Vancouver

the white cockade

May – June 2026



Photo by Kerry McDevitt

Congratulations to our Teacher Candidates!

Lizzie, Heather, Margaret, Gail, Belinda & Emily

(see page 5 for details)

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

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

Frae the President

Vancouver

As the days grow longer and the weather (intermittently!) warms, we're reminded that spring has arrived—and with it, the promise of sunny summer days ahead. While classes are beginning to wind down for the year, there's still plenty of dancing to look forward to.

Since our last edition, we enjoyed a successful Love to Dance event in February, along with several lively club dances.

By the time The White Cockade reaches you, the Unit 2, 3, and 5 teaching exams will be behind us. I hope we'll be celebrating strong results for all candidates! I suspect I speak for many when I say the time commitment was greater than expected—but the journey has been incredibly rewarding. We've refined our technique, deepened our understanding of Scottish Country Dancing, and spent countless hours practice teaching.

This process would not have been possible without the support of so many. Our thanks go to the club teachers who welcomed us into their classes, the "angels" who attended practice sessions, and the many individuals working behind the scenes in countless roles. Your support has meant so much.

I would especially like to recognize two individuals: Kay Sutherland and Fran Caruth. They have coordinated the program, ensured candidates covered all required figures, arranged venues, and provided thoughtful feedback on both teaching and dancing. In many ways, they've been busier than the candidates themselves! Thank you both for your dedication to Scottish Country Dancing in

Vancouver—and for your guidance in helping candidates grow as dancers and teachers Looking ahead,

May brings several wonderful events: the Heather Spring Tea Dance on May 2, the White Rock Spring Tea Dance on May 9, and the Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance on May 24. In June, the Highland Games take place on June 19 and 20. Once again, we'll be welcoming dancers to participate in demonstrations and encourage audience involvement—an excellent opportunity, especially for newer dancers.

Over the summer, we'll continue with Dancing in the Park. More details will be shared soon—please check the website's Event Calendar for updates.

Gail Urquhart
President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch



Another Significant Milestone Birthday for Cathie Devlin

Laurie Lang who made this lovely card delivered it to Cathy on April 16th – the day before her 101st birthday. The card was signed by White Rock, the Thursday Thistles and Fort Langley.

Happy birthday Cathie

Photo by Laurie Lang

Notices

100% success for the teacher candidates!

The RSCDS teacher training exams were held at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18. Emily Filmer, Margaret Gorham and Belinda Howes all were successful in passing units 2 and 3. Heather Hankin, Lizzie Wratten (Seattle) and Gail Urquhart were all successful in passing unit 5. In the Pacific Northwest we now have three new teachers with Part One certification and three with Part Two - the highest level.

The participation of a dedicated group of dancer volunteers ("angels") was a key part of the training process and essential for the actual exams.

Many congratulations to all the candidates.

Kay Sutherland

As well as the very deserved thank-yous to Kay, Fran and the stooges/angles, there were many other volunteers who helped make the exams a success:

- The dancers who partnered with the candidates for Unit 2
- Alison Moen & Katherine Shearman for running the music, dancing, organizing & more
- Lukasz Wieczorek who provided live music for the exams
- Jean Wagstaff & Jennifer Shearman who organized the stooges/angles
- Denise Cunningham for the tea, coffee and cake
- All the clubs that let the candidates practice in their classes
- Carolyn Farrell-Stephens for what I'm sure was a wonderful lunch for the Examiners

Kerry and I were honored to be stooges and help the candidates hone their teaching skills. And proud to be members of RSCDS Vancouver.

Mary Ann McDevitt



In Memory of Chris Bisset

April 26, 1939 – December 21, 2025

Chris was a founding member of Fort Langley Voyageurs in 1999. She was the first President of the club and served in that capacity for 23 years. She was awarded a Lifetime membership at our 25th Anniversary Dance for her dedication. She continued to dance with the club until December, 2025.

Chris was always generous and willing to help others. She hosted most of our executive meetings at her home. She and Derek always hosted the end of year barbeque where we danced, played fun games, and received imaginative awards.

Chris always made new dancers feel at home. She was always kind and had a warmth about her that radiated outwards to everyone. Gillian, one of our newer dancers and a fellow Scot, shared many wonderful chats and recipes with Chris. They shared a love of Scottish tablet, which Gillian made sure to bring to class on special occasions with enough for Chris to take some home.

Chris was a great organizer. She made sure that all our special occasions ran smoothly. She was also great at bargaining. She always made sure to get the best possible price for the strawberries for the Whisky Tea Dance.

Chris was a fountain of knowledge, and she made it easier for me to fulfill my role as president. She was always willing to share her vast knowledge with me and the rest of the executive as Past President. We will all miss her laughter most of all. It was always fun to dance with Chris. Gillian remembers Chris always saying something to make her laugh whenever they ended up in the wrong places in a dance.

Chris was the backbone of our club for 26 years and she leaves a big hole at our club. The Blooms of Bon Accord was a favourite dance of Chris and Derek. In their honour, this dance will be on the Whisky Tea Dance program this year.

A service for Chris will be held at St Andrew's United Church in Fort Langley (9025 Glover Road) on May 8, 11:00 am. All are welcome.

Chandra Carlson

SCOTFEST BC
BRITISH COLUMBIA HIGHLAND GAMES

June 19 & 20, 2026

Town Centre Park on La Farge Lake in Coquitlam

RSCDS Vancouver is a major participant in the Highland Games, and Scottish Country Dancing is one of the highlights. This is another chance to promote our favourite past time.

