



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS



OTTAWA BOUND

Local fiddler Deni Stone, who is 18 and a recent home school graduate, has earned an invitation to compete at the Canadian Grand Masters in Ottawa this August. After three years of nominations and winning the B.C. Provincial Champion last year, the fourth year appeared to be the charm. With the departure date rapidly approaching, bringing about many memories of the past years, Deni & his brother Adam felt compelled to share both their joy and gratitude to those who have helped them along on their journey.

As Deni is on his way to the Grand Masters we thought it only appropriate that we write something about him and his family for the front of the B.C.



Fiddle News. I met Deni and Adam at the very first Fiddle Camp I attended in 2000. I was impressed then and have never been disappointed since.

The story I was told at the time, was that Grandpa Roy was learning to play fiddle so that the boys would show some interest in it. Roy and Em Throssel have been involved with music long before I came to Quesnel and I've even seen a banner photo of a Banjo Band that they were involved in. I've been told as Deni and Adam live on the property and across the lawn from their grandparents, they go for breakfast at Gramma's and before they get their breakfast, they have to practice a couple of tunes. What a way to start a tradition. As far as I know that practice continues today, although not quite as often with all the young ladies these gentlemen attract. The entire club wishes Deni all

the best at this year's Grand Masters and know he will place well and I suspect both he and his brother will be playing at another one in the near future.

Here is what Deni has to say: "Thank you to Roy and Em Throssell, my grandparents, who have been my inspiration to learn to play music, the most supportive people in my life. My brother Adam who has been my best friend, also a fiddler; nobody pushes me harder. Thankfully he's coming with me to be my cheering section. To Jean Gelinis for many years of playing piano at contests and making my music sound good; for introducing us to fiddle camp. Anita Mamela for being our ongoing teacher, mentor and friend who has offered many years of encouragement and dedication (especially when it wasn't easy) and thank you to Jim for making it easier for Anita to do the wonderful things she does. Allan Curtis for making my fiddle and keeping it sounding great, it truly has become an extension of my soul. Amy Robertson for being my first fiddle teacher who opened the door for me, your enthusiasm breathes life into the music you play. I only hope some of it has rubbed off!

To Ab & Mary McQuillin for your many years of hospitality, opening your home for jam sessions and always being there to play back up. To the BCOTFA for having contests to go to, and ongoing sponsorship to fiddle camps. Frank McKelvie (Lion's Club) for sponsorship to fiddle camps. Stan Phillips for organizing the music night at the Elks' Hall; this was one of my first opportunities to play out in public. Quesnel Bluegrass Festival for sponsorship and having my brother and I there to perform. Michelle Bruce, who has been a wonderful friend, and teacher who showed me how I could also teach and share my music with others. To the many friends and family members who have always offered their love and encouragement.

I have been fortunate enough to have had many incredible instructors over the years like Calvin Vollrath, Gord Stobbe, Mark & Laila Sullivan, Shamma & Roxanna Sabir, Patti Lamoroux; each of them have provided me with something special at the right time.

Thanks to the Prince George Fiddle Club for their sponsorship. There have been many lifetime friends made. To Sydney Wilson, who has been a worthy competitor for years, setting the bar high, pushing me to practice more. To everyone who clapped, cheered or danced when I played. I remember that was a pivotal moment for me, the first dance I played for, to watch

people get up and dance to the music coming from my fiddle. I was hooked!

I am very pleased to be representing B.C. as well as our own community. So many of you will be in my heart while I take my turn on stage at a National levelThank you, Quesnel!"

Submitted by Ab McQuillin, Br. #3, Quesnel

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

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

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Looking ahead we would like to continue with a feature write-up & picture in each issue of the B.C. Fiddle News and would appreciate receiving submissions in line with the following schedule.
December 2011 – CFV Fiddlers #4
 March 2012 – Kelowna #7
 June 2012 - Kootenay #9
 September 2012 – Williams Lake #10

FROM THE PRESIDENT



CRAIG FREEMAN

It has been difficult to leave the great outdoors & put together a

message for the newsletter. I have to thank Florence for keeping me on track and on time. Though she is not on the BCOTFA board this year, Florence is still working hard behind the scenes with the B.C. Fiddle News, maintaining the high literary standards that have been established.

It was a fun Provincial Contest in Cumberland and at the AGM we were delighted to welcome aboard new directors Vivienne Chin, Philippa Parker, Mike Sanyshyn and Mark Sullivan. All four are old time fiddlers and two, by golly, are even professional musicians. In addition, and bringing their extensive BCOTFA background knowledge to the board, we are again joined by Ada Brown, Cindy Budd, John Tribe and Vic Ukrainetz.

Already we have established three committees to deal with some important issues.

The Communications Committee will deal with social media; revamping the website; promoting the use of other social media, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Sharepoint etc.; guidelines for website use and information presentation; the relationship between the BCOTFA and Branches in relation to the website and other social media; and possibly updating the bylaws with regard to the final recommendations of the Communications Committee.

