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 Fall Tea Dance
November 11	Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
November 13	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 17	Heather Spring Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
April 23 - 24	Naramata/Vernon Workshop & Ball
May 8	White Rock Spring Dance
May 30	Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance

*My apologies to the **Vancouver Branch Class** for missing the article on **RSCDS Headquarters' President, Gary Coull** in the last issue. It is now included in this issue. Sometimes due to health, emergencies or just life, things don't go as planned. But hopefully, we can fix them. Also, an apology goes to **Sandy Caruth** for not giving him credit for the **teachers' photo** in the last issue.*

Deadline for submissions to the November/December White Cockade is October 10th. Contact editor at:
Mary Ann McDevitt – 604.929.2944 or mamcdevitt@shaw.ca

Vancouver

the white cockade

September – October 2026



The Vancouver Branch was delighted to have RSCDS Headquarters' President, Gary Coull, dance with the class during a North American visit. Pictured above: Roberta Esau, Gary Coull, Mary Inglis, Chloe Inglis, Belinda Howes, and Fran Hillier.

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

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 – Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Demonstration Team Manager – Gail Urquhart	604.433.6081
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 – Heather Hankin	604.730.9581
- Hugh Aspinall	604.510.4141
Privacy Officer – Peter Richards	604.929.2745
RSCDS Director USCS – Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
RSCDS Representatives VSCF – 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

An Afternoon with Ruth Jappy



Strictly Scottish had a lovely afternoon on June 28 entertaining Ruth and friends with old favourite music and dances.

Don Bartlett and Bobby Brown were much loved musicians, and she enjoyed hearing their music. We danced “Mrs. Jappy’s Measure” to Bobby Brown’s distinctive strathspey music style. Bill Zoebel had written this dance specially for Ruth (published in Dancing On Air).

Barbara Moritz organized a delightful afternoon tea with lots of time for socializing after the performance was over.

It was a huge pleasure to dance for Ruth who played such a prominent part in Scottish Country Dancing both internationally as well as locally.

Kay Sutherland
Vancouver Demonstration Team 2026

Photo by Isobel James

Frae the President

Vancouver

It feels like only a few weeks ago that the dancing season ended, and now we’re already on the cusp of another one!

As we prepare for a new year of dancing, remember that members of some classes can register and renew their membership online. If you dance with the Branch, Burnaby, or Glenayre classes, take advantage of this opportunity to register early. It will make your first night back even smoother, leaving you with more time to enjoy the dancing.

After a few years of questionable weather, ScotFest finally treated us to a perfect day—not too hot, not too cold. The sunshine brought out larger crowds, and you could feel the energy throughout the festival. This year, the Demonstration Team, Strictly Scottish, performed in the Main Tent (not the beer tent, as I mistakenly called it!). And we returned to hosting social and participation dancing on the plaza.

ScotFest always reminds me of a giant jigsaw puzzle. In the days and weeks leading up to the event, there are countless moving pieces - rehearsals, practices, meetings, and planning - that can seem like a jumble. Then somehow everything comes together to create a wonderful day. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and participate. Your dedication and hard work made the festival such a success.

We also enjoyed another successful five weeks of Dancing in the Park. Thank you to all the clubs that participated and to everyone who joined us on Monday evenings. Even FIFA couldn’t get in the way of our beloved Dancing in the Park! A special thank you goes to Alison Moen, who works tirelessly behind the scenes, coordinating with the Parks Board, booking musicians, organizing host clubs, and managing countless other details that make the program run so smoothly.

Since the last issue of *The White Cockade*, we announced a change in leadership for the Demonstration Team. After ten years

as Director—and many more as a performer—Kay Sutherland is stepping down from the role. We are delighted to welcome Katherine Shearman as our new Artistic Director. Katherine will be supported by Alison Moen as Assistant Artistic Director, Heather Hankin overseeing the Demonstration Team Membership, and Gail Urquhart as Demonstration Team Manager. We look forward to this exciting new chapter for the team while thanking Kay for her years of dedication and leadership.

This year, TAC Summer School was held in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Several of our teachers attended the Teachers' Weekend that precedes the week-long school. It provides an excellent opportunity to develop teaching skills while connecting with colleagues from across North America. Rumour has it that next year's Summer School will be held on the East Coast, so stay tuned for more information.

If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendar for our AGM on Friday, October 9, with dancing to follow. To be eligible to vote at the AGM, be sure to renew your membership as soon as possible.

The AGM will also mark my transition from President to Past President. It has been a busy and rewarding two years. Alongside the responsibilities of serving as President, teacher training has also demanded a great deal of my time. Even so, it has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. Serving on the Board - and especially as President - has given me a real appreciation for the tremendous amount of work that happens behind the scenes. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dynamic, forward-thinking, supportive, and friendly group of volunteers.

