



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

I was born ninety one years ago on a farm southwest of Pierson, Manitoba. This area was settled by a large number of Scottish people, who brought with them their music and dance patterns. As a result of this environment, I learned numerous Scottish melodies and dance patterns. At the age of ten I learned how to chord on the piano, so I was involved in chording for numerous fiddlers before I got command of the violin. Over the years, I learned to play dance music of that era. During my life, I played for Highland dancers, social parties, public dances and care homes. In 1968, I also formed a music band in Winnipeg, called the Rainbow Band, where we played for Ukrainian Weddings and legion functions until 1970. In later years, I have competed in fiddle contests, which was very enjoyable. The main benefit of playing fiddle and saxophone in my later years, has brought me in



Robert Kielhorn

contact with a lot of wonderful people. I have the good fortune of having an eight year old great grandson who is learning to play the violin. He has an excellent conscience of perfect tone and amazing ability to memorize

tunes. He is presently taking lessons once a week over the internet, from an Edmonton symphony violinist, so here's hoping that he will hang in there, to carry on. He presently lives in in 100 mile house, which is fiddle country.

I have been blessed to have four daughters, Linda Sobry, presently residing in Canosie Lake in Saskatchewan, Lorraine McDougall from Edmonton, Cynthia Prescott, from North Vancouver and Sharon Vance from 100 Mile House in British Columbia. I also have Grandsons, Granddaughters, and Great Grand Children.

Robert was a carpenter by trade and when he moved from Pierson Manitoba to British Columbia he settled in the Vancouver area, where he worked for the Vancouver International Airport and held the position as supervisor, in charge of Building maintenance, which included the

supervision of carpenters, painters and contractors. Robert retired in 1987 at the age of sixty where he could now enjoy the leisurely life of retirement.

Robert moved to the Abbotsford area after retirement and because of his passion for playing old time fiddle music, he joined the Central Fraser Valley Fiddlers in 1988 and became a member for a period of three years and later relocated to the White Rock and Surrey area. In 2003 he became a member of the Surrey Branch #5 Fiddlers, where he is still a member at the present time. During his involvement with the Surrey Fiddlers, Robert held the position of Vice President for a period of eight years. Robert still attends our monthly dances and sits in with the band every once in a while and also entertains our dance patrons with a couple of jokes and short stories.

In 2008, Robert formed a dance band called the Rhythmaires, which included Robert playing Violin and Alto Saxophone, Ester Schroder on Piano and Dennis Schroder on Bass Guitar. This band played every Friday evening at the O.A. Pensioner's hall in Abbotsford and the music they played brought in a lot of dancers, with attendance up to a hundred people at times. Unfortunately this band played for only two years due to illness with one of the band members.

Robert also played for the Haney Old Time Fiddler's dances, filling in for Len Greer, who was the lead fiddler of the band. Robert also played for some of the Old Time dances held at the O.A. Pensioner's hall in Aldergrove, B.C., with Audry Wood on Piano and Robert Hayek on Guitar.

Robert has always been a very friendly and likeable person who is well respected by all of the players and dancers who attend our Surrey Fiddlers dances and all of the Old Time Fiddler's dances held in Aldergrove. We hope that Robert continues to come out to our dances for many more years and entertain our dancers with his jokes and short stories.

E.S.



The weather has been so different this winter, so much rain and wind on Vancouver Island and my opinion not enough snow in Central BC.

- Workshops and Jamborees are starting to popup all over the province, make sure you mark the dates on your calendars.

- Excited that Kamloops will again host the Provincial Fiddlers Contest this September 2019,

there will be a few changes in the dates to September 13, 14, 2019, check out our webpage for updates as information comes available.

- Kelowna has had a few challenges on the locations of their dances this pass season, but hopefully things are starting to work their way out.

- CGM in Abbotsford 23 – 25, 2019 should be launching any day now with all the great details. The buzz around the province and across Canada is fantastic. A big thank you to Mark Sullivan for his heading this event in BC.

- We hear that the dance in Prince George celebrating their 50th year of incorporation with the BCOTF was a great success!!!

It is great to have the online copy of the BC Provincial News letter go out to so many new people!!!

I would like to say thank you to all the branches that have been updating their pages for 2019 on <http://bcfiddlers.com>, have a look and see what is happening.

Call out for people to join the BCOTF Provincial Board of Directors, let us know if you are at all interested. The more people we have from the different corners of the province helps us know what the needs and wants are. Every Branch has different requirements.

Again if there is anything that you would like us to be doing a

little different or you would like us to assist with, please contact myself or any member of our board, we are all always willing to listen.

Your president, Jackie Davis

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

I never dreamed that I would be welcoming 2019 - but here it is. I hope everyone had a good Christmas Season and a safe and sane New Years.

This last year has been quite trying for many of us with fires, floods, landslides, power outages and general mishaps. I think we should count our blessings and move on as best we can. When all is said and done we have our memories of the year gone by and our dreams for the future.

Believe it or not I really enjoy putting this newsletter together. Its a chance for me to relate one branch at a time with the happenings in their area of the province. I don't just cut and paste the newsletter but I take the time to read and to try and understand the happenings all over the province. Even though I make mistakes, I do the best that I can.

As we roll into a New Year I would imagine we're all

anticipating next summer's fiddling activities. There will be camps, jamborees, and contests.

This year BC will be hosting the biggest fiddle contest of all in Canada and that is the CGM. This contest will be held on August 23 - 25 and if you can plan a trip to the lower mainland and take in the festivities. To see and listen to some of the best fiddlers in Canada is an event you won't soon forget.

I hope to see you in our travels somewhere this summer.

