



Spring 2021 Newsletter

Message from Nancy Laing, President

Hello Scottish Country Dancers in the Calgary Area. I hope you are all doing well, staying safe and looking forward to the time when we can all get together to dance in person again. (Although my virtual partners rarely make mistakes, those 'X's' on my living room floor certainly aren't as helpful or fun as in-person dancers!) We do hope that in-person classes can start again sometime in the fall, but since we can't count on it, the Branch continues to offer virtual options we hope you'll take part in. The Branch Virtual Class will continue to be offered through to the end of the April. I hope you will join us, if you haven't already. And since Scottish Country Dancing is as much about socializing as dancing, we are creating opportunities in April and May to visit virtually. A Calgary Branch Social will be held on Saturday, April 24th and our AGM is coming up on May 29th. Our wonderful newsletter editor, Bill Mulloy, has provided more information on each of these events below. I hope to see you all on April 24th and at the AGM. One final note, there will be a couple of vacancies on the Board of Directors in May. If you are interested in joining the board and would like more information, please contact me at president@rscdscalgary.org. We'd love to have you join the board.

Happy Spring!



Calgary Branch AGM

May 29, 2021 7:30 PM

Seems like we just did this! The Branch AGM will again take place by Zoom on May 29, gathering at 7 PM meeting at 7:30. We need your participation and input – please make an effort to attend. Anyone who has items to include on the agenda or is interested in joining the executive should contact Nancy at president@rscdscalgary.org.

Zoom links will be sent out to all members. A reminder that Branch membership is required to vote at the meeting – if you haven't yet – please consider renewing. Membership information including online options is included on the branch website at <http://www.rscdscalgary.org/membership>.

Following the meeting there will be an opportunity to virtually mingle and a special social event is being organized. Some virtual dancing is also being planned.



Spring Social

April 24, 2021 7:30 PM

We want to see you! We are thinking it is time to gather together again and, because of Covid, it seems like virtually is our only option. We are planning a Spring Social Zoom get together April 24 at 7:30. It is mostly to chat but some special social activity is planned – if you would like to offer to present something – song, poem, talk, ... - please let us know at secretary@rscdscalgary.org. Save the date and watch for the zoom link that will be emailed out shortly before the event.

Virtual Dancing

For those of you who dance on the digital dance floor – there are virtual dancing opportunities as follows:

RSCDS Calgary Branch – the Branch will continue to be offering interactive online classes **Thursdays at 8 pm** with teachers from the Calgary area until April 29th. The branch classes are social dancing classes and include a warm up dance followed by 2 or 3 dances chosen especially for virtual dance classes. . Meeting ID: 854 3350 1886 Passcode: 085346
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433501886?pwd=a2dvYTgvRXpwUVNxVjIQY0FtL1JRdz09>

Cross and Thistle - Many thanks to Sharon Barker and her work to offer virtual classes. The classes take place at **8 pm on Tuesdays** and will continue until near the end of July. The Cross & Thistle classes generally include a wee bit of step practise followed by a review of a formation or two followed by a dance. If you have not been receiving emails from Cross and Thistle, please contact Sharon at crossandthistle@hotmail.com

Cross and Thistle - Step Classes - Sharon Barker is also hosting Step Classes both **Sunday and Wednesday nights at 8pm**. If you have not been receiving emails from Cross and Thistle, please contact Sharon at crossandthistle@hotmail.com

RSCDS HQ - Wednesday lunch time classes - The folks at RSCDS headquarters in Scotland are offering a virtual class every Wednesday at noon our time. The link for the class is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83347845385>

RSCDS “Dance Scottish At Home” Monthly Newsletters and Virtual Class Links - <https://www.rscds.org/get-involved/dance-scottish-home>

Zoom Help

While everyone is isolated due to the Covid epidemic - Zoom, Google Meets, Skype etc are great ways to keep in contact with dancing friends and others. If you have an IPAD, Tablet, Smart Phone or Computer and receive email - it is likely easy to get you set up to do one or more of these. If you need help accessing any of these or just want to test your access please contact me at Newsletter@rscdscalgary.org

TAC Summer Events

Because of Covid – the TAC Summer School this year has been converted to virtual TAC Summer Events to be held July 28-31 - Classes, Ceilidh, Concert, Ball, Teachers' Discussion Session and After Parties. More details to come soon. All events will be free of charge and registration for events will open in May. All events are open to all dancers - you don't have to be a teacher to attend.

There are tentative plans to hold TAC again in Calgary in 2022.



Need Help?

If there are any members of our Scottish Country Dance community who need help or support in anyway through this difficult covid period, please contact anyone on the branch board. We are happy to help in any way we can.

