



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

CHARLOTTE LAPP – April 9, 1930 – November 20, 2012

1930's & 1940's – Early Years

Charlotte was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta in 1930 on a farm 25 miles south of Bow Island. She was the first child born to Daniel and Margaret Wutzke. They had six children, two boys and four girls. Her father and brother Carl, played fiddle; Charlotte and her sisters, Doris and Joyce, played piano. Charlotte started playing at dances with her father while living in Alberta at the age of 12.

At the age of 14, Charlotte moved with her family to a farm in Lumby, BC. She lived with one of her mother's brothers and his young son to finish high school in Vernon. In 1948, after high school, Charlotte was off to



DANIEL, CHARLOTTE & SOLEY

Victoria where she trained at Normal School to become a school teacher. Charlotte then bought her first



CHARLOTTE & CLARENCE

purchase for \$150.00 a decade later.

1950's & 1960's - Married and Family Years

Charlotte met her husband, Clarence Lapp, at a school dance in 1951 in Reid Lake. In 1952, they were married in Grimshaw, Alberta where Charlotte's parents lived. While Clarence worked in the logging industry (in sawmills then as a skidder operator), the

accordion. After graduating, she landed her first teaching assignment in Houston, B.C. in the fall of 1949. During the following two years, Reid Lake became her home of teaching while living with the Roberts family. Little did she know that the piano they owned, Charlotte & Clarence would



2012-2013 YOUTH FIDDLERS

couple lived in Ferndale and sawmill camps east of Prince George. Charlotte and Clarence started their family during these years; Brenda the first born was followed by Harry, Beverley, Richard, Helen, and Daniel.

Charlotte taught school at Ferndale and Willow River elementary schools while living in Ferndale. She then taught correspondence to Brenda and Beverley while living at Mile 61, a sawmill camp east of Prince George that was only accessible by train. When the family moved back to Ferndale after a year and a half, Charlotte also taught at Blackburn Elementary School. In the early 1960's Charlotte also started playing with Dave Bowman and his band for local dances.

In October, 1969, Clarence and Charlotte moved the family to North Nechako where Clarence still lives.

1970's – The Start of the Old Time Fiddle Years

During the 1970's, Charlotte took some library credit courses through UBC, in Prince George, to upgrade her teaching and did some substitute teaching at Blackburn Junior Secondary School. She balanced her life by hosting family gatherings where old time fiddle music echoed through the neighborhood as she and her siblings and an addition to the group, her brother in law Gordie Lidstone, played old time fiddle music. These family gatherings burned the love of music into the soul of Daniel. When he turned 8 the school board had introduced the Suzuki program. However, for a student to be enrolled in this program it was required for a parent to take up the same instrument with their child for at least one year. Charlotte fit the bill to a 'T' and played along with Daniel. Soon Daniel started picking up fiddle tunes from his grandfather. Charlotte, Clarence and Daniel joined the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association in the mid 1970's, and Daniel started competing in fiddle contests around BC with his mom accompanying him on the piano. Charlotte soon became known within the club as the 'Lady of the Piano'. She was a strong supporter of Prince George's young fiddlers and coached them at weekly jam sessions and prepared them for their opening numbers at our concerts before the annual contests. Soon Charlotte was one of the favorite musicians for 'backing-up' out of town fiddlers at contests. In 2002, Charlotte and Clarence were granted Life-Time memberships of Prince George Old Time Fiddlers, Branch #1. In the late 1970's Charlotte started to teach piano to children in the Prince George area.

1980's to 1995 – Teaching School & Piano

In 1980, Charlotte went back to teaching school. The first few years were spent at elementary schools in

Upper Fraser and Giscome. Charlotte organized or helped with Christmas concerts at whatever school she was teaching and attended the Prince George music festivals at Vanier Hall every year. She would attend all kinds of events that were offered – not just piano or fiddle. For about two months, Charlotte and eight other members of the Prince George Old Time Fiddlers were able to play in Vancouver for Expo 1986. Dave Bowman organized a production of a cassette tape in honor of their contribution to this event.

In July 1994, the BC Fiddle Treat held its first annual camp in Wells where Charlotte taught piano. The camp was moved to Gavin Lake in 1998. From the beginning, Charlotte became a strong supporter and taught piano almost every year until 2011. During this same year, Charlotte and two of her children, Beverley and Daniel played fiddle music when the Queen officially opened UNBC (University of Northern British Columbia).

1995 to 2012 - Retirement Years

After Charlotte retired from teaching at the age of 65 in 1995, she became even more involved with the Prince George Old Time Fiddlers Branch #1 and played a minimum of 15 times a month for various events. Charlotte played for many school Christmas concerts after retiring from her last school, Pinewood Elementary, where she was the librarian and taught music to all grades.

In 2012, Charlotte attended two important events: the Bella Coola Music Festival, in Bella Coola, on July 21-22, 2012 where Charlotte played with Daniel and Beverley; and the Celtic Colours International Festival, in Nova Scotia, on October 11, 2012 where Daniel was performing in many towns. Charlotte and her friend, Judy, were treated like royalty after Daniel brought them back stage to meet everyone.

Charlotte Lapp passed away suddenly on November 20, 2012 doing the things she loved; playing music, dancing, delivering cookies to seniors, playing cards, and having lunch at Wendy's with her family and friends. She leaves a legacy that very few can follow. In her memory, the family requested donations to the club to support the teaching of young fiddlers. Through her efforts there are 22 new youth and adult fiddlers this year. Her love of music will trickle through many generations yet to come.

Submitted by Ardea Wylie with much help from the Lapp family & BCOTFA members.

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.

PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are available and will be mailed directly to subscribers as follows:

ONE YEAR (4 ISSUES) \$13.00

For U.S.A. destinations please add \$2.00 shipping charges.

Send your cheque or money order with mailing details to the following:

**B.C. OLD TIME
FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTIONS**
c/o 416 COLLINGWOOD DRIVE,
KAMLOOPS, B.C.
V2B 6B3

B.C. Old Time Fiddlers'
Association

<http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

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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.



