



B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

Summer | June 2023

Branch 3

Quesnel

Member Highlight

RAY & OLGA PLAMONDON

Where to begin. It's hard to know where to start with the many ways Ray and Olga Plamondon have enriched the BC Old Time Fiddle clubs. Through the years they were members of Prince George, Quesnel, Williams Lake and most recently the Kamloops club.

Ray could be depended upon to bring his fiddle and fill the floor with good lively dance music, especially with his rendition of In the Mood or Waltzing Through the Leaves. In the meantime,



Photo submitted of Ray and Olga Plamondon

Olga, when not dancing, was helping with set-up, lunches, clean-up and all the other chores that go into making these club functions work.

Ray's musical background goes back to his early years in Alberta when he played in bands with family members

and later while working in Fort Smith. He and other musicians were often called upon to play for dances, house parties, and at least one wedding - his own, being the only band in town. Soon after moving to Quesnel in 1976, they joined the Quesnel Old time Fiddlers. At that time

the Quesnel and Prince George Club often shared activities so they became members of their club as well. Although Ray did not like to compete, he had a good ear to judge, and so became the called upon judge for many contests and Olga would pitch in and help with whatever needed doing.

When the Quesnel and Prince George clubs decided to form the Fiddle Treat, Ray and Olga were there from the beginning. Ray helped in the guitar class by playing tunes for the students to hone their skills as back-up.

One year he tutored one little boy who didn't quite fit into the group. At other times his carpentry skill was used to fix anything that squeaked, leaked, was off centre, or sagged. In the meantime, Olga was helping in the kitchen. At the end of the day, we would gather in their fifth wheel for happy hour and more music. They remained active in the Fiddle Treat until moving to Kamloops a year or two ago.

One occasion stands out in our memory. It was Ray's 60th birthday party in the Elks Hall. A group of Prince George members had created a large cardboard birthday cake which they placed at the front of the stage. When everyone was gathered around and the

music played, out popped a very sexy can-can girl in the person of Gordon Meeken. (I can still see those net stockings!) He then presented Ray with a birthday gift that had been on Ray's wish-list since the Halloween dance in Wells.

So many good times.

Thanks, Ray and Olga!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jackie Davis



Here I sit thinking about what is going on across our great province. So many things are happening with our branches, which is great to see and hear!

We have a great board of directors, but we are always looking for some new input. As you can see the interior part of the province is well represented. It would be fantastic if we could get one from the north and another from the island, to be a member of the provincial board. We only take about 3 – 4 meetings a year, mostly online. It is always good to have new input brought to the table from all the corners of the province.

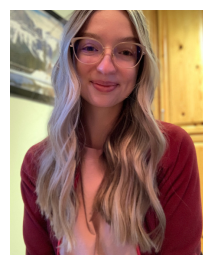
The Website is looking great, and branches are getting their sites up to date, so go and have a look. The newsletter is going along just fine, a big thank you to Elizabeth Ewen for helping make it all come together.

Hopefully our summer will not be too dry from the sun or too wet from the snow melt and rain!!! The strange weather we are having all over the world.

Stay safe everyone!

FROM THE EDITOR

Elizabeth Ewen



So much amazing effort is being put into shaping the next generation of fiddlers by this community. Its wonderful to see various endeavors pursued by each branch. Music is such a crucial, but also beautiful part of life because its an activity where we can all gather to enjoy and embrace this lively tradition to its fullest, regardless if you're a musician, dancer, or a spectator. I wish everyone a wonderful summer that is fulfilled with fun and music!

A Little About the BC Fiddlers' Association

Established March 1979

There are currently 12 active Branches of the
Association in B.C.

Branch #1 - Prince George - Established March 1979, in 1978 a group was formed to head up a Provincial Association and Prince George became Branch #1. Prince George formed their own group in 1968 Hosting their first Provincial Fiddle Contest in 1970.

Branch #3 - Quesnel - Established March 1979 - Quesnel held their own Fiddle Contest starting 1972 then hosted their first Provincial Fiddle Contest in 1984.

Branch #4 - Central Fraser Valley - Established March 1979 – Central Fraser Valley held their first fiddle contest in 1974, then hosted their first Provincial Contest in 1988

Branch #5 – Surrey - Established October 1979 under the name Westcoast Fiddlers Branch #5 name change in 1989. The Westcoast Fiddlers hosted their first fiddle contest in 1978.

Branch #7 – Kelowna - Established March 1979 under the name of Wood Lake Branch #7 name change in 1985.