If you are ever asked to serve on the Board or on a committee, I encourage you to say yes. It is a wonderful way to contribute to our organization and to appreciate all that goes into making our dancing community so special.

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor!

Gail Urquhart,
President,
RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Vancouver

Dancing in the Park 2026





Although a shorter season, it was another successful year for Dancing in the Park. Thank you to the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Strictly Scottish, Kilbirnie Station, Piper Derek Davidson, and Blackthorn for great entertainment. Thank you to the Vancouver Branch Executive for their financial support. And a special thank you to Alison Moen who makes all this happen.



Photos by Virginia Lee



Dancing News & Photos



A Visit from RSCDS President

At the end of April, Gary Coull, the President of RSCDS had a brief stop - over in Vancouver as he travelled between teaching assignments in Canada and America. He managed his time so well, he was able to join our regular Monday night Branch class. We were delighted to meet "The President" and to enjoy his company on the dance floor - he's a good dancer and lots of fun.



Photos by Poh Chan

Notices

RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGM
7:00 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held in person at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Friday, October 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. There will be opportunities to offer feedback on past events, provide suggestions for future events and activities, and vote in the election of Executive Directors and Directors-at-large for the 2026/2027 season.

The meeting will be followed by a "Special Event Dance". See page 13 for details and program.

A complete document package comprising of the minutes of the 2025 AGM, financial statements for the 2025/2026 fiscal year, nominations, and reports from the Directors, Appointees, and Clubs will be posted on the website in early October.

Nominations for Branch Board Directors may be mailed to the Corresponding Secretary, c/o the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 4N2 or presented at the AGM. Written consent is required for any nominee not in attendance at the AGM. We look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

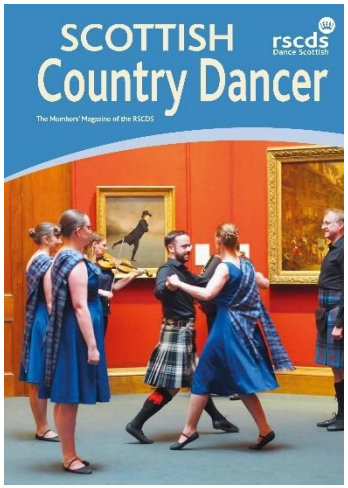
You must renew your Branch Membership prior to the AGM to be eligible to vote.



IT'S EASY! Click on: Membership & Classes

You have the option to pay online or download a registration form to mail with your cheque payable to RSCDS Vancouver Branch.

Scottish Country Dancer Going Digital



The Scottish Country Dancer magazine will be provided in digital form to all RSCDS members starting with the October 2026 edition. Print copies will be available to those who pay $6 per year (2 issues per year). There is an option to purchase a print subscription on the RSCDS Vancouver website. Look under "Membership Classes" and the option to subscribe will be available on the same page as RSCDS memberships. Changing to a digital-first model is a cost-saving measure for the RSCDS, but they promise this format will give video content, interviews, direct links to music, richer photo galleries and expanded stories.

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Dem Team Open House

Thursday September 17, 2026 (7.30-9.30pm)
Cairngorm Room, Scottish Cultural Centre

This "stand alone" class is open to intermediate plus dancers who are interested in an opportunity to improve their technique and try "dances with a difference". You need to be familiar with all basic steps and formations to participate. Ask your regular class teacher if you are not sure if this class is right for you.

Kay Sutherland & Katherine Shearman



Wednesday, November 11 — LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. $20 (18 & under $10)
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver BC



North Shore Dance Scottish welcomes you to this year's Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance, traditionally held on Remembrance Day. This is an afternoon for everyone so please feel free to bring family and friends to spend the afternoon with you. The host club will provide savouries, but a small plate of "sweet things" to share would be much appreciated.

All proceeds go to charity.

Program (**denotes harder dances)

The Welcome Reel	R		*Let's All Dance*
It's Nae Bother	J		*2nd Graded Bk*
MacDonald of the Isle	S		*30 Popular Vol. 2*
The Pipe Opener	J	Goldring,	*G&S Dances 3*
**Bratach Bana	R	Drewry,	*30 Popular Vol. 2*
Friendships	S		*3rd Graded Bk*
Reel of the 51st Division	R		*RSCDS Bk 13*

Short Break

Dance Display by Strictly Scottish

The Yorkshire Rose	J		*RSCDS Bk 54*
**Arthur's Seat	R		McConachie
The Swan and the Tay	S		*Perth 800*
Pelorus Jack	J		*RSCDS Bk 41*
The Kissing Bridge	R		*RSCDS Bk 47*
Cherrybank Gardens	S		*30 Popular Vol. 2*
The Deil Amang the Tailors	R		*RSCDS Bk 14*

The Reel of the 51st Division will be danced by MEN only!

