



PEI Summer: Tunes & Dancing & Smiles



The National Fiddling Day reception was held on Parliament Hill on May 17. The event attracted more than 120 Parliamentarians, staff, and guests for some toe-tapping fiddle music in the East Block Courtyard.

Senator Hubley was presented with a signed and framed score of “Compliments to Senator Hubley,” a fiddle tune written in her honour by prolific composer, Calvin Vollrath – it was presented in recognition of her work to establish National Fiddling Day.

(left) Graham Sheppard (President of the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Association), Senator Hubley and Senator Fabian Manning.

(below) Members of the Queens County Fiddlers performing at the launch of their new CD “Ages” at the Park Royal United Church in late April.

(below) Cecil Trainor shows off a few steps at the PEI Fiddlers Society fiddle jam on April 23 at the Irish Cultural Centre in Charlottetown.



The Island Fiddler

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Fiddling Related Websites

Anastasia DesRoches	www.anastasiadesroches.com
Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree	www.atlanticfiddlersjamboree.com
Bellows and Bows	www.mun.ca/mmap/back_on_track/b_and_b/
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Canadian Grand Masters	www.canadiangrandmasters.ca
Cape Breton Fiddlers	www.capebretonfiddlers.com
CB Fiddle Recordings	www.cbiddle.com/rx/
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Square dancing: the original
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The annual PEI Fiddlers Society Fiddle Jam and Potluck drew fiddlers from across the Island on Sunday, April 23 at the Irish Cultural Centre.



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Mont-Carmel, PEI

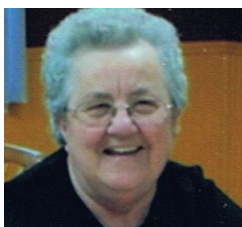
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Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Again Greetings and Bonjour Everyone! Celebrating Canada 150 is a great reason to attend the numerous musical events in the Evangeline area this year!

On May 6th I represented the Friday Night Jammers and played the keyboard at the Fiddle Doo at the Murray Christian Centre in Kensington. Due to bad weather, the fiddlers from New Brunswick were absent; however, great music was put on by the Prince County Fiddlers and from other entertainers from across the Island.

A delightful variety show was held on Sunday evening, June 4th, at the Mont-Carmel Parish Hall. The night featured Peter and Albert Arsenault, their sister H  l  ne Bergeron, Louise Arsenault and the Joe Narcisse family, Jean-Eudes Gallant, Colette and Marcel Richard, Mona and Albert Arsenault, Jean-Guillaume de la Bouiabaisse (Daniel Bourgeois) and a number of local step dancers. The volunteers freely gave of their time and talent - the money raised being donated to the parish for much needed repairs.

A number of entertainers from the Evangeline region are were featured at the 2017 Festival of Small Halls. These included Zakk Cormier and the group Gadelle. Gadelle will also be performing on stage at the 2017 Summerside Lobster Carnival from 8:30 -10 p.m. on Thursday, July 13th, at the Carnival Grounds at Credit Union Place in Summerside.

The Mont-Carmel Summer Concert Series runs from July 2nd to August 27th, 2017 at the Mont-Carmel Parish Centre, 5786, Route 11, Mont Carmel. The Friday Night Jammers are continuing their music in Wellington. Summer usually brings in new talent and

visitors. Armand and Friends continue performing at seniors' homes and manors in the Evangeline area and in Summerside. To experience authentic Acadian culture and daily toe-tapping music and great food, check the Village Musical Acadien, 1745, Route 124, Abram-Village 902-654-3300 or www.villagemusical.com. Exposition Agricole et le Festival Acadien will take place from August 31 to September 3, 2017. Get all the information at www.expositionfestival.com. Till next time.



Judy MacLean of Sunday Night Shenanigans and student step dancer Olivia MacNeil onstage at a recent show at York Community Centre, with featured guests the "Morell Fiddlers" with keyboardist Marion Pirch, lead fiddler Emmett DeCoursey and others. This group is scheduled to perform again this season (July 2nd.) Sunday Night Shenanigans is presented at York Community Centre for the summer months. E-mail judymacleandance@eastlink.ca for info.



