

*The Victoria Ballroom Dance Society's Newsletter*



*Volume 14, Number 1  
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January, 2007*



**Eric Chandler & Monica Reimer at  
The Grand Ball in Richmond**

*The Grand Ball 2006*

by Wayne Hodgson

The wild winds of early November continued for the weekend of November 10-12 at the Grand Ball in Richmond, B.C., as they blew into the ballroom so much talent that it was a dance-aholic's delight to nestle indoors and experience the tempest. Imagine not one or two, but three full days of dancing that generated electrifying competition recognized by thunderous appreciation. That was what happened at the Grand Ballroom's 13th Annual event hosted by Andy and Wendy Wong.

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**Joanna Breaks & Horace Luong (second and third from left) won Bronze Standard at the Grand Ball**

## *Overview of Volunteer Positions*

The VBDS is run by volunteers. In order to provide classes, dances, practices, Dance Pacifica, and other services, we depend on members to contribute some of their time. If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas, contact the appropriate committee chair or a board member, call 721-JIVE, or e-mail [info@vbds.org](mailto:info@vbds.org).

### *Board of Directors*

There are three vacancies on the Board, for terms running until November 2007.

Bob Adams  
Des Corry  
Neil Fleischmann (President)  
Keith Honeyman (Treasurer)  
Diana Jasinski (Membership Coordinator)  
Linda Mazzei  
Wayne Swanson (Secretary)  
Nancy Talbot (Vice President)

### *Dance Committee*

Organizes our monthly dances. Help is required door-sitting, decorating, cleaning up, etc. Contact Kenn or Alana at: 598-7818 [kennalana@shaw.ca](mailto:kennalana@shaw.ca)

Alana & Kenn Pearce (co-chairs)  
Donna Lawrence  
Elizabeth & Michael Pollard  
Jane & Ron Smirl  
Allen Specht

### *Dance Pacifica Committee*

Organizes our annual DanceSport BC-sanctioned competition. Committee members are required, as well as volunteers for the event June 16.

Keith Honeyman (chair)  
Wayne Hodgson  
Linda Mazzei (volunteer coordinator)  
Helen Weathered

### *E-mail: [info@vbds.org](mailto:info@vbds.org)*

Sends e-mail bulletins to members and responds to e-mails sent to the club.

Murray McAllindon

### *Halls Coordinator*

Takes care of VBDS hall bookings.

Linda Mazzei

### *Hiring Committee*

Nancy Talbot (chair)

### *Information Line*

**721-JIVE (721-5483)**

Neil Fleischmann

### *Librarians*

Responsible for the video library that operates at Wednesday practices.

Joyce & Ron Hall (head librarians)  
Maggie Birkett  
Barbara Danese  
Barb McRae  
Leo Schofield  
Nancy Slaght  
Fay Whittaker  
Maureen Wood

### *Newsletter*

Roger Pylypa (editor)  
Alan Taylor (assistant)

### *Practice Music*

These people put on the music you hear at practices.

Neil Fleischmann  
Joyce Hall  
Ron Hall  
Harv Hart  
Canh Ho  
Forbes Leslie  
Thomas Maxwell  
Rob Morris  
Chris Vardy  
Sherman Waddell

### *Promotions & Advertising*

Advertises the VBDS and its classes, organizes mall demos, creates and distributes pamphlets for the society.

Bob Adams (chair)  
Barbara Drolet  
Robin Evans

### *Registration*

Registers everyone in their classes with the aid of registration-night volunteers.

Diana Jasinski is the new membership coordinator. Thanks to Sherman Waddell for organizing the January 2007 registration.

### *Standards and Classes*

Responsible for class schedules, feedback surveys, and liaising between instructors and students.

Neil Fleischmann (chair)  
Des Corry  
Diana Jasinski  
Linda Mazzei

### *Victoria Clubs Closed*

#### *Competition*

Organizes our spring competition for local dancers.

Wayne Hodgson (chair)  
Keith Honeyman  
Bill Switzer  
Judith Tharp

### *Volunteer Coordinators*

We currently need members to help arrange volunteers for various duties.

Val Moir (coordinates dancers to help maintain lead/follow balance in classes)

### *Webmaster: [www.vbds.org](http://www.vbds.org)*

Responsible for maintenance of the VBDS web site, such as creating new links and updating information.

David Spence

### *Workshops*

Wayne Swanson (chair)

## Information Board

### *Registration for Classes*

The VBDS offers group classes in standard and latin dances from the newcomer to gold levels, as well as dances such as west coast swing. Registration information for spring classes will be available on the web site and at practices as registration approaches.

### *Weekly Practices*

The VBDS holds four practices per week, free for members. Please bring a clean, non-marking pair of dance shoes; street shoes ruin the floor and jeopardize our ability to rent halls. Slower dancers are requested to dance closer to the center of the floor, leaving space along the sides for more advanced dancers to move.

#### Wednesdays 7:45 - 10:00 pm

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, 3220 Cedar Hill Road (at Finlayson). Open to all members. The video library operates at this practice from 7:45 to 8:45.

