



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

This month, we are featuring two musicians from Branch #17; Bob Cassavant, who takes on MC duties, plays rhythm guitar and sings, and Ed Medford, who plays rhythm and lead guitar, and fills in as a fiddler from time to time.

Bob started playing guitar as a pre-teen. His Dad, an accordion player, had a band in Kimberly, BC and Bob remembers playing at home as a family group after church on Sundays. His sister plays the stand-up bass and accordion, an older brother plays lead guitar, and his mother would sometimes sing. Then, in his mid-teens he started playing in his Dad's band.



BOB CASSAVANT

Years later, Bob had his own band in Courtenay BC, called The Country Cousins. They played for twelve years, in the Comox Valley area.

Bob got involved with the Old Time Fiddlers soon after Branch #17 was formed. In the early eighties, someone told him about a meeting, and that he should check it out. He went, and he heard Art McMartin and Glen Hiebert playing fiddles, and he was hooked.

Whenever he attended fiddle contests, Bob was a favourite, and very busy, back-up player with his steady rhythm. Mind you, if it was up to him to write the rules, fiddle contests would probably consist of three jigs, instead of a waltz, a jig, and a reel.

Some of Bob's favorite singers include Merle Haggard, Hank Snow, and Earnest Tubb. With his own deep powerful voice, he is a hit at the hospitals, care homes, and just about anywhere else he sings. And you can tell that he has a soft spot in his heart for the older folks in these establishments.

In the summer, it seems like Bob's favourite line is, "I'm Goin' Fishing"

In contrast, Ed came from a family of non-musicians, but remembers listening intently to The Maritime Farmer Barn Dance on the radio, at age ten or eleven. This music was much different than the calypsos he was accustomed to hearing back in the West Indies where his family had lived for generations, and where he spent his first seven years of life.

Playing music didn't start until he bought a cheap harmonica as a teenager in Saint John, NB. He also joined the Air Cadets and became a side drummer in the marching band.



When Ed finished school, joined the Air Force, and met his future bride Maxine, who lived in Nova Scotia, he would listen to her father play the fiddle, and her brother-in-law, who played guitar and sang.

Although the Air Force moved them from place to place,

ED MEDFORD

Ed was determined to learn to play the music his in-laws played. So he bought a second-hand guitar, and a book on how to play it. That started a

pattern which would continue over many years through mandolin, fiddle, and banjo.

After a long time of struggling with the music, things started to firm up a bit and he could play a few recognizable tunes. Other instruments came later, but he had finally given up on buying "Learn to Play" books. They didn't seem to help, but trial and error did.

When someone tells him that he is a good fiddler, or guitarist, Ed usually replies, "Not really, I just work at playing a few flashy tunes, well."

Submitted by Ed Medford, Br. #17

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) \$13.00

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>

**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER (SEPT. 2014)
MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN AUG. 15TH, 2014.**

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

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

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



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 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:

Sept. 2014 – Quesnel #3

Dec. 2014 – CFVF #4

March 2015 – Surrey #5

June 2015 – Kelowna #7

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

Full page - \$ 60.00

Half page - \$ 30.00

Quarter page - \$ 20.00

Business card size \$ 15.00

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the BCOTFA was held at the Blackburn

Community Hall in Prince George on April 27 at 9 AM. There were 26 branch members present for this meeting and they represented 4 different branches.

From a financial perspective the BCOTFA is an organization in very good shape with total assets of \$14,829.16. There was not a great deal of old business to be reviewed however Lynn Tribe did give a report to the AGM about the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and the General Liability Insurance. We hope that as a result of her research we will be able to maintain a proper level of insurance and at a much lower cost.

The new provincial board of the BCOTFA for 2014-2015 will be: John Tribe as president, Barry Nakahara as vice president, & Jackie Davis as secretary-treasurer. Mark Sullivan, Dale McGregor and Vic Ukrainetz remain as directors with one year remaining while the new directors for a two year term will be Doug Borden, Hal Giles and Craig Freeman.

As president I want to take this opportunity to welcome back those members that have been re-elected to executive positions and welcome

the new directors to the board. I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year. On another subject – it was noted that Adam Johnson, Deni Johnson, Kai Gronberg and Sidney Wilson had all been recommended to the Canadian Grand Masters to receive an invitation to compete in the Canadian Grand Masters and as well, Lia Gronberg was suggested as a Junior Showcase Fiddler. At the time of the AGM (April 27, 2014) we had received word that our nominations were all going to be accepted, although again, at the time of writing, the official letters have not yet been received. Our congratulations to these terrific fiddlers, we're very proud of them.

