



# B.C.

# FIDDLE NEWS

Ray Plamondon moved to Quesnel with his wife Olga and 5 children in 1976. After one of our contests he was invited to the traditional wind-up party at the Somervilles where he met other fiddlers and musicians. At that time we had very few fiddlers, and no young ones on the horizon. He and Olga joined the club and have been active participants ever since. He also has been a supporter of the BC Fiddle 'Treat from the planning stages in 1990, to our small beginning in 1994 in Wells, to the present day at Gavin Lake.

Before retiring to their beautiful log home on Quesnel Lake some ten years ago, Ray worked in various places in BC and Alberta as a construction foreman for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and in Quesnel as an independent carpentry contractor. But no matter where he went, his fiddle went with him and soon he would be in demand to play for community dances. He still supports and maintains his membership with Branch #3 as well as helps out the Williams Lake and Prince George clubs.

One of the first gigs he did for Branch #3 was when Global TV was doing a promotion in Quesnel. Then there were bookings at Cottonwood House, Barkerville, the French Canadian "Sugar Shack" festival in Prince George, judging for Quesnel and

Prince George contests, and helping out at all of our dances.

One year at Gavin Lake he and Stan Ryder composed Jean's Waltz and Olga's Schottische both of which he plays regularly at our dances. He thought he wrote The Quesnel Lake Jig until he

heard one so similar that he decided against claiming that one!

Ray, with his son Kerry on guitar and Jean Gelinas on piano, made a CD called "A Kitchen Party". The idea was to preserve his favourite tunes and make it available to family and friends. By today's standards it was a low-tech production, done over a couple

of evenings at Jean's place, but it turned out to be a very good CD.

Ray plays strictly by ear and dance music is what he enjoys. He likes to throw in some really peppy foxtrots, two-steps and swing tunes along with the usual waltzes, jigs and reels to keep the dance floor full.



**RAY PLAMONDON**

*Submitted by Jean Gelinas, Br. #3*

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**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER (DEC. 2014)  
MUST BE RECEIVED NO  
LATER THAN NOV. 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2014.**

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:

Dec. 2014 – CFVF #4  
March 2015 – Surrey #5  
June 2015 – Kelowna #7  
Sept. 2015 – Merritt #8

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### JOHN TRIBE

As I write the summer submission, it is August 13, 2014 and I am at the

Kenosee Kitchen Party at Kenosee Lake, Saskatchewan. As many of you know I try to take in a couple of fiddle camps each year. These camps always give a good idea of what is up and coming in the fiddle world and how is Old Time Fiddle music being supported throughout the west. I can't possibly visit all the fiddling camp/jamboree opportunities that are available. British Columbia has some really great camps and we should be very proud and thankful to the organizers and sponsors of these camps. The BC camps are not the only ones - there are some great opportunities in Alberta, Saskatchewan and points east all the way to Celtic Colors. This summer Lynn and I have made the 16 hour drive from Kelowna to Kenosee to enjoy and experience this camp first hand.

The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party event is spread over two weeks with some participants staying for the full two weeks while others like myself just come for one week. In this first week there are in the order of 170 participants working on their musical skills on everything from Cellos, Mandolins, Guitar, Keyboards, Vocals and of course Fiddles. There are 22 instructors in total and each will put on a short presentation at an evening concert during the course of the week. The level of talent that exists in the musical field is simply mind boggling! I am not trying to promote the Kenosee camp ahead of the BC camps because in actual fact the BC camps, especially Fiddle 'Treat and Kootenay Fiddle Camp

don't need to take second place to any camp that I've been to.

Recently I have had the chance to talk to Gordon Stobbe about what he sees with respect to fiddling as he travels around Canada. His teaching takes him from the Sunshine coast to Inuvik, to Nova Scotia and many, many spots in between. Through his own observations Gord is happy to relate that fiddling is alive and well, and most importantly, growing all across the country. I have to say it is my pleasure and privilege to be a small part of the promotion of fiddling.

Switching subjects for a bit here I want to keep the Red Book front and center of the thinking of all the various branches. A few branches have actually finished their submissions and they have received a draft of their Branch's chapter to review and edit. Unfortunately there are a few branches that have yet to make their submission to this project. I know we are all busy but the effort required to get people to write up a paragraph about their own musical backgrounds shouldn't be that hard to do. Once they do that they should be able to find a photo that would be nice and send it off. I would really like to have this book available for Christmas of this year but I can't make that promise until I have received all the material for the book.

