



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

In the early 1990's Ada Brown and her team took on the project of compiling some musical information for every musician in the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association. I'd be willing to guess that if Ada had known what she was getting in to that she would have had second thoughts. I wasn't a member at that time and so I don't have any direct memories of that project. I do know from talking to Ada that the project involved a lot of cutting and pasting – not the kind we do now on computers but rather the kind that involved physically cutting pieces of paper or photos and then pasting them on blank sheets of paper. I can only imagine the patience and frustration of doing a book in this way.

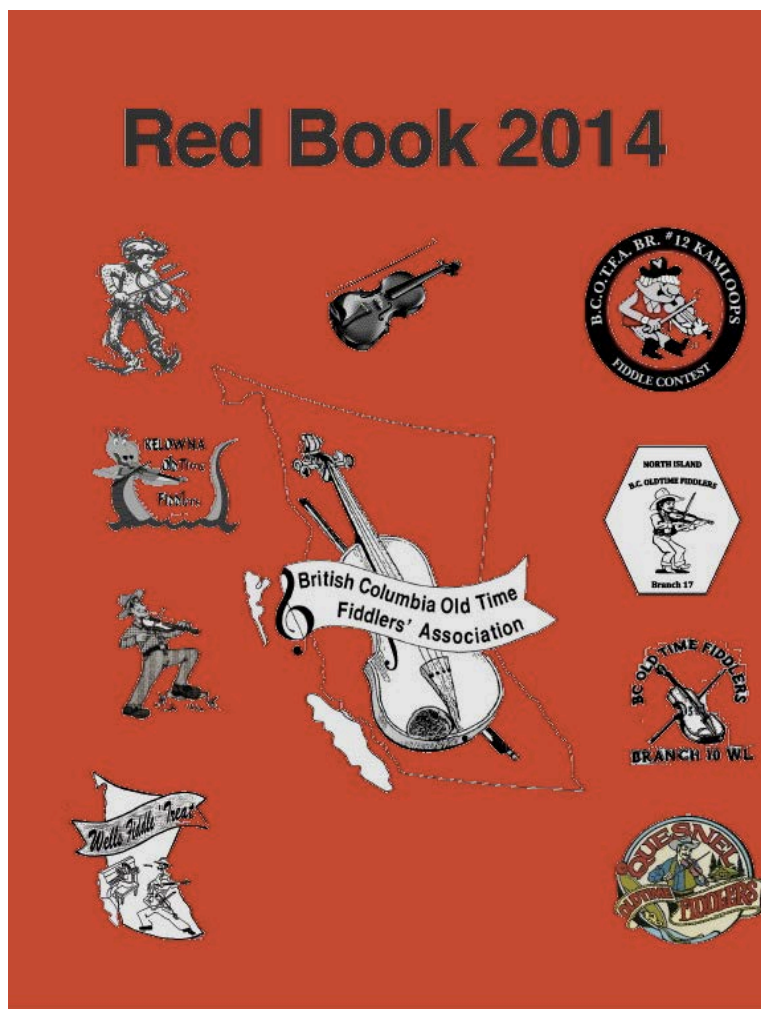
In this edition of the Red Book the “full force” of computer technology was brought into play. The submissions were received in all sorts of formats, fonts and styles – the computer program iBooks Author was able to take this information and size all the photos, change the fonts to a standard one and then apply a style that is consistent throughout the publication. Page layout programs such as the one used here is able to allow inserts and then have everything that follows simply flow along and make space for the insert.

Putting together something like the Red Book is a huge task that was undertaken by many people. Having said that, the biggest job was to accumulate all the contributions from the 13 active branches throughout the province.

I know that there were all sorts of people behind the scenes that I probably don't know about and I really don't want to ignore their efforts, however there are some people that I especially want to recognize. They are the ones who agreed to be the branch contact for their specific chapter. Each branch has someone who was willing to take on the task of gathering the data for their branch and sending it on to me. My job was perhaps the easiest of all as I simply compiled the information submitted into a unified format that would be able to be published.

These are the people that agreed to let me bug them over and over again -- Gladys Andreas – Branch #4, Nell Bowles – Branch #11, Beth Bressette – Branch #1, Dennis Craig – Branch #19, Jackie Davis

– Branch #12, Craig Freeman – Branch #18, Jean Gelinas – Branch #3, Mr. Hal Giles – Branch #10, Lorraine Hiebert – Branch #17, Dave Marriott – Branch #8, Evan Sanyshyn – Branch #5, Mary-Ann Stewart – Branch #9 ... and now.... the next phase of the Red Book is under way!



AVAILABLE SOON!

Submissions have been received from all 13 Branches; 319 active musical members have taken the time to provide what I would call a short “Musical Bio”. The total membership of the BCOTFA is over 600 and that includes everyone from “friends” of fiddle music to veteran players that have been with the fiddlers since the association first began. This edition of the Red Book contains write ups for 319 musicians that are currently playing and even includes some memorials for past players that have meant so much to the BCOTFA.

