



# B.C.

# FIDDLE NEWS

In 2012 Coombs Old Time Fiddlers celebrated 30 years of being Branch #11 of the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association. Three of our members were part of the group when the Club received their certificate from the Provincial Association in March of 1982. They are Roy Bochek, Ken Deacon and Bob Bloodsworth.

**Roy Bochek** was born July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1929 on a farm at Orkney, Saskatchewan. He was one of 14 children and life on the farm was very difficult in the 1930's. Roy left home at age 16 to work on farms and ranches. He bought an old guitar and a Wilf Carter chord book and learned to chord. Roy still has that old guitar. At age 24 he married Donna Shattuck. When he was 29 he trained with the Calgary Police Dept. and was then employed as a Constable in the town of Strathmore Alberta for 16 years. He then worked for the Alberta

S.P.C.A as a Provincial Constable for the Dept. of Agriculture for 4 years. Roy & Donna retired at age 49 and moved to an acreage, between Qualicum Beach & Parksville on Vancouver Island, where they began a different and fun way of life. They bought a boat and had a Fishing Charter Business for 21 years, maintained a large garden and always made time for music. Roy & Donna had a lot of friends and visitors and were great hosts. Roy plays the accordion, the guitar and sings. He has been President of Branch #11 numerous times over the years, stays very active with the club playing at many functions throughout the year. This includes Fall Fairs, a weekly dance, Bluegrass Festival, monthly visits to all the Seniors

Homes in the area and other functions they are asked to play for. Roy is also a member of The Port Alberni Fiddle Branch and leads a busy, interesting and enjoyable life.

**Ken Deacon** was born June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1931 and was raised on a 250 acre farm at Village Bay on Mayne Island, B.C. His first fiddle was a ¾ size, a gift from his parents at Christmas time. It had come from The T. Eaton Co. mail order catalogue. When Ken was 10 years old, a fellow by

the name of Fred Hansen offered to teach him to play by note and later also taught Ken to play the Saxophone. Ken's father bought him a saxophone when he was 16. In his teens he played for Saturday night square dances. Later he played Alto Sax with a small dance band from Salt Spring Island called "The Island Five". Ken quit playing for many years when other things in life took priority. He

started playing again, rusty at first, and then he started playing with a group that was having weekly jam sessions in Qualicum Beach. The jam sessions turned into a dance night, listeners wanting to dance to the music and it became a regular weekly dance held on Thursday nights. They called themselves "The Country Gents". They were a great group and had fun for several years playing for the weekly dances. They were gradually joined by other musicians over a short period of time who wanted to play music as well. So, many years later the dances are still being held. We don't know when or why "The Country Gents" group dropped their name, but most likely because most of the original group were no longer playing. Ken has held



**KEN DEACON, BOB BLOODSWORTH & ROY BOCHEK**

several positions of office with the fiddle club through the years and has participated in a few fiddle contests. He moved to an acreage near Errington in 1968 and maintains a big garden every year, that keeps him pretty busy. Ken plays at the weekly dances in Qualicum Beach, plays at Seniors' homes whenever called upon and all the other functions with the fiddlers. He has favorite tunes, some of them being Hobo's Jig, Plaza Polka, Silver Wedding Waltz and many more.

**Bob Bloodworth** was born September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1938 in a small New Brunswick farming area and grew up there knowing everyone. He has had an interest in music for as long as he can remember after learning to whistle. His first instrument was a Jew's Harp, but hard on the teeth. Then he tried the Harmonica which decreased his music popularity while learning to play it. None of his close family were musical, but his Uncle gave him a "Lone Ranger" Guitar when he was 12. Bob decided he wanted a cutaway model so modified it himself with a handsaw and wishes he still had that guitar to add to his instrument collection. Bob became interested in the fiddle mainly because the father of one of his friends was a good fiddler. Bob lived just across the highway from the local Bootlegger and a good friend of this man hung out there and played the fiddle well. Bob would go there to play his guitar much to his mother's dismay. Bob bought his first

fiddle from The T. Eaton Co., including case, bow, rosin and instruction book for \$16.95. The book contained a paper position marker for the notes, which he couldn't see where to put his fingers unless he held the fiddle on his chest, rather than under his chin. And so he learned to play in this awkward position until a few years ago a friend persuaded him to learn the proper easier way. Bob moved to Prince Rupert in 1963, a city he still likes very much. He moved to Nanaimo in 1974. He joined the Coombs Fiddlers when the group formed with Riel Aubichon who was the first president. Riel is still one of his favorite fiddlers. Bob has tried for years to play The Lone Star Rag like Riel, but still hasn't mastered it. Music from an LP of Winston Fitzgerald has become a huge influence on Bob playing his style of Celtic tunes. Of all the players, Bob thinks Patti Lamoureux rates near the top. Bob plays the mandolin, base guitar, as well as the fiddle and guitar. Along with playing at the fiddle functions, weekly dance in Qualicum Beach, Bob also plays with a friend at the Seniors homes in the area, sometimes in coffee houses or open stage.

All these fellows love to play music and they all have their favorite tunes. Music is a big part of their lives, keeps them young, active and very busy. They bring a tremendous amount of pleasure to others. Thanks guys.

*Submitted by Jean Shaw*

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**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER (JUNE 2013)  
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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 above.

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**

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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 2013 – Kamloops #12  
September 2013 – North Island #17  
December 2013 – Prince George #1  
March 2014 – Quesnel #3

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**JOHN TRIBE**

*Bob  
Montgomery:*

The first item of business in the President's Column is the announcement of some very sad news. Bob Montgomery passed away in Kelowna on February 5, 2013. There aren't many people involved in the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association who didn't know Bob. He was a charter member of the BCOTA and involved in starting the first branch, from there on he started branches wherever he lived. This isn't meant to be a eulogy as there is no way to include all the things that Bob brought to fiddling in Western Canada. I can only say on behalf of the executive and the membership at large that this great fiddler will be both missed and remember for many years.

