



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

BRANCH 4'S OWN FIDDLE FRENZY

Growing up in a musical town like Abbotsford, Kai and Lia Gronberg had a chance to learn music at a very young age. Their first music teacher Mr. "I" showed them all different kinds of instruments in their first years of learning and Kai fell in love with the violin. Later on he found an interest in guitar and put it in his pocket too. Lia was asking to learn cello but there wasn't one that would fit her so she took up violin just like her brother. Later on she started to play cello, piano, as well as trumpet. Kai's grade two teacher knew about fiddle music and she included Kai and Lia in their schools fiddle club and then introduced them to the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers. Kai and Lia started to take off with fiddle music. Within half a year, they had learned to play more than 100 tunes & recorded with the club on their CD "Fiddles & Bows & Tapping Toes".



Soon after, they got a paid gig through their teacher Keith Wilson; this sparked interest in the kids and they soon formed a band, playing at many festivals such as Northwest Folk Life, Vancouver Celtic Festival, the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Events, and the Vancouver Marathon. Together, they also did a speech dedicated to fiddle, informing people about fiddle and encouraging them to open their ears to music in general at a TedxKids Event in Science World. They called themselves the Old Time Fiddle Kids, and recorded their first CD at ages 7 (Lia) and 9 (Kai). To this day some people still call them by that name, - although they are now known as Fiddlin' Frenzy. They both also started to compose their own tunes at 7 years of age.



As their love of music was growing along with their skills, they had found interest in other instruments as well. Lia was finally able to play the 'big' cello she wanted to learn to play so badly at age 6, and piano a little after. One of the reasons Kai decided to learn guitar was so he could accompany Lia. They were both doing well in classical music too, especially Lia who has

"Alice and I moved to the Ottawa area almost 5 years ago, and I have missed my fiddle friends in the Abbotsford area, some of whom I had helped to learn to play traditional old time fiddle.

On August 23rd of this year, I attended the annual Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle competition in Ottawa, and was thrilled to see two of my young students competing in the event.

Both of them, Kai in the Open and Lia in the Junior Showcase, played so very well. I was so proud of them for their individual efforts. I hope these two young people continue to impress their audiences in the years to come and I wish them all the very best."

Keith Wilson

been awarded as most promising violinist at the Chilliwack Music and Dance competition two years running, as well as competing at the provincial level. To make their performance more interesting they also did step dance and clogging. Their talents have also reached other areas. Lia has won silver medals in an international art contest and is pursuing a black belt in Karate.

Fiddle music has not only broadened their musical skills, it has also built up their social skills. Through fiddle music they have made friends from all across Canada, and call themselves “The Fiddle Fam”. Each summer, they have the chance to jam and learn with “The Fiddle Fam”, a real life experience to brainstorm with other musicians, -just like a 100 years ago. They have had the privilege to learn from many well-known fiddle masters such as Calvin Vollrath, Patti Kusturok, Mark Sullivan, The Sabirs, Mike Sanyshyn, & Keith Wilson... each master giving them a different influence on style and technique. Their classical teachers who like fiddle music definitely helped shape them too. Although they have won provincial, Grand North American, John Arcand’s fiddle contest for many years, financial difficulty is always an obstacle in their musical journey, due to all the extensive traveling they do every year. To date, the biggest honor of their life has been; Kai, being invited to the Canadian Grand Masters to participate as a competitor, as well as Lia invited to perform at the Junior Showcase. Though only 17 (Kai) and 15 (Lia), they’ve experienced such a full life already and immensely enjoy music.

To help, Kai and Lia are teaching fiddle and cello. Their long term goal is to study a music major in university and become professional musicians. They look forward to many years to come in the fiddle community and appreciate all the help and support from everyone throughout the years!

Submitted by Branch # 4, Central Fraser Valley

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

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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 to the left.

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 2015 – Surrey #5
June 2015 – Kelowna #7
Sept. 2015 – Merritt #8
Dec. 2015 – Kootenay #9

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

I joined Branch #7 of the BCOTFA in 1995 and at that time my total focus and aim was to learn tunes that were included in the Old Time Fiddling genre. For the next few years this occupied all my time and efforts.

