the white cockade

Vancouver

September - October 2025



Photo by Kerry McDevitt

Kilbirnie Station at Dancing in the Park

Left to right: Natalie Thompson, Janice Hamilton, Kevin Hamilton, Cathrine Conings and Janet Wright

Just some of the talented musicians and entertainment we enjoyed at Dancing in the Park 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

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Frae the President

While the day started off with questionable weather, as the day progressed, the weather improved . And we had a lovely Highland Games. We had a new format on the plaza – a mix of Strictly Scottish, social dancing and participation dancing. The mix seemed well received. Thank you to the organizers and participants. We are appreciative of your commitment as participation in this event is more than just a single day. It includes the practices and planning beforehand.

As I write this, we have two nights left for Dancing in the Park. So far, we've had no cancellations due to weather – here's hoping the trend continues! Thanks to Alison Moen's leadership (& tenacity!) our 70th year of outdoor dancing has been a rollicking success. A grant from the City of Vancouver enabled us to have live music for many of the nights – which has been an absolute delight! Thank you to all the clubs for participating, and for all of you who came out to support Monday nights at Stanley Park.

The dancing season is around the corner. As we prepare for another year of dancing, remember that some members may be able to sign up for classes as well as renewing membership on our website. If you dance with the Branch, Burnaby or Glenayre, take advantage of this so you can register ahead. This will allow you to do more dancing on the first night of class!

The AGM is set for Friday, 10 October and will be followed by dancing. If you haven't already done so, to ensure you can vote at the AGM, please renew your membership.

See you on the dance floor!

Gail Urquhart
President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Vancouver

SCCS News

Generally, the SCCS continues to be financially secure. The following items are being worked on.

Washroom upstairs off Caberfeigh: Completed. New toilets and flooring installed and repairs completed to damaged flooring due to flooding. Daycare to provide some of the funding.

Women's Washroom: The SCCS Board has approved an expenditure to cover the costs over and above the city grant and donations. The work is being planned for early January in order to reduce impact on rentals. So, it won't be done for the B&B but should be finished by Burns. Changes include: new subfloor and floors, new mirror, sinks, vanity and taps, repaint walls, stalls, repair doors. Toilets replaced. Baby change table added. Ceiling and lights will be done as more funds are allocated.

Stucco: To be finished and protected in Spring 2026.

Vancouver Scottish Website: This is coming together and should be in use for the Fall. There will continue to be an SCC site, but that would deal predominantly with hall rentals. The Vancouver Scottish site will include links to the sponsoring societies websites and will advertise public events such as Burns Supper. We'll let you know when to add it to your list of important websites!

Pictures: Many of our members will remember the pictures that used to hang in the main hall showing various winners of world cups etc for Scottish activities. For a variety of reasons these were taken down, but the SCCS is looking into how to display them on the lobby monitor. Consideration is being given to further such displays as new groups win prizes or have important things to share. Also, considering whether a "rotating display" in the main hallway is feasible.

Fran Hillier &Jennifer Shearman
RSCDS Representatives, SCCS

Notices

RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGM
7:00 p.m. Friday, October 10, 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held in person at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. There will be opportunities to offer feedback on past events, provide suggestions for future events and activities, and vote in the election of Executive Directors and Directors-at-large for the 2025/2026 season. The meeting will be followed by dancing - free for those attending the AGM.

A complete document package comprising of the minutes of the 2024 AGM, financial statements for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, nominations, and reports from the Directors, Appointees, and Clubs will be posted on the website in early October.

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

We look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

You must renew your Branch Membership prior to the AGM to be eligible to vote.
(See below)



The RSCDS Vancouver Branch will not survive without the support of all clubs and dancers. Please encourage your fellow dancers to go to the below website to join and/or renew their membership. Thank you!

https://rscdsvancouver.org/branch-membership/

Vancouver Branch Classes

Vancouver rscds

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

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

TERM: SEPTEMBER 8 TO DECEMBER 8, 2025

FEES: $95 for the term (13 classes) or $12 Drop-in

There will be two class levels;
Introductory and Early Intermediate (Level 1)
Higher Intermediate and Experienced (Level 2)
TEACHERS: Fran Caruth and Katherine Shearman

All dancers require RSCDS membership - see link below

https://rscdsvancouver.org/branch-membership/

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

FALL TERM: OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 10, 2025

FEES: $85 for the term (11 classes) or $12 Drop-in

TEACHERS: Fran Caruth and Friends

The class is for reviewing the dances on the programs for upcoming socials, to revisit old favourites, and to offer some special nights showcasing particular devisors.