### *The contest rules for 2013:*

Competing fiddlers need to be aware that there have been changes in the Contest Rules. Every contestant is responsible for reading and following the rules at any BCOTFA branch contest, so this notice should only be taken as a reminder. The first change has to do with going over time – if a contestant goes over his allotted time the sound to the judges is cut off and in the case of open judging, the judges will ignore what happens after the allotted time. A signal will be given so that the competitor knows they are over time and that they are expected to stop playing.

A Little Junior category has been added which is 9 years and under. They will play two pieces, one slow tune and one faster tune. If the branch opts to have the Little

Juniors play a second round they may play the same tunes again.

The third change is the addition of Rule #20 "In the event that there is only one contestant in any category that contestant may be asked to move to another category."

The CGM candidates for this year are, Deni Stone, Adam Johnson, Sarah Tradewell, Alex Randall and Gabrielle Jacob. These five young fiddlers have been selected based on their standings in the competitions held by the BCOTFA branches. The Grand Masters is an invitational contest and the Grand Masters will decide who will receive invitations; in any event we're very proud of these young fiddlers and are keeping our fingers crossed for their selection.

### *The AGM:*

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in Kamloops on May 5<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with their Provincial Championship Fiddling Contest. There are several important items to be discussed at this meeting and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at that time. As my term comes to an end at that time I would like to thank all members and branches for their co-operation over the last year.

*Your president,  
John Tribe*

## FROM THE EDITOR

**FLORENCE TELLIER**



There is lots to read in this issue – thanks to all the contributors I don't think I need to write anything at all!

There will also be no lack of events to attend from Jamborees to Fiddle Camps to Contests. Check out all the details throughout the newsletter.

A special thanks to Mark Sullivan for writing the page "A BC Youth Fiddle Interview". We hope to make this a regular feature.

*Cheers,  
Florence Tellier*

## CLUB NEWS

### PRINCE GEORGE

We have experienced a winter with low temperatures with freezing, followed by periods of thawing. Travelling has been challenging at best. Roads have been alternately snow covered and then icy like skating rinks. But that has not stopped our members from getting out and about. And now as the days are getting longer we are looking forward to spring.

A good crowd turned out ready to kick up their heels at our first dance of the New Year at the Pineview Hall on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Fiddler Ardea Wylie opened the evening with back up provided by Laurel McKirdy, Al Cardinal, Keith Monroe, Gordon McKenna, & John Broderick. She was followed by Jim MacKenzie who was accompanied by Marguerite MacKenzie, Al Cardinal & Roland Rouleau. The father and son team of Doug & Jonah Borden played up to supper hour and in turn backed up each other on guitar and mandolin. Dinner music was provided by Keith Monroe and Roland Rouleau. After supper fiddler Greg Gervais rounded off the evening with a number of fine tunes accompanied by Jim MacKenzie

Terry Receveur, John Broderick & Roland Rouleau.

The highlight of the evening was a special 70<sup>th</sup> birthday presentation to Roland Rouleau. His son presented him with a trunk containing 1 penny for each day of his life for a total of 25,924 pennies!

Our next dance will be March 16<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Elder Citizen's Recreation Center. We were pleased to see the 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 2013 board:

President:- Brian St. Germain

Vice-President: - Doug Borden

Secretary: - Beth Bressette

Treasurer: - Terry Receveur

Directors: 2 years: Gordon McKenna & Roland Rouleau

Directors with one year left to serve: Edna Rouleau & Barry Nakahara. Ardea Wylie was appointed to serve the remainder of Norman Jacob's term.

22 of our young fiddlers and musicians were the recipients of a special award for active participation in club activities during 2012. 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.

In January, five of our young fiddlers were featured at the Prince George Symphony Orchestra in concert with the Celtic band Out of Alba and the symphony. Fiddlers

Jonah Borden, Brittany Iwanciwski, Gabrielle Jacob, Noah Jacob & Chloe Nakahara played several spirited tunes to an appreciative audience.

A week earlier Daniel Lapp performed at the "Cold Snap" concert and several of our young fiddlers opened the show.

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. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy the music. Jim MacKenzie on the fiddle was joined by John Broderick, Al Thorp and Keith Monroe. They entertained the crowd in true French Canadian style at their Cabine Sucre (Sugar Shack). 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.

We were saddened by the passing of two of our branch's life members. Charlotte Lapp died suddenly on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Our "lady of the piano" was a strong supporter of our young fiddlers and coached them at our weekly jam sessions. She also prepared them for their opening numbers at our concerts before the annual contests. Charlotte was always ready to play anywhere, any time for playouts in the community. Our condolences go to her husband Clarence, her sons Daniel, Harry & Richard and daughters, Brenda Bell, Beverly Eagan & Helen Lapp. A celebration of Charlotte's life was held November 27<sup>th</sup> and a group of our young fiddlers played several tunes at the service. Charlotte will be sadly missed.

Bob Montgomery passed away on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Kelowna. Bob

was one of the charter members of the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers in Prince George. After many jam sessions in Prince George during the year 1968, discussions began concerning the forming of an association to bring all fiddlers and back up musicians together to further promote the art of old time fiddling. A meeting was called at Bob Montgomery's home. In attendance at that meeting were Max Sexsmith, Jules Morin, Bill Robertson, Norm Dalgleish, Jim Dow, Stan Pruden & Bob Montgomery. Max was elected president and Bob vice president. The remaining five were named directors. At this meeting they decided to call the organization British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association instead of just Prince George Association. They formed a constitution and by-laws which finally won Victoria approval. The charter was dated October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1970. Bob was very active in our club's early years. He competed in many contests throughout the province and continued after his move to Oyama. A memorial service is to take place March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 at the Springfield Funeral home in Kelowna.