At the Provincial Championship Contest two new Memorial Trophies were awarded this year. One is the Charlotte Lapp Trophy for the Little Juniors and the second is the Bob Montgomery Memorial Trophy for the Juniors. There was a total of 32 contestants at the Provincial Championship Contest with a good broad representation through all the categories. It's always gratifying to see new and upcoming competitors getting on stage and doing their best to compete within their category.

Is hoped that the next Provincial Championship Contest will be held by Branch #4 - Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers next May 2015.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR

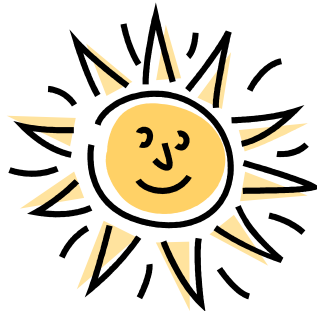


FLORENCE TELLIER

I find (& I'm sure you do too) that the three months between each issue of the newsletter just fly by!

Sometimes it is a struggle to get a newsletter out when the beautiful summer weather arrives. However, I still think it is worthwhile to continue our practice of a newsletter every three months. I often receive positive comments from members and other subscribers on how much they enjoy reading the news. Those comments are always appreciated! Also appreciated are any suggestions on how we might improve our little publication. I also welcome special articles that anyone would like to submit.

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*



CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

Unfortunately, we have no report from our neighbours to the north this time. I hope they had a great contest weekend in April & everyone had a good time as usual.

Hopefully, they will have someone lined up to send an article for the Fall issue; deadline August 15th.

Editor

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Lots of exciting fun things to report: The concert and dance of Mar 17 with JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe was well attended. It was great that both JJ and Gordon stayed to dance, play and visit with old acquaintances. Thanks to Romley for billeting them and showing them good Cariboo hospitality.

The Everything Fitz show, hosted by the Quesnel Live Arts was a sellout. Deni and Adam Johnson were invited to do a pre-show performance and were back on stage for the finale. They were great and made us all proud. What a great opportunity to play with such well known professional performers.

Our fiddle group did two sets at the Country Western Bluegrass Jamboree. The little ones got to play along with the adults and vice-versa. "Old Joe Clark" and "Cabbages" can sound pretty good with enough enthusiasm.

Hunter Grosse-Pearon won first in his category at the Prince George Fiddle Contest. He can now proudly claim to be the Provincial Junior Champion. Also representing Branch #3 were Deni and Adam Johnson playing in the Championship class. Unfortunately illness and funerals prevented other Quesnel fiddlers from attending.

Weekly practice sessions continue at Anita's. These are so helpful to the 6-8 fiddlers that attend on a regular basis. Thinking back to a year ago, their progress is phenomenal. Jams at Jean Moorcraft's are less formal and give the backup a chance to practice as well.

Rosemarie and I attended Gordon Stobbe's "History of Fiddling in Canada" concert in Williams Lake last Saturday evening. What a wonderful performance, and what an achievement to have that many young fiddlers reach that level of accomplishment. Thanks to the Cariboo Chilcotin Fiddlers for extending us that special invitation. I'm so glad we accepted.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the BC Fiddle 'Treat at Gavin Lake. Instructors are in place. We may have some surprise special guests as well.

Ahh, the Red Book project. Progress is slow. That has to be our priority for the next little while.

Jean Gelinis

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

Firstly, we have some sad news to report. Long time CFVF member Bill Minty passed away on April 23rd at his home in Red Deer Alberta at the age of 94. He moved away from Abbotsford a few years ago to be closer to his children. He played drums and accordion for the club for many years and will be sorely missed.

In the last couple of months we have been extremely busy with playouts. We have a great time and the audiences appreciate our performances. Our afternoon tea dances at the OAP Hall in Aldergrove are always a blast, too.

After taking a break for a couple years, our BC Old Time Fiddle

Contest is back! CFVF's 39th annual fiddle contest, held Saturday May 17th, went off without a hitch. We started the fun off early, hosting a Friday night concert and dance. Contest judges Mark Sullivan, Mike Sanyshyn and Keith Hill, along with contest house accompanist Grace Clay, put on an amazing show at the Friday night concert. Congratulations to all the competitors for their fine performances this year. The audience was entertained from start to finish! 2014 Contest results are as follows:

Junior Junior

1st Andy Kyte

Junior

1st André Yu

Youth

1st Philippe Yu

Intermediate

1st Anne Guite

2nd Suzanne de Montigny

Open

1st Michael Burnyeat

2nd Raman Rakow

Senior

1st John Fedoruk

2nd Marshall Fedoruk

Twin

1st Kai & Lia Gronberg

Championship

1st Kai Gronberg

2nd Chloe Davidson

3rd Lia Gronberg

4th Matthew Contois

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers will have the honor of hosting the 2015 BCOTFA Provincial Fiddling Contest on May 16, 2015, and hope to see you all there. We would love to have a large turnout of competitors, representing all corners of British Columbia. Come

celebrate World Fiddle Day with us!!

