

B.C. OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Prince George Branch #1



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NEWSLETTER *Beth Bressette, Editor*

July 2024

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

JAM NIGHTS and BEGINNER FIDDLE LESSONS - Tuesday night jams will resume September 10. Our last jam night of the season (June 25) saw 19 enthusiastic jammers joining in to try some new tunes as well as some old favourites. The usual fiddles and acoustic guitars were joined by an electric guitar, a ukelele, a stand-up bass and an accordion! Over the past year Shawnee Newton has done an amazing job of teaching two levels of beginner fiddlers in groups on Tuesdays before jam, and we are excited that some of those students are now joining our jams. Shawnee will instruct beginner groups again in the fall, and is willing to take on new students. For more information or to register contact Shawnee at (250) 568-2215.

JAMBOREE 2024 - April 26 - 28 Another successful Jamboree has come and gone. It kicked off with a Friday night Family Dance/Ice Cream Social which was attended by about 100 people. Our instructors, Bruce Coughlan (guitar) and Nolan Murray (fiddle) from the Whisky Minstrels, fiddler Chloe Davidson and fiddler Alex Kusturok, worked hard to provide lessons Saturday and Sunday and put on a great concert Saturday night at the Knox Performance Centre.

PLAYOUTS IN THE COMMUNITY 2023-24

Musicians entertained 15 times at Senior Residences over the year, and 5 more times in the community, including a stage full of 17 of us at the Golden Age Social at the Civic Centre, Edgewood Elementary for the kids to try out their dance steps to live music (thanks Elizabeth for teaching the dances), the Catholic Youth Conf. Dance (thanks Doug for calling dances and keeping the momentum up), St Jean Baptiste Day celebrations at Le Cercle des Canadiens Francais, and in the bandshell at LT Park for the ALS Society Fundraiser. We've already been booked for two events in 2025! Thanks to the 22 musicians who played, and a *special thanks* to Elizabeth and Richard, who volunteered their music at 19 and 18 of the 20 playouts! Sharing our musical talents can be especially rewarding; please contact Beth if you'd like to be playing out in the community next year.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING (cont)

DANCES

We held 6 regular dances at the Elks Hall - most were very well-attended by enthusiastic dancers, aged 3 to 93! We are fortunate to attract families and teens to our dances, and they always seem to enjoy themselves. A big thanks to the musicians and volunteers who make the events as successful as they are.

WHAT'S COMING?

Although we're officially on a summer break and regular jams won't resume until September 10, there will still be some learning opportunities, concerts and informal jams in parks or homes.

FIRST DANCE

Although our dances are always scheduled for second Saturdays, our September dance will be held on the 3rd weekend, Sat, September 21 to avoid conflicting with the popular Cluculz Lake Music Jamboree on the 2nd weekend.

NEWTONS HOSTING ANOTHER WORKSHOP WEEKEND July 26 - 28

Shawnee and Corey will host at their Willow River farm three days of instruction, as well as dancing, jamming and concert with JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe. These are always great fun and learning experiences. Info or registration: Shawnee 250 568-2215.

BC FIDDLE TREAT AT GAVIN LAKE July 29 - Aug 2

Quesnel Fiddle Club hosts this great camp with instruction in fiddle, guitar and piano. For more info and registration: <https://bcfiddlers.com/branches/quesnel/bc-fiddle-treat-at-gavin-lake-bc/>

SUMMER CONCERTS July 26 and August 6 Mark your calendars!

- Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy on July 26 - always a great concert! More info to follow.
- Wes Hardisty on fiddle on August 6 at Elks Hall <https://wesleyhardistymusic.com/> with accomplished accompanists Clint Pelletier and Geoff McFarland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ1RjiQUWFM> (sample of Clint's guitar playing)

MEMBER NEWS

LONG-TIME CLUB MEMBER JACK WILCOX

Jack passed away January 29 at the age of 97. Jack was a great fiddler, especially at dances, and was a member of the Branch #1 club since his move from Forest Grove to Prince George in 1989. He lived at home with his wife of 71 years, Bev. Michelle and Beth were fortunate to play for Jack and Bev in their home for their 70th Anniversary, and although we didn't play nearly as well as Jack did in his day, he expressed deep joy and appreciation for having the fiddle music in his home. He will be missed by those club members who knew him and remember him.



BEVERLEY EGGEN MOVED AWAY

Fiddler/accordionist Bev and her husband Ron moved to Maple Ridge this spring, and are enjoying being closer to their children and grandchildren. Bev is the daughter of our club's pianist, the late Charlotte Lapp and Clarence Lapp, and sister of well-known fiddler Daniel Lapp. In a recent call she said she misses all of you, and we will really miss Beverley.

ELIZABETH EAKIN ARTWORK EXHIBITION

From Feb 15 to Mar 24 Elizabeth's artwork from her children's book 'A BC Island Animal Dream' was on display at the Art Gallery, with an Opening Reception Feb 15. Good work Elizabeth! <https://www.gallerieswest.ca/events/elizabeth-eakin-%7C-abc-animal-dreams/>

NOT ONLY CAN THEY PLAY, THEY CAN ALSO RUN!!

Congratulations to Barry Nakahara and Richard Mansfield for their participation in athletic events - Barry won First in Masters in the ICEMAN on February 9, completing the grueling course over 13 minutes ahead of his next competitor! Richard ran a 42.2 km marathon in Calgary on May 26 in less than 4 hr 20 min, qualifying him for the Boston Marathon. Way to go, guys; we're proud of you!

MEMBERSHIPS

We are pleased to accept 8 new members to our club in 2024 - Linda Anderson, Tony Lukashuk, Theresa Jordan, Aidyl and Pia Jago, Nina and Mandy Hollingsworth, and Jeanne Hodges have joined the BC Old Time Fiddlers Association, bringing our current membership to 73. *A warm welcome!*

Club annual memberships are due September 1 and are still only \$16 (children free with adult member). If you want to get a jump on your 24/25 membership, email or mail your fees to pgfiddlers@gmail.com or Box 416, PG, V2L4S2. Membership helps to support the club and entitles you to receive notices of events and the local and provincial newsletters.

Wishing everyone a good summer - sunny days (with just enough rain to keep the fires away) and lots of good music and good times with family and friends.

Beth