



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Fiddlejam and the Funtime Fiddlers of Branch #18, BCOTFA, have been fiddling around the Comox Valley, and beyond, for over 10 years. Started as a weekly musical fiddle outlet for young and mature musicians, it has become a musical group, with many changing fiddlers, that seems to be in demand for all sorts of events. Everyone loves good fiddle tunes, right? And Fiddlejam is the Valley's fiddle tune incubator. However, oftentimes, fiddle music needs to be rounded out with back up instruments. Fortunately, in the group we do have some solid players with guitars, mandolins, pianos, banjos, whistles and accordions, and these players make the fiddlers sound even better.

Three of our bon vivant tunesmiths are Norm Paulson on accordion, Brad Billings on banjo and Paul Gervais on "geetar". They keep the driving beat

Saluting Three Musical-teers



happening for the fiddlers during concerts and dances; they rip into solos in the middle of tunes; and they give a great, joyful variety

and contrast to the staid look on many of the fiddlers' faces. Really, it just seems that most fiddlers can't seem to muster a smile or cheesy grin when they play. Even when they are playing a lilting jig or a swinging foxtrot they look like they are in a funeral procession. So, thank goodness for those ever smiling, winking and joke-cracking back up players.

Norm's initiation into the concert world of the accordion began with the Kelowna Elks Accordion Band, which travelled throughout the Okanagan Valley in the early 50's. He moved to the Yukon in 1962 and there played for concerts and dances. A move to the Comox Valley followed and in 2010, he joined Fiddlejam. From that time to the present, Norm has played in the

Valley summer concerts and festivals, Fiddle Fests, pig roasts, barn dances, juried festivals and Merville hall Contra dances.

With Fiddlejam, Norm has played with Canadian music headliners such as Valdy, Shari Ulrich and the Foggy Hogtown Boys. All in all he says that it has been “a hoot”. Norm is a regular at the Tuesday music jams and can always be counted on to do a stirring accordion solo on Down Yonder.

Paul grew up in Northern Ontario, near Timmins, and rumour has it that he was quite the influence on Stompin’ Tom Connors. Tom would get frustrated and kick his chair while trying to learn a new tune, so, according to the legend, Paul suggested to Tom that he stomp on a small piece of plywood, instead. Well, the rest is history.

When Paul was about ten, his older brother brought the first guitar to his family home. Paul and his younger brother would try playing the guitar with one working the strings on the frets and the other strumming the strings. When the hand on the frets got sore, they’d switch places. After a stint in the military and working for the Timmins School Board, Paul moved to the Comox Valley in 2008, because he liked the weather. In 2009 he first went to a Fiddlejam session and felt immediately welcomed so he has been playing with them ever since. He does play with other local groups so we are fortunate that he manages to pack in gigs with our fiddlers. Paul likes to demonstrate his flare for country licks by launching into solo tunes

like Under the Double Eagle. Given half a chance, he’ll leap about the stage, do the splits and crank out power chords...well, maybe not quite but his performances are notable and his delightful personality is always a boost to the group.

Brad started out in Saskatoon, moved to Alberta and then, tired of the cold weather and the Oilers, shipped out to the Comox Valley. He picked up the banjo in 2002 while in Edmonton, and went to see Alfie Myhre about a bluegrass fiddle teacher. Soon he was introduced to George Bayard. Being an excellent student, Brad soon excelled and began to play gigs. Checking into Fiddlejam, he was soon a musical mainstay, coming out to all the dances and even generously volunteering his wife, Linda, to help in the canteen. Brad knows that the steady plunking on his banjo

strings helps to keep the Funtime Fiddlers in time and he looks forward to cracking the horse hair whip at future events.

Branch #18 certainly has a lot of good fiddlers but, without the bucolic backup players, our tunes would be so much less. So here’s to the rhythm sections everywhere!

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

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

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V1W 4T3**

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER OF
(OCTOBER, 2017) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 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.

NEXT FEATURE ARTICLE

Branch #19 Alberni
Followed by
Branch #1 Prince George
Branch #4 CFV

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jackie Davis

TO ALL BRANCHES (via e-mail) BRITISH COLUMBIA OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION

As you are likely aware, a new BC Societies Act came into effect November 28, 2016. As a pre-existing Society, we will be required to “transition” to the new Act by November 28, 2018. (“transition” means we must re-file, in electronic format, our current constitution & bylaws). The link to the new Act is www.gov.bc.ca/SocietiesAct should you wish to review it.

We will need to make some changes to our Constitution and By-Laws in order to align with the new act and may at the same time want to make other changes to the By-Laws. We have attached a copy of Schedule “A” Constitution & also a copy of our By-Laws as they now read, with some proposed changes added in the column to the right of the Existing By-Laws.

One of the questions we will be asked when we do transition, is whether we wish to designate our Society as a “member-funded society”. This may not be the best option for us as that designation may cause us to be ineligible for any public funding & specifically

would make us ineligible for community gaming grants.

We are requesting input from all of our members and would ask that you, the Branch, distribute this information to all of your members asking that they review it, and if they have comments, to provide those comments to you. We would then ask that you compile any comments or suggestions in written point form and send these to us (either by mail to above address or e-mail to tell2330@telus.net) by August 31st, 2017.

