

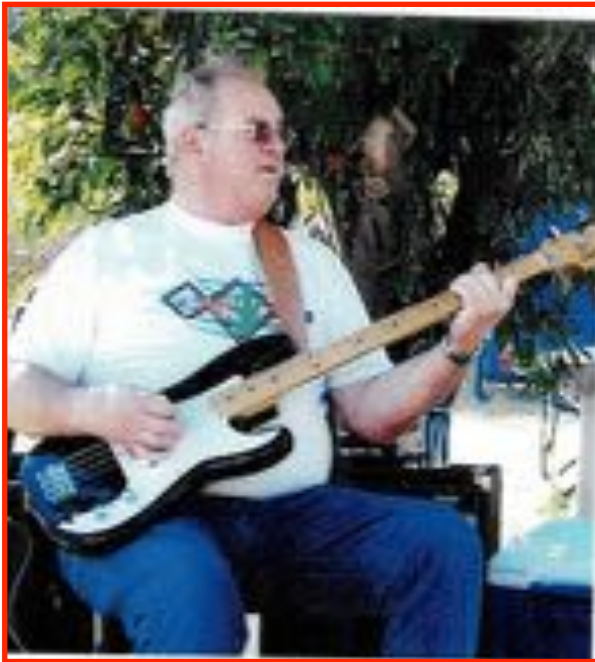


B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Branch 17 North Island Old Time Fiddlers

Branch 17 North Island Old Time Fiddlers are proud to feature Ray Ledoux in the B.C.



Fiddle News. Ray and his wife Maureen moved to Courtenay when Ray retired from B.C. Ferries in 1999. His trade was a Welder. They soon joined our Br 17 and Ray brought with him a great knowledge of Fiddle Tunes along with his skills on the Bass. Ray says he cut his teeth on Old Time Music as his Father George Ledoux played the Fiddle and

always had his own Band, notable was the Cascade Ramblers and if you lived in the lower mainland and went to the dances at the Kennedy Hall you will

remember this, as they were a favourite for twenty years. Ray's Father George was also a member of the Surrey Branch of B.C. Old Time Fiddlers in the early years and served on the executive. He also played at the Fiddle Concerts. So you can see by reading this Ray knows his Fiddle Music as he played the Bass for his Dad in the

Band.

Ray plays by ear and is proud to say he played Bass for Frankie Rodgers for a year, has done a couple of concerts with Patti Lamoureux, Ray also is happy to say he played a part in the musical growth of Trent Freeman and watched him become a excellent musician. Ray backed



up Trent on his first CD.

With Branch 17 Ray has played at all the Care Homes, hospital functions and every community event the Fiddlers are asked to be part of. He and Maureen were part of a group that put on musical jams at Kitty Coleman, Sayward, & Strathcona Dam (Jam at the Dam), these were camping weekends where the Fiddle Music went on & on. Ray also played the Bass for Bob Casavant & Glen Hiebert in a Band called Fiddle Chimes, they played at the Filberg Centre when fellow club member Ken McLeod put on plays and special event concerts. Ray enjoys playing the Bass for other Fiddlers, such as Glen Hiebert, Bob Jacques, Chuck Symes, Ed

Medford and the late Art McMartin. Ray has also played Bass for many many young Fiddlers as he belonged to Fiddlejam for a number of years.

Ray and Maureen have travelled to Yuma each winter since retiring. While there in Yuma Ray went to Jam Sessions everyday, sometimes twice, and while there met made a lot of friends from all over who did the same. The last couple of years have been a drag as the Virus has kept everyone home, but they still manage to keep in touch with these folks.

Ray has many memories of Fiddle Events and playing for Special Occasions but he says his all time favourite was when the Cascade Ramblers were playing their last dance at the Kennedy Hall and the crowd stopped dancing and moved to the stage and by loudly clapping gave his Dad a standing ovation as a Thank You for the years of entertainment.

Quite a gift Ray got from his Dad and he in turn passes it along to others.