Branch #8 – Merritt - Established March 1979, Merritt held one of their first fiddle contest in 1974.

Branch #9 – Kootenay - Established May 1981 held their first Provincial Fiddle Contest in 1987

Branch #11 – Coombs - Established January 1982, Coombs held their first Fiddle Contest in 1983, hosting their Provincial Contest in 1986.

Branch # 12 - Kamloops - Established October 1982, Kamloops hosted their first Fiddle Provincial Contest in 1982.

Branch #17 - North Island - Established August 1986, held the Provincial fiddle contest in Cumberland in 2011

Branch # 18 - Comox Valley (Courtenay) - Established May 2008, held many fiddle festivals in Courtenay & Merville

Branch # 19 - Alberni Valley - Established May 2008, have only held “pseudo-competitions”, to help develop confidence

*E & O E

Branch 1

Prince George



Submitted by Beth Bressette

Our 6th annual jamboree (after a 3-year covid break) was an enormous success and fun for everyone. Between April 14 – 16, we had thirty-six enthusiastic musicians signed up for group lessons. On Saturday and Sunday, 28 fiddle students were rotating among our guest instructors, Daniel Lapp, Daniel Gervais, and Mike Sanyshyn, and 8 guitar students with Troy Gates. The instructors did a fabulous job, both at teaching and performing in their concert. The evening concert brought out 160 people from the community! The guys were a pleasure to work with. To start off the weekend, we also had a dance on Friday night. For food, we had weekend lunches and snacks which were catered for by the venue. This allowed us as organizers the opportunity to enjoy taking part in the activities.

Our monthly dances are over for the season, and they

have been really well attended - we may need to try to find a bigger venue. It seems that when we made this event more of a family dance by offering ice cream bars instead of an alcohol bar, our numbers increased. We have been playing out at a few Longterm Care homes this spring, as well as the French Club Seniors' Brunch, a Catholic Youth Conference, Hixon Music Festival and Canada Day Celebrations in the park.

Our new initiative, Group Beginner Fiddle Lessons in 6-week blocks have been arranged and taught by Maria and Shawnee Newton, and we are really excited about the progress and enthusiasm of the students of all ages. The original group evolved into two because of numbers and varying abilities. The Newtons plan to carry on this program in September, and it looks like we will have quite a few new fiddlers in our jams soon.

BRANCH NEWS

Our branch has lost another long-time member, Judy Feyer, who passed away suddenly on April 27. Judy had been awarded a Lifetime Membership 16 years ago for her tireless volunteering and advocacy on behalf of our club, serving 4 years as Treasurer and 4 years as President, as well as 4 years as Concert Chairperson. Over the last 11 years, Judy promoted fiddle music and our Branch in her weekly local radio program, "Fiddlefest". At our dances, if she was not looking after the door, playing her banjo, or keyboard on stage, she could always be found on the dance floor!



Branch 3

Quesnel



Hello from the Quesnel Fiddlers.

Our small group continues the weekly get-together to practice old tunes and learn new ones. We did two sets at the Country Bluegrass Festival in April and are currently putting a program together featuring a fiddle tune from every province and territory to perform on Canada National Fiddle Day. Looking ahead we will be playing at Billy Barker Days and at the Farmers' Market.

We were shocked and saddened by the death of Judy Feyer who was a long-time member of both Quesnel and Prince George Clubs. She regularly attended our dances and never missed a year at the Gavin Lake Fiddle Treat. For many years she helped at our contest as an auditor and one year stepped up as the emcee.

The BC Fiddle Treat is ready to go! There is still some room for registrants at the

time of writing. Information and registration form is available on the BC Old Time Fiddlers website. We're looking forward to greeting familiar faces and welcoming new ones.

Branch 4

Central Fraser Valley



Submitted by Rosalie Eeg

It's been a long time coming but spring is finally here in the lower mainland. Such a gorgeous time of year with all the trees in blossom, spring flowers in full bloom and a fresh change in the air.

This year is an exceptional time for the Branch #4. 2023 is the year CFVF celebrates

its 50th anniversary! We started out the year posing for group pictures for our new brochures and choosing a planning committee for the proposed events.

Saturday May 20th is International Fiddle Day so our president, Vivienne Chin, chose a planning committee and arranged meetings to discuss ideas. Our first big event was a Old Time Barn Dance at the Abbotsford Social Activity Association Hall from 1 to 4 PM in downtown Abbotsford held on May 20th. Our club was instrumental in the building of this hall (it was then called MSA Hall) 50 years ago so it is only fitting that we celebrate our anniversary in the same venue. We looked forward to hosting an old-time dance including a square dance with a guest caller, Tyler Wagner, and past musicians who have been members of our club. CFVF was on stage



performing at our best. We were so excited in the planning stage to make it a great event! Admission was free of charge (donations to the food bank were accepted). We served cake, refreshments and other goodies to all.

