

B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Our Surrey fiddle club members are very proud to feature Dale in this issue of the B.C. Fiddle News. Dale has been a member since 1983 and currently holds the record for years of active service with our Surrey club.

Dale was born in Nipawin, a small town in North Eastern Sask. in 1940. He was raised in the Fort a La Corn Forest Reserve by his Grandparents. At the age of eight, he moved to the town of White Fox, Sask. where he first attended school. The following year he moved back to Nipawin until the age of twenty three. He then moved west, to Surrey, B.C. where he presently resides.

From the age of ten, Dale's first influence and mentor of music were his Grandparents, closely followed by his mother, Ellen and the rest of his family who were all musically inclined. Dale's first instrument was the guitar followed by his Grandfather teaching him the fiddle by the age of eleven. By the age of thirteen, he was playing in his mother's band at local dances on weekends and playing fiddle at school dances at age fifteen. There was always music in the house, especially on Saturday nights, where the family jam sessions took place at his Grandparents' house, after listening to the "Ole Opry" radio program.

After arriving in Surrey/Vancouver area, Dale commenced emerging into the music family of the 1960's and 1970's by playing in numerous bands and nightclubs throughout the lower mainland. He was a familiar face to the musicians and a welcome artist at the many jam sessions he attended. He played almost every Legion at one time or another, along with the Army and Navy clubs. He also played numerous

clubs including the Coconut Grove, Lamplighter, Club Diner, the Barn, the Purple Steer, the Arlington, the Lulu Belle, the Country Palace, the Flamingo, the Dell and Cameo Club.

Through the years of playing these venues, he had the opportunity to play with many talented musicians, such as Evan Kemp, Ed King, Ray Macaulay, Don Rich, Roy Warhurst, Vern Lavoie and Paul Desjarlis. Also during this time Dale, Jim Fleet, and other musicians started a nightclub in Mallardville, known as "The Homestead". They played there three nights a week for three years and it became known for its good music and friendly atmosphere.



- DALE BELCHAMBER -

Also during this time, Dale continued to play with his mother in a band, along with friends from the prairies. They were known as the "Prairie Ramblers" and their music echoed the music from the jam sessions held on Saturday nights in his grandparents' house during his childhood. They recorded two albums of old time music and they continue to bring back memories to anyone who was lucky enough to have attended those original sessions.

Dale married Gail, who was also from Nipawin, Sask. in 1972 and they will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary this year. They have one son Kris and one grandson Aiden, age five.

When Dale moved to B.C. he no longer played the fiddle, instead he played guitar and bass. When he was on his honeymoon in 1972, back in Saskatchewan, he recognized a fiddle in a music store that his grandfather had made. Upon returning to B.C. Dale's

wife Gail sent to Sask. to purchase the same fiddle and gave it to Dale for a Christmas present.

Jack Wright, a friend of Dales from Nipawin, invited Dale to come to an old time fiddlers' dance and this is how Dale became a member of the Surrey Branch #5 Fiddlers.

Dale is a multi-talented musician, although you would never hear this from him. He plays guitar, dobro, bass, fiddle, mandolin and banjo.

His hobbies also include making fiddles, electric and five string, banjos and a double guitar. His workmanship is very professional and the instruments look good and sound great.

After working many years as a technician for electrical appliances, Dale now spends some of his retirement time tuned into Bluegrass music. When he is not at the old time fiddle dances, you can find him closely checking out the Bluegrass schedules for lists of festivals coming up and planning his next trip, to see his many friends he has made from here to North California.

We would like to thank Dale's sister in-law, Tammy Ray, for supplying the information for this write-up.

Submitted by Evan Sanyshyn

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

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

ONE YEAR (4 ISSUES) \$10.00

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

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

**B.C. OLD TIME
FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTIONS
c/o 416 COLLINGWOOD
DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C.
V2B 6B3**

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

<http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

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**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER (SEPT 2012)
MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN AUG 15TH, 2012.**



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 to left.

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

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

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

June 2012 - Kootenay #9
September 2012 – Williams Lake #10
December 2012 - Coombs #11
January 2013 – Kamloops #12

FROM THE PRESIDENT



CRAIG FREEMAN

By the time this message gets read, we'll probably be into June and most folk will be thinking about their well earned summer holidays. No doubt, those readers of this epistle will, at some point this summer, be happily playing and listening to fiddle tunes. How nice it is to conjure up an image of a group of people sitting around a snapping, smoking summer campfire, musical instruments out, bows rosined and flying over the singing strings; guitars chording; and mandolins and banjos taking liberties with the melody.

Though it has been a slightly challenging year for the BCOTFA board, it will certainly be rewarding to present the moliminous fruits of our labours to the assembled members at the AGM in Kelowna. So have fun at the contests and enjoy the camaraderie.