I hope everyone has had a great summer and is itching to get back to the business of promoting and spreading the music of Old Time Fiddling.

*Your president,  
John Tribe*

## FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

I know it was a struggle, but thanks everyone for getting your articles in.

Please, please make yourselves a note now, that the deadline for the next issue is November 15<sup>th</sup>. With all the modern technology we have today there is no excuse for being late. You can set reminders on your computer, on your telephone – or write a note on your calendar. Or tie a string around your finger! If everyone has their articles in on time, it makes it so much easier for me to get it done promptly & leave me free to go back to whatever other plans Roger & I may have.

Another good idea is to make notes along the way of things you don't want to forget to include in your next column. As Gail Ross of the Alberni Valley Branch mentions, it is difficult to remember all that has happened in the last 3 months & she says "thank goodness for calendar entries" – so true.

Thanks to Jenny Bakken for proofreading for me once again; so prompt & so efficient!

Wishing everyone a busy, successful & enjoyable Fall season.

*Cheers,  
Florence Tellier*



## CLUB NEWS

### PRINCE GEORGE



#### BRANCH #1

No report received.

### QUESNEL



#### BRANCH #3

The last two months have been consumed

with planning, preparing and hosting the BC Fiddle 'Treat at Gavin Lake. We registered a record number of students - 151, with a total of 250 people in camp. Thanks to Brian Garland for setting up a tent, and to Doug Borden for the use of his yurt (*Editor's note: A yurt is a portable, bent dwelling structure traditionally used by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia as their home.*) which gave us two extra classroom spaces. Banjo and accordion lessons were new this year and judging by the interest shown will become part of the camp. We couldn't have wished

for better instruction, better cooks, or better weather. And a big thank you to the volunteers who did dishes, mopped floors and kept the bathrooms clean. It was a tremendous help and much appreciated. Also thanks to the photographer who took a wealth of pictures. Also thanks to Marie Gibbons of Williams Lake who once again made enough cookies and cinnamon rolls to carry us through the week. We would also like to recognize the individuals and organizations that sponsored students: the Cariboo Country Bluegrass Society, the Quesnel and District Arts Council, the BC Fiddle 'Treat, and Brian Garland.

The facilities at Gavin Lake are improving every year with new cabins, trails and a boardwalk part way around the lake. The original logging camp cookhouse is slated to be replaced. It was Charlotte Lapp's piano classroom and will be renamed in her memory with a proper plaque installed.

The BC Fiddle 'Treat dates for next year are Saturday July 25 to Friday July 31.

Our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle Contest is on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> with a hospitality night on the Friday evening, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a lot of work to do yet: line up judges, order trophies, plan the banquet, and find volunteers for the many jobs to be done. Not much time but it always seems to come together.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Roy Throssell Retreat was held last weekend at Barlow Creek Recreation Centre. Anita Mamela, Deni and Adam Johnson, Doug and Jim Borden and Eddie deSousa gave instruction in fiddle, guitar, mandolin and vocals. There was a good turnout of

students and the location was favorable. Plans are already underway for next year.

Remember our contest dates: Oct 3 and 4 - a beautiful time of the year for a drive. See you there.

*Jean Gelinas*

## CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



### BRANCH #4

I had to give myself a big pep talk to convince myself that I should come in from the glorious sunshine to write this newsletter submission....so let's get to it and get 'er done, so that I can go back outside!

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers decided to take the summer off – no play outs or dances! - because many of our members had busy summer travel plans. Those of us who stayed close to home still got together for some extra casual weekly practices at the Cedarbrooke Chateau in Mission. These basically amounted to a free-for-all fiddle jam, which, as all old time fiddlers will agree, is always a good time! We homebodies also got together for our annual summer picnic and jam in the park, at Mill Lake in Abbotsford. We even made a couple of new friends, as we were joined by Greg (fiddle) and Don (banjo), who were visiting all the way from Missouri!

CFVF members Kai and Lia Gronberg were both invited to attend the 2014 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition – Kai to compete and Lia to play in the Junior Showcase event. We wish them both well and hope they have a

fun and successful time at the Canadian Grand Masters!

CFVF member Mark Sullivan has released a new CD of original Canadian fiddle tunes - "The Gathering Room". Check out his website ([www.marksullivan.ca](http://www.marksullivan.ca)) for more information.

