



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Mary Robillard was born Mary Hutchinson on her parents homestead at Big Creek, BC, in the Chilcotin country. She was the 3rd child in a family of 5 and now has only one sibling still living. Her parents worked very hard to survive, as did the children as they were growing up. They usually had deer meat in the summer, moose meat in the winter and they grew a large garden. Vegetables from the garden went into the root cellar for the winter. As the children became old enough to hunt, they were often out shooting grouse, or they were fishing in the creek. It was only once a year that the family would make a trip to Williams Lake to stock up on flour & other staples at the McKenzie Store.



MARY ROBILLARD – Kamloops Branch #12

There was no school nearby and Mary’s mother helped the children with their schooling which was taken by correspondence. Lessons were done & mailed away to Victoria, marked by teachers there & then returned by mail, which was once a week. In later years a one room school was built about two miles away. The school needed to have 8 students

to keep it open & sometimes they had to “borrow” some extra kids! Mary went to that school for four to five years, walking there & back with her siblings – but in the winter if the temperature reached 20 degrees below zero they were not allowed to go to school. When she reached higher grades, she boarded in Alexis Creek for a couple of years in order to attend the high school there.

Mary’s Dad played a fiddle, and although neighbours were from two to four miles away, living on other farms, they would come visiting on horseback. Because of the distance and the mode of transportation they would be invited to stay overnight and then would start back home in the morning. Some of those friends were great fiddlers & would play her Dad’s in the evenings when

they came visiting, because of course they could not bring their own on horseback.

When the Hutchinson family went visiting it was by wagon in the summertime & sleigh in the winter time. When Mary’s eldest sister married & was living on one of the other farms, her Dad always made sure the whole family went to visit them at

New Year's, even though on one of those trips it was 52 degrees below zero.

Mary was about 10 or 11 when she started to learn some chords on the guitar. She can't remember exactly where the guitar came from, but figures her parents bought it from the Sears or Eaton's catalogue. This was probably quite a sacrifice since money would have been scarce – besides farming, her father worked on a few construction jobs & did some contract haying for others. She is self-taught, having learned some chords from an old Hank Snow book, which she still has. She also learned more by listening to some of Hank Snow's records on the old wind-up gramophone.

In the late 50's, Mary moved to Kamloops and in 1960 she married Russell Robillard - together they raised 3 sons. They also lived in Chase for 6 years, then came back to Kamloops where they had a spacious home & yard in Westsyde. Six years ago she moved to a new home in Westsyde with less yard to maintain, but continues to grow an excellent garden. In total, she has been in Westsyde for 50 years!

After leaving the Chilcotin she had been without a guitar for many years but Russell bought her a Yamaha to practice on. She still has that guitar, but for the last 16 years has been playing on a Japanese made Takamine.

In 1983 Mary & Russell discovered the Old Time Fiddlers, but at first they only went to the dances. In 1985 they joined the Kamloops Branch & they attended one of the fiddlers' annual picnics which that year was held at the Hassler's place in Chase. Somehow she ended up playing Stan Hollinshead's guitar, much to everyone's surprise. No one knew she could play, but later that year at the Christmas dance in the old Eagles Hall, she was asked to play with the fiddlers. From that time on until now she has played whenever she possibly can.

In 1993 Russell passed away of cancer. Shortly after his funeral service the fiddlers asked her to

play with them at a Seniors' Picnic. She did, and she feels that it is her music that has kept her going all these years.

She has enjoyed all the venues they played at, but especially loved the outdoor ones where they could really let loose with the sound of music! She is now into her 31st year of playing with the Kamloops Fiddlers. Apart from playing guitar she has been part of the phoning committee for many years & has made a large cake for the annual picnic/jamboree for almost 30 years.

In 2009 she broke her right arm after playing at the Barriere Fall Fair & in 2015 she broke her left arm. In spite of these setbacks & through her determination & perseverance with therapy, she has been able to continue playing.

Her faithful dedication has been, & continues to be, very much appreciated by the Kamloops Branch of the BCOTFA.

Submitted by Florence Tellier

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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**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER
(FEB 2017) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN JANUARY 15TH, 2017.**

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jackie Davis

I would like to introduce myself, I am Jackie Davis, and I have been elected as your President for 2016-2017 year.

I was born and raised in the Kamloops Area, both my parents were long term members of Kamloops Old Time Fiddlers' Branch and I have been an active BCOTF Member since 2007 at my local Kamloops Branch #12, and on the Provincial Board for the last 3 years, so I have seen many different stages of the BCOTF and am looking forward to seeing many more.

Though I do not play any instrument, I enjoy the music of Old Time Fiddling, I could dance the night away. This Society is a great group of people that and in this capacity, I hope to get to know many more of you.

We have a great Board of Officers, and we are looking forward to working together and keeping in touch with the branches around the Province.

I would like to thank John Tribe for all that he has done and is doing for the BCOTFA, we are very lucky to have him involved in our Society.

I would also like to thank Florence Tellier for her dedication to the BCOTFA and the hard work that she has put in to helping the Society move in a forward direction.

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B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

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ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
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2017.**

Please remember that every member of the BCOTFA has an important role in this society. Everyone has a voice, and we would love to hear any ideas on how to assist in helping move the BCOTFA in a positive direction. Helping the different branches by networking with each other in the actives that work well, and not so well in their area, to encourage the continued success of the Great Music that we all love "Old Time Fiddling".

We are looking forward to helping the BCOTFA grow in a positive forward motion, and I am glad and excited to have a small part in this.

Jackie Davis

*Your president,
Jackie Davis*

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

I'm back on a steep learning curve as I have agreed to take on the editing of the Provincial Newsletter. It should be easy right? After all - all I have to do is to collect the submissions and paste them into a document. Well easier said than done.

Florence has been doing the newsletter for the last 10 years and has left a very daunting role to fill. I want to thank Florence for all the work she has done over the years and my thanks comes from a new understanding of what's involved.

Lynn and I were able to do a little travelling this summer and one trip included a trip to the Canadian Grand Masters. The folks at Morinville did a terrific job of putting on a real class event. Although Chloe Davidson didn't get into the finals, she played really well and we are all very proud of her.

