



# B.C.

# FIDDLE NEWS

The love of fiddle music and the desire to learn to play the piano gave Sharon Saundry the incentive to take piano lessons as an adult. Sharon, diagnosed with a rare eye disease known as Stargardt's, a juvenile type of macular degeneration was registered with the C.N.I.B in 1975. Having grandparents from Nova Scotia and family members who played the fiddle, Sharon was introduced to Don Messer and fiddle music at an early age, but it wasn't until the early 1980's, while living in Ottawa, Ontario that Sharon discovered that her husband, Sandy, not only played the bagpipes but also played the fiddle. The first time they attended the Russell Old Time Fiddlers' dance, the fiddlers persuaded Sandy to take his old fiddle out of the trunk and join the club. He hadn't played for years, so he fixed up the old fiddle and registered for fiddle lessons at the Ottawa Folklore Centre. Sandy and his brother Bert Saundry were also from a family of fiddlers in Stonewall Manitoba. A member of the fiddle club said they had an old Martin-Orme piano built by Orme's Furniture in Ottawa in 1910 and if they could get it out of their basement, they could have it for \$500.00. It came out in pieces, was reconditioned and refinished and has been Sharon's pride and joy ever since. Sharon took basic theory and chording lessons on the piano from a very patient piano teacher. This piano teacher had never taught chording or a visually impaired person, so it was a challenge for both of them. Sharon learned to play by ear. Sharon and Sandy joined several other Ottawa Valley Old Time Fiddle clubs and were soon involved in contests, Jamborees, play outs and jam sessions. In 1985, Sharon and Sandy formed a 5-piece band called JESS D COUNTRY, which included

fiddle, piano, two guitar/country singers and a drummer. They played at fiddle clubs as well as community events. In the Ottawa Valley the old time fiddle clubs alternated with fiddle and country singing at the dances.

In 1990, Sharon and Sandy attended the first Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle (CGMF) Contest at the Centerpointe Theatre in Ottawa. Pierre Schryer won 1<sup>st</sup>

place. Following the contest, a fiddle jam was held at the Schryers' home in Ottawa. Fiddlers, and various back-up musicians from across Canada gathered for fun and fiddle music. Trent Bruner, who had been house accompanist for the contestants at the CGMF contest, was chording on the piano. It was a memorable fiddle/piano occasion. Sharon was so impressed with Trent Bruner that her ambition that evening was to have the opportunity to take lessons from Trent.



**SHARON SAUNDRY**

her musical activities. In 2003, she attended the Central Fraser Valley (CFV) Fiddle workshop at Hope, B.C. She had Trent Bruner for an instructor. Each year thereafter, she looked forward to the annual CFV fiddle workshops with Trent as her instructor.

(Continued next page)

In 2004, she spent a week at the Fiddle Workshop at Emma Lake, Saskatchewan. It was another memorable occasion.

Sharon now resides in Surrey, where she has been a member of the Surrey Br. # 5 for seven years and enjoys playing the piano at the monthly dances. In addition to being a member of the Surrey Br. #5, Sharon's chording skills are often requested and she accompanies the

fiddlers at various contests. Sharon feels very fortunate to have the support and friendship of John Fedoruk, a very devoted old time fiddler. John routinely drives Sharon to fiddling functions, sets up her keyboard and encourages Sharon to continue learning and practicing. Sharon looks forward to many more years of friendship, fun and fiddle music in the B.C. Old Time Fiddler' Association

*Submitted by Surrey Branch # 5*

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

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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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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.

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 2015 – Kelowna #7  
Sept. 2015 – Merritt #8  
Dec. 2015 – Kootenay #9  
Jan. 2016 – Williams Lake #10

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



#### JOHN TRIBE

One of the primary functions of the Provincial Executive is to support and promote contests. The basis of contests is to foster a number of distinct objectives.

1. At least from my point of view the most valuable and gratifying achievement is the camaraderie that is evident at every contest I've ever been to. New friends are made and older friendships are renewed and revived.
2. A second benefit is in the area of character development. Anyone who has competed in a competition

can testify that just the simple act of preparing to compete gives the competitor a very great sense of accomplishment. To learn a half a dozen tunes to the level that the competitor “owns” those tunes and can play them easily and confidently is a significant accomplishment in and of itself. Finally in this area there is moment when you stand in that “loneliest piece of real estate in the world” (Dale McGregor) and force yourself to perform solo in front of an audience, your peers and finally competent judges. For most of us that is supremely intimidating, but does get easier each time.