The Constitution Committee will review a motion to amend bylaw 2.6; consult with branches and

members regarding the motion; consider the purchase of directors' liability insurance, the possibility of law suits, etc; consider the most appropriate process for the expulsion of members not in good standing; review bylaws to ensure that there is consistency throughout; and review other bylaws and align with other decisions of the BCOTFA Executive.

The Contest Rules Committee will put together a package of information and guidelines for Branches holding contests in the future; discuss what the purpose is of holding contests; review criteria for choosing and training judges; discuss the inclusion of a "9 and Under" category; discuss the "tune of choice" in the Championship class; discuss contest timing; consider changes to the "reel" qualifications; discuss the Grand Masters with relation to BCOTFA contests; and discuss the options of open and closed judging.

As you can see, we have lots of interesting work ahead of us and we plan to keep the branches informed of our progress.

Finally, we had a recent change to our board with the addition of Vic Ukrainetz who was voted in to replace long time director, and many times Past President, Leo Ready, who is pulling up stakes in BC and moving to a hotbed of old time fiddling in Ontario. It is hard to imagine a BCOTFA board without Leo's timely, crusty comments, and just as hard to visualize a Kamloops Old Time dance without Leo's fabulous fiddle. We wish him all the best and look forward to him visiting at a dance or contest in the future.

Cheers,
Craig Freeman

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

It took a great deal of effort on the part of all the contributors & myself to put together the Fall newsletter – a task that was getting in everyone's way of having that summer fun! Thanks to each of you for getting something written up on behalf of your Branch.

I am fortunate to have Jenny Bakken as my regular proofreader & even more fortunate to have a couple of other ladies who are willing to step in when Jenny is not available. My thanks to Jenny, Colleen Adams & Linda Bremner for their willingness to help out whenever needed. As with most everything we do, it takes a whole team to achieve success.

Roger has been feeling better & we are starting to get out a bit so with any luck, we may see some of you at the Quesnel contest on October 1st.

Florence Tellier

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

This has been a summer of frequent showers and short periods of warm sunny days.

However, the weather did not deter our members from travelling, camping and attending musical events. This was the first year our branch held its annual Old Time Fiddle Contest in April instead of

our usual July date, but our musicians have been active with attendance at playouts, fiddle camps and contests during this summer.

A number of our members attended two very successful camps. One at the Gavin Lake Fiddle 'Treat on July 23rd -29th and the other at the Kootenay Branch Fiddle Camp in Castlegar on July 11th -15th. A great time was had by all at both events.

The rain held off and the sun came out for an outdoor summer playout on Sunday July 24th. The event was held at the Railway Museum Family Fun Day which was sponsored by our two local M.L.A.s. Families were treated to food, games, rides on the miniature railway and an afternoon of Old Time Fiddle music.

Congratulations go to our young fiddlers who competed in contests this spring and summer. At the Kamloops Fiddle Contest on May 7th Lauren Iwanciwski came in 1st in the 9 years and under class, Chloe Nakahara came 1st in Youth & Brittany Iwanciwski 2nd in Open. In Kelowna at their branch Fiddle Contest on June 4th, Gabrielle Jacob came in 1st in Open & Noah Jacob 5th in Junior. Then at the Provincial Old Time Fiddle Contest hosted by BCTOF Branch #17 North Island on July 2nd, Gabrielle Jacob came 1st in Open & Noah Jacob placed 3rd in Junior. Well done all of you.

Our branch mourns the passing of two wonderful friends and musicians of our fiddle family, Erna and Harry Claughton. Erna passed away on June 21st 2011. Both she and Harry were members of our club for a number of years in the past and Erna continued coming to play her fiddle at our jam sessions on occasion. She was active in playing at their residence

at the Gateway Lodge during the last year. A celebration of her life was held at the Sintich Trailer Park hall June 26th. Harry passed away July 7th 2011 and has gone to join his beloved Erna. A gathering at The Gateway was held on July 12th with friends and musicians attending to support the family. A celebration of Harry and Erna's lives will also be held at a later date in Fort St. James.

We are now getting ready for another season of monthly dances, regular playouts and weekly jam sessions. Our first dance will be held September 17th at which time we will be returning to the Pineview Hall. Our jam sessions will resume September 8th & continue every Thursday at the Elder Citizens' Recreation Center 1692 10th Ave. from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Visitors are more than welcome to join us for a fun filled evening.

*Marguerite MacKenzie,
Club correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

The roses are blooming better than I've ever seen in our yard and so far the deer have left them alone. When we got home a few days ago from our cruise to Alaska, we found it had rained enough that my lawnmower had trouble cutting the 11 inch high grass. Go figure! That three days of summer in March sure seems like that's going to be it.

The Old Time Fiddlers of Quesnel were back on the program at the Country Bluegrass Jamboree this year, first on the program on Thursday and on Friday. Thursday it was mostly young people at 2:00

and on Friday at noon the teachers and no students. How'd that happen?

Just after the festival we thought the weather would be nice enough to have our practices back at the Legion Beach on Thursday evenings and so we have; not the nicest weather for playing outside but we still have the snack shack.

