



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS



BILL BRYSON, KELOWNA BR. #7

These lead articles are usually about really well known or especially prominent people in our local fiddling world. I'm not knocking the importance of these people but they do somewhat overshadow some other very important members of our association. So with that in mind, this article is not about one of the high profile members, but rather this article is about one of our very own unsung heroes here at Branch #7.

His name is Bill Bryson. Bill came to a yard sale that Russ Gerrie was having about 12 years ago. I say "about" because in true "unsung" fashion no one really remembers exactly when the chance contact was made. Russ had a couple of cheapo fiddles in his yard sale and Bill picked one up and asked "Can you play this?" Russ replied that he could and that he was a member of the Old Time Fiddlers, however, Russ said, he mostly played piano or accordion. Bill asked if the Old Time Fiddlers ever had a drummer? Russ said that he never recalled having one, but rather than dismiss the issue Russ gave him Les Brookings phone number. Bill's phone call to Les was the beginning of Bill's association with Branch #7, and he has been with us ever since. Although Bill will be the first to tell you he is

"not a musician" he does well enough in keeping time for us, he never misses a practice or a performance and he also does a million other "chores" as well:

1. Bill paints our advertising signs of any size or shape from a little cover for the top of his snare drum up to 4 feet by 8 feet roadside contest signs – just let him know what the sign should say and when you will be needing it and it will appear. He will not only make the signs but also put them up where they will do the most advertising good and then take them away after they are no longer needed. Finally – guess what – he will store it until you need it next time. He does grumble a little about it but by the time you work out an alternate storage arrangement, Bill's got it all put away.

2. A few years ago Branch #7 decided to put a float in the May Days Parade in Rutland. Bill, through his contacts



found us a farm trailer that would seat 12 players so we could play music along the parade route that would make people smile and clap in time to our music. Of course to pull a float you need motivation – Bill's farmer friend is willing to donate his tractor and his trailer. The float now has prefab rails, a skirt and a roof just in case it rains. Our entry has twice won a ribbon in some category or another. Again all the bits and pieces find a storage location in Bill's garage.

3. A few years ago the Rutland Activity Center decided to do some renovations at the center and the storage space allotted to the fiddlers was greatly reduced. We ended up with a cupboard roughly ½ the size of pre-renovation. Bill worked with the center to find out exactly what size was available to us and promptly got his tape measure out and fabricated a number of compartments that will house all our essential “stuff”. It is so well planned that you need to know not only where everything goes but also what has to go in first. It’s a packaging marvel.

4. Bill does the “set-up” for whatever event needs equipment – this might be a simple seniors’ home set-up or something much more complicated, such as an effective sound system on the parade float complete with his own camping power inverter to eliminate the need for a noisy generator.

5. Bill is also our program coordinator and is well known to all the homes and other groups that want music from time to time. When someone wants some fiddle music they call Bill and he in turn calls one of the lead musicians, who puts a play group together for the event. Its not an easy job but Bill has it down to a fine art and he knows who will most likely take on an event and do a good job. Once he has found a lead musician he then finds out what we will need to have on hand at the event – like is there a keyboard? or a sound system?, etc. etc.

6. Bill also sets up the sound system for our monthly dance that involves 4 microphones, 2 speakers for monitors and integrates it with the in house system at the center. Of course at the end of the evening he makes sure that everything gets put away in its proper place so that it will be ready for next. That makes Bill the first one there and the last one to leave.

7. The most valuable contribution that Bill makes to our Branch is that 99% of the time he is ½ a step ahead of what’s happening and has them done or in progress before anyone asks

Such is the life of an unsung hero. The real truth is that Bill is not all that uncommon in the fiddle community. I’m sure that every Branch has one or more unsung heroes in their midst. Never the less - Branch #7 is truly thankful and very fortunate that we have someone like Bill who goes about the job of making our Branch work as well and run as smoothly as it does. We really don’t say thank you often enough and loudly enough to these people but perhaps that big blue ribbon that Bill is wearing will add just a little more weigh to our favorite – unsung hero – Bill Bryson.

PS – Take a moment to thank your very own “Branch Unsung Hero”.

Submitted by John Tribe, Kelowna Br. #7

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



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

Sept. 2015 – Merritt #8
Dec. 2015 – Kootenay #9
Mar. 2016 – Williams Lake #10
June 2016 – Coombs #11

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

The summer is upon us. They say it's better to be busy than to be bored and I certainly haven't been bored this spring. I am going to take the opportunity of this President's message to give you a bit of an update on some of the key issues facing our association.

