



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers Branch #4 has chosen to feature 3 of their members, Don & Joyce Olds & Donna Randall, who were recently awarded Life Memberships for their strong support, hard work, devotion and dedication to their club over the past many many years. *Don Olds writes:* -

I first met Joyce on a blind date nearly sixty years ago. I then took her to a dance, but didn't mention that I was playing in the band itself! While I played the music, she was having such a good time dancing with the local Lotharios that I made sure that never happened again!

Over the years, family band sisters, then dance bands, our marriage, music became a big part of my life. During the six years that we lived in the North West Territories, I helped found and manage the first radio station in Fort Smith. I was also a DJ for the CBC and had my own 15 minute weekly radio program with "The Hometowners" in Hay River. After sojourns back in Manitoba to finish my degree, and after the arrival of our third and last child, we emigrated to BC. I taught school for a living and in the last ten years of my teaching career, I also taught the ukulele.



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In 1990 I discovered the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers and became an active member. A friend gave me an old fiddle and Len Greer made it playable, so I decided I'd better learn to play! Shamma, and later Anna Sabir were my first teachers as I didn't have a clue how to play something without frets. My big moment in contests was when I tied with the previous Provincial Seniors Champion for 2nd place at Quesnel! I got the Bronze when Dan played a better jig!

Anyone can tell you that I travel around with all kinds of instruments from bass guitar, banjo, accordion, fiddle, and even my Dobro, a steel guitar. One of my roles with Branch #4 is being their official MC. I have enjoyed being MC for nearly twenty years at CFVF Contests, Jamborees, Fiddle Camps, Fiddlerama concerts, and at all the playouts I can be at. I

introduce the group, & tell a few jokes now and then to get a laugh out of the audience. I especially like the seniors' homes we play at.

Most recently, I recorded my first CD including some of the songs I've written over the last couple of decades including tunes which were performed with "The Ukrainian Prairie Band" like "The Cousin's Waltz". We are looking forward to performing for our fifth year at Seattle's Northwest Folk life Festival in 2012. It's been thrilling as well to have some of my fiddle tunes included in the CFV Fiddlers' latest CD as well as in the McGregor Family's second CD. Presently, I'm working on my second CD of original songs and look forward to playing tunes for a long time yet with the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers, The Prairie Ukrainian Band and the Cheam Mountain Boys.

I should say that I do have many other interests including our family and our eight wonderful grandchildren. Joyce and I love cooking, gardening and we travel the world as much as we can. I must say that Joyce is not only the best (and lowest paid) "roady", but she's the best dancer I have ever met!

I now turn to my good and long-time friend Donna Randall. Donna grew up around music



with her family, learning to play the piano and a little guitar. When her Uncles Bert and Sandy Saundry would come to the house, her mother would learn to cord on the piano with them and Donna would sit and listen for hours.

I first met Donna when she and her fiddling son Alex became members of the CFVF many years ago. Prior to joining the BC Old Time Fiddlers, Donna and her son were a strong part of the Langley Music School's Western Fiddlers. When she realized that Alex needed further teaching in Old Time Fiddle, she turned to the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers, with the help of her uncle Bert Saundry. There is where both Donna and Alex thrived. Later she learned to play the fiddle with the help of Keith Wilson and her son Alex.

When Dale McGregor and I established the Pacific Fiddle College in 2000, Donna soon became an invaluable aide. After I did two years as co-ordinator, Donna took it over and did an excellent job. Donna single-handedly organized the whole camp, worked furiously to make each one successful, and went the extra mile to make sure everyone was happy with the event. Donna knows just about everyone in the fiddle world and is well liked everywhere. Her son, Alex progressed from beginner to lead fiddler and then Instructor at the Pacific Fiddle College. I still remember him on stage with our grandson Gavin at his performance debut. On his knees, Alex was about the same height as Gavin! (for those who know Donna's son Alex, he joined the club when he was 12 and over the years he has reached the height of 6'7"!)

Donna, for several years, also organized the CFVF annual fiddle contest, not at all an easy job, along with the Jamboree, Pacific Fiddle College, Fiddlerama. She always did an excellent job and put in 150% effort all the way. She was on the BCOTFA Provincial Executive and on the Executive of Branch #4 for many years.

Hockey Moms have a reputation for hard work, sacrifice and dedication but I don't think they can come close to Fiddle Moms! Donna has stood by and supported her son Alex through thick and thin, taking him all over the country to play his fiddle.

Keith Wilson commented that both he & Alice have known Donna since they joined the CFV Fiddlers in the early 1990's. Keith worked with her on many of our fiddle contests, where she looked after the demanding job of tabulating all the contestants' marks and positions for the day. In addition, she annually looked after ordering and maintaining the many trophies that were handed out each year. Also, for a number of years, Donna was a tireless worker arranging the many details involved in putting on our annual Fiddle Camp at Hope.