On Father's Day we played our usual set at Cottonwood House Historic Park and I think we outnumbered the paying guests. Not the first time. But the fiddlers really came out for that one.

Billy Barker Days we had the second set as usual, with a full compliment of fiddles, the piano, a couple of guitars and a bass. Great set.

Williams Lake had their 30th Anniversary this past weekend and my wife and I, Jean Gelinis, and Roy and Em Throssel went down for the Bar-b-que. While there Mary and I met a couple from Williams Lake that were on the same Alaska Cruise as we were and I only remember seeing her once and him not at all. Small world!

This is all the news I have at this time. Thanks for keeping Old Time music alive.

Ab McQuillin

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

At last, we are enjoying some lovely weather. We have played at several outside venues and were blessed with good weather. Earlier this year Mark and Laila Sullivan joined our

group and at the end of June Mark gave us a workshop which we all found enjoyable and stimulating. On the 29th of June we played for the Envision Twilight Concert series at Heritage Park, Mission. During the day the weather was dreadful, the wind blew and it poured with rain as well as being quite chilly. However, in the later part of the afternoon the sun started to emerge, and the rain and wind stopped so we were able to play at 7 pm. We had a good audience, although they were well bundled up in readiness for a cool hour in the park! That day was also the 50th Wedding Anniversary of our long time members Don and Joyce Olds, so we played the Anniversary Song for them and they waltzed together in front of the stage. Our congratulations to them and we wish them many more happy years together!

During July and August, we normally take a summer break but this year we have continued our Wednesday evening practices in the Gym, at Mission's Cedarbrooke Chateau, a Seniors' Home. The residents gradually learnt of our playing and came in to listen and after a couple of weeks they were dancing around us and even in the corridor outside!

Some personal news - our Secretary, Norma Popescul, is currently recovering from an illness and we are all hoping and praying that she gets well soon. One of our favourite fiddlers, Charlie Skinner, sadly passed away recently. Charlie is sure missed by all who knew him.

At the BCOTFA AGM in July this year, our President, Vivienne Chin, was elected to the Board of Directors of the BCOTFA. It is her first time on the Board and we wish her the best of luck!

We are still very much in touch with the Wilsons, now living in Ontario, and recently learned that Alice hurt her ankle on the stairs but she is recovering quickly and is back on her pretty feet!

Hope everyone is having a lovely summer break.

Elaine McLean

SURREY



BRANCH #5

We are presently into the first week of August and our fiddlers are on a 2 month break from playing for our regular monthly dances, but some of our fiddlers get together faithfully, every Monday evening, for a practice and Jam session at the Hazelmere Church hall.

Some of our fiddlers have competed in the numerous fiddle contests held this summer and our club would like to congratulate the following members for competing and placing in these competitions. In the Provincial Contest:

Lia Gronberg - 2nd place in Junior Class

Kai Gronberg - 1st place in Youth Class

John Fedoruk - 2nd Place in Senior Class

Alex Randall - 2nd Place in Championship Class

Brad McDowall – Congratulations for competing the first time in a fiddle contest.

At the Grand North American Fiddle Contest in Radway Alberta Lia Gronberg took 2nd Place in Junior Class, Kai Gronberg – 3rd Place in Junior Class & Alex Randall – 6th place in Championship Class.

We had our annual potluck / fiddle Jam event on August 7th and what a great turnout we ended up having. At least 90 people showed up for this year's event, which made the picnic a lot more enjoyable. The variety of food brought out by everyone was spectacular and also very tasty. The musicians did a great job playing a vast selection of fiddle tunes which was appreciated by all who attended. This type of event is a great way to get together and reminisce with friends and members of other fiddle branches.

Glenn Blanchfield, a member of our band, and his Dad, recently spent two weeks holidaying in the Niagara area in Ontario, having a great time visiting and jamming with relatives and friends.

Another one of our band members, Nathan Powell and his wife have recently returned from a month of holidays in England and Ireland. He mentioned that he had the opportunity to play some fiddle tunes in Ireland and I am sure that he will give us an update of his trip when he recovers from his jet lag.

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of Charlie Skinner, a band member of our fiddle club for the past five years. Charlie was an amazingly bright and talented person and being 91 years of age did not prevent him from succeeding in life, as he became a sailboat captain, stained glass artist, wood carver, painter, fiddler and technical guru, familiar with the latest technology in computers, i-pads, etc. He was also a very polite and friendly person, always willing to help out with our fiddle organization. We will truly miss him and our sympathy goes out to his wife Maureen and family.

You are more than welcome to join us at our upcoming dances which will be starting up again on Sept.

