



B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

Winter| February 2025

Branch 11

Coombs



Submitted by Tom Elliott



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Well here we are saying goodbye to the old year and welcoming in the New Year. The year 2024 passed in the blink of an eye. The Coombs Old Time Fiddlers were busy playing out in the community and in the senior residences. We are looking forward to doing more of the same in 2025.

We are so proud of our STUDENT or YOUTH members. In December, Angela (our music director) and her 10 students put on a concert playing the tunes that they had learned throughout the year as well as some Christmas tunes. The event was held in

Grace United Church in Coombs. The concert was attended by all the students' families, many of our club members and members of the church. By the start of the music there was standing room only. The students' performance was excellent and drew lots of applause from the audience. We even had several people singing along. After the concert, we had cake and goodies downstairs followed by everyone playing some of the Old Time Fiddlers tunes. It was a great ending to a marvelous evening and it really started to feel like Christmas. We have seen some of our student members mature over the last several years. We first highlighted them

in the spring of 2019 and are proud to have some of the first youth members still involved on a regular basis. Angela has been constantly coming up with ways to make the youth stay interested in learning and playing their fiddles. She has started up a youth group practice and they will be rehearsing twice a month. They are prepping for Canada's National Fiddling Day performance in May. They will be playing a selection of traditional tunes and a few original tunes written by Angela. They are calling the new effort Season One – Exciting things to come!!!

Not only does Angela teach young musicians but she has a couple of Old Time Fiddler members taking lessons. Our Vice President, Bob Berge has been taking lessons from Angela for about a year. See you can teach an old dog, an 86 year old dog, new tricks. Bob tells us he last took lessons in Portland, OR from Alex Cardston when he was just 21 years old. He mainly plays by ear but feels the new lessons help him with memory.

Bob has fond memories of playing his fiddle in many places. On a visit to Thailand, Bob and Chai-son (a new friend) played their fiddles on the famous bridge over the River Kwai. He also remembers busking in Bangkok with a youth group playing on hammered dulcimers and Bob on his fiddle. Bob did not make any money on that one, but what a wonderful experience.

When on a visit to Sweden and Norway, Bob was fortunate to spend several hours playing fiddle with a relative. His ancestors had immigrated to the USA from Tromso, Norway and he always wanted to visit there.

Bob once played his fiddle at the fall fair in Masset, BC. To support the 4-H Club he purchased three raffle tickets and won a stinky billy goat. Bob tried to give the goat back to the kid who had donated it but had to pay him an additional \$10 to take it back.

On a more recent camping/fishing trip, Bob & I (Tom) made a stop in Barkerville, BC. We spent an hour playing our fiddles on the porch of the barber shop. Bob had played there in the past when he lived in Quesnel and was really looking forward to being able to play there again. Speaking of barber shops, Bob also owned his own shop in Qualicum Beach and he tells us on a slow day he would play his fiddle between haircuts to entertain the passersby. Bob has been dealing with a diagnosis of PLS for several years but he does not let that stop him. PLS stands for Primary Lateral Sclerosis which affects his mobility and he now has to get around with a walker. With the help of Bob's partner Darlene, he still manages to get to all the performances and practices with the



Bob on the right at the barber shop in Barkerville.

Old Time Fiddlers. Bob also leads off most of the tunes when performing at the senior residences. Even with Bob's disability, he spends a fair amount of time repairing fiddles and returning them or donating them to young fiddlers.

Bob has been a member of the Coombs Old Time Fiddlers for about 24 years and has great memories of all the wonderful people he and Darlene have met and become long time friends with. We wish him many more years to make even more memories.

Last but not least we would like to acknowledge our Snowbird members. We look forward to them coming back every year to help entertain the seniors. We wish they could remain year round. A big THANK YOU for the time you spend with the Coombs Old Time Fiddlers.

