



The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



March 2007 Feb 6th

Volume 4 Issue 5

The Weather Could Not Dampen the Sprits of Islanders who Love Fiddle Music.



Mary Smith

Feb. 3, 2007 with its snowy and blustery conditions wasn't the type of day you would expect approximately 200 Islanders, most of them seniors, to be out on the island highways. They were all making their way to the New London

Complex in New London. All

were heading for the afternoon Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck. Most arriving in New London carrying loads of food, and the expectation of a great afternoon of fiddle music.

The Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck organizer Mary Smith has been thrilled with the response to the afternoon Doo's "Each time I have one, the enthusiasm, enjoyment, & appreciation of the people attending is overwhelming. The previous Fiddle Doo drew approx. 450 people and I'm sure, had it been a fine day we would have filled the hall."

The entertainment at these Fiddle Doo's & Pot Luck's has been outstanding, from our own island entertainers to the bus loads of entertainers coming over from New Brunswick. Just to mention a few of the entertainers from New Brunswick at this Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck, was the famous Fiddle Champion Ivan Hicks, his wife and piano player Vivian Hicks. Also Ned Landry's great grandchildren, 11 year old Alexander Landry, and his 9 year old sister Allison Landry, as well, the 11 year old fiddling sensation Natasha Richard who by the way just returned from playing in California. These fantastically talented young people will be returning to P.E.I. on August 3 for the weekend to perform at the Fiddlers & Followers Weekend held at the North Star Arena.

The afternoon also included some of our great Island entertainers, The Prince County Fiddlers, lots of step dancers, some great piano players including Glen MacEachern, guitar players, and as well as, drummers and accordion players. The afternoon also included a few great vocals from the Landry's, Natasha, Theo, Stan & Janice.

It was a pleasure to have a professor from UPEI come to our Fiddle Doo, and bring with him eight teachers who were visiting from China. The teachers were in Canada for sessions at UPEI. They certainly enjoyed an introduction to our great fiddle music, and were thrilled as they watched the stepdancers. They had never had the opportunity to see anyone step dance before. This provided them with a unique experience while visiting P.E.I. Many photographs will be going back to China.

As part of the afternoon experience, an abundance of delicious food was served at supper time. However, it wasn't long before the musicians were back playing more toe tapping tunes. The afternoon Fiddle Doo's & Pot Lucks provides folks with an opportunity to sit back relax, listen or play, enjoy, and help keep our traditional music alive, meet old friends, and make new friends.

What could be better than a combination of friends, food and great music on a snowy afternoon. Keep watch for the next Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck in the fall.

This Report was written by Mary Smith,



At the Fiddle Doo; Libbe Hubley's Group Stepdancers (left to right) Madison Albert, Lexie Murphy, Reegan Gaudet, and Emilee Reeves.



Editor: Joseph Hébert 569-2762

Asst. Editor: Darlene Pound 566-9799

Distribution: Patsy Cook 566-2424

Advertising: Blair Myers 569-4518

*The Island Fiddler is the quarterly
newsletter of the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society.*

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of *The Island Fiddler*. *The Island Fiddler* does not assume any responsibility or otherwise with respect to the products or services advertised.

**Mail: The Island Fiddler 135 Kent Street PO Box 3311
Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 8W5**

Email: jhebert@eastlink.ca

**P.E.I. Fiddlers Society
Established 22 May 1977 * Incorporated 31 March 1983**

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society Executive

President: Sheila MacKenzie 569-3356

1st Vice-President: Ward MacDonald 626-8084

2nd Vice-President: Carolyn Drake 894-8218

Secretary: Anne M. McPhee 687-1521

Treasurer: Paul Cheverie 566-3551

Prince County Fiddlers

Barry Thompson, President 836-3844
wbthompson@gov.pe.ca

Queens County Fiddlers

Blair Myers, President 569-4518
bssw@pei.sympatico.ca

Eastern Kings Fiddlers

Anne M. McPhee 687-1521
annemc1@pei.sympatico.ca

Southern Kings Fiddlers

Amy Swenson 962-2273
gagliano31@hotmail.com

Acadian Fiddlers

Dorothy Griffin Farish 854-2063
dfarish@isn.net

**All editions of *The Island Fiddler* are on the internet at
www.peifiddlers.com where you can view/print.**

From the Editor's Desk

I would like to extend a speedy recovery to Barry Thompson of th PCF who went to orthopedic surgery Jan 30th. For a total knee replacement. I guess he will be out of commission for a while. This is the second time this year. Good luck Barry...

