



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

I (your editor) have usurped this page to pay a little tribute to just a few of those who through their hard work and imagination have made the last year and a half a little more bearable. We have all had our normal lives simply turned upside down and have been waiting with anticipation for things to “get back to normal”. Some notable fiddlers have felt that this is not good enough. Fiddlers like Yvonne Hernandez have not simply waited for



“things to get back to normal” but have been busy with on-line work and jam sessions.

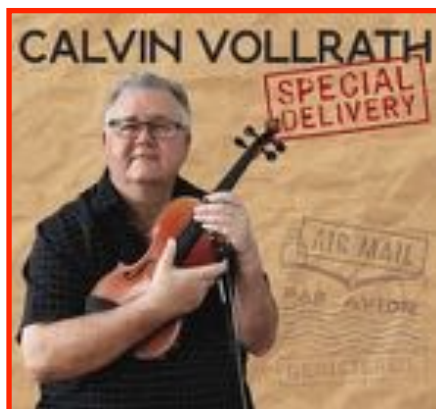
Another one that comes to mind is Patti Kustoruk who for two years committed to putting up a tune a day for 365 days up

on YouTube. The tunes that Patti chose are generally well known Canadian traditional fiddle tunes,



and I know some that use this as a source of Old Time Music. As if that wasn't enough she has private on-line lessons and will work with you individually.

Another one is Calvin Vollrath. Calvin puts an



enormous amount of time and effort to host events such as on-line contests. Calvin also has learning opportunities for those who wish to learn on-line. These are often pre-programmed sessions where Calvin carefully prepares and presents original tunes that are available again on line. Calvin has to be one of fiddlers most prolific composers with well over 50 CD published and these are also available on his web site.

Another fiddler that comes to mind is JJ Guy. A huge



contribution by JJ was made during COVID with his “Jammin’ with JJ”. A Sunday afternoon live face book presentation for 67 continuous weeks. Along with Cathy Sproule on piano this duo specialized in presenting Canadian common jam tunes, presented at a play along speed

for fiddlers to join in. JJ was inducted into the North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame thanks in no small part to his commitment to “Jammin’ with JJ”

This list could and perhaps should go on for a very long time but I’ll end off by mentioning Gord Stobbe shown here receiving the “Order of Canada” for his fiddling



Gord is well known to most of us and has contributed immeasurably to our music and enjoyment of fiddling.

Gord along with JJ have put out 5 harmony CD’s, travelled Canada putting on Camps and are doing on-line teaching.

There is a great danger in not mentioning a fiddler that has really done a lot for our world of music but my purpose here has been to draw attention to the positives rather than mope around and feel sorry for ourselves. I find it encouraging and inspiring to take a look at what the fiddle community is doing to enhance our musical lives, and in one way or another making themselves available to us.

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.

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**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER
(FEB 2022) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN JANUARY 15 TH, 2022.**

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 #17 North Island next issue

Followed by

Branch #18 Fun Time Fiddlers

Branch #19 Alberni Valley

Branch n#1 Prince George

Besides being really great fiddlers and entertainers they all have one thing in common, and that is they are all involved in some aspect of on-line involvement that we can partake in and I find that really fantastic.

There are some benefits in being -

Your editor John Tribe

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jackie Davis

What a world we live in!!! I know we are all in the same

position not being able to get out and have those big get togethers with all our friends and family. The fires in our province of British Columbia, this summer just did not help, but it will come. Sometimes I feel that what is the point in planning anything because things are changing still every day. “But if you plan nothing, nothing happens!”, someone said to me just the other day. So again we try to plan things for the future and then wait to see what happens.

We were able to get out and do some camping this summer, an activity that we were able to do and not get too close to any one!! Luckily were got to some

places that the smoke was not too bad and we were able to see the mountains. Kamloops was just socked in and most days you could not even see the sky.

Try and stay positive everyone, keep smiling!!

Your president, Jackie Davis

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

The road to recovery is like a waltz with one step back for every two steps forward. One major step forward was the nomination of JJ Guy for recognition of contribution to the fiddling world to the North American Fiddling Hall of Fame. There were 150 nominations and only two were successfully inducted into the hall of fame. There may not be a grand financial reward but the recognition by all who know JJ cannot be measured in dollars. On behalf of all members of BCOTFA we say congratulations for recognition well received.

The steps backwards must be the delta variant that is flooding our already over-taxed health care facilities, and cancelling many of our events.

On our fiddling front we are permitted some outside events and are getting enquires for more gigs, our ranks have thinned a

little but hopefully will revive as things improve - keeping hoping!

Your editor John Tribe

BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

I hope everyone had a good summer. We'll soon be enjoying the coloured leaves falling on our yards and the trails, at least in our north-central area. Branch #1 Board has been trying to plan the start-up of some weekly jams; it's been difficult as our previous venue is not renting out yet due to covid so we are narrowing down other options. Of course we will strictly follow provincial guidelines. For many years our jam nights have been large community events, attended by not only musicians, but 50 - 80 seniors who enjoy listening and dancing. Because of covid restrictions that format will be replaced by an acoustic circle jam. The seniors will miss their dancing, but the fiddlers will find it easier to learn new tunes together as we can play them more slowly as needed, or stop and go over difficult parts. We look forward to the day when we can start our monthly dances

again in future.

