



B.C.



FIDDLE NEWS

BCOTF Kootenay Branch #9 is proud as punch to showcase one of our very own. Her name is Joan Marks. Joan is 84 years young and is still actively involved in our fiddling and musical community. Joan joined the BC Old Time Fiddlers in 1981 along with her husband, Bill, who played guitar. The membership at that time was small with about 12 members. Joan has served as President (4 yrs) and Secretary (12 yrs) and currently sits as Vice President of our branch. She, along with her husband, served on the steering committee which supports the Fiddle Workshop held at Selkirk College, Castlegar Campus in July every year. Bill passed on five years ago. Realizing how music was so important in her life, especially once she lost her husband, Joan continued her invaluable involvement in the BCOTF. Music was, and still is, her therapy and helped her get through the difficult times.

Joan is our esteemed keyboard accompanist and she has an appealing and endearing stage presence. It's she who keeps everyone in time and on the beat.

Joan started playing on a little toy piano as a tot. She picked up her love for music from her mother who was not only a piano teacher but a pianist who played extensively in their community to earn money. Joan played on that little toy piano until the age of 5 when a travelling piano salesman gifted the family of a big old heavy player piano. She went on to study the Toronto Conservatory of Music up to grade 10. She supported herself through high school with about 45

piano students as well as playing gigs for weddings, funerals and other special events. From an early age in Nakusp, Joan played in the Anglican Church and still plays today for the little United Church in Robson for Remembrance Day and Christmas.

During her early married days, Joan and Bill were very active in a Square Dance Club. Joan played for the Wendy West Ballet School of dance, where her daughter took ballet lessons. Back in those days, the dance studio would always study with a live accompanist. In Kitimat she played piano for the school choir. In Kitwanga she played for weddings. Moving to Castlegar in 1975 and for the next 18 years, Joan served as the musician for Kootenay Temple #37 of the Pythian Sisters.

Joan will be the first to admit that the role of keyboard accompanist to the fiddles is a challenging one. The transition from classical background to backup chording took a lot of practice and studying. She has attended the Castlegar Fiddle Camp in the piano workshop for 3 summers. One year she actually tried her hand in the fiddle workshop...but quickly retreated back to the comfort of her piano. She laughs at herself knocking out "some kinda sounds" on the fiddle.

So, thank you, Joan, for being special you - and for keeping us on the beat.



JOAN MARKS, KOOTENAY #9

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

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Looking ahead we would like to continue with a feature write-up & picture in each issue of the B.C. Fiddle News and would appreciate receiving submissions in line with the following schedule:

Feb. 2016 – Williams Lake #10
June 2016 – Coombs #11
Oct. 2016 – Kamloops #12

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

I thought the summer was busy for me but there doesn't seem to be any let up at all, and I'm as busy now as I was during the summer.

The Red Book 2014 is being printed as I write and orders are being received. The first printing of 100 copies have all been spoken for and a second printing will be ordered. With a 3 to 5 business day cycle on ordering and printing it's not a big deal to have to order more. If you haven't heard, the price of coil

bound, black and white books is only \$20 without shipping. That number is a lot lower than I had been expecting and is a nice surprise. There are other options for the book, from hard covers, to full color and other mixes possible. For example full color with hard covers is estimated to be in the order of \$100.00 each and I would need at least 10 for the printer to do them. If there are enough wishes for another format of the book I can order them.

There is one other option for the book and that is electronic. It is available through the iBook store – primarily for reading on your iPad. It is in full color and sells for \$9.99. Search the iBook Store for Red Book 2014.

Other news on the Provincial side of things here is your executive for 2015 / 2016:

John Tribe – President
Barry Nakahara – Vice President
Jackie Davis – Secretary/Treasurer
Directors: Mark Sullivan, Ken Emery, Florence Tellier, Doug Borden, Craig Freeman & Hal Giles.

Welcome to the new executive and I look forward to working with everyone. On this same theme I sincerely thank the previous executive and really appreciate the amount of time and effort they put into the administration of the BCOTFA.

Dale McGregor has stepped down as Web Master. A new Web Master has been found but all the details have not been put in place at this time. Since the pressure is off from the Red Book, I'll now be able to focus a little more on the web site. From the Branches point of view the Web Master transition should be very easy.