The executive has had a couple of Skype meetings related to the

Provincial Contest, especially related to the assurance that Provincial Championship Contests will continue and how that might best be accomplished. We do believe that the ideal is to have as many branches as possible continue putting on their branch contests and would like to have branches being selected on a rotation to host the Provincial Championship Contest.

I can't report that we have come to any finite conclusions. However, we have identified some areas to investigate such as having the provincial executive responsible for administering and conducting the actual contest, and rotating through the branches that would like to participate. This is still in the very formative stages and if anyone has any ideas that they feel are worth pursuing please let someone in their branch or a member of the provincial executive know and the word will get back to the provincial executive. Obviously there's no guarantees that any idea would be put into place, but I can assure you that they will all be considered.

Another matter at hand is the election of a provincial executive for the upcoming year. Elections this year will be held in Quesnel on the first weekend in October in conjunction with their Contest. I have been your president a total of 10 times and while I feel that I have done a good job as president, I also feel that some new ideas would be very healthy for our organization. For that reason I would encourage all members to give some thought to who might make a good president for the next term. Nominations can be made by email as long as they are supported by an email directly from the person being nominated.

The other matter that I wanted to remind everyone of is that I have received submissions from all the branches for inclusion in the

Redbook and that it is now time for the editing and organization on the finished product. I have had several people volunteer to work as readers and editors. I am still investigating the best technique to conduct the editing but in any event, my goal in that direction is to have all the editing completed by September and immediately go to press so that people could have the red book on their Christmas List. It's a goal – wish me luck.

I have no idea if I can accomplish all the plans my wife and I have for this summer but I'll do my best and hope to see many of you through the summer.

Your president,
John Tribe

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

Welcome Kathy Markin, the new correspondent for the Kootenay Branch. For six years Mary Ann

Stewart has been writing the column for Branch #9 & I will miss being in contact with her but obviously Kathy will be doing a fine job as well, judging by her first submission.

There was exciting news this spring when Bill S-218 – the National Fiddling Day Act was passed in the House of Commons. This process began in April of 2014 as P.E.I. Senator Elizabeth Hubley introduced a private members' bill in the Senate. This enactment designates the 3rd Saturday of May each & every year as "National Fiddling Day". This will be a day for all Canadians to celebrate the art of fiddling as well as the significant

role it has played in Canada's cultural & social history.

Thanks to the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Association, Ivan Hicks, Kelli Trotter, Calvin Vollrath & all the others who contributed their time & efforts to see that this day came about.

Kelli Trotter has even written a tune to commemorate the day. It's called Canada's Fiddling Day Two Step "Fiddle Bill" & you can listen to it at <https://soundcloud.com/kellitrotter/fiddle-bill>. If you are on Facebook, go to Kelli's Facebook page & you will even find the sheet music for this tune.

Hope everyone out there has a great summer & perhaps we will meet at some of the fiddle events such as the Old Time Fiddle contests in Kelowna in June and in Quesnel in October. See the Calendar of Events on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

Cheers,
Florence Tellier

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

No report received. We look forward to hearing from our neighbours to the North in the Fall.

Deadline for the September issue is August 15th.

Editor

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Since last report we took part in the Country Bluegrass Festival, a funeral, Aboriginal luncheon, and played for the opening of the School District Children's Art Display at the Art Gallery. Several of the small fiddlers played along which helped impress the audience. (I must say the children are also very impressive!) Our lineup for the immediate future includes playing for the Lutheran Church's 50th anniversary, the Farmers Market, a family reunion, and Billy Barker Days.

Some of our members attended Don Redden's funeral in Prince George. Don spent most of his youth in Quesnel and joined our musicians at many of our dances throughout the years. His guitar picking always added so much to the music. We will miss him.

The BC Fiddle 'Treat still needs some finishing touches, but we are pleased with the support and interest we've had to date. We will be looking for a couple of lifeguards so if you know of anyone with their lifeguard certificate that might be interested, let them know. There is more info on the back page of this issue.

Adam Johnson and I participated in the Prince George Fiddle Jamboree on May1-2. It was very well attended and well organized. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with Mark and Laila Sullivan with their baby daughter and so many other friendly folks. Cancelling their contest was somewhat disappointing for us since it was the one contest that our fiddlers –too young, too old, or too busy to travel very far, could attend. However the jamboree

offered a different format and you can't argue with success. Congratulation, Prince George.

Speaking of fiddle contests, our 45th Annual is still scheduled for Oct 3rd with the Provincial AGM on Sunday, Oct 4. It would sure be nice to have a good turn-out to reassure us that contests haven't become a lost art.

