

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Vancouver Branch**

BRANCH AWARDS

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 all guidelines established by RSCDS for the granting of Branch Awards.
- 2) Recipients must be current Branch Members but this criteria 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.

VANCOUVER BRANCH PROCEDURE

- 1) Twice a year, in June and September, a notice shall be included in the Newsletter and placed on the Branch Website asking for written, substantiated, signed and supported (i.e. nominated and seconded) applications to be mailed or e-mailed to the Corresponding Secretary by October 31 of that year.
- 2) Confidentiality is necessary throughout the entire selection process since discussion will often bring up names, merits and comparisons.
- 3) The Board shall appoint a Subcommittee of 3 Board or non-Board Branch Members, none of whom shall have nominated or seconded one of the candidates. This Subcommittee shall receive the nominations, ensure that they conform to HQ and Branch guidelines and report its recommendations, either eligible or ineligible, to the Board.
- 4) The Board shall meet in camera to discuss the recommendation received from the Subcommittee and consider whether there are other Branch members who should be nominated. The Board will decide whether additional information is needed with respect to any such Board nomination and see that this is obtained. The reasons for this extra step are two-fold:

- a) Board members who come from many local clubs have a wider perspective of the work and contributions in their area, especially of those who contribute extensively but in a quiet and unobtrusive manner.
 - b) The effort to prepare a nomination, to research the necessary information, to get it written and to deliver it on time may deter Members from taking the time to submit a nomination. Thus there will be Members who are worthy of an Award who do not have anyone to submit a nomination for them.
- 5) The Board shall then, in camera, select those nominations to receive a Branch Award.
 - 6) The Corresponding Secretary shall:
 - a) Inform nominators of the decision of the Board and the reason for ineligibility, if appropriate.
 - b) Send the information to Edinburgh and request that Award certificates be prepared and sent to the Corresponding Secretary.
 - 7) The Awards shall be presented, if possible, at an event where many local Members will be able to see the presentation.

Adopted by the RSCDS Vancouver Board on December 5, 2009
Replaces the documents “Guidelines for Making Branch Awards”, dated August 27, 2005
and “Proposal for Processing Branch Awards”, dated May 2, 2009