



Ballroom Dance Society

# Silver Slipper

April 2008

## The President's Corner

Be Open to New Experiences! *by Stephen Gower*

It is hard to believe that "Island Fantasy Ball – 2008" is almost upon us. Our hard working and dedicated committee is putting the finishing touches on what will be another stellar event. It is amazing that a society with as small a membership as NBDS can put on a competition like the IFB. And to have done it for the last 16 years is even more amazing. Our showcase dancers this year are the World Professional 10 Dance vice Champions – Iveta Lukosiute and Gherman Mustuc. Another feast will be provided by "Spice of Life" to those with dinner tickets. Our \$ 75 and \$ 55 dinner tickets are one of the best bargains around so get your tickets early as we are projecting another sell out.

This is the year that I would like to invite all members who haven't competed to try newcomer Latin and/or standard dance competition. I know, you are thinking "What? Has Stephen lost his mind? Compete at my age?" Well, yes, that is exactly what I mean. Everyone who has danced for several years knows enough to get out on the dance floor and give competitive dancing a try. Just come to our NBDS practice sessions (at Nanoose and Bowen) and get a feeling for the size of the dance floor. Talk to one of our fine dance teachers if you want to put a simple routine together or just do it yourself. I don't guarantee you will win but you will make memories you will savour all the rest of your lives. Be open to new experiences!

Ok, maybe you have a really good reason why you can't compete. That doesn't mean you can't get to know some of the competitors by offering to billet a couple of needy dancers. We have requests for billeting coming in and so far only one kind and generous couple has responded.

The Island Fantasy Ball is your Competition so be part of making it a success by getting involved. To those members who are already part of the IFB family, I would like to extend a hearty thank you for your help and let's make it the best Island Fantasy Ball ever!  
Best regards,

*Stephen*

## In The Comps *by Nelson Wong*

### Snowball Classic 2008

This year's 3-day Snowball Classic was easily the largest event in terms of competitors in Canada with over 20 countries represented by their top couples. Zillion and Sarah redeemed themselves from the disappointing results of the Grand Ball and fought their way to place 10th (top Canadian) in the IDSF International Open Standard beating the UK 10 Dance rep Richard Still and Morgan Hemphill (11th) and the top Quebec couple Pavel Lebedev and Catherine Robillard (13th).



Zillion and Sarah also placed 17th (3rd highest Canadian and top in BC) in the IDSF International Open Latin. Fred & Barbara also participated at the Snowball and came 6th in Senior Bronze and 11th in Senior Standard.

## Canadian Closed Championships 2008

The Canadian Closed Championships (CCC) are held on the Easter weekend each year. They were held this year at the World Trade and Convention Center in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We left Vancouver on a mild First Day of Spring and arrived in Halifax with a shock seeing everywhere was still frozen solid with razor sharp wind. There went our ambitious sightseeing plan....

I have been bringing my camera with me to all competitions to keep myself occupied as attending many competitions could be quite monotonous. This year I was delighted to learn that I was invited as the Official DanceSport Photographer for the 2008 CCC.

Pinky and I have attended many CCC including the last six, and Halifax was the smallest city to hold such supreme national event so I was not expecting a big city production. On the contrary, this year CCC has unquestionably surpassed my expectations; congratulations to the CCC organizers.

The Adult Standard final has produced a new champion couple: Richard Tonizzo and Claire Hansen. Second were Anton Belyayev and Karolina Paliwoda, the current World 10-Dance finalists who fought every single step of the way to be Canada's best. Zillion and Sarah danced with the greatest attitude I have ever witnessed and placed a respectable fourth. Despite their great results, Zillion and Sarah were mildly disappointed by the fact that they were placed behind Pacha Lebedev and Catherine Robillard (3rd), the top Quebec couple, who they had beaten decisively at the Snowball just a month ago. I was exceptionally pleased with Zillion's and Sarah's dancing and it's encouraging to know that the national title is achievable for BC.

The Adult Latin competitions were vigorously contested as the top four couples were very comparable in terms of talent and strength. I would not be protesting if any one of the top four ended up being the Champions. Kamil Studenny and Kateryna Trubina, last year's Champions, danced with great confidence and defended their title for the second time. Anton Belyayev and Karolina Paliwoda were delighted to receive second place. Sharone Levit and Julia Zavadzka were apparently very disappointed with their third placing, and Maxim Fomin and Alina Litvak, the vice champions last year, received their fourth placing with tears. It was a very exciting as well as emotional Latin final.

International ballroom dancing has truly reached international status in Canada and the rest of the world. Many CCC finalists, especially top couples from Ontario, were "imported" to Canada to compete. Equipped with such strong army of Russian dancers, Ontario has for a few years now replaced Quebec as Canada's premier province in DanceSport. I would not be surprised if Zillion and Sarah were the only Canadian born couple amongst the Adult Standard Finalists.