Classes are open to all dancers who are familiar with the basic steps and formations of Scottish Country Dancing.



Dem Team Open House

Thursday September 25, 2025 (7:30-9:30pm)
Cairngorm Room - Scottish Cultural Centre

This class is open to experienced dancers with good foot work, phrasing and covering who are interested in an opportunity to improve those skills further and try "dances with a difference".

This is all about having fun with technique. There is no charge for this class but you do need to **pre-register** by emailing:

Kay Sutherland at kay_sutherland@hotmail.com
or Katherine Shearman at ptkat71@hotmail.com

Kay Sutherland, Dem Team Director



Strictly Scottish at the 2025 BC Highland Games
Photo by Tanya Korobeynikov



For over sixty years, the Asilomar Weekend has been a beloved San Francisco Branch tradition, inviting dancers and non-dancers to experience its unique magic and charm. The 2025 Weekend promises an unforgettable experience, beginning Friday evening with a welcoming dinner, followed by an informal dance and ceilidh. Saturday features dance classes, culminating in a Grand March and a formal ball in the historic Merrill Hall. Sunday morning offers a combined class held in Merrill Hall. For more information and to apply, please visit our website.

https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend

BC Highland Games



Scottish Country Dancing is a part of the BC Highland Games, offering opportunities to watch and participate in our favourite pastime. Although the day started off soggy, the sun came out and it was a successful day for RSCDS Vancouver.

There were performances by our Dem Team, Strictly Scottish who also joined other club members to take part in the social dancing. The audience participation dances were also popular. Thank you to everyone who came out and volunteered!









Photos by
Alan Le Fevre



Cathrine Conings did a great job spiffing up the RSCDS tent this year to showcase Scottish Country Dancing. We attracted both Highland Game visitors and participants.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped man the tent and promote our favourite pastime.

Photos by Cathrine Conings







Dancing Dates

Friday, September 26 VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre $15 ($10 Students)
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Everyone Welcome - Loads of fun!
Bring your friends & family ages 9 t0 90.

No experience, partner or kilt required.

Dance class starts at 7 p.m. The dance is from 8 – 10:30 p.m.

Liive music with our resident Ceilidh Band "Calanais."

More Ceilidhs are scheduled for October 24 and November 28!

For more details, check us out on our website at:
https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/

Or on Instagram at:
https://www.instagram.com/vancouver.ceilidhs?utm_source=qr

Friday, October 10 VANCOUVER BRANCH AGM DANCE

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

We look forward to seeing our members at the Branch Annual General Meeting and dance. The dance is free to members attending the AGM. See the Branch website Events Calendar for the Program and Dance Notes.

Music by Kilbirnie Station

Tuesday, November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. $15 (18 & under $10)
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



The Fort Langley SCD Club is proud to be hosting this year's Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance.

As tradition, proceeds from this ever popular event will be donated to charity.

The Ft. Langley club will provide the refreshments at the break.

It is appreciated if each club can donate a basket for the raffle.

Program

+Rory O'More.....J.....*RSCDS Bk 1*
The Montgomeries' Rant.....R.....Castle Menzies, *RSCDS Bk 10*
A Legacy of Pearl's.....J.....Hargreaves, *Vancouver Ruby*
*Culla Bay.....S.....Dix, *RSCDS Bk 41*
Nellie McKenzie's Jig.....J.....Bennett, *Vancouver Ruby Coll*
Royal Deeside Railway.....R.....Arrowsmith, *RSCDS Bk 40*
Double Duty.....S.....John Lang
!Reel of the 51st Division.....R.....Atkinson, *RSCDS Bk 13*