#### Fridays 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Saanich Silver Threads Hall (Les Passmore Centre), 286 Hampton Rd. Open to all members. Zuzana and Angus MacKnight are usually available part of the evening to assist with minor dancing problems.

#### Sundays 10:00 am - noon

Silver and above only. Saanich Silver Threads Hall (Les Passmore Centre), 286 Hampton Rd.

#### Sundays 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Instructor-supervised practice for Newcomer I and II only, at Saanich Silver Threads Hall (Les Passmore Centre), 286 Hampton Rd.

*Web Site:* [www.vbds.org](http://www.vbds.org)

Our web site includes information on membership and registration, an event calendar, a list of videos in our library, info on club events, and links to related web sites.

### *Information Line:*

**721-JIVE (721-5483)**

You can access the VBDS phone line using a touch-tone phone. The information is pre-recorded, including registration for classes, upcoming dances, workshops, etc. You can also leave a message.

*E-mail:* [info@vbds.org](mailto:info@vbds.org)

If you send us an e-mail message, include "VBDS" in the subject line so it can be sorted from junk mail. Please allow time for your message to be forwarded to the person who can best address your concern. The VBDS also sends regular bulletins to its members who have e-mail addresses (if you are not receiving the bulletins and would like to be, contact the club at the above address).

### *Video Library*

The VBDS maintains a library of instruction videos for various levels of the ten international-style dances and more. Also available are tapes of competitions and a couple of books. Items can be checked out at no charge for one week by members after they write a \$40 deposit cheque. The video library operates at Wednesday practices at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre from 7:45 to 8:45 pm.

### *VBDS Most Wanted*

Wanted, alive and motivated: volunteers for numerous VBDS duties. Most wanted: volunteer coordinators. Contact Neil at 592-9703 [president@vbds.org](mailto:president@vbds.org)

## Newsletter Information

### *Editor & Publisher:*

Roger Pylypa  
(250) 382-4088  
[rpylypa@shaw.ca](mailto:rpylypa@shaw.ca)

### *Assistant:*

Alan Taylor  
(250) 472-3315  
[ataylor@uvic.ca](mailto:ataylor@uvic.ca)

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- The editor does not accept liability for incorrect information furnished to him, or for mistakes inadvertently made by him.
- The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length, language, or content. However, he may choose to leave everything as written by its author.
- Articles from this newsletter appear on the VBDS web site. Contributors should specify any information they do not wish to appear on the web site when they submit their articles.
- Copyright rights remain with the author.

Subscription Price: \$10 per year (four issues) or \$2.50 per single copy. Prices include postage and GST.

Classified Ads: Place a free ad for dance-related items: for sale, wanted, dance partners wanted, lost or found items, etc.

#### Newsletter Advertising Rates:

1/9 page (business card size)	\$15
1/4 page (3.50"W x 4.75"H)	\$30
1/2 page (7.00"W x 4.75"H)	\$50
Full page (7.00"W x 9.50"H)	\$80

To place an ad, contact the editor. Have the exact-sized ad print ready with a cheque for the appropriate amount. Ads do not appear in the internet version of the newsletter.



## *Instructor Contacts*

Besides VBDS classes, there are a number of other opportunities to learn ballroom dancing in town. Taking small group and private lessons, for example, can help to improve your skills. The following is a list of instructors and local dance organizations. Some of them host their own dances as well (see Calendar of Events, pages 11-12).

### *Barbara & Ted Barnett*

Classes, workshops, private lessons, competition and medal work.  
250-743-7470 barnettdance@shaw.ca  
(Shawnigan Lake)

### *Pat Bovaird*

See box on this page. Also available for private lessons when in town. Contact Dianne Gallagher: 595-2928  
gallaghe@camosun.bc.ca

### *Carol Cacciato*

Available for private lessons. 384-4714

### *Alexandr Cherdantsev*

Specializing in standard. All levels for adults/children. Workshops, small groups, private lessons. (604) 727-7238 a\_cherdantsev@hotmail.com  
See box on this page.

### *John de Puffer*

Classes, workshops, small groups, and private lessons. 920-7556  
dancevictoria@telus.net  
web site: ml.islandnet.com/mailman/listinfo/dancevictoria

### *Dianne Gallagher*

Workshops and classes for small groups on request, private lessons, and coaching for competitions.  
595-2928 gallaghe@camosun.bc.ca

### *Wanda Kivitt*

Private and semi-private lessons, group classes, and workshops.  
477-4811 wkivitt@hotmail.com  
web site: pacificoast.net/~wkivitt

### *Oksana Latynina*

Specializing in latin. Also rhythmic for kids, ballet, and jazz. Workshops, small groups, private lessons. (604) 524-6212  
oksanadance@hotmail.com or contact Monica 388-0098 mreimer1@telus.net  
See box on this page.

