

The ISLAND FIDDLER

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society

Vol. 17 Issue 2

Sept 2018



Life Membership Recipients

*Ward MacDonald
September 2018*

Anne McPhee is the daughter of an Island fiddler Dan McPhee (or Danny Archie) a third generation fiddler from Bayfield/Priest Pond on the Northside of PEI. She remembers listening to her dad practice every evening as she was going off to sleep. She enjoyed hearing her dad play each summer on the Island with her grandfather, John Joe and her uncles Freddie and Hughie. While Anne never did get to play with her grandfather, Dad or uncles, she vividly remembers the first time she played on the big stage in Rollo Bay in 1998 where her dad had played in the early years of the festival and she can feel his presence there and her fingers just naturally knowing where to go. In 1997, she started at the Rollo Bay fiddle lessons and became an original member of the Kitchen Group. Anne became involved with the PEI Fiddlers Society, served on the executive, and was the editor of *The Island Fiddler* for ten years.

John Campbell has been involved with music most of his life, starting out on the guitar and singing. He remembers hearing that his grandfather's cousin Stephen Campbell was a fine fiddler but mostly heard fiddlers like Johnny Willie and Hugh McPhee from Priest Pond when they played at weddings and concerts. Later as he heard more fiddle on radio programs, he wished he had learned to play the fiddle. John married and had eight children each of whom he took to the fiddle lessons in Rollo Bay so they would not miss the opportunity to learn the fiddle like he did. Since he was there anyway, he started to participate in the lessons with his children and he got the basics down. When the last child finished



their fiddle lessons, John found he missed going to the lessons so he came along one night and was sent in to join the newly formed Kitchen Group. He entered the room with great trepidation but once he started playing he found the tunes came to him almost naturally and each night he would leave with a huge smile on his face. He doesn't like to play on his own but he loves being part of the group. John is a great group member, coming regularly, always cheerful and happy to be there.

Jim Townshend has been involved with music most of his life, starting out on the guitar. For many years he accompanied Northside fiddler and PEI Fiddlers Society life member George Mel MacPhee. Jim eventually became interested in playing the fiddle himself and learned many of the old tunes from George. He worked hard to learn the tunes by ear but he had an interest in learning to read the music. He went to the Rollo Bay fiddle lessons and found his way into the kitchen where he found his fiddling improved and his

repertoire grew. He continues to play guitar and has picked up the bass guitar and plays back-up to various musicians and groups in the area. Jim has a great sense of humour and is a welcome member of the Kitchen Group. He supports and promotes Island fiddling wherever he goes.

Jean Carter is the daughter of an Island fiddler and grew up listening to her dad play the fiddle in the old style in her home in Souris while her mother tapped the tunes out on his fiddle strings with her knitting needles. Jean doesn't remember when she first started coming to fiddle classes in Rollo Bay with her dad's fiddle in hand, but it was indeed many years ago. As she progressed she moved into the kitchen to learn under the instruction of Peter Chaisson and is one of the original members of the Rollo Bay Kitchen Group. Jean has been a great support to the young members of the group and the new people joining in, frequently reminding the other members to slow down a little for the new people.

The Island Fiddler

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Argyle Shore	Roy Johnstone (+)(Skype)	Fiddle	916-2541
Bear River	Sam Arseneau (+)	Fiddle	327-0307
Caledonia	Amy Swenson	Fiddle	962-2273
Charlottetown	Aaron Crane (+)	Fiddle	388-1040
	Cynthia MacLeod	Fiddle	940-1825
	Gary Chipman (+)	Fiddle	213-4978
	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
	Ward MacDonald (+)	Fiddle	314-7950
	Matthew Reid	Fiddle	566-2894
Emerald	Courtney Hogan	Fiddle	393-0610
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Rollo Bay	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
Souris	JJ Chaisson (+)	Fiddle	687-2261
Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116
	Kendra MacGillivray (+)(Online)	Fiddle/Piano	367-5606

