



**Ballroom Dance Society**

# Silver Slipper

**June 2008**

## ISLAND FANTASY BALL 2008

On May 3, 2008 the Society hosted the 16th Annual Island Fantasy Ball and the BC Closed Championships in standard and Latin ballroom dance. The professional show by Gherman Mustuc and Evite Lukosiute was fabulous, many Nanaimo area dancers did well in their competitions, and Zillion and Sara successfully defended their BC Closed Championship titles.

### **Zillion & Sara Still Champions**



Zillion Wong and Sara Liang demonstrated in style that they still have what it takes to be the best in BC, winning the BC Closed Championships in both the Latin and Standard divisions. In the standard championship they faced a strong field of competitors that included the veteran George Lindholm and Nanaimo's other rising star, Kevin Fahy. There were only two couples in the Latin

championship, perhaps an unfortunate result of a boycott by a Vancouver studio. The runners-up in both BC Closed Championships took the BC Closed Senior Championships: George Lindholm and Deborah Wong in standard and George and Wendy Pytlik in Latin.

### **Local Competitors Did Well**

A strong contingent of new dancers from Parksville-Qualicum filled out the pre-bronze and bronze events.



Timmy Groenewold & Cailin Purvis won the Jr. Bronze and Pre-bronze standard events and tied for first place in Jr. Bronze Latin. Connor McLeod & Haley Breedlove placed second in adult pre-bronze Latin and standard and tied for first in Youth Bronze Latin.



Jamie Patterson & Kimberly Linfitt won the newcomer Latin and tied for first in Youth Bronze Latin. Kevin Fahy and Melody Chan placed fifth in the BC Closed Standard Championship.

Many other NBDS members and other Nanaimo area dancers competed in their respective events. In the programs, Jane Walters did a fabulous performance with her



instructor, Nelson Wong, and Erin Yung (above, with partner Dean) stole the hearts of the audience with her dad and instructor, Ken Yung. Congratulations to all competitors!

### Great Show Highlight of IFB

Gherman and Evite were among the most delightful pro couples we have seen at the IFB. Evite demonstrated not only her ability to charm the entire audience but also an ability to stand and rest her foot on Gherman's shoulder as easily as most of us would rest an elbow.



Needless to say, their dancing was jaw-dropping spectacular.

The highlight to the home-town crowd was when Gherman invited Minnie Beaman to dance a cha-cha and she showed him a thing or two to wild applause. "I don't even get that kind of applause" said Evite back in the change room.



[All photos above by Nelson Wong]

### Other IFB 2008 Highlights

The Silver Slipper's intrepid reporter interviewed a scientific sample of IFB participants and asked each one "what was the highlight for you?"

*Competitor:* as someone who has competed across Canada, the IFB is the best for taking care of competitors. Nowhere else will all competitors be invited to a reception after the comp. The IFB provides a practice room with a good floor, and makes sure they can get from one event to the next with time to change. There are decent dressing rooms. With dinner and general dancing it is a fun event for everyone. I can tell you stories about all these things at other competitions; the IFB is the best!

*Member:* The highlight for me was when Gherman took Minnie out to dance during the pro show. Who knew that Minnie could burn the floor and cha cha with the best?!

*Committee member:* This IFB seemed to run more smoothly and we just seemed to enjoy it more than we have in the past. It was more relaxed,

*Participant:* The dinner was excellent! I saw some young people with huge plates of dessert, and they still did not run out – amazing!

*Instructor:* Seeing the huge smile on the face of Erin Yung as she danced with her dad was a highlight for me! It's great to see the next generation enjoying dancing.

*Treasurer:* Even though attendance was lower we still came out in the black; another successful IFB!



Congratulations to the entire IFB Committee (above) and all the volunteers who once again made the IFB a memorable occasion.

### In The Comps by Nelson Wong

After defending the BC Closed Championships again, Zillion and Sara have their sights on the Canadian title. Although officially standing in 4th place nationally, the first and second place couples are no longer competing, and Z&S are actually in a close race with an eastern couple that they have beaten previously.

Many Nanaimo area dancers will be competing at Dance Pacifica on June 14. Stay tuned for more results.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2007/2008 Year is almost over! Congratulations to all our membership. We have done it again. After our last AGM the various subcommittee's hit the decks a'runnin and haven't stopped yet.

For a society with as limited resources as ours it is amazing that we can put on an Anniversary, Christmas and New Years Eve events, host monthly dances at Bowen and Nanoose Centres, demo dance events and still find the energy and time to run two such labor intensive and complex events as the "Island Fantasy Ball" and "NewCastle Island" Dance Camp. All of this and we have survived 26 years as a club. Our membership is at an all time high and we have a comfortable bank account that allows us to put on major events without fear of a financial disaster in any one-year. We are even participating on June 6th in a joint initiative with Margaret Yung in a Jive Contest in the Schools. This is a project that Nelson as head of the DanceSport Committee has been working towards for several years. This is our future membership in the making!