### *Donna Lawrence*

Small groups, private lessons, catering to the novice dancer. 383-7075  
dancingdragon52@hotmail.com  
www.dancingdragon52.com

### *Lee & Elizabeth McGregor*

Classes, workshops, small groups, and private lessons. Dance cruises.  
479-7492 mcgregordancestudio@telus.net  
www3.telus.net/mcgregordancestudio

### *Reg Rossin*

Private and group lessons, coaching for instructors. 656-2346

### *Roman Yuo*

Classes, workshops, small groups, and private lessons. Dance cruises.  
391-1178 roman@yuedance.com  
www.yuedance.com

### *Standard Workshop Series with Alexandr (Sasha) Cherdantsev*

Every Saturday morning a one-and-a-half hour class of standard dance technique and practice. For students at Bronze level and above. Cost is \$15 per person. A great opportunity to learn and have fun. For more info contact Carmen at carmen-neil@shaw.ca

### *Oksana Latynina Latin Workshops*

Weekly workshops for everyone wanting to improve their latin technique. Fun classes include isolating hips and rib-cage, arm styling, body waves, and turns. Contact Monica at 388-0098 mreimer1@telus.net

### *Workshops with Pat Bovaird*

Mr. Bovaird, coach of Canadian champions and judge at world championships, teaches a variety of workshops at various levels. Dates, times, and locations to be announced.  
For information contact Dianne at 595-2928 gallaghe@camosun.bc.ca

## *Dance Organizations*

### *Camosun Ballroom*

#### *Dance Club*

Group lessons in east/west coast swing, tango fusion, salsa, merengue, bachata. Non-students welcome. 686-8091  
ballroomcamosun@yahoo.com  
www.geocities.com/ballroomcamosun

### *Red Hot Swing*

Swing dances such as lindy hop, charleston, and balboa. Group and private lessons. 885-4639  
www.redhotswing.com

### *Salsa / Latin*

Café Casablanca: 389-0222  
www.cafecasablanca.ca  
Salsa Caliente: 881-6141  
calientedance@gmail.com  
www.calientedance.com  
Salsa da Vida: 385-8857  
david@salsadavida.ca  
www.salsadavida.ca  
Salsa Moderna: latinvictoria@shaw.ca  
www.latinvictoria.ca

### *Tango Vita*

Argentine Tango dance lessons, practices, and dances.  
info@tangovita.com  
www.tangovita.com

### *UVic Ballroom*

#### *Dance Club*

Lessons in ballroom, swing, salsa, merengue, and bachata, mostly limited to the UVic community.  
uvicdance@gmail.com  
www.uvss.uvic.ca/clubs/ballroom

## The Grand Ball

(continued from page 1)

This event seems to get better each year. I last attended in 2003, and was then quite awe-struck. But this weekend topped that experience.

There were a lot of Professional/Amateur solo routines; it is very interesting to have dance instructors on the floor for an extended period of time, to really appreciate their artistic abilities and professional styles. This is not to overlook the tremendous amount of practice time that the amateur student will dedicate to flawlessly learning the routine, if not having a strong hand in the choreography. From the opening to the final note of music, the entire piece is choreographed – not just to cover the syllabus dance steps but to become an imaginative showcase worthy of presentation at any prestigious event.

Another highlight was the opportunity to see new (to us) professionals participating: Parksville's Ken Yung, Kelowna's Warren Eaton, and Vancouver's Young Ryu, Joel Marasigan, Clara Shih, Oksana Latynina and Alexandr Cherdantsev – all who have recently been in Victoria to help our students. They were a delight to watch – especially Warren, who is former VBDS member Patty Linklater's son. He was recognized as the runner-up for top professional of the weekend, dancing with five ladies from the Okanagan. Dale Neale of the Grand Ballroom was the top teacher, and deservedly so, as he is such a wonderful dancer in

all respects – he was always in tune with his partner, and is such an artistic and elegant dancer.

Of course, Andy Wong dances many events – possibly every second one tirelessly throughout the weekend. He is a 'dancing' testimonial to a healthy lifestyle, let alone unselfishness. A couple of routines he performed were so imaginative as to be magical – again, a showcase masterpiece.



**Neil Fleischmann & Carmen Galang won the Senior Silver Standard at the Grand Ball**

From Victoria there must have been 25 attendees including dance teachers, competitors and enthusiasts. Neil Fleischmann & Carmen Galang danced very well, finishing first in Senior Silver Standard and third in Adult Silver

Standard; Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks won the Adult Bronze Standard; and Eric Chandler & Monica Reimer finished second in Senior Gold Latin and third in Senior Silver Latin.

The field of adjudicators is always interesting to meet and observe; I was able to meet a couple of judges, and with one, we happen to have mutual friends in Montreal – small world. The international and national flavour was evident as well: mingling with our British Columbia dancers and officials were judges from England, California, Oregon, Washington, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, as well as dancers from Austria, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Now, the storm of excitement had hardly begun, so brace yourself for the next onslaught of talent. The Canadian Closed Professional Championships were also being staged at the Grand Ball. Basically, this is the final game of the Stanley Cup/World Cup (you pick) with winner take all. The Latin competition began with a semi-final, giving the audience two chances to see these top couples dance. And believe me, each and every couple on the floor wanted to win the event: the winner and runner-up would get to represent Canada at the World Dance Competitions later in 2007. Totally over the top – how the judges are able to sort through this field of dancers truly denotes their stature and respect in the international dance community.

