



B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

This “challenge” is something that all organizations face at some point within their time of existence. This is the perpetual challenge of, “how to keep that feeling of newness, of excitement, of looking forward to that next event, of continuing to grow”. As the years pass, there are situations that arise that may make it more difficult to maintain those initial enthusiasms, but it can be done. The number of long time clubs speaks for this.

Let’s look at this from the point of view of an Old Time Fiddle Club, using our Branch 19, Port Alberni as the example. In the early stages of forming a club, people gather to share a mutual interest in music in general or a particular genre of music, wanting to work together to develop their skills, sharing their enthusiasm. At this point people are willing to put in the hours to learn a great many tunes, creating a repertoire for their own entertainment and to share with

The Grand Challenge

members of the community. This common goal allows people of different skill levels to play together successfully, and be able to perform well, giving enjoyment to others as well as themselves, benefitting everyone. It does become an ongoing



FUN AT THE MILL

project though to maintain a high level of interest and commitment to the club purpose, especially once the group has been playing together for several years.

Each community with an Old Time Fiddle Club, may have different requirements and resources needed to sustain an

active club. A lot can depend on the size of the population base and the age range to be drawn from. A larger population base increases the possibility of having a greater number of people with the same music interests and also more flexibility to adapt to changing population numbers. In the past, in our own community of Port Alberni, Old Time

Fiddling wasn’t a genre with as huge a following as in some towns. For years, most lessons available here focused on the classical violin mode rather than fiddle style. Though this type of instruction has provided a wonderful starting point for so many of our finest fiddlers, the next step didn’t seem to happen here. Our club itself is mainly comprised of self-taught seniors, mostly retirees who have the extra time to spend practicing or entertaining around the valley. It has seemed difficult to grab the interest of young people here except by chance, although

luckily this does happen on occasion.

As the club ages, so do its members and it does become more difficult to keep a vibrant group going. Energy levels start to wane, medical issues interfere, and then the ultimate losses start to occur. This happens to not only the musicians but their very important support people.

So, how can a club keep itself going, with a fresh, strong aspect, hopefully continuing to invite an interest in new memberships along the way? For starters, a friendly, encouraging atmosphere does help to draw new people in and we certainly do welcome new members. Having people willing to mentor new musicians is a great bonus, as it takes a lot of time and commitment to learn a well developed repertoire. It is important to have a variety of events to practice for and look forward to. Special events can encourage people to try new styles of playing, new techniques to give a distinctive sound. A variety of play-outs can lead to interesting interaction between musicians and audience. Dances do inspire a high energy between musicians and dancers, each encouraging the other. It is also very heartening to see people in a care home respond to the music. It may just be a finger tapping but sometimes it is an attempt to get up and dance. Music seems to invoke happy memories of times past and is a well known, beneficial therapy. The more

exposure the club has playing around town, the greater the chances are of inviting the interest of others to become a club member. Our club receives a lot of positive feed-back from our summer venue down at the Harbour Quay, from locals and tourists. Occasionally someone will come along and ask if they might borrow a fiddle to play along for a few numbers, or have a lesson on the wash tub base. Incidents like this seem to create a positive, high feeling all round.

The main challenge for our club, to attract new members, is partially created by the time of day we meet to practice and schedule most play-outs. We have chosen, as a community service, to donate much of our time to the Care Homes around the valley and therefore our main play-out times as well as practice time, are in the afternoons. This does make it difficult for those who are still working, or for students, who might wish to join us. As we already book at least two days a week for music, it isn't easy for present members to set aside extra hours, in addition to regular times, to teach and coach new musicians as well as do their own practice sessions.

The second challenge our Port Alberni Club faces is that of creating a support group to assist in putting on events. We seem to be a club of only musicians without the back-up workers so needed to put on events. Our secretary already makes the arrangements for different

venues, as an extra job to that of playing piano and fiddle. What we need are people to look for halls, work in the kitchen, sell tickets, set up chairs etc. Organizers with lots of time and energy.

Even with these "challenges", we are a group of people quite happy to be playing music together and bringing enjoyment to the community. We were pleased to have a few new members join this past year, so we do still feel we have a viable club, and will continue to try and come up with some solutions for our minor problems. In the meantime we look forward to many years of happy fiddling for us, as we continue to learn and grow.

Gail Ross - Branch #19



I would like to say that our thoughts have been, all summer long, with the people that have in the fire zones all over our great province this year. I hope that things have gotten back to order for most of the province.

I'm sure all the branches are now back into the swing of things with their regular play-outs. In the Kamloops area, we starting to play for many senior homes in the area and it is always

gratifying to see the seniors respond to the music. Many seniors that we play for are at the shut-in stage and don't have that much contact with the outside world. My experience has been that the staff really put a great effort to try and make the quality of life as good as they possibly can and that includes our music. There always seems to be a lot of shuffling to make everything work for our season to organize playouts and dances but things do seem to fall into place like they should.

I am looking forward to attending the Quesnel Provincial Contest in the beginning of October, it will be nice to put faces to the names and voices I have gotten to know. Please attend the AGM On Sunday October 8, 2017, there are many things to discuss to keep the BCOTF current and up to date.

Also, we had four good fiddlers represent our province in the Canadian Grand Masters in Quebec this year, Kai Gronberg, Lia Gronberg, Chloe Nakahara and Brittany Iwanciwski.

It is amazing the summer is behind us and Christmas will be here before we know it so I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone best wishes for the holiday season.