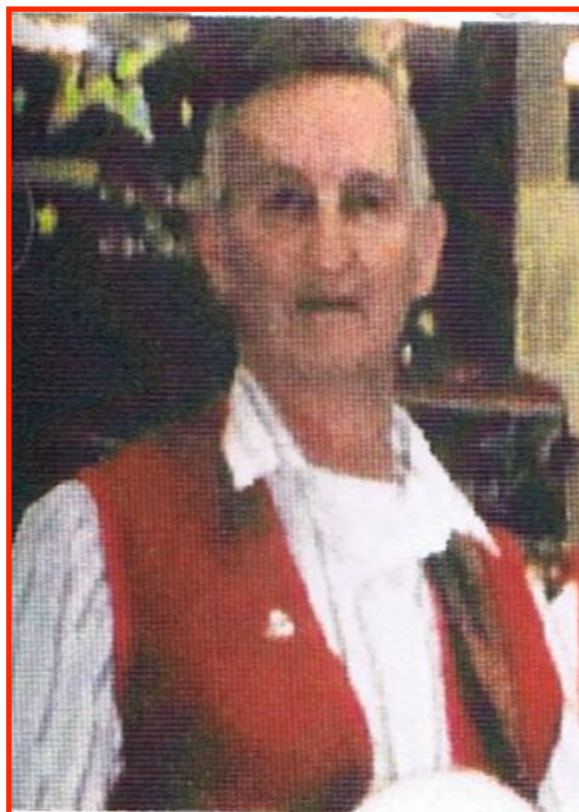
Branch 17 welcomed John Kelly as a member shortly after the formation of the club in 1986. John born and raised in Cumberland B.C. and spent his working life as a well known logger. He was employed by Canadian Forest Products. John has been married to his wife Kathy for 56 years and together

have 4 children, 13 Grandchildren and seven Great-grandchildren. John and Kathy are very involved with their family and are proud to say that some of their offspring have inherited John's musical talents. Besides being involved in family, John is very involved in the Masonic Lodge and has held all ranks. One of John's favourite activities with the Lodge is how they look after the widows and arrange a Christmas Party and Dinner for them each year. John makes sure this happens and that each one is made to feel special. John has also had a turn of being President of Branch 17 and served a couple of years, he still remains active with the club. John attends all the Community Events and Care Homes, he

brings his guitar and backs up the Fiddlers and also sings a song or two. John especially enjoys when the group goes to the Cumberland Lodge to play for the residents and he often sees someone he know sitting out in the audience, when the music is over you will see John sitting at a table talking with them rehashing old times, events and people they knew from Cumberland.

I mentioned that John is a singer and guitar player, he has a good memory for the words of songs and knows many of the old country tunes. For a number of years John had a Band here in the Comox Valley, it was called White Lightning and later changed the name to Highway 19. This Band was popular with a good following and played for dances at the Merville Hall, Union Bay, Cumberland, Campbell River, all the Legions and the Elks Club.

John says he just loves Old Time Music and always insisted on having a Fiddle in the Band as it keeps things lively. As things happen Art McMartin was just new to the Island and working on starting a Fiddle Club, he met John and was asked to play for a dance, Art kept on about the Fiddle Club and John was interested and joined. And so they say the rest is History.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jackie Davis

Hi Everyone

What a year, fires, rain, snow, all across this province. I am sure that no one came out this last year without being affected one way or another.

I don't think anyone of us thought we would still be going through this Covid-19, 22 months later but here we are!!

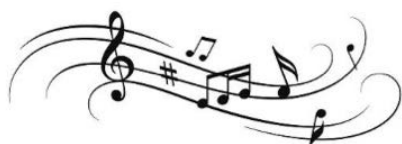
I know things are tough out there, you plan somethings and then those plans can change at a drop of a hat!!!

We are losing friends that we have not seen is so long and that only makes things harder. We are all missing that person-to-person interaction, but hopefully it will get here!!!

But like we keep saying" If you do not plan something, nothing will happen", so keep on planning and hoping for the best.

Stay Safe, fingers crossed.

Your president, Jackie Davis



B.C.

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

THIS FEATURE ARTICLE

Branch #17 North Island

Followed by
Branch #18 Comox Valley
Branch # 19 Alberni Valley

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

It's not easy keeping a positive outlook, but this newsletter sure does help. I get updates from all over the province and while many others share our same concerns and breaks in what had been a routine for years and years.

I'm impressed that we can all

find something to write about and share with the fiddle fraternity.

JJ Guy and his Sunday jams is now up to 83 and hopefully will continue for many more.

Calvin Vollrath hosted a winter "Camp Calvin" online camp and Lynn and I attended virtually for the four days. Starting a 8AM and going til 4PM. For me it's not so much for the hard work but for the sharing with like minded people from all over Canada and probably beyond.