Her love of fiddle music, and her family are very obvious. She continually promotes them in their journey to succeed.

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS is provided free-of-charge to members of the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association through individual branch/club representatives. Members who wish a copy should contact their branch executive or newsletter correspondent.

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B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

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It is our policy to edit your submissions for spelling, grammar & brevity – but only where necessary. It is not our intent to change the meaning of your correspondence in any way.

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Looking ahead we would like to continue with a feature write-up & picture in each issue of the B.C. Fiddle News and would appreciate receiving submissions in line with the following schedule.

March 2012 – Kelowna #7
 June 2012 - Kootenay #9
 September 2012 – Williams Lake #10
 December 2012 - Coombs #11

FROM THE PRESIDENT



CRAIG FREEMAN

This has certainly been a busy time with the BCOTFA board, as we have been doing quite a bit of work by email and attempting to work out the email protocol. We started with the intention of keeping all the branches informed of the board's direction and decisions, and we are also endeavoring to let the branches have their say so that all will feel included. Whew! That can entail a lot of writing and Philippa, our esteemed Secretary, has been typing up a storm and sending out many words to the directors and the branches. Great job, Philippa.

By now, the members should know that the BCOTFA has purchased Directors & Officers insurance so

that all directors in the branches are presently insured against certain types of lawsuits. There was quite a bit of discussion around this issue and the details and expenses are explained in a letter sent by Philippa to the branches.

There has been a lot of thought and effort put in by the provincial board members in their attempts to come up with reasonable decisions on various issues and I would like to thank them all for their dedication. And here I really thought that we'd just be fiddling around. We still have a few months ahead of us before the next AGM in Kelowna, so maybe now is the time to start planning your next career as a board member of the BCOTFA.

Have a Merry Christmas, everyone, and we'll chat again in 2012.

*Cheers,
Craig Freeman*

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

Here we are again – time is rushing forward and another year is almost ended.

Although we could not make it to the Island in July, we did manage to make a trip there in September and very much enjoyed our visit with family and friends. We were also able to take in part of the Coombs Jamboree which was a pleasure.

It was nice seeing familiar faces at Coombs and also to get the chance to meet our new Secretary-Treasurer, Philippa Parker and two

of our newsletter correspondents, Gail Ross & Bruce Foden.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a warm & Happy New Year.

Florence Tellier



CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

Greetings from Prince George Branch #1. It's the time of year again when the days are getting shorter and now snow is already on the ground. Our season of music, fun and fellowship is well underway. In spite of winter, which seems to have made an early arrival, it has been good to see that many of our members are getting out hearing some good old time fiddling at the jam sessions and swinging to the music at our dances.

Our regular schedule of playouts has resumed. During the summer break, our fiddlers often performed downtown at the Farmers' Market. Appreciative market goers were entertained by a number of our fiddlers and musicians on several Saturday mornings in June, July and August.

Our Thursday evening jam sessions started in September. Each evening there is a time between 7:30 and 8:00 pm for a session of group fiddling. Several

fiddlers take part playing tunes that are well known as well as new tunes introduced by fiddlers in the group. This has proved to be a very successful part of our jam nights. We have also had two accomplished fiddlers join us this fall. Jackie McKay, a student in the Medical Program at U.N.B.C. and Clayton Burrill from Nova Scotia. We have also had a number of out of town visitors - Eleanor Smith from Edmonton, Phyllis Stewart from Wainwright, Alberta & Patti & Brian Starns from Cranbrook B.C., as well as a number of other guests.

Dance season has also begun! Enthusiastic crowds have turned out for our first dances of the fall on September 17th & October 15th. The last dance of the season will be held November 19th 2011.

Six of our fiddlers took part in the 41st Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest on Saturday, October 1st 2011 hosted by our friendly neighboring branch to the south. The contest was followed by a splendid dinner and then the dance which featured local fiddlers, contestants and judges. A great time was had by all. Thank you Quesnel for hosting another great contest! Trophies were awarded to: Noah Jacob, 1st place in Junior Class; Chloe Nakahara, 1st place in Youth Class; Barry Nakahara, 1st place & Ardea Wylie, 3rd place in Intermediate Class; Gabrielle Jacob, 1st place and Clayton Burrill, 3rd place in the Open Class. Congratulations everyone!

Our branch mourns the passing of life time member Bess Bowman on October 7th 2011. She had been a member, along with her fiddler husband Dave, since 1970. She will be sadly missed by her husband Dave, daughters Beth Bressette, Heather Soldan, sons Jamie Bowman & Davie Bowman,

12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Bess was continuously active in Branch activities, accompanying Dave to the jams, dances & contests. She used to call the circle dances while Dave played his fiddle. Bess would always bring along her camera and was the club photographer for many years. She started the club photo albums in the 1980's up to 2001 when she passed the torch on to others. After a stroke earlier this year, Bess spent her final months in Simon Fraser Lodge where she expressed appreciation for her care. Her funeral service was held at Knox United Church on October 12th.