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 below.

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

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B.C. Fiddle News is printed by
Edge Publishing Inc., Kamloops,
250-374-3246

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 2013 – Comox
Valley #18

March 2014 – Alberni Valley
#19

June 2014 – North Island #17
Sept 2014 – Quesnel #3

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

Summer is Camps, Jamborees and in general a good time for fiddling with friends. For Lynn and I it really has been a very busy summer, because there are not only music camps to attend, but also art retreats and courses on our bucket list.

Camp Calvin was one of the camps that we attended this summer and this camp is now two one week events one after the other. We attended the second week and we really appreciate what the camps have to offer. With three of the instructors having won the Canadian Grand Masters and two of them being three time winners, there wasn't anything they couldn't do on the fiddle and everyone was willing to help you with your efforts. The really great thing about these camps

is that the teachers are ready, willing and able to teach at a speed that you can keep up with. That doesn't mean you don't have to work but it's always within your capabilities and nobody gives up in frustration.

By the time this newsletter gets circulated we'll probably be enjoying the Grand Masters competition. With the Grand Masters "out west" this year, that's another event that we'll be taking in. I put out west in quotes because it's still a 15 hour drive for us, the west is obviously a very big place! One of the attractions this year is the 100 fiddlers from the west that will showcase three of the tunes that are very familiar to us. Gord Stobbe has made arrangements of the tunes so that there are 3 and sometimes four parts playing. I think it should be a lot of fun; Lynn and I have been diligently practicing our parts.

We have some sad news to share from the Kelowna area and that is that we lost Chris Shennan in July. Chris was well known in the fiddling circles not only in Kelowna but in many locations in BC. It was always a pleasure to play to her accompaniment and she was house accompanist at many of our contests.

Although I haven't officially started anything with respect to the Red Book I have been thinking about it and how to get it all done. You can expect to hear from me before its time to receive the winter newsletter.

Here's wishing everyone a good start on the fall season.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR

FLORENCE TELLIER



Although the summer is traditionally slower for all the Branches, it is always full of camps & workshops for those who are interested in improving their skills.

From all reports, these events are very successful & found to be very rewarding, both for those who organize them & those who attend. Be sure to read, towards the end of this newsletter, an article written by one of our members on her experiences this summer. If you didn't make it in 2013, I'm sure you will be encouraged to attend next year after you have read about Barbara's experiences!

Mark Sullivan has had a busy summer so no "BC Youth Fiddle Interview" this month, but I'm sure he will have a good story ready for the next issue. As well, we look forward to reports on the Canadian Grand Masters competition held in Saskatoon this year.

Enjoy the rest of the sunny days ahead.

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*



CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

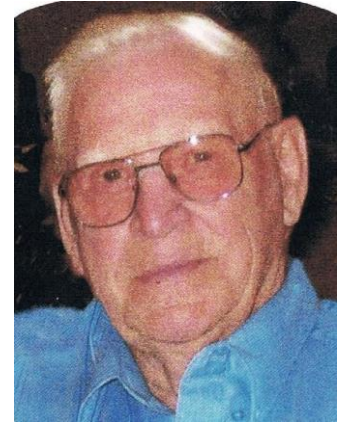
Prince George Branch treasures two more very important members of our fiddle club, Dave Bowman and Bob Campbell.

Dave Bowman - May 19, 2013



At the age of 92, another legacy is left for the Old Time Fiddlers. Dave was one of the first members to make the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association a reality. He first served as Secretary Treasurer for four years, then as a director for two. At the age of 13, Dave learned how to play on his brother's fiddle. Since then, his fiddling has inspired many. Dave's involvement included: playing for dances, organizing and directing fiddlers and back-up for a week at Expo '86, and organizing the production of a tape in honor of Expo. Dave was sent off to his eternal home with one last OTF jam at the PG Hospice House shortly before his passing. Dave was very encouraging to beginner fiddlers, young and elderly, and always showed much appreciation to each person performing in the group. His gift continues among many members of his family and friends,

playing in ever-expanding harmony and joy. Thank you, Dave, for bringing OTF music to our youth and beginner adult fiddlers for over 40 years.



Bob Campbell - July 4, 2013

Fiddle clubs need not only musicians but supporters to be successful. Bob and Mae are experts in this field. When one attends any function hosted by the Prince George Branch #1 or the Quesnel Branch #3, you will almost always see Bob and his wife Mae helping out in some way. Although Bob and Mae do not play an instrument, they love fiddle music and have been one of Branch #1's greatest supporters. Bob and Mae have helped out in our weekly jams by bringing coffee and setting up chairs, attending our dances, and contributing in various ways at our fiddle competitions by decorating and flipping pancakes for the Sunday breakfast. Bob sat on the board of directors for 14 years from 1980 to 1994 with a year break in 1986. He was one of the main people involved with setting up and taking down the giant fiddles for the PG May Day parade. He did what needed to be done, and always with generosity and a big smile. Bob passes on his love of fiddle through his daughter Karen Reid.

Thanks to John Broderick who organized fiddlers and back-up to play for the Rotary Presidency Ball. Cy Fortin and John shared playing bass and singing well known country tunes while Keith Monroe

and Alice Friend hammered out some great old time tunes on the key board and accordion, respectfully. Ardea Wylie worked hard to keep up to this experienced group, but managed to nail a few tunes for the group on the fiddle. Although only a few Rotary members were familiar with the old time dancing, fun was embraced by all as they swayed in figure eight circles, dancing free style. There was an impressive supper served with fine wine and all the great trimmings of a good home made meal. One always learns something new and I learned that the president serves for one year then becomes a COW. And they seem very proud of this!? Not sure I would like to be called a COW, but in this case it would be a great honor since it means 'Counsel of Wisdom'. ☺

This is the third summer of a culture event hosted by the BC Metis Federation and their community partner, Northern Interior Metis Cultural Society, from Prince George. Thanks to Carolyn Jacob, a group of adults and youth was organized to play at this special event on Father's Day, June 16, in Fort George Park.