The Professional Championship Standard was equally exciting, with a smaller field that enabled us to focus more on the individual couples. Sadly, we only got to watch each couple's superb performance once.

Wait! We are not out of the storm's eye yet, because the highest level of amateur dancing – Adult Championships in Standard and Latin – was about to rain upon us. Both had quarter-finals! Both featured competitive ballroom dancing at its highest levels; I doubt you could find any more excitement than this – even at Blackpool!

Unbelievably, in Adult Championship Standard we saw a very young, graceful, and handsome Vancouver couple fearlessly compete as equals amongst giants (stature- and experience-wise) and proceed into the semi-finals. I was surprised that they did not make it to the finals. What an inspiration this young couple was to all. The Adult Championship Latin was about as "hot" as one could possibly stand without bursting into flame.

Well, that is what it is like to ride a stormy tempest all weekend. The damage is humbling when you realize the results coaching from a professional will produce, and how much a partnership must have practiced to dance to its highest level of accomplishment. Those of us who enjoy dance for fun, health benefits, and socializing very much appreciate what we are given at competitions, professional or amateur, by those who either

make a career from dance or wish to aspire to their highest ability.

Put Andy and Wendy Wong's Grand Ball 2007 event into your calendar books. I don't know how they will do it, but I would not be surprised if the 14th annual event will top what we weathered in the fall of 2006.

## *Dance Personalities*

by Roger Pylypa

### *Waltz*

The slow waltz personifies beauty and romance; it is classy and charming, flaunting the long, flowing gown and suit of tails worn by performers. The romantic aspect is not intense like the rumba or sexual as in tango: it is a captivating kind of romanticism, portraying not only the beauty of courtship, but non-amorous entrancement as well. It captures the enchantment of weddings, as the couple announces their love to the world – so genuinely that it is commonly danced by newlyweds at wedding receptions. The air of the waltz is similar to the fascination of a parent holding a newborn child, or listening to a friend play a violin solo far more emotively than you knew she could play. The romantic passion of waltz is emphasized by the rapid turns that send the lady's dress floating, along with a slow tempo that allows the figures to be danced smoothly, rising and falling to legato melodies that make you want to close your eyes.

I experienced similarly compelling elegance in Japan, where at times I was captivated by kinds of artistic expression I had not previously experienced. Ritsurin Park is the most beautiful garden I have ever seen, with its bonsai trees, lily pads, streams and bridges all interconnected to create an aesthetic panorama. An experienced couple can similarly weave elements of the waltz together to heighten the dance's effect; there is even a figure called *the weave*. Music, too, can be woven into graceful patterns: one day at Yashima, not far from Ritsurin Park, I unexpectedly came across a traditional Japanese choir practicing. I had never heard this kind of music before, with its poignant minor harmonies and musical turns, and recurrent rising and falling of the melody that might remind one of the movement of the waltz.

One building over from the choir there was a group of woman practicing *naginata*, martial arts using long poles. I was fascinated by the way they jumped to avoid having their feet struck by the poles, the posture and the precision of their movements – the *naginata* performers created an aesthetic with their motion just like dancers do. It could be compared to any dance, but the charm of the evening I came across the choir and martial arts practices specifically reminds me of the waltz.

Waltz is elegant, but not easy. Students who say "I waltzed through that exam" are obviously not ballroom dancers. The metaphor appears to refer to

the ease with which the dance seems to flow; but in fact it takes much perseverance in training before it can be made to appear effortless. A beginner who expects to waltz through the waltz has a surprise in store, since newcomers tend to be very clumsy at it. Having learned his lesson, the beginning dancer will be more cautious in his use of expressions. If someone says "I waltzed through that exam," his response will be "oh, how unfortunate. Perhaps you will do better next time" to a confused fellow-student who has obviously never taken dance lessons.

### *Tango*

If the slow waltz is the wedding, the tango is the honeymoon. Often referred to as "a vertical expression of a horizontal desire," tango is characterized by slow, suspenseful walks juxtaposed with abrupt, forceful body movements. The music, in a minor key, is bold and dramatic; and even the dancers' facial expressions suggest arousal. Often they pause for effect, while their heads slowly rotate before impetuously jolting into a new position. Contrary to the foxtrot, movement is sharp, ranging from slow and cautious to rapid sequences of changes in position.

There are ways to further illustrate the tenor of tango other than using the obvious sexual metaphor. Imagine a potential street fight, with two enemies engaged in a mutual stare a few feet apart, each holding a knife. They walk slow circles around each other, neither leaving the

other's gaze. A crowd looks on silently. Suddenly there is a flash of movement as each of the two men lunge while avoiding the other's knife; then they are circling again. The emotions of the two fighters, the ambience of tension, the stealth, the abrupt outbreak of activity, all exude an aura similar to tango.

Do you remember being on a swing as a child? Perhaps you pumped yourself higher and higher, until your body virtually leapt off the seat mid-air. Imagine the rush of excitement with every lunge, peaking at your momentary suspension in the air, before you swung down slightly relaxed until the tension of the next peak arose. You could have stopped, but the swing challenged you; the thrill was exhilarating. A child on the swing next to you was sleepwalking through the experience, gently rising and falling like a foxtrot. No, even at this age, you knew you could never foxtrot: you were meant to tango.