Christmas is coming! Our jam sessions take place every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Elder Citizen's Recreation Center 1692 10th Ave. Our last jam will be in late December. Jam sessions will resume January 6th, 2012. For those of you travelling to Prince George in the New Year please drop in at one of our Thursday jams. You are welcome to listen, dance, make requests and play.

On behalf of the Prince George Old Time Fiddlers we wish you a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with good health, good friends and good fiddling always.

*Marguerite MacKenzie,
Club correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

The winter did start. Then we had no snow for Remembrance Day. Today we woke to winter weather and very

slippery side roads. It has been one weird year, so far.

Since the last newsletter the fiddle camp has come and gone and everyone that I've spoken with had a great time, as usual.

Also, our 41st annual Contest was held October 1st, the results of which are listed below. It was not a very full contest this year and our Farthest Traveled was a member of our club from Miocene, BC, just outside of 150 Mile House. The eldest was also a member of our club, Roy Throssell of Quesnel. The rest of the results follow - all were from Quesnel and Prince George.

Championship:

- 1st - Deni Stone
- 2nd - Anita Mamela

Open:

- 1st - Gabrielle Jacob
- 2nd - Adam Johnson
- 3rd - Clayton Burrill

Intermediate:

- 1st - Barry Nakahara
- 2nd - Ab McQuillin
- 3rd - Ardea Wylie

Seniors:

- 1st - Ken Emery
- 2nd - Roy Throssell

Youth:

- 1st - Chloe Nakahara

Junior:

- 1st - Noah Jacob
- 2nd - Krystal Gelinax

Little Britches:

- 1st - Hunter Grosse Pearen

Yesterday, Remembrance Day afternoon, we had the great privilege of attending a House Concert performed by a group calling themselves "Slim Wallet and the No Dough Boys". It was a small concert in one of our Seniors Assisted Living Homes and was a fantastic compilation of tunes new and old, with wonderful variations on old favorites, played to a different beat. An example would

be the Christmas Carol "Let it Snow" played as a jig. I was hoping to have a photo to go with this but my camera photos don't want to download to my computer. Go figure, new computer, old cell phone, of course it won't work. Just in case you don't recognize the name of the band it was Calvin Vollrath, Mark Sullivan, and Trent Freeman on a Winter Tour of B.C. starting in Prince George on the 10th, playing Quesnel on the 11th, Williams Lake on the 12th, Kelowna on the 13th and Vancouver on the 14th. It was a great show. If you missed it I'm sorry, - you missed something special.

Fiddle Camp is already in the planning stages so keep your calendars open for July and check out the website for more information.

This is all the news I have, so again on behalf of the Quesnel Branch of the Old Time Fiddlers, I'm Ab.

Thanks for keeping Old Time Music alive.

Ab McQuillin

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

We had a busy summer as members who were not away continued to practice on Wednesday evenings as usual. Cedarbrook Chateau Retirement Home in Mission allowed us to play in their Gym at no cost so in August we gave them a "thank you" concert. It was a beautiful day and it was very pleasant playing outside on their

patio and joining them afterwards for some delicious snacks.

Sadly, we report the passing of our old time member, Charlie Skinner and also Jack Siggs, a keen dancer who regularly attended our dances at the Abbotsford Seniors Centre. Our President, Vivienne Chin attended both Memorial services and passed on condolences from our group to the families.

Our long time member Don Olds celebrated his 80th birthday at the end of September with a party at Campbells Gold Honey farm. A large upstairs room was filled with friends and family, young and old. Dale McGregor was MC for the evening and he did a splendid job of reviewing Don's achievements throughout his life. Several guests performed, including his family members, dedicating their music to Don. A buffet was served and the evening ended with a huge jam!

We have performed several play-outs in the area for Church events and anniversaries and look forward to playing at Peace Arch Hospital later in November. Our two lead fiddles, Ed Ryz and Jo Blaak have done a great job at making us sound good. Sometimes we are taken aback at how good we are!

We had our AGM this month. Our 2012 Executive comprises of Vivienne Chin (President), Jo Blaak (Vice-President), Dawn Fauteux (Treasurer), and Joanne Davenport (Secretary). We also have a very capable Bookings Director, Myrna Wing, and of course our two Musical Directors Ed and Jo.

So now we are all looking forward to our Christmas Party and Potluck Supper on Saturday 26th November! Merry Christmas everyone!

Vivienne Chin

SURREY



BRANCH #5
Greetings from
Surrey Branch #5
Fiddlers

In just six weeks, we will once again be into the start of another new year. My! How fast the time flies!

We had a great summer and as of the first week of September, we are back practicing dance tunes for our monthly dances at Clayton Hall. Our band members are very dedicated and continue to hone their fiddling skills by coming out regularly to our practices & dances.

