



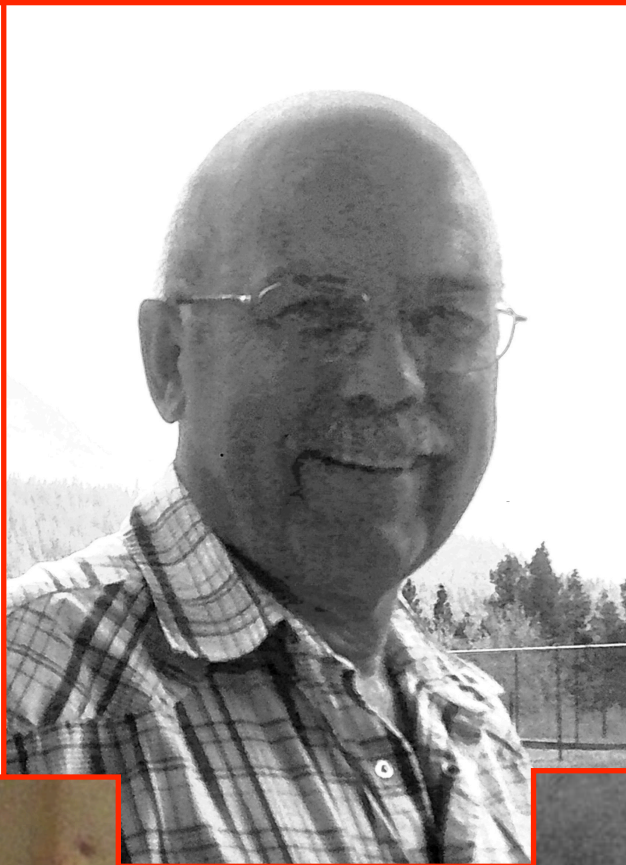
B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Kootenay #9 branch president, Gary Shannon, has his roots in New Brunswick, specifically the town of Grand Falls, where, one of nine children, he lived on his family's potato and cattle farm. With a single upright piano in the house, which Gary says only the girls in the family played, Gary remembers lots of work but not a houseful of music. In fact, as early conditioning often does, that strong work ethic influences him even today to get work done first; then play.

Something musical that perfectly fit that schedule presented itself when the family started to gather around the television for the weekly national CBC show,

KOOTENAY #9 Gary Shannon

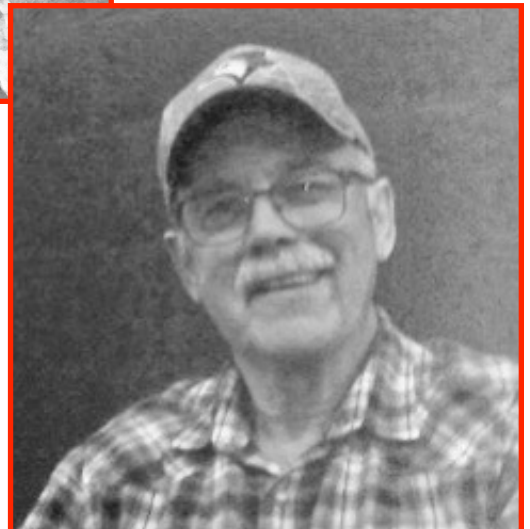


music and his resolve to create that music on his own fiddle one day. In Gary's own words: "I've wanted to play the fiddle ever since I can remember."

As life has a rhythm of its own, that opportunity came years later after Gary had moved to Castlegar, B.C. It's said that to learn to play, one should listen to more music than one plays. For Gary, listening to old time and country music progressed to seeking out live music, always focusing on the fiddle and how it filled out the musical sound. For example, a concert, from 34 years ago, in the acoustical Capital Theatre in Nelson, featuring Ian Tyson, accompanied by a



featuring a musician, named Don Messer, born barely two hours down the road from the Shannon farm. Messer's down-east style and his rhythms, dance-ready, ignited Gary's love of fiddle



single fiddler, left a vivid memory for Gary. After that concert, he regularly attended the Merritt Mountain Music Festival, now known as the Rockin' River Country Music Festival. He had the good fortune to see artists such as Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, and Travis Tritt as well as many other country music icons, but was still too busy making a livelihood to follow his dream of playing the fiddle.

