



**Ballroom Dance Society**

# Silver Slipper

**May 2009**

## Economic Miracle?

*By Stephen Gower*

While compiling our financial information, and forecasting that we will be in the red this year, someone said "we need a miracle". It is important to remember the brave path we have chosen to walk this past year. We have maintained the high standards at our monthly dances at the same time that we invited new folks to come and experience Nanaimo Ballroom's hospitality with our student passes. We kept our special event dinner dances and our New Years Eve party affordable, realizing that many of our members are finding their wallets a little lighter these days. Please do not forget that for the first time we have done a significant charitable act and with great effort from our members raised over \$4000 for Haven Society. This not only helped their bottom line (which is very important) but also raised the awareness of the awful abuse towards women and children that still goes on all around us. We have not balanced our budget on the backs of the instructors and contractors and businesses who put the icing on the NBDS cake with their caring and attention to detail. Instead we have all worked together as a family to get through these difficult times.

We have created a greatly improved Island Fantasy Ball that brought the best European 10 -dance Competitor to dice it out on the ballroom floor with our best Canadian dancers. And to the great pleasure of Nanaimo our very own Zillion and Sara came in second ahead of top dancers from the USA and the other Provinces. For many of the audience it was the first time they had ever been exposed to the wonders and beauty of top "World Class" amateur dancing.

We have not (as a Board) just crawled back into our cave, counted our money and waited for better economic times but we have done all we can (as caring people) to create pleasurable and uplifting moments for those who chose to join us and to get our community through these difficulties.

There are many ways to measure success other than strictly "bottom line". I am very proud of all of us and what we have done this year, I believe we have created a miracle.

Best regards, Stephen

## Sports BC Honours Nelson



Nelson Wong was one of 8 Nanaimo residents to receive the Sports BC Community Sports Hero award at a reception at the Coast Bastion on May 5. The Community Sport Hero® Awards presented by EnCana honour the outstanding sport volunteers in communities in British Columbia. The prestigious awards recognize coaches,

officials, mentors and administrators who have dedicated themselves to grow and develop amateur sport at the community level. Nelson was recognized for his dedication, contribution and volunteerism in DanceSport in Nanaimo in NBDS, leading the Island Fantasy Ball, teaching ballroom dancing to elementary and high school students and coaching children and competitive dancers. And of course, coming on the heels of the IFB, there were many fans who turned out to cheer Nelson on and enjoy the hospitality of Sports BC.



Nelson receives award from BC Gov't Minister Ron Cantelon, Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan, and SBC rep Amanda Froese



## Island Fantasy Ball 2009: Fantastic!

For the first time, the Island Fantasy Ball was a two-day event. The extra time allowed for new events which attracted a record number of competitors. The open international championship events attracted some of the best competitive dancers in the world. The high level of competition energized the entire weekend's events and left everyone overwhelmed by the outstanding dance performances.



Miha and Nadiya show their style at the IFB (all IFB photos courtesy of [DanceSportImages.com](http://DanceSportImages.com))

### **International Adult Open Standard**

1. Miha Vodigar & Nadiya Bychkova, Slovenia
2. Zillion Wong & Sara Liang, Canada
3. Simeon Stoynov & Kora Stoynova, USA

### **BC Closed Adult Standard**

1. Zillion Wong & Sara Liang, Nanaimo & Surrey
2. George Lindholm & Debra Wong, Vancouver & Maple Ridge
3. Kevin Fahy & Phoebe Gau, Nanaimo & Burnaby

### **International Adult Open Latin**

1. Miha Vodigar & Nadiya Bychkova, Slovenia
2. Tal Livshitz & Vlada Semenova, USA
3. Valeriy Cherkov & Maryana Dudchenko, Canada

### **BC Closed Adult Latin**

1. Valeriy Cherkov & Maryana Dudchenko, Coquitlam & Surrey
2. Michael Duong & Peony Yao, Vancouver & Richmond
3. Demitri Perera & Serena Dao, Vancouver

For all the results follow the link to the [Dance Results](#) page from the [IFB web page](#).



The International Open Standard Champions Miha and Nadiya, and BC Closed Standard Champions Zillion and Sara, compete in front of the delighted IFB audience.

Having not one but two Nanaimoans in the medals for the BC Closed Adult Standard was another first and an indication of the high level and quality of dancing in Nanaimo. Congratulations especially to Zillion and Kevin!



Miha and Nadiya samba to the Latin Open Champions; Valeriy and Maryana are the new BC Closed Latin Champions.

This IFB featured more events than ever before – a total of 49 competitions – both open and closed (limited to dancers registered in BC). Many of these were Senior I and II events that appeal to many adults over age 35.

The big gamble - having half the events on Sunday - turned out to be a big success. There was very good attendance and a great crowd to cheer on the competitors.

