Vancouver

the white cockade

January – February 2026



Left to right: Hamish Jackson, Cody Lyster & Alan Le Fevre wearing their 'See You Jimmy Hats' at the North Shore Dance Scottish Halloween Dance October 26, 2025.

Photo courtesy of Alan Le Fevre

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)

Publicity – Cathrine Conings	604.299.6447
Membership – Roberta Esau	778.317.4125
Archivist – John Robertson	604.985.1612
Equipment Manager – Seoris Harrison	604.263.0493
USCS Representative – Ally Huang	604.299.0160
Event Coordinator – Paul Shrimpton	604.469.2433
Director-at-Large – Chandra Carlson	604.506.5372

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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

As I write this, Christmas, Betwixt & Between, and Hogmanay are a few weeks away…but, by the time you read this, all three may have passed. Regardless of when you read this, on behalf of the Vancouver Branch Board of Directors, I extend our best wishes to you and your loved ones over the Holiday Season and beyond.

I want to extend a hearty "thank you" to the members who donated to the fundraiser to update the women's restroom at the SCC. I am delighted to tell you that work will start on January 5th and it is expected to take two weeks. Knowing that there can be surprises during construction, have no fear…in the event the restroom isn't ready by the Burns Dinner, the Burns Committee has a plan in place!

Which leads me to our annual Robbie Burns Dinner being held on Saturday, 24 January. If you haven't been to one, this is your opportunity! The haggis is treated with all manners of pomp and circumstance, there are speeches, toasts and, of course, dancing. There is a good mix of easier dances on the programme, making it the perfect dance for our newer dancers or for people you would like to introduce to Scottish Country Dancing.

We are still working on the details for the Love to Dance workshop on February 21st. workshop is in the morning followed by a tea dance in the afternoon. Pamphlets will be available at upcoming events and classes and, of course, information will be posted on the Vancouver Branch Website.

Finally, an update on teacher training. Emily Filmer, Margaret Gorham and Belinda Howes have all successfully completed Unit 1 and will begin their Units 2 & 3 preparations in January. Iza Matsumoto is in the midst of Unit 4 (practice teaching). Nick Haight, Heather Hankin, Lizzie Wratten (Seattle) and I will begin our Unit 5 preparation in

January. Orchestrating (or shall I say choreographing?) all this training are Fran Caruth and Kay Sutherland. As a student, I can attest to the amount of time we put in from our end…I am certain that Kay and Fran are not only putting in exponentially more time to organize and prepare for the teacher training…but they are also running regular dance classes for their respective clubs. All that to say – please take the time to thank them! And, when they put out the call for dance angels for practice teaching, please consider coming to help.

See you on the dance floor!

Gail Urquhart, President

RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Vancouver



It's rewarding & you will work with a great group of people!



The Branch is counting on your support!

Notices

Come join us for fun, fitness, friendship &
the opportunity to dance Scottish

MONDAY NIGHT BRANCH CLASSES

7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m.at the Scottish Cultural Centre

Classes resume January 5, 2026
No class Feb 16 (Family Day) or April 6 (Easter Monday)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

There will be two class levels:
Introductory & Early Intermediate
Higher Intermediate & Experienced

Fees: $95 Term or $12 Drop-in

Teachers: Fran Caruth & Katherine Shearman

All dancers require RSCDS membership - see below link
https://rscdsvancouver.org/branch-membership/

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM CLASS

7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m at the Scottish Cultural Centre

Classes resume January 7, 2026

There will be three (3) classes on January 7, 14 & 21 to review Burns Supper Dances (FREE for those who have Burns Supper tickets)

Future classes TBA based on upcoming events.

Class Fee: $95 Term or $12 drop-in
$70 for those who paid full season last term

Teacher: Fran Caruth 604.922.6842



SCCS News

The SCCS AGM was held on December 3rd 2025 on zoom. Jennifer Sherman and Fran Hillier remain the Current RSCDS representatives for the next year.

The main item of interest for our dancers is that there has been a large anonymous donation towards the women's washroom upgrades, which, together with grant money, allows for all upgrades to be completed at the same time. The work is due to start on January 5th and be completed within 2 weeks, thus allowing a bit of give so that those attending the Branch Burns Supper should be able to see the final results.