The objective from the start was to produce an updated Red Book in such a form that the most people possible would be able to have their own copy of the finished product. This is still the objective and the reality is getting closer and closer.

At this point each branch has received a draft copy of the book. I will wait for each branch to read over their

particular chapter and get the revisions/corrections back to me. I am not the best proof reader as I find it really difficult to read and re-read something – I do a lot better on the overall appearance – and so I’m relying on each branch to proofread their particular chapter. Although I think I have received all the submissions that I’m going to get, I could still insert someone if they have been somehow overlooked.

Where does it go from here? I’ll need to allow about a month for the various Branches to have a look at the draft, & get any changes back to me. From there it’s off to the printer, hopefully in time for Christmas presents.

Wish us luck!

Submitted by John Tribe, President
British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers’ Association

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

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

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS
c/o Florence Tellier,
416 Collingwood Drive,
Kamloops, BC V2B 6B3
Phone & Fax: (250) 376-2330
E-mail: tel2330@telus.net



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Views, opinions and editorials expressed in the B.C. Fiddle News are those of the contributing correspondents and clubs, and are not necessarily those of the B.C. Fiddle News or the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers’ Association. Correspondence, photos, etc. will be returned if requested. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Direct all correspondence to Florence Tellier as noted above.

<http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
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B.C. Fiddle News Advertising Costs

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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. 2015 – Kootenay #9
Mar. 2016 – Williams Lake #10
June 2016 – Coombs #11
Sept. 2016 – Kamloops #12

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

I would imagine that most of the Branches are starting to prepare for the fall agenda of play-outs and other fall & winter events. In my case summer has been very busy and hasn't seemed much like a vacation or time off.

Although my column is not just about the Kelowna Branch #7, I must say that the Kelowna contest was a great success. Each contest has its own personality and this year's was no exception. We had a total of 33 contestants with none in the intermediate class and 5 in the championship class. Very encouraging all things considered and definitely on the agenda for 2016! Deni and Adam Johnson put on a great concert in Kelowna and provided judging expertise for the contest. On Sunday they put on a workshop with Keith Hill providing accompaniment in the morning and those who attended were rewarded with several new tunes to work on.

On this same subject – Provincial Contests continue to occupy our thoughts and correspondence. Our focus is always on the whole Province and with the executive spread all over the Branches our role is to be a supportive and guiding body.

Fiddle camps are a great experience that we look forward to each year. Lynn and I attended the camp hosted by Kootenay Branch #9 and held at Castellar's Selkirk College in July – with a great line up of instructors and about 80 students, the week was a great success, and for a change there were very few river moths! Not that they bother much but it's nice not to have them. Fiddle 'Treat

continues to be a huge success with the continued support of Quesnel and Prince George Branches.

If you haven't been following Patti Kusturok's 365 days of fiddle tunes – you should. Patti has taken on the project of uploading one fiddle tune to YouTube every day of the year. So far I've watched 222 of them (that number will be a lot bigger by the time you read this). I can't believe the number of tunes that I recognize nor the number I attempt to play. She often plays solo but also has other people of the fiddling community join in on her daily tune.

This will be my last opportunity to talk to you about the Quesnel Provincial Championship Fiddle Contest which will be held the first weekend in October – it's still early enough that the weather and road conditions should be very good, its late enough to be past the incredible summer heat, and, you will have had a month or two to get your fiddle tunes in shape for the contest. If you can, please come and support Quesnel. Oh, by the way the Annual General Meeting for the province, and executive elections will be held at the same event.

About a week ago I mailed out a draft copy of Red Book 2014 to each Branch. They should be available for review and available from your Branch contributor for your review. Once each branch has OK'd their Chapter of the Red Book I'll incorporate any of the edits or other changes. When that is done I'll be asking to know how many people are interested in purchasing copies of the book and then go to print. Hopefully they will be available as electronic ebooks in the future as well as hard copies.

There are lots of little subjects that I tried to cover off in this edition and there are probably many more that I

have missed – but not intentionally - happy fiddling!

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

Thank you to all the newsletter correspondents for submitting their Branches' articles. Summer has been fantastic and I know it is a struggle to get this done when the outdoors & other good things are calling!

One correspondent has asked that I send a "5-day Warning/Reminder" so I am going to try that. Don't be surprised if you get a message just as you were starting to think about doing your article!

The Merritt Branch was not able to fulfill the task of writing a story for the front page for this fall's issue so I thought we would use that space to do a little promotion of the upcoming new edition of the "Red Book". Thank you to John Tribe for being so accommodating in that regard.

Now that September is here I'm sure many of the branches will be busy getting the Fall/Winter schedule underway. Good luck with all your plans!

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

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

next year promises to be our best yet!

