



# B.C.

# FIDDLE NEWS

Vic started in music on the piano at about 6 or 7 years of age. At 10 he took up the violin and guitar. As an adult his work has taken his music all across Canada from Ontario to Vancouver. Vic now lives and intends to stay in Kelowna where he is very active in his own Dance Band, Day Late and Dollar Short, Branch #7 Fiddlers and his church choir. Vic has competed in many fiddling contests in Western Canada and represented BC at the Canadian Championship in Nepean, Ontario. Vic has been an instructor at 11 fiddle camps, weekly with Branch #7, and MC at many fiddling events. It is hard to imagine anyone more immersed in the musical scene than Vic. The following are excerpts from an interview with Vic.

**Question:** Let's start at the beginning.

**Vic:** I was born in the farming community of Tuffnell, Saskatchewan. My folks ran the Post Office in town and farmed, and it was when I was in town that I took piano lessons for three years from age 8 to 10 or 11. At about age 11, I rebelled, but music has always been a challenge both mentally and physically, and that has kept me in music.

**Que:** So you moved from piano to ...?

**Vic:** To violin and after to guitar, mandolin, banjo, accordion, and bass.

**Que:** As a child did you have to be scolded to practice?

**Vic:** Oh yes, what child wants to sit and practice scales over and over when he could be outside carving his initials in a tree?

**Que:** You once said that it was the tune Curly Hair that got you hooked on fiddle...

**Vic:** I guess it was my Step Dad that played it. It was his thing that he used to get kids intrigued with the fiddle and its music & it just amazed me.

**Que:** Did you stop piano when you started violin?

**Vic:** No - there was always piano and one reason that I kept up piano was that there were several good fiddlers in the community and there was never any good backup for them, so I was the one.



~ VIC UKRAINETZ ~

**Que:** How did you learn backup?

**Vic:** I learned by ear, listening to banjo or guitar play with fiddlers. The piano could produce the bass notes and the right the chord, so it was unique as an instrument.

**Que:** When you left home and struck out on your own?

**Vic:** Career was the main thing and I went to college. I started to work with "The Met"; however the job

didn't pay enough for my appetite and I used music to supplement my earnings. But the money wasn't the real draw and I was always drawn to music.

**Que:** Where did your career journey take you?

**Vic:** From college I went to Saskatoon, and then Lethbridge, Swift Current, Brandon Manitoba, London Ontario, Prince Albert Saskatchewan, Portage La Prairie, New Westminister BC, Grande Prairie Alberta and Kelowna where I intend to stay. All of this was with "The Met" store as I was transferred from place to place and always with bigger and better stores, it was a journey that took 35 years to complete.

Getting back to when I was young, I feel it is very important for a young person to get the opportunity to perform in public. In general musicians are shy and don't

*Continued next page.....*

show off their talents. If they are encouraged to do this the complements are the fuel to take you to the next step to work more and become better. As a 10 year old I played piano for a house party and people danced. There was a gentleman there that showed his appreciation by giving me an American silver dollar. That silver dollar was so special to me that I have it to this day and it showed me that I could earn money with music.

**Que:** When did you start with Branch #7

**Vic:** It would be about 1980, but I didn't really get heavily involved for some time because of work and my own band. I would participate whenever these other things would allow.

I feel that your current performance should always be your best performance ever because there is always someone listening, and that is probably how and why I got involved with the fiddlers. I was asked if I could help the group play and sound better. The Branch has a lot of talent but it didn't seem like they were together, and I hope I have helped with that as there is a lot of talented, devoted people; sincere and lovely people.

**Que:** Where do you want to go with the fiddlers from here?

**Vic:** I like to do concerts. We do dances and they raise money and are generally more relaxed. I would like to develop a stronger group so that we could feature different fiddlers in a show, or have different arrangements. When you do a gig the objective is to get hired back. The different instruments I play help me in working with the fiddlers because I can help with all the areas; fiddles, guitar, piano and bass. In order to sound the best you can, all the pieces must be coordinated and doing their part.

**Que:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Vic:** It has been a pleasure working with fiddlers; BC has the most organized fiddling group of anywhere I know of in Canada. There are many branches and they all do the best job they can. The bond that is formed at contests lasts a lifetime.

*Submitted by John Tribe, Kelowna Branch*

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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.

**June 2012 - Kootenay #9**

September 2012 – Williams Lake #10

December 2012 - Coombs #11

January 2013 – Kamloops #12

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**CRAIG FREEMAN**

Looks to me as though we are done with the toughest part of winter and we'll soon be gliding through Spring and Summer. Back at BCOTFA HQ, it is encouraging to see the replies to the questions posed to the branches come flooding in. The current board is certainly trying to open up lines of communication.