So far this fall we have had 1 play out, where we played at a fund raiser for The Trinity Delta Lutheran Church Group and we thank the 5 members of our band for volunteering their time to come out and play for this venue.

Evan & Rose Marie had a wonderful vacation during the month of August, where they cruised the Baltic, visiting the following countries: Amsterdam, Hamburg Germany, Tallin Estonia, St. Petersburg Russia, Helsinki Finland, Stockholm Sweden, Visby Sweden, Copenhagen Denmark, Oslo Norway and an additional 4 days in London where they toured Buckingham Palace, the Cotswolds, Stratford-on-Avon and Shakespeare's birthplace.

Two of our fiddlers, Kai & Lia Gronberg had a great time competing in the numerous fiddle

contests held this summer and our club would like to congratulate both of them for doing well in the following competition:

14th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest

Kai Gronberg – 1st place in the youth, “Andy DeJarlais Category” & 1st place in Old Time Fiddle Category in Junior 1 class.

Lia Gronberg – 1st place in the junior 1, “Andy DeJarlais category” & 1st place in Old Time Fiddle Category in Novice 1 class. You can also hear them play on the air at 8 pm Saturdays on 101.7FM, in the Fraser Valley.

Some of our members had the opportunity to attend Don Olds 80th birthday party in September and participated in playing some good old fiddle tunes and having a great time visiting with other members of the Central Fraser Valley Club. Thank you Don, for inviting us.

2011 has unfortunately brought us the loss of 3 members of our club and we will miss them dearly.

Jack Siggs – Passed away Aug. 28 - Jack has been supporting our dances for the past 20 years.

Jack had a wonderful personality and was well liked by everyone that knew him. He will be missed by all.

Verna Otter – Passed away Aug. 28 - Verna has been a member and supporter of our dances for the past 10 years. Verna was a friendly and well respected lady with every one who knew her. We will all miss her.

Claude Levasseur – Passed away Sept 26 – Claude has been a member of our band for the past 20 years. He was well known, as he participated in many fiddle competitions and old time dances throughout our area. Claude was well respected and also a very dependable fellow. Regardless of

the weather, Claude would always be there to play at our dances and support all of the other dances as far as Abbotsford. We will miss you Claude.

You are more than welcome to join us at our dances, which fall on the first Thursday of each month at Clayton Hall, located ½ block north of Fraser Hwy. on 184th St. in Surrey. Dance time is 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm. We also have a practice at the same location, on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7 pm to 10 pm.

Seeing that this is the final issue of the newsletter for 2011, our Surrey Branch #5 members would like to wish all of the other branches a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Until the next edition:

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

This year we have been treated to a relatively cool summer for this area and a gorgeous long Indian summer. The apples and pears are picked, the gardens are harvested, so bring on the winter. I built a small greenhouse to try and extend the garden season for awhile and start it sooner in the spring.

First of all, in the last newsletter I somehow missed a paragraph from my hand written notes to the computer copy thanking all our people who made our contest a success. A big thanks to all the contestants and our background support team. To Connie and her gang who put it all together and the judges, Leo Ready, Keith Hill

and Al Procyshyn. Connie and Aaron were also presented with a much deserved Lifetime membership. To Vic Ukrainetz, who was our usual MC and again set up and supplied the sound system. To our faithful piano player, Irene Donison, who again generously bought and donated all the trophies. Also, Mabel Babcock, who was our house back up lady, no easy job.

Our many regular players are all back in full swing. One of the extra events was the annual 2 day Art Walk in Winfield. We played both days this year to enthusiastic crowds on September 12th & 13th. September 24th was the Rutland Fall Fair with lots of displays and rides for the kids. We played to a small but happy crowd with a few little kids bouncing around to our jigs and reels. The same day part of our group played for the Legion Happy Hour. Our President, Wayne Angman, assembled a small group to do the Dorchester Fall Fair, the Kiwanis Towers and Appreciation Day for the Food Bank volunteers. On October 20th Vic and a small group attended Ellison Elementary school to give a bit of instruction and demonstration to their violin program kids. Our fall General Meeting was on October 23rd. It was decided that our Christmas party would be on December 2nd at the Rutland Seniors' Centre. Next year's Provincial Contest will be held here on June 1st & 2nd. We are fortunate to get Danny Lapp as our guest artist. He was from Prince George originally where it all started and puts on a fine show. John and Vic are looking into the possibility of a fiddle camp next summer. John has also volunteered to make next year's trophies in his workshop. If you would like to view the all wood clocks that he has built, go to <http://jtwoodenclocks.com> for a

real surprise. I don't know when our travelling man finds the time. John & Lynn also have volunteered to take over the contest chair from Connie. This is no small job so we will all have to help them out

One of our members, Amy Bauer, celebrated her 90th birthday at the Elks on November 3rd. John Tribe organized a small group of us to play for the assembled family. One of her daughters' neighbours, Maggie Sharpe, was a member of the Buchta dancers on the Don Messer show. Something of interest often transpires from these events. Maggie was the photographer for the afternoon. On the annual Remembrance Day event, we were out in full force at the Parkinson Rec Centre to entertain a large crowd before lunch. After lunch Vic's band took over and packed the floor. This is one event that has to be kept alive so that the younger generation will learn of the sacrifices made by an older generation and continues still.

