



Ballroom Dance Society

Silver Slipper

September 2008

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone, Well another year has come and gone in the life of NBDS. Unlike all of us - the members - the Society is ageless and will carry on as long as good people come forward to bring Ballroom dance to Nanaimo. We exist as a society to encourage people to experience social and competitive dancing and to provide an "umbrella" for dance instructors and students to find and work with each other. In 2007/2008 we provided low cost practice space for social and competitive dancers, hosted general dances at Bowen Park and Nanoose Place and featured selected "theme dances", an "Anniversary Dance", a "Christmas Dance", a "New Years" dance, a wonderful weekend event at Newcastle Island and several daytime Newcastle dances and, the "Jewel in the Crown of NBDS", the Island Fantasy Ball - Ballroom Dance Competition.

Our instructors are skilled in "Standard", "Latin" and "Old Time" dance. Our demonstration dances have included Argentine, flamenco and Hawaiian styles. Our society can be proud of the many talented competitive dancers who have carried our colors in numerous Competitions. Our website is maintained by a highly skilled individual. We are truly blessed with an amazing array of talent on all fronts. My apologies if I have forgotten anyone. There is just so much talent to recognize it is easy to overlook someone.

In November we are hosting a premier event - the "Dancing With the Stars", Fund Raiser for Haven House. This is our first ever charity event and fits into our mandate to develop and promote interest in the sport of Ballroom dancing and to foster better understanding and friendship within the community and between dancers. Looking at the accomplishments of our Society I say - Well done everyone. Our membership is fortunate to possess talented people who freely give of their time, energy and resources to make it happen. Thanks to all! It is truly amazing that a small group such as ours possesses the energy, resources and range of abilities to put on all these events year after year.

Please come to the AGM to help create next year's officers and board members and to assist in the forward planning that allows us to remain current as times change.

Best regards, Stephen Gower

NBDS Summer Picnic July 27

The NBDS Summer Picnic was revived this summer at Newcastle Island. The Pavilion restaurant led by executive chef Ryan served a fabulous lunch on the veranda. Nelson started off the dance with a workshop on foxtrot. DJ John presented a selection of ballroom tunes from the big band era. Approximately 50 members and friends attended and spent a very enjoyable afternoon.

Newcastle Island Dance Camp

The 4th annual dance camp was held on August 1 – 3, 2008. Once again the event was sold out and by all accounts a great success. Highlights this year included a 2-hour salsa workshop featuring 3 of Nanaimo's instructors working as a team, and a great lunch and dinner were served by the Pavilion restaurant. Dancers came from Kamloops, lower mainland, Victoria and Courtenay as well as the Nanaimo area. Ken Yung did an excellent workshop on rumba for his dance camp debut.



Pamela Podmoroff and Joe McPeek demonstrate having fun

A handful of NBDS members also enjoyed the Sunday dances at Newcastle Island on August 24 and 31.

Special thanks to committee members Gwen Spinks, Gale Drew, Tina Maher, Tammy Paton, Fred Jones and Brian Hicks for making this event a success. The Newcastle Island Pavilion has been booked for the dance camp on the August long weekend (July 31-August 2) in 2009 – mark your calendars! If you are interested in helping plan the next dance camp please contact any of the committee members.

Annual General Meeting

I'm On A Committee

*Oh give me your pity! I'm on a committee
Which means that from morning 'til night,
We attend and amend, and contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.*

*We confer and concur, we defer and demur,
And reiterate all of our thoughts,
We revise an agenda, with frequent addenda,
And consider a load of reports.*

*We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun;
But though various notions are brought up as motions,
There's terribly little gets done.*

*We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve
Since it's out of the question for us,
To bring our committee to end like this ditty
Which stops with a period... Thus.
Author Unknown.*

OK, that's the cynical view of a committee. Seriously, NBDS has an executive committee or Board of Directors who we elect to carry on the business of the society, and they have generally been able to agree on the important stuff and get things done. Some of the past members will stand for election again while others will move on. Brian and Mildred and the Nominations Committee have been beating the bush to ensure that everyone has a chance to express their interest or put names forward. This is your chance to (a) put your hat in the ring to be one of the elected directors; (b) vote for candidates that you think will be best for NBDS; and (c) step up to make your contribution through one of the many committees that do the work behind the scenes to make dances happen. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 21 is the single most important way we have as members to have our say in the future direction of the NBDS. Don't miss it!

