

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Vancouver Branch**

**BRANCH AWARDS**

**July 19, 2010**

**RSCDS**

The Branch Awards are made by the RSCDS and were initiated by them in 2004.

The Branch decides on the Award and RSCDS HQ expects to issue a Branch Award Certificate based on a Branch recommendation within 2 weeks of receiving a Branch request.

The guidelines established by the RSCDS for granting these Awards are (words in italics are exact quotes):

- 1) Applicants must have given outstanding service to a Branch or to Scottish Country Dancing generally in the locality of a Branch.
- 2) Recipients of the Award will have:
  - a) upheld the objectives of the Society over a period of years
  - b) shown sustained and exceptional commitment to the promotion of Scottish Country Dancing
  - c) been responsible for some notable achievements in relation to Scottish Country Dancing and/or its music
- 3) *Posthumous nominations will not be considered*
- 4) *The recipient of a Branch Award may already have been presented with the Award by another Branch, provided service which led to the first Award is not considered in determining whether another Award is deserved.*

Observations and additional information:

- 1) The above guidelines do not specify that a recipient must be a Branch member or even a member of RSCDS.
- 2) It is not clear that all the criteria in 2) above must be met or just any one.
- 3) RSCDS states: *The exact qualifying criteria for the Branch Award, the procedures for nominating an individual, couple or group for the Award and determining who should receive it and the circumstances for presenting the Award are a matter for individual Branches.*
- 4) *The names of Branch Award recipients will be published by the Society.*

## **VANCOUVER BRANCH GUIDELINES**

Generally a Branch Award will be made to both well-sung heroes and unsung heroes who have contributed to the Branch beyond the ordinary call of duty. They must have contributed to the enjoyment and excellence of Scottish Country Dancing and its music, at the Branch, in at least one of the following ways:

- 1) Innovation and/or growth including new programs.
- 2) Prestige and/or standards of excellence.
- 3) Significant contribution to the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing and the happiness of others.
- 4) Significant and/or extensive administrative service.
- 5) Significant financial contribution.

Specifically:

- 1) Recipients must meet **the** guidelines established by RSCDS for the granting of Branch Awards.
- 2) Recipients must be current Branch Members but this requirement may be waived in unusual or exceptional circumstances.
- 3) Recipients must have been associated with the Vancouver Branch for a minimum of ten years. In very special circumstances, this time period might be reduced.
- 4) An Award to a recognized group may be considered.
- 5) Board Members are not eligible to be nominated during their term of office.
- 6) In order to maintain prestige, not more than one Award should be made each year, but there is no requirement that an Award must be made in any one year.
- 7) Confidentiality is necessary throughout the entire nominating and selection process since discussion will often occur about names, merits and comparisons.

## **VANCOUVER BRANCH PROCEDURE**

- 1) Once a year, in September, a notice shall be included in the Newsletter and placed on the Branch Website explaining the guidelines and procedures for Branch Awards. Nominations will be received annually between October 1st and November 30th.
- 2) In October of each year, the Board shall appoint a Branch Awards Committee of three Branch Members, of which no more than one may be a serving Board Member, and none of whom shall have nominated or seconded one of the candidates.
- 3) A copy of the Branch Awards guidelines and a current Membership list shall be given to each Committee member to assist them in the selection process.
- 4) The Board shall consider whether there are other Branch Members deserving of a nomination for a Branch Award, and will present the nomination(s) to the Committee

between the time from which such Committee is appointed and November 30th of the same year.

- 5) The Committee shall receive the nominations, and ensure that they conform to HQ and Branch guidelines. The Committee shall consider the merits of all Branch Members and after doing so may add their own recommendation. The Committee may request additional information as required to support the nomination(s). The Committee will report its recommendations, either eligible or ineligible, to the Board, by January 1st of the following year.
- 6) On receipt of the Committee recommendations the Board shall then, in camera, review the information and select the recipient of a Branch Award based on the following criteria:
  - a) In the event of more than one nomination the candidate considered the most meritorious will be selected, but it is not necessary that any nomination be selected.
  - b) Acceptance requires the approval of not less than 75% of Board Members.
- 7) The Corresponding Secretary shall:
  - a) Inform nominators and Committee members of the decision of the Board.
  - b) Send the information to Edinburgh and request that Award certificates be prepared and sent to the Corresponding Secretary.
- 8) The Awards shall be presented, if possible, at an event where many local Branch Members will be able to see the presentation.

Adopted by the RSCDS Vancouver Board on July 19, 2010