



the white cockade

Newsletter of the Vancouver Branch Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

MARCH - APRIL 2014



Stave Falls Scottish Dancers at Disneyland

photo Sarah Stubley

RSCDS VANCOUVER BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2014

A new Board of Directors was elected at the Annual General Meeting held September 20, 2013

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fae the chair

I trust that you all enjoyed the Burns season. Our entertainment teams had many engagements. Some Branch demonstration team dancers had three engagements per day. The highlight of their season was dancing to the Vancouver Police Pipe Band at their 100th Anniversary Burns Night. Thanks to all for displaying and sharing our dance. Thanks also to Peter Richards and his committee for running another splendid Branch Burns Supper. At the Burns celebrations in Terrace, Kirsten Earl was presented with a Branch Award in recognition of her many years of promoting Scottish Country Dance in that area. Having improved our dance steps at the Love to Dance workshop, it is now time to register for the TAC Summer School in Greeley, Colorado or for St Andrew's in Scotland. You will find links on our website to socials and workshops around the world but there is no need to travel far. We have an exciting line up of spring socials and this year at our Heather Ball we will dance to Laird Brown's Scotch Mist band. Simon Scott has put together an interesting programme and I look forward to dancing with you all there. Then in May the White Rock club celebrate their 60th anniversary and will provide an opportunity to dance to Marion Anderson and Friends.

Meanwhile April 14th marks the start of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of our Vancouver Branch. A variety of enhanced events are planned over the next twelve month culminating with a grand Golden Jubilee Ball on March 21st 2015 at the Hellenic Centre in Vancouver.

A sincere thank you to the dancers who volunteered at our booth at the Zoomer Show. We have three more opportunities coming up to show how much fun our dance can be whilst keeping fit and making new friends. Join us at the CelticFest Parade, BC Highland Games and on Canada Day. Mark your calendars and plan to be there. Ca' canny and happy dancing.

Jennifer Shearman

Dance Devising Competition For Book 49 - Result

The Branch selected "Tam's Turmoil", a 3 x 48 reel devised by John and Laurie Lang to be sent to Edinburgh. This now joins all the other dances forwarded by RSCDS branches around the world for possible inclusion in Book 49.

As Fran Caruth reported in January, twelve dances were submitted by our Branch members. The names and devisers were removed and Mary Murray reviewed them. Under her guidance, these were executed by sixteen experienced dancers. From this "Dance Off", six were short-listed and redone by eighteen dancers, again under Mary's direction. A tally of the final scores assigned by our dancers gave us our winner.

The notes of the other eleven dances were never circulated and only Fran knew the details of who submitted which one. This methodology reflects that used by RSCDS to protect the devisers and their dances. The eleven not selected were returned to the devisers and we encourage these and other budding devisers to continue to perfect new dances for our 50th anniversary. See our website and this issue for details of the new competition.

The Branch is very proud of our members and the quality of the dances received. We will now help RSCDS assess the other dances submitted for Book 49 and hope that our Vancouver dance will be enjoyed and recommended for inclusion.

A huge "Thanks" to Fran, Mary and the dancers who did the evaluation plus our devisers – Anne Brand, Gillian Beattie, Betty Cobben, Cathrine Conings, Dorothy Hargreaves, Jack Herring, John and Laurie Lang, Duncan MacKenzie, Alison Moen, Simon Scott, Ed Wagstaff and Jean Wagstaff.

Jennifer Shearman

dancing dates

Saturday, March 8 BURNABY DANCE

Confederation Centre 7:30 pm \$20
4584 Albert Street, Burnaby

Music: Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra
Programme

Machine without Horses	J	Book 12
The Dundee Whaler	S	Clowes, Ormskirk
John of Bon Accord	R	Book 33
Bill Clement MBE	J	Book 47
The Gentleman	S	Book 35
Polharrow Burn	R	3 Dances by Hugh Foss
Welcome to Ayr	J	Book 47
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	S	3 Dances 2006
Flight to Melbourne	R	Book 47
A Capital Jig	J	5 Dances 2009
Cherrybank Gardens	S	Drewry, Bankhead 1
Mary Erskine	R	2nd Graded Book
Links with St. Petersburg	J	Book 46
The Falkirk Lass	S	Brunken, Moments in Time
Scott Meikle	R	Book 46
Culla Bay	S	Book 41
Best Set in the Hall	J	Book 46
West's Hornpipe	R	5 Traditional for 1965

Wed, Mar 12 & Wed, Mar 19 HEATHER BALL PRACTICES

Scottish Cultural Centre 7.30 pm \$6 drop-in
All dancers are welcome to participate in these Programme Classes
where the dances for the Heather Ball will be reviewed.