Congratulations to CFVF member Kai Gronberg on winning the championship category at the 2014 BC Provincial contest in Prince George. Kai will be representing BC at the Canadian Grand Masters competition in Ottawa this year, and his sister Lia, also a CFVF member, has been invited to perform in the Grand Masters' Junior Showcase. Good luck, Kai and Lia!!

Our afternoon tea dances at the OAP in Aldergrove will resume in September.

We hope everyone has a great and safe summer. Happy fiddling!

Submitted by:

Ting-ting & Joanne

SURREY

BRANCH #5



Summer is soon approaching and hopefully great weather will follow

with the season.

Our faithful group of dancers continue to come out to our monthly dances and we appreciate their support and dedication. Our band members have been doing a great job playing for our dances and the music is foot stomping good.

It was very nice to meet Ed Medford, from Branch #17. Ed happened to be in our area visiting and sat in with our band on Feb. 27 at our monthly practice, at Fleetwood Villa. Hope you can sit in again on your next visit.

Opal Hartman, a member and former piano player of our branch

since 1995, recently celebrated her 100th Birthday at Newland's Restaurant & Golf Resort in Langley. Thanks to Sharon Saundry, John Fedorek, Dale Belchamber, Glenn Blanchfield and Evan Sanyshyn for providing the musical entertainment at this event. Opal is still active at her age, still plays piano and drives her car. "Congratulations on your 100th Birthday Opal".

Congratulations to Kai Gronberg for winning the Championship Class at the Provincial Contest in Prince George on April 26th.

Congratulations again to Kai Gronberg for being selected to represent B.C. at the Canadian Grand Masters and also to Lia Gronberg for being chosen to be featured in the Show Case at the Canadian Grand Masters.

Our Annual Potluck Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 3, from 1 pm to 5 pm at Clayton Hall Park. You are welcome to join us, just bring your choice of potluck food, your musical instruments and a lawn chair.

We are looking forward to taking in the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers' upcoming Fiddle Concert and Contest in Mission on May 16 – 17.

Our condolences go out to the family of Edith Morgan, who passed away on February 25 at the age of 92. Edith was a member of our Surrey Fiddlers Branch since 1994 and played piano in our band for fourteen years. Due to health issues, Edith was unable to continue playing for our band.

Our Surrey Fiddler's dances are held at Clayton Hall on the first Thursday of every month except July & August. Location: Clayton Hall – 70th Ave. ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street.

Time: - 7:30pm - 10:30 pm

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

Due to a long cool spring, some of us in the Central Okanagan are a little late planting our gardens this year. Our friends to the east and north will probably be a lot later, so I guess we are still lucky to live here. Dandelions, quack grass, tulips, raspberries and rhubarb are doing great, roughly in that order.

March was a regular month with a few additional performances at the new Lakeshore Place arranged by our returned snowbird, Ruth Buchanan. Another was at Sunpoint Sr. home led by Wayne Angman. The French Cultural event was at the Rutland Centre this year and was well attended as usual.

Two of our other snowbirds have also returned. Bob Davie & his wife Jean and Wayne Rodicker & his wife Laferne. Both had to return earlier than intended due to family emergencies. Bob & Jean's daughter had some major health issues and has stabilized. Wayne's wife, Laferne suffered a devastating stroke in California and had to be flown home. She is able to walk again but so far is unable to talk. She is starting speech therapy, so we all hope for the best.

Long time member, Gordie Cheyne, had a second knee replacement and a week later walked in on crutches to hear us play at St Aldens Church. Just can't keep a good man down. President Wayne's wife, Pauline, our Sunshine Lady has had a hospital

visit and is recovering nicely. Our music director, Vic lost his older brother Ed, down Vancouver way. Mable Babcock lost her 96 year old mother who has lived with her and Walter for a long time. Wherever they went, they took Grandma Florence with them. Real dedication that few can match these days. Our condolences to Vic & family, Mable & family and their many friends.