Calvin Vollrath put on a show here on the 13th. The performance included many of Calvin's compositions and lots of old standards. Mark Sullivan and Trent Freeman were great backup on guitar and mandolin, as well as some fine 3 part harmony on their violins. Our friend, Rod Miller, joined the boys on accordion with a dandy polka by Alex Maduck. Rod and two other accordion players won the band competition in Kimberley last summer with that polka. There was a good turnout of enthusiastic fans with lots of clapping, tapping toes and smiling faces. Calvin reacts really well with lots of stories of interest and received several well deserved standing ovations. Vic was our MC and kept the ball rolling. If

this show comes your way don't miss it.

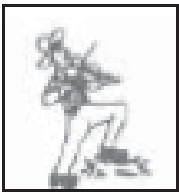
Our sunshine lady, Pauline Angman, had a bad spell with a ruptured appendix, but has recovered nicely. Connie our energizer bunny took a little time off to see her Doctor, but is fine now. One of our members, Andy Jones, lost a brother in Saskatoon. Our condolences to Andy and his family. Andy is also a fine violin maker and has helped many of our members with bow repair and fiddle problems. We were also sorry to hear that Leo Ready had a knee operation in Ontario but sounds like he is recovering well.

That about winds up the last 3 months. The next thing we know we'll be shoveling walks and driveways, so don't over do it, we're not 35 anymore. Then it will be Jingle Bells at the Sally Ann kettles. To all the Branches from Branch #7 have a safe and happy holiday. See you next year.

Russ Gerrie

p.s. Cheerfulness is like money donated to charity, the more we give the greater our cheer.

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

I am sorry to announce that Merritt has canceled its Christmas Party.

We will however be having our general meeting and elections in January.

We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and the best to all in the coming year.

Diane Shalanski-Garcia

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

The snow is slowly wafting down to the ground as I sit at my computer and look out the window. I feel a melancholy at the advent of winter because the years are going by much too quickly.

I also have a melancholy feeling at the sad news I have to report this issue of the newsletter. My long time husband, Ted Stewart, passed away suddenly in his sleep on September 15th, 2011. Ted was an enthusiastic member of the Old Time Fiddlers #9 and an outgoing, fun-loving drummer in our performance group. He will be sorely missed. We would have celebrated 50 years of married life this December and I have lost my best friend and partner in life. Rest in peace my dear Ted, until we meet again.



Ted Stewart

The Fiddlers held a successful "Fall Ball" November 5th to raise funds for our Fiddle Camp July 2012. Around 50 folks attended and the music was provided by our members and guests.

Branch #9 is looking forward to the annual Christmas Party for

members and guests which will be held December 3rd at the Genelle Hall, near Castlegar. A traditional turkey supper with all the trimmings will be served followed by an evening of music and dancing. This is always a very special, festive event to launch the holiday season.

Well, that's about all the news for this time. On behalf of all members of Branch #9, I would like to extend best wishes to all our fellow B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association members and their families for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mary Ann Stewart

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

It was a wonderful fall with the snow and cold holding off...some days were practically balmy, but I didn't think that would hold for long. As far as I was concerned I didn't care if we got any snow until February. My wish was not to be...as I sit and type this report I glanced outside and the snow is blowing sideways past my window! Maybe next year there will be no snow until December, but I won't hold my breath.

We have been very quiet this fall, so there isn't very much to report.

We have been playing our regular commitments each month - Retirement Concepts and the Legion Seniors' Luncheon. Deni House will be re-opening in December and we will start playing there once a month.

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be on Thursday, December 15th, at

the Seniors Citizens Activity Centre.

Our club was part of the entertainment for the members and their guests at the Williams Lake Royal Canadian Legion for about 3 hours on Remembrance Day. The Legion puts on a very nice potluck for everyone each year and as usual the place was packed.

We were very lucky recently to have two concerts in Williams Lake put on by two very well known and talented performers.

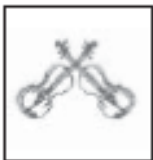
Several members of our club attended April Verch's concert on November 8th. What a talented lady! Great music, dancing and singing! Then on November 12th, Calvin Volrath put on a concert, accompanied by Trent Freeman and Mark Sullivan. Trent played the mandolin and fiddle and Mark played the guitar and fiddle. They are all amazing musicians and put on a wonderful show.

Best wishes to the following members who will be celebrating birthdays in December: Kathy Fetters and Pat Myre.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope we don't get as much snow as we did last year!