We were very excited to have our former music director, Ed Ryz fly out from Calgary to join us. The whole week was special for us as a club. We planned a pizza party, a jam on the Friday and a few playouts throughout the week, along with a dinner with Ed just before he leaves us again.

CFVF continue to practice at the Hallmark on the Park foyer most Wednesdays. We play for a dance once a month at the Aldergove Senior Centre. These have been well attended and our group always enjoy them so much. Our first dance on January 28th was with a special lady, Dorothy Peterson who celebrated her 99th birthday. Dorothy has been and continues to be a regular participant at the dances. We wish her many more birthdays and dances to come.

We are pleased to announce that Kai Gronberg will be leading a fiddle workshop for us on May 10th. Kai started fiddling with CFVF when he was 7 years old. He is now a full-time

professional musician and fiddle teacher. He will be joining us at the Barn Dance.

Another event we have planned is for July 1st. Our club will be playing at the Fort Langley Hudson Bay Trading Post in Fort Langley to celebrate Canada Day.

We do want to welcome a new fiddle member Mike McWhinney. With the newsletters going out every four months, it may seem like old news to Mike but rest assured, we are very happy to have you with us!

Some sad news to report. Joyce Cotter passed away recently. Joyce was the wife of Julius Cotter. Julius called the square dances for us for many years as well as attending the dances with Joyce. She was well into their nineties. We will miss Joyce and hope Julius is able to attend the dances to be with his many friends.

Our next newsletter will be in September. We hope to report more details on the events for this year. May you all have a wonderful summer. Stay safe and happy fiddling!

Branch 5 Surrey



EVAN SANYSHYN

*January 2, 1941 -
February 3, 2023*

Our Dad, spouse, Stepdad, brother, Grandpa, Uncle and well-respected friend, passed away peacefully at Surrey Memorial Hospital after a valiant fight with cancer.

Born in Mundare, Alberta, to a Ukrainian family, Evan was a true Alberta boy and loved living in the Crowsnest Pass. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, mushroom and huckleberry picking, camping, gardening and dogs.

After leaving school, he took on various jobs, from firefighting, surveying, to working summers at the Banff Springs Hotel. He settled at Phillips Cables,

working the rest of his career in management at the Coleman and Vancouver plants.

After relocating to White Rock, BC in 1985, he retired in 1995. Dad met Dorothy Klevinsky nee Jones in Coleman, AB, and they married in 1968, becoming a blended family with her two boys, after she had been tragically widowed.

Music was always a part of Evan's life. He was President of the Surrey Branch #5 BC Old Time Fiddlers Association and enjoyed jam sessions and dances with his champion fiddler son, Mike, often playing mandolin and fiddle himself. He loved to dance, dine, and travel with his beloved Rose Marie in recent years.

Evan was predeceased by his sister, Sylvia, in 1939, his brother, Billy, in 1946, his sister Mary, in 1956, his father, John, in 1994, his wife, Dorothy, in 1997, his mother, Genevieve, in 2001, and his brother-in-law, Ron Kozler, in 2010.

He is survived by his partner, Rose Marie Patterson, Surrey, BC, his sons William (& Jayne) Klevinsky, Nanaimo, BC, John Klevinsky, Surrey BC, James (& Eddie Soares) Sanyshyn,

New Westminster, BC, and Michael (& Tianna Lefebvre) Sanyshyn, Surrey, BC, his step daughter, Lorraine Patterson, and step son-in-law Rob Fofonoff, White Rock, BC, his step daughter Marla Patterson, Surrey, BC, his sisters Pat Kozler, Sparwood, BC, Betty Johnson, Coutts, AB, (brother-in-law Albert Johnson) and June Walker, Medicine Hat, AB, (brother-in-law Don Walker), his grandson, Michael Klevinsky, Errington, BC, his granddaughters Amanda Stewart, Campbell River, BC, and Olivia Klevinsky, Nanaimo, BC and many great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, chosen family, kind neighbours, grand dogs Molly and Hank, and a hungry family of backyard birds and squirrels!

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the Canadian Cancer Society. A celebration of life will take place in the future, date to be determined. Evan will be cremated and interred next to Dorothy at the Gardens of Gethsemani in Surrey, BC.

