



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Ed Caissie was born on the family farm in Big River, Saskatchewan, on November 7th, 1926. His love of music started at the early age of 13. The family owned a Brunswick record player and Ed would play a lot of Wilf Carter's recordings. Ed was determined to learn the music and words to Wilf's songs. He got a guitar and started by teaching himself the cords to the music. After a lot of practice, he finally got it right. Ed says he still remembers the words and music to some of the songs he learned all those years ago.

When Ed was 21 he left the family farm and moved with his sister and brother-in-law to New Westminster, B.C. In 1949 Ed met his future bride, Dora Perrault and they were married in 1951. He got a job with Capital Timber and worked for them for 5 1/2 years before deciding to go into business with his brother-in-law. In 1953 they bought a "bush" mill (portable sawmill) and moved to Big Lake, B.C.

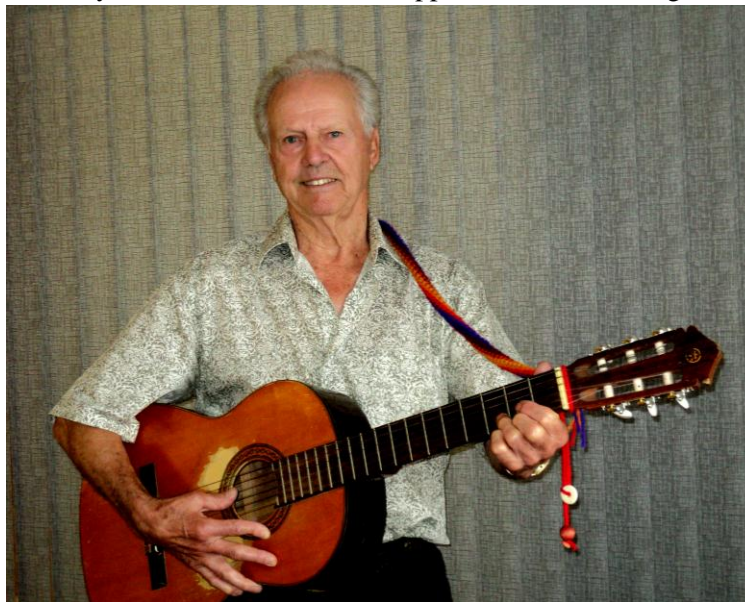
They stayed in a tent until they could build a shack to live in. Back then, living and working conditions were very rough.

Dora waited until the camp at Big Lake was established before joining him. There was no running water, no indoor plumbing, and no electricity. These were some of the challenges the young bride encountered in her new life in the Cariboo. Dora spent the next 10 years at various "bush" camps throughout the Williams Lake area. During this time, Ed and Dora had the first of their four children. (Give that lady a medal!)

After a year at Big Lake, Ed decided to strike out on his own and in 1954 he purchased a portable sawmill. He did custom work for Balk Sawmill for about 2 years, then in 1955 he moved his mill to Risky Creek. During the time in Risky Creek he supplied lumber and logs from a timber sale that a company in Williams Lake owned. In 1957 Ed moved his mill to Knife Creek where he logged and supplied lumber for Lignum Ltd. In 1963 when Lignum

Ltd. opened their new sawmill in Williams Lake, Ed closed his bush mill, bought a couple of trucks and started supplying Lignum with logs for their sawmill. Ed continued logging until 1973 when he finally retired.

When they moved to "town" (Williams Lake) in the early 60's, Ed was pretty busy with his logging business and didn't have much time for play, but after retiring from log hauling in 1973 he started to meet other people that enjoyed music



ED CAISSIE - WILLIAMS LAKE BRANCH #10

as much as he did.

After 20 years of working in the forest industry, Ed decided to try his hand at something different, and in 1975 he and Dora bought Green Acres trailer park in Williams Lake which they owned for ten years. It was during this time that he began to play back-up for Frank Turcotte and Phil DeLeenheer. Along the way, he met Marj Blair and Bill Downie. They would get together on a regular basis with other players and "jam".

In 1981 Williams Lake, Branch #10 of the O.T.F. came into being with Ed as one of our founding members.