Go Well Be Well

British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association Executive 2024 - 2025

President:

Jackie Davis, Kamloops, BC

Vice President:

Doreen Rail, Vernon, BC

Secretary - Treasurer:

Florence Tellier, Kamloops, BC

Directors:

Angeline Slater, Kamloops, BC

Lynn Tribe, Kelowna, BC

Dave Lynn, Kamloops, BC

Cary Grigg, Langley, BC

Beth Bressette, Prince George, BC

Linda Hiles, Kamloops, BC

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



*Thank you for your support
of the CGM 2025 Kamloops*



Shannon Moore Doug Nystoruk Becker Family Andy Yu
Robert's Roost Campground Quesnel Curtis Davis
Angeline Slater Sharon Wood Branch #8-Merritt Harmon Marcie Norquay
Lake Campout
Florence Tellier Andy Ley Karen Noel Lindiana Haquoil
Catherine Park-Ringland Briana H. Tara Murphy
Brayden Conley Anonymous Returns Dan Tellier

RAISED OVER \$1200.00

How to Donate your Refundable

We have set up an account at Return-It Express
If you would like to support us this is what you can do

- Gather up all your refundables & put them in a transparent plastic bag (under 90-litre, such as "No Name Blue Recycling Bags 75L, or No Name Clear")
- You can take cans, bottles, milk cartons, juice boxes etc. For more info go to www.return-it.ca Take your bag/s to any Return-It Express location. There are close to 100 locations in BC & you can find one near you at www.return-it.ca
- Go to the Kiosk & enter this phone # to print labels: 250-376-2330
- If you are at an Express & Go location, you will also need this code: QTDX
- Attach a label to each of your bags & drop them in the designated area
- No need to sort or count the items, it will all be done by the staff there & then they will credit our account
- Check www.return-it.ca for other BC locations—there are many!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Every little bit helps in our efforts to raise money.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jackie Davis



Well, Hello Everyone,

I'm juggling quite a few responsibilities on the home front, but the excitement of the upcoming events keeps me going.

The anticipation for the Canadian Grand Masters 2025 is thrilling and seeing Kelowna's Club come together to celebrate their musical heritage by hosting the Provincial Fiddle Contest is truly heartwarming.

Florence Tellier has spoken with Leo Ready, and it sounds like he and his family will be here in Kamloops for CGM 2025 week. Keith Hill is talking about booking his hotel room, and Daniel Lapp's family wants to know his schedule. The Alberta Fiddlers are making arrangements; it seems like everyone is planning their trips.

I've had a few individuals from the lower mainland state that they are coming to the fiddle contest in June 2025.

Lorraine Hiebert came up with a fantastic idea that we are going to try for the next issue. Now, all you BCOTFA members need to do your part, sending a request to your members for their personal short stories. We don't need many per branch, so this should help.

Looking forward to seeing you all somewhere in BC.

Jackie Davis
BCOTFA President

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



BC Old Time Fiddlers' Association

54th Provincial Annual General Meeting

June 6, 2025

Do you want to help the BCOTFA by being on this board or know of anyone that would be good asset for this position, please let us know so that we can contact them.

Email - bcoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com
Or Call - 250-319-3680

54th Provincial Annual General Meeting

& Election of Officers

will be held:

Friday June 6, 2025

Dinner at 6:00pm Cost – \$10.00 each

AGM

7:00pm Jam to Follow
at Rutland Centennial Hall
215 Shepherd Road, Kelowna

FROM THE EDITOR

Elizabeth Ewen



Dear readers,

It's a delight to read each submission, highlighting our vibrant community across the province and showcasing what it truly means to be part of something special that fosters learning and growth together.



Tickets on sale soon go to
<https://www.cgm2025kamloops.com>

B.O.T.F.A

UP & COMING EVENTS



Request for Your Short Story!!!

**Calling all British Columbia
Old Time Fiddlers' Members
Old and New,**

For our next newsletter edition, we are
eager to feature your short stories.

Please share a short story about
yourself and your experience with
your local branch. This could be something funny
that happened
along the way, something you really appreciated, or
something you didn't appreciate (but hopefully not
that!)

Submissions should be sent
to your local branch contact

before
May 5, 2025.

Thank you for your contributions.
We look forward to reading your stories!