Branch #1 was lucky enough to have Kelli Trottier come by and perform for us. She was joined on guitar by branch Vice President Barry Nakahara. Kelli sang many numbers off her new CD and brought a special sensitivity to her playing. "The Old Home Place" was a song that particularly touched the audience

In March, we hosted a workshop with Marc S., Adam J., Brittany I., Ken O., and Raghu L. For the first time, bass lessons were provided and Step Dancing was taught by Laila. It was a great day of fiddling and dancing! A brief afternoon concert was provided by the instructors in the afternoon before Mark Sullivan took the stage later in the evening. He led the crowd through several favourites including "Pineview Waltz" which he wrote in Prince George on his last visit. As always, the crowd was receptive to his wonderful stylings and song selection.

Gavin Lake was held at the end of July. Once again, stellar playing, instruction, food, and friendships made this a camp and week to remember! Participants got to work with a main instructor and then had a rotating instructor in the afternoons with workshops and jams in-between. This year the Talent Show was co-hosted by JJ and Olga.

Olga came direct from New York and wowed the audience with her vocal range and quick repartee. This was the biggest camp ever and organizers have announced that the camp is getting so popular that people are getting turned away. Make sure you register early.

Looking forward to a great Fall session of fiddling this year.

David Schulte

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Our last monthly dance for the summer

was attended by a few of our regulars and by one lone tree planter who added a lot of enthusiasm and entertainment.

We did two performances for Billy Barker Days, one for the Farmer's Market, and one at Cottonwood House.

The BC Fiddle 'Treat at Gavin Lake was filled to capacity. Unfortunately a few people had to be turned away because there is a limit to what the camp facilities can handle. In spite of the large number of participants and guests, it was a very successful seven days of music, dancing, swimming and of course the annual canoe race. The weather was fine, the instructors were great and so were the cooks. Thanks to all who made it work: Brian Garland for the tents, Marie Gibbons for the dozens and dozens of cookies, and all the people who pitched in with dishes, bathrooms and general clean-up. We missed having Ray Plamondon who was travelling in Saskatchewan, and Romley Goulet who was not well. They have been a vital part of our committee, just helping with everything. Ken Perrson was also noticeably absent and dearly missed due to a biking accident. Ken has

been running the canoe program and teaching penny whistle ever since we moved to Gavin Lake.

Ed Whitcomb, who has compiled two volumes of original fiddle tunes by Canadian composers, donated a copy of CANADIAN FIDDLE MUSIC VOLUME 11 to every student nineteen years of age and younger who attended the camp. That amounted to 95 books!! He sent extras rather than send a partial case, so they will be available at our contest for anyone who still doesn't have one.

The Fiddle 'Treat is booked again for July 23-29, 2016. The website will be updated early in the new year when we have more information regarding instructors and fees.

Frank McKelvie, one of our most dedicated member, celebrated his 93rd birthday in June. Unfortunately he has had his leg amputated and is recovering in Wildwood Assisted Living Home. His recovery has been remarkable and we all wish him the very best.

At time of writing, Adam Johnson is in Moncton NB competing in the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition. We are proud to have a member of our club represent British Columbia in such a prestigious event.

Our 45th Annual Fiddle Contest is October 3rd at the Legion Hall. There will be a hospitality night on Friday Oct 2, contest, dinner, and dance on the 3rd. This is also the Provincial Championship so we're hoping for a good turn out and lots of participation, the incentive we need to start planning for our 50th. Don't forget the BCOTFA Annual General Meeting will be held the following day, Oct 4th at the Seniors Centre, next door to the Legion.

*Until next time,
Jean Gelinas*

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

Those of you who enjoy hot weather were in heaven this year. However, those of you who do not, this has not been the summer for you. We are mindful of the many forest fires in our province and the teams that are fighting those fires.

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers have had a very busy spring and summer. During the middle of May many of our group joined the Merritt Fiddle Club at their campout at Harmon Lake. Games, pot luck dinners and the famous auction (entertainment in itself with a "really cool" auctioneer) were on the agenda. Great fun was had by one and all! We look forward to next year.

We continued playing for the Saturday dances at the Aldergrove Senior Centre and several other playouts until the end of June. Ed Ryz is our esteemed Music Director. Jo Blaak competently takes over when Ed is not available to lead. Great job Ed & Jo! What would we do without you? We always have a good turnout of players for which we are very thankful. We will resume our practices, dances and playouts in September.

Summer took many away from home to enjoy their summer festivities with friends and family. Many of our members that were home, jammed at a seniors' home in Mission on Wednesday evenings.

Several of our group attended the Moses Lake Fiddle School in Moses Lakes in Washington State in July. The instructors of fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo were excellent!

The nightly contra dances were so much fun. 368 students were in attendance, 49% of these were under 18. It is heartening to see old time fiddle music enjoyed by so many young people.