Over the years, Ed has met and entertained a lot of people and always had a good time in the process. One of the highlights for him was playing with the club at Expo '86.

Ed and Dora Caisse celebrated their 61st Anniversary on June 23, 2012. Congratulations to you both.

If you come out to any of our Thursday night practices, you will more than likely find Ed there with his guitar. Ed just

turned 86 years young on November 7th, 2012 and continues to play with the club at all our monthly seniors dates. In addition, he has been the club's Treasurer for over 20 years.

Thanks, Ed, for all the years of music.

Submitted by Pat Gunderson

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.

PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are available and will be mailed directly to subscribers as follows:

ONE YEAR (4 ISSUES) \$10.00

For U.S.A. destinations please add \$2.00 shipping charges.

Send your cheque or money order with mailing details to the following:

**B.C. OLD TIME
FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTIONS
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DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C.
V2B 6B3**

**B.C. Old Time Fiddlers'
Association**

<http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

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The British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association publishes the B.C. Fiddle News quarterly.

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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.

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

c/o Florence Tellier,
416 Collingwood Drive,
Kamloops, BC V2B 6B3
Phone & Fax: (250) 376-2330
E-mail: tell2330@telus.net

B.C. Fiddle News is printed by
Edge Publishing Inc., Kamloops,
250-374-3246

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 2013 - Coombs #11

June 2013 – Kamloops #12

September 2013 – North Island #17

December 2013 – Prince George #1

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

Since I have just come in from shoveling the driveway I guess I'll have to

accept that summer is over. We have had a great summer season ending with a visit to Cape Breton where Lynn and I took in "Celtic Colours". It really was a week packed to bursting. We took in 5 concerts featuring musicians like Natalie McMaster including her 5 children, Daniel Lapp, the Cape Breton Fiddlers and a whole host of others. There was so much going on that it simply wasn't possible to take it all in, you really had to pick and choose.

We attended 4 days of Buddy McMasters workshops and tried desperately to learn 24 pieces in 4 days from 8 different teachers. With that much thrown at you about all you can do is sit back and try and let some of it sink in.

One of the highlights of our trip was the chance to meet and jam with Matilda Murdoch in Miramichi, who at 92, still is the lone fiddler in a traditional Irish band that puts on a weekly show. Matilda composed Loggieville Two Step which is pretty well known out here.

If you ever get a chance to spend some time in the Maritimes I highly recommend it as the music is a lot different than our music and at the

same time there are a lot of similarities; in any event there is lots and lots of music to enjoy with people who are very friendly.

I'm sure all the branches are now back into the swing of things with our regular play-outs. In the Kelowna area we play for many senior homes and it is always gratifying to see the seniors respond to the music. Many seniors that we play for are at the shut-in stage and don't have that much contact with the outside world. My experience has been that the staff really put forth a great effort to try and make the quality of life as good as they possibly can and that includes our music.

Since it will be close to Christmas by the time this reaches you I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone our best wishes for the holiday season. I know there will be lots of parties, meals, music and dances so behave yourself and make sure that those around you do the same. It's easy to over do it during the holidays and then we pay the price, so take it easy and have a holiday filled with the best possible memories.

Closer to home I have to report that we have had a change in the Provincial Executive. Philippa Parker resigned from the position as Secretary Treasurer and the Executive has appointed Jackie Davis to replace her. Philippa will remain on the board as a Director. On behalf of the Executive I want to extend our thanks to Philippa for all the effort she put forth over the last year and a half. We welcome Jackie to the position of Secretary Treasurer and thank her for taking on this position.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

In the last issue I put out a plea for articles that would be of interest to our readers and I would like to thank Sterling Cuthbert of Alberta for passing on a few articles to me. These are items that I can keep on file & use whenever I need to fill some extra space that I may have. If anyone else has any items of interest I would be pleased to receive them & keep on file as well, to be used when needed.

Roger & I attended the Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest in October & it was a great success with a "meet & greet" (which included lots of jamming) on the Friday night, approximately 25 contestants on stage on Saturday, followed by a tasty dinner & a dance in the evening. Sunday morning saw a few more socializing over a pancake breakfast at the Quesnel Seniors Centre before leaving for home. Well done, Quesnel Old Time Fiddlers!