### *Viennese Waltz*

Like the slow waltz, the Viennese waltz conveys beauty, but is faster and less romantic. It radiates a profound elegance, as if the dancers were in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century palace in Vienna. There is an air of display just as in slow waltz, but with less entrancement and more grandeur. One dances the Viennese waltz with a slight sense of triumph, having mastered the dance floor with controlled momentum. No one knows how hard the legs are working underneath. The dance

is performed with an air of Austrian nobility.

I have not mastered the Viennese waltz by a longshot. I still get dizzy. But I have had a few moments of splendour that serve as a worthwhile substitute. In grade seven I won a merit award, which a friend of mine had won four times previously. My friend shook my hand as I walked toward the podium to the applause of parents and students. I was on display, and proud; and no one knew how hard I had worked to achieve that moment.

My graduation ceremony reminds me of a floor of Viennese waltzers dressed in finery: formal apparel, almost choreographed movement of the graduates to sophisticated music that lent an air of extravagance to the affair. It was beautiful in its own way: not as intimate as a slow waltz, but romantic nonetheless, similar to a gala at which people stop and admire the grandiose charm of the affair.

Think of a figure skater who takes to the center of the ice to begin her routine. She has an entire ice surface to herself, every corner of which is hers to utilize, her companion and adversary that can make her glide or fall. Like the Viennese waltzers, she too is the master of her surface, spinning or vaulting through the air in circles with controlled momentum. The audience acknowledges each success, enthralled by the ability underlying the elegance. There are enough parallels between dancing and figure skating that ice dancing is one of the competitive categories in the skating world. ●

## *Victoria Clubs Closed Competition*

by Wayne Hodgson, chair

The Victoria Ballroom Dance Society is pleased to report the resounding success of our second Victoria Clubs Closed Competition (VCCC) of 2006. The event was held at our monthly dance on November 4. The decision to have a second competition within the year was motivated by the enthusiasm generated during last spring's VCCC. When the emcee posed the question as to whether another closed competition should be held in the near future, the response was affirmative – who says we can't follow a good lead? As a result, encouragement and support rang through the ballroom, aka gymnasium, from another full house of dancers, guests, and parents.

Yes, parents! It is a very welcome sight to see that dancesport is attracting young adults who are demonstrating a real enthusiasm for learning their steps and routines. And they are seemingly fearless as they venture out onto the floor to compete with much older, more experienced dancers. Our youngest competitors were Graeme (age 11) and Elizabeth (age 13) Prendergast who have been dancing for all of seven swing/jive lessons with John de Pfyffer. Also, Stanislav Pavlov (turned 16 in October) and Amelia Watson (age dare I say)

were focused as they finished second in the pre-bronze waltz and performed a demonstration of intermediate cha cha for the audience. They are students of Roman Yue.

What are some of the challenges in hosting a competition such as the VCCC? The most obvious one is getting participants to sign up. To help a little with the "fear factor" we have class reps encourage groups of classmates to enter together; applying the safety-in-numbers theory, it can be less intimidating for those who might like to compete. Speaking from limited experience, the "after event" reflection is very satisfying, so try stretching your own comfort zone next time and see how you feel. I am certain that your colleagues/club members sitting on the sidelines will be watching without judgement – and perhaps with envy.

As you can imagine, there is an abundance of administrative work that has to be done, both prior to, and then during the evening of the competition. Tasks include: recording the registrations, listing them and assigning numbers, preparing judging cards and a summary sheet, ensuring there is a supply of pins for the number cards, assorted other stationary needs, and printing the certificates. A few days prior to the event, a schedule for the evening is put together as a guide for the DJ and the Emcee. During the evening it is necessary to verify that registrants have checked in; and then tabulating the results needs

to happen quickly, smoothly and without error. Handling the registration details in advance significantly enhances the "flow" of the evening for the organizers.

So this is a good point in time to say thanks to some of our VBDS members who work very hard to make the evening's agenda run so smoothly: Instructors Elizabeth MacGregor for adjudication and Roman Yue for his music selections, velvet-voiced Emcee Keith Honeyman, Bill Switzer and Judith Tharp for registration (remember, prior registration organization, set up, tabulating and providing the summary sheet to the emcee – thanks Bill and Judith), Kenn Pearce for lighting and support, Alan Taylor for administrative support, instructors Donna Lawrence, Diane Gallagher, and Wanda Kivitt for assisting with certificate presentation, and Neil Fleischmann for arm-twisting to increase participation.

A big thanks to all of the competitors for their preparation and taking the floor to make for a fun and friendly competition.

It is a good time now to start thinking about the next VCCC in the spring of 2007. The organizing committee will be re-evaluating the dances, and VBDS teachers will be focusing their attention to ensure you are prepared. If you have not competed before, make yourself a promise to try it next time. I think that making the commitment to enter this fun and low-key competition will really help you to bring a focus to your dance practice time and energy.



# RESULTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 2006 VICTORIA CLUBS CLOSED COMPETITION

## Standard

### Newcomer Social Foxtrot

1. Enrico Cinco & Aurora Ahmed
2. Brian & Shawna Wyvill
3. Brad Willis & Anna Delara

### Pre-Bronze Waltz

1. Tony Fenlon & Lynn Rumsey-Sheppard King
2. Stanislov Pavlov & Amanda Watson
3. Ezra Nichols & Jennifer Desmarais

### Bronze Waltz

1. Gord O'Byrne & Robin Evans
2. Steve Hutchings & Rachel Fong
3. Graham Fisher & Maxine Howson

### Bronze Quickstep

1. Gord O'Byrne & Robin Evans
2. Steve Hutchings & Rachel Fong

### Silver Tango

1. Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks
2. Sherman Waddell & Val Moir

### Silver Waltz

1. Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks
2. Richard Wong & Jackie Swan
3. Sherman Waddell & Val Moir

### Open Foxtrot

1. Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks
2. Neil Fleischmann & Carmen Galang
3. Avel Linklater-Renier & Yasuko France

### Open Quickstep

1. Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks
2. Andrew Sanderson & Jane Rizhanovsky
3. Neil Fleischmann & Carmen Galang

### Open Viennese Waltz

1. Andrew Sanderson & Jane Rizhanovsky
2. Neil Fleischmann & Carmen Galang
3. Alan Gibson & Christine Young

## Latin

### Newcomer Jive

1. Enrico Cinco & Nora DeLaRosa
2. Jason Fung & Lyrica Lawrence
3. Brad Willis & Anna Delara

### Intermediate Cha Cha

1. Stanislov Pavlov & Amanda Watson

### Pre-Bronze Rumba

1. Adeesha Wickremasin & Amanda Garne
2. Stephen Leaver & Christina Ball
3. Ezra Nichols & Jennifer Desmarais

### Bronze Samba

1. Rick Parsons & Linda Romeril
2. Gord O'Byrne & Robin Evans

### Open Jive

1. Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks
2. Andrew Sanderson & Nathalie Lefebvre
3. Avel Linklater-Renier & Yasuko France

### Open Rumba

1. Horace Luong & Joanna Breaks
2. Avel Linklater-Renier & Yasuko France
3. Andrew Sanderson & Nathalie Lefebvre

### Open West Coast Swing

1. Avel Linklater-Renier & Yasuko France
2. Andrew Sanderson & Jane Rizhanovsky
3. Neil Fleischmann & Carmen Galang

## Other Competitors

Craig Elder & Claudia Houwers  
 Alan Gibson & Marcia Farquhar  
 Wayne Hodgson & Jane Rizhanovsky  
 Graeme & Elizabeth Prendergast  
 Roger Pylypa & Pauline Stuart  
 Thomas Weber & Barb Brosley  
 Glyn & Terry Williams

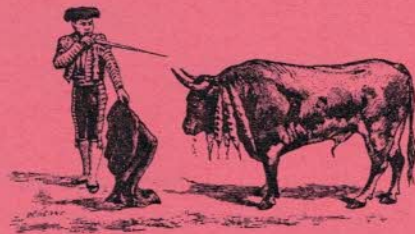
## *Triumph of the Matador* by Roger Pylypa

The Paso Doble. The boldest of all dances, where the man is supreme and the woman is a 1 metre X 1.75 metre red flannel cloth. The one opportunity us guys have to refute the stereotype of ballroom-dancer-as-wimp. The chance to show who's boss, why men were meant to lead. So why do we never want to get on the floor and dance it? I can understand why women don't like it – learning footwork designed merely to be swooshed away at the last second so as not to be pierced by a raging bull doesn't appeal to me, either (and it doesn't help to wear colours other than red. In fact, bulls are colour-blind).

But if this dance is about men in command, why don't we just order our female counterparts onto the floor to participate? I'll tell you why – because we're not matadors, we're ballroom dancers. We're wimps. So wimpy that we won't dance paso doble even without the bull. Why? Because we're afraid we might embarrass ourselves by looking silly. Well, if fear of looking silly is our attitude, it's just as well we stay on the sidelines: a matador boldly facing a 500 kg horned beast, but cowering in the face of silliness will look pretty silly indeed.

Now before you ladies get all riled about my chauvinistic attitude (don't blame me, blame my paso doble instructor), remember that it's we men who fearlessly risk injury during the

dance. Not from the absent bull, of course, but rather from partners who get riled about our chauvinistic attitudes. What could be worse than being stabbed by bull horns if not having our feet punctured with high heels? One way or the other, we are going to get something pierced; and I would prefer it to be in my ears, or nose, or other creative body part, so I'll take on the role of the cape any day. You can even make me wear pink lipstick or tattoo my lower back; just don't permanently disable my footwork (though I draw the line at mascara).



It does make me wonder what it would be like to be a female dancer. I can definitely see myself in one of those slinky latin outfits, curtsying to the admiration and astonishment of the crowd. Think about it: we dance a paso doble. He acts macho, but I'm the one with the heels. I realize that I have total control, that his machismo is merely an act, and that my role as the *mulata* merely cloaks my power.