Our goal is to have something in place for discussion purposes at the next Annual General Meeting which will be held in Quesnel in conjunction with the Quesnel Old Time Fiddle Contest, to take place October 7th.

We would then be looking for approval of a new set of By-Laws at the Annual General Meeting which (tentatively) would be in Kelowna in June of 2018.

We do appreciate any input & comments that any of our members may have.

Thanks,

Jackie Davis, President, &
Florence Tellier, Secretary-
Treasurer - BCOTFA

*Your president,
Jackie Davis*

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

Once again thanks to all the contributors for getting their stories in for this Newsletter. From the looks of the posters of upcoming events it's going to be a busy summer.

Certainly one of the more momentous events is he changes we'll be making to adapt to the new Societies Act - not only the Provincial Executive but many of the Branch Executives will be pouring over the wording changes.

For the part of your editor I'll be working hard at seeing how much enjoyment I can squeeze out of each and every fiddle function that I can attend.

I hope everyone has as good a summer as I intent to have

*Your editor
John Tribe*

BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

Greetings from Prince George! Eighteen of Branch #1 fiddlers were excited to be performing a few tunes in the Prince George Playhouse May 12

under the direction of Courtney Campbell to open for *Alaria's Fiddle*, a full-length musical theatre performance by the Smithers-based Valley Youth Fiddlers under the musical direction of Leslie-Jean MacMillan. This is an amazing performance, which their cast of 103 (fiddlers, backup and stage hands) are taking on tour to the Lower Mainland and the Island – if you get a chance to take it in or get a DVD of the production, it is really well worth seeing.

Groups of our musicians have been kept busy entertaining at various community functions, including Le Cercle des Canadiens Francais Sugar Shack Brunch (Francofun Winter Festival) on January 29 and the School District Heritage Fair on May 5. We look forward to National Fiddle Day on May 20, when Barry Nakahara is planning a fun 'Flashmob' at a local Farmer's Market, after which we travel to nearby Hixon to play a set in their annual Bluegrass and Country Jamboree. The following weekend fiddlers will assemble on our club float for the Elks May Day Parade. Edna Rouleau is again doing the planning, with a theme based on Canada's 150th Birthday. In past years Edna's creativity with themes for our float has twice won us a Second Prize ribbon. We will wind up our community playouts June 11 at the Ferguson Lake Family Day. On March 25 we enjoyed hosting a concert with Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy - they played some great twin fiddling, including

many originals, and kept the audience laughing with their unique brand of humour.

We are looking forward to our third annual Spring Fiddle Jamboree June 9 – 10 (usually held in late April but moved to a later date this year due to booking conflicts). It promises a great time with members of the Jackson Hollow Band from the Lower Mainland providing the concert and much of the instruction – fiddle, guitar and vocals. The weekend kicks off with a family dance Friday evening, workshops all day Saturday and a Jackson Hollow concert Saturday evening. I believe by the time this has gone to print the event will be over, but if not, please phone Alex Arnott at (250) 301-9849 for registration information.

Our winter dances in January, February and March were attended by between 63 and 75 people, with an average of 20 of those being musicians. We appreciate the volunteers who faithfully set up and manage the sound system, prepare and serve the lunch, and manage the bar and door.

Members of Branch #1 have been saddened by the passing of three members: Ed McKnight and George Savage were both long-time current members who with their wives, Hazel and Barb, were always actively dancing at the jams and dances and supporting the club. Karen Borden was a former member who had moved to Kelowna –

she was a fiddler who was very involved in the Branch #1 in the past, serving on the board and as president in the year 2000.

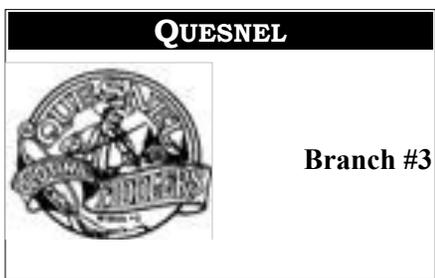
We are very proud of some of our young adult fiddlers - Maria Newton recently took part in the DP Todd Senior Secondary Band Concert, doing a beautiful job on upright bass and a twin fiddle special, and then travelled with her band to Cuba! Congratulations to Chloe Nakahara and Brittany Iwanciwski, who have been nominated by the provincial executive to compete in the 2017 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition on Aug 26, at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec. As readers may be aware, this competition has been held since 1990 and its mission is "to promote and preserve Canadian Traditional Fiddling, and give national recognition to our top Canadian fiddlers". Approximately 30 of the best fiddlers from across Canada are invited to compete for the prestigious title of 'Canadian Grand Master', so these nominations are an amazing honour, and we are proud of Chloe and Brittany. Both girls have been attending the diploma program at Camosun College/ Victoria Conservatory of Music and have received some instruction under Daniel Lapp, who also had his roots in the PG Old Time Fiddlers Branch #1.

Over the past 30 years photos have been taken of our members and events and neatly compiled

in beautiful photo albums. This work was originally done by Bess Bowman, and later by Marguerite MacKenzie, who has recently retired from the job after 15 years. A huge thank you goes out to Marguerite for her beautiful work. Photos will now be collected and saved digitally. The photo books illustrate the rich history of our club and will be rotated on display at Jams.