Your editor John Tribe



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
(JUNE 2019) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN MAY 15TH, 2019.**

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

NEXT FEATURE ARTICLE

Branch #7 Kelowna

Followed by

Branch#8 Merritt

Branch#9 Kootenay

Branch #10 Williams Lake

BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



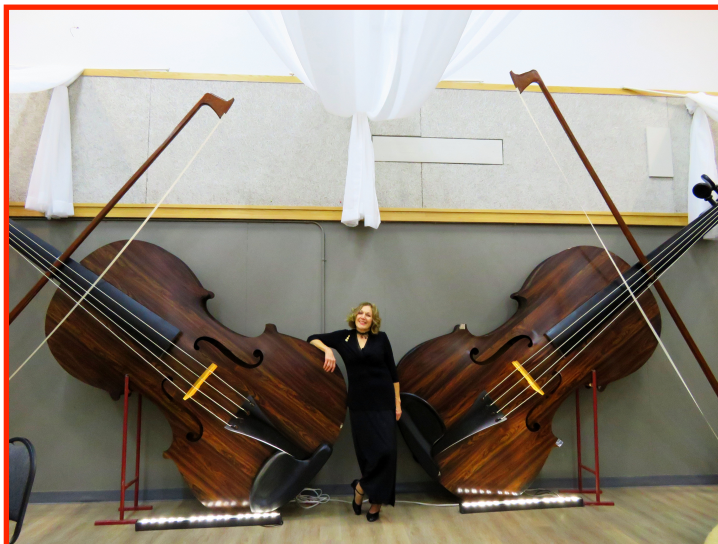
Branch #1

Branch #1 celebrated their 50th year with a party – and what a party! We were surprised and pleased to fill the hall to capacity as the community came in droves to celebrate with us. After a delicious roast beef dinner the 230+ guests were treated to a concert featuring guest fiddlers who were mostly former and current members showcasing tunes written by members from the early years (as well as a few newer tunes written about members and our PG area). The concert wound up with many of the club's children and adults crowded on stage playing Len Sexsmith's *Out the Buckhorn Way*. A dance followed, with music by our guest fiddlers, club musicians and a group from the Quesnel club. There were many beautiful quality door prizes donated and given away, new club t-shirts, a display of club photo books in the

entrance and a slide show happening in the corner, both depicting the events and memories from the past 50 years. It was special to have in attendance 7 members who were part of the club from its beginning in 1968; Jim Dow, John Ryser, Aileen St Germain, Armand and Doreen Denicola, Brian St Germain and Velma Senner, as well as Ada Brown, an active 45 year member who came all the way from Kelowna!



From homemade MINI FIDDLE cookies at each place setting to GIANT FIDDLES decorating the hall – we had both extremes at our 50th Anniversary



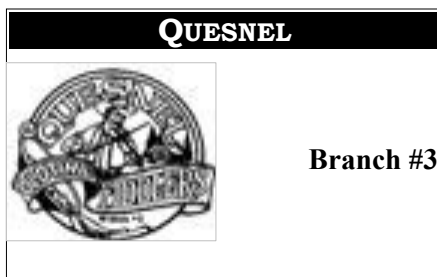
event! The big fiddles were created in 1977 and are made of real wood and strings, complete with tuning pegs. They were displayed for about thirty years at every parade and contest. Because of their phenomenal size, storage and set-up has become an issue so this event was their 'last hurrah'. They added a really special touch to our 50th and were a great topic of conversation. The hall agreed to take the fiddles for their Christmas display and ongoing - although once they saw how big they actually were they were quite astounded, so we are hoping after the winter they will agree to keep them. . . . (just in case - let us know if you want them!)

In December club musicians played for 900 seniors at MLA Shirley Bond's Seniors' Christmas Tea as well as at the Railway Museum Christmas celebrations. Our next dances will be January 19, February 16 and March 16. Jamming continues every Thursday evening. It was great to have a couple of our young people come home for Christmas – Brittany Iwanciwski is studying music at Humber College in Toronto and Jackson Williams is in the music program at Douglas College, New Westminster. Both played at senior homes and community events while in town.

We were saddened to lose long-time member Clarence Lapp on Nov 14 at the age of 88. Clarence was an Honourary Life Member of Branch #1 and joined the club with his wife, Charlotte Lapp, when their son Daniel was learning the fiddle at the age of 9. Charlotte passed away in 2012. Only four days before his passing Clarence was busy connecting with many older members at our 50th celebration. We will miss him at our jam nights. Celebration of Life: at ECRA Jan. 19 at 1 pm.

We are planning our 5th Annual Jamboree on a weekend in April – the date is not yet finalized, but watch the website. As usual we will bring in a well-known fiddler or band to present our concert, help instruct our workshops and play for our Family Dance! It's always a good time.

Submitted by, Beth Bressette



Greetings from Quesnel

Our 48th Annual Fiddle Contest is already in the distant past, but we must acknowledge the help and support we received from other branches. Members from Williams Lake, Prince George, Kamloops and Kelowna

were there to participate or give us a helping hand. Ed Matchet has been coming for several years all the way from Port Alberni. We're always glad to see all our friends again. Here's an update of the winners in each category:

Championship-Michael Burnyeat

Open- Loraine Brisebois

Intermediate-Barry Nakahara

Seniors- Lynn Tribe

Juniors- Arianna Langan

Novice- Dilip Mistry

Thanks to a grant from the Quesnel Community Foundation, we now have a new sound system, much smaller and lighter than the old one with good sound output.

The BC Fiddle Treat is scheduled for Saturday July 27 to Friday Aug 2 2019. The website

has been updated and registrations are coming in. Daniel Lapp has agreed to look after the instructors' roster again. So far JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe are confirmed. We expect to see most to the familiar faces back again.

A group of our members attended Prince George's 50th Anniversary celebration in November. The concert featured tunes written by Prince George fiddlers, played by former and current members. Anita Mamela, who grew up in Prince George did a fine job with Lester's Jig by Lester Pruden and Tabor Mountain Hornpipe by Len Sexsmith. It was a most enjoyable evening and an inspiration for us in planning our 50th in 2020.