The next major initiative that the BCOTFA might start to work on could be trying to figure out what excites young fiddlers and how can the organization encourage young players to take up the traditional music. The promotion of old time

music is one of the goals of the BCOTFA, along with that of mentoring young players to carry on the traditions. Perhaps the direction this idea might take could be a call out to any youth who are reading this column to send along their views on the music; why they want to play it; why they want to learn it; how they would encourage other youth to take up the fiddle.

And once we get that idea rolling, we could ask the youth to think about what attracts youth to a fiddle club and what can make a fiddle club work better. Are fiddle clubs evolving into private social clubs for retirees or are they looking to become vibrant recruiters of youth. The board is keen to open up the lines of communication so let's see what ideas start to flow.

We are looking forward to the season of contests and shows and camps. I doff my hat to all those BCOTFA members who roll up their sleeves and work hard to make these events a reality. We'll see you at the events.

*Cheers,  
Craig Freeman*

## FROM THE EDITOR



**FLORENCE TELLIER**

Contest season is upon us & the Branches who host contests know that it takes a lot of work & considerable financial resources to put one on. Sometimes we may wonder why we continue to do so, but beside the fact that doing so is one of the objectives of the society that we are part of, it can also be very rewarding. I recently heard a story that I would like to share with you. In Kamloops about 3 years ago, we had Kelli Trottier here as our featured entertainer on

the Friday night of our contest weekend. On Saturday one of the competitors was Chloe Davidson of Kelowna, and Chloe was so inspired by Kelli's performance the night before and the honor of being able to meet her, that on the way home, she wrote a tune which Chloe named Kelli's Jig. That same tune, along with two others Chloe wrote, won her a 2010 Canada Music Week award! Now isn't that a "feel good" story!

I recently tuned in, via the Internet, to CJHR 98.7 FM in the Ottawa Valley. On Sunday mornings from 10:00-11:00 BC time, Dennis Harrington hosts a show called "Cross-Canada Fiddling" - he truly does play fiddle music from all across the country. If you don't already do so & you have access to the internet, give it a listen - go to [www.valleyheritageradio.ca](http://www.valleyheritageradio.ca) & follow the instructions for live streaming.

*Florence Tellier*

# CLUB NEWS

## PRINCE GEORGE



### BRANCH #1

Greetings from Prince George Branch #1! We have experienced an unusual winter so far with periods of cold weather and snow followed by warm temperatures & icy conditions and then more snow & cold. But now as the days are getting longer can spring be far away?

The New Year got off to a great start with our first dance of 2012 held January 14th at the Pineview Hall. We welcomed a small but enthusiastic crowd of dancers who

braved the cold, snowy weather to dance the night away. The father & son team of Doug & Jonah Borden opened the dance with a number of fiddle tunes from each of them. They were followed by fiddlers Jim MacKenzie and Jacob Borden. Dinner music was provided by Roland Rouleau, Keith Monroe & Gordon McKenna. After the supper break Beth Bressette & Terry Receveur played several tunes together on their accordions and were accompanied by Don Redden on the guitar. Thanks go to our workers and musicians and to those members who came out on Saturday afternoon to set up the hall and the sound. Thanks so much, we couldn't do this without you. And thanks also went to Edna Rouleau and her supper crew, to our beverage master John Ryser, and to Pat McKenna & Judy Feyer who took tickets at the door. And a special thank you went to Dave Rubadeau who set up our new sound system and monitored it throughout the evening. Thanks Dave! Our next dances will be Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 (St. Patrick's Day).

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Elder Citizen's Recreation Center. We were pleased to see a large turnout of members and their families who all enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner.

Election of the Board of Directors took place during the business meeting with the following members elected to the 2012 board.

- President: - Brian St. Germain
- Vice President: - Doug Borden
- Secretary: - Beth Bressette
- Treasurer: - Ted Moffat
- Directors: - 2 years, Edna Rouleau, Barry Nakahara & Norman Jacob
- Directors with one year left to serve: - Gordon McKenna & Roland Rouleau



Then 16 of our young fiddlers & musicians were the recipients of a special award for active participation in club activities during 2011. Each of these young people regularly take part at our Thursday night jam sessions, club playouts, various contests, workshops and other special events that benefit our community. We appreciate all that they do! Each was presented with a certificate and a cheque. Those receiving awards were: Bailey Borden, Riley Iwanciwski, Jonah Borden, Brittany Iwanciwski, Gabrielle Jacob, Chloe Nakahara, Lauren Iwanciwski, Noah Jacob, Emmanuelle Jacob, Christianne & Gabriel Forman, Tenasea Jones, Aspen Jones, Tara Kurucz, Travis Kurucz & Hanna Stevens.

