



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Edward Russell Ryz was born in Dauphin, Manitoba on December 31st, 1938 to farming parents. Music was always an important part of their family. His father played violin and had a band that played for dances in the community. Dad Ryz was determined to have their children carry on this wonderful tradition and encouraged them all to play.

Ed began playing the violin at age nine followed by brothers Ernie, Gordon and sister Ruth all playing various instruments such as banjo, mandolin, accordion and piano. Ed remembers how his father taught him how to tune the violin. He would often loosen a peg and call it a mystery string. He had Ed find out which one was out of tune and then correct it. Ed said he learned a lot from his Dad and by listening to Don Messer and Manitoba fiddler Andy DeJarlis among others.

At some point in high school, Ed began to play the Eb saxophone and along with his brother Ernie who played the electric bass and banjo. They

started playing for dances and eventually formed a popular dance band called the "Moonlighters".



Ed & Diane Ryz

On May 19, 1962, Ed married beautiful Diane, the love of his life. They had both grown up in Dauphin so it was that Diane could not resist the charming and persisting Ed. Their pride and joy were their two daughters, Lisa and Alyson. Diane was teaching at this time. In 1974, the family moved to Winnipeg. Ed was soon involved in playing at dances and meeting many other musicians. He continued to further his skills by taking lessons from well known fiddlers

such as Mark Morrisseau. He joined the South Glen Fiddlers which consisted of more than thirty musicians. They played a variety of venues including the Festival du Voyageur. Ed often speaks of the fun he had with this group.

When Ed & Diane first retired, they spent several winters in Hemet, California. It was there that he took up violin making. He made three violins, all of which are currently in use. His grandson is the owner of the first violin. By this time,

both daughters had carried on the tradition of playing music. Lisa played piano and saxophone and is to this day still a school band instructor. Alyson, is the youngest and plays the guitar.

In the year 2000, Ed and Diane moved to Mission, BC where they still reside. Ed became a member of the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers moving on to becoming the Music Director for more than ten years. He faithfully attended countless practices that the club held every week except for the two summer

months and December. His motto was “if you are not getting better, you will get worse!” With Ed at the helm, the club entertained at many senior homes, many dances at the Aldergrove Seniors Centre and fun venues such as the Kilby Historic Site, the Five Maples Gardening Centre, the Historic Stewart Farm and at the Fort Langley Historic Site of Canada for Canada's 150 birthday. His involvement with the Knights of Columbus led us to perform for them several times and usually included a lovely meal. This last year was spent encouraging us all to record a CD called the “Milk Cow Blues”. It was quite the endeavour! But we all rose to the occasion and did it! Ed, with lots of experience as dance leader, has a great stage presence and a wonderful rapport with the dancers. Diane is also very popular with the dancers and continues to be part of the “Worker Bees” in the kitchen.

Ed is retiring from the position of Music Director as of September 1st. He says he is very proud of our group with it's many active members. Ed has done well for us and now deserves a rest from all the responsibilities assigned to that position. Ed will however remain with our club as a member and join in when needed. Both he and Diane are involved in other interests such as helping out at the local food bank and travels to see their daughters in Alberta and Manitoba. Music,

however, is still on his radar. He is the leader of the “Ukrainian Prairie Band”. This is a smaller group that also entertains at venues and plays at dances. They specialize in ethnic cultural music.

Ed continues to be well thought of by all the members of the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers and a good friend to all.

Submitted by Rosalie Eeg



WOW am I tired, the Kamloops Contest, I feel, was a great success.

I want to put a HUGE Thank you to **all the Volunteers** that put their best foot forward, from the people that did the sound, setup, take down, kitchen staff, sales staff, 50/50 people, front door people, back up musicians, Auditors, Registration staff, finance person, Practice room people, overhead people and the great fiddlers, who helped make it all happen.



I can never say thanks enough to the members of the BC Old Time Fiddlers for every area were represented here in Kamloops, from the Island to the North. The contest was a great way to catch up with old friends and find new ones. We also had a contestant who's hometown is in the Northwest Territories.

The province is just so busy

•Prince George is celebrating their 50th year of incorporation with the BCOTF on November 10, 2018, mark it on your calender!

•Kamloops put on their 30th Fiddle contest though not having one since 2012

•Canadian Grand Masters in be in Abbotsford August 23 – 25, 2019 the first time ever that this event is being hosted in British Columbia

•Quesnel Fiddle Contest on October 6th, 2018

•Kelowna is looking forward to their Fiddle Contest in June 2019

•Dances, Picnics, Jamborees, Senior homes, Fall Fairs, practices

•Fiddler Workshops all over the province, so many that I feel if I were to start to mention them I would miss a few!!!

It is nice to see the event information on the calender, so that the people that are traveling can always see what this great province has to offer

to the fiddling community. Please go have a look and if you have an event in your area that you want to add to the calendar just drop us a line.

Also I would like to put out a thank you to all the branches that have been updating their website on <http://bcfiddlers.com> people should go have a look and see what is happening.

Again if there is anything that you would like us to be doing a little different please contact

myself or any member of our board, we are all always willing to listen!!!

Your president, Jackie Davis



This is the start of a new era. It was decided at the last AGM by a motion and a vote that this newsletter would no longer be printed and mailed out to the various branches. The newsletter will still be done on the same schedule, it will be put up on the web for those who like to read it there and it will be sent to each of the branches in pdf format. Each branch can then decide how to handle the distribution at their end. They could send each member a pdf copy, or they could print through someone's personal printer or by a printing service.

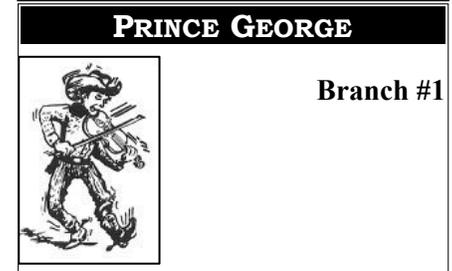
There are a lot of options doing it this way and I hope it works better for all. If you have any concerns please let me know.

