



the white cockade



May - June 2025



Photo by Kerry McDevitt
Seoris Harrison & Nick Haight at the LTD Tea Dance

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Frae the President

The longer days and the (intermittent) warmer weather are reminders that Spring is here...and the promise of warm Summer days in the foreseeable future! As classes start to wind down for the year, don't forget we still have lots of dancing in our future.

Since the last edition, we had a successful Love to Dance event as well as several club dances. Upcoming dates to mark on your dance calendar include the Heather Spring Tea Dance on April 26th, featuring music by Guinevere Saenger and Vienna Scheyer. We are excited to try this new format; elements of a formal ball, like the Grand March, will be included...but, it is our hope, that this less formal event will help introduce newer dancers to some of the pomp and circumstance the more, shall I say, "tenured" dancers enjoy. As well, include the Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance (Sunday, May 25th) and the White Rock Spring Dance (Wednesday, May 28th) on your dance calendar.

And, don't forget Scotfest! This year the Highland Games are June 20th and 21st. We will again be looking for all our dancers to join us as we demonstrate our chosen hobby, and invite the audience to participate. Watch for information on times and locations for practicing the dances. This is a good opportunity for all dancers, especially our newer people.

Then over the summer, we have Dancing in the Park – and what a year! We are celebrating almost 75 years of dancing outdoors in Vancouver Parks – and, with a grant from the City of Vancouver, in support of Cultural Arts, the plan is to have music or entertainment on five of the nights. More information to come – keep an eye on the website Event Calendar for details.

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

Gail Urquhart
President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch





The RSCDS Vancouver Board feels that a regular update on the SCCS should be included in the White Cockade to keep all our members up to date on what is one of our biggest assets. This is a long report to get people up to date. It is anticipated the report will be shorter from hereon.

The Big Question:

The retention of the hall has been a concern for us for a number of years. It has been agreed at SCCS Board level that we continue to maintain the hall as long as it is viable both physically and financially. Incidentally, all societies agreed to this. For RSCDS Vancouver that means we maintain a dance floor and meeting rooms. For most other societies it means that they have access to financial support, so that all societies have received the funding they requested which falls within the mandate of SCCS.

Current Situation:

Income: The hall is fully booked on weekdays with the exception of Tuesdays from 10 to 1 p.m. Any takers? It has also been booked for the upcoming Federal Election, both the “day of” and for the early voting day. Regular renters such as the caterer, Montessori and church provide regular income. Weekend bookings are also doing well.

Other Financial considerations: The hall continues to make a profit in spite of various repairs that have cropped up (see below). It is important to note that the SCCS now has a contingency fund, currently standing at \$17,000 and growing monthly.

Maintenance: The icemaker required a \$1900 fix; 26 lights in the Hebridean room were replaced with more efficient units. The lift, stage draperies, and audio/video system have been replaced. All this, plus essential weather proofing has been done to ensure no repeat of the Burns 2024 “flood”.

The Women's washroom: To ensure the Centre remains an

attractive space for events such as weddings, we are now embarking on a major upgrade to the Women's washroom. An application has gone into the City of Vancouver for \$25,000 (the maximum allowed) and we should hear by the end of June whether this is forthcoming. The fundraising project has stalled at \$975. The quotes to refurbish this space fully are at around \$50,000. Thus, RSCDS is working on leading this fundraising project. This includes reaching out to the regular Centre users, especially the churches, for charitable contributions. If you wish to help, please check the RSCDS or SCCS websites for the links to contribute. Or contact Darryl at SCC or Jennifer Shearman. We are also looking for anyone with graphics expertise to design a poster. RSCDS members have always given freely to assist with tasks such as landscaping, library clean-up, keeping the centre open during the pandemic and so much more. **THANK YOU.**

Building Envelope: The SCCS requested and received a full BECA report from JRS Engineering. Two main areas of water ingress are the back wall (kitchen/dance studio side) and the windows. The Executive Director is seeking quotes from at least three companies to upgrade the wall. We intend to tackle window replacement gradually with the application for grants through the City of Vancouver.

Assistance to Societies: The SCCS executive is working with two of the three non-charitable societies to become charities. This will also make it easier for the SCCS to assist with outside grant applications providing further financial support outside the profits made by the hall. RSCDS Vancouver can also seek this support as required.

Generally, RSCDS delegates Jennifer Shearman and Fran Hillier have been involved in extensive research into options regarding the hall; have faced direct pushback from some organizations; and it has felt like a long hard haul for the past three or four years. Currently, the groups are, if not fully pulling together, at least not fighting over what is happening. We feel optimistic about our dance space, and the current direction of maintaining the hall well to encourage renters (including ourselves) and to ensure the hall is seen as an asset by all. Our last Board Meeting was only an hour long, which seems to indicate the general agreement on the direction the SCCS is taking.