New fiddle members, Ashley and Weston Stevens with their three children, hosted a fiddlers' BBQ on their acreage outside of Prince George on July 17. In spite of the holiday season there was a great turnout! Carolyn and Gabriel Jacob started the group with familiar tunes and all joined in. In between fiddling, the youth enjoyed playing on the playground equipment, later cooling off with a wild, water gun fight. One dad became the target of the firing squad. But in the end, after an exhausting pursuit, his daughter ended up just as drenched as her target. The highlight of the barbeque is shown below with our youngest fiddler, age two. This young fiddler grabbed his fiddle

case, brought it to the center of the circle and started fiddling. After finishing his tune, he would put it back in the fiddle case, carry it around, bring it back again, and repeated his routine. He did this many times - a sure sign he is destined as a future winner of the Grand Masters! The grand finale of the evening ended with screams of delight as Ashley pulled a cart full of fiddlers behind an ATV, then roasted marshmallows over the campfire for 'Smores'.



See Dad,



I'm destined to fiddle!

At Gavin Lake Fiddle Camp July 27 to August 2, the weekend weather started out chilly then turned into a lovely, roasting sauna. For the week's end concert, the weather gave an outstanding applause, with a Stompin' Tom Connor's bang of thunder and lightning. Daniel Lapp's piano class of twelve, resorted to clapping the rhythm of Daniel's fiddle tune as the lights went out, the keyboards became mute, and darkness hovered over the camp. The highlight of the canoe race was with Barry Nakahara and

his crew winning by a nose and the second place canoe capsized just after the finish line.

Close to thirty Prince George musicians inhabited the camp this year, many of whom were Branch #1 members. Fiddle instructors included: Gordon Stobbe, JJ Guy, Keith Hill, Anita Mamela, Colin Butchart, Tahnis Cunningham, and Sarah Hart. Daniel Lapp taught piano. Matt Sircely and Jim Borden taught mandolin, while Ray Bell, Gene Bretecher and Doug Borden taught guitar. Prince George musicians included fiddlers: Brittany, Hailey, Barry, Chloe, Sally, Mackenzie, Rannon, Maliky, Hamish, Mataya, Shawnee, Maria, Faith, Danica, Talya, Ella, Jenny, and Ardea. Piano: Lauren, Laurel, Judy. Guitar: Bailey, Rick, Brett, Liam. Mandolin: Jim, Edna, Maureen. Thanks to Kristi, another new member, for taking photos of a great year of fiddle camp, as well as to those deserving grandparents, Edna Rouleau, Marie Debow, and Helen Bealey whose intention was to help in the kitchen but ended up with a strained ankle.

We had a great turnout on our last Thursday jam on June 27. Shawnee Newton finished teaching her peppy tune, Panhandle Rag to our group of young fiddlers. Thanks, Shawnee!

We will resume our jam sessions, dances and regular play-outs September 5, 2013. If you are out this way, please come and join us. Until next time enjoy the rest of the summer and enjoy playing those new tunes from fiddle camp!

*Ardea Wylie,
Club correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Summer is almost over and winter comin' on. Sounds like an old song lyric. We made it through the May Dance and the one in June. The crowd was about what we expected and we thank Judy Feyer and Mae Campbell for coming down, and Ken Emery for stopping on his way to the contest in Alberta. The June Dance was also attended by our regular following.

Starting soon our Club's monthly dances will continue at the Quesnel Royal Canadian Legion on the first weekend of each month, usually March is busy at the Legion so either the date or location gets changed.

At the Relay for Life on May 25, we had a full stage. At Sylvia's Music Fest on June 15 we had a very crowded stage and a good audience for our performance, we even imported a guitar and washboard from Harriston, and a bass player from Quesnel. On Father's Day, I didn't manage to get out to Cottonwood Historic House to play but understand that the burger's and music were great. Billy Barker Days Festival third weekend of July we played on the Lebourdais Stage on Thursday at 11:00 am and then played Thursday night, the 18th, for "Saloon 94" at the Legion Hall again.

The "20th B.C. Fiddle Treat was held on July 27 to August 2. Not being out this year I cannot say how it went but everyone that I have talked to had a great time.

"Roy's Retreat" in honour of our friend Roy Throssel will be held at the Cottonwood Historic Park the

weekend of August 16, 17, and 18th. There will be workshops throughout the day and jam sessions in the evenings. For information and or photos of the event check out the Facebook page.

Again this year, Adam Johnson and Deni Stone are listed as competitors at the Canadian Grand Masters in Saskatoon. We wish all of the competitors the best of luck, but wish for Adam and Deni to kick butt.

Again on behalf of the Quesnel Branch of the Old Time Fiddler's, I'm Ab. Thanks for keeping Old Time Music alive.

And a report from Jean....

The BC Fiddle 'Treat at Gavin Lake was filled to capacity again with 145 registered students for fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and piano. Everything worked in our favour with perfect weather, good food, great instructors and all the lively evening entertainment. Even the last concert had the added feature of lightning strikes and deafening applause of thunder. Our committee extends thanks to the students, staff, and parent volunteers who managed to keep the dishes done, the tables and floors wiped, and the toilets clean. Everyone pitched in to make it one of the best camps yet. We are booked for the same dates next year, July 26 to Aug 1, so keep those dates in mind. We will update our website with any new information in a month or two.

The Roy Throssel Retreat was held on Aug 16-18 at Cottonwood House, a historic site on the Barkerville Highway. The facilities there are perfect for such an occasion; cabins, washrooms, kitchen and eating area, firepits, and a hall with a stage. 21 students attended for a Friday evening social and jam, a full day of lessons, music

and dancing on Saturday, and a wind up gathering on Sunday morning. Group and private lessons were offered by Deni Stone, Adam Johnson, Anita Mamela, Eddy De Sousa, Bruce Birch, and Doug and Jim Borden. Eight bursaries were awarded to participants who wish to attend next year. The Throssel family hopes to build on the successful turnout and positive feedback to make this an annual event.