September is just around the corner, so we will be getting back to business with our monthly meetings and regular weekly practices at Hallmark in Abbotsford. And rest assured, more tea dances are scheduled for the fall!

Before I sign off, I would be remiss if I didn't extend Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday wishes to long time CFVF member, Gladys Andreas. Congratulations on 75 trips around the Sun, Gladys, and may you enjoy many more years of making music!

Until next time, Happy Fiddling!

*Joanne Davenport*

## SURREY



### BRANCH #5

What wonderful summer weather we are having in our area, but a day of rain, at least every 2<sup>nd</sup> week, would surely be appreciated.

Our fiddlers are taking a break for the summer, so there are no dances, play outs or practice sessions happening, other than the Hazelmere Fiddlers Monday practice, which most of our fiddlers attend.

Congratulations to Kai Gronberg for placing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Championship Class and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Twin Harmony Intermediate Class, with sister Lia

Gronberg. The event was the 30<sup>th</sup> Grand North American Old Time Fiddle Contest, held in Radway, Alberta. Congratulations to Lia Gronberg, for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Advanced Intermediate Class also at Radway.

Two of our members, Dale Belchamber and Brad McDowell mentioned that they attended the Castlegar Fiddle Camp and what a great time they had, learning new tunes under great instructors.

Our Annual Potluck Picnic was held on Sunday, August 03, at Clayton Hall Park with approximately 75 people attending. This year our picnic was held indoors, due to new construction taking up our regular spot, but as it happened to be a very warm day, everyone appreciated being in an air conditioned hall, where they were able to dance to the music, provided by our Surrey Fiddlers. Wonderful comments regarding the music and potluck food were heard.

Our Surrey Fiddler's dances will be starting up on September 4<sup>th</sup> and will continue every first Thursday of each month except for the months of July & August.

Fiddlers' Dance Location: Clayton Hall – 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street.  
Time: - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

*Submitted by,  
Evan Sanyshyn*

## KELOWNA



### BRANCH #7

Here we are in the middle of our usual south Central

Okanagan heat wave along with forest fire season. We wish we had

saved a couple of those snow banks from last winter to cool off on. Our playing dates are cut to a minimum for July & August and back to full swing in September.

July 1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Day our group played at the annual Prospera Place birthday bash. The crowd enjoyed us but Vic had a difficult time with their sound system. We had a hard time hearing each other & ourselves.

Our June contest was well attended and organized by John & Lynn Tribe and the Contest Committee. We want to thank them and all the members that helped make it a success. The kitchen was again taken over by our Irene McAvena with sister Carol & their crew. They assembled a fine array of lunch items and great pie & cinnamon buns. This year's guest artist, Patti Lamoureux and her multi-talented back up, Jeremy Russo, put on a fantastic performance.

Blind since birth Jeremy has overcome unbelievable obstacles to become an incredible musician.

Patti is without a doubt one of the finest, smoothest fiddle players you will ever hear. Patti also filled in as a judge along with our Shamma Sabir and Ben Beveridge from Saskatchewan. A hearty thanks to all the above and to all the contestants who made the efforts to compete.

Contest results were as follows:

#### Little Junior:

1. Nolan MacFarlane
2. Ruthie Bohner
3. Taryn Ebner

#### Junior:

1. Sage Kirk
2. Paris Kirk
3. Aaron Wong
4. Devon Beckett
5. Meagan Straum

#### Youth:

1. Amanda Shaw
2. Karlee Bohm

#### Intermediate:

1. Judy Guglielmin
2. Doreen Rail

#### Open:

1. Kyle Davison
2. John Fedoruk
3. Lynn Tribe

#### Senior:

1. Harley Jansen
2. Marshall Fedoruk
3. Wayne Angman
4. Pauline Curtis
5. Ruth Buchanan

#### Golden Age:

1. Ken Emery
2. Mabel Babcock
3. Les Munson

#### Novice:

1. Anna Cleveland
2. Carlie Thompson

#### Twin Fiddling:

1. Kai & Lia Gronberg
2. Chloe & Kyle Davidson
3. Ken Emery & Harley Jansen

#### Championship:

1. Chloe Davidson
2. Kai Gronberg
3. Lia Gronberg

I haven't been in touch with many members this hot season, but I know Bill & Helen Bryson were planning a trip home to Scotland.

We just heard that long time member, Jim Sisler is in the hospital. Wayne Rodicker has his wife, Laferne home from the hospital and she is gaining ground slowly. We wish them all the very best.