If you wish to be listed as a teacher, contact the editor

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Shirley Burke	902-368-2416
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Richard Wood	www.rwood.ca
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca
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*“Square dancing: the original
social networking.”*

Nathan Condon Memorial Concert for Suicide Prevention

Nathan Condon was a son, father, band member, carpenter and very talented musician who had everything to live for. Tragically, he died from suicide in August 2017 at the age of 32 years. Nathan knew from the age of 3 that he wanted to play the fiddle and entertain people. He started playing at the age of 7 and never looked back. He was a member of many groups such as Blue Streak, Not All There, Michael Pendergast and various others.

Nathan recorded and released two albums: "A Feeling Comes Over Me" and "Playin' in the Sand" at the ages of 17 and 19 respectively. He was nominated for many PEI Music Awards and won three for A Feeling Comes Over Me - New Artist, Album of the Year and Roots Traditional Recording of the Year.

Nathan felt comfortable and at home whether he was playing for royalty or putting in many an hour volunteering at the manors. He loved every minute of it. He could play almost any instrument you would pass him as music was his passion and he loved sharing his gift with others.

With the support of Trinity United Church in Summerside and sever-

al volunteers, "The Nathan Condon Memorial Concert for Suicide Prevention" will be held at Trinity United, 90 Spring Street in Summerside, on Friday, October 5th at 7:00 PM.

Special guest Kelley Mooney comes from the prettiest little hollow in Iona, PEI where her Dad STILL pays her a quarter a song and doesn't let anyone leave without a biscuit and a cuppa tea.

Kelley has released three albums to date: 2012 Music PEI Country Recording of the Year, Tomorrow (2011), featuring the Easter Hallelujah which has more than 14 million views on YouTube and GodTube combined and charted on THREE Billboard Magazine charts. The ECMA and Music PEI nominated gospel album, Still (2015) is a personal recording inspired by a serious illness and recovery; and Caroling (2017) is a Christmas album featuring some favorites and originals.

Guest performers will include Devon Broome, Dave Wigmore, Samantha

MacKay, Kevin Arthur and Jason Campbell along with host Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson.

100% of the proceeds will go to Suicide Prevention through Lennon House in North Rustico, PEI. Lennon Recovery House Association adopts a holistic approach to recovery to provide individuals with the opportunity to recover and heal from substance abuse and subsequent mental health issues. If you would like to make a donation but cannot attend the concert, you can do so on the Lennon House web site at lennonhouse.ca.

If you have lost a loved-one due to suicide and would like to have them remembered at the concert, please send a photo along with their name, date of birth and the date they died to anwe@pei.sympatico.ca and we will flash their photo on the screens.

Trinity United Church is fully wheelchair assessable and doors will open at 6:15 PM. Admission at the door by a recommended donation of at least \$10 per person.



Eastern Kings Fiddlers



Anne M. McPhee

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Report
September 2018
Anne M. McPhee

Fiddlers in Eastern Kings were delighted with a surprise at their year-end Family Night this past spring when Tim Chaisson announced that 12-year-old Kitchen group member Sarah Carter was being awarded a scholarship to attend the 2018 Rollo Bay Music Camp. Sarah has completed her second year in the Kitchen Group and is a value-added member. She listens well and practices regularly and her improvement on the fiddle is noticeable. Congratulations Sarah. Well deserved!

The Annual PEI Fiddlers Society Fiddle Jam held on April 22 at the BIS was a great chance to get together with fiddlers after the long winter. A variety of tunes were played and recordings and sheet music have been posted on peifiddlers.com. National Fiddling Day was properly celebrated at The Old Triangle welcoming young Joe MacMaster from Cape Breton to lead a session followed by some great set music and dancing.

The new French school and cultural centre was officially opened on May 26. Named for the historical Acadian Bell, École La-Belle-Cloche and Pavilion de l'est (a community centre) is on the site of the former Rollo Bay School and features a beautiful new music room and event venue with seating for up to 150 people. Such an exciting time to be able to welcome this state of the art new building in our community.

