



The Silver Slipper CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

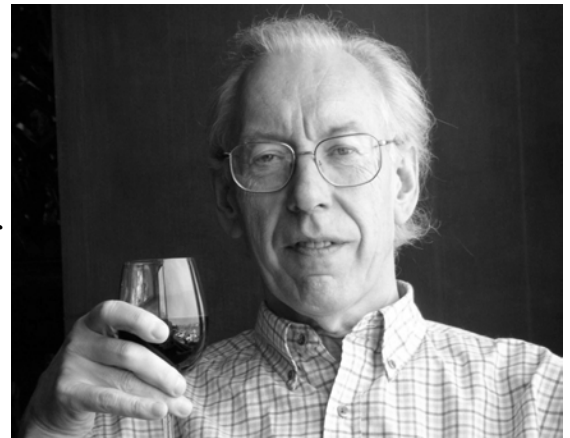
Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society



December 2011

President`s Welcome

On behalf of Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society, I bid you welcome to our 30 year celebration *Christmas Gala Ball*. Welcome to this wonderful facility that provides 12,000 square feet of space with a magnificent dance floor to the high standards required for our *Island Fantasy Ball* competitions, and available this evening for the greatest social dance of 2011. This issue of the Silver Slipper newsletter commemorates our 30 years of fun-filled existence and debuts at this spectacular Christmas gala evening. Enjoy!



This evening includes dazzling dance demonstrations, gourmet food, a silent auction and, above all else, the opportunity to dance on a huge floor in the company of other ballroom dancers.

We owe this evening to the creative imagination of our previous President, John Maher, who had the courage to plan a combined anniversary/Christmas dinner dance for twice our normal attendance, rent this huge facility, and plan for continuous dancing from 4pm to midnight. It has been a case of “create it and they will come”—you have come and you are welcome.


We also owe it to the hard work and dedication of our Christmas Team, co-chaired by Tina Maher and Deborah Wilson, and all the volunteers who are working together to make it a success, from planning to set up, operation to take-down; to them all, many thanks from all of us.

You will find tonight that we have truly delivered *continuous dancing*. The floor will be available for dancing and dance demonstrations, and ballroom dance music will be playing from 4pm to midnight, a truly epic dance event. Hopefully, we have created a world like those of the old ballrooms where everyone can intersperse socializing, dining and dancing as they please.

This evening is an experiment that we may repeat and will need to assess so please tell us what you liked and what we might improve if we do it again. We have tried to create an environment of celebration in this festive season in which we can all enjoy ourselves in the company of other dancers. So, once again, welcome!

Brian Gaines, President

What's Coming Up at NBDS?

<u>New Year's Eve</u> <u>Nanoose Place</u>	Dec 31st	Bowen Park Dance	Jan 6th	Nanoose	Jan 21st
9 p.m.—1 a.m.	Of	7:30 Workshop	Kick off	7:30 Workshop	
DJ Andy Mundy	Course!	Slow Fox	for 2012	Samba	
		The Barnettts		Ken Yung	
		8:30 Dance		8:30 Dance	





TROPHIES FOR BALLROOM DANCING STUDENTS

Mark Kaarremaa Photo

Parks and Recreation's first-term ballroom dancing students received trophies on graduation at Bowen Park.

From left, Frank Graves, Anne Graves, Jim Edgar, Della Burrell, Jim Burrell, Elaine Fredrich, Siegy

Fredrich, Claire Carter and Jack Carter. Instructors and Peg Craythorne are right.

Every club has it's origins. Ours commences in 1981 with a ballroom dance club formed by Alf and Peg Craythorne for the students of their Nanaimo Parks and Recreation courses.

Reflections: Jim/Minnie Beaman (Founding Members NBDS 1984)



Minnie and I met ballroom dancing in 1960. Those were the days when the remark "Do you come here often?" could be answered with "Only during the mating season" and get a chuckle. This was the end of the era of the big bands—it was time to Rock and Roll. We still kept dancing. Ear plugs and good ventilation helped.

We loved the ballroom dance and every year Parks and Rec would have classes but there was no where to dance. During the late 70's Alf and Peggy Craythorne were teaching ballroom at Parks and Rec and they decided to start the 'Silver Slipper Club' so their students could have a evening dancing strictly ballroom. Success and progress.

Jim and Della Burrell started teaching later and with their great enthusiasm introduced the Silver Slipper crowd to competitive dancing in Vancouver and Victoria. The U.B.C. Dance Club and Victoria Dance Club alternated hosting the annual Provincial Championship for Standard and Latin and always brought in a professional couple to showcase the evening. Jim and Della encouraged our participation. Soon the Nanaimo Ballroom dance club was formed led by a president, treasurer and secretary who helped organize dances.

