

SUSAN MACKENZIE joined the Newfoundland Club of Victoria in 2003 and has held the positions of Secretary (2007 & 2008) & NewsLetter Editor (2008)

Susan was born in the Maritimes, specifically in Sydney, Cape Breton, but grew up in Liverpool, along the south shore of Nova Scotia. In her late teens she moved to Halifax, NS where she worked at the city's water utility for 7 years.

Susan moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba (thus claiming she's done her "*penance on the prairies*"), in her mid twenties, where she worked for Great-West Life Assurance Company's head office for 13 years. It was in Winnipeg that Susan discovered her #1 passion - dancing. "*Early in 1978,*" she says, "*while working as a receptionist at a dance studio, I was introduced to one of my life-passions, dancing. I used to hang out with the dance teachers after studio hours and just watch them dance but, before I knew it, they were getting me involved. What with being thrown in head first (or was that feet first?), I subsequently learned to dance by the sink-or-swim method. Although there have been many years since that time that I have not danced at all, there have also been some years that I have indulged heavily. Dancing is certainly something that I will always enjoy, with Latin being my favorite but also disco, ballroom, swing and country.*" The disco days of the late 70's and early 80's will remain a fond memory for Susan, forever.

Susan moved to the west coast, to Victoria, British Columbia, in December 1993, where she continued to work in the private sector before transferring to the provincial government in 2004. And Victoria is where Susan discovered her second life-passion – writing and desktop publishing. "*When I first arrived in Victoria, I lived in a condominium complex that consisted of a dozen or so commercial properties on the main floor, with residential condos above. For 3 years,*" she explains, "*I was the publishing editor of the condominium complex's newsletter (a newsletter designed to engage a camaraderie between the residential and commercial tenants). I really enjoyed seeing that newsletter evolve from a rough-edged rag to a well-polished publication and it was a sad day for me when I had to give it up,*" she says. With tongue-in-cheek she adds, "*Although I have done nothing of great significance with my creative writing since, I believe that some day I will.*" Stay tuned!

According to Susan, her introduction to the Newfoundland Club of Victoria quite literally changed her life. "*In January, 2003*" explains Susan, "*I received a phone call from my friend Cathy, inviting me to a Newfoundland Club Pub Night on February 8th. She, herself, was not a member but had been invited by Genny St. George, whom she had just met on New Year's Eve. Well, Cathy and I went to the Pub Night, rather hesitatingly I must admit because we didn't know what to expect, but we figured there was no doubt we'd have fun, seeing as 'Newfies' were involved. And we were right!*" In fact, this is the night that Susan met Hal Osmond. "*Now, if that wasn't life-altering, I don't know what is!*" Susan exclaims. "*In fact, he's become my third life-passion!*" Susan has since become involved and supportive in, not only the Newfoundland Club, but also Hal and (his buddy) Herb's endeavour to keep Newfoundland music alive. Billed as 'Hal & Herb The Newfie Trio,' the two began performing at Newfoundland Club of Victoria events, at local establishments and clubs in Victoria and even in other Vancouver Island communities. And when, eventually, their fans started asking if they had a CD, it was Susan who stepped up to the plate and assisted them in the non-musical aspects of creating their first CD called 'Every Newfie's Dream.' She researched song titles regarding royalty matters, wrote their biographies, and proofread the design material and text content of the CD jacket. Susan also designed their business card and continues to oversee the necessary updates on their website.

Over the years, Susan has enjoyed a deepening camaraderie with Newfoundland Club members and encourages them to "*get involved,*" as "*the more you put into the Club, the more you'll get out of it,*" *I can't emphasize enough the power of giving. The little that I give to this Club is returned ten-fold, just in the friendships alone!*" she says.