Kai Gronberg did get into the finals and that's something he'll remember for a life time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the current Provincial Executive all the very best in their duties for the upcoming year. A piece of unfinished business from my last term on the executive is the trial run of a Skype Contest. The more I get into the details the scarier it gets as I may be faced

with some strong limitations but I will persevere.

I have been asked if photos can be included in the branch submissions and the answer is yes. Please remember that its only the cover and back page that are in colour so any photos from the Branches will be in black and white

Yours

John Tribe

BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

Greetings from the Central Interior! After a summer break our first jam of the season was well attended. Doug Borden taught our Group Lesson. We look forward to our first dance of the season September 17 at the Pineview Hall. Attendance is unpredictable and varies from about 50 to 100 people, including musicians. I think our new poster design has helped; thanks Ken Blair for arranging that and Walter Kamerlingh for putting so many of them up around town.

Over the summer our musicians were kept busy playing out at some special events - the Willow River Farmer's Market, Ferguson Lake Family Day, MLA Mike Morris Party, the BC Liberals' Rally, and Royal Lepage Staff party at Cluculz Lake. We received donations for most of

these playouts. We are booked the last Sunday in September to play at the RIVERS DAY CELEBRATION at Lheidli T'enneh Park by the Fraser River, and have started our regular monthly playouts at eight senior homes and the Cancer Lodge. This takes a great deal of coordinating and we are thankful to have Barry Nakahara's organizational skills to keep this going.

Sadly, we lost one of our long-time members, Ed McKnight on August 27, 2016. Ed and his wife Hazel came to every jam and loved to listen, dance and support the club.

Judy Feyer was a very lucky winner of a raffle at the local Metis Roots Music Festival the last weekend in August. Judy won a fiddle and trimmings (tuner, polishing cloth, mug, CDs, assorted items) donated by Rachele Turgeon of the Rococo Violin Shop. Judy said she plans to put it to good use by learning to play it! Judy is a regular attendee at jams and dances, playing mandolin and occasionally piano, and she also puts on a great radio show called 'Fiddlefest' every Wednesday, 6 – 8 pm, on the local community radio station CFIS – listen live at <http://cfisfm.ca>.

A whopping 24 fiddlers and 4 other musicians from Branch #1, along with their families attended Gavin Lake Fiddle Camp, a week-long camp near Likely, BC, hosted annually by Branch #3, Quesnel club. They do a fabulous job and put on a great camp, so

that kids and adults alike have a ball while learning new tunes and techniques. Four of our fiddlers were instructing in fiddle, guitar and accordion. Two of our members also went to "Smithers Fiddlefest 2016" camp.

Two of our club's formerly active youth have been taking the diploma program at Camosun College/ Victoria Conservatory of Music, School of Contemporary Music and have received some instruction under Daniel Lapp, who also had his roots in the PG Old Time Fiddlers - Branch #1. Brittany Iwanciwski and Chloe Nakahara were home for the summer and enjoyed some playing here before heading back for a second year. It was good to see them again and hear their beautiful melodies.

We had our first board meeting yesterday and it will soon be time to prepare for what has become a Branch #1 annual event in April – our 'Jamboree.' It's very exciting to kick around lots of new ideas and plans for the future of our Branch.

Submitted by,

Beth Bressette

QUESNEL



Branch #3

The BC Fiddle Treat is always our big event for the summer. In the past we have had as many as 250 people in camp, but we were asked to limit our total numbers

to 200. At first we thought it would be a hardship, however in the end it made our job so much easier in spite of the difficult task of having to disappoint quite a few people. We were able to make up our class lists and had a pretty clear idea of who needed cabins, who was camping and how many we were feeding. There were 125 students registered for fiddle, guitar, piano, mandolin, accordion and banjo. Family members, instructors, kitchen staff, lifeguards, and volunteers made up the rest. We were blessed with good weather and surprisingly few bugs. As usual we have to thank the people who helped in so many ways to make the camp a success.

Looking ahead to next year's camp: our dates have changed so that we will be starting on a Monday and ending the following Sunday. Camp is booked for **MONDAY JULY 24 to SUNDAY JULY 30 2017. MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR.**

By the time you get this newsletter, Quesnel's 46th Annual Fiddle Contest, Saturday Oct 1, will be over. Results will be in the next issue. It is the longest running cultural event in Quesnel and it would be great to keep it going. Contestants and an audience are what we need to make it worth the effort.

Several of our members attended the Kelowna contest in June. One of our fiddlers, Loraine Marshall,

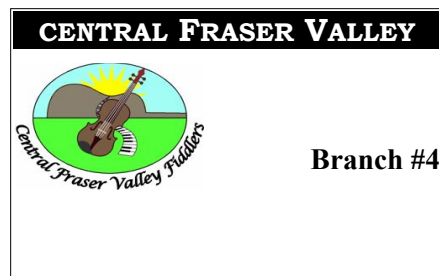
is now the Provincial Youth Champion. Way to go, Loraine.

Adam Johnson represented our branch at the Canadian Grand Masters. A couple of our members were able to attend as well and offer encouragement. Well done, Adam. Congratulations to Kai Gronberg on his placing in the top ten. Kai and his sister Lia are frequent participants at our contest.

Our dances are still on the first Saturday of the month at the Legion Hall. See you there.

Jean

Until next time, Jean Gelinias



With the summer season winding down, it is time to reflect on some of the events that kept the CFVF busy in the past 4 months and to look forward to the new fall season together.

The first major event for us was the campout with the Merritt Fiddle Club at Harmon Lake on the long weekend in May. This year we had 6 rigs there with 9 musicians attending. The weather was cool but we had such a good time. Our thanks to the members of the Merritt Club that keep the Clubhouse nice and toasty and give us such a warm welcome each year.

This year Kelowna held the Provincial Fiddle Contest at the beginning of June. I want to

congratulate the members of our club: John Fedoruk for winning 3rd in the Seniors Division, Andy Kyte for winning 1st in the 12 & Under, Kai & Lia Gronberg for winning 1st in the Twin Division, Kai for winning 2nd in the Championship and Lia for coming in 4th in the Championship Division. Well done!

We had several playouts before our summer break. One was entertaining the good folks at the BC Cattlemen's Shorthorn Association. We played during their dinner hour. Their president was informed the next time we played for them they wanted dance time as well. They enjoyed the good old time music so much!