KAMLOOPS - BR#12
FEB 1, 2025
POTLUCK DINNER
AGM, & DANCE
HERITAGE HOUSE
~
KELOWNA - BR#7
Feb 21, 2025
DANCE
1353 Richter St.
~
PRINCE GEORGE - BR#1
FEB 22, 2025
DANCE
SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTRE
~
NORTH ISLAND - BR#17
FEB 23, 2025
FALLEN ALDERS HALL
~
KAMLOOPS - BR#12
MARCH 1, 2025
DANCE
WEST HIGHLANDS
COMMUNITY CENTRE
~
KELOWNA - BR#7
MAR 21, 2025
DANCE
1353 Richter St.
~
PRINCE GEORGE - BR#1
MARCH 22, 2025
DANCE
SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTRE
~
KAMLOOPS - BR#12
APRIL 5, 2025
DANCE
HERITAGE HOUSE
~
PRINCE GEORGE - BR#1
MAY 2 - 3, 2025
ANNUAL SPRING JAMBOREE
SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTRE
~

KELOWNA - BR#7
MAR 21, 2025
DANCE
1353 Richter St.
~
NATIONAL FIDDLE DAY
MAY 17, 2025
[HTTPS://BCFIDDLERS.COM/NAT
IONAL-FIDDLE-DAY/](https://bcfiddlers.com/national-fiddle-day/)
~
MERRITT - BR# 8
FIDDLERS CAMPOUT
MAY 2025
~
NORTH ISLAND - BR#17
MAR 23, 2025
FALLEN ALDERS HALL
~
KELOWNA - BR#7
JUNE 6, 7, 2025
FIDDLE FEST
PROVINCIAL FIDDLE CONTEST
BCOTFA - AGM
~
KAMLOOPS - BR#12
FIDDLERS CAMPOUT
JUNE 2025
~
KOOTENAY - BR#9
FIDDLE CAMP
JULY 2025
~
QUESNEL - BR#3
BC FIDDLE TREAT
GAVIN LAKE
JULY 28, 29, 30, 31, Aug 1, 2025
~
CGM 2025 KAMLOOPS
AUGUST 22, 23, 2025
TICKET GO ON SALE APR 2025
[WWW.CGM2025KAMLOOPS.COM](http://www.cgm2025kamloops.com)
~
More up to day information go to
<https://bcfiddlers.com/>

Branch 1

Prince George



Submitted by Beth Bressette

Our branch had a few changes to make when our Jam and Dance venue, which we've used for the last 10 years or more - the Elks Community Hall - was recently sold. We viewed many options and came up with a great place to hold our weekly jams and lessons, and another good hall in which to hold our monthly dances. We are really pleased with our new 'digs' for both. At our first dance in the new hall on January 11 we had a turnout of 100, twice what we had been having the last few months. Of course, advertising helps and we try to post quite a few posters around town and some digital ads as well.

We had a record turnout at our Christmas Jam (our last jam in the old hall) when 34 musicians shared tunes and goodies amid various Christmas decorations, and brought items or cash for the Salvation Army, from which we were able to donate two large boxes of groceries as well as \$90.

On jam nights Shawnee Newton continues to teach two classes of beginner fiddle to all ages, and some of the students are joining us for part or all of the jams after their lesson.

Small groups of our musicians continue to entertain at 5 or 6 of the senior residences,

and it's rewarding to see the smiles and tapping toes. As well, groups have played a few gigs out in the community over the last couple of months - once in a popular coffee shop, another time in a Brewery, the ALS Society fundraiser in the park, an elementary school dance program, a Catholic Youth Coffeehouse, and a few of us even played while manning the Salvation Army Kettle! Upcoming events include a group playing for entertainment and dancing at a Robbie Burns' Night Jan 25, and a group at Le Cercle (French Canadian Club) Winter Festival Brunch on Feb 9 - opening for Daniel Gervais!

We're excited that the Canadian Grand Masters 2025 will be held in BC and is only a 5 hour drive from Prince George, so we hope there will be a couple of carloads going down.

It seems that membership is never to be a constant thing as a number of people didn't renew their memberships this fall; however, during the year we were able to welcome 17 new members! All bring various talents to share with our club. It's exciting to have new fiddle tunes, new backup instruments and new ideas!

We plan to hold our Potluck and AGM on Sunday, January 26, at which time we will review the goals and needs for our club as well as vote in a new executive.

Plans are underway for our 8th Annual Jamboree on May 2-3. Mark Sullivan is one of our confirmed instructors; we are really happy about that! The weekend will include a Family Dance/Ice Cream Social, two days of instruction and an Instructors' concert open to the community.

The concert is always well attended and providing top-notch entertainment.