Break

*Australian Ladies.....R.....Campbell, *Glasgow Assembly*
MacDonald of the Isles.....S.....Haynes, *Carnforth Coll. 2*
Lady Aberdeen.....R.....Maureen Lyon
Jennifer's Jig.....J.....Drewry, *RSCDS Bk 53*
*The Minister on the Loch.....S.....Goldring, *24 G & S Dances*
Trip to Timber Ridge.....R.....Henderson, *RSCDS Bk 52*

+ Rory O'More is from the Lady Aberdeen 1942 Tea Dance

! Reel of the 51st Division will be danced by Gentlemen Only

** For experienced dancers*

See the Branch website Events Calendar for the Dance Notes.

Sunday, October 26 NORTH SHORE DS HALLOWEEN TEA DANCE

Highlands United Church 2:00 p.m. $25
3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver



North Shore Dance Scottish invites everyone to their Halloween Tea Dance.

Dressing up is optional but encouraged. Costumes with the theme of a Scottish Country dance name preferred.

*There will be great music by **Mary Ross** and dances to suit all levels.*

Program (*denotes easier dances)

*Come What May.....J.....*Book 51*
*Hedwig's Reel.....R.....*2nd Graded Book*
Culla Bay.....S.....*Book 41*
The Ghost and Mary Jo.....J.....McKinnell
The Whistling Wind.....R.....*Book 36*
*The Saint John River.....S.....*New Brunswick Collection*
Black Magic.....J.....Bowlen
*The Piper and the Penguin.....R.....Goldring, *Scotia Suite Break*
*Joe MacDiarmid's Jig.....J.....*5 SCDs 1962*
Currie Mountain.....R.....*New Brunswick Collection*
Staffin Harvest.....S.....*4 SCDs 1978*
*The Yorkshire Man.....J.....Hargreaves, *Deep Cove Coll.*
Father to Son.....R.....Scott
Triple Happiness.....S.....*Book 52*
*The Reel of the 51st Division.....R.....*Book 13*
Extra
*Canadian Corn Riggs.....R.....R. Glover

See the Branch website Events Calendar for the Dance Notes & Videos

https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/nsds-fall-dance-2024/

Parking is available on both sides of the Church and across the road at Thirfty's underground

Dancing News & Photos

Dancing in the Park 2025
Celebrating 70 years of dancing outdoors



Dancing in the Park 2025 has been blessed with great weather, music and participation so far, in spite of impediments from traffic and lack of power! We hope you have enjoyed the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Vancouver Police Pipe Band, Strictly Scottish, piper Derek Davidson, and Blackthorn.

With two more events to go as I write this, we are hoping for continued fair weather and more wonderful music from Kilbirnie Station and piper Derek, and continued participation from our dance community. Your willingness to include the passing public to share the joy of Scottish Country Dance makes it all worthwhile for me.





This year's live music was made possible by an Arts grant from the City of Vancouver, matched by RSCDS Vancouver, and support from Vancouver Park Board to keep our costs as low as possible. To the teachers that ran the programs, and all the dancers who helped set up/take down equipment - thank you!

Hope we saw you there! Alison Moen



And a huge thank you to Alison Moen whose untiring efforts brought us a magical 2025 Dancing in the Park with live music, entertainment and loads of fun! Here's to another 70 years of outdoor summer dancing!











Photos compliments of Chris Hyndman and Blackthorn Band, Sandy Caruth, and Kerry McDevitt

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Appointments

Betwixt & Between Coordinator - Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Burns Supper Chair - Paul Shrimpton	604.469.2433
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 Shearman	604.671.2480
Heather Spring Tea Dance Chair - Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
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 - Jennifer Shearman	604.739.3096
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