What makes this possible? I believe it happens because as a Society we recruit talented and passionate individuals from our membership, assist them as required to gain additional skill sets and then empower them in their activities and make sure they have the resources and person- power needed to do the job.

One area that we have fallen short in as a Society is getting the membership on board for the "No Scents" policy. This policy is not just a local initiative; it is a North American wide battle in the fight against allergies due to toxic chemicals. The days of scents being created from flowers are long gone; today's scented product are the result of numerous chemicals that we thoughtlessly put on our skins. Certain odors, even in the smallest amounts, can trigger an attack in allergic and asthmatic patients. The severity of the symptoms varies from mild irritation to total incapacitation that results in giving up normal activities to avoid exposure. Unfortunately as we age, many of us lose our sense of smell and are totally unaware and sometimes affronted by the suggestion that our beloved scented products are a problem. After all we have worn them for years and it hasn't been an issue up to now! We all have to change how we think about this.

This is the time of year that I would like to invite all the members who have wanted to get more involved in the inner workings of NBDS to run for a Board position. I am sure that, as successful as we have been, many of you have wanted to see changes happen. They may be changes in governance at the Board level, or how we put on our events or host our monthly dances or how the major events are run. Well, changes happen from the inside. If you want change it happens by joining the Board or a Committee and working to facilitate the changes you want to see. Our Nomination Committee will soon be contacting the membership so come aboard and make things happen.

Thank you for all your help and best regards,

## Our Workshops

The next NBDS pre-dance workshop will be on June 21 at Nanoose Place. Andy Mundy will present a cha cha workshop.

## 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 door 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

### NBDS Canoe Club



An expedition of NBDS members took to the water during the May long weekend. John and Tina, Mike and Vicki, Bruce and Marilyn, Bill and Karen paddled from Brechin Point along Newcastle Channel and over to the beach near the pavilion. After checking out the pavilion they walked out to Kanaka Bay. Then it was off to dine and dance at the Dinghy Dock for 3 canoes while the Linfitts returned to Nanaimo. After a great repast and some jive and swing to the live band, the expedition walked around to the east side of Protection Island and dropped in on former NBDS treasurer Ralph Kirby (Ralph and Kate say hi to all).

### Health Issues Affect Dancing

Several members are on the "injury list" or otherwise not dancing of late. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Stephen and Leslie Tombs as Stephen continues his battle, and Helen Green who is recuperating from surgery. There are no doubt others as well.

One issue that continues to affect dancing for some otherwise healthy members is that some of us still smell worse than skunky to people with allergies to scents. Please remember to cut back or eliminate use of perfumes and colognes.

### **More Salsa Dances**

Chris Wood is now teaching salsa workshops to kick off salsa nights **every Thursday** at the Basque restaurant at 489 Wallace Street in downtown Nanaimo. Check it out!

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **NBDS Summer Picnic July 27**

This year we are going to revive an NBDS tradition, but with improvements. Instead of a pot luck at the tiny Departure Bay Kin Hut, where our summer picnic was held until 1998 (?) we are planning a catered lunch at the spacious and breezy Pavilion at Newcastle Island. Tickets will be on sale soon.

### **Newcastle Island Dance Camp**

The next dance camp will be held on August 1 – 3, 2008. Tickets went on sale May 1 and sold out quickly. We are keeping a wait list in case there are cancellations, and at press time there are still a few spaces for single men. If you would like to attend please email Gwen Spinks ([wannadance@shaw.ca](mailto:wannadance@shaw.ca)).

### **Old Time Dance Festival**

Dave and Norma are hosting 3 dances in a row in August. First they will dedicate their regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday dance to Old Time, then follow up with a Saturday night Old Time Dance at Departure Bay. Dave says that as soon as he announced the August 10 OTD tea dance at Newcastle, a bus-load of OTD fans from England booked their flights to come.

### **Newcastle Island Dances in August**

The Sunday afternoon dances at the Pavilion are stepping up a notch. Low attendance for “tea dances” while selling out for the dance camp last year made us re-think the approach. This year we are looking into adding more workshops and other improvements for the August 24 and 31 dances. Tickets will be on sale soon (contact John Maher for details).



## **MONTHLY DANCES**

### **NBDS "3rd Saturday" Dance at Nanoose Place Saturday, June 21, 2008**

**7:30 Workshop: Cha Cha with Andy Mundy**

8:30 - 11:30pm dancing

**Music:** Latin & Standard Ballroom by Andy

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

Next NBDS Nanoose dance July 19, 2008

### **Oceanside Tea Dance**

**Nanoose Place**, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose

**Next Dance: Sunday,**

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**, (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, Friday, July 4, 2008**

**7:30 Workshop: TBA**

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 Nelson

### **Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion**

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nan.

**Next Dance: Friday, July (no June dance)**

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)

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*