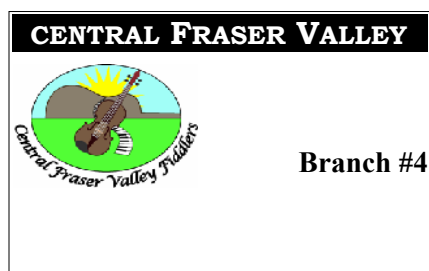
Thanks to the clear instructions re editing the



BCOTFA website, I was able to update the information for Branch 3 Quesnel. Check it out.

Picture is of our contest winner Michael Burnyeat and emcee Debbie Harrington.

Submitted by, Jean Gelin



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

First of all, we want to welcome Jo Blaak as our new musical director. She had big shoes to fill when Ed Ryz retired from that position on September 3rd but we knew she was up for the job. Jo is a violin teacher by profession and has introduced many new tunes to add to our dance and performance programs.

September started out very busy for our club. We had a play-out at the Kilby Historic Site for their Autumn Harvest Festival near Harrison Mills on the 9th. It was a very rainy day so the folks out at the Kilby Farm put up big canopies for the audience and the band but we still didn't have many spectators other than the penned farm animals nearby. They really seemed to enjoy the music especially the rooster! There's no controlling the weather so we made the best of

it. We also had a play-out at a senior's home in Chilliwack and an evening with the Knights of Columbus. We continued playing for the tea dances at the Aldergrove Senior's Centre. Frieda, our keyboard player, needed to be away for the dance on September 29th. We would like to thank Gord Zelt for stepping in and playing the keyboard. He put his violin aside to help us out. Gord at 88 years young is one of our life members.

We were scheduled to play at the Tradex West Coast Christmas Show in the middle of November again this year. Our practices in October started to include a few Christmas tunes each week. The theme this year was Christmas around the World. A few the songs and carols that Jo introduced were new to us but we practised hard. Our performance included members of our club and 12 of Jo Blaak's young students. Because of circumstances, we were only able to have one combined practice with them before the show. The kids showed us up by their rendition of Feliz Navidad so we gave them the spotlight. The whole program was very well received by an appreciative audience.

Our dances in November were fun. We started to include some of the Christmas tunes. It was still early enough in the season that the dancers enjoyed hearing and dancing to them. They were also a hit at the

Cedarbrook Assisted Living Complex where we performed November 15th as a thank you to them for letting us jam in their facility during the summer months.

We held our annual AGM meeting in November. The 2018 executives were reelected. President: Vivienne Chin, Vice President: Joanne Davenport, Secretary: Elaine McLean and Treasurer: Rosalie Eeg. In addition: Music Director: Jo Blaak, Bookings and Social Director: Frieda Dehaan, Webmaster: Erik Eeg.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sid and Frieda Dehaan on the passing of Sid's brother in Kamloops. Get well wishes go out to Rod McLean for a speedy recovery from knee surgery. Also, Speedy recovery to Gladys Andreas after a rear end car collision.

Last but not least was our Christmas party on December 1st. It was a great hit as usual with lots of food and music. Thank you again Ken a Penny Buck for the use of your clubhouse.

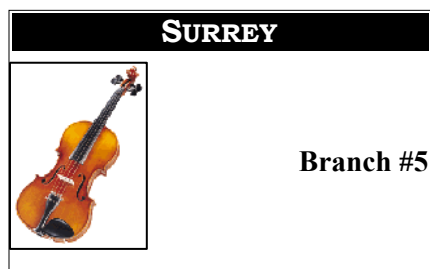
We took December off and resumed on Wednesday, January 2nd 2019. We look forward to a busy year anticipating the Grand Masters coming up in August.

Be sure to check our website centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com for updates. We have added some club history going back to 1950 with articles and pictures. You may recognize some of the

members. Also, you may “like” us on our Face Book page.

May you all enjoy good health and many blessings in 2019.

Submitted by, Rosalie Eeg



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers.

Christmas is less than three weeks away and no snow predicted for our Surrey area, so we will have to tune in to the weather channel and wish for at least a light dusting of snow on Christmas day.

Our daytime dance, on the first Tuesday of the month, at the Don Christian Rec. Hall in Surrey is still ongoing and although the attendance has not been as great as expected, we still manage to cover the cost of the hall rent so far. All of the other O.T. Fiddler's dances held in the O.A.P. Hall in Aldergrove, are scheduled on a Saturday and have a better attendance than we do, so in the future, we may have to look for another hall where we can also hold day time dances on a Saturday.

Our Surrey Fiddler's band members still practice every Monday evening at the Hazelmere hall with the

Hazelmere fiddlers, as the majority of the fiddlers are Surrey Br. # 5 members.

Congratulations to our member, Mike Sanyshyn, who has recently won the Fiddle Player and Mandolin Player of the Year Award at the B. C. Country Music Awards Event for 2018.

Congratulations to the oldest member of our Surrey Fiddler's band, Julius Cotter, who is celebrating his 94 th Birthday on December 11 of this year. Julius looks younger than his age and is still spry for his age, he plays fiddle and harmonica in the band, calls our square dances, is a good dancer and still drives his car.

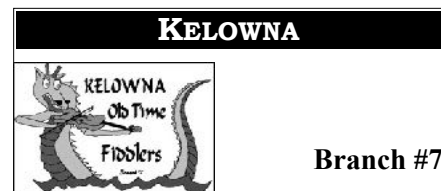
Mark Sullivan was asked to come out to Hazelmere Hall on Monday, Dec. 10, to do a workshop for the fiddlers and guitar players. He did a great job on showing the fiddlers the proper bowing techniques, count in with proper pick up notes, the right tempo for old time waltzes, jigs, reels, Polkas, two steps and proper chord changes and rhythm for guitar players. Everyone was very impressed with Mark's playing ability and teaching skills.