RE: JOHN TRIBE

"a humble man", "always

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SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER OF (FEBRUARY, 2018) MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15TH, 2018.

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 #1 Prince George

Followed by

Branch#3 Quesnel

Branch #4 CFV

there for any of one us", "great sense of humour, but when necessary, can be very professional"

When we looked in the first history book of the BCOTFA, published in 1990, John Tribe was not even in it.

But in the mid-'90's he started fiddling and joined the Kelowna Branch of the Old Time Fiddlers. The story we have heard is that his wife, Lynn, saw an ad in the paper & said "you should do this!"

Since then he has made some history. He quickly became immersed in the fiddle scene &

by 1999 he was elected Vice President of the Kelowna club, quickly followed by 8 years as President.

He now leads many of the care home & other public performances.

He recently was involved in the production of Kelowna's 2nd CD & he, along with his wife Lynn, co-chaired the Kelowna contests from 2012 to 2016.

Not only is John a fiddler, but also a wood craftsman - he made his own fiddle and a few years ago he created, in his wood working shop, the trophies for the Kelowna contest - all 27 of them!

Since the year 2000, John has also been active on the Provincial Board, having now served 13 years on the board, with 11 of those as President.

In 2014 he compiled the 2nd BCOTFA History Book.

He has looked after the BCOTFA Website for a number of years

And last year took on the task of being Editor of the BC Fiddle News.

Working on Skype contest.

All the work that John has done & continues to do is very much appreciated by the Provincial Executive and it is our pleasure to honour him with a Lifetime Member Award in the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association.

Your president, Jackie Davis

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

ERRATAUM On Page 83 of the “Red Book 2014” Ann Bowles was erroneously included in the “In Loving Memory” list. It was considerable happiness that I received a telephone call from Ann correcting the error and telling me that she is alive and well. Please accept my apologies for this error.

It seems that we can always plan for more things and we have time to do when I'm no different than anyone else I guess. Which is just another way of saying that I have been really busy this last summer.

Lynn and I did manage to take him to take in two fiddle camps, one at Cypress Hills and the other Camp Calvin. As always it was a terrific chance to learn a few new tunes and check on a few youngsters who are growing up to be a really great musicians. If you get a chance to go to one of the fiddle camps, do so, I highly recommend them both for the enjoyment of the music and the chance to learn.

I really enjoyed reading the feature article for this issue. Gail really hit the nail on the head as far as I'm concerned, each of the issues she wrote about applies to every Branch at one time or another. So “Just keep at it”

Your editor John Tribe

BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

Best Wishes from Prince George! We are kicking off our dance season with a bang by having Mike Sanyshyn, four-time provincial champion from Cloverdale, attend the first dance on Saturday, September 16. He will not only be supporting the musicians in playing for the dancing, but will be teaching a 3 hour fiddle workshop in the afternoon, which we are able to offer free and which will assist both beginners and more advanced fiddlers in dance music. Our dances are always the third Saturday of the month from September to March at Pineview Hall, 8 pm – 12, and Jams continue to be held every Thursday, 7 – 9:30 pm at the Elder Citizen's Rec. Centre. We will again present group lessons, one for beginners and one for more advanced, followed by the fiddles playing together on stage while people listen and dance. If you are in our area, please join us for a jam or dance; we'd love to have you!

We have a Family Dance and Ice Cream Social coming up on October 13 – it promises to be a

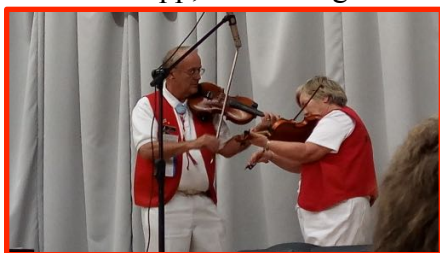
lively time for families as Laurel McKirdy will be teaching some dances to live fiddle music, and at the break everyone gets to make an ice cream sundae!

Groups of fiddlers played at a few events over the summer, including providing music for evacuees. At one point we had 10,000 extra people in Prince George as fire threatened their homes. Many seniors had been transported from residential care in Williams Lake and other areas, and our senior residences, University and College were filled to overflowing. The music helped calm the people, especially the seniors, in the midst of such change and uncertainty.

The cancellation of the BC Fiddle Treat camp at Gavin Lake due to wildfire activity was quite devastating to many of our musicians who were looking forward to being there. To try to fill the void Sally Connon organized an impromptu fiddle camp in Prince George in late July. The venue she chose, the Otway Cross Country Ski Centre, was perfect. The clubhouse was used for lessons and during breaks families could explore the trails on foot or mountain bike. Chloe Nakahara, Brittany Iwanciwski, Maria Newton, Barry Nakahara and Patrick Killcullen taught fiddle, guitar and piano classes, and 25 musicians from Prince George, McBride, Smithers and Vancouver registered. Thank you Sally for initiating this and

organizing it at short notice.