See the Branch website to the Dance Notes

https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/lady-aberdeen-2026/

Sunday, October 25 NORTH SHORE DS FALL TEA DANCE

Highland United Church 2 – 5 p.m. $25
3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver



Please join North Shore Dance Scottish for an afternoon of favourite dances with lively music by **Mary Ross**. Tea will be served at the break.

Program (*easier dances **more challenging dances)

*The Yorkshire Man ---------- J ------- Hargreaves, *Deep Cove Coll.*
*The Highlandman's Umbrella -------- R ---------- Holden, *Collins*
Mrs Jappy's Measure ---------- S ---------- Zoebel, *Dancing on Air*
Pelorus Jack ---------- J ---------- Skelton, *RSCDS Bk 41*
Blooms of Bon Accord ---------- R ---------- Drewry, *Deeside 2*
The Abbot of Unreason ---------- J ---------- Levy, *Tin Woodman*
Staffin Harvest ---------- S ---------- Mitchell, *Four SCD 1978*
*Maxwell's Rant ---------- R ---------- Rutherford, *RSCDS Bk 18*

Break

Chased Lovers ---------- J ---------- Wilson, *RSCDS Bk 53*
**Bratach Bana ---------- R ---------- Drewry, *30 Popular Vol. 2*
Canadian Landscape ---------- S ---------- MacCrone, *RSCDS Bk 54*
**Vintage Simon ---------- J ---------- Hargreaves, *RSCDS Bk 47*
MacDonald of the Isles ---------- S ---------- Haynes, *30 Popular Vol. 2*
Kathy's Fascinator ---------- J ---------- Hedge, *RSCDS Bk 54*
Trip to Timber Ridge ---------- R ---------- Henderson, *RSCDS Bk 52*

See the Branch Website for the Dance Notes
https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/nsds-fall-dance-2026/

Limited parking is available at front and rear of the Church, but lots of parking available below Thrifty's Food store across the street. Please use the main courtyard entrance (from lower end of the front parking lot) to access the dance.

Vancouver Branch Classes

Vancouver rscds

Come and join us for *fun*, *fitness* and *friendship* and the opportunity to dance scottish

MONDAY NIGHT BRANCH CLASS
at the Scottish Cultural Centre - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

TERM: SEPTEMBER 14 TO DECEMBER 14, 2026
(No class October 12)

OUR FIRST CLASS WILL HAVE LIVE MUSIC!
Everyone welcome - See page 12.

FEES: $100 for the term (13 classes) or $12 Drop-in

There will be two class levels;
Introductory and Early Intermediate (Level 1)
Higher Intermediate and Experienced (Level 2)

TEACHERS: Fran Caruth and Katherine Shearman

All dancers require RSCDS membership - see link below

Classes and Membership

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM CLASS
at the Scottish Cultural Centre - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

FALL TERM: SEPTEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 9, 2026
(No class September 30 or November 11)

FEES: $80 for the term (10 classes) or $12 Drop-in

TEACHERS: Fran Caruth and Friends

The class is for reviewing the dances on the programs for upcoming socials, to revisit old favourites, and to offer some special nights showcasing particular devisors. Classes are open to all dancers who are familiar with the basic steps and formations of Scottish Country Dancing.