Since Christmas is nearly here I want to, on behalf of the entire

executive, wish everyone the very best ever holiday season – please be very careful on the roads and enjoy your friends and family to the maximum.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

Back in September it was nice to have some news of a couple of our former BC fiddlers who moved back to their home province of Ontario. At the Pembroke Fiddle & Step Dancing Contest, 14 contestants entered the “65 & Over” Category, with Keith Wilson (who was with the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers when he lived in BC) coming in 1st & Leo Ready (who was with the Kamloops Branch) placing 3rd. Congratulations to both.

At the AGM of the BCOTFA in October, it was decided to reduce the number of issues of the B.C. Fiddle News from 4 to 3 per year. This will avoid struggling to put one out in the summer when everyone has other things on their minds. The new schedule proposed is to put out a newsletter in February, June & October, with the deadline being the 15th of the prior month as before.

We have one new correspondent to welcome on board for this issue & that is Dave Lynn of Kamloops. Dave commented that he thought writing the article was harder than playing the fiddle! His efforts & those of all the other contributors to the newsletter are greatly appreciated.

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

Greetings from Branch #1 of the Old Time Fiddlers. We have been very busy this season and have lots of

news to communicate!

Branch #1 finished off the summer with a Volunteer Appreciation Party at Brian St. Germain's house. Great attendance, fantastic food, tuneful fiddle playing, and all around good times were had by all. Thank you to Brian, his wife, and all the volunteers who help make this day and club so special. Summer also saw some members play at MLA Mike Morris' house where they combined with Indian Celebrity TAJ. A first for the club to back a singer singing in Hindi. Thanks for the experience Mr. Morris and TAJ.

This September, we were blessed with the addition of Courtney Campbell. She is our new instructor and has been great meeting the needs of our club with interesting, yet accessible tunes. Great job Courtney! We'd like to thank Brittany Iwanciwski for her outstanding teaching last year as well. Turnout to fiddle nights has been on the upswing and we saw two new memberships purchased. A few tunes learned to date have been “Angeline the Baker”, “Kegan's Jig”, and “Devil's Dream” to name a few. Fiddlers are reminded that it is \$2 per session and to sign in at the door.

Gabrielle Jacob stopped by for the October Cake Night. What a player! She also did a fantastic job in the Nov. 14 Symphony performance. Next Cake Night is November 26th

and includes cake and DANCE LESSONS! The Christmas Treats night will be December 17th. Speaking of Christmas, Fiddle Club member/Scribe David Schulte will be playing two fiddle tunes on December 7th as part of the Mud River Christmas show at ECRA. Tickets are available from David or Ticketmaster (\$10).

There is also an AGM on January 31st of the new year.

Sad news is that member Lillian Brown passed away at age 97. We send friends and family our condolences.

April 22-23 will be Jamboree Days for the club. Look for exciting workshops and concerts. There is a rumour that Jenny Lister will come down to grace us with her talents. Let's hope it turns out to be true!

Finally, our Branch would like to wish you and your family a peaceful, joyous Holiday season and the very best for 2016!

David Schulte

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Our 45th Annual Fiddle Contest was held on Oct 3rd. The number of participants was down, somewhat disappointing considering it was the BC Provincials. However, the winners in each category can proudly claim to be **Provincial Champions 2015!** The enthusiasm of the contestants and audience response made it all worthwhile. Thanks to our judges: Colin Butchart, Ken Emery, Ingrid Johnston and Ray Plamondon, and thanks also to our membership who made it happen.

The Provincial AGM was held here on Sunday following the contest. Of interest: the newsletter will be issued just 3 times a year beginning in 2016. Efforts are under way to bring the Canadian Grand Masters to BC (maybe in 2018?). Changes to the Societies Act are coming in 2016. We won't know how or if it will affect us until we see the details.

Adam Johnson represented Quesnel and BC at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championships in Moncton NB. He competed against 22 of Canada's top fiddlers, and even though he didn't make the cut, he was satisfied with his performance.

Our regular monthly dances will be starting at 7:00 pm. At time of writing, we don't have a hall for the New Year's dance so it was suggested we have our dance on the first Saturday- January 2nd, yet to be confirmed.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new RED BOOK. John Tribe sure deserves a big thank you for his work and patience in compiling, revising, editing, and dealing with the last minute submissions from this branch at least.

