



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Branch 18

Fun Time Fiddlers

The Contra Dance

Branch #18, home of the Funtime Fiddlers, is a group that really enjoys playing music for dancers. Over the last number of years, we have concentrated on playing Contra dances at our home base, the Big Yellow Merville hall. These dances have been so popular with young and old that we generally pack the joint with happy, dancing revellers. This has resulted in our fiddle group being somewhat identified as a dance band and we often have people ask us how we manage to be successful at it so I'll take this opportunity to outline our dance modus operandi.

We put on a Contra dance which is a form of [folk dancing](#) made up of long lines of couples. The origins of the dance come from [English country](#)

[dance](#), [Scottish country dance](#), and French dance styles in the 17th century. It is sometimes described as [New England](#) folk dance or [Appalachian](#) folk dance. A contra dance event is



CONTRA DANCERS

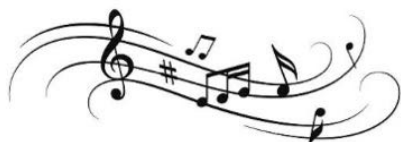
a [social dance](#) that one can attend with, or without, a partner. The dancers form couples, and the couples form sets of two couples in long lines starting from the stage and going down the length of the dance hall. Throughout the course of a dance, couples progress up and down these lines, dancing with each other couple in the line. The dance is led by a [caller](#) who teaches the sequence of "figures" in the dance before

the music starts. Callers describe the series of steps, called "figures", and in a single dance, a caller may include anywhere from six to twelve figures which are repeated as couples progress up and down the lines. Each time through the dance takes 64 beats, after which the pattern is repeated. The essence of the dance is in following the pattern with your set and your line. Since there is no required footwork, many people generally find contra dance easier to learn than other forms of social dancing.

We are fortunate in the Comox Valley to have the Marvellous Miss June Cannon as our main dance caller. June is fun, energetic, a bit cheeky, and has a big list of dances that she can guide us through. As the dances last about 15 minutes or more, you can also get a good workout and, for the shyer beginner types, nobody notices that you might miss a step or two as everyone is having so much fun.



Our Funtime Fiddler band has an excellent workout on the stage as well. We have all sorts of instruments, from fiddles to whistles; saxophone to bodhran. We play the music nonstop and have to make sure that the beat stays steady and keeps the caller happy so that she can keep the dancers moving in perfect step.



We make up sets of jigs and reels that we practise transitioning into smoothly. The idea is to keep an even tempo so that the dancers don't stumble or miss a beat. We might play a tune 12 times and then switch to another tune for 10 times then switch to another tune, taking care not to go too fast or too slow. The players in the band are, naturally, keenly aware that they must also keep their eyes on the leader in case they see him begin to zone out, or commence to drool, or begin to develop a vacant, glassy-eyed stare, a sure sign that he is lost in the music,

unaware of his surroundings and that he must be brought back into the reality of the moment.

In between the called Contra dances, of which we usually do two in a row, we'll play some swing tunes, or waltzes, or polkas to give the crowd a change of pace. We also play a Ukrainian "Sasha" dance that is designed to have dancers reach out to the wallflowers, and those still seated at tables, to bring them onto the dance floor. This mixer dance starts slow and ramps up to a whirlwind by the end so that dancers are racing about with each other, laughing heartily. We play this dance around 8:30 as young children and youth really like it and the band loves watching the antics of everyone from our elevated vantage point on stage. Hey, we are laughing with the dancers, not at them!!

We theme our dances and encourage dancers, and the band, to dress up. Hallowe'en and St Patrick's Day are pretty wild, though "Christmas in November" also attracts some oddly, seasonally decorated Divas, too.

We give out "prizes" for costumes as well as Spot Dance "prizes". Prizes are usually of the chocolate variety. Most little kids just love getting a big chocolate Easter Bunny at a Robbie Burns Day Contra dance. Well, for that matter, the adults seem to be rather heavily into the chocolate sweets, too.

So, that is how we kick up our heels in the Comox Valley. Now, let's hope that we can all get back to normal socializing and have our musicians keep knocking out the tunes for the decidedly dirhinous dancers.

Cheers,

Craig Freeman

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jackie Davis

**WOW THINGS ARE
MOVING AND GROOVING!!**

Nice to hear that the branches are opening again.

**D a n c e s , C a m p o u t s ,
Workshops, Fiddle Camps, and
Fiddle Contest!**

BC Fiddlers Web page is being updated by it Branches, so don't forget to check it out.

If there is anything you think, BC Provincial can assist with drop me a line and we can see

what we can do.

The Provincial AGM is going to be held this fall, an online and in person event, maybe you might be able to assist on the Provincial Board, it is always a good thing when different people come to the table with their thoughts on what we can do.

I know the Kamloops Branch just had Mike Sanyshyn Senior Fiddle Concert in March of 2022 and the people were so glad to be able to part of it.

Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces this year.

Your president, Jackie Davis

FROM THE EDITOR



John Tribe

Things have started to open up. Its a little worrisome that some parts of the world aren't opening up but instead they're closing down even tighter. For us I'll be happy with what we can do.

We have had some things go back to normal and are really happy to hear that our favourite professional fiddlers are making the rounds and doing concerts.