The impetus to act on that inner drive broke through when Gary, at 55 years, spotted an ad for an Old Time Fiddle event, one that has become an annual, much loved, week-long summer music camp in Castlegar. But the ad that caught Gary's attention was for the first ever Castlegar OTF Music Camp. Even he was surprised when he walked out of a Vernon violin shop, holding his own fiddle, and, a week later, when he pulled up to the Castlegar Camp at Selkirk College. He may have thought that just showing up, watching a bit, and maybe picking up a few tuning tips would be the extent of his accomplishment for that summer because he hadn't registered and felt that he wasn't yet ready for a class. Thankfully, Bill Marks, a guitarist, met him at the door and helped him through registration, and, before he could get cold feet, he was in a Sabir sister's class of two. The music, jamming, and fun of that week stayed with Gary as he hasn't missed a camp since. He now, in

fact, helps advertise, recruit, and organize for the Castlegar camp, which is in preparation, at this writing, for the summer of 2021.

Even now, Gary's favourite music, which he learns by ear, is still the old style Canadian fiddle tunes, particularly jigs, and especially Paul's Jig.

As we all know, learning to play fiddle, the way we hear it, can be a bit of a long road. According to Gary, one of his biggest struggles playing is keeping the rhythm. He says he is sometimes embarrassed and also puzzled by this as he is accomplished at dancing, which would require recognizing and staying on the beat.

In terms of enjoying fiddle playing and improvement of listening and playing skills, Gary credits playing out, under the leadership of Deb Schiavon as the most encouraging time for him.

In the past, Gary has hosted OTF BBQ socials at his property with 30-40 people in attendance, including his neighbour on accordion. Maybe this tradition could be revisited as we anticipate the possibility of social gatherings again.

In closing, I had thought it would be interesting to consider what east coast characteristics may have shaped Gary's musical life and are, perhaps, still at play. Even though the celebrated down-east kitchen parties were not a part of his upbringing, those

family gatherings around the television may have lit that lifelong spark for music in him--- and that's really all it takes. In my opinion, too, Gary brings to music the easy going, humble and generous qualities east coasters are famous for. To be one of the few original Castlegar Camp attendees and to share his involvement with Old Time Fiddlers over the years, can only be a great encouragement and raise the confidence of others who have always wanted to play music..

, Brenda McLeod

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jackie Davis

Keep Safe

We hope that this issue finds all our members, their families and friends safe and sound.

The last 11 months have been a real struggle on everyone, with keeping the 6 feet rule enforced.

With talking to some of our members their Christmas and New Years looked a little different than previous ones. The way we have worked to keep connected to our family and friends thought Zoom and Skype. I have heard of Grandparents cooking online with their grandchildren their favourite

cookie recipes, Dinner Parties, Appetizer Nights, Wine and Cheese parties, campfires on New Years Eves with their household!!!

Some people have looked outside of the box to keep engaged, and this just inspires others to do the same.

Don't forget to call your neighbour to say hello and help were ever you can. Stay safe and smile this too will end and we can get back to our new normal.

BCOTFA Presidentapart!

Your president, Jackie Davis



FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

I've heard that there is light at the end of the tunnel - but its such a long tunnel that its hard to

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
(JUNE 2021) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN MAYS 15TH, 2021.**

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

NEXT FEATURE ARTICLE

Branch #11 Coombs next issue

Followed by

Branch #12 Kamloops

Branch #17 North Island

Branch #18 Fun Time Fiddlers

stay positive.

Still if I look for some encouragement I can find it. Each Sunday afternoon Lynn and I pick up our fiddles and join JJ Guy for a one hour jam, the tunes are mostly common ones that we know and JJ tries to keep the tempo reasonable so that we can join in. Cathy Sproule on piano makes a good partner for JJ as their personalities seem to fit really well. Cathy on the piano enjoys putting a little flavour into the tunes and is very knowledgable of the people and their music.

A number of our “heroes” are also working at keeping the “fiddle juices” flowing with

things like the on-line “Shivering Strings” at the end of January. I've done other on-line fiddle events and always find something to add to my own knowledge and tunes for my own enjoyment.

Even though we can't be doing all the things that we would like to, for my part I am storing things up in my “to do” file for when things get back to normal.

Until then

Your editor John Tribe

BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

Greetings from Branch #1, Prince George. 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 the isolation and shutdowns will be only a memory. Instead of it being 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!

It's been the quietest year in the 52 year history of Branch #1. We cancelled our January AGM, and extended our memberships for an extra year. A small group of musicians met in the Elks Hall

on Thursdays for five weeks in Oct-Nov to play some tunes together - observing strict covid protocols - before new guidelines forced us to close it down.

