

President Report:

I would like to start by thanking the current board members who have supported me in my third term as NBDS President. Carol Fleming our Vice President, Stephen Gower our Treasurer, Pinky Wong our Secretary, and our Directors Nelson Wong, Vicki Linfitt, Joyce Hemingway, Russ Thomson, and Vincent Chai. Also thanks to Keith Wilson on memberships & volunteer hours, Andy Mundy and Vicki for website maintenance, Sara Treutler for ticketed events, Elaine Thompson for workshops & DJ scheduling, and Bruce Joiner our Librarian.

Throughout this past year, we worked well as a team in organizing many successful dances and events!

We brought back both the Anniversary and Spring Fling Dinner & Dance in this past fiscal year in addition to our popular Christmas Gala. These dinners & dances always draw dancers from across the island which makes for a great time with the best company.

We also had a full slate of regular dances at Bowen and Nanoose.

For the first time ever, we made New Year's Eve into a dinner & dance event which was successful with a higher than usual attendance from many non-dancers from the community!

We hosted a sold-out Island Fantasy Ball in June and got to re-connect with many out of town competitors.

Our dancers were invited to do demos at nursing homes as well as the Port Theatre. Our dancers also participated in the downtown Nanaimo Canada Day performances under the leadership of Nelson.

We went full blast into summer with our first ever Dancing in the Park and the return of Summer Dance Fest which also celebrated our volunteers.

The club has been able to adapt and show great resilience throughout the last few years. We are back in full swing and I am proud of all of our hard

working members, many of whom also put in numerous volunteer hours. I feel lucky to be a part of this dance family!

Your President,
Sarah Au-Yeung

Treasurer's report – AGM Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society (NBDS) Sept 29th 2024.

Hello everyone, thank you for attending our annual general meeting. Today, I would like to discuss the opening balances at the start of the previous fiscal year, the income and expenses for the period, the balance at the end of the period and our planned activities.

(Our previous fiscal year started July 1st 2023 and ended June 30th 2024.

Opening balances July 1st 2023:

1) Cash.	\$ 441
2) Bank and Credit Union chequing accounts.	\$ 40,200
3) Term Deposits.	<u>\$ 40,226</u>
Total Liquid Assets:	\$ 80,867

Income for the period:

1) Island Fantasy Ball Showcases and Competitions.	\$ 83,817
2) Nanaimo Dances.	\$ 6,865
3) Nanoose Dances.	\$ 10,790
4) General Operations.	<u>\$ 2,991</u>
Total Income for the period:	\$ 104,463

Expenses for the Period:

1) Island Fantasy Ball Showcases and Competitions.	\$ 76,260
2) Nanaimo Dances.	\$ 6,424
3) Nanoose Dances.	\$ 8,751
4) General Operations.	<u>\$ 2,809</u>
Total Expenses for the period:	\$ 94,224

Operating Surplus: \$ 10,219

Closing balances June 30th 2024:

1) Cash.	\$ 240
2) Bank and Credit Union chequing accounts.	\$ 25,102
3) Term Deposits.	<u>\$ 71,697</u>
Total Liquid Assets:	\$ 97,039

Upcoming planned expenses:

1) Accounts payable.	\$ 5,109
2) Dance in the Park Grant Money.	<u>\$ 7,000</u>
Total Planned expenses:	\$ 12,109

Term Deposits.

- a) Five Term deposits totaling \$ 41,697 are held with the Coastal Community Credit Union with interest earned to the benefit of General Operations. They are 5 year Rate Climber GICs with maturity dates ranging from July 2027 through to June 2028. Each can be partially or fully redeemed on their anniversary dates without penalty or loss of interest.
- b) Two GICs for \$ 15,000 each are held with the Royal Bank of Canada made up solely of surplus Island Fantasy Ball (IFB) funds. One can be redeemed at any time without penalty or loss of interest, the other cannot be redeemed until maturity. The interest earned to date has been accrued as IFB revenue but will not be paid out until maturity in December 2024.

Planned Activities for Current Fiscal Year.

- 1) Completed: DanceFest, Aug 17th, 2024
- 2) Completed: Dance in the Park Project: July, August 2024 (8 evenings)
- 3) Pending: Canadian Closed Championships/IFB Showcases and Competitions for April 2025
- 4) Underway: Nanaimo Dances and special Events
- 5) Underway: Nanoose Dances and special Events
- 6) To be decided: Dance in the Park 2025
- 7) To be decided: DanceFest2025

Grants:

I filed all evaluations and documentation related to last fiscal year grants and we are once again going through the grant application processes for the current fiscal year.