By the looks of it there will be camps and Lynn and I have

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:

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KELOWNA BC
V1W 4T3**

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER
(OCTOBER 2022) MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 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 #18 Comox Valley**

Followed by
Branch # 19 Alberni Valley
Branch # 1 Prince George

registered for a couple. I love these camps for a couple of reasons. First to discover that I can indeed learn a new tune or two, usually not the the time of the camp but eventually when I get home. The second reason is see young folks at camp making friends the learning the art of fiddling.

To all those who do all the planning organizing and worrying I give you my heart felt thanks. I have never attended a camp that I didn't enjoy and



fondly remember.

Finally I want to thank all fiddlers and newsletter contributors who make it worthwhile for the rest of us.

Your editor John Tribe

BRANCH

NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



Branch #1

Spring greetings from Branch #1 in the frigid north. At the time of writing (mid May) there are no blossoms on trees or seeds planted up here! But if we can't be in the garden we can still fiddle - we hold a circle jam every Tuesday evening. Attendance started out at 4 or 5 but is now more often up to 10 - 18 participants - fiddle, guitars and banjos. It's not like pre-covid, but it's a start! One of our members has kindly volunteered to teach a group beginner class in conjunction with the jams.

On April 19 Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy stopped in on their way through PG and presented a couple of great workshops for 17 of our Intermediate and Advanced fiddlers - lots of fun!

Three of our talented young fiddling club members took part in a top-notch concert at Vanier Hall on April 22, featuring concert and jazz bands from local high schools. Faith Newton from DP Todd was playing French horn, Ella Williams from CHSS played trumpet, and Kaydence

Shelke from CHSS played trumpet in jazz, flute in concert, and snare drum in a drum line. We're proud of our young fiddlers for their varied musical talents + hard work!

We were happy to have three applicants for our first annual Bursaries (a new initiative for our club) to be awarded to young high school graduates who are furthering their education, and who have been active in the club by playing out (pre-covid), and along with their parents, volunteering their time and talents to help out the club and the community.

Some of our musicians will be performing a 45 minute set of fiddle tunes at the Hixon County-Bluegrass Music Festival on Saturday, May 28 at Hixon, a small community 45 minutes drive south of Prince George. Nine of us have been making a list and practising our tunes; it's so much fun to be able to play out for an event again; to bring smiles to faces and get toes tapping or dancing again! Our Branch is also planning one dance before we break for summer - our first in over two years - on June 10. We hope to get a good crowd to let the community know our club is still around!

Keep smiling, fiddling, and hoping for that warm weather just around the corner!

Submitted by, Beth Bressette

QUESNEL



Branch #3

Hello from Br 3, Quesnel.

The Fiddle Treat at Gavin Lake is ready to go on July 25-28, but on a smaller scale in case there are more restrictions and/or we have to cancel again. The interest and enthusiasm we've received is encouraging. Our information is available on the BC Old Time Fiddlers website. Thanks to Jackie Davis and John Tribe for their work in getting this available on the internet.

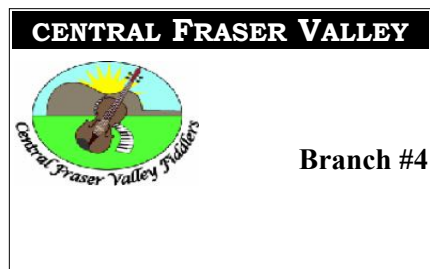
Once again we are observing National Fiddle Day by playing in Spirit Square downtown. Finding a tune from every province and territory is a challenge, especially from Nunavut and NWT, but we managed to find at least one in each case.

Anita Mamela, along with a large group of fiddlers from the northern area, joined Daniel Lapp's band for a performance during the Prince George Cold Snap Festival. It was an amazing performance that highlighted the talent that has shaped fiddling in our area. History and memories in the making.

At this time we are focused on the Fiddle Treat in July but we still hope to sponsor our 50th Fiddle Contest on the first Saturday of October. We'll keep you posted.

Until next time,

Submitted by, Jean Gelinas



Newsletter for CFVF Branch #4 for May 15, 2022

We looked forward to and appreciated the lifting of the covid-12 restrictions over the last few months. It took some time but we are now at a time that with caution, we are able to resume many of the club activities. We were pleased and thankful to the Hallmark on the Park Assisted Living Residence for inviting us to resume our Wednesday night practices in their foyer. They gave us a list of covid precautions and we were very happy to comply. We had our first practice on March 8th with many residents very happy that we were back. It was gratifying to know they missed us. Our first dance was in the Aldergrove Seniors Center on April 9. It was well attended considering the fact that people

have not been able to mingle for some time. We were happy to see many familiar faces dancing and enjoying the music. Another dance is scheduled for May 14th. Some great news! We are pleased to announce that Cindy Andrews has agreed to take on the role of Lead Fiddle and Music Director for our club. Thank you Cindy!

Our regular practices are every Wednesday evening except for the 1st Wednesday of every month when we have our business meeting. After a vote from the members, our executive have decided to have our business meetings on zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm until further notice. We've had lots of zoom practice over the last 2 years so we are all comfortable with this arrangement.