It was a busy summer for Lynn and I as we went to camps to learn new tunes and meet people that we haven't seen since last

summer. I was certainly a smoky summer but I don't have to tell anyone that, the good news is that we shared it all the way to Ontario.

Your editor John Tribe

BRANCH NEWS



The most exciting news from Branch #1 is that we are gearing up for a November 10th BIG CELEBRATION to mark our 50th year since incorporation! In 1968 a group of fiddlers in Prince George who regularly jammed together at Max Sexsmith's decided to form a constitution and create the BC Old Time Fiddlers. It was felt that if they were incorporated there may be grant money available to assist the young people in their learning. Today the only one remaining of the original founders' group is our bass player, Jim Dow. There have been many dedicated people over the past 50 years who have helped to make the club the vibrant organization that it is today, both provincially and locally, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment to promoting and encouraging fiddling in the community and the youth, and for their

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:

ONE YEAR (3 ISSUES) \$13.00 For U.S.A. destinations please add \$2.00 shipping charges. Send your cheque or money order with mailing details to the following:
Our Web Site <http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

**FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTIONS**
c/o 110 - 3788 BIRD PLACE
KELOWNA BC
V1W 4T3

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER OF
(FEB 2019) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN JAN 15TH, 2019.**

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

Followed by
Branch #5 Surrey
Branch #7 Kelowna
Branch #8 Merritt

enthusiasm and hard work.

Anticipating a large crowd, we already have posters up, tickets are selling, and we have booked the Columbus Community Centre at 7201 Domano Blvd, Prince George. We will have photo books dating back to the seventies on display, and other memorabilia and decorations. Our plan for the evening is **DOORS** 5 pm, **DINNER** 6 pm, **CONCERT** 7 pm, **DANCE** 8-12 pm. We are gathering together as many of the fiddlers from the early years as we can locate, and are asking them to play some of the old-time fiddle tunes at the dance, as well as to perform one or two numbers in the concert, which will feature original tunes *by* members or *about* members or the local area, interspersed with a script describing the evolution of the club over the last 50 years. There will be tunes by Max and Len Sexsmith, Art Lindstrom, Dave Bowman and Daniel Lapp, to name a few, and other tunes being considered are Calvin Vollrath's 'Prince George Jig' and his tunes named for Sydney Wilson and Jimmy Dow, as well as Mark Sullivan's 'Pineview Waltz' and Colin Butchart's 'Up to Prince'. If you are a fiddler who previously played with the Prince George club and would like to take part, please contact us. As well, we encourage all club members in the province to make this event a priority – it's a long weekend, so please think

about coming up to Prince George and join our celebration!

Over the summer a group of fiddlers and accompanists entertained at the Mike Morris Garden Party (Mike is our MLA), and this weekend a group will play at a special Farmer's Market event downtown. We continue to play regularly at many of the local senior residences and Cancer Lodge. Our Thursday night jams and group lessons have resumed after the summer break and will carry on for the season until the end of June. They are held 7 – 9:30 pm at the Elder Citizen's Rec Centre, 1692 – 10th Ave and everyone is welcome to join in with a fiddle or another instrument, or just come to listen and dance.

Upcoming Fiddlers dances are Sept 15 and Oct 20 at 8 pm at our new venue, the Elks Community Hall at 663 Douglas St. We are hoping to draw more people out by moving the dances into town and avoiding the late-night dark icy/snowy country roads. We have a special Ice Cream Social Family Dance on Sept 28 at the Eagles Hall, and there will be no regular Fiddlers dances in Nov and Dec but they will resume the third Saturdays of Jan-Feb-March. Then it's time for our Annual Jamboree in April, with concert, workshops and family dance; watch the website in the New Year for more information. If you are passing through Prince George I hope you will try to coordinate your

visit with one of our jams, dances or Jamboree!

Submitted by, Beth Bressette



Greetings from Quesnel,

With the last few days of heavy frost, it seems our summer of smoke, fires, and evacuation alerts is over.

The 25th year of the BC Fiddle 'Treat at Gavin Lake was held on July 16-22, a week earlier than our usual date but that did not affect attendance or enthusiasm. From its beginning in Wells in 1994 with 6 instructors and 35 students, we have grown to a camp of 200 including 150 students of all ages, family members, instructors, kitchen staff and volunteers. Students came from all parts of BC, and as far away as Halifax and Washington State. Instructors Gordon Stobbe from Nova Scotia, and JJ Guy from Saskatchewan were back again to join the line-up of some of BC's most gifted instructors* who took on the task of teaching fiddle, piano, guitar, mandolin, accordion, and banjo. Gordon Stobbe takes on extra responsibilities by organizing evening events, especially teaching and calling square and pattern dances. We're proud to

acknowledge he is the 2018 recipient of the Order of Canada. A special treat was having Kimberley Holmes from Nova Scotia as a fiddle instructor. She is well known in the fiddle world having performed, taught, and toured extensively in the eastern provinces. Art Daher, the luthier who has helped us in the past has retired and passed his job on to Robbie Short from Vernon. We hope he will be back again next year.

Thanks to Daniel Lapp for getting the instructors, Gertrude Uri from Prince George who helped us find kitchen staff, Pete Amyoony from Dunster and Brian Garland from Williams Lake for a variety of services. We are fortunate to have students that also help by donating garden produce, eggs, meat, and baking. Marie Gibbons from Williams Lake baked and donated 100 dozen cookies!! It all helps and is really appreciated.

BC Fiddle Treat 2019 dates are July 27 to Aug 2.