We continue with our dances at the Aldergrove Seniors' Center. Not sure who enjoys the music more, the dancers or the band. What a wonderful group. At the end of the last dance of the season, we received a standing ovation and a warm applause from all the dancers.

My husband & I had the privilege of spending 6 weeks in Alberta this year starting with the North American Fiddle Contest in Radway in July and ending with the Canadian Grand Masters in Morinville at the end of August. The friendly people of Alberta certainly demonstrated their love of old time fiddle music! The Wild Rose Club of Edmonton did a bang up job at the fiddle contest in Radway. We want to congratulate Kai & Lia Gronberg for winning 1st in the Twin

Fiddle and Kai for winning 5th in the Championship round in Radway's North American Fiddle contest. The Alberta team worked together and put together a spectacular and most entertaining Canadian Grand Masters contest in Morinville. We especially want to congratulate Kai for winning 9th and Lia for placing 14th. This event had 32 contestants so the competition was extremely challenging. Kai also won 1st in the 19 to 44 Category in the John Arcand Festival. We can be very proud of our two young members.

This looks like a very busy upcoming season for our club. We have many events to look forward to including the West Coast Christmas Show at the Tradex in November. We will also continue to play at the Aldergrove dances starting Oct 1. We are very proud of our fiddle music teacher, Jo Blaak, who continues to teach and groom our young fiddlers who join the adults from time to time at our playouts. Presently, she has 9 students with free lessons twice a month. Such dedication! Thank you Jo!

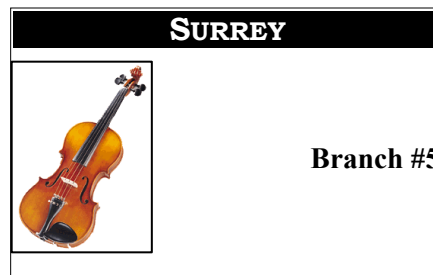
Birthdays are very important to our group and as we age we appreciate each year of good health and fabulous music. So, we would like to send belated birthday greetings to Myrna in June, Wayne, Lia, Frieda, Gladys, Gord Zelt, Rod in August and Vern, Don, Diane, and Joyce in September. We are not getting older, we are getting better! (if we practice).

Also, special anniversary greetings to Ed & Diane Ryz in May for 54 years together, Don & Joyce Olds married 59 years in June, Vern & Zita Walt married 60 years in August and Myrna & Cedric Wing married 55 years in September. Gord & Eileen will celebrate their 60th anniversary in October.

Ed Ryz had his second knee surgery early in July. He is recovering very nicely. His doctor says Ed's speedy recovery is due to his love of music. What more can we say!

On behalf of the CFVF, I want to wish everyone a very healthy and busy fall season. I know it is a bit early but the next issue is in January, 2017 so Merry Christmas to you all!

*Submitted by,
Rosalie Eeg*



Greetings from Surrey Branch # 5 Fiddlers

Our Summer Season is just about over and we are looking forward to a New Year, which is not that far off. We hope that 2017 does not bring any drastic global warming changes, with hotter temperatures than this past summer.

Evan & Rose Marie missed most of the hot weather in Vancouver area during the month of August as they cruised around the British Isles, Ireland, Scotland and

Belgium for 15 days. The Country side in all of our stops were beautiful and picturesque. We also had the opportunity to listen to quite a lot of Celtic fiddle music on the streets and larger groups of fiddlers, playing at the Military Tattoo event, held outside of the Edinburgh castle.

Our Surrey fiddlers branch hosted a potluck picnic and fiddle jam on Sunday, July 31, which once again turned out to be very successful with approximately 90 people attending this event. The fiddle music and selection of food was wonderful and enjoyed by all.

Congratulations Kai & Lia for placing 2nd & 3rd in the championship class at the Kelowna Contest in June and congratulations to John Fedoruk for placing 4th in the seniors class at the Kelowna contest.

Congratulations to Kai Gronberg for placing 5th in the Championship Class at the Grand North American Fiddle Contest held in Radway, Alberta in July.

Congratulations, Kai and Lia for placing first in the Twin Harmony intermediate class.

Also congratulations, Mike Sanyshyn for being selected to judge at this contest.

Congratulations to Kai for placing 9th in the finals at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Contest held in Morrinville, Alberta. Gladys Andreas attended the contest in Radway and Erik Eg attended both contests.

Our September 1st dance at Clayton hall did not bring out as

many dancers as we usually get and being that it was a long weekend with a lot of rain that evening, did not help matters. A lot of our dancers live outside of the Surrey area and some have a one hour drive to our dance. We thank all of them for coming out in all kinds of weather and hope that our dance attendance will improve for our October dance.

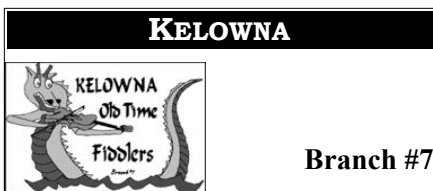
Our condolences go out to the family members of Bill Lackonick, who passed away in August, at 80 years of age. Bill was a member of the Surrey Fiddlers since 1996. He was well respected by all of our fiddle members and dance patrons. During the past 10 years, we cannot recall Bill missing more than 2 or 3 dances. Bill's favourite waltz request at every dance was "The Old Rose Waltz".

He will be missed by all of our members and dancers.

"Wishing all of the fiddle clubs a wonderful Fall and Christmas Season"

Until the next edition:

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*



Here in the central Okanagan we have had a fairly hot dry summer with the usual difficulty watering the lawns and gardens. One good thing about it is that we are having an early and bountiful harvest because of the very early spring. Probably a third of the

apple crop is already picked which is very early for it to happen.

The contest this year has to be rated as one of the best ever that we have been able to put on. The fiddle contest started with a guest artist concert on the Friday before the actual fiddle contest. Calvin Vollrath with Daniel Lapp, Ben Beveridge (ably filling in for Mark Sullivan) and Keith Hill put on a show that won't be forgotten for a long time. These professional musicians and champion competitors really live up to their reputations.