Our musicians were out again to help celebrate the Francophone Winterfest hosted by Les Cercle des Canadiens Francais de Prince George at St. Mary's Auditorium on January 28, 2012. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy the music. Jim MacKenzie on the fiddle was joined by Cy Fortin, John Broderick & Al Thorpe. They entertained the crowd in true French Canadian style at their Cabine Sucre (Sugar Shack). The group played tunes and songs in both English & French during the traditional brunch on Saturday. Other activities that took place during the festival included snow sculpture, snow shoeing, toffee on snow and a cross cut competition. Many families came to take part and all had a most enjoyable time.

Mark your calendars for our 2012 Contest! Prince George Branch will be hosting its 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fiddle Concert & Contest April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> at the Blackburn Community Center. We will be welcoming special guest fiddler Peter Dawson who will perform at a concert on Friday evening April 20<sup>th</sup>. The contest follows on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>. There also will be a pancake

breakfast on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are anticipating a great weekend and invite everyone to come and share in a great time of music, competition, and lots of fun.

Our Thursday night jam sessions continue each week from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Elder Citizen's Recreation Center, 1692 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. The weekly jam sessions have been well attended throughout the winter. For those of you who may be traveling our way in the New Year, please drop in and join us for an evening of dancing & listening to some Old Time fiddling by both our young and our seasoned fiddlers.

That's all for now. Until next time, happy fiddling!

*Marguerite MacKenzie,  
Club correspondent*

## QUESNEL



### BRANCH #3

Welcome to whatever season this happens to be. It could be winter because we still have snow some days and temperatures down to - 14. Yet it could be Spring, because the sun is shining on some days and the temperature reaches 12 degrees. But it could also be that nasty season between Winter and Spring that I refer to as SICKNESS. You know the days that you can walk briskly around the River Front Trail, well bundled when you start and looking for a shower when it's over. Then you end up with pneumonia twice; that would be why I'm up in the middle of the night catching up on this column. Oh well, that's my rant for today.

The practice sessions continue at the home of our bass player, Jean Moorcroft at 3:00 pm - it seems a

more fitting time for our aging group. There are also Adult Fiddle Lessons being held at the Quesnel Junior School, Tuesday's - 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. But, after one lesson, I finally understand Curly Hair.

Our February dance was another success. Always grateful when our member Ken Emery arrives all the way up from Miocene; - great player, long trip. Also thank you to our Banjolin player Judy Feyer from Prince George for always filling her truck. We never know until everyone comes through the door.

We are also extremely grateful for Bob and Mae Campbell for the attendance and help over the entire time this club has been running, including the time it took to get started. So grateful in fact that on Saturday night February 4, 2012 Bob and Mae received the status of Honorary Members.



Bob & Mae

Fiddle Camp is in the planning stages so keep your calendars open for July and check out the website for more information.

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

Thanks for keeping Old Time Music alive.

*Ab McQuillin*

# CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



## BRANCH #4

As the days grow longer, warmer and (not really but we can always hope) drier, Branch #4 members find themselves busy with organizing our Spring one day fiddle camp and evening concert. We hope you will plan to join us for a full day of fun and learning on March 17<sup>th</sup> in Mission, BC! Four of Canada's best fiddlers will instruct at Fiddle@DayCamp – John Arcand ([www.johnarcand.com](http://www.johnarcand.com)) – Master of the Métis Fiddle; Trent Freeman ([www.trentfreeman.com](http://www.trentfreeman.com)) – 5x Canadian Grand Masters Finalist; Allison Granger ([www.allisongranger.com](http://www.allisongranger.com)) – Worldwide Touring Musician; and Patti Lamoureux ([www.pattilamoureux.com](http://www.pattilamoureux.com)) – 3x Canadian Grand Masters Champion. After a full day of schooling, we will be entertained by the four that evening as they perform at our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddlerama.

Although all are household names in the fiddling world, perhaps the one who is not well known in our neck of the woods is Allison Granger, as this will be her first time teaching in BC. Allison began playing at 4 years of age, teaching at 13 and professionally touring at 16. She has been nominated for a Gemini (2002), Fiddler of the Year (2004 & 2005), and Soundtrack of the Year at the Canadian Film Awards (2006). Quite the resumé!

\$125 tuition for Fiddle@DayCamp includes 4 one hour classes, snacks, lunch and one Fiddlerama ticket. Stop in at our website [www.centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com](http://www.centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com) where you will find all the information and registration forms you will need. We hope to see all

you wonderful fiddlers this Spring Break in Mission on March 17<sup>th</sup>!

As far as the everyday day-to-day news, the group continues to enjoy motoring throughout the Lower Mainland playing at churches, seniors' homes, hospitals and other community venues. It looks like this Spring and Summer are working out to be busy ones, and our motto might become "Have Fiddle Will Travel".