*Other instructors were- Ivonne Hernandez, Mike Sanyshyn, Colin Butchart, Courtney Campbell, Brittany Iwanciwski, Ingrid Johnson, Anita Mamela, Cloe Nakahara, Greg Nixon, Jenny Ritter, Doug Borden, Charlie Gannon, Gordie Sadler, Beverley Eggen, Emmett Hodgins.

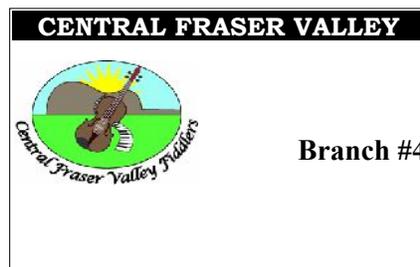
Anita Mamela, Loraine Marshall, and Jean Gelinas attended the Kamloops Contest

on Sept 8th. Congratulations to Anita and Loraine who both competed and did a fine job. The Kamloops contest committee also did a fine job. It was a most enjoyable weekend. Our own contest is coming up Oct 5-6 at the Legion Hall. It's our 48th Annual and we're hoping for a good turnout.

Our musicians played for the farmers' market, fall fair, and for a wedding in Barkerville. They continue to meet regularly to learn new tunes and improve their skills.

'til next time,

Submitted by, Jean Gelinas



We are again entering into our fall sessions. Where did the time go? It has been quite the summer! More fires and more smoke. We continue to think of all those that have been affected by these terrible fires.

The Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers have been on our summer break for July & August but we must go back to May/June when this newsletter is to begin. I mentioned in a previous letter that the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers produced a new CD called the "Milk Cow Blues". This CD has 25 of our favorite

tunes. We are very proud of this endeavor and thank Ed Ryz for all the encouragement and direction we have received. In May we performed at a local market as a way to launch our CD. We didn't have the sales we would have liked but we were received whole heartedly by the listeners with dancing and much applause. In June, we had two successful dances with 55 dancers on June 2nd and a whopping 74 dancers on June 30. We have tremendous support from our dancers some of whom are volunteers who make these dances possible. They go above and beyond, setting up, selling tickets, the fabulous food and of course the cleanup. Thank you all.

We again had the privilege of playing for the Knights of Columbus on June 16th and enjoyed a wonderful spaghetti dinner with all the fixings with them. Nothing like food and music to bring people together. We look forward to another event with them in September.

A number of us went camping this summer (before the smoke hit us). We had a great time! On the long weekend of August, we celebrated Frieda deHaan's birthday at one of our campouts. Her Hubby, Sid organizes horseshoe tournaments on all of the camping trips. The weather was very hot but we managed to keep cool sitting under the lovely shady trees. Most evenings were spent jamming. Some of the

others took vacations away from home. Rod and Elaine made a trip to Atlantic Canada touring all the great places. A wonderful holiday for them after spending a year recuperating from the heart attack Rod had in June 2017.

Our summer potluck/picnic/jam with the gang was held on August 11th at the deHaan clubhouse. Gosh it was nice to see everyone again and enjoy both playing and listening to the fantastic fiddle music not to mention the food! There were some members that we hadn't seen since June. What a great bunch. We took the occasion to honour Ed and Diane Ryz. Ed will be stepping aside as music director beginning September. There is a lot of commitment needed to be in charge of the music, weekly practices, play outs and dances. He has done a tremendous job all these years. The Ryzs would like to have some freedom of time to pursue other interests and perhaps travel but will remain part of our group. We are happy to announce that Jo Blaak will become the new music director so we know we will be in good hands.

Cedarbrooke Assisted Living senior home in Mission very kindly offered us a room to meet for our Wednesday night jams again this year. It's a great way to get together for those who are home and want to practice during the summer months. Thank you Cedarbrooke! We will continue our usual weekly practices at the

Hallmark Assisted Living in Abbotsford on September 12th.

We are pleased that Kai Gronberg is back home and will be teaching at CVAM. He had a great summer winning first in the John Arcand Fiddle Fest (19-54) and championship at the Prairie West Fiddle Contest in Alberta.

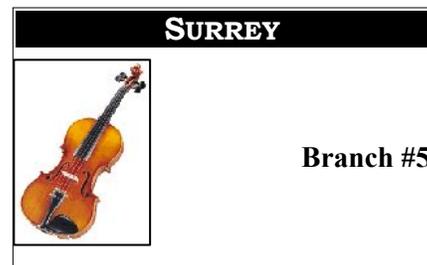
Our President Vivienne Chin attended this year's Canadian Grand Masters which took place in Ottawa at the Shenkman Arts Centre on the 25th August. It was just a wonderful experience and she was so very impressed with the talent and skills of all contestants. They all seem to have nerves of steel and played with such focus and determination. The event kicked off with the preliminaries at noon and ended at about 10:30pm with the announcement of the winners and a jolly jam by all the contestants. Branch 4 was proud of their youth member Lia Gronberg who performed so well and who made it into the finals and came in 8th place! Vivienne and her husband Yvon had a meal during the dinner break with former President of Branch 4, Keith Wilson, who was also attending the event. Our club is excited that the 2019 Canadian Grand Masters is coming to Abbotsford and look forward to welcoming all BCOTFA members to it!

Don't forget to continue to check out our website centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com

and our facebook page for current and upcoming news and events.

Have a wonderful fall and and early "Merry Christmas" to you all.

Submitted by, Rosalie Eeg



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers.

This Summer's weather pattern was not what we expected, with record breaking temperatures, extreme dry conditions, causing forest fires throughout the province and heavy smoke, making it difficult to breathe for a lot of people with health issues.