*Cheers,
Craig Freeman*



FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

With only four BCOTFA contests occurring this year, they are already half over. Prince George held there's in April and Kamloops' was on the first weekend in May. Next up is the Provincial Contest in Kelowna on June 2nd following a Friday night concert by Daniel Lapp. I am looking forward to going to Kelowna to enjoy a weekend of fiddle music – hope to see you there. The last contest for 2012 will be in Quesnel on October 6th.

Also, the Kelowna Branch will host the annual general meeting and election of officers of the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association on Sunday June 3rd. Plan to stay for the meeting & exercise your right to vote.

Quite a number of our members are currently facing serious health challenges. I want you to know that you are not only in my thoughts, but in the thoughts of so many other members as well. We all wish you the best.

Florence Tellier

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE

BRANCH #1



Prince George Branch #1 of the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association hosted

its 43rd Annual Old Time Fiddle Contest April 20th & 21st at Blackburn Hall & a great time was had by all! April has proven to be a good time for our contests which have seen a change in time from our past summer contests held in July. Everyone was pleased with the large turnout of contestants and guests. The Friday evening concert featured our guest performer Peter Dawson. The concert was opened by 11 of our young fiddlers: Jonah Borden, Brittany Iwanciwski, Chloe Nakahara, Lauren Iwanciwski, Gabrielle Jacob, Tenasea Jones, Hailey Kitchen, Christianne Forman, Faith Newton, Maria Newton & Kathryn Rempel. Under the direction of Charlotte Lapp and with backup music provided by Sheila Iwanciwski, Riley Iwanciwski, Barry Nakahara & Doug Borden, the group performed a selection of fine old time fiddle tunes which included a waltz, From Frisco to Cape Cod, and a dance, The 7 Step. Next the group played a set of jigs which included Haste to the Wedding, a medley of reels which included The Crooked Stove Pipe, a foxtrot and Molly's waltz played by Chloe & Brittany. Then Peter, accompanied by Vic Ukrainetz on piano & Jim Dow on bass, began his performance with a wide variety of music styles and many of his own compositions. Among the tunes he performed were Owl in the Henhouse (Peter's own tune), Listen to the Mockingbird, Hot Canary, and a Scottish and an Irish medley along with many traditional tunes. The concert was a great beginning to a memorable fiddle weekend! Many enthusiastic fiddle fans also came out to enjoy the competition and to support all contestants. Results of the Saturday contest are as follows.

Little Junior Class:

- 1st - Hailey Kitchen (Prince George)
- 2nd - Tenasea Jones (Prince George)

- 3rd - Faith Newton (Willow River)
- Junior Class:**
- 1st - Eamon Osborne (Victoria)
 - 2nd - Lauren Iwanciwski (Prince George)
 - 3rd - Maria Newton (Willow River)
 - 4th - Mackenzie Connon (Prince George)
- Participation trophies: - Hunter Grosse Pearen (Quesnel) and Elijah Antoine (Prince George)
- Youth Class:**
- 1st - Lia Gronberg (Mission)
 - 2nd - Jonah Borden (Prince George)
 - 3rd - Leland Bachelet (Two Hills Alberta)
 - 4th - Joshua Litton (Victoria)
- Intermediate Class:**
- 1st Ardea Wylie (Prince George)
 - 2nd Beth Bressette (Prince George)
- Senior Class:**
- 1st - Ken Emery (150 Mile House)
 - 2nd - Roy Throssell (Quesnel)
 - 3rd - Ed Matchett (Port Alberni)
- Open Class:**
- 1st - Brittany Iwanciwski (Prince George)
 - 2nd - Chloe Nakahara (Prince George)
 - 3rd - Rowan Osborne (Victoria)
 - 4th - Kai Gronberg (Mission)
- Championship Class:**
- 1st - Deni Stone (Quesnel)
 - 2nd - Gabrielle Jacob (Prince George)
 - 3rd - Adam Johnson (Quesnel)
- Twin Fiddle Class:**
- 1st - Aiden & Rowan Osborne
 - 2nd - Kai & Lia Gronberg
 - 3rd - Brittany Iwanciwski & Chloe Nakahara
 - 4th - Eamon Osborne & Joshua Litton
- Eldest Fiddler: - Roy Throssell;
Youngest Fiddler: - Faith Newton 7 years old and the fiddler travelling the furthest was Ed Matchett of Port Alberni.

We congratulate all contestants and hope to see you at our 44th annual Old Time fiddle contest in April 2013!

Our musicians continue to be busy with spring play outs at senior residences and care homes and are planning to take part in the Elks May Day parade May 12th.

Our regular season of play outs, dances and Thursday evening jam sessions is drawing to a close as our members will be taking the summer off. We will resume our jam sessions, dances and regular playouts in September.

Until next time have a wonderful summer and happy fiddling!