Shivering Strings Canada took place on January 29– 30, 2022 and by all accounts it was a tremendous success. Instructors included Gordon Stobbe, JJ Guy, Troy MacGillivray, Mark Sullivan, Donna Turk, Kelli Trotter, Daniel Koulack, and Stacey Read. Branch 4 President Vivienne Chin and Vice-President Joanne Davenport are members of the organizing committee.

Most of us tuned in to J.J. Guy's Sunday jams over the past 2 years. It made for very pleasant afternoons both for fiddlers and audience. As a special treat for us, we arranged a jam with J.J. Guy and Cathy

Sproule on February 12th to celebrate Valentine's Day. Most of us dressed in red or pink. It was the best we could do and quite enjoyable. We really have to commend J J and Cathy for helping to keep fiddle music alive during the months of all the covid restrictions.

CFVF will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2023. There has been much discussion on how to celebrate this event involving our community. Suggestions have included compiling a historical booklet for the last 50 years. We have a historical page on our website about the beginnings of the club. Erik Eeg and Gladys Andreas has been working on this and Gladys has been able to compile a list of club members for 1990 – 2020 with 241 names. There is also a possibility of a fiddle camp. We are currently looking at all ideas and possibilities.

Years ago we used to play for tea dances at the ASA Hall in Abbotsford regularly but over time there were changes made and the dances ended. Recently we have been invited to play for a dance in this venue on June 12. Depending on the interest and number of dancers, we will determine if this will be a regular venue for us.

Jo Blaak, Vern Walt, Matt DeBruyn, Rod and Elaine McLean played for a fund raiser for Seniors at the Aldergrove Senior Center on April 29. There

were other groups participating in the event. It was very well attended by the community. This is the venue where our club plays for the dances so it is nice to see the hall doing well.

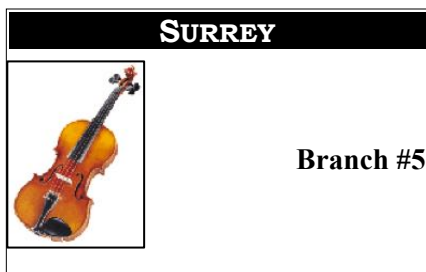
We are pleased to announce that our secretary Elaine's surgery was successful. She continues to heal nicely.

We welcome New Member Lucy Mulder to our club. Lucy participated with CFVF fiddlers as a youngster and now is back to play with the more senior members.

We are sad to announce that Joyce Olds has been admitted to the Mission Hospital Hospice. Our prayers are for her and Don. They have been life members of CFVF for many many years.

We look forward to all that is before us as a club. Happy fiddling!

Submitted by, Rosalie Eeg



Greetings to all Branches of the BCOT Fiddlers Association

As of March 11, 2022, our Province ended the mask mandate, allowing people to go into most public places without masks and although a lot of

people are not wearing masks, there are still a lot of middle age and elderly people still not ready



to abandon their masks for their own health and safety and we all hope that this dreaded Covid -19 pandemic will soon disappear forever.

So far, there has been no activity happening within our Surrey Fiddlers Branch since the Covid -19 pandemic started and it looks like it will be a while longer before we can get back to having dances or other events for our Senior Members. Unfortunately I am having health issues and may not be able to continue looking after the dances for some time and will require help from our members. I hope that my upcoming treatments will go well.

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 and as of the end of June 2022, the Hall will no longer be available, so they were able to check out the Cloverdale Recreation Centre and were fortunate enough to book a room with a piano. The practise sessions will start on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm., starting in September 2022 and although there will be no charge for the practise room, each player will have to take out a yearly membership at a cost of \$ 25.00 .

On March 23, 2022 we lost a wonderful Lady , Grace Evelyn Clay ,who was well known throughout Surrey and Abbotsford Area for her wonderful personality and also her piano skills. Grace played at many dances with different bands and was loved and appreciated by everyone that knew her.

Grace also filled in and played at a few of our dances when our Piano player was not available.

Grace was 89 years of age when she passed away.

She will be missed by all that new knew and loved her

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

WORKSHOPS -CONCERT -DANCE

JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe www.twinfiddles.ca

RUTLAND ACTIVITY CENTER, 765 DODD RD



FRIDAY MAY 20, 2022

WORKSHOPS \$30
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

CONCERT and DANCE

Gordon & JJ 7:00 – 10 PM

Adults \$20

Advance Tickets \$15

Workshop attendees – no charge

Children under 12 – no charge

JJ Guy Award winning Saskatchewan fiddler, featured at festivals, concerts and fiddle camps across Canada. JJ has released 7 albums and is winner of the People's Choice Award at the 2013 Canadian Grand Masters and in the North American Hall of Fame in 2021.

Gordon Stobbe received the Order of Canada for his contribution to fiddling, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from CGMA for Outstanding Contribution to Old Time Fiddling in Canada. GORDON "CALLS" dances all across Canada.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

More info contact John or Lynn at 250 717-8432

Sponsored by Kelowna Old Time Fiddlers

ALSO – A Silent Auction will be held

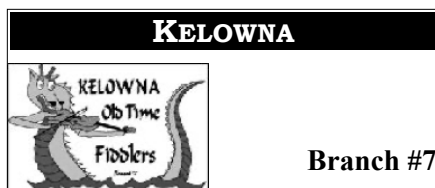


and music are much appreciated and very well received. We are struggling as a group at times to populate these events with players. The years of stagnancy and many other factors have taken a toll on our membership and on the numbers of active players we have regularly turning out for practices and gigs. We continue to seek out ways to boost interest and participation in the community and watch the other OTF Branches that have rejuvenated their membership with hope.