After a few years I was approached by Leo Ready to take on a position in the governing body of the Provincial Executive. At that time I knew of the existence of a Provincial Executive but really very little more. After some persuasion from Leo, I agreed to allow my name to stand – and was elected. Once elected first thing I did was to try and find out a little more about the organization. I read my copy of the By-Laws and also I found and read the Constitution of the BCOTFA and must admit that I have never seen a more concise, easy to understand and comprehensive piece of work. I am really very proud of our Constitution. Although I haven't, this constitution is short enough and

clear enough that you could easily memorize it word for word.

Over the years I have referred to this little gem over and over to clarify exactly what we should be doing or what our approach or attitude should be on many different things that are happening throughout the province. Our constitution is really more than just a constitution; it really is our Strategic Plan – long term – medium term – and short term. In other words we should not only be confident that what we are doing is consistent with the constitution but also we should be looking at doing more things that will help fulfill the mandate of this constitution. I encourage everyone to read our constitution and reflect on how we are or might be meeting the aims, and objectives of it.

SOCIETIES ACT CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is BRITISH COLUMBIA OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION.

2. The objectives of the Society are:

(a) To encourage and promote the art of Old Time Fiddling and Violin playing in British Columbia;

(b) To foster the formation of Branches of the Society throughout different areas of British Columbia;

(c) To encourage, promote and assist branches to hold local fiddling competitions and jamborees;

(d) To encourage and promote interest in children under the age of eighteen (18) years in the art of fiddling and violin playing;

(3) To promote and oversee annual provincial championship fiddling competitions in the Province of British Columbia, at such time and place as the Directors of the Society shall direct.

At the Provincial Executive level we rarely have a Skype meeting where

we don't address a number of issues that center around how we can make our BCOTFA family bigger and stronger and our guiding light is the constitution. Our current focus is to try identify how the executive and in fact all the Branches can better meet the objectives of our Constitution. Some of the ideas currently being pursued are:

1. Each and every Branch has its own strengths and limitations and for that reason we are not looking for a one size fits all but rather a sharing of ideas on what each of us has tried and to encourage everyone to try something more.
2. Since the provincial executive does not have a representative from each Branch we are looking at ways of improving the communication coverage to include all of the Branches. Perhaps a large Skype call since we can conference up to 25 people on Skype. Also provincially we have a Face Book Page at <https://www.facebook.com/bcfiddlers> and this is a location where each of us personally or by Branch can participate. Prince George is running its own Face Book page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/fiddle> and it is also worth a look to see.

We can't promise to follow any particular idea but if anyone, anywhere has some ideas we'd love to at least consider them. You can always send me an email at john@jtribe.org.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR

FLORENCE TELLIER



Thank you & welcome to David Schulte for stepping up to the job as the Prince George Branch's correspondent. Although we only put out a newsletter once every three months, those three months just fly by. I really appreciate all the correspondents who submit the news for their respective Branch. Without you we just couldn't have a publication and I do know that there are many of our members out there who look forward to reading the B.C. Fiddle News each time it comes out.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2015.

Cheers,
Florence Tellier



A quote from Helen Keller –
“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

Fiddlers Branch #1 is alive and well and started out the fall with an exciting schedule full of learning and activities. Most notably, we have hired Brittany Iwanciwski, a very talented fiddler, to lead the Thursday night sessions. She is a real inspiration to see where practice can take you and a very patient and gifted teacher.

Barry Nakahara has also taken on a strong leadership role within the group. This branch has a wonderful assortment of players whose skill levels and experience differ yet everyone is included. We are also looking forward to future workshops with Mark Sullivan as well.

We have had a successful fall of playouts thanks to Betty Broderick's great organizational skills, with new players joining.

David Schulte

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

The Quesnel Old Time Fiddlers' 44th

Annual Fiddle Contest was held on Oct 4th at the Legion Hall. Only 20 fiddlers participated, but what talent!! The seven Championship contestants, all young adults, were only separated by a few points. Congratulations to Adam Johnson who won for the second year in a row. (see photo, back page) It was good

to see representatives from Vancouver Island, Kelowna, Falkland, Mission, Williams Lake, and Prince George as well as our local fiddlers. 2015 will mark our 45th annual contest. We have agreed to host the Provincial contest so we have already started thinking ahead; brainstorming for what works, what to streamline, what to change. Any ideas or help re the 2015 Contest would be welcomed.