That's all the news for now from the icy north (seems we don't get much snow anymore, and whenever we do the warm weather soon turns it to ice). It makes it hard to do the things many of us in the north enjoy, like skiing, snowshoeing and outdoor skating. Ah well, a good excuse to stay inside and play fiddles, I guess!

Branch 3

Quesnel



Submitted by Rosemarie Way
HAPPY new year to all from The Quesnel Fiddlers.

We held our traditional Christmas party, dinner, and dance at the Legion Hall with Santa attending to hand out gifts and candy bags to the children, followed by a delicious pot luck supper. It was encouraging to see so many families participating in all the festivities. We were treated to three of Janice Meyer's young fiddle students playing some Christmas Carols. They made a big impression on the adults and were an inspiration to the children.

The BC Fiddle Treat is working out some final details and hope to get the website updated soon. Expect some changes in the registration fees. Once again, we will only provide meals to the instructors and staff.

However, we are also exploring the possibility of having a commercial food wagon there to give the campers some options. Any ideas?

Two of the 2024 Fiddle treat instructors, Kai Gronberg and Michael Burnyeat will be performing in Williams Lake on Thursday; a fundraiser for their tour in Ireland. Michael was a finalist at the Grand Masters in Whitehorse last year. They are both very talented fiddlers and will be well received wherever they go.

The Grand Masters in Kamloops is still on our agenda. It's exciting to have it so close to home. This was not always the case. In fact, for many years it was held in the Ottawa area. Finally in 2013 it went "on the road", first to Saskatoon and then to various cities across Canada. Thanks, and praise to the Kamloops club for their efforts to bring it back to BC again.

Till next time, keep fiddling.

Branch 4 Central Fraser Valley



Submitted by Rosalie Eeg



I hope everyone had wonderful Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

We continued with our same schedule since our fall newsletter. Our first practice in September was on the 11th at the Hallmark on the Park and every Wednesday thereafter except the first Wednesday of each month when we have a zoom club meeting. Our president always sends out the zoom info to all members and each member is encouraged to join. It's a great way to keep up with all the news and plans for the coming months and add your ideas.

In November, we held our Annual General Meeting right after our monthly club zoom meeting. All current positions were elected by acclamation.

President: Vivienne Chin
Vice and Treasurer: Joanne Davenport
Secretary: Elaine McLean

Directors standing again:
Bookings Director: Gloria Rogers
Webmaster: Erik Eeg/Vivienne Chin
Social Director: Frieda deHaan

The position of Music Director was left vacant for the time being until a member wishes to volunteer.

Our dances remain to be held on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Aldergrove Heritage Hall (formerly called the OAP Hall). We have an earlier start time- 12:30 to 3:30. Everyone always enjoys refreshments during the short break. There are always a great turnout of dancers. Besides the dances, there was only one performance in November at the Chartwell Retirement Residence in Chilliwack. The final dance of 2024 (November 23th) was extremely well attended with lots of great music and silly fun. The club was encouraged to dress in Christmas attire (ugly or pretty). The dancers had a blast! Enclosed are some pictures of the costumes and shenanigans.



We ended the year with a club Christmas party and Jam in early December. We all enjoyed the delicious catered Greek food, great music and camaraderie with a surprise performance by Rod & Elaine McLean and Sid & Frieda deHaan. A spoof on Eating Healthy and Eco Friendly to the tune of Jambalaya. I am enclosing a few of the many pictures that were taken that night. A fitting end to 2024.

So many were away travelling this January, so the zoom meeting was cancelled. The first practice was on January 8th, 2025.

We would like to officially welcome Niki Piper to our club. Niki joined our club just after our last newsletter was sent out. We look forward to getting to know her better.

CFVVF would like to wish everyone a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Branch 5

Surrey



Submitted by Mike Sanyshyn

Since our last newsletter I was honoured to be featured kicking off the BC Country Music Hall of Fame Show on Oct 5th playing my Old Time Fiddle Medley that I arranged that was recorded on the Then and Now Volume CD.

I was thrilled to be onstage with Lisa Brokop, Patricia Conroy, Jim Byrnes and Farmer's Daughter that were deservedly inducted.

On November 11th I entertained at Langley Seniors Village and invited Sharon Saundry to play piano on a medley of tunes. It is always a pleasure seeing her and especially sharing music with her!

