



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

The BCOTFA Branch #18 Comox Valley Fiddlers is a relatively new group in the BCOTFA constellation. Based in the Comox Valley, it was started when a group of fiddlers decided that they would like to pursue a variety of musical genres and open their ranks to a whole range of ages. After hosting several old time dances, the group opted for a shift in focus and, with the large Merville Hall at their disposal, began to introduce Contra dances to the Valley. The new branch was both surprised and delighted when the idea took off and now, 5 or 6 years later, monthly Contra dances are the norm and the dance floor is getting more and more packed with happy dancers

Contra dances are similar to Square dances and Scottish Country dances in that all the dancers start in lines, or in a circle, and a caller is needed to expertly guide everyone through the steps. The Funtime Fiddlers were fortunate to have, here in the Valley, the inimitable June Cannon, a caller of international repute, impeccable poise and considerable wit. Born in Scotland and growing up in a family of fiddlers, dancers and drummers; and with grandparents who owned a dance hall, it was natural that June would have music in her life. She began playing fiddle during her childhood in Scotland, learning from her father and grandfather. At an early age she decided that she would be a teacher and pursued this through college in Aberdeen to earn a teaching degree.

June married Bill Cannon, a dashing young architect, and moved to Canada in her early twenties. After many adventures in the hinterlands, including Boston, Montreal and Vancouver, Bill and June settled on Hornby Island, in the Salish Sea. They quickly became neighbours to all and sundry and now, with her

grandfather's fiddle in hand, she teaches regular weekly fiddle classes, leads a Scottish Dance group, calls Family dances, and hosts many fiddling evenings and events, bringing in acclaimed acts such as Pierre Schryer, Dennis Cahill and Old Blind Dogs to name a few.

June and Bill founded and performed in the Hornby Island Celtic Band for many years and together they run the Hornby Island Celtic Festival (Bill's brainchild and pet project) every second year. In addition to attending workshops with her fiddling heroes whenever she gets the chance, ever striving for that Martin Hayes sound,



she teaches fiddle and call dances at the Vancouver Island Music Workshop; at Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend; at private workshops; and has played with Fiddlejam at the Islands Folk Festival; and pretty much anywhere else that will have her. Bill, an indefectible Irish drum teacher, eagerly joins in the Scottish dancing where he is her demo dancer. On

Hornby Island, for the past few years, June has organized and run Fiddles and Fun, a fiddle camp for 40 to 45 young players (7 to 15) that combines music with outdoor play activities. It is very popular and attracts many notable instructors such as Mark Sullivan, Adrian Dolan, Trent Freeman and Wendy Knudson. At fiddle camp, everyone takes at least one dance class in the week. Then they finish the week with a concert and dance. The kids who can play the tunes join the instructors on stage as the dance band. June says that one of the great joys in that week is to see the 14 and 15 year old boys eager to get out on the dance floor. And they are great dancers.

Continued on page 2.....

June's involvement with the Funtime Fiddlers' Contra dances began when the fiddle group was looking for a caller for their new dances. She had already done a Contra dance workshop for teachers at Miracle Beach School so her talents were becoming known. She was an instant success at the Merville Hall Contra dances and soon the dances became regular fare for the Valley. What has been created here is a multigenerational dance where the young and old can play together onstage and then the young can hop down and dance with their parents and friends to more fiddle tunes. During a waltz Contra dance, for example, many people who don't know how to waltz, enter the circle and soon they are up waltzing and forgetting about their shyness. It is so rewarding for the fiddle dance organizers to overhear a parent saying "where else do I get a chance to dance with my 9 year old and then get to listen to him play some jigs and reels on his fiddle". June is a firm

believer that in order to be a good dance musician, you have to dance – at least a little.

The photograph on the front page shows a Contra in full swing with June out on the floor dancing with little Ella while Bill, in the red sweater, cavorts with another young dancer. It is certainly a happy time and it is a great way to bring a community together through music. For June, life is full with her music and dance, though occasionally she does reluctantly acknowledge that there might be something else out there. "I guess I'm like a grasshopper," she says, " -- all I do with my life is fiddle and dance. I'm going to have to plead with the ants when winter comes..."

Submitted by Craig Freeman, Br. #18

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**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
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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.



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

Views, opinions and editorials expressed in the B.C. Fiddle News are those of the contributing correspondents and clubs, and are not necessarily those of the B.C. Fiddle News or the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association. Correspondence, photos, etc. will be returned if requested. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Direct all correspondence to Florence Tellier as noted below.

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

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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:

Mar. 2014 – Alberni Valley #19

June 2014 – North Island #17

Sept 2014 – Quesnel #3

Dec. 2014 – CFVF #4

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

Things have somewhat "bunched" up in my life such that I haven't

progressed with the Red Book as I had expected. I had hoped to have things rolling by now but with downsizing, moving and building, there just hasn't been time to accomplish all the things I had planned.

I have been in touch with some people around the province with respect to getting an organization together to lend a helping hand with

getting information for a new Red Book.

It is my intention to follow the pattern that Ada Brown established in putting together the previous Red Book. I, along with many others, have been very pleased with the first edition as an excellent source of information about fiddling and information on our members.

Just to give you an idea what to expect over the coming months here is a brief synopsis of the plan. The first item of business will be to have each Branch designate a person to act as coordinator/contact for their particular Branch. I would expect that person to help by “facilitating or supervising” the accumulation of information from the members of their Branch and forwarding that information electronically on to me.