On a sad note, Doris Moffat passed away recently in Smithers. Her husband, Keith was an active fiddler

and helped Bill Bryson build our first parade float. They also had some great New Year's parties in their super Christmas decorated house. We were also informed that our long time banjo, fiddle player Ralph Hoy is recently deceased. Ralph & Thelma moved to the coast several years ago to be close to family. He was one fine musician and a great guy as well. Ralph was also a member of Ray Fords Kamloops Banjo band that put on fine performances around the country.

Music director, Vic Ukrainetz lost his brother Walter in Saskatchewan recently; the 2<sup>nd</sup> in three months. My wife's older brother, Ed Lacerte of Edmonton also passed on this week. Our sincere condolences to all families and their many friends.

The next outing for us will be the Armstrong Fair organized again by our member, Pauline Curtis. We will play twice on the 27<sup>th</sup> and twice on the 28<sup>th</sup>. John Tribe will lead one group and Wayne Angman will handle the other. By newsletter time in September we will be back in high gear with our regular commitments. Keep the strings tight and the fingers loose. Just remember, music is great therapy for those playing as well as the dancers and other listeners..

*Russ Gerrie*

*PS: The world always looks brighter from behind a smile!*

We had music Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening, as well as a good turnout for the pot luck supper. We also had a good turnout for the crib tournament. It was decided the money raised from the 50/50 would go to charity, which has yet to be decided. Three rigs from Merritt attended the Kamloops camp out and had a very good time.

The Fiddlers will once again be jamming at the Legion once a month and having either baron of beef or chili. We will be playing on Saturdays instead of Fridays.

A Christmas dinner and dance is planned for November 22, 2014 at the Senior Citizens Centre. Final plans are in the works now and more information will be ready for the next newsletter. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Two new directors have been elected due to the resignation of one and another one no longer being a member. Vi Norman and Norbert Grenier will take the positions until the next election. We are pleased our membership has increased.

The recipient of our bursary was Austin Warren who wishes to pursue a career as a Music Educator.

Hope everyone had a good summer and is looking forward to a busy fall.

*Submitted by,  
Delphine Lawrence*

cold and the snow instead of the hot, dry weather we have been experiencing.

Our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Fiddle Workshop was held July 14<sup>th</sup> to July 18<sup>th</sup> at Selkirk College in Castlegar, BC. From all positive reports from students and instructors, it was again a total success. In all, a record number of 82 students attended the music camp including 67 fiddlers, 7 guitarists, and 8 piano students. The students ranged in age from the little guys (hardly bigger than their instrument), to senior citizens. They travelled from all parts of Canada to take part in the fine musical education provided by a great complement of instructors, again headed by Gordon Stobbe. Classes were held at the wonderful facilities provided by Selkirk College in Castlegar. Included with the College was private classroom instruction, room for total student assembly and concerts, and reasonably-priced accommodations for instructors and students.

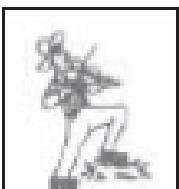
The week of instruction this year included evening events such as square dancing on Monday evening, talent show on Wednesday evening (followed by an enjoyable jam at the home of John and Sandra Milosevich). Thursday night featured the annual public concert and dance where the students performed their newly acquired skills. It's amazing how much the students are able to learn in 4 short days.

The annual public Music-in-the-Park performance by the instructors was held on Tuesday night in Trail, BC. The event was extremely well-attended and the instructors were called on for many encores

Our annual steak fry and picnic was held August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Genelle Hall. It was 3 days packed with food, music, and the comradery

## MERRITT

### BRANCH #8

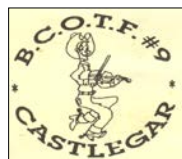


Merritt Old Time Fiddlers had an excellent turnout at our camp out in May with over 35 rigs attending.

B.C. Fiddle News Fall 2014 Issue

## KOOTENAY

### BRANCH #9



Well, here it is, mid-August and our summer is fast coming to a close. Before you know it, we will be complaining about the

of good friends. Many thanks to the organizers, Vic and Brenda, and the cooks, Gary and John, for a job well done.

Because of the work involved with the Fiddle Camp, our performance group has been low-key, however, we expect to be busy again come September.

Enjoy the rest of the summer everyone.

*Cheers,  
Mary Ann Stewart*

## WILLIAMS LAKE



### BRANCH #10

Hello All

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer...I know I did. It just seems to me that summer has gone by so fast and September is just around the corner....which means, snow isn't too far behind!

