



the white cockade



March - April 2025



It's all smiles for bartenders Gail Harrison & Dan Kilby,
and Hugh Aspinall with his bottle of wine.

A perfect start to the 2025 Vancouver Branch Burns Supper!

Photo by Kerry McDevitt

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

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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

I'm sure it was Christmas just a few weeks ago...but it was well over a month ago! In December we danced away at the Betwixt & Between which was followed by our Burns Dinner. Once again, the Burns Dinner was well-attended – an accessible program meant everyone could be up dancing. A big thank you to Katherine Shearman and her B&B team as well as Stewart Cunningham and his committee. The work that goes on behind the scenes leading up to these events may not be seen – but the fruits of your labour were enjoyed by all!!

As I write this in early February, we are preparing for our various spring activities. The Love to Dance Workshop is only a few weeks away. This year we are welcoming teachers Louise McGillivray and Kay Sutherland. I hope you join us...if not for the morning workshop, then the afternoon tea dance!

I would also like to draw your attention to the "Heather Spring Tea Dance" in April. This year we are hosting an afternoon event rather than an evening ball. To differentiate it from our typical tea dances, the Heather Spring Tea Dance will have a grand march and some of the pomp and circumstance of a grander event. Do not despair! The Heather Ball (evening event) has not disappeared, it just won't be an annual event.

The SCCS is planning some much-needed upgrades to the ladies' washroom. In addition to applying for a grant from the City of Vancouver, the Centre has a fundraising campaign. As one of the principal users of the Centre (for both classes and events) I encourage you to donate to this upgrade. You can find the link to the campaign on our website under news, follow this link [Fundraising Plea](#) or look for information on how to donate at the SCCS.

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

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

Gail Urquhart
President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch



Notices



RSCDS Vancouver Branch Facebook Page

We post our event photos on Facebook and a link to the Facebook album on our Event Photo page. This is the easiest way to display a number of photos, but you need to be a Facebook member to view our Facebook. We have partially solved the issue by creating smaller photo albums on our Event Photo page, but are restricted as to size. However, you can open a simple Facebook account with minimal personal information and then enjoy our Facebook pages.

You will find a lot more than just our Event Photos!



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. April 10th for the May/June 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

How to print the White Cockade in folded book form

- You will need a double-sided printer.
- Chose the landscape orientation option.
- Choose 'print on both sides' and 'flip on the short side'.

Those are the musts. You can then choose black and white or colour, plus any other options you might want such a print quality. I suggest using 24# or 28# paper if you don't want the images and text showing through the other side of the page. *Happy printing and reading!*

Isobel Helen Van Wart - "Issie"

June 18, 1935 - December 26, 2024



Dr. Art Van Wart announced the passing of his wife Isobel. Issie passed away peacefully in hospital with her family by her side Thursday morning December 26th, 2024.

Both were long time members of the Branch. Issie served on several committees, including the Pearl Holmberg Workshop Committee for Teachers and Musicians. Click on the below link or copy and paste the link to your browser to read more about this amazing woman.

<https://vancouverunandprovince.remembering.ca/obituary/isobel-van-wart-1092545091>

White Rock SCD Club Spring Workshop



The White Rock SCD Club
is pleased to announce its
*Spring Workshop for
Intermediate/advanced dancers*

Teacher: Maureen Lyon

Sunday March 30, 2025 - 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
(Short break in the middle)

Cost: \$20

Willoughby Hall, 20809 - 83rd Avenue, Langley

Space is limited, so please register early by contacting:

Laurie Lang 604.944.6678 or ljreel@telus.net

We look forward to seeing as many dancers as possible!

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)
More details and registration information at:

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

Dancing Dates

Saturday, March 8 BURNABY SPRING DANCE

Confederation Seniors' Centre 1:30 p.m. \$25
4585 Albert Street, Burnaby



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.

See the Branch website Event Calendar for the Program & Dance Notes

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

Friday, March 28 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 is from 8:00 to 10:30 pm.

Our end of the season Ceilidh will be Friday, April 25th

<https://www.vancouverceilidh.org>

Saturday, April 12 GLENAYRE SPRING DANCE

St. Laurence Church Hall - 2:00 p.m. \$20
825 St. Laurence Street, Coquitlam



A warm welcome awaits you at the Glenayre Spring Dance. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon of dancing, friendship and treats.

Our versatile program is suitable for all levels of dancers.