Here are the results of our contest:

Championship:

1. Adam Johnson
2. Lia Gronberg
3. Kai Gronberg
- 4/5. Brittany Iwanciwski & Deni Johnson

Open:

1. Barry Nakahara
2. John Tribe

Intermediate:

1. Edna Lansdowne
2. Janice Meyer

Seniors:

1. Marshal Fedorak
2. Pat Myre
3. Lynn Tribe
4. Romley Goulet

Youth:

1. Carmen Boichat
2. Loraine Marshall

Junior:

1. Hunter Grosse Pearen
2. Jenny Graham Smith

Novice:

1. Luke Lapp

Twin Fiddle:

1. Kai Gronberg & Lia Gronberg
2. Brittany Iwanciwski & Chloe Nakahara
3. Loraine Marshall & Anita Mamela

Other awards handed out were: People's Choice, Carmen Boichat; Furthest Travelled, Ed Matchett; Eldest Fiddler, Marshal Fedorak; and Youngest Fiddler, Jenny Graham Smith.

Our regular monthly dances resumed on Nov 1st. We had a small crowd, but thanks to all the local musicians as well as those from out of town, everyone had a good time. The next dance on Dec 6 will be our Christmas party and then our New Year's Dance on Dec 31 will be in the Metis Bingo Hall in West Quesnel.

Jean Gelinias

the number of dancers is any indication :).

Our AGM will be held in January, so any new executive information will come in the next newsletter. We welcome new member Ken Buck and remind existing members that it is once again time to renew your memberships.

May everyone enjoy a warm and wonderful holiday season, filled with friends, family and fiddling!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Joanne Davenport

Mike's website was also chosen for the "Website of the Year Award" Congratulations to Mike's wife, Tianna Lefebvre Sanyshyn and Robert White for designing the website.

Mike, with wife Tianna and David & Jill Barber have also recently formed a Bluegrass band called Jackson Hollow.

We have lost one of our dancers, Dorothy Wills, 87 yrs. of age, who passed away October 15. Dorothy and her husband Len have been attending our dances for the past several years and we will miss her. Our condolences go out to her husband Len and family.

Our Surrey Fiddler's dances are held every first Thursday of each month except for the months of July & August. (No dance in January 2015).

Fiddler's Dance Location: Clayton Hall – 70th Ave. ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street.
Time: - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm.

"All of our Branch # 5 Members wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



Having survived a scorching hot mid summer, we have coasted along with a great

long Indian summer. Just enough rain to get great farm, orchard and garden yields. This is my favourite time of year with harvest, hunting season and lots of good playing dates. We are back in full swing as of September 1st with our many senior's gigs. A couple of special events in support of the Salvation

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

As the days grow shorter and colder, we start to prepare for the Christmas season. The CFVF will come together in the spirit of friendship and fiddleship on December 6th for our annual Christmas potluck. Sid and Frieda deHaan took over the task of organizing the dinner and entertainment last year and set the bar pretty high. If history teaches us anything, we can expect an immensely entertaining evening again this year!

The CFVF are back in the swing of things after taking the summer off. We jumped back in with both feet, playing for an afternoon tea dance. There was hardly room for a mouse in the corner, with nearly 80 dancers in attendance! And with Mark Sullivan's participation in our ongoing workshops, we continue to work on the danceability of our tunes. His music and fiddle expertise seems to be rubbing off, if

SURREY



BRANCH #5

The seasons seem to roll by faster than we would like, "Christmas and a new year are just around the corner".

Our dances at Clayton Hall continue to go well, thanks to all members of our band and dancers, who come out faithfully every month and keep our dances alive.

Congratulations to Kai and Lia Gronberg for their first place win in the Twin fiddle category at the Quesnel Fiddle contest in October. In the Championship Class, Lia placed 2nd and Kai placed 3rd, Congratulations Kai and Lia.

Congratulations to Mike Sanyshyn for winning the Gaylord Wood Traditional Country Music Award at the 2014 B.C. Country Music Awards.

Army and the local food banks were organized by Ruth Buchanan at the Westside Save on Foods, the other by Wayne Angman at Coopers in Kelowna. Our Annual fall picnic was well attended at the usual Mission Park location. Good eats and lots of musical treats.