Ed & Diane Ryz attended Diane's family reunion in Winnipeg in July. Continuing their journey through the prairies, Ed & Diane, Don & Joyce Olds and Gladys Andreas performed at the Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba in August. We look forward to hearing the reports from them.

We congratulate Lia Gronberg for winning 4th place in the championship category at the Grand North American Fiddle contest in Radway, AB. Both Kai and Lia continue to study, teach and attend many fiddle events throughout the year. We are so proud of them!

Congratulations to Ed & Diane Ryz who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary in May. Happy Birthday wishes go to Gladys Andreas on August 16th. Our birthday wish for Gladys is continued recovery from the accident she was involved in earlier this year. Also, we would like to congratulate our British members Rod and Elaine McLean who became Canadian citizens recently.

Finally, our club and many others in the fiddle world and beyond were sad to say goodbye to our life member, Donna Randall, who was a friend to us all, who was always game for a jam, and who organized so many successful contests and fiddle camps. We will miss Donna very much.

We hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing summer and look forward to the fall activities.

Rosalie Eeg

SURREY



BRANCH #5

What a wonderful summer we have been having so far, with record breaking temperatures, although more rain would be greatly appreciated.

Our June dance, prior to Summer break, drew a fairly good crowd, thanks to our patrons who come out and support our dances and enjoy dancing to the old time fiddle music that our band provides.

Once again our annual potluck picnic and fiddle Jam turned out to be very successful, with around seventy people attending. Our event was held indoors this year and this gave our dancers an opportunity to dance on a hardwood floor rather than outdoors.

It always amazes me that the potluck food that everyone brings always balances out, so that there is never too much of the same selection of food.

Thanks to all of our fiddlers for providing the wonderful music for this event.

It was nice to see Alex Randall and the Gronberg family at our picnic, Lia played a couple of solo tunes that showed how talented she has become. Alex also brought his fiddle and played with our band. Thanks, Alex and Lia for coming out and playing at our fiddle jam.

Also thanks, Robert Kielhorn, for emceeding the event and entertaining all of us with the funny stories and jokes.

The following fiddlers, Brad McDowell, Sam & Marion McDowell, & Erik & Rosalie Eeg recently attended the Moses Lake

fiddle camp where they had a great time listening to fiddle music at the evening dances and concert. Vivian Williams was one of the instructors at the camp.

Congratulations to Lia Gronberg who recently placed 4th out of 12 in the championship event at the Grand North America Fiddle competition held in Radway Alberta.

Our dances for the Fall Season start up again at Clayton Hall as of September 3rd from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

This summer the Okanagan and other areas have had more than their share of "Hot / Dry" weather, making for lots of thunder and lightning resulting in many forest fires across Western Canada. Many also caused by careless smokers, illegal camp fires, & glass thrown carelessly along highways or trails. Our hats off to the local and imported fire fighters who haven't had much rest this year. It has to be the most hazardous and uncomfortable job in this heat!

Our June contest was well attended with 33 entries in 9 categories. This 19th contest was held on June 6th. The concert the night before was attended by approximately 100 people. Results from June 6th are as follows:

Little Junior

1. Anna Kalf
2. Calya Ainslie (Chloe Davidson accepting)
3. Camryn Angman

Junior

1. Nolan MacFarlane
2. Anna Cleveland
3. Tatjana Teiseira (Chloe Davidson accepting)

Youth

1. Carter Macdonald
2. Aaron Wong

Intermediate - None this year

Championship

1. Chloe Davidson
2. Lia Gronberg
3. Kai Gronberg
4. Meaghan Matichuk
5. Michael Burnyeat

Open

1. Sage Kirk
2. Judy Guglielmin
3. Ramon Rakow
4. Doreen Rail
5. Sterling Cuthbert

Senior

1. Garry Hill
2. Lynn Tribe
3. Wayne Angman
4. Marshall Fedorak
5. Ruth Buchanan

Golden Age

1. Ken Emery
2. Mabel Babcock

Novice

1. Samara Fitchner
2. Sherry DiPasquale

Twin Fiddling

1. Kai Gronberg & Chloe Davidson
2. Michael Burnyeat & Ramon Rakow
3. Sterling Cuthbert & Judy Guglielmin

Guest artists and judges this year were Deni & Adam Johnson from Quesnel. Joining them on stage and in the judges' room was Keith Hill. They put on two fine shows and were much appreciated. Emcee and

provider of the sound equipment was our music director Vic Ukrainetz. Our regular members are always there to help out as needed. John & Lynn Tribe did a fine job of putting it all together as usual. A big sincere thanks to all the above as well as the contestants who entered.

June 14th, the day after the contest it was off to the Annual Father Pandosy Tractor Show. After that we tried to wind down a bit for summer. We had a big group at the Legion Vets (dinner and dance) led by Vic on the 21st; always well attended.

June 14th we were invited to 'Save on Foods' in Orchard Plaza led by Wayne Angman.