Our Summer break was quiet and relaxing, without any dances or play outs, with the exception of our potluck picnic and fiddle jam, which was held on August 12, at Sunnyside hall in South Surrey. This event turned out to be great as it is every year and appreciated by everyone who attended. Approximately sixty to seventy people attended our picnic, bringing with them, a wonderful variety of tasty food which was enjoyed by everyone. Our fiddler's also provided the lively dance music, before and after the meal, which went over well with all the dancers.

Our daytime dance, after our

summer break, was held on September 4, at Don Christian Recreation Centre Hall in Surrey. The attendance was not as great as we expected after a Labour Day long weekend, but 26 dancers were enough to cover the hall rent.

Our member, Mike Sanyshyn has recently been nominated for Fiddle Player of the Year Award at the upcoming Canadian Country Music Awards Event, which will be held in Hamilton, Ont. on Sept. 6 – 9th.

Mike has also been nominated for Fiddle and Mandolin Player of the year at the B.C. Country Music Awards which will be held on October 21, at the Hard Rock Casino. Mike and his wife Tianna have also been nominated for their “Jackson Hollow Blue Grass Band” and Gaylord Wood Traditional / Roots Award and Group of the Year. Tianna, has also been nominated for the BCCMA Female Vocalist of the year.

Congratulations go out to them from all of our Surrey Fiddlers.



Eugene Blouin

On August 25, of this year, we lost our Life Time Member, Eugene Blouin, at the age of 92 . Eugene, known as (Gene Blouin) to all of his friends and fiddle players that knew him, was instrumental in starting the Surrey Fiddler’s Branch # 5 ,which was first known as the West Coast Fiddlers, started in 1976 and then changed to Branch # 5 Surrey Fiddlers, in March of 1982.

Gene Blouin was well known throughout British Columbia, as he competed in many fiddle contests, winning many trophies and was also qualified and in demand to judge at contests

throughout the province for many years. Gene’s musical talents did not stop with playing the violin, he also played piano, Guitar and bass. He was a very friendly, good natured and honest person, respected by everyone who knew him. We will all miss him.

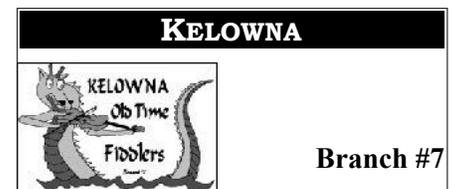
Gene also held the position of President, of the Surrey Branch # 5 fiddlers in 1981, 82, 86 and 1987. Gene was also a member of the Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers.

Our Condolences go out to his wife, Barbara and Family.

Services for Gene will be held on October 14, 2:00 pm ,at the Sunrise Golf Course, at 5640 – 188 St. in Surrey.

“Until the next edition”

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*



Well here we are at the end of another hot and dry summer. There were ideal conditions for the hundreds of forest fires through all of BC. Lightning strikes are uncontrollable, but so many are human caused. Our gratitude goes out to those thousands of fire fighters. It has to be one of the most dangerous and downright miserable jobs in the world. To all those who lost homes or other property, our deepest sympathy.

Our fiddle fest was well organized and attracted a good crowd. President, Irene. and her sister, Carol, operated the kitchen with several helping members Beverly Broten; Karen Omit; & Bev Allen to name a few.

FIDDLE FEST RESULTS

Little Junior

1. Levi Apperloo
2. Lukas Gwillim

Junior

1. Jaden Apperloo
2. Etienne Gouws
3. Caiya Taylor-Ainslie
4. Jessa Cleveland
5. Rachel Siddall
6. Tyson Dery

Youth

1. Nolan Macfarlane
2. Neela Rader
3. Exton Harding
4. Angelica Phelan

Intermediate

1. Heather Bartel
2. Shelly Thierman

Championship

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

Open

1. Hunter Grosse Pearen
2. Craig Freeman
3. Lynn Tribe

Senior

1. Harley Jensen
2. John Tribe
3. Marshal Fedorak
4. Wayne Angman

Twin Fiddling

1. Kai Gronberg & Lia Gronberg
2. Chloe Davidson & Michael Burnyeat
3. Hunter Grosse Pearen & Exton Harding
4. Ken Emery & Harley Jensen

Out of Province

1. Ken Emery

2. Ramona Bailey

Peoples Choice

Jaden Apperloo & Exton Harding

A major thanks to all our members that pitched in for all the many chores it takes to run a contest. Without all the contestants who travel a great distance to compete, there would be no contest. Lynn Tribe & Karen Omit were the organizers along with their helpers. Vic our long time M/C also supplies the sound equipment which are no small jobs. A big thanks to all of the above.

Our first big event of the summer is always July 1st at Prospera Place to a huge crowd. The sound system was a problem this year, so it affected our performance. We try and take the summer off so members can travel and some attend workshops around the country. John & Lynn Tribe are regulars at most of these. Our regular play dates started September 3rd and continue for 16 more for the rest of the month.

The Rutland Activity Centre was torched by some young people that had nothing better to do. At least they were caught on video cameras, so we hope the court system will send the right message to them. The damage was extensive in the pool hall, smoke and water damage in the dance hall. We don't expect to re-enter until mid November. The Knights of Columbus have rented the basement to practice in, and hold the September 22nd dance

upstairs. It is being demolished the end of September for a new venture. We are in need of a temporary location for October and November.

September 9th was our annual BBQ and jam session and it was well attended in Mission Creek park. Four little mice were also dashing about picking up a few crumbs.

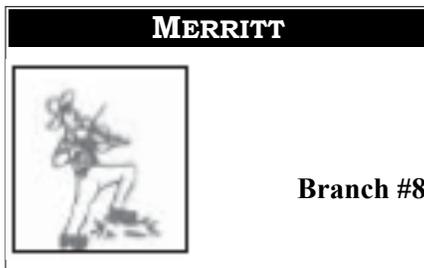
Irene, our president and member Mabel Babcock had unfortunate falls lately and injured knees & elbows. It happens so easy as the years go by. Irene had an unexpected trip to Regina at attend a family funeral. Wayne & Pauline Angman had an enjoyable trip to Newfoundland. They saw lots of button accordions but no fiddles.