Until next time, Happy Fiddling!

*Submitted by  
Joanne Davenport*

## SURREY



## BRANCH #5

Greetings from Surrey Branch #5 Fiddlers.

We have been having some lucky breaks with the weather since the last week of January and the first week of February. This change has brought us blue skies and warmer temperatures and we hope that this trend will continue.

We held our Election of Officers in December, with only a slight change in Directors.

President: - Evan Sanyshyn  
Vice President: - Robert Kielhorn  
Secretary Treasurer – Rose marie Patterson

Directors: - 2 year term, Dale Belchamber, Glenn Blanchfield, John Fedoruk, Edwin Nelson, Gordon Powell, & Nathan Powell - 1 year term, Mike Sanyshyn

Our monthly dances continue to go well in the past four months, with a good turnout of dancers, regardless of the weather. We have free

advertising with five local newspapers, plus Shaw cable, which helps bring a few phone calls, inquiring about our dances. There are at least five Seniors' dances going on in the Surrey area, so there is a bit of competition and necessity for advertising.

The winter months have been slow regarding play outs, but we have recently picked up possibly three play outs for the month of March and looking forward to providing musical entertainment for more venues this year.

One of our keyboard players, Sam McDowell and his wife, have recently returned from a two week holiday in Maui, enjoying the warm weather and having a great time relaxing and enjoying the island.

*Michael Hauser*

We have recently lost one of our dancers, Michael Hauser, who passed away on January 25, at the age of eighty four. Michael and his wife Elizabeth enjoyed coming out to our monthly dances and rarely missed any. Michael loved dancing, music and socializing with friends. Our condolences go out to his wife Elizabeth and daughter.

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 184<sup>th</sup> St. from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Practice Sessions are at the same location every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Until the next edition.

*Submitted by,  
Evan Sanyshyn*

## KELOWNA



### BRANCH #7

Here we are in mid February already and looking back over a relatively mild winter for this area. Most of Western Canada has had less snow and milder temperatures than usual. Always something to be thankful for compared to other parts of the world. Had the pleasure of congratulating Gordie Stendal on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Originally from Estevan Sask. and a Kelowna Branch #7 member, they now reside in Lethbridge, Alberta, close to their family. He still plays that old tenor banjo on occasion. We are also looking forward to our John Rewakowsky's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 12, 2012. Both these old timers are an inspiration to all of us.

We enjoyed a fine Christmas dinner by the Knights of Columbus at our early December party. Our Fiddlers For Fun provided the entertainment while we were stuffed. After clearing the tables the crowd of a 100 or so enjoyed the fine old time dance music of our local gang.

We were glad to welcome Ramona Bailey all the way from Spokane. She always attends our contest in June and loves to play that old fiddle. When she lived 40 miles south of the border we saw her quite often.

Many of us were out to support the Sally Ann Christmas Kettle at the Capri mall as usual. A happy crowd gathered to clap while some danced and topped up the kettle. The lottery booth close by also did a landslide business.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> Vic's appreciation party was well attended at a local restaurant. Our club has benefited greatly from his expertise and

guidance over the years. See the front cover of this addition for more details.

Now it's back to our normal schedule plus a few extras. January the 8<sup>th</sup> was our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday tea dance with a fair crowd. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was February 5<sup>th</sup> (Super Bowl game day) with a small crowd. Our AGM was on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Wayne Angman, who has done a fine job as President, is back in the saddle for another term. John Tribe is in charge of Vice. The balance are the same as before with the exception of Pauline Angman and we welcome her as a new Director.

We used a Hawaiian theme again for our 1<sup>st</sup> regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday dance. There were prizes for the best costume. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, we had to get up early to open the Alzheimer's Walk at the new Capital News Bldg. at 8:30 am. That's quite a building with 2 indoor hockey rinks & 2 soccer fields, plus a large gym, running track and more. Our local M.P., Ron Cannon, attended and even mentioned us in the House of Commons regarding opening the Walk. Our Valentine's dance will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Two of our hardworking executive are away on a well deserved holiday. Our secretary, Ruth Buchanan is in Hawaii. Drummer, Bill Bryson & his wife Helen are in Mexico. Enjoy but hurry back.

The Provincial Contest on June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> will be in the capable hands of John and Lynn Tribe. Hope to welcome all our old and new friends that can make it. See this issue for more details. See you in the spring.

p.s. Be careful, spring is a dangerous time of the year to be out and about. The trees are shooting, the crow cusses and the bull rushes out.

*Russ Gerrie*

## MERRITT



### BRANCH #8

No report from the Merritt Branch at this time.