*Marguerite MacKenzie,
Club correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Welcome to whatever season this happens to be. I believe as I look at the leaves on the trees outside my window and the blooming of the lilacs as I walk towards downtown, that it just may be spring although I used to think that Spring came in early April.

The practice sessions continue at our bass player's home, Jean Moorcroft at 3:00 pm which is a more fitting time for our aging group. There are also Adult Fiddle Lessons being held at the Quesnel Junior School, Tuesdays, also at 3:00 pm with Anita Mamela. I've only made it out once so far but it does make you stretch your limits.

Our June Dance was successful in as much as we kept on playing until midnight, as usual. We did however fill in some of the fiddle tunes with vocalists. Our fiddlers, such as Deni and Adam were to be found at the Contest in Kamloops very

understandably. And it must have been worthwhile when Championship 2nd and 3rd came home to Quesnel. Also, we are very proud of both of our boys heading to the Grand Masters Fiddling Competition again. Deni will play in the competition and Adam is to play in the Junior Showcase. Very well done young men. All our luck goes with you.

As for the Fiddle Camp, the instructors have been booked and a cook has been arranged so the camp is definitely going ahead "July 28th to August 3rd." If by the time this gets out you haven't signed up it might be too late. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.



One more bit of sad news, last week we lost one of our members to cancer.

Marj Goulet will be remembered for all her enthusiasm and our good thoughts go out to Romley and the family.

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

Thanks for keeping Old Time Music alive.

Ab McQuillin

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of one of our members. Norma Popescul lost her battle with cancer on March 12, 2012 at the

Christine Morrison Hospice in Mission. A memorial will be planned sometime later in the summer. She was a long standing CFVF member and held an executive position in our group. She is and will be greatly missed.

On a brighter note, we held a successful Fiddle@DayCamp and Fiddlerama concert at Clarke Theatre in Mission on March 17th. Last minute emergencies notwithstanding (instructor and performer Allison Granger was unable to attend because of illness) the day went off without a hitch, with nearly 50 students attending camp, and culminating in our 11th annual Fiddlerama concert. John Arcand, Trent Freeman and Patti Lamoureux put on a fantastic show and left the audience highly anticipating next year's 12th annual!

We continue to be busy with various performances throughout the area and recently enjoyed a play out at a Maple Ridge senior's retirement condo where one of the residents energetically joined in on the spoons – a couple of soup spoons that she "borrowed" from the kitchen for the afternoon. We were all hoping she would join the group, because that gal had talent! What a fun afternoon.

Until next time, Happy Fiddling!

*Submitted by
Joanne Davenport*

SURREY



BRANCH #5

We are finally getting a few days of summer weather during this month of May and hopefully it can only get better for June, July and August.

Our monthly dances continue to go well, with good turnouts of dancers and we are hearing some positive comments on how great our band sounds. Play outs have been a bit slow, since the month of March, but we are optimistic that we will be getting a few more calls to play.

On March 17, some of our members, including myself, were able to take in the Fiddlerama concert, featuring Patty Lamoureux, John Arcand and Trent Freeman. What a treat it was to hear some great fiddling!

Our club would like to congratulate the following Branch #5 members for doing so well at the recent B.C. fiddle contests:

Lia Gronberg - First place in the youth class held in Prince George on April 21/12.

Kai Gronberg - First place in the open class - Kamloops - May 5/12

Lia Gronberg - first place in the youth class - Kamloops - May 5/12

Alex Randall - First place in the championship class in Kamloops - May 5/12

Kai and Lia Gronberg also placed second in a 18 years and under Optimist Talent Show in April, where they competed against singers, dancers, jugglers and other performers.

ROSE CHMELYK

We have recently lost one of past members, Rose Chmelyk, who passed away in Kelowna on March 3, 2012. Rose was a member of Br. #5 for at least 10 years and supported our club by coming out to all of our dances. She became ill in the late 1990's and moved to Kelowna to be under her daughter's care. Our condolences go out to Rose's family.

We are having our annual pot luck picnic and fiddle jam on Sunday, August 5, from 1 pm to 5pm at Clayton Hall. Bring your

instruments, lawn chairs and your choice of potluck food. You are welcome to join us.

Our Surrey Fiddlers host a dance every first Thursday of the month except July & August, at Clayton Hall - ½ block north of Fraser Hwy. on 184th St. and 70th Ave. Time - 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

Practice Session - Same Location - Every 4th Wednesday - 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm except June & July.

Until the next edition: - "Wishing all of you a warm & wonderful Summer".

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

After a long cool spring it looks like summer may be around the corner. We had a big garage sale this past weekend and enjoyed temperatures in the 25c range. It's time to get the plants out of the greenhouse into the real world. Jack Frost be gone!