Nine of our local fiddlers joined eight others from various parts of central and northern BC to attend a three-day workshop with Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy. It was held at one family's farm 30 km from town, which turned out to be a perfect spot for classes and jamming! We wound up the weekend by entertaining as a group at the Willow River country Farmer's Market. It was great to play together and learn some new tunes for a few days.

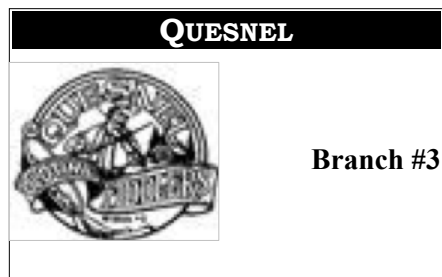
We were very saddened to lose one of our active Life Members, Marguerite Mackenzie, who passed away July 17 at the age of 79, after an illness. Marguerite and her husband, Jim, have been club members for over 30 years, and have served on the Board in the past. Jim is a fiddler, and Marguerite played keyboard with him for many years on literally *hundreds* of occasions - senior homes, dances and community events.

Another of our Life Members is recovering in hospital after an accident on his farm. John Ryser, 89, was one of our earliest members, who joined in about 1970 and looked after the Bar at our dances for many years. John is not one to give up easily, and is very likely anxiously waiting to get fixed up and well enough to go back to his potato farm.

Take care, and don't forget - whether you are playing or

listening, good music really lifts the spirits!

Submitted by, Beth Bressette



Any hopes and plans we had for a fall contest were dashed with the fourth wave of Covid and the restrictions that have been put back on. A contest in the spring is a possibility.

We escaped the fires and most of the smoke over the summer. We observed Canada Day by playing at Ten Mile Lake Park. Once a week five or six of us get together outdoors and practice for an hour or two. Anita Mamela keeps us in tune and in time. Covid ended our weekly sessions at Jean Moorecraft's but we still keep in touch.

Anita entered the virtual contest from Fort Saskatchewan (The Grand North American Fiddle Championship). Setting up the camera and co-ordinating with the emcee via zoom was a new learning experience. It was good to be represented, and good to be part of the action even though it seemed somewhat sterile.

Our membership is

dwindling. Last year it was Ray and Olga Plamondon who moved to Kamloops. Now Romley Goulet has moved to Cache Creek to be with one of his daughters. These are the people we counted on to serve on the executive and support all of our events. Two of our young fiddlers- Loraine Brisebois and Hunter Grosse Pearen are off the university. Needless to say, we miss them all.

Those of us that pick up CBC North in the morning were treated to an interview with Pete Amyoony talking about gardening and saving seeds. If you attended the Fiddle Treat at Gavin Lake you'll remember Pete and his positive energy and enthusiasm. Strange how we become interconnected.

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting Allan Curtis in his home on his 93rd birthday. He is blind and can no longer continue his favorite hobby - playing, making, and repairing fiddles. One tune that I always asked him to play was Ootsa Lake Stomp (by Art Lindstrom I think), but he could not recall it. However he did manage to play a few tunes on one of his own fiddles, Redwing, Silver and Gold, among others. It's really inspiring to

know that fiddle music can bring joy at any age.

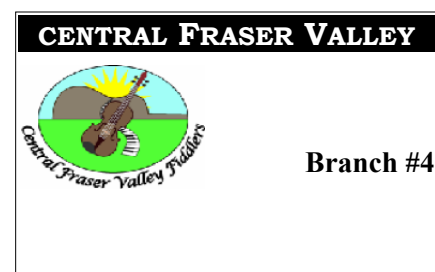
Until next time,

Jean

P.S.

Oosta Lake Stomp is a catchy little tune. If anyone has the music, I'd appreciate a copy. Maybe it could be printed in this newsletter.

Submitted by, Jean Gelinas



We all thought we'd be done with this pandemic by now. However, that is not the case so we must still wear our masks and be careful of our surroundings.

Branch #4 has been a lot busier since the last submission.



Ed & Diane at the farewell party

The beautiful weather has enabled us to jam/practice outside at a park in Mission on Wednesday afternoons. It was wonderful to be playing together again. We did have to cancel a few jams due to hot weather. Can you believe it? Most other years it was for cold or wet weather. Cindy Andrews was in charge of most of the jams. She did a splendid job keeping everything and everyone up to date. Thanks for all your hard work and attention Cindy. We had an average of about 10 players every week at the park with numerous spectators.

Alas, in June we had to say goodbye to Ed and Diane Ryz. They moved to Calgary for health reasons to be closer to family. We were able to have an outdoor farewell party and jam for them with many attending. We will miss them so much! Ed has been our music director for many years, leading us in practices, payouts and dances. Diane was always at his side helping in any way that was needed. She even lead the singing some of the sing-a-long tunes at our care homes. A favourite was You Are My Sunshine. The residents loved it! We presented Ed & Diane Life Memberships with our club so they will always be a part of us. We wish them well in their new home and city.



