Vancouver

the white cockade

March – April 2026



Inside This Issue

Vancouver Branch Board of Directors ---------- 2
Frae the President ---------- 3
Teacher Talk ---------- 5
SCCS News ---------- 6
Dancing Dates ---------- 7
Dancing News & Photos ---------- 14
Vancouver Branch Appointments ---------- 19
Calendar of Events ---------- 20

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors

Elected 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

Cover photo by Alan Le Fevre

The Vancouver Branch Demonstration Team - Strictly Scottish - at the Vancouver Branch Burns Supper January 24, 2026.

Tired after many Burns Demonstrations
but still smiling and looking lovely!

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

Frae the President

Before I move to what's coming up, I would like to acknowledge the organizers and of the Betwixt & Between and the Burns Dinner. A big thank you to Katherine Shearman and her B&B team as well as Paul Shrimpton and his Burns committee. Through the B&B, Mary Wattam's love of Scottish Country Dance and her commitment to live music lives on. For those who may not know, her legacy enables society members (regardless of branch) to attend the B&B for free as well as pay for the hall and live music. This popular dance has been Katherine's "baby" for many years – safe to say Mary's legacy is safe with her. After a slow start, ticket sales picked up and the Burns Dinner sold out…and had a waiting list! An accessible program meant everyone could be up dancing. A big thank you to everyone who assisted in organizing these events.

The Love to Dance Workshop is only a few weeks away. This year we are welcoming teachers Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Katherine Shearman. I hope you can join us…if not for the morning workshop, the dance that afternoon!

And, of course, in May we have the "Heather Spring Tea Dance". There will be more information to follow – but mark May 2nd for this event. As you may recall, to differentiate it from our typical tea dances, the Heather Spring Tea Dance will have some of the pomp and circumstance of a grander event.

The upgrades to the ladies' washroom went smoothly and the work was completed in time for the Burns Dinner. The Board wants to extend its thanks to the members who donated to the SCCS fundraising campaign. RSCDS members made up most of the individual donors – and a large bequest enabled the SCCS to do a full renovation. Thank you, everyone, for your contribution.

The teacher training is progressing well. With the exams slated

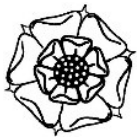
for mid-April, preparation classes started January 3rd. The candidates have a lot of dancing and teaching practice to fit in! A vital component of the practice teaching are the “angels” (previously called “stooges”). Thank to everyone who volunteered to be an angel. Your participation helps the candidates hone their teaching skills. You are an invaluable part of the teacher preparation, and we are thankful for the gift of your time.

There are many club activities also coming up in the Spring. Watch the White Cockade and our Branch website for information.

See you on the dance floor!

Gail Urquhart, President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch





We can now access the links in the White Cockade

As you may know, I have been using a new program for the newsletter. When “published” as a PDF which is required for printing the booklet, Microsoft flattens the document. While this ensures the quality is preserved, the “flattened” links no longer work.

After some frustrating trials, I discovered that if I saved the “online” copy as a PDF rather than published file, the links DO work. But it only saves in a single-page rather than two-page view. Some of you may prefer the larger single-page view. If not, you can change your PDF (when opened) to read as two pages, full page and more.

Fingers crossed this will work for everyone. But contact me if you still have problems and I will do my best to assist.

Mary Ann McDevitt – mamcdevitt@shaw.ca

Teacher Talk

2026 Teacher Candidates



Left to right: Lizzie Wratten, Heather Hankin, Margaret Gorham, Gail Urquhart, Belinda Howes and Emily Filmer
(Photo by: Kerry McDevitt)

We are delighted to have Margaret, Belinda and Emily taking Part 1 of their Teaching Certificate, and Heather, Gail and Lizzie taking Part 2. Many thanks to Kay Sutherland, Fran Caruth, Jean Wagstaff, Katherine Shearman, and Jennifer Shearman for tutoring, liaison with Scotland, organizing the exams, support cast, music and everything else that makes our Teacher Training possible. And a big thank you to all the volunteer support cast. They can't do it without you!

We look for watching our new teachers flourish!

SCCS News

We are pleased to report that our new Washroom was completed in January, in time (more or less) for the two Burns events at the hall. The final pieces have now been completed, and the picture below is worth a thousand words! Thanks to Seoris for spearheading this project on our behalf, ensuring we got what we were looking for in a timely manner. And thanks to the donors who were for the most part RSCDS dancers, especially the generous anonymous donor who provided a large sum to ensure all renovations were completed.