3. A third benefit may not be as big as the others but to travel to other “family” branches to see how they do things, to meet fiddle supporters like yourself and sometimes to compare concerns and issues, at least for me, is actually of significant value.

Unfortunately many branches are finding it increasingly difficult to continue on the contest trail. There is no argument that there is a lot of background work that goes into putting on a contest. Contests do not make money and no branch enters into hosting a contest under the impression that they will make money. The objective is to be able cover the loss incurred by a contest through money making presentations and fund raising during the rest of the year. Equally difficult is staffing all the jobs that are necessary during the actual contest day. I would estimate that between 20 and 40 volunteers are required to run the contest on the day of the event.

For many branches the straw that is breaking the proverbial camel’s back is the declining number of competitors especially in the younger categories. If the younger players don’t want to compete it’s

only a few years before there are no top level competitors either.

I understand that there was a time here in British Columbia when we had as many as 15 contests spread around the province and some folks would make their summer plans around attending many of these contests.

This year there will only be 2 contests in BC. The first will be the Kelowna contest held the first weekend in June, while the second will be the Provincial Contest held in Quesnel on the first weekend of October.

Does that mean that old time fiddling as a music form is dying? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!**

Many branches are moving from contests to jamborees and doing so with great success. The Kootenay branch has watched their camp grow from about 30 attendees to up around 100. On Vancouver Island there is a jamboree that is very successful and very well attended. Prince George is planning on a Jamboree for the first weekend in May and is well along the way to firming up their plans. Fiddle Treat’ camp that is hosted by Quesnel and Prince George combined is known and recommended across Canada.

I believe that we really must keep our eye on the ball and that is, that our number one objective is to promote violin and fiddle playing & keep it alive and well in BC. I really hope that as a minimum a Provincial Championship Contest will continue to be held someplace in the province not only because it’s part of our constitution but also because there are some special things that only happen in a contest environment.

Fiddling will survive and our most important responsibility has to be to

evolve with fiddling in a supportive way.

*Your president,  
John Tribe*

## FROM THE EDITOR



**FLORENCE TELLIER**

Again we have a new correspondent on board. Thanks to Ed Medford for his many years of submitting articles for the newsletter & thanks to Art McMartin for stepping up and taking over the job for North Island Branch #17.

Some of you submit photos to me & I do appreciate receiving them. Sometimes I do not have the room to publish them but please don’t let that discourage you; just keep them coming & when there is a space to pop them in, I will.

Someone said that there are four kinds of “bones” in every organization. There are WISHBONES, who spend their time wishing someone else would do all the work. There are jawbones, who do all the talking but very little else. Next there are the KNUCKLEBONES, who knock everything anyone ever tried to do. And finally, there are the BACKBONES, who get under the load and do the work.

*Cheers,  
Florence Tellier*

# CLUB NEWS

## PRINCE GEORGE



### BRANCH #1

Greetings from Fiddler's Branch #1. It's been a busy few months up here with excitement building for the Canada Winter Games.

We've had a great turnout for lessons and dances. New members include Janice Paaakaa and the Sapuns. Members are reminded that memberships need to be renewed annually as they are different than Lifetime Memberships.

Tunes we've worked on with Brittany include Old Man and Old Woman, Ook Pik, Gold Fiddle Waltz, Five Foot Two, and Cripple Creek. The back-up band continues to grow with the addition of three new accordions, a banjo, and not only that, we have 20 new dancers. What a great club!

New Executive includes Doug Borden as Supreme Commander, Barry Nakahara as Vice-President, Terry Receveur as Financial Director, Beth Bressette as Secretary, and directors Ken Blair, Edna Rouleau, Roland Rouleau, Beverly Lapp Eggan, and Kareen Graham. Thanks to Gord McKenna for serving as director and Brian St. Germain for his countless years as president. Thanks to all of you for your hard work!

We are very excited to have Kelli Trottier perform at ECRA on March 26 and even more excited to have our group open for her! Mike Sanyshyn will be joining her for all her March shows in BC. Doors open at 7:00 and start time is 7:30. Not to be missed! Kelli Trottier also

sings and dances to her original music.

Fiddle Jamboree is May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> which will include a concert, lessons and a dance. Contact Doug Borden at 250-962-6825 for more information.

*Doug Borden*

## QUESNEL



### BRANCH #3

We continue with our monthly dances with fewer and fewer people coming out. Those that do enjoy themselves so we are motivated to keep going. Our New Years dance was poorly attended due in part to bad roads, and a change of halls.