Indoor Fiddle Festival to Mark 30th Anniversary

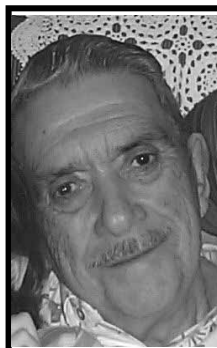
Since our last newsletter update, our 30th Anniversary Celebration has begun to really take form. Our Society will mark this special occasion with a one-day indoor fiddle festival this fall. The festival will include a grand concert which promises to showcase the finest display of Island fiddle music ever on one stage. With the intention of encompassing performers from across PEI, we are also exploring the possibility of including workshops, a jam session, and/or a dance.

We were happy to welcome three new committee members in January, who provide us with more representation from across PEI. Members now include Alanna Keoughan, Blair Myers, Carolyn Drake, Jana Cheverie, JJ Chaisson, Jocelyne Arsenault, Marlene MacDonald, Sheila MacKenzie, and myself, Ward MacDonald.

During the month of February we established a draft budget and began our sponsorship campaign. We already have the commitment of one sponsor, TV Ads Island Wide, and we expect the support of several Island businesses to help us create an exciting and successful event.

Some of the themes for our celebration include: Scottish, Acadian, and Old Time fiddle music; Family; Dance; and the History and Future of the PEI Fiddlers Society. If you have any questions regarding the event, or if you would like to be a volunteer, please do not hesitate to approach one of our committee members.

Submitted by Committee Chair Ward MacDonald



It is with sadness that we report the passing of John Celestin Gauthier on December 19th, 2006.

The Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held at St. Eugene's Church, Covehead Thursday, December 21, 2006. The Queens and Prince County Fiddlers played for the communion and the Recessional.

Fiddle and/or Accompaniment (+) Teachers

Abram Village	Louise Arsenault Fiddle +	854-2830
Argyle Shore	Roy Johnstone Fiddle	675-2541
Caledonia	Amy Swenson Fiddle	962-2273
Charlottetown	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt Fiddle	672-2711
	Ward MacDonald Fiddle	626-8084
	Kendra MacGillivray Fiddle	367-5606
	Gail Matheson Piano	628-1370
	Robert Arseneault (Sobers)	368-3237
	Sheila Mackenzie (Nat'l Music)	566-2894
Cumberland	Courtney Hogan Fiddle	675-3593
Fortune	Mark Haines Fiddle +	687-1404
Harrington	Cynthia MacLeod Fiddle	672-2555
Kensington	Cathy Campbell 436-0380	836-3887
Montague	Mark Haines Fiddle +	687-1404
Mount Stewart	Gary Chipman + Guitar + Bass	676-2599
Richmond	MacKinnon Family Fiddle +	854-2245
Rollo Bay	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt Fiddle	672-2711
Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches Fiddle	854-3116

Step Dancing Teachers

College of Piping	436-5377 or 877-224-7473
Jaime Bell.	962-2846
Jocelyne Arsenault	854-2721
Judy MacLean	969-4100 or 902 566-5545
Monique Pendergast.	367-9218
Susan and Libbe Hubley . . .	836-3887
Shirley Burke	368-2416
Tracy Arsenault	854-3237

If you are a teacher and not listed, you can call the editor at 569-2762 or via email at jhebert@eastlink.ca

Fiddling Related Web Sites

Anastasia Desroches	www.anastasiadesroches.com
Billy McInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
Cape Breton Live	www.capebretonlive.com
Chuck & Albert	www.chuckandalbert.com
CJFX Radio	www.989xfm.supremeserver11.com
Courtney Hogan	www.courtneyhogan.ca/home.html
College of Piping	www.collegeofpiping.com
Cynthia MacLeod	www.cynthiamacleod.com
Ken Perlman	www.kenperlman.com
Music on the Wheatley	www.musiconthewheatley.com
Nathan Condon	www.nathancondon.com
P.E.I. Fiddlers Society	www.peifiddlers.com
P.E.I. Music Awards	www.peiawards.com
Queens Co Fiddlers	www.queenscountyfiddlers.com
Richard Wood	www.peisland.com/richardwood
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca
Roy Johnstone	www.royjohnstone.com
The Fiddle Farm	www.thefiddlefarm.com
Tim Chaisson	www.timothychaisson.com
Waldron Leard photos	www.flickr.com/photos/shywriter55

Fiddler's Practices Open to the Public

Prince County Fiddlers:	Mon. 7:30pm
Community Connections S'side	836-3844
Queens County Fiddlers:	Wed 7:45-9pm
St Pius X Hall Parkdale	569-4592
Eastern Kings Fiddlers	Mon. 7 - 8 pm
Rollo Bay Consolidated School	687-2584
Acadian Fiddlers Fri. 8:00 pm	
Boys & Girls Club Wellington	854-2570

Acadian Report by Dorothy Farish

Wintertime tends to be a time for relaxation, house parties, and practice for the next year's tourist season. Nicholas Arsenault and Carole Gallant, both in attendance at the University of Moncton, are continuing their violin playing. Nicholas writes and composes some of his own music. Carole plays in a musical group in Cheticamp during the summer and during the school season she jams with her violin at a café in Moncton on Sunday afternoons.