The contest on Saturday was a great success with 52 competitors being called to compete in 11 different categories. The winners in each of the 11 categories were:

Little Junior - Grace Laing - Vernon

Junior - Anderson Kyte - Mission

Youth - Loraine Marshall - Quesnel

Intermediate - Anne Guite - Aldergrove

Open - Julia Watson - Kelowna

Senior - Harley Jansen - Kamloops

Championship - Chloe Davidson Kelowna

Out of Province - Carter Macdonald Airdrie

Novice - Shelly Thierman - Kelowna

Twin - Kai & Lia Gronberg - Mission

Golden Age - Russ Gerrie - Kelowna

I (Russ Gerrie) was scheduled to play piano at the IPE (Armstrong

Fair) but unfortunately the day before the event I had a little accident and cracked a bone in my arm and wasn't able to play. Wayne Angman led one day at the event and Vic Ukrainetz let the other. We must have done well because we sold 22 CD's at the event. A special thanks goes to Pauline Curtis who sets us up to go. To all the players who made the trip, many thanks as well.

About a month ago our other regular piano player Irene McAvena had a shoulder replaced and was in rehabilitation at the time of the fair. While on the subject of minor disasters, Gordon and Phyllis were in a head on collision right here in Kelowna and although really sore and bruised up they didn't suffer any trauma that put them in hospital. Linda Read has moved and is working at Powell River and bought a farm with a couple of houses on it so they will be busy out there and we wish them the best.

Clarence Bower passed away suddenly this last summer. He was a cheerful guitar player who was a regular at our Thursday jams. Although he also sang he stuck to guitar only on Jam Nights. We will miss Clarence.

On to happier events, our annual summer picnic was held on September 11th and we had lots of music and more food than we could eat in several picnics! Our picnic is held in a public park that is quite heavily used and as usual we had a number of people that stopped to listen the music as

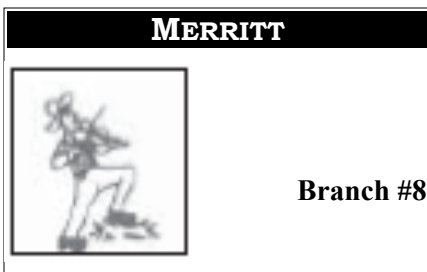
they were on their way to some of the other attractions at the park.

We are back in our black and white outfits instead of our summer whites so our washing machines will be somewhat relieved.

John and Lynn did some travelling this summer and took in the Grand Masters at Morinville. (See the write by Rhea in this issue)

P.S. If you happen to be travelling near Moose Jaw try take in the Sukanen Ship & Pioneer Museum. The Finlander's story is worth looking into.

*Submitted by,
Russ Gerrie*



Merritt Old Time Fiddlers has been very quiet over the spring and summer. Our week long campout at Harmon Lake Elks campsite was very well attended even though it was cold and rainy. The pot belly stove proved much need heat.

Six rigs from Central Fraser Valley attended and provided great music enjoyed by all. Also thanks to Vic, Jerry, Bud, Bobby and everyone who supplied music. Again we had a great pot luck supper, crib tournament and auction. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to several

charitable organizations. The campsite has been booked for next year so plan to attend.

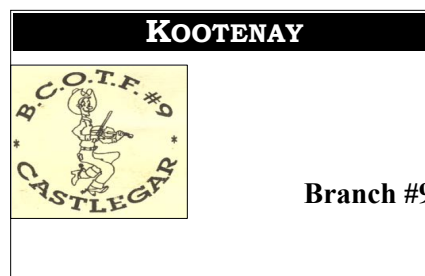
Our bursary student, Jordan Quilliam will be attending TRU in September.

Our next meeting will be September 25 at the Cadet Hall.

Donna Chorney's health is much improved, nice to see her out.

Best wishes and improved health to Dave and Wayne Marriott.

*Submitted by,
Delphine Lawrence*



On the day before the summer solstice, June 19th, our group joined forces with the Rossland Golden Fiddlers and played in Trail Gyro Park for the Aboriginal Day celebration. Aboriginal Day is a day recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. This was the first time our renewed OTF's played out as a group and after Monday evening practices all spring, we really performed well and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

The 15th Anniversary of our annual Fiddle, Guitar and Piano Camp was a stupendous success. This summer camp took place the week of July 11-15. It was well attended with about 80 students and included 12 brand new

campers. One of the first time campers came as far away as Nova Scotia. Kathy Curley is living in Dartmouth and came to BC specifically to attend our camp. Kathy is an adult learner of the fiddle and she is lucky enough to have had Gordon Stobbe as her instructor back in Nova Scotia. Gordon told her about the western Canada camps she could attend and she picked Castlegar. Kathy raved about the camp and the comfortable venue and residence accommodations and was thrilled to be able to attend. She especially enjoyed the camaraderie and socializing and repeatedly told me her new love for 'Beautiful British Columbia.' Kathy felt the campers were all one big happy family. All in all, we received much positive feedback and every single first time camper said they will return next year! Thanks to everyone in our club who worked so hard to make this event happen and pulled it off with such a bang! And we must send a very special thanks to member Pat West who manned the concession all week long...she was amazing and we couldn't have done without her. As well, a special thanks to Sandra and John Milosevich for doing so much organizing behind the scenes and for all their running around.

Our group came together again on a lovely August 10th afternoon for a jam and a potluck picnic at Pass Creek Park. It was great to get together and dust off the instruments after a summer recess. This event was attended by a reporter from our local

weekly newspaper, The Castlegar News, and we were featured and the Old Time Fiddlers promoted in the article.

The Trail and District Arts and Council, as they have done every year since the beginning of Music in the Park (beautiful Gyro Park in Trail) closed their summer outdoor music in the park season with The Old Time Fiddlers. So on September 1st on a beautiful evening, we performed along with the Rossland Golden Fiddlers (led by Richie Mann). We had so many musicians we really had to squeeze under that Gazebo together! With a great crowd and being so well received, this evening was definitely one of our highlights to date.

And we have to send a big big thank you to Debra Schiavon for organizing us and leading our practices with great fun and lending her natural leadership... we couldn't have come all together without her. Debra has really put a boost into the upswing of OTF Kootenay #9. Thanks, Deb!