Mark your calendars for our 2013 Contest! Prince George Branch will be hosting its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle Concert & Contest April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at the Blackburn Community Center. We will be welcoming special guest fiddlers Daniel Lapp and Keith Hill who will perform at a concert on Friday evening April 26<sup>th</sup>. The contest follows on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>. There also will be a pancake breakfast on Sunday April 28<sup>th</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

We started our new year with a full executive

of the same dedicated body to keep the club going. A lot of new faces along with our regulars are attending our dances. This is really inspiring for the musicians and workers who make these events possible.

The adult fiddle group, under the direction of Anita Mamela, continues to improve their skills and learn new tunes. Their efforts are really paying off. On Feb 16 they represented the fiddlers at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Quesnel Community Arts Council celebration. They played a 45 minute set to a very appreciative audience. Incidentally, the Quesnel Old Time Fiddlers have been continuous members of the Arts Council since its incorporation - the only group that can make that claim. It was the late Frank Hennessey that insisted we join and be represented as part of the arts scene.

The loss of two of the BC Fiddlers' most loved members, Charlotte Lapp and Bob Montgomery, is probably felt throughout the

province. For Quesnel, it is a profound loss. Charlotte was a regular at our contests, so able and willing to back up the contestants. She was also a founding member of the BC Fiddle 'Treat, and except for a year or two when health issues interfered, she supported us to the end. Bob was also a regular at our contests, either competing (and winning!), or judging. He was also one of the original instructors at the BC Fiddle 'Treat. Our plans to honor both of them in person at our 20<sup>th</sup> Fiddle 'Treat camp will not be realized now.

Dale McGregor has posted our events schedule on the BC Fiddlers' website - [www.bcfiddlers.org](http://www.bcfiddlers.org). Thanks Dale. Look for the Fiddle 'Treat ad elsewhere in this issue.

*Cheers, Jean*

## CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



### BRANCH #4

Happy belated Valentine's Day everyone. I hope you enjoyed it in a special way - the CFVF were honoured to spend it playing great love songs to the residents of Tabor Home in Abbotsford.

Groundhog's Day and Valentine's Day have come and gone which means one thing - Spring is in the air (finally)!! Actually, it means TWO things....it means Spring Break is on the way, which in turn means that the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers will once again be hosting our Fiddle@DayCamp and Fiddlerama concert. March 16<sup>th</sup> is the big day, and we have lined up Patti Lamoureux, Mike Sanyshyn and Karrnel Sawitsky as camp instructors and Fiddlerama

performers. Cape Breton fiddler Mairi Rankin will also take part as a camp instructor. Our Camp/Concert committee has been working extra hard to ensure that our 12<sup>th</sup> annual day camp and evening concert are not to be missed! Camp tuition is only \$100 for the day. Fiddlerama tickets are \$10 each, \$5 seniors and children. For more information, contact Erik Eeg by email [erikrosalie@shaw.ca](mailto:erikrosalie@shaw.ca), or phone (604) 852-9131.

Erik Eeg has agreed to take over the task of Webmaster. He has given our site fresh energy and revitalisation with the many improvements and changes he has made. If anyone has any questions or comments, please contact him through the website, [www.centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com](http://www.centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com)

There has been a change to our executive - Ting Ting Gronberg has stepped down as secretary, and Elaine McLean has taken over the position. Thanks, Elaine! Now, with any luck, I will be able to convince Elaine to write this newsletter submission from now on:)

*Submitted by,  
Joanne Davenport, VP*

## SURREY



### BRANCH #5

We have been very fortunate this winter, as we have been having moderate weather, with very little snow and reasonably warm temperatures, but a fair amount of fog and rain.

Our fiddlers still enjoy getting together, practicing and playing at our monthly dances. We have

recently stopped having our practice sessions at the Clayton Hall in Surrey and we are presently looking at the possibility of holding our monthly practices at a local Care Home Facility, but we will continue to hold our monthly dances at Clayton Hall. Once we find a permanent place for our practice sessions we will post the information on our blog.

It is great to hear that Fraser Valley Fiddlers' are hosting their annual Fiddle College and Fiddlerama Concert. A lot of our members will be looking forward to attending and hearing the great lineup of talent for this venue.

Congratulations to our member Mike Sanyshyn, who has recently won two awards at the BC Country Music Awards for 2012:

-Award presentation for Special Instrument Category, Fiddler of the year 2012.

-Award presentation for Traditional Country Music.

Once again our hearts go out to the families who have recently lost their loved ones.

**Sam Hamm** – Passed away in November, 2012 due to complications during surgery. Sam regularly came out and supported our dances for the past few years and enjoyed dancing to our fiddlers' music.

**Don Watson** – passed away Jan. 30 at age 89. Don was a past member of Br. 5 and devoted fan and supporter of our fiddlers. Our condolences go out to Don's wife Gisela, son Terry and daughter Sharon.

**Bob Montgomery** – We have heard that Bob passed away on Feb. 5 in Kelowna. Over the years we have known Bob to be a very nice person, a great fiddler and composer

of fiddle tunes. Our condolences go out to his family.

Until the next edition.

*Submitted by,  
Evan Sanyshyn*

## KELOWNA



### BRANCH #7

It appears "old man winter" may be slipping away, but could surprise us yet.