I wasn't able to get to the Kamloops contest due to other commitments, but Vice President, Vic Ukrainetz, along with John & Lynn entered and brought home some prize money. Vic was first in the Open and John was second in the seniors. Reports were good in general and also on consistent judging, way to go Kamloops.

Hoping to be back in our usual location soon. All the best to our branch families to keep the old time song and dance alive.

Sincerely, Russ Gerrie

p.s. Those who are young at heart never grow old.

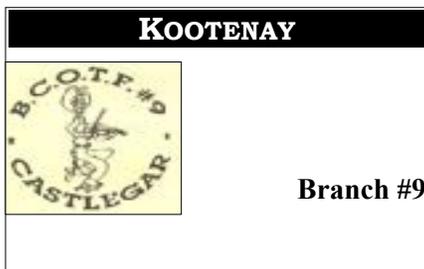


Merritt Old time Fiddlers has been inactive since our campout in May. The campout was very successful with 42 rigs in attendance. Again our auction was a huge success and lots of fun outbidding each other. All monies raised will be donated. Many thanks to the musicians who played.

We regret to announce the passing of long time member, Danny Chorney and a new executive member, Ed Collins. Our sympathy goes out to the families. Donna Chorney and her daughter Debbie Werbowski, who recently lost her husband, have moved to Rockyford, AB and they will be sadly missed.

Hope everyone had a good summer in spite of the smoke and heat.

Submitted by, Del Lawrence



A big Kootenay Autumn Hello to all fellow BC Fiddle Branches.

As always, the summer seemingly flew by and we are

now in Back-To-School mode.

Our first outdoor gig of the summer was to play at the Aboriginal Day celebration in Trail, at their lovely Gyro Park. This happened the afternoon of Father's Day, Sunday, June 17th. Aboriginal Day is a day recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. It's just so darned nice to see the youth carry on traditions and appreciate the music. We teamed up with the Rossland Golden Fiddlers for this event and we formed a big strong ensemble. Thank you to Debra Schiavon and Richie Mann for leading the band!

The biggest news to share is the great success and fun of our **17th Annual 2018 Fiddle, Guitar and Piano Workshop** held July 9th-13th in Castlegar. There were about 70 students this year participating in fiddle, piano and guitar workshops and we were pleased to see a few more youth taking part in the camp this year. The camp is held at Selkirk College and as such we are quite spoiled with having access to air conditioned rooms and really good on-campus dorms for those visiting from afar. It is a great week with such upbeat fun and jamming and also to reconnect with familiar fiddle friends such as John and Lynn from Kelowna, Barbara from Port Alberni and Ann from Greenwood. Thank you to all those on the committee to make this event such a

success...particularly to Chuck Cram (our IT guy as well as sound equipment expert), Sandra Milosevich, Denise Chernoff, Gary Shannon, Kate Enewold, Shelley Buxton, Pat West, Sheila Vockeroth and Kathy Markin. We are all geared up to making it bigger and better next year!

The Trail and District Arts and Council, as they have done every year since the beginning of Music in the Park, closed their summer outdoor *Music in the Park* season with The Old Time Fiddlers. So on August 30th on a beautiful evening, we performed along with the Rossland Golden Fiddlers (led by Richie Mann). It was good to dust off the instruments and play together once again. Thanks to the lead of our most talented Debra Schiavon, we pulled off another good performance!

Upcoming on October 30th, our Branch will be presenting Canada's fiddling sensation, Calvin Vollrath, with special guests Jeremy Rusu and Rhea Labrie. This event will be happening at the Charles Bailey Theatre in Trail. I am particularly excited to see Jeremy Rusu. Blind since birth, Jeremy is a musical genius and is a multi-instrumentalist. Then on November 28th, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, along with their children, will be stopping in Trail along their tour, *A Celtic Family Christmas*.

Our Kootenay #9 gathered for

a quick meeting, potluck supper and practice at the end of August. Election of Executive took place at that time. Gary Shannon remains as President, Sandra Milosevich remains as Treasurer, Kathy Markin remains as Secretary. You can imagine it was a very quick re-election process! One new incumbent is Shelley Buxton who will now take over as Correspondence Officer and will be submitting to the BCOTF Newsletter after this one.

So to that end, thank you to all my Kootenay #9 members who supported my dabble in this newsletter business...I have really enjoyed it...but time for a new perspective!

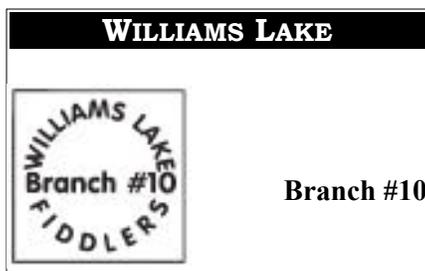
As always, I end with a joke.

An A-Flat, and a G-Flat and a B-Flat walk into a Bar.

The Bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve Minors"

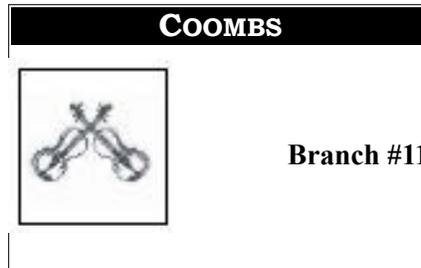
Wishing you all a Healthy, Jamming and Musical Autumn!

Submitted by, Kathy Markin



I've received word from Pat that due to scheduling problems (vacation) there will be no report from Williams Lake but promises an entry for the next issue.

Submitted by Pat Gunderson



A big hello to all.