Here are the 2015 Provincial Championship winners:

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS:

1. Adam Johnson
2. Deni Johnson

OPEN CLASS:

1. Anita Mamela
2. Barry Nakahara
3. John Tribe

SENIORS CLASS:

1. Marshal Fedorak
2. Beth Bressette
3. Lynn Tribe

INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

1. Janice Meyer
2. Doreen Rail
3. Edna Lansdowne

YOUTH CLASS:

1. Loraine Marshall
2. Hunter Grosse Pearen

JUNIOR CLASS:

1. Lucia Johnston

LITTLE JUNIOR CLASS:

1. Aryana Langan
2. Saphira Langan
3. Scarlett Johnston

*Until next time,
Jean Gelinis*

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

Our first membership meeting for the fall of 2015 was held on September 2nd. The members of branch number 4 were anxious and ready to get back to the practices and playouts.

We celebrated by having a club picnic outdoors at the Kariton House at Mill Lake. The weather was sunny and cool but we enjoyed our lunch and jam session. Especially when we had an audience of "walkers".

We've had several playouts this fall, one of which was The Reach Gallery Museum in Abbotsford. The Reach Gallery included a program of local artists including artwork, crafts and entertainment. We had the privilege of putting on a fabulous program that showcased Jo Blaak, performing the beautiful "Lover's Waltz", The Fiddle Chicks, Kai and Lia Gronberg and of course The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers.

Another fun event was The Historic Stewart Farm in Surrey. This picturesque setting interprets the time period of 1890 – 1920. We had a wonderful time playing and watching the dancers and the costumes of that era. It was a rainy day but we were sheltered in the barn so all had a good time.

We continue to practice on Wednesday evenings and to play at the dances at the Aldergrove Seniors Center. It really is fun to see everyone have such a good time.

We are so proud of our Kai and Lia. This fall they attended the 18th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest in Saskatchewan. Kai placed 2nd in the 13 – 17 age group. In the Championship category, Lia placed 3rd and Kai placed 5th. Good fiddling Kai and Lia! We look forward to the workshops that Kai has agreed to lead us on practice nights.

We had several special anniversaries this fall. Congratulations to Vern and Zita Walt on their 59 years together, Myrna and Cedric on 54 years of wedded bliss and Gordon and Eileen Zelt on their 59th anniversary. Special birthday wishes go to Gord Zelt, Rod McLean, Vern Walt, Diane Ryz, Don & Joyce Olds and Kai.

It's with great sadness to report that we lost Jim Falconer this September. He and his wife Irene have been members of our club for many years. Our hearts go out to Irene. Jim and Irene were members of the CFVF when Keith Wilson was president. He has requested that we include his contribution to the newsletter. The following is from Keith:

"After moving to Abbotsford from Edmonton in 1989, Alice and I became involved with the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers. We were invited into the club by several

members including the Falconers who were long time members and supporters. Jim and Irene loved dancing, and of course for many years, we enjoyed playing dance tunes for them at our Sunday tea dances in the Abbotsford Seniors Association Hall and also at dances in Aldergrove. We had a bit of a ritual in that they would come in early and we would have dinner at the local chicken place for Jim and Irene's favourite meal (including her wings).

They both worked hard for the club, Jim setting up chairs for events such as fiddle contests, and helping out with the many things that have to be done at any dance or fiddle events. Of course Irene was a stalwart in the kitchen for many years; Alice and I would often drop in at their place in Chilliwack for one of Irene's delicious meals and a visit covering many topics including his views on politics, music, and where the country was going.

One time, I mentioned to Jim that I was having trouble with water seepage with the caulking around the front end of our fifth wheel trailer. He immediately offered to help fix it. We spent a number of weekends taking it apart and replacing it. Without his help it would have been almost impossible.

In the last few years that we were in Abbotsford, Jim's health problems made it more difficult for him to do all the things he liked to do. However, he always had a positive attitude to life, and never complained. After we moved back east to Carleton Place we missed our times together, but we kept in touch with them.



The photo above, of Jim teaching Lia Gronberg to dance, is typical of Jim's interest in sharing his talents particularly with young people. God Bless You Jim. "

Rosalie Eeg

SURREY



BRANCH #5

The Seasons seem to go by a lot faster than we would like and we will soon be putting up Christmas decorations and getting ready to celebrate the Festive Holiday.

We continue to have our monthly dances at Clayton Hall and we appreciate the dedication of our band members, who come out faithfully every month to provide entertainment for the seniors that come out to dance to our old time fiddle music.