The intent is for each Branch to have its own chapter in the book. Each chapter will include a bit of an overview of the Branch and will include facts and figures that the Branch feels are important and interesting to the general membership of the BCOTFA. I think it would also be great if there was a group photo or something similar that shows off the Branch.

I will be asking for a paragraph or so for each musician of the Branch along with a digital photo. The Branches should also feel free to include some special information and photos of valuable members of their Branch that are not necessarily active musicians but do and have provided significantly to the success of the Branch.

Some folks may find it difficult to come up with a bit of a write up for each musician and in order to help people I will provide a series of questions that the person compiling information can have on hand to

elicit some interesting facts regarding the person.

The information being submitted should be in electronic form such as a Word document and the photos should be submitted as .jpegs.

I know there will be lots of bumps in the road as this project develops and I welcome all suggestions as to how to make it easier and more interesting to our membership. I am confident that the final product will be worth the effort put in by each and every one.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR

FLORENCE TELLIER



I want to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter. It's often a struggle to get an article written and sometimes, someone has to fill in for someone else, but I am very pleased that we have 100% participation from the Branches this issue. Keep up the good work folks.

In addition I welcome contributions from those other than the Branch correspondents and this month thanks goes out to Deni & Adam Johnson for sending an article on their experience at the Canadian Grand Masters, along with photos which are featured on the back page.

Speaking of the CGM, it was one of the highlights of our summer to make a trip to Saskatchewan to visit one of Roger's sisters. When we made our plans it was already too late to get tickets to the competition as it sold out early, but we were able

to take in the Friday night dance held under “the roof” at the site of the John Ardand Fiddle Fest. It was a special treat to be there, along with about 400 others. And do they love to dance – the square dancing, under the direction of Gordon Stobbe, was amazing with about 13 squares out on the huge dance floor. John & Vicki Arcand are to be thanked for contributing the space for the Friday night dance as well as opening up their farm for all the campers who were able to park there.

Included in Quesnel's column is another poem written by the well known cowboy poet, Frank Gleeson.

Our sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the many members we have lost which you will note as you read through the paper. Condolences also go out to those close to Kevin Kienlein of Vernon who passed away on October 6th at the age of 53. Kevin was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease shortly after birth & was not expected to live beyond childhood. However, he outlived everyone's expectations & overcame many challenges. Many will remember that he was very active with the Old Time Fiddlers in his young adulthood.

In 2010 Kevin received a double lung and heart transplant. Kienlein's family asks that if you have not already done so, please register to become an organ donor at www.transplant.bc.ca/onlineereg/bct s.asp

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

Winter has arrived here in the north. We are now out with our shovels and snow blowers, but in spite of the cold weather it has been good to see fiddle fans coming out to our jam sessions and dances.

We regret to announce the passing of two of our most supportive members. Ardea Wylie passed away peacefully November 8th at the Rotary Hospice House in Prince George. Ardea will be sadly missed by her parents Leonard & Irene Wylie and her brother Craig (in Calgary) and by her partner Laurel McKirdy, as well as by her many aunts, uncle,s cousins and friends. Ardea was a member of our club for 7 years. She played her guitar at our jam sessions at first, but soon took up the fiddle. It wasn't long after that she was taking part in contests, club playouts and performing at our dances. In January of 2013 Ardea was elected as Director for a 1 year term and accepted the position of our club correspondent to the Fiddle News. She contributed two articles, one in May and the other in August. The August issue included the feature article that she wrote on Charlotte Lapp. She approached each task with energy and enthusiasm. To say the least, she lived every moment to its fullest. She also was a key player in coaching our new young and adult fiddlers each week at our jam sessions. A Celebration of Life was held at St. Michaels and All Angels Church in Prince George on Saturday November 16th. Ardea had requested that there be music and dancing. A group of our Old Time

Fiddlers played many favorite tunes for the half hour leading up to the service, and after the service as everyone left for the tea held in the church hall. There were many friends present from the Old Time Fiddlers, the teachers and parents from the Peden Hill School where she taught, from her badminton group and her painting classes along with her family. The dancing took place at the Pineview Hall Saturday evening. It was a full house with many dancers, fiddlers and musicians participating. Ardea would have loved it! She will greatly missed by us all.

Alfred Morris passed away in early October at age 90. He was not a musician but he loved to dance. You could see him at every jam session, dance and contest. He was very supportive of our young fiddlers and for many years contributed prize money for the Junior classes at our contests. A private graveside service was held October 9th for members of his immediate family. At the family's request, fiddler Jim MacKenzie played some of Afle's favorite tunes.

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 sessions a large number of new young and adult fiddlers. Under the direction of Doug Borden and Barry Nakahara 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 continues to be a weekly event.

Dance season has also begun! Enthusiastic crowds have turned out for our first dances of the fall on September 21st & October 19th. The last dance of the season was held November 16th 2013.

Fiddler Mark Sullivan was present on the weekend of Saturday October 19th and Sunday October 20th when he gave both group and individual lessons. On Saturday afternoon, at the Pineview Hall, he prepared the young fiddlers to perform a set at the dance in the evening. That night they were our feature performers and in doing so received valuable experience performing dance music for our guests. They were a big hit! Mark will be returning on November 23rd and 24th to give another session of group and individual lessons.

Several of our Prince George fiddlers took part in the 43rd Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest on Saturday, October 5th. The contest was followed by a delicious 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 Hannah Stevens 1st in the Little Britches class and the recipient of the Roy Throssell Memorial trophy; Ashley Stevens 4th in the Intermediate class; Barry Nakahara, 2nd in the Open, and Chloe Nakahara, 2nd in Championship. Well done, all of you!!