In 1991 a venue for the Provincial Championships was needed. Nelson and Pinky Wong, who were competing and teaching, convinced our club this was a golden opportunity to bring the best dancers in the province and beyond to Nanaimo. We went from club to society and 20 years later the Island Fantasy Ball is now a two-day event with dancers competing from Europe and the U.S.A.

Minnie and I and many other early members are still dancing and enjoying NBDS programs. Congratulations to John Maher and his committee for a great idea and another evening of dancing.



Jim and Minnie Beaman
Newcastle Dance Camp 1987

- submitted by Jim Beaman -



AT TROPHY night were, from left, Peggy Craythorne, dance in-

structor, Jim Burrell, Della Burrell, Suzanne

Pearson, Robin Pearson and Alf

Craythorne, instructor.

Marie Dye Photo

SILVER SLIPPER BALL

Trophies presented to dancers

By MARIE DYE
for The Daily Free Press
Eighty-eight dancers and guests attended the year-end silver slipper ball at Bowen Park auditorium Friday, Dec. 16, when Alf and Peggy Craythorne presented their dance students with trophies for their dancing accomplishments, after completing a 10-week course. (The course incidentally, is repeated, starting Jan. 4, 1984 — \$30 a couple, under parks and recreation 753-7788).

Throughout the evening, the guests were able to witness the success of the

students, who displayed their skill by performing a variety of ballroom dance steps, suited to all ages. Everyone joined in the dancing after watching the students receive their trophies.

At the height of the evening Mayor Frank Ney arrived, accompanied by Brad, one of his sons. After the mayor had extended warm Christmas wishes to all and congratulated teachers and students alike, he enjoyed a couple of dances before leaving. Ney remarked that this was his eighth commitment since that afternoon and was one he really enjoyed and didn't intend to miss.

Dancing was followed by a light supper of hot sausage rolls (all made by Ann Graves, co-ordinator

of senior activities at the complex), real English trifle and Christmas cake (made by Peggy Craythorne) and Fran Davis, always on the job at these occasions, made and helped serve tea and coffee. Frank Graves, Anne's husband, gave his services at the bar throughout the evening.

Those who received trophies were: Advanced, Jim and Della Burrell, Suzanne and Robin Pearson; intermediate ballroom, Terri and Gordon Gory, Aldene and George Imlah, Mac and Dorothy Atkinson, Don and Diane Panel; beginners, Christine and Trudy van Rossum, Jenny and Willie Lind, Lena and Fred Vriyic, John and Judy Croasdale, Malcolm and Lillian Fudge, Minnie

and Jerry Beaman, Victor and Irene Marshall, Albert van Rossum and Hank van Rossum

RECENT COMPETITIONS 2011

One month ago, Nov 11th-13th, the 18th annual Grand Ball was held at the Grand Ballroom in Richmond. NBDS members were competing including dancers paired with Ken Yung or Nelson Wong.

Congratulations to all Vancouver Mid-Island Competitors:

John Burke / Doreen Thompson
John Blythe / Daphne Simpson
Joshua Moroz / Lisa Rimmer
Willem Kuun / Emily McKee
Christina Harringa
Heather von Hugo
Marion Hicklin
Maureen Devoe
Shiloh Durkee
Debbie Townsend
Alina Heck
Vicki Linfitt
Elizabeth Marshall-Morge
Manuela Raviglione

Apologies for errors/omissions!

**To watch us dance
is to hear
our hearts speak.**

Hopi Indian Saying



**Credits:
many thanks to
Jim and Della
Burrell for access
to the press cut-
tings in their
scrapbooks.**

In 1983 Alf and Peggy decided to move to Victoria. Parks and Rec then encouraged the dance students to form a club, providing a loan of \$200 to be repaid by Christmas. The club at its inaugural meeting on September 24, 1984, was named the Silver Slipper Dance Club with Robin Pearson as President presiding over fifty members. Three couples remain members today: Mac and Dorothy Atkinson, Jim and Minnie Beaman, and Jim and Della Burrell.

FREE PRESS PICTURE PARADE



Daily Free Press Photo

Nanaimo ballroom dancers made all the right moves at the recent Nova Ball competitions at the Vancouver Hotel. On their first competitive outing two couples each came home with three trophies while another two couples won one trophy each. Winning dancers were taught by Jim and Della Burrell. Photo shows the Burrells, front, with Pinky and Nelson Wong, Cyril Kilner, Minnie Beaman, Jim Beaman, Bev Striloff, Douglene Mills, and Harry Striloff.