Also in attendance at Quesnel's contest was Williams Lake cowboy poet Frank Gleeson. See his poem written for the contest near the back of this newsletter.

Stay warm but active over the winter & we will see you at the contests next year, starting in April at Prince George. In May, Kamloops will host the Provincial Contest & the annual general meeting of the Association, so keep that in mind.

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE

Winter has made an early arrival here in the north. A foot of snow before Halloween had everyone out with shovels and snow blowers. In spite of the cold weather it has been good to see fiddle fans coming out to our jam sessions and dances.

Our fiddlers and musicians have enjoyed a long beautiful summer with sunny warm days. Many took part in playing for community events, including playing for a seniors' picnic in Fort George Park in July, plus a number of other outdoor venues. Now our regular season of playouts is underway.

Our Thursday evening jam sessions started in September. It was great to see everyone back after the summer break. We have been pleased to welcome to the jam session a large number of new young and adult fiddlers. Under the direction of Carolyn Jacob, they go into 2 groups with an instructor to learn a new tune or to practice old ones. Later in the evening all come out on stage and play together for an appreciative audience. This has become a weekly event.

Dance season has also begun! Enthusiastic crowds have turned out for our first dances of the fall on September 15th & October 20th.

Ten of our Prince George fiddlers took part in the 42nd Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest on Saturday, October 6th. The contest was followed by a splendid dinner and then the dance which featured local

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers held their AGM earlier this month, and the new Executive for 2013 is as follows: President – Vivienne Chin; Vice President – Joanne Davenport; Treasurer – Rosalie Eeg; Secretary – Ting Ting Gronberg; Bookings Director – Myrna Wing; Musical Director – Ed Ryz; Publicity Director – Erik Eeg. Thanks to all the members for standing....2013 will be a great year!

Until next time, Happy Fiddling!

*Submitted by,
Joanne Davenport*

SURREY



BRANCH #5

Mother Nature has surprised us with a wonderful Summer and Fall for 2012, but now it is back to reality, with lots of rain and cooler weather.

Our fiddle group have not been overly busy or going out on any playouts since the last newsletter, but we are still having fun, playing and entertaining our dancers at our monthly dances.

Our Branch # 5 members would like to congratulate one of our members , Gladys Andreas, for receiving this year's Civic Treasures Award from the City of Surrey. Gladys was one of three people chosen for their significant contribution to the City of Surrey's Arts and Cultural Scene.

We would also like to congratulate Kai and Lia Gronberg for doing so well at the Quesnel Fiddle Contest on the October 6th weekend .

Kai placed 1st in the Open Class.

Lia placed 1st in the Youth class.

Members Evan and Rose Marie, have spent most of August on a first time, Viking River Boat Cruise in Europe, travelling from Amsterdam, through Germany and Budapest. If you enjoy Ocean Cruising, you should try River Boat Cruising! What a wonderful and great experience.

Our member, Sharon Saundry, would like to share the following information of her recent visit to the Coombs Fiddle Jamboree:

John Fedorek and I attended the Coombs Branch #11 Fiddle Jamboree on Sept. 22. It was a fantastic weekend! Thursday evening, we played with members of Branch #11 and danced to some lively mixers at their weekly dance, held at the Rotary Hall in Qualicum Beach. On Friday, we toured Qualicum, with a walk along the beach, a visit to the Heritage Forest, which is an old-growth forest within the town, then to Milner Gardens and Woodlands where we had a guided tour of the Crown Mansion and gardens overlooking the ocean. This was followed by dinner at the Coombs Market, where the goats on the roof were waiting to greet us. On Friday evening, we enjoyed the Coombs Country Opry, which was held at the Coombs rodeo grounds. Coombs Br. #11 opened the show with toe tappin' fiddle tunes, which were followed by country music singers and fiddlers playing old time favourites. The Coombs Jamboree on Saturday was an excellent opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new friends from the four B.C. Old Time Fiddle Clubs on Vancouver Island and the community. John and I participated by playing three fiddle tunes from the Ukraine. The camaraderie was a wonderful experience. We stayed another day and travelled to Port Alberni on Sunday, where we played along with some of the

Alberni Valley members at the Legion.