A couple of our members attended the funeral in Prince George for Mike St Germaine. It was a very appropriate send-off for one of BC's most avid supporters of old time fiddle music. Mike was instrumental in helping Quesnel form a club back in the late 70's.

We played for Quesnel's Winter Carnival on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Luckily the weather was milder than last year, and they had a heated shelter for us. We also played for the Cariboo x country ski club's annual open house- free ski day.

*Until next time,  
Jean Gelinas*

## CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



### BRANCH #4

Looks like spring has arrived in the Fraser Valley...daffodils and crocuses are blooming in full splendour, and the sun is shining! Granted, the part about the sun is a tad confusing in this part of the world, but we'll take it!

We have enjoyed a busy three months since our last update. The members got together for a night of music and Christmas cheer back in December. There is no better way to spend the evening than merging good friends, good food and good music! The Fiddle Chicks even made an appearance! Our afternoon tea dances continue to be a hit, and we managed to pull one off without our regular leader/music director, Ed Ryz. Thanks to Jo Blaak for stepping in as leader, and welcome back to Ed and his new knee!

Jo Blaak's group of junior fiddlers continue to learn new tunes and perfect their fiddling techniques. Last practice they showed off their newest tune, playing for us a wonderful rendition of "Five Foot Two"! It's not too long before they will be ready to join in on our tea dances and other playouts. Keep it up kids! We are all so proud of your fiddling efforts and for helping to keep the fiddle tradition alive!!

And before I forget, I believe I need to inform everyone about the results of our elections, held at our January meeting. Our executive remains the same as last year, with no changes:

Vivienne Chin – President  
Joanne Davenport – Vice President  
Elaine McLean – Secretary  
Rosalie Eeg – Treasurer

So, until next time, enjoy the sun (or the snow) and keep making music!

*Joanne Davenport*

## SURREY



### BRANCH #5

We are presently into the 1st week of February and by looking at our lawns, we should be hearing lawn mowers starting up prior to the middle of February.

Our dances at Clayton Hall continue to go well, thanks to all of the dancers and members of our band who come out faithfully to our monthly dances.

Our January dance was cancelled due to the dance date falling on New Year's Day and not being able to change the dance date schedule. Our February 5<sup>th</sup> dance was well attended, regardless of the rainy weather that just happens to plague us during the last three dances in a row. We were also fortunate to have a reporter from one of our local Newspapers, come out to our February dance to take photos and do a bit of a write up of our fiddler's band, which should be published in next week's paper. We sure don't mind this form of free advertising.

Birthday wishes go out to the following members:

Julius Cotter – 90 years - Dec. 2014  
Evan Sanyshyn – 74 years - Jan. 2015  
Gene Blouin – 89 years - Feb. 2015  
Jean Levasseur – 90 years - Feb. 2015

We would also like to thank our member, Sharon Saundry for her assistance and permission to feature

her on the front page of this issue of the B.C. Fiddle News.

If you enjoy dancing, our Surrey Fiddler's dances are held every first Thursday of each month, except for July & August.

--Location: Clayton Hall – 70<sup>th</sup> Ave., ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

*Submitted by,  
Evan Sanyshyn*

## KELOWNA



### BRANCH #7

Our first major 6 inch dump of wet snow came in early December and collapsed our Gazebo along with many others. I always knocked the snow off of it before leaving to shovel mail boxes for the Post Office. That morning at 6 a.m. it was down already. The next big dump came in mid-January and broke the 24 hour record since 1937, about 19 inches. My son Kelly, in Prince Rupert informed me that they broke their rainfall record with 12 ft. in the 4 months, Sept. 01/14 to Feb. 01/15. I guess we are still luckier than Kitimat, New Brunswick or Boston.

December was a fairly busy month with the highlight being our annual Christmas party on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was down a bit this year but we still enjoyed a fine meal by Irene McAvena and crew. Some of her staff didn't show up and put her in a bind. Entertainment was by a fine group of male singers called "Cordial Invitations".