Congratulations to Deni and Adam Johnson for their participation in the Kelowna contest as the featured entertainers. Also, best wishes to Adam who will be attending the Canadian Grand Masters in Moncton New Brunswick, August 21-22. We're proud to have him represent Quesnel and British Columbia.

Enjoy the summer.

Until next time,
Jean Gelinias

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers were saddened to hear of the passing of lifetime member, Donna Randall. She put up a very brave fight against cancer and will be missed. Our hearts and thoughts go out to her family.

I write this from the SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) campus, while visiting Calgary for an embroidery seminar - feeling way too old to be sleeping in res on a rock hard bed...sigh....but I must

thank Gary Giesbrecht and the Prairie Mountain Fiddlers for making me feel so welcome when I crashed in on their Wednesday night practice while I'm here. It was so much fun, and so nice to know that old time fiddle is such a tight knit community.

Branch 4 doesn't have anything "official" planned for World Fiddle Day, but there are many members of our group who will be attending other functions that weekend, so I'm sure there will be a lot of updates in the next newsletter.

*So, until then....
Happy Fiddling!*

Joanne Davenport

SURREY



BRANCH #5

This first week in May was warm enough to seem like we may be into an early summer, with temperatures high enough to bring out the fans to cool off, but still very enjoyable outdoor weather.

Our May 7 dance at Clayton Hall drew a larger crowd than normal, thanks to the nice weather and great dance music our band provides.

Prior to our summer break we will be having a dance on June 4th and later, a potluck picnic on August 2nd, from 1 pm to 5 pm. All B.C.O.T.F.A. branches are welcome; just bring your choice of potluck food, your musical instruments and lawn chairs.

Our member, Mike Sanyshyn has been very busy, during the past couple of months, touring with musicians such as Kelli Trottier,

Deric Ruttan and Kenny Hess. He has also been in the studio with Ian Tyson's Four Strong Winds, which is a collaboration with the Naden Navy Military Band. The song and video will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge and will debut on CBC's the National.

Frank Fissel, a member of our Surrey Fiddlers and bass player for our band, passed away at the age of 94 on March 5th, 2015. Frank was the President of the Haney Old Time Fiddlers from 1986 to 1990, also a past member of the Fraser Valley Fiddlers and was a member of Surrey Branch #5 Fiddlers, until his passing. By request from Frank's family, our Surrey Fiddlers played at his Celebration of Life which was held on March 15, 2015. Frank had a great personality and was well liked by all who knew him.

Our Surrey Fiddler's Dance & Picnic Location: Clayton Hall -70 Ave., 1/2 block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street.
Dance Time: - 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

After a cool early spring the weather has finally warmed up in our neck of the woods. Some folks planted their gardens early and the shoots are up already. Jack Frost please stay away.

Our local gang has been busy with the regular senior homes and some special events. One major annual event for us was the French Cultural Show at the Laurel Packing House which was held on March 29th. It's always well attended and we get to

sample the great maple syrup products and other goodies.

Our monthly dance on March 17 had a fair crowd and Gilbert Nagy called the circle two-step that has become a regular feature of our monthly dances.

On April 26 we had a great turn out of musicians at the Army and Navy Vets Convention. Somehow the timing was wrong as we only had an audience of about eight people; one couple dancing.

Ruth Buchanan is back from her winter stay in sunny Florida, as is Bob Davies and his wife who are also back from Arizona with a nice tan. It's nice to have them home as we need all the help we can get.

I'm sorry to have to report that we have lost a longtime member singer and Banjo/Ukulele player Jim Sisler. He and his wife Alice made a great team doing a lot of songs from the 1920s era. Alice still comes out and does some fine piano backup for us. A newer member and a Bass player, Al Evjen passed away suddenly from a heart attack and stroke following his lung operation. Al and his wife recently moved here from Edmonton. His wife Yvonne is planning to live part-time in Edmonton and part time here. Our sincere condolences go to friends and families from their fiddling friends.

Our piano player Irene McAvena has had a hospital visit for some neck surgery. She has recovered in jig time and is back in action.

Vice President and Music Director, Vic Ukrainetz has had to be his own cook and general housekeeper for a while. His wife Yvette broke a bone in her foot and has had some other complications. Thankfully she is home now so we hope she has a steady recovery.

Carol Jensen has taken over as lead musician at the Cancer Clinic, a gig which Bob Russell had headed for so many years.

I see by John's May newsletter that we have a new sunshine lady Dianne Riley. Thanks to Helen Bryson for your help as Sunshine Lady and welcome aboard Diane Riley one of our newly elected Directors.