1st and continue every 1st Thursday of each month at Clayton Hall, located ½ block north of Fraser Hwy. on 184th St. in Surrey. Dance time is 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm. We also have a practice every 4th Wednesday of the month from 7 pm to 10 pm.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

Here we are in the middle of holiday season and finally some hot weather. Many members are travelling or entertaining guests who love to come to this area. Our faithful piano player, Irene Donison, is back from an Alaska cruise with her family. The fiddler's favourite nurse, Linda Read, is in Scotland with her friend Heather at a fiddle gathering. Our travelling man, John Tribe, has been home for awhile but not had a lot of action with the fiddlers in July & August. June was a fairly active month with our well attended contest, the regular tractor show at Father Pandosy Mission and Fun in the Sun at Parkinson Rec Centre. This is an annual event where all the local Senior Homes bussed their able residents over for some fine fiddle tunes and dogs & burgers supplied by the Rotary Club. Canada Day, July 1st the fiddlers took the stage at Prospera Place for the annual big Canada birthday party. Great crowd, great toe tapping music.

The contest results are as follows:

Little Britches:

1st - Paris Kirk

2nd - Devon Beckett

3rd - Aaron Wong

4th - Sarah Carey

Junior:

- 1st - Lia Gronberg
- 2nd - Kyle Davidson
- 3rd - Noah Jacob
- 4th - Kathleen McMahon
- 5th - Kai Kirk

Youth:

- 1st - Chloe Davidson
- 2nd - Kai Gronberg
- 3rd - Leeland Bachelet
- 4th - Emily Suchy

Intermediate:

- 1st - Rick Roy
- 2nd - Doreen Rail
- 3rd - Eddy Plotnikoff

Open:

- 1st - Gabriella Jacob
- 2nd - Adam Johnson
- 3rd - Mabel Babcock

Novice:

- 1st - Bailey Donison

Senior:

- 1st - Garry Hill
- 2nd - Sterling Cuthbert
- 3rd - Harley Jansen
- 4th - Wayne Angman

Golden Age:

- 1st - Les Munson
- 2nd - Bob Russell
- 3rd - Myrna Mundell

Twin Fiddle:

- 1st - Deni Stone & Sarah Tradwell
- 2nd - Chloe & Kyle Davidson
- 3rd - Lia & Kai Gronberg

Championship:

- 1st - Sarah Tradwell
- 2nd - Deni Stone

A most unusual situation happened this year with the 2 fine young fiddlers in the Championship class. They were so evenly matched & I thought that if I was judging, they would be tied, and sure enough it was a tie. It took 2 tie breaker playoffs to declare a winner. Fantastic performance kids, keep it up. Glad to see our friend, Sterling Cuthbert, all the way from northern Alberta again. That's real dedication for a fine senior fiddler. The crowd was treated to fine entertainment by Damian Brennan and Shamma Sabir who are now engaged, all the best to them. Sunday featured a well attended

workshop by fiddle instructors Shamma, Leo Ready & Mike Howanyk and guitar instruction by Damian Brennan.

We were sorry to hear of Keith Hill's accident with his left hand. He is one of the finest fiddle and guitar players in our old time music family. Our best wishes to you Keith for a speedy recovery. I also hear by the grapevine that our good friend, Leo Ready, is returning home to the Ottawa Valley. Leo has been a great promoter of fiddling in all of BC. He has been both the Kamloops and Provincial president many times as well as a contest judge at many locations. I have had the privilege of backing him up on piano many times over the last 30 years or so. His smooth style of dance music is tough to match. All the best to you Leo, back home in fiddle country. We will all miss you.

This Wednesday, August 17th the local fiddlers will be joining with Alfie Taylor's family to bury his ashes at Lakeview Memorial Gardens north of Kelowna. His wife Marion's ashes were buried there a couple of months back by her daughters, but none of the fiddlers were informed. They were both lifetime members and contributed greatly over the years.

The next thing we will be in September and back to the regular playing dates, plus special events. Holidays are great but no more special than the bond we have with all the seniors' homes, dancing groups, etc. It's a win win situation for them and us.

Russ Gerrie

P.S. Happiness consists of living each day as if it were the first day of your honeymoon and the last day of your vacation.

MERRITT**BRANCH #8**

We in Merritt are really struggling as a fiddle club. We have no fiddle players left and it seems that there are no new persons (musicians) who wish to join a club when there are other venues here that one can participate in without commitment of membership. There are a few of us who are hanging in and hoping that things may change. If not I'm afraid that the Merritt Club will have to close its doors. This really saddens me as I have belonged to this club since 1981.

We are however planning a Christmas Party to be held on December 10, tickets will be \$20 each. Call Diane 250-378-4186.

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer.

Diane Shalanski-Garcia

KOOTENAY**BRANCH #9**

Well, here it is, mid-August, and our summer is again almost over. Seems like we had to wait until almost the end of July this year to get any hot weather, but when it finally came, we appreciated it. Oh well, before you know it, we will be complaining about the cold and the snow, and having to get winter boots on our car again.

Our Tenth annual Fiddle Workshop was held July 11th through 15th at Selkirk College in Castlegar, B.C. From all positive reports from students and instructors, it was a total success.

In all, 74 enthusiastic students attended the music camp including 59 fiddle, 8 guitar, and 7 piano. We also introduced some mandolin sessions this year to analyze interest in offering a course next year. The students and instructors came from all over B.C., and across Canada as far away as the East Coast. We are so fortunate to have such a high calibre of instructors (headed by Gordon Stobbe) and also the wonderful facilities at Selkirk College. Having the Camp at the College allows us to offer private classroom instruction, room for total student assembly and concerts, and reasonably-priced accommodations for instructors and students.