HELP WANTED

The Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society has immediate (2008-09) openings for motivated dance enthusiasts. You enjoy working with others, find your personal reward in achieving objectives, and like to keep busy. Join the new team with one of these new (or recycled) jobs and achieve self-actualization.

PRESIDENT and CEO

The leading dance organization in mid-Vancouver Island requires a strong and motivated individual to take the lead in setting the agenda for the year to come. The successful candidate will know the mid-Island dance scene and its key players, and be able to keep them in line with a gavel. Contact any member of the Nomination Committee for full details.

CLASSIFIED ADS: HELP WANTED

Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

You love counting money and hanging around at the bank. You love writing cheques and handing out money. You obsess with keeping accurate records and would love to tell the rest of the executive to hold on when they are heading for red ink. We need you to stand for election as Treasurer!

SECRETARY

You know that a sentence starts with a capital and ends with a period, and that these should be darn close together. As a communicator and writer you will be able to concisely present executive decisions and meeting results and contribute to the Silver Slipper.

Director-At-Large: 5 Required

Previous experience with NBDS would be an asset, but so would fresh views on ways to improve the dance experience in the Nanaimo area. To apply your ideas and experience to NBDS decisions please attend at Bowen Park Committee Room 1 at 7:00 p.m on September 21/08

The Silver Slipper

has immediate openings for

- Copy editor, layout artist and publisher
- Feature writer-journalist-photographers
- Columnists for DanceSport, Out-Of-Town Dancing, upcoming events and calendar, and member news

Access to a computer and e-mail would be an asset. See the current editor for details.

Dance Workshop Coordinator

You are well-connected by phone and e-mail and willing to talk, negotiate, plead and cajole a variety of instructors to commit to pre-dance workshops for the coming year.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Keep the dance scene front and center in the Nanaimo media. Prepare news stories for upcoming dance events. Write bulletins for community calendars. Be interviewed by Oprah, Peter Mansbridge and/or the Silver Slipper.

Executive Assistant to the Webmaster

You have a talent for converting human ideas into functioning web page material that appears professional and timely. Qualifications: knowledge of html and how to trick Microsoft products into doing what you want.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Tell jokes. Introduce guest entertainers. Embarrass your friends with birthday songs. Lead the club with special dances, spot dances, competitions, announcements and generally make dances more entertaining.

Instructional Workshops

The next NBDS pre-dance workshop will be on September 20 at Nanoose. Nelson Wong will present a fresh look at Paso Doble.

More Practice Space for You!

Check the practice calendar on the web site: www.ballroomnanaimo.ca.

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.

MEMBER NEWS

The King of the M&Ms by Donna Jagers

It is with much sadness that we wish to inform the members of NBDS of the passing of Stephen Tombs on Aug. 14th, 2008.

Stephen and Lesley have been participating in the dance community for about 10 years and were always quick to comment on the many friends they had made during this time. About 3 years ago Stephen and Lesley decided to take up competitive dancing with the goal of having fun and improving their dancing. They started at IFB 2005 and competed in many more competitions on and off the island.

Regrettably Stephen's health problems increased in the last couple of years and they could no longer compete but continued to enjoy the dances at Bowen and Nanoose, always hoping that things would turn around for them.

When Stephen and Lesley first took up ballroom dancing they quickly became "hooked" and Stephen decided to add a 1500 sq. ft. dance floor on to their home



Stephen as Sultan of the M&Ms

in Errington. With some help from their friends, the dance floor took shape and the first dance and pot-luck dinner took place while the floor was still at the plywood stage and the walls were framed and insulated, but it was far from finished. Stephen continued to work away on his new project and only stopped on the evenings or weekends

when they and their friends would decide to practice or have what soon became regular pot-luck dinner and dance evenings.