Two of our young members were nominated to compete in the Grand Masters this summer in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec. Although they didn't make the top ten, Brittany Iwanciwski and Chloe Nakahara counted it as an amazing experience and opportunity. They were thrilled to meet some of Canada's best fiddlers, make new friends (and jam all night with them), and to experience the Québécois culture. Chloe kept busy over the summer playing gigs in Prince George and taking part in a number of music festivals, while Brittany was teaching fiddle in lessons and camps. They will both be living in Victoria this fall. Another young talented fiddler from Prince George, Maria Newton, is in Victoria this fall taking the Music Diploma program at Camosun College/Victoria Conservatory of Music. She will receive some of her instruction under Daniel Lapp, a longtime member of Branch #1 and a native of Prince George. In June Daniel was back in PG to put on a wonderful concert at the Northern Lights Estate Winery, and to spend time with his father, Clarence Lapp, and siblings.

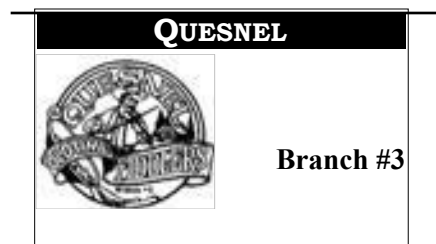


Five fiddlers from Branch #1 attended the fiddle contest hosted

by Kelowna. It was well organized and a great experience, and we even brought home 5 medals!

Save the date for our third annual Fiddle Jamboree, April 27 and 28. As in the past two years, it will include instruction from qualified teachers in different levels of fiddling and other instruments, along with a dance and concert. It always proves to be a good time. Everyone is welcome.

Submitted by, Beth Bressette



It's been a summer of non-events. Fire-wise there was lots of smoke, road closures, and some evacuations in the rural areas. However, all major festivals and celebrations were cancelled. The cancellation of the BC Fiddle Treat was a major disappointment. We kept hoping the rain would come and all would be well, but when Gavin Lake Camp had to be evacuated, it was time to admit defeat and go into rewind mode. We haven't given up though. BC Fiddle Treat is booked for Monday July 23-Sunday July 29, 2018. We'll update the website when we work out more details.

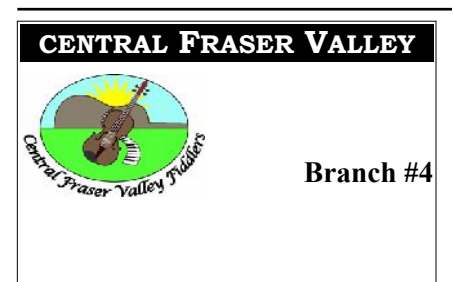
Our musicians have had little opportunity to perform this summer, but we did continue

with jams and practice sessions. Our 2017 Provincial Youth Champion, Loraine Marshall, was crowned Quesnel Princess at the Miss Quesnel Pageant and is doing a wonderful job of representing Quesnel and showcasing live fiddle music.

Margaret MacLeod, a long-time member of our club, passed away in Williams Lake earlier this summer. She was a charter member, secretary for many years, and supported the club in so many ways. Senior Fiddlers will remember her as the friendly face in charge of registrations at our contests up until the mid-nineties.

Plans are underway for our 47th Annual Contest in conjunction with the Provincial Contest and AGM. We'll have an update in the next newsletter. Or, better yet, see you there.

Submitted by, Jean Gelinis



Our hearts go out to those of you who were affected by the terrible fires in our Province this summer. I hope by the time this letter reaches everyone, that the fires are out and everyone is on their way to restoring what has been lost to them. A horrific time in our Province!

I trust by now most of you are

back to your music and the routine of practices, playouts and dances. Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers are back with a busy agenda and a good list of events that we will be performing up to Christmas. But first a recap of the past few months. Some of our group attended the Merritt Fiddle Campout on the long weekend in May. They had great weather and a wonderful time. Those of us who were not able to make it were envious. Our Kids' Club had their first gig on the Sunday of that long weekend. Some of us remained to give backup to our Kids' Club as they performed at the Kilby Historic Site at Harrison Mills. It was a treat to play with the young fiddlers who were the highlight of the event along with their teacher, Jo Blak.

CFVF had the privilege to perform at Mission's 125th Heritage Picnic in June. It was very windy but with a few clothes pins all was well, a great event with many attending to enjoy the delicious birthday cake. We were very well received and expect that we will be called upon again in the future. One of the other events that we performed for was for the Knights of Columbus also in June.

Thank you Erik for coordinating the Canada Day 150th Birthday playout at Fort Langley this year. Our Kids' Club joined us and it was a tremendous success. Despite the fact that so many of our club

members go away for the summer, we were grateful to those who stayed to perform at the Abby Envision Summer Concert Series at the Kariton House on July 22 and thank you Daffy for arranging this one. It was outdoors and drew quite an audience. Of course, the weather was perfect.

Our performance and dance calendar seems to be filling up quickly for the next few months including another gig at the Kilby Historic Site at Harrison Mills at the beginning of September. It was a very hot day so thankfully we could dress casually, some in western wear. We're thankful that we always have an excellent turnout of members for our playouts and dances. Ed Ryz will resume as music director after being away for a long summer break. Sid and Frieda were kind enough to host two jam sessions in their clubhouse this summer and a good time was had by all. We will continue to work on our CD with the hope of releasing it before Christmas.

Our congratulations to Kai Gronberg for coming in 1st in the Championship class at the John Arcand Fiddle Fest in Saskatoon this August. Kai is currently taking part-time studies at the University of Regina. He is looking to attend full-time for an education major although he's not sure what university he will be going to as he is still researching. Kai was an intern at the Kenosee fiddle camp this year and he is hoping to teach there. Lia is

attending Western University in London, Ontario. Lia will start a fiddle club at the university and Shane Cook will be introducing her to the local fiddle clubs and community. She will be back in BC at the end of April and take part in BC fiddle events until she goes back to university in September. She has started to offer fiddle lessons on Skype so anyone interested please email her at: liagronberg@gmail.com

We would like to thank Julius Cotter again for another donation of a small violin to our Kids' Club. So appreciated!