Louise Arsenault, Jocelyne Arsenault, and Anastasia DesRoches are teaching a number of students lessons in violin and step-dancing.

Many members from this area provide musical entertainment and dancing to seniors at both Summerside manors, Parkhill Residence in Summerside, Andrews' Lodge on the Pope Road in Summerside, and the Chez Nous in Wellington. Some of the entertainers include Eddie and Amand Arsenault, Fred Arsenault, Dorothy Farish, the Polycarpe Arsenault family, Peter and Albert Arsenault, Jocelyne Arsenault, Marcia Arsenault, Norman and Paula Arsenault, Tracy and Brandon Arsenault, Helen and Marie Arsenault, Anastasia DesRoches, Louise Arsenault and her family - My apologies for any performers that I may have inadvertently missed.

The Friday Night Jammers, with Marie Livingstone as lead fiddler, continue to meet each Friday night in the basement of the Wellington Boys' & Girls' Club. The first hour is a practice session for those wishing to learn new tunes or review for those fiddlers who have been absent for one reason or another. The weather and road conditions play a big factor on attendance at these sessions. During the month of November the group was honored on one Friday night to have Ken Perlman join the group. Ken fitted right in with the gang, enjoying the lively fiddle music and accompanying many of them on his banjo.

An excellent article on Ken Perlman was done by Sally Cole and published in the Lifestyle Section of the *Charlottetown Guardian*, Monday, Nov. 6, 2006, page C6.

Ken Perlman, author of The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island: Celtic and Acadian Tunes in Living Tradition, published along with a CD of music in the early 1990's, was born in New York City and presently

See Acadian, page 4



....Acadian fr page 3

lives in Bloomington, Indiana, U.S.A. By profession he is an ethnomusicologist and a world-class banjo player, and he is passionate about Prince Edward Island fiddle music. During the months of November and December Ken was on Prince Edward Island doing follow-up on the project he did fifteen years ago when he produced the above-mentioned book and CD. He received a grant from the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec for this follow-up research, and his collection will go into an archive there. While on P.E.I. Ken interviewed many fiddlers, a number of whom he missed during his first visit, as well as a number of young fiddlers. Some, but not all, of the fiddlers of this area that Ken interviewed this time include Eddie Arsenault, Peter Arsenault, Edward (Polycarpe) Arsenault, and Marie Livingstone. The names of the younger fiddlers that Mr. Perlman interviewed I was not able at this time to obtain.

For those interested in knowing more about Ken Perlman, check his web site at: www.kenperlman.com.

Since Buddy MacMaster was feature entertainer at Acadian festivities in the Evangeline Region during the summer of 2006 the people of this area are especially pleased to hear that he was recently inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame. MacMaster, 82, is one of only 14 performers - and the first from outside the United Kingdom - to be inducted into the Hall, which was launched last year at the Scots Trad. Music Awards.

Before Christmas the group *Vishten* gave a musical performance at Mont Carmel. This group's CD of music is not yet on the market but should be out soon.

On February 4, 2007 a musical concert was held at the parish church in Mont Carmel to commemorate Candlemas. "Which is the Feast of the Purification of Jesus at the Temple" also known as "Feast of the Purification of the Virgin."

Chuck Arsenault and Albert Arsenault continue to be very busy giving concerts - just one of them being at the Centre for Performing Arts in Montague on February 3, 2007. They are finalists at the 2007 ECMA Awards for their production of *C'est what?* which began in 2005 at the Charlottetown Festival. Their nomination is in the DVD category. Information on Chuck and Albert and their upcoming concerts can be found on the website

Kindly e-mail me at dfarish@isn.net with your news from the Acadian community or telephone me at 902-436-7007. Till next time, Cheerio!

Southern Kings Report by Amy Swensen

Over the years, many islanders have learned to play the violin in community school classes, and fiddlers in the Southern Kings area are no exception. This year, the class in Montague is led by Francis McCormack, assisted by Josh Callaghan, 16, who started fiddling 4 years ago at Community School when I was teaching there. Morell Community School has also had fiddle classes for some years, and this year Allan MacDonald is helping fourteen students there. This year, the Murray Harbour Community School opened Jan. 8th in a power outage, but a determined group stayed to play by candlelight until the hall became just too cold. Seventeen fiddlers are in the class, including some who have been coming for many years in a row, as the fiddle classes here have been going on for at least twenty-five years! Our most senior fiddler is Carrie Herring, now in her 80's; she still enjoys trying new pieces on her fiddle and playing piano accompaniment for the class as well. We are lucky to have Joanne Ford back with us this year, as she loves to compose harmony parts. At the closing of the school in March, we will play *The Ashgrove* with a harmony that she fine-tuned for us.