Your editor John Tribe

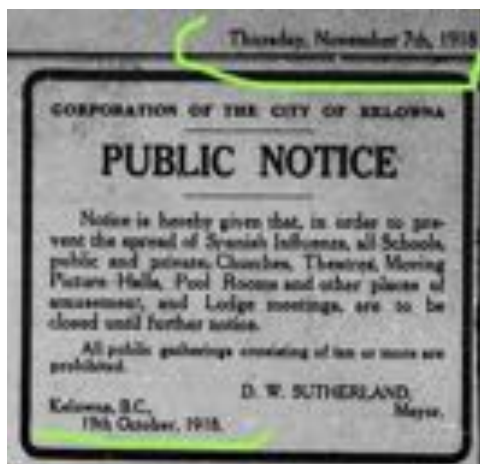
BRANCH NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

Wishing everyone a good year ahead. Who knows what good things might lie ahead this year, like maybe (dare we dream) the end of covid? I thought you may be interested in this notice from the Mayor of Kelowna in 1918 - sound familiar?



Our branch enjoyed some small circle jams between October and the first part of December, until restrictions closed us down again. It was fun for awhile to play some tunes together!

Branch #1 Board has been meeting regularly on Zoom, and before Christmas we tried a Zoom Christmas party with the membership - it was small, but good to check in with friends and play a few tunes. As you may know, Zoom doesn't

work well for a group jam, so each of us took a turn at leading a tune while the others played along at home. That was a new experience!

On Feb 6 we will have our AGM via Zoom as well. It could get complicated to vote anonymously for our elections, but we'll try to figure that out before then.

A couple of us did a phone blitz and called all of our members - to see how everyone is doing, to remind them that we still have a fiddle club and look forward to getting back to activities one day, and to see if they would like to continue to support the club by renewing their membership. We only charged half price this year, given the lack of activities. It turns out our membership is down a bit this year, but could pick up once we get more active.

Our Branch has started a Bursary fund for young club members who have done some club or music volunteering and are attending post-secondary training, in music or in any other discipline. We are quite excited about it, and hope we have a number of applications.



Look after yourselves, and hang in there! It can't last forever . . . (can it?) . . . !!

Submitted by, Beth Bressette

QUESNEL



Branch #3

Another wave of Covid has shut down any activities we might have planned. We have lost another member, Jean Moorecraft, who passed away in December. In the few years she was here, she hosted practice sessions and inspired us to keep learning in spite of Covid restrictions. We needed that and miss the precious times we had with her.

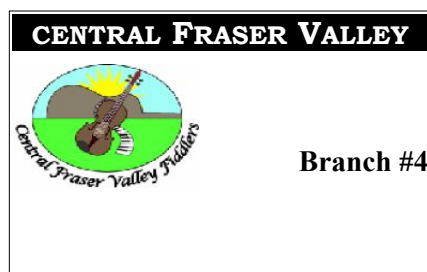
There was a time, long ago, when the Christmas season was filled with fiddlers playing carols, jigs and reels, tables laden with goodies and excited children with proud parents and grandparents awaiting Santa who would give out gifts, candy and best wishes to all. Then there was the New Year's Dance. One year the members made centrepieces for each table. These were reused for years until the tinsel and glitter fell off and the ornaments faded. The evening began with a banquet dinner followed by dancing until the clock struck midnight. John Veer would get everyone on the floor to form a ring and sing Auld Lang Syne, led by Ed Penner. Then the balloons came down. There were noise makers and novelties, and hugs and kisses for everyone.

There was a time when a “snake line” of dancers was piped into the hall by Dave Bowman on his bagpipes. There was a time when Gladys Penner was the New Year Baby, complete with bonnet, diaper and soother, delivered in a wheelbarrow by Eileen Fuchs. There was a time when a very boisterous table of Prince George guests-the Browns, Campbells, and Nicholsons among them-challenged Quesnel as to who was the best. For sheer noise and merriment, Prince George won. We could always count on musicians from other branches helping us out. Leo Ready, Greg Gervais, and Don Redden seldom missed.

In today’s preoccupation with masks, social distancing, and vaccinations, it’s hard to believe this really happened, but it did.

Those were the days. Such good memories.

Submitted by, Jean Gelinas



I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year. Hopefully it was with loved ones. We were expecting to be able to gather for the holidays with few restrictions but December hit us

with a new variant and so many plans had to be changed even though most of us had our booster shots by this time.

Branch #4 attempted to gather for outdoor jams in the fall when we could take advantage of the good weather. Once the weather changed, a few careful jams took place indoors at local churches. This did not last long because of the health restrictions. We did manage two play-outs outdoors at Abbotsford Community Gardens and a Craft Fair just outside Mission. We continued our monthly zoom meetings lead by our President Vivienne Chin. It is helpful to stay in touch with club members to keep up with personal and club news and plans.

Most of us continued to enjoy JJ Guy's weekly Sunday jams. Again, we thank you JJ for your dedication.