Friday, March 28 CEILIDH DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 7 pm class \$10 adults
8886 Hudson Street 8 pm dance \$8 students

Sunday, March 30 WHITE ROCK SPRING WORKSHOP

Sullivan Hall 9.30 am \$10
6303 152 Street, Surrey Teacher: Maureen Lyon

Advanced class from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. This is a challenging workshop for advanced dancers who are experienced in all aspects of formation and steps. Intermediate and Beginner class from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. An intermediate class, not for rank beginners. Special attention will be given to formations and steps. Advanced dancers are encouraged to stay for the afternoon to assist with beginners.

Bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee and juice will be available during the break from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Laurie Lang 604-944-6678 ljreel@telus.net
Gerda Barwieck 604-531-4595 gerdab@shaw.ca

Saturday, March 22

HEATHER BALL

Gizeh Temple Reception: 6:00 Tickets \$85
3550 Wayburne Drive Dance: 7:00 30 and under \$65
Burnaby

heather ball

Vancouver Branch invites you to our 2014 Heather Ball

Saturday evening 22 March 2014 reception at 6:00 pm

We will dance on the wonderful sprung floor of

the Gizeh Temple Hall at 3550 Wayburne Drive in Burnaby.

Thrill to the music of Laird Brown and his newly named five-piece band

Scotch Mist

Ticket price is \$ 85.00 and \$ 65.00 for dancers 30 years and under

There will be a dancer in each of your clubs who will have tickets for sale

Ticket purchase is also available via PayPal

through the link on the Branch website

Or contact - Heather Fawkes home 604 984 0932 cell 604 655 7743

hfawkes@telus.net

Simon Scott home 604 925 9333 cell 604 306 8031

simon.scott@telus.net

We look forward to greeting you & many of your dancers to this 2014 Ball.

Programme for the Heather Ball

Brudenell Jig	J	Burnell
Kissing Bridge	R	Book 47
Gang the Same Gate	S	Book 36
General Stuart's Reel	R	Book 10
Culla Bay	S	Dix
Irish Rover	R	Cosh
Father to Son	R	Scott
From Scotia Shores	S	Campbell
Thirteen-Fourteen	M	Drewry
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R	Goldring
Bill Clement MBE	J	Book 47
Belle of Bon Accord	S	Drewry
Deil Amang the Tailors	R	Book 14
Best Set in the Hall	J	Book 46
Shamrock Girl	S	Goldring
Rocky Mountain Reel	R	Hargreaves
Compleat Gardener	J	Patterson

Note: Father to Son

This dance is dedicated to the memory of the great Bobby Brown and the "Scottish Accent" band and to his son Laird Brown who continues the wonderful music for us with his band "Scotch Mist".

Simon Scott

Saturday, April 5**GLENAYRE ANNUAL DANCE**

St. Laurence Church Hall 7:30 pm \$15
825 St. Laurence Street, Coquitlam

Programme

Provost Wynd*	R	2 nd Graded Bk.
Kendall's Hornpipe*	J	Graded Bk.
Gang the Same Gate	S	Bk.36
The Pawling Porch*	R	Moments in Time
Napier's Index	J	Bk.45
Birkenside*	S	R.Goldring 24 G & S
Back to the Fireside	R	Bk.38
The Dhoon*	J	Children's Bk.
Anna Holden's Strathspey	S	Bk.42
Balgeddie Reel*	R	Memories of Fife
Roxburgh Castle*	R	Bk.6
The Water of Fleet	J	R.Goldring 15 Social
Mrs.Milne of Kinneff*	S	Leaflet 32
The Castle of Mey	R	Queens Dia Jubilee Bk.
Espie McNabb*	J	M.M.M.Vol.1

Easier Dances*Sat, April 12 CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY & DANCE**

Harry Jerome Memorial Centre 2 pm- 4 pm Tickets Adults \$5
123 East 23rd St, North Vancouver Children free



There has been a change in the location of our Children's Easter Party this year. It will be held at the Harry Jerome Memorial Centre in the Capilano room (and not Highlands United Church as in previous years). Also, there won't be a workshop but only the tea and dance.