The main focus for the students is, of course, learning the finer points of their particular instrument. However, there are many after-class activities to enjoy as well. For example, jam sessions, variety shows, dance lessons, and group practices. A highlight of the week is the annual Instructors-in-the-Park Concert held at Gyro Park in Trail BC. This year's Instructor Concert was again a complete success despite rather inclement weather.

The finale of the entire week was the annual public Concert and Dance held at the Castlegar Community Complex during which the students demonstrated their new skills. A showpiece of the evening was a brilliantly arranged version of the song "Just Because". During the week, Gordon Stobbe had each class learn a segment of the song. Then at the Concert he had all of the instructors and students play their segments together. The harmonized results were just stunning, and the audience was in awe at the capabilities of the students after just 5 days of classes.

Even though the week is hectic and requires much planning and work by the Fiddle Members, the after-glow of success creates enthusiasm, and planning for next year's camp is already underway. Our annual picnic and steak fry was held August 10th, 11th, and 12th at the Pass Creek Park near Castlegar. After the hectic days of the Fiddle Camp, we really enjoyed this fun-filled and relaxing 3-day event with its super food, great music and wonderful friendships. Many thanks to Stella Mulawka and her organizing committee, and cooks John Milosevich and Gary Shannon.

Well, that's about all the news for Branch No. 9, Kootenay.

Mary Ann Stewart

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

I'll bring everyone up to date on what our club has done since the last newsletter, starting in May.

One of our original founding members, Ed Caissie and his wife, Dora celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 23rd of May. We surprised them at one of our regular practice nights (which happened to be the actual anniversary day) with a cake, card and bouquet of flowers. As a special tribute to Ed and Dora, Frank Gleeson, Williams Lake's Cowboy Poet, made up a special poem for them for their anniversary. Congratulations to a wonderful couple!

On the same note, the club invited Ed and his wife to a dinner at a local restaurant to help Ed celebrate a milestone birthday. He had turned 80 and we somehow

missed it. We always try to do something special for our members that have milestone birthdays.

In June the club played for a couple of hours for the Williams Lake Child Development Center pre-schoolers graduation day.

We also did our regular monthly play dates at the Legion's Seniors Luncheon and Retirement Concepts.

In July we held a pot-luck going away dinner for Gavin and Evelyn White at my place. I sure was glad that the weather co-operated as we had the dinner and jam session out on my patio. Gavin and Evelyn have moved back to Ontario to be near their families. We will miss them and wish them all the best in their new home.

The 150 Mile House community held their 150th Anniversary and the club was asked to entertain for a couple of hours. Things went well until we were forced to stop playing due to rain and lightning!

On August 12th our members played downtown for awhile to help promote the Williams Lake Art Walk.

On Saturday, August 13th, after months of planning, the day of our 30th Anniversary finally arrived. Again the weather co-operated and although we didn't get the turn-out we expected, the celebration turned out fine.

People were enjoying the music, chatting with old friends, and some even got up and danced! The music started at 2:00 PM and Jean Gelinas, Ab McQuillin and Ray Plamondon from the Quesnel club joined our group to play a few tunes and kept our toes tapping.

Frank Gleeson wrote a special poem for our 30th Anniversary and named it "Fiddle Diddle Do". It

was pretty funny and got a big laugh. Please see the poem on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

We would like to thank the members of the Kamloops club, Jenny and Larry Bakken and their guests and the Quesnel members that joined us and helped make it a success.

The Butler family, Bev and Leah, Chris and Kathy don't come in from Tatla Lake very often so it was nice of them to join us. Every time we hear Leah play she just keeps getting better!

A former long time member, Frank Kolotylo and his wife, Dorothy, came from Salmon Arm to visit old friends and club members. Frank hasn't lost his touch and played some familiar tunes with the club, then entertained us with one of his very lively Eastern European tunes.

Later in the day we held a barbecue with all the trimmings and topped it off with a big beautiful 30th Anniversary cake donated by Save-On-Foods. We hope that all the people that came out to help us celebrate had a good time; I know we did.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

We begin this newsletter with hearty congratulations to five of our members who competed in the Provincial Championships in Cumberland on the Canada Day weekend. Collectively, they took top-four placings in their categories of competition. The overall B.C.

Provincial Championship was won by Sarah Tradewell, who is slated to perform at our Jamboree in Coombs on September 17. In the Seniors category, John Fedoruk placed Second and George Gudbranson took Fourth. Bob Bloodsworth was Second in the Open category and Sarah, with her partner, Courtenay Campbell, took Second place in Twin Fiddle. We are very proud of them.

The final Thursday dance before the summer break was held on June 9. A large group of friends attended to enjoy a pot luck meal and honour Alma and Albert Bitz who, after many years, are retiring from the role of hosting the dances. To update information given in the May newsletter, the Thursday evening dances will resume on September 22nd instead of the 8th, in order to clear our calendars to prepare for the Jamboree on the 17th.