It would have been hard to see such a project taking place three or four years ago. The whole SCC Society has moved a long way in that time, to a time of collaboration and renovations/maintenance of our building as a priority. The next project is the weatherproofing upgrade on the exterior walls, due to be started in the spring.

Fran Hillier and Jennifer Shearman



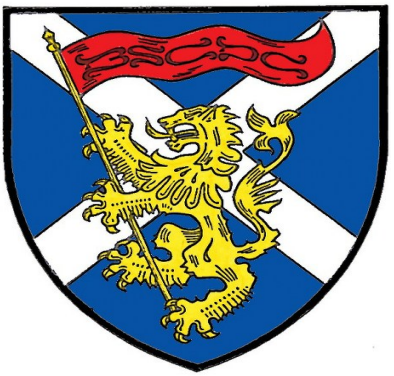
Photo by Darryl Carracher

Dancing Dates

Saturday, March 7 — BURNABY SPRING DANCE

Lochdale Community Hall 1:30 p.m. — $25

490 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby



Please join the Burnaby Club for a fun afternoon of dancing to the wonderful music of the **Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.**

Note new location!

Lochdale Community Hall is just off Hastings Street at Sperling Avenue.

See the below link for the Program & Dance Notes

Burnaby Spring Dance 2026

Friday, March 27 — VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre — $20 ($15 Students)

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver

Everyone welcome!!
Loads of fun!!

And live music with our resident Ceilidh Band "Calanais"

No experience necessary.
We teach you almost everything.
Class starts at 7 p.m.
The dance is 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.



Don't miss our season finale Ceilidh on April 24th.

Vancouver Ceilidh

Saturday, March 21 GLENAYRE SPRING DANCE

St. Laurence Church Hall – 2:00 p.m. $20

825 St. Laurence Street, Coquitlam



Glenayre Club invites
all dancers to our
Annual Spring Dance.

Come and join us
for some fun dancing!

Program

*The Kissing Bridge.....J ..... *RSCDS Bk 47*
**More Bees A-Dancing .....R..... Goldring, *G&S Dances 2*
*The Byron Strathspey .....S..... Drewry, *Deeside 2*
*Lady Home's Jig .....J ..... *MMM*
**Ian Powrie's Farewell
to Auchterarder .....J ..... B. Hamilton, *30 Popular Vol. 2*
**Village Reel .....S..... *RSCDS, Bk 20*
**Gaelforce Wind.....J .....Haynes, *3rd Graded Bk*
***Bratach Bana .....R.....Drewry, *30 Popular Vol. 2*

Break

*Kendall's Hornpipe.....J ..... *Graded Bk of SCDs*
*Seann Truibhas Willichan .....S..... *RSCDS Bk 27*
**Airie Bennan .....J .....Foss, *Glendarroch SD Sheets*
*Galloping Carousel .....J ..... *RSCDS Bk 53*
*Oriel Strathspey .....S..... *RSCDS Bk 32*
*Granville Market.....J .....*2nd Graded Bk*

*Easier Dances ***You need to know the Dance

Click below for the Event Calendar page & Dance notes

Glenayre Spring Dance 2026

White Rock SCD Club Spring Workshop



The White Rock SCD Club is pleased to announce its

Spring Workshop

All dancers welcome!

Teacher: Maureen Lyon

Cost $20

Sunday, March 29th – 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A day of dancing from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lunch 12:30 to 1 p.m. (bring your own lunch & water bottle)

Location: Willouby Hall, 20809 – 83rd Avenue, Langley

Space is limited so please pre-register early by contacting:

Laurie Lang 604.944.6678 or ljreel@telus.net

Pay at the door with cash or cheque payable to WRSCDC

OR transfer to chris.cardinal@shaw.ca

The RSCDS Vancouver Branch

proudly presents

The Heather Spring Tea Dance



With our very own Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra

Put a **Spring** in your step!

Afternoon Tea Dance - Elegant Catered Tea

Tickets: RSCDS Members $50 Non-members $60

(If purchased by April 11th - Tickets increase by $10 after April 11th)

See the next page for more details, including the program!

Saturday, May 2 HEATHER SPRING TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 1-4:30 p.m. $50 RSCDS Members

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver $60 Non-Members



Put a *SPRING* in your step and join the Vancouver Branch for a great afternoon of music, dancing and an elegant tea!

Tickets available online or through your local club.
Buy your tickets early.
Prices increase by $10 after April 11.