John and I would like to thank members from the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers, Coombs Br. #11, North Island Br. #17, Comox Valley Br. #18 and Alberni Valley Br. #19 for making us feel so very welcome.

Sharon Saundry

Until the next edition: - Our Branch #5 members would like to wish all of the Branches a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

Indian summer was such a delight this fall that we were sorry to see it slip away. August & September were the driest months on record and October was the wettest in this neck of the woods. The first white stuff has come and gone, just to remind us of what's ahead.

Our annual Remembrance Day program at the Parkinson Rec Centre was well attended by the local fiddlers entertaining a huge crowd. The program was followed by a fine lunch put on by the Legion and Vic's band played for the big dance after. There are less Veterans in attendance each year but we have to keep their memory alive. The sacrifices made by those who endured the horrors of war have allowed us to live in one of the world's great countries. A lot of former enemies have immigrated and have become good Canadian citizens.

Our local groups are back to their

regular playing dates. They average 4 to 5 a week and sometimes 2 on the same day. There have been some major changes in our group members this fall. Ruth Buchanan, our faithful secretary, has been replaced by her friend Tracy Beckett. Ruth has moved off to Florida for a while, we told her to take her time going but hurry back. Ruth always says taking up the fiddle and joining our group is the most enjoyable undertaking in her lifetime. Another super lady and a long time member and faithful piano player, Irene Donison, has moved to Alberta along with her daughter Donna to be close to family. Her many contributions to Branch #7 have been a great benefit to all of us. She insisted on buying the Contest trophies for several years and also bought our new portable keyboard. Irene, your kindness, generosity and sunny disposition will be long remembered. One of our guitar players Lilian Eli, brought in 2 new sister members a while back that have been a welcome new addition. Carol Jensen is an enthusiastic fiddler and her sister, Irene McAvena, is working on piano backup. They are more flatlanders from the North Battleford, Saskatchewan area. A former member, Ken Smith and his wife have returned from Vancouver Island to rejoin us. Their loss is our gain. New and old members are always welcome. Our old buddy Roy Wonderlick, had a short trip to the hospital for some tests and a tune up.

The next item of interest would be our Annual Christmas party on December 7th. This year's entertainment will be the local Clogging group. Catering will be ably provided by the Knights of Columbus at the usual Rutland Senior Hall location. Our President Wayne and Sunshine lady wife Pauline, are in Mexico to get a little last minute sunshine before our

dismal winter. Two of our Bass players have become snow birds again and escaped to the sunny south, Bob Davies and his wife, and Wayne Rodecker and his wife. We wish them a mild winter and early spring so they can hurry back. John and Lynn Tribe are doing a down size, selling the big house and moving into their condo. They will split their lifestyle between the condo and their acreage, where John will have his workshop to build clocks, fiddles, trophies, etc. With less yard work to do and both retired now, they will have more time to fiddle around.

I was so pleased to read the last page of our fall newsletter about Fiddling Frenzy. Lia & Kia Gronberg are not only doing some remarkable fiddling but have created a way to get other young people involved. What a great concept they came up with. Be sure to check their website. www.fiddlingfrenzy.com and see how we can help out.

To the members of all branches from our group, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and bountiful New Year and safe travel to all.

P.S. Quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to leave the world a better place; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

THIS IS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED.

Russ Gerrie

MERRITT

BRANCH #8



It's the middle of November and time is flying by at what feels like the speed of light!!

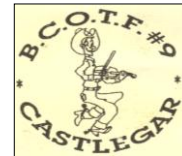
We will not be having a Christmas Dinner & Dance, due to the rising cost of having such an event; (ie) liability insurance, catering etc. and not only the cost but also lack of man power. Looking to have something in the spring or perhaps at the Campout in May.