Our John and Lynn Tribe attended the Quesnel Contest on October 4th and had a great time. They also brought home some prize money, always a feel good situation. Another special event was Prime Time on October 20th in Winfield. They bring the seniors by bus from the surrounding area. On the 24th a group of us attended the fall fair at the Peter Greer Elementary School in Winfield. The highlight of events for the kids was the bird dance with some of the teachers. For us it was the dessert after the show. Every 3rd Friday is dance night for us at the Rutland Seniors Centre. Early attendance has been quite good but we hope it improves in the winter months.

Our General meeting was on the 26th of October where we decided to hold our Christmas party on December 5th at Rutland Seniors Centre. Irene McAvena was the successful bidder to be our caterer again. It was agreed to hold next year's Contest on the 5th & 6th of June at the Rutland Community Centre. Entertainment was discussed and Vic will follow up on suggestions.

A decision was also made to buy a good camera for our official photographer, Guy LaFrance, who does a good job of covering all major events. We also want to get as many of the gang together for a group picture which is no easy task.

Our major event in November is always the Remembrance Day celebration at the Parkinson's Rec Centre which was attended by about

400 people. The local fiddlers led by Vic played for an hour before lunch and after that the Kelowna Pipe Band put on a fine display. When the tables were cleared, Vic's 4 piece dance band took over. They did a great job of a lot of familiar tunes from the 50's & 60's.

Remembrance Day is the most emotional time of the year for those of us who remember the War years. We have to keep the memories alive so younger people will understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by thousands of youngsters like them. Most had no idea what they were getting into or the horrors they would face. Even Queen Elizabeth volunteered as an ambulance driver and mechanic as a teenager.

Some of our members are recovering from health issues. Gordie Cheyne has recovered great from his knee replacements and is back in gear at the senior homes. Drummer Bill Bryson had a hand operation. Bob Russell has been unable to continue his long playing contract with the Cancer clinic and so Carol Jenson has taken over for him. Jim Sisler is recovering from his ordeal. Roy Wunderlick has been struggling for a year with low energy and lung problems. Joan Kinakin had Maryann in for a cataract operation and she sees much better now. Wayne Rodacker still has a full time job caring for his wife, Laverne, who had a major stroke in California last spring.

A few of our snow birds have headed south for the winter before the snow flies. Ruth Buchanan is at her digs in Florida and Bob Davies and Jeannie are spending the winter in the south west. Here's hoping for an early spring to send them back.

Don't forget to get your information and pictures into John Tribe for the Red Book. He was hoping to complete it by Christmas but

because of the slow return of needed information it's a next year deadline. A bit of information and pictures of recently deceased members would also be helpful.

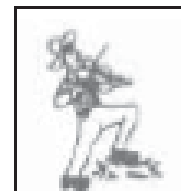
Our neck of the woods has been lucky so far for not getting any snow. The last week or so we have had a sudden down shift in temperature to around -10 at night. The forecast sounds the same for the next week. At least the days are bright and sunny so there is always something to be thankful for. Our President, Wayne Angman and his wife, Pauline are in Mexico to catch a little heat and sunshine before the big deep freeze. Next month will be jingle bells and lots of turkey dinners with all the trimmings.

So to all of our extended fiddle family, the best Christmas and New Years ever and above all, safe travelling.

Russ Gerrie

P.S. Some feel that wealth and comfort are the main elements for happiness, when all we really need is something to be enthusiastic about.

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers are keeping busy after taking the summer off. We are jamming again at the Legion once a month, usually the 3rd Saturday. In September we enjoyed the company of John and Lynn Tribe who joined the band for several tunes.

Our October baron and jam session had a big turnout. Thanks to Dave and Vi for preparing the baron every month which is always delicious.

Our November baron and jam session will be held on November 29 at the Legion.

The Christmas dinner and dance will be held on Saturday, November 22 at the Merritt Senior Center. The Chorney family will be catering and the Randy Chillihitzia band will be supplying the music. For tickets contact Dave - 250-378-3578 or Del 250-378-9849. Everyone welcome to attend.

Austin Warren, our bursary recipient, is attending the University of Victoria in the field of music.

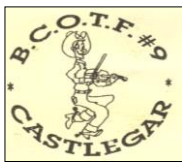
Dave Marriott presented a wreath for the Old Time Fiddlers on November 11.