This holiday season was incredibly busy for our Christmas Swing Trio performing nearly 20 shows commencing on Nov 19 and finishing on Jan 4th.

Jackson Hollow released "Papa Noel" and "Light in My Life" to Sirius XM and other traditional radios stations. They are both available on online on all platforms.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you down the road in 2025 and thanks for supporting old time fiddle and keeping the tradition alive!



Branch 7

Kelowna



Submitted by Heather Bartel

Happy New Year! Greetings from Kelowna where we haven't really got enough snow to call ourselves winter yet. Up the mountains is another story, but in the city we're not complaining as it makes for better driving and much better walking about town.

We've had a busy quarter with dances and play outs and events, and as always, our Christmas party. October, we had our Hallowe'en Dance and had a number of kids all costumed up to come out and dance, along with the regulars in their finest disguises. A fun time was had by all.

November saw us playing at the Parkinson Rec Centre for the Legion's Remembrance Day Event. Classic fiddle music and some wartime songs as well were enjoyed by a packed crowd. And come December we celebrated together with our annual Christmas Party. This time it was held at the Club 17 Richter Street Hall and was a sold-out event, with supper, dancing and lots of fun.

This fall finished up the 6 week-long lesson series with talented teacher and violinist, Julia Watson. This was so successful and well received, we have engaged another teacher, Meaghan MacNeil, to teach a 3-week series of lessons on Irish Fiddling beginning in October. If you're in the area and want to participate, please reach out!

Branch 8

Merritt



The Dance of Tents and Tunes

In summer's glow, our laughter sways,
Beneath the stars, where shadows dance,
The fiddles sing in joyful plays,
As fireflies join our wild romance.
With family close, we roam the night,
In every step, a journey's light.

The earth beneath our bare feet sings,
A melody of freedom found,
With every chord that fiddler brings,
We gather round, our hearts unbound.
Camping tales weave through the air,
Jamming ever more without a care.

Friends beside us, spirits bright,
Each note a star that lights our way;
Through slip and stumble in delight,
Our souls entwined, we sway and play.
As morning breaks with soft embrace,
From trail to tune—our sacred space.

Hope to see you all at our May Campout!!

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED FIDDLERS - LEARN AN IRISH FIDDLE TUNE BY MEAGHAN MACNEIL



A young local performer in Celidh's and part of duo **Good Craic**, **Meaghan MacNeil** will be teaching us Irish Tunes, "Jigs and Reels"

Group Classes are at 103-130 McCurdy Rd in **Knights of Columbus, De Lester Centre**

6 PM - 6:45 PM on Tuesdays
February 11, 18 and 25, 2025
3 Weeks for \$30

Must supply your own instrument, intermediate and advanced players only, learning by ear and music

To REGISTER CONTACT lvntribe@shaw.ca

Sponsored by Kelowna Fiddlers

Branch 9

Kootenay



Submitted by Brenda McLeod
Best Wishes for the new year!

Our Branch news is brief as we have had 2 practices since reconvening this Fall. At that time, our president, Kathy Markin, got us organized with music for a new play list. We're hoping, even with all the other things competing for our attention, to have a consistent turnout for practices to build on what we have now. To that end, a decision was made to mix in a couple of Sunday practices, along with some advertising to promote our group in our communities. One of our local fiddle instructors, Brie Hurlburt, already has a few students in mind who might join us for the Sunday jams.

On December 19th, we had a delicious supper and Christmas jam for players, their spouses and friends at Chances Casino in Castlegar. It was a really nice evening and a great way to cap off the season.

Our current plans include holding a general meeting in February with the resumption of regular practices. Also, planning for the Castlegar Fiddle Camp in mid-July is in the beginning stages.

Lastly, we are excited to be following the news of the Canadian Grand Masters Competition 2025 in Kamloops and are looking forward with enthusiasm to taking in the events this August.

Branch 11

Coombs



Submitted by Tom Elliott
Front Page Submitted

Branch 12

Kamloops



Submitted by Dave Lynn

We are pleased to share that we currently have 120 members and 18 musicians. Our group is growing, and we have three new beginning fiddlers—Tanya Epp, Chloe MacDonald, and Lynn Garbay—who are progressing quickly.