- a) Tourism Nanaimo (NHA) grant for CCC/IFB – applied for and under review.
- b) City of Nanaimo Project Grant – CCC/IFB – grant is being prepared for submission prior to Oct 8th, 2024.

Acknowledgements:

As in previous years I would like to gratefully acknowledge the diligence displayed by Deborah Wilson in preparation and reporting of the IFB financials.

And to thank Nelson Wong who provides me with wisdom and guidance in many matters.

And especially to thank Joyce Hemingway who prepares our financial statements, budgets and assists me in the treasurer’s duties as required. Joyce also takes a major role in IFB activities.

To the many fine people who volunteer to keep our society vibrant and healthy I am deeply grateful.

Thank you all!

Respectfully Submitted: Stephen C. Gower

2024 IFB Report for the AGM from Vicki

The Island Fantasy Ball continues to be successful, despite ever fluctuating changes to the local economy and culture as well as taking into consideration American and European influences, (invited competitors). The success is due to the effective volunteers who put countless hours of time into the organization of the event. Thank you to the organizing committee and all of the volunteers who pour time, money and energy into producing, as Stephen would say 'a stellar event'.

As you can see from page 4 of the financial report, we are diligent in managing the budget. Saturday sales are on par with last year. Sunday was a less busy day with less audience and revenue due to less kids and less professional/teacher entries being in the competition this year. These are numbers that will and do fluctuate on a regular basis. Keith has stated the following in his report:

I published a report on IFB ticket sales in an email dated July 24, 2024. Bottom line, the total attendance for IFB 2024 was 547, which is 11% lower than the 612 people who attended IFB 2023. Saturday was virtually the same as last year (397 for IFB 2024 vs 403 for IFB 2023), but Sunday attendance was much lower (150 for IFB 2024 vs 209 for IFB 2023).

Nelson has reported the following on invited competitors:

The current international dance politics prevents US athletes from participating in certain dance events. We therefore focused mainly on inviting European 10-Dance couples. For every ten invitations sent out, you are lucky if you receive just one positive response. This is always a time-consuming process. In recent years, we tried asking most invited couples to fly or travel directly to Nanaimo to alleviate the pressure of Airport/Ferry pickup. However, it is not easy for international couples to fly directly to Nanaimo as connecting flight schedules are limited and rather expensive.

Also from Nelson's report is this summary on the venue rental:

An increase of 135% in Beban venue rental fee caught us by surprise this year. Despite our best efforts in negotiating with the Beban administration group, we did not get anywhere with them other than receiving a reduced charge on their suggestion of us using their staff for setup.

Using the Beban staff to do our setup was of great value and convenience to us especially when we not only saved on high rental fee for a full day of setup but also received the benefit of having someone else do our intense laborious tasks. I cannot imagine ever going back to doing our own setup in future. We were able to control our rent increase to only 32%, a far cry from 135%, by reducing the number of rooms and rental hours. In the end, we paid \$5,838 for 2024 as compared to \$4,407, though with more rooms, in 2023. The high rental fee will be the hurdle which we will face going forward.

After we became aware of the exorbitant rental rate increase, we did our due diligence by investigating an alternate venue, the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC). Although VICC is a much bigger and more elegant facility, the major drawbacks are the lack of a wooden floor and the requirement of a renter to use their in-house high-cost food catering service plus if we offer a bar service, a bartender charge.

We introduced some new technology into our event this year by using the Square. This was reported by Carol as being quite successful and we will continue to use this for our larger events.

Every year we tweak what needs to be fixed, for example, moving the trophy table to the opposite side of the room, or hanging speakers from the ceiling; and we keep that which is working. And much is working! The new layout, the rooms utilized, the price structure and the program.

I would like to especially commend Nelson, Pinky, Keith, Deborah, Stephen and Elaine and Mike for their years of dedication, their hours of research and work behind the scenes, their creativity and work ethic...all for the love of dance, all for the love of this community that we are building and maintaining!

And for those folks who have joined us more recently, like Joyce, Sarah, Carol, Andrea and Boun, thank you for your dedication and diligence.

And for long time integral volunteers who help out regularly, people like Barbara Yee, Bill Bailey, Brian Hicks, Bruce Joiner, Carrie and Wayne Smith, David Marchand, Jane Walters, Diane Cleary, Josh Moroz, Judy Palipowski, Marilyn Metcalf, Peter Ciceri, Russ Thomson, Sara Treutler, Shiloh Durkee, Sung Kang and Tina & John Maher, we thank you!