Program

Sandy Butterly.....J.....Brandon, *Let's All Dance Too*
Spring Daffodils.....R....McKinnell, *McKinell's SCD 2004*
Lady Auckland's Reel.....S.....Campbell, *Book 18*
The Rothesay Rant.....J.....Holden, *A Guide to SCD*
Polharrow Burn.....R.....Foss, *Magazine Dances*
The Paisley Weavers.....S.....Hayes, *3rd Graded*
Mairi's Wedding.....R.....Cosh, *30 Popular, Vol. 2*

**** Break ****

More Bees A-Dancin'.....R.....Goldring, *Graded & Social 2*
The Braes of Tulliemet.....S.....Book 7
The Castle of Mey.....R.....Walton, *QE Diamond Jubilee*
Triple Happiness.....S.....Oyama, *Book 52*
Alan J. Smith.....J.....Smith, *Book 45*

See the Branch website Events Calendar for the Dance Notes

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/glenayre-spring-2025/>

Mark your calendars for the
Ft. Langley Whisky Tea Dance
Sunday, May 25th

See the May/June White Cockade
and the Branch website Event
Calendar for details including the
Program & Dance Notes





The RSCDS Vancouver Branch
proudly presents

The Heather Spring Tea Dance

Saturday April 26, 2025 - 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.



*Enjoy two talented musicians
From Washington State*



Vienna Scheyer
Fiddle



Guinevere Saenger
Piano

Put a **Spring** in your step!

Grand March - Afternoon Tea Dance
Elegant Catered Tea

Tickets: RSCDS Members \$50 Non-members \$60

Available online or from your club rep March 1st onwards

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

Saturday, April 26

THE HEATHER SPRING TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre - 1:00 p.m.
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver

\$50 RSCDS Members
\$60 Non-members

This year, instead of our annual Ball, we are offering an afternoon of dancing.

The Heather Spring Tea Dance is designed to be lighter than a Ball event, but to contain some Important elements of a Ball. It will be an opportunity for our newer dancers to experience a Grand March. We will serve a catered Afternoon Tea at the break, and there will be lots of dancing for everyone.

We have invited two exciting young experienced musicians from Washington State, who will bring a youthful energy to our event.



Program

Grand March followed by:

The Lass of Richmond Hill.....R.....Turnbull, *Graded 2*
Linton Ploughman.....J..... *Book 5*
Neidpath Castle.....S.....Haynes, *Book 22*
John of Bon Accord.....R.....Goldring, *Book 33*
The White Heather Jig.....J.....Cosh, *30 Popular, Vol 2*
Miss Eleanor.....S.....Dix, *Book 49*
Society Piper.....R.....Goldring, *10 Social Dances*
The Cranberry Tart.....J.....Glasspool, *30 Popular Vol 2*
Inveraray.....S.....*Miss Milligan's Misc.*
The Rocky Mountain Reel.....R.....Hargreaves, *Vancouver Ruby*
The Chequered Court.....J.....Brown, *Book 42*
Somerset Children's Reel.....R.....Beckinsale, *Book 51*
Spare: Seton's Ceilidh Band.....J.....Fordyce, *Book 53*

Please get ready to Put a Spring in your Step!

See the Branch website Events Calendar for
online tickets and the dance notes.

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



Dancing News & Photos

Glenayre Christmas Dance - December 14th



It merits reporting that Glenayre's end of year dance conflicted with one of the most severe storms of 2024, power outages, trees down, lashing rain. The morning's weather was not a good omen for our afternoon dance.

But as we all know, our dancers will not be deterred. At 2 p.m. people were arriving in small and large groups. We warmed up to our Scottish music and from the first dance to last the floor was hopping. Fran Hillier, supported by Gail Urquhart and Jean Wagstaff, led us through a program



Photos by Kerry McDevitt



of all our favourite dances. At the break, we were treated to a feast of seasonal goodies supplied by our members while we enjoyed the camaraderie with so many from other clubs.

It was a fitting end to our 2024 dance year. It was fun, it was lively, and everyone had a great time in the festive pre-Xmas atmosphere. Thank you to all who joined us to create such a memorable party. Janet Mason



Many thanks to the Glenayre SCD Club for a most enjoyable afternoon. See the Branch website Event Photos page for more great photos.

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

Betwixt & Between



Photos by Poh Chan

The Betwixt and Between was held on Saturday December 28, 2024 with about 60 people in attendance, including several new dancers. Thanks to the generosity of Mary Wattum, free admission was provided to 53 RSCDS members, including out-of-town members from Montreal (QC) and St. Catharines (ON).