In 1984, Jim and Della Burrell took over as instructors and coached their students to enter dance competitions. In 1986 couples competed at the Nova Ball in Vancouver and won five trophies.

In 1987 the club changed its name to the Ballroom Dance Club of Nanaimo because "it was felt that 'silver slipper' gave people the impression it was a club for the oldies. At the time, the club had 154 members and an average attendance of 69 at their dances.

Reflections: Della and Jim Burrell **(Founding Members 1984)**

As honorary members of the NBDS, Jim and Della Burrell have enjoyed 30-plus years of ballroom dancing. It all started when Della's sister in Vancouver started taking lessons and told the couple "you must do this!"

Jim and Della soon signed up for classes in the Arthur Murray style of dancing but "we really wanted to learn international ballroom dancing", said Della.

At a dance event, the Burrells watched Alf and Peggy Craythorne glide beautifully around the dance floor. "I asked if they'd teach us to dance," said Della. "They said they'd love to if we could get a small group together."

Jim and Della quickly organized six couples to take lessons at Bowen Park in 1981. The Craythornes also began hosting Silver Slipper dances at Bowen Park. "This was a great way for us to practice," said Jim, "but at the time, the dances attracted mostly elderly people. Both in our 50s, Della and I were the youngsters!"

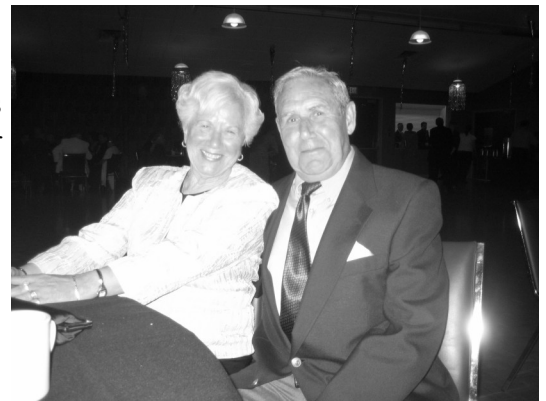
A few years later, when the Craythornes retired from teaching, they asked the Burrells to step in and teach ballroom dancing. Jim and Della taught for six wonderful years in Nanaimo, Parksville and Ladysmith. They taught four classes a week with an average of 40 students per class. Nice turnout!

A favourite memory was the day that two of their students, Nelson and Pinky Wong, entered a dance competition in Vancouver. "We knew the minute that they stepped into our class that they were naturals," said Della. "They won the novice division and we were thrilled. We laughed and shouted all the way home on the ferry."

The Burrells also kept the Silver Slipper dances going at Bowen Park. "With gentle pressure we encouraged our students to attend the dances and practice," said Della. "Our goal was to encourage people to socialize and have fun." In Sept. 1984, the Burrells were among the founding members of the Silver Slipper Dance Club. (The club became the NBDS in 1992).

Over the years, like many members, they dedicated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to keep the club running. Among their various roles, Jim served as President and Vice-President and as DJ, while Della organized special events and entertainment.

"We've had years of enjoyment being involved," said Jim. "It's been a huge part of our lives. In the early years, we had some fantastic parties and dances, especially our Halloween dances. Everyone really got into it and we had a lot of fun."



The Burrells cherish the wide circle of lifelong friendships they've made along the way through NBDS. "We were just at a Christmas party with several of our original students and other club members," said Della. "They are like family to us. There's no doubt that being part of the NBDS has filled our lives socially and emotionally in a big way. It's been an amazing 30 years!"

- story by Marilyn Assaf -



Dancers Par Excellence May/88

Nelson and Pinky Wong, ballroom dancers from Nanaimo, swirled around the floor at the Capital Ball in Victoria to win two first place trophies: pre-novice and novice Latin. The Wongs have for the last three years danced at Bowen Park under the instruction of Jim and Della Burrell.

Club members continued to be successful in dance competitions and began to talk of running a competition in Nanaimo, provisionally named the Fantasy Ball. In 1992 under the Presidency of Pinky Wong, the club formally registered as the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. In 1993 it hosted the first Island Fantasy Ball, reviving the BC Closed Championship which had last been held in 1988. In the same year John Maher designed the club logo which is still in use today.

