
The Silver Slipper

A Publication of the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society



Dance de Rock 2011 September 9-11

Around 21 enthusiastic NBDS members travelled north to Courtenay to attend this well-run and super fun dance weekend. It was pretty much non-stop dancing from Friday evening onwards with 20 workshops available and full fledged dances were held both Friday and Saturday evenings. Included also in the very reasonable ticket price of \$140 were two lunches and one banquet dinner. What a deal!

The workshops were spread through the entire weekend and dancers had a choice of West Coast Swing, Night Club, Hustle, Two-Step, Waltz and Cha-Cha. Although not touted as a beginner event, some of our beginners from NBDS reported the instruction to be first rate. Well known instructors came from Vancouver, Seattle, Calgary and Texas. They were great!



The event was run for it's 8th consecutive year as a charity raising money for the Tour De Rock, Cops for Cancer and other Cancer related charities. This year \$14,000 was raised. One brave NBDS member made it her personal goal to raise money by soliciting donations for a head shave. Cathy Snyder raised more than \$9,000! She did this in honour of three personal friends recovering from cancer and in memory of her mother who battled cancer. It was a touching event for a worthwhile cause. Great work Cathy—we're proud of you!

Most felt that it was a superb weekend and a must-attend event for 2012. Call Keith or Holly Foraes in Courtenay at 1-250-871-2513 to reserve a ticket or see: www.dancederock.ca for more information.

Slipping on a new Slipper for 2012

Many thanks to Bruce Joiner and John Maher for their early submissions towards this 2nd Silver Slipper of 2011. We are starting to develop some ideas of our own but will happily receive any stories or content from our readers. Please email submissions to: markpearce@shaw.ca. Next Silver Slipper December 2011.

November 2011

Editors:
Marilyn Assaf
Mark Pearce

Fall 2011 Events

Bowen Dance Dec
2

7:30 Workshop
Cha Cha!
8:30 Dance

**Christmas Gala
Dinner & Dance** Dec
16

4 p.m. – Midnight

**New Year's Eve
Nanoose Place** Dec
31

9 p.m. onwards

*"We should consider each
day lost in which
we don't dance."*

- Frederick Nietzsche -

For a full list of events and
offerings by NBDS:
<http://ballroomnanaimo.ca/>





Saving the Hardwood Floor at Beban Park

Members of the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society are working hard to save the hardwood floor at the Beban Park Social Centre. Candidates for council have been polled in advance of the November 19 election and a fund-raising Christmas gala dinner and dance is planned for December 16th at Beban Park Auditorium. Press releases are also imminent to further draw more attention to the matter.

Earlier this year, city staff revealed that they plan to remove the Beban hardwood floor, the largest dance floor on Vancouver Island, and convert it to a vinyl floor better suited to trade shows. Hardwood is as important to ballroom dancing as ice is to hockey. A vinyl floor would mean the end of the Island Fantasy Ball, a dance spectacular and competition that attracts hundreds of dancers and spectators every year and brings in a lot of revenue to city businesses. Although the change to vinyl has been put off for one year while staff review the options, the hardwood floor is still very much under threat.

Where the candidates for city council stand on the issue

In a recent email polling done by NBDS, every candidate running for Nanaimo council was asked whether they would vote to keep the hardwood floor at Beban. Three of the five incumbent candidates were firmly in favour of keeping the floor and sending trade shows to the under-utilized Vancouver Island Conference Centre. One had not yet decided, waiting to see the staff report. One had not replied by the time this article was submitted.

Interestingly, of the 17 new candidates a total of 8 were firmly in favour of keeping the hardwood floor and three were leaning toward keeping the hardwood but needed to gather more information. Two were undecided as they were waiting for more information and 4 had not replied. Altogether that made 11 firmly in favour, 3 leaning in favour of keeping the hardwood floor, 3 were undecided and 5 had not replied when the article was submitted.

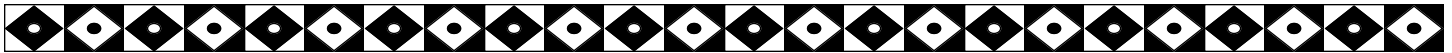
Some of the comments from the more informed candidates are worth our consideration. Brian Fillmore noted that 'we should be directing trade shows to the VICC to pay for that facility' and that he would 're-open the dialogue on this situation'. Rod Lomas suggested that if 'recovery and re-surfacing were an option, this should be done.' As an option for events that require vinyl floors, a temporary floor could be laid over the hardwood, thereby safeguarding it.

Zeni Maartman believed that city staff were looking to achieve a floor surface that would achieve both the goal of keeping our dance floor and also provide for other multi-use events and that she would support accomplishing that goal. Bill McKay is not in favour of giving away public facilities or making fees so high that consumers can't hold an event. He wants to stop usage rates from climbing faster than the rate of inflation. This also relates to an on-going concern NBDS has regarding Bowen floor rental costs.

Finally, Darcy Olsen noted that 'the purpose of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre is to facilitate commercial exhibits. We also have other private venues/hotels in Nanaimo that are in need of such events.' He added that 'as a proponent of the Nanaimo Arts, I would support a motion to maintain the hardwood floors. We as a City need to ensure we protect Nanaimo's Arts and Culture.'

Dancers are encouraged to vote in council members with pro-dance floor outlooks at the next civic election on November 19th. Feel free to contact them directly to see what their current views are.