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Carolyn Drake

Queens County Fiddlers by Carolyn Drake

Here comes the sun, and with it another summer of fiddling for the Queens County Fiddlers and so many other Island musicians.

The highlight of our year continues to be our CD, "Ages". We held a well-attended launch concert in late April at Park Royal United Church, and now that the tourist season is upon us, plans are underway to get the CD into a number of Island venues. It is also available by contacting members. In addition, we will have it with us anywhere that we are performing this summer. It has gotten great unofficial reviews by a number of people, including many fellow musicians, and we're all really proud of how it turned out.

We managed to squeeze in an annual general meeting in the spring. We'll keep you updated on any significant developments to come out of the meeting.

In other group news, our oldest member, and one of our best-known players, Father Charlie Cheverie marked the 60th anniversary of his ordination on June 18. Some fiddlers were able to attend a reception and open house at the North Shore Community Centre that

afternoon. Our best wishes go out from his fellow fiddlers as well as from so many people around the Island who know him.

One of our young members, Luka Hall, competed in the annual step-dancing event in Kensington at the end of May and picked up a nice assortment of ribbons for his efforts. Since we have quite a few young dancers in our group, my apologies to anyone I left out. I happened to pick up on

Luka's through Facebook. We have such a talented bunch of young people with the QCF, it can be hard to keep up.

As we move into the summer months, be sure to get out to any and all the ceilidhs and musical events on the calendar. Some of them will feature QCF members. And we'll be counting the days until the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, July 14-16. Be sure to check out the workshops and instructors that are going to be featured.

We continue to practise most Wednesday evenings (at least up until Rollo Bay) at Andrews of Stratford. All are welcome. A break may be coming later in the summer before we resume practices in September. And with all the nice weath-

er on the way, remember just to grab the fiddle and head for a nice deck with a few friends to play some favourite tunes.



Fr. Charlie Cheverie takes a moment to thank Aaron Crane for his work on the new recording.



Aaron Crane leads the Queens County Fiddlers in a lively medley at the group's CD launch.



Cathy

Prince County Fiddlers by Cathy Campbell

The Prince County Fiddlers have been performing at local seniors' residences steadily this quarter. At the end of May our group played at the Mews Care Home in Margate. This year for National Fiddling Day we decided to host a concert at the Britannia Hall in Tyne Valley. Our two-hour program was well received with a near-capacity crowd of 87 people. We played many tunes from our current repertoire, featured several soloists including a young

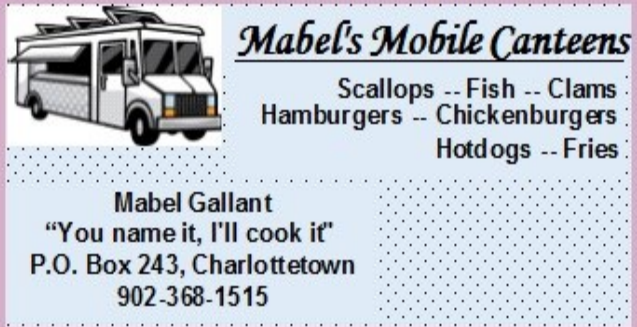
gal from Nova Scotia by the name of Amelia Parker and we also included special guest appearances by singer, Kevin Arthur as well as the Lady Slipper Step Dancers. The evening wouldn't have run so smoothly without the help of our great volunteers, Bob and Peggy McKillop - thank you.

We look forward to performing at a few venues this summer. We will take a break from regular practices at the end of June and meet on a needs basis only. On various Saturdays, a small group of youth fiddlers are meeting to play and learn some tunes from our repertoire. Last Saturday we snuck outside to play some tunes by the walking trails in Kensington. It was a bit windy, but very refreshing and it started to finally feel like summer.

Our regular Monday night practices will end in a few weeks and will start back up in early September. Wishing everyone a great summer filled with lots of tunes!



The Prince County Fiddlers performing at The Mews in Margate. From left to right: Mike Ramsay, Cathy Campbell, Robert Gallant, Jim MacDougall and Darlene Harding. Photo by Mike Smith.