The new website for Vancouver Scottish is due to be up and running shortly. This will be a separate website from the current SCCS website. The current one will be replaced and renewed but will deal with the hall rentals and similar publicity. The Vancouver Scottish website will include links to all sponsoring societies websites and will advertise all our activities. The main goal of this is to make it easy for donations to be made.

Fran Hillier and Jennifer Shearman



Dancing Dates

Saturday, January 24 VANCOUVER BRANCH BURNS SUPPER
Scottish Cultural Centre – 5:30 p.m. $100 - $90 Member Societies
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Tickets while they last at:
www.rscdsvancouver.org or
email burns@rscdsvancouver.org

There will be three classes at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Wednesdays, January 7, 14 & 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. to review the dances. (**FREE** to those with Burns Supper Tickets or $12 drop-in).

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

Friday, January 30 VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE
Scottish Cultural Centre ** $20 ($15 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. and the dance is from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

**Please note new admission prices effective January 2026. Donations for refreshments will be optional. We accept cash, credit cards or debit cards. There will be a group rate - $18 ($13 students) for 8 or more if you contact us in advance and pay cash.

Also, please note classes will be limited to 80 and the dance to 180.

More Ceilidhs are scheduled for February 27, March 27 & April 24.

Saturday, February 22 LOVE TO DANCE WORKSHOP & DANCE
Scottish Cultural Centre, (Check-in 8:30 – coffee, tea & muffins provided)
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver



Full day workshop & Dance $65
With new member coupon $50
Full-time student $50
Dance only $25

Teachers:
Rebecca Blackhall-Peters
Katherine Shearman

Class Musicians:
Mary Ross, Cathrine Conings & Ryan North

Afternoon Dance Musician:
Mary Ross

Program (*Best to have danced it before)

The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J	*RSCDS Bk 16*
Flowers of Edinburgh	R	*RSCDS Bk 1*
Butterscotch and Honey	S	Attwood, *Leaflet 24*
Teacher's Choice (Reel & Jig)		
Toast to the Mousies	R	*RSCDS Bk 53*
*Minister on the Loch	S	Goldring, *24 G&S*
Tea Break		
Round Reel of Eight	R	*RSCDS Bk 27*
*Napier's Index	J	*RSCDS Bk 45*
Teacher's Choice (Strathspey)		
Joie de Vivre	J	*30 Popular, Vol. 2*
*Mairi's Wedding	R	Cosh, *22 SCD*
The Shetland Shepherdess	J	*RSCDS 3rd Graded Bk*
Circle of Cheer	R	*Let's All Dance Too*

Bring your own lunch & water bottle. See the Branch website Event Calendar for more details, including times and dance notes

Sponsored by RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Saturday, March 7 BURNABY SPRING DANCE

Lochdale Community Hall 1:30 p.m. $25
490 Sperling Avenue
North Burnaby

Please join the Burnaby Club for a fun afternoon of dancing to the wonderful music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.

Note new location!
Lochdale Community Hall is just off Hastings Street at Sperling Avenue.

Program

*The Yorkshire Rose .....J ..... Reid, *RSCDS Bk 54*
MacDonald of the Isles.....S..... Haynes, *Carnforth Coll. 2*
***Merry Mayhem .....R..... Horne, *RSCDS Bk 54*
Sunshine & Sweetie's Jig.....J ..... Short, *RSCDS Bk 48*
Deer Lake Denizen .....S.....Conings
***The Montgomeries Rant .....R..... Castle Menzies, *RSCDS Bk 10*
***Airie Bennan .....J .....Foss, *SC Sheets*

