



Heather Hankin

Heather was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to a Scottish/German father and a Swedish/English mother. Her family moved to South Dakota when she was three where she vividly remembers her father quoting the poems and singing the songs of Robbie Burns as tears welled in his eyes. She thrilled to “I Love a Lassie”, especially because he danced her around as she heard him sing “as sweet as my Heather, my bonnie purple Heather, merry, my Scots bluebell”. As an adult, she learned that the song was really about someone named Mary.

Heather’s love of the piano, singing, and theatre led her to a B.A. in Speech and Drama from Yankton College, and an M.A. in Dramatic Art from the University of California at Davis. Heather’s first husband’s studies and work took them to UBC; to a new multinational scientific institute in Vienna, Austria, where she ran the visitors’ centre; and back to UBC. She taught at Langara and Douglas College and was eventually hired as the Casting Director for CBC Vancouver, working on “The Beachcombers” and other series and shows. After her husband’s untimely death at age 34, she spent three years as a CBC Producer/Director before returning to the theatre as an administrator and a director for companies in Vancouver, Toronto, the Shaw Festival, and Calgary.

Her second husband’s work took them to Singapore in the 1990’s. Heather was invited to join classes for the St. Andrews Ball but was so busy accompanying the American Association Choir and working as the director of the Canadian Education Centre at the Canadian High Commission that she couldn’t find the time. After returning to Langara and suffering through a divorce, a friend suggested she accompany her to Scottish country dance classes at the Branch. Two years later, another friend introduced her to the most wonderful man in the world, who joined the beginners’ class as part of his dating strategy. In 2006, she and Richard Hankin were married and, now retired, continue to enjoy intermediate classes, socials, and balls as they are able around their busy volunteer activities and travel.

Heather is serving her first year of a two-year term as President of the RSCDS - Vancouver Branch.