We lost a club member Albert Barra to Oliver, BC this summer. Albert played a mean bass guitar for our group. He also sings and plays several other instruments as well building some of his own. We will miss his version of "Waltz Across Texas". We hope he and his wife, Fran will find a group that will welcome them and make them feel at home. They will be gaining some fabulous talent.

We wish Rod McLean speedy recovery from his heart surgery in June. All the best, Rod & Elaine, we look forward to having you both back with us soon.

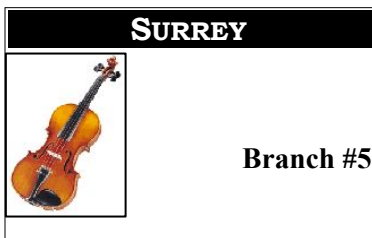
We are sad to report that Albert Lauer of Mission, BC passed away in August. Albert was a past member of our club and a talented accordion player. He had been ill for quite some time. We miss him and send our condolences to his wife Brigitte and family.

We would like to welcome new member Glen Towns to the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers group. Glen is a bass guitar player. Just what our group needed! Thanks Glen!

As I close, I would like to thank all the musicians who lift our spirits with their music when we're down and bring so much joy to the world. It's a sad day when we lose even one of these.

Happy fiddling everyone! Keep that wonderful music flowing and don't forget to check out our current events and photos on our Website: centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com.

Submitted by, Rosalie Eeg



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers.

Although I am quite sure that we were all hoping for a sunny and warm summer, we did not expect the no rain and hazardous dry spell that we ended up with, causing forest fires throughout the Province.

Our Fiddlers are enjoying their Summer break and not doing play outs other than helping out the Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers, playing at the Stewart Farm House, a Historic place, dating back from the 1800's. This Historic Farm house is located on Crescent Beach

Road in Surrey.

Although we did not have many people at this event to hear us play, we enjoyed getting together and practising a lot of tunes for our upcoming dances.

Our annual Surrey Fiddler's potluck picnic was held on Sunday, July 30 at Clayton Hall and as usual was a great success, with 85 people attending. This event was held indoors where our band entertained the crowd with some great old time fiddle music which also gave them the opportunity to dance to the music.

The potluck food that everyone brought worked out well, with a lot of variety & enough food for everyone. The people were also very helpful in putting away the tables and chairs and we thank them for helping out.

Our Surrey Fiddler's dances, which have been held at the Clayton Hall in Surrey for many years, is no longer available to our Surrey Fiddler's Branch, so as of Sept. 05 2017, our dances will be held at the Don Christian Recreation Centre, located at 6220 64 Street in Surrey.

Our dances will still be held on the first Tuesday of each month except for July & August

Dance Time – 1 pm to 4 pm
Admission - \$ 4.00

Congratulations to our member, Mike Sanyshyn for being nominated for Fiddle Player of the Year at the upcoming Canadian Country Music Awards in Saskatoon, on

Sept. 10.

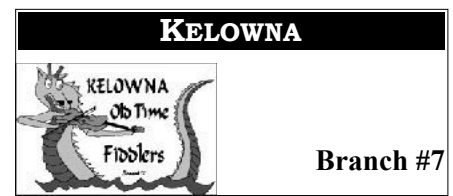
Mike is one of five players nominated for the same award.

Our condolences go out to the family of Ron Graham, a past member of our Surrey branch who passed away in May. Ron was a fiddle player and mandolin player and a fan of Blue Grass music. Ron was also a Barber for many years in the White Rock area.

Since there will not be a 4th edition prior to year end, we wish all of the Fiddle Branches a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Until the next edition:

Submitted by, Evan Sanyshyn



Paradise is burning. We are enduring the hottest and driest summer ever. The amount of hectares destroyed has passed all previous records with no end in sight. Our deepest sympathy goes to those who have lost homes or other property. Heavy smoke and travel has become a major problem in a lot of areas. Thankful cheers go out to the army of fire fighters enduring the heat and the most hazardous and uncomfortable working conditions. A nice rain would be most welcome to help the tired fire fighters accomplish their goals and also give the gardens & orchards a boost. We finally had

a nice rain the evening of Friday the 7th and Saturday the 8th.

Our big event of July 1st was Canada's 150th birthday party at Prospera place. We entertained to a huge crowd with Vic leading and there was lots of good lively music from us & the local Pipe Band. The other major summer event was our annual performance at the Armstrong Fair. All arrangements were set up for us by Pauline Curtis, as usual. This is no small undertaking; arranging for tickets, parking, and transportation in & out of the fair grounds for us and our equipment. A big thanks to Pauline from all of us. Wayne Angman was our able leader the 1st day and John Tribe the 2nd. Joining us from Kamloops were Clarke Hiles & his wife Linda. He was a welcome addition on bass & guitar. Linda sold 11 CDs for us which was great. The last shift of the 2nd day we played old time dance music for ½ an hour in a big tent which was enjoyed by a fair crowd. Lee's Music from Kamloops operated the sound system and has for 26 years.