We will miss his selflessness, his grin, his sense of humour, his

kindness, his love of animals, and his hospitality. Rest peacefully with the ancestors.



"You can shed tears that he is gone,
Or you can smile because he has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that
he'll come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all
he's left.

Your heart can be empty because you
can't see him,
Or you can be full of the love you
shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow
and live yesterday, Or you can be happy
for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember him only that he is
gone,
Or you can cherish his memory and let it
live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be
empty and turn your back.
Or you can do what he'd want: smile,
open your eyes, love and go on."

Poem by David Harkins



Branch 7

Kelowna



Submitted by Heather Bartel

Greetings from Kelowna! It's been sunny and warm here and definitely feels like summer already. We're supposed to get a bit of cooler weather, which would be welcome, but as I write this, it's been hot!

We've been doing a number of play outs and dances. We played an excellent set at the Kelowna Maplefest Sunday Brunch on April 30th. This is traditionally one of our most fun events, with lots of kids and hungry people coming to listen and dance in the aisles as they eat their lovely breakfast of traditional French-Canadian food. This year was no exception, with a lively set led by Vic Ukrainetz and some new faces up on stage. After our set the Jocelyn Petit band took the stage, and they always put on a great show.

Our dances are really winding up. The last one in April had our best turnout since pre pandemic times. Attendance is up, and people are all loving our

venue at the Club 17 Senior's Centre close to downtown. The more central location, better parking and access has been a huge win for us. We are so grateful they have been so kind to welcome us and our dancers to the hall on Richter Street. It's so perfectly suited for our dancers and our players.

We're just a few short weeks away from Fiddle Fest here in Kelowna with Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy. June 2 and 3, we hope you can make your way down to Kelowna for some workshops, a dance and concert with our favourite duo of cross Canada trekking musicians. See the poster for all the details.

We were shocked to hear that our good friend and fellow musician Wayne Blair passed away in March. Many of you would recognize Wayne as our own Country Gentleman, and he played with our group and several other groups around the

area, including the West Kelowna Grande Ole Opry. His wife and our lovely friend Barb is relocating back to Calgary to be closer to family, as they had originally planned. We sure miss them already.

We continue to keep John and Lynn Tribe in our thoughts as they deal with John's ongoing health concerns. They've been so much for all of us over the years and are completely irreplaceable in our group. We hope things continue to improve for them.

I think that's about all to report from Kelowna. Apologies if I've missed anything, I'm currently trying to split my brain between family, work and the fiddlers and the cords connecting it all are getting a bit thin. Hope you all are doing well, and looking forward to the summer with all the fun it brings.

Cheers,
Heather



Branch 8

Merritt



*Submitted by
Delphine Lawrence*

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers has 63 members and 4 Life Members - Joyce Crosina, Jean-Guy Dupuis, Delphine Lawrence and Kevin Norman. They are doing more advertising to attract new members. There was also a discussion regarding joining the Canadian Music Hall of Honor in Merritt and the benefits. We've had several members join.

Our annual campout was at Harmon Lake Elks campsite from May 16 to 22. All members and guests were welcome to attend. There was an auction on Sunday afternoon, which was fun trying to outbid everyone. Various activities occurred, such as crib, horseshoes, and a potluck supper which was held on Saturday. There was lots of music so all the musicians could join in.

The OTF have lost a long-time member, Vera Beck. Condolences to the family.

Enjoy your camping and travelling and stay safe and have an enjoyable summer.

Branch 9

Kootenay



Submitted by B. McLeod

It is our good fortune, in this area, to have an exceptional Art and Culture program. This Spring, for example, Trail hosted the Kootenay Festival of the Arts with performances in dance, strings, woodwinds, piano and vocal. Seeing the different artists' performances you could totally appreciate the formal influences of teaching, practice and feedback, but also, the more subtle influences that made every participant's delivery unique.

Of course, we each bring this same variety of formal and not-so-formal influences to our playing group, whether it's associated with past theory, our current jam group, private instruction, a recent workshop, genres we're listening to, or maybe just how life is going at a particular moment. Most of us have played with this group for a few years and we have been fortunate to have some newcomers drop in

this year. While we don't have many original members (the group was formed in 1981), a handful of our players may have some memory of earlier years with backyard jams, parades, and the popular fiddle contests that were well attended by people from B.C. and beyond. Then, in 2002, current members Kathy Markin, Denise Chernoff and Sheila Vokeroth were instrumental in organizing the 1st Castlegar fiddle camp (and everyone thereafter!). There is no doubt, the camp has assisted many people over the years, both participants and instructors, to keep making music.