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Amy Swenson

Southern Kings Fiddlers by Amy Swenson

We had a great time May 27th at our "National Fiddling Day" benefit concert for music programs in the rural schools of the Montague area. Fiddlers Rannie MacLellan, & Sterling Baker each played some lively sets, and George Docherty wowed the audience with his ability to play fiddle and harmonica at the same time and very well indeed. The Blaquiere sisters step danced to St. Anne's Reel played by my students Carrie Docherty, Madison Howe and myself as fast as we could possibly go in unison. Our fiddlers played at the beginning and the end of the show with six of my students aged 10-14. Unfortunately our oldest invited guest fiddler could not attend, though he very much wanted to: Maurice O'Shea was under the weather and had to rest at home, but Madison and I played his Iona Corner Waltz, ably accompanied by Wayne Maclean. We will shortly be giving each of the five rural schools a nice donation for their music teachers to spend on much needed materials. Thanks so much to our generous audience, and to the folks who donated door prizes: George and Jason Docherty, Dorrie Murdoch, and the Queens County Fiddlers.

Some of our members also played at the Belfast Pipe and Drum benefit concert held at Belfast School on June 3. Belfast students Macy Hancock and Courtenay McGeoghegan, who have been participating in teacher Wendy Evers' after school violin program, along with fiddlers and step dancers Eliza and Isabelle Blaquiere helped entertain the

crowd. The Jessica Waltz sounded especially lovely with Wendy's cello and Taylor Johnson's guitar accompanying us. Step-dance teacher Jordan Chowan was also there with a pile of his charming young students, and the audience really enjoyed their dancing and Jordan's exciting solo performance. The concert benefited both the Pipe and Drum Band and Belfast School.

The Southern Kings Fiddlers have some summer gigs already: June 23 we will play at the Murray Harbour Ceilidh, and July 30th we are signed up to play at the Sturgeon Ceilidh. In between those dates, we hope to check out the fun at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. I will be on hand there in the barn to do any adjustments and repairs for workshop students on the first day of workshops and anyone else who wanders by on the weekend. In August, the fiddlers will no doubt be playing at least once at the Murray Harbour Farm and Craft Market, which starts the first Saturday of July and runs through October, mornings from 9-12.

Our group will be practicing every other Monday all summer, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 7 and 21. We will be at the Rural Development Building at Brooke and Main in Montague, everyone is welcome to come listen or play. We start playing at 7pm and go to 9 pm. Summer is always especially fun because we often get summer visitors dropping by, such as retired music teacher Beth Knox, who just told us about an amazing World Fiddle Day concert in Toronto last month, at which fiddle tunes from all over the world were played by a group of 80 players! Call me at 902-962-2273 if you have any questions about our group.

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Anne M. McPhee

Eastern Kings Fiddlers

by Anne M. McPhee

The 2017 Spring season proved you just never know what's going to happen next, despite your best laid plans. For me it was a simple trip to Ontario over Easter weekend for my birthday to visit my children, their spouses and my two little granddaughters (aged 20 and 10 months). Such a cute age and growing so fast. What could go wrong

Well, a little slip on a step and down I went on the tops of both feet to break both the bones of both my legs. Well I always do a thorough job of everything I endeavor and I guess that includes breaking my legs!

Surgery was done on the left leg on Easter Sunday in Brampton, ON. The blessing was returning to my room from surgery to find all my kids and grandkids present and waiting for the go ahead for me to share a birthday cupcake with them before the day was over. Our Easter dinner was cooked and brought in on Easter Monday and we had a roast chicken picnic dinner in my room. What a treat. The babies thought it was great fun as they were allowed to eat their supper on the bed with me. In other words, we all just made the best of an unfortunate incident. One we will remember forever.

It was hoped the right leg would heal on its own but the fracture shifted and started to heal wrong so when I got to Charlottetown the bone had to be re-broken and stabilized with a plate and pins putting it's healing about a week behind the left leg. Fortunately, I had purchased flight insurance and not being able to sit in a commercial seat, was flown home on a stretcher in comfort and style in a Leer Jet air ambulance. Following my surgery in Charlottetown, I was transferred to the Souris Hospital to

recover close to my hubby and friends and to receive excellent care from the staff and physio in my own community. And thanks to all the support and my usual determination, my recovery has been going extremely well.