<u>Other Representatives</u>

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

Calendar of Events

September 26	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
October 10	Vancouver Branch AGM & Dance - RSCDS Van.
October 24	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
October 26	North Shore DS Halloween Tea Dance
November 11	Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance - RSCDS Vancouver
November 28	Vancouver Ceilidh - RSCDS Vancouver
November 29	St. Andrew's Ball
December 29	Betwixt & Between - RSCDS Vancouver
2026	
January 24	Vancouver Branch Burns Supper - RSCDS Van.
February 21	Love to Dance Workshop & Tea Dance RSCDS Vancouver
April 24 - 25	Vernon/Naramata Workshop & Ball Weekend
May 2	Heather Spring Tea Dance - RSCDS Van.
May 9	White Rock Spring Tea Dance

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

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. October 10th for the November/December 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

Vancouver Area Scottish Country Dance Clubs & Classes 2025 - 2026

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

GROUP	LEVEL	TEACHER	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	DAY	TIME	START	FEE	INFO
Vancouver Branch	Introductory / Early Int.	Fran Caruth & Katherine Shearman	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Mon	7:30 pm	Sept 8	$95 HS / $12 DI	604.922.6842
Vancouver Branch	Higher Int./ Experienced	Fran Caruth & Katherine Shearman	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Mon	7:30 pm	Sept 8	$95 HS / $12 DI	604.922.6842
Vancouver Branch	Program Class	Fran Caruth & Friends	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Wed	7:30 pm	Oct 1	$85HS / $12 DI	604.922.6842
Vancouver Branch	Dem Team Class	Kay Sutherland	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Thurs	7:30 pm	TBD	No Fee	604.929.2745
Burnaby	Beginner Int/Adv	Cathrine Conings	Jubilee United Church	7591 Gray Ave (at Rumble)	Burnaby	Mon	Beg 7 pm All 7:30	Sept 15	$80 HS / $10 DI	604.299.6447
Glenayre (Coquitlam)	Beginner/ Int/Adv	Fran Hillier	Burquest Jewish Cnt. (Sept only) Oct on TBD	2860 Dewdney Trk	Coquitlam	Tues	Beg 7 pm All 7:30	Sept 16	$110 FS / $60 HS	604.298.9695

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

GROUP	LEVEL	TEACHER	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	DAY	TIME	START	FEE	INFO
Bellingham	General	Marion Heath	Fairhaven Library	1117 – 12th Street	Bellingham	Wed	7:00 pm	Sept 10	$140 FS / $5 DI	360.671.3806
Fort Langley	Beg/Int/Adv	Louise Murphy	Ft. Langley Hall	9167 Glover Road	Fort Langley	Tues	7:30 pm	Sept 9	$5 DI	604.202.0446
Kerrisdale	Beginners Intermediate	Cathrine Conings	Kerrisdale Com. Center	5851 West Blv	Vancouver	Tues	11:30 am 1:30 pm	Sept 9 Oct 28 Sept 9	$15 HS $5.50 DI $59	604.299.6447
North Shore Dance Scottish	Basic	Alison Moen / Kay Sutherland	Arbutus Room Delbrook Rec C	851 Queens Rd	North Van	Mon	7:15 pm	Sept 15	$240 FS $15 DI	604.929.2745 604.980.0428
North Shore Dance Scottish	General	Alison Moen / Kay Sutherland	Arbutus Room Delbrook Rec C	851 Queens Rd	North Van	Wed	7:00 pm	Sept 17	$240 FS $15 DI	604.929.2745 604.980.0428
North Shore Dance Scottish	Challenge	Alison Moen	Canyon Room Lions Gate Rec C	1733 Lions Gate Lane	North Van	Tues	7:00 pm	Oct 7	$240 FS $15 DI	604.980.0428
Thursday Thistles	General	Laurie Lang	Scottish Cultural Centre	8886 Hudson Street	Vancouver	Thurs	10:30 am	Sept 11	$10 DI	604.944.6678
W Van Seniors	Program	Louise Murphy	West Van Seniors' Centre	695 – 21st Street	West Van	Fri	10:30 am	Sept 9	$7.30 DI $9.90 NM	604.202.0446
White Rock	Beg/Int/Adv	Maureen Lyon	Sullivan Hall	6306 - 152nd Street	Surrey	Wed	7:00 pm	Sept 10	$7 DI	604.536.1367

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

As venues, times, dates, fees are subject to change, please call the information number for questions or verification.