Some of our fiddlers have been learning new tunes and practising the old through different on-line opportunities, such as Ivonne Hernandez' group lessons and weekend workshops, Jamming with JJ on Sundays on Facebook, 'Tune of the Week Challenge' on Instagram, Daniel Lapp on-line group lessons and other fiddle instruction websites.

A couple of upcoming events to consider:

- 'Shivering Strings Canada' on Jan 30 – 31 - 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.
- '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>

One day we will be jamming,

socializing and dancing again. Meantime, call up a senior and play a fiddle tune over the phone! And take care of yourselves.

Submitted by, Beth Bressette

QUESNEL



Branch #3

Our members have been vigilant in observing the Covid 19 Protocol; not really that difficult since Quesnel has no rail, bus, or air service at this time.

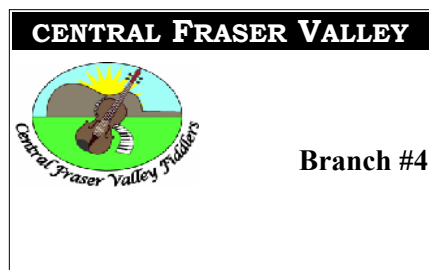
Lifetime members, Ray and Olga Plamondon, have moved to Kamloops. The long drive from Likely to Quesnel did not deter them from faithfully supporting all of our functions. They were part of the original group that organized the BC Fiddle Treat and attended every year to help in so many ways. We will miss them.

We also miss Gary Armstrong who passed away last year. His rendition of The McBride Polka (written by Sven Nielsen of Kamloops) inspired our fiddlers to learn it, and do a fairly credible job of it too. It's one of our favourite tunes and we remember Gary whenever we play it.

We're looking forward to

spring weather and hopefully able to get together and play some tunes. National Fiddle Day is coming up in May; maybe then.

Submitted by, Jean Gelin



First of all, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Our last newsletter was September 2020. It has been quite a year....one that none of us will forget for a long time. Here we are still waiting to be able to gather together and play our music. However, there is hope on the horizon that with the promised vaccine we will one day have this privilege again. We started the fall with practices in St Joseph's Church on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of the month. We tried to follow all the rules put forth by provincial health, but by November 1st all jams were suspended due to the rising Covid-19 counts. Thank you for trying Vern! Since then we've had to be content with playing alone or joining an online zoom session. J.J. Guy continues to be a wonderful source of practice and connection and many of our members join Jamming with JJ on Facebook Live on Sundays.

Vivienne Chin arranged a membership zoom meeting just before Christmas with Jo Blaak and Ed Ryz leading us in some Christmas tunes. It really was nice to see our friends faces again and hear the lovely music. We plan to have another January 9th so we can catch up on the news and play some tunes together. This does not replace our desire to all be together again but it helps. It will be some time until we are all vaccinated and are able to gather together to practice. I'm afraid it will be even longer before we will be allowed to play in senior's homes.

Since early 2020, when all our club activities were shut down due to the Covid-19 outbreak our club has only been able to meet for a few jams outside where we could play while social distancing. Without our weekly practices in Abbotsford, playing for the monthly dances in Aldergrove and other bookings in our area, we have all missed getting together with our fiddle friends. The incentive to keep up our daily fiddle practise at home without these events has sometimes been difficult. Fortunately, there are a lot of online fiddle events we can jam along with but it has still meant playing "alone". However, now that we are into a new year we are looking forward to some warm weather so that we can get outside again and play together in some of our lovely local parks

and hopefully, be able to meet up again with some of the folks who came to listen to our music last summer.

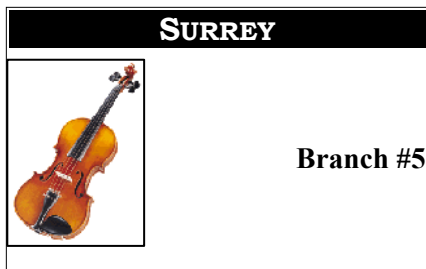
Branch #4 was to plan and organize an in-person Shivering Strings workshop in January 2021 but because of Covid-19, all plans were cancelled for any in-person workshops. Instead both Vivienne and Joanne joined the organizing committee for the Shivering Strings Canada scheduled for the 30/31 January 2021 which brings together all local Shivering Strings camps (Abbotsford, Truro, Saskatoon, Calgary, Golden, and Winnipeg) in one virtual Zoom-based camp! There will be beginner, intermediate and advanced fiddle classes, as well as classes for clawhammer banjo and upright base. Instructors include Gord Stobbe, JJ Guy, Troy MacGillivray, Alex Kusturok, Donna Turk, Kelli Trottier, and Daniel Koulack. The concept behind Shivering Strings is to learn the tunes in advance of the class so that you can focus on learning technique during the class. The more prepared you are the more you will get out of the classes. People can still register at:

<https://www.shiveringstringscanada.com/>

Now that the Covid-19 vaccine has reached Canada, we wait for our turn to be inoculated. It will be the beginning of trying to recapture the world we had a year ago. I hope everyone who

can, will get the vaccine when it is their turn. I know it will be a while before we will feel comfortable not wearing masks and being able to greet each other physically but it will happen. So until then, please take care of yourselves and stay safe and healthy. Again Happy New Year to you all.

Submitted by, Rosalie Eeg



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers Association

There is not a lot happening within our Surrey Fiddlers Group since the covid-19 pandemic started, so we have very little news for this January newsletter edition.

For a short period in 2020, some of our Surrey fiddlers and Hazelmere fiddlers were able to practice outdoors and then indoors for a short time, until the cases of covid-19 numbers increased substantially. Presently our Surrey fiddlers and Hazelemere fiddlers have been following the regulations set out by Dr. Bonnie Henry and are having fiddle practices on line using zoom.

During the month of December, up to ten fiddlers have

participated in the zoom practices.

(Evan)
I have not been able to participate in any fiddle practices in the last three months due to having cardiac problems in October, spending three days in hospital, plus two stents in the heart area.



Julius Cotter

Also Cataract surgery in both eyes in October and December, more than likely from my age, as I turned 80 years old on January 02.

Now that we are in the start of a new year, with hopes that the new vaccines should be available within the next three months and will hopefully lift our spirits up and rid us of this terrible virus which we hope will be gone for good. We will all be glad to get back to our normal way of life, playing music, dancing and being with our family and friends.

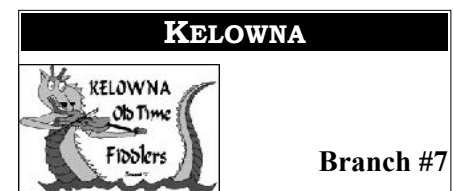
Congratulations go out to our member, Mike Sanyshyn , on November 29, 2020, Mike received the Gold Achievement Award for the BC Country Music Association Fiddle/Mandolin

Player of the Year. This award recognizes five consecutive wins in a row.

B i r t h d a y s – Congratulations go out to Julius Cotter, our Oldest Member of the Surrey Fiddlers, turned 96 years of age on December 11, 2020. Julius is very spry and healthy looking person for his age, walks without a cane, drives a car, plays the violin, harmonica and calls square dances for our branch.

“We wish him many more birthdays”.

Submitted by, Evan Sanyshyn



Happy New Year all! While we bid adieu to 2020 and welcome in 2021, circumstances haven't changed as much as we had hoped, but we are moving forward gradually. Like most of the Branches out there, we don't have a whole lot to report for the last bit, but there a few things to touch on.

We were able to have practices from September to



December with many accommodations for Covid. We were also able to have two live music events, with very strict protocols in place, for both September and October. Above you'll see a picture of us enjoying playing together in October. Since then, all of our live events have been cancelled.

We had our final practice for 2020 on December 9th and have since been waiting patiently to see when we will be able to resume. We are grateful that we were actually able to practice from September to December. We had a great time at our practices, socially distanced, masked up, sanitized and also recorded. We had tried to broadcast these practices on Zoom, as we were limited to 15 attendees, but due to the shaky internet connections, this was hit and miss. The recordings generally turned out alright though and are posted up on our YouTube page for our members to practice along with. While these videos are very far from perfection, it has been a learning experience and often helpful for all of us to have a reference of material to practice. Our

YouTube page can be found [here](#) if you'd like to see about a month's worth of practices. We take them down after a while as they are just practice videos



Max Kibsey

and not performances.

Unfortunately, pretty much everything else, including our practices now, has been cancelled due to the Pandemic. Our Christmas Party replacement event was going to be a concert this year, featuring Mike Sanyshyn. Our team headed by Lynn Tribe put in a bunch of hard work, planning and organizing, as these types of events certainly don't just happen on their own. Sadly, as the situation worsened, we were forced to cancel this event as well. Even knowing that all the cancellations are for

everyone's safety and another aspect of doing our part to keep this situation under control, it's hard not to be disappointed and discouraged at this point with everything that we have lost and are missing out on. We are doing our best to keep our chins up and wait for the vaccine. We are looking forward to the time when we can hold events again and play in public.