Christmas 2020 and 2021 were very different than past years when we would get together for a turkey potluck and jam. This year we arranged a Christmas jam with JJ Guy and Ryan Shotton on zoom. We made the best of the time together playing Christmas tunes and greeting each other virtually.

At the end of the jam session we held our Annual General Meeting and elections of officers. The current officers we re-elected by acclamation for 2022. President: Vivienne Chin, Vice President and Treasurer: Joanne

Davenport and Elaine McLean as Secretary.

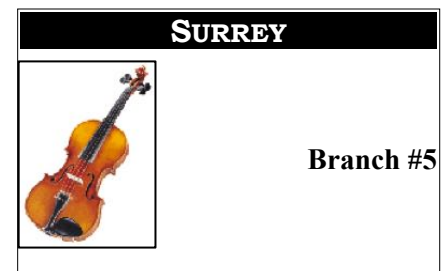
The club decided to donate \$500 to the Canadian Red Cross and \$500 to the Salvation Army to help the victims of the terrible flood that occurred here in the Fraser Valley in November.

Elaine McLean had hip surgery recently. We wish her very speedy recovery. Elaine is the Secretary of our club.

Branch #4 has been involved in planning Shivering Strings Canada on January 29-30, an online fiddle, piano, and banjo workshop using the Zoom platform. There are still spaces available!

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and all the best in 2022. Please take care and stay healthy.

Submitted by, Rosalie Eeg



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers Association

Going back to 2021, it seemed like there would be some improvement regarding the pandemic, with more people getting vaccinated for Covid – 19, but unfortunately this has

changed with the Delta variant taking over and once again the Omicron variant has come into our lives creating even greater health issues for 2022.

We hope that the Christmas and New Year's Holidays went well for everyone considering the restrictions with the Omicron Variant happening during these events.

So far, there has been no activity happening within our Surrey Fiddlers Branch since the Covid -19 pandemic and Omicron virus has arrived and it looks like it will be a while longer before we can have dances or other events for our Senior members. We also hope that this pandemic will leave us soon instead of causing illness and loss of lives for people worldwide.

A few of our Surrey Fiddlers have been going to weekly Monday practise sessions with the Hazelmere fiddlers at the Hazelmere Hall for the past few months but has now been cancelled due to the increase in people contacting the Omicron variant. Some of the fiddlers are presently discussing, getting together and playing on Zoom shortly.

It was a pleasure to watch Patti Kusturok's Canadian Fiddler's Advent Calendar fiddle program on you tube. Patti invited fiddlers that have not participated before in the Fiddler's Advent Calendar so we

had the opportunity to see and listen to the wonderful fiddle music from all of the performers, including our member, Mike Sanyshyn, on day 11.

On October 14, 2021 we lost a member and wonderful person of our Surrey Fiddlers Branch, who became a member of our branch in 2002 until 2021 and played with our fiddler's band until 2020. Robert Kielhorn was born on October 14, 1927 and passed away at 94 years of age on



Robert Kielhorn

October 14, 2021. Robert was born on a farm, Southwest of Pierson, Manitoba and while growing up he learned to chord on the piano, master the violin and saxophone and played at

many social parties, public dances and care homes.

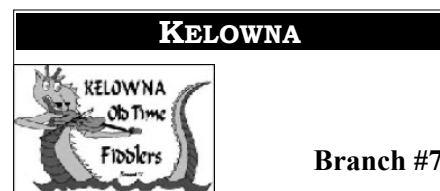
In later years Robert also competed in fiddle contests which he enjoyed immensely and also brought him into contact with a lot of wonderful people who also became Robert's friends.

Our condolences go out to Robert's four daughters, eleven grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and Del Klee.

"He will be missed by all of our Members as he was a wonderful person and well respected"

Until the next newsletter:

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*



Happy New Year from Branch #7 in Kelowna! We've had little bursts of activity here, though unfortunately not much of anything predictable or consistent.

We've managed a handful of practices since September, but it's been hit and miss and a fair bit of trying to interpret and predict what protocols and safety measures will look like. Of course, our practices are on hold until we get past this latest phase of variants and peaks. The practices we have had have been

a lot of fun, and often just turn into jams as we haven't had many shows to practice for. It's still great to see folks and play together. During the December Senior's Center seasonal closure, Lynn and John hosted a few small Kitchen Party style jams at their house. We managed to stay distant and safe but still get a fun jam in, sometimes on regular Wednesday nights and sometimes on Sundays to play along with JJ and Cathy on the internet. It's wonderful to have these little pockets of music to look forward to and look back on, so thank you so much, Tribes, for keeping us going in any way you can.