Ed & Diane at the farewell party

Ed's departure left us with big shoes to fill. Over the summer months, our President, Vivienne Chin, and Vice, Joanne Davenport took over leading the practices. It was holiday time so often jams had no leader. Cindy Andrews stepped up and took over several of our jams. She did a great job! Cindy had an accident a while ago injuring her shoulder and had not been able to play her fiddle. Over the past months, she has learned to play the keyboard so now is able to play both fiddle and keyboard. Her husband Dennis has been learning to play guitar so he has been able to join her at the jams.

Our first payout is later this month at a Craft Fair. We are the "live music" offered. It's a start!

We are currently looking for facilities to have our weekly

practices indoors in anticipation for many more events.

While we were jamming at the park this summer, we had a few musicians join us to play along. As a result, we are pleased to welcome new members Catherine Faire, Matt de Bruyn and Dennis Andrews to our club. We look forward to having great music times with them. WELCOME!!

Branch 4 is once again involved in organizing Shivering Strings Canada, an online workshop for fiddle, guitar, banjo, base and piano scheduled for the 2nd-3rd October 2021. The instructors are Gord Stobbe, Troy MacGillivray, Kelli Trottier, Alex Kusturok, JJ Guy, Donna Turk for fiddle, Stacey Read for piano, and Daniel Koulack for banjo and base. The website for more information and registration is:

www.shiveringstringscanada.com

. Branch 4 is also intending, depending on the Covid situation, to host a Shivering Strings Abbotsford on February 5th 2022 – stay tuned!

Fun note: we received an amusing list of golden rules for ensemble playing. I hope you will enjoy and get a chuckle from it.

Golden Rules for Ensemble Playing

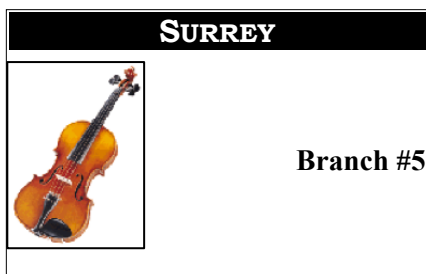
- Everyone should play the same piece.
- Stop at every repeat sign and discuss in detail whether to

take the repeat or not. Listeners will love this a lot!

- Carefully tune your instrument before playing. That way you can play out of tune with a clear conscience.
- Take your time turning pages.
- The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice-versa).
- If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who get lost.
- If a passage is difficult, slow it down. If it's easy, speed it up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
- If you are completely lost, stop everyone and say "I think we should tune".
- Happy are those who have not perfect pitch, for the kingdom of music is theirs.
- If the ensemble has to stop because of you, explain in detail why you got lost. Everyone will be very interested.
- A wrong note played timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note played with authority is an interpretation.
- When everyone is finished playing, you should not play any notes you have left.

Until next time, please take care and happy fiddling.

*Submitted by, Rosalie
Eg*



So far, there is hardly anything happening within our

Surrey Fiddlers Branch due to the covid -19 pandemic and now that the Covid-19 Delta Variant has arrived and taken over, it looks like it will be a while longer before we can hold dances or other events for our senior members. We hope that this pandemic will go away soon instead of causing more grief for people worldwide.

A few of our Surrey Fiddlers have been going to weekly practise sessions with the Hazelmere fiddlers at one of the Hazelmere fiddler's outdoor residence shelter for the past few months and now as of September 13th the following Monday practises will be held at the Hazelmere hall.

Everyone attending the practise will still have to follow the covid - 19 restriction rules which includes masks and specified distance between chairs, etc: .

(Evan) – I have been having health issues since 2020 and hope that I will be feeling better so that I can attend some of the practises and enjoy playing the old time tunes again,

Our Member, Mike Sanyshyn, was invited to attend the Kelowna Fiddle Fest which was held on September 3rd to the 5th, to play a Friday concert, a dance later and a Saturday workshop. A thank you from Mike to the Kelowna Fiddler's Branch for the invitation to play at this event.

Mike's Bluegrass group, Jackson Hollow has signed a record deal with the U.S. label "Mountain Fever Music" based in Willis, Virginia.

On July 4th, they released their debut single, "Travelin' Heart" to U.S. radio and are receiving extensive airplay on Sirius XM Bluegrass Junction and recently charted in the top 20 on Bluegrass Today bluegrass music chart.

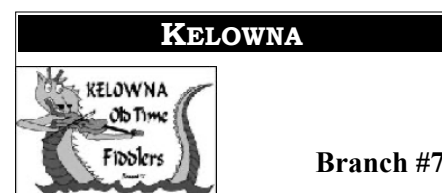
The Canadian release was on September 2nd and the single is available on all streaming platforms.

The International Bluegrass Music Association has selected Jackson Hollow for a virtual showcase to be streamed during the IBMA conference in Raleigh, N.C. between September 28 to October 1st.

For More Info: see <https://www.jacksonhollowmusic.com/>

"Wishing everyone good health"

Submitted by: Evan Sanyshyn



Branch #7 - Kelowna

Our big news for this Newsletter is how much of a roaring success our Fiddle Fest was on September 3rd and 4th this

year! This was a shift from our usual first weekend in June scheduling, and while we weren't quite at the hoped-for normal phase of life due to Covid surges, we still managed to have a fantastic time.