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to Donna Chorney who has been having many health problems and in and out of the hospital.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Drive safe if you're travelling.

*Submitted by,
Delphine Lawrence*

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

The leaves have now fallen from our West Kootenay trees and snow will surely blanket our lawns soon. It is again time get out our snow boots and shovels. The years go by so quickly.

Three individuals have been proclaimed Life Members of our Chapter and will be awarded with their achievement certificates at our next meeting at the end of November.

1. Stella Mulawka has been a hard-working member since 1982. Although not an instrumentalist, Stella is a strong supporter of our club, and has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure the success of all our endeavors.

2. Walter Crockett has been with our organization since 1986 and has been a real asset. He has held various offices including many years as president, and has participated in our performance group as fiddler, guitarist, vocalist, and banjo player. Walter was in Kelowna during October and November of this year for medical treatment, and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

3. Yvonne Crockett worked with her husband Walter to ensure the success of our club. She has held many offices including secretary. She does not play an instrument, but is a strong participant in all our activities.

We feel privileged to have the expertise that Stella, Walter, and Yvonne bring to our club and are very proud to award them with Life Memberships.

Our performance group has not taken on many play dates this Fall due to the illness of two of our key players. However, we have been to Lake View in Nelson, Castlewood in Castlegar and Poplar Ridge and Columbia View in Trail.

Our annual Christmas party will be held December 6th in the Genelle Hall. We look forward to a fun-filled evening with comradery, the traditional turkey supper, and dancing to the music of our fiddlers and guests.

On behalf of everyone in our Branch No. 9, I would like to wish all members of the BC Old Time Fiddlers' Association, a very Merry

Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015.

*Cheers,
Mary Ann Stewart*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

Well friends, it looks like as far as the weather goes here in Williams Lake we have been lucky. Winter is just around the corner and we are half way through November and our streets are still relatively bare of snow. I know that can change pretty quickly at this time of year. I guess what I am trying to say is I am not looking forward to winter and I wouldn't be sorry if we don't get any snow until February.

Our club has been playing all their regular monthly commitments, Deni House, Seniors Retirement Village, and The Royal Canadian Legion. We still have our regular Thursday practice at our local Legion, Branch 139, from 6:30- 9:00 PM.

We are a small group and our membership is ageing which can make it difficult to put on contests and dances. We hope that we can attract some newer blood into our club and continue to be more involved within the community. There are probably other clubs out there that are having the same problems as we are attracting new members too. In the mean time we just keep "plugging along".

In October some of our members drove up to Quesnel to take in their fiddle contest. One of our members, Ken Emery, participated as a judge...it was the flip side of the coin for him as he is usually a contestant.

In November we were asked to entertain the members, guests and participants of the ceremonies at our local Legion on Remembrance Day. There was quite a large turn-out and the weather turned out to be sunny but cold.

On December 9th we will be playing for the Child Development Center's Yule Tide Dinner. Speaking of Christmas, our club will be having our own annual dinner at a date and time to be determined.

After MANY years of being our club Treasurer, Ed Caissie decided that it was time for someone else to take over the position. Fortunately for us Lorraine Baker graciously decided to give it a try. Thanks Ed, for doing the Treasurer's job so well for so many years. Ed just turned 88 years young on November 7th!

Speaking of birthdays, the following people will be celebrating theirs in the coming months. Nov. 21st, Barb Gilchrist. December: Kathy Fetters on the 16th and Pat Myre on the 19th. No birthdays in January or February.

I hope everybody has a fairly short winter with very little snow ...and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

We'll begin with a report on the 75th wedding anniversary of Ruby

and George Gudbranson. They were feted on August 30th and for this part of the article I am deferring, with permission, to one of the guests, who wrote on Facebook:

“Imagine being in your late 90's ... age wise ... and being married for 75 years.(yes ... 75 ... to the same person) .. raising kids .. living life and playing music together ... fiddle and guitar and piano ... since the beginning and to this day. Well, Ruby and George Gudbranson did it ... and they still love each other ... and laugh together ... and play together. Bradley Centre at Coombs was filled with family and friends wishing them many more years together ... We, the Coombs Fiddlers played . led by Ruby on the piano and George on fiddle ... I'll just bet it's the music that wound the fabric of their lives so close together all these years ... sort of like fiddle strings ... sometimes they go flat .. and sometimes they go sharp .. but when they are in perfect pitch ... the music is never sweeter.”

