

## **WOODY and PEG WILSON joined the Newfoundland Club of Victoria in 1992**

**Woody received the Founder's Award in 2003 and has held the position of NewsLetter Editor (2000 – 2007)**

**Peg has held the position of Membership Director (2006 – 2008) and has overseen Club Clothing (2007–2008)**

**Both Woody and Peg have been instrumental  
in keeping traditional Newfoundland Dancing alive, at least within our Club (1992 – 2008)**

**Woody and Peg were the joint recipients of the 2007 President's Award.**

Woody and Peg were both born in Saskatchewan, although when asked point blank, Woody usually answers *"I'm from parts unknown"* or *"I was born under the sign 'delivery room' while my mother was doing 'hard labour'."* Since moving from the *"wastelands of the prairies,"* in 1971, they have both spent most of their lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

Married since 1969, Woody and Peg have 2 grown children, Rainbow and Josh, and *"one very beautiful, although spoiled, grand-dog."* *"Seeing as I was a child bride, it feels like I've been married my whole life,"* quips Peg. And Woody adds, *"...and you've been married to the same man, too!"* But, for those who know them, it's a match well made. One is rarely seen without the other. In fact, in their spare time they enjoy very similar activities. *"I can usually be found with my nose in a book,"* Peg says, *"and Woody spends a substantial amount of time trying to read Medieval Latin and Koine Greek."* *"Or we can be found experiencing life in the fast lane on our motorcycle, trying to keep the 'rubber side down' so to speak,"* adds Woody. *"But when we need some real down time,"* Peg continues, *"I turn to needlework and Woody indulges in his love of music."*

Another activity these two enjoy immensely is their involvement in the Newfoundland Club of Victoria. They were introduced to the Club through traditional Newfoundland Dancing. As the story goes, Genny St. George, Dianne Skinner and Peter and Louise Hawksford met Yvonne Page through a course at Camosun College. Genny and Dianne convinced Yvonne to run some dances after class hours. These took place at the Chester Street Scout Hall back in the early 1990's. Eventually, an ad was placed in the newspaper about the dances and Woody and Peg saw it. *"For some reason,"* they say, *"we decided to go. It was in February 1992, as we recall."* At these dances, they met Genny St. George, Howard and Dianne Skinner, Peter and Louise Hawksford, Teresa Walsh, Leo Hynes and Garry and Dona Hogan. And, of course, they ended up joining the Club. *"We danced there, with Yvonne as the caller, until her death in May 1994,"* continues Woody. *"That's when I decided I had to start researching Newfoundland dance if I wanted to do any more of it. We started the Newfoundland dancing up again in the fall of 1994, dancing at our house. We cleared the living room out every second Saturday and had dances, with up to sixteen people involved (a double square), making lots of new squeaks in our floors, that's for sure!"* he remembers. *"Then, in 1997, we moved the dances exclusively to Dan's place, a 19th century farmhouse on Roy Road. The first few years there, we had to dance to tapes and cd's, but one night Dan and Ann Schau just showed up and they started playing for us. They've been with us ever since, with Dan playing the fiddle and Ann playing the piano,"* Woody concludes. *"You might want to check it out,"* adds Peg. *"It's great fun!"*

Peg and Woody have enjoyed spending their vacations in recent years exploring, touring and foraging their way across "The Rock," learning about Newfoundland customs and always on the hunt for Newfoundland dancers along the way. And they love sharing their stories and experiences with Club members upon their return. In fact, Woody is referred, among this Club's members, as a true 'Newfie-Wanna-Be' in every sense of the term. Members can be heard exclaiming, *"He seems to know more about Newfoundland than all the Newfoundlanders combined in our Club!"*

Woody's musical talents include the flute and the bodhran. He became interested in the flute in the late 1960's because of Herbie Mann's jazz band. Spending many years playing classical music, Woody eventually got interested in the Celtic style, once he became involved with the Newfoundland dancing. He is currently a member of a band called Cookeilidh, which started out as three bus drivers and a bus driver's wife, jamming together every couple of weeks. *"We don't know how we got into the band thing. Black magic is my guess. But I suppose it was in the fall of 2006 when we became Cookeilidh,"* explains Woody.

Peg has been with the Housing, Food and Conference Services at the University of Victoria since 1996. And Woody has been a British Columbia Transit Operator, exclusively in Victoria, since 1979 and is patiently a-waiting his retirement. Their wish for the Club is *"to get more people involved. It's such fun and we've met so many great people!"*