If you are on holiday through Prince George, be sure to join one of our Jams, held every Thursday 7 – 9:30 at 1692 – 10th Ave until June 29, starting again September 7. Our Jamboree dance is June 9 and our first regular dance will be on September 16. If you're passing through with your fiddle during July and August you can always try calling me at (250) 563-1025 to see if we can arrange an informal jam with some of our members! We'd love to see you.

Submitted by,
Beth Bressette



Hello from the Quesnel Fiddlers.

Just when we think our dances are a losing effort, we get a good crowd and enthusiastic dancers. It was so encouraging to see so many enjoying themselves at the last two dances. Thanks to some of the Prince George club

who have come to support us, and to Ken Emery (now of Ontario) who showed up quite unexpected at our last dance.

In March JJ and Gordon put on a great show for us and joined with our local fiddlers to play for an evening of dancing. It was like a big house party having two old friends back for a visit. We're looking forward to seeing them again at the Fiddle 'Treat in July.

Speaking of the fiddle camp, I did not update our website regarding instructors because we were filled up before we even knew who they were. So here's the lineup to date-

FIDDLE- Gordon Stobbe, JJ Guy, Ivonne Hernandez, Mike Sanyshyn, Colin Butchart, Adam Ireland-Gray, Elise Boer, Brittany Iwanciwski, Ingrid Johnson, Anita Mamela, Cloe Nakahara.

GUITAR- Jenny Ritter, Doug Borden, Charlie Gannon

BANJO- Gordie Sadler

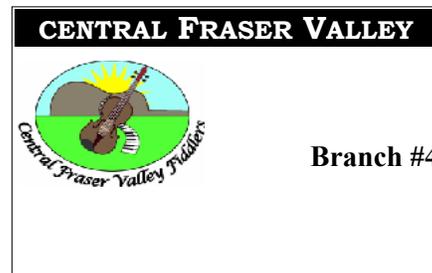
ACCORDION- Beverley Eggen

PIANO- Courtney Campbell, and.....unconfirmed

MANDOLIN- Matt Sircely

A special request from Mike, the camp manager, to those who are attending this year: **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE MONDAY JULY 24.** The camp is booked for a wedding and we don't want to crowd out the wedding guests.

The Provincial Fiddle Contest and AGM will be held in Quesnel on October 7 and 8th. It's a beautiful time of year to travel and we need your support.



Well folks, this has been the winter that just wouldn't go away. We had so many cancellations because of snow and or ice. Many of our people headed for warmer climates for a time and left the rest of us to watch TV series, nap and eat comfort foods. Some of us are a little rounder than last year but that will change. We are really looking forward to sun and warm weather!

We finally had our AGM meeting in February. The current executive were re-elected by acclamation for another term.

President: Vivienne Chin

Vice President: Joanne Davenport

Secretary: Elaine Maclean

Treasurer: Rosalie Eeg

We look forward to working with the club for another term.

We have some very exciting things on our horizon. One of which is working on producing a CD. We sure didn't realize just how much work there was going into this project but all the right things must be done so our challenge goes on.

This summer we are booked for the Missionfest Picnic celebration in June and Canada 150 birthday celebration in Fort

Langley on July 1st. We are also booked for the Abbotsford Arts Council Summer Series on July 22nd. Most of us do not spend our summers at home but thankfully there are enough of us to perform at these functions.

We continue to practice at the Hallmark on the Park every Wednesday with the exception of the first Wednesday of the month when we have a business meeting. Ed Ryz is our music director and continues to keep us tuned in and on tune for the dances at the Senior's O.A.P. Hall in Aldergrove. It's hard to believe there is only two months left until we break for the summer.

We are pleased to announce that Jo Blaak is much better and the Kids' Club has resumed. They meet once a month for lessons, then join the adult group for a practice night. We are very proud of our youngsters and are amazed at all the tunes that they can play. They even have their own gig at Kilby Farm. The payment is ice cream and they are thrilled! We would like to thank Julius Cotter for his donation of a small violin to the Kids' Club. Perfect for little hands!

We are sorry to lose Myrna Wing as our booking director. She has served us very well for many years but feels now is the time to pass the hat to another. Fortunately, Frieda de Haan has volunteered to take on the responsibility and will be taking over on May 1st. We know you

will do a great job, Frieda. Frieda is also our excellent keyboard player.

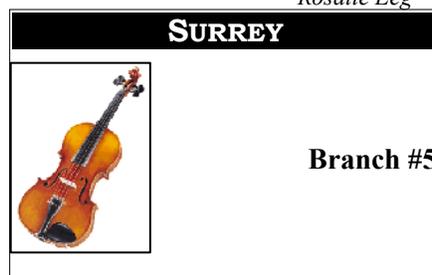
We would like to welcome Richard Peachy to our club. Richard has been part of our group since January and has become a real asset to our backup section. Welcome also to brand new member Nick Klassen.

Very special anniversary wishes to Ed & Diane Ryz, 55 years in May, Don & Joyce Olds, 60 years in June, Vern & Zita Walt, 61 years in August, Myrna and Cedric Wing, 56 years in September and Gord & Eileen Zelt, 61 years in October.