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 in early January 2014. 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, and 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,
Interim Correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Following are the results of the Old Time Fiddle Contest held on October 5th this year. Although there were only 17 contestants, everyone had a great time just the same.

Championship:

1. Adam Johnson
2. Chloe Nakahara
3. Lia Gronberg
4. Kai Gronberg

Open:

1. Anita Mamela
2. Barry Nakahara

Intermediate:

1. Paul Mednis
2. Janice Meyers
3. Edna Lansdowne
4. Ashley Stevens

Seniors:

1. Pat Myre
2. Allan Curtis
3. Ed Matchett
4. Romley Goulet

Youth:

1. Hunter Grosse Pearson
2. Lorraine Marshall

Little Britches:

1. Hannah Stevens

Twin Fiddle:

1. Kai Gronberg & Lia Gronberg
2. Hannah Stevens & Ashley Stevens

Other awards handed out were The "People's Choice" won by Janice Meyers, Furthest Travelled won by Ed Matchett, Eldest Fiddler – Allan Curtis & Youngest Fiddler – Hannah Stevens.

Our fiddlers have resumed the weekly lessons with Anita Mamela at her house on Tues. after school. The progress this group has made is amazing. We now feel confident to do a set at the dances and take on the odd charity function. It began as adults but a few youth have started to attend. An hour or more of lessons followed by food and socializing: what a great way to spend an afternoon.

The weekly jam sessions at the Legion Beach stopped when the weather became cold, so we are now back at Jean Moorcraft's on Thursday afternoon. These sessions give the back-up musicians a chance to brush up on the tunes the fiddlers are playing. Once again, food and socializing are part of the program.

The Fiddle 'Treat committee was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Gene Bretecher. He was so popular with the staff and instructors at Gavin Lake, and most of all with the guitar students who were already planning to be in his class next year. We are also saddened by the death of Ardea Wylie. She was a regular student at our fiddle camp and supported us at our contests. We have lost two very precious people.

We are currently looking forward to our annual family Christmas party, pot luck and dance at the Legion Hall on Dec 7th. Then we start planning for the New Year banquet and dance. It's the best price, the best food, and the best music in town folks. Try to join us.

Jean Gelinas

QUESNEL FIDDLE CONTEST 2013

*Now we're up here in Quesnel today
And what an entertaining day
As people come from miles around
To hear these fiddlers play.*

*I've got some fiddler friends up here
And don't make no mistake
There's Ken and Marge and Pat you see
From good old Williams Lake.*

*Yes, another year has rolled around
The fiddlers back to do their thing,
As they get up and play, the people say
It makes them want to dance and sing.*

*From all over BC for us to see
Man! They put on a show!
And they all seem so much better
Than they were a year ago.*

*There's gals and pals and pickers
That's gathered all around,
There's lads and dads and grandpas
With this music they passed down.*

*There's one old guy I saw today
And I guess he's doing right,
I see him dancing in the men's room
So I think that he's half tight.*

*There's Jack and Jill and Bev and Bill
That I've seen many times,
I don't know if that's their real names
But at least the damn thing rhymes.*

*So to all you young and old time fiddlers
I would just like to say
Thanks so much for showing up,
You really made our day.*

Frank Gleeson, Oct 5/13

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

We missed getting in our submission for the last newsletter...so let's get right down to business!

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers enjoyed playing many play outs over the summer and fall. We got together on a glorious summer afternoon at Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford for a group picnic and jam. We couldn't have asked for better weather and a great time was had by all the members in attendance, as well as people visiting the park for an afternoon stroll. The unexpected free concert was all that was needed to get the little ones dancing along, and everyone else tapping their toes. We plan to do it again next year, hopefully more than once, to visit parks in Mission and Chilliwack as well. Have to spread that fiddle joy!

After a many-year hiatus, we have begun playing afternoon tea dances again. Our first dance was a big success, with over 80 dancers on the floor – the biggest turnout the Aldergrove Hall has had in quite some time! We have another dance scheduled for the end of November and will continue to book them in regularly, as long as the dancers keep dancing!

Our weekly evening practices will have some zip until middle of 2014 – we have booked workshop evenings twice a month with both Mark Sullivan and Roxanna Sabir. We are so lucky to have such a high level of instruction from both Mark and Roxanna, and with their continuing series of workshop nights, we are certain to improve our playing abilities!

We will be hosting our 39th Old Time Fiddle Contest and Concert – May 16 and 17, 2014 in Mission. Our Fiddle Contest Committee is working hard to organize a great event. Stay tuned for more details!

Our annual Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 13th, and we are adding a gift exchange this year. The kind where if you don't like the gift you got, you can switch it for another one...so you know there will be at least one gag gift in the pile that no one wants and will make the rounds! But what will it be, I wonder....

Our AGM was held last month, which included our annual elections. There were no changes to our executive, who are:

President – Vivienne Chin

Vice President – Joanne Davenport

Treasurer – Rosalie Eeg

Secretary – Elaine McLean

.....now back to my online Christmas shopping! :)

Submitted by:

Joanne Davenport

SURREY



BRANCH #5

We have been having great weather during this fall season and it would be nice if our winter turned out to be the same.

Our fiddlers have not been involved in any play outs since the last newsletter, but the majority of our players enjoy sitting in with the Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers band, at their weekly Monday practices and also help out at some of their playouts.

