

Musings of a Teacher

As many of the Nanaimo Dancers know the Victoria RSCDS disbanded at the end of June 2012 after being part of the Victoria's Scottish dancing scene since 1973.

Their decline in membership is part of a trend which is occurring worldwide as Scottish Country dancing seems less popular than in years gone by.

The promotion of our great hobby and the introduction of new dancers are vital to the continuity of dancing, especially outside of the UK.

As we see smaller communities (including Nanaimo, Chemainus, Port Alberni, Qualicum and Courtenay) lose members we also see how these groups are affected by the commitment and dedication of their teachers.

All groups – Nanaimo included – need to be encouraging future teachers to consider the skills needed and training to become teachers of Scottish Country Dancing.

There are programs and training classes available in Vancouver to prepare prospective teachers to gain their certificates.

Here are some of the attributes needed by a teacher:

- A good personal level of dancing
- Maintaining your own dancing skills through workshops and events where teachers share ideas.
- Being able to analyze and provide different approaches to meet the variety of ways people learn.
- Being familiar with all SCD terminology and formations
- Being comfortable in front of a class
- Having time to prepare and research suitable material
- Making dancing fun and interesting
- Being enthusiastic about the music, intellectual and physical exercise provided through dance.

Today more than ever people have enormous options for their recreational time.

Encouraging young and older people to try Scottish Country Dancing takes all of us to be ambassadors if we want a prosperous and thriving club.

See you on the dance floor.

Hazel MacDonald