On Feb. 9th, all five public school string program teachers on PEI are having a workshop on teaching string classes with two very experienced teachers from Nova Scotia. The teachers are banding together to improve and promote the string programs. Currently, Ellerslie, Glen Stewart, Stonepark, Sherwood, Lucy Maud Montgomery and Donagh Schools have string programs and there is hope that the program may be extended to Charlottetown Rural High School at some point. These programs offer students who may not have the opportunity to take private lessons a chance to learn to play the violin at very little cost. Currently most schools charge about \$60 for the use of a violin for the school year.

On Sunday Feb. 25th at 2 pm., Hillcrest United Church

See Southern Kings.. Page 6



President's Message



I am very pleased to be addressing you as the newest president of the PEI Fiddlers' Society. For those of you who may not know me, my name is Sheila MacKenzie and I have been playing the fiddle around the Island for many years now. I am a member of the Queens County Fiddlers' as I live in Stratford, but I am from Little Pond, near Souris. Until now, I have not been very involved with the P.E.I.F.S. but after a

recent meeting of the new executive and reviewing some of their work that they have accomplished over the past several years, I am very excited for the upcoming year. We have set out some new goals and projects for our society and as president, I have my own vision of what I would like us to accomplish. Over the last decade or so, fiddle music on PEI has enjoyed a major revival.

There is still work to be done to raise the profile of the quality of playing found here on the Island as well as to promote the Society and it's work. One of my goals is for all fiddlers and enthusiasts from one end of the Island to the other to begin interacting more and to work together. I would also like for all those fiddlers to become a member of their local chapter or the provincial group.

As I mentioned, the number of fiddler players on the Island is increasing. It would seem however, that our audiences are starting to decrease. With our aging fan base and the lack of interest from younger generations, it is getting harder to find support for fiddle music and related events. And to be quite honest, I am also disappointed in a lack of support from fiddlers themselves for the quality events that have been put on locally in an effort to showcase great fiddling to PEI audiences. If we

don't support our own style of music, then who will? Again, I would like to tell you how happy I am that I have the chance to continue the great work of the last executive. They are to be commended on all the progress they have made thus far. I hope to be able to continue the growth they have initiated and to create a vital and active organization for all PEI fiddlers and fans. We all have to remember that we are part of a unique culture and it is our responsibility to make sure it is here for the generations to come.

The Prince County Fiddlers by Barry Thompson

The Prince County Fiddlers have resumed practices again after a Christmas break. The group was honored to perform with the Queens County Fiddlers at the funeral for our late friend John Gauthier on Dec.21, 2006. Since last report we have welcomed two new players into the group. Kathy Campbell and Mike Ramsay.

Kathy has returned to the group after a period away due to other demands on her time. Kathy is also providing fiddle lessons at the Stepping Out Dance Studio in Kensington.

Mike Ramsay is a former student of Kim Vincent. January 22 we were very happy to have Anastasia Des-Roches back with the group for a great evening of fiddling.

Saturday February 5th we plan to attend the Fiddle Doo and potluck to be held at the Community Center in New London. A large number of fiddlers from New Brunswick plan to attend including Ivan and Vivian Hicks along with the Sussex Avenue fiddlers and the Miramichi Fiddlers. These events are a great way to meet new friend and hear new tunes. Our plans for the winter months include playing at some seniors facilities and working on some tunes new and old.

Advertise in The Island Fiddler

Help us to get The Island Fiddler into the hands of individual recipients for free! Contact us to advertise your goods and services with Island-wide distribution in our quarterly publication.

SALES SERVICE SUPPLY Vacuum Doctor
JANITORIAL & EQUIPMENT

Supplying Shopping Centers, Hotels, Restaurants
 Hospitals, Schools & Maintenance Companies
 New & Used Vacuums

Floyd Gray - Proprietor

247 Royalty Road Tel: (902) 894-4729/892-3868
 Charlottetown, PE Fax: (902) 892-6509
 C1E 1Z4 Toll Free: 1-800-561-1132



Prince Co. Fiddlers
 Fr Right to Left
 Libbe Hubley - Lottie Locke - Thelma Campbell - Leith Thompson - Accordion player, Austin Paynter - Lead Fiddler, Robert GTallant - Guitar Alan Crozier

Bernadette's Flowers
 — Where great designs start —

Bunbury Mall Stratford

We Deliver
566 4000
 Toll Free 1 877 766 1898

Bernadette & Gloria Praught
Every day is special!

Every day is a special day,
 At Bernadette's Flowers
Arrangements
 For all occasions
Great Friendly Service



Strings By Peter Dawson

The choice of which strings to use on your instrument will have as much influence on the type of sound you will produce as any other single factor. You essentially have three kinds to choose from: gut, nylon, or metal.