Maureen Hood photo Lisa Birrell

Programme for the Children's Dance

Easter Bonnet Parade		
The Bramble Circle	R or J	Single Circle Let's All Dance
Terrace Loggers Jig	J	Ruby Collection
Round Reel of Eight	R	Book 27
Blue Bonnets	J	Book 3
Old Man of Storr	R	Book 30
Sandy Butterly	J	Let's All Dance
Cherrybank Gardens	S	Drewry Bankhead 1
Barmkin Reel	R	2 nd Graded Book
Cumberland Reel	J	Book 1
Domino Five	R	Second Graded book
Reel of the Royal Scots	R	RSCDS Leaflets

Saturday, April 12**DEEP COVE DANCE**

St Catherine's Church Hall 7:30 pm \$15
1058 Ridgewood Drive
North Vancouver

Music by Mary Ross**Programme**

Shiftin Bobbins*	R	Clowes Ormskirk
Rodney's Rant**	J	DJB 2012
From the Broomielaw*	S	Holden
The Kissing Bridge*	R	Book 47
A Capital Jig**	J	5/2009
Seann Triubhas Willichan*	S	Book 27
Scott Meikle**	R	Book 46
Bonnie Ina Campbell***	S	Book 37
Andrew & Gordon's Jig*	J	Goldring
Catch the Wind*	R	Book 45
Vintage Simon***	J	Book 47
Rannoch Moor*	S	Goldring
Rocky Mountain Reel**	R	Vancouver Ruby Anniversary
Bill Clement MBE*	J	Book 47
The Shamrock Girl**	S	Goldring
The Falls of Rogie**	R	Attwood
Bratach Bana***	R	Drewry

- * Denotes easier dances
- ** Don't try unless it is familiar
- *** Better to watch if you don't know it

Monday, April 14**50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

Scottish Cultural Centre 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm free admission
8886 Hudson Street

WE'RE CELEBRATING!

AND EVERYONE IS INVITED



The inaugural meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the RSCDS took place on April 14, 1964. On April 14, 2014 we will be having a party to remember this important date and begin our year long celebrations.

There will be stories, food, music, dancing and lots of fun.

Save the date and be sure to join us for the start of the celebrations for the Branch's 50th year.

For details as they develop go to rscdsvancouver.org

Jean Wagstaff

Friday, April 25

CEILIDH DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 7 pm class \$10 adults
8886 Hudson Street 8 pm dance \$8 students



photo Stuart Somerville

Sat, April 26 VERNON SPRING WORKSHOP & CEILIDH

Paddlewheel Park Hall Workshop & ceilidh \$55 Ceilidh only \$12
Vernon, BC Registration 8:00 am Ceilidh 4:30 pm

Instructor: Maureen Lyon Music for ceilidh: Kristi & Friends

Events Calendar at rscdsvancouver.org website has all the details.

Vernon Scottish Country Dancers Kathy & Dinham Drew 250-542-4139

Saturday, April 26 GLENEAGLES SPRING DANCE

St Catherine's Church Hall 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm \$10
1058 Ridgewood Drive
North Vancouver

Please note the different location for this occasion

Programme

Catch the Wind.....RBook 45
Jubilee Jig.....JLeaflet
Music and the Dance.....SAnn Campbell
The Sailor.....RBook 24
Pines of Pitlochry.....JSam Firth
Gang the Same Gate.....SBook 36
Kissing Bridge.....RBook 47
Chequered Court.....JBook 42
Bob Campbell.....SCanadian book
Ian Powrie's Farewell.....JHamilton
Pinewoods Reel.....RDickson
Peoples Princess.....RVan Ruby Col
Minister on the Loch.....SGoldring
Father to Son.....RScott
Jennifer's Jig.....JDrewry
Neidpath Castle.....SBook 22
White Cockade.....RBook 5
Reel of the Royal Scots.....RGoldring

Saturday, May 3 WHITE ROCK 60th ANNIVERSARY BALL

Star of the Sea Hall 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm
15262 Pacific Avenue Wine & appetisers 6:30 pm
White Rock Tickets \$40.00

Music provided by

Marion Anderson's Scottish Dance Band

All dances will be briefed from the first position.

The programme, as below, includes dances to suit every dancing level.

A late buffet will follow the dance.

