

From: VFSS Notices notices@vfss.ca
Subject: Retreat Sessions Schedule is ready!
Date: August 31, 2026 at 3:06 PM
To: VFSS Notices notices@vfss.ca

VN

The Vancouver Folk Song Society's 2026 Retreat is being held from Friday, September 26th, 4:30 pm, to Sunday, September 27th, 2:30 pm, at Camp Alexandra in Crescent Beach, BC. **There will be how-to workshops, presentations, song circles, singalongs, the ever popular Hat Bands, the Saturday evening concert, and the usual late-night jams and singing sessions.**

**** NOTE **** The last day to be eligible for the **early-bird rates** has been extended to Saturday, September 5th. **The final deadline for registration this year is 12:00 noon on September 17th.** You can find the registration form attached below or pick up the form at the next Wednesday Night Folk evening on September 2nd.

The **Retreat Sessions Schedule** is now complete and attached below, so check it out! A huge THANK YOU goes to our many session leaders who are the backbone of the Retreat, and a big WELL DONE to Lynn Applegate, our Sessions and Schedule Organiser for 2026. As well as putting together our usual schedule, this year she has organized spare time for the last time slot on Saturday afternoon. Anyone interested leading a spontaneous session during that time is to check in with Lynn first so she can allocate the most appropriate room. The same applies to after the Friday night song circle and Saturday night after the concert.

Once again, here's a special message for our American friends: We understand that this is not an easy time, but please know that you are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome at Camp Alexandra. We do hope that you will join us this year.

This year, we welcome a new member to our Retreat Committee, Heidi Harmer. Heidi is a familiar, friendly face at the Quaker Hall and has often been a host as well as a talented performer. For the 2026 retreat, she has taken on the role of Family Welcome and Support. Anyone who has any questions about the services and conditions at the camp pertaining to the needs of young children (including babies and toddlers) can contact Heidi at heidi_harmer@hotmail.com. She will also be available on-site as a point of contact.

The Retreat Committee sends a big thank you to those who have made donations to the retreat bursary fund. Application for bursaries is encouraged and simply consists of filling in that portion of the registration form. Email our registrar, Steve Deering, at registrar@vfss.ca if you need help in how to get the most economically friendly deal for families, or if you have any other questions.

IMPORTANT REMINDER for those who have registered: If for any reason you are not able to attend, please let us know as soon as possible by email to registrar@vfss.ca.

Come join us for a great weekend of sharing songs, socializing, fine food, laughter, workshops, song circles, jamming, a concert, and impromptu unplugged, acoustic music everywhere!

Heated cabins, rooms, and dorms and hot showers. Large fenced play areas for children. Please note that it is VERY IMPORTANT that you indicate on the Registration Form YES or NO for the Friday supper. If you do not indicate YES, we cannot guarantee you a meal when you arrive. All daytime meals are catered by camp staff, but the Friday and Saturday evening snacks are provided by the Vancouver Folk Song Society, for your enjoyment.

Upon your arrival, you will be assigned accommodation. We do our best to try and provide non-snoring rooms/cabins but, alas, there are attendees who swear they do not snore — but they do!! We would ask you to please bite the bullet on Friday night and remain in your assigned accommodation. It is both disturbing and unsafe for other campers to have Retreat attendees wandering around the camp at night because they are dissatisfied with their billet. If you have a problem with your accommodation, see our Housing Officer on Saturday morning and we shall do our best to meet your needs. We will have a supply of earplugs available and strongly advise all camp attendees to read up on measures they can take to try and deal with this situation themselves (in a calm and respectful way, hahaha!).

BRING sleeping bag, pillow, sheet (to cover plastic mattress), towel, water bottle or mug, instruments and music, and earplugs for shared accommodations (if you prefer your own). For those who are sensitive to the lack of thickness of the mattresses, we recommended that you bring extra bedding with you (a duvet, more blankets, or even a camping pad or air mattress). **LEAVE BEHIND** pets (unless it is a support animal and you have been given the OK to bring it), drugs, and unregistered guests/visitors. No Smoking on site.

For singers, musicians, and people who like to sing with others. All ages welcome. Hope to see you there!

— The VFSS 2026 Retreat Committee
Mary Armitage, Steve Deering, Lynn Applegate, Maureen Hannah, and Heidi Harmer

Retreat 2026 Registration Form
.pdf
168 KB



Retreat 2026 Registration Form
.doc
50 KB



Retreat 2026 Sessions Schedule
.pdf