Our groups are busy as ever with their regular playing dates, plus some extras. One was the Annual Maple Festival at the French Immersion School where a big crowd savored French cultural treats while enjoying some fine old time French tunes by the fiddlers. On March 10th, we helped John Rewakowski celebrate his 99th birthday. Congratulations John and we hope to celebrate your 100th next year. You inspire us all with your fiddle and still strong singing voice. St. Patrick's day was also a busy one for some members, with the big

party at Sandlewood Seniors Home at 7:00 pm. It was also the 9th birthday of our youngest fiddler, Devon Beckett. There you have it - from 9 to 99. A lot of water under the bridge in 90 years.

April was just a regular month locally. We were fortunate to have Peter Dawson in the area for about 2 weeks. He was the guest artist at both Prince George and Kamloops and borrowed our Vic Ukrainetz for back up and also MC, I believe. Peter put on several local concerts but I missed them all due to other commitments. I always enjoyed backing Peter up on the piano at the Vernon contest in the early 80's. We are almost twins in age as he was born in February and I in April of 1936. Pretty soon we will be considered "old timers". He always has a wealth of good stories to tell and relates well with the crowd. His super fiddle always inspires us to do better.

We understand both the Prince George and Kamloops contest were great as usual. Kelowna was well represented at Kamloops by the Davidson family, Chloe and Kyle, as well as Lynne & John Tribe. They all came home with some prize money in their jeans, so that is always encouraging.

On a sad note, Gordon Jensen lost his wife, Dorothy in late February. A memorial was held for her with many from our group attending, plus family and friends. In April, we lost Walda Reszitaryk, who has been one of our valuable background helpers. Her funeral was well attended and a few of our group played at both gatherings as requested. Our condolences go to the family and friends of the above.

Our old buddy Urban Lucas has spent some time in the hospital. We all wish him the best and admire his positive outlook.

John and Lynn Tribe and the contest committee have been busy putting together the many details involved with running the upcoming Provincial Contest. All trails lead to Kelowna in the 1st weekend in June. New fiddlers are friends we haven't met yet, as well as many long time competitors, we welcome you all. Our favorite travelling nurse, Linda Read, is planning on coming, so it will be like old home week to her many friends.

Bill Bryson and his wife, Helen, just returned from a trip back home to Scotland. It was a great trip but they didn't hear any of the terrific old fiddle, accordion or bagpipe tunes. Bill, along with Keith Moffat, built our first parade float. Bill just finished rebuilding the basic framework and new roof system before his trip. Several of the group help Bill put the float together and take it apart. Some of his regulars are Gordon Cheyne, Wayne Angman, Guy Lafrance and myself. They will christen the float in the May Day parade this coming weekend. This year we are off to Alberta on the 18th, so will miss out on all the May Day activities.

It was good news to hear that one of our finest musicians, Keith Hill, is back in action. Another big pair of boots to fill were those of Leo Ready. A big thanks to all our branches for keeping this fine old time music alive. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

P.S. Noted on the back of a pickup truck – To be well regarded, be long in the ear and short on the tongue.

Russ Gerrie

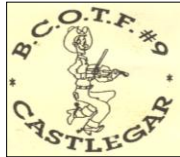
MERRITT



BRANCH #8

No report from the Merritt Branch at this time.

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

Oh, the greenness of summer. Isn't it wonderful to look outside and enjoy the many shades of green? It is such a beautiful time of the year. Let's rejoice and enjoy the season while we can.

Not too much has been happening with Branch No. 9 this year so far. We held our annual election of officers and the new council is as follows:

President - Walter Crockett
 Vice-President - Brenda Lepinski
 Secretary - Joan Marks
 Treasurer - Victor Lepinski
 Director - Sandra Milosevich
 Director - Lori Bakken

These folks were elected by acclamation and we know that they will do a wonderful job.

We still play for the seniors once or twice a month at several care homes in the area. The seniors do appreciate our music and we really enjoy playing for them.

We held a very successful Spring Fling Dance on May 5th at the Genelle Hall. It was well attended and enjoyed by one and all.

Our 11th annual Fiddle Camp will be held July 16th to July 20th, 2012 at Selkirk College in Castlegar. We expect to have a full contingent of

participants in the fiddle, guitar, keyboard and mandolin courses. The four-day instruction period will be followed by the annual student concert and public dance on Thursday, July 19th at 7:00 pm. Also of great interest and enjoyment will be the instructors' concert in Gyro Park in Trail BC on July 17th starting at 7:00 pm. If you love fiddle music, you won't want to miss this event -- a wonderful array of fabulous professional fiddlers and accompanists from all across Canada.

We are all looking forward to the annual steak fry in August at Pass Creek Park. It will be an event filled with good music and good food.

That's all for this time. Have a great summer everyone.