Sunday, May 18th, we had a surprise late birthday party for our 90 year old ex-RCMP member, Andy Jones. Andy was from a homestead in NW Saskatchewan and is an inspiration to all of us. He plays and makes a good violin and has lots of wind left over for the mouth organ. The same day, we celebrated Andy & Clare's 55th wedding anniversary.

From there, we dashed over to Mable & Walter Babcock's for a celebration of life for Mable's mother. Many of the family & friends of both groups attended. The same day was Walter & Mable's 59th wedding anniversary. Our fiddlers of course, supplied the music at both locations. Mable and many of her family members spoke of family history with their mother, over the years. John Tribe added a tribute from the fiddlers as well.

The last weekend of April was the Prince George contest where it all started. Our John Tribe placed second in the Senior category. He also returned as Provincial President, so congratulations John on both achievements.

Our May Seniors dance is this coming Friday the 16th. The next day we have to assemble early for the May Day parade. Bill Bryson and crew will assemble the float for us to play on and we will entertain later in the day at the Pavilion in the Park grounds of Centennial Hall. On the 23rd we are invited to entertain at the local Legion.

May 25th we are joining the Westbank Opry as guest artists. A great time and place to promote our June Fiddle Contest. They put on a great Country & Western show with about 300 dedicated fans attending monthly.

Sunday, June 1st, will see us at the Antique Tractor show at the Father Pandosy Park, an annual event for us.

John is still working hard assembling information for the new Red Book, so be sure to get your submissions to him at john@tribe.org.

We also had a surprise \$150.00 donation from Rose Tanguays family for our part in her Celebration of Life. It was our honour to be there and we thank them kindly.

Next on the Agenda will be our contest on the usual 1st weekend of June. A big welcome to all our old and new friends who are able to attend. Looking forward to hearing Guest artist, Patti Lamoureux and her backup, Jeremy Russo. Judges this year will be Patti Lamoureux, Shamma Sabir and Ben Beveridge.

That's all I can remember over the last 3 months. So everyone have a great summer and "Safe Travels".

Russ Gerrie

P.S. Seat belts are not as confining as wheel chairs.

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers are continuing with our jam sessions at the

Legion on May 30th and June 27th and then will take a break for the summer.

Our annual campout at the Elk's campsite at Harmon Lake is May 13th - 19th and everyone is welcome. Pot luck, live auction, crib, horseshoes, golf, 50/50. Bring your musical instruments for a week or a day or two of fun.

We will be giving another \$500.00 bursary to a student graduating from the High School, preferably someone with an interest in music.

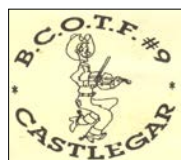
Thanks to some of our members who rode on my team, Silver Foxes, in the Big Bike for Heart and Stroke. We raised over \$4,900.00; great for a bunch of seniors.

Also thanks to those from Kamloops and surrounding areas who attend our activities. All are welcome.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.

Submitted by Delphine Lawrence

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

Spring has finally arrived in the West Kootenays and we are starting to enjoy the sunshine, green grass and flowers.

An election of officers for our Branch was held at our April meeting with the following members now part of the executive:

President: - Glen Carlson
Vice-President: - Gary Shannon
Secretary: - Joan Marks
Treasurer: - Vic Lepinski
Director: - Wally Arneson
Director: - Joan Hall

A round of applause was given to the out-going executive for a great job well done! Past President Walter Crockett handed the President Pin and Gavel to President-Elect Glen Carlson during an installation ceremony at our April meeting. (See photo)



It was unanimously approved that Wally Arneson be proclaimed a Life Member of our Chapter. A Certificate and ceremony will follow at our next meeting. Wally is a long-time member who has been a valuable asset to our organization. He is a member of our performance group with his wonderful rhythm guitar backing up the Fiddlers. On occasion, he can be persuaded to play some great lead guitar numbers.

Plans are underway for our 13th annual Fiddle Workshop July 14th to July 18th. The instructors have been booked, and, headed by Gordon Stobbe, we know that there will be lots of wonderful fiddle information passed on to the eager students. We expect many participants, some returning for their 13th year. Last year our 79 students ranged from little children to seasoned seniors. For more information on the Workshop, contact any of the following:

Glen Carlson 250-367-2130
Joan Marks 250-365-2695
Sandra Milosevich 250-365-5514

We look forward to another totally successful Fiddle Workshop and all our members are working enthusiastically towards that goal.