## KOOTENAY



### BRANCH #9

It has been quiet at Branch #9, but we will host our annual fiddle camp in July – details follow:

**Branch No. 9 Fiddle Camp:** Week of July 16th, 2012

**Place:** Selkirk College, Castlegar, BC

**Instructors:** Same as 2011 (see our Web Site)

**Fees** \$200 Early Bird, \$225 after June 1st, 2012

**Web Site:**

[www.kootenayfiddlers.com](http://www.kootenayfiddlers.com)

**Accommodations:** Some units available at Selkirk College

**For Further Information:**

Walter Crocket 250-367-9473

Joan Marks 250-365-2695

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[info@kootenayfiddlers.com](mailto:info@kootenayfiddlers.com)

*Mary Ann Stewart*

## WILLIAMS LAKE



### BRANCH #10

Hello Everyone,

The weather here has been exceptional. It feels like spring is just around the corner, but of course that can change pretty quickly. As the old timers say...any one that tries to predict the weather in the Cariboo is either a newcomer or a fool. I

(WILLIAMS LAKE cont.)

know I'm not a newcomer, so I hope I am not being a fool!

We had a very nice Christmas dinner put on by the Senior ladies at the Seniors Activities Centre. A big thank you goes out to Barb Gilchrist for making sure all the tables were beautifully decorated.

Interior Health has reopened Deni House so the club has added them to our list of monthly commitments, which is as follows;

First Thursday - General Meeting, 7:30-?

Second Thursday - The Senior Village, 6:30-7:30

Third Thursday - Deni House

Last Thursday - Seniors Luncheon at the Legion, 11:30-1:00

Our election of officers was held in January with the following people being elected to office for 2012:

President: - Ken Emery 250-296-3229

Vice President: - Joe Lecomte

Secretary: Hal Giles - 250-392-7482

Treasurer: - Ed Caissie

Directors: - Ryder Cheyne, Duncan Gilchrist, Marj Blair, Pat Gunderson and Pat Myre.

*Cheers,*

*Pat Gunderson*

## COOMBS



### BRANCH #11

We begin with a tale of two festivals, one defunct and one arising. They come to mind as examples of how vital a solid core of volunteers is to the success of such ventures. A year ago the long-running Fiddlers On

The Trent Festival in Frankford, Ontario, took a hiatus to enable the organizing body to regroup. Coincidentally, a similar break in continuity occurred with the Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Erable in our neighbouring city of Nanaimo.

Well, this very weekend, the Nanaimo Festival, under a reconstituted committee, is renewing its traditional offerings of French Canadian customs, foods and music to the vibrant mid-Island cultural scene. Sadly, the Trent River will see no more of the musical armadas that have charmed thousands with great fiddle and old time music over many years. Whereas the francophone community in Nanaimo was able to gather the necessary corps of volunteers to make its festival happen, the same could not be done in Frankford.

These stories illustrate just how important it is to have a sound organization and dedicated volunteers to make a success of the events we put on.

All of which is a segue into our announcement that the 2012 Coombs Old Time Fiddle Jamboree will take place on Saturday, September 22, in the hall of the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. This year's edition will feature the customary afternoon of open stage performances followed by an evening of all-comers jamming. There will be dry camping available and the Coombs Country Opera on the Friday evening, September 21, will make this a great weekend for lovers of old time fiddling and country music.

Our Thursday evening dances are proving to be popular again this year, with a regular crowd of local folks and wintertime visitors from colder climes. Keeping the repertoire interesting and lively for the dancers is both challenging and a

lot of fun for the band. The players number, typically, 15 to 20 most nights, with a good variety of instruments to back up the fiddles. During 2011 we performed at 72 events of various kinds.

The Board of Directors elected in December has Sheral Coutts as President, Ken Deacon as Vice-Pres., Nell Bowles as Secretary-Treasurer with Bonnie McDougall, Don Howlett and Bruce Foden as Directors for one more year and Jean Shaw, Debra Contreras and Dora Moen as Directors for two years. In January, Life Memberships were granted to Ethel and Terry Whibley in recognition of their support and services over many years of membership. New members welcomed in February are Carla Irvine (fiddle) and Colin Craig (banjo) while Phyllis Donnelly is joining as a pianist.

Recent weeks have had some sad moments, however, as Board members Sheral and Dora lost their husbands and Bonnie lost a daughter to illnesses. Ken Deacon was injured and Ruby Gudbranson was hospitalized by household misadventures. Elsie McKay remains in Nanaimo rehab following knee surgery.

We were all shocked in early February when long-time fiddler and member Weldon Bradley passed away suddenly at age 93. Weldon has written a number of fiddle tunes and his biography was featured in the B.C. Fiddle News of May, 2010. His wife, Edna, also a member, and Weldon's children have our deepest sympathy.