It was sad to hear that Bea Hassler passed away recently. Bea was a member of our Surrey Fiddlers for a short time and played with our band members. Our condolences go out to her family and relatives.

Our Surrey Br. # 5 Fiddlers

wish all of the Fiddle Branches in B.C. a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*



Here in South Central BC we have been treated with one of the mildest Decembers on record. There was only one 5 inch snow fall and a couple of minor skiffs to shovel. Kelowna, January 8th is minus 7 but lots of days were above 0.

Our annual Christmas party was held at Club 17 as our regular venue was still under repair from the fire. The fiddlers divided into three groups to play for the dance so all were able to dance or just visit. The Knights of Columbus provided a fine meal as usual but attendance had to be limited due to hall capacity.. President, Irene, was M.C. and was entertaining. Now she is taking a well deserved vacation on a Caribbean cruise in January. Alice Sisler and I will fill in for her on piano. Wayne and Pauline Angman are being snow birds again, so Wayne Rodacker, Mabel Babcock and Carol Jenson thankfully are covering Wayne Angman's play dates the same as last year.

January 6th was our AGM where we elect our new

executive. The results were as follows:

- President - Irene McAvena
- Vice Pres. - John Tribe
- Secretary - Lynn Tribe
- Treasurer - Karen Omit
- Directors 1 year

Vic Ukrainetz,
Carol Janson
Smiley Barnhart

- Directors 2 years
- Heather Bartel,
Mabel Babcock
Carol Fox

Thanks to all the members who let their names stand and welcome to the new directors. A big thanks to all the regulars who have served for years, and welcome new members Sharon Turner and Fran Smith.

Our regular play dates started January 7th and we hope to be back in our original Rutland Senior hall on January 8th. The first dance of the year is January 18th.

The second biggest event we play for annually is Remembrance Day, November 11th at the Parkinson Rec Centre. We played for a crowd of 400 people or so before lunch. The local Pipe Band follows us with a rousing show. This year we also played for the afternoon dance ably led by John Tribe and Wayne Angman. It's great to see more younger people each year to honour the veterans. There are less veterans each year but they

must be remembered.

One of our Bass players, Philip Broten has suffered extreme pain after a long trip to a funeral in central Sask. He has now found some treatment that is helping. Our most senior member, Andy Jones, has had a trip to the hospital but is recovering nicely at home. The doctors that interviewed him couldn't believe he was 94. They told him he was still in a 72 year old body. We can all relate to that as he and our champion swimmer, Conny Stamhuis, are two extremely active seniors admired by all of us. My wife, Julie, had a bad fall in early December injuring her right shoulder, elbow and wrist. This also brought her vertigo back, so I have been chief cook and bottle washer for a month. Wishing for a speedy recovery to all above and anyone we missed.

Before we know it our jamboree and contest season will arrive. The first I believe is Branch #1 Prince George planned for April (date TBA) the original branch. They are still one of the most active groups. Next will be the Kelowna Fiddle Fest on May 31st and June 1st at Rutland Centennial Hall. Glad to hear Kamloops is following on September 15th. I haven't heard from Quesnel or Coombs as to their dates.

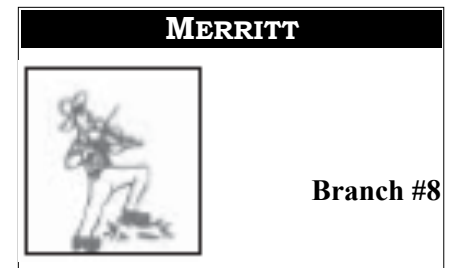
It's great to see all the younger people getting involved. Some have entertained

worldwide like Prince George's native, Danial Lapp and Surrey's Mike Sanyshyn, and many others up and coming. The most inspiring old tune to me is "Amazing Grace" from over 240 years back. I can't imagine any of recent modern songs competing. The next thing will soon be raindrops, rainbows and robins, plus all the spring events. Good bye winter, hello green leaves, gum boots and gardens.

Hoping you all have safe travels to this year's gatherings.

Submitted by, Russ Gerrie

PS: Good friends are like quilts, they age with you, yet never lose their warmth



Merritt Old Time Fiddlers held their Christmas dinner at the Legion with a good crowd attending. Chinese food was brought in. Thanks to Randy, Mel, Herb, Cress and several other members for supplying the excellent music. A wine basket was raffled and a half and half was held. Many thanks to the members who worked hard putting this on.

Our secretary Cress Farrow has put notices in the papers and several new members who have

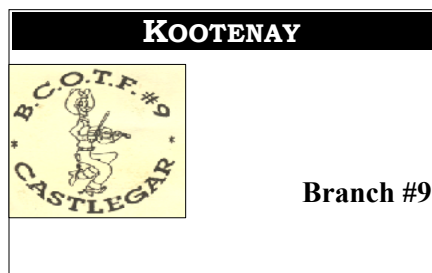
an interest in music have joined.

The Merritt Senior Citizens are having a monthly jam session at the Senior Center and many of our members have shown an interest in attending. We are trying hard to keep the music going.

Elections will be held in April. Our annual campout at Harmon Lake will be held May 14 - 20 (long weekend) and all Old time Fiddlers are welcome to attend. We had 62 rigs last year and there is room for more.

Safe driving this winter.

Submitted by, Del Lawrence



Happy New Year to everyone from the Kootenay Fiddlers, we wish you all the best in 2019! My name is Shelley and I am the new scribe for the Kootenay Fiddlers. I have taken over from Kathy Markin, whom I would like to take this opportunity to thank for all her time and work informing the fiddle community of our events and programs these past few years. Her work does not stop though as she continues to carry the position of Secretary for our group, thank you Kathy!