FIDDLING AT PASS CREEK

We are so excited to host Calvin Vollrath in an October 24th concert in Castlegar. The venue is

at the Old Castlegar Theatre. Calvin will be accompanied by his wife, Rhea Labrie who is an accomplished Stepdancer; Clinton Pelletier on guitar and Kimberley Holmes on piano. We are so looking forward to hosting Calvin who just so happens to be one of the best fiddlers in the world. He plays in the Metis style of fiddling and amongst many accomplishments and worldly awards, is famed for composing and performing a piece for the 2010 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. We can't wait!!!

We are so happy to have our dear Mary Ann Stewart back in fine musical form and back playing accordion after a long year of medical recovery. It is just so wonderful to hear her play and not only is she an amazing player, but her accordion adds a great dimension to our performances.

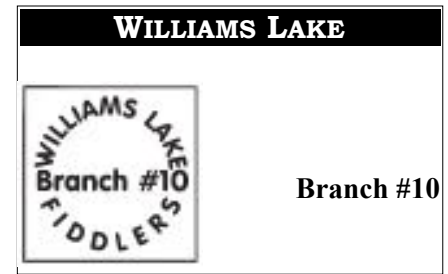
So, here's to Mary Ann and a joke dedicated to her...

Hi, Guys...What is the definition of perfect pitch?

a. You throw a piano accordion in a dumpster and it lands on a fiddle

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Autumn with beautiful musical tones

*Submitted by,
Kathy Markin*



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer although I can't say much for the weather during June and July. It seemed like the minute August came around things started to warm up a bit. Then September 1st everything changed again. It was as if winter had decided to come early and mess up our chances of having an Indian Summer. I hope we don't get a ton of snow this winter.

There are only a few things to report as our club takes a summer break right after the Stampede weekend (July 1st) until the first part of September.

Our group did enter a float in the Stampede parade this year with Hal Giles, Ken Emery, Joe Le Comte, Kathy Feters and Ed Cassie. Perhaps this will become an annual occurrence.

The club was asked to play at the Elder Gathering that was held here on July 13th. I didn't attend but I was told that the audience enjoyed our music.

On a sad note...Ken Emery is moving in October to Ontario to be closer to his family. Ken has been one of our most reliable players and supporter of our club. All the best to you Ken...we hope you find lots of other fiddlers to jam with. Now.... who will I ask " Do you

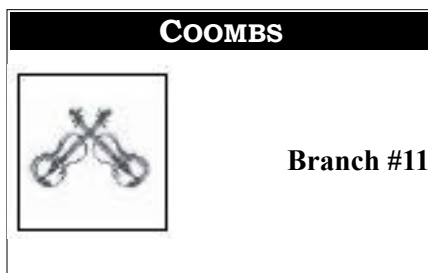
know any fast tunes"? (He knows lots of them! LOL)

The club is still meeting their commitments each month. Senior's Village, Deni House, the Legion Luncheon and Pasta Thursday at the Legion.

Birthdays that are coming up November/ Ed Caissie, Barb Gilchrist December/ Kathy Fetters and Pat Myre.

That's all for now, I hope I have more to report in the next news letter.

*Submitted by
Pat Gunderson*



Everyone, surely, has heard the saying about all the great plans of mice and men often going astray. It's true, as well we know, having been thrown a nasty curve just three days before our Great Big Annual Fiddle Jamboree. The food service we were counting on was suddenly cancelled so as this is being written our executive members are scrambling to fill the void. What a wonderful world!

With September comes a resumption of our playouts at the local Care Homes and Seniors' facilities. Once a month each of eight residences in the Parksville and Qualicum Beach area is visited by a troupe of Old Time Fiddlers from Branch 11, and the Bowen Park Seniors' Centre in Nanaimo gets us whenever a

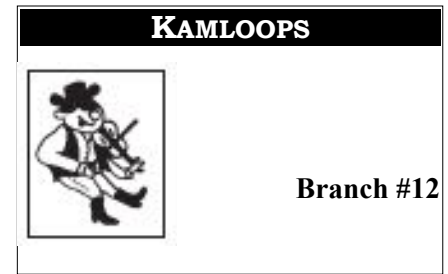
month has five Thursdays. It's a busy but rewarding schedule as the commitments often establish a bond between the musicians and care home residents.

Our Thursday evening dances at Rotary House also resume on September 15 and monthly Tea Dances on first Sundays commence on October 2. This tradition dates from the 1980's and the dances serve as practices for the band's repertoire. Through these events we have met many folks from across the country who come to Oceanside to enjoy the gentle winter climate.

The past summer saw us playing at Art-In-The-Garden at Nanoose Bay, The Coombs Bluegrass Festival and the Coombs Agricultural Fair. In addition there were more poignant occasions where the club provided music at memorials for two long-time members, Ruby Gudbranson and Byron Stephen. We will miss them both; Ruby on piano and Byron's banjo.

So, for the next few days we'll deal with the turmoil and, hopefully, the success of this Saturday's Jamboree and the new season of dances and playouts. That's it for Coombs, Branch 11, as the summer wanes.

*Submitted by Bruce Foden
ebfoden@gmail.com*



The Kamloops Fiddlers are back from their summer hiatus from July to August.

In June we had our Jamboree, which was well attended and we also played a set at Macdonald Park for Aboriginal Day on June 21. In September we have played at the Ashcroft Fall Fair and started up our Tuesday night workshops which will continue till May. Everyone is welcome, it's free, bring what ever you play, we will be teaching mainly repertoire, but we're willing to try almost anything. The time is 7 PM at lower Heritage House.

In August we were requested to play for the Lower Nicola Indian Band, but because of short notice and many of our members away or unavailable, we were unable to do so.

I hope in the future we can rectify this and have a small group available for the summer for gigs. We have many First Nations' Reserves in the Thompson Valley area and regrettably have had little contact with them. The same situation exists with the Kamloops Metis Association. First Nations and Metis have probably been the biggest supporters of Oldtime Fiddle and Dance in Western Canada, so we must continue to let them know we're here if they need us.

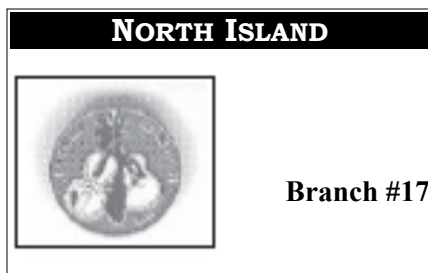
Locally we've have requests for more pattern dances and we are going to have more in the near future. Our Dances are about to start up on October 1 at Heritage House 7:30- 10 PM.