On behalf of the Merritt group We Wish All a Very Merry Christmas and The Very Best for 2013.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diane Shalanski-Garcia
ggfly@telus.net*

KOOTENAY

BRANCH #9



As I begin to write this, the date is November 12th, one day after paying homage to the memory of the many veterans and fallen heroes of the war time years. Thanks to these courageous men and women, we are able to live a wonderful life in our beautiful country of Canada. Let us not forget.....

Today is also the day of Castlegar's first snow fall. What a pretty sight as I look out of my bedroom window and see all that white fluff on the trees and the grass and the roadways. It will take another four months or so before we can drive our vehicles again without the worry

of slipping and sliding. Sure glad I got my car's snow boots on early.

What a busy Fall season our Fiddle Branch No. 9 has had, particularly our performance group. On September 11th we were proud to perform at Castlevue and witness the presentation of the Queen's Medal of Honour to Lawrence Bond. The presentation, made by Nancy Green, was in recognition of Lawrence's many contributions to his community, and in particular, children's sporting events over the years.

Our October performance schedule looked like this: October 10th Columbia View in Trail, October 15th Poplar Ridge in Trail, October 17th Lakeview Seniors' Complex in Nelson, October 25th Genelle Seniors, October 26th Annual Food Drive at Waneta Mall in Trail (where we assisted in raising almost \$500 cash, plus many, many food items), October 27th Castlevue Seniors in Castlegar, and finally, our jam session at our monthly meeting October 28th. Please note that the last four functions were back-to-back, so we were really getting tired of packing and unpacking our instruments. But we do appreciate playing for our seniors, so it was indeed a labour of love.

November 3rd, we had our annual Fall Ball to raise funds for our 2013 Fiddle Camp. The Ball was a complete success, and enjoyed by all 47 folks that attended. Music was provided by our Fiddle Club members and guests.

Branch No. 9 is now looking forward to the annual Christmas Party for members and guests which will be held December 1st 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 No. 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

We sure have been fortunate this fall. So far it has been fairly nice and even though we have had some snow it didn't last very long. I know "Mother Nature" will catch up to us eventually but it doesn't mean I'm going to like it when she does.

Our club is still pretty quiet, but we still manage to do all our monthly commitments at the various senior residences in town and the Legion luncheon once a month.

We have added one new monthly play date and that is Jubilee House. We are in the process of deciding where to fit them into our schedule. We may have to double up on one of our other play dates.

The club played on Remembrance Day for four hours at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. #39. They always have a packed house and the people seemed to be enjoying the music.

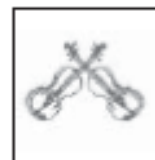
We will be having our annual Christmas dinner on December 20th at the Senior's Activities Center in Williams Lake. The volunteer ladies from the kitchen activities centre supplied our dinner last year, much to our enjoyment.

Celebrating birthdays in December will be Pat Myre and Kathy Feters. Happy Birthday ladies!

I hope that everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. All the best to you and yours from Branch #10.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

This year, 2012, is the 30th anniversary of the founding of Branch #11. The Fiddle Jamboree in September provided the ideal venue to formally recognize several long-serving members of our Branch. Each received a commemorative pin, as follows:

Founders (30 years): Ken Deacon, Bob Bloodsworth, Roy Bocek, Ethel and Terry Whibley and Bob Brown;

25 years: Edna Smith, Jean Shaw, Ken McMillan and Byron Stephen;

20 years: Ruby and George Gudbranson, Ken and Barbara Ross, Sheral Coutts and George Despins.

Thirty-Year musicians Ken, Bob and Roy will be featured in the Spring 2013 issue of the B.C. Fiddle News.

The annual Fiddle Jamboree on September 22nd was a great success. So many performers registered that the open stage extended through the supper period. Musicians from up and down Vancouver Island as well as the Mainland and Washington State kept the hall jumping. The featured fiddle performance by BC Champion Sarah Tradewell, accompanied on keyboard by her mother Cheryl and bassist Ray

Barron just blew our socks off. The evening ended with an open jam instead of a dance as in past years. A couple of dozen folks joined in the circle with a variety of instruments for a grand impromptu finale to the event.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for December 9th, at which time there will be elections for executive positions for 2013. As with so many organizations with memberships that are either mobile or aging, we must work hard on succession planning. We miss the experience of long-time players such as Elsie McKay and Byron Stephen, who have been unable to get out to our events.

