

Vancouver Area Calendar of Events

January 25	Burns Supper - RSCDS Vancouver
January 31	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
February 22	Love to Dance Workshop & Tea Dance RSCDS Vancouver
February 28	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
March 8	Burnaby Spring Dance
March 28	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
April 5	Victoria Workshop & Ball - VISCDs
April 12	Glenayre Spring Dance
April 25	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
April 26	Heather Ball - RSCDS Vancouver
May 25	Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance
June 20 - 21	ScotFest BC Highland Games - Coquitlam

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 that you will have had all vaccinations available to you. Please do not attend if you are sick.



*deadline for submissions
to the white cockade*



The Vancouver Branch newsletter is published bi-monthly on the 1st of September, November, January, March, May, and July. The deadline for submissions is the 10th day of the preceding month (i.e. February 10th for the March/April issue). We welcome and thank you for your contributions of photos, letters and articles. We will do our best to accommodate everyone as space permits.

Mary Ann McDevitt - 778.986.2944 or mamcdevitt@shaw.ca



*the white
cockade*



January - February 2025



RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors

Elected at the RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGM on October 11, 2024

Executive Directors

President - Gail Urquhart	604.433.6081
Vice President - Paul Shrimpton	604.469.2433
Corresponding Secretary - Karen Shrimpton	604.469.2433
Recording Secretary - Sue Biddle	604.619.1620
Treasurer - Susan Stensgaard	604.451.1161

Directors-at-Large (with specific responsibilities)

Past President - Fran Hillier	778.285.1242
Publicity - Cathrine Conings	604.299.6447
Membership - Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
Events Coordinator - Margaret Gorham	416.924.4348
Equipment Manager - Seoris Harrison	604.263.0493
Director at Large - Ally Huang	604.299.0160
Archivist - John Robertson	604.985.1612

Cover photo of Rosemary Coupe courtesy of her son, Andrew

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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 Coordinator - Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Burns Supper Chair - Stewart Cunningham	604.261.0162
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 Sherman	604.671.2480
Heather Ball Chair - Fran Hillier	778.285.1242
Graphics Consultant - Patsy Jamieson	604.929.4884
Love to Dance Workshop Chairs - Frances Hillier - Sue Biddle	778.285.1242 604.619.1620
Newsletter Editor - Mary Ann McDevitt	604.929.2944
Nominating Committee Chair - Vicki Downey	604.298.9695
Privacy Officer - Peter Richards	604.929.2745
RSCDS Director USCS - Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
RSCDS Representatives SCCS - Fran Hillier - Jennifer Shearman	778.285.1242 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 Board of Directors:

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/about-branch/board-members/>

Click on 'Send Email' under the Director's name

Email Contacts for Branch Board Appointees:

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/about-branch/board-appointments/>

Click on 'Send Email' under the Appointee's name

or for both Directors & Appointees:

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/contact/>

Click on 'Send Email' under the Events or Branch heading



The end of the season Vancouver Branch Christmas party was a very well attended success. Teachers Fran Caruth and Katherine Shearman led us through fun seasonal dances - The Christmas Tree, Chopped Nuts & Chocolate Swirls, and more. Teacher candidate, Heather Hankin donning antlers and a shiny red nose, led us through Red Nose Jig.

We laughed and danced until 9 p.m., then finished the evening with some scrumptious goodies, hugs, and holiday wishes. Unfortunately we didn't get many photos as we were too busy enjoying the dancing and good company. But Kerry did manage to snap a few.

Above is half of our Circle of Friendship. Below left - Kathy Dann presenting Fran with her card and gift from the class. Right - David Robinson presenting Katherine with her card and gift.

And a great time was had by all.

Mary Ann McDevitt



Frae the President



As I write this, Christmas, Betwixt & Between, and Hogmanay are a few weeks away...but, by the time you read this, all three may have passed. Regardless of when you read this, on behalf of the Vancouver Branch Board of Directors, I extend our best wishes to you and your loved ones over the Holiday Season and beyond.

There are many opportunities to dance in 2025. Our annual Robbie Burns Dinner is being held on Saturday, 25 January...the 266th anniversary of his birth. The event sold out last year, so get your tickets early! There is a good mix of easier dances on the programme, making it the perfect dance for our newer dancers or for people you'd like to introduce to Scottish Country Dancing.

In February, two exceptional teachers, Kay Sutherland and Louise McGillivray, are joining us for the Love to Dance workshop. The workshop is in the morning followed by a tea dance in the afternoon. Pamphlets will be available at upcoming events and classes and, of course, information will be posted on the Vancouver Branch Website.

See you on the dance floor!