Our local group enjoyed our annual Christmas party on December 7<sup>th</sup> catered by the Knights of Columbus, who put on a fine spread as usual. For entertainment, we had the local clogging group who put on a fine and energetic display and I think they even picked up a few new cloggers. On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Fiddlers were out in full force at the Capri Mall to support the Salvation Army Kettle drive. The regular Friday night dances have been well attended as have our Tuesday practice and Thursday jam sessions. In January we had our annual appreciation dinner for our capable music director, Vic Ukrainetz at Perkins restaurant. It was well attended with a jam session afterwards. At the January dance one of our younger members, Tiana Smith, entertained us with a fine athletic display of Ukrainian dancing. She has also taken up the fiddle with one of Alfie Taylors donated violins. Our Valentine dance was on the 15<sup>th</sup> with some prizes for best costumes.

We would like to thank all of our dedicated members who regularly attend all the weekly and extra play dates. Also, the others behind the scene, like Bill Bryson, who gets our bookings, sets up the sound system, chairs & tables for the dances, along

with Gordon Cheyne and Gordon Jenson.

Recently we welcomed back Peter Kerr, a fine fiddler. Other new additions are Debra Schivon and Archie Somerville. Pauline Curtis and Cecil Roach come down from Armstrong whenever they can. Some of our members have been or are going to Mexico for a little extra sun and relaxation. Just returned are Bill and Helen Bryson and away are Jim and Alice Sisler. Our president, Wayne Angman and his wife Pauline, were planning a nice trip to Arizona but had to cancel due to Pauline's health. We wish her all the best in that department.

Before the next newsletter comes out, we will be into the contest season. So practice up and be the best you can be. It's always a pleasure when we all get together.

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the loss of one of the B.C.O.T.F. founders, Bob Montgomery. Bob, along with Max Sexsmith and five Directors originated the plan to promote and preserve the old time dance music they grew up with; this all happened in Prince George in the 1967-68 era. What a legacy they have left behind that has brought so much pleasure to thousands of musicians and listeners of all ages. Bob was also involved in starting some of the early B.C.O.T.F. branches, such as Vernon with Fay & Audrey Price and Winfield/Kelowna with Alfie Taylor, Audry Leonard, Len Lynes and others.

Bob was a huge influence on a lot of the younger fiddlers over the years. One who really benefited from his friendship and guidance was Calvin Vollrath. I can hear Bob's influence in Calvin's playing and what a success Calvin has become. Bob was also a pilot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, but didn't talk about it much.

As a member of the Oyama Legion, I expect they will be involved in his funeral on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Springfield Funeral Hall at 2020 Springfield Rd. at 4:00 P.M.

Every time Bob and I crossed trails, he would say "drop in when you're going by and we'll have a couple of tunes". I value the times that I did, but wish it had been more often. Our sincere condolences go to the family and his many friends. He will be long remembered as one of the finest men we ever met and for his contribution to all of us.

*Russ Gerrie*

P.S. Quote from Norm Schultz, CHAB Radio, Moose Jaw, Sk.

*To each is given a book of rules, a shapeless mass and a bag of tools & each must make ere life has flowen , a stumbling block or a stepping stone. Our friend Bob Montgomery built a wonderful stepping stone.*

## MERRITT



### BRANCH #8

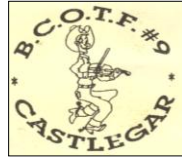
This article sadly must start with the announcement of the passing of Past President and

Lifetime Member Ken Boon on February 9/2013. A service or memorial is to be announced at a later date.

The Merritt group has been relatively inactive over the last few months. We have planned our camp out for the long weekend in May. Come on out and join us. For information email or phone Diane 250-378-4186 or [ggfly@telus.net](mailto:ggfly@telus.net).

*Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Shalanski-Garcia*

## KOOTENAY



### BRANCH #9

Wow, is our snow going fast! Spring is just around the corner and it really makes this writer happy. It seems the older I get, the less patience I have with winter and its snow, cold, and expensive heating bills.

Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and, as in other years, was a complete success. We always look forward to the traditional turkey supper and trimmings, good music, and best of all, the camaraderie. Music was provided by our own fiddlers, accompanists, and visiting guest musicians. It was a special event to begin our Christmas season.

Our first meeting of the new year was held January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Genelle Hall and discussions ensued regarding our future events. The meeting was followed by a jam session, and a wonderful pot-luck supper.

The first event on our calendar is the annual Spring Fling at the Genelle Hall on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is open to members and guests and is becoming a very popular occasion.

The second event will be the very successful annual Fiddle Camp on July 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Selkirk College in Castlegar. The instructors' contracts have been completed and student enrollment forms will be sent out soon. We are again expecting a full complement of students of all ages, eager to learn the finer points of fiddle, piano and guitar playing. Accommodation is available for student applicants and we suggest that they enroll early. An added feature this year, will be an intermediate guitar course offered

by Ray Bell on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Any questions on the Fiddle Camp can be fielded by the following:

Crista Mannle, Selkirk College: - 250-365-1208

Sandra Milosevich: - 250-365-5514  
Walter & Yvonne Crockett: - 250-367-9473

Joan Marks: - 250-365-2695

Mary Ann Stewart: E-mail - [tedmare@telus.net](mailto:tedmare@telus.net).

So far this year, our performance group has three play-dates, Poplar Ridge, Columbia View and the Senior's Dance, all in Trail, BC

That seems to be all the news to report this time. Hope everyone is keeping well and happy.

*Sincerely,*

*Mary Ann Stewart*

## WILLIAMS LAKE



### BRANCH #10

I think we are on the down side of winter....or at least I hope so. It must be because I am getting older that I just can't seem to tolerate the cold....so I decided to do something about it! By the time you get this newsletter I will be on a beach in Mexico, enjoying the sun and perhaps a Margarita or three! Adios Amigos! Anyway, on to more serious things....

On December 20<sup>th</sup> the volunteer kitchen staff of the Seniors' Activities Center prepared a wonderful traditional Christmas dinner for us with all the trimmings. Our member, Barb Gilchrist did a wonderful job of decorating the tables and making everything very festive. Thanks, Barb.