Our OTF group continues to have biweekly practice sessions and we have really improved our sound since startup last Fall. We are basically a practice group at the moment and, as we all know, practice requires motivation, and motivation sometimes requires a stimulus.

For the 21 years since its inception, the Castlegar music camp has provided such a stimulus, with a variety of ways to influence our music, all in one great package. While some specifics of our local Fiddle Camp have changed over the years, the focus is still the same - to have fun, and

to be inspired by music and fellow musicians. The Camp this summer, July 13th to 15th, features the return of both guitar and piano workshops as well as morning beginner classes. It will be great to see young people at camp again. Registration is open now, and details, e.g. instructors, schedules, etc. are on the poster in this newsletter. Specifics, updates and the chance to have questions answered are on our website bcotf9.wordpress.com. You can also find this information on the provincial website: bcfiddlers.com, under Kootenay#9 Branch.

Finally, on musical influences. While I was tacking up a camp poster recently, a security guard for the building came over to check it out and said, "I used to take my kids to that". When asked if she also plays an instrument, she said she takes her tambourine out on her property and plays it for her horse. Apparently, the horse loves it, which could arguably be the most important impact and motivating factor in playing music - the connection between the player and the listener.

The Castlegar Camp has it all- the challenges, the tunes, the tips, the jamming, the entertainment, the surprises, and even the most appreciative of audiences.

We hope to see you there! And we especially hope you enjoy a summer of music.

Branch 11 Coombs



Submitted by Tom Elliott

Well, spring has finally arrived on the Island. The breeze is warmer and all the trees and flowers are blooming. Now it is time to start thinking of gardening.

Over the winter we have had several musicians visit with us and join Branch 11. Earl and Diana came from Dawson Creek. Earl played the guitar and fiddle and Diana played a wonderful bass. Vince from Calgary played a mean mandolin. They sure were appreciated when playing with us at the senior homes and at our practices. We also have long term members from Saskatchewan who come every fall. Merv and Jan are valued members of our club. Unfortunately, they all had to head home. We are missing you guys and are eagerly looking forward to you returning in the fall.

We held a March Madness Concert for Angela's students where they all put on a great performance. Angela wrote a waltz for some of her long time students and named the waltz after each of them.

It was wonderful to hear them performing their waltzes for us. It was great to see all the families out to support their children. We followed the concert with juice and goodies. The evening ended with a jam session for all.

We attended Branch 17 Spring Jamboree. They were very welcoming and put on a great show. We all had a good time. A big THANK YOU to Ed and Branch 17 for inviting us.

A friend of our President Nell's son is doing a documentary on the magic of music on Vancouver Island. His name is Joel. He did an interview with Nell and videoed our practice including Angela and her students. The kids are you tube stars. He did a very professional job of putting the video together and we would like to share it with you all. Below is the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMVylBThss8&authuser=0>

Till next time.

Happy Trails,

Tom Elliott

Branch 12

Kamloops

Submitted by Dave Lynn



Our spring session is winding down. We have had 23 new members join us this year bringing our current membership to 115, which I think makes us the biggest branch in the B. C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association. We are very lucky to have Jackie Davis as our President - she is also the President of the Provincial body and she keeps everyone and everything organized.

The Tuesday night practices at Heritage House have been well attended. We've met many new musicians since the Fall and a number of them have joined or will be joining our branch.

Musically, it's been a combination of the old and the new. We've finally been able to get our younger Fiddlers to play at some of the 14 retirement homes we entertain at. The residents have been quite pleased after hearing how good they are. Then we have our veteran Fiddlers to cover the playouts that the younger people aren't available for, because of school and jobs.

At the present we have only a couple of Fiddlers who are over 70 or 80! One of those is Nadia Olafson, who much to

everyone's surprise, recently had her 90th birthday. She still comes and plays at our dances. The other one is Ray Plamondon who is an exceptional Fiddler. You can tell he's good when the other Fiddlers start adding his tunes to their repertoires. We feel very fortunate that he and Olga moved here from Quesnel. Their loss, our gain!

We are sorry that Elizabeth Ewen has finished her studies at the University here and has now returned to her home in Yellowknife. It was great to have her play with us for the time she was here; hopefully we will see her back soon!

To anyone who has been under the weather, or recovering from surgeries, we send our best wishes.

Hope to see you all soon.

Branch 17

North Island



Submitted by Ed Medford

We missed putting an article in the last Newsletter, basically for lack of content. There wasn't much to be enthusiastic about, but this time there are a few things going on that are worthy of mention.