I was offered the loan of a silent fiddle (an electric fiddle with no amp) to polish up my tunes. The Kitchen Group all came to the hospital where we took over the classroom downstairs for a rip-roaring practice. I then managed to get into a van with a ramp loaned to us by another member of the community and participated in our year end concert at Souris Regional School, which went off extremely well.

Kathryn's students started off with some numbers that all the students had learned. Then the first year students impressed everyone with how much they had learned in such a short time. The intermediate students then played a couple of more complicated pieces that included some beautiful harmonies

and a number of students bravely played their solos with Kevin Chaisson accompanying them all on piano. The Kitchen Group then took the stage with Kevin picking up his fiddle and Al Ryan accompanying on piano. Al is an accomplished piano player from Hamilton Ontario. He has retired in PEI where his



Peggy Clinton & Johnny Ross launched their first Tip to Tip Hoedown at Souris Live's Centre Stage

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family has deep roots. He always wanted to learn the art of accompanying fiddle music so he bravely joined the Kitchen Group and caught on fast. Being a note reader, he soon realized that there was more to it than the notes and learned to get the feel of where the tune was going and was soon playing by ear. Coming every week, a few tips from Kevin, and listening to the same tunes over and over certainly helped in the process and we have another piano accompanist in Eastern Kings. So exciting!!

Some of our newer members also bravely and expertly played some solos. Twelve-year-old Sarah Carter played some more advanced pieces extremely well. It's obvious she has been practicing quite a bit. Watch Sarah for more tunes in the future. The Irish sisters Zoe and Holly O'Regan did a beautiful job of Jerry Holland's "For My Mother Dear", and Rhonda Dowling did a lovely job of Morag's Waltz.

Finally, we must give Darren Chaisson credit. He joined the group a short 4 or 5 years ago to polish up his playing and to learn more tunes. Never mind that he could already expertly play more tunes than the entire group put together. But we all liked him instantly and being a quick learner, he was a great asset to our group. Following the loss of first Lemmie, then Peter and then my absence due to illness, Darren was pressed into a leadership role he hadn't planned on assuming. And despite some challenging tunes, through his support, encouragement and dedication, the group has grown and made tremendous progress in a short time and we thoroughly enjoy our time together and Darren is an inspiring leader.

We are all looking forward to playing our new tunes for everyone at the 41st Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival as long as we keep the footballs away and there are no more broken bones!! (In 2016 Darren snapped his collarbone catching a football requiring emergency surgery before our group was scheduled to play. Fortunately he has made a full recovery).

In other events, Mark Haines presented 40 music students in his third annual Kids on the Road to Fortune concert where students as young as 5 up to seniors performed in their preferred genre, including ukulele, piano, guitar, violin, bass fiddle and

lots of vocals. A few students had chosen the same numbers, including Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" so they were combined and performed the song with a variety of vocalists and instruments. For the finale, all the students returned to the stage to sing and play a song composed and directed by Mark called "The Cat Came In." To accommodate all the family members wishing to attend, two sold-out shows were presented! The dedication and passion displayed by each student reflected the great respect and honour they felt in performing with and for their great instructor, Mark confirming for all of us how fortunate we are to have this great musician sharing his talents with the youth in our community.

On June 24th at 7:30 pm, Peggy Clinton & Johnny Ross launched their first concert in the Tip to Tip Hoedown series at Souris Live's Centre Stage with



Peggy & Johnny

Alphy Perry (Peggy's Dad) Cathy & Victor Doucette and Stephen Perry, all accomplished musicians and performers—it was a fantastic time. Other shows in the series will be held across the Island over the summer in places like Emerald, Bloomfield, Wellington and back to Souris October

14. Find all the details at www.tiptotiphoedown.com.

The 1st Annual PEI Lobster Festival was held at the harbour grounds in beautiful Souris on June 25th. Hosted by Chef Michael Smith, the festival featured lobster themed competitions, lobster supper, great entertainment, and so much more! J.J. Chaisson, aka The Fiddling Fisherman, entertained festival goers during the lobster supper reception alongside Chef Michael who grilled lobster tails over the hot coals. Food, music and lots of fun!