The rest, as they say, is history. We continue to dance and attend courses at the Bowen Park Recreation Centre as we have for thirty years. We continue to hold our Anniversary, Christmas and New Year's Eve dances, and to run dance events on the Islands as we first did on Newcastle Island in 1985. Nanaimo dancers continue to compete in competitions at a wide range of venues. The Island Fantasy Ball continues to host the BC Closed Championships and celebrates its twentieth anniversary next year.

Our membership now resides from Mill Bay in the south to Campbell River in the north. The NBDS represents ballroom dancing to the entire community north of the Malahat and enjoys a friendly working relationship with our sister society, the Victoria Ballroom Dance Society, south of the Malahat, and the dance clubs in Duncan and Comox.



Volunteers are still needed! Please consider helping out.

I know you saw this ad last month but the truth is—we still need help with a variety of positions in the club or just at a dance, if you choose.

See the NBDS website for more. Consider your contribution to the NBDS for 2012. What could you help with? We have a great set of volunteers to train our new volunteers—how nice is that?





Reflections on Competing: Marilyn Metcalf-Joiner and Bruce Joiner

Bruce Joiner and Marilyn Metcalf-Joiner can hardly believe they've been NBDS members since 1989. "Our best friends started to take ballroom dance lessons and really enjoyed it," says Marilyn. "They would show us what they learned and taught us a few basic routines in our living room. That led us to signing up for classes ourselves with the Burrells."

When Jim and Della Burrell retired from teaching, Marilyn and Bruce carried on under the wing of Nelson and Pinky Wong who taught classes through Parks and Rec. "Nelson and Pinky threw us into competitive dancing early on," recalls Marilyn. "We'd only danced for about two years and suddenly found ourselves competing at the Snowball Classic in Vancouver. Then we danced in the first IFB and we just carried on from there."

Marilyn and Bruce enjoyed 10 years of competitive dancing. "Considering our age, we did pretty well," says Marilyn. "There were only Adult divisions back then (16 years and up) which were dominated by people half our age, many from the 1500 member UBC Ballroom Dance Club. With no "Senior" or "Youth" age-categories nor "Pre-Bronze" level, the competition was fierce as young people improve much faster." Marilyn says Bronze was one of the toughest categories to get through. "Many people get stuck at that level because it's very competitive. There would be up to 40 couples competing in Bronze and you can't graduate to the next level until you accumulate a certain number of points by placing first, second or third.

"We persevered, placing in the top three until we achieved a Silver rating. After that, we danced for a few years at the Silver and Gold levels." At the Gold level, they made the finals, not bad for a couple that never dreamed of competing. Marilyn recalls feeling "really excited and nervous" at the start of any competition. "The end result is that if you want to compete, you have to take private lessons regularly. It's the best way to improve quickly."

In addition to their stint as competitive dancers, Marilyn and Bruce have contributed significantly to the NBDS. Marilyn was Coordinator for the Door and Tables, Phoning and Promotions, Library and Dance Demonstrations for many years. Bruce started the Club library in 1995 and continues to serve in his role as librarian. Both of them also danced as pros in the memorable Dancing with the Stars fund raising event hosted by NBDS.

Their advice to new dancers? "Don't give up. Beginner lessons are the toughest because you have nothing to fall back to. Once you've taken a set or two of beginner lessons it gets easier. Just stick with it. It can help if you find another couple to practice with and share ideas," says Bruce.

"As well as being a fun social activity, ballroom dancing is effortless cardio exercise because it's the music that moves me," adds Marilyn.



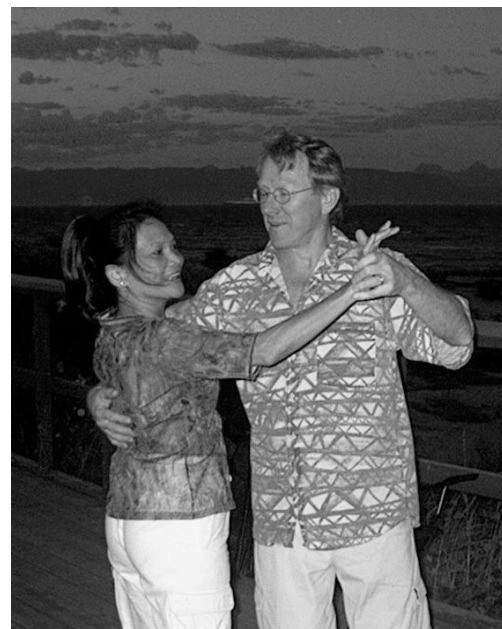
**Zillion Wong
(Nanaimo) and
Sara Liang (Surrey)
flying high!**





Dance Camp Reflections: John Maher

Dance camps bring back a flood of happy memories for us. We have had several fabulous dance camps at Newcastle Island, and more recently on Gabriola. A convergence of three separate initiatives involving NBDS members led to the hatching of this idea. Wayne and Carrie Smith had brought in Myles and Tessa Cunningham to teach West Coast Swing workshops at the Nanoose library. Tina and I had been hosting the NBDS 4th Friday social dances and some Sunday afternoon tea dances at Newcastle for the pavilion operators. Wayne and I decided to host an NBDS weekend at the Moose Hall in April, 2005 featuring Myles and Tessa.