Tickets are available from:

Laurie Lang 604-944-6678 ljreel@telus.net

Gerda Barwieck 604-531-4595 gerdab@shaw.ca

Tickets also available through PayPal at wrscdc.org

Gerda Barwieck



Programme

It's All Right.....(J)2nd Graded Bk
Scott Meikle.....(R)Bk. 46
A Capital Jig.....(J)T Mackay 5 dances 2009
McDonald of the Isles.....(S)D Haynes Carnforth Coll.2
Pelorus Jack.....(J)Bk 41
Polharrow Burn.....(R)3 dances by H. Foss
Royal Deeside.....(S)B Forbes Craigievar Bk 4
Burnieboozle.....(R)D Queen Southport 1
Currie Mountain.....(R)M Pugh New Brunswick Coll
Up and Down Ben Nevis.....(S)M. Ross
A Trip to Bavaria.....(R) J McGregor Brown Collins Pocket Ref
Australian Ladies.....(R)R M Campbell Glasgow Assembly
Craigleith.....(R)Goldring Graded & Social 2
The Magic of Music.....(S)A Thorne
Raising the Anchor.....(R)I Boyd
Sullivan Hall.....(R)M Lyon
Flower of Glasgow.....(S)Bk 46
Falls of Rogie.....(R)J Attwood Alexander Bk 1
The Diamond Jubilee.....(J)Bk. 31
Bratach Bana.....(R)J Drewry Bon Accord Bk

Pride of Erin Waltz

Mondays, May 5 and 12 BURNABY SPRING SESSION

Scandinavian Community Centre 7:30 pm \$6 drop-in
6540 Thomas St, Burnaby

You are all invited to attend one or both of the Burnaby Spring Session classes. Guest instructors to be announced.

Gerry Stensgaard

Letters to the editor

Traditional Standards

I was very delighted to read the two responses to my previous article, "On the Dance Floor". Such exchange gives life and activity to our newsletter in addition to its lists of dates, programmes and other articles.

Both responders mentioned "whoop", "holler" and "yahooing". "Heuching" is the term and it dates back centuries, certainly long before the RSCDS or what we now call Scottish Country Dancing. Such expression of exuberance is wonderful and I always encourage it as a "momentary" spontaneous gesture of joy and thrill, whether clapping or heuching. Three claps on the last bar of any formation by standing dancers is great. However, I would not support 16 heuchs or 16 claps within any 8 bar phrase.

Through the RSCDS, Scotland has a most unique organization dedicated to preserving the national dance of its country. The setting of good standards is a major part of its mission. The world wide Society publishes dance books, holds world-renowned workshops, and trains and certifies teachers for the purpose of maintaining such standards. For the benefit of teachers and dancers alike, the RSCDS produces a very lengthy manual containing concise instructions about good dancing standards and best practices. One of them is to recommend that only one person count the sets, that being the first man or acting first man.

Given all the above, it is of course entirely optional whether individual dancers are guided by traditional standards of traditional dancing or invent their own.

Cheers

Simon Scott

Dance Decorum

After reading the letter "On the Dance Floor" and the responses, I found myself reviewing dance floor etiquette over and over in my head. And I must admit that I have seen an increase in "bad form". While I do hope it is a matter of not knowing or even realizing what one is doing rather than on purpose, I believe it is time for a dancing etiquette reminder to all of us. It can only improve our dancing experience.

Here are some simple rules based on courtesy and consideration.

Dance in different parts of the floor during the evening. Do not regard the top of the line as your peculiar property. This is rude and unfair to the other dancers who also wish to dance near the music.

Dance with a variety of partners. An advanced dancer should invite a beginner for a dance you know is within his/her ability.

Always join the set at the bottom. If you wish to start as 4th couple, ask another couple to switch with you after the set has been formed.

Never leave a set you have joined.

The first man in each line, or the first couple together, should count off the sets in their line, and signal the MC as to how many more couples are needed.

A woman holding a place in line for her partner should stand on the men's side until sets have been counted, or her partner joins the set.

Do not join a dance for "experienced dancers" if you do not know the dance. Do not ask a new dancer to join the set. This is unfair to both the new dancer and the set.

If you are more experienced, help others in your set with gestures by offering the correct hand or shoulder. If possible, let their partners help them. Do not shout or push.

Remember that everyone makes mistakes. If a dance goes awry, stay calm and be ready to pick it up on the next phrase or the new repetition.

When the dance is over, do not rush off. Thank the set as well as your partner. Clear the floor between dances and do not form sets until the MC announces the next dance.

Avoid reading your "cheat sheet" on the dance floor. It is the place for sociability. Smile and enjoy the dance!

*Based on numerous dancing etiquette articles
Mary Ann McDevitt*

another chance to devise a dance

The Vancouver Branch will be producing a book of dances to commemorate its 50th Anniversary. Dances to be included in the book will be selected through a competition similar to the one we organized for the Book 49 competition. The big difference will be that we are looking for many dances. So get your imagination going and devise a dance!