Most of our group (36 in total) gathered on the high corner overlooking the Harvest Golf Course and Okanagan Lake to have some pictures taken.

On Saturday our group will help Bill Bryson assemble our Mayday parade float. The trailer and tractor have always thankfully been provided by the Bal Family Orchard on Highway 33. Bill's usual parade crew consists of life member Gordon Cheyne, photographer Guy LaFrance, his wife Irene, Wayne Angman and myself. Following the parade our whole group was invited to play at the Centennial Park bandstand in the afternoon.

It has really been a busy week for us here as on Friday, the 15th of May we had our monthly Old Time dance at the Rutland Activity Center followed on Saturday by the Mayday parade and concert and finally to finish out the Saturday we gathered at the Rutland United Church to celebrate Mabel and Walter Babcock's 60th wedding anniversary; a hearty congratulations to them from all of us. Quite a milestone that not many of us will ever achieve.

I don't think I had previously mentioned a welcome to our new members of the last year or so. A big welcome goes out to Keith Baker a washtub bass player otherwise known as "gutbucket" which stirs up a lot of interest to those not familiar with bluegrass. Phyllis Shkrabuik has been elected

as our secretary and Jerry Neime is a guitar player and singer. Lyle Petiteclerc has joined us with his electric guitar, and last but certainly not least Ken Riley and his wife Dianne; Ken plays spoons for us.

I hope I haven't overlooked anyone as extra help is always appreciated. Our Thursday night jam sessions sometimes attracts five or 10 observers and I always marveled at the crowd of dancers that Prince George accumulates at their jams the few times that I was there.

We are rolling out the welcome mat to all who can attend our contest on June 5th and 6th. We are looking forward to having Deni and Adam Johnson from Quesnel as our guest artists and judges along with my old buddy Keith Hill.

PS - A quote from Les Paul - It's great that we can do something that makes people happy.

Russ Gerrie

again. A crib tournament, pot luck, auction, golf and horseshoes are planned with lots of music.

We will be presenting a bursary to a graduating student from Merritt Secondary School who is interested in music.

Randy Chillihitzia Band has been playing at the Legion for our jam sessions and baron. It was great to have Vic Ukrainetz join us in March.

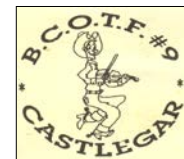
We are sad to report the passing of Bill Palagain, a long time member, at the age of 90. A celebration of life will be held on June 6th at the Merritt Senior Center.

Hope everyone has a good summer and safe driving if you are travelling.

*Submitted by,
Delphine Lawrence*

KOOTENAY

BRANCH #9

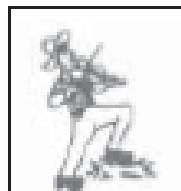


A big Kootenay Summer Hello to all fellow BC Fiddle Branches. My, don't we all love our summers - and it is most certainly a favorable time of year to be in the great outdoors for jamming or just 'fiddling around'.

Our Kootenay #9 Branch extends a big thank you to member Mary Ann Stewart for her most fine correspondent work and contributions to this BC Fiddle News circular over the past six years. Mary Ann is our awesome accordion player and although she holds a quiet and warm personality, she can pound out a fabulous sound like no other. Thank you, Mary Ann.

MERRITT

BRANCH #8



Merritt Old Time Fiddlers held their elections on April 19th with the following elected:

President - Dave Marriott
Vice-President - Wayne Marriott
Secretary - Donna Chorney
Treasurer - Del Lawrence
1 Year Directors - Mary Dickie, Vi Norman & Norbert Grenier
2 Year Directors - Jean-Guy Dupuis, Linda Monkman & Hiller Linde

Our campout May 12 - 18 was discussed. Four rigs from Central Valley Fiddlers will be attending

And we also thank outgoing President, Glen Carlson, for his fearless leadership over the past year. Glen brought fresh perspectives and energy (and a great sense of humor) to the club and was simply a great communicator and representative. He successfully rallied for new members as well as assembled venues to play out. Thank you for a great job, Glen.

We are most pleased to sweep Gary Shannon into the Presidential seat. Gary is a very enthusiastic fiddler and is always the reliable guy to arrive early for setups and stay late for cleanups. We really look forward to Gary's new ideas and innovative leadership abilities.

As well, a huge thanks to outgoing Secretary, Joan Marks. Joan has contributed dozens of years and endless volunteer hours wearing the hat of not only Secretary, but that of other appointments. And now, Joan has accepted the position of Vice President. Joan is our esteemed keyboardist we could not do without. Thank you, Joan, for your unending energies and 'instrumental' work in keeping our chapter so strong.