January was back to our regular schedule and our AGM on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The new line up of directors is as follows:

President: John Tribe

Vice President: Vic Ukrainetz  
Secretary: Phyllis Shkraduik  
Treasurer: Lynn Tribe  
Directors for 1 year; Bill Bryson, Irene McAvena & Diane Riley.  
Directors for 2 years; Wayne Angman, Mable Babcock & Ken Riley

We would like to welcome several new directors and thank all those who served in the past. Most of our members are good to step up to the plate and give an extra hand when needed, which is much appreciated. A special mention also to Bill Bryson and Wayne Angman who always bring our sound equipment to our gigs in their vans. Bill is also our Special Events Coordinator and official sign maker. Lynn Tribe also does a fine job of designing and printing our dance posters.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, we held our annual appreciation party for our long suffering music director, Vic Ukrainetz. His impact and guidance has improved our performance greatly over the years. Another annual special event was the Alzheimer's Walk at KSS. This is a well-attended event with lots of speakers and plenty of lively old time music from our group and a couple of pipers. Also in attendance was our local MLA Ron Cannon. At the last Thursday jam night, we had a surprise visitor, Brenda Chambers, from Blind Bay. It was great to have distant members drop in.

February so far has been a busy month with our regular bookings. On a sad note, we lost long time fiddler, Bob Russell, on Christmas day. Bob was from a big family in New Brunswick, played all by ear and was our local expert on Don Messer. His memorial on February 07<sup>th</sup> was well attended by his family and our fiddle family. The fiddlers were involved in the ceremonies and after, as usual.

Another long time member, Jim Sisler, has had a major struggle with cancer and is now in the Hospice House. Jim always performed some old songs from the 20's with his wife, Alice, on piano. Sonya Gunderson fell down the stairs at her daughters and broke her leg and was bruised up quite a bit. She was in a wheel chair but has been out to several functions with the help of her friend, Irene McAvena. Helpful friends and neighbors are such a blessing in any crisis situation. Fiddler, Gordon Jensen had a bad fall on the ice after New Years and cracked 2 ribs next to his back bone (been there, done that); it only hurts when you breathe. Thankfully he's okay now. New bass player, Al Evjen, has also had a trip to the hospital with lung problem and will be going back in for further tests, so we wish him all the best. Don Tymchen's wife, Lois, has also had a bout with pneumonia and some other problems & has been in the hospital since January. She has improved somewhat so that is encouraging. We also have a new "Sunshine Lady", Helen Bryson, so we hope she enjoys her new venture.

Don't forget to get your submissions in for the new Red Book to John as soon as possible, this is a record of our history, so is good to preserve.

Our local contest is planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June, as usual. The Johnson Brothers from Quesnel will be our guest artists and judges, along with our old friend, Keith Hill. We understand that Quesnel is the only other contest planned so far. It is sad to see that some of these great get togethers may not happen this year. Some have suggested having a Jamboree instead. This would be less work than a regular contest but may not draw as many people. The other down side is they may stray away from traditional old time music. We hope this is just a temporary glitch and will soon be

sorted out. All the best to our many friends in the other branches and hope to see you in June.

*Russ Gerrie*

*P.S.* An old Scotsman slowed down and stopped for a yellow light and was promptly rear ended by a younger driver. Although a bit shaken up, he got out, walked back to the offender and said "Laddie, how do you stop when I am not here".

## MERRITT



### BRANCH #8

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers Christmas dinner and dance turned out very well with an excellent dinner prepared by the Chorney family. Guests from Kamloops, Vernon, Penticton and Golden attended.

We are again jamming at the Legion the last Saturday of each month with baron of beef ably prepared by Dave Marriott. Our next session will be on February 28th and everyone is welcome.

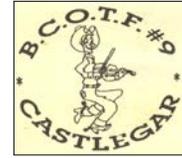
Elections will be held on April 19th and all members are encouraged to attend.

Harmon Lake Elks campsite has been booked from May 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Crib tournament, golf, horseshoes, pot luck and auction will be held. Everyone welcome and bring your musical instruments and join in. Hope to see a good crowd.

Get well wishes to Donna Chorney, Carol Fox (who broke her arm) and Rose Moldowan who has been in the Kamloops Hospital and is now temporarily in Ponderosa.

*Submitted by,  
Delphine Lawrence*

## KOOTENAY



### BRANCH #9

As I write this, it is February 15<sup>th</sup>, and I can't believe what's happening outside. We have GREEN grass. Wow! I particularly enjoy this early spring, as I can drive my vehicle without worrying about getting shoveled out, or the roads being bad. Usually, with one snowflake, I hang up my steering wheel and stay home. So this is a real luxury.

Our last meeting was held the end of November and at that time; we presented the following with Life Time memberships:



WALLY ARNESON: a long time member who has been a valuable asset to our organization. Wally is a member of our performance group with his wonderful rhythm guitar backing up the Fiddlers. On occasion, he can be persuaded to play some great lead guitar numbers. Wally is a Director of our Branch No. 9.