Congratulations to our member, Mike Sanyshyn and his Bluegrass band called Jackson Hollow, who have recently won the Gaylord Wood Traditional Country Award at the B.C. Country Music Awards Event, on October 25. The four piece band include Mike's wife Tianna, Dave Barber and his wife Kirby. You can listen to a sample of their music on www.Jacksonhollowmusic.com

Our members, Evan & Rose Marie, have recently returned from a vacation in Europe, with a four night stay in Venice Italy and a nine day ocean cruise, which included: Koper Slovenia, Ravenna Italy, Split Croatia, Dubrovnik Croatia, Kotor Montenegro, Valletta Malta, Catania Sicily, Naples Italy, and Civitavecchia Italy.

"A wonderful vacation, with a lot of history and great scenery."

Some of our Surrey Branch fiddlers, together with the Hazelmere fiddlers, (13 in all), played at the Cloverdale Museum for Armistice Day. A lot of the tunes that the fiddlers played were from the first and Second World War era, with a few fast fiddle tunes in between, to liven up the crowd.

The music sounded great and a lot of compliments came from the people in attendance.

Our condolences go out to the family of Joe Klemovich, who passed away in August of this year. Joe loved dancing and came out often to our Clayton dances and our annual picnics. He was also a big man, who sported a large white bushy beard and was more than happy to entertain everyone at Christmas functions, wearing his Santa Claus suit.

"Wishing all of the Fiddle Clubs a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year."

Remember, Surrey Fiddler's Dances
– 1st Thurs. of the month, Clayton
Hall - 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

The Central Okanagan has been treated again this year with a beautiful extended "Indian Summer". So far the snowman has stayed up in the hills, but we expect he will sneak down anytime. I just talked to my younger son in Prince George & winter has arrived there.

Our first major outing in September was the Armstrong Fair on the 2nd & 3rd. John Tribe was our able leader both days and had lots of help from our multi-talented musicians. Pauline Curtis, our Armstrong fiddler arranged all the details for us as usual. No small job to find parking, get passes and arrange transportation for all musicians & equipment. A hearty thanks to Pauline from all of us.

Another major event was the Bal wedding on a gorgeous property up Hwy. 33. Again John Tribe stepped up to the plate (mike) to be our glorious leader.

Another nice outing was the Cottonwoods Care Home barbeque. They supply the food and we provide the music. Our annual picnic was well attended at Mission Creek Park. Lots of eats & treats and some guest musicians to add a little variety.

The major October event was the Provincial Contest & meeting in Quesnel on the 3rd & 4th. Provincial President John Tribe & his wife

Lynn were there, had a good time & won some gas money. Two new Directors on the Provincial Team, Florence Tellier of Kamloops, our worthy Editor, and Ken Emery of Williams Lake; welcome aboard.

Wayne & Pauline Angman are back from a long drive to the colorful Maritimes in September. Our Florida Peach fiddler Ruth Buchanan has left us behind for the winter. One of our five bass players, Bob Davies & his wife are in the Southwest U.S.A. for the winter. Long-time member Gordon Cheyne & Phyllis & also Max Kisby & his wife June spent time with their families in sunny Manitoba.

Ron Hillcoff & his wife Debbie had a grand trip to Greece, Turkey & several other countries.

The Nov 11 Remembrance Day ceremony at Parkinson Recreation Centre is our major event for the month. This is to honor recent & past war veterans & keep their memory alive for younger generations. Each year their numbers are less. About 400 people attend each year. Vic Ukrainetz leads our fiddlers through some lively dance music.

Lunch is served followed by the local Pipe Band. For the main dance, Vic's dance band takes over.

The new Red Book was one John Tribe's dream projects and he has done a remarkable job as you will see. We will all reap the benefit of his dedication. This is our history & deserves to be saved. It's very enjoyable to sit down with the old Red Book & remember a lot of great musicians we were privileged to share the stage with. Thanks to all the branches who contributed information & pictures, it all came together under John's direction.

Our music director Vic has done an outstanding job in getting all our musicians involved & picking a variety of tunes for our CD. It is completed now & should be ready for the Dec 4th Christmas party. Wayne & Pauline Angman are in charge of ticket sales & seating arrangements for the party. The dinner is being catered by the Knights of Columbus.

We appreciate the many contributions of all our members who are always available to play music or do other necessary tasks.

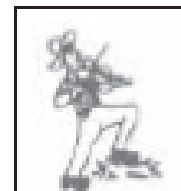
Kelowna will be the host branch for the 2016 Provincial Championships the first weekend in June, 2016. More on this next time.

That's all we have to offer for now. From our Branch #7 to all other Branches "the best of the festive season to you". Travel only when safe & see you next year.