Mary Ann Stewart has accepted the position of Secretary. Mary Ann has been a long standing dependable member and with this background as well as the 'fiddle news reporter' experience, this placement will be a smooth transition for her. Congratulations and thank you for taking on this most important function.

Our branch hosted our Annual Spring Fling on April 25th. This is a Saturday evening old-fashioned dance and social. It was such a great surprise to have a fabulous 85-year-old saxophone player join in and treat us to his fabulous danceable music. It was a very enjoyable

evening and was topped off with a sandwich bar.

And last but certainly not least, we are busy planning the **14th Annual 2015 Fiddle, Guitar and Piano Workshop**. This week long summer camp will take place from July 13th to the 17th at Selkirk College in Castlegar.

This very popular camp continues to provide some of Canada's very best champion fiddlers as instructors, headed by Master Fiddler, Gordon Stobbe from Nova Scotia. As well, renowned guitar and piano teachers share their expertise balanced by down-to-earth teaching styles, effortless patience and easy going sense of humors.

This 5-day camp promises to be another year of offerings that will meet a wide range of interest and skill levels—a little something for everyone and a whole lot of fun and great memories. In addition to instrument classes, the camp offers mini-workshops including step dancing, orchestra, and harmony. This year there will be an offering of a Mandolin Mini Workshop.

For registration information and on-campus residence housing information, please visit the BCOTFA Kootenay #9 website at <http://kootenayfiddlers.com> or contact Selkirk College (250) 365-1208.

Have a safe and musically filled summer, everyone!

*Submitted by,
Kathy Markin*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

While we don't have to worry about hurricanes or tornados here in B.C. we do have forest fires and it looks like this summer could be a hot one.

Our little group has been "plugging along" despite the fact that some of our main players are sidelined with health issues and surgeries. Joe Le Comte is out with a shoulder problem and Ken has just had surgery on his little finger to repair an old injury. Both Joe and Ken are fiddle players and they are part of the main group that attend at all our play dates. We may have to revise or postpone some of the club's commitments while they recover. In the meantime the remaining members will try to fulfill as many play dates as possible.

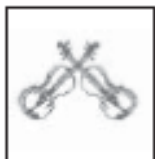
As well as the club's regular monthly commitments the club has been asked to play for the following events, Elks Royal Purple Strawberry Tea, on June 10th and during the Williams Lake Stampede during the July 1 long weekend. Hopefully the club will be up to full strength by the time the Williams Lake Stampede rolls around.

On a happier note our congratulations go out to Hal and Roz Giles who just celebrated their 50th Anniversary and are currently enjoying the sun and sand in Hawaii. Have a wonderful time guys!

Birthday wishes for June go out to Ken Emery and for July...Lorraine Baker.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

Something one quickly discovers upon moving to Vancouver Island is the tremendous wealth of musical and other artistic talent that resides here. We have concert halls, theatres, art galleries and festival stages that provide outlets for exhibiting just about every kind of artistic endeavor. "Come to Oceanside", proclaim our tourism marketing people, "there is always something to see or do". Of course, tourism is a major element of our economy so variety is more than the spice of life, it's fundamental.

Which brings to us opportunity on one hand and crisis on the other. As a band of Old Time Fiddlers, Branch 11 is asked to perform at many events throughout the year. Such opportunities enable us to carry out our mission to support and encourage the playing of Old Time music. Our offerings are invariably well-received, whether in the carnival atmosphere of an outdoor stage or in the common room of a seniors' care home. But that success belies a serious problem.

Because there are so many opportunities for people to spend their time and money, choices must be made. All too often events conflict. We see the impact frequently as attendance at our weekly dances dwindles with the springtime exodus of winter visitors. The phenomenon also impacts the availability of musicians as some who could contribute to the Old Time band choose to play elsewhere when events are concurrent. With the ravages of age and illness reducing our numbers we really need to bring more and younger musicians aboard this ship. Being based in the community with the

oldest demographic in Canada doesn't help as the folks we play for might enjoy the music but most are beyond being inspired to get into it. Ah, well; we carry on.

Recently, in addition to our regular dances and playouts at local Seniors' residences and recreational facilities, our members have participated in several events, including Branch 18's Fiddle Fest, Branch 17's Jamboree and the 30th anniversary of the Coombs Country Opera in April. A wonderful jamming party was hosted in April by long-time members Jean Shaw and Jean McNaughton to say farewell to guitarist Elsie McKay and wish her well as she moves nearer to her family and a new residence on the Mainland.