Break

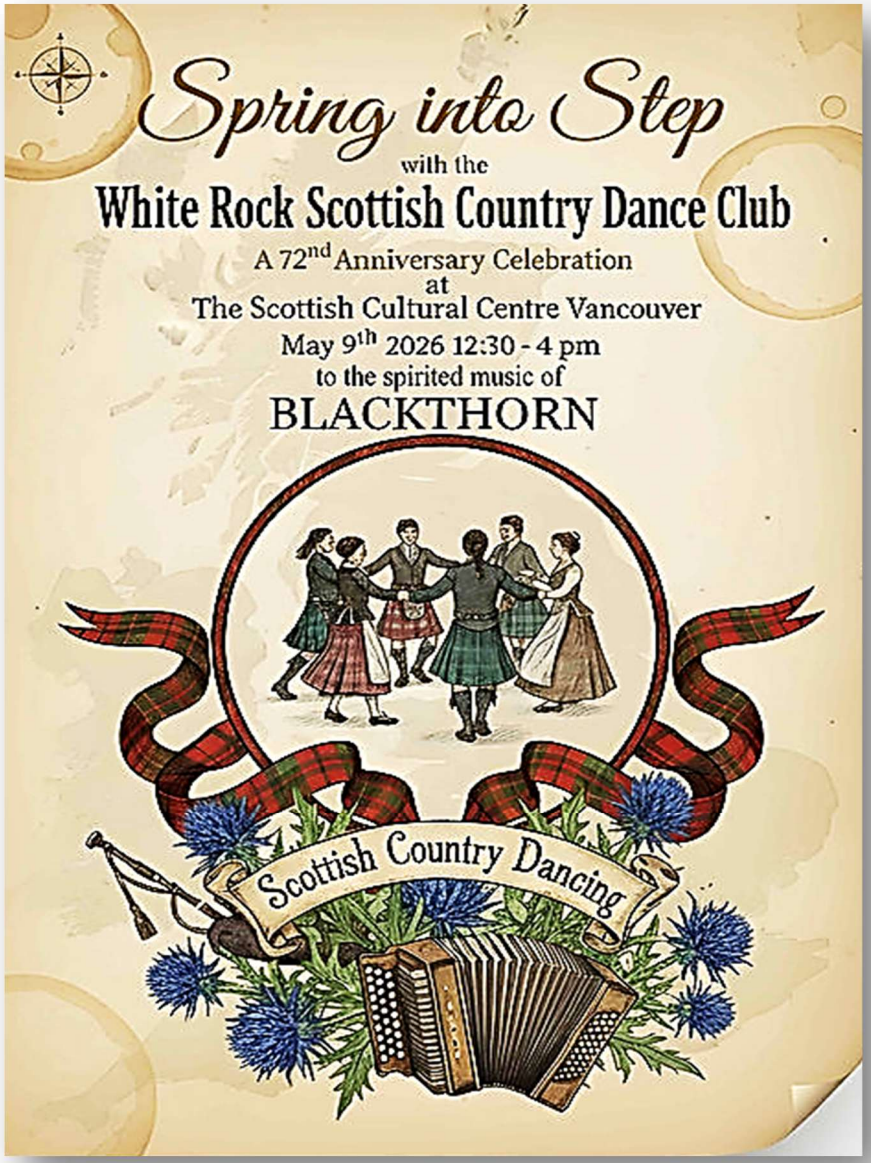
*The Marklands .....S.....Goldring, *24 G&S*
The Devil's Elbow.....J .....Stephenson, *RSCDS Archives*
*The Kissing Bridge.....R.....Butterfield, *RSCDS Bk 47*
Miss Gilbson's Strathspey.....S.....Haynes, *RSCDS Leaflet Dances 18*
***Links with St. Petersburg .....J .....Brown, *RSCDS Bk 46*
***Canadian Landscape.....S..... MacRone, *RSCDS Bk 54*
The Reel of the Royal Scots .....R.....Goldring, *RSCS Leaflet Dances 27*

*Easier Dances ***You need to know the Dance

See the Branch website for the Dance notes:
www.rscdsvancouver.org



See the March/April issue of the White Cockade for the program and the Vancouver Branch website Events Calendar for the dance program, dance notes and more!



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Events Further Afield



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

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society is having their Workshop and Ball on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Teacher: Sharon Barker from Calgary, AB.

New this year is the option to attend only one or both workshops for a reduced cost.

Musicians: Mary Ross & Friends

Details are on the website: viscds.ca

On-line registration opens on January 1, 2026.

The Naramata Scottish Country Dancers in Pentiction are happy to invite you to join us for the Okanagan Workshop & Tea Dance on 24 – 25 April, 2026

The weekend begins with dancing on Friday evening, featuring an Okanagan cider tasting, followed by the Saturday morning workshop and lunch, and concludes with the afternoon Tea Dance and post dance tea. Live music will be provided by Kilbirnie Station. All events will take place in the Great hall at the Centre, which boosts a sprung wooden dance floor! Accommodation is available only five minutes away at the Coast Penticton. To book a room, call 250-492-0323 and let them know that you are participants at the NSCD Okanagan SCD Workshop. Rates are $115 per night for a king-kitchenette and $99 per night for a double queen. These prices are valid for one day before and/or after the workshop, should you wish to extend your stay either way. Applications will be available on the Vancouver Branch Website under “Upcoming Events”.