Our Surrey fiddler's dances are still going strong and we are still getting good attendance at our Clayton Hall dances and I would surmise that the reason being, our dancers keep coming back every month would be, "for the great dance music that our band provides".

Evan & Rose Marie have recently returned from a Canada/New England boat cruise, where they visited places like Halifax and Sydney Nova Scotia, Charlottetown P.E.I., Quebec City and Gaspé Bay. The World's largest illuminated fiddle at Sydney was also very impressive, being that it is 42 feet tall and weighing more than 10 tons. This is a wonderful and historical trip for anyone who has not seen this part of Canada.

Evan and Rose Marie also had the opportunity to dance on the street in Gaspé, where a fiddler and his two guitar accompanists played some good old time fiddle tunes.

DON HARTMAN – 1918 - 2013

On Oct. 2, 2013, we lost one of our oldest fiddlers, Don Hartman, at the age of 95. Don has been with our band since 1990 and has played with our group until he became ill in 2006. Don's favourite past time was playing and collecting violins, seeing if he could improve their tone, and playing them at various functions, with his wife Opal at the piano. At Don's memorial service on Nov. 9th, our Surrey fiddlers were honoured to play a few tunes in remembrance of Don. It was also nice to see that one of Don's nieces has taken up playing the violin and she also played some lovely music in tribute to Don, using a violin gifted to her from Don. Our condolences go out to Don's wife Opal and family members.

If you happen to be in our area, or passing by, you are more than welcome to drop in at our dances,

which are held on the first Thursday of the month at Clayton Hall. (there are no dances in July and August).
Location: Clayton Hall –70th Ave. ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street.
Time: - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

“We wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year”.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

My favorite time of the year “Indian Summer”

has been a real gem this year in the Okanagan. The last couple of weeks the days are getting shorter and wetter. Most of the gardens and orchards are harvested and the canning completed. A few of us are still making apple sauce, freezing pies and drying fruit for the winter ahead. Many nights there is a light frost on the pumpkins as the old timers used to say. Hard as it is to believe, that would be us now. “eh”?

This fall we are back to our regular bookings with always some extra events to cover. We have been double booked several times and had to juggle our players to have a good performance. The senior homes always give us a warm welcome and tell us we should come more often. It always amazes me that the Alzheimers patients can sing along with us on the old songs.

A large group of us performed at the Armstrong fair 4 times in 2 days. Pauline Curtis of Armstrong did all the work getting us set up for transportation in and out of the grounds, etc. Thanks Pauline, from all of us. You made it easy for us

and we are looking forward to next year. The Rutland Fall Fair at the Centennial Hall is another we always attend. A good time to catch up on some local history and listen to some good old time music.

We were invited again, to entertain at the Deepak Binning Foundation attended by about 350 people, also at the Centennial Hall. This was the 13th annual fund raiser in memory of an 18 year old son who died of cancer. They raise a lot of money at these east meets west events and donate to cancer research, a UBC scholarship and others including orphanages. Our fiddlers play during the happy hour and are invited to join them after for appies and a drink.

Another pleasant evening was spent at Peter Grier Elementary School in Winfield. Vic led a group of us to entertain at their annual chili cook off and Fall Fair. A group of little girls had a ball doing the bird dance with the help of a few teachers. Lots of good chili and pie to savour afterwards.

Vic led a large group of us at the annual Parkinson Centre Remembrance Day program. We entertained about 400 people before lunch and in turn were treated to a fine display by the local pipe & drum band. I can't think of any tune that can stir the emotions of everyone more than “Amazing Grace” played on the bag pipes. How many of today's songs will be played and sung in 250 years. It's always inspiring to see the veterans in full regalia, shining medals and all. An emotional day for the veterans, thankful to have survived and pass on the stories of heroic lost commands. These people must always be remembered for their unconditional sacrifices.

Our President, Wayne Angman and wife Pauline, had a nice trip to Alberta and Northern BC this fall. They stopped in Ponoka and had a nice visit with Irene Donnison in her new digs. She is in the middle of a big renovation so there's not much time for music.

John and Lynn Tribe were able to attend the Grand Masters competition in Saskatoon. They were part of the opening ceremony with 101 fiddlers on stage playing the Chinese breakdown in harmony. This week they are down on their acreage finishing a “wee house” for their daughter who wants to spend the winter there.

Connie Stamhuis, our “energiser bunny” competed in the World Master Games in Torino, Italy and captured 5 Gold and 1 Silver medal in swimming. To celebrate her 80th birthday, she swam across the Okanagan Lake ahead of 73 much younger competitors. Way to go Connie.

A lot of us helped Carrol Jensen celebrate her 70th birthday at a local restaurant. Naturally it was required that we have a wee jam session after supper. Watching Carrol swing and sway as she plays that fiddle makes you want to dance.

Two of our bass player/singers, Bob Davies and Wayne Rodicker and their wives have escaped to the south for the winter, leaving us to the elements. Our Florida peach, Ruth Buchanan, has headed south for her 2nd winter. We wish them good times for a short winter so they can hurry back.

At our October 6th General Mtg., it was decided that our Christmas party will be on Dec. 6th. Our contest will be the 1st week in June as usual.

So far ole man winter has stayed up in the mountains but will probably sneak down one of these nights. Then we can go out and enjoy one of our other passions, skiing, skating, snow shoeing, hockey or whatever. Take it easy though; as we're not 35 anymore. If road conditions are questionable, stay home. To all Branch members from all of ours, have the best Christmas ever and all the best in the New Year.