I wonder what would happen if someone actually let a bull out on the dance floor. Imagine Dance Pacifica – the glamour of the hall, the debonair atmosphere, the excitement mid-competition when suddenly out jumps a giant beast who begins taking runs at all the

formal gowns. At first the women think it's just another lusty male snorting after them, but then there's screams and glasses smashing and tables overturning. The dancers run for cover, decorations are ripped down, someone from the Calgary Stampede jumps on the animal but is immediately vaulted off. Our glamorous event seems ruined, but then – suddenly in the corner, dressed in gold-laced jacket, tight pants and waistcoat, donning the traditional *capote de paseo* (dress cape) and unhazardous *zapatillas* (shoes), stands none other than yours truly.

Finally having cast aside my veneer of bravery and forsaken my slinky latin outfit, I stand alone; armed with nothing but true bravado, I prepare to face my destiny. The bull turns. Snort, snort. *Hey, bull – You think you're so tough. If I can take on my dance partner on a bad hair day, I can handle you.* I slowly stride toward my adversary, having finally become the man I knew I could be. I observe, unconcerned, as the bull makes a samba-walk kind of gesture with its front hoof. It stares as if we're performing rumba. It begins to lunge towards me.

Have you ever seen how Shaggy and Scooby Doo turn, peddle their feet really fast, then shoot off in one direction, leaving only animated dust swirling on the screen? Look, I have an excuse. I forgot my cape. I run out to get her: "you deal with it, honey." After all, I'm not a matador; I'm a ballroom wimp, remember?

But the bull has met his master: outside the hall, he sees my partner dangling in the air, and charges at her – but she spears him in the hoof with the heel of her dance shoe. The bull whimpers away. Seeing what has happened, I quickly return to the ballroom, and am met with a round of thunderous applause. Well – she’s made me look good in so many dance competitions, she might as well make me look good now. Besides, I owe it to male dancers everywhere to once and for all overcome the image of the wimpy ballroom male.

I take my bow.



Happy New Year!

*Dance is poetry written for the feet, read by the heart, and destined for the soul*

- VBDS member Adrienne Hughes  
(© 2005)



## Calendar of Events

### 2007 SnowBall Classic

See some of the best dancers in the world February 9-11 at Canada's largest International DanceSport Federation event, featuring IDSF Open Standard and Latin competitions. Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel. Tickets \$55-\$100 per evening, \$10/20 daytime, weekend rate for competitors. Info: [www.snowballclassic.com](http://www.snowballclassic.com). Tickets: TicketMaster (In Victoria: McPherson Box Office)

### Tartan Ball

The Victoria Joint Scottish Council invites you to attend the Tartan Ball: Saturday, April 7 at the Victoria Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara St. Katie Dunn 598-6547 or Irene Seir 652-5773

### Island Fantasy Ball

B.C. Closed Standard & Latin Championships, May 5 at Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo. Includes amateur competition at all levels and pro-am events. Featuring 8-time U.S. Professional Standard Champions Jonathan Wilkins & Katusha Demidova. Buffet dinner or theatre seating. Workshops May 6 at Bowen Park, 500 Bowen Rd. Tickets: Neil Fleischmann 592-9703 [carmen-neil@shaw.ca](mailto:carmen-neil@shaw.ca) Web site: [www.islandfantasyball.com](http://www.islandfantasyball.com)

### Dance Pacifica 2007

The Victoria Ballroom Dance Society's 12<sup>th</sup> annual competition ball, featuring the Vancouver Island Open Championships, will be held Saturday June 16, 2007 at Saanich Commonwealth Place, 4636 Elk Lake Drive. Amateur events at all levels from newcomer to championship in adult, senior, juvenile, junior, and youth categories. Pro-am and amateur solo routines. A full day's entertainment from noon to midnight! Tickets (on sale as the event approaches): [dptickets@vbds.org](mailto:dptickets@vbds.org) Web site: [www.vbds.org/dpintro.htm](http://www.vbds.org/dpintro.htm)

## Swing, Latin, and Others

### Esquimalt Legion

Live music Friday and Saturday evenings (usually Ron King), 8:30 to midnight. Mixture of ballroom and country-style dances. \$2.00. Calendar: [www.legion172.com/calendar.asp](http://www.legion172.com/calendar.asp)

### Island Singles

Dances begin at 9:00 pm at da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St. Primarily swing and latin. Tickets \$10 at the door. February 10, further dates to be announced. 383-8041

### Salsa Dancing

Salsa Palace: 1417 Broad St.  
361-9433 (extension 215)  
Café Casablanca: 2524 Bridge St.  
389-0222  
Web site linking to both:  
[www.latinvictoria.ca](http://www.latinvictoria.ca)

### Swans Pub

506 Pandora St. Live music every night, 9:00-midnight. Small dance floor. 361-3310 Web site: [www.swanshotel.com/brewpub/live\\_bands.asp](http://www.swanshotel.com/brewpub/live_bands.asp)