STELLA MULAWKA: is a hard-working member of our group since 1982. Although not an instrumentalist, Stella is a strong supporter of our club, and has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure the success of all our endeavours. She is in charge of kitchen duties and makes sure that everything runs smoothly for our functions.



**WALTER CROCKETT:** has been with our organization since 1986 and has been a real asset. He has held various offices including many years as president, and has participated in our performance group as fiddler, guitarist, vocalist, and banjo player.

**YVONNE CROCKETT:** has worked with her husband Walter to ensure the success of our club. Yvonne has held many offices, including secretary, and while she does not play an instrument, she is a strong participant in all our activities.

We feel privileged to have the expertise that Wally, Stella, Walter, and Yvonne bring to our club and we are very proud to award them with Life Time Memberships.

Our annual Christmas party was held December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and it was a resounding success with a record number of attendees. 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 guest musicians. A very special event to begin our Christmas season.

Our performance group is now off semi-hiatus, and we are getting busy. So far we have play dates for the seniors in Genelle, Assisted Living at Castlewood, Rosewood in Trail and Lakeview Manor in Nelson.

At our next scheduled meeting the end of February, we will be discussing and making plans for our annual Fiddle Camp to be held at Selkirk College July 13<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>. We are again expecting a full complement of students of all ages, and we encourage potential attendees to enroll early. Contacts are:

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

Sandra Milosevich-:250-365-5514

Glen Carlson-: 250-367-2130

Our Website:

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

That's about all this time. Happy Spring everyone.

*Cheers,*

*Mary Ann Stewart*

## WILLIAMS LAKE



### BRANCH #10

I guess you could say that this has been a very unusual winter.

We have had a few "dumps" of snow during the last three months but nothing like they are having back east. Here in Williams Lake the weather has been pretty warm and a lot of the snow in town has melted. If it stays this way for another week we won't have any....which is fine by me.

The group has been playing their regular monthly schedule; Seniors Village, Legion Luncheon and Deni House and the weekly Legion Spaghetti Dinner every Thursday night. They keep pretty busy with their regular play dates.

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held at our local Legion and catered by them on Dec. 13th. We had the

traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings and the club was very pleased with the meal. Our members brought their instruments and proceeded to play some traditional Christmas tunes as well as the regular ones. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The club will be playing on February 27th. for our Legion at their monthly Steak Night which is held on the last Friday of every month. If you are in Williams Lake stop by and enjoy one of their steak dinners with all the trimmings...you'll enjoy it!

Kelli Trottier and her accompanist, Mike Sanyshyn, will be coming to Williams Lake on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. She will be putting on a workshop during the day followed by a concert in the evening at the United Church. Our local Youth Fiddlers will be the opening artists for Kelli's concert.

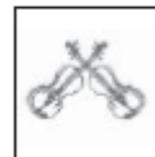
One of our members, Joe Lecomte has been side-lined with a sore shoulder. Unfortunately for him but more so for us, he is unable to play his fiddle. Get better soon Joe, we miss you!

Birthday wishes go out to the following for March. Pat Gunderson, Joe Lecomte, and Marj Blair. April / Bill Downie, Brian Garland, and Hal Giles. May/ Ryder Cheyene, June/ Ken Emery.

*Cheers,*

*Pat Gunderson*

## COOMBS



### BRANCH #11

I don't like to mention weather but lately that old country song, "Oh,

Lord, It's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way" keeps coming to mind when we compare our mid-island winter with just about any other part of Canada. We are blessed, and since most of us have lived elsewhere, we truly appreciate it. Schadenfreude not intended; guess it's been a slow news cycle.

The Branch #11 Annual General Meeting was held on December 7, followed by a Christmas dinner, a concert and jam session. Elections were held and the Executive Committee for 2015 has Philippa Parker as President, Vice-President Roy Bocek, Secretary-Treasurer Nell Bowles, Past-President Bruce Foden, Two-Year Directors Bonnie McDougall, Ken Ross and Bob Bloodworth and One-Year Directors Jean Shaw, Sheral Coutts and Darlene Hauptstein.

A three-week hiatus over Christmas ended with our January meeting and Sunday dance on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Several new members were welcomed; fiddlers Tom Elliott, Gerald Bouchard and Vera Worthington, pianist Eileen Steinhart (Faul) and dance supporters Charlie and Ann Levesque, Vince Francovich, Lynnette Arnold and Murray Faul.