Gail Urquhart, President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch



Notices



Come join us for fun, fitness & friendship
and the opportunity to dance Scottish

MONDAY NIGHT BRANCH CLASSES

7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m.
at the Scottish Cultural Centre

Classes resume January 6, 2025

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

There will be two class levels:
Introductory & Early Intermediate
Higher Intermediate & Experienced

Fees: \$95 Term or \$12 Drop-in

Teachers: Fran Caruth & Katherine Shearman

All dancers require RSCDS membership - see below link
<https://rscdsvancouver.org/branch-membership/>

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM CLASS

7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m.
at the Scottish Cultural Centre

Classes resume January 8, 2025

Schedule: There will be three (3) FREE classes on
January 8, 15 & 22 to review Burns Supper Dances.

Future classes TBA based on upcoming events.

Class Fee: \$12 drop-in

Teacher: Fran Caruth 604.922.6842



Although we said afternoon tea would be minimal, being Scottish Country Dancers, we had a generous and interesting array of goodies to help keep us energised. Many thanks to everyone who brought goodies.



Alison, Fran & Katherine



Our amazing photographer, Kerry McDevitt was watching, videoing, and photographing us ALL afternoon. We have a wonderful gallery of pictures and videos of the dances. You can look at some of them on Facebook and on our Branch website Event Photos page at:

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/dance-around-world-2024/>

A big thank to everyone who was there. All of you contributed to a high-spirited afternoon of dancing. It was wonderful!

Fran Caruth

Dance Around the World



On Saturday November 23, forty-four (44) dancers from the Vancouver area gathered at the Jubilee Hall in Burnaby to celebrate a wonderful world-wide event, DANCING AROUND THE WORLD.

We had great afternoon of camaraderie and dancing. The program was created in Scotland and circulated to groups all around the world so that no matter where you lived (or holidayed) you could dance the same dances on the same day celebrating 101 years of the RSCDS.

We found prerecorded versions of the designated tunes for each dance and four of our teachers – Kay, Alison, Katherine and Fran shared the briefing. Gail Urquhart, with some help from others, ensured we knew it was an international event when she decorated the hall with flags representing ALL countries around the world.



In Memory of Rosemary Coupe (1939 - 2024)



Sadly, we have lost a beloved dancer, teacher, tutor, editor and historian who devoted much of her life to Scottish Country Dancing.

Rosemary was born in Hobart, Tasmania; an early influence was her musical grandmother of Scottish descent. She came to Vancouver in 1962, under the Commonwealth Scholarship plan, to do her PhD in English at UBC. Hugh Thurston was her first teacher of Scottish country dancing in an old army hut on the UBC campus. Rosemary credited his expertise in dance history as another strong influence on her life and interests.

Rosemary married Robert Coupe in 1970. They were very active in the BC Mountaineering Club, as well as enjoying frequent summer camping in the BC Coastal range and hiking with their sons. Her 30-year career teaching English at Capilano College included three years as coordinator of the English department. Rosemary was also the founding Convenor of the Writing Centre.

In 1990 Rosemary obtained her RSCDS teaching certificate. She taught Gleneagles and then Burnaby from 1990 until December 2022. During that time, she led the Burnaby Entertainment Team which danced at many seniors' homes. She was a member of both the Vancouver Branch Demonstration Team and Barbara Campbell's Inverary Dancers.

Rosemary was the founding editor of the White Cockade branch newsletter and produced 10 issues a year for 13 years. In those days photos were taken to the printer to be screened, then a paste-up was done for the master copy; a far cry from the convenience of today's computers.

Historical research was a passion of hers, and Rosemary published the definitive article on the history of the Eightsome Reel. She produced a wonderful book on the history of Scottish Country Dance in Vancouver, as well as numerous articles on general dance history. She was the editor of the RSCDS magazine, *Scottish Country Dancer*, for three years and worked on the RSCDS Teaching Manual.

With Robert, Rosemary had three sons Iain, Malcolm (Katherine) and Andrew (Andrea). Her Grandchildren are Annaliesa, Rowan, Rosie, Isa, and Alastair. Rosemary passed away peacefully on her own terms, at home, surrounded by family.

Rosemary will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Rosemary Coupe - A personal note



I've been fortunate to have had a close friendship with Rosemary ever since I offered to play piano for the Burnaby classes! I soon learned that playing solo for a class took more practice than I could manage, but I got addicted to that lovely group and stayed on as a dancer. Rosemary had an admirable way of teaching beginners and making them feel comfortable within the more experienced

class; a precedent which is quite challenging. She was a mentor and role model for me, and I am often reminded of her motto "Don't touch dancers; that removes their autonomy". Practical advice indeed and sometimes hard to follow! Rosemary was always open to being consulted about dancing and teaching concerns. She gave me many good suggestions for programming, even helping me this fall to devise my Hallowe'en dance Spooky Spiderweb.

Rosemary was devoted to her family and when her husband Robert became ill, she gave up her teaching position to be there for him. Diane Coulombe taught the club for those two years. She returned to her role as teacher when Diane moved east and Robert's health improved.