We held our annual Election of officers on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and the following people were elected by acclamation:

President: Ken Emery - 296-3229

Vice Pres: Joe Lecomte

Secretary: Hal Giles - 392-7482

Treasurer: Ed Caissie

Music Director: Lorraine Baker

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

Our playing schedule has changed slightly to accommodate two new additions to the club's monthly line up. Following the play dates, the club returns to the Seniors Activities Center about 8:00 p.m. and then "jams" until about 9:30 p.m.

1st Thursday, 7:30-9:30....Meeting / Practice (Seniors Activities Center)

2nd Thursday, 11:30-1:00 Royal Canadian Legion

6:30-7:30, Retirement Concepts / Practice

3rd Thursday, 6:30-7:30.Deni House / Practice

4th Thursday, 6:30-7:30 Jubilee House / Practice

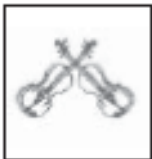
If you are in the area please feel free to drop in and join us at the Seniors Activities Center, 176 North 4th Ave., Williams Lake, B.C.

Birthday wishes for March: Pat Gunderson, Joe Lecomte; for April, Bill Downie, Brian Garland and Hal Giles, & for May, Ryder Cheyne

*Cheers,*

*Pat Gunderson*

## COOMBS



### BRANCH #11

I'll begin this column with an apology and correction. In the previous issue, reporting the recognition of thirty-year members of our Branch, Jim Brown was

erroneously named Bob. Mea Culpa. The error was flagged to me at warp speed, proving that the Fiddle News is, indeed, eagerly awaited and scrupulously read. Sorry, Jim.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the home of Ethel Whibley in December, where the Executive Committee was elected for the 2013 term. Sheral Coutts was thanked for her service as President over the past two years. Incoming as President is Bruce Foden, Vice-President is Roy Bochek, and Nell Bowles continues as Secretary-Treasurer. Directors for 1 year are Jean Shaw, Dora Moen and Debra Contreras and for 2 years are Ken Ross, Don Howlett and Bonnie McDougall. Thanks go to Karla Irvine for her assistance with the membership file in Jean Shaw's absence. Ethel's generosity in providing her home for this and some previous meetings was acknowledged by the group.

We were saddened in November by the passing of Graham Caines, a popular local Bluegrass player and a friend of the Coombs Fiddlers who sometimes joined us in informal jams. On the sunny side, Jean Shaw is recovering well from knee surgery in December and Elsie McKay has been able to get to recent meetings and we hope she can return to playing in the band soon.

At the January meeting a date was established for our annual Fiddle Jamboree. It will take place at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds Hall on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Mark that date! The format that was tried with success in 2012 will repeat, that is, an afternoon open mike concert with a featured performer followed by an evening open jam circle for all who wish to participate. Food will be available for lunch and supper periods. The Coombs Country Opera will begin its new season on the Friday

evening, September 20, making this a grand weekend event.

In 2012, the club played for 40 Thursday evening dances at Rotary House in Qualicum Beach and 94 gigs at local care homes and various community events. It is a very full and demanding schedule. We are acutely aware of the need to recruit new members to ensure continuation of this commitment. In a new venture for us a contingent of ten members, including Ed Medford from Comox, played on February 15 at the "Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Erable", an annual celebration of the Francophone community in Nanaimo.

We all have birthdays and mostly they pass with little fanfare. Not so for two of our members who marked significant occasions last weekend. George Gudbranson turned 95



and on February 9 was feted at Rotary House by his family, friends and fiddlers from Oceanside, Port Alberni and Comox Valley. The following day several Branch 11 members joined with musicians from around Oceanside to help Miriam (Mimi) Shell celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup>. What a weekend for great music and camaraderie!

I'm late with this writing because I want to report that just hours ago, our member from Victoria, Sarah Tradewell, gave a fantastic, full-house concert in Qualicum Beach. The musical talent and stage presence of this young lady enthralled the audience with a



selection of tunes from across the old-timey spectrum. In her hands, old-time fiddle music has a bright future.

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

## KAMLOOPS



### BRANCH #12

“Happy New Year” to all! I don’t know about the rest of

you, but 2013 sure rolled in fast. So here we are all set to start another year. All our musicians and dancers are ready for the 2013 dance sessions, upcoming concerts, and of course the show by Daniel Lapp and the big contest on the first weekend in May (see the Poster in this newsletter for more details).

The Christmas Dinner and Dance that was held at Desert Gardens Dec. 15, 2012 was a great time. It was attended by 67 people and it appeared everyone had a very good time. How could that be helped as we had great music, and the meal was delicious. Thank you to all that helped to make it a success!!

The New Year and Christmas celebrations for this year have yet to be decided as Jackie is going to check out a couple of new spots and we will hear about those at the next meeting.

Our dance on Feb. 2, 2013 started off rather slow, but ended well attended. The musicians love to see the floor full of dancers! They are also looking to increase the number of musicians, so if you know of any fiddle, guitar or piano players please steer them in Clark’s direction! Also, an accordion player would be nice.

Since the last newsletter the musicians have again played for

Kamloops Senior Village, Bedford Manor, The Hamlets, Ridgeview, The Shores, Ridgepoint, Overlander, Riverbend and Pinegrove as well as at the Colliseum following the Seniors’ Christmas Light Tour. It never ceases to amaze me just how much they play each month.

New event coming up Sunday March 3, 2013 is a concert at Cottonwood Community Center at 2:30 p.m. Entertainment by Gordon Stobbe and J.J. Guy. I’ve been told by a reliable source that these two fellows put on an excellent show. Tickets are only \$15.00 and in case you haven’t seen the poster you can call Florence @ 250-376-2330 or Clark @ 250-376-6209 for tickets. It would be wonderful if we could pack the place, and I’m sure no one would leave disappointed!