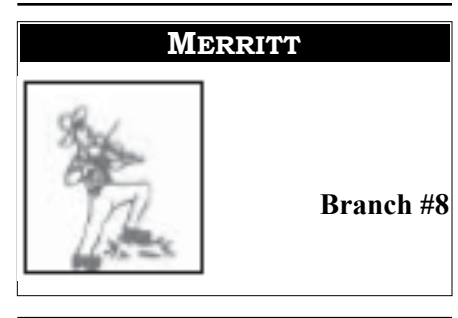
On the home front we returned to our regular schedule on September 6th at Brookhaven on the Westside. The 8th was a Directors meeting and the 10th was our regular Mission Park picnic. Bill Bryson and crew set up a tarp to shade the guests & visitors from the sun. A good jam session as usual and lots of good pot luck food. Bev Allen

brought Jim Catto as she usually does to the monthly dances as he can't drive himself. One of the places we volunteer to play when requested is the local Legion. All of us really appreciate their generous donation of \$1500.00 for our contributions to their Fish Fry's, Lobster Fest, etc. We had a private birthday party for Carol Jenson at her son, Bob's place, who happens to be a fine Chef. There was lots of good food, music and shade from the hot sun.

Max Kibsey and his wife, June, have moved back to Winnipeg to be close to their family. A group jam session was arranged for them by our President, Irene McAvena and sister Carol Jenson. There was also a supper party held at Wedgwood Retirement Centre arranged by resident Ron Hanushchak. We will miss Max with his fine old Martin guitar on backup & the many old songs he sang. Ron is still recovering from his back surgery and is getting around a bit easier. Alice Sisler is back in the line up tinkling the ivory's, thankfully, after suffering a broken pelvis.

We welcome two new members, Carol Fox and Shelley Thierman.

Sincerely Russ Gerrie



Merritt Old Time Fiddlers had a very quiet summer with all the fires and smoke in our area.

On a sad note, our past President David Marriott passed away on June 6, 2017 at the age of 83.

There was no service by request. Vi Norman has now moved to Vernon to be closer to her family.

It's great to see Bonita Eagles feeling much better and ready to go back to work.

Our campout in May was very successful with close to 40 rigs and other guests in attendance. Thanks to the musicians from CFV Fiddlers, Kelowna and Merritt. Over \$900.00 was raised from our auction and it will be donated to different charitable organizations. Looking forward to next year's campout and hope the weather is as good as it was this year.

Four rigs from Merritt attended the Jamboree at Grandview Lodge in June and it was enjoyed by all.

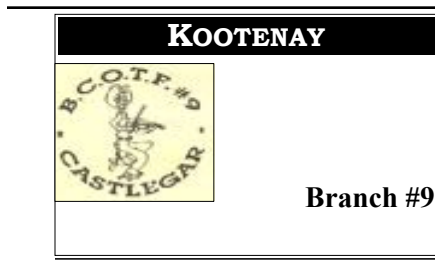
Keyton Laupitz was the recipient of our annual bursary given to a graduating high school student. Congratulations to Keyton on obtaining several

bursaries.

Our new executive is anxious to take over and come up with some new ideas. It would be great to find some new musicians.

Hope everyone had a good summer in spite of the floods, fires and smoke.

Submitted by, *Delphine Lawrence*



Our last play out performance before the summer break happened June 18th, when our BCOTF group joined forces with the Rossland Golden Fiddlers and played in beautiful 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 second year we played at Aboriginal Day. It is enlightening to hear and see the Aboriginal music and dancing and traditions embraced and sustained amongst the youth.

And then it began...one of our longest, hottest summers on record. It was so sad to see our province go under emergency forest fire status. It was devastating to see so many people in so many communities having their homes threatened and having to evacuate their

properties. The sun and moon became orange and murky through the smoke. We had a total eclipse of the sun and the unofficial end of summer (Labour Day) was marked with a meteor fireball that lit up our sky and marked itself with a huge 'boom'.



Our *16th Annual Fiddle Camp* in Castlegar was held July 10-14th. Once again, this was such a fun and upbeat event where students participate in fiddle, piano or guitar workshops. This week long camp is such a great way to learn new songs and we all enjoy reconnecting with those out-of-town friends who regularly attend this camp. A big thanks to our committee for all their organizational talents in putting this together...Sandra Milosevich, Kate Enewold, Pat West, Denise Chernoff, Shelley Buxton and Sheila Vockeroth. And of course thank you to the guys who dealt all week with set up, especially Chuck Cram who is so expert with the sound system equipment.

Our group came together again on a lovely August 28th afternoon for a potluck picnic followed by a practice at the Genelle Hall. It was great to see everyone and dust off the

instruments after a summer recess. Photo was submitted by Brenda McLeod.

The Trail and District Arts and Council once again invited us to play windup at their summer outdoor *Music in the Park* at beautiful Gyro Park in Trail. So on a beautiful evening August 31st, we performed together with the Rossland Golden Fiddlers (led by Richie Mann). It was lovely to play outside and we definitely filled up their gazebo with musicians! With a great crowd and being so well received, this evening was definitely one of our highlights to date. A big thank you to Debra Schiavon for her musical direction and being our leader of the band!

We are all looking forward to reconvening our weekly Monday night practices and getting back into our musical routines!