How much have we all missed live music? We've all been making lemonade so long out of the lemons in the Pandemic, that when we finally got to experience the abundance and variety of fruit in our fiddle world, it's a nearly religious experience. We've been missing live music, but to truly experience it again is like a warm, sunny spring day after a cold, cloudy, bleak winter. I can only attempt to explain how amazing all the performers were, and what it was like in the crowds. It is an experience that we have been missing for a long time. When you listen to an artist create music and draw you in, you feel the energy through your whole body and mind, carried along with the music through the artists' talent. While the venue felt a little empty with the limited capacity crowds we were allowed, the long-missed musical connection was the same, and it was wonderful!

The festival began Friday night with a headline performance by Mike Sanyshyn, backed up by Wayne Rodacker on bass guitar and Vic Ukrainetz on keys. Mike played a couple of sets including traditional tunes and selection of his own original

music. Afterwards, the chairs were cleared for a short dance, showing us all why he is one of Canada's top Country Music fiddlers. It was a great evening and a fantastic warm-up for Saturday.



SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE WORKSHOP

Saturday morning, we had a good turnout for our workshops beginning at 9 am. We were given some great techniques and resources for playing backup on fiddle and picked up a fun swing fiddle tune called Peacock Rag. After a lunch break, the Featured Artists Concert Series kicked off with an amazing set by Chloe Davidson.

Many folks in Kelowna have been watching Chloe perform since she was just a little kid and seeing her talent and skills at the caliber she has grown into has been amazing. She pulled at our hearts with her sweet soulful waltzes and had us all in awe with her jigs and reel sets. Chloe

was backed up on guitar by Raymond Knorr, another extremely talented musician and Championship fiddler who cut his teeth in Saskatchewan and is now calling Vancouver home. Chloe has a number of albums

recently released with her bluegrass band, Under the Rocks, and has a lot of original music.

Next on the bill was Kai Gronberg showing us his talent and skill, creativity and diversity. Kai was backed up by Raymond Knorr on guitar

and fiddle, playing together seamlessly. Chloe was the winner of our Championship class in 2019 when we were last able to have a competition, and her skills have only increased since then. Kai who was in second place not only gave us some amazing music, but also brought on stage Raymond Knorr and Michael Burnyeat during his set to play us some three-part harmony. It was exquisite.

Michael Burnyeat played the final set of the Featured Artists Series and blew us all away with his renditions of Sweet Georgia Brown and The Rainbow Connection. Michael was backed up on guitar by headliner Mark

Sullivan, and on keys by Vic Ukrainetz for a few numbers.

I marvelled that only in “fiddle land” does this sort of collaboration happen so easily. The musical humility and camaraderie in the fiddle world can truly be felt; where else do headlining musicians back up the opening acts, and all the music is of such world-class quality? You all make my heart burst with your generosity and talent to give so much to the crowds and each other, with your talent and skill, humour and heart. We advertised three featured artists for this series but got four amazing young musicians! Thank you all so much for coming out and putting on such an incredible show!

Mark Sullivan was our Saturday headline act and put on an incredible show! Mark was backed up by Friday’s headline musician Mike Sanyshyn on guitar, and Vic Ukrainetz on keys. Showing us all what world class fiddling really sounds and looks like, there was not a single person in the audience not tapping along with the music, and at times jumping up to dance. Mark took us on the full tour of Old-Time fiddle music and played us some amazing East Coast tunes and original music as well.

The finale had Vic, our MC as well, bring all the musicians up on stage to play together, and it was incredible! You can tell

how much everyone has missed playing live music and feeling the energy of playing live with other musicians. The group of young fiddlers we had come to play has been competing and playing together for so long their relationship can only be described as Family. These beautiful human beings have so much regard, respect and admiration for each other as people and musicians, and to watch them all play together is just sublime.

The evening was wrapped up by a dance with The Vic Ukrainetz Dance Band and Mike Sanyshyn playing to a full house of 40 dancers. Everyone had a great evening of live music and much missed dancing.

I think I’ve run out of superlatives to describe our Fiddle Fest, but if you were there, you know. It was an incredible event, and we can’t thank enough, our crew of volunteers and our Captain at the Helm, Lynn Tribe, for all their hard work. You all did amazing! If you search up the Branch #7 YouTube page, there are a handful of videos to enjoy.

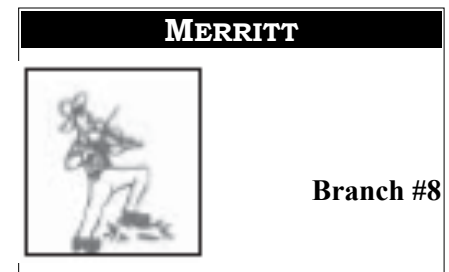
In other news, we played a couple of outdoor gigs downtown in Kelowna this summer. On July 24th and August 21st through the city’s Get Eventive Days promotion. Both events received a lot of great feedback and were lots of fun. We played outdoors for both under tents and played

three 30-minute sets with time between for networking and interacting with the public and promoting the upcoming Fiddle Fest. The public was so appreciative of having live music in the parks!