On December 3rd we had our Branch Christmas Celebration. Although it didn't look a lot like previous years' parties, it was a good time and a success overall. We had a limited number of people we could welcome to the



Senior's Centre due to Covid capacity caps, but we managed to get a sold-out crowd and have a great time.

We had an informal jam, some visiting with social

distancing and masks, and a turkey sandwich with sides and dessert. Thanks to Irene McAvena, Carol Jenson, Marilyn Parker. Lorrie Damron and any others I might have missed for the safe food prep and service to the crowds. Even with the protocols in place, it was still excellent to see all the familiar folks come out and listen, play and visit. I'd usually have said "familiar faces" but with masking in place, really, we just saw a lot of familiar eyebrows, but we're getting better at recognizing people in disguise these days. Masquerade balls will certainly not hold the intrigue and fun anymore after this long stretch of masking in public.

A small group of us played a happy hour gig at Missionwood Retirement facility on December 16th. This is a privately owned independent living facility, so we were even able to have some couples as dancers, and it was wonderful to see them. It was a short little session that felt almost like old times and normal life for us, and the opportunity was appreciated greatly by the musicians and audience alike.

I was sad to hear just recently that Kamloops member and musician, Clark Hiles, has passed

away. He spent a lot of quality time with our branch a few years ago when he was staying in Kelowna for medical treatments, and we all remember him fondly. He was a great help with our Fiddle Fest every year as an auditor and representative from Kamloops. Condolences to Clark's family from our branch, and to all his friends in Kamloops Branch as well. Whenever we



play Five Foot Two I still think of Clark, as he played that song specifically for his lovely wife, who is exactly 5'2".

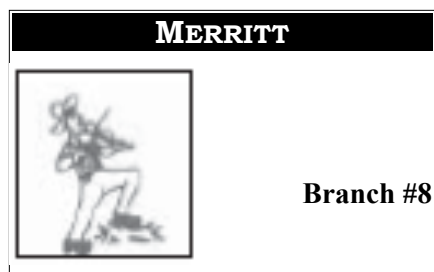
As well Kamloops Branch lost Stan Ryder who was a favourite guitar backup player for many fiddlers at contests.

While a number of our members have faced health challenges and some hospital stays, we seem to have managed to come through this stretch fairly well so far. We do our best to support our members as a big family, and that's never been more important than lately.

That's about all we have to report here in Kelowna. We're all doing our best and trying to remain positive, even under some serious snowfalls as of late. I wonder if shovelling snow

improves my fiddling muscles as well or just wears them thin? It's hard to say, but I know I'm ready for spring-time and an end to all the cold snaps and snow dumps. We hope you all are keeping well and staying healthy in all ways.

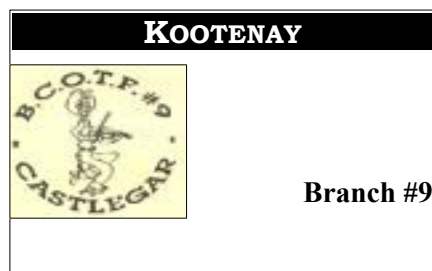
Submitted by, Heather Bartel



Merritt has been hit much harder than the rest of us. Still I was notified by a phone message that they have managed to hold a branch meeting and are working hard at recovering from the natural disasters that they have suffered.

Dianne Riley has let me know that she will be passing the touch to another contributor. Thank you very much Dianne. (editor)

Submitted by,



Season's Greetings fellow old time players

We hope you have that optimistic "clean slate" feeling that the start of a new year brings, sometimes with an added

emphasis like a covering of fresh snow.

After prolonged down time, due to the pandemic progressions, Kootenay#9 is headed into 2022 with a schedule booked for regular practice jams for the foreseeable future. We met in December to renew memberships, with our treasurer Sheila Volkeroth, as well as to firm up executive positions, to thank Gary Shannon, outgoing president, and to welcome our new president, John Bishop. Kathy Markin brought fresh muffins, and the meeting was followed by an hour long jam. I would say, just that simple act of rejoining as a group, qualified as one of the joys of this holiday season.

Though the jams were scheduled to start in January, we will follow the health directives, in the face of rising Omicron infections, and look forward to regrouping soon in our new practice space in Castlegar.

We are also starting to compile information about a Summer Music Camp, which would very likely be a shortened week as was piloted last summer. We have taken the feedback from last year's camp into account and are hoping to organize a music camp that will meet everyone's needs as much as possible.