Mary Ann Stewart

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

Hello everyone,

Since the weather finally decided to warm up I have been busy getting my patio organized and preparing my flower beds. I keep reminding myself of the golden rule of the Cariboo....no matter how hot it is....don't plant before the May long weekend! I've seen a late frost come and kill all those nice expensive hothouse plants.

Our group doesn't get many requests for play dates other than our regular monthly commitments, but we keep busy by playing for the Seniors Village, Deni House, and the Senior's Luncheon at the Legion. We have been asked to play for the annual Royal Purple's Strawberry Tea in June.

We would like to congratulate our President, Ken Emery, on his 1st Place win in the Seniors division at the Prince George Fiddle contest. Ken also participated in the Kamloops contest and placed 3rd in the Seniors and Twin Fiddle divisions.

Birthday wishes go out in June for Ken Emery and in July, Laurie Mackenzie, Lea Butler and Lorraine Baker.

We usually take our summer break starting in July and resume our weekly jam sessions at the Senior's Activities Center in Williams Lake in September.

So, until the fall, have a great summer and I hope to see some of you at Gavin Lake Fiddle Treat in August.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

The past winter saw a number of members laid up by illness or injury but that situation is now receding in the rear-view mirror. Many of our members attended a memorial service for Weldon Bradley in February.

With a depleted roster of players and coincidental visitation restrictions for public health reasons, we had to cancel some playing dates at local care homes, although we were able to continue the weekly dances. Some new members have bolstered our roster of players for future events. Elsie McKay has returned home after eight months in Nanaimo hospital and is jamming with friends

again. We hope she'll soon feel able to rejoin the band.

As a group, we want to extend thanks to the members of Branch #19, Port Alberni, for stepping into the breach on some occasions when we were short of players. We are very appreciative of their assistance and this relationship is highly valued. It does, however, throw emphasis on the need to have "bench strength" in order to meet our ongoing commitments.

Our youngest member, Serena Jack, took a category first placing at the 2012 Upper Island Music Festival in Nanaimo. We congratulate her on this achievement and encourage her to continue developing her expertise on the violin.

Upcoming events we will be playing at include a 100th anniversary of the French Creek School in Coombs, Bowen Park Seniors' Centre in Nanaimo, the Coombs Bluegrass Festival, Coombs Fair and our own hugely popular Fiddle Jamboree, with featured guest fiddler Sarah Tradewell, on September 22nd at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. The weekly dances will be suspended from mid-June until September.

As the winter visitors leave Oceanside there is a noticeable drop in attendance at the weekly dances. Maintaining interest and attracting new folks is always challenging so we will be exploring ideas during the summer hiatus. Meanwhile, we extend best wishes to all of those Branches that are hosting competitions and jamborees across the Province this summer.

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

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

These past three months have once again been very busy for the old time fiddlers and their trusty volunteers.

They were out again bringing their music to the seniors homes throughout the city. Here again is a list of all the homes that enjoyed their visits.

Shores Retirement Home, Bedford Manor, Overlander Extended Care, Kamloops Seniors Village, Ridgepoint, Ridgeview Lodge, Pine Grove Care Centre and the Hamlet Seniors Home. What a wonderful service you provide for the seniors. I know they love the music as it takes them back in time to their younger days when they knew all the words of the songs, and remember the old time dances.

We had two visitors from Port Alberni in February that joined the fiddlers practice, Gail and Ron Ross from Alberni Valley Branch #19. They said they really enjoyed the practice and hoped to see some of Branch #12 up to their practice some day. Gail plays the fiddle and Ron the washtub bass.

Kelly Trottier's show was a great success, with 112 people in attendance. She is a very talented young woman, besides playing the fiddle, she sings and dances - what talent!! Clark thanked everyone that helped in making this event a success.

Sahali Mall shoppers had the pleasure of Old Time Fiddler's music in March; they had quite a crowd there on what was called "Seedy Saturday". Some of the folks had a dance or two and even the small tykes got in there to dance a tune or two. Fun was had by all.

Several shoppers said this should be a week-end event!

Northhills Mall also had the good fortune of hearing and dancing to the fiddlers - there wasn't as big a crowd there but those who did attend enjoyed the music very much.

Mr. Peter Dawson from Ottawa put on a great show Friday May 4th. There was a full crowd as there is whenever Peter performs.

The Fiddle Contest this year did not have as many contestants as 2011 but the ones that were there had a great time. I'm sorry we had to miss that.