September 17th was to be our first dance of the season (unfortunately Cancelled) at the Rutland Activity Centre, but we are hopeful that this momentum towards more music and more events continues!

We hope that everyone is staying healthy and fiddling a lot. Take care all!

Submitted by, Heather Bartel



Well, here we are again missing listening to and playing our beloved music. Our Merritt group had our usual campout in May and it was a lot of fun! It is always great to get together with our friends. Bud Johnston joined Jerry Neimie and Debrah Kester from Kelowna and they played and sang wonderfully! Another multitalented young man named Ross joined them. On Saturday Carol and Vic Ukrainetz surprised us and they entertained us. Another surprise was Dixie and Darrell and they brought

Carrol and Dixies' mom Vi Norman! Had a wonderful visit.

Dixie grew up in our club and is an accomplished fiddle player in her own right.

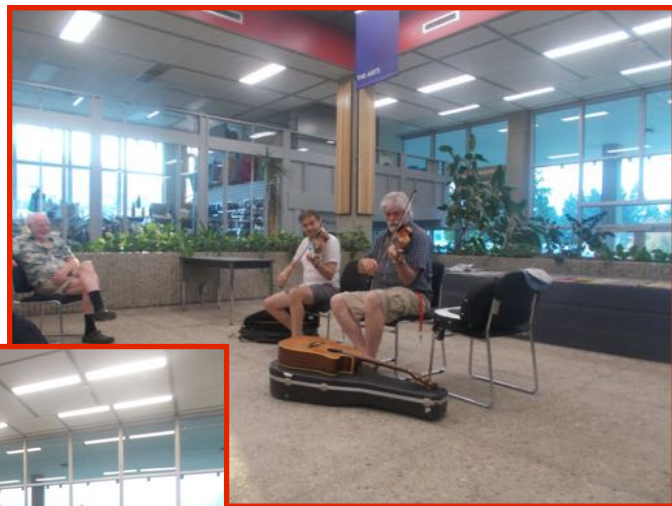
They also brought enough food to feed an army!

We wish everyone all the best. And hope to get together soon!

Submitted by, Dianne Riley

group. Although we are not having public gigs at the moment, we are hoping to get practising with opportunities for regular playing together. Already, G l e n n Carlson, OTF past president, who has recently

Castlegar Music Camp 2.0 this July over 3 camp days. Gord and J.J. kept the itinerary moving and



similar to previous week-long camps as much as possible, complete with morning rotating classes, afternoon jams and 2 rhythmic group pieces, culminating in concerts featuring each of the 2 classes.

A big highlight was the evening

instructor concert where Gord and J.J. held the audience rapt, once again, with their jokes and compositions, blending fiddle and guitar. The variety night really stood out as well,

f o r

participation, sheer talent, and humor. To see attendance from

returned to the Kootenays, has offered to set up a jam on his property, while the weather



permits.

We were fortunate to host

KOOTENAY



Branch #9

We hope this summer, while presenting some challenges, has been restorative for you all in many ways. Our thoughts are with those of you whose lives and property have been affected by the fires.

The September calendar of Kootenay #9 has a date penciled in and a venue booked for a branch meeting, over a potluck supper, possibly followed by an impromptu jam. It will be gratifying and fun to reunite as a

fiddlers from all over B.C. was wonderful.

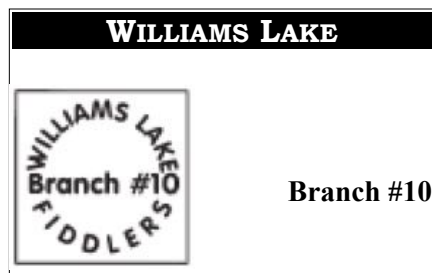
I hope many are taking in Fiddle Fest, Kelowna, happening at the time of this writing.

If you're not warming up to the prospect of cooler temperatures, you could try out shivering in a good way by participating in Shivering Strings, Oct 2-3, the second online workshop of its kind, this time accommodating fiddle, piano, clawhammer banjo and upright bass players.

Go to www.shiveringstringscanada.com for information on schedule, instructors and price.

I hope you are finding your way through the many tunes you may have learned this year and look forward to reading about what's going on in your area.

Submitted by, Brenda McLeod



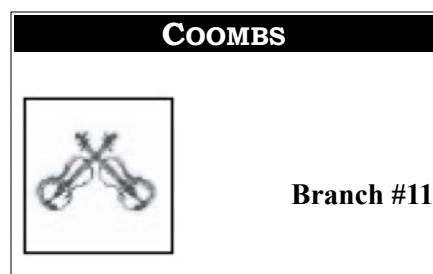
It certainly has been an interesting 18 months. I'm sure we all thought that we would be rid of Covid by now but alas that is not the case. I personally have been self isolating since March 16th 2020.

Our club continued to play for the Legion on their Pasta

Nights since last Fall and into the Spring of this year. The Legion cancels their Pasta Night over the summer but started up again two weeks ago so we have resumed our schedule there. Other than that we have not been playing at any other venues.

