

See you in September at the
Vancouver Branch AGM

Vancouver

the white cockade

July – August 2026



Look at those toes! Sabrina Moore at the White Rock tea dance.
Photo by Kerry McDevitt

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors

Eelected at the RSCDS Branch Board AGM on October 10, 2025

Executive Directors

President – Gail Urquhart	604.433.6081
Vice President – Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
Corresponding Secretary – Karen Shrimpton	604.469.2433
Recording Secretary – Margaret Gorham	416.924.4348
Treasurer – Kathleen Dann	604.569.3424

Directors-at-Large (with specific responsibilities)

Publicity – Cathrine Conings	604.299.6447
Membership – Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
Archivist – John Robertson	604.985.1612
Equipment Manager – Seoris Harrison	604.263.0493
USCS Representative – Ally Huang	604.299.0160
Event Coordinator – Paul Shrimpton	604.469.2433
Director-at-Large – Chandra Carlson	604.506.5372

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RSCDS Vancouver – www.rscdsvancouver.org
Scottish Cultural Centre - 8886 Hudson Street
Vancouver, BC, V6P 4N2 – 604.263.9911

Calendar of Events

September 25	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
October 9	Vancouver Branch AGM & Dance – RSCDS Vanc
October 23	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
October 25	North Shore Dance Scottish Dance
November 11	Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
November 23	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
November 28	St. Andrews Caledonian Ball
December 28	Betwixt & Between RSCDS Vancouver
January 23	Vancouver Branch Burns Supper – RSCDS Vancouver
February 20	Love to Dance Worksop & Dance – RSCDS Vanc
March 6	North America Dance Scottish Festival
March 20	Burnaby Spring Dance
April 3	Victoria Workshop & Dance
April 10	Glenayre Spring Dance
April 24	Heather Spring Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
April 24	Vernon Workshop & Dance
May 8	White Rock Spring Dance
May 30	Fort Langley Spring Dace

Times, dates and venues for events and classes are subject to change or cancellation. Check the Branch website Event Calendar or Club for updates. We hope you will have had all vaccinations available to you. Please do not attend if you are sick.

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Appointments

Betwixt & Between – Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Burns Supper Chair – Paul Shrimpton	604.433.2433
Dancing Coordinator – Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
Dancing in the Park Coordinator – Alison Moen	604.980.0428
Demonstration Team Director – Kay Sutherland	604.929.2745
Demonstration Team Manager – Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Heather Spring Tea Dance Chair – Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
Love to Dance Workshop Chairs – Fran Hillier	778.285.1242
– Sue Biddle	604.619.1620
Newsletter Editor – Mary Ann McDevitt	604.929.2944
Nominating Committee Chair – Jennifer Shearman	604.739.3096
Privacy Officer – Peter Richards	604.929.2745
RSCDS Director USCS – Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
RSCDS Representatives SCCS – Fran Hillier	778.285.1242
– Jennifer Shearman	604.739.3096
Website Manager – Alison Moen	604.980.0428

Other Representatives

Ceilidh Director – Alison Moen	604.980.0428
TAC Representative – Fran Hillier	778.285.1242

Email Contacts for Branch Board Directors and Appointees

Go to: https://rscdsvancouver.org/contact/

Click on "Send email" under the name or title

Frae the President

As summer draws near, our official dancing season is ending – but there is still dancing on the horizon!

There were three events in May: The Heather Spring Tea Dance; the White Rock Spring Tea Dance and the Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance. All dances were well attended and enjoyed by all.

The long-range forecast predicts sunny, warm weather for Scotfest. We'll have to wait until the 20th to find out how accurate AI is! This year the plaza will host the social dancing; the display team has been moved to the stage in the beer tent! Thank you to all the dancers who are coming out to the practice session – we appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to share you love of our mutual hobby.

Dancing in the Park started on the 22nd of June. A huge thank you to Alison Moen, who works tirelessly to make DITP a reality. I hope to see you there. "Sensible" shoes are all the rage for DITP – no ghillies required.