On August 23rd we assembled a smallish contingent of members to play a set of fiddle tunes for the Centennial celebration of the Qualicum Beach Railway Station. By serendipitous happenstance we learned that Sara Tradewell would be playing that evening in Port Alberni. While en-route from Victoria she very graciously took a detour from the highway to join us on the stage. What a marvelous and inspiring talent she has and it really bolstered our performance. Thank you, Sara.

The annual Fiddle Jamboree at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds on September 20th drew performers from up and down the Island and an enthusiastic audience, many of whom came especially to see Sara Tradewell again. Without question, she is in the upper echelon of fiddlers and a tremendous career awaits her. Planning for the 2015 edition of the Jamboree has begun with a review of the format and organization to see how it can be improved. The date will be Saturday, September 19th so mark those calendars already.

The new season of Thursday evening dances and once-monthly Sunday afternoon dances is underway at the Qualicum Beach Rotary House. So far the attendance has been disappointing; thank goodness for the loyal Port Alberni dancers whose help and participation is most highly appreciated. We will break for three weeks after the December 11th dance, resuming January 8th. As our Annual General Meeting and Christmas dinner will be on December 7th, there will be no afternoon dance then; the next Sunday afternoon dance will be on January 4th, 2015.

A memorial service was held in Port Alberni on October 27th, attended by some 300 people whose lives had been brightened from knowing Leo Hamel. As a banjo player with both Coombs and Alberni Valley Old Time Fiddlers, Leo was the epitome of grace and class but also a jovial elf who loved a good joke and playful banter. The seating arrangement at our dances put me beside Leo where we often behaved like the naughty kids in the back of the classroom. I will miss his laughter and our occasional excursions into la langue francais.

Another loss deserving mention is felt by several Branch 11 members. Roy Cooke, though not a member, was a cousin of our Lorainne Gidlof and a close friend and jamming buddy of Elsie McKay, the Gudbransons and Roy Bochek. He is said to have been a wonderful accordionist, though always in F#. Mr. Cooke, a retired logger, passed away recently in Sooke where he had resided for some time.

That's it for now, so farewell from Coombs, Branch 11.

Bruce Foden
ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Winter is moving in quickly now, so I hope everyone has pulled out the long thermal underwear, warm bulky coats, boots, gloves etc. etc. For those of you that love this season please don't pray for snow before Christmas!! As you have probably guessed by now winter is NOT my favorite season!!

The afternoon dances on Tuesdays are continuing at the North Shore Community Centre with Brian & Jackie giving Pattern Dance instructions from 1:30 to 2:00p.m. at which time the O.T.F. band will begin playing dance music until 4:00 p.m.

Mabel Lalonde, Orval Olafson & Louise Anderson have agreed to take the money at the door at North Shore Community Centre when they are able. Thank-you all for your time.

As I have been away off and on throughout the summer I'm somewhat behind in the news, so please forgive me if I've miss out what you were hoping to read!

I know many of the O.T.F. continue to play throughout the Kamloops area at the Seniors Residences, keeping themselves very busy and many old timers very happy. So thank-you to all of the musicians that keep this going, it is so appreciated by everyone!

It was great to see Terry Jones at our Pot Luck & Meeting Sunday night! He looked very good and said his new home is okay. He said the staff care and the cooks are all top notch!! We are all very happy for you Terry. For those of you that don't know Terry he was one of the fiddlers for many years!

Also we'd all like to give a welcome back to Annie Benson who went to Kelowna to have heart surgery this summer. She is now doing just great and looks the part too. It was wonderful to see you back and ready to enjoy life again!

Message from Linda Bremner - Linda is doing the Sunshine Lady duty again and would like all members to call her at 778-471-7642 should you hear of someone that is sick, had an accident, birthday, or anything would require a card from the Kamloops O.T.F.'s Thank-you, this will really help Linda.

Christmas Dinner & Dance is closing in quickly : Date - December 6, 2014. Time- 6 p.m. Cost; \$ 40.

There is a Fiddlers Workshop which is open to all that are keen on the fiddle. If you wish more information you can google Kamloops Fiddlers. The workshops are held on Tuesday evenings downstairs at Heritage House.