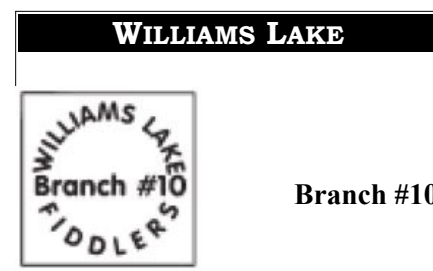
With the longer absences of playing with one another, I'm curious as to how your home practice is going ---has it changed

for you during these last couple of years, or have you gained any new insights or perspectives? After some reflection on my own practice or resistance to it at times, I'm exploring new ways of approaching music sessions, like relaxing and listening without the old expectations and projections creeping in. While the changes have been subtle and small, the increase in enjoyment feels large.

Hoping you are finding meaning, that is unique to you, in playing and sharing your music.

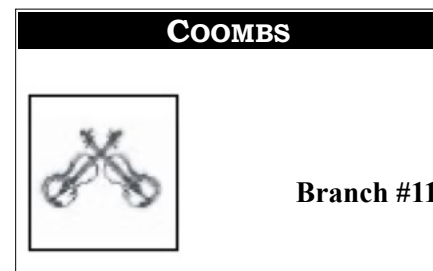
Take care and Happy New Year.

Submitted by, Brenda McLeod



No submission received.

Submitted by Pat Gunderson



A Big Happy New Year to all

Snow is all over the island, I have never seen it so white. I believe this is the most snow we have seen in many years. The kids in Parksville are having a

riot sliding down the hill in our park. It was nice at Christmas but it can go any time now.

Just when we thought we were coming to the end of Covid19 another Variant has awoken. Now we are taking a break from gathering till it is safe to do so.

Through it all we have done a few things this winter. We performed outdoors for Grace United Church's 75th anniversary in Coombs. A good time was had by all. The Pastor offered the church's basement to us for our practices. We held several practices there. We are presently not allowed to gather there due to Covid. We are looking forward to starting there again once we are cleared to do so.

We did a performance at Stanford Village for the seniors and all went well. They were happy to see us since we have not played there for quite some time. We also did a zoom performance for Qualicum Manor but it is not the same as being there with them.

Now for a short story.



CHRISTMAS EVE TRILLIUM LODGE

Bob got up early this Christmas Eve morning, went into the kitchen and put on the coffee to brew. He always savoured a good cup of coffee in the morning. Bob was a stout man with a head full of wavy grey hair and an outgoing personality. Because of his darker complexion some people thought he was a Mexican or maybe first nations but no he was pure Norwegian. He opened the door to his music room and chose from his extensive library, a mixture of old time music and Christmas carols. Bob practiced starting these tunes until the coffee was ready. He wanted to be sharp as he would lead for the group playing at the Trillium seniors lodge today. Bob is well known by the seniors of Parksville and Qualicum Beach. They thoroughly enjoy the music that he brings to them. Bob is a Coombs Old Time Fiddler.

Bob's father was a very good fiddler. He wrote and passed down quite a few beautiful pieces of music which Bob would play from time to time. He also gave his son his 1875 LABERTE fiddle. It had a wonderful tone and Bob loved it.

After a light lunch he showered and dressed in the traditional uniform of an old time fiddler a white shirt, black pants and to top it all off a bright red vest. He was more than ready for

this Christmas Eve performance for the shut in residents at Trillium Lodge. The residents celebrated this day at 2 pm as many were early to bed.

It was a bright sunny day with no snow as he drove the short distance to the lodge. As he entered through the main entrance he stopped at the front desk and asked for the days password code so he could exit when the play out was over. The codes are necessary as some residents are not allowed to leave on their own due to medical conditions.

He always arrived early so he could stop and chat with some of the seniors. There were only a few residents eagerly awaiting the fiddlers as he took his chair. The remainder of the residents would soon be arriving, soon some walking, some with their walkers or wheel chairs and others being wheeled in their beds. Bob always said that the seniors need music, especially at this time of year. For them this was a special part of their Christmas.

The Old Time Fiddlers arrived and with a quick tune up took their favourite positions in a semi circle. This was so they could see and hear Bob when he started the songs. There was Carol who holds the group together with her wonderful piano playing. Roy on the guitar, been with the club for over 35 years. Then on the fiddles was

Bob the maestro. Nell the club president was a steady fiddler. Tom a new player who loves Old Time music. Jan an energetic fiddler from Saskatchewan who spends her winters on the Island.