Program

*Kendall's Hornpipe	J	*RSCDS Graded Bk of SCD*
*Mary Erskine	R	Goldring, *15 Social Dances*
*Balquidder Strathspey	S	*RSCDS Bk 24*
**Best Set in the Hall	J	*RSCDS Bk 46*
**Toast to the Mousies	R	*RSCDS Bk 53*
*Butterscotch and Honey	S	Attwood, *Alexander Leaflets*
**Airie Bennan	J	Foss, *Glendarroch SD Sheets*
**Blooms of Bon Accord	R	Drewry, *Deeside 2*
Break		
*Flowers of Edinburgh	R	*RSCDS Bk 1*
**Captain George Vancouver	J	*Vancouver Golden Anniversary*
*Village Reel	S	*RSCDS Bk 20*
***The Irish Rover	R	Cosh, *22 SCDs*
**MacDonald of Keppoch	M	*RSCDS Bk 49*
*Mr. Michael Bear's Reel	R	*RSCDS, 2nd Graded Bk*

(*Easier **Need some knowledge of the dance ***Need to know)

See the below link for tickets and the dance notes

Heather Spring Tea Dance 2026

Saturday, May 9 WHITE ROCK SPRING DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. $30

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Music by Blackthorn

http://blackthornband.com/

Programme

Oyster Girl	J	W. Clindinning
Currie Mountain	R	M. Pugh
Glendalough Strathspey	S	W. Clindinning
Royal Deeside Railway	R	R. Arrowsmith
Best Set in the Hall	J	H. Greenwood
Columbia Cardio	J,S,&R	J. Lang
Terry's Way	S	S. MacKenzie
Merry Mayhem	R	K. Horne

Break

Bratach Bana	R	J. Drewry
Newark Castle	J	P. Harland
Canadian Landscape	S	K. & S. McCrone
Glenmorangie	R	J. Drewry
Golden Sun of Early Spring	J	V. Lanvin
Northern Lights	S	C. Dobie
Canadian Memories	R	J. Mortimer

Auld Lang Syne

Waltz

See below link for dance notes

White Rock Spring Dance 2026

Events Further Afield for Your Enjoyment



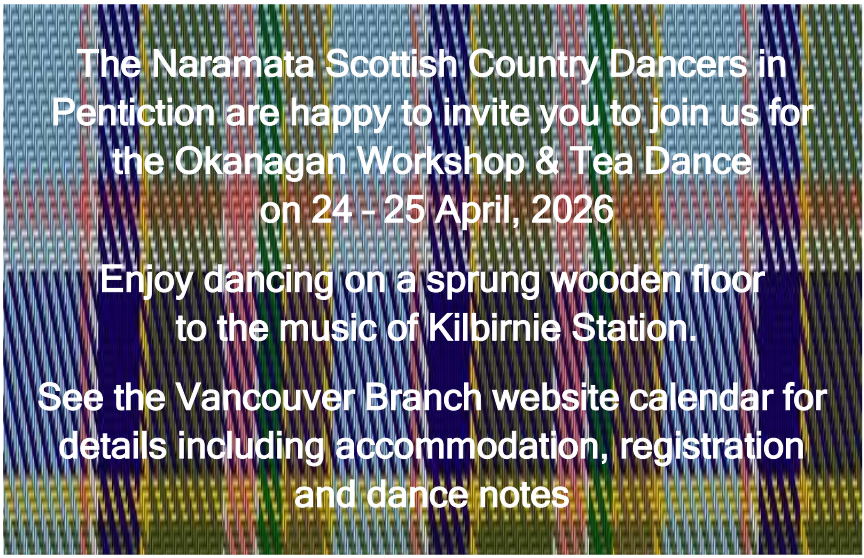
is having their Workshop & Ball on Saturday, April 11th

Teacher: Sharon Barker from Calgary, AB.

New this year is the option to attend only one or both workshops for a reduced cost.

Musicians: Mary Ross & Friends

Details at: https://viscds.ca/



Naramata 2026 Workshop & Ball

TAC Summer School 2026





On the campus of Medicine Hat College

Candidate Courses will be offered from Saturday, July 18, to Sunday, August 2, 2026. The tutor for the course will **be Rebecca Blackhall-Peters** from Summerland, British Columbia and the musician will be **Mary Ross** from Vancouver Island, BC.

The Teachers' Conference Weekend (TCW) is Friday, July 24, to Sunday, July 26, 2026, with **Angela Young** from Glenfarg, Scotland, as the teacher

Summer School, which is open to dancers of all levels, will be held from Sunday, July 26 to Sunday, August 2, 2026. We are pleased to announce the teachers and music director for Summer School:

Angela Young - Glenfarg, Scotland
Arthur McNair - Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Fiona Miller - Lethbridge, AB, Canada
David Queen - Southport, England

Music Director:
Gillian Stevenson, Black Isle, Scotland

Scottish Country Dance
Teachers' Association (Canada)
affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

https://tac-rscds.org/

Glenayre Christmas Party 2025





It was a full house at the Glenayre Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13th and a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. There was even an elf to put us in the spirit of the holidays.