Our fall season began with a general meeting at the end of September. There has been very

low member participation at these meetings, so it was decided at this time to not have monthly meetings. A meeting will be called for executive and members when necessary to organize and make decisions for community events, etc.

We had four play dates during Oct and Nov at the Seniors' centres in Castlegar, Salmo, Nelson and Trail. They all love us, we love them, and yes, we will play for them all again! It's always fun to play for the Castlegar Seniors Halloween dance to see the wild and crazy costumes they come up with, and of course there are always a few musicians dressed up. We get a wonderful response from our seniors so it makes it easy to return. Our fearless leader, Deb Schiavon, keeps us on track, on time, in tune, and smiling of course, she's a wizard!!

The Kootenay Fiddlers, along with the Golden City Fiddlers from Rossland, hosted an event October 30th at the Bailey Theatre in Trail where we had the pleasure of an evening with Calvin Vollrath. He was accompanied by the incredible Jeremy Rusu, a blind musician who plays many instruments, and Rhea Labrie, step dancer extraordinaire. This was our 2nd year to bring this most amazing fiddler to our area and his performance is second to none.

One month later the Bailey Theatre presented a Celtic Family

Christmas concert evening with Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy and family. The talent on stage that night by adults and children was absolutely wonderful. The evening was made a little more special for a group of local fiddlers ranging in different levels and ages and guided by Castlegar violin instructor, Brie Hurlbert. This group learned 3 reels in about 3 weeks, and then got to go on stage for the finale with the whole MacMaster/Leahy family. Needless to say it was a memorable evening for the group, and also enjoyed by a very appreciative crowd.

We like Christmas so much we had 2 celebrations! The first event was on Nov 25th where we took advantage of a larger membership attendance and threw in a general meeting then followed it with a potluck and jam session.

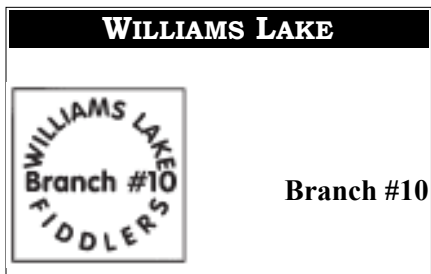
Our second event was a lovely turkey dinner at the Rossland Legion, prepared by the Legion ladies for our group and guests. Of course there was a jam session/dance for the crowd later in the evening.

Ah yes, we must let you know of our 18th Annual 2019 Kootenay Fiddle, Guitar and Piano Workshop July 8 to 12, 2019, at the Selkirk College campus. Early bird deadline is June 8th, it will come up real quick so think about joining us over here in the beautiful

Kootenays. For more information please visit our site: kootenayfiddlers.com.

Cheers to everyone!

Submitted by, Shelley Buxton



Hello all,

I can't say that the weather in Williams Lake has been bad this year. As a matter of fact we had beautiful weather all through the end of September right up to about the 23 of December. That's when we had our first snow fall. Since then we have had a few "dumps" of snow but nothing too serious. Right now my lawn is showing some green grass but I am sure that won't last long since it is still January. It sure would be nice if we didn't get any more of that "white stuff" !

As usual, we don't have much going on with our club. Due to illness, injury and age our small group has grown smaller. Ed Caissie has been out since the fall with an injury and has not returned to the club, several other members have health issues. Joe Lecomte is going to have surgery on his hand and will be unable to play. We are now down to 3

people that are trying to keep up with our monthly commitments.

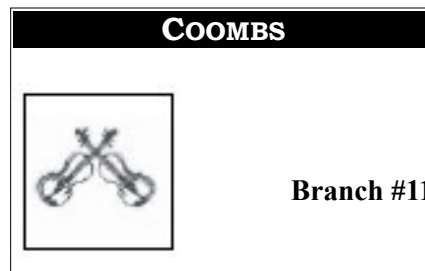
On a happier note, we had our annual Christmas dinner at CJ's restaurant on Dec. 14th. It was a wonderful buffet with all the trimmings. I brought a birthday cake for Pat Myre and Rosetta Paxton who were celebrating their birthdays in December...and for Ed Caissie who had his birthday in November. (because somebody forgot)

We haven't held our election of officers yet but will soon.

Hoping everyone the best for the coming year...

Happy Trails

Submitted by Pat Gunderson



The Coombs Opera is a venue that allows local musicians and entertainers a place to meet and perform. Prior to our Jamboree in September we were very happy to have Branch 19 AVOTF visit us and together open the new year for the Coombs Opera. Our two groups played well together.

Our Jamboree went very well this year. Branch 17 and 19 came and performed great music. Judy Palipowski and her Qualicum Beach Ukulele Band played and sang for us. There

was a very nice harmony from the voices and the different ukuleles. A very nice performance.

Quinton Etheridge-Pedden did an excellent job of entertaining us this year. His performance was upbeat and displayed just how versatile the fiddle is to be able to play different genres of music.

There are quite a few people who work hard to keep the Coombs Rodeo Grounds running in tip top shape. A big thank you to Jim Brown for being Master of Ceremonies for the Jamboree and affording us a great place to perform, also to Carol Hansen for providing good food and beverage in the canteen, and to Terry Whibley for ensuring we had the best sound on stage.

The jamboree festivities concluded with all three fiddle clubs performing together. Nice to hear that many fiddles playing together.



This is the Coombs group performing at the Qualicum Manor. From the left Bob Berge, George Despin, Nell Bowles, Tom Elliott, Caroly Dymont, Jan Erickson, Fern Fondrick, and Mimi Shell.

Unfortunately our Thursday night dance attendance has dropped to the point where no one was attending them. The club has cancelled the weekly dances. The club has moved from the Rotary Hall in Qualicum to Coombs Rodeo Grounds. Jim Brown has graciously offered us some storage area and a spot to practice. At the Coombs Rodeo Grounds we will have our meetings and jam sessions on the 4th Wed of each month at 1PM.