A number of potential new members have come to "kick the tires", to draw an analogy, and we hope to get them to participate in future events. Meanwhile, our schedule of Thursday night dances and care home performances is continuing with as many musicians as can be assembled. The last dance before Christmas will be on December 13 and the first one of 2013 will be on January 10. A pot-luck dinner for the band and the dancers is planned for November 15.

A noteworthy occasion on October 27th was a celebration of 65 years of marriage for Ken and Barb Ross. We congratulate them and wish them many more.

With the winter approaching we expect to see the return of many folks from the prairies who come to Vancouver Island to enjoy the milder climate and our golf courses. To all Fiddlers across BC, Branch #11 sends a very sincere Coombs wish for a happy Christmas holiday season.

Bruce Foden
ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Here we are folks, back into the fall and winter Old Time Fiddle program. Hope you all had a wonderful summer. Well, we started off with the Harvest Dance Oct. 20th. and had a very impressive crowd. I'm told when we get a crowd like that it really perks the musicians up. The more people they see on the floor the more enthusiastic they become. (I got that bit of info straight from the captain's mouth!) Thank you to Betty Tasko and Mabel Lalonde for the decorating, it was lovely as usual and to all the pie bakers - another great big thank-you!!

Nov. 3rd dance was quite a different story, when we arrived it looked like there was going to be a meeting for the "Red Vested Group"!! That was the crowd! We hope this was due to the fact that there were a few more activities going on around town that night. Yes, it was a small group but we sure enjoyed the large dance floor and the absolute fantastic music!

I was told Harley had a new fiddle and boy did he impress us all with his playing. He said he'd been doing a lot of practicing! So if you want to hear this man make his fiddle sing, come to the next dance - you won't be disappointed!! We did have four new guests show up who were very impressed with the music and the friendly people. They are looking forward to coming again.

Our musicians have played for 13 different Seniors Homes throughout the Kamloops area (Sept. through to Nov.). During that time they also played at the Ashcroft & District Fall Fair, the B.C. Honey Producers Association AGM, and the Rose Hill Farmers Institute for a Heritage Tea.

Now if that doesn't deserve a huge thank you to all the musicians, I don't know what does!!

There will be a dance at Heritage House on December 1st & then the Christmas Dinner/Dance at Desert Gardens on Dec. 15th. If you need tickets contact Jackie at 250-319-3680. As we are also celebrating Kamloops' 30th year, there is a really special deal for members this year.

The musicians will again this year be playing for the Seniors' Light Tour on December 20th. Busloads of people will gather at Interior Savings Centre (Arena) after the tour, for toe tapping music & refreshments. Great entertainment for all! For further info, contact the City Parks & Recreation department.

Then to start the New Year there will be a dance January 5th followed by the AGM and elections on Jan. 13th. See you all there!! If there is anyone out there that would like to do the Newsletter for 2013 please give myself or Florence a call. Thank-you!

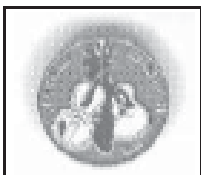
Our condolences go out to Charlotte Bengert's family and friends. Charlotte was a long time member of the Kamloops Fiddlers and never missed the opportunity to help out. She gave freely of her time, especially during May when the fiddle contest was held. Charlotte took on the job of organizing the kitchen crew, ordering all the food, drinks, snacks etc. for 13yrs. What an amazing accomplishment that was. And she did it all with a smile. Charlotte volunteered at the Flutter Buys thrift store where they sold secondhand clothing etc.; money from that went to the Hospice House in Kamloops. Where ever there was a need Charlotte was there to offer her assistance, she will forever remain in the hearts of many, many people young and old. Charlotte passed away October 5th, 2012.

Our condolences also go out to Ed Skretka, his family & friends. Marie Skretka passed away October 27, 2012. Ed and Marie have been members of the Kamloops Branch for about 10 yrs. She will be sadly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Maturity is the ability to live in peace with that which we cannot change. (Ann Landers.)

