

July/August 2020 Newsletter

Hello everyone. If the rain ever stops, we may have summer. That would be nice.

The RSCDS board is continuing to try to navigate the recommendations and continually changing requirements that are part of the reopening process. We would all like to return to getting together to dance and socialize, but we all know that wanting something is one thing while safely being able to be together is another thing. As we figure this out, we will work to help everyone understand the changes and communicate what we will need to do differently.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye. I am at the end of my 5-year term on the Board and for much of that time I have been the editor for the RSCDS Calgary newsletter. Serving on the Board has given me an opportunity to meet many people and as well to get a better understanding of what goes on “behind the scenes” in relation to how the classes and events are organized and implemented. I wish all the best for everyone carrying on in the work of this group.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual General Meeting | Membership Renewal | Call for new Board Members | Budget Update | Online Classes | Events Update

Annual General Meeting – September 26th, 2020

This year the RSCDS Annual General Meeting will be held on September 26th at St. Barnabas Church hall. Unfortunately, we will not be able to include having a dance on that same evening. Cancelling the dance portion of the evening is part of the ongoing effort to keep our members safe by decreasing the level of exposure and risk.

Membership Renewal

The Board has decided to extend memberships from the end of June 2020 for the current year to the end of the AGM in September. This means, those who were voting members as of May 2020 when we usually hold our AGM will be able to vote at the AGM in September.

Members are invited to renew their membership for the 2020/2021 year anytime either by printing off the membership form available on our website and mailing it in, or paying by PayPal from our website. Membership fees will remain at \$20/year and will still include membership to RSCDS in Scotland. Why renew? Benefits of membership include:

- Voting privileges at all General Meetings
- Hall Rental support for each club around the city allowing nightly fees to stay low
- Member discount rates to RSCDS Calgary Branch events
- Automatic membership in RSCDS Main Branch in Scotland (HQ)

For more information on the benefits of membership please visit www.rscdscalgary.org and visit the Membership page

Update from the Calgary Branch Board of Directors and Call for new Board Members

The Calgary Branch Board of Directors wish to give Ann Longair a warm and heartfelt thank-you for her 5 years of service on the Board. Ann has served as Vice President for most of her 5 years as well as crafting the monthly newsletter that we all enjoy and appreciate each month. A big thank-you to Ann!!

Bill Mulloy has been appointed to the Board to fill the position left open with Ann Longair's departure. Bill will sit as a Director-at-Large and will stand for election at the AGM. A big thank-you and welcome to Bill Mulloy.

We are looking for 2 people to join the Calgary Branch Board. Please consider volunteering to stand for election to the RSCDS Calgary Branch Board of Directors. For more information about the Board and the work done by the Board and how you might contribute, please see the May/June newsletter or contact Sheree Iffla at shereeffla@gmail.com or Nancy Laing at nancylaing@me.com.

Casino Update

On Friday, June 12th casinos were allowed to reopen for slot machines only. Table games will be opened at a later date. Charity volunteers are only required when table games are open, so no volunteers are required in casinos at this time. We expect that since the casino table games have closed for more than 3 months, that our volunteer dates will be delayed by at least the same amount of time. This means that since our dates were originally for the end of June, we are not expecting new dates until the end of September or later.

We have also been told that there will be temporary changes for volunteers: 1) there will be fewer volunteers required, and 2) volunteers will be required to wear PPE (Personal Protection Equipment – e.g. Face masks). There may be other changes required as well. We will keep you posted as we hear more information.

Budget Update

As mentioned in the May/June newsletter, over the past several years, Calgary Branch has benefitted greatly from participating in Casinos. The money from casinos has been used to fund classroom spaces, for workshop support, event funding, and membership for RSCDS Main branch in Scotland to mention just a few items.

As you know, the casino scheduled for June 29/30 was postponed. This meant the Board has done a lot of work to reconsider our budget for the 2020-21 year and beyond. We are now close to finalizing the 2020-2021 budget and will provide more information later in August. Please know the Board is working with the Calgary Branch Groups to ensure Scottish Country Dancing will be sustainable in the Calgary area long into the future.

Calgary Class News/Summer Dancing

For the time being, all in person classes will continue to be cancelled due to safety concerns related to the corona virus and the need for social distance.

Tuesday Virtual Classes

Luckily this is not the end of dancing this summer. Many thanks to Sharon Barker and her work to offer virtual classes. She has been sending weekly dance lessons and will continue to do so during the summer. If you have not been receiving emails from Cross and Thistle, please contact Sharon at strathspeysharon@hotmail.com

FROM 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>

This is a new link, so if you have already been participating in the Wednesday classes from HQ, you will need to use this new link.

RSCDS Summer Event

From the Dance Scottish newsletter:

We cannot re-create the magic of a Summer School in Scotland on-line, but we are hosting a virtual celebration of Scottish dance from 27-31 July. Each evening there will be classes, music, talks, pictures, and the chance to “chat” with friends as we share some of the enjoyment of Scottish dancing. The finale to the week on Saturday, 1 August, will be a dance playlist chosen by our members.

As with our weekly online classes, this celebration will feature internationally renowned teachers and there will be special contributions from the Teacher’s Association Canada, New Zealand branch and other countries where RSCDS schools should have been happening. In addition, a series of music workshops will be running throughout the weekend and there will be activities for children on our website.

As we get ready for [A Summer Celebration](#), we’d love to receive your photo views from Dancing Schools and Weekends that you have attended – Summer Schools, Winter Schools, Spring Flings, and International Weekends – we would like to share these photos across the week.

If anyone in Calgary has photos to share please refer to the Dance Scottish newsletter that can be found at www.rscds.org to do so. Information on how to join the evening sessions can be best accessed there.

What type of presentations might there be at this Virtual Summer School? We know of one, for sure. Sharon Barker will be making a short presentation on the Drewry Project that she is chairing for TAC!

Out-of-Town Events

Other Scottish Country dance groups around the country are facing the same issues with the Corona virus and the need to halt all events. At this time, the only event that might still be on is the Gleneagles ball.

The 57th Annual Gleneagles Ball – Sunday, December 13, 2020

Please joins us in the grand Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver at 1:30pm. This elegant event includes a lavish luncheon buffet, dancing to the acclaimed Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and a decadent dessert buffet following the dance. For more information go to rscdsgleneagles.org

Board of Directors 2019-2020

President: Nancy Laing - president@rscdscalgary.org

Vice President - Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Ann Longair – newsletter@rscdscalgary.org

Treasurer: Freda Osborne - treasurer@rscdscalgary.org

Secretary: Karen McKenzie - secretary@rscdscalgary.org

Membership Secretary: Sheree Iffla - membership@rscdscalgary.org

Website Editor & Teacher Rep: Sharon Barker - crossandthistle@hotmail.com

Other Board Members: Michael Begg, Mona Baker, Debby Henderson, Duane Martin, Bill Mulloy, Graham Sewell

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!!

Ann Longair, Former Vice President RSCDS Calgary Branch

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