Our annual picnic is planned for August 6th, 7th, and 8th at the Genelle Hall (where we have our meetings and other functions). It will be a relaxing event that we all look forward to after the hectic days of the Fiddle Camp. Hope to see many members from our Branch as well as visitors from other Branches. Come and join us. You will enjoy good food, great music, and wonderful camaraderie!

Our group is kept busy playing at various functions mostly for senior citizen groups, hospital patients, and shut-ins. It is very gratifying to know that these folks enjoy our music so much and look forward to our visits. Some of the venues we have played at recently include Castlewood Assisted Living, Castlevue Extended Care Home, Columbia View Extended Care, Rosewood Manor, Chateau Manor, Mountainside Village and Poplar Ridge at Trail Regional Hospital.

Glen Carlson has updated our Branch web site, and we invite folks to visit us at www.kootenayfiddlers.com. He has included Branch information and many interesting photos of our previous Fiddle Camps.

Have a great summer everyone!

*Sincerely,
Mary Ann Stewart*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

The warm weather has finally arrived in the north and everyone is busy with yard work and gardening. I like to wait until the May long

weekend to put any plants out....we can still get a frost before then.

The club has been holding their Thursday night "jam" sessions at Legion Branch 139 since January. The Legion holds their Pasta Night every Thursday so we have people that come out for dinner and stay to hear the music and dance. It seems to be working quite well for both groups.

We are still playing once a month for various seniors groups in town, so that keeps the guys pretty busy, and the seniors enjoy the music.

On Saturday, May 10th, proud family and friends packed the Gibraltar Room to take in Gordon Stobbe's The Fiddle History of Canada. Presented by the Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society, the performance was the culmination of two years of effort put in by the local youth fiddle society, its volunteer parents, local violin instructor, Ingrid Johnston, and supportive businesses.

As many as 40 musicians aged 7 to 17 were a part of the performance, telling the story of the arrival of the first fiddle to Canada through fiddles, guitars, pianos, drums, singing, costumes and dance. Gordon Stobbe first developed the Fiddle History of Canada in 2010 in collaboration with Leslie Jean MacMillan, musical director of the Valley Youth Fiddlers, in Smithers, B.C. By 2012 the production was arranged by Stobbe and performed by the Valley Youth Fiddlers to rave reviews.

Soon after that, the Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society started the Fiddle History of Canada music program here in Williams Lake. And judging by the standing ovation given at the end of the performance the concert was a great success.

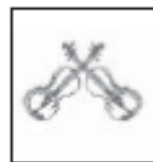
Speaking of success, congratulations go out to Ken Emery for his win in the Senior Division of the B.C. Provincial Fiddle Contest. Good going, Ken.

Birthday wishes go out to: Ken Emery in June & Lorraine Baker in July.

Have a great summer, hope to see you at Gavin Lake.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

Once again the winter guests have returned to their "Homes On The Prairie" and we miss their attendance at our weekly dances. It's a puzzling phenomenon that our music is supported more by visitors to Oceanside than by local residents. Our experiment with Sunday afternoon dances once a month has drawn some new people. With many entertainment options available we face a constant marketing challenge. Still and all, we are able to make good use of the time to practice and expand the repertoire in preparation for upcoming playouts. Come to think about it, that's what the dances evolved from, initially. The last dance before summer will be on June 12 with a Pot Luck dinner to thank the volunteers who make it possible for the musicians to focus on the tunes.

Speaking of playouts during the coming months, we're looking forward to the opening of the Qualicum Beach Museum, Art-In-

The-Garden at Nanoose, the Centennial Celebrations for the Qualicum Beach Railroad Station, a couple of 'Fifth Thursday' gigs at Bowen Park, the Coombs Bluegrass Festival and the Branch 17 Jamboree next week. Our own Jamboree at Coombs will be on September 20, once again featuring the amazing Sarah Tradewell. So much for a break during the summer!

Our newest member is Gloria Wyse whose mandolin is a welcome addition to the club. The need for 'bench strength' is ever important to ensure we can field a good band for those public playouts.

The final departure of a founding member of the Branch occurred in April with the death of Joe Bocek at the age of 86. Though confined to a care facility for several years, Joe is remembered as a former President, an exceptional musician and a commanding presence in any room. He was a co-founder of the Coombs Bluegrass Festival and was a lifelong aficionado of the bluegrass genre. Joe's brother, Roy, is also a Past President and a stalwart guitarist in the band. Also, in April, we learned of the passing of Nell Godwin, a resident of Halliday House and an ardent supporter of our monthly playouts there. Nell had packed a lot of living into her 102 years and though blind and deaf she could feel the music and keep time with the beat of our tunes.