As I have mentioned before our group has dwindled down over the years because of health issues, death, and people moving away so it has been a struggle to keep enough players to continue. We are trying to find a way to attract people to our club and to build up our membership. I'm sure we're not the only club with this problem.

Submitted by Pat Gunderson



We have had a very hot summer and our Island is in the midst of a drought. There was a major fire by Ladysmith that was fought successfully before it could cause too much damage.

We lost our favourite ice cream place in Whiskey Creek as the whole store went up in smoke. When a van was refuelling it caught on fire which quickly spread to the convenience store.

People who travelled up and down the Island this summer

carried jugs of water and put out grass fires that they came across along the highway.

Two of Branch 11's founding members celebrated birthdays recently. Ken Deacon turned 90 and had a convoy drive by his home including several fire trucks and many of the old time fiddlers. Roy Bocek turned 92 and we celebrated his birthday with an outdoor jam and of course birthday cake and coffee.

We played for one seniors residence via Zoom. They enjoyed it but it certainly is not like being there in person and interacting with everyone. We can't wait until we can visit the



seniors centres again.

We have practiced outdoors at the Coombs Emporium every Saturday over the summer. We are now getting used to playing together after a long Covid separation. It sure does not take long to forget some tunes and get out of sync with the other players.

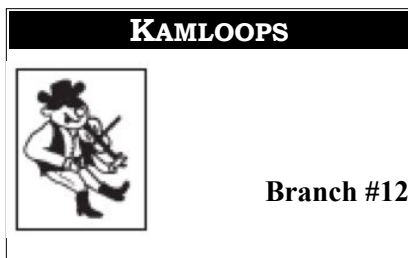
Everyone enjoyed playing at

the Parksville Pioneer Museum. There were lots of people who brought their lawn chairs, sat in the field among the pioneer buildings and enjoyed the music. The fiddle music seemed very appropriate in the pioneer setting.

Our Island is in the midst of another Covid outbreak so everyone is being extra careful. From here on we will just have some small gathering practices to improve on old tunes and learn new ones.

Most of our members have had both vaccinations and all are healthy.

Submitted By Tom Elliot



Well it's September 7 2021 and I head on down to our first club practise at the "Heritage House". It's been 11 months since our last club practise and I'm looking forward to this event. Florence our Secretary-Treasurer and Roger her husband let me in . We sit down and start pondering whether anyone else will show up. We wait for a bit and then, one, two, three and four fiddlers arrive, three of them are among our best younger fiddlers, the fourth Barry is our last active senior fiddler. Barry has been the only fiddler that has played in about a half dozen playouts at

seniors homes since March of 2020. He's done an admirable job keeping KOTF#12 going through the COVID crisis. I've been playing backup since joining KOTF#12 in 2014 and there has been almost a total turnover of fiddlers and the rhythm section has dwindled.

We used to fill the stage with guitars especially and also piano, mandolin, dobro and bass. We've lost a lot of players and never come up with even one younger player, except for the fiddle and I'm still waiting to see how many more fiddlers we will have next practise.

Fortunately we still have a smaller but strong rhythm section of good musicians, I believe a fiddler even a good one can sound bad without a good backup band, I should know I've ruined my share of fiddle songs with lousy backup! I'm hoping on at least getting a part- time pianist, we have several people that could fill in including myself, I've even dusted off my piano, I had stored away.

I've transcribed a dozen newer fiddle songs and I was hoping on having one ready for this issue, but no one would want to read my chicken scratches, I'll have to buy some software for an IMAC, since my Windows computer packed it in and my old software is useless for an IMAC, I think that every fiddler would love to see the sheet music for a song, in each" Old Time Fiddle"

edition.

I really think there are many songs in the last 20 years that are not played because there is no sheet music.

So I promise I'll have something for the next issue , I'll pay whatever it costs in royalties . I'm actually surprised that fiddlers who are recording and touring don't have sheet music for their songs, This would be a good way to keep your name alive for future gigs , sales and fiddle camps, obviously some fiddlers do , but a lot don't.

In closing ,Bob Lalonde, a long time member and fiddler, has been in the Hospital since August 20th.



His health is not good , so we are all hoping for his recovery , we'll just have to wait and see.

Bob has been a major part of KOTF#12 for many years , he

was always willing to help in anyway

he could, you really couldn't find a better person than Bob Lalonde . Get well Bob , we miss you.

Submitted By Dave Lynn



Every organization has a public face, the people and services that distinguishes it from other organizations. In the Old Time Fiddlers realm, the face of the group are the musicians. They are the faces people relate to when the band plays for a dance, or a seniors home or any other public performance. However, no successful entity can operate without a backbone, the people behind the scenes. Someone has to organize and carry on the everyday operation. For many years Betty Tasko has been one of those people. Not up front, but behind the scenes doing what ever needed to be done.



Betty is one of 6 children, born in rural Saskatchewan. Her family moved to a farm in the Armstrong area while she was a toddler. Her early years were spent in Armstrong, B.C. where she graduated from High school & while in school she became interested in dancing, attending Teen Town dances with her older brothers. While living at home her father played violin, but only for his own amusement and for family.