The summer music scene kicked off with a bang during the 10th Festival of Small Halls. I attended three excellent shows. Fortune Hall hosted Cape Breton fiddler Hailee LeFort for the release of her CD, *It's Happenin'*. It was produced at Studio Dimanche by Brent Chaisson (who also played guitar on the album) with collaborator Ward MacDonald (piano & fiddle). Their performance featured a duet of one of Ward's compositions "a happy home" which is on Hailee's album. Ward also released his long-awaited first recording aptly called, *Ask Her To Dance*, which features several of his compositions. Both recordings are great productions of traditional style music. Celtic Ladies also performed a wonderful set of songs and fiddle tunes, featuring several compositions by bandmember Maxine MacLennan. All-in-all a fabulous evening at Fortune

Hall before a sold-out crowd. Goose River joined the festival for the first time. Storyteller Dale MacIsaac set the tone for a fun, upbeat evening followed by Cape Breton's Chrissy Crowley and Jason Roach. The duo hit the stage with their high-octane style of fiddling with Jason's foot stomping out the beat with a vibration felt through the entire hall and Chrissy driving on the fiddle. Chrissy spotted Kevin Chaisson in the audience and asked him to accompany her for a set of tunes and she pulled Cassie MacDonald out of the audience for some tunes played with duel fiddles. Everyone left the hall with a lift in their step and smiles on their faces from a simply delightful evening.

It was impossible to pass up the opportunity to see Gordie Crazy-Legs MacKeeman and his Rhythm Boys when they were so close at the Eastern Kings Community Centre. Each band member capably played multiple instruments moving back and forth with ease and each was showcased with a great song or an instrumental piece. And Gordie lived up to his name with his dancing while fiddling, like he couldn't help himself, his feet had to move to the music. But he also played guitar and sang too! It was simply a fantastic show and with Chris Knox of K-Audio managing the sound on all three shows I attended the quality was just top-notch.

The 42nd Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival was a tremendous success starting with the music camp filled to capacity and everyone so happy to be on an amazing ride: non-stop music, daily square dancing after lunch, mussels on the beach, memories to last a lifetime, and already booking their space for 2019! The Friday evening kick-off concert started with cousins Elmer Deagle and Tim Chaisson and continued with one set of tunes after another by award-winning musicians from around the globe. The organization keeps getting better and better with more variety in food vendors, a painting class for children, and the Saturday morning 5km walk-run that concluded with a fun trip to the beach where everyone was greeted by the fiddling of Andrew Chaisson and the step dancing of Nathalie Arsenault. Great start to a gorgeous weekend which was followed by a guitar workshop and fiddle workshop taught by Ward MacDonald. Ward taught us a tune he wrote in honour of his dad Allan's birthday called December 2nd. Video is available on my Facebook page.

And, it wouldn't be the festival if the PEI Fiddlers Society didn't recognize a few fiddlers who have been members of the Society for 20 years and have made significant contributions to Island fiddling. This year's Life Membership recipients are the founding members of the Rollo Bay Kitchen Group who were

originally assigned to Peter Chaisson to work with in 1998. The group is now lead by Darren Chaisson and he is a first class leader and teacher and we couldn't ask for anyone more patient and skilled for the job! The group welcomes all ages, especially the youth who progress very quickly and are soon able to lead the group when needed.

Fiddle Lessons and the Kitchen group practices will resume every Monday starting on October 15th . We are moving back to Rollo Bay warmly welcomed by the new French cultural committee. Accessible parking is available and there is an elevator. Students meet at 6:00 and 6:30 pm on the lower level

through the auditorium, behind the stage and in the music room, Salle Chiasson. The Kitchen group will meet at 7:00 pm in the Bar-à-choix lounge off the auditorium. We think everyone will be pleased with this spacious new facility on the site of the old Rollo Bay School where Fiddle lessons were taught for almost 40 years. In other words, we are going home. Everyone is welcome to come listen or join in. Mark Haines and Patrick Ledwell will present their Annual Fall Review on October 21 and watch for tickets to "Christmas Times a Coming" with Peggy and Johnny, her dad and the Gang on December 16 all at the Souris Legion and watch your local listings for more events.