Several members joined with the family of our Ken Deacon to celebrate his 80th birthday at the Errington Hall on June 18. Some great entertainment was provided by fiddler Mike Sanyshyn and his wife Tianna, following which Mike was joined by a stage full of fiddlers and accompanists for a memorable jam in Ken's honour. We wish him many more years of fiddling enjoyment.

As mentioned, plans are moving apace for the Jamboree. To help with its promotion Shaw Cablevision is planning to tape a performance by the band along with interviews of our oldest and youngest members for broadcast on the local channel. We played on both the Saturday and Sunday of the 33rd annual Coombs Bluegrass Festival and received many compliments from folks in the large audience. Unfortunately, the hot weather resulted in some physical distress for a couple of

our members. Also, we are performing on both Saturday and Sunday at the Coombs Fair this weekend.

I'll close this missive with heartfelt wishes for a quick return to health for guitarist Elsie McKay, who is in Nanaimo fighting a painful infection that must clear up so that knee surgery can proceed safely. We want her back with us ASAP. Keep your spirits up, Elsie.

*Submitted by,
Bruce Foden,
ebfoden@gmail.com*

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Although the summer schedule is a little less busy, nevertheless our hard working musicians have been busy playing at various events including the Seniors' Expo in Northhills Mall, the Kamloops & District Seniors Outreach Society luncheon in Riverside Park, a gathering of the High Country British Car Club at the Plaza Hotel and at Logan Lake Day on July 31st. Next up will be the Ashcroft Fall Fair on September 11th, playing at approximately 12:30.

The Kamloops group has completed their 1st CD & copies are now available from Jackie at 250-319-3680.

There was a good attendance at our June campout & Jamboree & everyone had a good time jamming, playing crib & visiting with those people that we often only see once a year.

Soon the Fall schedule will begin with dances at Heritage House taking place on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month starting on

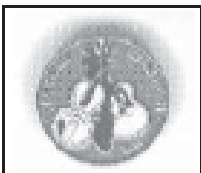
October 1st at 7:30 pm. There will also be a special "Octoberfest Dance" at Desert Gardens on October 22nd & the fiddlers will be joined by accordionist Nila Hirsch, along with her husband John. Nila & John joined us for a dance last Fall & certainly everyone enjoyed the music.

We have been forced to make some changes to our executive with the departure of Leo Ready. Jackie Davis has stepped up from Vice President to President & Clark Hiles has been appointed to fill in as Vice President until the next AGM.

On the back page of this newsletter is a tribute to Leo written by Ada Brown on behalf of the Provincial Association. We can only agree with every word that has been written about him, and about all that we can add is that he will be sorely missed here in Kamloops, but we wish him all the best in the future.

Florence

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

Well, the Provincial Fiddle contest, hosted by

Branch #17, is now history. It always amazes me when you look forward to something with anticipation, the excitement builds, and builds, the time drags on and almost stops.....then, in the blink of an eye, it's over. Just like a child waiting for Christmas to arrive.

So it was, with the Fiddle Contest. But over a year of preparation and planning paid off in the end, with a very successful contest. We have received many wonderful

comments, in person, and later by e-mail. There were more young fiddlers than is generally seen at most contests. It looks like old time fiddling will be carried on for some time into the future as these young fiddlers mature, and take over where we old timers leave off.

All categories were well populated except for one. Our only disappointment was that there were only three fiddlers in the Championship category. We know there are many fiddlers in BC who could enter this category. The prizes were the best ever, so is it possible that travelling to the "Island" was the stumbling block? Possibly, we know that it takes more time, and costs more to go across those waters. We, who live, on the island are faced with that prospect every year, but there have been at least five provincial champions who came from Vancouver Island in the past 15 years or so. They had to cross those waters many times, but didn't allow anything to get in the way of claiming top spot. There is a good possibility that the outcome would not have been any different if some others had entered, because the top three finishers were fantastic, but someone could have claimed that fourth place prize. It would have paid for the trip both ways with enough left over for a bit of celebration.

Congratulations to all the winners, and our appreciation goes out to all competitors. Without you, we couldn't have held the contest at all. The results are on the BCOTFA website and also on Branch #17 website where you can find tons of pictures of the event and a video link to Sarah Tradewell's "Tune of Choice".

On another front, our new CD, "Playing It By Ear Again", was delivered just in time to go on sale

at the contest. Making this recording, legally, was quite an interesting process. Before we started on it, I had asked someone from the Provincial Executive if there was any resources, or leads we might look at, to steer us through the process. The answer I received was that most clubs have the same problem, and some just go ahead and make their tapes and CDs the best way they know how.

I believe that some clubs have done it the legal way, because they have members who have become recording artists in their own right, and the information on how to make recordings with licences would be easier to come by. Now that we have gone through this process, I plan on having a workshop on creating a CD legally, at our next jamboree in the spring of 2012. I also would like to put it all on a Power Point type of presentation that can be e-mailed if I get feedback that tells me there is an interest.

