

Recognition for Edmonton dancers Betty and Nigel Rutter.

You may remember watching Betty and Nigel at your past local competitions! For 13 years Betty and Nigel have been DanceSport competitors starting as newcomers in 2002, taking lessons and workshops with various coaches, practicing at Elite Studio in Edmonton mainly coached by Delphine Romaine, Dominic Lacroix and Benoit Drolet, competing in competitions throughout Canada, and finally placing second for 3 years in 2012, 2013 and 2015 as Senior 3 Latin Canadian Champions and second as Senior 3 10-dance Canadian Champions!

They want to let everyone know why they are no longer participating in competitions. After achieving their goal of competing at Blackpool, Betty was diagnosed in July 2014 with 4th stage colon cancer spreading to her ovaries. Following surgery and ongoing Chemo pills they continued with their dance passion restarting with the Vancouver, Snowball competition on Nov. 13-5, 2014. They finished in April 3-4, 2015 by regaining their second place standing as the Senior 3 Latin Canadian Champions at the Calgary CCC.

Betty's cancer started to regrow in 2016 and spread to her liver, after horrible side effects due to the more intense IV Chemotherapy on Sept. 1, 2016; she refused further treatments and accepted her oncologist's statistical guess that she would last only until Christmas or March of 2017.

Betty and Nigel are so grateful to the provincial and the Canadian DanceSport associations, especially DSAB; for all their work with uniting our dance family community. They experienced great pleasure sharing the passion of all those involved with ballroom dance competitions. They especially appreciated being recipients of many trophies provided by supporters giving seniors an opportunity to hold a trophy high with winning!!

They felt so blessed to dance at competitions locally and across Canada as they worked to become Champions for Canada. They were very proud to have placed second for 3 years as Senior 3 Latin and 10-dance Canadian Champions. They are so very grateful to the many cheering supporters, organizers, DanceSport board members, judges, competitors, coaches, encouraging friends, etc. and thank them all for their roles in contributing to our successes!

It is unlikely that we will compete again, but be comforted in knowing that someday our eternal spirits will enjoy reminiscing about our shared good times together. We do not want anyone to be sad, and welcome emails sharing these happy memories: brutter@shaw.ca Those interested in attending Betty's 'Celebration of Life' to be held in Edmonton and then in Toronto; are invited to add their names and emails to Nigel's list for notification of the to-be-announced details: nrutter@shaw.ca. Betty is still hopeful that the doctor is wrong in his guess and a miracle might allow her to live and dance longer☺