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

So much fiddle music has roots in Ireland and I learned why at a B & B in Galway where the landlady introduced my wife and I to the concept of Irish Mist liqueur as a

breakfast food additive. Sadly, no matter how much I go to it for inspiration, I have yet to master the rapid guitar chord sequence for "Whiskey Before Breakfast". That's just one example of the kind of challenge that keeps us all engaged in learning and improving our playing of Old Time Fiddle music.

Following our Saturday and Sunday performances at the Coombs Fair we had a taping session with Dunia Tozy of Shaw Cable TV for a video clip to promote our September 17 Jamboree. About ten members of the band gathered at the home of Ethel Whibley to play a few tunes and be interviewed for the show, which was shown frequently on the local Shaw community channel in the days leading up to the event. Later the clip was put on YouTube and can be accessed via the link:

<http://youtu.be/H3o2HZ7NouY>

It's received excellent reviews from as far afield as Ontario and England.

The Jamboree was very successful. A full house enjoyed a couple of dozen performances by individuals and groups as well as the Coombs and Port Alberni branches, augmented with members from North Island and Comox Valley. Everyone was enthralled with the awesome featured performance of Sarah Tradewell on fiddle, and her Mom, Cheryl, on keyboard. We were especially pleased to have B.C.O.T.F.A. President Craig Freeman and Fiddle News editor Florence Tellier in attendance.

Our regular Thursday dances began on September 22 and after December 15 will break until January 12, 2012. Once again we welcome an influx of folks who come to enjoy the more benign weather of an Oceanside winter.

They sure enliven the dances and inspire us to stretch our repertoire. In months that have five Thursdays we play as a group for big crowds at the Bowen Park Seniors' Centre in Nanaimo, which in 2011 has occurred three times. In August we played at a testimonial luncheon for a prominent resident of Qualicum Beach and in September for Childrens' Day at the QB Museum.

The student band of Springwood Middle School in Parksville has won the right to represent British Columbia at the national championships being held in May, 2012 at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The members approved a donation to them to help with the cost of that trip. A cheque was presented at a recent ceremony attended by members in the attached photo: George and Ruby Gudbranson, Nell Bowles, Ken Deacon, Byron Stephen and Bruce Foden behind the camera. We wish them great success.



So, it has been a very active time for Branch #11. Hopefully we will be able to attract some new members to lower our demographic profile a bit.

We miss Elsie McKay who remains in Nanaimo hospital awaiting surgery.

*Submitted by,
Bruce Foden,
ebfoden@gmail.com*

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Hi folks, I'm back again (did anyone miss me?). I wasn't around much this summer and missed the September newsletter, but thanks to Florence Tellier (bless her) our report was out on time. Thank you Florence.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. I personally thought it was never going to happen and I'm sure I wasn't alone there. But the rain finally stopped and we had a very short summer, now it is time to get out the dancing shoes and maybe the woolies!!!!

Our wonderful musician's have really been busy this last month and a half, playing up a storm for the following:

Shores Retirement Home, Pine Grove Care Centre, Overlander Extended Care, Hamlets Senior Home, Ridgeview Lodge, Kamloops Seniors Village, Bedford Manor and Riverbend. That's a very impressive schedule, along with that of course is the dances every 1st and 3rd Saturday. Thank you to all the folks in the band for giving so much of your time!

We had a Fall Harvest dance which drew a nice crowd. Our guests from Armstrong, Nila and John Hirsch played along with our old time fiddlers - Nila on her accordion & John on his guitar. The music was great - everyone appeared to be having a wonderful time.

I can't forget to thank Betty Tasko and Mable Lalonde for the decorating they did for the Harvest dance. Thank-you ladies, you received many compliments throughout the evening but I'm

sure you never heard them all. Also a great big thanks to all the ladies that brought in the pies!!! The kitchen looked like a bakery!!

We had a visitor from Wales England this summer, I didn't have an opportunity to chat with him for long, but he told me he had a wonderful time playing a bit with the O.T.F. and hoped he could remember a few of the tunes. His name is Dai Griffiths and he said he thoroughly enjoyed the short time he had with the Kamloops group; everyone was just so friendly!!

There are a few C.D.'s left and can be purchased from Jackie (250-319-3680). I'm sure they will all be sold by the next general meeting!!!

Coming up; Christmas Dance & Dinner will be at Desert Gardens December 17th - 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$40.00/person. See Jackie for tickets.

Dec. 31. --News Years Party at Heritage House 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$ 15.00 ea. available from Linda Hiles 250-376-6209.

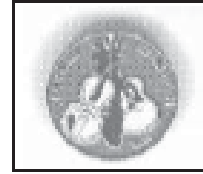
On Nov. 5th we had the pleasure of having a couple at the dance who were celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They are Ivor and Leonard Blomfeldt from Kamloops. Congratulations to you both and may you have many more years of dancing!!