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

Bruce Foden

ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Spring is now upon us, it is flower planting time, painting what the raw winter wind has worn off. Purchasing new flower planters, oh yes new dirt gather up the shovels, check the hoses, and let's stop there or I might become overwhelmed and just take a trip!!! Really Spring is one of my favorite seasons, may we all enjoy the new season!

Now let's go back to the month of March. Gordon Stobbe and J.J. Guy held a concert March 8th, 2014, at Heritage House - it was well attended and prior to the concert they put on a workshop for those interested, which was attended by 10 musicians. I heard from one of the fellows in the group who said it was very informative, definitely worth the time.

As most of you already know the Fall & Winter dances are going to be just one dance a month at Heritage House. First Saturday of the month - time 7:30--10 p.m. There will be a new program coming out soon.

We will still be having the Pattern Dance instruction at Cottonwood on Tuesday afternoons 1:30 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. starting again after summer break on the 21st of October. These will be followed by the O.T.F. and they will play till 4 p.m. Fees at the Cottonwood Community Centre are; Members \$5.00, Non-members \$7.00, Listeners only are free.

If you don't know Pattern Dancing, have no worries we have two instructors, Lloyd & Alma Woods, who are delighted to teach the new comers! They know many, many, pattern dances; last count was forty!! Thanks so much Alma & Lloyd!

We would like to say "welcome" to new members Barry Schultz, Dave Lynn & Judy Taylor.

Thank you Ed & Lee, Betty & Gordon, for collecting the money on Tuesdays dances. Also to Colin & Brian for assisting with setting up the equipment and taking it down after the dance. And Jackie for coming in on your lunch break to give the fellows a hand. Very much appreciated!!!

Oh my goodness I almost forgot to thank our wonderful O.T.F. for all the playing they do for all the Senior Homes throughout the Kamloops area; those seniors would never forgive me if I did that!

SO TO ALL OF YOU THAT PLAY OUT THERE WEEK AFTER WEEK - THANK-YOU!!

We are all delighted to see Orval back to his old jolly self! Hope you never end up in that sick bed again Orval! Nadia we know this was a very trying time for you too, it's great to have you back fiddling !

Also Happy 80th Birthday to Roger Tellier, what a wonderful party Florence organized, we and everyone else were delighted to celebrate with you and your many family members.

Just a reminder for all of us using the Heritage House, all doors must be closed during the use of the rooms. So late comers must ring the outside bell to be let in. Thank-you. Coming up is the big June Jamboree @ Black Pines, otherwise called a Barn Dance!

Date: June 13-15th.

Place: 8773 Westsyde Road, (can't miss it if you just follow Westsyde Rd.)

Guests: Deni and Adam Johnson will be entertaining and playing music for dancing.

Cost to camp: For the whole weekend \$25. for members, \$30 for non-members

Crib games are \$2.00 a game (cut off 5 p.m. on Saturday)

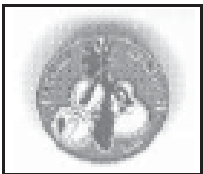
Saturday's Supper is pot luck and will be served at 6 p.m.

When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.

- Helen Keller.

Marie Bursey

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

In my last article I reported happily, that Wat Stanton had turned 100, and Lee Pezzot had celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday. Wat is still going strong, and fiddling up a storm. But unfortunately, Lee passed away in March. There will be a Celebration of Life held in her honour, at the Fallen Alders Hall, on Sunday, May 25th, at 1:00 PM.

We are holding our Annual Spring Jamboree on May 23rd and 24th at the Fallen Alders Hall. Those people coming from out of town, and camping at the hall, could just stay a few hours extra and attend Lee's service before heading home if they wish to.

We have resolved our issues with the Credit Union that I reported on in my last article, by switching our accounts over to a bank. It appears that banks are regulated federally and have different operating rules than Credit Unions, which are regulated provincially. I find this strange, but it is what it is.

In June, we will be entering our summer "slowdown" period. You know, it's the time when we tell ourselves that because of holidays etc., the music events will be cut back. When in actual fact, we find other events and excuses to play, almost as much as during the winter months.

I think Branch #17 will be well represented in the new Red Book, when it comes out. Our local coordinator Lorraine Hiebert, has reported that she had received and sent on, quite a few submissions.

Art McMartin continues to amaze, with his ability to bounce back from repeated medical issues and despite a lingering shoulder pain, shows up to play at most events. We are thankful that he is able to continue sharing his extensive musical ability and experience.