I continue to encourage everyone to check us out at Centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com and see first hand all the events and camaraderie of our club. Erik Eeg is our very competent and awesome webmaster.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer with lots of fiddling, fun and SUN. Happy 150th Birthday to Canada!

*Submitted by,
Rosalie Eeg*



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers,

Hopefully our summer season will soon be here and that the weather will co-operate, so that we can all have an enjoyable summer.

Our Tuesday day time, monthly dances are working out fairly well and we hope that we can encourage a few more dancers to come out and enjoy the music. There is one more dance prior to our summer break, June 6, and a potluck picnic and fiddle jam, which will be held on July 30, 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm at our Clayton Hall location, 18513 70 Ave. in Surrey. We welcome members from all fiddle branches to come out to our event if you happen to be in our vicinity and bring your musical instruments and your choice of potluck food to share for the dinner event.

At our April 4 dance, we were fortunate to have the producer from Joy TV, Dean Atwal, come out to our dance and interview our members and dancers. He also filmed some of our dance which will be viewed on Joy TV, channel 10 on Shaw cable and channel 123 if you have Telus Cable. This show is scheduled for Sunday, June 14 at 9:00 AM.

Prior to our April 4th dance, we were contacted by Jean Cameron, one of our dedicated dance patrons, to mention that Bill Lackonick's nephew, Vincent Lackonick and niece, Dianne Lackonick received some inheritance from Bill Lackonick's estate and they felt that they would like to make a contribution to our Surrey Fiddler's organization, in memory of their uncle, Bill Lackonick. After discussing some options with Jean on how they wanted to contribute, they chose to

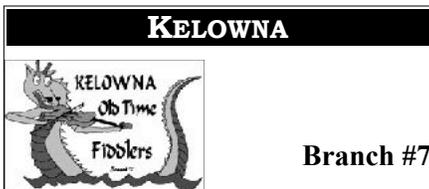
purchase a new sound system for our Surrey Fiddler's organization.

Thanks to Vincent and Dianne for the new Bose sound system and thank you to Jean Cameron and Joe Lackonick for your help in making this happen.



A lot of our band members still help out the Hazelmere Heritage fiddlers by playing once a month for their dances at the O.A. Pensioner's Hall in Aldergrove. The majority of the funds made from playing at these dances are donated to the local Food banks or Hazelmere church where the fiddlers practise,

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*



Having survived an unusual winter of moderate snowfall and colder than average temperatures, we are now enduring non-stop rainfall. Weeds are having a field day and gardens are rubber boot land. There are lots of evacuations along creeks and

lakes including Holiday Park in Winfield. Okanagan lake is over capacity already along with many smaller lakes. Lots of snow yet in the high country yet. Hope our members can stay above the water levels.

Our local fiddlers and backup keep busy with their regular 12 – 14 a month venue's and always some special events. On February 2nd some of us were in Vernon for Champion Fiddler, Gary Hills, Celebration of Life. Long time friends Calvin Vollrath, Rodney Kripps, & brother, Keith Hill, on fiddle with Vic on piano provided some great music for the guests and family.

February 18th was a 150 year birthday party at Rutland Centennial Hall.

March 4th was the Annual Legion fish fry and was well attended with Vic leading. March 18th was another birthday and dance for St Patrick and Tracy Beckett. March 19th we enjoyed our wandering minstrel friends Gord Stobbe and JJ guy presenting a fine concert and workshops.

April 2nd was our Annual Maple Fest with the French Cultural group. There was lots of good music led by Vic and our multi talented Winston Wuttunee who was able to speak and sing to them in French.

The Arend Stamhuis Celebration of Life on April 15th was attended by family, friends and musicians who played a few tune's and Mable Babcock sang a favourite Jim Reeves song.

May 13th was the 65th year of the Blossom Festival for Kelowna General Hospital. There were lots of plants for sale, flea market, etc. Music was a country group and our gang of red coats led by Vic. The 15th was Prime Time in Winfield led by Wayne Angman. Next will be the Ruland May Days Parade where we advertise our upcoming June 2nd & 3rd Fiddle Fest. Final event will be the Lobster Fest at the Legion will be on May 27th with Vic and a good group with lots of toe tapping times.

On the down side, our talented piano player, Alice Sisler, had a bad fall and broke her pelvis. She has family looking after her so we are hoping for a quick recovery. Ron Hanushchak is recovering from his back surgery, we miss his fiddle. Our Florida Peach, Ruth Buchanan, is back to join us until fall. To her, fiddling is the most enjoyable hobby ever. A major event for our photographer, Guy LaFrance, was his mothers 105th birthday party on April 22. By her picture in the paper, she is a medical marvel who enjoys reading, puzzles, cards and most of all family get togethers. Wow! Our favourite nurse, Linda Reid, has started a Vacation by Owner B&B on her acreage at Powell River. She also has some violin students and is hoping to get an adult fiddle group together.