The Old Time Fiddlers will not be playing at the Kamloops Light Tour this December.

Now before I sign off, I would like to wish you all a very "Merry Christmas" and may 2015 be a great year for all!

Don't Resist

Accept don't ask, "Why this should be?"

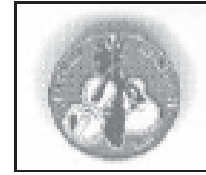
Each happening is a test,
For life on earth's a place to learn

The way to live the best.
Accept the sorrows and the pain,
For through them we progress,
They'll lead to patience,
courage, trust,

And inner happiness.
(*Chrissy Greenslade*)

Marie Burse

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

Here we are, at the front doors of winter. As with most other

Branches of the BCOTFA, we are fully into our most active season.

We are playing at all our traditional venues: St Joe's Hospital, Glacier View Lodge, Cumberland Health centre, and Casa Loma Senior's Village. We have added another venue, Stevenson Place in Comox, on an on-call basis. Hopefully they will call us in regularly, like Casa Loma does.

Our snowbirds are starting to fly south. Ray Ledoux, our stalwart bass player, along with his wife Maureen, are gone for a few months, as is Irene Tomchick, our steady accordion player and singer extraordinaire. Not to make them feel bad, but we will get along without them.....somehow.

When they get back in the spring, we expect Ray will bring us back a new tune to learn. Last trip south he brought back a very nice, and interesting tune called, "The Third Time". Part of the tune uses the chords D,G,C and A, then, on the second part it throws an F into the mix. Very nice to listen to.

Two weeks after submitting our last Newsletter Article, we were saddened by the news that a long time member of our branch, and fabulous fiddler Bob Waugh, passed away on Thursday, August 28th. He was 91 years of age and was a well known, and respected fiddler. Bob started out life in Cape Breton, and after serving for 39 years with the Marine Division of the RCAF, he settled with his family in Comox. Bob's smooth and well timed fiddling resulted in him being a two

time winner of the BC Old Time Fiddle Championships, in the Senior's division.

Christmas season is fast approaching, which brings us to the much looked for Christmas Party. We will be pinning down the details of that, at our meeting tomorrow, so I don't have any information to report on, at this time.

We, at Branch #17 would like to wish everyone, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

The warm fall weather has seen the fiddlers, laying languidly about on the verandah couches, plucking their instruments, chewing on blades of long, long grass while they shoo flies, pick at the watermelon and occasionally tip back on the little brown jug.....no, wait. That's not us, that's our sister branch down in Mississippi.

Here in the Comox Valley, our branch #18 Funtime Fiddlers have been enjoying the change of seasons as we have started up the Fiddlejam bi-weekly sessions down at the old church in Courtenay. The turnout has been voluminous so far with lots of new young players showing up to keep us more mature musicians on our toes. It is cool that the young players are helping to keep the music alive. We are also getting some of the Campbell River and Gold River players coming down and it is fun to jam with them.

The month of August saw a bit of action with some fiddle music at private parties and September started with the reintroduction of the Tea Dances in Comox. Our group has played both September and October and we hope that we'll continue in the new year. The Tea Dances are a marvelous way to get our dance tempos down right.

Once again our players laid down the dance music for the annual L'Arche Pig Roast fundraiser and had a delicious time knocking down on the excellent roast and desserts that the few hundred guests enjoyed with us at the Big Yellow Merville Hall. The hall was able to show off its new wheelchair ramp to the delight of several of the disabled patrons who had to be lifted into the hall last year.

The first Contra Dance, on Hallowe'en, was dynamite with all sorts of young goblins and witches, along with older, face painted superheroes, dancing to the choreographed calls of June Cannon. By the time the last tune was played, the band was just about dead and it was close to midnight when the lights finally flicked off.

Trent's group, The Fretless, was invited to play at the Cape Breton Celtic Colours two week festival so I just had to go down and play groupie. The music, with concerts every night in a multitude of communities, was fabulous. With founding member and Victoria based Yvonne Hernandez playing with Trent, the band is 50% BCOTFA fiddlers, so it is nice to have our BC fiddle talent showcased in the east.

Back in town, our latest fiddle event was the Annual Variety Telethon where our group did a short set of waltzes, reels and two steps. We were even filmed so we could check out our mistakes later, if we dared to.