With the coming of summer the weekly dances will end on June 11 and preparations have begun for performances at upcoming festivals and fairs. Again this year we will be at the Nanoose Bay Art-In-The-Garden, The Coombs Bluegrass Festival and the Coombs Fair while taking a hiatus from playouts at the Seniors' residences.

A big hole was left in the ranks of Branches 11, 17 and 19 when Dan Ellis passed away suddenly in April. All of us were shocked and will miss Dan's steady guitar rhythms in our stage performances. Our condolences go out to his partner Dora Moen and to his family.

On May 2, a moving ceremony at the Qualicum Beach Legion marked the passing, at age 92, of long-time Branch 11 member and WWII veteran Anthony (Tony) Pinel, who had moved with his wife Evelyn to the Mainland a couple of years ago.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our 2015 Fiddle Jamboree on Saturday, September 19 at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. Everyone

is welcome. The Featured Performer, once again, will be the amazingly accomplished and recent UVIC graduate, Sarah Tradewell. In addition, we will be introducing an up and coming young fiddler from Nanaimo, Quinton Etheridge-Pedden. The stage performances will begin at 11:00 a.m. with entertainers' sign-in at 10:00. This is two hours earlier than in previous years. Following a meal break there will be an all-comers' circle jam to keep the music flowing until closing time. Dancing is optional but encouraged!

With that, we wish every Old Time Fiddler a great summer, however you choose to spend it.

Bruce Foden

ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Looking back to March, the Kelli Trottier concert was well received & well attended. Kelli, accompanied by Mike Sanyshyn, put on a very enjoyable show.

On April 25th Bob Lalonde celebrated a special birthday which included a fiddlers dance. With so many of Bob & Mabel's family attending, everyone had a great time.

A week later, on May 2nd, the Kamloops Fiddlers were busy again, playing for a dance hosted by the Knights of Columbus, out at St. John Vianney Church where we used to hold our annual contest. It would seem that they have missed our presence out there.

Coming up soon is our "Picnic/Jamboree" out at the Grandview Hall in Knutsford on June 19, 20, &

21st. There will be a fiddle concert on Friday evening at 7:00 pm featuring Fiddlin' Frenzy (Kai & Lia Gronberg). This will be followed by an open jam & dance. On Saturday there will be the usual games but there will also be something new – a performance at 4:00 pm by the Kamloops Ukulele Orchestra, followed by a pot luck supper at 5:30 and then again an open jam & dance.

And, as if that was not enough, some of the men are preparing a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning between 7:30 & 10:30 am! Yay!!

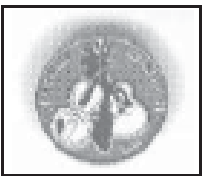
Kamloops Branch welcomes everyone to come & join in the fun weekend. If you have an RV, camping for both nights is only \$ 25 for members & \$ 30 for non-members. If you don't have an RV, Grandview is so close to town that you can easily run out for the day.

After that things will be a little quieter for the musicians until the Fall schedule gets underway.

Leo Ready, a life member of our Branch who is now living back in his home province of Ontario, has released a new CD. See ad on back page of this newsletter. Florence has a small supply on hand if anyone wishes to know more about it and/or purchase one, call her at 250-376-2330.

Florence T.

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

Yes, we did it again: our seventh annual successful

Jamboree. It was very well attended for both the Saturday Jamboree and evening dance that followed. Music was provided by the Port Alberni

Club, Coombs Club and our North Island Club. We sincerely appreciate the support provided by the Port Alberni and the Coombs Clubs.

Free workshops were held Saturday morning for fiddle (Glen Hiebert), use of guitar capo (Harold Mosdell) how to play the spoons or bones (Dave Gark). This last one is unique and we are happy to have a musician who can teach it.

In the afternoon the audience was entertained by more than twenty musicians with a good mix of vocals and instrumentalists. The audience was in a jovial mood, due in part by the fine weather of the weekend. There were ten or so R.V.s and plenty of parking for all.

A big thank-you goes to the volunteers who put this together and made it work smoothly. Some of these include publicity-Edie Gark, ticket sales -Lorraine Hiebert, preparing and dispensing food and drink -Doris Macleod and Joyce White, M.C. -Ed Medford, who replaced me (I was ill) . The above-mentioned had many helpers with the many chores it takes to run a show smoothly

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Dan Ellis, another busy member of Br. #17. He was serving as our Vice President and our chief sound engineer, often supplying his own equipment for our play dates. A tribute was paid to him at the Jamboree. A celebration of life will be held in his honor on June 28, in the Eagles Hall in Campbell River.