Darlene just recently returned to playing fiddle again after an absence. Fern a smooth outgoing fiddler who encourages the seniors to participate. Mimi who from her soul plays some beautiful harmonies. Finally, Carolyn who puts out a strong and steady rhythm on the ukulele.

These are fine musicians who take playing for the seniors very seriously. They practice often together and have become a very tight group who are proud of their accomplishments and enjoy giving of themselves to their community by performing.

After a quick introduction Bob started the first tune JINGLE BELLS. So with a big 1 and a 2 everyone started at the same time. The seniors started singing along. With their eyes closed you could see that some were thinking of earlier Christmases with their families. When the jigs and two steps were played the feet were tapping and the hands were clapping.

There was one particular senior close to the front who lay unmoving in his bed. When the music started playing you could see the tapping of the feet beneath the sheet. He was enjoying the music too. Such is the power that music has on a soul.

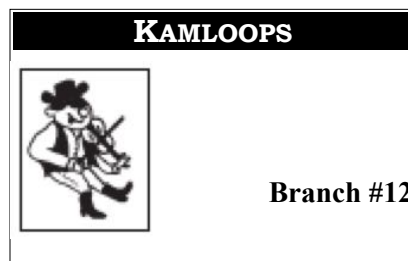
The music ended with the group playing WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS. The seniors gave them a nice round of applause. Then they slowly made their way or were assisted back to their rooms. Bob felt good inside but also a little sad. Knowing that some of the seniors would be spending Christmas all alone in their tiny rooms. He was thankful to have his family waiting for him at home.

Bob packed up his fiddle and said a Merry Christmas to all on his way out. As he tapped in the code to open the door he reflected on their Christmas Eve performance. He decided that it was one of their best performances of the year. It was an enjoyable Christmas Eve for the seniors of Trillium Lodge.

Bob left the Trillium Lodge and went home to spend some quality time with his family, a contented man.

Bob, thanks for being such a great fiddle mentor to me.

Submitted By Tom Elliot



2022 is here as storm clouds roll in from the north- west, but if I look to the east, I see the sun rising against a blue sky. I guess it depends on which way you look, that's how it's been for the

last 2 years. We have lost 2 more musicians, who have passed on. Jean Moorcroft was a bass player in KOTF# 12 way back before my time and Clark Hiles who was a musician in our club.

Also Bud Fuglem has been placed in an extended care retirement home, Bob Lalonde is still in the hospital and

“Stan Ryder passed away in October of last year. He was a multi-talented musician and had played with our group for a number of years.”

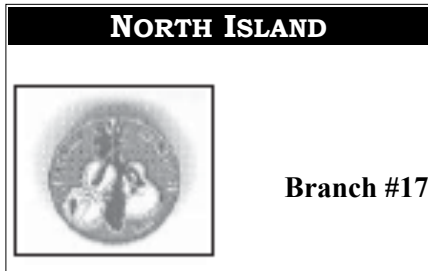
Pat Benson is undergoing cancer treatments. So we've now got a "skeleton crew" of 3 to 5 people who play the many retirement homes of Kamloops and we also have 4 excellent younger fiddlers available for evening engagements. In the near future we should also have Sylvie Johnson (recuperating from a fall), Mary and Dan Allen, and Naomi Martin back playing again.

Clark Hiles was a major part of KOTF#12, he loved to entertain, he played many instruments, sang, was a Master of Ceremonies, and was on our executive, and was an all around gentlemen. I think we are all in agreement, that we will keep playing his favourite songs. We would have to get 3 new members working collectively just take his place!

In closing, we've been through some hard times lately as a club but we'll turn this around.

We are getting closer to the younger generations having to run the show.

Submitted By Dave Lynn



Well we are into a New Year, still filled with hope that this pandemic will be over soon.

In the fall of 2021, we had planned to get back to some kind of normal, with jam sessions scheduled with our members, c/w social distancing and safety protocol in place. But these plans were quickly dashed with the advent of new variant covid "Omicron"..

So here we go again!!!! We cancelled our music jams and also cancelled the planned "Christmas Party" we were going to hold for our members. We as a club have been fortunate to be spared the anguish of members being affected by the covid, our members have all been triple vaccinated, hopefully this will keep us all safe and healthy.

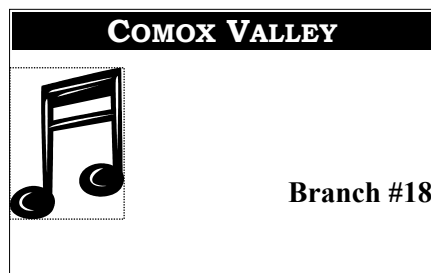
We have had a blast of winter in the Comox Valley, which is temporarily keeping us close to home.. Hopefully this new variant will come to an end or at least be controlled. We are looking forward to a return to

some normal activities when this snow melts and we can get back to our jams and enjoy our lives again. Our lives have been put on hold for over two years now, this has made for some trying times for us who had enjoyed the comradeship of playing and enjoying our music.