And new helpers, Delie Lawley, Desiree Pahl and husband Alex, Elizabeth Kolbuch, Janine Wittich, Kathy Klint, Ralph Finck and Zjutka Hundley, we thank you.

For all of you, named or not, thank you for your contribution. You can rest assured that you are needed and valuable and will be called upon again for the upcoming CCC that the IFB is hosting this coming April 2025.

We have already begun planning for the Canadian Closed Championship here in Nanaimo hosted by the IFB, so please mark your calendar for the 2-day event, April 26th & 27th.

DJ & WORKSHOPS 2024

NBDS had more volunteers step up to help DJ and teach this year. We needed them.

The efforts taken to produce high energy playlists should be acknowledged as well as the instructors who put in the time to create the lesson plans per dance. These people put hours into these efforts and should never be taken lightly.

Thank-You for all you have done.

I would like to thank Andy Mundy for keeping the calendar up to date and for his music and lessons taught.

We have:

Andrew Croll, John Mayer, Sam Kang, Vincent Chai, Elaine Thompson- **for Music DJ only**

Nelson Wong-*Ballroom*, Vicky Linfitt- *Ballroom* , Andy Mundy- *Ballroom* **for both DJ & Teachers.**

And Gaetan Rouette- *Ballroom*, Judy Palipowski- *Line Dancing*, Pamela Podmoroff- *WCS and Nightclub 2step*, Shiloh Durkee -*Latin* – **for instruction only.**

The Dance calendar is complete up to Christmas with the exception of **Nov. 16th. A DJ is required.**

I will be available to answer any questions for the new DJ/Workshop coordinator if needed.

Thank-You

Elaine Thompson

BOWEN DANCE VENUE REPORT by Carol Fleming

First I would like to thank the Bowen Park dance committee for another successful year. A special thank you to Brian Hicks who comes every month and sets up the speakers and sound system. Brian is not a member of the committee but is dedicated to be there every dance. And thank you to our amazing volunteers that have helped out by filling in the door duties throughout the year, Keith, Deborah, Bruce, Marilyn, Joyce, Tina, John, Diane, Gord and Pinky. Everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated.

The attendance of the dance has ranged between 25 to 40 members, not sure what we can do to increase attendance but putting out the challenge to next year's executive.

Carol Fleming

Nanoose Venue Report:

Nanoose Place dances are going smoothly. Set-up and take-down are simple and there are usually enough volunteers to help with both. Thank you to everyone who has filled in as keymaster when I am unavailable. Nanoose dances attract a different crowd compared to Bowen- there are more dancers from Parksville and Qualicum areas.

Marketing & Promotions Report:

For the last several years, I have been keeping everyone on our emailing list informed about upcoming dance events and related news. Feedback remains positive. Frequency of emails is about 1-2 per month. I also answer emails sent from the general public to info@ballroomnanaimo.ca.

I continue to focus on advertising our events on different social media channels including Facebook, Instagram and Harbour Living website. I encourage anyone with a cell phone to capture photos or videos at any of our dances and share or tag us to promote our events. Vincent, Vicki, and Nelson have stepped in to help with social media promotion.

Over the year, our dancers were back at doing demos in nursing homes, the Port Theatre, and downtown Nanaimo. I believe public demos gain attention and can attract new dancers or at least spark interest and discussion.

NBDS Library report Sept 29, 2024 — by Bruce Joiner, Librarian.

Fifty years ago it was 1974. We all had long hair and partied lots...but you couldn't watch movies at home let alone dance videos except on cable TV. It wasn't until two years later in 1976 when a Video Home System was introduced, namely VHS. VHS tapes were popular for 27 years.

Our NBDS video library was created in 1994 after the first Island Fantasy Ball. We started with two instructional VHS tapes. I believe it was Nelson and Pinky who astutely bargained for them from our California supplier in exchange for an advertisement in the IFB program. This bargaining deal continued right up to 2018 and our library grew.

DVDs were invented in 2003 and three years later VHS sales had virtually ended. Our NBDS library has about 80 pre-2019 DVDs, mostly instructional. Many of our original VHS tapes have been upgraded to the DVD format. (Blueray was invented in 2006 and peaked around 2012)

Video streaming is now very popular. Despite being around since 1999, it wasn't until 2016 that streaming sales surpassed DVDs for the first time. Our video supplier stopped selling DVDs in 2019 in favour of subscription streaming which was pricey and only available to individuals.