Saturday Afternoon Tea Dance Program

It’s All Right	J	*RSCDS 2nd Graded Bk*
Langholm Fair	S	Jean Attwood, *Alexander 3*
Craighleith	R	*RSCDS 3rd Graded Bk*
EH3 7AF	J	*RSCDS Bk 40*
The Library of Birmingham	S	*RSCDS Bk 49*
The Kissing Bridge	R	*RSCDS Bk 47*
A Capital Jig	J	*5 Dances 2009*
The Rose of the North	S	R Goldring, *Leeds Silver Jubilee*
Bauldy Bains Fiddle	R	John Bowie Dickson, *Lothian Coll*

Short Break

The Duke of Atholl’s Reel	J	*RSCDS Bk 16*
Camp of Pleasure	S	*RSCDS Bk 15*
The Blooms of Bon Accord	R	John Drewry, *Deeside 2*
The Yorkshire Rose	R	*RSCDS Bk 54*
MacDonald of the Isles	S	*30 Popular, Vol. 2*
The Reel of the 51st Division	R	*RSCDS Bk 13*

Save the Dates – TAC Summer School 2026





On the campus of Medicine Hat College

Candidate Courses will be offered from Saturday, July 18, to Sunday, August 2, 2026. The tutor for the course will **be Rebecca Blackhall-Peters** from Summerland, British Columbia and the musician will be **Mary Ross** from Vancouver Island, BC.

The Teachers’ Conference Weekend (TCW) is Friday, July 24, to Sunday, July 26, 2026, with **Angela Young** from Glenfarg, Scotland, as the teacher

Summer School, which is open to dancers of all levels, will be held from Sunday, July 26 to Sunday, August 2, 2026. We are pleased to announce the teachers and music director for Summer School:

Teaching staff:

Angela Young - Glenfarg, Scotland
Arthur McNair - Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Fiona Miller - Lethbridge, AB, Canada
David Queen - Southport, England

Music Director:

Gillian Stevenson, Black Isle, Scotland

Additional details regarding registration, travel, accommodations, etc., will be coming, but we wanted you to get the dates on your calendar.

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

Dancing News & Photos

North Shore Dance Scottish Halloween Dance



North Shore Dance Scottish held their annual fall dance with a Halloween themed Tea Dance at the Highland United Church Hall in North Vancouver on Sunday October 26th. Many dancers eschewed kilts and ball gowns for a variety of Halloween costumes and headgear. Live music was provided by Mary Ross, and a dance program and the briefing of dances provided by Kay and Alison.





A delightful High Tea was provided, with two spot prizes and a 50/50 draw complementing the festivities. Approximately 50 dancers attended with many dancers from the Branch and other clubs in the Vancouver area. It is always encouraging to see a good turnout from other clubs as it contributes to developing a cohesive Scottish Dance dance community. In the Lower Mainland. Many thanks to Mary Ross, Kay, and Alison, and to the army of volunteers who assisted in providing this very enjoyable dance event.

John Robertson, NSDS President



Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance



It was poppies aplenty at the Lady Abderdeen Tea Dance. Many thanks to the Fort Langley Voyageurs for hosting this charity event and for the lovely tea at the break. Thank you to the Clubs who donated the raffle baskets. And thank you to Alison Moen and Katherine Shearman who stepped in to complete the bottom set for Reel of the 51st Division.









See the Branch website
Event Photos page
for more dancing photos.

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 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 – 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

<u>Other Representatives</u>

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

January 24	Vancouver Branch Burns Supper – RSCDS Vancouver
January 30	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
February 21	Love to Dance Workshop & Dance – RSCDS Vancouver
February 27	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
March 7	Burnaby Spring Dance
March 21	Glenayre Spring Dance
March 27	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
March 29	White Rock Workshop (planned)
April 11	Victoria 49th Anniversary Workshop & Ball – viscds.ca
April 24 – 25	Vernon/Naramata Workshop & Ball Weekend
April 24	Vancouver Ceilidh – RSCDS Vancouver
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 if you are sick.

Vancouver

Deadline for submissions to the White Cockade

The deadline submissions for the March/April issue of the Vancouver Branch newsletter is February 10th. We welcome your contributions and will do our best to accommodate everyone as space permits.

Mary Ann McDevitt – 604.929.2944 or mamcdevitt@shaw.ca