Marie Bursey

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

As this article is being written, we at Branch #17 are full

swing into our busy season. Hospitals and senior's care facilities keep us in pretty good practice.

For the most part, the musicians play like a well oiled machine. We have played together for such a long time and so often, that everyone knows their part. When to ease off and let the mandolin, guitar, or piano, take a break in the music. When to hit the accent notes that enhances the music as a whole. And, of course, there are the jokes, the teasing and ribbing amongst the players all taken in good stride.

Yes, playing at the care facilities keeps us in pretty good spirits generally. When you notice feet that can't walk anymore are tapping with the music during a lively jig, or eyes closed with head swaying back and forth dreamily, as we play an old time waltz that brings back fond memories. That is when we realize why, we do what we do.

But sometimes the music just doesn't sound right. It seems to drag a bit. This usually happens

when we notice that one of the familiar faces that we have seen in our audience every month, is missing. We tell ourselves that, perhaps he, or she, was just tired, and stayed in their room, but deep down we have the feeling that we may never see that face again. It sometimes saddens us, but we keep on playing, month after month because we know, why, we do what we do.

As the holiday season approaches, we at Branch #17, would like to offer warm wishes to all of the Old Time Fiddlers across the province. Have a great Christmas and stay safe.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

How nice to be welcoming the crisp fall weather when we are drawn inside to the warm friends gathered 'round the old pot belly stove, to watch the kettle bubble and steam, and to saw away on the fiddle for hours, for days, on end.

But soft! I must be dreaming. We never seem to be in a "low" season with the Funtime Fiddlers. Two weeks ago, the group had the time of their lives playing the half hour opening set for the (former) Bad Boy of the Fiddle, Ashley MacIsaac, on stage in Campbell River. Ashley not only joined us for our last tune but he also invited us back to close out the concert with him. We grabbed our fiddles, dashed on stage and played three tunes with him. He even tucked his fiddle under his arm and step danced while we played St. Anne's reel. What a thrill! Ashley was so charming, humorous and engaging that he won over the whole audience that night.

The rest of the fall season has been just as giddy for us. We've had our first Contra Dance at the Merville Hall and welcomed Port Alberni's Ron and Gail to fiddle with us. There have been two playouts at the Casa Loma Centre where the old tunes are greatly appreciated. The Black Creek Fair and the L'Arche Pig Roast & Pie Eating Contest were definitely livened up by our frenetic fiddling. In December we'll be playing in the streets of Courtenay during the Arts & Culture Festival. We'll wear fingerless gloves for that gig I reckon.

One of our more passionate players, Campbell River Bob, has headed south for a few months, and we'll be missing one of our favourite dancers, Bob White, who has moved on to the big ballroom in the sky. We are hoping that Donna will again be playing piano with us someday soon.

The young fiddle community is growing and we are so lucky to have Shelley, Trish and Geoff ready and able to teach the eager students the tunes...so they can eventually teach us. A couple of Vancouver Island fiddlers who practiced hard and listened to their instructors are Yvonne Hernandez and Trent Freeman who, with their quartet, The Fretless, are currently touring Europe, playing to packed halls and having a (killer) whale of a time. Having just won a Western Canadian Music Award, they have been nominated for three Canadian Folk Music Awards. They are excited!

But then again, so is our fiddle group excited. On December 2nd, we'll be opening for John Reischman and the Jaybirds who are currently on tour throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Jaybirds play bluegrass the way it is supposed to be played. Tight harmonies, rapid

fire picking. They are a phenomenal band to listen to.

Nope, there's hardly ever a dull moment for us here in the Comox Valley. Merry Christmas, and merry music, to all.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

As we prepare for this winter issue, we are just starting to experience those cold, damp days that have crept up on us after such a long dry spell. The memories of those hot days of August and September, sweltering away at the outdoor gigs, are starting to fade away.

In August we once again played for the Rollin Art Centre's 'Tea on the Terrace'. This has become a very popular summer event, with people booking ahead to listen to their favourite performers. We get to play for a couple of hours in a gazebo in the garden, a lovely setting for music.