June 21st Vic led at Pardons Legion Veterans Dinner and Dance.

June 22nd was appreciation of Father's day at the Dorchester Seniors Home. Ron Haunushchak was our leader and we also had a nice barbeque.

June 26th found us down at the Peachland Senior Centre season windup with a nice barbeque and lots of toe tappin' music. Wayne Angman led us on that gig.

July 1st had most of us on stage led by Vic for the annual Multi-Cultural Canada Day party. A big noisy crowd in lots of Red and White and plenty of food choices plus a wide variety of entertainment.

No bookings for July and August as some are travelling or have company coming.

John and Lynn Tribe took one of our young fiddlers, Samara, to the East Kootenay Fiddle Camp July 13th to 17th. A good time was had by all at Selkirk College in Castlegar. That's where I had my first experience

judging a contest along with fiddle maker Slim Howser back in 1983.

Our Armstrong fair organizer, Pauline Curtis, took a long drive up to Camp Calvin near St. Paul, AB. She enjoyed the company of 54 other musicians learning from the 7 fiddle, two piano and two guitar instructors.

It sounds like Calvin Vollrath has assembled a good group at a big old church and lots of camping space. We are to be guests of the Armstrong Fair on September 2nd & 3rd again through Pauline's efforts. A big thanks to Pauline for arranging the details this and previous years. Branch #7 plans on making a CD in September of some of our regular tunes. John's red book which has been a major undertaking is getting down to the wire. Dianne Riley, our new Sunshine lady, informed us that piano player Irene McAvena had some neck surgery awhile back but recovered quickly and is back in the saddle. Vic's wife, Yvette has had a long recovery from a broken ankle and other complications. Wayne Rodacker is still having his wife under full time care. We wish the best recovery possible for the above members!

To all our members and friends - enjoy the rest of the season. The days are getting shorter so the next thing we know it will be harvest time and cooler days. Hopefully we will have some nice rains to help the fire fighters as well. That is all for now.

Russ Gerrie

PS from Will Rogers

"Letting the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back."

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

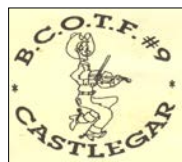
Merritt Old Time Fiddlers had a very successful campout at Harmon Lake on May 12 - 18 with over 35 rigs in attendance. Four couples from Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers attended and provided great music - so nice to have so many fiddlers. What a great group - thank you. We had a pot luck supper, crib tournament, horseshoes and auction. The auction, as usual, far exceeded our expectations and was a lot of fun. Proceeds from this auction will go to charitable organizations.

Lindsay Morrison had been chosen to receive the MSS Bursary and has two years to accept it.

The summer has been very quiet but hopefully we will have music and dancing again in the fall. Hope everyone had a good summer.

*Submitted by,
Delphine Lawrence*

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

A big Kootenay Fall Hello to all fellow BC Fiddle Branches. Well, one thing is for sure, no one can complain that we didn't enjoy a long hot summer this year. One day in July, my vehicle registered 42 degrees as it sat in Safeway parking lot!

The biggest news to share is the great success and fun of our 14th Annual 2015 Fiddle, Guitar and Piano Workshop held July 13th-17th in Castlegar. There were about 80

students this year participating in fiddle, piano or guitar workshops. Students came as far away as Saskatchewan and Vancouver Island. This week long camp is such a great way to hone skills as well as reconnect with friends. One couple we are always so pleased to welcome is John and Lynn Tribe from Kelowna. I had a chance to interview John, BCOTF President, and this is what he had to say...

"I'm not sure how many Kootenay Fiddle Camps my wife and I have attended but I think about five camps at Selkirk College in Castlegar. I'm happy to report that Lynn and I have never been disappointed in this camp. The Instructors are great, flexible, patient and always willing to go the extra mile. As long as the camp is fun, we'll keep coming back. I know the Branch organizers work tirelessly and perhaps get a little worn out, but they should know that their efforts are greatly appreciated."

"Camps such as this one offer a totally unique opportunity to visit and learn from the very best instructors in Canada. If you're thinking of coming - see if you can bring a friend. Thank you!"

Thanks, John, for your contribution and we certainly look forward to seeing you and Lynn next year.

One of our regular camp fiddle instructors, Patti Kusturok from Winnipeg, has a **YouTube** stream in which she is posting "A Song A Day for 365 Days". She began this January 1, 2015. Patti is one amazing fiddle master - please view her video channel and subscribe. You will get a weekly email linking to 5 new weekly tunes. It's very interesting to note, that one of her regular backup musician partners is a 26-year old fellow named Jeremy Rusu, who is a musical genius and has been blind since birth.

Check it out...

<https://www.youtube.com/user/fiddlchickpatti>

Additionally, fiddle camp instructors Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy have released their album **Twin Fiddles**. Their album represents a quilt work of original tunes written by Guy and Stobbe which capture their Canadian homeland and its many hidden corners of wonder. This album has been nominated in the category of *Instrumental Recording of the Year* by the 2015 Western Canadian Music Awards. It was interesting to us that many of us were taught songs from this album in our classes at camp.