The book will include jigs, reels and strathspeys, simply elegant or more complicated.

The dances included in the book will be interesting and offer a range of formations.

The book will not contain music but devisors are encouraged to identify an example of the sort of music that they think will work well with their dance.

Dances submitted to the competition must not have previously been published.

Devisors must be members of the Vancouver Branch. (That's the easy part.)

More than one devisor can help create the dance, with credit given as appropriate

Each devisor/group may submit just one dance

Dances should be written as closely as possible in standard RSCDS terminology

All submitted dances become the property of the Branch until the publication of the book, at which time, the copyright of dances not chosen will revert to the devisor(s).

Dances submitted for the Book 49 competition may be resubmitted.

Closing date for the competition is June 1, 2014.

Send your entries to: dancecompetition@rscdsvancouver.org

Devisors are encouraged to try out their dances with a group of friends. Sometimes seeing the dance danced can generate new ideas. Just remember that credit must be given if specific assistance is received from another dancer.

The initial review of the dances will take place in June and the final selection in September. The book will be published early in 2015.

The Advisory Committee members for the competition are Rosemary Coupe, Kay Sutherland, Jennifer Shearman and Fran Caruth (Chair)

Any questions or concerns please contact me at dance@rscdsvancouver.org

Fran Caruth

50th Annual Gleneagles Grand Ball - Thanks

Gleneagles Club wishes to thank everyone who joined us in celebration of our 50th Annual Ball, last December. We are very pleased that so many of our guests enjoyed the event and considered it a success.



photo Kerry McDevitt

The greatest part of that success was due to the response and attendance of so many of our own club members, dancers from local clubs and the Pacific Northwest and beyond, including the young dancers, as well as past club members who returned to be part of this celebration.

The Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra played for us for the 21st time and having them dine with us in the ballroom was delightful for them and us. We extend our thanks to you all for being with us. Letters and a poster of congratulation, a souvenir programme, special tea blend and the rousing piped finale for our last dance made this a very memorable occasion in the long history of our club.

Plans are already in place for our 51st Annual Gleneagles Ball. We have set the date and booked the Pacific Ballroom as well as the Fiddle Orchestra. Please come and join us for good company, delicious food, great music and fun dancing on Sunday 14 December 2014.

Simon Scott

Betwixt and Between Dance

Lots of fun at the Hogmany Betwixt and Between Dance where about 100 danced to the great music of Mary Ross and her band in a box. It was a good programme, well briefed by Mary Murray, Katherine Shearman and Frances Caruth and MC'd by Drum Cavers and Sandy Caruth.



photo Kerry McDevitt

The Hall was very nicely decorated by Pat Cavers who wants to acknowledge St. George's School who loaned some of the items. The feast that appeared before our eyes at the intermission was amazing. The catering committee under Heather Hankin must have worked for hours preparing sandwiches etc. and thanks to all who brought some Christmas goodies to share. We had a wonderful selection. Mary's music and the great, friendly atmosphere made it hard not to dance. Thanks to all the organizers and to everyone who helped. There was a 50/50 draw to raise funds for the Heather Ball and one young lady went home happy and richer by over \$200!

Duncan MacKenzie

Tam O'Shanters' Burns Night

What a great Burns Supper we had in White Rock. The Tam O'Shanter Dancers worked very hard to decorate and prepare the hall and also to arrange a super evening of delicious food and fantastic entertainment including the RCMP 'E' Division Pipe Band, the Jubilate Sting Quartet as well as story tellers, speakers and of course themselves. There were over 300 in attendance and many compliments were received. Each year I think "they can't top that" and each following year they do.

From behind the scenes I can see the care, dedication to detail and all the hard work making the decorations. There was that thatched roofed Inn, the Mercat Cross, a large picture frame, an entrance hall filled with Scottish history including the Stone of Destiny, the imaginative table decorations and so much more. Led by Maureen Lyon but with enormous help from each and every team member as well as a crew of willing family, they deserve all the plaudits and praise they get and more. Very well done again. Just make sure to get tickets for next year early as they will sell out again.

Duncan MacKenzie



photo Laurie Lang

Ladies Step Dancing

Mini Workshop - the Basics and Beyond

On February 8, 2014, Mary Murray led another very successful Ladies Step Dance Workshop at The Scottish Cultural Centre with inspiring music from Janet Wright (guitar) and Alma McDonald (fiddle).