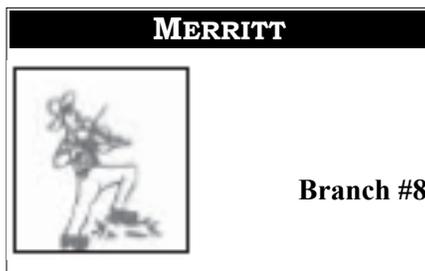
Our Fiddle Fest Committee is all set for the upcoming Fiddle Fest, June 2nd & 3rd. It's a bit of a change from the regular contest

program and we all agreed it was worth a try. Hope to see many of our old friends and new ones we haven't met yet.

ps. Quote from Lana Turner on the perfect marriage.

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

*Sincerely,
Russ Gerrie*



Merritt Old Time Fiddlers held their general meeting and elections on April 30 with a good turn out and three new members joining. Elections were held and the following members have taken positions:

President: Larry Hintz

Vice-President: Armin Kaminsky

Secretary: Cress Farrow

Treasurer: Del Lawrence

2 Year Directors: Bonita Norman, Norbert Grenier, Bud Johnston

1 Year Directors: Jean-Guy Dupuis, Hiller Linde, Linda Monkman

Welcome to the new members who agreed to run for these positions.

Merritt OTF will be having their week long campout at Harmon Lake May 16 - 22. Musicians are expected from

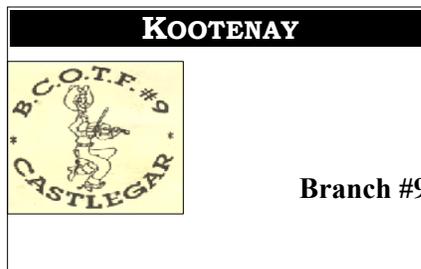
CFV Fiddlers, Kelowna, Kamloops as well as Merritt. We will be having a crib tournament, horseshoes, pot luck supper as well as an auction on Sunday which is always fun out bidding each other. Proceeds from the auction go to different charities.

We will be offering a \$500.00 bursary to a graduating student, preferably someone involved with music.

Wishing improved health to Dave Marriott and Donna Chorney. Hope everyone has a happy and fun filled summer. Safe travelling if you're on the highways this summer.

We would like to send special get well wishes to Bonnie Eagle as she is taking cancer treatments.

*Submitted by,
Delphine Lawrence*



Hello to our fellow BCOTF Branches and welcome summer!

Our long winter was brightened with a day of a fiddle workshop and evening performance by a visit from JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe. This was on March 18 in Rossland and was, as always, thoroughly enjoyable. At the afternoon workshop, we learned three new songs! Thank you so much to the Rossland Legion and to our member, Richie Mann, for

housing and taking care of two of our favourite fiddlers!

Another one of our favourite fiddlers, who teaches at our summer fiddle camp from time to time, is Patty Kustoruk. Patti was inducted July 31, 2016 into the North American Fiddlers' Hall of Fame. Patty is featured on the website fiddlevideo.com where she has developed some performance and teaching videos and a couple of tutorial clips. The tutorial clips are 'Canadian Reel Bowing Tips' and 'Old Time Canadian Waltz Bowing Tips'. The multitude of performance clips are all good old time fiddling standards and good play along tunes for practicing. This is a teaching site so there is an opportunity to sign up for on-line fiddle lessons. Check it out!

Election of Executive took place in April. Gary Shannon remains as President, Dennis Holden accepted the VP position, Sandra Milosevich remains as Treasurer, Kathy Markin accepted the Secretary position and Debra Schiavon took a Director role as Music Director.

Membership in our club keeps climbing! And we are certainly getting more recognition throughout our communities and we are booked for playing as far in the future as October. We consist of fiddles, a mandolin, banjos, bass guitar, keyboards, a flute, accordion, guitars and singing voices and can really put on a good performance.

And of course we can't forget

to tell you about our annual week long Fiddle, Guitar and Piano Workshop happening at the Castlegar Campus, Selkirk College, July 10-14th. Please see our poster at the back of this newsletter for more details and visit our website at ***Kootenayfiddlers.com*** Our club has been working on updating our website and a huge thanks to Chuck Cram for his IT skills and all his time he put towards this goal. He has created a page of our current tunes with music attached so check it out!

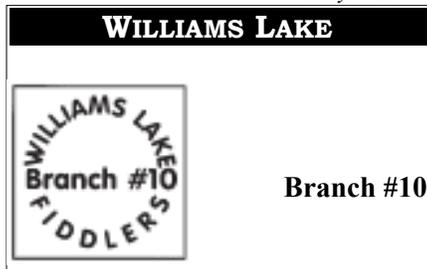
Let's end here with a joke...

Q. What do you call a fiddler with perfect pitch?

A. A Starter for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Wishing you all a healthy, jamming and musical summer!

*Submitted by,
Kathy Markin*



Hello everyone.

The weather this spring in the Cariboo has been for the birds...or more like for the ducks..wet and cold. Every time I think about going out to work in my yard a cold wind appears out of nowhere followed by black clouds and rain.

I suppose as soon as August comes we'll have some summer..just in time again for winter !!!!

Well, enough of my complaining.

When Ken Emery left to live in Ontario the group needed to readjust their playlist to compensate for one

less fiddle player. I think they are doing very well and Pat Myre has introduced some well known country tunes into their repertoire. Good going guys!