*Cheerio,
Russ Gerrie*

PS: Happiness comes through doors you don't remember leaving open.

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers has been very quiet all summer. Due to the health of our President and Secretary, we have not had our baron and music at the Legion. Also we will not be holding a Christmas dinner and dance. On November 28th members and invited guests will be going for dinner at the Golden Chopsticks and having door prizes and music.

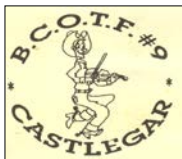
Harmon Lake Elks campsite has been reserved for May 17-23, 2016 and everyone is invited to attend. We always have a great turnout.

Get well wishes go out to Dave Marriott and Donna Chorney.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and the best in the new year. Safe driving if you're travelling over the holidays.

*Submitted by,
Delphine Lawrence*

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

A big Kootenay Hello to all fellow BC Fiddle Branches. After our summer hiatus we were happy to reconvene our monthly meetings.

While our #9 Branch committee and membership has been pretty stable over the past few years, there are a few long standing members who will not be so actively involved and therefore we are interested in getting new memberships. It's great that we welcomed three new members this fall and look forward to increasing numbers. It's an exciting chance to become involved in decision making processes to make great things happen in our branch. We proudly acknowledge and value the many years of contributions and endless volunteering leading to the success of our branch to lifetime members Walter and Yvonne Crockett as well as Victor and Brenda Lepitzki.

And of course we always look forward to jamming together after meetings as well as weekly jam sessions with friends. Jamming of course is a great way of sharing

fiddle music with others. It's also a great forum for working on ornamentations and bowing technique, dynamics and variations. Just as in the spoken language, the world of fiddling has many accents.

One of these unique accents is the Cape Breton style of fiddling. There is a fiddle lesson website by Kimberley Fraser who teaches traditional Cape Breton tunes in a Cape Breton style. Kimberley holds a degree in violin performance from Berklee College of Music and in Celtic Studies from St Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. I actually signed up for a tune a month. Her lessons are clear and well detailed and I found them easy to follow and very enjoyable. The fee is very nominal...I think I paid \$8 per month for a-tune-a-month. It's easy to set up monthly payments through your PayPal account and it's easy to cancel your subscription. You can choose beginner or intermediate/advanced lessons. Check out her website at kimberleyfraser.com and you can try out a free sample lesson and see how you like it.

In our last newsletter, I encouraged you to view master fiddler Patti Kusturok's "A Tune a Day for 365 Days" on YouTube. I hope you have had a chance to fiddle around with that. Patti also has a website and there you can purchase Skype lessons with Patti. I know one of our members has taken a few lessons via Skype with Patti and really got a lot out of it.

"Haven't I seen your face before?" a judge demanded, looking down at the defendant.

"You have, Your Honour," the man answered hopefully. "I gave your son fiddle lessons last winter."

"Ah, yes," recalled the judge... "Twenty years!"

Have a really cool winter and a musically filled and celebrated holiday season, everyone!

*Submitted by,
Kathy Markin*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

I am very sorry but I was so busy with my kitchen renovation in July/August that I missed the dead line for the last issue. I sure don't want to do another renovation for quite a while.

We usually take time off from our monthly commitments at the end of June until September so that we can pursue other interests and rest up before resuming in the Fall. There are only a few things to report during that time period so I will bring you up to date from June until now.

Our members played for the annual Elks Royal Purple Strawberry Tea in June and then for our local Royal Canadian Legion during the weekend of the Williams Lake Stampede.

We found out that our club member, Hal Giles, and his wife Ros were celebrating their 50th Anniversary in June. The club surprised them with a bouquet of flowers, cake, wine and a gift certificate to the Station House Gallery in honor of their special day. Congratulations Hal and Roz! I sure enjoyed finding that "special" bottle of wine for you.

I'm sorry I didn't make it out to Gavin Lake this year but I heard that the turn out for Fiddle Camp was around 200 people. Wow! That's great. I hope everyone had a good time and learned a lot from all the

great teachers. Hope I can make it out next year.

On a very sad note, on August 22 the club lost a very dear and long time member, Bill Downie. Bill became a member of the Williams Lake Old Time Fiddlers shortly after it was formed in 1981. Along with his wife, Martha, they were long time supporters of Branch #10. For those of you who didn't know Bill, he was a great musician. He played tenor banjo and C- melody sax (an instrument that is easier to play in the keys favoured by Fiddlers). He had given up playing in recent years because of his loss of hearing. Bill had played in dance bands for years, and had some great swing tunes, including "Sundown", "Chattanooga Shoeshine Boy" and "In the Mood". A couple of years ago Bill had been inducted into the B.C. Cowboy Hall of Fame. Bill was 97 when he died. We will miss you Bill.