Now that I'm thinking about it, whenever we play music, and someone else is there to listen, we are actually sharing. Sharing with others, what we have learned. Not just with other musicians, but with everyone who listens. Much like sharing food, what we play is not always like sharing steak and lobster, sometimes it's more like burnt wieners, but generally appreciated anyway.

That's about all I have for this article. We, at Branch 17, wish you all a great summer. And while you are cooking over a campfire, don't be shy about sharing some of those burnt wieners, musical or otherwise, I kind of like them that way.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Spring sprung a while ago and in the Comox Valley we are enjoying the warm days full of flowers and blossoms. We have had a busy few months since the last newsletter.

Many of our members played in the North Island Festival of the Performing Arts (NIFPA), held at the Little Red Church in February. We had old time groups, and even a swing group, delight the crowd. Some of the individual players, like Max, Maddy and Jasmine, are going to St Paul's Anglican Church in Nanaimo, to play a concert to raise funds to travel to Penticton for the Provincials.

A few weeks later, in March, Fiddlejam was invited to play on the big stage at the NIFPA Gala Performance. It was fun and we were all impressed with the other acts of dancers, singers and musicians who also entertained that night.

The St Patrick's Day Contra dance was a great dance as many new faces were there, having heard of the fun time that people seem to have at these innovative dances. The Big Yellow Merville Hall, (aka "Contra Dance Central"), was shaking to the fiddle tunes for hours. Our usual caller, June Cannon, was not able to make the dance as her husband and dance partner, Bill, died, so we scrambled and managed to have Trent, who was visiting for a few weeks (to get in the last days on the ski hill), call a variety of dances that seemed to please everyone.

Our fiddlers have done a number of playouts lately, including two Rotary clubs, the Newcomers' club and Earth Day celebrations. And speaking of celebrations, one of our

members, Helen Austin, celebrated the winning of a Juno Award for her second children's album. Helen plays a mean piano for us and we have her daughter, Daisy, helping us to lead Fiddlejam on Tuesdays. It is a great way to keep young players interested in playing music.

Last week, we played at the 14th Annual Miracle Beach Primary Dance event. This dance was started by Ann Freeman when she was a teacher at Miracle Beach Elementary School. All the kindergarten, Grades One and Two classes learn dances and our group plays the music for them. What a treat that is.

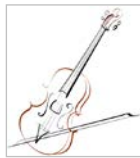
Our big event of the year, the 13th Annual Fiddle Fest, just wrapped up with US Champion fiddler, Shane Cook, and hot shot Celtic guitarist, Quinn Bachand. They joined several other musicians to lead workshops in fiddle, guitar, bass and piano at our house during the day. In the evening, we had a stellar concert at the Merville Hall to another sold out audience. What a show Shane and Quinn put on. And, though our fiddlers opened the show, we were given another opportunity at the end when the lads invited us onstage for a finale of Down Yonder with two hot solos by Shane and Quinn. Anyone who missed this show, really missed out.

Eighteen year old Quinn has just received a full scholarship to Berklee School of Music in Boston and I think we will be seeing this guitarist hit the music world's stratosphere. He already backs Ashley MacIsac and is touring all summer. Shane Cook, who plays with the super group, Bowfire, is so fast and smooth he makes us all envious. He stayed on after Fiddle Fest and enjoyed a couple of days with us, seeing some of the sights of the Comox Valley.

So, that's about it from the hot shot players of the Comox Valley. Congratulations to the Provincial contest winners and to the new BCOTFA executive. Have a great summer, everyone.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

Now that winter has finally loosened its grip, it becomes easier to forget all the coughs and colds that hit our Valley residents earlier this year. Care Homes had to cancel several of our play-outs because of illness running through the facilities. No fun for anyone, but now the periodic bouts of sunshine are helping to lighten moods and give hope for some great days coming up.

Our AGM was held on Monday, March 10th, 2014 with 19 members present. Our executive were reinstated for another term, with Gordie McConnell as President, Dennis Craig, Vice-President; Louise Killough, Secretary; and Rhonda Holcombe, Treasurer. Three directors remain for another term, Dora Moen, Sylvia Shiell, and Myrna McConnell. Two people were elected for a two year term, Anna Van Dyk and Gail Ross.

There were some informative discussions held at this meeting about the make-up of the group for our performances, and the dynamics of the band. It was thought that we might benefit from some professional help in creating the best possible sound for our club and it was decided to contact Trish Clair and Geoff Horrocks from Nanaimo to ask if they could give us some

suggestions in arranging our musicians to our best advantage. They agreed to come and give us a two-hour workshop one Saturday and that has been one of the best decisions we've made.