Attendance at recent dances reflects the impact of wintertime illnesses that have affected both band and dancer numbers. Then, there are absentees who have fled to visit families or sunnier climes who will, hopefully, be back with us soon. After hospitalization and several weeks of recuperation, Ruby and George Gudbranson are reportedly gaining strength but may not resume their former busy playout schedule. In their absence various members have stepped in to meet those commitments, revealing both the depth and fragility of the club's capability. We all wish both Ruby

and George a full recovery and continuing contributions to the club.

The Sunday dances that were instituted last year have drawn people who, for many reasons, prefer the afternoon time to the Thursday evenings. Although they are only on the first Sunday each month, the response has been gratifying, if not overwhelming. Marketing is a continuing challenge yet, paradoxically, we sometimes have to decline playout invitations due to the unavailability of enough musicians. For the new members a mentorship plan is beginning to take shape that should help to mitigate this problem.

So, that's what Branch #11 has been up to. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Fiddle Jamboree on Saturday, September 19 at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. Everyone is welcome.

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

## KAMLOOPS



### BRANCH #12

Hello again everybody, happy March! I have just looked out my front door and low and behold the pile of snow that was there just a few days ago has vanished. Yeah happy days are here again! Oh I feel a little bad for all you folks that love the snow, maybe next year?!! Here's to a happy "Spring"!

First off the Christmas Dinner & Dance at Desert Gardens was a big success; everyone appeared to have a wonderful time. The music was great as usual, food was excellent, everyone enjoyed the Christmas Carols, spot dances, and a great chance to visit with the people they

hadn't seen for a while. What more could we ask for?!! Let's hope it will go on for many more years!

Kamloops Branch election of officers was held January 25, 2015. Results were:

President: Jackie Davies  
Vice President: Clark Hiles  
Secretary-Treasurer: Florence Tellier

Directors for two year term; Colin Mahoney, Pat Benson & Dave Lynn

Directors with one year remaining are: Bob Lalonde, Betty Tasko & Marj Labelle.

Thank-you to each for taking on the above positions!

Following the election Jackie Davis presented Florence Tellier with a Life Time Membership. Congratulations Florence, you certainly do deserve it.

There is still a search going on out there for a "Music Director" - he or she is out there somewhere!

The next dance at Heritage House is March 7, 2015. Hope to see you all there! Also the fiddle practices Tuesday evenings will continue to the end of April at the Heritage House.

There will be dances on February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> at the North Shore Community Centre, beginning with the practice for pattern dances at 1:30 and then dancing to the music of the Fiddlers from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. A big thank-you goes out to both Jackie Davis and Brian Bursey for their time spent teaching the pattern dances.

Another wonderful concert is coming to Kamloops on March 29, 2015. Kelli Trottier from Ontario will be performing at the Hal Rogers Centre and she will be accompanied by B.C.'s multi-instrumentalist Mike Sanyshyn. There is a charge of \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for

non-members. She is a fantastic performer!! For ticket info call 250-376-2330 or 250-374-8454.

Coming up there will be a dance at the St. John Vianney Church in Westsyde on May 2, 2015. (Circle that date on your calender for it's sure to be a lot of fun!) The Knights of Columbus have asked the Kamloops Fiddlers to play for their dance. I do not have cost information at this time but I'm sure it will be a good deal.

The last big event is in June and that is our "Picnic /Jamboree". This year the Ukulele Group is interested in coming to play on the Saturday and participate in the Pot Luck Supper and evening. Also Kai and Lia Gronberg have agreed to put on a concert Friday evening. Who could ask for anything more??!

This will be my last newsletter and for all of you that took the time to read some of them I thank-you!

*"Life is full of do's and don'ts  
Of can and can't, of wills and wont's  
The thing to do in all events  
Is use a little common sense.  
Do your best-----don't help a plan  
That says you can't, although you  
can.  
Demonstrate determined skill  
Don't say you won't, insist you  
will."  
..... (J.M. Robertson)*

Marie Burse

## NORTH ISLAND



### BRANCH #17

The wheel keeps turning and has now stopped at my name. It has been 29 years since we registered Br. #17 provincially. We have had a great many musical and social

experiences, and widened our circle of friends.

Now I am attempting to fill Ed Medford's shoes as Newsletter reporter. Thanks Ed for handling this and other multiple services for our club over the years.

Our executive officers for 2015 are as follows:

President: Dora Moen  
Vice President: Dan Ellis [also does a fine job of operating the PA system] Secretary-Treasurer, Membership and other chores, plus there is a cast of 6 directors.