Originally, violins were strung with plain, unwound gut strings, the lower ones sometimes braided for additional tension. (Although called cat gut by many, the material actually comes from the intestines of sheep.) At the end of the 17th century, however, plain gut strings could no longer meet the growing demands of musicians for increased projection and volume. Gut with various kinds of metal windings was tried, and, finally, just metal. In the past 30 years, various types of nylon have also been developed to substitute for gut. The windings for all these strings are usually made of aluminum, but you can also find silver, an alloy of silver and gold, chrome, nickel, tungsten, and even titanium.

When you select a string, you will also have a choice as to its gauge, which refers to how thick or thin it is. Keep in mind that the thicker the string, the more tension it will exert and therefore, one hopes, the stronger the sound. However, the desired result is not always produced, since the additional tension can also have the effect of choking the sound and just giving you a harder tone--more edge, but less quality. The thicker strings are called forte; the thinner, dolce.

Strings with a gut core tend to produce the richest sound. Their drawback is their susceptibility to variations in temperature and humidity, which can cause them to have an uncertain pitch. New types of nylon have solved this problem; these strings are more consistent and stretch out much faster. Their sound, though, tends to be brighter, with less core and more of an edge. They can cost significantly less than gut strings, a factor you might want to take into consideration.

Metal strings are essentially wire, wound or unwound, and they will give you the strongest, most edgy sound. They cut, rather than project, but on some instruments--usually those with a dark sound---they can sound the best. They do not vary in pitch, they last the longest, and they are the cheapest. Violinists invariably use an unwound metal E string, and most use perlon for three lowest strings.

Y o u can mix and match brands, types, gauges--whatever works to give you the best balance and tone to your instrument. The choice of strings is a very personal one; what works for you might not work for someone else playing the same *instrument*.

(Peter Dawson, a well-known luthier, composer, and recording artist in Ottawa, has a web site at

[Http://www.peterdawson.ca](http://www.peterdawson.ca)

Southern Kings from page 4..

in Montague will host a free music recital sponsored by the Kings County Music Festival. A large contingent of aspiring young piano players will be there, along with 22 of my fiddle students, ages 5 to 16. Some of the students are so excited about performing that they can hardly wait. Everyone is welcome to attend and applaud their efforts. Another recital will be held in April at the same location.

I would now like to mention a very common problem that occurs during cold winter weather in the 50 violins that I help tune each week. Our homes get very dry at this time, and so do our fiddles, particularly if we leave them out of the case and do not have a humidifier in the case by the pegs. Teachers find that the pegs start popping loose by the dozens. The best solution is to make a simple humidifier. A small plastic film can is very handy for this, as it is easy to make ten or twenty holes in it with a hammer and nail and then put a moistened sponge or rag inside it. (You can get free film cans at Superstore if you have gone digital.) Placed by the pegs in your case, this will help prevent popping pegs. Be sure to keep the violin in the CLOSED case when you are not playing it. Check the can once or twice a week to be sure the humidifier is still moist, however, because you will be surprised at how fast it will dry out!

If your pegs have already slipped badly and you need to tune the fiddle right away, remove the peg and put a small amount of chalk on it. This will hold it for a while, but set up a humidifier to prevent future "pops". In summertime of course, the opposite problem often occurs in our climate. High humidity can cause pegs to swell and get stuck in their holes. In that case they must be tapped carefully with a little hammer to loosen them, and then a peg lubricant can be applied to help them work more smoothly in wet weather. **Happy tuning!**





COMPLETE SIGN SERVICE
18 PARK STREET
CHARLOTTETOWN P.E.I.

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Report by Anne M. McPhee

What started out to be the mildest winter on record seemed to disintegrate fairly quickly over the New Year so that every time you looked out the window or planned to go anywhere it was either, snowing or blowing or both, making the roads treacherous and the desire to stay home and nestle in pretty strong. Fiddle lessons in Rollo Bay were hit hard with Monday night storms three weeks in a row in January.

Still and all there were lots of fiddle activities on the go in Eastern Kings this winter. The Celtic Ladies returned to the Georgetown theatre in December and put on a Christmas benefit concert along with the Docherty's. The event was well attended and a great time. The Monticello Ceilidh had an old fashioned Christmas concert this year that was well attended and enjoyed by all. Good work Gene. As a result of the blustery north side weather the Monticello Ceilidh has moved to Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 6:00pm for the remainder of the winter months with plans to move back to the evening schedule sometime in May. Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy this all-ages event for lots of great music, dancing and conversation. If you're a musician, bring along your instrument.

The Goose River dances are still going strong on Saturday nights. There was a big turnout with a sold out crowd for the New Year's Eve dinner and dance. The Lorne Valley dances continue every Wednesday other than on the stormiest of nights.