Meanwhile interest in borrowing our club DVDs began declining (as expected) in favour of streaming services like YouTube, TikTok, etc. but we do have DVD's available for borrowing, however no one has borrowed a DVD for several years now. I will continue to be the keeper of the library and if anyone is interested in borrowing any NBDS DVD's please contact me. The library list is posted on our NBDS website.

Lastly, as per the last several decades, the video library operates with a zero budget.

Thanks,
Bruce

NBDS AGM Sep 29, 2024

Membership Report

Over the last eleven years NBDS membership has stabilized at an average of 96 members. In 2024 NBDS membership was 83, up eight from the previous year, which was a low point for membership. Of the 83 members, 54 were renewals and 29 were either new members or previous members who returned.

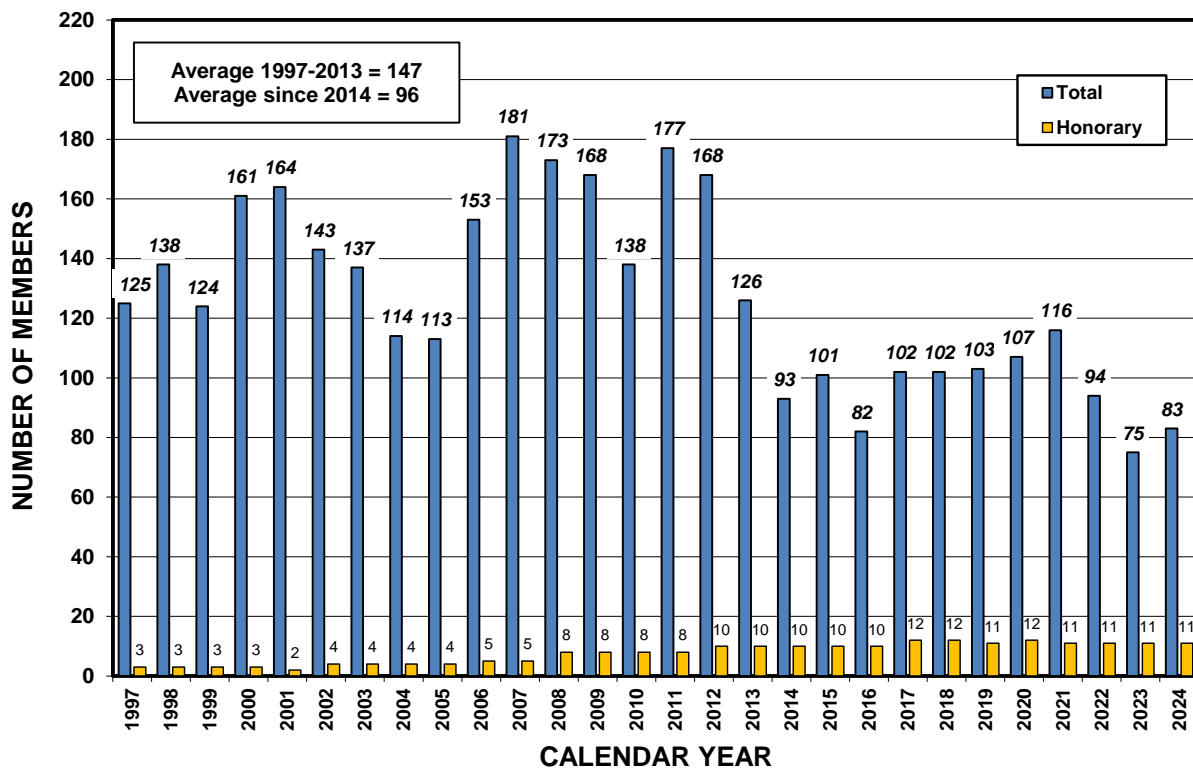
This year 21 members from 2023 did not renew, which is close to the average non-renewal rate. Looking deeper at the non-renewals, nine had joined NBDS for the first time in 2023 and did not return. Looking at this statistic for previous years, we normally have about this number of people who try us out for a year and don't come back.

The 83 members for this year consist of 72 general members and 11 honorary members (who are automatically renewed each year). There are no junior members.