Our North Island Fiddlers continue to play 4-6 times a month for hospital patients, care homes etc.; in Comox, Campbell River and Cumberland areas. We also play for the annual Fathers Day breakfast at the community Hall in Campbell

River, the Comox Valley Fish and Game Club and an occasional family reunion as well.

Our winter has been exceptionally mild. Most of us in the Comox Valley did not have any snow to shovel. Mt. Washington ski resort opened late and closed early. The flowers are in their prime; the bees are busy as.....bees.

Our club's year end party will take place at the Fallen Alders Hall on the afternoon of June 30th.

We wish you a great and relaxing summer Keep playing, singing and be happy with music.

*Musically yours,
Art McMartin*

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

The Funtime Fiddlers are still talking about this year's Fiddle Fest which happened on the 20th and 21st of March down at the Big Yellow Merville Hall. Musicians in the Valley enjoyed a driving Friday night concert with the Foggy Hogtown Boys, one of the best bluegrass bands to hit the national and international stages. This five piece band is so tight with their harmonies and lightening fast playing, that you just want to jump up and dance. We got a chance to do just that the next night when the Funtime Fiddlers alternated on stage with the Foggies during a roaring Contra dance. We had a great crowd in attendance and our musicians delighted in dancing up a storm.

Saturday's musical workshops with the band members were very well attended and the band, staying at our house for the weekend, said that this

was their best weekend of their western tour. John Showman, the Foggies' fiddler and founder, and a former classical musician, fiddles at a searing pace and says that he has folded the classical sheet music for good.

The fast paced influence of the Foggies was evident at the Funtime Fiddlers April Contra dance at the Big Yellow Hall as the fiddlers ramped up the music and found that the dancers had even more fun as they flew around the floor. So we have a new up-tempo standard for our dances for the fall season.

The swing group played a fun "concert" at the Native Sons Hall for a convention of Vancouver Island municipality leaders. We played from the balcony and it was a gas. Tasty food, too. The next swing group playout was at a fusion dinner called May Day Magic where Irish and East Indian food were combined with a belly dancer, an east Indian dancer and an Irish Hooley with us playing jig after jig after jig!

Fiddlejam player and Juno award winner, Helen Austin, kicked off her western tour with her Big Little Lion's band mates Daisy and Paul. They have a great sound and neat original songs. Former Fiddlejam founder, Trent Freeman, has a new band, called Speakerface, that just won Electronic Song of Year and Video of the Year at the Vancouver Island Music Awards. Presently in Peru, Trent is playing music with indigenous Peruvians.

Our Fiddlejam group just played at the Miracle Beach Elementary School Annual Dance Party. This happens on a May Friday, every year, and the whole school gets involved. Parents are invited to attend and watch their children dance to our music. Jigs and reels and waltzes. Then the children invite their parents to join them for

the final dance, a rollicking "Sasha". We players grin the whole time at the antics of the children, especially the kindergarten and first grade pupils, all decked out in their finest party clothes. Nice to see Gail and Campbell River Bob come down to join us.

So our Fiddlejam and Funtime Fiddlers last Tuesday session will be playing outdoors at a Courtenay 100 Centennial celebration in Standard Park on the 26th of May. Some of the players are anticipating attending their first fiddle contest this year, so you might be greeting them in Kelowna or Quesnel. Enjoy the summer, everyone.

*Cheers,
Craig Freeman*

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

Our calendar this Spring has quite a number of notations on it, starting with our AGM on March 9th. We reinstated the existing executive once again, and elected a couple of new directors. It works for us.

We had an enjoyable surprise visit on March 16, from 9 year old Nolan McFarlane and his Dad Scott, from Kelowna, and Nolan's Grandfather Garth McFarlane from Port Alberni. This really made our day. It was great to hear how well Nolan is playing and be confident enough to lead our group in several pieces. Scott and Garth added some great guitar accompaniment. We seldom get to play with younger players and so it was a special treat. We are hoping that Garth might be able to join our group. Branch #19 became involved with promoting two concerts this spring. The first one was Kelli Trottier and

Mike Sanyshyn, on March 20th. This evening concert was very enjoyable with these two delightful performers. In the afternoon Kelli led a two hour fiddle workshop for eleven of our members. She started out working with us on a couple of pieces we had requested, helping us to get more life and definition into our music: techniques to improve our general playing. In the second half she taught us her Tamcampworth Reel and that was lots of fun.

One week later, on March 27, we were greatly entertained by Greg Simm and Dave Panting. Greg's guitar playing is so superb to listen to and Dave presented some interesting stories and songs from Newfoundland contributing to a varied performance. In the afternoon, Greg led a guitar workshop for several of our members, suggesting techniques to get more punch into our accompaniment. Those attending the workshop were invited to a potluck/kitchen party afterwards, hosted by Barbara Lehtonen. This was a time to relax and get to know the performers as individuals, not just as musicians.