Our branch has not been attracting new fiddlers. So in an attempt to rectify this we have offered free memberships to anyone under the age of 18 years old. We now have 5 young people under the age of 18. Angela Maharagh is our youth music director and she is doing a fine job of teaching her students Old Time Fiddle tunes.

Our friend and lead fiddler Ken Deacon is experiencing health issues and has not been able to play with us lately. He has been a dedicated supporter of bringing music to the senior residences for many years. Get well Ken, and come fiddle with us again soon.

We are considering hosting a celebration of Canada's National Fiddling Day on May 18, 2019 at the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. Will intend to invite other Island fiddle clubs and have a BBQ and picnic with lots of fiddle playing and fun.

The Branch 11 has a new life

time member, Sheral Coutts. Sheral is a long time member who has supported this club by holding most executive positions and offering her home for meetings and practice sessions. Sheral is a very knowledgeable musician and an asset to this club. Thank you Sheral for all you have done for this club.

George Despins has just turned 90 years old. George you are now the senior senior in our club. George is a very talented musician who has written a few waltzes that we like to play with him every now and then. Happy Birthday George with many, many more to come.

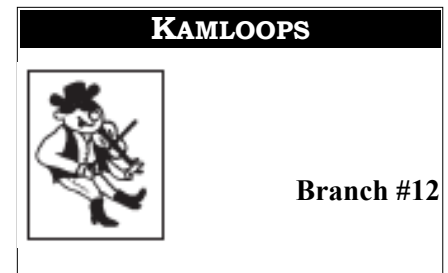
This branch is still very active performing at the senior residences in Parksville and Qualicum. We also just started performing at an ADULT DAY CARE facility. The people there were very much into the music and even danced. Everyone agrees that it is one of our favourite places to perform.

Branch 11 wishes everyone a very Happy New Year with lots of great music and good comradeship.

Happy Trails

Tom Elliott

Tomarg333@gmail.com



Winners of the September 8, 2018 Old Time Fiddle Contest were as follows:

Novice:

1st Gordon Lynn - Kamloops

Little Junior (9 a under)

1st Lysia Ternier - Kamloops

2nd Sterling Therrian - Kamloops

Youth: (17 a under)

1st Exton Harding Kamloops

Senior:

1st Harley Jansen - Kamloops

2nd John Tribe - Kelowna

3rd Marshall Fedorak - Falkland

4th Angeline Slater - Kamloops

Intermediate:

1st Colin Mahoney - Kamloops

2nd Doreen Rail - Vernon

3rd Dale McGregor - Chilliwack

Open:

1st Vic Ukrainetz - Kelowna

2nd Loraine Marshall - Quesnel

3rd Raynie Gervais - Prince George

4th Mary Allen - Kamloops

Championship: -

1st Kai Gronberg - Abbotsford

2nd Michael Burnyeat - Vancouver

3rd - Anita Mamela - Quesnel

4th Elizabeth Ewen - Yellowknife, NWT

Twin Fiddle

1st Kai Gronberg a Michael Burnyeat

2nd Exton Harding a Harley Jansen

3rd Angeline Slater a Colin Mahoney

Special recognition was also given to the youngest fiddler, 6 year old Sterling Therrian.

Kamloops Old Time Fiddlers.

This was the first fiddle competition that I have ever attended and I was impressed by the all the fine Fiddlers that showed up and by 19 fiddlers entertaining us in competition and as a group after the contest. My favourite memory was a young boy who was trying to play "Old MacDonald" on his fiddle. He was struggling to remember the melody (This has happened to all of us numerous times !). The audience hung on every hesitant note and long pause as we sat in silence, then slowly the melody started coming back to him and he finished to a thunderous applause . "Alls well that ends well" to quote William Shakespeare.

So kudos to this lad for sticking it out and finishing his song.

Musician Pins presented at Christmas Party 2018 were:

Bob Lalonde 25 Years
Linda Bremner 15 Years
Nadia Olafson 10 Years
Colin Mahoney 10 Years
Barry Schultz 5 years

We've also noticed our current membership has started to grow again after slowly declining over the last 5 years that I have been a member. We have 75 Members including 5 Junior members, 18 Active musicians .

As of January 14 we have 32 dances, concerts and playouts ahead until the end of the Spring session, so we will all be busy "fiddling our lives away" .

Isn't that the words to (Eddie Rabbit song) ? No, but it should be .

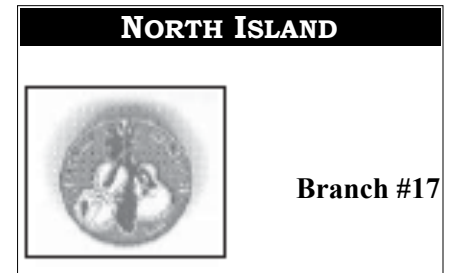
Gordon Stobbie and JJ Guy will be in town on April 23 to entertain us (great musicians)

And give a Workshop later the same day on Harmony and Accompaniment, which sounds quite interesting.

Our regular Tuesday night Workshops and Jams continue until the end of May. They are held at "The Heritage House" at 7 - 9 PM and at "The Yacht Club" at 7:30-9:30 when there are Concerts or Hockey games. Check the KOTF#12 webpage schedule to see where to go. (<http://bcfiddlers.com/branches/kamloops/>). All musicians are welcome even percussion.

In closing , our young fiddlers are improving quickly and the future is looking bright, and lets not forget our regular fiddlers and backup who also deliver good music at each event.

Submitted By Dave Lynn



Another year under our belts and the year 2019 ahead, Our Branch 17 wishes to extend to all the other members of the Old Time Fiddlers a wonderful year filled with happiness and good health.

Those of us who are getting up in years can take a look back and see how the world in general is changing and who would have imagined all the changes that have taken place in the last 50 years and if they keep moving on with technology it sure will be something to see what the next years bring.