We'll close with a story, apparently true, about a different kind of misadventure. A friend of a friend decided after many years, to once again play the fiddle. She went out and bought one, but for the life of her couldn't figure out why she was



having such a hard time getting it to sound right. After a couple of years of struggling, and forming quite a love/hate relationship with her instrument, she decided to go to a professional to find out what she was doing wrong. You can imagine her embarrassment when she found out she had been trying to play a viola! Now she is a really good fiddler, and looks back with quite a chuckle....

As the end of winter seems to be in sight we can look forward to the many festivals and other events that Vancouver Island puts on offer every summer. So, for now, farewell from Coombs, Branch 11.

*Submitted by,*  
*Bruce Foden,*  
[ebfoden@gmail.com](mailto:ebfoden@gmail.com)

## KAMLOOPS



### BRANCH #12

Well we are now into another year and I can't believe how quickly it came! Happy New Year!! December 2011 - January 2012 has certainly been a busy time for the musicians; they have played in the following Seniors Care Centres: Shores Retirement Home, Bedford Manor, Overlander Extended Care, Ridgeview Lodge, Kamloops Seniors Village, Riverbend, Ridgepoint, Cariboo Manor, Pine Grove Care Centre & the Hamlets Senior Home

An impressive schedule for sure. Of course this is along with the regular dances at Heritage House and the Christmas & New Year dances!! No wonder they are such good musicians.

Elections were held Jan. 22, 2012, and the results are as follows:

President: - Jackie Davis

Vice President: - Clark Hiles  
Secretary: - Pat Benson  
Treasurer: - Florence Tellier  
Directors: - 2 yrs., Bob Lalonde, Ed McLean & Gorden Perry - 1 yr., Terry Jones. Directors with 1 year left to serve are Betty Tasko & Colin Mahoney.

Alice Berner received her 30 years of service pin!! Congratulations Alice. The Old Time Fiddlers are truly fortunate to have you as one of their musicians. Congratulations also to Nadia Olafson who received her 5 years of service pin.

The Xmas Dinner and dance at Desert Gardens was a small group (51) but it was enjoyed by all who attended. Music was great along with the singing and the meal was delicious; really couldn't ask for anything more!!

The News Years celebration was enjoyed by all who attended - and it didn't snow that night!!

Thank-you again to Betty Tasko, her son Jason, & Mabel Lalonde for decorating and to all the others that helped to clean up and carry all those boxes out to the cars! Thank-you also to Ann Benson for setting up all the food.

Reminders for up coming events:

March 24, 2012, Kelli Trotter will be performing at Heritage House. Time; 7:30 p.m. and cost is \$20.00 per person. It's sure to be an enjoyable evening. Tickets from Florence, 250-376-2330.

Fiddle Contest; May 4 & 5 2012. Peter Dawson will be performing Friday night, cost is \$15.00 per person. Tickets from Betty, 250-372-2809.

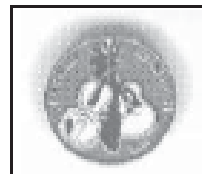
Further into the year there is the June campout. At the Grandview Lodge RV's can park for the whole

weekend for \$25.00 Day trippers are welcome, by donation.

Notes: Clark will remain as the music director for the coming year. Jackie has a few C.D.'s left for sale and will be ordering some more. Raffle tickets for the quilt are ready - if you wish to sell a few you can get them from Florence, and this year there will be two more prizes besides the quilt. \$ 200 second prize and \$100 for third. Tickets will be sold in some of the malls around town - if you would like to help with that, please let Florence, know she'll be happy to have you on board!!

*Submitted by;*  
*Marie Burse*

## NORTH ISLAND



### BRANCH #17

I must apologize because I missed the deadline for the last issue because I was on a hunting trip and got back a day too late. Normally Florence would let me sneak it in through the back door a day late, if I asked nicely and had a good excuse, (I can make up some good ones). But as luck would have it she was in the process of changing over her e-mail provider and I was out of luck, both with the newsletter and with my hunting.

During the year the club members played at approximately 60 events in the Comox Valley, including St. Joseph's Hospital, Cumberland Extended Care Facility, and Glacier View Lodge on a regular basis. We also get called often, to play at Casa Loma Senior's Village. In Campbell River we played at the Eagles Club, the Rotary Pancake Breakfast for Father's Day, as well as the Evergreen and Yaculta Lodges for the seniors. We also



play at shopping malls and other special events once or twice a year. On top of all that, we managed to put on a very successful Provincial Fiddle Contest, produced a new CD, and held our annual Jamboree.

Branch 17 is now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of operation, last year we had 53 regular members and 12 life members, and 2 honorary members. We hold our monthly dance at the Fallen Alders Hall, just south of Courtenay, and must say thank you to our dancers from out of town who regularly travel over 50kms to attend. That is support above and beyond.