It seems that wedding fever is in the air again. After all the teasing that Sheila dished out to Darla over getting married to Jeremy MacPhee last summer doesn't seem to have deterred her from making the same big step. Just after New Year's Sheila announced that her boyfriend, Robert Fitzpatrick got engaged on December 23rd. On further questioning, luckily for Robert, turns out that Sheila is the lucky girl and the big day is coming soon in April. Anyone getting e-mails from Sheila will agree she seemed to have the worst case of pre-marital jitters ever seen. She was very easily confused about dates, times and places. No doubt everything will come together just fine and Sheila will be back to normal in no time. Congratulations and all the best to you Sheila and to Robert.

It might seem like summer is a long way off right now but never fear, it will be upon us before we know it and everything will be in full swing again with lots of fiddle events to look forward to. Look for more news on the upcoming annual Fiddlemania concert in June, the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival in July and celebrations for the 30th Anniversary of the PEI Fiddlers Society in the fall, to name just a few. Hope to see everyone there.

Photos from Anne M McPhee's collection



Two well known Fiddlers from P.E.I. hard at it.
Left: Francis MacDonald - Right: Kenny Chaisson



3rd Cousins - Buddy & Billy MacMaster



"Collision Repair at its Finest"



BILL
Koughan
Auto Body Ltd.



Dave Koughan
 Owner / Manager
 Phone: 569-3851
 Fax: 569-3120
 Rte. 257, Donagh Rd.

Queens County Fiddlers Report by Carolyn

Members of the Queens County Fiddlers gathered at Holy Redeemer Hall in Charlottetown for their annual meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Following some time to greet everyone, the evening got off to a tasty start as the members sat down to a delicious roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Father Charlie Cheverie said Grace.

Members would like to thank Linda Moran for her efforts in making the necessary plans for the dinner.

After everyone had finished eating, members gathered for the official part of the evening — the annual meeting. President Blair Myers called the meeting to order, and Ward MacDonald read the minutes from the previous annual meeting.

The agenda included the president's report, which was read by Blair, and the treasurer's report, read by Patsy Cook, which showed a slight increase in the group's bank balance over the previous year.

There were also reports from a number of committees, including the scholarship committee, which noted that information on this year's scholarship to the Gaelic College in Cape Breton will soon be available online as well as in various Island newspapers. It is hoped to move the application deadline forward for 2007 so that the winner of the scholarship can be announced at the group's annual concert in June. Ward MacDonald made special mention of the high quality of submissions for the scholarship in 2006 and urged young fiddlers to think about applying this year.

Carolyn Drake reported on behalf of the concert committee, briefly reviewing the highlights of last June's event. She also noted that Sheila MacKenzie would be chairing this year's concert.

In addition, members were brought up to date on CD sales and the number of loaner fiddles that students currently are using.

An election was held to fill a spot left open by secretary-treasurer Cindy MacKinnon's recent illness, and Patsy Cook was named by acclamation.

Under new business, the group has decided to hold a

special practice at Cindy MacKinnon's home, at her request, sometime before the end of March.

The group has also accepted an invitation to play at Sheila MacKenzie's wedding in Montague on April 13. Members will be notified of the tunes in advance.

All QCF fiddlers are asked to note that the practice times have changed slightly. The doors into St. Pius X Hall will be open as of 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. All fiddlers are asked to be tuned and ready to play at 7:45 sharp.

In other group news not pertaining to the annual meeting, several fiddlers have been enjoying the chance to hold practices at Charlottetown-area nursing homes. Residents at Beach Grove Home and Andrew's Lodge welcomed us prior to the Christmas season, and the group played at Geneva Villa in January.

The group would like to pass on another big thank-you to Linda Moran and her husband, Mike, for hosting a Christmas gathering at their home in Rustico. As usual, we enjoyed a wonderful time of music, socializing and great food.

Looking ahead to the spring, Sheila MacKenzie has recently announced that the annual spring concert will be held on Saturday, June 2, at the Carrefour Theatre in Charlottetown. Members are encouraged to attend as many practices as possible over the next few months as music and other information about this concert will be provided, as well as for the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, the Prince County Fiddlers concert in August and the special 30th anniversary indoor fiddle festival to be held in Charlottetown this fall.



Annual meeting Of the Queens County Fiddlers At
Holy Redeemer Feb 7, 2007

Pater Audio

AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES

355 York Point Road
Cornwall RR 4, C0A 1H0
tel: 902-629-5737

fax: 902-892-0379 pager: 1-557-2754
e-mail: phil@pateraudio.com

Murley's Flooring Services

John Murley—Installer

Hardwood, Laminate, Ceramic

Vinyl & Carpet Installations

195 Mason Rd

Tel: (902)569-2458

Fiddle Shop Talk



Well, we had our first acoustic music session at Brennan's this past Sunday and I think it went very well from all accounts. Lots of players stayed for the full three hours while quite a few dropped in for just a few tunes. Thanks to everyone for coming out. We played some tunes from sheet music (waltzes, jig, reels and polkas) to get started and then opened up

the session to anyone who wanted to introduce a new tune so these were mostly learned by ear. The next session will be held at Brennan's pub, 132 Richmond St. on March 4 th from 2 pm to 5 pm. There's a \$5.00 session fee which includes pizza and the bar is open. This is an all ages event. There's also an Irish music and dance session on Sunday March 18 th at Brennan's pub from 2 to 5 pm. No charge for this one.