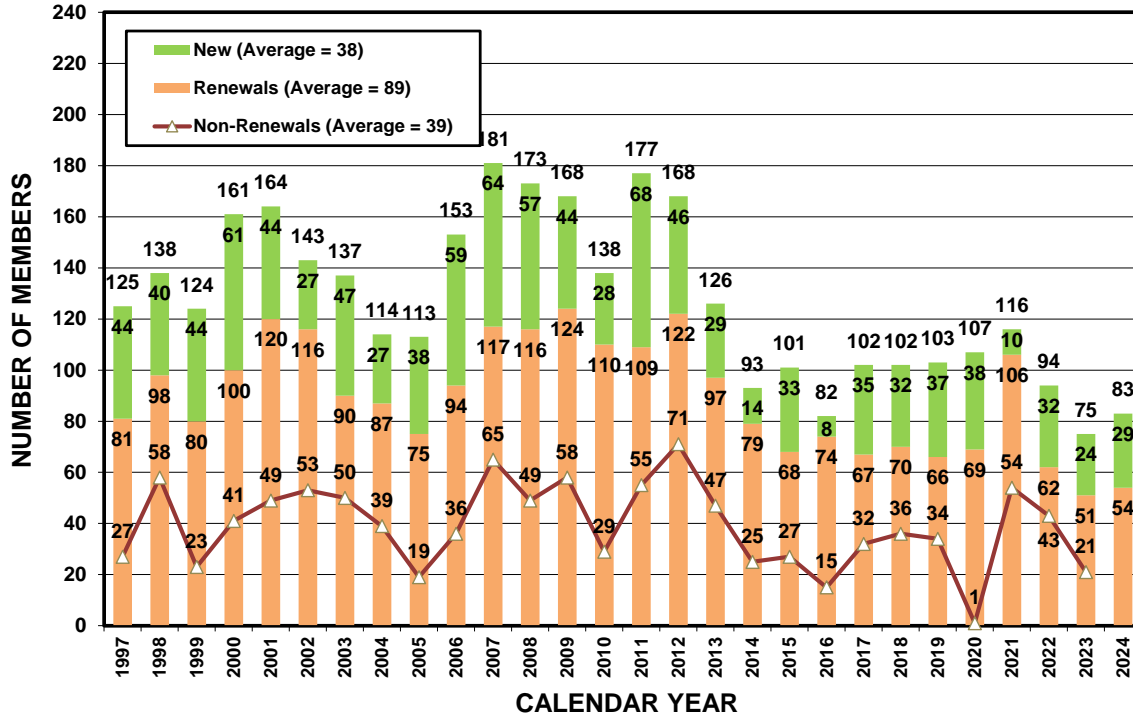
Over the last year our e-news circulation, which consists almost entirely of current and past members, grew from 300 to 317 people. We continue to reach a large number of members of the local dance community. At the same time, many other opportunities for dancing in Nanaimo, such as west coast swing, salsa, Argentine tango and line dancing. have arisen in recent years, giving the dance community more choice in which style of dance they would like to pursue.