I'm hoping we can help the Merritt Oldtime Fiddlers in the future too, because they are very low on fiddlers, so I think we could provide them with some of our musicians if they want, to put on a few dances or jamboree, we should be there for them. In closing: remember Oldtime Fiddle and Dance is Canada's heritage music, but to keep it alive we must look back and yet still look forward, in other words we must preserve the music and dance, but also add our own slant to it. Enough preaching lets get fiddling and dancing !

<http://www.bcfiddlers.com>
 Google ñ Kamloops Fiddlers.
 for our schedule online.

Yours truly,

*Submitted By
 Dave Lynn*

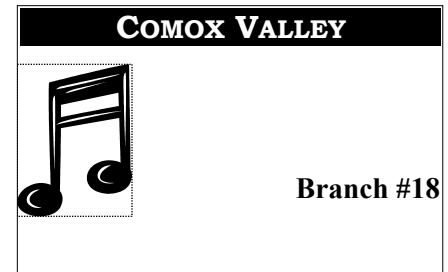


Branch 17 “North Island Old Time Fiddlers “ A hi and welcome back from a great enjoyable summer. The summer seems to have gone by very quickly. Hope everyone has had a enjoyable summer. Alice and I had a great experience this summer, we traveled throughout this large country of ours via a

MH-- We met with numerous old friends along the way and started new friendships. And like the song-- “This Land is Your Land” goes -- From “Vancouver Island to Bonavista., Nfld” .. 11,000 miles... and 11 weeks on the road.. Wow a trip of a life time... Everyone should do this once in their lives to really experience the vastness of this country.. Doing this by plane misses the experience of it’s vastness.. We were amazed by the diversity of the countries topography.. From the Rockies out west to, rolling hills covered with trees in the East. The Great Lakes are enormous, appear like oceans of our coast here. In-between the flat prairies covered in various crops.. which feeds our nation.. We saw this very large Fiddle statue in Sydney, NS. The fiddle is 17 m tall and weighs 8 tons.. A lovely replica.. On our way back we attended the Ukranian Music Festival in Dauphin Manitoba, a lot of fabulous fiddle music and ethnic food.. Now to pick all the fruit off our trees and prepare all the preserves, fruit, jams and jelly’s. This years fruit crop was probably the best in a long time... We are now back enjoying music jams and entertaining at various senior centers and hospitals, and of course our monthly dance at Fallen Alders Hall, which has been very well attended. Our Branch 17 executive would like to welcome all returning members and encourage all to attend our many scheduled events. Of course there are sad times too, as we have lost a few

members due to illness.. Have a wonderful fall.

*Submitted by
 Charles Kucey*



More fiddle events from the Comox Valley this summer and the Funtime Fiddlers and Fiddlejam were right in the thick of all the tunes. Our last fiddle jam session was in May and that opened the door for a horde of us to attend the Kelowna BCOTFA Provincial Contest and AGM in June. Well, maybe one of us. I certainly had fun and enjoyed participating in the voting for a new provincial board. Thanks to John Tribe for all his years as “el presidente” and welcome to Jackie Davis as our new, fearless leader.

Later that month, Fiddlejam was invited to play at the fabulous birthday celebration for Guitar Paul and then we did the entertaining for the d’Esterre senior center’s 40th anniversary. The audience loved it and even asked if we had a cd of our music! Really? They certainly enjoyed our singing of 5’2” and they all joined in and really rocked the joint.

July, we played on the big outdoor stage at Simms Park for the Summer Sounds Series. We had a number of dancers get up and waltz in front of the stage and then there was the usual

gaggle of young children who got up and pranced all around, oblivious to the looks and laughter of the audience, and of us on stage. It is always entertaining.

There was a sombre gathering at Lorne and Kim's to say goodbye to these two wonderful people who died in June. Trent played some beautiful violin music and people spoke of how those two had touched so many, so deeply. They both helped at the Contra dances and Lorne was my faithful sound man, "Lorne MacKnobtwister".

Towards the end of the month, I hosted Pierre Schryer and Adam Dobres in a house concert and we had a full house listening to these two fabulous musicians enthral us. Pierre is moving with his family to Victoria as his wife, Merrie, a symphony trumpeter, has landed a great job there so, hopefully, we'll see them up here again.

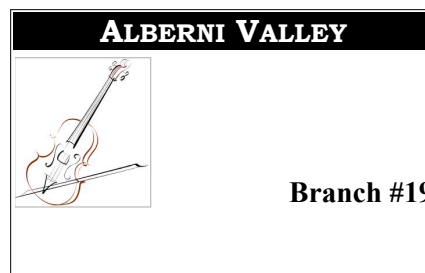
August brought on the first annual Garlic Festival at the Big Yellow Merville Hall. The hall and grounds were jammed, the highway traffic was slowed to a crawl and we had over 1,000 people buying garlic and wine, spirits and foodstuffs, all infused with garlic. Fiddlejam played music on the outdoor stage for the festival folks and we had a great time. And the practise we got that day served us well, later in the month, when we played on the main stage at the annual Comox Valley Exhibition. We even had Daisy on stage with us, back for a visit from school in

Vancouver, and we later joined her in a "pub crawl" to celebrate her 19th birthday. So many young players come into our fiddle group, stay and play for some years, and then move on to the big, wide world. It is great to be able to stay connected with them and to see that they, in turn, keep playing the fiddle and introduce the music to their new friends, which is what the organization is all about.

So, September is here and we look forward to playing for the annual l'Arche pig roast this weekend. Mmmmmmmmmmm. Pulled pork and applesauce. Too bad that we'll be missing the annual Coombs Jamboree but we can't control the timing of events. Happy fiddling to everyone.

Cheers,

*Submitted by
Craig Freeman*



September already, and we are getting back to a regular schedule of play-outs, although this summer it seemed like we hardly had a break. We continued with a Monday practice/performance down at the Harbour Quay, and often some of the Care Homes would bus their residents down to listen to the music. A bonus for the residents, as in addition to the outing, they got music and ice cream.. We often had people from around the world, stop to

listen and then talk to us about enjoying the music and recalling music events or experiences in their own country. After Labour Day we will return to our regular Care Home venues.