December 2nd

Ward MacDonald

Bm D A Bm D A

Bm D A Bm A Bm

Bm A Bm D A 1.

Bm A Bm A Bm

Bm D A Bm A Bm 2.

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Safely Home



Jackie Biggar
on May 10, 2018
Aged 63 years

Southern Kings Fiddlers



Anne Swenson

The Southern Kings Fiddlers have welcomed summer visitors to our biweekly practices plus two new junior members, Alex and Darren Jackson. They loved the Rollo Bay Fiddle Camp (for which our group awarded them scholarships) and they have been inspired to learn a lot of new tunes since coming to our practices. We often play 40 tunes of an evening, so they have a lot to choose from! The Jackson brothers busk at the Murray Harbour Farmers Market Saturday mornings from 9-12 through the end of October. They played August 31st at the Murray Harbour Ceilidh, where we set Alex loose on a bunch of reels with Wayne Maclean on guitar! No doubt the Fiddlers will also play some Christmas tunes at the Christmas Craft Fair at the Harbour as well.

We played at Sturgeon Ceilidh August 19 starting with a brand new waltz by our President Urban Chaisson: Bev and Ian's Waltz. Darren joined Leslie Stewart in accompanying us on the bodhran for several tunes, then switched to fiddle and played a jig and the beautiful tune Love of the Isles by the great Shetland fiddler Willie Hunter (see him on Youtube), plus the lively Loggieville Two-Step. Not a bad evening for a young gentleman of 8!

I had great fun for the 3 days of the Rollo Bay Fiddle Camp, fixing fiddles and listening to a lot of good music.



Macy Hancock, Timothy Robinson, Amy Swenson, Bianca Batten, Alex Jackson, Darren Jackson, Daniel MacKinnon, Elijah Robinson April 22, 2018 Fiddlers performing at Hillcrest Church Recital

The instructors were exceptional, the lunches were delicious, the afternoon dance was great exercise, and everyone got a chance to perform if they wished. I hope more of my students can attend Camp next year, I know they would all enjoy it very much.

Practices are at the Rural Action Centre, Brook and Main, Montague, 7-9 pm. Next dates are Mondays Aug. 27, Sept. 10 & 24; call me at 962-2273 for other dates. We are trying several new tunes along with old favorites. John Sheahan of the Dubliners wrote a tune called Marino Casino, which is up on the PEI Fiddlers Website now: click Chapters and Southern Kings and scroll down to find the sheet music with harmony. Check out his great You Tube video on line if you are curious.

THE LOVE OF THE ISLES

SLOW AIR

Harmony A. Swenson 2017

Willie Hunter, 1933-1994, Shetland Islands

Measures 1-6 of the piece. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The melody in the upper staff features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some beamed eighth notes. The bass line in the lower staff provides a steady accompaniment with a similar rhythmic pattern.

7

Measures 7-13. The melody continues with a series of eighth notes and quarter notes. The bass line maintains its accompaniment pattern, with some syncopation in the eighth measure.

14

Measures 14-19. The melody features a prominent dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. The bass line continues with its accompaniment, showing some variation in the eighth measure.

20

Measures 20-25. The melody has a more active feel with eighth notes and quarter notes. The bass line continues with its accompaniment, featuring some syncopation.

26

Measures 26-32. The melody concludes with a series of quarter notes and eighth notes. The bass line continues with its accompaniment, ending with a final cadence in the eighth measure.