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Village Feast happening July 16th from 3–6pm in Souris. A feast of steak and lobster for over 1000 people. Proceeds go to the local food bank, Coats for Kids, and building a cookhouse in Kenya. Buy your tickets early as this event always sells out. www.villagefeast.ca for details. There's always something happening in PEI in the summer time.

Interview with Eileen (Butler) Rafferty by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

My grandmother, Mrs. Maurice Butler, nee Annie Griffin, who died in 1941 in Glengarry, Lot 7, P.E.I., was noted for a number of things - helping to clear the land on their farm and raising livestock and growing food for a growing family of two boys and four girls. When my grandfather Maurice died at an early age in 1927, Grammie, with the help of her oldest son, carried on farming and lived in the home in Glengarry until her death. My father inherited the homestead and after he married and had a family, this was where my siblings and I grew up.

For years in the attic of the old farm house in Glengarry I noticed an old fiddle. My father never played it, so it remained untouched for years. Being curious, I wanted to know more about who did play it and found out that Grammie Butler was the culprit. From reports I heard from others, Grammie was a fun-loving person who was always playing jokes on her children and who enjoyed music. She was reported to be a really good fiddler who played for all the parties in the community. She also could play the accordion and the jaw harp. Grammie's

grandparents, Maurice Griffin and his wife Ellen Reilly Griffin, came to the Lot 7 area from Ireland in the early 1800s. In those days if people had a musical bend they would certainly take their musical instruments with them if they moved to a new country. It seems that the violin that travelled with Maurice and Ellen from Ireland to Lot 7, Prince Edward Island was passed down the generations until it came to Grammie Butler. Even if the violin had been new when it came from Ireland, that would make it today around two hundred years old, but speculation is that the violin may be from 400 to 600 years old.

My husband Norbert plays the violin, and I love music, so in 1995, some time before my father died, I asked him if I could have Grammie's old fiddle. Once it was mine, Norb and I got new strings for it, cleaned it up, and started playing it. Before that, the fiddle hadn't been played since Grammie herself had played it. The tone is rich and mellow and the fiddle looks fantastic. It is a treasured keepsake of my ancestors that is still making great music in the 21st century.



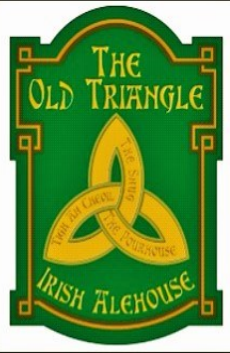
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www.tourismpei.com/pei-festivals-and-events, www.ceilidhs.ca www.buzzon.com or check local listings