Looking forward to the start of our next season of play dates and jam sessions.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Zounds! Another three months has whizzed by and we are now enjoying a three month summer packed into the month of August. June wrapped up with the Branch #18 Funtime Fiddlers playing the opening set for the big Relay For Life event at the Vanier track. That fundraiser goes on all night long and the participants clock many miles as well as kilometers. We kicked off July 1st celebrations by opening the Canada Day evening concert at the Sid Williams Theatre and we were

delighted to be joined on stage by "out-of-towners", Vivienne Chin, John & Lynn Tribe and Alex Randall, all with their fiddles blazing.

July 2nd saw many of our fiddlers experiencing a fiddle contest for the first time. The Provincial Contest was held in historic Cumberland and we were encouraged to see so many Branch #18 participants. A number of our young players, Taz, Leah, Max, Maggie, Charlie, Katie, Erin, Daisy, Jia and Seela joined the bulging ranks of the "12 and Under" and "Youth" categories. Leah even managed to pull in 4th place and Max walked off with the People's Choice award! Not to be outdone by the young whippersnappers, Cindy and Mark took on the "Intermediate" category and raked in 2nd and 3rd respectively. Having had such a close brush with overall victory, Cindy eagerly teamed up with Christopher in the "Twin Fiddle" category and definitely nailed down 4th place even though they had to improvise for the unscheduled second round of play. Craig was obligated to move up to the "Open" class where he squeaked in a 4th place but his fleeting glimpse of glory was quickly overshadowed by the amazing Campbell River Bob who furiously fiddled his way to First Place in the "Seniors" Division!

Overall it was an enjoyable contest and it was fun to see several players from off the Island who made the trek over to the Comox Valley. The day after the contest we had the provincial AGM and a new slate of officers was elected to guide the Goode Shippe BCOTFA through more uncharted seas.

Later in July, the Funtime Fiddlers cranked out a hopping, two hour set for an appreciative audience at Simms Park in Courtenay at a

Sunday Summer Sounds in the Park event and several individual players have been entertaining at Farmers' Markets in Courtenay and Black Creek.

Summer fiddle camps are being attended and Trent reports that he is enjoying instructing at several of them. A core group of fiddlers is hard at work on the Merville Hall where we have our Contra Dances in the fall and winter months. The new kitchen is taking shape and now, bordering the parking lot, there is a cedar rail, zig zag fence that is perfect for giving the hall that "country feel".

School is just around the corner and our last event for August will be the Funtime Fiddlers playing at the Anderton Therapeutic Gardens. See you at the next jam session.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

This year it was only the name on the calendar that told us the summer season was about to start. It definitely was not the weather. The month of June, always bringing with it a change of pace and focus, just didn't display the usual attributes of summer, like a little sunshine and warmth. At this time of year we generally come to the end of our regular play-outs and ease back a little with other commitments so we can enjoy more outdoor pursuits in the sunshine and warmth. Right!!!. Maybe next year.

Once again we played for the Junebug Jamboree for the Square Dancers, held at the Fanny Bay Hall on June 10th. This is a fun, satisfying venue for us, and now that more of us are getting a better feel for "those challenging jigs",

we can relax a bit and enjoy the experience. Luckily the weather was dry, as some of us decided to camp there overnight.

The Provincial Competition was big in our minds this year. As a club, we wanted to show our support for Branch #17 and their hard work to host such a major event. In the end, eight of our members decided to enter. There were probably as many different reasons for entering, as people. Anywhere from personal challenge, curiosity, competitive nature, and the fact that "The Provincial" is seldom so close to home. These competitions can also be challenging for those important accompanists who have to put in the time to get to know the pieces well enough to support the fiddler. It was a great opportunity to jam with old and new friends on the Friday night, hear new pieces and get in extra practice for more familiar ones. Of course we were all thrilled when two of our members were among the finalists, with Jim Killough coming third in the Seniors category, and Rhonda Holcombe, fourth in the Intermediate category. Well done you two.

From a personal point of view, as a first time contestant with only a few years experience on the fiddle, it was a challenge met and dealt with. It was nice to find out that I could stand up to the mic and not totally fall apart. In waiting for my turn I caught myself thinking, "What if I forget my own pieces while listening to those ahead of me", but I guess with weeks of practice doing the three pieces and in their prescribed order of Waltz, Jig, Reel, the songs and sequence was set. What I really enjoyed though, was watching and hearing the young people who were competing. Most of them have been taking lessons at some point,

so those important bowing techniques are well on the way to being second nature. Some of we older, self-taught players, aren't quite as strong or graceful in that area. Of course the three fiddlers in the Championship section were marvelous to listen to and watch. I came away feeling quite inspired to spend more time trying to improve my playing, although I'm not sure I have enough years left to get anywhere near the skill level of the last three players.

After the competition, we, at Branch #19, were really pleased to have a visit from a couple of young fiddlers, Ben and Katherine, from Leduc, Alberta. They came to our regular Monday practice while they were visiting relatives in Port Alberni. Ben very capably helped to lead our practice with his strong, clear playing. It was too bad that they weren't able to enter the Provincial Competition, but being from out of Province, it couldn't happen. It was nice to hear them play a few pieces "off the record" in Cumberland. It is good for we "old fogey's" to spend some time with the younger players and both groups can learn so much from each other.