After high school Betty went to work at a grocery store in Revelstoke, B.C.; it was here that she met Jim Tasko, her husband to be. After a couple of moves Betty moved to Kamloops where she and Jim were married. She remains living in Kamloops and has raised three sons here. The family lost Jim in 1996.

As we reflect on Betty's contribution, here are some of the notable things she has accomplished.

Betty's early interest in dancing became a lifelong passion. She and her husband enjoyed "old time" dancing which led them to the Old Time Fiddlers. Betty became a member in 1989 and chose to become involved right away. She served as a director for 16 years taking care of several duties on council. Along with Faye McLean, she made sandwiches for dances and served on the "kitchen crew" at Fiddle contests. Her decorating talents have been displayed at numerous theme dances and Christmas dance/parties as well as New Years celebrations. She has continued her contribution by taking care of ticket sales at contests, dances and at concerts. In 2002 Betty began making the club's red vests, completing more than 25 to date. She has also taught dance lessons, including patterns such as the Rangers Waltz. Betty was honored with a lifetime membership in 2003.

Throughout the past months with limited activities, she continues to fulfill her duties as the "Sunshine Lady" sending cards when required. At home her time is well spent gardening, and tending her fruit trees. Over the years she won many prizes for her crafts and produce at the Barriere Fall Fair.

Betty is a treasured member and we look forward to her contributions for many more years.

Submitted by Clark Hiles

NORTH ISLAND



Branch #17

Summer is over and fall is on the horizon. What a summer? Hot dry weather contributing to the many fires we had in the province. Fortunately, we on Vancouver Island got spared the devastation caused by the many fires in the rest of the Province. Everyone stayed isolated in there small bubble groups. Venturing out after we had our second Covid shots. Even then great precautions were taken, with social distancing and wearing our masks when we did get together to play music. The music scene is very slow to emerge from the lengthy shut down. Our club did



have an opportunity this summer to get together in a small outdoor group and play music together. Musicians and members who came out to listen enjoyed the

entertainment and the chance to get to some normality.

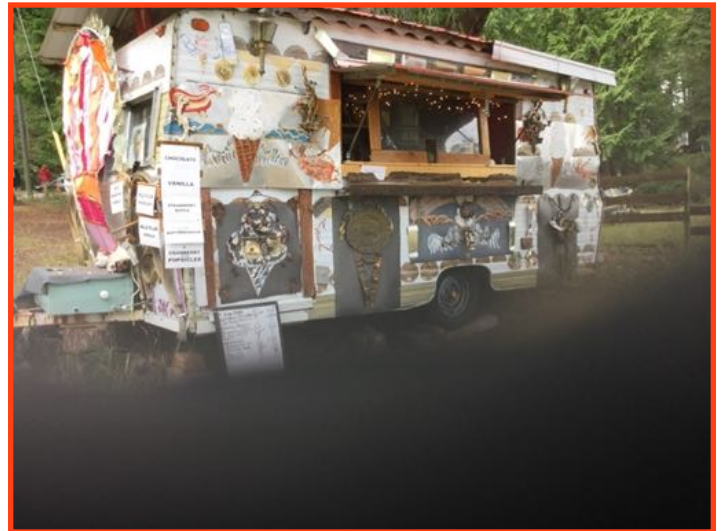
We all have played in our homes during the shut down, but the enjoyment of playing as a group is always so special.

I feel we really can see the “light at the end of the tunnel”. As there aren’t any further shut downs, and a Covid passport that is being implemented, will give us all an opportunity to start enjoying life, getting to play more as a group.

Branch 17 is going to start

h a v i n g
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dancing allowed yet, hopefully soon, dancing is a great form of exercise, gyms are open so why not dancing? Of course we will all have to follow the current



safety protocol.

Mary McArthur celebrated her 80th. Daughter Laurie, Ross, Frank and there kids came for this special occasion. Glen, Ed, Chuck played and were joined by Laurie, who is an accomplished opera singer, sang with the guys to many of the old time tunes..

Jim & Irene Tomchick decided to make the move out of Comox Valley to Fort Francis, closer to family, a a four hour drive from Thunder Bay, their old stomping grounds. Irene blessed with a beautiful singing voice was our Marg Osborne, as she sang “Smile the While

” as the closing tune after each engagement. The folks at the care homes and our club will miss them both, we wish them much happiness in the new home.

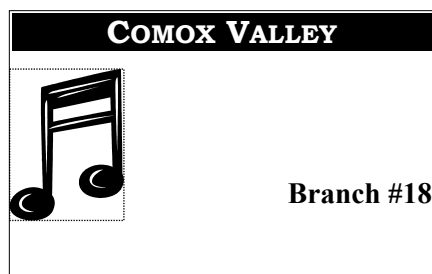
We all have coped with the isolation of not traveling far from our home base. Jackie Peelson who would not just sit at home and vegetate forged ahead as she

has done for the 40 years, selling Ice cream from her very colourful stand at the Denman to Hornby Ferry landing. Jackie, picks and cans or freezes all the fruits that go into her specialty ice cream. Jackie's talents are also playing the piano, banjo, cello, fiddle and singing. Jackie, now in her mid 80s says she really enjoyed the times when she played her fiddle for the folks waiting in the Ferry lineup.