We had our Spring Jamboree. This is something that we had been doing

every year and was starting to be an annual tradition for Branch 17, until the COVID Pandemic struck. Things are starting to get back to normal, but the momentum seems to have taken a downturn, up until now. However, there is a glimmer of a bright light in the distance.

Once again, we brought in Ed Peekeekoot as the headline act for the Friday Night concert, and, as in the past, his performance was spellbinding, with his guitar and fiddle skills, along with the haunting Native Flute, and his great storytelling ability. Any group wishing to bring Ed in for a performance, can contact him via his website.

On Saturday morning we held two workshops, one for violin, and one for guitar. The afternoon consisted of a talent/variety show that emphasized what great individual talent is hiding in the community. All the BCOTFA clubs know that we have great musicians in our bands, but this showed off the skills of the individuals that we don't normally see.

On Saturday night we held a dance that was well attended, and everyone seemed to have fun.

We hope to see you there! And we especially hope you

enjoy a summer of music.

We appreciated the great support that we received from Branch 11, Coombs group. Their attendance went a long way to helping us have a successful Jamboree.

We are trying to start another "Annual" event by having an outdoor gathering for music on Canada's National Fiddling Day. Last year we secured the picnic pavilion at Kitty Coleman Provincial Park, and soon had an audience gathered, it was a great afternoon of music, camaraderie, and food, everyone brought their own picnic lunch. We had planned on doing the same this year, however someone has booked the venue before we did. Our solution was to hold our event the following day, May 21st. I can't comment on how it was received because it is this coming weekend. It's not often that a small group of people, get to modify an event that was set by the Parliament of Canada.

Two more big events coming up for us. In August, we pack up the band, and drive a couple hours north, to put on a concert in the community of Sayward. We have done this a few times in past years, and always get a great reception, that is always well attended. Also, we have secured a "New Horizons

Grant", to do something for the benefit of the Senior Citizens in the area. I can't say much about it, as plans are still being made, but I should have a report on that project for the next issue of The Newsletter.

That's all for now. Have a great Summer and stay safe.

Branch 18
Comox Valley
Submitted by Craig Freeman



Holy Fiddle Strings, Batman! It is hot today. Looks like May is going to be a scorcher in BC. The Branch #18 fiddlers are also heating things up with their local fiddling. January saw some players crank out some playful music at two different seniors' residences. It is always fun to get the older folks singing along with some old chestnuts that we manage to play and not mangle too badly. Fiddle jams started up again and there are new players coming out of the woodwork which is encouraging. Out at the Big Yellow Merville Hall, The Wardens entertained a sold-out audience with their folksy songs about being park wardens in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. And we had a fabulous Robbie Burns Contra dance with a great crowd all eager to dance, have a good time

and wolf down delicious haggis.

February saw us out at Merville Hall again with the chocolate coated Valentine's Contra dance where we were able to have lots of Spot Dance prizes comprised of last year's chocolate Easter Bunnies and Eggs. In March, fiddler Deb Collins, from Washington, put on a concert and workshops for local players. Deb is hoping to move up to Comox Valley which will be great as we could use another music teacher here.

Another playout saw a group of us playing for the francophone school's Carnival Cabane a Sucre which is always delicious as we get the full meal deal of tortiere, maple syrup, sausage, pancakes.....!! There was another excellent concert at the Old Church Theatre with gypsy guitar whizz, Quinn Bachand and then there was another playout at a seniors' center. This is becoming a full-time gig. And then we had our St. Patrick's Day Contra dance at the Merville Hall with green clothes, green hair, green beer and green pickled eggs. A cliché Contra dance.

April saw the Fiddle jam sessions every second Tuesday down in the

subterranean grotto of the St. George United church where the tunes just keep on coming. Two more seniors' center playouts happened during the month and then we witnessed a humdinger of a standing room only concert by The Fretless out at the hall. Accompanied by singer Madeleine Roger, the band played lots of new tunes and showed just what amazing musicians they are.

In May, we'll be working on installing a whack of LED spotlights for the stage at the Merville Hall so future concerts and shows will be well lit and "professional" looking. Our fall Contra dance will certainly be upscale now!

So that is a wrap for Branch #18, Funtime Fiddlers. We send out best wishes to John Tribe and we hope that everyone has a music filled summer.