September brings the Fall Fair for starters, and luckily it was a dry year again. We have a very loyal following for that venue, which always happens on opening night. By this time we're also starting the Fall play-out schedule for the Care Homes.

Saturday September 22, was the Coombs Jamboree, which was combined this year with the Coombs Opry that was held on the Friday night. This gave plenty of opportunity for anyone who wanted to participate in an open Mic situation, to perform a couple of times on that week- end. Again,

people had the chance to hear a wonderful performance by Sarah Tradewell. Her fiddling and vocal renditions were marvelous. Such a treat to listen to such a talented young person. Many people camped at the Jamboree site, and this set-up always provides the chance to visit and jam with others, one of the highlights of this type of event. No one ever wants to rush away on the Sunday morning.

The dance season started for us with the Sunshine Club Fall dance, just before the official Oktoberfest festivities get underway in town. It is nice when these two things don't conflict as it is hard to chose between them. The Sunshine Club does hold a monthly dance but only has our live music three times in their season.

On the last Saturday of September, an evening of music, as a memorial to the well known local musician, Bobby Rogerson, was held at Char's Landing and our fiddle group was asked to play a few songs. We decided to do a few of our Scottish pieces for this event, as Bobby had been a grand Scots showman in his day.

Competition time again and most members decided to keep up with this nerve-wracking, but good humored club activity. We've seen a lot of progress over the last few years with lots more confidence being shown.

Our club decided to contribute to a provincial bursary fund this year, as we just don't have any young people involved with fiddling in our community at this time. We are hoping to locate a local candidate in the future, but in the meantime we thought this would be one way we could at least help some young person along the way. We are having such a good time with the

music, we think others should also have the opportunity.

Our prairie members, Jan and Merv, have arrived back for the Winter season, and it is very nice to have them playing with us once again. On their first day back, there we were, madly demonstrating all the new pieces we have learned since they left for home in late Spring. Jan was kept busy making up a homework list of all these "new to us" tunes. Lots to keep her busy for the next while.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable winter session, with some sun to brighten the days, along with lots of music and laughter to keep our hearts, bow hands and feet dancing.

Gail Ross

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

--

Old Time Fiddle Contest in
Prince George, April 2013

Daniel Lapp Show,
Kamloops May 3, 2013
Provincial Old Time Fiddle
Contest in Kamloops, May 4

B.C. Fiddle News Advertising Costs

Full Page - \$ 60

Half Page - \$ 30

Quarter Page - \$ 20

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.

Frank Gleeson of Williams Lake is known as the fastest, funniest cowboy poet in the West. The poem below was written by him on the occasion of the 2012 Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest.

Now there's some Old Time Fiddlers
That gather every year
At the Quesnel Fiddlers' Contest.
You'll enjoy it, have no fear.

You'll hear Old Time Fiddlers
Still going strong at 88,
And some six year olds up on the stage,
Just fresh out of the gate.

You'll see some jigging and tapping toes,
Some will clap and shake their head.
If you're not moved by this music, man,
Check your pulse, you're probably dead.

So folks, come out and enjoy yourself.
See, it happens every Fall,
Come dance, romance and take a chance,
And have yourself a ball.

Following are "Some thoughts of (the late) Graham Townsend"....

Fiddle Music became important to the European peasantry, first to be used to play their own folk melodies, but very quickly they adapted melodies to the dances of the court – Quadrille, Reel and so on. It is true they borrowed many dances from the Royal Court, however, they formed their own dances and incorporated everything to make their own unique art form. So tempo, rhythm and swing is of utmost importance to this day.

In North America fiddle music has taken so many directions that special care must be given to appropriateness of style and dance tempo from one region to another.

Fiddle contests are a very good thing because of the social aspect, where listeners, dances and players totally enjoy the music they love, as well as work on improving their skills, sharing tunes with each other and so on.

They have also been not such a good thing because, many contestant committees have not known how to select qualified judges, thus causing a lot of damage to the authenticity of fiddle music; generally this has misled contestants and audiences alike, and has caused too much of a classical influence to enter into Fiddle Music. **The true nature of fiddle music needs to rise above this influence.**



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to everyone from all of us at the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association!

FIDDLES 'N THINGS

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