You often here the expression that a player has a lot of drive in their playing and this is especially characteristic of good dance players. They keep the pulse of the dance strong and steady. Getting a dynamic and strong rhythm comes from the bowing. The amount of pressure that is transmitted to the bow by the hand and then carried through to the strings combined with the speed at which the bow is moved across the string is key. Too much pressure and not enough speed gives a rough scratchy sound. Too much speed and not enough pressure gives an undefined scattered sound. For a good dance player the continuing adjustment of up and down bows in time with the music and just the right amount of pressure is essential.

Practice playing slowly with the strong beat alternating on down bows and then on the up bows . Jigs are especially challenging since playing three eight notes in sequence means you are continually altering down or up bows on the first of the eight notes. This gives the characteristic accent to the jig. Try playing the tune slower than normal and just add a little extra pressure on the bow on the first eight note of each group of three notes. You'll also notice than although the three eight notes are given all the same amount of time (1/8 note) that in actual playing the first eight note gets a little longer time value but this is not written in the music. You'll often hear

a classically trained player playing a jig and they will play it as written , with all the eight notes the same time. The tune doesn't swing and often sounds stiff.

For more tunes both to listen to and to read from music check out the web sites listed below. Paul Cranford has a great web site for tunes as well. Paul's site has both ABC and regular notation for tunes along with audio samples.

Enjoy and till next time keep your bow rosined and the fiddle in tune.

ECMA multi-nominee, performer and recoding artist, Roy Johnstone

www.royjohnstone.com

Read and hear tunes at:

Scottish and Cape Breton tunes

<http://www.magma.ca/~iwmacqi/cbssession.htm>

Many different tunes but a lot of Irish ones

<http://www.thesession.org/tunes/>

<http://www.thegrotonsession.com/workshop.html>

<http://www.cranfordpub.com/>

Un Coin Français

Un bonjour spécial à tous nos ami(e)s acadiens et acadiennes

Vendredi le 16 février,j'avais l'opportunité d'être en entrevue avec monsieur George Arsenault sur les ondes de CBC 88.1. Nous discutons en particulier la possibilité de faire une chronique en français sur nos violonneurs et vilionneuses acadiens et acadiennes dans notre bulletin trimestriel , le " Island Fiddler Newsletter " Ce bulletin est disponible gratuitement et apparait aussi sur notre site Web

<http://peifiddlers.com/tif.htm>

Nous sommes à la recherche de quelqu'un qui pourrait nous fournir des anecdotes, informations générales ou activités présentes, passées ou futures, concernant les musiciens et musiciennes acadiens et acadiennes de la région.Nous savons déjà, en particulier, qu'il y a maintenant plusieurs femmes et enfants qui jouent ou apprennent à jouer le violon et il serait certainement très intéressant et informatif de les faire connaître à nos lecteurs et lectrices.....alors nous vous lançons le défi!

Afin de reconnaître à sa juste valeur la contribution des joueurs et joueuses de violon, acadiens et acadiennes, à la musique et culture de l'Île du Prince Édouard ,nous nous proposons d'inclure des articles en français dans nos bulletins futurs.

Vous pouvez me joindre (92)569-2762, et jhebert@eastlink.ca



MCM BRICKLAYERS LTD

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
C1A 7N3 (902) 368-3361

Supporting P.E.I. Fiddlers

From the David Weale's Collection

"As he headed out the door with his fiddle, his wife complained there was no wood for the fire. 'God's sake woman,' he retorted, 'it's not the axe I'm taking away.'"

"I wish they'd cut down every goddamned tree in the woods so no one would ever be able "to make another fiddle."



**"J. J."
Promising
Young
Fiddler
&
a Blue
Jays Fan
At Age 10
Photo
By
Ken
Perlman**



CD FOR SALE

Eldon -Coopers Ultramar
Charlottetown - Sobers Music, National Music, Capital Auto Supply, CD Plus / Radioland, Anne of Green Gables Store, Showcase Confederation Centre Gift Shop) Maritime Christian Bookstore, Home Hardware
Montague - Home Hardware
Truro, NS - Mingo's Music Sales
World Wide Web - www.queenscountyfiddlers.com



Need a Fiddle?