We would like to acknowledge our musicians Nadia Olafson (20 years), Norm Cleveland (10 Years), Stu Slater (10 Years), Angie Slater (10 Years) & Naomi Martin (5 years), which all received their year pins at our Christmas Party last December.

We recently started using a drummer for our dances and playouts. Dan Allen, who was playing mandolin and bass, has now taken on percussion and drums as well. He is also looking after the musicians' calendar of gigs. Dan's drumming has made a significant difference, providing a consistent beat and helping our shows run smoothly with very few mistakes. We are We are fortunate to have him.

Also Dan Allen has agreed to be the Kamloops Branch #12 new Music Director, thank you to Sylvie Johnson for all she did 2018-2024 as the outgoing Music Director.

Interestingly, it seems that some other clubs in BC don't use a drummer or percussion like spoons, while Prairie fiddlers have been using drummers for a long time.

We are also thrilled to have Exton Harding back playing fiddle. Despite the challenges of balancing fiddle playing and skiing, he has made a full recovery and sounds better than ever.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Doreen Rail, who travels all the way from Vernon to play fiddle and sing. Thank you, Doreen!

As we look ahead to the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championship in August 2025, we expect to be busy throughout the summer. We want to thank our Board of Directors for making all this possible.



Fun Kamloops Fiddlers

**CAMPING, RVING, JAMMING
WEEKEND, MERRITT, BC**

- Pot Luck Supper Saturday
- Open to The Public
- Limited RV Sites
- Close to Monck Provincial Park
- Pancake Breakfast By Donation Sat & Sun
- Games

Deck Party
Hosted by Olive Shuiter
3260 Coyote Valley Road

**June 20 & 21
2025**

Register Now

www.bcfiddlers/branches/kamloops

Branch 17

North Island



Submitted by Ed Medford

I sent out a questionnaire to club members, asking how or why they got involved with the fiddle club. I received only one reply. Maybe it's only because of the time of year or maybe failing memories. The one response was from one of our newer members, June Munro. Here is her response.

"I first attended the Old Time Fiddlers with a friend who was interested. After a few visits I was asked to join in a jam session. I sang a couple of songs with them. Soon after, I was paired up with a regular member who is proficient on the guitar. We practiced a couple of songs, and we performed at the Jamboree. It was a lot of fun and seemed to be well received. I look forward to joining in again soon."

So, with a lack of other submissions, I can only add to this by telling you about one of our oldest members, (in membership but not in age), wink. Ed Medford's story: "When I first met my wife, I went to her home outside of Wolfville Nova Scotia. Her father had taken his fiddle out, and her brother-in-law was playing guitar. I was instantly hooked. As a teenager I had always liked fiddle music, listening to The Farmer Jamboree, on the radio. But this was somehow different, this was "real". So, I took it on myself to learn to play some of that kind of music. It was a very long process, but twenty years later, being stationed at Comox on Vancouver Island, I was walking through the Comox Mall, and Branch #17 was holding a simulated fiddle contest. I started inquiring about how to go about joining, and the rest is history." We have been having a lot of rain this Fall and Winter,

but that hasn't stopped us from playing at all of our regular places, averaging about ten gigs every month. It is interesting how we do this. A list goes out every month, of where and when we are scheduled to play. Some of those are automatic, same day and time every month, and some are only on an "as called" basis. That's it, only rarely do we ask for a reply as to who is intending on being there, and usually that is because we might be limited on how many can be accommodated at the venue. In my 35 plus years with Branch #17, I can only recall one time when only one musician showed up, and twice when there were only two. Usually between four to 6 musicians show up, and usually a good mix of fiddles, guitars, and piano. Maybe we are pushing our luck, but then again, if it ain't broken, don't fix it.

We lost a fine member of the club in December; Mary McArthur left us, to be with Keith, who was playing music eternally above the ever-present clouds. Mary was a long-time member, and for many years, she and Keith looked after the club's PA system. Storing it in their home and faithfully bringing it out to all of our dances. She was much respected and will be missed.

At the end of this week, we will be going through our dreaded annual election of officers. It seems like the same people are getting elected year after year, and most incumbents are hoping for some new blood to take over. By the time the next Newsletter article is due, we will know who is who and what is what.