We are happy to award Jean and Al Engdahl, of Sayward, a lifetime membership after years of appreciated service to our club.

Our musicians are again quite busy with 4 monthly playing sessions for senior centers and care homes. We also have a practice session and monthly dance at the Fallen Alders Community Hall. We plan to add a workshop to each session, to be given on various instruments, by our own musicians.

Our Annual Jamboree will be held on April 24 & 25 at Fallen Alders Hall, on Royston Rd., just a few minutes south of Courtenay. There is FREE camping [no power]. Last year there were 11 RVs. The schedule for the Jamboree is as follows:

April 24—Concert at 7:00 p.m. Admission \$5.00

April 25—Open jam at 10:00-1:00. Register before 1:00. Admission \$5.00 Concert & Dance at 8:00 p.m. 50/50 draw, door prizes, raffle all inclusive \$5.00. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available at the bar.

Special interest note: There is a LUTHIERS GUILD on Vancouver Island. A convention is held annually in Errington Hall in October. There may be one on the

mainland as well. Check your computer for this.

Do you have an obstinate zipper on an instrument case [ or elsewhere?!!] Put candle wax on it.

Q: What is the difference between a violinist and a fiddler?

A: The length of the hair of the musician.

Keep a smile on your face and stay happy with music.

*'till next time  
Art McMartin*

## COMOX VALLEY



### BRANCH #18

The sun is shining and the Funtime Fiddlers are playing at the Comox Mall today for Heritage /Flag Day. The Air Force has all sorts of displays out so when our group finishes playing, we get to slide into the cockpits of displayed spitfires and World War II bombers to imagine that we are flying Aces streaking through the exploding skies over 1944 Europe engaged in desperate aerial dogfights! Thanks to today's players, Teri, Julie, Heather, Laura, Rod, Bryn, Harold, Norm, Nick and Craig.

Next Saturday, we'll be pretending we are Fiddle Rock Stars as we warm up the dancing crowd at our monthly Contra Dance down at the Big Yellow Merville Hall. The dancers come from miles around to preen and dance the contras, as well as dance to the waltzes, reels and two steps that we play. We like to mix up the sets and have some of the young players lead so that the rest of us can get on the floor for a spin or two. Or maybe get a beer.

Our Fiddlejam bimonthly sessions are in full swing and we have some sub groups that are doing different styles of tunes, like Swing. The

North Island Festival of the Performing Arts fiddle category was well attended this year and the music was really high quality. Thanks to Victoria's Nellie Quinn for being an excellent adjudicator. The Funtime Fiddlers contributed to the bursary fund which goes to young players to help them with lessons.

In December, Fiddlejam played a community called dance for schools at Lake Trail School, and Mighty Max did a payout on his own, which was well received. At the end of 2014, the Swing group played at the New Years Eve 100 Year Centennial celebration for the city of Courtenay. It was lots of fun and there was all sorts of Comox Valley talent showcased at that event. What a great way to ring in the New Year at the Filberg center!!

Well, we have been hoping for more snow in the local mountains but the ski season has just been put on hold due to really warm temperatures. We have flowers out, trees blossoming and birds frantically hustling to build their nests. Everyone is confused. Hopefully we get a big dump of snow soon so we can get in a few more days on the ski slopes.

The Big Yellow Merville Hall has hosted two outstanding, sold out concerts lately. In January, we had Scottish fiddling legend Alasdair Fraser, with American cellist, Natalie Haas, play to a standing room only crowd. Then, last week, Trent and Ivonne were here with The Fretless and they, once again, amazed the crowd. They are on a West Coast tour to promote their second cd release. The Fretless, by the way, won big at the Canadian Folk Music Awards as well as at the Western Canada Music Awards. Once this tour is over, they'll get down to writing and arranging more tunes for their next release.

So, apart from smaller play outs, the next Big Thing for Branch #18 is the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle Fest on March 20 and 21. This year we have the fabulous Foggy Hogtown Boys Bluegrass band from Toronto for the Friday night concert and for the Saturday night Contra dance. They will also conduct workshops in guitar, fiddle, bass, banjo, etc., on Saturday, so we are up for a music filled weekend. The FHB are about the best bluegrass band in Canada so the hall will again be packed. If you happen to be visiting in the Comox Valley at that time, join us for a musical mashup. You can park campers at the hall overnight and we can even arrange for billeting to take place.