The Entertainment Team was an annual endeavour, where Rosemary included newer members and used dances on our club's party program to give us extra practice. It was a mind-boggling effort involving complex scheduling of partners, positions and dates. We danced at many seniors' homes for their Robbie Burns events.



Rosemary was a great vegetarian cook. In September 2022, when she agreed to Chair the 2023 Heather Ball Committee, she prepared an elaborate meal for our first meeting. Not long after that, she



Photos by Kerry McDevitt

The afternoon seemed to be enjoyed by all. Maureen Lyon's special program incorporated traditional Lady Aberdeen favourites and some newer, challenging selections, including "Double Duty" by White Rock's own John Lang. Iza Matsumoto's poppy decorations were perfect. Intermission was a treat with not only a sumptuous tea but also a wonderful performance by the members of Strictly Scottish. Thanks to all for a most enjoyable and successful Lady Aberdeen event.

Jane Steele



Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance



The White Rock Scottish Country Dance Club was delighted to host 2024's Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance on Monday, November 11. The event was a great success thanks to a terrific turnout of dancers and guests who were all most generous with their support of the fundraiser that benefitted Honour House in New Westminster in the amount of \$2,778.



The White Rock Club would especially like to thank the other clubs who so graciously and generously contributed creative baskets for the fundraising raffle.

Everyone's support was deeply appreciated.

became ill and had to resign from the Committee. By December she was no longer able to teach.



Rosemary's modesty dictated that no one was allowed to make a fuss over her (no obituary in the newspaper, no memorial service). She was the epitome of perseverance and grit in facing three sessions of chemotherapy. Rosemary kept up her walks around Deer Lake, usually taking a break to sit on the memorial bench she had placed there for Robert. She accepted her poor health without self-pity and welcomed visits and calls from friends, though thankful for an offer to reschedule if it was an off day. With the help of her sons Andrew and Malcolm, she lived her last two years with dignity. Rosemary will be sorely missed.

Cathrine Conings



Photos courtesy of Kerry McDevitt & the Vancouver Branch Archives

Page 5 Photos

Top: Rosemary & Sandy Caruth at the 2016 Burnaby Spring Dance

Bottom left: Rosemary receiving her Branch Award in 2006

Middle: Rosemary & Liz Peerless at the 2005 Vancouver Assembly

Right: 2013 Canada Day Parade

Page 6 Photos

Top left: Rosemary & Gail Urquhart at the 2018 Betwixt & Between

Top right: Rosemary & Susan Stensgaard the 2015 Golden Jubilee Ball

Bottom: Rosemary & Maureen Lyon at the 2024 Diamond Jubilee Ball

Dancing Dates

Saturday, January 25 **VANCOUVER BRANCH BURNS SUPPER**
 Scottish Cultural Centre - 5:30 p.m. \$100 or \$90 for Member Societies
 8886 Hudson Street



The annual celebration of the life & poetry of Robert Burns includes a traditional Scottish meal, a cash bar, entertainment, dancing to the music of Mary Ross, and a dance program to suit everyone. See the Branch website Event Calendar for the program and dance notes.

THREE FREE classes are offered at the at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Wednesdays, January 8, 15 & 22 from 7:30 p.m to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets while they last are available to your local SCD Club, on line at www.rscdsvancouver.org or email burns@rscdsvancouver.org

Member Societies: Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, BC Highland Dance Association, BC Pipers Association, Gaelic Society of Vancouver, Sons of Scotland, and St. Andrews & Caledonian Society of Vancouver.

Friday, January 31 **VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE**
 Scottish Cultural Centre \$15 (\$10 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 if from 8:00 to 10:30 pm.

More Ceilidhs are scheduled for February 28, March 28 and April 25

<https://www.vancouverceilidh.org>

Dancing News & Photos

Burnaby Club's Halloween Party



Photos by the Burnaby SCD Club

The Burnaby club had a special class night Oct. 28 with the Tartan Players and a good turnout of costumed dancers! We also enjoyed a lavish spread of food including two rather eerie plates! Cathrine Conings



Above right:
 prosciutto skull
 & witch's hat

Bottom left:
 Janie & David
 Jackson

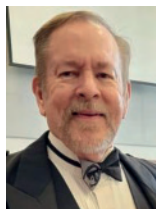
Bottom right:
 penguin
 Cathrine Conings
 & kangaroo
 Gail Urquhart



Events Further Afield

Vancouver Island SCDS 48th Workshop & Ball

5 April 2025 - Edelweiss Club, Victoria



Workshop Teacher:

Alan Twigg

Music:

Mary Ross & Special Friends



Tickets \$70 (\$80 after March 1st)

Look for more details and registration information January 1st

<https://viscds.ca/workshop-and-spring-social/>



TAC Summer School 2005

August 3 - 10

Join us at Bishop's University - Sherbrooke, Quebec

TEACHING STAFF

Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, BC Canada - Andrew Nolan, UK

Linda Henderson, California USA- Cecily Selling, Pennsylvania USA

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gary Thomas, California USA



REGISTRATION OPENS SPRING 2025

<https://tac-rscds.org/>

Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)

Saturday, February 22 LOVE TO DANCE WORKSHOP & DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver

Registration 8:30 a.m. - Workshops 9:00 a.m. - Tea Dance 2:00 p.m.