We kicked off May this year by playing Maple Fest at the Laurel Packing House downtown. This has been an annual event for us for many years, though we did miss a few years with the pandemic. It was grand to see the people come out to celebrate Kelowna's French-Canadian community and their traditions of music, food, and fellowship. The kids were out as well and loved seeing the music

being played live with their breakfast. Vic Ukrainetz led us through a set of French titled and traditional music, as well as some cross over Métis songs.

As I write this, our group is eagerly looking forward to our annual visit from Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy on May 20. Gord and JJ will be putting on some workshops, a concert, and a dance, including some traditional called Square Dances. They have been making this stop on their tour for several years, and we all appreciate it so much. They bring with them new songs and stories, and the tradition of transferring musical knowledge from person to person, skills and techniques and folklore. As we're just coming out of our years of pandemic inertia in terms of gatherings and travel, it's so important for our communities to remember the basics of what fiddling means to us in terms of tradition and transference of knowledge. Fiddling is an aural



I hope everyone is enjoying some of the spring-time weather we've been having, even if it is intermittent and cooler than usual. We've had snow in the upper reaches of Kelowna this May, which isn't unheard of, but it's certainly strange.

Kelowna has been keeping rather busy this spring. We've had a number of homes and facilities resume regular live music. Carol and Wayne and their crew continue to play happy hour gigs at Missionwood and some other facilities. John and Lynn play as many gigs as they can, and there's also the regular Prime Time music event up in Lake Country, incorporating music, dancing, and teatime. The players

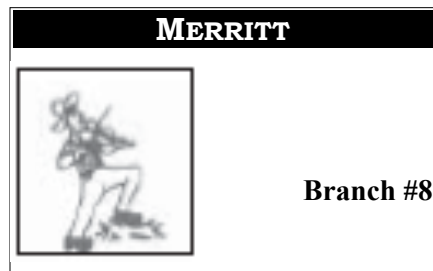
tradition, and Gord and JJ both make huge contributions on this front through teaching at camps, traveling to remote areas, and Jamming with JJ every Sunday. I can't wait to see them again!

We are hoping to wrap up our season this year with a picnic and jam in the park June 12 at Mission Creek. We are still solidifying plans on this event, but if you happen to be in town that day, I hope you stop by for some music and visiting. Give us an email or a call and we'll make sure you can find us.

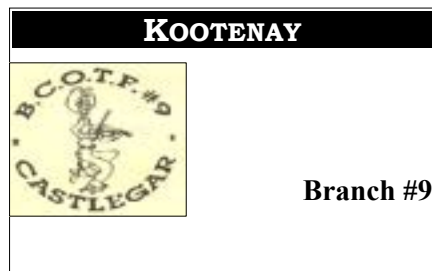
Our Fiddle Fest Planning Committee has been busily planning for Fiddle Fest in the fall. We have stuck with holding our event on Labour Day weekend, as it has really been well received. We have some "Big Guns" coming to perform and teach this year, so I hope you all mark your calendars to come hear Patti Kusturok and Alex Kusturok play and teach on September 2nd and 3rd. Advance tickets will be available soon, and anyone interested in volunteering to help can contact Carol Jenson (250) 448-1815.

Hope you all stay healthy and active over summer and look forward to more fiddling in the fall. Take care all.

Submitted by, Heather Bartel



No submission received this issue.



It seems, although the music flow almost "lost its drive" for awhile, more recently, it is switching from "manual" to "automatic".

Kootenay #9 members, perhaps not unlike members of other branches, are aiming to regroup and reconnect with what our priorities are. For now, that encompasses regular practice jams at our new space in Castlegar and, once again, anticipation of an all new 2022 Castlegar Music Camp for fiddle and piano.

We also have a new website, set up by Chuck Cram which reads as follows: bcotf9.wordpress.com. Please check out the poster in this newsletter as well as the website for information on the camp schedule, instructors, registration details, accommodation, fees, and, who to contact with any

further questions you may have.

When we lost the previous website, we unfortunately also lost our library of sheet music. We are grateful to Pat West for her quick thinking but time consuming labor of collating them onto a memory stick for future use, especially for new and new-ish members.

That's our update in a nutshell ---short but significant developments, given the events of the last 2 years.

Will mention a couple of upcoming opportunities, available to all, that may show up several times in the BCOTF Newsletter:

1) Summer Hybrid Camp: Calvin Volrath- combining physical and online attendance

July 17 - 21, www.campcalvin.ca

2) Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championship:

Aug 26-27, in Winnipeg, Manitoba (for the 1st time ever!)

www.canadiangrandmasters.ca

May all your discoveries be fresh as you resume your musical activities!