So we are approaching the Christmas season. We have one more Contra dance to do, a number of Fiddlejam sessions, one more branch meeting and then we can all get into our flannelette pyjamas with the sewn in feet, go to bed early and wait for Santa to arrive!

Enjoy the winter, everyone!

*Cheers,
Craig Freeman*

ALBERNI VALLEY

BRANCH #19



After a long spell of very nice weather, the rains have hit to remind us of the coming winter solstice. It is easy now to think of those warm, cozy, inside venues and forget about the great outdoors for a while. Luckily we did have some very nice, sunny sessions to end our summer season. Until the end of August we were able to hold our regular Monday practice in Spirit Square down at the Harbour Quay and that made a nice change for us. We also had another session at Historic McLean's Mill before their summer season ended.

We got back into the swing of the Fall program the first week of September, playing at Fir Park and then at the Fall Fair seniors day. Once the regular Fall practice starts we begin to think again about bringing in new pieces and spending time once more on some older ones that not everyone is up to

speed on yet. During the summer many people are coming and going, so it isn't worth while bringing in new selections then.

Another of the regular events in September is the Coombs Jamboree and many of our members were able to attend, finding it a good time to meet up with old friends and get in some jamming.

We were all very saddened with the passing of long time member and banjo player, Leo Hamel, on October 20th. Leo always had a great big smile on his face and played a good steady beat to try and keep the rest of us in time. He very faithfully attended practices and payouts, even when he wasn't feeling well, bringing warmth and good feelings along with his music. His presence will be missed by all of us.

Holding meetings isn't one of Branch 19's favourite activities, but sometimes business has to be dealt with, so a General meeting was held on October 15th. An item of note from this meeting, is that we've had some communication with Kelli Trottier and she will be performing at Char's Landing in March 2015. She has been here twice before and we've always enjoyed her performance and friendly personality. Kelli has offered to hold a workshop on technique, and some club members have indicated interest in this possibility. At this meeting we also planned our club dinner in December and decided to take our usual break around Christmas time.

We continue to work on placement of musicians, trying to get the best sound for both the musicians and

audience. When the spaces are so different in each venue, it is an on-going challenge to place fiddlers and back-up so each hears the other clearly. "They" say that problem solving is a good exercise for the brain, so in that case we should become brilliant soon. Hey, we can always dream.

As this is the last newsletter before the holidays, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year. Happy fiddling and happy hearts. G

Submitted by,

Gail Ross



MY VIOLIN SHOP

Yes, Christmas is just around the corner. For fiddlers, classical violinists, parents, the question always arises: What can I get a son, daughter, grandchildren, friend or even for myself as a gift? Here are some suggestions:

Have had many players want to upgrade their bow. My suggestion is the Cadenza either 2 or 3 star hybrid bow. Have had players try bows in high/low price range and buy this bow. Very well balanced, draws great sound, will not warp or be affected by the weather. 2 star bow is \$225.00 and 4 star bow is \$430.00.

Have the very best violins/prices for students, both beginner or advanced. Have in the last couple of months received some new violins from Europe – excellent sound. Also have a couple of older violins in good condition with excellent sound.

How about cases, strings, shoulder rests, large selection of chin rests, new, high technology tail gut, etc.

Need bow rehairs, repairs or setup for old violins? Bow rehairs are returned within 3 days of receipt. Violin repairs, setup also usually within a couple of days. I find the post office is very reasonable. Usually only takes a couple of days to arrive. You need not worry about having your bow/violin sitting in a shop waiting for it to be rehired or repaired.

Need help in deciding? Call or email and I will get back immediately. Prefer calls as it is easier to answer questions, make suggestions and the reason for them. No obligation.

WISHING ALL A GREAT CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Art Daher – 604 703-1464 or daer1@shaw.ca



Championship winners at the Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest October, 2014.
From left to right, Adam Johnson, 1st Place, Kai Gronberg, 3rd Place & Lia Gronberg
2nd Place.

A definition of music:

A mind-altering noise with the potential to induce joy, happiness, memories, bliss, merriment & mirth.

Ask your doctor if music is right for you. Common side effects may include uncontrolled toe-tapping, swaying side-to-side, smiling, off-key singing, a lack of volume control, finger snapping and dancing.