Once again there was lots of interest in this dance form with complete newcomers as well as experienced dancers. We enjoyed the energetic Foursome Reel and Reel of Tulloch with the interesting sounding "Scissor" and "Whipping" steps. After a break for refreshments and much chatter we then changed tempo to waltz time with the graceful "Thistle" devised by the late Irene Fidler.

This was a very sociable, fun and lively afternoon with something new for everyone. As a follow up to the Workshops, the Beginner Classes scheduled for February 22, March 01 and March 08, 2014 will allow more dancers to try out the joys of Ladies Step Dance.

For more info:

email kay_sutherland@hotmail.com or phone 604 929 2745

Kay Sutherland



Jennifer Shearman and Alison Moen enjoy The Reel of Tulloch.
photo Rosemary Coupe

RSCDS VANCOUVER BURNS SUPPER

There's threesome reels, and foursome reels,
There's hornpipes and strathspeys, man;
But the ae best dance e'er cam to our lan',
Was - the Deil's awa' wi' the Exciseman.

Burns 1792

Burns favourite dance was not on this year's programme but the first half of the programme featured Burns dances set to Burns songs. New dancers seemed to appreciate the easier first half. Judging by the many people who stayed dancing till the end of the programme and the many repeats that were called for, more experienced dancers had a good time dancing to the Tartan Players right up to Auld Lang Syne.



Duncan MacKenzie addressing the haggis watched by piper Sandy Marshall.

Dancing the Gay Gordons to the pipes played by Sandy Marshall was an especial treat. It was notable that Mayor Gregor Robertson and his wife Amy attended this year and danced with us till the intermission.

Despite being almost the last Burns Supper to be held in the Vancouver area, we managed to fill the hall again this year. The Address to the Haggis was delivered with verve by Duncan Mackenzie and the Toast to the Lassies and reply by Richard and Gillie Beattie were excellently done.

Pauline Bishop and her decorating crew again transformed the Centre using the White Cockade as a theme. Thanks to Fran Hillier who was in charge of the bar and Pat and Drum Cavers for keeping a firm hand on the ticket sales and the table seating and printed materials.

Next year a new committee will oversee the Branch Burns Supper but I think I can speak on behalf of the old committee that we will be available to assist and advise where appropriate.

Who knows? Maybe we'll even get to dance The Deil's awa' wi' the Exciseman next year.

Peter Richards



Demonstration Team at the Branch Burns Supper

The dance in the above picture is called Cock A Bendie. It is an 18th century dance with a tune and song of the same name being very popular around 1740 with published words and music which are in the National Library of Scotland. Rebecca saw a video on YouTube of a group from Kent performing it at a historical dance performance complete with full 18th century costume - wigs and handkerchiefs for the men and fans for the ladies. You can google "Cock a Bendie Scottish Country Dance" and see for yourself.

It was too difficult to achieve the whole 18th century outfit but the fans and slightly different costumes for that dance were meant to give that look. It was fun to do and obviously a very flirtatious dance in its day!

Kay Sutherland



Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson
at the Branch Burns Supper
all photos Rosemary Coupe

the rogue folk club concert

What a super concert Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas put on at the Rogue Folk Club in January. The Branch Demonstration Team accompanied by Sandy Marshall on the pipes got everything going then they were thrilled to dance live to Alasdair & Natalie. Later in the programme a "Shot of Scotch" performed some Highland Dancing to one of the tunes in Alasdair's new album. "Shot of Scotch" is a new performance group formed by Kathleen Hall and friends. Kathleen is also on the Demonstration Team. It was a very enjoyable evening and the full house appreciated it all.

Duncan MacKenzie

Love to Dance scottish

Another great workshop – another great day of music, dance, friendship and fun. The day started with meeting and greeting over coffee and buns provided by the amazing catering team. Then, it was off to class and a morning with Mary Murray and Simon Scott, brushing up on technique and learning new formations and dances. We were delighted to be able to welcome so many new dancers – some new to Scottish Country Dancing, some simply attending their first Love to Dance Workshop. Everyone said the classes were first rate and that we should do it again!



Above: Al Hughes and Mary Murray
photo
Sandy Caruth

Right: Glenayre dancers at LTD

Below: Waiting to dance at LTD - four young dancers one with her arm in a sling!
photos
Jean Wagstaff



In the afternoon the Tartan Players provided their best music yet for a fabulous session of dancing and of course it all finished with another fantastic afternoon tea provided by yet another amazing catering team. It was a wonderful day.