January 27 2013, Elections for the board were held, the results are as follows;

President: - Jackie Davis  
Vice President: - Clark Hiles  
Secretary/Treasurer: - Florence Tellier  
Directors for a two year term: - Pat, Benson, Brian Bursey & Colin Mahoney. Directors for a one year term are Bob Lalonde, Ed McLean & Betty Tasko

It would be nice if we had some extra volunteers lined up to make sandwiches for the dances. If you would like to volunteer you could pick the date yourself, call me @ 250-376-5194 and I will mark it on my calendar. Thank-you soooooooooo much!!!!

Pat and Anne Benson are down south in the sunshine and will be away till the end of March. We hope they are having a wonderful time! Same goes for Colleen & Keith Adams!

Alice Berner is home from the hospital, we wish you well Alice.

It is with sadness that we lost a “Life Time Member of the O.T.F.,” Mr. Gordon Perry. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. Also Margaret Thiele passed away; condolences go out to her husband Walter and family. We also wish Clark’s dad will soon be home from the hospital.

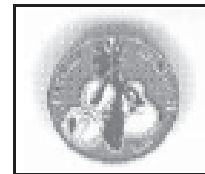
Colin did a great job playing the fiddle at the Christmas Party, he will soon be one of the leaders! Omi, you hang in there, we need you musicians!!!

*Not he who has much is rich,  
But he who gives much!!!*

Have a great Spring!!

*Marie Bursey*

## NORTH ISLAND



### BRANCH #17

By the time this article is published, we at Branch #17

should have a new slate of officers, all fresh and pink and ready to take on the world.

Actually, that should have happened by now, because our Branch AGM is in January. But because we were trying to adhere to the Bylaws, (we always thought we needed a quorum of fifteen), we postponed the AGM for a month, due to the fact that we only had fourteen at the meeting.

On closer reading of the Bylaws, it appears that the quorum of fifteen was meant for meetings of the “Society”, and not necessarily of a Branch. At least that is my current take on it, and I believe we will adopt our own reasonable number for a quorum until we are pulled up by the bootstraps and someone reads us “The Riot Act”.

If anyone has the inside dope on this one, I'd like to hear from you. E-mail [edmed@shaw.ca](mailto:edmed@shaw.ca)

Why do we need all of these rules anyway, why can't we just exist on wine, women, and song ?

Now that I have the rant out of the way, the weather at Comox in mid February is shaping up quite nicely. Snowdrops and crocuses are in bloom, and lots of other new stuff poking up through the dirt. We are well on the way towards Spring.

I have to be careful with gloating about the weather, with four and a half Branches here on "The Island" they could easily catch me in a lie. Yes folks, fully one-third of all branches of the BCOTFA, are here on Vancouver Island. If Victoria ever gets on board, we have a plan to take over the world.

By now you should get the idea that I speak sometimes with tongue-in-cheek. But sometimes I can be serious.

When I say that Bob Waugh is a great person, a good personal friend, and a smooth fiddler, I'm not joking around, I hope they didn't break the mould. Bob celebrated his ninetieth birthday in December.

Now that's not to take away from another great fiddler, George Gudbranson of Branch #11 at Coombs, who just celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday.

Branch #17 is getting ready to hold our fifth annual Jamboree on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. It will be at the Fallen Alders Hall, on the Royston-to-Cumberland Road, just south of Courtenay. Free dry camping is available, so why not dust off the old RV, camper, or tent, and join us for a weekend of fun and fabulous music. It's more fun than a fiddle contest, and cheaper too. Details

will be on the Branch #17 website and on the BCOTFA website as well.

Until then, happy trails to you.

*Ed Medford*

## COMOX VALLEY



### BRANCH #18

Well, Cupid has just made his exit after showering one and all with chocolate and kisses and now the fiddlers are looking forward to St Patrick's day with green milk and green beer. A fiddler's life is so exciting.

The Branch 18 Funtime Fiddlers are prepping for their second Contra Dance of the new year, their January dance having been very well attended by local dancers as well as a number of ringers from Nanaimo and Victoria. Our dance caller, June, is also guiding the throngs through various waltz steps as it appears that the slower dances are quite complimentary to the fast paced contras and Virginia Reels.

The Fiddlejam practice sessions are now happening every second Tuesday and we are playing more swing tunes which are great for the playouts. We just did a Valentine's Day evening dance at the Comox Valley Seniors' Center and were delighted to watch the residents smile and laugh as they moved to the music. Other playouts for us have been on stage at the annual Telethon fundraiser; playing in the Courtenay streets for the Christmas Elevate the Arts festival; and being the opening act for John Reischman and the Jaybirds at the Merville Hall. The young players like Max, Daisy and Charlie have been out busking for charities like the Foodbank and the SPCA and Helen

has been entertaining with D&C down at the Farmers' Market.

We are looking forward to celebrating old time fiddler Wat Stanton's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday; listening to the young fiddlers at the North Island Festival of the Arts; and speaking with a phony Irish lilt at the March St. Paddy's Day contra dance. On top of all that, we are greatly anticipating our annual Fiddle Fest on April 19 – 20 when we'll be entertained, and taught, by fiddler Mark Sullivan and guitarist Craig McGregor. It should be a fun weekend with a concert on Friday evening and Saturday workshops and an evening Contra Dance. I think I have to buy some more rosin.

Happy Spring to everyone.

*Craig Freeman*

## ALBERNI VALLEY



### BRANCH #19

We started this winter season with a grand celebration marking the five years the club has been together. We arranged to have a catered dinner for all present and past members and their partners, and a wonderful dinner it was. This was followed by a circle jam with 30 musicians, and we managed to go around the circle twice during the evening. It was interesting to hear the variety of instrumentals and vocals being presented. As we most often only hear the back-up musicians playing their guitars or banjos it was a treat to hear some songs as well. The few non-musicians seemed to really enjoy the entertainment.