Russ Gerrie

P.S. Old Irish Prayer – May your troubles be less, your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door.

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers held a meeting on September 22 and

Dave Marriott was elected President and Gail Anderson Vice President. Both positions were vacant due to the resignations of Diane and Mickey.

We now have music at the meetings thanks to our musicians.

The Fiddlers held a jam session at the Legion with their burger night on October 18. A good crowd turned out and a great time was had. Another jam session will be held on November 22 and we will be having baron of beef so hope for another big crowd. We plan to do this on a regular basis.

A meeting was held on November 3 and several new members have signed up. Many items were discussed. We will be putting a float in the Country Christmas

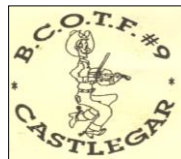
parade on November 29 and several members have offered their help.

Our Christmas dinner and dance will be held on December 14 at the Senior Center. Donna Chorney and her family will be catering the dinner. For tickets contact Dave - 378-3578 or Del - 378-9849.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and safe driving if you're travelling.

Submitted by Delphine Lawrence

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

Oh my goodness, it's getting cold here in the West

Kootenays. At the time of writing, we have only had one little snow fall, but lots more is expected. Autumn is always a bitter-sweet season because it is a transition between a beautiful, colourful world, which gradually turns into a world of white snow, cold short days, winter tires and boots.

Our Branch entertained at many functions since the last Newsletter. A special performance was held September 21st at Gyro Park in Trail BC for the United Way's 85th Birthday. We set up in the park gazebo, hooked up to a main sound system, had a sound man, and felt VERY professional. Around 200 appreciative folks attended and we had many great comments on our music.

Another very successful function was held on October 25th when the Old Time Fiddlers hosted a Food Bank Drive in the Waneta Mall in Trail BC. We set up our equipment in the large food court and played

for 2 hours. The result was a large amount of donated food and related items, and almost \$500 in cash. Not too bad for a small OTF branch. We felt really pleased with ourselves for helping out the less fortunate in our community.

We have had many other engagements, eg., the Genelle Seniors' soup and sandwich luncheon, entertaining at Poplar Ridge, Castlewood, and Columbia View. Our Branch is fortunate to have the talented musicians who are willing to give up their time and energy to entertain folks in our West Kootenay communities.

Branch No. 9 is looking forward to the annual Christmas Party for members and guests which will be held December 7th at the Genelle Hall. 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.

*Sincerely,
Mary Ann Stewart*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

Hello All,

Our first big snow fall arrived overnight and my driveway is covered with over a foot of snow. All the streets are looking pretty

messy as well, and to top it off, it is not the "fluffy" kind that is easy to shovel! It really gets me thinking about giving up my present home for a condo with no outside maintenance...especially snow removal.

All our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Dora Cassie, Ed Cassie's wife. Dora took a very bad fall down a flight of stairs and after a hospital stay is recovering at her daughter, Linda's home.

One of our most enthusiastic and supportive members, Theda Carpenter, has moved back to Vanderhoof to be closer to her family. Theda always enjoyed coming out to our practices and listening to our old time fiddle music. We will miss her and wish her well in her new home.

Another one of our members, Violet Neilson, passed away on September 6th. She was 93 and really enjoyed coming out to our practices and any event that we would be playing for. Violet's son, Vern Mulvahill played with our club for many years and our members played a few tunes to her memory at her Celebration of Life.

The club plays monthly at Jubilee House and like a lot of groups we bring our own instruments. Unfortunately some of them can be a bit of a chore to pack around. The Senior's Choir have kindly allowed us to use the piano that they store there when they entertain the occupants. Hal Giles is very happy now as he is the one that usually makes sure that our piano gets to the different play dates.

One of our fiddlers, Pat Myre, took the Senior's Trophy at the Quesnel contest. Congratulations, Pat.

We are in the planning stages of our annual Christmas dinner, so we don't

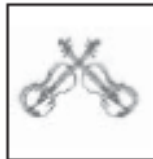
have any final details but hope to have it catered by the Seniors' Activities centre.

Birthday wishes go out for December to: Kathy Feters and Pat Myre.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year from Branch # 10 Williams Lake.

Cheers,
Pat Gunderson

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

The late Eddie Edwards was a member of Branch 11 and, although I never knew him, his name is often invoked whenever a discussion of accordion playing arises. By all accounts he was a master of the instrument, known to many in the Old Time Music community. (Whether or not his playing was the inspiration for Edith Piaf's "l'accordéoniste", his reputation lives on.) Eddie left in the care of Branch 11, his very fine Hohner Camilla accordion, but after some time it fell silent as no one was available to play it. Then, one recent day, it was brought out of storage with the intention of passing it on to someone who could make it ring again.

Serendipitously, that person turned out to be Barry Shaw, son of Jean and the late Clayton Shaw who have been associated with the Branch since its earliest days. We felt that there could be no finer tribute to Eddie than to put his accordion into the hands of someone who's a part of the Coombs Fiddlers' "family". Although Barry now lives in northern BC, through his playing Eddie Edwards' legacy is bringing

enjoyment to another community. (Below is a photo of Barry and Jean Shaw on the occasion of the transfer of the accordion.)



In other news, our annual Fiddle Jamboree on September 21 was quite successful, with good attendance thanks to the very attractive posters made by Sheral Coutts. The Coombs Rodeo Hall is an excellent venue for such an event. The featured performer, once again, was the dynamic Sarah Tradewell whose flawless hour-long performance of familiar and less well-known Old Time tunes brought the large crowd to its feet. (See photo below of Sarah with Ray Barron on Bass and her Mom, Cheryl on keyboard below.)