B.C. Fiddle News Advertising Costs

Business card size - \$ 15.00

Quarter page - \$ 20.00

Half page - \$ 30.00

page - \$ 60.00

**No charge for Branch Ads
SEND INFORMATION TO
BCOLDTIMEFIDDLERS@GMAIL.COM**

Branch 18

Comox Valley



Submitted by Craig Freeman

Well, September came, and we started back up with Fiddlejam down in the church catacombs. The players attending are now older with very few young school age players. It is nice to have players who are keen to learn a real variety of tune styles from different countries. Must be the influence of the varied backgrounds of the mixing pot of players.

A small group of us played at the annual L'Arche pig roast and, as usual, we had a ball fiddling while the dancers whirled about. Our table also pooled our meagre resources, and we managed to buy an auctioned cake for about \$100.00. What were we thinking? What was Heather thinking as she repeatedly waved her arm at the auctioneer?

October rolled around and we welcomed The Fretless back into town. They were touring their latest album release, Glasswing, and what a tour they had. They played in many locations, including the Merville Hall and they were travelling with their own lighting person and sound-woman (trying to out class our group, I guess). Then, the Funtime Fiddlers hosted their annual Hallowe'en Contra dance and the Merville hall was filled with spooks and ghouls. Then, mere days later, the fiddlers played their first fall engagement at the Comox Valley Seniors' Village (CVSV). Those audiences can be hilarious and several of the female inhabitants usually have an eye on Drummin' Don, the bashful chick magnet.

November saw us lined up on stage at the annual Telethon where we helped to raise thousands of dollars for disabled children.

It is great that, as musicians, we can contribute positively to the community. Plans were made to travel down to Victoria to participate in the big Contra dance there but at the last minute, plans were changed. Maybe next time.

December came on us too quickly but we danced to the tunes anyway. The work on the timber frame entrance for the Big Yellow hall was underway and with that disruption and the intensity of the big Christmas Craft Fair, we gave the December Contra dance a pass. However, we did manage to play for the CVS Christmas Par-tay. Julie was a Fiddling Fiend while Whistling Heather and Mad Mike on geetar got everyone to belt out the songs.

So now it is January. A new year. A quarter of a century has almost passed. All we have to do now is rosin up the bow and practise the Scottish tunes for the rollicking Robbie Burns Contra dance, right on Burns' birthday, the 25th of January (put that in your calendar, Jackie). All the best to everyone in the new year.

Branch 19

Alberni Valley



Submitted by Gail Ross

The time for another newsletter seemed to come up very quickly this time, maybe because there hasn't been much definition here of seasons yet. We had a few special events to play for this Fall. The Metis AGM as usual, was very welcoming and we were kindly invited to partake of their luncheon after playing. We also played for the Craft Fair which has become a yearly play-out.

It was nice that a good number of us were available to attend and we generally really enjoy these venues.

At the beginning of December, we were able to set up our practice room in Abbeyfield for a Christmas social and it was very nice to have some of our members partners join us for this. Lots of good food, and then a chance for individuals to perform pieces they had been working on and wanted to share.

Some of our members sing and play guitar as well as play the fiddle, so a great variety of music happened. It was also special to have a chance to visit with those we don't see often. A bonus that everyone was able to come this year.. One of our original members, Dennis Craig, had an unfortunate accident just before Christmas and broke his femur, ending up in hospital until early January. We wish you a successful recovery Dennis. That was not the nicest way to spend the holiday season.

As we start back into a new season, so many residents of the Care Homes keep telling us how glad they are to see us back again. At one place in particular there is a couple that loves to dance during the hour we play and they are so happy to have this possibility in their own "home". It is interesting to get to know some of these folks and learn a bit about their history. The music seems to help bring special memories to the front of the mind, ready to be shared. There is a new venue for us in Port Alberni, at Timberline, a seniors independent living community. So much positive feedback for us from these residents and a large airy room to play in. Always asking when we would be back again.

I'll end by wishing everyone a very healthy, happy new year; a year filled with positive thoughts and actions

Prince George Branch #1

BURSARY – Application deadline May 15

Branch #1 offers a bursary to a young person graduating Grade 12 and going on to post-secondary studies. The bursary is awarded annually based on contributions to the club by the applicant and their immediate family.