Jean Gelinas

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

No report from CFVF at this time.

SURREY



BRANCH #5

What a wonderful Summer this has been, definitely no complaints about the weather from the Surrey people.

Our fiddlers have been enjoying the Summer break and some have been travelling in and out of Province, visiting relatives, others attending fiddle contests, fiddle camps, fiddle jams and picnics.

Although our fiddlers have not been playing at any venues during the Summer months, the majority of our players sit in with the Hazelmere fiddlers for their weekly Monday evening practices.

The following members from our Surrey Branch, Dale Belchamber,

Sam and Brad McDowell, mentioned that they had been out to the Castlegar Fiddle Camp during the month of July and had a wonderful time. They also reported that the fiddle camp had a great lineup of Instructors.

Congratulations to Lia Gronberg for her 1st place win in the intermediate class and to Kai for placing 2nd at the North American fiddle contest held in Radway Alberta. They also placed 1st in the twin fiddle category.

Our member, Mike Sanyshyn, along with four other players in Canada, has recently been nominated for Fiddle and Mandolin Player of the Year Category at the Canadian Country Music Awards, which will be held in Edmonton on September 8th. Mike mentioned that he would be playing for Deric Ruttan, one of the performers on the show. "Congratulations Mike". Mike will also be one of the instructors at the Grand Masters Fiddle Camp.

Our Surrey Fiddlers' potluck picnic and fiddle Jam, held on Sunday, August 4th turned out great, with approximately seventy five people attending. The weather was perfect, the variety of food was amazing and the music was great. The majority of the people look forward to this yearly event, as it is a great way to get everyone together to meet and make new friends.

Condolences go out to the family of Harvey Heinz, who passed away on July 6th. Harvey loved dancing and enjoyed coming out to our Surrey Fiddlers' dances with his wife Irna. Harvey was a wonderful person and we will miss him. We were also sorry to hear that Lorne McNaughton of the Coombs Branch has passed away recently and also Ann Makarus, a former member of the Coombs Branch, who was

residing in Edmonton at the time of her passing.

Our Surrey fiddlers' Dances will be starting up again at Clayton Hall on Thursday, September 5th and on the 1st Thursday of every month except July and August. Location: Clayton Hall -70 th Ave. ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street. Time: - 7:30pm - 10:30 pm.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

The Central Okanagan had more than our usual spring rains this year and then it settled into a scorching dry summer. We sympathize with our neighbors in Alberta and other areas who suffered severe flooding. Last Monday night as I headed to the Cancer Clinic to back up Bob Russell, we were treated to a sudden cloud burst with some hail included.

Summer time is holiday time so we try to keep our playing dates to a minimum. Bill Bryson arranged an outstanding one that we entertained at, which was a huge outdoor wedding reception with about 800 guests. It was on a beautiful acreage with a great view of the city and lake. Ruth Buchanan, our southern belle (Florida Peach for the winter) arranged a couple of nice Senior gigs for us. One was a brand new luxury facility on the west side called Lakeview Lodge. Ron Hanschak led us on both occasions and did a fine job. They asked us when we could come back, so that was good news. Ruth brought her 2 fiddler granddaughters from Medicine Hat, Karlee & Ruthie who claimed that was the highlight of their life. Our hard working secretary, Tracy Beckett, brought

her son Devon and a couple of her students to help out. The kids all played great so stay the course and when you are as old as us, you will be glad you did.

The Canadian Grand Masters has moved west to Saskatoon, Sk. this year, thankfully. John & Lynn Tribe will be sharing the stage with 101 fiddlers for the Opening Ceremony. The day before on August 23rd, they will attend the CGM Dance at the site of John Arcands Fiddle Fest. Sounds like a great weekend. B.C. has sent some fine fiddlers as usual, including Gabriel Jacob from Prince George, Adam Johnson & Deni Stone from Quesnel and Sara Tradewell from Victoria. We wish them all the best, but above all have a good time.

Our 17th Annual Contest on June 1st was well attended and ran smoothly, thanks to the efforts of John & Lynn Tribe and their crew. Special mention goes to Irene McAvena who did an outstanding job of catering in the kitchen. Everything was good including her big cinnamon buns which were to die for. The contest results were as follows:

Junior Junior:

- 1st Paris Kirk
- 2nd Taryn Ebner

Junior:

- 1st Sage Kirk
- 2nd Devon Beckett
- 3rd Meagan Straume
- 4th Aaron Wong

Youth:

- 1st Amanda Shaw
- 2nd Katie McMahon
- 3rd Eamon Osborne

Intermediate:

- 1st Linda Read
- 2nd Tracey Beckett
- 3rd Judy Gugliemin

Championship:

- 1st Adam Johnson
- 2nd Chloe Davidson
- 3rd Deni Stone
- 4th Kai Gronberg
- 5th Rowan Osborne

Open:

- 1st Kyle Davidson
- 2nd Lia Gronberg
- 3rd Bob Bloodsworth
- 4th Lynn Tribe

Senior:

- 1st Harley Jansen
- 2nd Nadia Olafson
- 3rd Marshal Fedoruk
- 4th Wayne Angman
- 5th Dan Ferguson

Golden Age:

- 1st Sterling Cuthbert
- 2nd Mable Babcock
- 3rd Bob Russell

Novice:

- 1st Peter Minchau
- 2nd Sydney Obst

Twin Fiddle:

- 1st Kai and Lia Gronberg
- 2nd Deni Stone and Adam Johnson
- 3rd Chloe and Kyle Davidson

Congratulations to all the winners and our encouragement to the runners up. Remember the old saying, if at first you don't succeed try, try again. Thanks to all the parents who made the effort to bring their families to compete. Also, those like Sterling Cuthbert who has come from Northern Alberta for some years. Without all of you there would be no contest.

