



Surrey Folk Dancers "Folk Dance by the Beach Retreat 2017"

By Annie Kaps

Camp Alexandra was established in 1918 by the Alexandra Orphanage of Vancouver as a summer retreat for disadvantaged youth. Large numbers of children would arrive by train for their summer camp week at Surrey's Crescent Beach.

Camp Alexandra (Alexandra neighbourhood House) the weekend of October 13-15, 2017, however, saw folk dancers arriving for an autumn retreat at Surrey's Crescent Beach. Beautiful sunny fall weather greeted them as they anticipated dancing at "Folk Dance by the



Beach" and joyfully sharing folk music performed by "Folk Voice" of Seattle.

Surrey International Folk Dancing Society hosted the retreat which saw registrants---along with Lower Mainland dancers---from Korea, Ottawa, Washington, plus Vancouver, Saltspring and Gabriola Islands.

To enjoy the locale, some walked along the beach and others rose early to participate in bird watching.

A celebration of Canada 150 was held on Friday evening, with Canadian dances showcased and a birthday cake being shared.

Saturday evening commemorated the forty years of folk dancing in Surrey with old-time favourites being featured. Volunteers provided after-dinner-entertainment.

In fact *all* the dance instruction, educational presentations, band music, videography, photography were volunteered. City of Surrey, under their Cultural Grants Programme, and the Arts Council of Surrey provided some financial assistance.

Last fall, a "Folk Dance in the Forest Retreat" was hosted by Surrey International Folk Dancing Society in Mission, B.C. and its success provided the impetus to host this second retreat.