Our club has been on a summer break since the end of July and we don't start our regular play dates until September so there isn't very much to report.

Our last play date was during the Williams Lake Stampede for our local Legion, Br# 139 on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Hal and Roz Giles held a "jam session" at their place on Sat. August 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend but I heard that everyone had an enjoyable evening. Thanks for hosting the session at your place...I'll try to be around for the next one.

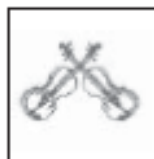
Joe and Yoland Le Comte had been threatening to have a BBQ potluck for quite some time and it finally happened on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Joe was the chef and cooked up some delicious chicken and ribs to go with the various salads that were brought. (I'm pretty sure Yoland had a hand in it too). The music started around 4 pm and except for dinner the music kept going until about 9:00 pm. Thanks, Joe and Yoland for a great get together.

We will be back to playing for Retirement Concepts, Deni House and the Legion in September. Some play dates have yet to be decided in regards to our monthly commitments. As soon as this has been set I will post it in the next letter.

Birthday wishes go out to Duncan Gilchrist for September and Ed Caissie in November.

*Cheers,  
Pat Gunderson*

## COOMBS



### BRANCH #11

Shaggy  
Underwear?????

On August 9, our club was honoured to give the inaugural performance on the new stage at the Coombs Fairgrounds. This very attractive structure will undoubtedly serve the community well as a venue for outdoor performances of all kinds.

Part-way through the set a lady in the audience of Fair-goers approached the stage to request that we play what sounded like "Shaggy Underwear". After some quizzical looks amongst ourselves and a repetition of the request we realized that she meant "Sheguindah Bay",

one of our favourite tunes. That was one request easily and happily satisfied.

With the summer fleeting we can reflect on the challenges of fulfilling commitments such as the Coombs Fair, Coombs Bluegrass Festival, Nanoose Bay Art-in-the Garden and Bowen Park Seniors' Centre. The most experienced of our musicians are noticeably decreasing in their mobility and stamina, a crucial factor to consider when requests come in for us to perform at community events. A case in point is the Qualicum Beach Railway Station Centennial coming up on August 23, for which we're scrambling to assemble enough available players. For myriad reasons (health, family commitments, summertime music camps, vacation travels) a full complement of players is not always available.

Planning is well-advanced for the annual Fiddle Jamboree at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds on September 20<sup>th</sup>, preceded on the 19<sup>th</sup> by the Coombs Country Opera. That combination always provides for a weekend of great music and camaraderie. This year, the Parksville Probus Club has chosen the Jamboree for its monthly social outing, which ties in very nicely with our mission to encourage the playing and enjoyment of Canadian old-time music.

With the arrival of September we'll begin a new season of Thursday evening dances and a continuation of the successful once-monthly Sunday afternoon dances at the Qualicum Beach Rotary House. Start dates for these are Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

We are saddened to learn of the passing of a long-time (25 years), Life Member, Ken McMillan. Although he hadn't been musically

active for several years, he often attended our performances at Bowen Park in Nanaimo, where he had been living in a seniors' residence. A memorial service for him is to take place on August 30 in Port Alberni.

On the sunnier side, we are getting ready to celebrate, on August 30, the 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Ruby and George Gudbranson. They have been stalwart members of our Branch since 1992 and are well-known and respected for the leadership they provide. We congratulate and wish them well. I can't close off without acknowledging Barb and Ken Ross who graciously hosted our annual picnic on July 13, a fine outdoor venue for a productive meeting and set-list rehearsal.

That's it for now, so farewell from Coombs, Branch 11.

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

## KAMLOOPS



### BRANCH #12

As our regular correspondent Marie takes the summer off, I will attempt to bring you up to date with the Kamloops happenings.

Firstly, I am sad to report that Ed McLean passed away in July. Ed had been a very faithful & supportive member since 1988, serving many years on the Executive as a Director and Secretary Treasurer. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Fay & family.

We had an excellent Jamboree/Campout at "The Barn" in Black Pines in June. Thanks to our special guests Deni & Adam

Johnson and the many other wonderful musicians who attended, we did not lack music over the course of the weekend.

The pancake breakfast which was prepared by Clark Hiles & his helpers was a nice touch on the Sunday morning before everyone parted company

For the most part, the musicians have been taking some well-deserved time off & enjoying the summer with families & friends.