Our chapter held our Annual Steak Fry on August 5th. This was a Wednesday evening barbeque and social and was held at a beautiful Kootenay outdoor park. A few raindrops certainly did not dampen a great evening. Thank you to our President, Gary Shannon for taking a lead role in the organization of this event.

And, lastly, Our Kootenay #9 Branch extends a very warm get well soon to member Mary Ann Stewart as she is at home recovering from heart surgery. Mary Ann, you are much missed and we look forward to you joining us soon.

Our branch looks forward to reconvening in the fall and welcoming back all our members.

Have a colourful and musically filled autumn, everyone!

*Submitted by,
Kathy Markin*

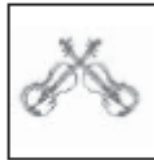
WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

We will have news from Williams Lake in the next issue.

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

With the summer winding down, our Fall schedule is coming into view.

The season opens with our monthly meeting and Tea Dance on Sunday, September 13. The weekly Thursday dances resume on September 17. All times remain as they were; meeting at 1:00 p.m., Tea Dance at 2:30 p.m. and Thursday dances at 7:30 p.m.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our 2015 Fiddle Jamboree on Saturday, September 19 at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. Everyone is welcome. The featured performer will be the amazingly accomplished Sarah Tradewell. In addition, we will introduce an up-and-coming young fiddler from Nanaimo, Quinton Etheridge-Pedden. The stage performances will begin at 11:00 a.m. with entertainers' sign-in at 10:00 a.m. This is two hours earlier than in previous years. Following a meal break there will be an all-comers' circle jam to keep the music flowing until closing time. Dancing is optional but encouraged! As always, there is dry camping available on the grounds.

Coombs Fair, Art-In-The-Garden, Coombs Bluegrass Festival and Bowen Park Seniors' Centre made for challenging, but interesting summertime playouts. Since the band membership tends to change

each time, a common core of tunes is required so that everyone can feel engaged and confident in the performance. Our President, Philippa Parker has worked hard to establish a series of set lists that we can practice before undertaking a gig. This effort was rewarded by the many compliments we received from attendees at these events.

As September rolls around we will resume our monthly visits to the various seniors' residences in Oceanside. Each of these playouts involves just four to six musicians and the tunes played are well-known but the performances are invariably appreciated by the residents of the homes. It is rewarding to us to see folks in the audience responding with singing, clapping, tapping or even dancing along.

The club lost a good friend in July with the passing of Andy Ovington. Andy was an early member who loved to play his guitar and sing old country songs. He was a frequent performer at seniors' residences and at the Coombs Country Opera until just a few years ago. Our condolences go out to his wife Lois and his family.

That's about all for now from Branch 11.

*Submitted by Bruce Foden
ebfoden@gmail.com*

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Our wind-up Jamboree & campout in June was a great success. It was good to see everyone who was able to come & join in the fun & we were happy to welcome Alice Doherty and Charles Kucey, members from the

North Island Branch, who were travelling through & stopped in for a night.

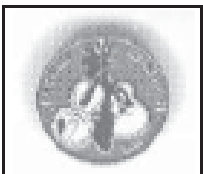
In July, many of us joined in on a birthday celebration for Bud Fuglem who turned 90 years young. Thank you Bud, Lori & Karilee for allowing us to be part of this wonderful occasion.

Our new season will get underway in September, first with a playout at the Ashcroft Fall Fair on Sunday September 13th & then with a general meeting & corn boil (providing there is still corn available!) on September 20th. The first practice is scheduled for September 27th & the first dance of the fall season will be on Saturday October 17th at Heritage House. This year there will be a 2nd practice on the 2nd Sunday following a dance at an alternate location. For info on how to get there, call Jackie at 250-319-3680.

We're pleased to welcome recent new members Helga Bulley, Jennie Stadnichuk, Daryl Wilson, Val & Larry Taylor, Angeline & Stuart Slater, Jacinta Cormier, & Norm Cleveland.

*See you soon,
Florence T.*

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

These warm sunny days make time pass so quickly!

Suddenly it is time to inform you of Br. #17 activities in the last three months. Many of our members have been travelling to visit friends and family. Others have been entertaining visitors to our beautiful Island. Still others are fishing, golfing or some of the other

activities that can be enjoyed in the fine weather.

Br. 17 provides music each year for the Comox Valley Fish and Game Club, Campbell River Father's day Breakfast and the Comox Valley Fall Exhibition. In addition, we have had a half dozen other play dates. We resume our regular play schedule in Sept.

Unfortunately we have lost another of our faithful life members, Gwene Marsh. We are having a celebration of her life, in Campbell River Eagles Hall, on Sept. 12.