The winners of the 28th annual Kamloops Old Time Fiddle Contest were as follows:

Youth:

- 1st - Lia Gronberg of Mission
- 2nd - Chloe Davidson of Kelowna

Senior:

- 1st - Garry Hill of Vernon
- 2nd - Harley Jansen of Kamloops
- 3rd - Ken Emery of 150 Mile House

Intermediate:

- 1st - Dai Griffiths of Deia, Spain
- 2nd - Doreen Rail of Veron
- 3rd - Lynn Tribe of Kelowna

Open:

- 1st - Kai Gronberg of Mission
- 2nd - Kyle Davidson of Kelowna
- 3rd - Nadia Olafson

Championship:

- 1st - Alex Randall of Abbotsford
- 2nd - Deni Stone of Quesnel
- 3rd - Adam Johnson of Quesnel

Twin Fiddle:

- 1st - Chole & Kyle Davidson of Kelowna
- 2nd - Kai & Lia Gronberg of Mission
- 3rd - Harley Jansen Kamloops & Ken Emery of 150 Mile House

The youngest fiddler was Kyle Davidson and the eldest was Garry Hill. Congratulations to you all!!

The Knights Of Columbus were at our contest venue this year to set up the stage and I'm certain that all the fellows from the O.T.F.s really appreciated that. Thank-you to all the fellows involved in that job!

When you put on a show like this contest there are so many wonderful people working behind the scenes, it takes hours, days and weeks to get everything organized. You should all give yourselves a big pat on the back and say "that was a job well done"!!!

To the ones that sold tickets for the quilt, contest, & the Peter Dawson show, the ladies that worked in the kitchen (now that's a big job), the guys that monitored the parking lot, to all the set up and take down workers, to Linda Hiles who took on the job of making sure there was enough food and organizing the kitchen ladies, to Charlotte for being available to assist Linda if need be & to everyone else who did their part, thank you.

Now as I wasn't able to be there this year I had to phone around to get my news so I'm aware that a great job was done by all! Congratulations!!!

The Quilt was won by Carol Swift, Ann Benson won second prize of \$200.00 & Martha Desmond got third prize of \$100.00. Congratulations ladies!!

Clark Hiles mentioned in the last meeting that membership is down a bit this year, so let's all try to bring some new friends along this fall.

Last reminder for the June Campout at Grandview Lodge bring along some friends they may become members!!

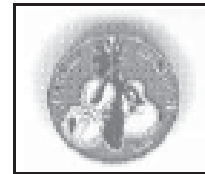
The Rule of Three:

Three things to govern;
Temper, tongue, conduct,

Three things to love,
Courage, gentleness, affection.
Three things to hate,
Cruelty, arrogance, ingratitude.
Three things to wish for;
Health, friends, a cheerful spirit.
Three things to fight for,
Honour, country and home!!

*Submitted by:
Marie Burse*

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

Another active season is winding down, and many members are looking forward to summer activities. We still keep playing during June, July, and August, but these are mostly camp-outs, private parties and the like. In September we will be back to our regularly scheduled play dates at hospitals, seniors' complexes and so on.

I just had a look through the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association book (1990), known affectionately as "The Red Book". What a wonderful work that is. It brought to mind, again, the reality of the hard work that was done by Ada Brown. Not just for the book, although that in itself should have been enough, but also for the many years that Ada has given to the BCOTFA. It was a given, that if you wanted to know anything about BCOTFA, you asked Ada.

In reading through the Red Book again, I was reminded about all the great people that belonged to this organization, who are no longer with us. I saw a dozen that I personally knew, and more that I had heard about, as being legends in this BC old time music realm. It would be a nice thought that maybe there is a

huge jam session on the other side, and all these fine people are gathered together, jamming up a storm.

If you have one of these books, you should do yourself a favour and have another look. If you have never seen it, try to borrow one and learn about who we are, and how we came to be.

Another publication that I read is the Provincial Newsletter. This is normally an enjoyable pastime. The last Newsletter, however, left a bitter taste. I couldn't help but focus on the article "FROM THE PRESIDENT".

The question was asked, "Are fiddle clubs evolving into private social clubs for retirees or are they looking to become vibrant recruiters of youth?" Am I the only one who felt that this question was out of place and insulting? BC Old Time Fiddlers did not start with a group of youths deciding to form an organization to promote old time fiddling. For many years the vast majority of musicians in this organization have been seniors and retirees. Yes, the youth are very important to us all, and should be encouraged to join and learn, but recruitment should not be reserved for youth alone.

There have been quite a number of young people who started out with the BCOTFA. And where are most of them now? Very few have stayed on, to help the organization grow, and those that did, are to be commended. Every branch has had young players who have disappeared as they get older. Perhaps the focus should be on finding the key to keeping their interest once they have become adults.

Aside from youths, there are adult beginners, and there are those who started and became proficient in

music, dropped it, or put it on the back burner while raising families, and came back to it later. I think the vast majority of the members throughout the province are in the latter group. We should be encouraging all of them to join the fold, not just the young ones. The current President appears to have a youth fixation, to the detriment of others.

I am proud to say that Branch #17 has had our share of youth within our group. We provided encouragement and support to quite a few of them, over many years. We don't have any at this time, but that could change tomorrow. That does not mean that we have "evolved into a private social club for retirees". I might have said it before, but it seems to me that it needs to be said again, "The Emperor has no clothes".