Patricia Christine Johnson
November 1943 to May 2026

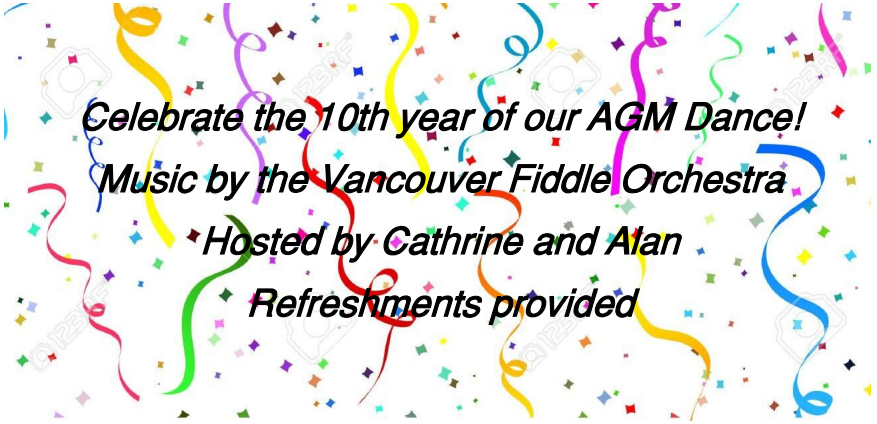
We are sad to announce that Patricia (Pat) Johnson passed away on May 22, 2026. Pat danced on the North Shore for approximately 35 years, with the Gleneagles Scottish Dance Club and North Shore Dance Scottish. Pat also danced with a group at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre every Friday and afterwards enjoyed socializing at lunch. She also enjoyed the many Gleneagles Balls at the Hotel Vancouver, and dances at the Cultural Centre. She took over the Children's dancing group on the North Shore on Maureen Hood's retirement. Pat also organized a Seniors Group of Dancers who went into Seniors Homes around Rabbie Burns Day for dance demonstrations. Pat loved Scottish Dancing and continued almost to the end of her life despite bad health. She will be missed by her many friends and family members. Margaret Duff



Just days after mum's passing, a wild female Spectacled Bear in the mountains of Peru, was safely fitted with a GPS collar. The bear was named "Patricia" in mum's honour. The bear is now teaching scientist about where spectacled bears travel, feed and raise their young. This information will help protect more than 1.5 million acres of Andrean wilderness. Having this remarkable bear carry Mum's name is a testament to her love of nature, her deep belief in protecting wildlife and a beautiful lasting tribute to mum. As "Patricia" the bear roams the mountains in Peru, she is helping conserve the wild places she calls home. A fitting legacy in memory of Patricia Johnson.

Christine Boutin & Georgina McCandlish

Scottish Cultural Centre 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Program

*The Galloping Carousel----------J -------De Chastelain, *RSCDS Bk 53*
*The Morrison Measure----------R ----------Goldring, *A Reel for Alice*
The Rose of the North----------S ----------Golding, *Leeds Silver*
Gaelforce Wind----------J ---------- Haynes, *Carnforth 3*
Bratach Bana ----------R ----------Drewry, *Bon Accord*
The Orchards of County Armagh-----S ----------Anderson, *RSCDS Bk 53*

Break

The Bees of Maggieknockater --------J ---------- Drewry, *Canadian Bk*
*Toast to the Mousies ----------R ----------Gratiot, *RSCDS Bk 53*
The Road to MacGregor----------S ---------- Andrew Hodgson
Best Set in the Hall----------J ---------- Greenwood, *RSCDS Bk 46*
*West's Hornpipe ----------R ----------*5 Trad. SCDs 1965*

*Denotes easier dances

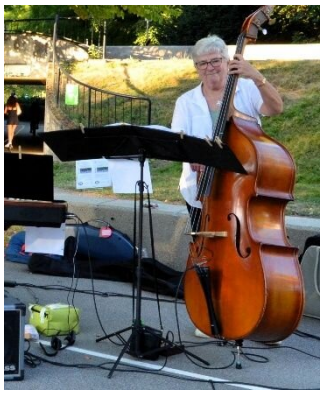
See the Branch Website for the Dance Notes

https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/vancouver-agm-2026/

Dancing Dates

Monday, September 14 VANCOUVER BRANCH FIRST NIGHT

Scottish Cultural Centre **7 p.m to 10 p.m.** $12 Drop-in
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



The Vancouver Branch invites you to join us for our first class of the season. We are thrilled to have live music by Kilbirnie Station – Janet Wright on bass and two talented young fiddlers, Dorothy Ong and Ryan North. We will be reviewing easy and well-known dances.

Don't forget your water bottles!

Friday, September 25 VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE



Ceilidh dances are held in the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver with the class starting at 7 p.m. and the dance from 8 – 10:30 p.m. all for the amazing price of $20 (students $15). Note: Bring cash for refreshments.

Attendance limited to 160 but might be increased and folk in the queue didn't have to wait long – roughly 30 people left before 9 pm.

Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required – we teach you everything!! Soft shoes recommended. Loads of fun and live music too with the resident ceilidh band Calanais.

Future Ceilidh Dances (on the last Friday of the month except October & November) are September 25, October 23, & November 13.

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VSCF News

There are a few things of note regarding what we have been calling the SCCS. First, the name has changed to the Vancouver Scottish Cultural Foundation.

The VSCF runs the Vancouver Scottish Cultural Centre (the hall). Separating these two entities allows for the advertising of activities on two separate websites to meet some CRA requirements. The name change was mainly completed to try and encourage outside donations to the Foundation, as some donors were not willing to donate to a "hall". As a Foundation we may be more attractive to such donors, as having more emphasis on the activities of the various societies.