To run a successful contest requires a lot of volunteers to cover all the bases. The judges this year were Mark & Laila Sullivan and Keith Hill. Roxanna Sabir was our house piano back up lady. Vic Ukrainetz was our M.C. and sound equipment

man. A big thanks to all the above for helping the show to go on.

On a sad note was the passing of our long time backup piano & guitar player, Chris Shennan. She was always active for the last 20 years or so at play dates and contests locally and at Kamloops. Not wanting to drive at night and in wintry conditions slowed her down. Thankfully her son Wes, was able to stay and take care of her. At her well attended funeral on July 4th, the fiddlers played and sang a couple of songs. On August 1st, we attended another sad funeral for Sonia Gunnarsons son, Kistoffe, who died suddenly. A small group of fiddlers played and Vic and Sonia both sang. Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of the above.

Our Sunshine lady, Pauline Angman, is recovering nicely from her surgery. Another long time member, Gordie Cheyne, has had a new knee installed and has recovered well. I heard yesterday that he is in Manitoba visiting relatives. Just can't keep a good man (or lady) down.

Our energizer bunny, Connie Stamhuis and Florida Peach Ruth Buchanan, have both sold their big houses and moved into more compact digs. Upcoming events (1) our annual picnic/jam session will be at the Mission Creek Park on August 24th and (2) the Armstrong Fair on August 28th & 29th. See you there.

By next time, the gardens and orchards will be harvested and we will be playing Jingle Bells and sipping eggnog. How time flies!

Russ Gerrie

PS. May you have love to share, health to spare and friends that care

MERRITT

BRANCH #8



Merritt Old Time Fiddlers held their general meeting on June 9th. Elections were held -

President - Diane Shalanski
Vice-President - Mickey Hodgson
Secretary - Angele Grenier
Treasurer - Del Lawrence
Directors - Carol Bernard, Lois Blair, Mary Dickie, Don Garcia, Jean-Guy Dupuis and Ken Bergstrom.

Guests were John and Lynn Tribe, Vic, Vivienne, Dale, Stan and Harley. Thanks to the many guests who gave us several suggestions to keep our Club active. We hope to hold dances every two to three months thanks to the many musicians who have volunteered to play - much appreciated.

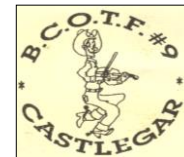
We would also like to keep our May long weekend campout.

Our next meeting will be held September 22 and at that time we will elect a new President due to the resignation of our President Diane. New and old members are welcome.

Submitted by Delphine Lawrence

KOOTENAY

BRANCH #9



What a wonderful summer we are having. So many opportunities to enjoy sunshine and outdoor activities to the ultimate. It is now mid-August, however, and not much time before our Fall and Winter seasons are again upon us.

Our twelfth annual Fiddle Workshop was held July 15th to July 19th, at Selkirk College in Castlegar, BC. Again, it was an outstanding success. We had many positive comments from the students and instructors, saying that this was the best fiddle camp they ever attended. We had a record-breaking 80 students enrolled this year, comprising of 66 fiddle, 7 piano, and 7 guitar. They came from all over B.C. and across Canada as far away as Ontario. The instructors also came from all over Canada, some from as far away as the East coast. We are so fortunate to have such a high caliber of instructors (headed by Gordon Stobbe) and also the wonderful facilities at Selkirk College. Having 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 week of instruction included events such as a square dance, a variety show, a public performance at the Kinnaird Park community Church, and the final concert at the College on Friday morning. Also included was the very popular Instructors' Music-in-the-Park performance in Trail BC. This event was extremely well attended and the performers were called on for many encores.

Even though the Fiddle Workshop is hectic and requires a lot of planning and work by the Fiddle members, we are already discussing our thirteenth Fiddle Camp in 2014.

Our annual picnic and steak fry was held August 7th, 8th and 9th at the Pass Creek Park near Castlegar. This is such a relaxing 3-day event in contrast to the hectic Fiddle Camp days, and we thoroughly enjoyed the great food, great music and the wonderful friendships. Many kudos to Stella and Joan for the superb

organizational job, to Gary and John for their barbeque skills, and, of course, all the other folks involved in planning this event.

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

Enjoy the rest of summer everyone.

*Sincerely,
Mary Ann Stewart*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

I don't know about anyone else but I went from complaining about the wet and cold from March to June and now it's all about the heat! It's sure nice to have good weather but I can't cope when it's 30C in the shade on my back porch. Hope everyone else is coping with our extended hot weather. My friends tell me that I should look on the bright side, we'll have cooler weather soon.....winter is just around the corner!

We were delighted to have Gavin and Evelyn White drop by this summer and visit with us. Gavin is a former member of our club, but alas, he and his lovely wife, now live in Ontario. We were lucky that they came to one of our practices and I'm glad to say that Gavin hasn't lost his touch playing those Irish tunes.

One other member that had moved back east and was back in Williams Lake was Nancy Curruthers. She and Marj Blair stopped by my house and we had a great time visiting and talking over old times. Nancy played the base while she was with the club. She was always a delight to be with.

Enough of the lighter stuff....on to more serious matters.

Our club had some extra cash in the piggy bank so it was decided to sponsor a student for the Gavin Lake Fiddle Treat for 2013. We also made a donation to the Gavin Lake Fiddle Camp and the Williams Lake Salvation Army.

Our club takes a break from July to September so except for a few dates at the end of June and at the beginning of July there haven't been any other activities. Come September we will be back in full "swing".

Here are some of the activities that we did play for;

On Sunday, June 30th the club played at Legion Branch 139 as part of their Stampede entertainment.

On July 1st we played in our local park for Aboriginal Days.

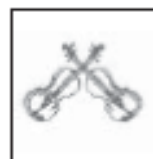
And our last "gig" was on July 4th, again in our local park for "Music in the Park"

Some of our members will be celebrating birthdays in the coming months. September, Duncan Gilchrist / November, Ed Cassie and Barb Gilchrist.

Hope everyone has had a wonderful summer.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

Summertime, and the living is easy, or so goes the Gershwin song!