Looking back, in June we played for the June Bug Square Dance Jamboree at the Bradley Center. This has become a yearly favourite venue. Lots of smiles and laughs during the evening from these very friendly folk. A week later we played for the Art Rave in town, on a stage set up on the street. Although it was a good set-up for us, in general the audiences were small for all the different stations set up for "the Rave". It is sometimes difficult to get people out to attend these community events.

The Lighthouse Bluegrass Festival, in the Qualicum Bay area, was the next major event for us, playing on the Saturday, to open for the afternoon performances. Most of our Fiddlers drove over just for the day but a few of us camped for the full week-end, to enjoy the shows and jams.

During July we did continue to hold our "woodshed" practice and teaching sessions, just for an hour. Of course one has to have coffee and chat afterwards, but this social aspect has it's own value as well. It is felt that these sessions were beneficial in sorting out some snags that individuals were having.

We did accept two requests to play at the hospital during the summer, one in July and one in August. We would play in the

Extended Care section first, and then walk to the main hospital atrium to play for another 3/4 hour. Once the patients heard we were playing they arrived in a hurry, dragging IV poles along, eager to listen and break the monotony of their days. The Atrium is very pleasant with plants galore, tables and chairs set up around. With all the plants/trees the air is very fresh and pleasant.

The Rollin Art Center held its regular Tea on the Terrace sessions again this summer and we played for one at the end of July. It was a very hot day but luckily we did have some shade in the gazebo and the patrons had umbrellas to help reduce the heat. This is a two hour

performance so requires a fair repertoire to cover the time.

In August, our members Jim and Louise Killough, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and asked if we would play for their guests, in the afternoon. They are also members of the West Coast Rangers Black Powder Club, and chose the club facility as the venue for their celebration. It was a wonderful afternoon, sunny and full of good cheer. People were enjoying themselves so much, most decided to stay a while after dinner to continue playing music, just for fun. All had a super time.

We held our quarterly meeting recently and as well as covering general business items, we were happy to welcome a new member

to the club, Tom Elliott of Parksville. Always nice to expand the number of musicians and we look forward to having Tom regularly playing with us.

Now it's back to September and Fall Fair time. We seem to be a big draw for many people, on the first night of the Fair. A tradition for many families. Just like going back to school.

Speaking of the feeling of going back to school, this is a time people are full of thoughts of new pieces to try that members may be bringing back from camp, or from gatherings with family and friends. A time to plan for some new experiences. A fresh start to enjoy.

*Submitted by,
Gail Ross*

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1 - Quesnel Old Time Fiddle contest

October 24 Calvin Vollrath in concert at the Old Castlegar Theater

December 2nd Kelowna Christmas Party and dance

GREETINGS FROM THE QUESNEL OLD TIME FIDDLERS BR # 3

The Quesnel Club, Branch #3 welcomes you to their 46th Annual Fiddle Contest.

CONTEST Saturday October 1 2016

LOCATION: Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 262 Kinchant St .

REGISTRATION: 9.00am -10.00am **PARTICIPANTS MEETING** 10.30am

PRELIMINARIES: 11.00 am beginning with Youth Class, followed by Seniors, Intermediate, Open, and Championship Classes.

FINALS: 2.00 pm beginning with Novice, Little Britches, Junior, and Twin Fiddle Classes. These categories play **ONCE** only. Finalists from the preliminaries to follow.

SUPPER AND DANCE TO FOLLOW TROPHY PRESENTATION.

Entry fee for the Championship, Open, and Intermediate classes is \$10.00. Youth and Seniors fee is \$5.00. All other classes are free.

NOVICE CLASS- first contest, any age, waltz and tune of their choice.

The LITTLE BRITCHES category is for 8 years and under. Contestants are required to play only **two** tunes of their choice. Anyone under this age limit may choose to enter the Junior class instead.

2016 PRIZE MONEY AND TROPHY LIST

CLASS	1st PLACE	2nd PLACE	3rd PLACE
Championship	\$300 & trophy	\$225 & trophy	\$150 & trophy
Open	\$225 & trophy	\$150 & trophy	\$100 & trophy
Intermediate	\$125 & trophy	\$100 & trophy	\$75 & trophy
Seniors	\$175 & trophy	\$125 & trophy	\$100 & trophy
Youth	\$ 75 & trophy	\$ 50 & trophy	\$ 25 & trophy
Junior	\$ 25 & medallion	\$15 & medallion	\$10 & trophy
Little Britches	\$ 20 & medallion	\$15 & medallion	\$10 & trophy
Novice	trophy	trophy	trophy
Twin	trophy	trophy	trophy

OTHER- ELDEST, FURTHEST TRAVELLED, YOUNGEST, PEOPLE'S CHOICE.

HOSPITALITY AND JAM- FRI. SEPT 30 LEGION HALL 7.00pm ALL WELCOME.

Pancake breakfast Sunday 8.00-10.00 am, Seniors Centre. RV and motorhome parking avail.



AB CGMFC 2016 a huge success!

Well, the curtains are down and the lights are out on the 27th edition of the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition held on August 27 at the beautiful Community Cultural Centre in Morinville AB, and by all accounts, was a huge success – Mission accomplished!

The Alberta steering committee led by Calvin Vollrath & Rhea Labrie and made up of reps from three Alberta fiddle organizations (ASF, PMF, WRF) proved to be the right formula to host this prestigious event. Meetings began in April 2015 and were held at regular intervals throughout the year to put in place a first class event, which also had the merit of having the Honourable **Tommy Banks**, O.C., A.O.C, LL.D (Hon.), FRCMT (Hon.) as our Honorary Patron.

A stellar line-up of 33 competitors from across Canada were marched into the hall, escorted by RCMP during the opening ceremonies, before taking centre stage to put out their very best to compete for the title of CGMFC Champion. Judges **Byron Myhre** (AB), **Ray Legere** (NB) and **Louis Schryer** (QC) had their

work cut out for them! In the end, it was Alberta boy & 2011 champ **Daniel Gervais** walking away with the 1st place trophy and \$3500. 2nd place and \$2250 went to last year's champ **Greg Henry** from ON & 3rd place along with \$1100 went to Saskatchewan's own **James Steele**, the 2013 CGMFC champ.