Sundays 2:00-5:00 pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 8:00 pm	Kitchen Party	St. Margaret's Parish Hall	St. Margaret's	902-687-2546
Sundays 7:30 pm	Sunday Night Ceilidhs	Cymbria Lions Centre	South Rustico	902-963-2793
Sundays 7:00 pm	Sunday Night Shenanigans	York Community Centre	York	902-969-4100
1st Sundays 7:00 pm	Ceilidh	Olde Dunstaffnage School Centre	Dunstaffnage	902-629-1494
2nd Sundays 7:00-9:00 pm	Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
2nd Sundays 7:00 pm	Ceilidh	Hunter River Lions Club Hall	Hunter River	902-964-2536
3rd Sundays 1:30 pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
3rd Sundays 7:00 pm	Ceilidh	Kelly's Cross Church Hall	Kelly's Cross	902-658-2290
4th Sundays 7:00-9:00 pm	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4282
Alt Sundays 6:30 pm	Sturgeon Ceilidh	St. Paul's Parish Hall	Sturgeon	902-838-3287
1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm	Ceilidh/Kitchen Party	Bingo Country Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
2nd & 4th Mondays 7:30 pm	Winslow Ceilidh	Winslow United Church	Winslow	902-368-1233
Mon & Wed to Sep 27	Ross Family Ceilidh	Clinton Hills	Clinton	902-886-3080
Tuesdays 7:00 pm to Sep	Scottish Ceilidh	MacKinnon Homestead	Richmond	902-854-3513
Tuesdays 8:00 pm	Georgetown Ceilidh	Kings Playhouse	Georgetown	902-652-2053
Tuesdays 7:00 pm to Sep 19	Dunes'n Tunes	Brackley Beach Community Centre	Brackley Beach	866-298-8244
3rd Tuesdays 7:00 pm	Lions Club Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-393-2264
Tues & Wed to Sep 15	Avonlea Village Ceilidh	Avonlea Village	Cavendish	902-963-3050
Wednesdays 8:00 pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Wednesdays 8:00 pm	Family Square Dance	Old Lorne Valley School	Lorne Valley	902-838-4160
Wed 7:30 pm to Aug 30	Malpeque Ceilidh	Womens Institute Hall	Malpeque	902-836-4310
Thursdays 7:00-10:00 pm	Schooner Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Thursdays 8-10 pm to Sep	Close to the Ground Concert	Kaylee Hall	Poole's Corner	902-963-4399
Thursdays 7:30 pm to Sep 28	Stanley Bridge Ceilidh	Womens Institute Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-836-4310
Thursdays 7:30 pm	Burton Ceilidh	St. Mark's Hall	Burton	902-892-7948
Fridays 8:00 pm	Ceilidh at the Irish Hall	Irish Cultural Centre	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Fridays 8:00 pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St. Peter's Bay	902-739-3334
2nd Fridays 9pm-12am	Kitchen Party	Resto-Bar La Trappe	Abram-Village	902-854-3300
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh	Kaylee Hall	Poole's Corner	902-838-4399
Fridays 8:00-11:00 pm	Workshop & Jam	Boys & Girls Club	Wellington	902-436-5532
2nd Fridays 7:30 pm	Kitchen Country Ceilidh	Wheatley River Community Hall	Wheatley River	902-964-2586
Fridays 9-12 pm	Kitchen Party	Centre Expo-Festival	Abram-Village	902-854-3300
Fridays 7:30 pm to Sep 15	Courtney Hogan Ceilidh	Boxcar Pub	Emerald	902-886-2479
Fridays 10:30 am to Aug	Family Friendly Ceilidh	Confederation Court Mall	Charlottetown	
Alt Fridays 7:00 pm	Murray Harbour Ceilidh	Murray Harbour Community Centre	Murray Harbour	902-962-2157
Saturdays 3:00-6:00 pm	Kitchen Party	Summerside Legion	Summerside	902-436-2091
Saturdays 8:00 pm	Dance	Goose River Community Hall	Goose River	
Saturdays 8:00 pm	Belfast Ceilidh	Belfast Rec Centre	Belfast	902-659-2554
Saturdays 8-11 pm	Pig & Whistles	Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-838-4399
Saturdays 8:30 pm	Kitchen Party de Cuisine	Village Musical Acadien	Abram-Village	902-854-3300
Saturdays 7:30 pm	Richard Wood Kitchen Party	Stanley Bridge Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-962-3204
Alt Saturdays 7:30 pm	Ceilidh	Immaculate Conception Parish Hall	The Brae	902-859-2536

Upcoming Special Events

Jun 2, Jul 16, Aug 13, Sep 30 & Oct 14	Tip-to-Tip Hoedown 7:30pm
July-Aug	Local entertainment - Tuesdays 7:30pm
July-Aug	Mini-concerts Weekdays 11:00am - 3:30pm
July 5-Sep 7	For the Love of the Island, Treble w Girls (Wed 7pm)
July 2-Aug 27	Mont-Carmel Summer Concert Series (Sundays 7pm)
Aug 5-6	Atlantic Fiddlers Jamboree
Aug 31-Sep 3	L'Exposition Agricole et le Festival Acadien

Souris Live Centre Stage, Souris	www.sourisliveinc.com
Eastern Kings Community Centre, Elmira	902-357-2206
College of Piping, Summerside	902-436-5377
King's Playhouse, Georgetown	902-652-2053
Mont-Carmel Parish Centre, Mont-Carmel	902-439-0126
Mont-Carmel Parish Hall	www.atlanticfiddlersjamboree.com
Abram-Village	www.expositionfestival.com



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(above left) Megan MacDonald, Emily MacDonald and MacKenzie Wright enjoy a few tunes in the sun. (above right) Islanders joined Senator Hubley at the Nat'l Fiddle Day reception – far left, Amanda Beazley, middle MP Sean Casey