Branch 19
Alberni Valley
Submitted by Gail Ross



It doesn't seem easy to come up with new things to write about this time. Another bit of time has quietly slipped by and things are changing again, but it has taken some adjustment to arrive at a place where there is a feeling

of some "semblance of normality". I think most people are ready for this to happen. Once again venues are opening with a greater sense of freedom, with testing and masking not absolutely required, even in care homes and medical buildings. Our club has been accepting invitations to play once again but with more thought given to the frequency of the playouts.

With the warmer weather hitting us with a bang, we are starting to think about taking our Monday practices outdoors, and this year we plan to play down by the harbor. For the first few years of Covid we played outdoors at one of the parks, but the dancers are really wanting us to come down to Spirit Square so while they appreciate the music, they can have a solid surface to dance on, even though it is concrete. Easier than on grass, and uneven surfaces. Fir Park has asked us to entertain for a birthday celebration on May 24th. The residents there do like to participate by singing and dancing and thoroughly enjoy themselves. The hospital is also inviting entertainers to play again in the atrium and this has been nice for people waiting for tests as well as regular visitors and patients who can make their way from their rooms.

The West Coast Rangers Historical Re-enactment Society has asked us to play for their Range Day on Saturday, June 3rd for about an hour around lunch time. We are welcome to stay and watch and take part in some of the activities. There will be competitions, crafts to buy and a chance to learn a bit about our history. We have some period correct tunes on our list and have enjoyed playing out there before.

With all the restrictions these last few years, most of us are thankful for our fellow club members and all the support they provide. Even with a mix of personalities, some more cautious than others and some bolder, we are mostly of like minds when it comes time to making decisions about playouts. We do seem to manage ending up with an amicable plan of action. The internet has also provided a connection via email, Zoom or FaceTime. We are healthier, and do thrive, with social connections.

As we work away on our next play-out list, we'll think about all the other clubs as they fiddle, as well, the old familiar songs along with some new ones, of course.

Take care everyone and hopefully stay healthy.

21st Annual Kootenay Fiddle, Guitar & Piano Camp

Don't delay! Register today to reserve your spot in this popular summer music camp!



From novice to advanced, this three-day camp can help people of all ages & abilities improve their fiddle, back-up guitar and/or piano skills. A number of prominent instructors from across Canada will be returning this year, including Gord Stobbe, JJ Guy, Ray Bell, and Cathy Sproule!

Camp includes instruction, jam sessions, and evening activities.

Level of instruction:

Fiddle: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced

Guitar & Piano: Intermediate (knowledge of all basic open chords, helps to be familiar with fiddle music)

Affordable accommodation is available at Kekuli House, Selkirk College residence. For more information, call 250-365-1227.

Register online at selkirk.ca/fiddle-guitar-piano-camp or by phone at 250-354-3220.

For the latest camp news: www.bcotf9.Wordpress.com

Concerns regarding skill level or questions regarding the camp, call 250-365-3209.

WHEN: July 13 to 15, 2023

WHERE: Castlegar campus

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED:

TIME: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

TUITION: \$250 +GST

BEGINNER:

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

TUITION: \$75 +GST

Deadline to register is June 13, 2023.

No refunds after deadline (exceptions made for health reasons).



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION &
WORKPLACE
TRAINING

Selkirk  College

Kamloops Fiddlers



Welcomes

Alex Kusturok



Tickets online
Student Ages 6 - 17 - \$7.00
Adults Ages 18 - 54 - \$10.00
Senior Ages 55 + - Free

September 15, 2023

1205 Rogers Way

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Kamloops Food Bank
Donations
Gratefully accepted

Opening Performers

Cary Grigg — Colin Butchart — Shamma Sabir

FIDDLE EXTRAVAGANZA



Growing up, Alex 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. He has a very long list of career highlights on his website, including being part of the Metis Delegation that travelled to Rome in 2022 & sharing the Metis music with Pope Francis.

To find out more about Alex, visit www.alexkusturok.com

For Tickets please go to our website at
<http://bcfiddlers.com/branches/kamloops/>
or call 250-319-3680



Funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program

B.C. OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION

KAMLOOPS BRANCH #12

52nd PROVINCIAL 33rd KAMLOOPS

OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 2023

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT SEPT 15th

Oasis Church - 1205 ROGERS WAY, KAMLOOPS, BC, V1S 1R9

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

SATURDAY SEPT 16th FIDDLE CONTEST

HERITAGE HOUSE - 100 LORNE STREET, KAMLOOPS, B.C.