This season has turned out to be quite low-key, with our group mainly playing at our regular performance venues. We do feel appreciated at these several Care Homes by both residents and staff,

and so enjoy performing for them. The banter that happens between residents and musicians is a lot of fun and heart-warming for all concerned. We once again played our usual New Year's afternoon double-gig, first at Fir Park and then on to Echo Village. We just have to be ready to quickly pack up from the first one to drive over to the second and quickly set up again. It helps that they are close together. We also played for a Sunshine Club Dance in mid-January and this has also become a regular play-out.

With the cold and flu season on the go, we recently had a cancellation for an expected play-out. Rhonda, one of our fiddlers, decided to send out an invitation to everyone to come to a jam session at her house that afternoon instead and a good number of our members were able to be there. No use losing out on an afternoon of fiddling fun if we didn't have to. A jam session seems to allow greater flexibility of tunes chosen to play and often provides the chance to hear new music, that a regular practice doesn't always allow time for.

We've been working on several new waltzes lately and each piece does take up a fair amount of time to get it to the point where everyone is playing the same version and playing up to speed. We are finding that with so many different recordings available on YouTube or from other resources, a problem can arise when different people listen to different renditions. Of course, we all tend to feel that the first version we personally heard and started to learn from, is the "right one". At some point the whole club has to agree on one version and stick with it. Some minor variations can work together just fine, but some combinations can make a piece sound muddy, or just plain old clashing. Oh! the challenges of learning to work as a team.

We've been asked to open for the Coombs Country Opry on February 15th, so we have been practicing a couple of short sets for that. We are happy to fill in for the Coombs fiddlers that night as they are busy elsewhere, although "The Opry" has been their special venue for years.

Now that the Snowdrops are making an appearance, it is time to look ahead and make plans for the Spring/Summer sessions, fiddle contests, music camps, and special play-outs that sometimes unexpectedly occur. We have a few interesting ones on the horizon, providing times to look forward to. Here's hoping you all have some fun times waiting in the wings for you.

*Gail Ross*

## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fiddle@DayCamp  
Central Fraser Valley March 16  
604-852-9131

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Fiddle Fest  
Comox Valley April 19-20

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Daniel Lapp Show  
Prince George April 26  
Old Time Fiddle Contest in  
Prince George, April 27  
250-963-7576

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Jamboree  
Courtenay Apr 26-27  
edmed@shaw.ca

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Daniel Lapp Show, Kamloops  
May 3  
Provincial Old Time Fiddle  
Contest Kamloops, May 4  
**BCOTFA AGM May 5**  
250-376-2330

Mark Sullivan Show  
Kelowna May 31<sup>st</sup>  
Old Time Fiddle Contest in  
Kelowna June 1  
250-764-7064

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Fiddle Camp  
Castlegar July 15-19  
250-365-5514

-----  
Grand North American Old Time  
Fiddle Competition  
Radway, Alberta  
July 19-21  
780-942-3690

-----  
BC Fiddle Treat  
Gavin Lake July 27-Aug 2  
250-992-5081

-----  
Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle  
Competition  
Saskatoon, SK Aug 24

### Fiddle Needed!

Kai & Lia Gronberg are looking for anyone who might be able to loan a small violin to one of their students. They have an 8 year old who is trying to learn on a full size violin, but really needs a 1/2 size. If you can help, you can find their contact information at [www.fiddlinfrenzy.com](http://www.fiddlinfrenzy.com)

### 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.

## Remembering - -

The Old Time Fiddle world in BC has lost many valued members in recent months. Each & every one of these individuals will be missed by their family, friends & the Branch which they belonged to.

I am taking this space to honour three of these individuals.

*Florence T.*

### CHARLOTTE LAPP

(nee Wutzke)

April 9, 1930-November 20, 2012



Charlotte passed away suddenly on Nov. 20, 2012. Charlotte came to the Prince George area as a young school teacher in 1950.

She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Clarence; children Brenda (Pat), Harry (Colleen), Beverley (Ron), Richard (Robyn), Helen and Daniel (Everest), numerous grandchildren, 1 great grandchild & her sister Joyce of Salmon Arm.

True to her personality Charlotte was always volunteering and playing music in the community. She was an active participant in life right up to the end.

Soon after she passed away, her son Daniel wrote these words "My mom – my accompanist – my mentor. Of all the great piano players my mom had no equal. Her style was self-created and designed by imagination and contextual necessity – from the time she was 10 years old she was an "old-time dance piano player" with a strong and creative left hand and a swingin' right hand that could fill the dance floor – get the legion

singing – or make the old folks teary and sentimental. I could spend the rest of my life trying to imitate her style and never quite get it right...she was an original. And she was well respected for it and well loved for just being a wonderful person – her greatest legacy of all. We miss you but we will carry on with your memory inspiring us each step of the way."

Placing us under your wing, we all  
learned right from wrong,  
The seeds planted in the garden, we  
promise to pass along.

When our time has come, your dancing  
shoes will be on,  
To hold our hands, and dance another  
song.

### GORDEN PERRY

November 14, 1930-January 16, 2013



Gorden passed away peacefully on January 16, 2013. He was born in Kamloops & spent the majority of his life there. Gorden was a member of the Kamloops Old Time Fiddlers since 1983 & he will be missed for his enthusiasm for dancing and his willingness to always be there wherever help was needed.

We offer our condolences to his four siblings, his children Gorden, Carol, Christopher, Cathy, Jackie & Schaan, as well as numerous other relatives.

Following is a poem written by his granddaughter, Leanne Humphrey:

#### A Dance in Heaven

Tonight you fell asleep and heard a  
fiddle song,  
The time had come for you to dance  
your way along.