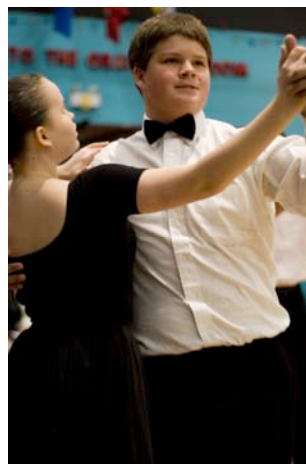
Zillion and Sarah did not make the Latin final but they were the only BC couple recalled back to the Semi. Congratulations to all the competitors at this the 2008 CCC in Halifax. For full results please visit [www.dancesport.ca](http://www.dancesport.ca) and to view 2008 CCC photos please check out my newly developed photography website [www.DanceSportImages.com](http://www.DanceSportImages.com).



Nanaimo's Christine Gossland and Kevin Fahy join the competitors' parade at the Grand Ball.



Forever Yung Dance Studio has a new group of young competitors placing in the Vancouver events. Dean Rimmer & Erin Yung (at left), Connor McLeod & Haley Breedlove, and Timmy Groenewold & Cailin Purvis (below) cleaned up in the juvenile and junior newcomer Latin and standard competitions at the Grand Ball.



*Nelson*

## Our Workshops

The next NBDS pre-dance workshop will be on April 19 at Nanoose and will feature Joyce & Dirk VanLeeuwen with the international slow foxtrot. Don't miss out on the chance to learn from our visiting professionals at the IFB workshops on May 4.

Coming up: Diane Gallagher will teach the rumba on May 17 at Nanoose, and Nelson Wong will present a jive workshop on June 6 at Bowen.

## Our Video Library

The dance club has been slowly building a video library over the years for the benefit of the membership. Videos can be a very helpful aid when practising at home. Videos are available (two at a time) at no charge to current NBDS members for a three-week period. See the current people to obtain a list of video titles, or contact Bruce at 754-1735 for details.

## Our Practices

Did you know that we host up to 15 practices per month to help you improve your dancing? Check the practice calendar on the web site: [www.ballroomnanaimo.ca](http://www.ballroomnanaimo.ca).

## Member News

### Cruising and Dancing by Andy Mundy

A few years ago Maureen and I were overheard talking about booking a cruise in England. Jo, a freestyle teaching colleague, said "Oh, no, don't pay for a cruise, you can go for free!" Knowing the price of cruises, curiosity got the better of me. "Mmmmm, how?" was my response. "You can teach dancing" she said, brightly and confidently.

I immediately retreated from that suggestion, thinking in terms of teaching 2000 plus passengers on a postage stamp sized dance floor which would never stay still, and doubting I was good enough to do it. After all, I had been used to teaching pupils I knew, on a very large dance floor, with the on call back up of the dance club and all its other teachers and facilities. This was a whole new ball game.

She convinced us. It didn't take much. She pointed out the value of the cruise; that we only had to teach in the morning and afternoon on sea days (days in port we were free to do as we choose); that it was only simple, social dancing we had to teach; that the dance floors on these particular ships were "huge"; that there were only 550 passengers on the ship; and that the cruise line only catered for the over fifties (no screaming kids, no discos, no slot machines – everything is so very civilized).

"Come and see the ship", she said. Between passenger disembarkation and embarkation, Jo showed us around. Okay, yes, the dance floor was huge, by cruise ship standards. We could never have danced a slow foxtrot, but waltz and quickstep were certainly possible.

We committed ourselves. I got some music together. Maureen gathered her cruising clothes. I packed my tux. Should we rehearse what we were to teach? No, it's just

basic steps. Except that a week before we were to join the ship, Jo dropped on us "Oh, by the way, you have to teach line dancing in the mornings."

Yee, ha! I do ballroom and Latin. I've never done a line dance in my life! The next week consisted of a crash course in the Electric Slide and Red Hot Salsa, with me scribbling incomprehensible notes at the same time as dancing to music I would never have allowed in the house, although I eventually came to admit the Dixie Chicks are not actually that bad.

So, first day on the cruise was at sea – teaching! After breakfast found Maureen and me on the upper deck (away from prying eyes) practising the Texas Stomp just so we could make out we knew what we were doing in the class. And make out we did. Not a hitch. Never put a foot wrong. Everyone enjoyed it. But then came the afternoon. Waltz, we decided. Nice and simple. 1, 2, 3. How hard is that? Everyone can do it. So they can, normally. Try putting your foot down exactly on the beat when the ship starts to roll and the floor just is not there! Try doing it slowly when showing a step and the floor comes up unexpectedly to meet you!