Well, as a friend used to say, "it's all

relative” because even during our summer hiatus there have been no doldrums for the Coombs Old Time Fiddlers. Several unexpected, but welcome invitations arose to play at different events. Unfortunately some had to be turned down, for various reasons.

At the end of June, we assembled a group of about ten to play at a 40th anniversary celebration of the Mid-Island Pensioners Association at their headquarters, The Bradley Centre in Coombs. A slightly smaller group played at the outdoor Art In The Garden show in Nanoose Bay, on a charming stage created from a dock on a duck pond. A full contingent, including members we share with Port Alberni and North Island Branches gathered to perform a set at the Coombs Bluegrass Festival on the August long weekend. Due to some unfortunate misinformation we weren’t included in the entertainment lineup for the 100th anniversary edition of the Coombs Agricultural Fair, an event that we’ve played at for many years.

Members Ray Cann and Eric Oscar, playing with The Shady Grove Dance Band, performed at the Vancouver Island Music Festival in Courtenay, a major event which showcases some really outstanding musicians in various genres. Others of our membership attended various camps, workshops and festivals on the Island and Mainland, coming home pumped and ready to apply their new skills.

After a July suspension, we are again making music at local seniors’ residences, which involves a core group for as many as three afternoon gigs per week. On August 29 we’ll be at the Bowen Park Seniors’ Centre in Nanaimo where we play whenever a month has five Thursdays. A couple of seniors’ residences in Nanaimo have

requested our music for special events in September.

Upcoming in September are gigs at Knox United Church Fall Fair in Parksville and the Nanaimo Harvest Festival, both on the 14th. On the 20-21st are the Coombs Country Opera and our annual Fiddle Jamboree at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds, where camping is available and a large audience is always treated to excellent musical performances and the musicians can enjoy jamming in the hall and on the campsites.

There have been some sad occasions since the last newsletter came out. In June, we lost Anne Rudy, a member of both Port Alberni and Coombs Branches. Then, in July, long-time member Lorne McNaughton passed away following a long illness. We also received news that Life Member Anne Makarus had passed away in Edmonton. Just days ago, Life Member Ethel Whibley lost a grandson, Lukas, in a tragic swimming accident. Our condolences go out to the families.

Bruce Foden

ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

As the days begin to cool down, things will start to heat up on the Fiddlers’ playing schedule.

We will begin the new season with a corn boil, pot luck supper & general meeting on Sunday September 22nd 6:00 pm at Heritage House.

Some tough decision have had to be made with respect to the musicians’ playing schedule for the coming 2013-2014 season. In the months of October & November there will be

only one dance at Heritage House & it will be on the first Saturday of the month. The Christmas Dinner/Dance will be at Desert Gardens on December 7th.

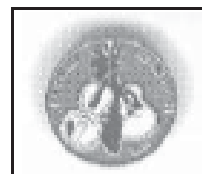
The first practice of the season will be combined with a requested payout at Ponderosa Place on September 29th & then there will be one practice at Heritage House on October 27th & one on November 24th. We will also have a Pot Luck & general meeting there on November 17th.

In the next newsletter we will be able to update you with the plans for 2014.

During the summer we are a little out of touch as everyone “does their own thing” but we hope everyone has been well & we look forward to seeing you soon.

Florence

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

Branch #17 is just going into our 28th year of operation.

Some of those years were very trying, but for the most part we did just fine. Over the years we have played well over a thousand times for hospitals, nursing homes, schools, public gatherings and dances.

Every summer it is usually the same story, not much to report on because we take a “vacation” at that time. But that doesn’t mean activities cease. It just means ordinary activity ceases and extra-ordinary activities occur. Case in point: This year two of our members received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medals, Lorraine Hiebert and Ken

McLeod. In honour of this, Glen Hiebert composed a new tune called the Diamond Jubilee Reel. I'll see if we can record it and put a copy on our website.

Because there are not very many activities to report on, Lorraine Hiebert suggested we get people to look at the Landfillharmonic Orchestra, if you haven't seen it already. Just do a Google or Youtube search for "landfillharmonic project".

It all started in a landfill, slum area of Cateura Paraguay where people scavenge the dump for things they can re-sell. The shell of an old violin was found and was built up using bits of metal and other parts found in the dump. Someone else made a cello out of an old oil drum. Now they have a whole orchestra. It is well worth watching, and they have a site on facebook as well. I am assuming that the music teacher who stumbled on this group was instrumental (pardon the pun), in publicizing the project.

I was touched by the teenage young lady who said, "My life would be useless without music".

Although my situation was never as destitute as the people in that community, it reminded me of an instrument that I made a long time ago. I had already owned a guitar, an arch-top that didn't have much "projection", and decided to fix it by building a fibreglass back, similar to an Ovation, but deeper, from top to back. But before I ripped the back off, I thought it prudent to see if I could actually make the fibreglass well enough to make it all work.

I asked my wife for the largest mixing bowl that she had. It was a plastic one about twelve inches in diameter and five inches deep. I went down in the basement, lined the bowl with plastic film, mixed up

the resin, and proceeded to layer the resin and glass cloth. Bad idea. I caught hell for making the air throughout the house un-breathable for the next four days. By the time I recovered from the severe thrashing, the moulded part had cured and I moved on to the next step.

I found a few pieces of oak hardwood flooring that I laminated and fashioned into a neck of sorts, and because we were throwing out an old cabinet model TV set, (remember those?), I cut the thin plywood side out of it for the top of the instrument. Now it had enough promise, to spend a bit of money on it. So down to the music store I went, for four mandolin tuning pegs and some frets.

I cut the strip of tuning pegs in half and put two on each side, and proceeded to make a tailpiece out of some scrap metal I had laying about, as well as a bridge made from left over oak flooring.

The next step was to measure the bridge-to-nut distance, divide by two, and select twelve frets on my guitar that would fit within that measurement. That was found high up on the fingerboard, and I took the measurements of each fret and transferred them to the neck of my new instrument.