Branch 11 has had a very busy but fun summer. In June we played at the trout pond in behind the Coombs Rodeo grounds.

Seniors from around the area were bussed in to enjoy fishing.

The competition was fierce as to which senior's residence would catch the biggest fish. They also enjoyed a bag lunch and of course Old Time fiddle music.

The branch performed at the Coombs Bluegrass Festival on three separate days and the Coombs Fair in August. We also got together every Wednesday afternoon in July and August and played our tunes at the Coombs Market.

We enjoyed a nice pot luck at Roy Bocek's acreage. It was a nice day with great food as everyone brought their favourite dish. A big Thank You to Roy and Bonnie.

It is now September and we are all looking forward to performing at nine of the senior residences in our area. Branch 11 will resume the practice sessions at the McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville. We get together in a large old school room the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We

usually end the afternoon by going for coffee and sorting out the problems of the fiddle world. Starting Friday, September 21st Branch 11 will be the opening group for the Coombs Opera. This will be followed by our annual Jamboree on Saturday, September 22nd. We are delighted to have Quinton Etheridge-Pedden as our featured performer. We welcome all other Branches in our area to come and join us for a music filled day.

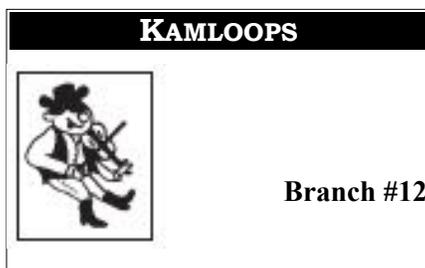
Our dances at the Rotary Hall in Qualicum Beach will commence on October 4th and continue every Thursday evening. We cannot wait for the snowbirds from the Prairies to come join us and kick up their heels.

We are proud and very happy to have Angela Maharajh as a member of our club. Angela is an accomplished fiddler who played lead in the Celtic Roots/Rock band THE CLANNS, a very popular Vancouver Island group. Angela is also a fiddle teacher who is now teaching her students Old Time fiddle music. Her students have played with Branch 11 at the annual Bluegrass Festival in Coombs and were well received. They have also joined us at the Coombs Opera and Market. It has been a very long time since this club has had children perform on stage with them, it was delightful. This club will do all that it can to encourage young

fiddlers on their musical journey.

Happy Trails

*Submitted by Tom Elliott
tomarg333@gmail.com*



We're back from our summer break and have just held our first "Fiddle Competition" in many years. We had nineteen talented fiddlers, a lot of volunteer work to stage this event from KOTF #12 and of course from other BC chapters. We've enclosed a few



Any one of these competitors for the Championship at the Kamloops Contest would make us proud at the Grand Master's!

pictures, but we really could have filled the whole BC Fiddler magazine. Our Friday Jam and Saturday dance had the most fiddlers I've ever seen in Kamloops playing at one time.

It was a special treat to have Leo Ready judge and play for us, since he was a mainstay of KOTF # 12 for many years. Thanks also



FRIDAY JAM AT THE CONTEST

to the other judges Shamma Sabir, Keith Hill and John Tribe, also to Jean Gelinis and others for accompaniment.

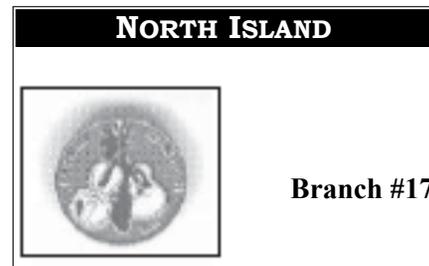
I'm sure we're going to try and make this Competition an annual event, we've been away for too long. It is also an excellent way to promote our club in BC and locally, just to let everyone know we're still " alive and kickin' ".



CONTEST VOLUNTEERS

Our Fall session should be a busy one and looks promising ,as we've added more fiddlers. I should have a lot more to report next time around.

Submitted By Dave Lynn



Here goes for another kick at the cat, the wind is blowing hard outside and we in the Comox Valley are experiencing our first storm of the Fall & Winter, time to get back into the swing of action with our Branch 17 Fiddle group. We already started back with the Care Homes and will soon be having our first dance of the season, hoping everyone will dust off their dancing shoes and come out and listen or better still we will be lucky enough to add a few more Fiddlers to our dwindling group.

I had a trying experience the other day and will get off the Fiddle topics and tell you as you probably can say - yes for sure this has happened to me. All of a sudden our Netflix started to appear in Polish, both Audio and Language, now as I am the one who is designated to do this in our household, I set out to solve the problem, it did not matter what I did or tried it kept showing up with the same features, husband Glen very patient but content to play his fiddle while I went about entering passwords and going in programs to no avail, friend Charles came in and gave it a try, no luck, we put it aside and visited and I again went back to putting in

passwords and pushing buttons, finally decided to go to the Netflix HELP, got on their chat and a fellow asked me different questions and as we have four TVs in the house and I was working from the computer I had to go room to room trying to remember what in the heck I was supposed to be doing to each one, I would come back to the Chat and message from him was: are you still with me, chat is going to end, yes yes I typed still here, more instructions and then all of a sudden he was ended, on my own I then went to each and tried to sign in and all of a sudden wham bam it was working, we once again had English that we could read and understand. I was totally worn out but so please that I at 80 years old finally able to do something a school kid could do in minutes. Must say I admire the Chat fellow.