Stephen was always thinking of ways for Lesley and himself to enjoy life to the fullest, and wanting to

include their friends the "M&M Club" was formed. While sitting around between dances we would often discuss what the perfect club would be. There was general consensus that once clubs were formed they got too bogged down in rules and regulations. Stephen's thoughts about dancing for all of us, was that it didn't matter what we danced like and that anybody should be welcome, having fun was the main goal. The phrase "We don't mind and it don't matter" quickly became the club's motto with the letters "M&M" representing this idea. Of course M&M was also the sponsor for the car that Stephen always cheered for when watching Nascar racing on TV. From there the club grew in members and each person seemed to come up with an M&M figure, t-shirt, tie, balloon or anything tied to this theme. Stephen and Lesley opened their home to anyone who was willing to join in the fun and not take themselves too seriously.

We will all miss Stephen's fun loving spirit and great outlook on life. Our condolences go out to Lesley, Brenda and Nick, their extended family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held September 6, 2008 at 2pm at the Bradley Centre in Coombs. All are welcome. No flowers by request, donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Cancer Society would be appreciated.

COMING EVENTS

Dancing With The Stars

Tickets will go on sale on September 22 for a new fundraising event held by NBDS. The main idea is to have local celebrities learn to dance with our local instructors and experienced dancers, then compete for the top honours as judged by you – the people who attend. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 22 for the Dancing With The Stars gala. There will be professional demos during the evening as well as opportunities for general, social dancing, and there will be a catered buffet by Spice of Life. We also have a sponsored big prize raffle. It will also be the best fun dance evening for a long time.

Proceeds of the event will go to support for Haven Society. Haven Society provides services to women and children, youth, families and men who have experienced violence. Services include everything from shelter and food to emotional support, counselling, advocacy, court accompaniment and, most importantly, a safe place to begin healing from the abuse. Provision of these services is entirely dependent on charitable donations.

These tickets are anticipated to sell out quickly and there are limited numbers available. Seating will be by numbered tables. NBDS members will have exclusive access to tickets during the two September dances before they go on sale to the public on September 22. Tickets will be \$30 per person which includes dinner, shows and a great time!

Anniversary Dinner Dance October 3

See Keith Wilson for tickets.

MONTHLY DANCES

Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nanaimo.

Next Dance: Friday, September 12

7:00 Workshop

8:00 - 11: pm Dance

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

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Email: evads@shaw.ca

Oceanside Tea Dance

Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose

Next Dance: Sunday, September 14

2:00 - 4:30pm

Cost: \$7.50 includes tea, coffee and goodies

Great mix of standard and Latin

Host: Ken Yung yungdance@live.ca

NBDS Saturday Dance at Nanoose Place

Saturday, September 20, 2008

7:30 Workshop: Paso Doble, Nelson Wong

8:30-11:30 Dance

Music: Latin and standard by Norm Whelpdale

NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park, Friday, October 3, 2008 ANNIVERSARY DANCE

6:00 Cocktails

7:00 Dinner

8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing

Cost: \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members

Tickets required; contact Keith Wilson

ATTENTION SINGLES

NBDS wants to make the dances and workshops more accessible and interesting to members and guests who do not have a regular dance partner. We have established a "singles table" as a way for singles to meet each other; look for the sign on one of the tables. Of course singles are free to site with their couple friends and you don't have to be single to sit at the singles table! This is just to provide a meeting place for unattached folks. We now have a moderated email list to assist singles to coordinate with each other. This may reduce the number of times we have 3 extra ladies at one dance and 3 extra gentlemen the next! Please email islanddancers@shaw.ca. If you wish to join this group.

The Silver Slipper is published occasionally by the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. The editor is John Maher (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



An unforeseen impact of global warming



Camping on Newcastle Island ca 1900

NANAIMO BALLROOM DANCE SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

September 21, 2008

Bowen Park Committee Room 1

7:00 p.m. sharp

Refreshments will be served