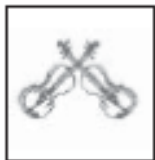
One of our other members, Ken Emery is now a new director of the B.C.O.T.F.A. Provincial Executive. Congratulations, Ken!

Another club highlight was that Ed Caissie turned 89 on Nov. 6th. Unfortunately Ed didn't make it to Thursday practice so we had to eat his cake without him! Lol!

Take care, until the next newsletter and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016!

Pat Gunderson

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

To begin, we wish to thank and congratulate the

Provincial Association and President John Tribe for completing the

monumental project of updating the "Red Book". It surely took a great effort to organize the information submitted by the Branches. Also, we acknowledge the local contribution of Jean Shaw who assembled and submitted the Branch #11 information. Well done, all!

After the flurry of activity in mid-summer we had a hiatus until the September 13 general meeting and Tea Dance at the Rotary House. The weekly Thursday dances resumed on September 17 with small crowds until mid-October when the winter folk started arriving from the Prairies. Recent dances have been well-attended. Unfortunately several band members are experiencing health problems but good music continues to flow from the ten or twelve players who come out each week.

On September 26 a contingent of Branches 11 and 19 members played a collection of favourite tunes at the Memorial service for Andy Ovington, a long-time member who passed away in July. Also in September, we learned that guitarist/pianist Elsie McKay, who had moved to the Mainland earlier this year, had suffered a serious injury just after major surgery. We hope she recovers and soon will be able to enjoy her new home and friends.

On the bright side, our annual Fiddle Jamboree at the Coombs Rodeo Hall was very successful. The format and food service was changed from that of previous years and the order of performances was well-managed. Again, the featured performer was the brilliant Sarah Tradewell. In addition, the audience was truly impressed by the performance of young Quinton Etheridge-Pedden, who we hope to hear much more from in the future. Much credit goes to the many volunteers who were

instrumental in ensuring that the event succeeded.

Our regular schedule of playouts at local Seniors' care homes resumed in September. These don't involve the entire band as most of the facilities are too small so a small subset of Branch 11 plays once monthly at each of the homes.

A couple of days ago we marked Remembrance Day, a time of reflection that's especially poignant for those members who saw military service. We pause, as well, to remember the Old Time Fiddlers who have left us and we are moved to consider ways to bolster our dwindling numbers. Colonel McRae's famous lines come to mind to inspire the search; "to you, with failing hands, we throw the torch".

Now that the scheduled issues of Fiddle News are reduced to three per year I hope I don't forget about it during the extended interval.

Submitted by Bruce Foden
ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

We're well into our Fall schedule and we've had two club

dances so far, as well as several playouts. Our next dance will be our Christmas dinner/dance at Desert Gardens on December 5, followed by our regular monthly dances on January 2 (at the Yacht Club) and February 6 (at Hal Rogers Centre).

Our membership is currently 72 people and we are determined to increase this number; we're also going to need more musicians in the near future, to allow us to get out

and play more dances and shows. The main goal is to attract younger musicians. This is critical for our future.

We are having workshops on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, in the bottom floor of The Heritage House. All musicians are welcome and this is free. We'll be learning songs, both fiddle and accompaniment. Also on February 6, 2016 there will be a free workshop at The Heritage House with an anticipated 30-40 fiddlers, most of them young, this is going to be sponsored by Kamloops Interior Summer School of Music (KISSM). Again this will be free to all fiddlers in the community, but you must register. There will be more info out in January. KISSM has confirmed that Shamma Sabir will be teaching and we will help out where we can.

Brian Bursey is providing pattern dance lessons on Tuesday mornings 10-12, at the North Shore Community Association on Cottonwood Avenue. You'll learn all the steps to dance to Canadian Traditional fiddle music from Brian.

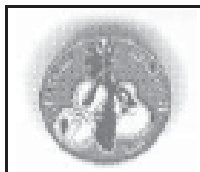
We'll be out in our community with more of a visible presence in 2016, playing special events, on the streets and parks, - look for us, we'd love to meet you.

In closing we want to wish Bob Lalonde, one of our veteran fiddlers, a speedy recovery from heart bypass surgery. Take your time Bob but I think your fiddle still has many songs it wants to play.