The dance program included familiar and newer dances for all levels and the event was enjoyed by all. Mary Ross and her incredible dance sets kept feet moving and spirits high all evening.

Margaret Gorham and her team did an excellent job, and the catering was smooth and well organized. Attendees were enjoying the intermission so much I had to encourage them to resume dancing. Thank you to everyone who contributed food to the occasion.



Dunan MacKenzie followed by Ye-Fee Liang



Special thanks to my decorating team of Alison Moen, Gail Urquhart, Seoris Harrison, and Jennifer Shearman. And special thanks to Pat Hollingdale for allowing me to harvest holly from her garden for the centre pieces, to Susan and Gerry Stensgaard for manning the entrance table, and to Barbara Moritz for hosting our musician.

Mark your calendars now for the next **Betwixt and Between** event on **Monday, December 29, 2025!**

Katherine Shearman



Photos by Poh Chan

Top: Gail Urquhart (left) & Anna Lee Boulton

Bottom: Kay Sutherland (left) & Kathy Dann

Vancouver Branch Burns Supper



Our proud haggis bearer, Duncan MacKenzie

January 25th is Robbie Burns' birthday and on that day this year the Branch celebrated!! Following Maureen Lyon's Selkirk Grace, 168 people sat down for a dinner of haggis with neeps and tatties: it was a magnificent feast. Then there were the speeches. First, Hugh Aspinall addressing the haggis: "Trenching your gushing entrails bright" and proclaiming "Oh what a glorious sight" to end dramatically with "Gie her a Haggis" as the audience joined Hugh in admiration. After dinner, Daryl Hutchins deftly used a speech by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle to illustrate the dominant role that Burns has played in establishing Scottish culture. Lastly, Sandy Caruth entertained us as he proposed a Toast to the Lassies followed by a clever reply from Fran Caruth as Jean Armour in her Toast to the Laddies. The first part of the evening was chaired by our President, Gail Urquhart, who kept things moving along well as she engaged us with her delightful repartee.

After the first half, Katherine Shearman and Fran Caruth took over



as MCs and encouraged everyone to dance to the glorious sounds of Mary Ross on her accordion. Her playing inspired us to dance enthusiastically and have a lot of fun. Our Vancouver Branch demonstration team, Strictly Scottish, was a joy to watch as they gave examples of how we should really be dancing. After this show, four excellent dancers from the Vancouver School of Highland Dance showed us highland dances and thrilled us with their energy and skill.





All too soon, the evening was over and ended with us joining together to sing Auld Lang Syne. A great evening with a good meal, fine speeches, and enjoyable dances rewarded all who attended. All members of the Committee who helped to make this happen must be thanked as well as the speakers and caterers and MCs. Now, for a repeat performance next year!
Stewart Cunningham



Photos by Kerry McDevitt

Previous page bottom left to right: Stewart Cunningham, Gail Urquhart, Maureen Lyon, Daryl Hutchins, Sandy Caruth, & Fran Caruth.

See the Branch website Event Photos page for more great photos!
<https://rscdsvancouver.org/dancing-in-vancouver/photos/>

TAC Summer School 2025

Early Bird Registration starts
February 15

**SUMMER SCHOOL IN
CANADA!**

AUGUST 3-10, 2025

Bishop's University
Sherbrooke, Quebec

For dancers of all levels
Partial week attendance options

Teaching Staff

Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, BC Canada
Linda Henderson, California USA
Andrew Nolan, UK
Cecily Selling, Pennsylvania USA

Music Director

Gary Thomas, California USA



Register online at
tac-rscds.org

Scottish Country Dance
Teachers' Association (Canada)

*Early bird prices will be in effect until
the end of the day on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.*

Any spaces left at that time will see a 10% increase in price.

Youth pricing options for our under-35-year-old dancers.

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	778.285.1242
- Sue Biddle	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	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 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

Vancouver Area Calendar of Events

February 28	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
March 8	Burnaby Spring Dance
March 14	St Patrick's Day Ceilidh 2025 - Hellenic Centre
March 28	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
March 30	White Rock SCD Club Workshop
April 5	Victoria Workshop & Ball - VISCDs
April 12	Glenayre Spring Dance
April 25	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
April 26	Heather Spring Tea Dance - RSCDS Vancouver
May 25	Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance
June 20 - 21	ScotFest BC Highland Games - Coquitlam
Late June to Mid Aug	Dancing in the Park - RSCDS Vancouver
Sept 26	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
October 24	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
Nov 11	Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance - RSCDS Vancouver
Nov 28	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
Dec 29	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
dance scottish