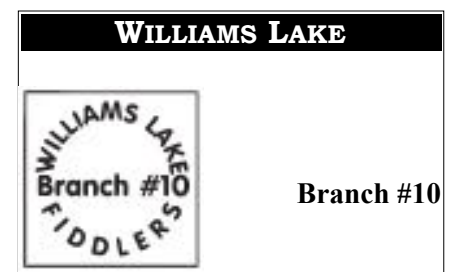
Let's end here with a joke...

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 autumn!

Submitted by, *Kathy Markin*



Hello all from Branch #10
Forest fires... it is something

that all of us are aware of in B.C. but no one expects it to hit where you live. I count myself lucky that I and my family were able to stay with other relatives and came out unscathed. Unfortunately there are people that lost everything.

Having the experience of having to evacuate to another city pales in comparison to what people are going through in Canada and other parts of the world. I can only hope that this trend in weather and man made related incidents do not become the norm in our summers to follow.

I must give the volunteers and service people and everyone else that went over and beyond to make sure that everyone was looked after during the fires a huge THANK YOU!

There isn't very much to report with the club as we break for the summer at the beginning of July and have just started up again in September.

One of our members, Ken Emery, had moved out to Ontario last year and came back in June to Williams Lake for a short visit. It was very nice to see him again and have him play with the club. Hope you get out our way again Ken.

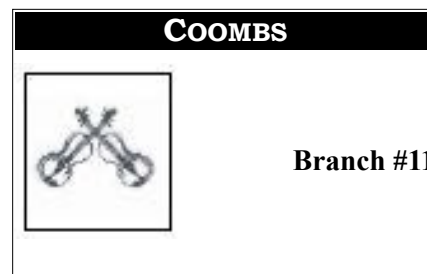
Joe and Yolande Lecomte celebrated their 50th anniversary in August but due to circumstances we were not able to put anything together until this Sept. Viva Stewart and her husband Fred graciously offered to hold a potluck at their home to

help us celebrate their special anniversary. (they thought it was a regular potluck). Social Director, Pat Gunderson presented the happy couple with a Gift Certificate to the Liquor store, flowers for Youlande, cake and card from the Club. We had a very enjoyable afternoon followed by delicious food. Of course, a potluck and gathering would be terrible without music..... luckily there just happened to be a few musicians around.....LOL

Birthday wishes go out to Ed Caissey in November and Pat Myre and Kathy Fetters in December.

Until the next newsletter...

Submitted by Pat Gunderson



With just a couple of days to go, preparations for the 2017 edition of the famous Coombs Fiddle Jamboree are well past the point of no return. As always before a big event the organizers are just hoping that all the details in the plan are under control. Has there been enough advertising? Is the food delivery confirmed? Are the featured performers still committed and ready? Will there be enough volunteers for the door, the draw tickets, the performer registrations, etc, etc,?

Out of the blue, a few days ago, we received a call from some Vancouver Island University students offering to volunteer at the event to satisfy a course assignment. Holy cow, could anything be more timely? What luck.

The bi-weekly tutorial sessions at the MacMillan Art Centre have started again following the summer break. The program is under the direction of Bob Berge, Tom Elliott and Nell Bowles and will, hopefully, develop some new players for the dance band and other performances.

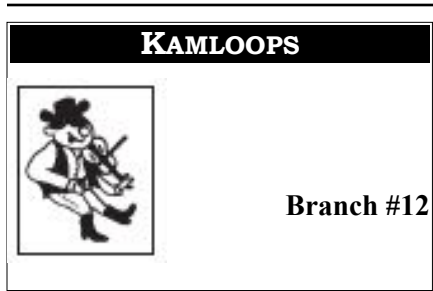
With both June and August having five Thursdays we had two performance dates at the Bowen Park Seniors' Centre in Nanaimo this summer. Those, plus Art-in-the-Garden at Nanoose Bay (Playing On The Dock Of The Bay), the Coombs Bluegrass Festival and the Coombs Agricultural Fair kept us busy enough. The weekly dances at Rotary House are about to start up again on September 14 and we hope to re-unite with many regulars and, hopefully, some new faces among the dancers.

One old friend won't be dancing again. Sadly, Gil Gilmore, who rarely missed a dance and always had a funny story to relate during intermissions, passed away in August. Gil was a dedicated volunteer with the Qualicum Beach Museum, the Parksville Legion and the Salvation Army Kettle Drives and we will surely

miss him.

So, until next time, adieu from Coombs.

Submitted by Bruce Foden



Since our last newsletter KOTF 12 had their Jamboree, the attendance was down by a bit from past years, but everyone had a good get together and there were many enjoyable jam sessions and dancing, also the Kamloops Metis Dancers came and danced for us. They really stole the show! great job ladies.

KOTF 12 is slowly gathering from our summer hiatus ala Rip Van Winkle rousing from his long sleep a bit confused, yes it's near the Fall of 2017.

We have a dance scheduled for September 30 but 2/3's of our musicians will be awol for this one, and nary one of our regular fiddles to play at it.

Fortunately Carl Anderson has agreed to play fiddle for this event, many thanks Carl. We have about 5 fiddlers in training and some of them I'm sure will be able step forward in the near future to play at least part of a set. I'm sure we'll all be back together by October.

Our fiddle workshops have started again at 7-9 PM lower Heritage House, all musicians are

welcome, bring whatever you can cart and it's free.

I stayed close to home this summer and gave free fiddle lessons at the "Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family & Community" once a week.

The lessons will start up again on October 2 at 3 PM.

I want to relate to you all about the Metis fiddle lessons: here goes.