More than fifty musicians took to the stage that afternoon. Each performer received a very attractive commemorative ribbon made by Jean Shaw. Food was catered by Quality Foods and served up by a team led by Bonnie McDougall. Many members of the Branch pitched in to handle admissions and sales of CDs and draw tickets.

The fall has been a busy one for Branch 11, with once-monthly play dates at nine seniors' care facilities in Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Nanaimo, plus two performances at the Bowen Park Centre because both August and October had five Thursdays. We also played for the Fall Fair at Knox Church in Parksville and later that day for the Nanaimo Harvest Festival, and prior to the Jamboree we played for a Country Hoedown at a different Nanaimo seniors' residence. The composition of the bands for all these events is ever-changing as we all have something resembling "normal" lives as well.

In mid-September we resumed the weekly Thursday evening dances at the Rotary House. These will continue until December 12, when we'll take three weeks off and start again on January 9, 2014. A pot luck Christmas dinner for the dancers is planned for November 28 and our Annual General Meeting and Christmas dinner are scheduled for December 8. At the November meeting a motion was approved to begin, on a trial basis, holding a Sunday afternoon dance following each monthly meeting, beginning on January 5, 2014, hopefully to encourage participation from folks who generally don't go out at night.

As the calendar year winds down we are looking forward to 2014 and taking stock of our collective resources in order to be able to accommodate the variety of performance requests that arise. It is unfortunate that some requests had to be declined this year and this impairs the realization of our mandate to promote Old Time Music in the community. A major challenge lies in bringing younger fiddlers on board and forming teams to share the workload. The tricky part is getting people with the ability and availability to take on some gigs. With new member Vicki Barta

and some other prospects, we expect to be better positioned to meet these requests.

Sadly, we learned of the recent passing of the Reverend Bob Cuyler at the age of 86. Until a couple of years ago, Bob and Brit were regular attendees at our dances and Jamborees. Bob was a great fan of Tom Lehrer, a renowned humourist and satirist of society's foibles.

Bruce Foden

ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Well here I am back again, so that must mean we are moving into another season. Time to gather up the winter long johns, gloves, scarves, etc. to prepare for a wonderful winter!

Our dance dates for the first part of 2014 are January 4th, February 1st, March 1st & April 5th, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Heritage House. Do come, because when you don't, everyone misses you.

Things have slowed down a bit these last three months except for the musicians - they continue to play at the Senior Homes in Kamloops. They had a practice at Ponderosa Lodge and were treated to some entertainment and a tea, which I'm told everyone enjoyed.

The musicians will again be playing at Interior Savings Centre after the Seniors Light Tour Dec. 12th.

The Christmas Dinner & Dance is at Desert Gardens, December 7th and if you haven't already purchased your tickets you can do so by contacting Jackie - her # is 250-319-3680.

Unfortunately our Branch will not be hosting a fiddle contest in 2014. However, plans are in the works for a fiddle Workshop & Concert on March 8th at Heritage House. The featured teachers & entertainers will be Gordon Stobbe & JJ Guy.

Well folks this is my last newsletter, so Florence will be looking for someone to do them for next year. Please someone make it easy for her and volunteer!!

Changes are happening all over these days! I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the newsletters and being involved with this wonderful group of people but, Brian and I are moving onto another adventure. We will still pop in to enjoy a dance or two and listen to your great music. Thanks to each and every one of you for the lovely times we have had.

Submitted by

Marie Bursey

Sunshine And Music

A laugh is just like sunshine,

It freshens all the day,

It tips the peak of life with light

And drives the clouds away.

The soul grows glad that hears it

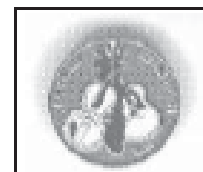
And feels its courage strong,

A laugh is just like sunshine,

For cheering folks along!

(author unknown)

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

I wonder how many readers checked out the

Landphill-

harmonic Orchestra, after the last Newsletter was published. It is a most heartwarming story for those who are driven to play musical instruments.

Moving on, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of two long time members of Branch 17.

Al Williams held the office of President of Branch 17 for eight years in a row. No one else has ever served in that capacity longer than Al did. He started as a guitar player with our group many years ago, but wasn't content to be just a member. He always strived to do his best at helping out whenever he could, and stood behind the club by supporting us in all of our projects.

Al played the guitar until Parkinson's disease prevented him from forming the chords. I loaned him my Dobro to see if just holding and moving the bar in his left hand would allow him to continue playing the music that he loved so much. As it turned out, a new fire started to burn within, and a couple of weeks later, Al bought his own Dobro. He continued to play with the group until the disease made it almost impossible to continue.

Art Orvis was also a guitar player, as well as a fabulous singer. Art was one of the core players, who always showed up at every playing engagement we had. He always dressed very sharp, and seemed to be constantly smiling.

I met Art while we were both still in the Air Force, and we hit it off right away because of the music. We both retired around the same time, and Art, along with his twin brother Harvey, discovered the Old Time Fiddlers, and encouraged me to join as well. That was a long time ago. In the last couple of years Art didn't come out much to play because arthritis made it very painful, and his timing began to cause problems for him also. Eventually he succumbed to cancer.

Both Al and Art were eighty-two years old, and passed away within a week of each other.