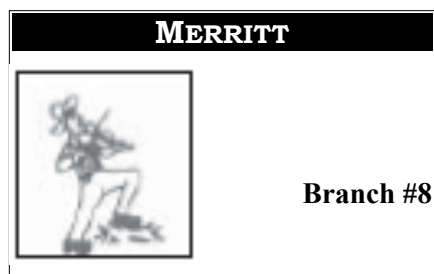
We have some sad news in our branch, as our friend and fellow musician, Max Kibsey passed away on January 1, 2021. This was sudden and unexpected to his friends, as he had just recently moved back to Winnipeg to be with family. While we are all mourning his loss, we are celebrating his life and his legacy. His obituary can be found [here](#) for anyone who knew Max.

As I read and experience more of this situation, it really brings it home to me how much live music brings to our humanity and society at large. It's not just the music, and it's not just the gathering together, but it's all the aspects of being able to gather together, hear music and fully experience it live, dance and move to it; it's a special kind of

Magic when all these pieces fall together. Whether it's Session music in a pub or Old-Time music played in homes or at dances. It's not just the music we're all missing. It's not just the gathering together we're missing. We're all missing the Magic these days. That hum of community and togetherness when we all start buzzing on the same level of our favourite tunes played with Joy by our whole Fiddle Family. We'll get back there, and we will enjoy it and cherish it so much more than we ever did before. We will get through this together.

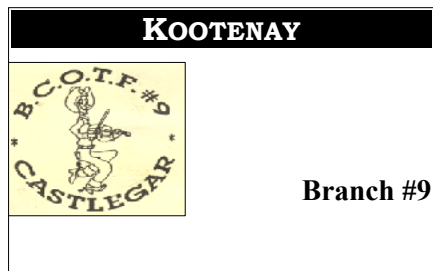
PS Our Fiddlefest 2021 is tentatively scheduled for Labour Day Weekend. Hoping that most of BC will have had vaccines by then and it can go ahead at a New date. Perhaps a new Format will be necessary, but it will hopefully take place.

Submitted by, Heather Bartel



No submission - hope all is well

Submitted by, Dianne Riley



Our branch gatherings remain on hold for the time being.

Sadly, Fred Desmoskoff, raised in Thrums B.C., who played guitar for OTF practices and gigs, passed away in January. Besides his involvement with the Old Time Fiddlers, he also contributed to local bluegrass music, taught himself guitar, sang, played violin, and was learning the mandolin. Fred quietly made time to talk with everyone and his welcoming friendly smile was infectious.

Thank you to Kate Enewold who brought to our attention the online Trad Weekend: "World On A String" series of five workshops, founded by Ivonne Hernandez, featuring fiddle styles from different areas of the world. There are three workshops left, the last, in April 2021. You can check them out at www.tradweekend.com.

A reminder, in case you are wondering "how will I ever get back to improvement of fingering, bowing, tone, rhythm, accents, ornamentations and all round playing of tunes with others -oh and-- under the

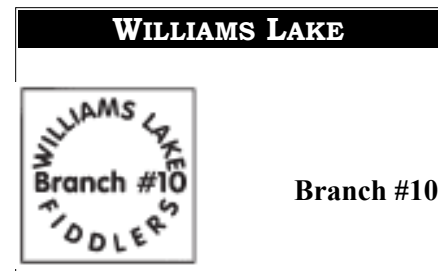
tutelage of renowned and accomplished instructors??", you might consider 2021 to be the year you sign up for the Castlegar Kootenay #9 Summer Music Camp. More details of the camp, which will include the modifications necessary for safety, will be forthcoming, including dates and price.

Thank you for spreading your news from around the province. We look forward to hearing it.

Submitted by, Brenda McLeod



Our club L-R Viva Stewart, Ed Caissie, Kathy Fetter, Joe Lecomte, Hal Giles, Ptat Gunderson, Ryder Chyne, Lorraine Baker, Hillary Williams.



As usual there isn't much to



Lorraine singing a farewell song to the club.

report since the Pandemic took over our lives. I have been self-isolating since last March and except for a couple of times I haven't had much contact with the club.