Many of you are familiar with the Newcastle Scottish Country Dance Festival…but did you know North America hosted its first Scottish Country Dance Festival in Philadelphia this year…and that Vancouver is hosting it in 2027? Mark your calendars for Saturday, 6 March. More information will be coming, but this is exciting news!

I look forward to seeing you at the Highland Games and DITP. Have a relaxing summer and I'll see you on the dance floor in September.

Gail Urquhart,
President,
RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Teacher Talk



On a lovely Saturday morning in June, the lower mainland teachers gathered at Fran Caruth's for a meeting. Heather joined us via zoom, but there were regrets from Alison, Jean, and Gail. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm from our five new Interim teachers – Emily, Belinda, Nick, Margaret and Iza. They gave us dancer feedback and new ideas.

It was a very productive meeting, and we discussed a number of topics, including but not limited to:

- RSCDS HQ new teacher training program
- Going digital
- R&R Committee (Recruit & Retain new dancers)
- A Publicity Committee
- Scheduling events in the busy spring season
- Our 65th anniversary – 2029 is not that far away
- The North American Dancers Festival in 2027 in Vancouver
- We will need volunteers for big & small projects in new year
- Less walk-throughs and more dancing at events and classes
- Maximize our involvement with clubs throughout the province

Our goal is to promote SCD, recruit new dancers and ensure everyone has a fun toe tapping time!

Many thanks to Fran Caruth for arranging the meeting & hosting us!

Dancing in Hawaii



For more details see the below link

https://rscdshawaii.org/workshop

Dancing in South Africa

The Fish Hoek branch in South Africa sends warm greetings to you, fellow Scottish country dancers in Vancouver. Alan and Cathrine danced with this group (joined by the Lynfrae club) on May 13th and received a hearty welcome.

Both these groups are close to Cape Town, and Fish Hoek, you may recall, is where Isobel Stewart spent her last years.

Cathrine taught her dance (Vancouver Cherry Blossoms) from Vancouver's 50th Anniversary book and gave a copy of the book to the teacher Heather Hodgson, back row, second from right. Cathrine also taught Terrace Logger's Jig.

What a treat to dance with fellow SCD lovers halfway across the world!

Cathrine Conings



Photo courtesy of the Fish Hoek Branch

Fish Hoek (Afrikaans: Vishoek, meaning either Fish Corner or Fish Glen) is a coastal town at the eastern end of the Fish Hoek Valley on the False Bay side of the Cape Peninsula in the Western Cape, South Africa.

Notices

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Membership

The 2026-27 year begins July 1st. **Membership fees are now due!** You can pay by credit card online or by cheque. Go to the home page at:

https://rscdsvancouver.org/

Click on 'Membership and Class Fees. You have the option to pay online or download a registration form to mail with your cheque payble to RSCDS Vancouver Branch. Mail to Membership Director, c/o Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 2N2.

We thank you for your continued support of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch, which includes:

- The online bi-monthly Branch newsletter (The White Cockade)
- The Branch Teacher Certification Program every two years
- Registered membership with RSCDS Headquarters in Edinburgh
- A twice-yearly magazine from RSCDS HQ with information and articles on Scottish country dancing worldwide
- A 10% discount on most recordings, publications & merchandise purchased through the RSCDS shop
- Free admission to our December Betwixt & Between Dance
- Stanley Park 'Dancing in the Park' each summer
- Liability Insurance
- ***And much more!***

In order to receive newsletters, magazines and email bulletins, it is important that contact information is kept up to date. Please send an email message to the Membership Secretary regarding any changes.

Categories - All Membership Categories expire 30th June)

- Individual or Single
- Joint – available when two members are at same address
- Half Year Single – for NEW members joining for the first time after January 1st
- Half Year Joint – for two NEW members at same address joining for the first time after January 1st

Remember you need to renew your membership in order to vote at the Branch Annual General Meeting!

