Vancouver

the white cockade

November – December 2025



A keen country dancer before the war, Lt. James (Jimmy) Atkinson thought about devising a dance to commemorate the 51st Highland Division's bravery. The Reel of the 51st Division, one of the most popular country dances of all times, was devised in a POW camp during the second world war. So originally it was danced by men only. We look forward to seeing our men dance it at the Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance.

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors

Elected at the RSCDS Branch Board AGM on October 10, 2025

Executive Directors

President – Gail Urquhart	604.433.6081
Vice President – Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
Corresponding Secretary – Karen Shrimpton	604.469.2433
Recording Secretary – Margaret Gorham	416.924.4348
Treasurer – Kathleen Dann	604.569.3424

Directors-at-Large (with specific responsibilities to be assigned)

Membership – Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
Chandra Carlson	604.506.5372
Cathrine Conings	604.299.6447
Seoris Harrison	604.263.0493
Ally Haung	604.299.0160
John Robertson	604.985.1612
Paul Shrimpton	604.469.2433

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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

After a stunning Vancouver summer and Monday evenings Dancing in the Park, we returned to class in early September – and our dance calendars are starting to fill up. Classes are up and running, the AGM & dance, the Lady Aberdeen as well as a host of club activities are on our Event Calendar on the Website. When you're a Scottish Country Dancer, there's lots to keep you busy!

As I write this, the AGM is on the horizon…but it will be "done and dusted" by the time you read this. My sincere thanks to the outgoing board members: Fran Hillier, Sue Biddle and Susan Stensgaard. It has been a pleasure working with you – thank you for the gift of your time and expertise to the Board. To our returning Board Members, I look forward to continuing working with you. Finally, welcome to our new Board Members – you are joining a wonderful group of volunteers committed to Scottish Country Dancing. I know it's been said before, but our Branch is fortunate to have so many people who are willing to come forward to help organize our activities – both at the Branch and Club levels. Without these committed volunteers, our dancing lives would be diminished. Our strength is our people!

So, here's to another year of Dancing Scottish. I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

Gail Urquhart
President
RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Vancouver

Notices

Vancouver

The RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors for 2025-26 was elected at our annual AGM on Friday, October 10, 2025.
See page 2 for the list of Executive Directors and Directors-at-Large.

changes to the white cockade

As my current publishing program is no longer supported, I am experimenting with new software. Hopefully, we will have the same or a very similar newsletter with both the online read and booklet print copies. Please note the deadline for submissions for the January/February issue is December 10th. We welcome your photos, articles and input. Thank you for your patience while I work out the hiccups. Mary Ann McDevitt – mamcdevitt@shaw.ca or 604.929.2944



For Sale
Kilts
(11 in total)
&
Dancewear



This Black & White Scott Modern is an example. (Waist 36-38)

Also, one Harris tweed soft green jacket, two sporrans, two belts, lace cuffs and jabots, and white socks

Suggested price: kilt $200, Montrose jacket $150

Contact cathrineconing3@gmail.com 604-299-6447



Registration now open!

For more details see:

https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/na-festival

Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)
affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Dancing Dates

Tuesday, November 11 — LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 1:00 p.m. $15 (18 & under $10)

8886 Hudson Street Vancouver



The Fort Langley Club is hosting this year's Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance and will provide refreshments at the break.

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

See the Branch Website Event Calendar for the dance program and dance notes. Reel of the 51st Division will be danced by Gentlemen only.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this popular event.
As tradition, all proceeds will be donated to charity.

Friday, November 28 — VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre $15 ($10 Students)

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Everyone Welcome – Loads of Fun

No experience, partner or kilt required!

We teach you almost everything.

Class starts at 7 p.m.

The Dance is from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Live music with our resident band "Calanais"

https://www.vancouverceilidh.org

Tuesday, November 25 FT LANGLEY ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

Ft Langley Hall – 7:30 p.m. Drop-in $5

9167 Glover Road, Fort Langley



The Ft Langley Voyageurs invite you to join them for their class celebrating St. Andrew's Day. It promises to be a fun evening with dances for everyone from beginners to experienced dancers.

Saturday, November 29 ST ANDREW'S BALL

Scottish Cultural Centre - 5:30 p.m. $120

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



The St Andrew's Ball is a highlight of the **St Andrews and Caledonian Society of Vancouver** calendar – an evening of tradition, elegance, and community.

For more information & tickets see:

https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/sab-nov-2025/

Saturday, December 13 GLENAYRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

St. Laurence Church Hall – 2:00 p.m. $20

825 St. Laurence Street, Coquitlam



The Glenayare SCD Club looks forward to welcoming everyone to their annual Christmas party for an afternoon of camaraderie and dancing. It's a fun program with something for every level of dancer. Hope to see you there!

Monday, December 29 BETWIXT & BETWEEN DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre – 7:30 p.m. Free to all RSCDS members

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver Non-members $15 (Students $7)

Looking for something fun and festive to do between holiday gatherings? Come dance to the irresistible music of Mary Ross at our annual Betwixt & Between dance sponsored in part by the Mary Wattum Fund. We hope you will bring a small offering to share at the table.