After cutting the frets in with a back saw and trimming them, I dug out an old set of guitar strings, selected the four highest in pitch, and installed them. Wow, a bonus. Because the new instrument was much shorter I could cut off the curly ends of the guitar strings. Just like they were made to order.

I can't remember if I tuned it like a mandolin, or like the top four on a guitar, but I remember I was making music with it. I had never heard the term "banjolin", but that was in essence, what I had created.

It would be interesting to hear from others who have made their own "junk style" instruments. And by the way, thanks to a chicken wire and plaster mould, the guitar project worked well. Oh, and I mixed the fibreglass resin in a shed not attached to the house, and I'm still alive to prove it.

After many Air Force moves, I no longer have either instrument, but the memories remain.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Well, it appears that those of us who planned our staycations right here on the island did the right thing as the Comox Valley has just fanned its way out of a heat wave that saw the driest July ever recorded.

The Branch #18 Funtime Fiddlers managed to work up a sweat in the last few months, however, with a number of events at home and abroad. June saw us playing throughout the streets of Courtenay to support the Arts in the community. We also donned our cowboy hats and fiddled for the Casa Loma Seniors.

July was a bit tamer. We enjoyed performing at the Courtenay Simms Park band shell for a great crowd of Sunday summer evening listeners and dancers. Later, a group of us headed down to the weekend Islands Folk Festival in Duncan where we were hired to play two Contra Dance sets on the Saturday and Sunday. That was lots of fun and we got to listen to one of my favourite singers, Judy Collins, who is still able to sing all the high notes.

Musicfest in Courtenay was terrific this year and Trent Freeman's and Yvonne Hernandez' band, The Fretless, played fiddle on the mainstage to the delight of the crowds. The Fretless also played at the Bella Coola Folk Festival where Trent joined Helen Austin, Daisy and Charlie to perform a new tune that Daisy has written. We'll have to learn this one at Fiddlejam this winter.

The summer fiddle camps have been well attended and I hear that Cindy enjoyed Gavin Lake while Taz and Ella had fiddling fun at the Hornby Island Fiddle Camp.

The Comox Nautical Days has just wound up and the fiddlers were asked to busk for big bucks around the site to lend a festive air to the event. The young players loved it and were rewarded with fiddle cases full of loonies and plug nickels. Amit, Seela, Neela, Rachel, Max and Cheydan all said they'd sure do that again!!

So, the work progresses at the dance hall. We are certainly looking forward to some lively Contra Dances this fall in the newly renovated joint and we will start back into the Fiddlejam session in September. But before that starts, we are hosting Daniel Lapp's BC Fiddle Orchestra from Victoria, and Chelsea Sleep's Bad to the Bow fiddle group from Gibsons, for an evening of foot stomping fiddle music down at the Comox Marina next week. The music will be great and we are having all 60 of the fiddling folks stay overnight at the Merville Hall. What a pajama party that will be.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

At the beginning of June we finished our regular Care-home play-outs until

September. Time for a break, and with many people coming and going for various reasons, it is nice not to have so many commitments. We did decide to hold our regular practices down by the Harbour during the nice weather, keeping to the same time of 1 to 2:30 on Mondays. Tourists and locals alike seem to appreciate having some live music to listen to while they wander around, or sit and enjoy their lunch. One of these tourists happened to be Gwen Gillespie from Calgary, who played with the Prairie Mountain Fiddlers for years. She was thrilled to borrow a fiddle and play some tunes with us. It made her day and ours as well.

The Sanddollars Square Dance Jamboree, and the Tea on the Terrace at our local Rollin Art Centre, have become regular summertime venues for us. The cheery dancers, for the former, and the relaxed patrons of the Art Centre enjoying tea and goodies, and are both really pleasant audiences to play for.

A sad note to relate is the passing away on June 19th, of one of our founding members, Anne Rudy, soon after celebrating her 90th Birthday. Anne was such a reliable member of the club, seldom missing a practice or play-out. Music had always been a major part of her life and she was also a member of the Folk Song Circle, as well as Coombs Branch 11. Our club played a few pieces at her Celebration of Life.

We were thrilled to be invited to do a set at the Lighthouse Bluegrass Festival in Qualicum Bay on June 29th. A good experience for the 17

of us who were able to attend. A few of us were also able to camp there for the week-end and heard so many wonderful bands. Some workshops were presented and a few of our members were able to take part in those, coming away with lots of tips to share.

We were asked to play some dance music for a family reunion on July 6th. What a scorcher of an evening, but there were still some people willing to fly around that dance floor, especially if a polka was being played. We also provided some music at a wedding at the end of July. The bride had requested a square dance called, so Dennis Craig, our VP, who is also a dance caller, agreed to lead them through the Grapevine Twist. From the laughter coming from the floor, they were having a good time and did very well considering this was a totally new experience for many of the participants. The Bride's grandfather, Les Mahs from Acadia Valley, Alberta, joined us with his fiddle for a few numbers.

We have acquired some new members this quarter, a guitar player, Lorne Macnab and a fiddler, Mimi Shell. We're very happy to welcome them both to the club.

Three of our members were able to attend some Fiddle Camps this summer. Rhonda Holcombe, Barbara Lehtonen and Mimi Shell attended the Gavin Lake Fiddle 'Treat and they were certainly full of enthusiasm about the experience, awesome being the most often used descriptive. All commented on the quality of instruction, the great jamming, the making of new friends. Barbara was also able to attend the Sunshine Coast School of Celtic Music with its insights into the culture and history of our Scottish ancestry which is reflected often in our Old Time repertoire. Barbara was lucky enough to also

attend the Castlegar camp. Our whole group benefits so much when members are able to take part in these events, bringing back new pieces to share or a technique or two to make our music sound richer.

In many ways August is “our year” coming to a close as we then start to get ready to play our hearts out during the busy season, September to May. It is a time for the club to think of possible new approaches to our playing, ways to keep the old

pieces interesting while adding new ones, ways to keep our presence in the community fresh. Hope this “coming year” is a good one for all the clubs out there.