Lorraine Baker

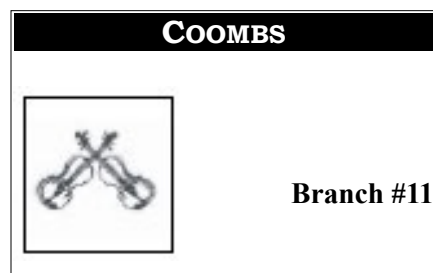
As I mentioned in the last newsletter Lorraine Baker was leaving the club and moving to Manitoba to be near her family.

Lorraine had been one of our most supportive club members and was always there when we needed her. Her last play date with us was going to be at the Legion so we decided to give her a little going away surprise. Kathy Feters made the arrangements and during the break Lorraine was presented with a cake and Gift card from (WalMart). We all hope she is doing well and settling in her new home.

Our President Joe Lecomte has resigned due to health reasons so we will be looking for a new president for 2021.

I hope all is well with all the other clubs and that people are staying safe. Let's hope that we can get through this Covid virus.

Submitted by Pat Gunderson



Hello Everyone.

Covid 19 Has kept the Coombs Old Time Fiddlers pretty much in isolation this winter. All our members are healthy and we are very thankful for that.

We are very fortunate to have Angela and Lance do a virtual jam session. A lot of people tune in each week and play along with them. They are making their way through all the tunes that we

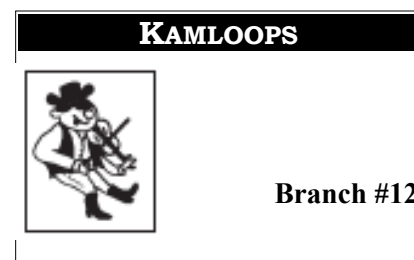
normally play at the senior residences. This allows all our members to maintain their musical skills. We are all missing each other and can't wait to play together and socialize again. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Angela and Lance for helping bring the club together virtually during these trying times.

Our province wide ban has been extended to Feb 5, 2121. We have been asked to hold the line. We must hold the course and not let our guard down now. Together we will beat this terrible virus. So bunker down now to play wonderful music together in the future.

Happier Trails

Tomarg333@gmail.com

Submitted By Tom Elliot



Well let's get to it. Since the last newsletter we've had no playouts, no dances, no concerts, one executive meeting and about ten practices. The City closed our practise venues in December, which are now on hold till **February 5th** and probably longer.

I'm glad we had some practices, because we were getting pretty rusty, but we

definitely had a lot of time to practice by ourselves in the last year.

I suggest especially if you are a musician & have Facebook, you can go to JJ Guy's [Sunday Jam](#) session online at 2:00 pm. He plays for an hour with Cathy Sproule on the piano.

They play mainly Canadian fiddle standards at a leisurely pace. This is a good way to practise along at home. He has held over 40 Jams so far - some may be on his Website after the fact <http://www.jjguy.ca/jamming-with-jj.html> but you can join each session live if you are on Facebook.

KOTF#12 also has a nice tribute to a lot of our past fiddlers and members. Go to <http://bcfiddlers.com/branches/kamloops>, & choose our YouTube Channel.

There is music from 1988 and also tributes to several of our KOTF#12 members who passed in 2020.

I'm not sure what to say about 2020, it was smooth sailing until March and then we hit a reef.

I think the best way is "tongue and cheek", I'm going to use Song Titles and Lyrics, here goes:

2020

"Welcome To My World",
Remember Me" "I used to play
Second Fiddle to an Old Guitar"

"I Don't Get Around Much

Anytime", "The Things I Used
to Do, I Don't No More"

All I hear now is "The Sound
of Silence".

I can't end on such a morbid
note, here is a revamped lyric for
the future:

2021

I can see clearly now, the pain
is gone. I can see all obstacles in
my way.

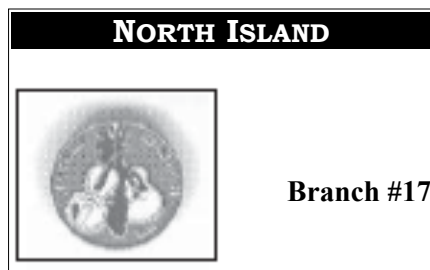
Gone are the dark clouds that
had me blind.

It's gonna be a bright, bright
sunshiny Covid-free day.

(and the coda): "The future is
so bright I gotta wear shades".

I'll see you all "Someday
Soon".roll.

Submitted By Dave Lynn



2020, WHAT A YEAR THAT
WAS! The bad part is, we are
still seeing the effects of it
showing up all around us, and in
some cases, worse than it was
before. And even though there is
hope for the future, we are not
likely to see much improvement
in our day-to-day activities for a
few more months to come.
Another thing to consider, is that
we probably won't see

everything return to what we can
consider normal, until closer to
the end of 2021.