Vancouver

June 20 & 21, 2025

Town Centre Park on La Farge Lake in Coquitlam

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

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

Fran Caruth at fmcaruth@gmail.com

or Fran Hillier at fran.hillier1242@gmail.com

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

At SCC 8886 Hudson Street - Mondays June 2nd and June 9th

*At LaFarge Lake Coquitlam - Tuesdays June 3rd and June 10th,
with a final combined class on June 17th.*

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

We look forward to seeing all of you there!



Calling All Volunteers

To spend an hour or two at our beautiful blue tent at Scotfest on June 21st this year. I need some helpers, between 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

I'm awaiting your eager responses!

cathrineconings3@gmail.com



WHITE ROCK
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

The White Rock Club invites all dancers to its Spring Party!

Wednesday, May 28th at Sullivan Hall
(6306 - 152 Street, Surrey)
7:00 to 9:30 p.m. - Cost: \$7

See the Branch website Event Calendar for the Program
<https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/white-rock-2025/>

The April 12th Glenayre Spring Dance was the perfect venue to celebrate Cathie Devlin's 100th birthday!



Photos by Kerry McDevitt



Cathy has been dancing in the Vancouver area since 1981 with Glenayre, Burnaby, Vancouver Thistles, Delta and Old Time Dancing. Dancers from many of the lower mainland Clubs were delighted to join in the birthday celebration, albeit a bit early!

The Happy 100th was April 17th!

Dancing Dates

Sunday, May 25 FORT LANGLEY WHISKY TEA DANCE
 Fort Langley Community Hall - 2pm \$25
 9167 Glover Road, Fort Langley



Please join the Fort Langley Voyageurs for an afternoon of dancing to the wonderful music of *The Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra!*

Followed by an Afternoon Tea with our traditional Strawberries & Cream!

The majority of dances have been taken from recent programs. Everyone is welcome to join our Tuesday class (7:30 to 9:30 p.m.) at the Fort Langley Community Hall to practise the dances. The Hall is just minutes away from Highway 1 - exit for 216 St (coming from West) and 232 St (coming from East). Parking and entrance to the hall is around the back.

Program (**Denotes Experience Needed)

It's All Right.....J..... See, *RSCDS 2nd Graded Book*
 Society Piper.....R.....Goldring, *10 Social Dances*
 A Capital Jig.....J.....MacKay, *5 Dances 2009*
 ***Greenmantle.....S.....Wilkinson, *Greenmantle Coll.*
 The Rothesay Rant.....J.....Holden, *Collins Guide to SCD*
 ***Polharrow Burn.....R.....Foss, *Magazine Dances 2005/09*
 Wisp of Thistle.....S.....Kent, *RSCDS Book 37*
 ***The White Heather Jig.....J.....Cosh, *RSCDS 30 Popular Vol.2*

Short Break

Scotland's Gardens.....R.....Goldring, *Auld Friends Meet*
 ***Seton's Ceilidh Band.....J.....Fordyce, *RSCDS Book 53*
 Fountain Bridge Frolic.....R.....Lang, *A Capital Collection*
 The Water of Leith.....S.....Wilkinson, *RSCDS Book 53*
 ***The Australian Ladies.....R.....Campbell, *Glasgow Assembly*
 Springbank.....R.....Ryer, *A Whisky Sampler*
 Mairi's Wedding.....R.....Cosh, *RSCDS 30 Popular Vol.2*

See the website Event Calendar for the Dance Notes & Video Links

<https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/fort-langley-tea-dance-2025/>



Dancing in the Park 2025



Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. at Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park

Starting June 23 (Burnaby club with Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra)

July 7, 14, 21, 28 (Ceilidh night with Blackthorn Band)

August 11 & 18

In celebration of about 75 years of summer dancing somewhere in the Park, and with a CASC grant from the City of Vancouver to cover some costs, we are supporting local groups such as the VFO, Blackthorn Band, Strictly Scottish, Vancouver Police Pipe Band, and the Musqueam Nation to enhance this year's events.

Please join us by the carload to reduce parking fees - bring a picnic dinner and come early to avoid the traffic - enjoy the sunset, entertain tourists, and maybe find a few new dancers! So bring your non-dancing friends, relatives and visitors to experience Scottish Country Dancing. Beginner/Tourist friendly dances and favourites for the more experienced dancers, every night.

Click on the link below to enjoy a video of Cead Mile Fáilte

<https://youtu.be/QBenxWf1m1s?si=XINJZz-cD6evya-n>



Check the website Event Calendar for updates.

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

Dancing News & Photos

Love to Dance Workshop & Tea Dance



On Feb 22, 2025, we held yet another Love to Dance Workshop and Dance. We were thrilled to have two wonderful teachers, Louise McGillivray and Kay Sutherland to teach the morning workshops. There were approximately 44 dancers between the two classes. Our thanks to the Monitors and others for stepping in to help fill out those numbers to 48 for some of the dances. Of course, dancing would not be the same without music! The Intermediate class danced all morning to Mary Ross's lively accordion, while the Beginners class happily danced to the Keyboard and Fiddle of Cathrine Conings and Lukasz Wieczorek.