The idea to hold a full-fledged dance camp grew from there. The late Bob Green recognized the potential at Newcastle, with both camping and a classic dance hall, and said “you have to hold a dance camp here!”

So we tried it. Tina and I booked the pavilion for a weekend in July 2005, guessed that about 50 people would come for the weekend, and then asked a few local instructors to teach. One of the local instructors then was Josie Neglia, and she taught a sizzling samba class as well as salsa. About 90 people came and danced all weekend. It was a blast! The next year weekend passes sold out in one week.

The dance camps featured a wide variety of dances, some ballroom, but also west coast swing, salsa, 2-step, hustle, bachata and more, and provided a nice counterpoint to the competitive aspect of NBDS and the Island Fantasy Ball.

Unfortunately the momentum was lost at Newcastle when the new pavilion operator double-booked our weekend, and so we moved to Gabriola. The last Newcastle Island dance camp was in 2009 and recently higher rental fees for the pavilion at Newcastle are making the dance camp idea no longer feasible. Opportunities to dance mid-summer are still being offered at Gabriola. Lots of fun to be had—we’ll see you there!



- submitted by John Maher -



**Alf and Peg
Craythorne**

(1997)



**The Beamans
and the Burrells**

(1990)





Reflections: Andy Mundy

Dancing With The Stars (Nov. 2008) was the first ever charity event put on by the NBDS and raised several thousand dollars for The Haven Society.

Ten local celebrities, ranging from the local police chief to the mayor of Parksville, were partnered with experienced dancers to perform in competition before four professional guest judges. The evening was a sell out and saw Kam Bandali (a local heart specialist) partnered with Gwen Spinks win our very own mirror ball trophy.



We were very lucky to watch professional dance demonstrations not only of standard ballroom and Latin dances but also Argentine

Tango and Flamenco. We were so grateful to all our sponsors and volunteers without whom the event would not have taken place.

Reflections: Gwen Spinks

A few years back (2008), a major highlight for me as a NBDS member and advocate was to be chosen to be paired with an amateur dancer in a very exciting competition called Dancing with the Stars.

My chosen partner was Dr. Kam Bandali who seemed to pick up the challenging Argentine Tango dance quite easily. We had about one month to practice and perfect. Kam's wife, Muneera, even learned my part so he could practice at home. We put our heart and a lot of joy into the dance and managed to dazzle the crowd, winning first place. What a lot of fun!



Another big NBDS highlight has been taking some of my dance students to compete in the Island

Fantasy Ball. What a rewarding experience for us all!



The Island Fantasy Ball

On May 5th and 6th, 2012, the NBDS will again host the Island Fantasy Ball at Beban Park Social Centre.

This spectacular event is not to be missed as it is the 20th anniversary of the IFB. Championship level competition, delightful dance routines by competitors at all levels and dazzling pro demonstrations will highlight the weekend. The 2011 showcase was indeed memorable. Be there in 2012!

Tickets go on sale February 5th through the Port Theatre Box Office. Group pre-sales are available February 2nd.



Nelson Wong
and Vicky Linfitt
IFB 2011

Check out these websites with related IFB information and official photographs: <http://islandfantasyball.com/>
<http://www.dancesportbc.com/>
<http://www.dancesportimages.com/>

Websites to check out:

<http://ballroomnanaimo.ca>
for our own NBDS information

http://members.shaw.ca/wannadance/Wanna_Dance.html

On the wannadance website, be sure to check out the article entitled: 'The Best Things Happen When I'm Dancing' by Hans Peter Meyer. Inspired!

Your Silver Slipper Editors are: Marilyn Assaf and Mark Pearce

You can contact us at: markpearce@shaw.ca
or at wrtstuff@shaw.ca.

Got a good story idea or contribution? Let us know and we'll fit it into a future Silver Slipper for sure.

Can you believe it is 2012 already? Here's hoping the Mayan's are way off on their calendar! So much dancing to do yet! Enjoy the holiday season and we'll see you in 2012. First Bowen Dance—January 6th.