Implementing several of the excellent suggestions made by Trish and Geoff, we are now in the process of developing "the new us" In consolidating our back-up we are now getting a richer, more together sound and having the song leader step forward to "the conductor" position, helps everyone to stay together. We are also trying to work on pieces by either sending out an mp3 of a version of a piece or giving a specific YouTube recording to listen to. We would like to get everyone to learn from the same piece of music so we don't have conflicting versions being played at the same time. This whole exercise has everyone quite excited about the improved performance sound and this has been a very good morale booster.

We were very happy to promote, once again, a concert by Kelli Trotter and Greg Simm. In the afternoon of the performance, a Meet and Greet was held at Char's Landing, where the evening performance was going to take place. Those able to attend enjoyed having a chance to chat with these great performers and play some music for them. Greg joined in, playing some piano and guitar with us. The evening show was marvelous and we were pleased to see a good turn-out to listen.

We've had a few new people come over from the "other side" of the Island to join in our regular practices. Welcome, Fern and Carla. We also recently had some visitors from Rossland, Richie and Audrey Mann. They belong to the Kootenay Branch #9, but also play in a band of their own, the Golden City Fiddlers. In years past, they

had met some of our members while attending the Castlegar Fiddle Camp. We really enjoy having visitors come by and practice with us.

On May 4th, ten of our members played for the Rosewall Creek Hatchery, for their "The River Never Sleeps" day and we were so happy when the rain storms occurred north of us and south of us, but left the Hatchery area dry. It was a long play-out, but enjoyable. It is always fun to watch the little kids carrying their buckets of fish to the river to be released, and see them stop to look, listen and dance a few steps to the music. As we had already accepted this gig, our club wasn't able to join Branch #18 for its Fiddle Fest with its many workshops, but four of our members were able to attend the concert featuring Shane Cook and Quinn Bachand, and thoroughly enjoyed the show. Two talented young men.

It is looking like a busy summer coming up as we have a number of major bookings. Our summer break is really just a change of venues for a while, going out into the community a bit more for local events, plus several out-of-town commitments this year. Oh well, they say it is important to stay active and that we are doing. Hope everyone else has a grand summer season, full of fun and music.

Gail Ross



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 6 & 7, 2014
Patti Lamoureux
Concert
Old Time Fiddle
Contest
Kelowna
250-707-8432

July 14-18
Fiddle Camp
Castlegar
250-365-1208



CALENDAR (Cont.)

July 20-24
July 26-30
Camp Calvin 2014
780-645-7748

July 26 – August 1
Gavin Lake Fiddle
Camp
250-992-5081

September 20, 2014
Old Time Fiddle
Jamboree
Coombs Rodeo
Grounds
Ebfoden@gmail.com

October – watch for
information re the Quesnel
Old Time Fiddle Contest in
the Fall newsletter

Contemporary Strings At Selkirk College

BASS / DRUMS / VOICE / GUITAR / KEYBOARD / VIOLIN / CELLO

MANDOLIN /

BANJO /

ACOUSTIC /

ELECTRIC /

STAGE /

STUDIO /



Selkirk's music program has been preparing students for the commercial entertainment industry for over 25 years. Teaching methods are based on those of the prestigious Berklee College of Music and a diverse cross-section of musical styles are offered allowing students to explore the best that each genre has to offer – from rock and blues, to jazz, folk and world music.

Develop your skills in performance, songwriting, audio recording, film scoring and improvisation.

Take your passion for creating and performing music to the next level with a world class faculty of working professionals.

BRING YOUR PASSION

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY



For more info - selkirk.ca/music, Sue Hill 250-505-1357 or shill@selkirk.ca

MYVIOLINSHOP

That time of year again—Fiddle Camps starting middle of July with Castlegar, then 2 weeks later followed by Gavin Lake. Will be at both so bring your violins to setup, bows to rehair on site plus other questions/help you may need.

Will have a very good selection of violins including old antique, European, Eastman 315 & up models. Was able to get some good prices on these new instruments so they will be selling well below regular price.

Good selection of violin bows including hybrids. These are exceptional bows at very reasonable prices.

Violin cases, strings, shoulder rests, chinrests, tailpieces, rosin, pegs, etc. – a better selection than the music stores. Want something special – let me know.

Questions? Need help? Call me at 604 703-1464 or email at daer1@shaw.ca

ART DAHER
myviolinshop.com