I know now that you can go to your computer and go on You Tube and learn to play music, seems so easy but when it comes down to it, it is something within yourself that makes you want to practise over and over till you really know a tune and the point I am getting at is we should try and do this with most things in our life that will benefit us and strive to make us better humans, keep at it till we get it right no matter what we are working on.

Our club this year played a lot of music, some small events, we put on dances, played at a 70th wedding, and at the Pancake

Breakfast in Campbell River for the 30th time in honour of Fathers Day, had a engagement at Anderton Therapeutic, this Garden which is situated in Comox is a must see if visit our area, the day we played all the flowers were out in full bloom and cool breeze blowing and a delightful fragrance of roses in the air, this is wheelchair accessible and a hidden gem. We also travelled to Sayward, this is up North Island and still some remnants of what was once the large McMillian Blodel logging operation, there still is small logging operation and booming area, the famous Salmon River and of course the Cruise Ships come pretty close to shore and people come to Sayward to go on Whale watching trips, it is a beautiful part of Vancouver Island that lost most of its industry and yet the folks of this small community carry on, drive a long way to Campbell River to shop, there still are some small business that keep most things you need and good spots to eat, the community hall and its volunteers make sure there is lots of great entertainment and we were one the lucky groups invited in to play for a special event there, it was a good time.

We also had our Jamboree and our Friday night event was a sellout as we had Ed Peekeekoot as the musical guest, Ed is very popular with our playing audience, he put on a good show and next day saw our Port

Alberni, Coombs, Courtenay, Campbell River talented people entertain us throughout the day, and then onto our dance at night. Once again we have to say Thank you to these two clubs for joining in our Jamboree and helping to play for the dance. We also enjoyed the Coombs Jamboree in Sept.

This year we had our Christmas Dinner catered by Plates restaurant and they provided us with a wonderful dinner of Turkey, Ham and all the trimmings. A few of us got together and decorated up the hall to make it look festive, and then rewarded ourselves with some pizza, beer a chicken wings after as a reward.

Our door prizes for the Christmas Dinner were thanks to Eileen Lapp who used her shopping skills to find some specials that were all very nice and the lucky winners were happy to receive.

As we look back through the year of the happier times we all went through together there of course is sadness. We remember Al Engdahl and his wife Jean, both members for a few years, these two worked hard for the club, Al played the mandolin and Jean pitched in helping in the kitchen, sewing vests, selling Cds, she baked the best biscuits for us, made special appetizers, always pleasant and eager to help, Al, besides being able to play along with anything had a

kind heart and a love for dogs, was a carpenter and in his last years of his long life moved to Sayward and helped build them a house. We have missed these two and remember them fondly.

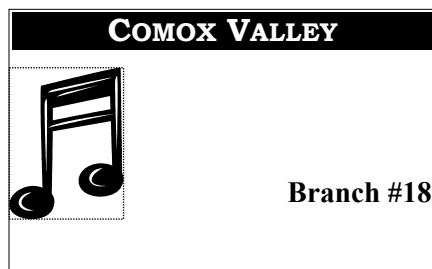
Late in Sept. Ken Macleod, one of our most enthusiastic members and someone we could always count on to come help set up or do anything - who loved to sing and was a great promoter of our club was given the news that he had terminal cancer. This was a blow to us all and he was determined to live his life fully to the end so he continued on with his planned shows - in years past Ken has put on many shows to aid the Food Bank, Burns Suppers, Legion Events, been in plays, joined Choirs, and in each one of these events he would ask a few of the Fiddlers to open the show or be involved. His one big event was writing a 800 page book which was published about South Vancouver and John Oliver High School, this book now in its third printing. He also had many other accomplishments including taking Veterans to the war sites and acting as their guide and go to person, he did this about 29 different trips. He put on a Don Messer Tribute featuring Glen Hiebert, as Don Messer and Ed Medford, Bob Casavant, Art McMartin, Ray Ledoux, Ray Craig, Irene Tomchick, Harold Mosdell, Dave Gark, Rodney Macmillan, Gloria Olson, Doris Weislein, Ray Craig and some of our regular dancers all in the

show from our Branch which raised over 4,000 dollars for the Food Bank. On top of all this Ken was a good kind person who came faithfully out to the Care Homes and maybe just sang a song or two but at the end of the music he would go around and shake hands with those sitting listening in the chairs, to me this was a gesture that made these people feel they were important and they were noticed.

I am sad to say that Ken passed away on Boxing Day. He leaves behind his wife Cheryl and many, many friends.

So in this New Year, we will again be back at the Care Homes and doing much the same things over again, meeting new people, appreciating the ones we now know, musicians will be learning new tunes, playing the old ones and each one of us in his own way storing memories and recalling those from the past. Once again from Branch 17 - make happy memories this year. Happy New Year!

Lorraine Hiebert



Here in the Comox Valley, we have been experiencing a nice mild fall and winter. Even so, there is still lots of snow on them thar mountains. As our esteemed Secretary, August, is vacationing in

Mexico, this report will be by memory. August generally keeps track of things in our club.

We have been having our usual Fiddlejam sessions in the church basement where we are learning new tunes and welcoming Daisy's young students to play with us. It is great to have so many young players intently listening and learning.

A group of us fiddled for the annual L'arche Pig Roast and the dancers tore up the floor with their enthusiasm. The event conflicted with the Coombs Jamboree so we missed that, unfortunately, as that hardworking group always puts on a good event.

The Fretless blew into town in October and played a stellar show at Courtenay's premier theatre, the Sid Williams. Great sound and a very enthusiastic audience. Our next event was the Hallowe'en Contra dance at the Merville hall. Lots of costumes, lots of spot dance prizes and lots of fiddling 'til the last dancer left the floor.