Keith Wilson

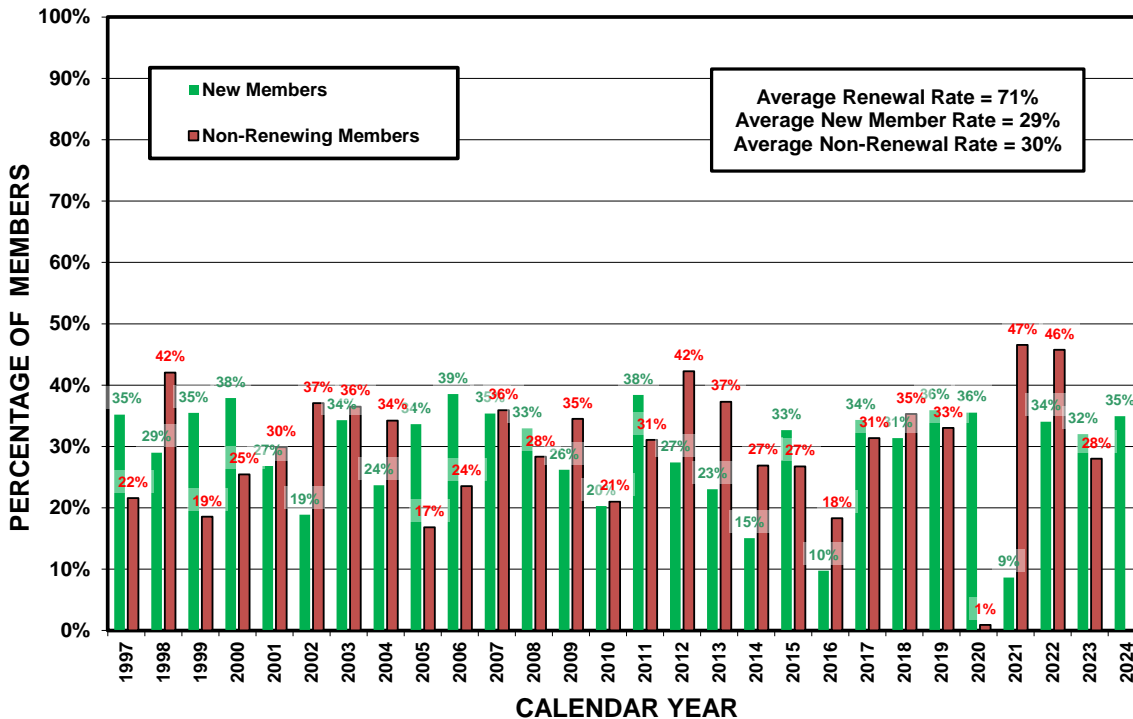
NBDS MEMBERSHIP SINCE 1997



NBDS MEMBERSHIP SINCE 1997



NBDS TURNOVER RATE SINCE 1997



NBDS 2024 AGM Report – DanceSport Nanaimo

DanceSport Nanaimo (DSN) was formed in the year 2000 with an **aim to support local competitors as well as to act as their advocate**. DSN originated as a subsidiary to Island Fantasy Ball (IFB) and as such, our budget is totally linked with IFB.

NBDS competitors practice is one of DSN's main initiatives. Overtime the term "competitors" was dropped from the practices as we would like to encourage more non-competitors to share the practice space. Other than dancers, competitors and non-competitors alike, who came to practise, dance teachers were also conducting private lessons during the practices.

Currently our practices are being held from 6 to 9 PM on Sundays at Nanoose Place and Thursdays at Beban Lounge. Occasionally, when there were space availability issues, then we would move some practices to Tuesdays. Normally, during the weeks leading up to a major competition, there would be demands for additional time when we would extend the hours to 10 PM. Floor fees are unchanged at \$5 per person for up to 4 hours of floor time either for practice and/or private lessons. Teachers would pay \$8 per hour when they conduct private lessons.

The City revised their facility rental fee structure effective from 2024 onwards. Prior to the change, groups were able to book a block of hours from a full day, 8 or 4-hour blocks or hourly with the least expensive full day to the most expensive hourly rate. Now we must only rent on an hourly basis as the City has eliminated all block rates. Unfortunately, such change has negatively impacted our largest annual event, the IFB, by a significant increase of 135% in our 2024 rental cost as compared to past years.

However, this new City fee structure has also worked in our favour for the DSN rental at Beban as we are now paying \$21.43 tax inclusive per hour versus \$30.32 before, so a savings of 29%. This savings in comparison to the 135% increase is insignificant as it is not in the thousands of dollars. For Nanoose Place the rent remains unchanged at \$30 per hour.

Even with the increase in rental cost, 2024 IFB enjoyed a good financial success due to the vigilant oversight of the IFB Committee. With the sizable IFB operating surplus, DSN has requested an assistance fund of \$3,000 for NBDS competitors like last year. Our plan is to allocate \$200 per NBDS athlete for participating in the SnowBall Classic, the largest DanceSport event in BC to be held in November.

IFB 2025 has been granted the honor to host the 2025 Canadian Closed Championships in which the top athletes will be selected to represent Canada in the World DanceSport Federation World Championships. We absolutely believe that 2025 will be the largest IFB ever.

In anticipation of the Canadian Closed Championships being held in 2025, DSN is also planning a DanceSport initiative to allow NBDS members a chance to participate and experience for the first time as newcomer competitors at the 2025 IFB. The initiative entails the establishment of a series of Introduction to DanceSport classes offered through the Nanaimo Parks & Recreation Program starting in January 2025. All participants registered in this program will receive a full refund of their registration cost with the condition that they must become or are members of NBDS. Funding for this initiative is included in the approved \$3,000 DanceSport assistance fund described above.