Well, we had fun, and that continued for the next two weeks, sailing up through the North Sea, visiting the Orkneys, Iceland, Spitsbergen, Norway's North Cape and down some fjords into Norwegian ports.

We met some wonderful people and, since then, have taught regularly, cruising to the Azores and Canaries, the Mediterranean and the Baltic. If you ever go on a cruise with a half decent sized dance floor, be sure to take your shoes with you and have some fun.

*Andy and Maureen*

## New Salsa Dance Venue

Chris Wood is now teaching salsa workshops to kick off salsa nights on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays each month at the new Basque restaurant at 489 Wallace Street in downtown Nanaimo. Check it out! Sara Raymond's last salsa dance of the Malaspina College year will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, April 13 at the Velvet Underground.

## Coming Events

### Island Fantasy Ball Saturday May 3

By the time you read this best seats may be sold out. But don't despair; there are still great values to be had. Check with ticket master Dave Stevenson to find out what seats are still available. The UK 10-dance champions, Gherman Mustuc and Iveta Lukosiute will not only present a fabulous show on Saturday night but will also teach 4 workshops starting at noon on Sunday, May 4. Check with Nelson Wong about private lessons available from other visiting professionals. See the IFB brochure or web site for details.

### Sock Hop June 6

The next NBDS theme dance at Bowen is featuring tunes from the 50's and early 60's. "Why is it called "sock hop"? -do I have to wear socks?" you might ask. Those who went to high school during the 50s and 60s will remember that street shoes were not allowed in the gym, so any dance was done in socks.

For our Sock Hop on June 6 normal dance shoes will be permitted (and please, no motorcycle boots!).



Free CD for the best 3 people dressed up as Elvis, or any other 50s legend.

### Newcastle Island Dance Camp

Mark your calendars for August 1 – 3, 2008. Tickets will go on sale at the end of April. If you would like to attend please email Gwen Spinks ([wannadance@shaw.ca](mailto:wannadance@shaw.ca)). There will be 10 workshops on a variety of social and ballroom dances and 3 dances included with the weekend pass for \$95 along with lunch, dinner and breakfast, camping and ferry.

## Dance Demonstrations

Did you know that some members of the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society (and some non-members) are willing to demonstrate the art and sport of ballroom dancing at community events? Here is a group that performed for the Canadian University Women at the Dorchester last year, taking advantage of the fixtures being stored in the hall.



## Monthly Dances

### Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nan.

**Next Dance: Friday, April 11, 2008**

7:00 Workshop

8:00 - 11: pm Dance

**Cost:** \$5 for workshop only; \$5 for dance only; \$7 for both

**Music:** Latin & Standard Ballroom

**Hosts:** Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Email: [evads@shaw.ca](mailto:evads@shaw.ca)

### NBDS "3rd Saturday" Dance at Nanoose Place Saturday, April 19

**7:30 Workshop: slow fox with Joyce and Dirk**

8:30 - 11:30pm dancing

**Music:** Latin & Standard Ballroom by John Maher

**Cost:** \$10 for members, \$14 for non-members with workshop; \$7 and \$11 after workshop

Next NBDS Nanoose dance May 18. 2008

### Oceanside Tea Dance

Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose

**Next Dance: Sunday, April 20, 2008**

2:00 - 4:30pm

**Cost:** \$7.50 includes tea, coffee and goodies

Great mix of standard and Latin

**Host:** Ken Yung [yungdance@live.ca](mailto:yungdance@live.ca)

### Parksville Legion Dance

146 West Hirst, Parksville (behind the Rod & Gun pub)

**Saturday, April 26** (4th Saturdays)

7:00 - 8:00 Workshop – by Andy Mundy

8:00 - 11:00pm Dancing

**Cost:** by donation (suggested \$10 per person)

**Music:** ballroom / Latin by Andy Mundy

**Host:** the Legion at 250-951-2646 or 250-248-5633

Email: [navyleagueballroom@hotmail.com](mailto:navyleagueballroom@hotmail.com)

### NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park, "Sock Hop" Friday, June 6, 2008

**7:30 Workshop: jive with Nelson Wong**

8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing

**Cost:** \$10 for members, \$14 for non-members with workshop; \$7 and \$11 after workshop

**Music:** Latin & Standard Ballroom by John Maher

The Silver Slipper is published occasionally by the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. The editor is John Maher ([johnmaher@shaw.ca](mailto:johnmaher@shaw.ca)). Please send any dance related news that you think would be of interest to NBDS members and guests. If you don't send something, we may have to make something up about you, which could be worse than not sending something in your own words. Please share your stories!

Thanks.

John