November saw us playing at the annual Children's Telethon, under the hot stage lights. Was that a standing ovation I saw?? Our November Contra dance was themed, Hawaii in the Comox Valley. It was a hoot and we were astonished by the number of dancers and by the great costumes. This will be an annual event, for sure.

Another payout followed

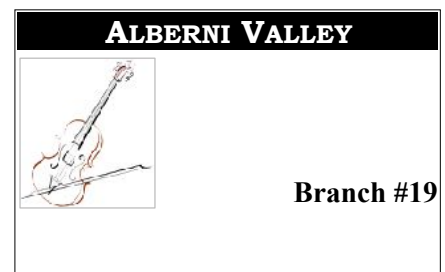
down at the Casa Loma Seniors' Residence where the folks said that they would recommend us to their South American residence, the Casa Llama. Hey, our motto is Have Fiddle, Will Travel.

So now it is the new year and we are back to our regular Fiddlejam Tuesdays. We played for a Cumberland group last night that was celebrating Christmas in January with a big dinner and an almost dance. We did enjoy playing for the folks, though, and having them try to Name That Tune.

Our Robbie Burns Contra dance is happening on the 26th. We are ironing our kilts and getting the haggis all ready. Time for more fiddling fun. Happy New Year, everyone!

Cheers,

Submitted by Craig Freeman



So Happy fiddling.

What a dramatic end to 2018 with high winds, falling trees, power outages. A reminder to keep our emergency supplies and coping skills, up to date. Hope everyone came through these days safely. Now back to rain, for we Islanders, anyway.

Looking way back to September, once again we

enjoyed helping Coombs with their Jamboree, starting out with the Opry on the Friday night. On the Saturday, Branch 19 played a set of pieces, then sat back to listen to the feature artist, Quin Etheridge-Pedden and friend with some very nice music.

September was mostly getting back into the Care Home routine, with six places on our list. This does keep us busy enough, providing the incentive to keep practicing and hopefully improving our skills. October was a month without extra playouts aside from our general program. Our pseudo-contest was not as easy as in the past. We didn't do one in July, down at the Quay, so we did have extra time to practice, but for some reason nerves were harder to control.

In November we had a new member join us and we were happy to welcome Genvieve Richard. She does play fiddle and although her early training was more formal, she is looking forward to trying the Old Time music. Her work schedule only allows her a limited time to play along with us but we look forward to whatever time she can spare.

On November 10th, one of the annual Craft Fairs was held once again in the Athletic Hall. So many of the venders told us how glad they were to welcome us back again. The entertainment does help to lighten the hours

they must spend at the sales tables. On November 19th, we held our annual dinner, celebrating with food and music. We always have a good turn out of members and spouses. We ended our November gigs with playing for the Metis Association AGM. This encouraged us to work on some of our Andy DeJarlis tunes and research other Metis tunes.

Now into December, adding a few Christmas tunes to intersperse with our regular lists. This month we have decided to try adding a couple of evening practices to our schedule, hoping to encourage some working people or students to join us. This is something we have talked about doing a few times in the past but with our busy schedules never got any further than talking. It means some members will have to make a commitment to come in for an evening practice after an afternoon playout. We are

considering the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month to start with. We'll just have to see how it goes, adjusting times and format as we go.

We ended the year on a very happy note playing New Years Eve afternoon for two care homes. They were so heartening with their responses, blowing horns and cheering us on. A great way to end one year, and lead into another, with great enthusiasm. A very Happy New Year to all of you.

Submitted by Gail Ross

Robbies **Instrument Repair & Setup**



Specializing in violin family, guitar, banjo, mandolin and ukulele repair, restoration and setup in Vernon BC.

RobbiesInstrumentRepair.com
robbiestaytuned@gmail.com
250-540-7148

Fiddle Fest

May 31 & June 1



**SCOTT
WOODS BAND**

FRIDAY May 31

CONCERT 7:00 PM

Tickets at door \$20

Accompanied children under 12 free

WEEKEND PASS \$25

(Incl Concert and Contest)

MC Vic Ukrainetz

SATURDAY June 1

WORKSHOPS 9 - 11 AM

Fiddle CONTEST 1 PM \$10

Judges perform 3:00 PM

SHAMMA SABIR, KEITH HILL &

SCOTT WOODS

House Accompanist Kendra Woods

RUTLAND CENTENNIAL HALL 215 SHEPHERD RD

Workshop & Contest REGISTRATION FRI 6:30 PM & SAT 8:30 AM

More info bcfiddlers.org

or 250 717-8432





The 30th Annual
Canadian Grand Masters
Fiddling Competition

August 23-25, 2019
Abbotsford BC

Abbotsford is located 45 mins. east of Vancouver

Abbotsford International Airport receives flights daily
(located within 10km of the contest venue)

Abbotsford BC CGM Committee Chair:
Mark Sullivan

Contact: infocgm2019@gmail.com

18th Annual Kootenay Fiddle, Guitar & Piano Camp

Don't delay! Register today to reserve your spot in this popular summer music camp!



From novice to professional, this week-long workshop can help people of all ages and abilities improve their fiddle, back up guitar and/or piano skills. A number of prominent instructors will help you build your skills, including Nova Scotia's Gord Stobbe, who is back by popular demand.

Affordable accommodation is available at Kekuli House, Selkirk College residence. For information call: 250-365-1227.

For the latest camp news, family rates, or to register online, visit kootenayfiddlers.com. To register by phone call 250.365.1208

WHEN: July 8-12, 2019

WHERE: Castlegar campus

TIME: Mon-Fri 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

TUITION:

Adults: \$235 +GST (by June 8)

\$270 +GST (after June 8)

Students: Aged 16 and under

\$210 +GST (by June 8)

\$245 + GST (after June 8)



CASTLEGAR
COMMUNITY
EDUCATION &
WORKPLACE
TRAINING

Within Reach. Beyond Imagination. Selkirk  College