A highlight for NBDS was the first place finish by Stephen Gower and Elaine Thompson in the Senior II Bronze Standard and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior I. Way to go, Stephen and Elaine!



Mario and Nana of Edmonton added sizzle to the Latin Pre-championships and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> after Brandon Pedro and Anca Oala-Florescu of Burnaby and Wllie Wu and Callie Chan of Vancouver.



Simeon and Kora placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the International Open Standard and impressed everyone with a fabulous tango performance.

### Competitors' Viewpoints

- Miha Vodcar and Nadiya Bychkova, Slovenia: We have been dancing together for the last three years, but both started dancing at age 5 or 6. We dance for artistic presentation, not so much the athletic side as you see in some European countries. What the judges look for is often a mystery to us; we just love to dance the way we think best and let the judges decide.
- Anthony Chong and Gloria Chien, Vancouver: We enjoyed competing with the international couples as well as the local competitors in a world class field. The audience was very appreciative and enthusiastic and it was a pleasure dancing for them. I remember bowing and acknowledging their applause and seeing how genuinely happy they were to have us there. Everyone involved with IFB were so friendly and we were easily charmed by this small town with big hearts.
- Bryan Lundell and Kyla Ramsay, Edmonton: floorcraft is always interesting and sometimes things go wrong. Like at Snow Ball a few years ago...
- Kevin Fahy, Nanaimo: ... when I stepped on Kyla's dress and tripped and caused a wardrobe malfunction! Good thing we are all friends!

### Officials' Viewpoints

Pat Bovaird, Montreal: what judges really look for are musicality, footwork, energy level, overall presentation – the complete effect. You would expect a good level of floorcraft. "Of course it is completely subjective; if there was only one correct way to dance you would only need one judge."

Roland Michtchenko, Vancouver: the open Latin and standard events were the highlight of the IFB. The invited top competitors raised the level of all the events. And of course the buffet dinner is the best of all the BC competition events!



Bill and Jean Pennington and Beth and Brian Morgenstern were among the many NBDS members who competed in the Senior I and II events at many levels. Congratulations to all competitors!

There were no BC couples who competed in both Latin and standard championships or pre-championships. However there were 5 ten-dance couples from out of province, two from Edmonton.



Rising 10-dance stars to watch: Patrick Rucinski and Ella Nusenbaum (left), grade ten students from the Toronto area, and Tal Livshitz and Vlada Semenova (right) from New Jersey, looked great in both standard and Latin open championships.

For a story on the IFB by former BC Closed Champion Clara Shih see their web site at <http://jcdanceco.com>.

## Monthly Dances

### **NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park, Next Dance: June 5, 2009**

7:30 Workshop: Swing by David Seath  
8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing  
Music: Latin & standard ballroom by Ed Hong

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

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nanaimo.  
Next Dance: Friday, June 12, 2009  
Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669  
Email: [evads@shaw.ca](mailto:evads@shaw.ca)

### **NBDS "Third Saturday" at Nanoose**

**Next Dance: June 20, 2009**  
7:30 Workshop: Hustle by Keith and Holly Foraie  
8:30 - 11:30 Dance  
Music: Latin & Standard ballroom by Norm Whelpdale

### **Milonga at Norm's Place**

Next dance: Sunday June 21 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm  
Cost: \$7  
Music: 90% Argentine tango  
Host: Gwen Spinks ([wannadance@shaw.ca](mailto:wannadance@shaw.ca))

### **NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park, Next Dance: July 3, 2009**

7:30 Workshop: Slow Fox by Ted & Barbara Barnett  
8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing  
Music: Latin & standard ballroom by Barbara Barnett



One of the best aspects of the 2-day IFB was being able to sit down and relax before 3:00 a.m. Officials, competitors and volunteers clean up leftovers during takedown on Sunday afternoon .

## Newcastle Dances Coming Up Soon

Most of the Sunday Afternoon Dances at the Newcastle Island Pavilion have now been pencilled in. This is the time to think about inviting friends from away to visit Nanaimo and take in a dance at Newcastle. The dance themes and hosts planned to date are as follows.

Date	Theme	Host/Instructor/DJ
5-Jul-09	Swing and Ballroom	Brian Hicks + Alet Devitt
12-Jul-09	Ballroom Favourites	Brian Gaines + Mildred Shaw
19-Jul-09	Argentine Tango	Gwen Spinks
26-Jul-09	NBDS Summer Picnic (and ballroom dance)	Nelson Wong
2-Aug-09	Latin and Ballroom: salsa & bachata	Warren Scott
9-Aug-09	TBA	TBA
16-Aug-09	Old Time Sequence Dance	Dave & Norma Stevenson
23-Aug-09	TBA	TBA
30-Aug-09	50s Sock Hop (ballroom and social)	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)).*

See the full colour version of the Silver Slipper on line at [www.ballroomnanaimo.ca](http://www.ballroomnanaimo.ca).