Last year the DanceSport assistance fund was given to fifteen NBDS athletes as a subsidy towards their travel, accommodation and other expenses for participating at the SnowBall Classic in Vancouver. We are hopeful that the Introduction to DanceSport classes will encourage more NBDS members to participate for the first time as DanceSport athletes at the 2025 IFB.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Wong

DanceSport Nanaimo

NBDS 2024 AGM Report – Equipment

Unfortunately, we lost one of our wireless headsets during the Dance in the Park project. Currently, we are not seeking a replacement since we still have one other set. In addition, we are no longer required to provide a set for use at Nanoose dances since the hall had upgraded their in-house audio system. A table which I had loaned to the Dance in the Park project was also broken.

Both our JBL and TOA systems were used to provide the extra power required in the outdoor environment during the Dance in the Park project. Due to the various gadgets and devices used by teachers and DJs, we had to purchase a great number of audio accessories and new connector cables using the Dance in the Park funding. Now we have all the audio necessities required by teachers and DJs, even if you are using an old I-phone to play music.

Using the available Dance in the Park funding, we also purchased two tents for performers to change costumes in plus some folding chairs, tables and accessories. Shanghai City Restaurant has kindly sponsored their cargo van for transportation and temporary storage use for the entire duration of the Dance in the Park project.

I would like to extend my thanks to Brian, Russ, and Michael for their continued help and assistance with the set-up/take down and transportation of the audio system for the Dance in the Park project as well as for Bowen dances.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Wong

NBDS Equipment Committee

NBDS 2024 AGM Report – Venue Bookings

I have volunteered to oversee all venue bookings to streamline NBDS booking operation. This includes hall booking for Island Fantasy Ball, Summer Dance Fest, Bowen dances, Nanoose dances, Beban practices, Nanoose practices, and new for this year the Dance in the Park project. This role would also require periodic updates of practice schedule listings on the NBDS website.

As reported earlier, we encountered a major challenge with a 135% rent increase for the 2024 IFB. We did our best to bring to the attention of the top brass within the City and Parks & Rec including Damon Johnson - Beban Park Manager, Richard Harding - Parks & Rec Director, Tyler Brown - City Council member and even the Mayor, Leonard Krog as to how the change in price structure would have a

devastating effect on our IFB. Although we put a tremendous effort in meeting and negotiating with them, but it was to no avail.

We also investigated the possibility of an alternate venue, the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC) and met up with the representatives to tour the site. VICC is by far a newer, larger and more elegant venue than Beban. Although its cost is slightly less than Beban's new rental rate, it does not have a wooden floor large enough for our competition purpose. That was one of the reasons why we did not change our venue to VICC some 15 years ago.

However, we heard that Sara Raymond had purchased a used portable plywood dance floor from Alberta so we had considered renting her floor if we were to switch to VICC. I personally had danced on the same floor in Calgary during the 2023 Canadian Closed Championships where I sustained an injury to my Achilles, but it was not due to the floor. Some of us even went as far as attending Sarah Raymond's dance event at the VICC in May this year to try out her dance floor before making our final decision.

The surface of the plywood dance floor was okay to dance on but not as good as real hardwood, but the issue is setup and takedown as it is rather labour intensive and time consuming. In Alberta they had encountered some difficulties and issues with its setup and takedown during the 2023 CCC. After the CCC, the owner of the dance floor tried to sell his floor with an asking price of approx. \$10,000 as he was moving away.

After Sara Raymond's event, I approached her for a quote for her floor and she gave me a rental price of \$4,000 plus labour (up to \$1,000) to install and takedown. Obviously \$5,000 is quite an extra addition to the facility cost.

Even if we were to pay the additional cost for the dance floor, there was the food and beverage catering service to consider as we must use the Catering and Bar Service offered by the VICC. Their least expensive buffet dinner would cost \$58 per person with less items to choose from as compared to our own catering service of \$33.50 per person. I later found out that VICC is managed by a US company and in my opinion the company is getting all the profits of their designated high-cost caterer and bar service while giving large discount on hall rental fee at the expense of the City. What government knows about running business anyway, this just makes me mad.

Other than our full day bookings like IFB and dinner dances, most of our other bookings are considered secondary in the eye of the City of Nanaimo and Nanoose Community Centre. As such, we occasionally get bumped, often with very short and sometime no notice, whenever there are larger events wanting our booked date(s). The consolidation of all venue booking assignment to one person allows me to react quickly when a short notice is received. Oftentimes, I was able to re-book the bumped events to either another location or another date/time. During our Dance in the Park project, we unfortunately got bumped one Tuesday evening after we had already printed our materials thereby creating an inaccurate advertising. Fortunately, the event was free to all so no one complained too bitterly.