I had 10 students who had never played fiddle before, they had fiddles that were too small, too big, some almost unplayable, there were 2 women, sometimes a third, 5 girls and 3 boys all quite young around 4-10 years old.

The women and girls were all quite disciplined and made good progress..

Now the boys were something else, their practise consisted of a few bow strokes then wandering around the big room like butterflies from place to place, sometimes duelling with their bows.

So of course I would question them about what they were doing and to start practising again.

Well they were either bored, they were hungry or it was too hard to play the fiddle .

On further questioning they would end up crying. I took it all in stride, it was all I could do not to burst out laughing.

So from a male perspective I have to say "Females rule the world ". I even started thinking this all would make a great sitcom in the "Flawty Towers"

style maybe I would call it "The Swashbuckling Fiddler" .

Now in parting I want to leave you with a very useful chord progression for accompanying Canadian fiddle music.

It is mainly for jigs, swing and reels. This is what the piano usually plays, but it also sounds good on the guitar.

The chords don't have to have the high note if you find it too hard to finger, the e string will sound good even if played open.

You just have to strum the middle strings. The notes in brackets below the line are substitute chords. The progression really gives a walking movement to the music.

The progression can also have runs connecting the chords or even stop after a few bars and go other chords.

In D it is: II: D D/c# _
Bmin(7) D/a _ G D/F# _
Emin(7) A7 : II in G it is :
II: G G/f# _ Emin(7) G/d _ C
C/b _ Amin(7) D7 :II
(A/c#)
(A) (E 7)
(D/f#) (D)
(A7)

so eg. measure 1 pick d and strum, pick c# and strum

Maybe next time I'll use a capo and show another way to play the same thing.

The chord that has a slash means to play the note after the slash as the bass note (lowest note of the chord).

Yours truly,

*Submitted By
Dave Lynn*

NORTH ISLAND**Branch #17**

Time to write down a few words from our Branch 17 members to those of you in the other clubs. You probably like the rest of us are wondering where in heck did the days go and cannot believe we are again in September and back playing in the Care Homes and doing the things we do to keep busy through the winter months.

We started out the season again at St. Joseph's Hospital, a few new faces to listen to the music. I always go with Glen when they play so got to sit by a lady who told me that as a young girl she took Piano lessons for one year, then times got tough and the family could not afford the lessons. She married young, had a family, little money and lost her dream to play the piano but when Rod MacMillian our piano player started to play along with the group out came her hands and she used the table and pretended to chord along with him. She had a great time.

A few of our club will be going to Sayward to provide music for the 95th Heritage event at the Sayward Community Hall. Bob Jacques has organized a group which includes, Gloria Olsen, Harold Mosdell, Ray Ledoux, Robert Cluett, Irene

Tomchick, Dave Gark, Al Engdahl, Rodney MacMillian, Heather Sprout, sure to be a great day at Sayward on the 23rd.

One other thing I noticed while at the Extended Care with the club was the burst of singing voices when the song was sung of You Got me Singing the Blues, everyone knew the words, in past years it was songs like Somewhere in the West and you are my Sunshine that brought out the familiar words, so times are changing and in the future I suppose these tunes will be forgotten, hope not as I still like you are my Sunshine it will always remind me of Bob Casavant who sang this song at every playing engagement and got the crowd to sing along with him.

It is time once again for the Coombs Fiddle Jamboree where a good time is always had - sadly this year we will not be able to go as in the process of moving from our home of some 40 plus years, probably lots of you have done this same move and had to part with all the good treasures you have collected through the years, kindof hard to do so hopefully we will live with less clutter in our smaller home in Comox.

I hope everyone enjoyed a great summer though I must say the smoke made it kind of difficult at times , so now on to the next few months, enjoy the coming of the fall and treasure your friends and family.

PS Had a pleasant call this past summer from a fellow who

introduced himself as Dale and stated his Mother is visiting from Kelowna and she is a member of Br. # 7, he was wondering if our group was playing music anywhere that they could come and listen to. Well it just so happened that we had a playing engagement at Casa Loma that afternoon and invited his Mother Anne Iskiw to come and play along , so yes she did come and knew the tunes and it turned out to be a fun afternoon as she joined right in with our gang. Residents really enjoyed her playing and we thank Anne & Dale for doing this.

Yours truly, Lorraine Heibert

COMOX VALLEY**Branch #18**

Greetings to all the fiddlers out there who have been bowing the strings all summer long. Fortunately, it has been a beautiful summer here on the Island and we managed to dodge those licking tongues of fire that scorched so much of the BC Interior.

Our Fiddlejam sessions ended in May and we jumped right into a Relay For Life event in Courtenay where we played music for a 24 hour Walk/Run-A-Thon for the Cancer Society. Norm, our intrepid accordionist, had his own cheering section at

that gig. He must be famous. Fortunately, he wasn't so famous that he couldn't join us at Puntledge School where we did a Contra dance for the students' End of School Festival day.

Our club organized a fiddle evening at the Big Yellow Merville hall where we assembled the youth and gave them all bursaries that can be used for music lessons, buying new instruments or just treating their mothers to a fabulous dining out experience on their birthday! What considerate youth we have!