I would like to say a few words about the number of great people who belong to Branch 17. You can just imagine the logistics of playing at so many functions, over such a large geographic area on northern Vancouver Island, with members hailing all the way from Port Alberni to Gold River, and not once did we ever end up with eight fiddles and no backup, or five guitars and no fiddles. Our people come out when we need them, and we all have a good time. That's pretty good for a bunch of volunteers

Speaking about volunteers, I read an article the other day about volunteerism and it got me thinking. Like all Branches of the BCOTFA, we run on volunteer power. Our musicians, directors, and support members are all volunteers although we may not think of ourselves in that way. Nobody gets paid for what we do. And yet some organizations that use volunteers, always seem to have squabbles.

When there is a call for a volunteer to perform a certain task, and some brave soul steps up to the plate, always give that person all the support you can, and never complain. If you are doing the

complaining, you should be the one volunteering, and let others complain about you. If everyone follows that bit of advice you'd be surprised how smoothly things run.

This new year is shaping up nicely with all of our regular play dates. Watch our website for news on our annual Jamboree which usually happens near the end of April.

*Ed*

## COMOX VALLEY



### BRANCH #18

The winter storms hit, out goes the power, out come the fiddles.

We would like to welcome two new members to our Branch #18 board, Zander Oldaker and Richard Sander. Both bring the expertise of being parents of keen and talented young fiddlers. We look forward to fresh ideas for building a fiddle club that is fun and worthwhile for all generations, but especially for this next generation.

Congratulations and thank you to 12 year old Max Sander who has taken on a leadership role at our new Fiddlejam sessions at the Merville Hall.

Last December, some of our young players joined Trent Freeman on the Merville Hall stage to do an opening set for hot bluegrass mandolin player John Reischman and the Jaybirds. The young players enjoyed meeting the band back stage and jammed a bit with them between sets.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle Fest will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> this year, as we are accommodating our headliners, Kelli Trottier and Greg Simm. Local youth fiddlers will open Kelli's Friday night concert at

the Merville Hall. On Saturday we will offer a morning of workshops and then a great big Contra Dance Saturday night. June Cannon, our impeccable caller, will whisk us through our dances; Branch #18 fiddlers will play; and Kelli Trottier will be the icing on the cake as she wows us with her high energy fiddling and step-dancing.

The Contra Dances are growing in popularity and we are seeing families and new dancers out on the floor having a great time. The youth solo sets are very popular with the coruscating crowd and it gives the older musicians an opportunity to slip off the stage and swirl about the hardwood with their sweeties.

The fiddle section of the annual North Island Festival of the Performing Arts (NIFPA) will be held on February 21st. This year we will see many of the young valley fiddlers being adjudicated by fiddle club member Trent Freeman. The fiddlers are making wonderful progress under the able tutelage of Shelley Brown, Trish Clair, Geoff Horrocks and others.

And finally, if you happen to be in Courtenay on February 25th, be sure to take in the great entertainment at The Farmers Market. Leah, Max and Taz will be keeping the shoppers smiling, with backup from the very able Geetar Paul.

Happy Spring to everyone.

*Craig Freeman*

## ALBERNI VALLEY



### BRANCH #19

It is sometimes hard to keep track of what season we are really in at this time of year, with a little snow and ice on one hand, and then some bright sunny days to tempt us

into thinking of seeds, bulbs, and longer days. Sunny days and uplifted moods do bring on especially light hearted music sessions and that can be so much fun for everyone.

We ended 2011 on a high note or two, by playing for Westhaven, the hospital extended care unit, on December 30 and then two facilities on New Year's Eve afternoon, Fir Park and Echo Village. They all seem to really enjoy our playing and have already booked us for this upcoming year end. We had a guest fiddler join us for a couple of these sessions, Les Maahs from Acadian Valley, Alberta. He was visiting family in the area and just happened to have his fiddle in the car (for that matter, what fiddler doesn't) and he added great harmonies to some of our pieces. There were a few of our songs that were new to him, but he was familiar with most of the pieces we were playing.

It seems to be a good year for visitors to our group and because of this we're very happy to welcome a couple of new members to our club. Jan and Merv Erickson come from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and were seeking some musical outlets while in this part of the country. Jan plays fiddle and accordion, and Merv plays banjo and guitar. They started to attend our Monday practices on a regular basis and decided they would like to become members. Although Jan is fairly new to fiddling, she has been working hard to learn as many songs as she can, in a short time, recording many of our pieces to help her in this endeavor. Merv has added a strong banjo presence, helping to fill out that important background.

The Echo Sunshine Club Dance was very well attended on January 20th, in spite of really bad weather and competing with a hockey game. In December and January we are often also competing with the colds and

virus so it is always nice to get a good turn-out of musicians and dancers. We also worked a bit more on musician placement, a work in progress yet.