Also best wishes go out to Alice Berner and anyone else who may be experiencing health problems.

Yours truly,
Dave Lynn

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

The federal election has come and gone.

Yes, our Br. #17 election and yours too will be coming up in the New Year. It would be interesting to see more competition for the executive seats.

Maybe we need to increase salaries?? As the song goes- "Accentuate the positive; Eliminate the negative" etc. It is your club. You get out of it in proportion to what you put into it—and more. So put your shoulder to the wheel. You can make many people happy!

Our monthly dance attendance is improving with the cooler weather coming in. We always have a good turnout of musicians. A goodly number of dancers this September was largely due to the effort of our advertising agent, Edie Gark and her helpers. Thanks Edie!

We are into our routine monthly play dates with hospital, senior care homes etc. Our Xmas party will be held in the Westerly Hotel on Dec. 8 from noon to 6 p.m. for members and guests.

New members are reminded that you are entitled to get a copy of a booklet of B.C.O.T.F.A. By-Laws. Ask your executive.

As mentioned in the Fall Fiddle News, Ada Brown's efforts resulted in a collection of information about many B.C. Fiddle Club musicians. Thanks to Ada and helpers. More recently President John Tribe has spearheaded a drive to produce a Red Book of information on some 319 club musicians. Thanks to John and many helpers, this soft or hard cover book will soon be available from your club. Check for price and

availability. The season of gift giving is coming.

A bouquet is due to a long term member of our club, Ed Medford, who has worn many hats, especially in the last year. Thanks Ed.

Keep playing and participating, and don't forget to SMILE!

Musically yours,
Art McMartin

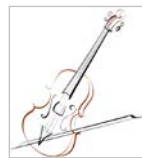
COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

No report at this time.

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

We jumped right in to our Fall season of playouts on the Wednesday after Labour Day, with Fir Park being first on the list. They were so happy to see us as we hadn't been there since the end of April. We don't usually do a playout on Labour Day itself, as many of our members are busy elsewhere. The first community event was at the Fall Fair. We had changed from our regular Thursday night to play on the Friday, and were concerned our regulars wouldn't be able to attend then, but they found us and were there to cheer us on, listeners and dancers alike. The weather was great for this venue.

Coombs invited us to play for a nice section of time at their Jamboree, and we all enjoyed doing this. After playing our set, we were in place to listen to the featured performers who were absolutely wonderful. Sarah Tradewell once again put on a super show, her fiddling and vocals well worth listening to. For the first time

we had a chance to listen to a young fellow from Nanaimo, Quinton Etheridge-Pedden. This 13 year old did a very entertaining half hour performance along with his accompanist and performance coach Geoff Horrocks. Quinton surprised us all by finishing up with a song that showed off his great voice, as well as his fiddling skills. It will be interesting to see his progress in the next few years. After dinner there was a jam session hosted by several of the Coombs members. The circle jam is always fun, with the opportunity to learn about new pieces.

At the end of September we did a double-duty payout at the hospital with an hour at Westhaven, the extended care wing, plus another 40 minutes in the hospital atrium. We were well received in both places and especially enjoyed playing in the garden atrium that has a super piano on the dais. It was nice to provide a much needed break for some patients who have been stuck there for a long time.

In October we played for the Sunshine Club Tea, making sure we had a few polkas on the list to help celebrate that time of year. We do

need to work on more pieces for event specific payouts throughout the year, like Robbie Burns day, St. Patrick's etc. so we have a larger repertoire ready for each of these times. We always seem to be scrambling for songs too close to the event. We do horrify some of our members when we start to talk about practicing some Christmas pieces in early November, but when you only play some pieces once a year a little fine tuning is often needed.

We are very happy to be accepting some new members to the club. It's especially nice as they are younger than most of us. Glad to have you join us, Mandy, Roberta and Caroline. Mandy and Roberta are getting some coaching from one of our members, Jim Killough, to get started on building their repertoire and be able to play along with the group as soon as possible. It was also nice to welcome back our Saskatoon members, Jan and Merv, for the winter session, as well as Sylvia, who just returned from a 6 month sojourn in Ontario.

Two of our members, Louise Killough and Gail Ross, are working on honing their piano chording skills to be able to give our regular pianist,

Myrna McConnell, a much needed break now and then. By alternating playing time, all three are getting in some regular practice, but as well, Louise and Gail are still able to keep working on their own fiddle/guitar skills.