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be an active and current member of the Branch #1 for at least the past year
- The applicant and/or a member of the applicant's immediate family must have contributed a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time to branch activities and events over the past calendar year.
- The applicant must provide proof of enrollment in a full-time post-secondary program.
- Can be eligible for up to 4 years provided criteria are met each year.
- Up to \$500 annually; amount to be determined by the board

Application process – Please submit a letter by May 15 to BC Old Time Fiddlers' Association at pgfiddlers@gmail.com or Box 416 Prince George, BC V2L 4S2

Prince George Fiddlers

Clark Hiles Bursary Application

Deadline May 28, 2025

\$250.00 to be given to any two Contestants, 17 years and under, that participate at B.C. Fiddlers' Association Kelowna Branch #7 Provincial Fiddle Contest on June 7, 2025

Recipients are to be chosen based on the needs and achievements of the Participants for financial assistance in funding for Lessons, Instruments, Fiddle Camps, Fiddle Contest, or travel to a Fiddle Contest or Fiddle Event. Funds will be handed to the Recipients at the Kelowna Branch #7 Fiddle Contest during the awards ceremony on June 7, 2025

Please forward your information to

kamloopsoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com or mail to c/o 416 Collingwood Drive, Kamloops, BC, V2B 6B3

Please include

- Full Name, Birthdate, Name of Guardian, Full address, email, and Telephone number
- Letter on why the funds are needed & what the Applicants history with the Old Time Fiddle Music.
- Also, if possible, include a video and or pictures of the Applicant.

Looking forward to your submissions. More information please call 250-376-2330 or email kamloopsoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com

Kamloops Fiddlers

FiddleFest&Contest

June 6 & 7 2025



Provincial Fiddle contest, open to all except
Championship Category must be BC
resident, Cash Prizes over \$3,900



FRIDAY June 6

Kelowna Fiddlers 1:15 PM

Michael Burnyeat 2 - 3 PM

Kai Gronberg

Concerts by Donation

Dance 3:30-5:30 PM \$10

Dinner 6 PM \$10, AGM, 7 PM JAM

SATURDAY June 7

WORKSHOPS 9 - 11 AM \$30

FIDDLE CONTEST 12:30- 5 PM \$10

Judges perform 3:00 PM

MARK SULLIVAN, Michael Burnyeat

Kai Gronberg & Chloe Davidson

House Accompanist Roxanna Sabir

MC VIC UKRAINETZ

RUTLAND CENTENNIAL HALL 215 SHEPHERD RD

REGISTRATION Workshop: Friday Noon, Sat 8:30 am

More info bcfiddlers.com or 250 717-8432



We Remember

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 \$3.00 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 **of your members short stories** (June 2025) MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 15TH, 2025.

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

- **B.C. Old Time Fiddlers Association**
- **Branch #12 – Kamloops**



Leland (Lee) Bremner
Branch #12 Member

It is with deep sadness that our family announces the passing of Leland (Lee) Bremner on November 8th, 2024.

Lee was a loving husband to Linda, his wife of 72 years, a devoted father to their 3 Children (Gary/Lila, Arlene and Lori), 6 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Lee was born in Edmonton, Alberta on May 11, 1929. His work experience was broad and included many years in the logging industry, ambulance attendant/driver in his station wagon before there was an official ambulance in Houston, business owner and locksmith.

Lee obtained his pilots' license in the 1990's and he and Linda enjoyed many "fly-ins" with friends. He also enjoyed traveling by motorhome and visiting sites across Canada and Parts of the US.

Lee and Linda moved to Mayfair in 2014 with the other first residents. Early on Lee was known for his commitment to volunteer activities. More recently, his hearing made it difficult for him to engage in lengthy conversations. In his quiet, unassuming manner, he would smile and nod nevertheless. Lee continued to enjoy playing pool with the Mayfair Pool Sharks.

We will miss his kindness, his spirit of generosity, his sense of right and wrong and his quiet loving presence. We are thankful to God for the gift of his long-lived life.



Jenny Bakken
Branch #12 Member

"We have just found out that one of our Life Members, Jenny, has passed away. She had moved to White Rock some years ago but when she was in Kamloops she was a great supporter of fiddle music & she & her husband Larry loved to dance. Jenny had served on both our Branch & the Provincial Board of Directors & was a hard worker in many ways but particularly at our Fiddle Contests."

