

VFSS RETREAT SCHEDULE FRIDAY, Sept. 25th 2026

	Alexandra Hall	Lodge Upstairs	Lodge Downstairs
4:30 pm	Registration Begins		
6:00 – 7:00	LIGHT SUPPER (Dining Room)		
7:30 – 9:30	WELCOME SONG CIRCLE		
9:45 – approx. 11:30 Snacks provided in Lodge kitchen	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*

* **Reservable** spaces – Sign up on-site with Lynn Applegate for a reservable space if you would like to host any type of song circle, jam session, etc. Unreserved spaces may be used for open jamming or singing.

The Media Room is not available to us; **DO NOT ENTER**

Song Circles – Direction of rotation is at the discretion of the session leader.

Sign-up Info for Hat Bands and Saturday Concert – Hat Band sign-up (put your name in the basket at the desk) will continue until **12:30 pm on Saturday**. Hat Band groupings will be chosen & announced at lunch on Saturday before the group photo. Sign-up sheet for the Saturday evening concert will be posted ON A TABLE in Alexandra Hall at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday** and remain up until **2:00p.m or full, whatever happens first.** Each concert slot will be **5** minutes long and group collaboration is encouraged. We also are looking for a pre-amble act before the start of the concert which will be clearly marked on the sign-up sheet.

NOTE: A quote from our contract with the camp states that, “Surrey noise by-law prohibits music/loud noise before 8:00 a.m and after 10:30 p.m.” We have never, to our knowledge, ever had a complaint about noise from our camp nights in the past, but it is perhaps prudent to consider keeping the volume moderate after 10:30 p.m.

VFSS RETREAT SCHEDULE SATURDAY, Sept. 26th 2026

	Alexandra Hall	Lodge Upstairs	Lodge Downstairs
8:00 – 9:15	BREAKFAST (Dining Room)		
9:30 – 10:50	Canadian Women in Folk Celebrate Canadian women in folk music through stories, songs, and unique perspectives of Canada's rich heritage. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Heidi Harmer & Tiffany Kuhlmann	Undeservedly-Lesser-Known Canadian Songs Hidden gems tucked away in old folk albums, old memories, or newly found treasures. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Roger Holdstock	Fun to Sing! Bring songs that are fun to sing together, because of interlocking parts, flamboyant delivery, or animal sounds. Not necessarily kids' songs, but kids are welcome. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Christina Ray & Friends
11:00 – 12:20	Songs by Canadian Songwriters Canadian songwriters that are poetic, introspective, and full of local colour (songbooks available to borrow or for purchase) <i>Sing-along led by</i> Betty McBurney, Henry Vaughan, & David Jackson	Mining Songs Mining songs are tunes that carry the grit of digging deep into the earth in the dark, damp tunnels of old mines, where miners sang to keep their heads clear, to pass the time, or to tell stories of danger, loss, and resilience. <i>Presentation led by</i> Pat Howard & Gillian Hobbs	World Music: Songs from Elsewhere Pack your bags with non-English songs and we'll go on a world tour. Share songs from other cultures and traditions, and let's see how musically diverse we can get. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Barry Truter
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH (Dining Room) — HAT BANDS Announced		
1:45 – 2:00	GROUP PHOTO		
2:10 – 3:20	Shanty Sing-along Join the crew for rousing sea shanties, foot-stomping fun, and good company! <i>Sing-along led by</i> Bevan Bartlett & Dylan Brown	1000 Years of Popular Music Based on the show by Richard Thompson, we will travel through time and revisit ancient “popular” music (mostly what today we call “folk”) <i>Presentation led by</i> Graham Baldwin	Good Song Hunting Tell us how you hunt down songs you like to sing. What are your hunting tools? Share your hunting secrets. <i>Song circle led by</i> The Re:Sisters
3:30 – 4:40	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*
4:45 – 6:00	HAT BANDS PRACTICE TIME		
6:00 – 7:00	DINNER (Dining Room)		
7:30 – 9:45	CONCERT (followed by snacks in the Lodge kitchen)		
10:00 – approx. 11:30	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*	Reservable for jamming or unscheduled sessions on-site*

VFSS RETREAT SCHEDULE SUNDAY, Sept. 27th 2026

	Alexandra Hall	Lodge Upstairs	Lodge Downstairs
8:30 – 9:30	BREAKFAST (Dining Room)		
9:40 – 11:00	Front Porch Roundup - Bluegrass and Gospel Step onto a wooden porch, where music <i>radiates the jubilant energy of bluegrass</i> and uplifting harmonies of gospel filling the air. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Bob Jackson & Friends	Heroes, Villains, and Anti- Heroes in Folk Songs Every great ballad needs a listener, and every folk hero needs a voice. Bring a favorite song to share, sing along, and help us unpack some of the legendary characters of folk music. <i>Song circle led by</i> Mary Armitage	Ineffable Traditional Folk Songs This workshop aims to describe the indescribable, answering the question: What is the essence of our favorite traditional folksongs? What do they say to us reaching up through the centuries? <i>Song Circle led by</i> Jim Edmondson
11:10 – 12:40	Phil Ochs and other Labour Songs We will sing about the stories of labour strikes, union rallies, and everyday heroes who build and moved the world. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Lucien Lawley	Songs of BC History Join us on a wild, colorful journey through the soul of the diverse history of British Columbia. <i>Song Circle led by</i> Brian Robertson	Writing Songs in a Traditional Style Learn to write songs in the old way, with words and tunes similar to those passed down through generations. <i>Presentation led by</i> Tim Readman
12:50 – 1:00	CLOSING SONG CIRCLE & GOODBYES		
1:00 – 2:00	LUNCH (Dining Room)		
2:00 – 2:45	FINAL CLEANUP — Please bring garbage/recyclables to Alexandra Hall		
<i>Thank you for taking part in the Retreat. Please make sure you take ALL your belongings. And may you have a good, safe, song-filled journey home.</i>			