



September 2020 Newsletter

Annual General Meeting – 7 for 7:30 PM September 26th, 2020

The AGM for the RSCDS Calgary Branch will be held virtually via a Zoom meeting at 7:30 PM, September 26th, 2020. Sign-in to the meeting will begin at 7 PM to facilitate beginning the meeting itself at 7:30. The Board decided that an in-person meeting was inappropriate at this time. The link to join the AGM meeting was given in the “Notification of AGM” email that was sent to all members on Sept. 3. There was also a phone number provided for those without internet access. If you do not receive branch emails or have other concerns, please contact the Branch secretary: Karen McKenzie - secretary@rscdscalgary.org.

The Board has extended 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.

Branch AGM Test-Practice Virtual Meeting – 4:00 PM September 19th, 2020

If you are not familiar with using Zoom to attend meetings – we are hosting a practise session one week prior to the AGM. This will give everyone a chance to get use to the process to join meetings, using microphones, voting etc. It will also provide an opportunity to virtually mingle with dancing friends that we have not seen in way too long. The link for this practise meeting is also in the “Notification of AGM” that was sent to all members Sept. 3. You will need to download the “Zoom Cloud Meeting” app to your device (laptop, tablet, smartphone) before the meeting if you intend to join from the internet.

Message from Nancy Laing, President

Impact of COVID-19 on Scottish Country Dancing in the Fall of 2020: I’m sure you, like me, are missing your weekly Scottish Country Dancing fix and our Scottish Country Dancing friends, and I’m sure you, like me, are anxious to dance again together as soon as possible. You may imagine, that much discussion has taken place around the Branch Board table discussing the impact of the pandemic. After much research and deliberation, the Calgary Branch Board has decided not to offer the Branch beginner classes or any other Branch dancing events in the fall of 2020 in light of the pandemic. The decision to suspend classes and events applies to Branch-run classes and events only. Each individual dance group will need to determine if/when they will start back with physical classes, so please contact your dance group rep or teacher to find out what your group is planning. This newsletter also includes the latest information that we

have from each of the nightly dance groups and we will keep the website up to date as we learn more.

Managing the Calgary Branch Budget for the long haul: Calgary Branch has benefitted greatly from Casino funding for almost 10 years. Casino funding has been used for weekly classroom rental support, member workshop support, event funding, and membership for RSCDS Main branch in Scotland to mention just a few items. With the casino scheduled for June 29/30 being postponed due to the pandemic and a future date still in question, the Calgary Branch has rolled up its sleeves and created a sustainable plan without Casino funding for this year, and with reduced Casino funding for the 2 following years. The good news is the Branch is currently in good shape financially and the approved 3 year budget will ensure support for Scottish Country Dancing in the Calgary Branch Area for the long haul. Here are the highlights:

Support for hall rentals for weekly classes will be the top priority for any remaining Casino funds and for future Casino funds as they become available.

As the Branch deems it safe to resume Branch classes, Beginner classes will be offered but we will look for ways to combine these with existing classes to help save on hall rentals.

- As the Branch deems it safe to resume Branch events, Branch area events such as Hogmanay, dances and workshops will resume, but must operate on a break even basis until Casino funds are available again.
- Support for teacher training and support for members to attend workshops in the province is suspended. We will look for opportunities for the newly trained teachers to teach on a regular basis to continue to develop their skills for the future.
- The payment of the HQ fees with Branch membership will be maintained, but we do anticipate having to raise the price of Branch membership starting next year, to get closer to covering the cost of RSCDS HQ membership. This means your Calgary Branch membership will continue to be a great deal as it includes membership to RSCDS HQ as well.

Changing of the Guard: You may recall, in revising our Branch by-laws in 2014 the length of time anyone can serve on the Calgary Branch Board is limited to 5 years. This year, three board members reached that 5 year limit and will now be stepping off the board. They are Ann Longair (Past Vice President and Newsletter Editor), Freda Osborne (Past Treasurer) and Sharon Barker (Teacher Rep). On behalf of the Calgary Branch Board and membership, I would like offer a sincere thank-you to Ann, Freda and Sharon for their tireless, thoughtful and gracious service on the board. It is very much appreciated!! We will still be seeing Sharon regularly, as she has agreed to remain as Teacher's Rep for the Calgary Branch. Thank-you Sharon!