9:00 am Pancake Breakfast

11:00 am Judges Meeting

11:30 am Contest Starts

12:30 pm Lunch available

1:30 pm Judges Performance

2:30 pm Contest Continues

6:00 pm DINNER AND DANCE TO FOLLOW



More information & Ticket prices go to
www.bcfiddlers.com/branches/kamloops

or Call 250-376-2330



SCAN HERE

**BRITISH COLUMBIA FIDDLERS'
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

**LOCATION: 100 LORNE STREET,
KAMLOOPS BC
TIME: 9:00AM**

BREAKFAST BY DONATION IS AVAILABLE

PLEASE ATTEND A QUORUM IS REQUIRED!

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR NOMINEES TO BE ON THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PEOPLE FROM DIFERENT PARTS OF THE PROVINCE SO THAT
EVERYONE IS INCLUDED.**

PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME TO BCOLDTIMEFIDDLERS@GMAIL.COM

**ALSO LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO POSSIBLY MANAGE AN ONLINE PLATFORM
TO ASSIST PEOPLE ABLE TO ATTEND ONLINE**

B.C. Fiddle News Advertising Costs

Business card size - \$ 15.00

Quarter page - \$ 20.00

Half page - \$ 30.00

Full page - \$ 60.00

No charge for Branch Ads

SEND INFORMATION TO
BCOLDTIMEFIDDLERS@GMAIL.COM



B.C. FIDDLE NEWS is provided free-of-charge to members of the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association through individual Branch/Branch representatives.

Members who wish a copy should contact their Branch executive or newsletter correspondent.

PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are available and will be mailed directly to subscribers as follows:

ONE YEAR (3 ISSUES) \$13.00 For U.S.A. destinations please add \$2.00 shipping charges. Send your cheque or money order with mailing details to the following:

FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS

c/o 416 Collingwood Drive, Kamloops, BC V2B 6B3

our Web Site <http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER (Oct 2023) MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15TH 2023.

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.

Please send your submission to bcoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com

NEXT FEATURE ARTICLE

Branch #4 Central Fraser Valley

Branch #5 Surrey

British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association Executive 2022 - 2023

President:

Jackie Davis, Kamloops, BC

Vice President:

John Tribe, Kelowna, BC

Secretary - Treasurer:

Florence Tellier, Kamloops, BC

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Elizabeth Ewen, Kamloops, BC

Hal Giles, Williams Lake, BC

Lynn Tribe, Kelowna, BC

Linda Hiles, Kamloops, BC

To contact your board of directors go to www.bcfiddlers.com

B.C.O.T.F. WEBSITE

NEED HELP

- * ADDING INFORMATION
- * ADDING SOME OF YOUR EVENTS
- * TO HAVE PEOPLE CONTACT YOU EASILY
- * ADDING A FEW PICTURES
- * WHAT YOU LIKE TO SEE ON OUR WEBSITE



EMAIL— bcoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com

Views, opinions and editorials expressed in the B.C. Fiddle News are those of the contributing correspondents and clubs, and are not necessarily those of the B.C. Fiddle News or the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association.

UP & COMING EVENTS

JUNE 2, 3, 2023 FIDDLE FEST
BRANCH #4 - KELOWNA, BC

JUNE 3, 2023 WEST COAST
RANGERS HISTORICAL
RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
BRANCH #19 - ALBERNIE VALLEY

JUNE 3, 2023 THE WALHACHINGDIG
IN WALHACHIN
BRANCH #12 KAMLOOPS, BC

JUNE 16, 17, 2023 CAMPOUT
BRANCH #12 - KAMLOOPS, BC

JULY 1, 2023 FORT LANGLEY
HUDSON BAY
TRADING POST CANADA DAY
BRANCH #4 - CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY

July 1, 2023 CANADA DAY CELEBRATION
AT LHEIDLI T'ENNEH PARK
BRANCH #1 - PRINCE GEORGE

JULY 13, 2023 BILLY BARKER DAYS
BRANCH #3 - QUESNEL

JULY 13, 14, 15, 2023 FIDDLE CAMP
BRANCH #9 - CASTLEGAR, BC

JULY 22, 2023 FARMERS MARKERT
BRANCH #3 - QUESNEL, BC

JULY 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2023 GAVIN LAKE
BRANCH #3 - QUESNEL, BC

AUGUST 4, 5, 6, 2023 COOMBS BLUE
GRASS FESTIVAL
BRANCH #11 - COOMBS

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 2023
FIDDLE EXTRAVAGANZA
& CONTEST
BRANCH #12 - KAMLOOPS, BC

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 BCOTF AGM
KAMLOOPS, BC

More details go to www.bcfiddlers.com