In case you missed it Virtual Scottish Country Dance Event – A Winter Evening

If you wish to spend a pleasant evening of Scottish Country Dance, watch the recording of the event that RSCDS HQ prepared in lieu of Winter School in Pitlochary. Watch for pictures of TAC summer school from Calgary! The link for the recording is

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/FMzh6NRxdNuZqI0L4eX7oKBYLHfkbMAx2cYrpV-YrqABkGCVbYPw6tHMweqinzKw7DAXi71trjRyMFF-.8fNj_Y2clwuVE2Yw?continueMode=true

Burns Night Recap

The branch held a virtual Robbie Burns night on January 23. 133 separate zoom links connected from across Canada and the US - many with more than one person viewing. It was, we think, a great success. A big thankyou to all that joined in and especially those that performed in and coordinated the event – it was a welcome way to connect at a time when it was most appreciated. Let us do it again next year – but in person!

A special thankyou also to Tartan Tie's, Heather Cameron, and Scott Duncan who provided us with excellent music for the evening. Link to purchase their music is included below.



- Tartan Ties - CD Fire Away – available at TACSound - http://sound.tac-rscds.org/index.php?manufacturers_id=162
- Heather Cameron - Performance schedule, listen online and CDs - <https://heathercameron.ca>
- Scott Duncan - Performance schedule, listen online and CDs - <https://www.scottduncan.ca>

We had a special email from Jason W who studied in Calgary in 1992. He included the below image of the Burns Night celebration program when he was here.



Casino - Thankyou

The Branch recently received the earnings for the Casino we worked in November. Thankyou to all those that volunteered to work shifts and a special thankyou to Duane for his work in coordinating the Casino.

Calgary Area Classes Update (Branch Supported)

All branch supported classes are suspended at this time, details are indicted below:

- RSCDS Calgary Branch Beginner's Classes – suspended – we do not anticipate any Calgary Branch in-person dancing events prior to September 2021.
- Calgary Scottish Country Dance Society (St Barnabas) - no classes will be held prior to September 2021
- St. Giles Scottish Country Dance Group – classes are again suspended pending future update
- Cross and Thistle Scottish Dancers General Class – In-person classes are suspended until further notice. In the meantime, virtual classes will be held on Tuesday evenings until we can reconvene in person. All Calgary dancers are welcome to attend. Send an email to Sharon Barker at crossandthistle@hotmail.com if you would like to be put on the notification list. Virtual classes are held over Zoom and the technology is very easy to use. If anyone has any questions about using Zoom, contact Sharon and she will be happy to help.
- Grace Scottish Country Dance Group - no classes will be held pending future update
- Confederation Park Scottish Country Dancers - no classes will be held pending future update
- Airdrie Scottish Country Dancers – classes have been put on hold for the foreseeable future, please contact Ann Vanderwal at annvanderwal@shaw.ca for further information

Other Calgary and Area Classes

- Canmore Seniors SCD Group - no classes will be held pending future update
- St. Andrew-Caledonian Society - no classes will be held pending future update
- Douglas Scottish Country Dance Club – no classes will be held pending future update
- Confederation Park +55 Activity Centre Classes – Confederation Park is closed at the present time. See their website <https://yycseniors.com/Classes-and-Clubs> for future updates.

Thankyou – Branch Membership

The Calgary Branch Board would like to thank all those that have renewed their membership. Even while we are not dancing in person, we need to continue to prepare for the return of dancing events in 2021 both locally and headquarters. For anyone that has not yet renewed – please do - membership information including online options is included on the branch website at <http://www.rscdscalgary.org/membership>.

Scottish Country Dance Events

Calgary Area Events -

- Calgary Branch Social – April 24, 2021 – a virtual event - Details coming soon
- Calgary Branch AGM – May 29, 2021 - a virtual event

Out-of-Town Events

- RSCDS Spring Fling and Fringe – April 17, 2021 – A virtual event.
- Montreal Branch Spring Dance – April 17, 2021 – A virtual event – Music by Tartan Ties – Pre-registration required – see poster at end of newsletter
- TAC *Virtual* Teachers' Conference and Summer School July 28-31, 2021 - Classes, Ceilidh, Concert, Ball, Teachers' Discussion Session and After Parties – Details Coming Soon
- Lethbridge Scottish Country Dancers 25th Weekend Workshop – April 2022 - Lethbridge
- Midwest Weekend Workshop – June 10-12, 2022 – Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
- Pinewoods Scottish Sessions – July 8-16, 2022 – Boston, Massachusetts

Cancelled Events

- Midwest Weekend Workshop – June 11-13, 2021 – Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
- TAC Teacher Candidates Course – July 18 – August 1, 2021 – Mount Royal University,
- TAC Summer Teachers' Conference Weekend – July 23-25, 2021 – Mount Royal University
- TAC Summer School – July 25 – August 1, 2021 – Mount Royal University, Calgary
- RSCDS Summer School – Mid July – Mid August 2021 – St. Andrews, Scotland

Feedback is welcome - please let me know if this information is useful to you and/or if there is anything you would like to see added or any corrections needed. Thanks.