There also was a not so nice event Saturday when Herbert Anderson had to leave the dance by ambulance as he was having chest pains. I spoke to his wife and she said his doctor was going to have Herbert do a stress test to see if it was his heart that caused the discomfort in his chest. In the meantime he is just to take it easy at home. Louise said they hope to be back by the next dance. We all

wish him, and any of our other members who have not been feeling well, all the best!!

*Submitted by;
Marie Burse*

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

No report at this time. We look forward to news of the

North Island Branch in the Spring issue.

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

I have been plagued by computer problems for the past few days and I am about to give up and resort to quill, ink and carrier pigeon in order to get this branch epistle to Florence. The superfluous electronic gadgetry around computers makes me appreciate, more and more, the unplugged simplicity of the fiddle.

The Branch #18 Comox Valley Fiddlers have been keeping it simple lately with a few practice sessions at Fiddlejam and some relaxed playouts. There was a brilliant sun and sky when we knocked out the tunes for the Anderton Therapeutic Gardens crowd in August and we all thought that the gardens were just beautiful. September saw us playing at the L'Arche fundraiser in the Merville Hall where cakes and pies were being auctioned off for over 100 dollars each! We played for the dance and had some enthusiastic guests doing rather amazing gyrations, fueled, I guess, by those pricey cupcakes and tarts. Later in the month, we enjoyed playing a lively set for the Black

Creek Fair-goers and listened to other acts, such as RNR with Mandolin Nick, as they, too, entertained the crowds.

Our first Contra Dance in October saw Trent joining us to help keep us on the rails. Those contra sets can be 15 to 20 minutes long so our troupe certainly requires stamina and supple wrists. The annual Charity Telethon had Branch #18 on center stage for a somewhat shorter set of 10 minutes...you need to leave room for the good citizens to call in their pledges, for Pete's Sake! Fiddler Rick joined us on stage to play and then adroitly hopped back behind his camera to continue filming the bevy of entertainers.

Our membership renewal date is approaching soon and we hope to get some of that paperwork done at the next Contra Dance. After that, we look forward to the upcoming hot fiddling bluegrass concert with John Reischman and then we'll take a break for the holidays. We've had some great fiddling memories over the year and we wish everyone out there a Merry Christmas.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

Rain, rain and more rain. Maybe the message is to switch our minds from getting the garden tidied up, and now think of indoor activities, to be ready for all of the entertainment we can provide the community.

We have had some great sessions this fall. We finished up our summer play-outs at McLean's Mill by doing a lunch hour entertainment for the Antique

Truck Show. It was nice to have two members of the Williams Lake Club, Ken Emery, with his fiddle and Kathy Fetters, with her accordion, join us on this session. It is always interesting to have visitors and exchange ideas with other club members, compare song lists and hear some variations on pieces.

Of course, the end of that first week of September means the Fall Fair in Port Alberni and we generally play the first night, Seniors Night. For this performance we seem to draw a loyal crowd every year, many we see at dances, and others who just like to sit and listen. It is always a toss up as to whether it will be scorching hot or pouring rain for the Fair week-end and this year was the former. Luckily we were under a tent and shaded, although there certainly wasn't much air movement. The Fall Fair Committee provides a good sound system and sound man for any of the performers using that venue.

On Saturday September 17th, Coombs held it's annual Jamboree and our club enjoyed helping out once again. A greater number of our members were able to attend this year, with several of them taking part in the afternoon Open Mic session. As a club we were also able to play for a good portion of the evening dance, and were glad to have some of the Courtenay members join us for part of the time. Several people took advantage of the dry camping available to stay overnight and relax or jam, as the mood dictated.

Of course the highlight of the Jamboree was the visit and performance of Sarah Tradewell. What an incredibly talented and personable young woman. She gave a wonderful performance even though she had to be prepared

to run back to Victoria for another show that evening.

It was also very nice for me to meet Florence Tellier for the first time, even though it was a very brief encounter. When your only communication has been via e-mail, your imagination creates its own image, so it was good to meet the real person. It was super that she and her husband had been able to travel to the Island for this event.

We were part of the entertainment for the Sunshine Club Oktoberfest Tea, and that went very well, even though we had to rush off to play at Heritage Place that same afternoon. We also provided the music later that week for the Sunshine Club Dance. We generally play for at least three of their dances during the year. We also did a Halloween special for Abbeyfield with many of our members in some sort of costume.