Have you ever wanted to try learning the fiddle, but didn't have one to play? If you are one of those 'would-be' fiddlers, the Queens County Fiddlers would like to help. Many years ago, the QCF purchased a number of fiddles for the purpose of lending them to aspiring students just like you. Each year those fiddles are loaned out to students to allow them the chance to experiment with the instrument before making the financial commitment to buy one. For more details on borrowing a fiddle, please contact Peggy Arsenault at 892-8242.



"Walkin' back on'er" Rollo Bay 1983

A & D Backhoeing



Owner Allan MacDonald
phone/fax: 961-2105
cell: 393-5727

We'll take care of all your digging, trucking, sewer system, and landscaping needs.

The Travel Store TOLL FREE: **1 800 883-8124**
www.thetravelstore.ca

⌘ Vacation Planner ⌘ Business Travel ⌘ Insurance ⌘ Cruises ⌘ Air Travel

SIGN UP FOR @-DEALS
www.thetravelstore.ca

Our Knowledgeable Staff Can Help Plan Your Next Vacation of A Lifetime!
* For a Free Consultation & Personal Preference Profile *
CALL JOHN DUNPHY 902-629-7808

or visit one of our 4 Island Owned and Operated Locations:
• Atlantic Superstore - Charlottetown Market 628-6412
• Charlottetown Mall 566-2000
• Confederation Court Mall 566-1024
• Granville Street Plaza - Summerside 436-4278

The Travel Store

The Monticello Ceilidh Jig

Jenny McQuaid
Copyright © 2004



Jenny McQuaid

Jenny says, she composed this jig after coming home one night from the Monticello Ceilidh. The regular musicians and singers, Tim, J.J., Urban, Joe, Janice, Alton, Donnie and others were there that night playing and singing the same old tunes, and Jenny said to herself, "Surely, there must be something better than that!" So, before going to bed, she composed the Monticello Ceilidh Jig.



Shipwreck Point Lighthouse
Jenny's stomping ground

Island Painting and Decorating Ltd.

- INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING
- WALLPAPER HANGING AND VINYL WALLCOVERING
- WALL REPAIRS AND SEAM FILLING OF NEW GYPROC

ALLISON DRAKE

TEL: 892-6677
CEL: 628-7066
FAX: 628-2284

5 WESTHAVEN CRESCENT
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
CANADA C1E 1L6

STUDENT VIOLIN OUTFITS

For TRADE or SALE
1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 sizes, \$60-\$150
PRIVATE FIDDLE LESSONS
For Children & Adults
Violin Repairs and Bow Rehairing
Amy Swenson
Caledonia, PEI 962-2273

Events Calendar

Fridays	Ceilidh and Dance	St Peters Circle Club	961-2899
Every 2nd Mon 7:30pm	Ceilidh/Kitchen Party	Bingo Country Hall	566-9908
Wednesdays	Square Dance	Lorne Valley Hall	687-2584
Wednesdays	Ceilidh	Souris - Seniors Silver threads	687-2396
Saturdays	Dance 9:00 to 12:00 pm	Goose River	961-2205
Sundays	Ceilidh & Dance 2:00 to 6:00pm	Monticello Hall 5:00pm Pot Luck Supper	687-2547
2nd & 4th Saturdays	8:00—11:00 pm Ceilidh	Irishtown Hall	836-4208
3rd Sat every month	Jamboree	Seaview Hall Edgar Miller	436-7135

How do I become a member of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society?

You can join the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society through a local chapter or by contacting the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society Treasurer, Paul Cheverie at:

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society
 PO Box 3311, 135 Kent Street,
 Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8W5

What are my benefits of membership?

For \$10 per year, you will receive a hard copy of The Island Fiddler by mail. Your contribution will also go to support the goals, objectives, and activities of the Society including The Island Fiddler, www.peifiddlers.com, the 30th Anniversary Festival in November 2007, and the promotion of fiddle music across P.E.I. for years to come!

*Friday, April 20, 8:00 pm
 don't miss fiddling sensation*


April Verch



Tickets just \$15 **BUT...**
 Present this ad and receive **\$5 off** each ticket purchased!

HARBOURFRONT THEATRE 124 Harbour Drive
 888-2500/800-708-6505
 www.jubileetheatre.com

Peter Mallard CARPENTRY LTD. Specializing In Finish & Custom Mill Work & Cabinet Making



- Roofs
- Patios
- Suspended Ceilings
- Residential & Commercial

185 MacCallum Road, Marshfield
 Charlottetown, RR#3
 PEI, C1A-7J7

• NO JOB TOO LARGE OR SMALL •

Ph: 629-1232 Cell: 628-7464

JP Cormier
 Sat. May 12, 8pm

\$17 advance \$20 at the door

get your advance ticket for just **\$15** with this ad!



HARBOURFRONT THEATRE 124 Harbour Drive Summerside
 888-2500 / 800-708-6505
 www.jubileetheatre.com