Submitted by, Brenda McLeod

WILLIAMS LAKE

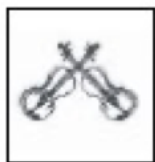


Branch #10

Williams Lake feel they have reached the end on the trail and have informed me (editor) that they will be filing for dissolution.

It saddens me to have to report this and we wish Williams Lake members all the very best.

COOMBS



Branch #11

Spring on the Island has been very wet, windy and cool. This week it is starting to warm up. Lots of trees and flowers are coming into bloom. I do believe summer is in the air.

We have started to play at some of the seniors residences. They were happy to see us and got right into the swing of things. They really missed the music. It has been over two years since we played for them. As we look over the audience there are fewer faces that we recognize from before Covid. It is very sad.

Our branch is down to a small but dedicated group of musicians. We get together and practice once a week at Grace Church in Coombs. We work hard learning

new tunes and improving on older ones. We do our best to make our music sound good to the seniors and to brighten up their days.

The Coombs Country Opera opened up last month and was well attended. Our branch was the opening performance. There were a lot of new faces and an abundance of talent. It sure was great to see everyone after two long years.

At the moment Covid is once again among us on the Island. We had a scare the other day. One of our members had a relative who contracted Covid. So we were all informed and decided to isolate for the week. Unfortunately, we missed going to the Branch 17 Jamboree. Time has gone by and I am glad to say all our members are healthy and no one has contracted Covid.

Mr. Roy Bocek has been a member of Branch 11 since it was founded. Roy will turn 92 years old in July of this year. Roy has retired to a seniors residence. Roy is a super guitar player and was always dedicated to bringing music to the seniors. When our branch visited his residence, Ray and Les played one of his favorite songs for him "MY LITTLE HOME IN WEST VIRGINIA". A very nice salute to Roy for all the music he has brought to people. Roy had a strong singing voice and loved to sing. A few of his favorite songs are PICK PRETTY FLOWERS

FOR YOU and PUT ME IN YOUR POCKET. We all miss him and his music very much.

We will be celebrating Canada's National Fiddling Day on May 21st. We have invited the other clubs on the Island. Attendance will depend on the Covid situation of course.

We are also practicing to perform at the Coombs Bluegrass Festival at the end of July.

Everyone is anxiously waiting for a time when we can get all together without the fear of getting sick. I am hoping the time is just around the corner. Stay healthy everyone.

Happy Trails

Submitted By Tom Elliot

KAMLOOPS



Branch #12

The last few months have been filled with sadness as we lost three more of our most loved members. Our musicians played a few tunes for the Celebration of Life for Roger Tellier in March and they have been asked to do the same for Bud Fuglem on May 29th, Bob Lalonde on June 4th & Clark Hiles on July 9th.

With the lessening of Covid restrictions it seems that we have been busier than ever. In March we hosted a very successful "Free for Seniors" concert featuring

Mike Sanyshyn from the lower mainland. Our own musicians did a great job of opening for Mike. We had our first dance in two years at the beginning of April which was very well attended by both musicians & dancers.

Also in April the fiddlers were asked to play for a fundraiser for the people of the Ukraine. The Sim'ya Ukrainian dance group had a very successful & enjoyable evening at the Heffley Creek Hall & raised over \$ 6,000 for the cause.

The musicians have been playing at a number of the Senior Homes again & also played outside to cheer on the "Boogie The Bridge" runners in April.

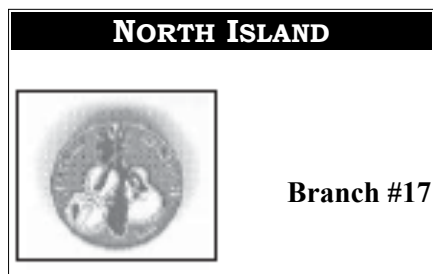
On a very positive note our membership has increased from 77 in January to 106 as of the date of writing. Welcome to all you new members! We feel that one of the things that really increased the public's awareness of our group was the Mike Sanyshyn concert held at the Sagebrush Theatre.

Coming up is our campout in Barriere in June & all the details of that are included on the poster in this newsletter. We'd love to see you there! There is lots of room to park & the Hall is really big so we should be able to keep our distance & still have a good time.

We are looking forward to hosting an Old Time Fiddle Contest once again on September

23rd/24th - more details to come.

Submitted By Dave Lynn



Well, here I am, doing the newsletter article again, after quite a long break. Thanks to Charles Kucey, and Lorraine Hiebert for doing the submissions for the last while.

So many things to talk about, this might end up being a smorgasbord.

We are back to playing at all of our old play-outs. They all seem to have different COVID rules, but I am not about to complain. It has been such a long dry spell, we are just glad to be back doing something. The most challenging is singing with a mask over your nose and mouth. The sound seems to be acceptable, but when taking a

deep breath, half the mask ends up inside your mouth. Takes a little getting used to.

There are a few people with medical issues in our club. I won't get into detail, as I respect their right to privacy, but we all wish them a speedy, and successful recovery.

That leads me to talk about another medical condition for which there is no cure, Old Age. Everybody is facing that certainty. Some of the characteristics of that malady, (Not melody), that affect the musicians are:

- Timing issues, (speeding up, and slowing down during a particular tune).