A busy fun filled day like this doesn't happen without the commitment of time and sharing by a lot of wonderful volunteers – too many to name (over 20 in total) but you know who you are and we offer you a heartfelt "Thank You". A very special thank you goes to Jean Wagstaff and Heather Hankin who led the catering teams, to Vicki Downey our resilient registrar and to Duncan MacKenzie who MC's our afternoon. See you all again next year.



Fran Caruth and Jean Wagstaff - Co-Chairs

stave falls scottish dancers

Our dancers have been busy with Robbie Burns performances and in January they danced at nine different venues: from church, to Masonic Lodge, to Legion, to the Scottish Cultural Centre and even a few local retirement homes. The dancers were well received at each and every event and very excited to be part of Robbie Burns day in Canada.

The event at the SCC was for the Moray Nairn and Banff Society and it was on Burns Day itself. We also performed at the PoCo Legion pipe band's dinner later that evening and earlier in the day some of our junior dancers performed at a retirement home in Maple Ridge. It was a very busy day!

Trip preparations are in full swing as we plan for our upcoming tour of the United Kingdom. Sixteen dancers, aged 14 - 20, will travel to England, Wales and Scotland this summer for a trip of a lifetime. During their three-week tour, the girls will see the sights of York, London, Stonehenge, Bath, Cardiff, Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon, Gretna Green, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Ft. William, Dunvegan, Inverness, Culloden and Aberdeen and will be performing in many of these locations as well.

Cheryle Macdonald is our school's director, and she has some contacts overseas from previous trips. We also have some dancers with families in Scotland so we are trying to arrange for performances in their towns.

Also, when we travelled in Spain in 2011 for an international folk dance festival, we met a lovely group from Wales, so we will try to meet up with them too!

I am the senior instructor at the dance school and I will be accompanying the dancers on this trip. This will be the first time Cheryle will stay home and have someone else take the reins!

We are having a big fundraiser on Saturday, 22 February - our annual "Scottish Night". It runs pretty much like a Burns Supper; guests are treated to a haggis and roast beef dinner, Address to the Haggis and Selkirk Grace, performances by our own dancers and a pipe band - this year we are pleased to add the RCMP Pipe Band to our line-up.

Speaking of the RCMP Pipe Band, we will also be taking part in their big Tartan Day event on April 5 in Richmond, BC.

And on March 16, the senior dancers will dance in the St. Patrick's Day/Vancouver CelticFest Parade in Vancouver.

The Stave Falls Scottish Dancers are always thrilled to "take their show on the road" and we know that performing this year at these overseas venues will provide some wonderful memories for these young dancers!

photo & text Sarah Stubley



scottish country dancing: hong kong style



photo Hong Kong Tourism

We are always told we can dance anywhere in the world there is an SCD club. Here is how one of our members took the plunge on a recent trip.

"Mom, you say the dancing is at the Cricket Club. It's not too far from here," says my son, David. "Are you sure you'll be okay taking a taxi to the Cricket Club on your own?"

He knows I'm feeling anxious about traveling solo in this bustling city. Just this afternoon I had bravely travelled alone by taking the Tram through Hong Kong's crowded downtown area known as Central. And yes, I had told him that I had panicked and gotten "temporarily" lost.

Struggling to maintain my pride, I reassure him, "No, I think I've got this. I mean, I travelled solo in Europe back in the 70s. I think I can manage a taxi ride on my own. The website says it starts at seven o'clock so let's leave now."

"Okay," he responds, as he walks me to the taxi, "When you're done, just tell the driver to take you to Central Pier, Discovery Bay."

"Got it," I say as I climb into the taxi and wave good-bye.

We're heading up the Peak. The road is steep and winding as we maneuver slowly through rush hour traffic. I google "The Reel Club" in order to do more research. I smile as I read that it was set up in 1947 in order to provide more "appropriate" entertainment for British servicemen. In 1997 it affiliated with the Hong Kong Highlanders. I'm reassured when I read, "If you're afraid to come by yourself you'll find that we're a pretty friendly bunch. After you've been a few times, you'll have a whole new set of friends." Maybe this will be fine after all.

I'm glad I packed a skirt. I'm assuming dancing in Hong Kong is traditional. After all, it's held at the Cricket Club, one of Hong Kong's older established athletic clubs. I'm starting to have self doubts. Maybe it's too sophisticated for me. I wonder if the dancers will welcome me? Maybe they just tolerate visitors with polite smiles. I'm starting to feel like an intruder.