This year four of our members travelled to the Fiddle Camp in Castlegar, with three of them driving, and one flying there. Jim and Louise Killough, Rhonda Holcombe and Barbara Lehtonen all came back saying what a marvelous time they had. A great week working with super instructors, and wonderful interaction with old and new friends.

Several of our members also attended the Bluegrass Festival in Coombs over the August long week-end. Sounds like there was lots of great music to listen to and many people to jam with into the wee hours. It is good to hear

different styles of fiddle playing as it all helps to train our ears in deciphering the variety of sounds.

As the "summer holidays" are speeding by, we'll continue with a few more sessions out at the Heritage Site of McLean's Mill, but otherwise most of us will practice when we can and relax when we can't. A break from a busy schedule can be very beneficial, even if it does mean a few challenging practices to get back up to speed on some pieces and refresh the ol' memory. "How does that piece start, anyway? You know, that one in the key of G".

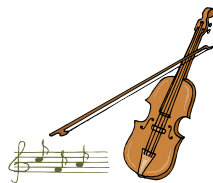
Enjoy some time with family and friends, hopefully including some musical moments, either playing or listening.

Gail Ross

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 17, 2011
Annual Coombs Jamboree
Rodeo Grounds, Coombs
250-752-3636

October 1, 2011
Old Time Fiddle Contest
Quesnel, BC
FMI 250-992-5081



B.C. Fiddle News Advertising Costs

Full Page - \$ 60
Half Page - \$ 30
Quarter Page - \$ 20
Business card size - \$ 15

Please note that B.C.O.T.F.A. Branches can publicize their events at no cost, with space allocation being at the discretion of the Editor.

Congratulations to the Williams Lake Branch of the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association who celebrated their 30th anniversary in August. A special poem was written for the Branch by Frank Gleeson. Frank is a well know Cowboy poet & was named the official Poet Laureate of Williams Lake in 2003. Following is the poem, which I'm sure you will enjoy.

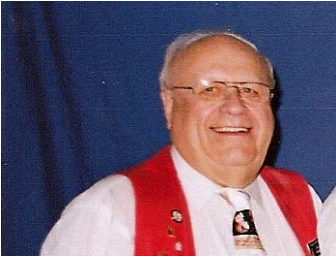
FIDDLE DIDDLE DO

*Now I know some special people
That put on quite a show,
They make music like you won't believe
With a fiddle and a bow.*

*If you take your love for a dance
Or just sit down there and croon,
If you want to dance or just romance
They've got a special tune.*

*So when I die and go to heaven
And I hope that's not too soon,
I hope they're up there so I can dance
To an old time fiddle tune.*

*So fiddlers, try and live the good life
And always treat your neighbour well,
Cause if I can't find you in heaven
I'll have to dance all over hell.*



FAREWELL TO LEO READY

In the near future we will be bidding farewell to Leo Ready. He is moving back to his home town of Pembroke, Ontario.

In 1984 Leo, along with other fiddle enthusiasts, was instrumental in the formation of the Kamloops Branch of the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association. He has played an active role in the Kamloops branch, having served as President for 11 years, Vice-President for 4 years and also as a Director. For 25 years his leadership as contest chairman has contributed to the outstanding success of the contests in Kamloops.

At the Provincial level, he has served on the Board of Directors for 24 years – 11 of them as President. He was a driving force behind the committee to establish the first B.C. fiddle camp which still operates at Gavin Lake.

Leo has competed in contests in every region of the province and has an impressive display of trophies and plaques that attest to his success from coast to coast. He has represented British Columbia at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championships in Ontario on several occasions.

As a true old time fiddler, he inspires crowds to fill the dance floor with his wide range of tunes. He is a committed fiddler as he takes part in a multitude of play-outs in the Kamloops and surrounding areas.

Leo has written some tunes, has tried his hand at teaching, and is called upon to Judge at contests in B.C. He has been relentless in his efforts to expose our best fiddlers to the rest of Canada and also expose us to some of Canada's best.

We extend a huge thank you to Leo for his invaluable contributions to Old Time Fiddling in this province. Leo will be missed by the fiddle community and by those who have benefited from his generous donation of time and talent. Our loss will certainly be Ontario's gain!

Good luck, Leo.

*Ada Brown, on behalf of the
British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association*

WILLIAMS LAKE BRANCH #10 30th ANNIVERSARY

Photo below shows Charter members of the Williams Lake Branch, Bill Downie, Marj Blair & Ed Caissie cutting the 30th Anniversary cake. Also in the picture are former members Jim Mowery on the far left & Frank Kolotylo at the back (far right).



Above are three of the 2011-2012 British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association board members. From left to right, Directors John Tribe & Vivienne Chin and President Craig Freeman. Absent from this photo are Vice President Ada Brown, Secretary Treasurer Philippa Parker, Directors Cindy Budd, Vic Ukrainetz, Mike Sanyshyn & Mark Sullivan.