- Loss of good hearing ability, which could be across the board, or sometimes, only in certain frequencies. This is a particularly hard one to deal with. Not only for the people who have to put up with the volume increases from your amplifier, if you are amplified, but with the frustration of not being able to hear the other musicians, and sometimes your own instrument, even when everybody is playing acoustically.

There might not be a cure for these issues, but there is a treatment. Patience, and understanding. Usually, if the person leading a tune is having timing issues,



they might not even be aware that they are changing tempo. And the other person, who cranks their amplifier up too much, thinks that their problem is solved, by this electronic marvel. Everybody else is cringing.

Both of these things can be very annoying, and there is a tendency to lash out. That is human nature, fix what's bugging you. Or, as is the case in many instances, complain to everybody else when the person affected isn't within earshot.

Here is what should happen, and it takes both sides of the problem to do the right thing. First, just ask the person with the timing issues, if they realize that they speed up on a few tunes. And secondly, if someone talks to you about the issue, don't shoot the messenger. They are just trying to help you. Take it to heart, and try listening to the total mix, or the steady beat of another instrument. When a tune goes off the track, instead of wondering who messed up, start thinking, hey, maybe it was me. Sometimes it can't be helped, and that's when we should all have a bit of compassion, smile, and encourage that old guy, or gal to keep on playing until they are called to the other side.

I worked away from home, in Ontario for many years. I was much younger then, and had time to join a couple of different fiddle clubs back there. There was one fiddler, who had no sense of

timing, at all. He would come to the stage, and the regular back-up musicians would bail out. But I would stick with him, speeding up when he did, and slowing down with him as well. That guy had no idea that his timing was terrible, and he was always happy when he left the stage knowing in his heart that together we made beautiful music, even though very few people ever danced when he was playing. After a few months, other back-up players started staying on stage to play along with him, and I was happy to see that.

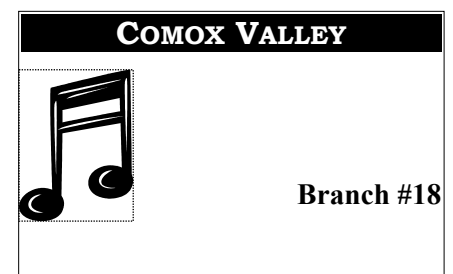
For those hard of hearing guys, of which I am at the head of the class, They already know they can't hear well. They are the ones who should ask others to help. Could you let me know if my amplifier is too loud ? Let me know if my fiddle is too shrill, we can tweak it a bit, maybe with a mute of sorts. If you can't hear your own instrument because the piano drowns it out, don't sit close to the piano, or the bass, or the guy with the banjo. Chose your spot carefully. The rest of the band also has a responsibility to help out. If you see someone sitting out a tune, when you know that person has played that tune before, it's usually because they either can't hear the lead instrument, or can't hear themselves. Do what you can to help out. There is a good chance you might be in their shoes someday.

Now that I have single handedly solved all the world's musical problems, I should let you know what we are doing for Canada's National Fiddling Day, which will all be history by the time you reads this.

We have rented the, quite large, picnic shelter at Kitty Coleman Provincial Park, and have invited fiddlers and other musicians in the area, to join us for the afternoon of music and socializing. And, of course, being a public venue, we hope that there will be lots of people gathering around to listen, dance in the grass, and have a good time. If the weather looks like it might be really terrible, like a monsoon or a hurricane, we will move the party to the Fallen Alders Hall which is the home of Branch 17.

That's it for now, take care everybody, and don't forget to live life. You only get one shot at it.

Submitted by Ed Medford



Well, the difficulties of trying to play music with group of people during the Covid conundrum seem to be on the wane. Fiddlejam is continuing every

second Tuesday at the lower floor of the St George United church in Courtenay and we seem to be drawing in many new and diverse musicians. This is great and we are hesitant to pull the plug on the fiddle sessions for the summer as we usually do. Usually, interest dies off as people find other things to do in the sunny evenings but maybe this year there will be a desire to pay all summer.

Playing for others is back on track and in January, a group of us were hired to play at the Casa Loma Senior center where we were really well received by the residents. They loved having live music after such a long furlough. Concerts began to happen again and on March 3rd we had a bomber of a concert with the bluegrass Slokan Ramblers at the Big Yellow Merville hall. As I usually do with entertainers that stay overnight, the day after the show I tried to get the band to do some work around the house but, surprisingly, there were no takers. I'll have to sweeten the offer, I guess.

We had another full house at the hall on the 11th of March with Canadian troubadour, Valdy, thrilling us all with his rich voice and wonderful songs and stories. A group of us managed several other playouts during the month. One was at the Lewis center for a St Patrick's Day dance and we did two more for the Valley's Francophone community celebrating the Maple Sugar

Shack and Quebec Carnival festivals.

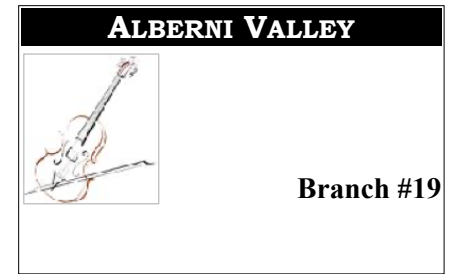
It was April Fools Day (the 1st) when we had another great, sold out show with the fiddle quartet, The Fretless, at the hall. No fools these lads, though, as they are up for another Juno award this year for their most recent album, Open House. In fact, in support of local Vancouver musicians, Trent is organizing Sunday night bluegrass jams down at the Heatley Pub on East Hastings Street.

On Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st there were fiddle workshops for all ages, put on by music teacher Deb Collins (debsterzonie@gmail.com), out at the Stolen Church building behind the Merville Hall. There were two 1/2 days of workshops and a Saturday evening jam/concert and, according to organizer, Cindy "Sign Up Here" Budd, it was a great success. Deb will be back in the fall for more instruction.

As an indication that things are starting to normalize, just recently, a group of us enjoyed playing, on a Friday evening, with the Branch #17 Old Time Fiddlers at the Fallen Alders hall in Royston. There was a jam session the following day with additional players coming up from Coombs and Port Alberni. So, I guess music is happening all around us again and we look

forward to a summer full of warm sun and warmer sounds.

Submitted by Craig Freeman



Here we are once again waiting for Covid to pass us by or even better, just go away. We were just starting to do a few play-outs and actually did four sessions, three of them in March. We played in the upstairs of our hosts place, Abbeyfield, then we entertained at Rainbow Gardens.. I think we were the first entertainers they had in 2022. We next entertained at Heritage House, an assisted living place. In March we went to Westhaven, the extended care section of the hospital. They were being very careful at that time and asked us to do a rapid test before entering and we were happy that all of us tested negative. All of these places were so appreciative of having some live entertainment at last, after such a long time with no music to listen to, and no musicians to chat with after a session. We were getting ready to play a second time at Abbeyfield when they had to cancel because of some cases of Covid among them. We decided to cancel all practices until further notice.

On April 23, three of our members went to the Saturday

afternoon jam session at Fallen Alders in the Comox Valley, put on by Branch 17. This was their traditional week-end to celebrate and it had been missing for two years. It gave us a chance to see and play with people we hadn't had contact with for a while. Nice to touch base again. Of course, they always have some great goodies and coffee set out for everyone to enjoy when they could take a break from their instruments.

Coombs has invited us to join them on National Fiddle Day, May 21, but at the moment we don't know how many can make it. On June the 4th, the West Coast Rangers Black Powder Historical Re-enactment Society is holding an open house range day. A few of our fiddlers are also

music to play, even if not enough tunes to do the whole hour. We are also welcome to try out any of the activities, and experience life as it was in the 1850's. The general public is invited to find out what it is like to shoot a black powder rifle, throw a tomahawk and knife, walk some of the trails, see some of the costumes and crafts on display, see how camp would be set up. It gives people a chance to find out what the club is all about and possibly develop an interest in joining. It also gives everyone a chance to socialize in an outdoor setting with lots of space.

We are hoping to finally get some warmer, sunnier weather coming up soon so we can hold practices outside once again. It worked well for us last year to practice in Roger Creek Park or down at the Harbour Quay. So far this year it has been too cold or wet. For some of you there has even been snow in May. Brrr!! Just not a lot to report this time. Do hope for some improvement as summer approaches. Take care everyone and keep healthy.

Submitted by Gail Ross



members of that club, and they have invited us to come out and entertain for an hour. We do try to find some period appropriate

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Fall Fair Hall & Grounds

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Camping

(arrive any time after 1:00 pm on the 24th)

Jamming, Dancing

Visiting friends, old & new!

Cribbage Tournament

Possibly outdoor games, weather permitting.

Sunday morning pancake breakfast by donation.

**SELF CONTAINED CAMPING
ON FAIR GROUNDS**

No Hook-Ups

Camping Per Site Cost

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Non-Members - \$ 15.00 per night

Reserve your site at

www.bcfiddlers/branches/kamloops

POT LUCK SUPPER

Saturday night at 5:30 PM

DANCE

Saturday night starting at 7:30 PM

Dance Cost

Tickets at the Door

Kamloops Old Time Fiddlers' Members

\$ 6.00

Non-Members

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**Bring your instrument, your favourite
pot luck dish & your dancing shoes!**

For more info – 250-376-2330





B.C. OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION
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**51st PROVINCIAL 32nd KAMLOOPS
OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 2022**

MUSICIANS' JAM - FRIDAY SEPT 23th 7:00-9:00 PM
CONTEST SATURDAY SEPT 24th 9:00 AM-6:00 PM DINNER AND DANCE TO FOLLOW
BREAKFAST, AGM MUSICIANS' JAM - SUNDAY SEPT 25th 8:00-12:00 PM

AT 100 LORNE STREET, KAMLOOPS, B.C.

CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

CATEGORY	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Little Junior: 9 & under (1 round only)**	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 15.00
Junior: 12 & under (1 round only) **	\$ 70.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00
Youth: 17 & under (1 round only) **	\$100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 40.00
Senior: 65 & over	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00
Intermediate: 18 to 64 inclusive	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00
Open: Any age	\$200.00	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$125.00
Out of Province: Any age	\$200.00	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$125.00
Championship: Any age *	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$225.00
Twin Fiddle: Any age (1 round only)	\$ 45.00 ea.	\$ 35.00 ea.	\$ 25.00 ea.	\$ 15.00 ea.
Novice: Any age who has not competed before (1 round only)	1st prize \$15.00			

***Championship category competitors will be required to play 4 tunes in the final round,
with the 4th tune being a "Tune of Choice"**

**** Clark Hiles Bursary for 17 and under Deadline September 14, 2022****

To Apply: Details on www.bcfiddlers.com/branches/kamloops

REGISTRATION FEES (CDN FUNDS)

Little Junior: 9 & under, Junior: 12 & under & Novice - No Fee | Youth: 17 & under - \$5.00 | Senior: 65 & over - \$5.00

Intermediate: 18 to 64 inclusive - \$8.00 | Open: any age - \$10.00 | Championship: any age - \$15.00

Twin Fiddle: any age - \$5.00 each | Out of Province \$ 10.00

Registration Closed at 8:50 A.M September 24, 2022

ALL ACCOMPANISTS MUST REGISTER - - No Fee

One free guest ribbon per contestant will be issued only to contestants in the Little Junior: 9 & under, Junior: 12 & under, Youth: 17 & under as well as anyone 17 & under who registers for the Novice category.

B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association contest rules (**Rev. Nov. 2012**) will apply and must be strictly adhered to.

The above noted rules can be found at www.bcfiddlers.com

Continued on Page 2

Fiddle & Piano Camp 2022



Castlegar

Fiddle Camp 2022 brings back JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe, two of Canada's best fiddlers, and this year, Cathy Sproule, well known piano accompanist.

This year's Fiddle Camp includes 11 hours of instruction, jam sessions, and evening activities. Limited to fiddlers with a minimum of 2 years playing experience. Piano students must know basic chords and be familiar with some fiddle tunes. Participants of all ages welcome.

Registration deadline is June 13, 2022. No refunds after the deadline.

Concerns with your skill level? Please contact Kathy Markin at 250 304 5334 before registering.

For more information you can contact **250.354.3220**

DETAILS

Dates:

July 13th & 14th, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

July 15th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cost: \$225 + \$11.25 GST

TO REGISTER

Please register online by visiting selkirk.ca/ce and follow the steps listed on the page.

Fiddle Fest

Sept 2&3 2022



RUTLAND CENTENNIAL HALL 215 SHEPHERD RD

FRIDAY

CONCERT PATTI KUSTUROK
with ALEX KUSTUROK

7:00 PM

DANCE follows

Tickets \$20 at door

Geoff Horrocks – Piano Accompanist

Vic Ukrainetz - MC

Accompanied children under 12 no charge

SATURDAY

WORKSHOPS 9 – 11:30 AM

Saturday Afternoon \$20

Fiddle Concert 2:00 PM

DANCE 7PM

BC Old Time Fiddlers

\$10

**Advance Tickets Available
for All Events**

Workshops \$30 REGISTRATION FRI 6:30 PM & SAT 8:30 AM

More info at bcfiddlers.org or (250) 717-8432





Fiddle Workshops September 3, 2022 9-10 am & 10:30-11:30 am



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Patti Kusturok's old time fiddle style is characterized by a pulsating, rhythmical lilt that is guaranteed to get you on the dance floor. One of the smoothest fiddle players in North America, Patti is known for her effortless delivery of some of the best traditional

Canadian fiddle music of all time. Patti is in high demand for performances, teaching, recording, and judging fiddle contests across the continent. Patti has played for movie and TV soundtracks, won numerous Awards and Championships across the country, and toured the globe with her music.

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Development for Note Readers
Intermediate and Advanced Fiddle*



Growing up, **Alex Kusturok** followed his mother Patti to Old time dances around Manitoba where he was enriched with the Métis fiddle from a very young age. By age 7, the passion for music became apparent and today Alex makes his living as a performer and educator. Alex plays a blend of styles and is greatly influenced by the Québécois

and Cape Breton fiddle styles, however, the Métis style remains at the forefront. Most recently, Alex was part of the Métis Delegation that travelled to Rome to share Métis music with Pope Francis. Alex has won numerous Awards and Championships, released multiple albums and is in high demand as a performer and educator.

www.alexkusturok.com

*1. Bowing in Various Styles, 2. Exploring the Métis
Fiddle
Intermediate and Advanced Fiddle*



REGISTRATION \$30.00 each, Family rate \$20.00 each (Payment must accompany registration)
Weekend Pass Rate: \$60 advance all events inclusive

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ADDRESS: -----

PHONE AND EMAIL: -----

PLAYING LEVEL: -----WORKSHOP 1 ----- WORKSHOP 2 -----

Payment Method: Cash ----- Cheque -----

Cheques should be payable to BCOTFA Kelowna. E-transfer to lynntribe@shaw.ca note Workshop Reg
Mail to PO Box 20111, TCM, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8H2

Please tune your instrument before coming to the class if possible.

IT WILL BE GROUP LESSONS Doors will open at 8:30 am.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM THESE EXPERIENCED TEACHERS.

FIDDLE WORKSHOPS AND CONCERTS ARE AT

RUTLAND CENTENNIAL HALL located at SHEPHERD RD and RUTLAND RD.

Further information contact Carol at 250 448-1815 or email kelownaoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com