That means, we probably
won't be getting together as
groups to play our music for a
while yet, and certainly not in
care homes.

But do not despair, there are
ways to play right now, for a
certain amount of satisfaction.
As of the time of this writing,
there is no gathering in groups,
indoors. But just a short while
ago, we were able to get together
in small groups, indoors. While
that situation was in effect,
Branch 17 players gathered
together in the hall. We couldn't
have dances, so we used the
dance floor instead of the stage,
and spread out. And
masks went on as needed. I
found out that I could actually
sing, into a microphone, through
my mask. I think it came out
pretty good. Mind you, there
were a few people who put on ear
muffs instead of masks. They
must have been cold. Anyway,
this current lockdown will not
last too long, and I'm fairly
confident that as the COVID
numbers come down, probably
by the time you are reading this,
we will be going back to having
those great circle jam sessions.
Some clubs will be able to do the
same.

Regardless of the COVID
restrictions, most people reading
this, must have some form of
computing device, a desktop

computer, laptop, tablet, or even a cell phone. You can go on YouTube and play along with the tons and tons of tunes found there. A lot of you already know this, and a lot of you already know that there are free instructional videos as well, on YouTube. So turn on your device and grab your instrument and get playing, maybe learn a new tune, or two. But be careful, it can be addictive. If you are a seasoned player, you could post a tune, or more, on YouTube, so others in your club, or other clubs, can try and learn them, or just play along if they already know it. So, put a tune on YouTube.

For those of you who have these devices, but only know how to get your e-mail, or maybe do a bit of looking around the web, I want you to know, that computers have no teeth, they can't bite you, and computer viruses are not transferable to humans. Experiment and explore.

Now this next thing I'm going to mention, takes it to a whole other level, with very little, computer knowledge, or expertise, but it does take a bit of thinking, and is a lot of fun. I downloaded a program, (or app, if you like), that allows you to play a tune, record it, and send it to another person with the same program/app, and they can follow you, record their instrument, and pass it on to another person to add their instrument. You can record a whole band this way,

without ever being in the same building, or even the same town. I had sent a message to Patti Kusturuk, asking how she was able to play along with Calvin Vollrath, and others, in the videos I saw on the internet, and this is what she came back with. "Acapella".

I am not plugging their product, just letting you know how to get it done, and I can't do that without mentioning the name.

There is a cost involved, I think I paid around \$60 for a one year licence, works out to about \$5 a month. However, there is a free version that lets you record a very short segment, about 15 seconds. So it costs nothing to download it and play around with it, to see if you want to go there. I have had the unrestricted version for a few months, and already I feel it was worth it. So thank you Patti, if you are reading this.

One thing you can do with the program, if you are a multi instrumentalist, is to accompany yourself, instead of sending it to others. You can see me doing just that, (If you are brave), by going to YouTube, and in their search bar, type in, "Ed Medford Play Me The Waltz Of The Angels". Only two instruments for this one, but if you are talented, you can add twenty instruments, or more. Don't let the beard confuse you, it's a new thing that my wife wanted me to

try. Anyway, this will give you an idea how it all works. I just used my tablet. Propped it up on a chair, and went at it. What you will see there is the result of the third try. It was tricky learning to look in the right direction, so it would look as if I'm glancing at myself, but after 30 minutes, it worked out, and was a lot of fun. You do need to use some form of headphones, or ear buds. And I would suggest turning on the built in metronome for the first instrument, just to keep the timing in the ballpark. The metronome doesn't record. And you don't have to put any of your recordings on the internet if you don't want to just save / share with your photo folder on your own computer, tablet, phone, etc.

I just posted another one on YouTube that is purely instrumental, with more instruments. On YouTube, search "Ed Medford Old Rosin The Beau". This one took me a bit more than an hour. I had to re-do a couple parts.

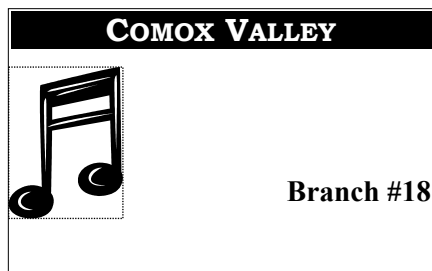
So, now you have a few of my ideas on how to keep from getting music withdrawal and cutting down on the boredom. If you don't know anyone else who has this program, to collaborate with, just send me a copy of what you record and I will try to add a part, and send it back to you. edmed@shaw.ca

I hope this terrible virus hasn't seriously affected any of you, or your families. And

hopefully there will come a time when it will just be a bad memory.