Prince County Fiddlers



Cathy Campbell

On National Fiddle Day this year, the Prince County Fiddlers performed for a full house at the Britannia Hall. Although the evening went quite well, it was an emotional night for our group. We were saddened and shocked by the passing of yet another great Prince County Fiddler, Jackie Biggar. To honour Jackie, we opened our concert with an audio clip of him playing one of his favorite tunes, the St. Anne's Reel. We also placed a chair displaying an Island Tartan vest in front of the piano where Jackie would often sit when he performed. Jackie grew up in Tyne Valley and was well known for his unique style of playing. The audience thought this was a thoughtful "touch" for our program.

We look forward to returning to Britannia Hall for our third year next May.

In the 2012 March edition of our newsletter, there was a wonderful story written about Jackie. It is one of the many ways we can continue to honor him as a great fiddler. The story can be found on the PEI Fiddlers Website in the Island Fiddler Newsletter section. Jackie's fiddling can also be heard on the Bowing Down Home website. It's nice that there are recordings for us to listen to as we remember him. Rest in peace our Dear Friend.

On June 19th, we performed at a ceilidh at the Bedeque United Church for a fundraiser. In July we performed at the New London Community Complex for a group of Cadets visiting from different parts of the world. We have had few more opportunities to play at local seniors residences. We will resume regular practices in September.



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Acadian Fiddlers



Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Greetings and Bonjour Everyone!
On Sunday, Aug. 5th, a surprise party was held at the Vanier Centre in Wellington to celebrate Amand

Arsenault's 90th birthday. What a fun afternoon! Still young at heart and lively, Amand played his guitar and step-danced during the party. He still performs at seniors' homes.

The 2018 Summer Concert Series, held each Sunday night from July 8th to August 26th at the Mont Carmel Hall was very successful. Entertainers included the family of Allan and Marguerite Gallant, Adyn Townes, Cynthia MacLeod, Josiane Comeau, Ian Foster, Keelin Wedge, Albert and Mona Arsenault, Christina Martin, Melissa Gallant, Megan Bergeron, Remi Arsenault, the group "Imagine" consisting of Alice Berube, Marie and Paula Arsenault, Christian and Daniel Goguen, Louise Vautour, Jessica Rhayne, Peter Arsenault and family, Troy and Kendra MacGillivray, Ryan Cook, Ivan and Vivian Hicks, Maggie Savoie, Kim Wempe, Louise Arsenault and Joe Narcisse family, Caroline Bernard and Anique Granger, Meaghan Blanchard, Calixte Duguay, Tara MacLean, Dennis Ellsworth, Ben Miller, Anita MacDonald, and Zakk Cormier. Dancers included Alex Arsenault, Ashley Richard, Lydia Arsenault, Alexandra Mitchell, Isabelle and Maddie Richards, the group Les Stepettes (Emily and Katherine Arsenault, Gabrielle

and Keera Gallant and Danika Richard), Maria and Thomas Arsenault, Isabelle and Danielle Saunders, Kaylee Arsenault and Melodie Jordan.

The Atlantic Fiddler's Jamboree was held from August 3rd to the 5th. On Friday night the Friday Night Jammers performed from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The finale on Sunday night included a concert featuring Troy MacGillivray and Ivan and Vivian Hicks at the Mont Carmel Hall. At this event the Golden Fiddle Award was presented to H el ene Arsenault Bergeron. Congratulations, H el ene!
Till next time, Cheerio!



H el ene Arsenault Bergeron (centre) was recognized for her contribution to Acadian fiddling at the Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree on August 8. Presenting her with the Golden Fiddle Award are Colette Aucoin and Sylvie Toupin. PHOTO CREDIT: La Voix Acadienne

Queens County Fiddlers



Carolyn Drake

A big welcome to Cheryl Edmunds, the new president of the Queens County Fiddlers.

And a big thank-you to former president, Tammy MacEachern, for all the work she has done on behalf of the group during her time as president. Christine Nicholson joins the executive as vice-president, and Marsha McCormick stays on as secretary/treasurer. The changes to the executive were made at our annual general meeting earlier this spring.

