

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Vancouver Branch**

BRANCH AWARDS

December 14, 2019

RSCDS

The Branch Awards are made by the RSCDS and were initiated by them in 2004.

The Branch decides on the Award and RSCDS HQ expects to issue a Branch Award Certificate based on a Branch recommendation within 2 weeks of receiving a Branch request.

The guidelines established by the RSCDS for granting these Awards are (words in italics are exact quotes):

- 1) Applicants must have given outstanding service to a Branch or to Scottish Country Dancing generally in the locality of a Branch.
- 2) Recipients of the Award will have:
 - a) upheld the objectives of the Society over a period of years
 - b) shown sustained and exceptional commitment to the promotion of Scottish Country Dancing
 - c) been responsible for some notable achievements in relation to Scottish Country Dancing and/or its music
- 3) *Posthumous nominations will not be considered*
- 4) *The recipient of a Branch Award may already have been presented with the Award by another Branch, provided service which led to the first Award is not considered in determining whether another Award is deserved.*

Observations and additional information:

- 1) The above guidelines do not specify that a recipient must be a Branch member or even a member of RSCDS.
- 2) It is not clear that all the criteria in 2) above must be met or just any one.

3) RSCDS states: *The exact qualifying criteria for the Branch Award, the procedures for nominating an individual, couple or group for the Award and determining who should receive it and the circumstances for presenting the Award are a matter for individual Branches.*

4) *The names of Branch Award recipients will be published by the Society.*

VANCOUVER BRANCH GUIDELINES

Generally a Branch Award will be made to both well-sung heroes and unsung heroes who have contributed to the Branch beyond the ordinary call of duty. They must have contributed to the enjoyment and excellence of Scottish Country Dancing and its music, at the Branch, in at least one of the following ways:

- 1) Innovation and/or growth including new programs.
- 2) Prestige and/or standards of excellence.
- 3) Significant contribution to the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing and the happiness of others.
- 4) Significant and/or extensive administrative service.
- 5) Significant financial contribution.

Specifically:

- 1) Recipients must meet the guidelines established by RSCDS for the granting of Branch Awards.
- 2) Recipients must be current Branch Members but this requirement may be waived in unusual or exceptional circumstances.
- 3) Recipients must have been associated with the Vancouver Branch for a minimum of ten years. In very special circumstances, this time period might be reduced.
- 4) An Award to a recognized group may be considered.
- 5) Board Members are not eligible to be nominated during their term of office.
- 6) To maintain the prestige of a Branch Award, the Awards should only be made to persons who fully qualify. It is not necessary that an Award be made in every year. Conversely, if there is more than one suitable recipient in a year then there is no restriction on the number of Awards made in any one year.

7) Confidentiality is necessary throughout the entire nominating and selection process since discussion will often occur about names, merits and comparisons.

VANCOUVER BRANCH PROCEDURE

1) A notice shall regularly be included in the Newsletter and placed on the Branch Website explaining the guidelines and procedures for Branch Awards. Nominations may be received by the Board at any time.

2) When a nomination is received then the Board shall consider it expeditiously and the Board may choose any method that it wishes for this consideration to take place including appointing a committee to do so.

3) The Board may consider nominations from Board Members as well as those submitted to the Board by others.

4) All Board discussions concerning specific Branch Awards shall be in camera. In all cases the Board shall make a decision expeditiously on all nominations.

5) The Corresponding Secretary shall ensure that all necessary forms are completed and submitted to Edinburgh to request that an Award Certificate be prepared and sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

6) The Awards shall be presented, if possible, at an event where many local Branch Members are present.

Adopted by the RSCDS Vancouver Board on December 14, 2019