

PERSPECTIVES

It takes two to tango

By RON WOLF
Staff Writer

Take two qualified dance instructors, throw in a handful of students and what do you get?

Ballroom Basics for fun on a Friday night at Niagara College.

Karen Wallis, a ballet instructor at Fascination Dancing Studio in Thorold, has more than 20 years' experience as a dance instructor, 15 of them at the college.

Wallis said the course gets students from their late teens to "golden" years. "There's great interaction between the young students and seniors students," said Wallis.

Freddie Louws, 25, from Ridgeway, and Jenna George, 24, from Fort Erie, are partners on Friday nights.

"Lots of fun. It keeps her happy," said Louws, a supply student teacher for the Niagara South Board of Education in Fort Erie.

"Something to do to bring us closer together," said George, also an NSBE supply student teacher in Fort Erie.

Jason Moore, 25, from Crystal Beach, and Jen Bomhof, 22, from Fort Erie, agree the dances are fun.

It's a "fun way to spend a Friday night," said Moore, an economic development officer assistant in Fort Erie.

"A lot of fun; the instructor is great," said Bomhof, an employee at the Royal Bank in Fort Erie.

Ballroom Basics is offered in two parts. Each costs \$116 a couple. Registration is through Continuing Education.

In Part 1 students learn the waltz, jive, polka, cha-cha and fox-trot.

The students will learn the rumba, mambo, tango and the samba in Part 2 starting in January.

"It's not competitive ballroom dancing, it's social dancing," said Wallis. "It's for everybody. There is no such thing as two left feet. Everybody can dance, all you need is proper technique.

"People learn to do various styles of dancing that they will use at weddings, parties, family reunions and at a variety of society functions."

The instructors are able to teach as many as 30, or as few as nine couples, a class.

"You must bring a partner to the dances. We don't pair up people at the dances," said Wallis.

Classes start at 8 p.m. and run until 9:30 p.m.

"A number of couples have requested additional dances. That's why we're doing Part 2," she said.

Arlene Perron is an assistant dance instructor with Wallis.