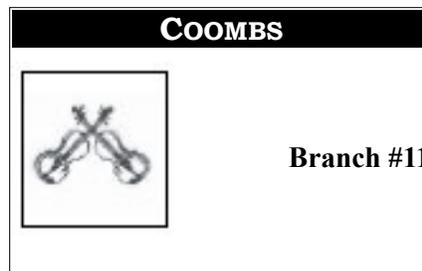
Speaking of Ontario...Ken Emery was back in town for a brief visit and we were lucky to have him stop in at the Legion on our Thursday practice and jam with the group..it was just like old times! Nice to see you again Ken!

The group is still doing their monthly gigs around town and are back to performing at the Seniors Village. Other than that they aren't that busy.

The next birthday is Lorraine Baker's in July.

I hope everyone has a great summer! Take care until the next newsletter.

*Submitted by
Pat Gunderson*



Seems like forever since the last Newsletter; the longer interval presents a memory challenge to this writer, anyway.

schedule due to stormy winter weather and unexpected renovations to the Rotary House.

Our weekly Thursday evening dances have been well-attended through the winter and early spring but with summer approaching many of the seasonal visitors to Oceanside are returning to their homes on the prairies. Overall, it has been a successful season for the dancers and the musicians. At our recent club meeting the decision was taken to have the last dance on May 25 and suspend the seniors' care home playouts until September.

While we are grateful to have a 'family' of regular participants at the dances, we frequently host various guests who may be staying in Oceanside briefly and are looking for something to do on a winter's evening. One night, early in the season, some young people came with Zac Stevenson, the well-known Buddy Holly tribute artist. At the other demographic bookend was a 104-year-old Qualicum Beach



Not easily forgotten were the uncommon disruptions to our

resident, Helen Eggersman, the village hairdresser in the 1930's,

who came one recent evening with her daughter just to listen to our music. A brief biographical vignette about Helen is in the latest issue of the local magazine "Oasis". New fans of Old Time Fiddling do emerge from time to time.

The bi-weekly tutorial sessions at the MacMillan Art Centre, which were introduced back in January, have been well-received, with about a dozen attendees on the second and fourth Sundays each month. They provide an opportunity for current and potential members to practice our repertoire in a non-performing environment. Building on its success, the program will be renewed from next September to June of 2018. Many thanks to the organizers, Bob Berge, Tom Elliott and Nell Bowles.

That does not mean an idle summer, though. Upcoming performance events include Art-in-the-Garden on June 24, Bowen Park Centre on June 29, then the Coombs Bluegrass Festival followed by the Coombs Agricultural Fair in August. We'll stay in tune and, as always, have fun at these events.

At our May 7 meeting we welcomed as a new member, Judy Palikowski, who, with her partner, Steve, came regularly to our dances until he fell victim to ALS and passed away recently. Also at the May meeting Barbara and Ken Ross were inducted as **L i f e t i m e M e m b e r s**. Congratulations to all. Sadly,

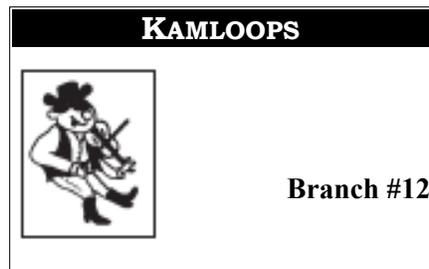
long-time supporter of the club, Pat Stevens, whose late husband Byron was a stalwart banjo player and original member, passed away recently.

Fiddlers across BC should know that George Gudbranson is still getting out to play at the age of 99. He goes to most care homes and occasionally our dances where he graces the program with renditions of Norwegian tunes.

Fiddlers should mark Saturday, September 16 on their 2017 calendars for the annual Fiddle Jamboree at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. The lineup of featured musicians includes some newfound acts as well as the popular young Nanaimo fiddler, Quinton Etheridge-Pedden.

Until next time, we wish everyone a good, safe and healthy summer.

Submitted by Bruce Foden
ebfoden@gmail.com



Our yearly Jamboree is coming up, it will be June 16,17 and 18 at Grandview Lodge in Knutsford.

There is a camping area and plenty of parking for all. We've made it through another year of Dances and Payouts . We had numerous cancellations and rebookings due to illness, but we perservered and played 21

payouts.

Finally we have a couple of younger fiddlers showing up to play, we hope to build on this for our future.

The KOTF usually shuts down in July ,August and 1/2 September. I'm hoping to keep a skeleton crew going this year to play a few events, we've got to be in the public eye all year long.

I've been mainly a guitar accompanist for the KOTF for the last 3 1/2 years , I thought I'd share some things I've learned.

1. Don't thrash away on the strings, letting them drone uncontrollably. Use the palm to mute the strings and give each strum it's note value of a Whole, Quarter Eighth or Sixteenth duration, and definitely don't drown out the soloist.

A drone is used in certain styles especially Celtic music, but not in swing music, and usually not for the whole song.

If you use a drone style it should be the root and fifth of a chord along with the suspended notes the 2 and 4 of the scale.

2. Learn to use connecting runs between chords, these are commonly referred to as Walkups and Walkdowns.

T h e s e r u n s w i l l automatically signal any player who becomes lost in the chord progression that a chord change is about to happen. Believe me it's happened to all of us and to hear those notes ascending or descending to the next chord are music to our ears, "halleluyah i'm back in the groove" ! (I've been

lost but now I'm found).