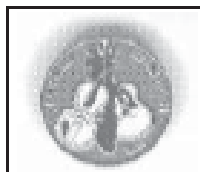
Best wishes to anyone who may be going through health problems, thinking in particular of Alice Berner & Anne Benson. Our thoughts are with you.

Looking ahead, we will be starting our new season with a play out at the Ashcroft Fall Fair on September 14<sup>th</sup>, an Executive meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, Pot Luck supper, corn boil and General Meeting on September 21, the first practice of the season on September 28<sup>th</sup> & then the first dance of the season at Heritage House on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be an afternoon dance at Cottonwood Manor on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be schedules available at the above events so that you can keep track of the rest of the season.

If you have any questions you can call me at 250-376-2330.

*Florence Tellier*

## NORTH ISLAND



### BRANCH #17

"The Dog Days of Summer."  
*n.*

1. the sultry part

of summer.

2. a period marked by lethargy, inactivity, or indolence.

For the most part, this summer has been a perfect example of this definition. It has been quite hot here in the Comox Valley for most of the summer, with very little rain. This is great if the only thing on your mind is to lie around a beach, and read a book, or six.

In this heat, playing music is best done very late in the afternoon, or in the evening hours. I had occasion to be on an outdoor stage for an hour, at high noon on a cloudless day, in early August. It was brutal, not only for the musicians, but when my guitar got too hot to place my hand comfortably on it; I started to wonder about glued seams softening up, and precious wood warping because the underside, and the back of the instrument, was shaded from the relentless sun. I am wondering now, just how much an instrument can take and still rebound. I imagine there are horror stories originating out of places like Nevada, Arizona, and Texas.

Branch 17 Fiddlers did manage to play for a couple of special events in June. One of which, was the annual Father's Day Pancake Breakfast put on by the Campbell River Rotary Club. We have been providing entertainment at this event every year, for as long as any of our members can remember. It has been well over 20 years.

We have also recently played, for the third or fourth time, for a huge family reunion at a farm in Royston that occurs every five years. Hundreds of members of the extended Piercy family, travel great distances to attend this event, and we were treated to some of the sweetest corn-on-the-cob you could imagine.



One more major play date we have coming up is for the Comox Valley Fall Fair. We hope to put on a good showing because of the widespread coverage we get from this event. And, of course a Fall Fair “fits” our style of music. This will be the last of our “off season” play dates before we start back into our regular routine in September.

It would be great if all we ever did was lie around the beach, read books, or play music. But, unfortunately, that’s not how life is.

I must leave you on a sad note, as one of our members has just passed away. Betty Lou Young has been a strong and very pleasant supporter of Branch 17. We extend our sympathy to Charles Kucey, and the rest of Betty Lou’s family.

*Ed Medford*

## COMOX VALLEY



### BRANCH #18

It’s been a long, hot summer with lots of swimming in the rivers, jumping off the cliffs, kayaking in the ocean and generally just lollygagging about. Except, of course, for the fiddle sessions that we have been involved with here in the friendly Comox Valley.

The Branch #18 Fiddlers and Fiddlejam played a Contra dance at the Little Red Church for a school party that was a wonderful success. We featured young players doing solos and some eager parents got up with their violins and joined them as well. The last Fiddlejam session was at the end of May and right after that we played for another private party at the Big Yellow Merville Hall.

In June, I hosted a house concert with the rocking bluegrass group, the Slocan Ramblers. We followed that with a group of us playing at the Filberg Lodge for the Annual Shellfish and Seafood Celebration. We followed former international star, Sue Medley with her Back Road Band, and that was quite the honour as Sue is ramping up her music career again after a ten year hiatus.

Fiddlejam joined a great cast of entertainers on the stage of the Sid Williams theatre for the annual Canada Day celebrations on July 1st and that was followed by a group playing in the streets of Courtenay for an annual street festival that is gaining quite a bit of traction. July wrapped up with a large concert in Simms Park where many of the audience members got up and danced. The best dancing, though, was at the annual Vancouver Island MusicFest where an offshoot fiddle group, The Contradictions, worked at setting a Guinness World Record for the largest Sasha Contra Dance. After the band played for several pop up Sasha’s during the weekend, we played on the main stage and hundreds of audience members got up and boogied! How cool was that???

Nautical Days in Comox provided a great opportunity for young fiddlers to busk throughout the fairgrounds and make big bucks for their efforts. Then another offshoot fiddle group, The Contratonos, played the main stage to warm up the crowd for the finale with the raucous 10 member group Time Well Wasted. It has been a busy summer.