So, it is bye for now and I sincerely hope that everyone, everywhere in BC, will join me in making a small prayer for snow so that we can carve a few more turns before the season is over!! Winter isn't winter without snow!!

*Cheers,  
Craig Freeman*

## ALBERNI VALLEY



### BRANCH #19

How could three months have possibly gone by so quickly. It feels like it was only a few weeks ago that I was sending in something for the winter issue and here we are into February. January itself just raced by. Could this sensation of time flying by be age related? Surely not eh! Briefly looking back to last year, in early December we celebrated the end of 2014 with a wonderful social evening at the Barclay Hotel; -dinner and jam session. The dinner was great and the jam session lots of fun. Going around the large circle, everyone had a chance to either play or request something, at least twice. A

nice way to end the year, riding on a high note.

We were supposed to play for the New Years celebration for both Fir Park and Echo Village, but unfortunately both places had to cancel because of the flu. Luckily Heritage Place was deemed okay and they asked us to entertain their residents, providing an enjoyable time for all. The flu season has been hitting hard around here this year.

The Sunshine Club asked us to play for their January dance on the third Friday of that month, providing three hours of music. We have also been requested to play for their March dance. They sometimes have to use recorded music, so do appreciate it when they can get live music for dancing.

As 2015 arrived, we soon settled into our usual routine/roster of play-outs. We were asked to play for Robbie Burns day at Westhaven, the hospital extended care. We had to pull out and polish our few Scottish tunes for this session. After playing some music we were able to sit back and watch the haggis being piped into the room, and listen to it being "properly addressed". There was even a little taste available for any who wanted some. Afterwards we played a few more tunes to finish off the afternoon and then walked through a corridor taking us to the main entrance of the hospital. In the lovely treed indoor courtyard there is a dais with a wonderful piano, and we played some music there for about 45 minutes. We all decided it is a great place to play, with really good sound and the bonus of fresh air. We had heard there are people waiting in the hospital to be placed in a Care facility and they have not had access to much in the way of entertainment. It was nice to be able to add some lightness to their day. We are starting to line up a few major play outs for the months to come, giving us the impetus to keep

on practicing. A dance here, a festival there, all events to look forward to. Some of our members are already thinking about and planning for summer music camps,

getting everything coordinated for their available time frames.

Hopefully we can fiddle our way out of the soggy, foggy weather we do get in the Valley in the winter.

Wishing for everyone many music inspired high days.

*Submitted by,  
Gail Ross*

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Shows by Kelli Trotter, accompanied by Mike Sanyshyn**

**March 26-Prince George, contact 250-962-6825; March 28-Williams Lake, contact 250-392-7482; March 29- Kamloops, contact 250-376-2330**

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**April 24 & 25, Concert/Jamboree/Dance**

**Fallen Alders Hall in Courtenay, contact 250-339-2366**

**June 5 & 6, Show by Deni & Adam Johnson (Fri. night) & Old Time Fiddle Contest (Sat)**

**Contact 250-764-7064 (see poster on back page)**

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

# **MY VIOLIN SHOP**

## **TIME FOR A SPRING UPGRADE?**

Whether you need a larger size instrument, or want to purchase a better sounding violin, I have an excellent selection. Will consider taking your instrument in trade.

Have Eastman violins, including a 305 – 4/4 at \$900.00; a 405 – 3/4 at \$1050.00. Well below regular prices. A number of new European violins, a couple of full size violins, European woods made by prize winning luthier at only \$1850.00. These are exceptional sounding violins, setup with Evah strings, harp style tailpiece and no slip pegs.

Good selection of bows, including hybrid -- best value both for price and playing quality. Best selection of accessories with quick shipment.

Need repairs or have old violin to check out? Bow repairs, repairs with very quick turnaround.

Advice in what to buy, repair, etc. Based on what is best for YOU.

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

# KELOWNA'S 19TH ANNUAL FIDDLE CONTEST



*Guest Artists*  
*Dani & Adam Johnson*

**M.C. - Vic UKRAINETZ**

**John & Lynn Tribe  
Contest Chair  
(250) 764 - 7064**

**June 5 & 6, 2015**  
**Rutland**  
**Centennial Hall**  
**180 N Rutland Rd.**  
**Kelowna, BC**

**CONCERT \$15**

**Friday June 5 - 7:00 PM "Dance"  
to follow**

**CONTEST \$12**

**Saturday June 6 -10:00 AM  
ALL Day, Dance after finale**

**WEEKEND \$25**

**Tickets: At the Door**

**Accompanied children Under 12 FREE**