We are pleased to welcome back former members of our club, Peg MacMillan and Rodney MacMillan who is a talented musician. We also welcome another fine fiddler from Campbell River, Bob Jacques.

Here is an interesting clip. I don't intend to offend any brass players, but if you are looking for a nudge to get you started playing a stringed instrument-here it is:

TUBA LIPS

Many long-term tuba players develop an allergic reaction to nickel, an ingredient in brass. The allergy can result in dermatitis of the lips and can sometimes develop into chronic eczema. Strictly speaking, the condition can also affect the chin and hands, and can be contracted from any number of brass instruments, but the tuba is one of the worst!

Keep happy with music and stay healthy!

*Musically yours,
Art McMartin*

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Summer is such a fun time to play outdoor music. Fiddlejam and Funtime Fiddlers played their last Tuesday jam session for the season outdoors at a Courtenay 100 Centennial celebration in Standard Park on the 26th of May. This event involved citizens of Courtenay helping to plant summertime flowers all along the main street of Courtenay. We provided the music and, with the help of a few amplifiers, we played nonstop for an hour and a half; got the planting participants dancing; and we got paid in hotdogs and drinks provided by the local Rotary club. Yep, we'll take any chance to play, even if it is just for "peanuts".

The next playout for the group was at the Black Creek Summer Fair where we had a great time entertaining the sunbaked crowd that was out for the first summer fair of the season.

The first weekend in June had us joining lots of musicians and actors playing in the streets of Courtenay for the 5th Elevate the Arts event that brings out tourists and locals alike to wander the downtown streets, listening to music and stopping in to buy merchandise from dozens of vendors and storefronts. We break up into smaller groups and are given specific areas to play in. It is all fun.

Mid-June, Trent and Destry put on their (more or less) annual Pig Roast at our house and lots of players gathered around the rudimentary grill outside on the lawn. Trent's electronic band played and there was another band, Slow Spirit, that also entertained. A group of us also managed to get a fiddle jam happening in the living room, that seemed to satisfy the fiddlers' need to fiddle away at the

slightest provocation, whether there is a receptive audience or not.

The end of June had Fiddlejam opening the second set of the iconic singer, Shari Ulrich's fantastic concert at the Big Yellow Merville Hall. For that opening set, we had Trent's band, Speakerface, and Shari herself, embedded in our group until we all broke away and let Shari, Trent and Eric roll into their amazing act.

With barely a few days to rest on our laurels, our group joined a myriad of other musical acts on stage at Courtenay's Sid Williams theatre to play for the big Canada Day evening concert. July continued with playouts as Fiddlejam did their annual Simms Park evening concert, entertaining a happy crowd that listened to the music until the sun set behind the majestic Beaufort Mountain range that is the backdrop for the Comox Valley.

Next was the small swing group that played pub music for the new Gladstone Brewery in Courtenay (note that we also play for beer). And then it was Nautical Days, in Comox, where our players were hired to roam throughout the festival for the weekend, playing as buskers, and pocketing fistfuls of change (so it's not just peanuts and beer we play for).

It has been a busy time, but it has been fun. We are looking forward to the next few months of sharing music. We are also looking forward to going over all the cool write-ups of players and supporters that John Tribe has collated into the latest edition of the Red Book. Great work, John. Enjoy the rest of the summer, folks.

*Cheers,
Craig Freeman*

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

This quarter got off to a quieter start as we had finished our regular

Wednesday Care Home venues at the end of April. Although we have continued with our usual Monday practices, it has been nice to have a bit more "unspoken for" time.

June became a busier time for us, starting with the Sunshine Club Tea. This last Tea of their season, held at Echo Centre, had skits, music, cake and other goodies to fill the afternoon.

The June Bug Jamboree for the Sand Dollar Square Dance Club is a repeat venue that we always enjoy. The Bradley Centre was full of energetic dancers having a good time and their energy and joy seems to transmit to the musicians. It is interesting for us to look back to the first year we were asked to play for this event and see how much progress we have made as individual fiddlers, and as a group. Quite a few of us didn't know many jigs at the time and had to quickly try to learn about nine of them. Add to that list a couple of reels, a few waltzes, a schottische, a polka, French Minuet, and the Butterfly. We were certainly busy for the months before, and we were all pretty tired at the end of that first evening. Each year it has become a little easier, adding to some good memories.

On June 20th, we were asked to play an hour for the Art Rave being held in the Spirit Square down at the Harbour Quay. As hot weather had really hit the Valley, we were glad to have the stage in a fairly sheltered area. On this same day we were requested to play for Mrs. St. Jacques 96th birthday, and what an enjoyable time we all had entertaining her and her family and

friends. This lady has been such a faithful follower of our fiddle music and even though she can no longer get up and dance she is so enthusiastic about everything we play.