Branch 17 planted a tree in the Fallen Alders Memorial Park and placed individual plaques in their honour. We intend to make this a permanent memorial and will add plaques as time goes on.

Branch 17 has changed our dances from the fourth Saturday evening, to the fourth Sunday afternoon. This change should make it easier for the folks that live a fair distance from the hall, to attend. We have dancers, and musicians who travel regularly from Campbell River, and from Port Alberni. That is what I call dedication.

The shift to an afternoon dance also helps the local dancers and musicians who have a hard time driving at night. If our first afternoon dance was any indication, it is going to be a hit. We had a great turnout, and everyone appeared to be having a very good time.

We, at Branch 17 would like to wish everyone, a very Merry Christmas, and hope you all are well going into the New Year.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Spring forward, fall back. Well, we managed to set our clocks back correctly this autumn but we certainly didn't fall back with our playing. Our Fiddlejam sessions started in September and we are changing it to once every two weeks

as we seem to have too many other things happening.

Mid September, we played dance music for the energetic crowd at the L'Arche Pig Roast Fundraiser in the Big Yellow Merville Hall and by 10:30 those dancers still wanted more. They are always a fun bunch to perform for. The hall was hopping again for our "first of the season" Contra dance and we were quite giddy with excitement to have Trent join us, having just returned from touring in Europe with The Fretless.

The end of October was an exciting time as we were able to host the super Ontario stepdance group, Everything Fitz. The Funtime Fiddler youth opened for the Fitz and then they sat back and watched an amazing show with non-stop fiddle tunes and step dancing. What energy! The sellout crowd at the hall gave them two standing ovations. If we had one of those dancers living in the Comox Valley, I'd be the first to sign up for lessons!

With hardly a moment to catch our collective breaths, we launched into the 37th Annual Telethon and had the fiddle group play on the elegant Sid Williams Theatre stage. Every year, much of the entertainment talent of the Comox Valley donates their time for that worthwhile fundraiser. Then, with nary but a few days' rest, the Funtime Fiddlers opened for the *Monsters of the Fiddle* with coruscating Calvin Vollrath, moliminous Mark Sullivan and dirhinous Daniel Lapp. What a great show these pros put on and how they thrilled the audience with their antics and abilities.

As this past week winds down, we find Helen and Daisy in Calgary, where Helen won a Canadian Folk Music Award and where the two watched Trent and The Fretless play in the Gala Performance. They are

all back home now, getting ready, no doubt, for the Saturday Contra dance at the Merville Hall. It should be another corker of a dance full of family fun and cheese cake though we'll all be touched with a bit of sadness as two of our staunchest members, Lorrie and "Campbell River" Bob, are moving away from this cozy part of the Island. We wish them well in their new surroundings and hope that they can satiate their cravings for fiddle music wherever they are.

That is about it for now. Thank you to Florence for continuing to do such a great job with this newsletter, and thank you to the BCOTFA board for holding everything else together.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

The city of Port Alberni decided to hold a new summer-time event this year, a two day Art Rave, down by the Harbour, with a wide variety of musicians being featured throughout the two days. Branch #19 was asked to play across the street from the Train Station, which meant the stage was set up on a sloping street corner. Now this was a challenge for we musicians, to stand upright for our 45 minute session, and it became tricky to lift a foot to indicate the end of a piece without falling over. We were a small group this time as several people were away for other commitments, but the session went well.

Our McLean Mill venues were a bit different this year, although we did

play for a couple of the Train Robbery days as usual. We were also invited by the Heritage Society to play for the Antique Truck show and played two sets, at different locations on the grounds. Smaller groups of us played out there, but it was a fun time none-the-less, watching and interacting with the people wandering around the displays. At the one location we did have to compete with some of the little display vehicles, honking and beeping, as people were given a ride around the grounds.

The first week in September is always the local Fall Fair. This has become a regular venue for us and for our time slot, we draw a large, loyal audience, full of much enthusiasm. We requested that we be able to continue using the smaller stage, with ground-level seating, rather than the main stage with bleachers, as many of our audience would find the steps difficult. It is also on a main through-way for people coming in and heading for the main display building.

For the Coombs Jamboree in September, our club attendance was a bit more scattered, as this year we had been asked to play for a wedding on the same night. This was too big a venue for us to turn down. We still tried to participate in the Jamboree as much as we could, helping to set up, taking part in the open mic, and as well, our club played a few pieces as a group presentation. We all were looking forward to Sarah Tradewell's performance and it was superb as usual. For the evening our club broke into two groups, with some members staying at the Jamboree to help with the Circle Jam, while the rest of us went on to play for the wedding.

This wedding was an interesting concept, as they arranged for a Square Dance Caller and asked our club to provide the music. This was an outdoor event and luckily it was the one dry day in the middle of several storms. Other than it did become quite cool in the evening, we had a great time, and these inexperienced dancers were so willing to participate in the various called dances, youngsters and elders alike. They surprised us with a call for "one more piece" after the last waltz was played. Lots of enthusiasm here.

We had a grand finale for this quarter's report with the Calvin Vollrath, Daniel Lapp and Mark Sullivan concert. The music was wonderful, relaxed and varied. The combined talents are awesome. The two-hour concert was well attended and we were happy with the turnout. Port Alberni isn't always the easiest place to get a crowd out for a show, but our club members did their best to promote this show as much as possible and we would be happy with a return visit some time.