Cheers, Ed

Submitted by Lorraine Hiebert



Well, well, I can't believe that our Funtime Fiddler schedule has been so skimpy these past few months. Nobody seems to be putting on any events. No one is booking the Big Yellow Merville hall to play a concert. No Contra dances have been happening. As the hall is the center of the Comox Valley Entertainment (read "Fiddle") Universe, I can't believe so little is happening. Is it something that I said? No deodorant? Too much polka??

The outdoor playouts are over with until the warmer spring weather hits us. A few jams were tried in several halls but we found that playing our instruments ten feet apart in some amorphous circle made it hard to follow a steady beat and we discovered that cacophony is not symphony.

We did book Pierre Schryer for November 20th at the hall but then, on the 19th, the province shut down all group and entertainment meetings. So,

Pierre, who was already up here, hung out at my house and I showed him a tune or two. We even played "Twinkle Twinkle" with a new beginner adult fiddler. That was some fun!

The hall dance floor was redone in early November and now Pickleball has taken over as the sport for everyone. We did manage to squeeze in singer/songwriter/guitarist Carolyn Mark on stage for two of her Virtual Hootenanny shows in December and January. She has moved to the Valley from Victoria and she will be a great addition to our raucous Contra dance evenings once we can doh-see-doh again.

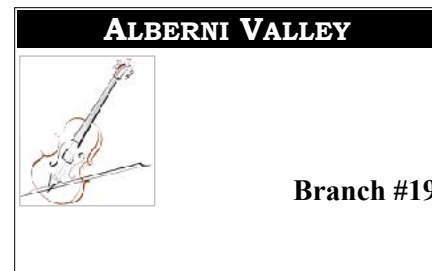
We fiddlers are able to get together every now and then for some tunes but the appetite remains unsatiated. The fiddle club members will be pleased to learn that their membership is free this year due to the largess of the BCOTFA and it is hoped that we might be able to attract a few new players to sign up with august Secretary August this year. New, young blood is always welcome.

So, I come to the end of the no-news news report for the Funtime Fiddlers. Stay healthy, everyone. Get outside and enjoy the fresh air as the hills are alive with the sound of music.

Cheers,

Craig Freemantunes.

Submitted by Craig Freeman



A very Happy New Year to everyone and I am hoping all are keeping well in these challenging times. I have been finding the time passing by so quickly, and while sitting in my chair, just before lunch, I had one of those Oh! No!, moments when the thought Newsletter flashed through my mind. This was followed by, "what day is it"? Luckily I was still ahead of schedule but not by much. With all of the restrictions still in place, I don't feel I have a lot to report. Our President, Rhonda Holcombe, has continued to send out an email every Monday morning, entitled Monday Musings or Monday Missive. She has provided some words of encouragement and has expressed some thoughts that people could identify with, both the good and the not so good. The message being, we are not alone in these difficult days. Many have expressed thanks to Rhonda for these timely words, a way to express connection and community. Many of our club members have been participating in and enjoying the Facebook Jams that Angela and Lance of Coombs Branch 11, have been putting on weekly. Our two clubs have a lot of overlapping

repertoire, so we have been able to refresh our own pieces as well as learn some new ones from Coombs. It has also given us practice to adapt, at least temporarily, to another club's presentation of a song and still keep our own version. Many thanks to Angela and Lance for all the time and effort they have put in to do this. Some club members having been joining in the jams with JJGuy and some lessons with Trish and Geoff Horrocks. We are probably all becoming more familiar with and adept at dealing with, online items. Society will definitely have made some changes by the time Covid is over and I think some of these changes will be permanent. This has been especially difficult for those musicians who depend on music for their living. For the rest of us, we have been able to participate in Zoom sessions and lessons, watch great concerts from the comfort of our homes. No driving out in a storm to see a favourite performer. The last, in person, performance I saw, was Natalie McMaster and her daughter, in March, at our local high school and the fiddling was superb. Immediately after that things shut down. It is challenging to keep up the momentum of playing on one's own. There is something inspiring about playing with others, especially on the day everyone is on the same page, all together, those notes filling out

the sound, all sounding good. I must admit to having my share of down days along with the up days, but I am still playing my fiddle. So whatever instrument you play, I hope you can keep on having some good times. Music can be uplifting and helps to keep us healthy. Take care all. Gail Ross form.

*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