As the fall is approaching, I am sure that the "Snow Bird Seniors", are itching to hook up there traveling units and head to Arizona, Nevada, to points that have been shut down for a couple of years. Maybe the borders will open up in the near future. OK the light is getting brighter, tunnel is shortening...

Every take care of each other, have a fabulous fall.

Submitted by Charles Kucey



The big rains have fallen overnight and now it is bright and sunny out. However, the predictions are for a wet and wild winter here on the Coast which means lots of snow for skiing and lots of inside days for just fiddlin'

around.

Summer has wound down and we just had our first inside Fiddlejam on Tuesday. Nice to play with a bunch of musicians and I think that we are going to have a good year, learning new tunes but also going over all of the older tunes that seem to be languishing in the wings, waiting for someone to notice them and bring them to life.

During the summer, we organized some playouts down at Simms Park in Courtenay where we played to a "select" audience and Cindy managed to wangle her way into the neighbours' good graces by having once a week, evening mini jams in her driveway. Nice way to introduce unsuspecting people to old time fiddle tunes.

The fiddle camp held at Merville Hall in August, lead by Trish and Geoff Horrocks, and featuring the One and Only Gordon Stobbe, with Saskatchewan's J.J. Guy, was a great success and Trish plans to do it again next year. It is great to see these small initiatives begin to blossom. An added bonus was to meet up with Doug Borden and John and Lynn Tribe who each made the

perilous journey from the Interior to the wilds of Vancouver Island to participate in the fiddle camp. Great to see them and Doug and friends even joined us in a playout at the aforementioned Simms Park, in Courtenay.

Mayne Island had a mini version of its annual Music Festival at the farm and instead had music at the cozy Arts Center. Trent and a singer songwriter managed to play on the outdoor stage and other acts kept the music alive and flowing. Another of our Fiddlejam crew, Helen, kept working hard all year with Big Little Lions to release a new tune once a month.

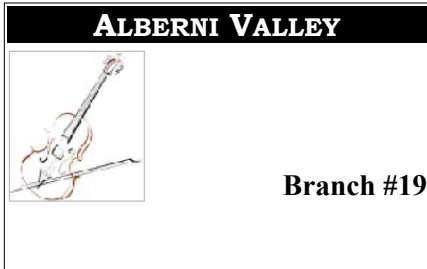
And Fiddlejam even got into the act by playing on the Comox Valley Fall Fair where they actually opened for ELVIS! What a thrill to be complimented by this Rockabilly icon, seemingly back from the dead. He even had a pink, sixties era Cadillac, replete with big tail fins, fuzzy dice, kewpee dolls and ASHTRAYS!!



Lastly, a small group played some swing tunes, and other chestnuts, at the closing day of

the Gumboot Market up in Merry Merville. We are certainly looking forward to really breaking out the mellifluous melodies when the restrictions around the Covid chimeras all come tumbling down.

Submitted by Craig Freeman



There seems to be much uncertainty in our lives these days. Two steps forward, one step back. Guidelines for today are changed for tomorrow. After not having the chance to get together to play music for the last year and a half, we have finally started to meet again, once a week, in an outdoor setting. Roger Creek Park is a lovely place, shaded, quiet, and has a gazebo with enough space for us to set up in comfortably. Since the beginning of July we have been meeting most Mondays at 1pm for a 1 1/2 hour practice, and that has worked well. It has been a time of becoming reacquainted, with people and music, testing our memories and skills. We have been looking at our tune list and reassessing how we want to play certain pieces. A bonus has been that our members from “over the hump” have been able to come over and join the session a few

times.

One of our members, Roy Titanich, put together an alphabetical list of all our pieces and posted it on our website. At the beginning of summer we started at A, and have been playing around 20 pieces per practice, refreshing our memories, and making some

changes if necessary, deciding which tunes we keep as current and which we archive, at least for a while. We have often set a piece for everyone to work on for the following week and then decide if it is a keeper or not.

It has been an easy way for everyone to know what to concentrate on each week. We

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have added a few new pieces, providing score and sound file so everyone is on the same page. This seems to be a good approach for us, giving everyone the same starting point.

Because we had been so busy with play-outs just before Covid started, many of us were beginning to feel a bit overwhelmed with the time required of us and were feeling it was getting to be too much. Thoughts of “do I continue, or not” , were going through a few minds. These relaxed practice times in the park this summer, with no immediate commitment, have allowed us time to think about where we might be going, assess our goals and just enjoy the music for musics sake. It has been a good experience and the music is once again feeling enjoyable and looked forward to.

For many years we have been very lucky to have the basement room of Abbeyfield House available for a practice space. It is a generous sized room and has the bonus of having a very good piano. The Staff have assured us that it is waiting for us as soon as the Covid restrictions allow indoor meetings again. With the current happenings Covid-wise it is a great unknown as to when we can get back to a more relaxed gathering. It may be quite a while before the Care Homes will be able to invite us to play. At first we may have to be prepared to form smaller play-out groups to keep numbers within guidelines.

Time will tell. In the meantime, keep well, stay cheerful, keep those fiddle strings working.

Submitted by Gail Ross