NBDS celebrates 30 years

Christmas Reunion Banquet and Ballroom Dance



Dec 16, 2011 — Beban Park Social Centre, Nanaimo — 4 p.m. to Midnight

Everyone is welcome to a celebration of 30 years of ballroom dancing in Nanaimo. The NBDS Christmas gala promises to be a spectacular evening with continuous dancing, a gourmet dinner, a silent auction, raffles and dazzling dance demonstrations.

It all starts with a reunion cocktail party at 4 p.m. Come re-acquaint with old dancing friends and meet new friends who share a passion for dance. For some added fun, photos of Nanaimo's past and present ballroom dancers will be on display, showcasing the club's 30 year history.

NBDS dates back to the early 1980's, when 'Silver Slipper Dances' were hosted by the late Alf and Peg Crathorne. Incorporated officially as a society in 1993, the club hosted, in the same year, the first Island Fantasy Ball. You may even meet some original members! And, of course, there will be continuous dancing.

At 6:00 p.m., we'll all sit down to a scrumptious gourmet buffet dinner catered by 'Spice of Life'. Throughout the evening, you'll have plenty of opportunity to peruse exciting silent auction items or enter a number of draws and raffles. These are fund-raisers for our 'Save-The-Beban-Floor' initiative. Proceeds will go towards efforts to pursue refurbishing the hardwood floor at Beban. We count on your support to help save the floor and ensure that dancing events like the Island Fantasy Ball continue into the future.



Zillion Wong and Sara Liang are the current BC Champions in ballroom dancing

Tickets for the Christmas gala are \$50 per person and are selling fast. Pick them up at an NBDS dance, call Sara Treutler at 250-468-2095 or Jim at 250-390-2489, or email: tickets@ballroomnanaimo.ca.

Dress is formal or semi-formal. Bring your friends who might like to dance, watch or just enjoy a great Christmas party. Let's make this a night to remember!



David Duncan and Evelyn Matthews demonstrate a beautiful modern waltz





The Mighty Somass tests NBDS faithful Sunday, August 28th - submitted by Bruce Joiner

It was one of those hot, sunny summer days we dream of all winter long. Thirteen intrepid souls with four canoes and two kayaks drove to the boat launch in downtown Port Alberni. We were unaware that many locals were practicing for an upcoming fishing derby. We found ourselves caught right in the middle of the flurry of cars and trucks with trailers in tow, backing into the water, coming out of the water then desperately seeking the few remaining parking spots. Nevertheless, we managed to avoid getting run over and successfully launched into the crystal clear water.

We paddled upstream along the Somass River with a gentle breeze tempering the sun's searing heat. Bill, our trip organizer, had months ago carefully planned for both perfect weather and a flooding tide to assist our paddling. It was evident we were still paddling against the current so we took a break at a small island for a brief snack. This was cut short as our beach was disappearing into the rising tide. Mosquitoes in the area also indicated that a different location would be preferable.

We continued on, struggling up a narrow channel against some fast-moving water to the highest point we could paddle upstream. It was a lovely pond where several groups were swimming and jumping into the still waters of the river. Not seeing a suitable spot to land our crafts, we paddled back to the shady side of the small island where we chatted on a small beach while sharing the contents of our lunch coolers.



The return trip was easy paddling with the gentle current. Feeling somewhat lazy, we rafted together and let the current return us to the busy boat launch. Enough afternoon still remained so after buying a few refreshments at the local 7-11 store we drove as a convoy to Stamp Falls. The fish they were a jumpin'! Large Cohos could be seen resting behind submerged boulders in the back eddies of the river. It was a great ending to a wonderful summer day.

Paddlers: Bruce Joiner/Marilyn Metcalf; Gary, Carly and Ben Pryke (non-members); John / Tina Maher; Max / Sara Treutler; Bill Bailey / Brenda Stewart; Larry Horton (non member); Gale Drew

And don't forget to bring your dance shoes!

We've just returned from a short jaunt to Florida to revel in the sun and visit some friends who recently moved to the Gator state. Although we packed our dance shoes with hopes of tearing up a dance floor or two, we never actually made it to a venue. Through the internet however, we did find that there were actually lots of places to try out our moves and we could have danced daily if we wished. Next time!

What a fantastic activity/hobby to now call a 'passion.' Dancing is so wonderfully mobile. Why not bring your dance shoes when you travel? NBDS member Andy Mundy has created a new email list that details dancing opportunities on the island that may fall outside the International Ballroom flavouring but still be of interest. We are now entering our 2nd year of dancing and are trying out some other styles including west coast swing and salsa. It is nice to know where other dancing opportunities are being held outside of NBDS. Practice, after all, makes perfect. Be sure to email Andy to subscribe to this handy list: ballroomnanaimo@gmail.com.

So where have you danced off our 'rock'? John and Tina Maher we know went to Buenos Aires to learn Argentine Tango. Others have been to Cuba for Salsa and other NBDSers have been to Las Vegas for excellent ballroom workshops. Send us any stories you might have of your dancing while travelling. We'll spread the word!

We still need volunteers!

I know you saw this ad last month but the truth is—we still need help.

See the NBDS website for more. Consider your contribution to the NBDS for 2012. What could you help with?

Competitor Updates

This past long weekend (Nov 11-13) the 18th annual Grand Ball was held at the Grand Ballroom in Richmond. Several NBDS members were competing including several dancers from Ken Yung's Parksville studio.

We'll try to get some results for you from this competition and keep you posted progress of local competitors.