Program

Hooper's Jig*	J	*MMM*
Mary Wattum's Reel*	R	*Vancouver Ruby Coll.*
Butterscotch & Honey	S	*Alexander Leaflets*
Joie de Vivre*	J	*RSCDS Book 39*
Merry Meyham	R	*RSCDS Book 54*
Ann of Scotia	S	*World Wide Weavings*
Two Peas in a Pod*	R	*A Dancing Tour – Vol. 2*

Intermission

New Year Jig*	J	*RSCDS Book 51*
I Mind Hid Fine***	M	*Vancouver Golden Coll.*
Bruce's Men*	S	*Scotia Suite*
Airie Bennan	J	*Scottish Dance Archives*
Bratach Bana***	R	*Bon Accord Book*
Mrs Milne of Kinneff	S	*Leaflets*
Trip to Timber Ridge	R	*RSCDS Book 52*

*Denotes easier dances *** Denotes most difficult dances

See the Branch Website Events Calendar for the Dance Notes

Saturday, January 24 VANCOUVER BRANCH BURNS SUPPER

Scottish Cultural Centre $100 Non-members or

8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver $90 Member Societies

Doors open at 5 p.m. for a 6 p.m. start



This annual celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns includes a traditional Scottish meal, entertainment, dancing to the music of Kilbirnie Station, and a dance program to suit everyone. There will be three free classes at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Wednesdays, January 7, 14, & 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Tickets will be available online November 11th at

https://rscdsvancouver.org/ or email burns@rscdsvancouver.org

Program (**for experienced dancers only)

Gay Gordons (Traditional) ---------- March ---------- *Collins*
The Lion Gate ---------- R -------- *The Other Kangaroo Paw*
The Flying Scotsman ---------- J ---------- *Let's All Dance*
Ca'the Ewes tae the Knowes --------- S ---------- *RSCDS Book 16*
Good Hearted Glasgow ---------- J ---------- *Collins*
The Dashing White Sergeant --------- R ---------- *Collins*
St. Bernard's Waltz ---------- Waltz ---------- *Collins*

Intermission

Burns Night ---------- J ---------- *Boston 50*
Round Reel of Eight ---------- R ---------- *RSCDS Book 27*
Miss Eleanor** ---------- S ---------- *RSCDS Book 49*
The Galloping Carousel ---------- J ---------- *RSCDS Book 53*
The Pawling Porch ---------- R ---------- *Moments in Time*

Auld Lang Syne and Waltz

See the Branch Event Calendar for the dance notes & video links

Save the Dates





1 p.m. Saturday, May 2, 2026
The Vancouver Heather
Spring Tea Dance

Stay tuned to the Branch website Events Calendar and the January White Cockade for more details on these two terrific events, including teachers, musicians, online registration, ticket sales, dance program, dance notes and more.

See you at both!!!

Dancing News & Photos

Douglas Day at Fort Langley





Fort Langley held its Douglas Day on Sept. 21 with many activities of its heyday. We Scottish dancers welcomed visitors to our display. Louise Murphy led a small team of Ft. Langley dancers in a performance with audience participation enjoyed by all. The weather was beautiful. The visitors were very interesting and interested!

Photos & article courtesy of Cathrine Conings

Nanaimo Teachers' Workshop



Twelve teachers and teacher candidates from Vancouver had a lovely day in Nanaimo on a sunny September Saturday. We had instructions from Gael Forster and Richard Bennett and a look back at older ways of teaching Scottish Country Dance from Joan Axworthy. She's been teaching for 45 years. Cathrine Conings

Photo by Richard Bennett

Vancouver Branch AGM & Dance



Aside from some members unable to make it to the AGM due to it being a long weekend, and terrible weather & traffic, it was still a good turnout for our October 10th AGM and dance. President, Gail Urquhart ran a proficient meeting, thanked outgoing Directors Fran Hillier, Sue Biddle and Sussan Stensgaard and welcomed the new Board. We then adjourned to enjoy dancing to the music of Kilbirnie Station. Many thanks to Fran Caruth for a lovely dance program and to Margaret Gorham for tea and shortbread.



Photos by Kerry McDevitt







It was a delightful way to spend an autumn evening - with old and new dancing friends. And the drive home was much nicer with no rain and much less traffic!



Photos by Kerry McDevitt

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Appointments

Betwixt & Between – Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Burns Supper Chair – Paul Shrimpton	604.433.2433
Dancing Coordinator – Frances Caruth	604.922.6842
Dancing in the Park Coordinator – Alison Moen	604.980.0428
Demonstration Team Manager – Katherine Shearman	604.671.2480
Heather Spring Tea Dance Chair – Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
Love to Dance Workshop Chairs – Fran 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

Other Representatives

Ceilidh Director – Alison Moen	604.980.0428
TAC Representative – Fran Hillier	778.285.1242

Email Contacts for Branch Board Directors and Appointees

Go to: https://rscdsvancouver.org/contact/

Click on "Send email" under the name or title.

Calendar of Events

November 11	Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
November 25	Ft. Langley St Andrew's Dance
November 28	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
November 29	St. Andrew's Ball – St Andrews & Caledonian Soc Van
December 13	Glenayre Christmas Party
December 29	Betwixt & Between – RSCDS Vancouver
2026	
January 24	Vancouver Branch Burns Supper – RSCDS Vancouver
February 21	Love to Dance Workshop & Tea Dance - RSCDS Vancouver
March 7	Burnaby Spring Dance
March 21	Glenayre Spring Dance
March 29	White Rock Workshop (planned)
April 11	Victoria 49th Anniversary Workshop & Ball – viscds.ca
April 24 – 25	Vernon/Naramata Workshop & Ball Weekend
May 2	Heather Spring Tea Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
May 9	White Rock Spring Tea Dance
May 24	Ft. Langley Whiskey Tea Dance
June 19 - 20	BC Highland Games – ScotFest BC

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 an event or class if you are sick.

Happy Holidays from



Your 2025-26 RSCDS Vancouver Branch Board of Directors