We've had a few more guitar players join the ranks this year (for a while we kept losing them to the fiddle section) and I see and hear them working diligently on learning the many chord progressions needed for the huge list of new-to-them pieces. With so many seniors in the club, we have found that it is very helpful to have a good number of musicians available for our various play-outs. With people often traveling or having other commitments, it is nice for the club to feel we can rely on having a firm core of fiddle players and sufficient back-up support, whether it is guitar, piano or bass, at any time. Piano players are like gold, so we're lucky to have two of them, and we now have a couple of people who can, when needed, switch from their primary role, and play electric bass to fill in if the "Tub" player is away or needs a rest (it is actually

quite hard to play that tub constantly for hours)

One issue that we are consciously working on right now, is the arrangement of musicians for play-out or performance, to provide the best possible set-up to hear each other and give optimum sound. We have tended to get ourselves strung out in a line on the stage and have sometimes ended up with two separate sections, with the beat on one side milli-seconds behind the other. Not good. We're thinking that one of the keys is to get the back-up section well placed to start with. The "Tub" player said he was finding that he was forming a low-frequency sound wall between adjacent players and it was better if he was placed behind the group, rather than in front as a "novelty". We fiddlers need to learn to form a tighter block so everyone can hear well and therefore follow the lead fiddlers, who in turn need to hear a strong back-up. Are we tied up in knots yet? Do other clubs have similar problems? If so, have any interesting and creative solutions come up? All suggestions appreciated else what is an association for? Bit by bit, we learn and have fun and satisfaction doing so.

I guess Christmas and New Year celebrations are the next major events coming up, bringing with them the question "to play, or not to play", seasonal pieces. Always a tricky one, as some people like them and some don't. Nevertheless, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year whatever music you are playing.

Gail Ross

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Watch for details of the 2012 Old Time Fiddle Contest season in our next issue.

B.C. Fiddle News Advertising Costs

Full Page - \$ 60
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Business card size - \$ 15

Please note that B.C.O.T.F.A. Branches can publicize their events at no cost, with space allocation being at the discretion of the Editor.



Pictured above is Kevin Kienlein of Vernon. This photo was taken in August, 2011 at the Kidney Walk in Kamloops.

Years ago Kevin was very active with the Vernon Old Time Fiddlers, serving as a director, president and contest chair numerous times.

About a year ago he had a heart & double lung transplant. The story of his transplant journey was in the February, 2011 issue of "North of 50". If you would like to read it, go to www.northof50.com.

He is now planning to write a book and Kevin says that through all his years of 'fiddling around' he has very few photographs of himself playing at contests, etc. He would like to include some in his book, so if anyone out there has any such photos Kevin would appreciate hearing from you.

You can contact him at info@kevinkienlein.com or 250-545-8340

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At the Canadian Grand Masters in August of this year, B.C. was represented by 3 of the best young fiddlers in the Association, Alex Randall, Deni Stone & Sarah Tradewell. Following on the next page are letters from Deni & Sarah describing their experiences.

In the many years that I've been playing music, I have never been more impressed with where my talent has sent me, than the magnificent city of Ottawa for the Canadian Grand Masters. While it has been a dream of mine to always play on a national stage, I never thought for a minute that I would have as amazing of a time as when I was at the airport, getting ready to get on my first airplane to travel at speeds of up to 570 MPH at 40,000 feet in the air!

In Ottawa, the first thing you notice is that everything is so flat...and surprisingly clean. At the competition, it finally sinks in that you are there, with 25 other amazing fiddle players, all working their tails off to make their province proud. But you know, I like to think I made my province proud just by being invited to attend such a fantastic competition. My rewards for going were not about getting a good placement, or to become famous...it was to meet amazing new people (Emilie, Michael, and Kaitlyn) and seeing my old friends (Alex & Sarah) again. I am happy to say that I would certainly like to go again, if given the chance. This experience has opened up a new world for me, and it's all thanks to hard work, some luck, and many great people who have helped support me or instructed me through the years. Thank you British Columbia!

Deni Stone

Before I describe the CGM experience, I would like to thank the BC Old Time Fiddlers' Association for recommending me. I had a wonderful weekend in Ottawa and I appreciate the assistance that you gave me!

I was so excited for the CGM weekend - I couldn't wait to see all my friends again and meet some more amazing musicians. The Competitor's Showcase on Friday night, where each province's representatives performed a few tunes together, was a great opportunity to catch up with the people I met the summer before and hear what tunes people play across Canada. The next day was the competition itself. All 29 competitors played a waltz, a jig, a reel, and a tune of choice, and then the finalists were announced. It was an extremely strong group of fiddlers; there were so many talented players who gave it their all, but unfortunately, not everyone could make the finals. Though I didn't move on to the final round, I enjoyed hearing each of the top 11 contestants play four contrasting tunes, which were not necessarily the traditional set of waltz, jig, reel, tune of choice. This gave the competitors a chance to play tunes that perhaps they wouldn't ordinarily be able to perform in a contest setting. All of them were fabulous, but Daniel Gervais was the clear and well-deserved winner! Congratulations to all the fiddlers.

After the contest, the jamming began! We went over to Darcy McGee's pub for some tunes, and jammed until the bus took us back to the hotel at 2:00 am. We hadn't had enough, of course, so we took over a meeting room in the basement and played and danced the night (or morning?) away. I didn't want to leave, I wished it could continue on and on! I had an incredible time and I hope to return next year for more fiddling fun.

Sarah Tradewell

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