January and a fifth Monday .... competition or recital time. As no one is preparing for a particular competition at this time, we approached this day in a more casual manner. Some people did the waltz, jig and reel set, to at least mentally prepare for a real competition, but a few people just played a piece or two they really like and a couple of people did a twin fiddle piece, which was new to our club. It was especially nice to hear how much a couple of the newer players had progressed in the last year. After this part of the program was over, we had a wonderful jam session. With everyone feeling happy, relieved, with probably a little adrenalin still flowing, the music seemed particularly together and full of energy. This activity does seem to pull the club together, in spite of our moans and groans along the way.

It is always a shock to our systems to become aware that we can't just play music all the time, but do have to deal with business affairs on occasion, with director's meetings, member's meetings and of course the AGM sometime in March. We really don't have many non-musician members in our club and may have to work a little harder to change that state of affairs. Of course musicians are most happy with instruments in hand, rather than pen and paper, or other means of communication.

Word of camps, competitions and other gatherings is starting to come in and various members are making plans for taking part in these activities. There is a fiddle camp on the Island again this year and it is so nice for many people, not to have to

contend with the ferries for a change.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable time while waiting for the arrival of brighter weather and all the great activities coming up. Let no dust gather on those fiddle cases and keep those toes tapping.

*Gail Ross*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9-10, 2012  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle Fest  
Merville Hall, Vancouver Island  
250-339-4249

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March 17, 2012  
Fiddle Day Camp  
Fiddlerama  
Mission, BC  
[www.centralvalleyfiddlers.com](http://www.centralvalleyfiddlers.com)

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April 20, 2012  
Peter Dawson Show  
April 21, 2012  
Old Time Fiddle Contest  
Prince George, BC  
250-963-7576

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May 4, 2012  
Peter Dawson Show  
May 5, 2012  
Old Time Fiddle Contest  
Kamloops, BC  
250-376-2330

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June 1, 2012  
Daniel Lapp Concert  
June 2, 2012  
Old Time Fiddle Contest  
BCOTFA AGM  
Kelowna, BC  
250-764-7064

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

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July, 2012  
Grand North American Old  
Time Fiddle Championship  
Radway, AB  
780-942-3690

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.

## YOUR VIOLIN SUPPLY/HELP HOUSE NEW FOR 2012



Image for reference

**Baroque Bows -- brazilwood, snakewood, ironwood, pernambucco**  
**Choice of various frogs made with the above and "faux ivory"<sup>(white)</sup>**  
**Starting at \$95.00 to \$400.00 for advanced bows.**

**Complete line of instruments, strings, accessories, rehair, repair**  
**Help – Advice – call or email – 604 703-1464**

**Art Daher – [myviolinshop.com](http://myviolinshop.com)**  
**Daer1@shaw.ca**



*Editor's note:* In July, 2011 two young BC fiddlers, Chloe & Kyle Davidson of Kelowna attended the Grand North American Old Time Fiddle Championship in Radway, Alberta. Chloe won the Junior category & together Chloe & Kyle took top spot in Junior Twin Fiddle. At the time, Chloe was 13 & Kyle 11. Following is a "review" of the event by these two participants. PS – the mosquitoes are not normally as bad as in 2011!!.

# Grand North American Fiddle Championships



By  
Kyle Davidson

I thought it was a great fiddle contest, because there were so many fantastic contestants in each category and you get the chance to meet new, and old friends! The trophies are very big and nice looking. The only downfall is that there is a million mosquitoes!!!! If you plan on going to the Grand North American Fiddle Championships in Radway, Alberta (which you should), I suggest you come in an RV and on the way there stop at the West Edmonton Mall. At the contest there's a big field where you can park your RV. Hope to see you there!!!!!!



## CHLOE'S REVIEW IN POINT FORM:

- The dances are great fun - Even if you don't want to go in the contest , you can still play your fiddle in the jam or be a part of the band for the dances - There's lots of kids that do it too, which is a way that Kyle & I made friends ourselves, by meeting them there - Everyone is very friendly and welcoming - All the music just gets your toes tapping and gets you off of your seat and on to the dance floor - They have great prizes for the competitors!

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## CD'S FOR SALE



The Kamloops Old Time Fiddlers produced their very first CD last year & sales are going well. There are 20 tunes, including "Cheslatta Lake Rag" written by Max Sexsmith of Prince George & "McBride Polka" written by Svend Neilsen of Kamloops. Price is \$ 20.00 plus shipping costs if necessary. For more information or to order, contact Jackie at 250-319-3680, or e-mail [jackiedavis38@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiedavis38@hotmail.com). They will be available at the Kamloops contest, but please let Jackie know if you want to pick one up at that time so that she can have ample supply on hand.