There has been big news at the Big Yellow Merville hall where two heritage buildings, “the Stolen Church and Manse”, were moved onto the hall grounds. Once they are renovated, these buildings will be used as rentals and as a community

heritage site. It has been a big job but the results will be well worth it.

Max, one of our young fiddlers, placed well at the Grand North American Fiddle contest up in Edmonton so we give him a high five. Nora and Neela will be leaving us for the wilds of Kelowna. Our loss will be Branch #7’s gain as these two young girls love to play the fiddle. And then there is Beth, one of our bass players, who is heading to the Sunshine Coast to teach and play with all the Celtic musicians in that community. We’ll miss Beth.

So, once again, that’s about it from the hot shot players of the Comox Valley.

*Cheers,  
Craig Freeman*

## ALBERNI VALLEY

### BRANCH #19



Summer with a vengeance seems to be the story here in Port

Alberni, making it hard to think straight, let alone remember all we have been doing during the last few months. Thank goodness for calendar entries.

Once again we were invited to participate in the Branch #17 Jamboree. Only part of our club membership was available to play for the Friday night concert, but more of our members were able to join in for the Saturday night dance. It makes it easier for everyone sharing the time between Courtenay, Coombs and Port Alberni. There were a few workshops on the Saturday morning, and an open stage in the afternoon, making a full day of music. Of course, there is

always some time to visit with old friends and meet some new.

The Gyro club asked us to entertain at their conference being held at McLean's Mill, at the end of May. That was a great experience and we enjoyed keeping a large number of people nicely entertained while they waited in line for their dinner.

Comments of appreciation were often coming our way and we could see many toes tapping and people dancing in various corners of the courtyard. We will be doing a few more sessions at the Mill throughout the summer, on train robbery days.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> we did our last Care Home play-out, until after Labour Day. There were a few larger gigs booked for the summer, with one of our favourite venues being the Junebug Square Dance. What fun we musicians and dancers have at this yearly event. We always look forward to this session and it is times like this that make the hours of practice worthwhile.

We were invited to play again at the Lighthouse Bluegrass festival at the end of June and most of our members were able to attend, giving us a stage-full of musicians. The weather was a mixed bag this year, with moments of hot sun, occasional showers, and times of very cold winds. For those of us who were able to camp there it was a great week-end, with a mix of scheduled entertainers, open mic and jamming. This week-end was followed by a place in the program for the Quay of Sea Music Festival, part of the July 1st celebrations. The festival was held at the Harbour Quay and it was hot, hot, hot down there.

Three of our fiddlers signed up for summer camps this year. Barbara Lehtonen attended the Castlegar and Gavin Lake camps in B.C and the

John Arcand Camp in Saskatchewan. A dedicated student, very much enjoying these sessions. Rhonda Holcombe went to Gavin Lake and had even more fun with the music and the people, this second time of attendance. Mimi Shell is heading off to the Sorrento Bluegrass camp this August, looking forward to this experience.

Surfside R.V. Park in Parksville invited us to provide entertainment for a Potluck dinner they were holding. This was a new experience for both parties and it turned out to be a good one for all concerned. There were many compliments on our playing and we really appreciated such a responsive audience.

We have continued with our regular Monday practice, but down at the Harbour Quay during the good weather. This gives some regular listeners, as well as the passing traveller, a chance to hear us play. There is a shaded area where we can set up, with power for the keyboard. Playing for a live audience always adds an element of energy for the musicians, a reason for practicing.

It was a busy day for us on August 9<sup>th</sup>, starting with us playing for an hour at noon, at McLean's Mill. We entertained people as they waited for the Steam Train to return them to town. In the evening we traveled to the Coombs Fair Ground to join in the 100th Anniversary celebration of the 4H Club. We were set up on the beautiful new log and beam stage that has been built at the fairgrounds. It is spacious and well arranged, an impressive place to play. Our music was partly to entertain and partly to assist a Square Dance caller to lead a few squares.

Now it is time to look ahead to the Fall program, planning for another

year of music. Do enjoy, fellow musicians.