We were invited to play for an hour on Saturday morning of the last weekend in June, for the Lighthouse Bluegrass Festival in Qualidux Bay. Once again a few members were able to camp for the weekend although most people just did a day trip. Some great entertainment was available that weekend, and this year more local musicians were playing. On the Sunday several of our Fiddlers attended a Memorial Service in Campbell River, for former member Dan Ellis. It was nice that musicians from Port Alberni, Coombs, Courtenay and Campbell River were able to play some tunes together, in his honor.

Not to let dust gather under our feet, on July 1st we played at the Spirit Square once again, for "Quay of Sea", joining a roster of local musicians entertaining the community. It was so brutally hot we certainly had to be carrying water bottles with us everywhere we went and also had to pay careful attention to where our instruments were sitting when not being played.

A last major venue in July was at the Surfside R.V. Park in Parksville, for their Pig Roast. After playing for an hour there, a few of us decided to go to the Community Park and play on the lawn for a while, entertaining people out for an evening walk in the park.

We had a couple of August venues to complete the summer sessions, one being the Tea on the Terrace for the Rollin Art Centre. We were able to set up in the gazebo, giving us some shade for the two hours we played. There was a good turn-out for this popular event. On Friday

we played an hour at Westhaven, the Extended Care at the Hospital, followed by a shorter session in the hospital atrium.

Our numbers tend to vary quite a bit during the summer. A few members have been attending fiddle camps again this year, with a couple of them going to Gavin Lake. One person also went to Castlegar and is planning to attend the John Arcand camp near Saskatoon in August. Some dedicated students of the fiddle.

It seems that after roasting for months, Port Alberni is finally getting some cooler days and even the occasional rain. The breeze by the Harbour is so often a saving grace for our regular practices. We generally play there until the rains come or it becomes too cold. We have a faithful audience, along with some local dancers, plus the tourists wandering by. A lady from Germany stopped to tell us how much she enjoyed the music, and that she was a member of a similar

group that played at a vineyard back home.

Here's hoping the threat of fire and drought all around the Province eases very soon, making life more comfortable for everyone. In the meantime, safe travelling for all you mobile musicians, and happy moments making and sharing music.

*Submitted by,
Gail Ross*

MYVIOLINSHOP

Was great to see so many old friends and new fiddlers at the Fiddle Workshops this summer. Great to see these workshops are helping the Old Time Fiddlers obtain new members.

Had a number of players interested in purchasing a Cadenza Hybrid bow. Unfortunately, only had a couple – due to their popularity, none were available in North America – all sold out. As a bow that is very well balanced, not affected by weather change and will not warp, at \$250.00 for the 2 star, most players find it superior to wood bows at double or more the price. Now have in stock.

Also have the new Pirastro shoulder rest. While pricey, everyone that tried it has been impressed by how comfortable it feels in holding the violin.

Have very good selection of quality, good sounding violins for both students & advanced players. You'll find my service excellent with prices better than stores. Whether you need strings, shoulder rests, rosin, chinrests, etc., I have great selection.

Bow repairs are \$40.00(Mongolian hair) with 2 day turnaround when I receive. Need repairs, call me as quite often I can help you over the phone. Again, when I receive, normally have repair done within a couple of days.

NOT SURE? EMAIL ME OR CALL ME; Art Daher, email daer1@shaw.ca or 604 703-1464

Notes of interest:

- Following were the top 5 in the Championship category at the 2015 John Arcand Fiddle Fest in Saskatchewan: 5. Kai Gronberg, 4. Raymond Knorr, 3. Lia Gronberg, 2. Jane Cory, 1. James Steel.
- Here are the top 11 fiddlers at the 2015 Canadian Grand Masters Competition held in Moncton, NB on August 21-22: 11. Raymond Knorr (SK), 10. Amelie D'Arcos (NB), 9. Janelle Melanson (NB), 8. Micki-Lee Smith (AB), 7. Martha Pitrie (NB), 6. JP Cormier (NS), 5. James Steele (SK), 4. Kyle Charron (ON), 3. Dan Mighton (ON), 2. Paul Lemelin (ON), 1. Greg Henry (ON). Congratulations to all who were invited to compete!

Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 19, Coombs Old Time Fiddle Jamboree, contact 250-586-3743

October 3 & 4, 45th Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest & BCOTFA AGM, contact 250-992-5081

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 OLD-TIME FIDDLE JAMBOREE AT COOMBS RODEO GROUNDS

Featuring Sarah Tradewell - - Introducing Quinton Etheridge-Pedden

Open Stage at 11:00 a.m. Sign-In at 10:00

All-Comers' Circle Jam in Evening

\$5.00; Performers and Under 12's Free

Food Available In the Hall, Dry Camping on the Grounds

Hosted by the Coombs Old Time Fiddlers

Branch 11, B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association

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

Information: Bruce (250) 586-3743

Roy (250) 752-3636

Pictured below are the Coombs Branch #11 Old Time Fiddlers at an earlier event this summer.