1st Place **Daniel Gervais**

Following the finalists performances on Saturday evening, it was time to have some fun. Four youngsters and potential future Grand Masters competitors were invited to showcase their talent and their style. **Amanda MacInnis & Duncan**



2nd Place **Greg Henry**



3rd Place **James Steele**

McDougall from Ontario, Métis fiddlers **Colten Bear** of Alberta & **James Ross** of NWT didn't disappoint. After Junior Showcase, which was sponsored by **Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Association** (WRF), it was time to honor our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Roy Warhurst** of Pincher Creek Alberta.

A presentation by **Randy Jones**, president of the **Alberta Society of Fiddlers** (ASF) and a wonderful video presentation of his illustrious career truly confirmed he was worthy of this award. Roy was then presented with a beautiful plaque that had a hand-drawn portrait of himself done up by our own **Gary Giesbrecht**, president of the **Prairie Mountain Fiddlers** (PMF). Roy was very appreciative and humbled by this honor.

We wrapped up the evening with the final award ceremony, handing out the inaugural 'Ward Allen Memorial Award', sponsored by Ann Allen for the Best Old Time Waltz played during the competition. That honor went to **Janelle Melanson** of Moncton NB. The People's Choice Award, sponsored by Calvin Vollrath went to **Daniel Gervais**, the first time in the history of this award that the judge's decision and the audience agreed on the winner. Two electric fiddles sponsored by Yamaha Canada were handed out after the preliminaries by lottery so all competitors were given a chance. Taking home the fiddles were **Martha Pitre** of NB & **Scott Duncan** of AB.

If you missed it and are interested in seeing any or all of the performances of the day plus the presentations, etc, they can now be viewed on the CGMFA YouTube Channel. Thanks to our videographer Brian Lizotte and to the editing of Calvin Vollrath, the entire day is now available online.

However a highlight of the event for presented on Friday evening. This Alberta fiddle legends, past & present, **Cherny, King Ganam, Alfie Myhre, Warhurst**. The show was hosted by Alberta competitors to play tunes included an energetic performance by very appreciated by those in for many. The show was followed by the competitors to top an already



many was the Alberta Fiddle Legends Show multi-media performance was a tribute to honoring the greats of **Gilbert Anderson, Al Frankie Rodgers, Calvin Vollrath & Roy Calvin & Alfie** and enlisted the help of from each of these greats. The show also the **Metis Child & Family Jiggers** which was attendance. A great educational experience an old time dance with music supplied by great evening.

Roy Warhurst

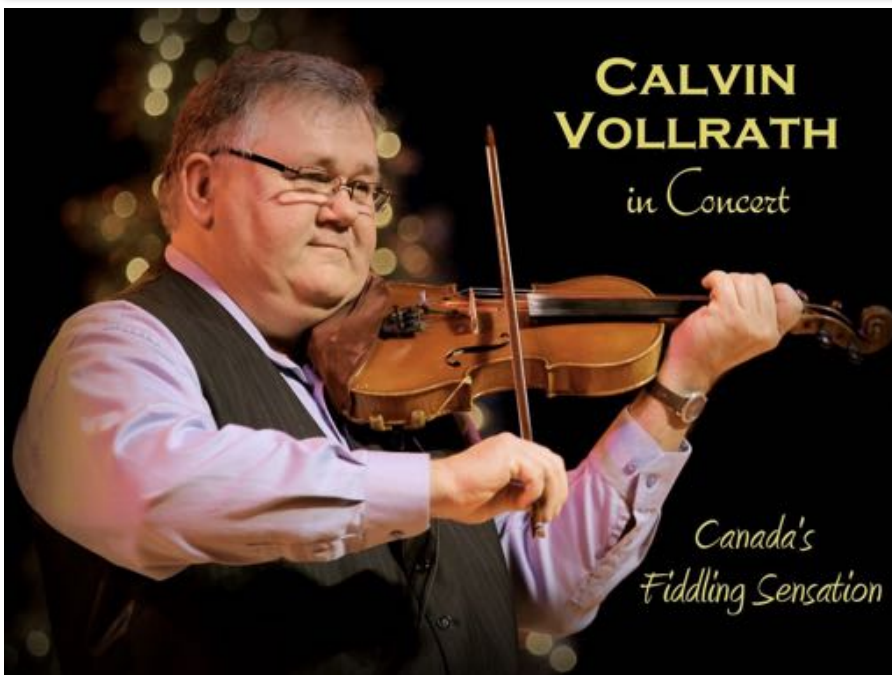
Sunday morning we held 'Pancakes & Jam', breakfast and serving upwards of 200 people. fiddlers and a great way to end a fun-fulfilled weekend.

with the Morinville Lions Club hosting the pancake This was followed by a jam session with over 40

We now look ahead to 2017 and the Canadian Grand Masters in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield Quebec. There is already talk of sending a delegation from Alberta and meeting up with our New Brunswick friends, the Sussex Avenue Fiddlers led by **Ivan & Vivian Hicks**, who were in attendance and were chaperoned around the Edmonton area by members of the Wild Rose Fiddlers in the days leading up to the weekend, which turned out to be a great way to kick off the festivities. If you're interested in tagging along, send an email to abcmfc@gmail.com with your intention, we're in the preliminary planning stages and if enough interest is shown, plans will get put into place.

Of course, this success could not be had without the help of our mighty volunteers and the financial assistance of our generous sponsors, including the **BC Old Time Fiddlers Association**. We are forever grateful – we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

List of Winners: 1st – Daniel Gervais, AB 2nd – Greg Henry, ON 3rd – James Steele, SK 4th – Aynsley Porchak, ON 5th – Dan Mighton, ON 6th – Paul Lemelin, ON 7th – Kyle Burghout, ON 8th – Allison Granger, AB 9th – Kai Gronberg, BC 10th – Emily Yarascavitch, ON 11th – Troy MacGillivray, NS



Monday, October

24, 2016 7:00 PM –

(Opening with The Old Time Fiddlers)

THE OLD CASTLE

THEATER

185-Columbia Ave - Castlegar BC

With Special Guests **Clinton Pelletier** (guitar) & **Kimberley Holmes** (piano)

Rhea Labrie (stepdancer)

Cost: \$20.00 per ticket

For more information or to buy tickets, call (John or Sandra 250-365-5514)