

# B.C. OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION WINTER NEWSLETTER

## Prince George Branch #1



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**NEWSLETTER** *Beth Bressette, Editor*

**CHRISTMAS, 2020**

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

A very Merry Christmas to all of you, from the BC Old Time Fiddlers' Association President and Board. It's been a different kind of year, and we've all missed the music, dancing and getting together with friends. Maybe the slowed pace has helped each of us to re-evaluate what's most important in our lives, to prioritize, and to count our blessings. I know it has for me. It's adversity that helps us to grow and become strong and resilient. I hope you and your loved ones are keeping well and being careful, but not afraid. One day this will be only a memory. Instead of the isolation being akin to a nightmare, I hope we can remember it as a unique and special time, a time when we grew and matured, a time when we strengthened the bonds within our families, or called people we don't often connect with who might be lonely or facing work closures, or even a time when we got all those tasks at home done! Meantime, I hope you all have a very meaningful Christmas, however you spend it.

## **JAMMING?**

A small group of musicians met in the Elks Hall on Thursdays for five weeks in Oct-Nov to play some tunes together, before new guidelines forced us to close it down. We used masks and sanitizer and spacing, no mics, no dancing or spectators - guidelines followed to the T. There are no promises for the New Year, but musicians - keep practising and learning new tunes to share with the others until the time when we can get together, either virtually or in person.

## **MEMBERSHIP STUFF**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** - No, you're not three months late! We will extend memberships for an extra year, so your renewal fees from Sept 2019 will cover you until September 2021.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** - Usually held in January - cancelled for this year.

## MEMBER NEWS

Chloe Nakahara is safely back home after her 3 month working adventure in southern Italy. She visited Rome and Napoli and worked in the areas of Tuscany, Umbria, Puglia and various small towns, including a beautiful rugged seaside town at the tip of the 'heel' called Marittima.

Doreen Denicola (one of our earliest members from the start of the club in '68), had a bout in hospital this fall, but is back home and recovering well. At 91, Doreen kept busy over the summer out working in her yard. A couple of other 91 year olds have also been busy - Walter Kamerlingh out snowshoeing and Mae Campbell calling people to make sure they are doing okay during covid. All of our senior members are so important to us, and so inspirational!

## VIRTUAL FIDDLING OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our fiddlers have been taking advantage of on-line learning. Alex, Beth and Judy are regulars with JJ's Jam, while Michelle, Bev and Elizabeth have been doing weekly group lessons and weekend workshops with Ivonne Hernandez. Alex and Barry have been taking on a 'Tune of the Week Challenge' on Instagram. They and Ivonne's students have been challenging their learning by videoing their playing for a concert and for others in the group.

**JAMMING WITH JJ** - On Facebook every Sunday 2 - 3 pm, by donation

**IVONNE HERNANDEZ** - 'Magic Mondays' - new sessions starting Jan or Feb, check Facebook.

**WORLD ON A STRING** - weekend workshops through Victoria Trad Weekend with four renowned top fiddlers. Upcoming workshops: 1) Scottish Fiddling (Feb 13), 2) Canadian Fiddling (Mar 13), and 3) Quebecois Fiddling (Apr 17). <https://tradweekend.com/home>

**SHIVERING STRINGS CANADA** - Jan. 30 -31 weekend with 7 top instructors for fiddle, banjo and upright bass. Focus on techniques, so tunes need to be learned ahead of time. REGISTER EARLY to get the audio and sheet music. [www.shiveringstringscanada.com](http://www.shiveringstringscanada.com)

**FREE FIDDLE LESSONS ON LINE** - <https://fiddlerman.com/>, <https://bluegrassdaddy.com>, <https://fiddlehed.com/>, Check them out - they appear to be free, anyway.

**DANIEL LAPP "HOME FOR CHRISTMAS" CONCERT** Dec 20 - 3 pm, on line till Dec 26<sup>th</sup>. <https://vcm.bc.ca/event/daniel-lapps-home-for-christmas>. Daniel may also be starting another set of 9 on-line group lessons in the New Year - check his Facebook page.

Look after yourselves, and once again, have a Merry Christmas!

*Beth Bressette, Editor*