3. Don't play the same chord over and over for 8 bars in a row, use the other chord extensions like Maj7, Maj6, Relative Minors after the target chord, use the Dom 7 of the scale eg: C7 to F or G to signal a chord change .

4. Canadian fiddle music has diminished and augmented chords, especially waltz and swing songs, learn them. These chords aren't any harder to play than the usual chords and add a lot of colour to the music.

5. If you don't have a piano or bass player, you need to learn how to use a moving bassline with chords.

6. Have a good beginning and ending for each song, it doesn't half to be fancy. If you blow the beginning, the audience is already tuned off, if the ending is haphazard or just fizzles out, that is the last impression the audience has of a song, sort of like leaving everyone with a bad after taste. Pass the mints please.

7. Play like you mean it, not timidly, this is especially important for fiddlers, put some grit into that bow or pick.

8. Learn the circle of 4ths and 5ths, it is used in many songs.

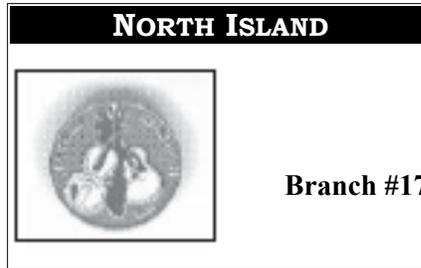
9. Let your ears tell you what sounds good in any of the above suggestions. Often a song doesn't need a lot of dressing up.

But other times you should not wear a T- shirt and jeans to a Wedding or Funeral , you're got to dress for the occasion , if you get my drift, you've got to gussy up that song .

If anyone wants actual examples of all the above, I will be happy to continue this discussion. in following issues.

Yours truly,

*Submitted By
Dave Lynn*



Greetings from Branch 17, here in Courtenay our Branch members have been having our fair share of rainy days but nothing like those of you in the interior. Hope you all are out of the way of those rising creeks and slides.

We try and keep it on the bright side with lots of music, friends and good times. We had our Jamboree again this year, our theme was Celebrate Canada's 150 Birthday and we are pleased to say our talented members were able to Fiddle a tune relating to a Province or sang a song about a Province or something pertaining to a place in Canada. Our MC for the night was Ken MacLeod who dressed for his part in train engineers garb and took us on a trip across Canada. We had skit featuring a family getting on the train in Halifax and riding across Canada, this was performed by Phil & Val Parmley as Mom & Pop, Grandma Peggy Haroldson and the Bell kids, this brought a few chuckles as the names of the cities were somewhat different.

When you have a Jamboree

like this it is so nice to see someone who usually strums a guitar or plays the fiddle get up and sing a song and you realize what a great amount of talent there is in the club. Once again the Coombs and Port Alberni Fiddle clubs came to help us out with the music and entertainment, Barbara Lehtonen got the lyrics to Manitoba Golden Boy and sang them for us. The members of those two clubs have the greatest happy attitudes and it always is such a pleasure to be with them, this goes for the husbands of the lady fiddlers and vice versa. They are a great bunch.

Our own club handled all the other duties of putting on a Jamboree by pitching in a doing whatever they were asked to do, this was nice as it's sometimes not easy getting a gang to work together. We thank Doris Weislein and Heather Sprout for putting on a delicious Beef in Bun Dinner for us, we also had Eleanor, Maureen, Joyce, Doris, Alice, Janet, Lorraine, Mary, Irene, Marg, Cheryl, Peg busy serving coffee and smiles. The Registration done by Ann & Irene. It took a lot of us to do this but do it we did it, to them all and Don Ryan our sound man, Thank - you.

I also should mention that we again got to hear Ray Barron yodel and play his accordian, Ray & Audrey came from Port Alberni and Chuck and Janet from Gold River so as they are not always able to make our

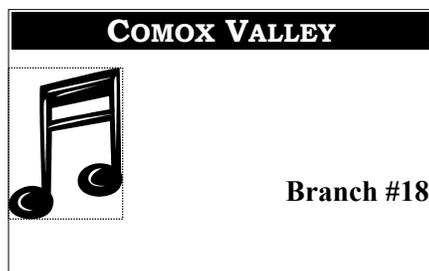
events it was nice to have them join in.

Our club still is visiting the Hospital and Care Homes and yesterday got to go and play for the Pioneer Olympics in Campbell River. This was a fun thing to do as the Seniors (some our age) competed in different games and were very proud of the ribbons. We got to see some of dancers of yesteryears who now live in these Retirement Homes, one special lady Frieda Ruff now aged 97 was a regular at our monthly dances and I can remember how she hardly sat down and she was 94 at the time. One super big event our club has had to celebrate was the marriage of Alice Doherty our club Secretary to Charles Kucey, Charles usually writes the articles & plays the guitar and sings and we are wishing them a very happy future.

Branch 17 is hoping that each one of you enjoys a healthy and happy summer and lots of music and good camping, barbecues and of course some nice sunny days.