Although our group isn't overly keen on meetings, we are making an effort to meet more regularly and are actually scheduling regular dates throughout the year. Wouldn't it be nice if clubs could exist without all the red tape/paper work and just make lovely music? Such is life!

The end of the year is coming up fast, but we have our Christmas dinner planned, our regular New Year's Eve afternoon scheduled, with the rest of the regular payouts finishing up on Dec. 16 until January. Time now to make family plans for the festive winter season, bringing in greenery, lights, warm drinks before the fire, sharing musical moments with friends. We wish everyone well in the coming year.

*Submitted by,
Gail Ross*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 22 – 23 - Prince George Br. – Jamboree Days

May 17 – 23 – Merritt Br. – Campout at Harmon Lake Elks Campsite

May 27 – 29 – Calvin Vollrath Spring Fling – Morinville, AB Cultural Centre

June 3 – 4 – Kelowna Br. – Provincial Old Time Fiddle Contest

June 17 – 19 – Kamloops Br. – Jamboree Campout at Grandview Lodge

July 17 – 21 & July 23 – 37 – Camp Calvin (week 1 & 2) – St. Edouard, AB

**31st ANNUAL
GRAND NORTH AMERICAN
OLD TIME FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP**

The 31st Grand North American Fiddle Championship was held on July 17, 18 & 19 2015 at the Agri-Centre in Radway, Alberta for the 7th consecutive year, and the biggest Fiddle Championship held yet. The weekend began on Friday afternoon with the 2nd annual Junior Showcase. The 13 young Fiddlers who entertained in the afternoon are the living proof of the talent these young people have and that old time fiddling will continue for future generations to enjoy. Their skills and confidence is a pleasure to watch.

Friday evening showcased many talented musician and singers with an open Jam and dance. Admission was a silver collection to be donated to the Stollery Children's Hospital Fund. Your generous support raised over \$1200. Thank You!

Competitions were held on Saturday and Sunday for 13 different categories. Contestants came from across Canada from British Columbia to Ontario. Congratulations to all the winners and also to the others who entered the contest. It was commented by the officials that the talent showcased here was on par with the best in Canada.

The highlight of the weekend was at the Saturday evening dance when Alberta's Best "Calvin Vollrath" and Friends came and opened the dance for 3/4 of an hour. Three other Bands also played keeping the crowd dancing until 11 PM.

Thank you 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 were essential for the success of such a large event. Kudos to our Judges, Randy Jones (AB), Mark Sullivan (BC), Shane Cook (ON) and MC Alfie Myhre, Piano man Blaine Lutwick, and Sound-man Glen Nott. And certainly thank you to Radway Ag Society for their hospitality and food services provided.

We look forward to our 32nd year. Mark your calendars early for the **3rd weekend in July, 2016** at Radway Agri-Centre.

Mr. Joe Staszko GNA Director

Editors' note:

A few of our BC fiddlers attended the above Old Time Fiddle Championship. Here are some of those who placed in their respective category:

Junior Junior (9 & under):

4th Noland MacFarlane of Kelowna, BC

Championship (any age):

4th – Lia Gronberg of Mission, BC

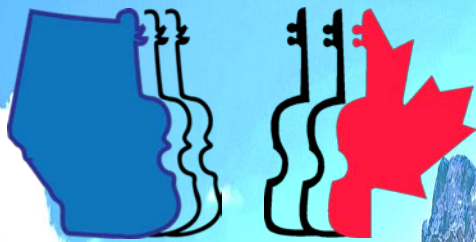
6th – Chloe Davidson of Kelowna, BC

Twin Harmony Intermediate (19 – 54):

3rd – Kai & Lia Gronberg of Mission, BC

The majority of the other competitors who placed were from Alberta, but did include a few from Saskatchewan, Manitoba & Ontario.

~ THE MASTERS MARCH WEST ~



Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition

August 26-28, 2016

Morinville, Alberta

Friday, Aug 26 - 'Alberta Legends' Show & Dance \$25

Saturday, Aug 27 - CGM Fiddling Competition \$65

Sunday, Aug 28 - Pancake Breakfast & Jam Session

Tickets available ONLINE at:

www.abcanadiangrandmasters.com

IN PERSON (Cash or Debit Only)

Myhres Music, 8715 – 118 Ave, Edmonton, AB

Morinville Community Cultural Centre, 9502 – 100 Ave, Morinville, AB

www.abcanadiangrandmasters.com