*Submitted by,  
Gail Ross*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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September 20, 2014  
Old Time Fiddle  
Jamboree  
Coombs Rodeo  
Grounds  
Ebfoden@gmail.com

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October 4, 2014  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle  
Contest  
Quesnel  
Jean 250-992-5081



# MYVIOLINSHOP

Great to meet the fiddlers/friends at both the Castlegar and Gavin Lake Fiddle camps in July. Wonderful for beginners & advanced players, moms, dads, friends, etc. Am always amazed at how much enjoyment people have. Thanks for the opportunity to be part of this.

NEW – Eastman has come out with a 5 STRING VIOLIN, based on their 105 model. Was able to get one just before the Gavin Lake camp. Was personally very impressed with the sound quality. A number of the instructors played this 5 string and all commented how good it sounded. Priced at only \$650.00, total price, ready to play, this is definitely a quality 5 string instrument.

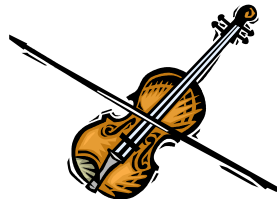
Have in stock 4/4 Eastman 315 violins at only \$950.00; a 3/4 305 at \$900.00; a 3/4 405 at \$1100.00. These are normally priced at \$200.00 more. Always carry good stock of violin outfits from the smallest to full size, ready to ship within a day.

The Cadenza 2 star hybrid bow at \$225.00 or the 3 star at \$425.00 are exceptional bows at this price. Violinists regularly choose these over much more expensive bows.

Have large selection of chin rests, shoulder rests, strings, Wittner pegs, tail pieces, rosins, etc.

Had a number of people tell me they have to wait a long time for bow repairs (\$40.00, 2 day turnaround), various repairs, etc. Would suggest for any of your needs whether instruments, accessories, etc., that you call or email me as my website does not show all products I have in stock. I can often give help over the phone for various problems and also make suggestions for the best instrument, or item you should have. You will find my prices much lower than the shops or stores. Call or email me.

Art Daher – 604 703-1464 or [daer1@shaw.ca](mailto:daer1@shaw.ca)





## A REPORT FROM THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GRAND NORTH AMERICAN OLD TIME FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 30<sup>th</sup> Grand North American Old Time Fiddle Championship was held on July 18, 19 & 20 at the Agri-Centre in Radway, Alberta – what a celebration we had!

The weekend began on Friday afternoon with our first annual Junior Showcase. The talented young fiddlers who entertained us for the afternoon provided us with proof that the musical heritage of old time fiddling will be alive for future generations to enjoy. Their skill and confidence is a pleasure to behold. We must thank Art Thomson for his guidance and support in this endeavour. He allowed us to copy his brainchild, formerly the highlight of the Harvest Gold Festival for many years in Athabasca.

Friday evening showcased many talented musicians and singers with an open Jam and Dance. Admission was a silver collection to be donated to the "Kids With Cancer" fund. Your generous support raised \$965.15.

Competitions were held on Saturday and Sunday for 13 different classes. The two day event brought 71 entries and 54 contestants all the way from British Columbia to Manitoba and then Ontario. Congratulations go out to all the winners. One of the officials commented that the talent showcased here was on par with the best in Canada.

Thank-yous must go out to the many people who contributed to our success. A big thank you to the GNA Committee, headed by Joe Staszko and to the many volunteers who are essential in the production of a big this event such as this. Kudos to our officials: judges: Randy Jones (Alberta), Mark Sullivan (British Columbia) and Shane Cook (Ontario) – and of course: MC Alfie Myhre, piano man Blaine Lutwick, and sound man Glen Nott. And certainly not least – thank you to the Radway Ag Society. Your hospitality is second to none ... and the food! Excellent.

The mission of the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Association is “to encourage, foster and develop an appreciation of Old Time Fiddle music”. Well ... Mission Accomplished! We look forward to our 31<sup>st</sup> year. Mark your calendars early for the **3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July, 2015**, at Radway Agri-Centre.

*Editor's note: I lack the space to print the complete list of winners, but see below for those who travelled to Radway, AB from B.C. & placed in their category.*

### **Youth:** (15 – 18)

4<sup>th</sup> - Max Sander-Segriff – Courtney, BC

### **Advanced Intermediate:** (19 – 54)

1<sup>st</sup> – Lia Gronberg, Mission, BC

### **Championship:**

4<sup>th</sup> – Adam Johnson, Quesnel, BC

6<sup>th</sup> – Kai Gronberg, Mission, BC

### **Twin Harmony Intermediate:** (19 – 54)

1<sup>st</sup> – Kai & Lia Gronberg, Mission BC