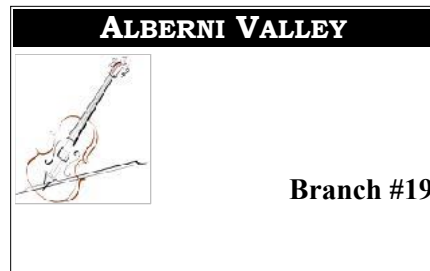
Trent was commissioned to write a fiddle symphony for the UBC orchestra to celebrate Canada 150 and Ashley MacIsaac shredded bow hairs at the Vancouver Island MusicFest here in Courtenay. Not to be outdone by some no-name, sort of famous Cape Bretoner, our fulsome fiddlers did a vibrant, 2 hour set at Simm's Park for the Simm's Summer Series.

We rolled into August with some players busking at the Merville GarlicFest and then a double bill on a late August weekend where we rocked them at the Casa Loma on a Friday and then played the main stage at the Comox Valley Exhibition on Saturday. Blisters on my fingers!

So, here we are, well into September and John is hounding us for the Fiddle News submission. All I have left to report is that Fiddlejam has started up; August is the new club secretary; Xander, Alison, Taz and Ella have sailed away; and we are

looking forward to opening for The Bills at the Big Yellow hall tomorrow night. What to wear, what to wear. All the best to you musicians out there!

*Submitted by
Craig Freeman*



There have been some very difficult times for our fellow fiddlers living in the Interior and we wish them all well. Hope life has now settled into a safe and more relaxed space for them. Here on the Island it had just been very hot and especially so in Port Alberni.

Not many special events have been happening lately, but we did play for a Sunshine Club Tea in May, held at Echo Centre. Also played for the Sanddollar Square Dance Club and their Junebug Jamboree. That was a fun time for all and nice that a good number of our musicians were able to attend.

Like many other communities in the country, special activities were set up here to celebrate Canada 150. A large stage was in place by the Harbour, with a full sound system for the various musicians and bands to use. It was especially great for us, as they had a piano we could use, and every one of us could hear

everything going on. A good sound set-up and sound man. We have on occasion found ourselves strung out on a stage and one side can't hear what the other side is doing. Two bands at once is not particularly good. It was really great to play that day and join in on the super celebration.

Another celebration being held here was the Jane Austen Festival and we were asked to play for the Middleton County Family Dance. That was so much fun and wonderful to see the variety of Regency costumes people had made and were wearing. Great to see parents and grand-parents dancing with their kids. A caller from Victoria, Rosemary Lach, travelled up here to lead the dancers for a very enjoyable evening. This was a new experience for us, playing for a contradance and we quite liked it.

We are now playing down at the Harbour Quay every Monday from 1-2:30 and are attracting a good sized crowd of listeners, and several regular dancers. It is good for everyone to have a covered area providing that needed shade these days. We generally play there until the end of August. On July 31, we participated in our 5th Monday Pseudo-contest and 10 of us put our ego's on the line, playing for the general public. As a bonus we had a surprise visitor in George Gudbrunson from Coombs and he agreed to play a few tunes for us on his own then we all joined in to play for a

mini-dance session with him. What a thrill to play along with this amazing person, as he continues to play at almost 100 years of age. A lot of music being carried in his memory.

The McLean's Mill was staging a train robbery day for visitors and we were asked to provide music for those spending a few hours touring around the site. This time we went in western garb and quite enjoyed entertaining those visitors relaxing for lunch or waiting for the return trip to town. It was pleasant playing in the shade of the trees in that hot weather. One of our fiddlers, Tom Elliott was

able to take some photos of the group, both posed and candid. Good to have a few pictures recording our various activities.

The first Wednesday in September we started to play at the Care Homes, the first Thursday was our date to play at the Fall Fair, and the year begins again. After months of hot sun, we finally got some rain to cool things down a bit and dampen the ground. This first rain did happen as the Fair was opening but I don't think people minded walking around in the cooling moisture. Our Fiddlers do act as a drawing card for that first evening and it was nice to see the

regular audience in attendance. Now we are looking forward to attending the Coombs Jamboree.

With the start of a new season, come thoughts of new plans for music, activities, and new tunes to learn. Apparently this will keep us all out of trouble, but we will be having fun. We wish you all a happy, productive Fall season.

Submitted by Gail Ross

Art Daher, violins

Was good to be at the Castlegar Fiddle Camp. Nice to meet with friends made over the years. Due to the fires, no camp at Gavin Lake. This will probably be the last Fiddle Camp I will be at. Have talked with another "luthier" Robbie Short of Vernon who is interested in my place. Robbie not only does violins, but is also a guitar man.

As I say "adieu" to the Fiddle Camps, thank you for your support, and enjoyment of being part of such fine camps, I wish you continued success. I am always amazed at how well everyone gets along, the fun being there.

However, while no longer at the Fiddle Camps, I am still carrying on with all things related to violins. Am always ahead of the luthiers/music stores in the latest violins, improvements, etc. Still doing bow repairs, violin setup & repairs with my usual quick turn around & low prices.

Have some very nice violins for advanced students: Heffler 505 for \$2100.00 which teachers think is a \$4000.00 violin. The Ivan Dunov that for \$1500.00 also has exceptional sound at this price. Both of these violins come with Wittner mechanical pegs for easy tuning, the harp shaped tailpiece for better sound. Call for more details.

Carry Cadenza violin bows which are very well balanced, good for advanced playing & will not warp. Shoulder rests including Korckerfest, strings, tailpieces, etc. More selection than luthiers or music stores.

Call or email me: daer1@shaw.ca or 604 703-1464