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Wow! Summer on the Island has come on like gangbusters. Clear skies, hot sun, scorching fiddle tunes. It has been a fun Spring for the Comox Valley's Branch #18 Funtime Fiddlers. There has been lots of dancing at the Merville Hall monthly Contra dances with June Cannon calling and our musicians keeping the delighted dancers whooping it up on the hardwood floor.

Fiddle Fest at the Merville Hall was hopping with Kelli Trottier and Greg Simm giving a concert to a packed house on Friday; and then leading daytime workshops and the Contra Dance on Saturday. We were thrilled to be able to fit those two great Canadian entertainers into our

11th annual event. Another annual event occurred at Miracle Beach with our fiddlers playing for the elementary school children as they danced about the gym. Ann Freeman started this tradition at the school over ten years ago and it is a much anticipated party with our players from Campbell River to Parksville eagerly attending.

The North Island Festival of the Arts was well attended by our musicians from Branch #18 and Fiddlejam, with Trent Freeman as the adjudicator. Our branch annually donates money for the bursary fund and many of our players walk away with pockets jingling.

It is fun to follow the progress of our various members, current and former. Helen Austin has been recording in Los Angeles and playing local gigs with her daughter, Daisy, and we hear that Scherene is in Toronto. Trent has recorded three CDs since Christmas and is now in Toronto, making connections and playing with various groups including the Foggy Hogtown Boys. Last weekend, Jeremy Potts performed his first concert since graduating from U Vic.

The Merville Hall is bustling with activity including the introduction of Pickleball which is sometimes played while we have our jams. The jury is still out on the success of that idea. This summer, there will be another Paint the Hall session as we finish off the bright yellow exterior; and we have even received a grant to upgrade the washrooms to accessible status. The hall will definitely be the place to perform come fall.

There have been lots of private gigs, Farmers Markets and school events for players like Max, Leah, Taz and Charlie. And a couple of weekends ago, we all participated in the first ever Elevate the Arts celebration in

downtown Courtenay. That was a day of music, dance, art and activities in the streets and alleys. What fun to play with dozens of Comox Valley groups in multiple venues.

The wrapup Fiddlejam party was at our house and now we are all practicing for our upcoming July 1st performance at the Sid Williams theatre, and honing our contest sets for the summer Old Time Fiddle Contest circuit. So much fiddling...so little time.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

Springtime and mixed weather patterns make for interesting travel

scenarios. Ron and I had to travel to the Interior in late February and luckily hit a window of sunshine and dry roads. We happened to be in Kamloops on the fourth Sunday of the month, and were invited to join the Branch #12 regular practice session. We were made to feel very welcome by everyone and felt quite at home after the initial strangeness of dropping into the great unknown. It was a great experience for me, a fiddler with only a few years experience, to play with some very good musicians. Ron, “of the wash-tub bass”, was gratified to be accepted into the practice, as this instrument is often looked at askance until people actually hear it played, and well. It is always of interest to hear which tunes other groups play most often or particularly favour. Many thanks to the Kamloops Branch for their hospitality.

In March there was a Bluegrass event happening in Coombs and due

to health issues only a couple of the Coombs club were able to play that night. We were asked to help out and we were glad to be able to assist our good neighbours.

On March 12 we held our AGM and our Executive were reinstated by acclamation, keeping Gord McConnel as President, Dennis Craig as V.P., Louise Killough as Secretary and Rhonda Holcombe as Treasurer.

There were three directors installed for a 2 year term, Jim Killough, Ron Ross and Gail Ross.

Kelli Trottier and Greg Simm put on a wonderful concert in town and it was thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd. Kelli very graciously asked our fiddlers to join them on stage for a “surprise” encore to their performance and we all had a super time participating in that. A good experience to have Kelli leading our fiddlers and also to have Greg’s superb guitar work in the background.

Things start to get really busy in April and seem to go crazy after that. As we are preparing for some dances coming up, we’ve been trying to work on our timing for dance pieces for those events. We often find that those jigs or schottisches don’t have to be played quite as fast as some people imagine during general practices.

Our Branch was again invited to play at the concert and dance of the Branch #17 Jamboree. This is always a fun time for everyone. Many of our players drove up for both the Friday evening and the Saturday events. Those that did stay overnight were able to take part in the jam after the concert and be there to take part in the Saturday morning workshops. Thanks to Glen for the new fiddle tune and to Ed for the helpful guitar techniques. The portion of the concert

performed by Br. #17 was very entertaining. Well done.