### Swing City

Swing and Latin most Fridays at the Victoria Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara Street. Workshop 8:00 – 8:45 pm, dance 9:00-midnight. VBDS members: \$7 regular rate: \$8 744-3666 [dencan@shaw.ca](mailto:dencan@shaw.ca) [www.dennyscannedmusic.com/swing.html](http://www.dennyscannedmusic.com/swing.html)

### Tango Vita

The original Argentine Tango. [info@tangovita.com](mailto:info@tangovita.com) Web site: [www.tangovita.com](http://www.tangovita.com)

### V. I. P. Singles Dances

Swing and latin dances, 9:00 pm-1:00 am at the Ukrainian Culture Centre, 3277 Douglas St. \$10 at the door. No jeans or runners. January 20, further dates to be announced. 370-7895

## *Calendar of Events*

*Please note: Dates are subject to change. Check with dance hosts and VBDS media outlets as the time approaches.*

January 6	Roman & Rennie Yue Dance
January 13	Club Revue Dance
<b>January 20</b>	<b>Victoria Ballroom Dance Society Dance</b>
January 20	V.I.P. Singles Dance
January 27	Elizabeth and Lee McGregor Dance
January 27	John de Pfyffer Dance
February 3	Roman & Rennie Yue Dance
February 9-11	SnowBall Classic
February 10	Club Revue Dance
February 10	Island Singles Dance
<b>February 17</b>	<b>Victoria Ballroom Dance Society Dance</b>
February 24	Elizabeth and Lee McGregor Dance
March 3	Roman & Rennie Yue Dance
March 10	Club Revue Dance
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Victoria Ballroom Dance Society Dance</b>
March 24	Elizabeth and Lee McGregor Dance
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Special VBDS Dance</b>
April 7	Club Revue Dance
April 7	Tartan Ball
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Victoria Ballroom Dance Society Dance</b>
April 28	Elizabeth and Lee McGregor Dance
May 5	Island Fantasy Ball
May 5	Roman & Rennie Yue Dance
May 12	Club Revue Dance
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Victoria Ballroom Dance Society Dance</b>
May 26	Elizabeth and Lee McGregor Dance
June 2	Roman & Rennie Yue Dance
June 9	Club Revue Dance
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Dance Pacifica 2007</b>
June 23	Elizabeth and Lee McGregor Dance
July 7	VBDS Sunfest Dance

### *Ballroom Dances*

#### *Victoria Ballroom Dance Society*

8:30 to 11:00 pm at Saanich Commonwealth Place, 4636 Elk Lake Drive. \$8 members, \$10 public at the door (higher if live music). Workshop 7:15 to 8:15 – cost is \$5 for the workshop alone, or \$2 if you are also attending the dance.  
 • Volunteers needed to door-sit. Contact: Kenn or Alana Pearce at 598-7818 kennalana@shaw.ca

#### *Roman & Rennie Yue*

8:00 to 11:00 pm (workshop 7:00 to 8:00) at the Les Passmore Centre (Saanich Silver Threads), 286 Hampton Road \$8 at the door (\$5 workshop/\$10 both). 391-1178 roman@yuedance.com Web site: www.yuedance.com

#### *Elizabeth & Lee McGregor*

8:00 to 10:30 or 10:45 pm (workshop 7:00 to 8:00) at the Les Passmore Centre (Saanich Silver Threads), 286 Hampton Road \$7 at the door (\$5 workshop/\$10 both). 479-7492 mcgregordancestudio@telus.net Web site: www3.telus.net/mcgregordancestudio

#### *Wanda Kvitt*

Periodic dances at Victoria Arts Connection, 2750 Quadra St. 477-4811 wkivitt@hotmail.com Web site: pacificcoast.net/~wkivitt

#### *No Fear Dance Series*

Beginner's dances (up to Intermediate level) hosted by Donna Lawrence and Roman Yue. Information to be announced. Donna: 383-7075 dancingdragon52@hotmail.com Web site: www.dancingdragon52.com

#### *John de Pfyffer*

8:30-11:00 pm (workshop 7:30) January 27 at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Rd. \$10 in advance only. 920-7556 dancevictoria@telus.net Web site: ml.islandnet.com/mailman/listinfo/dancevictoria

#### *Club Revue*

8:00-10:30 pm at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road. \$8 at the door (\$4 students) Contact: Tony 477-9526

#### *Cowichan Social and Ballroom Dance Club*

Tea dances usually on the first Sunday of every month, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at St. John's Hall, Jubilee St., Duncan. Sometimes preceded by a workshop. \$7 (\$5 Cowichan members). Ted or Barbara: 250-743-7470 CSBDC@shaw.ca Web site: members.shaw.ca/CSBDC

#### *People Meeting People*

Second and fourth Sundays of each month, 7:30-10:30 pm (workshop 7:00-7:30) at the Monterey Centre, 1442 Monterey Ave. \$7 including workshop. Contact: Herbert 658-4287

#### *Alan Singleton-Wood*

Palm Court Sunday Tea Dance January 21, 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Victoria Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara St. \$18 in advance. Contact: 383-8562

**Calendar continues on page 11**