Lets hope this summer will be a new and better Year 2022..

Stay safe, good health to all.

Submitted by Charles Kucey



Well, what has happened? We thought that the pandemic would have come to an end by now. But I guess that isn't in the cards.

During October and November, we played Fiddlejam tunes at the church but then that, too, came to an end and we were under restrictions once again. Our center for fiddle Contra dances, the Big Yellow Merville hall, couldn't host those dances but we did manage to have a big bluegrass concert with John Reischman and the Jaybirds in December. Also, Xander, Ella and Vivien busked at the hall's annual Christmas Craft Fair. There have been some small jam sessions at the MusicFest festival

grounds so music is still happening.

The annual Comox Valley Telethon happened in November, with an online format. Our Fiddlejam group played a tune set in the church, filmed it and submitted it to the program. It is always good to support local fundraising initiatives. This week, a few of us will be playing some tunes for one of the valley's seniors' residences. We can entertain the folks with a loose, easy repertoire so that will be relaxed and stress-free, unlike playing at a fiddle contest where the pressure is on and I sweat bullets.

Once again, we are back to learning tunes from Youtube and on Zoom calls. Bands like the Fretless and Speakerface have new releases on vinyl and there is even a new musical film release called Get Back from some obscure English band named The Beatles. With a buggy name like that, I predict they'll never go anywhere.

So, I also predict that this winter's bitter cold is past us and we'll now sail into a balmy spring. Happy fiddlin' to you, until we meet again.

Cheers from the Comox Valley,

Submitted by Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



Branch #19

One day we feel we can begin to make some plans to practice together and on the next day everything changes. While the weather was nice it was so great to be able play together outside, but as the temperature cooled down we were feeling the need to move inside. We were very happy when the staff at Abbeyfield invited us to use their basement room once again. None of their residents ever go to the lower floor, and there is a separate entrance. They asked that we mask and practice distancing and this we were willing to do.

Starting in October we moved inside and began to practice for the one play-out we had earlier agreed to do, for the Craft Fair. This was held on November 13 in the Athletic Hall. We felt quite safe there as the Craft Fair Association were checking for Vaccination cards at the door and people were asked to mask. We set up at the top of the bleachers, so we were separated from the booths and general public, but our sound carried nicely to the far side of the hall. About 16 members were able to attend. A good turn-out. This was the first in person performance we had done in two years and it was

really quite exciting. I think we all need to have a goal to make practice feel worthwhile.

We still do not feel we can safely play inside the care homes yet as there are just too many of us and how can you choose or limit, who can play and who cannot at any particular time. It has always been our policy that everyone has the chance to play if they would like to. If you don't know a particular piece, then sit that one out.

We decided to stop for the Christmas break on December 13, with a tentative start up date of January 10th. When the new Covid rules were announced, we had to cancel that idea. Luckily for us, Angela and Lance from the Coombs group just announced they will do an online jam once again, going through the Coombs song book. Our two clubs have a few mutual members so we all get to play together at times. Many of our songs are the same, with slight variations in style, but it is certainly good practice and gives us the chance to be comfortable with musical differences in phrasing or speed. Thank you Angela and Lance.

Everyone is probably feeling the same, that we are in a holding pattern, waiting to see what happens next, day by day. It isn't quite as satisfying practicing all alone, but at least we can keep prepared for the time we get together again. One thing that

doesn't change is that we do wish everyone a very Happy New Year, with many wishes that everyone is able to keep healthy and safe.

Submitted by Gail Ross



Mike Sanyshyn



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Mike Sanyshyn has played in a dazzling array of situations over the years from performing with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra with recording artist Aaron Pritchett and acting as Musical director for the British Columbia Country Music Association Industry Awards to big concert and festival appearances.

Free Seniors Fiddle Concert

Thursday,

March 24, 2022

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Sagebrush Theatre

1300 9th Ave, Kamloops BC

Doors Open at 1:40 PM

Limited Seating

55+ must pre-register online at

[http://bcfiddlers.com/branches/
kamloops/](http://bcfiddlers.com/branches/kamloops/)

50/50 Tickets Available

Kamloops Food Bank

Donations Accepted

At the Door

Covid 19 Proof of Vaccination Required



Hosted by Kamloops Fiddlers
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