VSCF had applied to Vancouver City for a grant towards the painting/repairs/upkeep of the exterior walls. This is a task that needs to be completed by next year and we anticipate a bill of just under $40,000 including the cost of protecting the painters from the hydro wires. The City did not approve our application as they appear to be focussing on programming, especially with a Reconciliation focus. While the VSCF does have the option of using a line of credit and other funding, the hope is that other funders may be found. RSCDS is looking at this also, but that comes from the Board!

The hall continues to be well used by renters, which is ensuring that there are funds available to support the societies' programs.

Fran Hillier & Jennifer Shearman
RSCDS Representative's VSCF

Vancouver Area Scottish Country Dance Clubs & Classes 2026 - 2027

The annual RSCDS Branch membership (not included in the below fees) is required for the following classes

GROUP	LEVEL	TEACHER	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	DAY	TIME	START	FEE	INFO
Vancouver Branch	Introductory / Early Int.	Fran Caruth & Katherine Shearman	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Mon	7:30 pm	Sept 14	$100 HS / $12 DI	604.922.6842
Vancouver Branch	Higher Int./ Experienced	Fran Caruth & Katherine Shearman	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Mon	7:30 pm	Sept 14	$100 HS / $12 DI	604.922.6842
Vancouver Branch	Program Class	Fran Caruth & Friends	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Wed	7:30 pm	Sept 23	$80 HS / $12 DI	604.922.6842
Vancouver Branch	Dem Team Class	Katherine Shearman	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Thurs	7:30 pm	TBD	No Fee	604.671.2480
Burnaby	Beginner Int/Adv	Cathrine Conings	Jubilee United Church	7591 Gray Ave (at Rumble)	Burnaby	Mon	Beg 7 pm All 7:30	Sept 14	$80 HS / $10 DI	604.299.6447
Glenayre (Coquitlam)	Beginner/ Int/Adv	Fran Hillier & Gail Urquhart	Coquitlam Presbyterian Church	948 Como Lake Avenue	Coquitlam	Tues	Beg 7 pm All 7:30	Sept 15	$110 FS / $60 HS	604.298.9695

The RSCDS Branch membership (not included in the below fees) is optional but highly recommended for the following classes

GROUP	LEVEL	TEACHER	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	DAY	TIME	START	FEE	INFO
Bellingham	General	Marion Heath	Fairhaven Library	1117 – 12th Street	Bellingham	Wed	7:00 pm	Sept 9	$140 FS / $5 DI	360.671.3806
Fort Langley	Beg/Int/Adv	Laurie Lang	Ft. Langley Hall	9167 Glover Road	Fort Langley	Tues	7:30 pm	Sept 15	DI $5/ Sep – Dec $60 /Ja-May $100	604.944.6678
Kerrisdale	Beginners Intermediate	Cathrine Conings	Kerrisdale Com. Center	5851 West Blvd	Vancouver	Tues	11:30 am 1:30 pm	Sept 9	$15 HS $5.50 DI	604.299.6447
North Shore Dance Scottish	Basic	Alison Moen & Kay Sutherland	Arbutus Room Delbrook Rec C	851 Queens Rd	North Van	Mon	7:15 pm	Sept 14	$165 HS $15DI	604.929.2745 604.980.0428
North Shore Dance Scottish	General	Alison Moen & Kay Sutherland	Arbutus Room Delbrook Rec C	851 Queens Rd	North Van	Wed	7:00 pm	Sept 16	$175 HS $20 DI	604.929.2745 604.980.0428
North Shore Dance Scottish	Challenge	Alison Moen	Canyon Room Lions Gate Rec C	1733 Lions Gate Lane	North Van	Tues	7:00 pm	Oct 6	$175 HS $10 DI	604.980.0428
Thursday Thistles	General/Social	Laurie Lang	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Thurs	10:30 am	Sept 10	$10 DI	604.944.6678
W Van Seniors	Program	Louise Murphy	West Van Seniors' Centre	695 – 21st Street	West Van	Fri	10:30 am	Sept 11	$7.30 DI $9.90 NM	604.202.0446
White Rock	Beg/Int/Adv	Maureen Lyon	Sullivan Hall	6306 - 152nd Street	Surrey	Wed	7:00 pm	Sept 9	$7 DI	604.536.1367

FS = Full Season HS = Half Season DI = Drop-in

As Venues, times, dates, fees are subject to change, please call the information # for questions or verification or check the club pages on our website: https://rscdsvancouver.org/dancing-in-vancouver/clubs/