Vancouver

Deadline for submission to the White Cockade

The Vancouver Branch newsletter is published bi-monthly on the 1st of September, November, January, March, June and July. The deadline submissions for the September/October issue is August 10th. We welcome and thank you for your contributions of photos, articles and input. We will do our best to accommodate everyone as space permits. Contact Editor:

Mary Ann McDevitt at 604.929.2944 or mamcdevitt@shaw.ca

New Location for Glenyare Classes

Glenayre Scottish Country Dance Club
Classes are held Tuesdays
7pm – 9:30pm starting **September 15th**

LOCATION: Coquitlam Presbyterian Church
948 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam

Fees for Class (Sept to April):
SINGLE $110 or Half-Session $60 Pay Online

Fees for membership in Vancouver RSCDS (required):
SINGLE $65 JOINT $105 Pay Online

Email for more information (right-click and copy address).
President Vicki Downey 604.298.9695

Or check out our web page:
Glenayare web page









Photos by Kerry McDevitt

White Rock Spring Tea Dance



And on May 9th, the White Rock SCD Club held their ever-popular Spring Dance to the music of Blackthorn. Many thanks to Maureen, Laurie and Iza for taking us through a varied program of dances – familiar and not so familiar, but lots of fun.



Dear VSCF Sponsoring Societies,

Our Scottish culture has influenced Canada since the first Hudson Bay traders. The founding members of your society greatly value our Vancouver Scottish Cultural Centre (VSCC) as a place to share and celebrate their heritage. The VSCC is a physical reminder of this. You and the other member societies continue to benefit from this meeting-place and the income generated by its rentals.

The retention of the building has been confirmed by all societies, and several essential upgrades have been completed - such as a new lift, audio/video systems, lighting, stage draperies, security gates and cameras. We now need to do more to ensure this symbol of our culture remains viable and attractive for all. There are only a handful of halls in the Lower Mainland that can equal what VSCC offers its users in terms of kitchen, free choice of caterer, sprung wood floors, stage, sound system and the freedom to host unique events.

Although not all five sponsoring societies use the space, VSCC is well used and provides revenue to fund and promote your activities. The centre's Executive team is available to help all societies procure outside grants and funding to share and promote our traditions.

Now we need your financial support to complete the repairs to, and painting of, our building envelope. Forty years of weather degradation have caused cracks in the stucco which is leading to the formation of mould in some areas. We want to mitigate potential problems related to this, while improving the appearance of our building.

An application has gone to the City of Vancouver for $25,000 (the maximum allowed) but these funds are not guaranteed. The quote to complete this work is approximately $35,000. A fundraising project is ongoing to ensure this important work is completed in a timely manner.

VSCF is operated as a charitable organization, so all donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt. If you wish to help, please check the VSCC website for the link to contribute or contact me directly.
https://scottishculturalcentre.com/get-involved/fundraising-donations/

THANK YOU!
Sincerely,
Darryl Carracher
Chair, VSCF Fundraising Committee

Dancing in the Park 2026



Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. – Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park

In celebration of 75+ years of Outdoor Dancing in Vancouver, RSCDS Vancouver will be providing support for **Live Music & Other Displays** throughout the summer. Come by the carload to reduce parking fees - bring a picnic dinner and come early to avoid the traffic - enjoy the sunset, entertain tourists, maybe find a few new dancers! Bring your non-dancing friends, relatives, neighbours, and visitors to experience Scottish Country Dancing. Beginner/Tourist friendly dances and favourites for the more experienced dancers, every night.

July 6 – North Shore Dance Scottish with Kilbirnie Station
July 13 - Glenayre
July 20 – Vancouver Ceilidh with Blackthorn

See below for more information about weather cancellations & parking.

https://rscdsvancouver.org/dancing-in-vancouver



Dancing New & Photos

Heather Spring Tea Dance



It was another successful Heather Spring Tea dance on May 2nd, with an elegant tea and great music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.
Photos by Jason Pei







Many thanks to Chair Roberta Esau and her team for a job well done!