Lorraine for

Charles Kucey



Another four months have come and gone and, as usual, I am behind the eight ball and late in getting in my report. Digging right in, back in January, we

Funtime Fiddlers played our first Contra dance of the year and we gave it a Robbie Burns theme with "haggis" (meat balls), Scotland the Brave and lots of kilts. We are finding that these dances are becoming "Happenings" with each month's dance having a definite theme to them.

We spun into February with a concert at the Big Yellow Merville hall by The Lonesome Ace Stringband. These bluegrass boys struggled into the warmth of the hall from a snowstorm, played an amazing concert, and then staggered back into the blizzards on their way to Port Alberni. Naturally, Fiddlejam was the opening act. Our next gig was the North Island Festival of the Performing Arts where many of the young players showed us how well they could play. Three weeks into the month, we hosted our Valentine's Day Contra dance and had another great time with chocolate, hearts and kisses for everyone.

In March, we had the pleasure of listening to Pierre Schryer and Martin Nolan in concert. Pierre has played here several times and has participated in our FiddleFest, too. He is such a smooth player. Our fiddlers, though, were a bit rougher later in the month as we celebrated our St Patrick's Day Contra dance. Green hats, green clothes, green beer...green gills. That was quite the rowdy dance as we played all sorts of Irish jigs and reels to the

delight of the crowd.

Finally, we rolled into April and the Juno Awards down in Ottawa. What a show that was and one of our original fiddle club members, Trent, won a Juno with his band, The Fretless. What a thrill. More thrills followed at FiddleFest with the Andrew Collins Trio as the headliners. The Trio played a concert on Friday night and then led musical workshops on Saturday and, in the evening, joined the Funtime Fiddlers on stage at the FiddleFest Contra dance. Finally, we musicians got a chance to dance while Andrew played the music. Spin your partner!

So, we finished the month enjoying a house concert with Ian Tamblyn, a singer songwriter with 38 albums under his belt. Last Friday we played a fun show at the Casa Loma Retirement centre and the residents said that we were tied with another group as the best entertainment ever. Golly! Better than Tiny Tim?? The residents were really thrilled to see young Sasha and Max playing their fiddles so beautifully. Anyway, our weekly Fiddlejam sessions continue into the end of May and it is time for me to hit the hay.

*Submitted by
Craig Freeman*

ALBERNI VALLEY



Branch #19

Now that the cold spell is over, we can start to look ahead to Spring and hopefully some warmth and cheer. Our club played for the Sunshine Club dance on January 20, at Echo Centre. Although weather and other events lessened the number attending, the dancers did seem to be enjoying themselves very much.

With the start of the new year, Louise Killough and Gail Ross became the designated piano players for the group. By sharing playing time, each gets to do some piano and some fiddle at each play-out, and this works well for both of them. We are starting to add some new pieces to the repertoire and this is good for everyone.

We held our AGM on February 13. Rhonda Holcombe and Gordie McConnell were asked to continue as President and V.P.. Louise Killough agreed to continue as Secretary and Gail Ross is now Treasurer. There are three new directors for a two year term, Dora Moen, Roy Titanich, and Jim Killough. Dennis Craig and Roberta Joehle will continue for one more year.

February was also a month with 5 Mondays, our "competition" day and there were

a good number of participants. The next one will be May 29, giving us a goal to work towards.

We were asked to provide music for the March Sunshine Club Dance and that was the last one for them with live music until the Fall. There was a small but very enthusiastic group of dancers for this one.

We were invited by Branch #17 to participate in their Jamboree on April 21 and 22. at the Fallen Alders Hall, Royston. Port Alberni. Coombs was asked to play for half an hour before the main evening show started and as each of our clubs had a small number of members able to attend, we decided to join forces for this performance and worked out a set list that both groups were familiar with. All went well and it was nice to work together on this. Branch #17 put on a very enjoyable show on the Friday night showcasing music from all across Canada.

Four of us from Port Alberni set up our campers in the parking lot allowing us to be ready first thing in the morning to take part in an impromptu jam session. What started with only five people soon expanded as more people arrived. A few of our club members took part in the Open Mic session on the Saturday afternoon, contributing to the many good performances during the afternoon. Our Branch 19 members also played for a half hour of the evening dance and quite enjoyed ourselves.

The month of April is

Volunteer appreciation time for the Care Homes. Tsawaayuu (Rainbow Gardens) and Heritage Place, combined their time and energy to plan a very nice afternoon of entertainment, speeches of appreciation, cake and coffee. Each person attending was presented with a gift of two appliquéd coasters, made by a volunteer, and designed by Ron Hamilton, a well known local native artist. Other Care Homes also held appreciation teas but we couldn't get to all of them. The residents and staff always make us feel very appreciated at the time we play for them.

April 26 at Heritage Place, was our last Wednesday payout until September, except for a special event tea for the Sunshine Club planned for May 17. We do need to have a bit of a break and time for home and garden projects. When the weather warms up we will start to play down at Harbour Quay every Monday, giving us a chance to play for locals as well as tourists.

Like many communities across Canada, Port Alberni is making plans for Canada 150 celebrations and we have been asked to take part in an event being held at the Harbour Quay on July 1st. This will be a focus for the next while, and I am sure this is the situation for many of you out there. Enjoy your fiddle time, entertaining in your communities. Happy Canada 150.

*Submitted by
Gail Ross*