You leave behind your legacy, for we  
are Family strong  
As we look among us, we see you're not  
really gone.

### BOB MONTGOMERY

May 1, 1920-February 5, 2013



Bob passed away Feb 5<sup>th</sup> in Kelowna at the age of 92. He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce and is survived by

sons, Richard, Gordon, Curtis, Ross & daughter Lynne.

Bob was very well-known & well-liked as is evidenced by many of the Branches who have written about him in their individual columns as well as in our "Presidents Letter".

Bob was described in the History of the BC Fiddle "Treat as an "umpteenth-time" B.C. Provincial Fiddle Champion, gifted writer (& whistler!) of fiddle tunes, an exceedingly popular player & Judge....and a pretty cool dude, too.



## **A BC Youth Fiddle Interview with Mark Sullivan**

*Mark Sullivan is a 3x Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion, member of Branch #4 (Central Valley Fiddlers), and current BCOTFA Director. [www.marksullivan.ca](http://www.marksullivan.ca)*

**Jonah Borden** is a fiddler from Prince George BC. He is a member of the Prince George Branch #1 and is currently 16 years old. He has been playing the fiddle for 10.5 years. Jonah comes from a musical family and they all remain active in keeping the tradition going in Prince George!

**Mark:** **When did you start playing the fiddle?**

**Jonah:** I started playing the fiddle in Kindergarten

**Mark:** **What other instruments do you play?**

**Jonah:** I also play mandolin, mandola, guitar and I am currently taking piano lessons. I can also play a little bit of the drums!

**Mark:** **Do you have opportunities to play for people in Prince George?**

**Jonah:** There are many opportunities for playing in Prince George and surrounding areas: senior homes, fundraisers, private functions, opening for concerts, and Club Dances. I also fiddle for private dances at Summit Lake (3x/year) and play in the Malanka Orchestra. This is a band of 12 players that plays for Ukrainian New Years!

**Mark:** **Who are some of your favourite fiddle players?**

**Jonah:** I started playing the fiddle with Gord Stobbe's CD when I was 6. I have always loved Donnell Leahy and Natalie McMaster's playing. It is fast and full of energy and variations. Also, Calvin Vollrath.

**Mark:** **Many people probably don't know that your grandfather is a craftsman! Tell us about the instruments that he has made.**

**Jonah:** My grandpa built my first fiddle: a 1/8 teardrop with a homemade bow. He has built me cases and all my fiddles from 1/8 to 4/4. I am working on having him build me a mandolin. He can build a bass fiddle, dobro, tenor guitar, baritone uke, many styles of mandolins as well as manjos and banjamins! He has 5 styles of guitars. He makes and repairs anything with strings! I like to go logging with him and using the sawmill to mill the lumber for the instruments he makes.

**Mark:** **Tell us something unique about you that many people wouldn't know.**

**Jonah:** I am also a craftsman and am good at wood working and carpentry. I love to dirt bike and snowmobile and am currently building a shed to store my machines in. I have been building this through the winter without any help from my Dad or Grandpa!

## SOME HISTORY - ANTONIO STRADIVARI (1644-1737)



Stradivari, an Italian violin maker, was associated throughout his life with Cremona, where he brought the craft of violin making to its highest pitch of perfection. The obscure details of his life were thoroughly worked out in the monograph of him by W. H. Hill, A. F. Hill and Alfred Hill (1902).

He was still a pupil of Nicolas Amati in 1666, when he had begun to insert his own label on violins of his making, which at first followed the smaller Amati model, solidly constructed with a thick yellow varnish. It was not until 1684 that he began to produce larger models, using a deeper coloured varnish, and beautifying them in various details, his “long” patterns (from 1690) representing a complete innovation in the proportions of the instrument; while from 1700, after returning for a few years to an earlier style, he again broadened and otherwise improved his model. He also made some beautiful violoncellos and violas.

The most famous instruments by him are:

Violins: the “Hellier” (1679), the “Selliere” (before 1680), the “Tuscan” (1690), the Betts” (1704), the “Ernst” (1709), “La Pucelle”, (1709), the “Viotti” (1709), the “Vieuxtemps” (1710), the “Parke” (1711), the “Bossier” (1713), the “Dolphin” (1714), the “Gillot” (1715), the “Allard”, - the finest of all (1715), the “Cessot” (1716) the “Messiah” (1716), the “Sasserno” (1717), the “Maurin” (1718), the “Lauterbach” (1719), the “Blunt” (1721), the “Sarasate” (1724), the “Rode” (1722), the “Deurbroucq” (1727), the “Kiesewetter” (1731), the “Habeneck” (1736) and the “Muntz” (1736).

Violas: the “Tuscan” (1690), two of the 1696 formerly belonging to the King of Spain, the “Archinto” (1696), the “MacDonald” (1701) and the “Pagannini” (1731).

Violoncellos: the “Archinto” (1689), the “Tuscan” (1690), the “Cristiani (1700), the “Servais” (1701), the “Gore-Booth” (1710), the “Duport” (1711), the “Adam” (1713), the “Bata” (1714), the “Patti” – the finest of all (1720), the “Bandiot” (1725), the “Callay” (1725) and the “Aylesford” (1696).

Antonio Stradivari’s sons, Francesco (1671 – 1743) and Omobono (1679 – 1742) were also violin makers, who assisted their father, together with Carlo Bergonzi, who appears to have succeeded to the possession of Antonio’s Stock-in-trade. The Stradivari method of violin making created a standard for subsequent times; but the secret of his varnish, soft in texture, and shading from orange to red, though much debated, has never been discovered.

*With thanks to Sterling Cuthbert of Alberta for providing this information – taken from Encyclopedia Britannia.*



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