

B.C. OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION FALL NEWSLETTER
Prince George Branch #1



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NEWSLETTER *Beth Bressette, Editor*

September 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST JAM - Sept 5

Hope everyone had a good summer. We're back into the swing of things and looking forward to a great year for our Fiddle Club. Our First Jam of the season is this week, Thursday Sept 5, 7 – 9:30 pm at ECRA, 1692 – 10th Ave. Jams will continue every Thursday until the end of June (except for a Christmas break).

The Board has adopted a new fee structure for Jam Nights – members will pay only \$2 whether you are a fiddler, accompanist, dancer or observer. Group lessons will be included in the \$2 fee. Non-members will pay \$3. A family rate of \$5 is available for parents and their children. A big change is asking musicians to pay; this helps to pay for our instructors. If anyone has concerns about the new rates, please contact one of the Board Members rather than dumping on Carol at the desk; she volunteers her time to take your money but doesn't set the rules!

Those taking lessons – please go to the Desk first to sign in and pay your fee.

FIRST DANCE - Sept 20 – **TEMPORARY DAY of WEEK CHANGE**

Our First Dance of the season is still the third weekend of the month, but the day had to be changed to FRIDAY instead of Saturday for Sept and Oct because of a scheduling conflict at the Elks. Dances will be on Friday for 2 months only, after that we will continue to have the dances on third Saturdays. Always 8 pm at 663 Douglas St. and cost remains unreasonably low at \$10. Mark these dance dates on your calendar:

Fri Sept 20
Fri Oct 18

Sat Nov 16
Sat Jan 18

Sat Feb 15
Sat Mar 21

The monthly dances are a great time to socialize, practise some of the old-time dance steps, enjoy a nutritious snack at break (included in admission), buy a drink or a coffee, and listen to some great old-time fiddle music provided by members of the BC Old Time Fiddlers.

FAMILY DANCE/ICE CREAM SOCIAL – Fri Sept 27

The Family Dance/Ice Cream Socials have been so popular they are now semi-annual events. Families or individuals are encouraged to come out to learn new group dances and couple dances to live fiddle music. You will get to enjoy an ice cream sundae at break! This is a joint venture between the BC Old Time Fiddlers and the Hart Community Association. 7 – 9 pm at the Eagles Hall, 6742 Dagg Road. Cost \$5 each or \$20/family; includes sundae. Dates:

Fri Sept 27

Fri Jan 31

CALVIN VOLLRATH CONCERT – Thurs Oct 3

We are fortunate to have Calvin Vollrath from St Paul, Alberta, performing a concert in PG at ECRA at 7:30 on Thursday, October 3 (in lieu of jam night). Randy Foster has named Calvin “The Tiger Woods of Fiddle Players” and he was twice crowned *Grand North American Old Tyme Fiddle Champion*. In 2005 he was presented the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship in recognition of his contributions to old-time fiddling, and in 2011 was inducted into the North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame in NY. Calvin has composed over 700 tunes, most of which are on his 69 albums. He is a world class fiddler and his smooth yet lively style is a crowd pleaser - I think we will need to move the tables out at the back of the hall to provide a small dance floor for those unable to control their feet! Tickets are \$25, available at Books & Co. *Remember, NO JAM on Thurs Oct 3.



FIDDLE CONTESTS – September 14 and October 5

Kamloops is hosting the Provincial Old Time Fiddle Contest on Saturday, September 14. Quesnel Fiddle Club is sponsoring their 49th Annual Old Time Fiddle Contest on Saturday, October 5. There is plenty of prize money and classes are generally small, so I would encourage all club fiddlers to support the contests and take a chance on bringing home some winnings! Both clubs host a jam and hospitality night on the Friday night before the contest and Quesnel will feature a Friday night concert by Calvin Vollrath.

JAMBOREE – April 2020

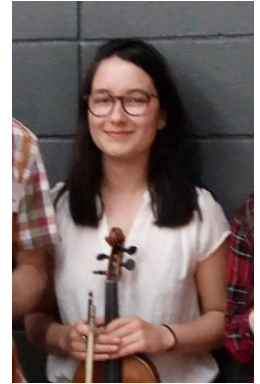
The club will sponsor another Jamboree this year, probably the third weekend in April – plans are underway to confirm the headliners, instructors and firm up the date.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

CANADIAN GRAND MASTERS in BC – August 23 – 24

For the first time since its inception, the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship was held in BC this year, and ten of our branch members were able to travel to Abbotsford to watch the contest. One of our members, Chloe

Nakahara, competed in the prestigious event, playing beautifully. Daniel Lapp, a former member who grew up in Prince George and competed in our contests as a youngster (son of the late Charlotte and Clarence Lapp and brother to Beverley Eggen) was awarded the *Canadian Grand Masters Lifetime Achievement Award* for his contributions to fiddling and youth. Daniel started the youth *BC Fiddle Orchestra Program*, founded the *Victoria Fiddle Society*, leads the *Joy of Life choir*, and an adult folk ensemble called *Folkestra*, among many other involvements and awards. Busy boy!



SPRING-SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT in the COMMUNITY

Over spring and summer volunteer club musicians played at the Local Government Managers Association Conference, The Railway Museum's Mothers' Day Tea, the Hixon Bluegrass/Country Festival, Long & McQuade's grand opening at their new Lyon St location, the Hart Community Association picnic at Ferguson Lake, and the Nechako Rotary's Rib Fest on June 21 and 23. Thank you to the 22 fiddlers and the 10 accompanists who took part!

This fall musicians from the club are booked for the Farmers' Market at Wilson Square on Saturday, Sept 21 from noon to 2 pm – drop by and give them your support! Anyone wanting to play contact Beth or Kerry. We will also resume regular playouts at various senior residences.

GAVIN LAKE FIDDLE CAMP

About 20 of our local club members attended this fiddle camp in the Chilcotin the last week of July. It was a fantastic week and members learned many new tunes and techniques. On the night of the Talent Show we performed two PG tunes as Branch #1 Prince George club musicians.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to BREANNE PALIK on her wedding this past July!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME - September

New renewal date is at the start of the season. Those who renewed between April and June are good until Sept 2020. Membership coordinator Alex Arnott will be at Jam this week doing renewals.

That's all the news for now. See you at Jam!

Beth Bressette, Editor