NBDS venue booking is a continuous administrative task and is quite time consuming as it requires follow-ups as well as immediate action when our dates got bumped.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Wong

Venue Bookings Coordinator

NBDS 2024 AGM Report – Dance in the (Maffeo Sutton) Park

The idea first came to mind from the vastly successful Robson Square (RSq) Summer Dance Series hosted by DanceSport BC for the past two decades or more. I have attended RSq many times in the past during the summer months and they were usually packed with hundreds of participants. Everybody seemed to enjoy the free workshops as well as social dancing in the open air. You can feel the joy and excitement of the crowd. I thought to myself that I would like to bring the RSq concept to Nanaimo one day.

During our City Culture Project Grant applications for IFB, I noticed that the Downtown Event Revitalization Funding (DERF) has always been by far the most generous compared to any other City Grant available. For those of you who has been living in Nanaimo long enough, you would have noticed how desperate the City had wanted to 'revitalize' downtown Nanaimo. I moved to Nanaimo in the year 1980, and every year I hear the City's big plans to revitalize downtown. VICC and Port Theatre were the products of their many plans.

We decided to apply for the DERF funding and got approved, thanks Stephen for making the application. Later Stephen also applied for another community grant from the Nanaimo Credit Union where NBDS has a current bank account, and we got approved as well. In all, the funding helped us pay for the rent, workshop teachers and the DJs and all we needed were the volunteers to run it.

A variety of workshops were conducted by Vicki, Elizabeth, Pamela, Gaetan and me. A total of nine (9) Tuesday evenings. We requested for weekends but were only allotted Tuesdays. Our Formation Team who participated in the demos were all volunteers including Bruce, Carman, Carol, Daphne, Deborah, Flavia, Jacob, Josh, Keith, Marilyn, Sarah, Shiloh, Tokyo, Tom, Vicki, and Vincent. Michael, Russ, and Brian helped with setup and take down, so it was quite a team effort.

Our first Dance in the Park series was enjoyed by all who participated. Free workshops, free dancing and demo in an outdoor fresh air environment not to mention the ice cream truck (not free though) obviously offer merits. On the average there were approx. 40 to 60 people who attended each Tuesday evening, I was hoping to see a few more NBDS members, but then this is the first year.

Are we going to host it again? I am still debating...even though we do have many volunteers, I am still only one person spearheading this project....and maybe one too many NBDS initiatives, will see.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Wong

Dance in the Park Coordinator

NBDS 2024 AGM Report – Summer Dance Fest (DF)

Last year when I sustained an injury to my Achilles in the Spring, I was unable to carry on as Chair of the Summer Dance Fest. Since no other NBDS member was willing to step up to the plate, it was a pity that

we had to forego the organization of the Summer Dance Fest project in 2023. This year I decided to revitalize the DF but in a simplified fashion so it's easier to manage.

We relocated the event from the Lighthouse Community Centre to Bowen Park Auditorium so Nanaimo area dancers wouldn't have to travel that far. We omitted the fun but labour-intensive BBQ dinner and replaced it with Pizzas and Wings dinner. We also scaled it down from two days to one. This simplification worked well. There's still quite a bit of volunteer hours involved but at least in a much more manageable fashion. Approximately 60 people attended this year's Summer Dance Fest with a good portion of them coming from out-of-town and Victoria.

For workshops we had John de Pfyffer, Andy, Gaetan and me, total of five workshops. Some felt that maybe five workshops are too many for one day plus dinner and dance as many were from out-of-town and had to leave early.

As in previous years, we designated the DF as NBDS' volunteer annual appreciation function. Other than IFB volunteers who already had their appreciation party, we invited all NBDS members who had contributed to and volunteered at NBDS dances to a complimentary dinner and dance at DF.

I would like to thank many volunteers who helped made this project possible including Catherine, Pinky, Vicki, Michael, Judy, Brian, Russ, Keith, Deborah, John, Tina, Sarah plus our usual suspects from the NBDS Formation Team. A special mention and thank you goes to Sara who oversaw the admission/workshops registration and collection of money.

Since the Summer Dance Fest happened after NBDS' fiscal year end of Jun 30, our latest financials would not have included DF (and Dance in the Park) data. Despite many complimentary admissions, the 2024 DF still managed to break-even financially according to Pinky's preliminary financial report.

Thanks to everyone for their contribution.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Wong

2024 Summer Dance Fest Coordinator