The participants in the classes were really focused and worked hard at learning the details of dancing, including (I'm told) "pointing our toes", "releasing hands appropriately" and not letting them drop. Plus many other great skills that we hope they are taking back to their classes and sharing with others. Our class participants came from all the Lower Mainland clubs, and we had two who came all the way from Seattle to be with us. Thanks for making the drive Eileen and Victoria.



Photos by Kerry McDevitt

Co-chairs, Sue Biddle and Fran Hillier were grateful for the work and input from our committee and other helpers: Margaret Gorham, Jean Wagstaff, Pat Hollingdale, Tereza Cabral, Seoris Harrison, Denise Cunningham, Fran Caruth, Gail Urquhart, Heather Hankin, Susan Stensgaard, and Iza Matsumoto. Thanks to Barbara Moritz and Seoris Harrison for providing accommodation for our musician and teacher from Victoria. And of course, a thank you to our photographer Kerry McDevitt.

The Afternoon Dance was enjoyed by another 30 or more dancers in addition to our workshop participants, making it a lively crowd. We always enjoy dancing to Mary Ross and her accordion music, and this event was no exception. Thanks to Mary and her husband Deg who does most of the carrying, moving and setting up and taking down. Refreshments were supplied by Margaret Gorham and her team and were appreciated by all.



Photos by Kerry & Mary Ann McDevitt

Our thanks to all participants and helpers. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year!

Fran Hillier & Sue Biddle



And a special thank you to Fran & Sue for all their hard work organizing this popular event!

See the Branch website Event Photo page for more great pictures!

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

Burnaby Spring Dance



The Burnaby Club officially opened the spring dancing season with its party on March 8th. The VFO's music filled the hall and lifted the dancers' spirits and feet on a rather rainy day. There was good attendance, an excellent spread of food, and an interesting, if sometimes challenging program.



Photos by
Kerry McDevitt

We had a Rosemary table featuring her book *Scottish Country Dancing in Vancouver – A History*, and several publications that she edited including all the *White Cockades* from 2007 (10 editions a year then, using the laborious paste method!) and one issue of the *Scottish Country Dancer* from Edinburgh. The display did not include the massive collection of dance history research papers that she worked on much of

her life. There were photos of her and family members and of the lovely garden she and Robert carefully tended. Everyone enjoyed dancing Deer Lake Denizen, devised in her honour. The afternoon was enjoyed by all, and served as a tribute to our long-time teacher, without “making a fuss over her” which she absolutely did not want! Cathrine Conings



Rosemary's table photo by Cathrine Conings



A special thank you goes to Cathrine Conings who devised *Deer Lake Denizen* - to Iza Matsumoto & Mary Ann McDevitt who briefed the dances - and to the Burnaby Club and all who came for a lovely afternoon.

See the Branch website Event Photo page for more great pictures.

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

Winter School 2025 Pitlochry, Scotland



Katherine, Jennifer and I thoroughly enjoyed attending Winter School in Pitlochry, Scotland.

While February weather included snow, rain, drizzle, mist, wind and sun, the gathering of dancers from around the world in the gracious Victorian Atholl Palace hotel, the fine food (including haggis at breakfast), the excellent lineup of teachers and musicians, culminating in a grand ball in Blair Castle, and a hike to the Birks of Aberfeldy (where Burns wrote a song), made it a great Scottish Country Dance adventure.

Alison Moen

Photos courtesy of Alison Moen
Left to right: Katherine Shearman,
Alison Moen & Jennifer Shearman



Teaching in Whitehorse



Gerald and I visited Whitehorse in early April for several days and found it to be a very friendly town, with people from many other countries. I taught two classes for two sets of very keen dancers, and about 50 people attended an evening ceilidh.

We toured several interesting museums around town, and our host toured us down the river valley towards Carcross for some spectacular mountain views! Definitely worth a visit, but a little further into spring or fall next time.

It was great to see SCD bringing Fun, Fitness, Friendship to an isolated community.

Alison Moen



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

Vancouver Branch Board Appointments

See the March/April White Cockade for list or visit:

Email Contacts for Branch Board Appointees:

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

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

Email Contacts for Board of Directors:

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

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

or for both Directors & Appointees:

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

RSCDS Vancouver - www.rscdsvancouver.org - Scottish Cultural Centre

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 4N2 - 604.263.9911

Calendar of Events

May 25	Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance
May 28	White Rock Spring Party
June 20 - 21	ScotFest BC Highland Games - Coquitlam
Monday Nights June 23 - August 18	Dancing in the Park - RSCDS Vancouver Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park
August 1 - 3	Teachers' Conference W/end - TAC Sherbrooke, Quebec
August 3 - 10	TAC Summer School - Sherbrooke, Quebec
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.



**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. June 10th for the July/August 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