Gail Ross

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LAST BTOTFA CONTEST FOR 2013!

Old Time Fiddle Contest in
Quesnel
October 4-5, 2013
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New CD Available: Dale McGregor and Friends

An eclectic collection of songs with roots in swing, old country, old timey fiddle, celtic and bluegrass.



CD Tracks: (66 mins:23 secs of Music)

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7. Golden Rod Jig, Murray River Jig, Mason's Apron
8. If He Won't Love You
9. Prisoner of Love
10. Will The Circle Be Unbroken
11. Jumping Métis Jigging
12. Tenent Tenaciter (Grip Fast – For Loren) & Highland Laddie
Bonus Dance Track
13. Jumping Métis Jigging

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Thank you to Barbara Lehtonen for the following article on fiddle camps!

Fiddle camp! Fiddle fun! Days filled with immeasurable opportunity to learn, play and interact with musicians of all ages. A priceless occasion to absorb the energy and talents of many of Canada's best Old Time Fiddle Instructors. Did you get a chance to go to camp this year? I did!

So, though my heart will always belong to Old Time Fiddle tunes, I ventured to the Sunshine Coast. Immersed in the Scottish music culture at the School of Celtic Music in Robert's Creek, BC. Stumbled my way happily through phonetic pronunciations of songs sung by Gaelic weavers. Sighed in awe filled by a soul-spoken duet on cello and viola. Sat spellbound and listened to a history story of the Campbell's, reborn with fiddle and song. The square dance evening was an amazing intermingle of babes to seniors, rhythmically moving to fiddlers fiddling Old Time Reels, Seven Steps and Waltzes.

The "Fiddle Family Reunion" at Castlegar, BC was next on my list. BCOTF Kootenay Branch 9 hosts opened their arms and hearts to all. "You come to our camp. You are family!" Selkirk College, spacious and bright, was ideal for classes and activities. Coming from a forestry based community, I was amazed at all the cement structures. Some of the most memorable times are based around them. Gabbing at cement picnic tables. Listening and leaning against the cement railings around the central pit area. Being one of the entire student orchestra in that pit playing an integrate rendition of "Don't Stop Believing". Beyond the music and in sync, through the vast, cement cased, windows, eagles soared. At least, I saw them.

My fiddle camp road ended, well for this year, at Gavin Lake, BC. Quesnel, BCOTF Branch 3 hosted this family friendly event at a UBC Forestry Camp about an hour past 150 Mile House. Musical seclusion tucked against a small lake 3000 feet above sea level. No cell phones! No internet! No shopping malls! We honed in on the sounds of other's voices, musical instruments, lonely loons and buzzing, biting insects. I accomplished the skill of successfully bowing each note of the G Scale in 5's up the G string and on up to the E string without messing up. Played guitar and sang on my cabin porch and joined the Gavin Lake Radio gals.

Yes. Fiddle camps pushed my playing to a new level. Instructor's gifts filled my digital device with new tunes. Osmosis saturated me while watching and listening to more accomplished players. My confidence bolstered as I sat in the band and played for the dances. Raw gut power increased each time I auditioned. All raised my skills. Toddlers do si do'ed in one piece pj's, ready to be tucked into bed after square dancing with their moms and dads. Teenagers and seasoned folk together learned the Seven Step and Schottische. I met more fiddle friends with a common music addiction. All raised my spirits. **Fiddle camps are fiddle fun!**

Art Daher, Violins

It was good to see so many friends, fiddlers at the Castlegar and Gavin Lake Fiddle Workshops in August. Had a great time setting up, adjusting violins and in some cases gluing the open seams/cracks.

For many of you, there is no one to help out when things go wrong or problems arise with your instruments. However, in most cases, the repair is quite simple and can be done yourself. I would suggest when you do have a problem email or call me. Will probably be able to tell you what to do. Major problem, call me – I do these repairs all the time. In most cases will have your instrument repaired in a couple of days, plus save you money on the repair.

Also have very good prices on Eastman violins and outfits:

Eastman 80 violin outfit -- \$400.00, setup with Tonica/Violino strings
Eastman 100 outfits -- \$575.00 with professional strings
Eastman 110 outfits -- \$650.00 with professional strings
Eastman 105 outfits -- \$725.00 with professional strings
Eastman 200 outfits -- \$975.00 with professional strings.
Eastman 305 violin only -- \$1150.00, outfit -- \$1390.00

ADVANCED VIOLINS: Have a number of Eastman violins normally sell in the \$1800.00 range. Was able to obtain some with blemishes and have priced at \$1200.00. These are new violins – blemishes do not affect the sound.

HYBRID BOWS: These are carbon fiber bows with pernambuco veneer finish. They are an excellent bow for advanced students or even professionals. Very well balanced, not affected by weather, will not warp or lose their camber. Have well known fiddle teachers/players buy them. They come in 2 models. The bow with nickel fittings is \$200.00, the bow with silver fittings is \$400.00.

BOW REPAIRS are \$40.00 with a 2 day turn around time.

I have a better selection of shoulder rests, chin rests, strings, etc. than most violin shops or music stores. Email me for whatever you are looking for. As I play myself, I can also make suggestions to help you make the right choice.

**FOR ALL YOUR VIOLIN NEEDS, QUESTIONS, CALL 604 703-1464
OR EMAIL – daer1@shaw.ca**



SEPTEMBER 21, 2013



OLD-TIME FIDDLE

JAMBOREE



Hosted by The Coombs Old Time Fiddlers
Branch 11, B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association

AT COOMBS RODEO GROUNDS



Featured Performer: Sarah Tradewell



Open Stage at 1:00 p.m. Sign-In at 12:00



All Comers Jamming Circle at 7:30 p.m.

Admission \$5.00; Performers and Under 12's Free

Great Food Available In The Hall

Dry Camping on the Grounds

For Information: Bruce (250) 586-3743
Roy (250) 752-3636



Supporting the Enjoyment and Playing of Canadian Old Time Music in Our Community