We would like to invite all dancers to join us for the Highland Games, where we demonstrate the dancing we love and invite the audience to join in. If you are interested, please attend the first of the practice classes at either the Branch or La Farge Lake in Coquitlam. See dates below. If you can't make those dates but want to join, contact either:

Fran Caruth at fmcaruth@gmail.com
or Fran Hillier at fran.hillier1242@gmail.com

The dances will be easy and will be taught beforehand. It's a great opportunity for beginner dancers. No cost for classes, and reduced entry for Highland Games. Dates are:

At SCC 8886 Hudson Street - Mondays June 1st and June 8th, 7pm
At LaFarge Lake Coquitlam - Tuesdays June 2nd and June 9th, 7pm
with a final combined class on June 16th, 7pm

Please do not wear dance shoes for La Farge but instead wear light runners. We are dancing on concrete.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Calling All Volunteers

To spend an hour or two at our beautiful blue tent at Scotfest on June 20st this year. I need some helpers, between 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

I'm awaiting your eager responses!

cathrineconings3@gmail.com

Dancing Dates

Saturday, May 9 – 12:30 p.m. WHITE ROCK SPRING DANCE
Scottish Cultural Centre – 12:30 p.m. $30
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Dance to the spirited music of BLACKTHORN

See the Branch website for the program & dance notes.

White Rock Spring Dance 2026

Friday, May 29 - ADDITIONAL UNANNOUNCED CEILIDH DANCE



Ceilidh dances are held in the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. Class starts at 7 p.m. and the dance from 8–10:30 p.m. all for the amazing price of $20 (students $15). Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required – we teach you almost everything!! Loads of fun and live music too with the resident Ceilidh Band "Calanais."

https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/

Saturday, May 24 FORT LANGLEY WHISKY TEA DANCE

Fort Langley Community Hall – 2:00 p.m. $20

9167 Glover Road, Fort Langley



Please join the Fort Langley Voyageurs for an afternoon of dancing followed by an Afternoon Tea with our traditional Strawberries & Cream and our famous Whisky Raffle!

For more information or tickets, contact Wendy Canessa at wendycan@telus.net.

Program

Kendall's Hornpipe	J	*RSCDS Graded Bk of SCD*
Glenmorangie	R	Drewry
The Minister on the Loch	S	Goldring, *24 G&S*
Best Set in the Hall	J	*RSCDS Bk 46*
The Kissing Bridge	R	*RSCDS Bk 47*
Lady Home's Jig	J	*MMM*
The Northern Lights	S	Dobie, *TAC Silver Ann. Dances*
Blooms of Bon Accord	R	Drewry, *Deeside 2*

*** Short Break***

Lady Erskine	R	Goldring, *15 Social Dances*
Columbia Cardio	JSR	Lang
Airie Bennan	J	Foss, *Glendarroch SD Sheets*
Rest and be Thankful	R	Anon, *Grampian Coll.*
Macdonald of Keppoch	SR	*RSCDS Bk 49*
Pelorus Jack	J	*RSCDS Bk 41*
The Reel of the Royal Scots	R	*RSCDS Leaflet 27*

See the Branch Events Calendar page for the Dance Notes

Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance

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.

June 22 – Burnaby with the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra
June 29 – Vancouver with Strictly Scottish
(& the Vancouver Pipe Band – to be confirmed)
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-in-the-park/



Burnaby Spring Dance



The Burnaby dancers welcomed a good crowd to their spring dance on March 7. We all enjoyed the good floor and the ideal size of Lochdale Hall. And perhaps the great music of the 12-piece Fiddle Orchestra was further enhanced by their position on the stage above





the dance floor. With an interesting dance program, good food, warm atmosphere, spot prizes and door prizes, the afternoon was enjoyed by everyone. No surprise that Rose Powell won one of those prizes! Plan on joining us at the same place next year. Cathrine Conings



A Visit with Ruth Jappy



Whenever I am in Vancouver, Barbara organizes a visit with Emily Gordon to see Ruth. I play a few of Alex's sets on the Petosa Accordion and Barbara organizes a lovely tea party for us all.
The photos are from after the Love to Dance Workshop & Tea Dance, so it was a bonus to have Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Bruce and Carol Conley join us on Feb 22nd. When we arrived at her door, Ruth smiled and said, "It's Party Time"!! Mary Ross-Klektau

Ruth has been living at the Good Samaritan Delta View Care Center for over a year now (9321 Burns Drive, Delta B.C. V4K 3N3). She has a large private room and is happy with the loving care she receives by the staff. They, in turn, enjoy her cheerful spirit. Barbara Moritz



Ruth would enjoy any greeting by card or letter mailed to her in care of her sister at the below address.

Emily Gordon
(96 108A Ave,
Delta, B.C. V4E 1H1.



Photos by Mary Ross-Klektau

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

May 2	Heather Spring Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
May 9	White Rock Spring Tea Dance with Blackthon
May 24	Ft. Langley Whiskey Tea Dance
May 29	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
June 19 - 20	BC Highland Games – ScotFest BC
Jun 22 - Jul 20	Dancing in the Park – RSCDS Vancouver
October TBA	Vancouver Branch AGM & Dance
October 25	North Shore Dance Scottish Dance
November 11	Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
December 28	Betwixt & Between -RSCDS Vancouver

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 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