Full day workshop & Dance \$65

With new member coupon \$50

Full-time student \$50

Dance only \$25

Teachers:

Louise McGillivray (Victoria)

Kay Sutherland (Vancouver)

Class Musicians:

Mary Ross, Cathrine Conings

& Lukasz Wiczorek

Afternoon Dance Musician:

Mary Ross

Pre-registration required for workshop. Dance may be paid at the door.

Program (*denotes easier dances)

*It's Nae Bother.....J.....Haynes, *2nd Graded Book*
Scotland's Gardens.....R.....Goldring, *Auld Friends Meet*
The Orchards of County Armagh.....S.....Anderson, *Book 53*

Teacher's Choice (Jig)

*Dancing in the Street.....R.....Toriyama, *Book 42*
Miss Milligan's Strathsepy.....S.....*RSCDS Leaflets*

*The Yorkshire Man.....J.....Hargreaves, *Deep Cove Coll.*

Shifftin' Bobbins.....R.....Clowes, *Ormiskirk 6*

*Ship O'Grace.....S.....McAdam, *Lifeboat Dances*

Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan.....R.....Goldring, *30 Popular Vol. 2*

Teacher's Choice (Jig)

Minister on the Loch.....S.....Goldring, *Magazine Dances*

Mairi's Wedding.....R.....Cosh, *22 SCD*

See the Branch website for brochure, more details, & dance notes.

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/love-to-dance-2025/>

Need help registering: Contact Sue Biddle

604.619.1620 or email ltl@rscdsvancouver.org

Face masks optional. Hand sanitizer provided. Please do not attend if you are sick or have had recent close contact with Covid.

Saturday, March 8

BURNABY SPRING DANCE

Confederation Seniors' Centre - 1:30 p.m.
4585 Albert Street, Burnaby

\$25



The Burnaby SCD Club looks forward to welcoming you to an afternoon of dancing to the music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.

To get to Confederation Centre, take Willingdon Avenue one block north of Hastings and turn right on Albert. The parking lot is on the left and the building left of the lot.

Program (** more complex dances)

Shifftin' Bobbins.....R.....Clowes, *Ormiskirk 6*
A Capital Jig.....J.....MacKay, *5 Dances 2009*
The Water of Leith.....S.....Wilkinson, *Book 53*
Scott Meikle.....R.....McLean, *Book 46*
**Best Set in the Hall.....J.....Greenwood, *Book 46*
**Greenmantle.....S.....Wilkinson, *Greenmantle Coll.*
The Montgomeries' Rant.....R.....Anon, *Book 10*
**Emmett's Chase.....J...Brenchley, *The Other Kangaroo Paw*

Break

Prince Rupert's Fancy.....S.....Drewry, *Canadian Book*
**Pelorus Jack.....J.....Skelton, *Book 41*
**J B Milne.....R.....Foss, *Angus Fitchett Album*
**Deer Lake Denizen.....S.....Conings, *Unpublished*
**Follow Me Home.....J.....Briscoe, *Book 38*
The Lochalsh Reel.....R.....Burnett, *Book 53*
**Miss Eleanor.....S.....Dix, *Book 49*
West's Hornpipe.....R.....Anon, *Traditional SCDs 1945*

See the Branch website Event Calendar for the Dance Notes

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/dancing-in-vancouver/event-calendar/>

Face masks optional. Hand sanitizer provided. Please do not attend if you are sick, or have had recent close contact with Covid.



Vancouver



*The RSCDS Vancouver Branch
proudly presents:*

The all new Vancouver Heather Spring Tea Dance

Saturday, April 26, 2025

At the Scottish Cultural Centre

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



We are redesigning our annual formal Heather Ball to accommodate what we believe would better meet the interests of our dancing community.

Our Heather Spring Tea Dance will still be a *"Special Event"* welcoming all dancers and at a lower cost.

This catered afternoon tea dance, celebrating Spring and the end of our dancing year, will include live music.

The final details are currently being completed and more information will be forthcoming as soon as available.

Stay tuned to the Branch Website Event Calendar and the March/April issue of the White Cockade for details as they unfold.

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/heather-ball-2025/>

Mark your Calendars & Save the Date!

We hope to see all of you at this new "Special Event"!