

B.C. OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION FALL NEWSLETTER

Prince George Branch #1



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NEWSLETTER *Beth Bressette, Editor*

FALL, September 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH WEEKLY JAMS and MONTHLY DANCES?

You're probably all wondering what we're doing with our weekly jams in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic. Plans are underway to start something in a couple of weeks, but understandably we will have to change the format. It may look more like a spaced-out jam down on the floor without dancing, with a maximum of fifty people (musicians being given first priority). I'll send an email when we're ready to start and will also let you know if/when we have something in place for lessons. Monthly dances are cancelled until the pandemic is over and we're given the green light. I know we all miss the dancing and socializing, but we'll do the best we can meantime.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

JAMMING IN THE PARK

Despite the almost constant rain we've been able to schedule three acoustic jam sessions in the park, following social distancing guidelines, of course. A group of about ten played in Rainbow Park in early July and at Lheidli T'Eenneh (Fort George) Park August 23. A smaller group jammed there this past Labour Day weekend. It was good to get together to share some tunes we've been working on, and we didn't even have to fiddle in the rain!

JAMMING WITH JJ – Sundays 3 pm

Saskatchewan renowned fiddler JJ Guy continues to host jams on his Facebook page every Sunday, playing some great tunes and inviting musicians from all over to join him. You can watch live and make requests and comments, or you can watch past jams by clicking on the video. You can also make a \$5 donation on his web page if you enjoyed the jam.

COMMUNITY PLAYOUTS

We are missing playing at our seniors' homes, and it's a sure bet they are missing us!

A small group of our musicians (Barry, Chris and Beth) played at the Railway Museum Penny Days July 26. It was predictably not well attended, but nice to get a little jamming in on a rare warm day.

And of course, fiddlers sometimes get together informally in back yards or homes to saw out a few tunes.

MEMBER NEWS

Our thoughts are with long-time member Jim Dow in the passing of his partner of many years, Alda Russman, on July 8 at the age of 86. Alda was a beautiful, friendly and caring person who enjoyed music, and often accompanied Jim to Bluegrass Festivals to take in the music and visit with friends.

During August 6 – 9 Alex, Barry and Doug represented Prince George in possibly one of the only live fiddle camps in Canada this summer. Along with their spouses they headed to the Comox Valley for 3 days to mask up, socially distance and take part in *Cross Country Fiddle* where they enjoyed learning some new tunes with Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy.

Congratulations to Faith Newton for winning awards in her DP Todd Grade 10 class! She came home with no less than *three* plaques, for Top Academic Student, Top Physical Fitness Award and Best All-Round Student. Way to go, Faith!

Chloe Nakahara left Sept 1 for an adventure overseas. She and a friend are working in Italy for a time at a farm, where they will be serving food and drinks to tourists and picking olives. We will miss her teaching of the beginner group, and her smooth, intricate fiddling at jams and dances.

Look after yourselves. Let's hope for a warm and sunny fall!

Beth Bressette, Editor