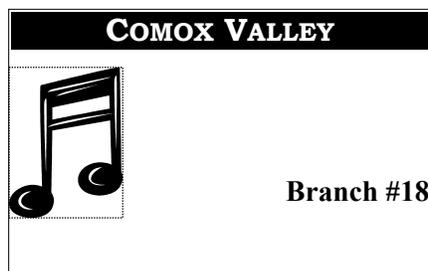
Back to the topic of the day, Fiddling, we are looking forward to going to Coombs to meet up with all from that Branch once again and to those from other clubs who come out to this Jamboree. Also just read that the Port Alberni group won 1st prize for the float they put into the parade so congratulations to them. Also congratulations to Kamloops for another Fiddle Contest and to everyone who participated. One year Glen & I and Fred Denhart and his wife went to all the contests held in B.C. it was good to get to see and hear all the talented Fiddlers,

at that time there was very few young Fiddlers and we did notice one that we thought was outstanding, his name was Mike Sanyshyn and I am so glad to see he is now nominated for best Fiddle player at the Canadian Country Music Awards.

I also am wondering how this new format for the Fiddlers News is going to work out and hoping the branch members keep printing it out for their club.

I also hope each one of you reading this had a good summer with lots of pleasant memories.

Lorraine for Charles Kucey



Our Fiddlejam sessions ended in May and we enjoyed CelticFest at Black Creek while Trent and The Fretless were on tour in Edinburgh. Craig managed to make it to the fiddle contest in Kelowna where our esteemed fiddle club member, Michael Burnyeat, managed to nail down the Championship. (In contrast, Craig staggered into 2nd place in the Open category but was delighted to receive a small award). In August, Michael represented BC at the Canadian Grand Masters and came in 4th so he is representing BC in fine style.

July brought on Vancouver Island Musicfest here in the Comox Valley and a small band of Fiddlejam musicians roamed about the site playing short, pop up concerts for the audience.



What a great time that was and the players got to hang with the other musicians backstage, musicians like Ry Cooder, Passenger and The Fretless.

Back at the Big Yellow Merville hall, the outer buildings, (the 103 year old church and manse), have been externally painted and interior renovations are on for the fall. This is happening to prepare for the 100 Year Celebration of the founding of the Merville Soldier Settlement in 2019. We've even invited members of the Royal Family to attend and plan to have some great musical entertainment from our local fiddlers.

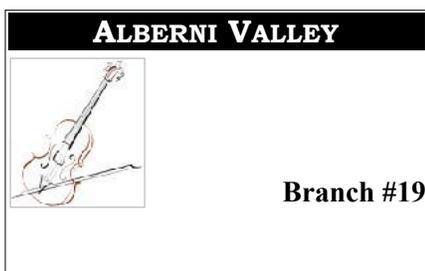
August saw the fiddlers and band march up to the Casa Loma Seniors' Village and play a lively set for the residents. Those folks love our youthful playing and eagerly book us every couple of months. That gig was followed by our band of itinerant musicians playing on the main

stage of the weekend long Comox Valley Exhibition. We had a good turnout of dynamic players and a very appreciative audience which I am sure was there only to hear our mellifluous music and not just there for the RCMP Musical Ride that was immediately after our sizzling set.

Our first Fiddlejam session of the season was last evening and we are excited to have Daisy back with us as a player and leader. She has moved back to the Valley, has set up shop as a Suzuki Violin teacher and will be encouraging her young charges to participate in our musical mayhem. That is great as it is the youth that will keep the music fresh and evolving.

So that is it from this end of the musical Comox Valley. Happy Fall, everyone, and keep those bows rosined.

Submitted by Craig Freeman



So much for hoping for a summer of moderate temperatures. Instead, we were dealt extreme heat with an excess of forest fires producing smoky air. Such an atmosphere of uncertainty for so many people. Very stressful situations for so many and we

hope everyone has come through okay. With the dry, sunny weather we did move our weekly Monday practice to the Harbour Quay at the beginning of June to provide music for locals and tourists.

We did a few extra gigs this summer, like the July 1st entertainment arranged by the Folkfest Society. This was also held down at the Quay and there were lots of people attending to listen to the music as well as check out the craft booths, foods, and other entertainments. In early July the Jane Austen Society asked us to play for a Family Dance being held in Roger Creek Park. It was a sunny day and many people attended in their elaborate costumes, ready to enjoy a relaxed afternoon. A dance caller came from Victoria to lead a variety of styles of dance, suitable for many ages. Members of the Jane Austen Society provided some delicious picnic snacks for we musicians as we finished playing. Sooo good!

July was also the month we chose to play for Tea on The Terrace at the Rollin Art Centre. There was a small but appreciative audience that day. The high temperatures were a bit discouraging for some people, so attendance tended to be down a bit this year.

It was very nice at the beginning of August to have a couple of members of the Central

Fraser Valley club stop by to listen to us for a while. They made contact with us, but unfortunately I didn't get their names. We wished they had had their instruments with them, to play a few tunes with us. Another time hopefully.

Our new mainstay piano player, Valerie Maher, has certainly been getting a workout this summer, as she becomes familiar with our repertoire. She is doing a great job, getting those tunes locked into her memory, bit by bit. A lot of work. Nice for Louise and I to be able to get back to our fiddles and just fill in on piano now and again.

Labour Day was our last play-out at the Quay for this year, and the schedules for the next several months have been arranged. We seemed to be jumping right in to a full schedule, as on the Wednesday we played for the first of our Care Home audiences, followed by a Thursday evening performance at the Fall Fair. Luckily the day was warm, dry and sunny and there were lots of people attending on this first night, which is geared towards seniors.

This year we also decided to go in the Fall Fair Parade, a first time for us. Pete Geddes from the Heritage Tractor Club volunteered to provide a flat deck and be our driver. He did an excellent job, with no sudden starts or stops, although we did

have to hang on to Tom before we even started down the street. There were eleven of us on this 8 x 16 trailer and we had a super time. Lots of smiles and thumbs up from the audience lining the street, and the bonus of a Blue

Ribbon from the judges.