We were invited to play for the Sunshine Club Spring Dance and there was a nice turnout for that. Spring also always brings the Volunteer Teas hosted by the various Care Facilities. We do realize how much all volunteers are appreciated.

Our Club was shocked recently by the unexpected death of one of our members, Dan Ellis, on April 17th. Dan was only able to join us occasionally as he was very busy in the Campbell River music scene, and also with Branch #17 in Courtenay. He was always a welcome addition when he could join us. Dan was really great in leading jam sessions, as he always

made sure that everyone had a chance to take part if they wished to. Very inclusive and encouraging. His presence will be missed by many.

This April, a smaller group of our members were able to attend the Branch #17 Jamboree and contribute to the Friday night concert and the Saturday night dance. Several of us were able to camp there and enjoy the extra time visiting and jamming. A few members also took part in the afternoon open mic session adding to a great variety of presentations.

On Sunday May 3rd, seven of us spent four hours playing at the Rosewall Creek Hatchery for their, "The River Never Sleeps" day. It was a beautiful sunny day and so interesting to see all the families coming out to help release the fry into the river. Little kids can be so entertaining to watch as they dance along to the music. We always enjoy this venue.

We have now ended our Wednesday play-outs in the Care Homes until September. This gives us a bit more flexibility, although we keep on

getting invitations for some larger engagements through-out the summer. We will continue to practice on Mondays from 1 to 2:30, either at Abbeyfield or at the Harbour Quay as the weather warms up. We always enjoy visitors to the club, so do drop by if you are in the neighborhood at those times. Happy fiddling!

*Submitted by,
Gail Ross*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 5 & 6, Kelowna - Show by Deni & Adam Johnson (Fri. night) & Old Time Fiddle Contest (Sat)
Contact 250-764-7064**

July 13-16, Kootenay #9 Fiddle Camp at Selkirk College, contact 250-365-5514

July 25-31, BC Fiddle 'Treat at Gavin Lake, contact 250-992-5081

September 19, Coombs Old Time Fiddle Jamboree, contact 250-586-3743

October 3 & 4, 45th Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest & BCOTFA AGM, contact 250-992-5081

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Art Daher, 604 -703-1464, daer1@shaw.ca

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Information: Bruce (250) 586-3743
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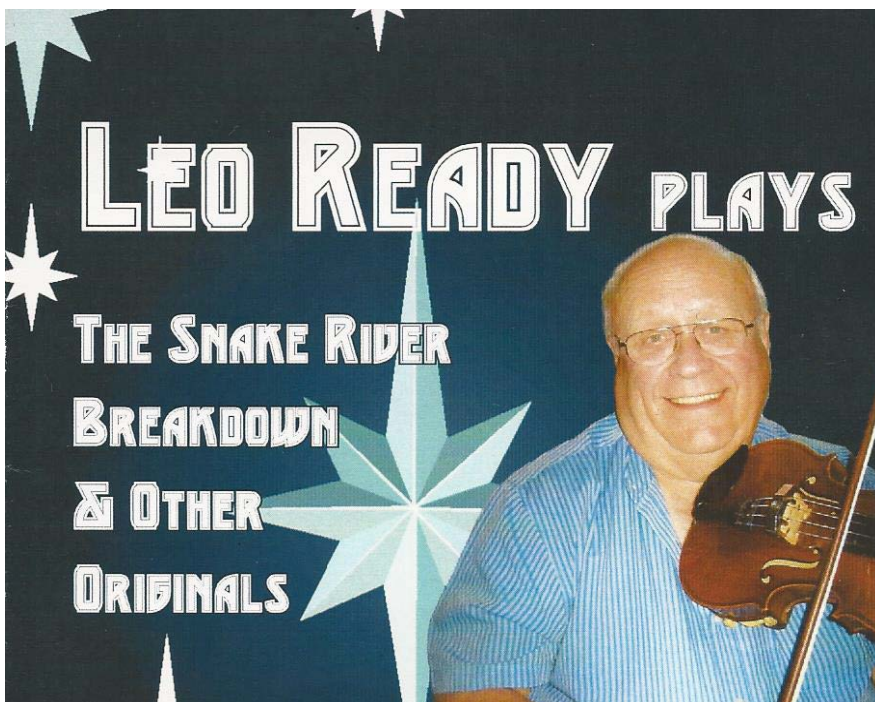
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