Thank you to Fran, Jean and Gail who led us through a fun dance program that had something for every level of dancer.

And thank you to all the members of the Glenayre SCD Club for their warm welcome and all that wonderful food.

From all the smiles, you can tell everyone had a good time!



A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of a lifetime membership to Beth Armour for her years of dedication to Scottish Country Dancing and the Glenayre SCD Club. Congratulations Beth!



Photos by Kerry McDevitt



Betwixt & Between 2025

The 2025 Betwixt and Between dance was held on Monday December 29 with 65 people in attendance, including dancers from Dunedin, Scotland and Paris, France.

The bequest of Mary Wattum provides this annual event with live music and free admission to all RSCDS members. As always, the music of Mary Ross kept most dancers on the dance floor all evening. The dance program included familiar and less well-known dances which presented a challenge for all levels of dancer.

Paul Shrimpton and the team did an excellent job of organizing the catering. Thank you to everyone who contributed food to the occasion.

Special thanks to my decorating team of Alison Moen, Gail Urquhart, and Jennifer Shearman – this year joined by Tereza Cabral & Janet Mathur. Thank you to Seoris Harrison and Gill Beattie for manning the entrance table, and Pat Hollingdale for allowing us to harvest holly from her garden for the centre pieces. Thank you to Barbara Moritz for hosting Mary.

Mark your calendars now for the next Betwixt and Between event on **Monday, December 28, 2026.**

Katherine Shearman
Betwixt & Between Coordinator

Vancouver Branch Burns Supper



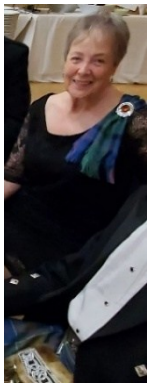
The Burns Supper, held this year on Saturday January 24th, is a festive evening of Scottish culture featuring the life and poetry of Robert Burns. Our guests enjoyed a traditional dinner, lively dancing, entertainment and, of course, haggis.

Our 191 guests were warmly welcomed and registered by several volunteers and seated in the ballroom that was beautifully decorated by Iza Matsumoto and her helpers. Drink tickets were sold by Stewart Cunningham and bar service was provided by Dan Kilby.



The evening began with the parade of the piper Joseph McDonald and the Color Party. The piper then led the two haggis-bearers Sue Aspinall and Richard Hankin through the ballroom to their spouses Hugh Aspinall and Heather Hankin who addressed the haggis. This year, Heather provided a spirited verse-by-verse English translation of Burns' Scottish original poem which was dramatically performed by Hugh.







After a delicious dinner by Sugar Mountain Catering, our Branch president, Gail Urquhart, introduced the speakers. Maureen Lyon said Grace, Jean Wagstaff gave the Loyal Toast to the King, and Kyle Mitchell spoke on Burns' three loves: nature, the common person and, of course, the ladies. In his Toast to the Ladies, Peter Richards surprised us by reading a verse by Burns that appeared to have been written specifically for Gill Beattie, but he later revealed that it was written by ChatGPT not Burns himself. Gill responded with good humour on behalf of the lassies.

After dinner, we were entertained by the Vancouver School of Highland Dancers and by our Branch demonstration team, Strictly Scottish. Katherine Shearman and Fran Caruth directed an accessible program of dances to the music of Kilbirnie Station. We ended the evening with a heart-felt rendition of Auld Lang Syne.



This year's Burns Supper was a great success thanks to the many people who volunteered their time and talents.

Thanks also to Alan Le Fevre for photos.

Paul Shrimpton, Burns Supper Chair

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

Calendar of Events

March 7	Burnaby Spring Dance
March 21	Glenayre Spring Dance
March 27	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
March 29	White Rock Workshop
April 11	Victoria 49th Anniversary Workshop & Ball – viscds.ca
April 24 – 25	Vernon/Naramata Workshop & Ball Weekend
April 24	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
May 2	Heather Spring Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
May 9	White Rock Spring Tea Dance
May 24	Ft. Langley Whiskey Tea Dance
June 19 - 20	BC Highland Games – ScotFest BC

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.

Vancouver

Deadlines for submissions 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 for submissions for the May/June issue is April 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