With the departure of these three, there have been new additions to the Board of Directors. Please welcome Bill Mulloy, Don Hunter and Barry Moore as our three newly appointed Directors-at-large. A big thank-you to all three for volunteering their services!

There has also been some shuffling of positions and the current board make-up is as follows:

President: Nancy Laing - president@rscdscalgary.org
Vice President: Debby Henderson
Secretary: Karen McKenzie - secretary@rscdscalgary.org
Treasurer: Mona Baker - treasurer@rscdscalgary.org (Mona will also be looking after the website.)
Newsletter Editor: Bill Mulloy – newsletter@rscdscalgary.org
Membership Secretary: Sheree Iffla - membership@rscdscalgary.org
Directors at Large: Michael Begg, Duane Martin, Graham Sewell, Don Hunter, Barry Moore
Teacher Rep: Sharon Barker - crossandthistle@hotmail.com

I look forward to the time when we can all dance together again. I very much miss seeing and dancing with all my lovely Scottish Country Dance friends. As my mother says, Scottish Country dancers are the nicest people in the world! I do hope to see some of you at virtual classes through the fall. Sharon Barker has been offering a virtual class every Tuesday night and it has been 'almost' the same as an in-person class – although my living room is certainly not as big as the halls we are all used to dancing in. Wishing you all good health until we can meet again and 'all dance a grand chain'!

Membership Renewal

Members are invited to renew their membership for the 2020/2021 season. 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)

Membership renewal information including online options is included on the branch website at <http://www.rscdscalgary.org/membership>.

For the health of Scottish Country Dancing in Calgary it is critical that members continue to support the branch during this difficult pandemic crisis.

Calgary Area Classes Update (Branch Supported)

- RSCDS Calgary Branch Beginner's Classes – suspended - there will be no Calgary Branch in person dancing events prior to December 31, 2020.
- St. Giles Scottish Country Dance Group - no classes will be held pending future update
- Cross and Thistle Scottish Dancers General Class – In person classes are suspended until October 31, 2020. The situation will be reassessed in October and then a decision made about November and December. 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
- Calgary Scottish Country Dance Society (St Barnabas) - AGM at St. Barnabas September 17, 2020 – Dancing TBA
- 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 -TBA
- St. Andrew-Caledonian Society -TBA
- Douglas Scottish Country Dance Club – no classes will be held pending future update
- Confederation Park +55 Activity Centre Classes – Confederation Park does have a Friday morning class listed for their members. See their website for details.

Virtual Dancing

For those of you that need a Scottish Country Dance fix and can't wait for in-person dancing to continue – there is virtual dancing opportunities as follows

- **Cross and Thistle** - Many thanks to Sharon Barker and her work to offer virtual classes. She has been sending weekly dance lessons and will continue into the fall. 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" Bi-Weekly Newsletters and Virtual Class Links** - <https://www.rscds.org/get-involved/dance-scottish-home>

SCD Events

Calgary Area Events - There are no Calgary Area SCD events that we are aware of, all in-person branch events prior to New Years have been cancelled.

Out-of-Town Events

The 57th Annual Gleneagles Ball – Sunday, December 13, 2020 - For more information go to <https://rscdsgleneagles.org>. As of August 31 the Gleneagles Ball in Vancouver is still on – they intend to make a final decision at the end of September.

Cancelled Events

Calgary and Area Events:

- St. Andrew Caledonian Society Scots Gathering – October 9-11, 2020 - <https://calgaryscots.org/>
- Calgary Highland Games – September 5, 2020
- Canmore Highland Games – September 6, 2020

Events further afield that have also been cancelled:

- RSCDS San Francisco Branch “Asilomar Workshop – October 30-November 1, 2020 – information at <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>
- International Branch Workshop and Tour in Argentina in September 2020
- RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch Workshop in October 2020
- New Zealand Summer School in December/January 2020/2021

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

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/UCgd3QkrXFKAxufxF1ySRWg> - 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.denissnowdon.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