Acknowledgements: We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Province of Alberta through Alberta Foundation for the Arts funding and Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission casino funding.

Happy Dancing!!

Bill Mulloy RSCDS Calgary Branch

Newsletter@rscdscalgary.org



RSCDS Montreal Branch

INVITES YOU
TO A VIRTUAL



Spring Dance

Saturday April 17, 2021 7pm

Music provided by Tartan Ties:

Kathy Fraser-Collins piano, Fred Collins drums,
Judi Nicholson fiddle, Ian Muir accordion

Program

Cutty Sark	J32	RSCDS XL
The Lea Rig	S32	RSCDS XXI
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J64	Fordyce: Bruce Fordyce Mem. Coll.
Gang the Same Gate	S32	Levy: RSCDS XXXVI
The Kilt Maker	R32	Burrage: Pinewoods 2



--- Break ---

The Captain's House	R32	Boyd: RSCDS Graded 3
The Saint John River	S32	Edwards: Collins SCD
EH3 7AF	J32	Goldring: RSCDS XL
Virtual Happiness	S32	Boyd
Mair's Wedding	R40	Cosh: 22 SCD



Registration required:

<https://www.rscdsmontreal.org/spring-dance.html>

Crits and Videos: <https://my.strathspey.org/ddlist/26930/>

More details: <http://rscdsmontreal.org/>

Webpages

RSCDS Calgary Branch: <http://www.rscdscalgary.org/>

RSCDS Headquarters: <https://www.rscds.org/>

Teachers' Association (Canada): <https://tac-rscds.org/>

Strathspey Server and the Scottish Country Dance Database: <https://www.strathspey.org/>

RSCDS Ottawa Branch: <https://rscdsottawa.ca/rscds/> - They have a blog called "Dance-A-Day"

Youtube

RSCDS Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2mNV40nY6C2akB5Z8yE27w>

RSCDS Archives Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpTmBx4w6Lt_doXdI8jkbyg

Pas d'basque Practice: Scottish country dancing in everyday life -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtMW6Z0st-c>

Or do a search of Newcastle Festival – there are many great examples of dancing being done at a competition in Newcastle

RSCDS Edinburgh – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaZediRLF7-Jqy3x10mzZiQ> - check out their “Bite Sized Lessons”

RSCDS Aberdeen - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC79tY82gxTC5pnCmJfpd0-A>

RSCDS Paris - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6uiCPNy3qGxbO8cQUAyxwQ>

RSCDS Lyon - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgd3QkrXFKAxuffx1ySRWg> - check out The Toilet Roll Reel

Here is a video of Derek Haynes doing a step dance called Come Ashore Jolly Tar -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK9cxGJ_YQ – he wrote many dances including MacDonald of the Isles, Gaelforce Wind and It’s Nae Bother

Music

BBC Scotland’s “Take the Floor” a weekly broadcast of Scottish Music with more than half of the programme being dedicated to SCD music: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07y72yv>

Denis Snowdon’s “A Little Breath of Scotland” a weekly Canadian broadcast of Scottish Music of all genres: <http://www.denisnowdon.com/blog/>

Facebook (here are just a few, there are tons – just search for Scottish Country Dance and there will be no shortage of things to look at)

Groups:

Cross and Thistle Scottish Dancers -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147490665289793/?ref=bookmarks>

Scottish Country Dance Teachers - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5808618015/> (anybody can join – you don’t have to be a teacher)

Pages:

RSCDS Calgary Branch - <https://www.facebook.com/RscdsCalgary/>

RSCDS Headquarters – <https://www.facebook.com/RSCDS/>

Teachers’ Association (Canada) – <https://www.facebook.com/TAC-Teachers-Association-Canada-214700221929380/> (anybody can like the page – you don’t have to be a teacher)

Tunes in the Hoose - <https://www.facebook.com/TunesInTheHoose/>

Ian Robertson Music - <https://www.facebook.com/Ian-Robertson-Music-113581186750478/>

Scotscores (Muriel Johnstone) - <https://www.facebook.com/scotscores/>

Highland Wellness and Strength - <https://www.facebook.com/highlandwellness83/> - for strengthening exercises