One of our members, Ed Matchett, drove to Prince George to attend the 43rd Annual Fiddle Contest and came home with a 3rd in the Seniors category. He was also recognized as having traveled the furthest distance. Ed really appreciated hearing all the young fiddlers who were competing, but was surprised that there weren’t more of the “older” folk taking part. He also enjoyed the concert prior to the competition with Peter Dawson and Vic Ukrainetz providing the great music.

Now that the weather is improving, we will be taking part in more outdoor venues for the next few months. We’ll just have to keep hoping the sunny and dry part holds for a good while. In fact, some of our members came home looking rather rosie-faced from our play-out at the Rosewall Creek Hatchery Open House on Sunday. It was very sunny and warmish, if you could ignore the wind.

I guess this brings us up-to-date as far as Branch #19 activities for this quarter. Hope everyone else is having as good a time as we are, keeping Old Time Fiddle Music alive and well.

Gail Ross



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1, 2012

Daniel Lapp Concert

June 2, 2012

Old Time Fiddle Contest

June 3 BCOTFA AGM

Kelowna, BC

250-764-7064

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July 16-20, 2012

Kootenay # 9 Fiddle Camp

Castlegar, BC

250-367-9473

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July 16-20, 2012

Sabir Sisters Music Camp

Mission, BC
604-825-1871

--

July 20-22, 2012

Grand North American Old
Time Fiddle Championship

Radway, AB

780-942-3690

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July 28-August 3, 2012

BC Fiddle 'Treat

Gavin Lake, BC

250-992-5081

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September 22, 2012

Fiddle Jamboree

Coombs Rodeo Grounds

250-752-3636

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October 6, 2012

Old Time Fiddle Contest

Quesnel, BC

250-992-5081

**B.C. Fiddle News
Advertising Costs**

Full Page - \$ 60

Half Page - \$ 30

Quarter Page - \$ 20

Business card size - \$ 15

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

Art Daher, Violins

SORRY TO HAVE MISSED THE KAMLOOPS FIDDLE CONTEST – WAS
DOWN IN MISSOURI – HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE KELOWNA FIDDLE
CONTEST AND THE CASTLEGAR WORKSHOP IN JULY

“NEW” -- BAROQUE BOWS:

Have you wanted a bow that just “skips” across the strings, looks “cool – funky”? Then you want to see these bows. Fiddlers just “love” them. Priced from \$95.00 and up – I have a good selection to show.

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28TH ANNIVERSARY GRAND NORTH AMERICAN OLD TIME FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP

**JULY 20-22
2012**

SATURDAY

- Novice (9 & under)
- Junior (10 - 13)
- Youth (14 - 17)
- Twin Harmony Junior (13 & under)
- Twin Harmony Senior (60 & over)
- Senior (60 - 69)
- Golden Age (70 & over)

SUNDAY

- Intermediate (18 - 59)
- Traditional (any age)
- Alberta Open (any age)
- Twin Harmony Intermediate (14 - 59)
- Championship (any age)

ADMISSION PRICES

- Friday night jam and dance:
 Donation to Kids with Cancer
- Saturday and Sunday 2 day pass ... \$20
- Saturday or Sunday 1 day pass \$10
- Saturday 1 day pass inc. dance \$15
- Saturday dance only..... \$10
- Under 12 Free

**AGRICENTRE
RADWAY, ALBERTA
HWY 28, NE of EDMONTON**

**SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS**

Friday	
Registration	5:30 - 7:00 pm
Jam & Dance	7:00 - 11:00 pm
Saturday	
Registration	8:30 am
Preliminaries	10:00 am
Dance Band	7:00 - 11:00 pm
Sunday	
Registration	8:30 am
Preliminaries	10:00 am
Finals	Grand Finals
Award Presentations	
(Completed daily after lunch)	

CONCESSION ON SITE
Open all weekend with
Saturday Supper
Sunday Pancake Breakfast

**FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN JAM
SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE
with the COUNTRY GEMS**

**FAMILY EVENT
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**OVER
\$15,000
IN PRIZES!
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$**

JUDGES

- Jason Lepine - Manitoba
- Rodney Kripp - Saskatchewan
- Donna Turk - Alberta
- Allison Granger - Alberta (Alternate)

* * *

- MC** - Winston Wuttunee
- ACCOMPANIST** - "The Pianoman",
Blaine Lutwick
- SOUNDPERSON** - Glen Nott

LOTS OF FREE CAMPING SPACE
No hookups * * * Showers available

HOTEL / MOTEL

- Edmonton, AB - 40 min. away
- Fort Saskatchewan, AB - 35 min. away
- Redwater, AB - 20 min. away
- Red Rest Motel 780-942-3066
- Waskatenau, AB - 10 min. away
- Waskatenau Motel 780-358-2733

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Sterling Cuthbert at
780-942-3690
- Contact Inez Kreamer at
inezkreamer@hughes.net
780-662-3608
- Watch for updates on website at
www.wildrosefiddlers.org