Reminding myself that the RSCDS is worldwide for a reason, and that we're supposed to be able to just drop in and dance, I take a deep breath and release it as I step out of the taxi. Going inside, I spot the receptionist who says, "Are you a member?"

"No," I stammer. "I'm looking for the Scottish Country Dancing. Am I in the right place?"

"Yes, just go up the stairs, over the walkway and up some more stairs."

"Do I need a membership?"

"No, we make special sanctions for them."

What did that mean? Are we just tolerated here or what? Does that mean we're a lower class? I'm starting to get nervous. Maybe I'll just turn around and go home to the safety and security of Discovery Bay. Feeling very much like an outsider, I follow her directions only to discover a bar cafe. Perched on a stool is an older Asian man who, noting my look of dismay, says, "Can I help you?"

"The website says Scottish Country Dancing is on this floor and that it begins at seven o'clock. Is that right?"

"Hmmm, if it said seven o'clock then they won't start until half past seven. But you're welcome to go down the hall and through those doors to check it out."

Puzzled by the start time, I proceed through the polished oak doors and step into a fully equipped dance studio, complete with mirrors on three sides. I'm impressed. Still, I see no one.

Finally, at exactly half past seven, a dancer arrives. I suspect she's a dancer since she's wearing a skirt. "Hello," I say, "Are you here for the Scottish dancing?"

"Yes," she says with a big smile on her face as she extends her hand, "I'm Lucette Black. Where are you from?"

Did it show on my face that I was a foreigner? I say, "I'm visiting my new grandson here in Hong Kong. Thought I'd take in the dancing."

"You're most welcome here," she says, "We get a lot of visiting grandparents here. We depend on them to bolster our numbers. We used to have so many dancers. These days we're lucky if we get two sets. Just last week we had a grandpa visiting from Scotland. Why don't you grab a coffee? We don't have a beginner's class so we actually start at eight o'clock. More people should be arriving soon."



"They said dancing started at 7:00?"
photo Eileen MacKenzie



Hong Kong Highlanders Demonstration Team photo hkhighlanders.com

Eventually more dancers arrive. They're very hospitable and welcoming. Almost immediately we're laughing and sharing dance stories as well as talking about the best places to see in Hong Kong. After fifteen minutes of visiting, our group moves into the dance studio. We have a total of ten eager smiling dancers. We move through our jigs, reels, and strathspeys. We have a blast. I realize I had no need to worry. And yes, I did make some new friends.

Eileen MacKenzie

vancouver area calendar of events 2013-2014

8 Mar	Burnaby Dance	26 Apr	Vernon Spring Workshop & Ceilidh
8 Mar	Bellingham Social	26 Apr	Gleneagles Spring Dance
16 Mar	Vancouver CelticFest Parade	3 May	White Rock 60th Anniversary May Dance
22 Mar	Vancouver Branch Heather Ball	10 May	Bellingham Social
28 Mar	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance	25 May	Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance
29 Mar	Vanisle Workshop & Dance	28 May	Last Programme Class of session
30 Mar	White Rock Spring Workshop	mid-June	Dancing in the Park - starts
5 Apr	Glenayre Dance	21 Jun	BC Highland Games USCS
6 Apr	Tartan Day (worldwide)	28 Jun	Puget Sound Crossroads
12 Apr	Deep Cove Spring Social	1 Jul	Canada Day Parade
12 Apr	Children's Easter Party & Dance Vancouver Branch	27 Jul - 3 Aug	TAC Summer School Greeley, Colorado
12 Apr	Bellingham Social	12-14 Sep	40th Fort Warden Weekend
14 Apr	Vancouver Branch Party & Ceilidh Night	20 Sep	TAC Teachers' Workshop Nanaimo
25 Apr	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance	25 Oct	Bellingham Masquerade Ball

celticfest vancouver

Don't you just love a parade??? Well, here's your chance! The CelticFest Parade will be in the morning on March 16th, and it would be wonderful if we could have a good number of dancers to participate this year. We want to show a strong presence in the midst of all the Irish entries!

We plan to walk/dance during the 1.6k route, with a colourful vehicle, flags, banners, music & TARTAN! No flyers allowed, so we can focus on showing them what we do for fun.

Warm clothes, solid shoes, & visible tartan are important! All you SCD enthusiasts please email me ccmusic@telus.net or phone me 604-299-6447 to let me know.

Cathrine Conings

Delbrook Scottish Country Dancers

photo North Shore News



tac summer school 2014

TAC 2014

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