Time now to think of the next season approaching, as temperatures start to drop and thoughts of snow appear on the edge of our minds. Time to pull out a few winter songs, maybe a Christmas piece or two. Time to lighten the darker days with celebrations, gatherings with music and laughter and at this particular time, we wish you all the best for the coming year.

Gail Ross

WHAT “FIDDLE” MEANS TO ME

(taken from The Maritime Fiddler March 2002 & recently found in an older issue of the B.C. Fiddle News – thought it would be worth repeating!)

F – **FOCUS** on new friends through fiddle Jams, Potlucks, Tunes and Dance, etc.

I – **INFORM** others through Newsletters, Workshops, Websites and Personal contact.

D – **DEVELOP** ways and means to help others through music.

D – **DETERMINE** ways to preserve Old Time Fiddle Music through Play, Record and Dance.

L – **LEAD** and encourage to keep Fiddle Music as part of our Culture.

E – **ENCOURAGE** Youth and the “not so young” through Teaching and Sharing the Gift of Music. You don’t have to play to enjoy!

NOW WHAT’S YOUR
INTERPRETATION?



SwingReel Radio

Check this out:

www.swingreelradio.weebly.com

The first episode was launched on World Fiddle Day, May 18, 2013. By the time you receive this newsletter we expect Episode #5 will be available. The program features interviews with prominent Canadian fiddlers and Canadian community members who are promoting traditional music. The hosts of the show are Mark Sullivan and Craig McGregor.

Cross Canada Fiddling

Check this one out too:

www.valleyheritageradio.ca

Fiddler Dennis Harrington hosts the show “Cross Canada Fiddling” on Sundays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am Pacific time. The show is true to its name, as Dennis features the music of fiddlers from coast to coast.

And

Le Festival Du Violon

Norbert Robicheau, Digby, N.S.
norbertfiddle@msn.com

www.cifafm.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Looking forward to receiving details of the contests in **Prince George** in **April**, **Mission** (Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers) in **May**, **Kelowna** in **June** and **Quesnel** next **October**.

Send details of any major events you are having & they can be added to the calendar in the Spring Issue.

Our fiddler in the red and white suit has been around for many years and he’s back again to wish each and every one of you a very -

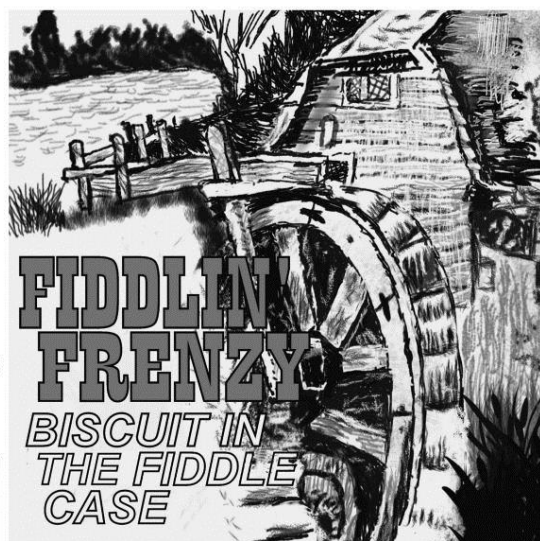
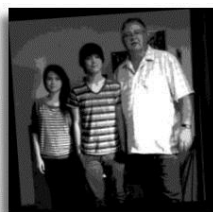
*Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year*



FIDDLIN' FRENZY

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NOTE: Looking for something special – call me -- my website does not show specials.

MERRY CHRISTMAS/HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL

Phone: 604 792-2940, email: daer1@shaw.ca

News from the Canadian Grand Masters...

.....from Deni and Adam Johnson



It seemed to me to be a little more relaxed this year in Saskatoon than when we were in Ottawa, or maybe we are starting to get the hang of it!!! Things were a little different. Instead of the regular meet and greet concert which showcases each province's talent, we were invited to the John Arcand fiddle-fest grounds for a dance! This year's judges, Calvin Vollrath, Mark Sullivan, Louis Schryer and emcee Gord Stobbe started the party, followed by Alfie Myhre, this year's lifetime achievement award recipient. Several of the contest participants grouped up and played together. The dance was wonderful, and of course Gord had to throw in a bit of square dancing as well! Such a fun, social evening with incredible talent!

Saturday was contest day! The events didn't get underway

until around noon, and to start the show was an orchestra of many of Canada's up and coming fiddlers of all ages. The stage was full of fiddlers to entertain the crowd!

Then the Preliminary round began! Everyone was in fine form; it would be an impossible task to be a judge at that event. The April Verch Band gave a high energy performance, singing, step-dancing and really fast fiddle! JJ Guy from Saskatoon was awarded the people's choice award, and finalists were announced just before the supper break.

For those who didn't make it to watch the preliminary round, they didn't miss out, as the whole program began again before the finals starting with the orchestra, contestants jam session, April Verch show, judges concert and junior showcase performers. The CGM first place winner this year was James Steele from Saskatoon.



DENI JOHNSON



ADAM JOHNSON

As always the after party is the best part! Time for the contestants to relax and have fun, jamming together at a little pub called "The Bassment". It was nice to be reacquainted with old friends and to meet new ones. It was very exciting to be there while history was made - to be there the first time in 24 years that the Grand Masters was held outside Ottawa. Congratulations to the competitors and finalists and many thanks to our family, friends and our local Old Time Fiddlers for their support.

Editor's note – also representing B.C. at this year's CGM were Gabrielle Jacob of Prince George and Sarah Tradewell of Victoria. Thanks to all of you for making B.C. proud!