The group also decided at its annual meeting to change up our practice format a bit for the winter with different members taking turns being the leader, which works well since our regular leader, Aaron Crane, has been busy in his role of music director for the new season of “Anne and Gilbert” at The Guild (he also has an onstage role as Moody MacPherson) and also had a few stints with Tara MacLean’s “Atlantic Blue” show. If you check out “Anne and Gilbert” before end of summer, which you should, you’ll also see our youngest member, Luka Hall, onstage as a member of the show’s Young Company.

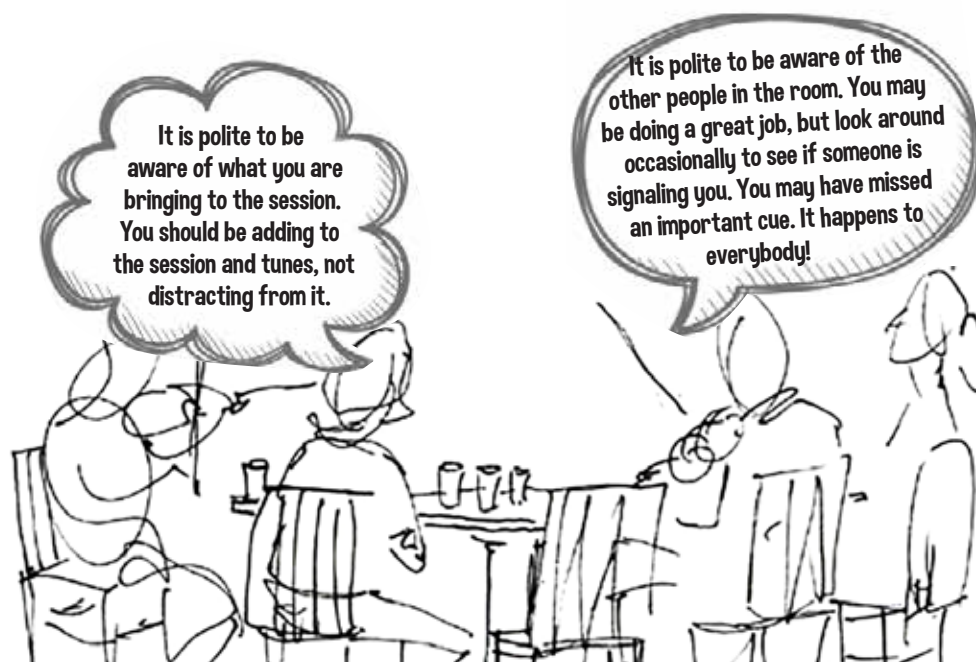
The past few months have been a great opportunity to perform, practise or just get out to some ceilidhs and dances. At the risk of missing people (my apologies), here’s a bit of what we were all up to this summer: Much fun as always was had onstage at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival in July. Abby Ives went to the Gaelic College in Cape Breton. Linda Moran also spent a week at the college. In August, Marlene Gallant, Lorraine Lynch and Father Charlie Cheverie joined her there to perform at the Cape Breton Fiddlers’ Association’s Festival of Cape Breton Fiddling. Jenna Cyr, Cailyn MacAulay, Annie Kitson and Julien Kitson were busy with all kinds of performances, and Marlene and Lorraine played some sets for the dancers at St. Margaret’s Hall on Sunday nights.

It’s not always all about the fiddle, though, as Jenna competed in an Atlantic volleyball championship, and Lindsey Doiron was named to the U-15 11-member all-star team after her performance at field hockey nationals in Toronto. She also played on both the U15 girls premier division soccer team and the U18 girls premier division soccer team. And don’t worry, she still made time to practice the fiddle!

Whether you travelled, relaxed at the cottage or spent time with the family – and even if you had to work most of the time (like me) – here’s hoping the summer of 2018 was a great one.

See you once again on Sept. 12!

SESSION ETIQUETTE *Tips for the enjoyment of all!*





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