beginners enjoy watching a more intricate dance and often take videos with the cell phones.

We hope to boost our numbers this coming year, as we are in jeopardy should the numbers continue to shrink. However, I am remaining optimistic and so far the West End Community Centre has been very good to us.

Submitted by  
Mary Ann McDevitt

## **WHITE ROCK SCD CLUB**

During the dance season of 2016/2017 membership was 38 members. Drop-in dancers fluctuated between 4 – 6. We have 5 honorary members (octogenarians who have been long term members). Club fees remain at \$100 for the whole season or \$55 for half season and drop-in fee of \$5.

A well-attended Fall workshop was held at Sullivan Hall in October. Dance wear was again offered at price of \$5 with the proceeds going to the Club.

At the Burns Social a piper piped in the Haggis, which was appropriately addressed by Hugh Aspinall. All our monthly social events are well attended.

\$205 was collected at Christmas time from our members. Proceeds of sold dancewear was added as well, and a cheque in the amount of \$406 was presented to the Surrey Foodbank.

The Club's AGM was held April 10th and a new executive elected.

The annual year-end Tea Dance was held May 7th at the Star of the Sea Hall. The Tartan Players provided lively music. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable event.

Our last class on May 10th was again held as a Social with refreshment provided by the Club.

Gerda Barwieck  
Secretary