Now it is time to settle in to the regular program of play-outs and practices, and trying to add some new pieces to the repertoire. Hope this cooler,

wetter weather brings some ease to many residents in the province. The rest of us have to remember not to complain of the rain too quickly. Enjoy a busy, productive Fall. Happy fiddling.

Submitted by Gail Ross

**GREETINGS
FROM THE QUESNEL
OLD TIME FIDDLERS
BR # 3**

The Quesnel Club, Branch #3 welcomes you to their 48nd Annual Fiddle Contest.

CONTEST Saturday
October 6th 2018.

LOCATION: Royal
Canadian Legion Hall,
262 Kinchant St .

REGISTRATION:
9.00am PARTICIPANTS
MEETING 10.30am

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

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

**SUPPER AND
DANCE TO FOLLOW
TROPHY
PRESENTATION.**

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

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

**2018 PRIZE
MONEY AND
TROPHY LIST**

**1st Champ \$300 &
trophy**

**2nd Champ \$225 &
trophy**

**3rd Champ \$150 &
trophy**

1st Open \$225 & trophy

2nd Open \$150 & trophy

3rd Open \$100 & trophy

**1st Intermed. \$125 &
trophy**

**2nd Intermed. \$100 &
trophy**

**3rd Intermed. \$75 &
trophy**

**1st Seniors \$175 &
trophy**

**2nd Senior \$125 &
trophy**

**3rd Seniors \$100 &
trophy**

1st Youth \$75 & trophy

2nd Youth \$50 & trophy

3rd Youth \$25 & trophy

**1st Junior \$25 &
medallion**

**2nd Junior \$15 &
medallion**

**3rd Junior \$10 &
medallion**

**1st Little J. \$20 &
medallion**

**2nd Little J. \$15 &
medallion**

**3rd Little J \$10 &
medallion**

**1st, 2nd, 3rd Novice
trophy**
**1st, 2nd, 3rd, Twin
trophy**

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parking available on site.

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Dinner, Concert and Dance

Featuring Guest Fiddlers

SATURDAY, NOV. 10, 2018

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY CENTRE

7201 Domano Blvd., Prince George

Doors 5pm • Dinner 6pm

TICKETS: \$35 (6-12 yrs: \$20)

******* Early-Bird price to Sept. 30: \$30 *******

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Dance only tickets at the door after 8:30pm: \$15

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www.facebook.com/pgfiddle  (250) 565-1025



**34th GRAND NORTH AMERICAN
OLD TIME FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP**
Held on July 20 – 22, 2018 at Radway, Alberta
2018 WINNERS

JUNIOR JUNIOR (9 & under)		INTERMEDIATE (19 – 54)	
1 st	Kasen Hutscal – Edmonton, AB	1 st	Ben Gaudreault – Leduc, AB
2 nd	Amyra Purchase – Strome, AB	2 nd	Jeff Miller - Woodstock, ON
3 rd	Tristian Li – Edmonton, AB	3 rd	Maryann Borch – Leduc County, AB
JUNIOR (10 – 14)		ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE (19 – 54)	
1 st	Caleb Hunt – Edmonton, AB	1 st	Troy Gates – Sturgeon County, AB
2 nd	Shade Celina Clark – Vegreville, AB	2 nd	Laurie Maetche – Lacombe, AB
3 rd	Morgan Koncur – Ardrossan, AB	3 rd	Bill Cameron – West Brookfield, VT USA
4 th	Zachary Willier – Edmonton, AB	4 th	Jackson Corry – Red Deer, AB
5 th	Haley Koncur – Ardrossan, AB	5 th	Claire Lecocq – Calgary, AB
YOUTH (15 – 18)		ALBERTA OPEN (any age)	
1 st	Samuel Corry – Red Deer, AB	1 st	Alex Kusturok – St. Paul, AB
2 nd	Laura Wallbank – Sturgeon County, AB	2 nd	Laurie Maetche – Lacombe, AB
3 rd	Rigel Borch – Leduc County, AB	3 rd	Caleb Hunt – Edmonton, AB
4 th	Matthew Salsbury – Lacombe, AB	4 th	Laura Wallbank – Sturgeon County, AB
		5 th	Jarred Albright – Calgary, AB
SENIOR (55 – 69)		TRADITIONAL (any age)	
1 st	Barb Haney – High River, AB	1 st	Eric Provencher – Oshawa, ON
2 nd	Frank Grell – Edmonton, AB	2 nd	Ben Gaudreault – Leduc, AB
3 rd	Charlie Gargus – Mundare, AB	3 rd	Morgan Koncur – Ardrossan, AB
4 th	Leonard Swanson – Edmonton, AB	4 th	Zachary Willier – Edmonton, AB
GOLDEN (70 & over)		CHAMPIONSHIP (any age)	
1 st	Brian Granger – Nesbitt, MB	1 st	Eric Provencher – Oshawa, ON
2 nd	John Kusick – Two Hills, AB	2 nd	Alex Kusturok – St. Paul, AB
3 rd	Mike Sabrowsky – Sherwood Park, AB	3 rd	Ethan Harty – Strome, AB
4 th	Sterling Cuthbert – Redwater, AB	4 th	Lia Gronberg – Mission, BC
5 th	Tom Gargus – Edmonton, AB	5 th	Kai Gronberg – Abbotsford, BC
TWIN HARMONY INTERMEDIATE (19 – 54)			
1 st	Laura Wallbank and Troy Gates – Sturgeon County, AB		
2 nd	Samuel Corry and Jackson Corry – Red Deer, AB		
3 rd	Lia Gronberg and Kai Gronberg – Mission, BC and Abbotsford, BC		
TWIN HARMONY SENIOR (55 & over)			
1 st	Charlie Gargus and Barb Haney – Mundare, AB and High River, AB		
2 nd	Sterling Cuthbert and Bob Cybulski – Redwater, AB and Calgary, AB		