

The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 14, Issue 4

December 2016

Dennis Pitre - West Prince Fiddler & Born Entertainer By Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Dennis Pitre is a born entertainer—a storyteller, singer, organist, piano player and fiddler. Nothing makes him happier than entertaining people. "Denny Pitt" (as he is commonly known in West Prince County and all over the Island) is one of eleven children and was born in 1941 at Tignish Shore.

In the last few years, Denny been hampered by arthritis and problems with his shoulder which forced him to have rotator cuff surgery. He has had to restrict his fiddle playing but still entertains citizens at seniors' homes playing organ, singing, and telling stories. He and his wife reside in St. Felix, on the outskirts of Tignish.

Denny is a self-taught fiddler

and one of the most prominent exponents of the West Prince fiddling style. His playing, as noted on the Rounder CD *The Prince Edward Island Style of Fiddling: Fiddlers of Western P.E.I.*, "is lyrical and lively, so energetic in fact that his bow often seems in imminent danger of flying out of his hand." For many years Dennis played in a band that provided music for the weekly dances at the Tignish Fire Hall until about 2006 when the dances died off.

Vince Doucette, his long-time accompanist, asserted in a past interview, "Putting all jokes aside, the best fiddler this end of the Island from Egmont Bay down to North Cape is this feller right here."

Although there was very little music in his home at Tignish Shore, Dennis was determined to learn to play the fiddle. First he had to have a fiddle, so when he was about twelve years of age he found one for sale for \$20. In 1953, \$20 was a lot of money, so Dennis gathered up a total of 2000 glass bottles! He redeemed the bottles for one cent each in order to purchase the fiddle. Ironically, some years later Dennis took over the local bottle redemption business.

Once he purchased the fiddle he had to learn to play it. Dennis enjoyed listening to local fiddlers like Ralph and Walter Arsenault, Andrew Jones and Adrian Richard. To learn the fiddle for himself he would get one neighbour to help tune the instrument, then he would put his ear against the wall of

Our jovial "Denny Pitt" has brought much joy and delight to many. A self-Denny is a taught man of many talents: fisherman, businessman and entertainer.

another neighbour's house in order to him playing, he would then practice the tunes he heard. Dennis spent long hours practicing upstairs during the hot summer months, squawking with his bow and tapping his feet, while his mother patiently worked her kitchen below. The first tune he ever played was "Cock of the North."

At about sixteen years of age Dennis started attending and play-

ing at local square dances. He often came home whistling the tunes he had heard and would then try to find them on the fiddle. He also learned tunes from the radio, listening to such fiddlers as Don Messer, Ned Landry, and Cape Breton fiddlers Winston "Scotty" Fitzgerald and Jerry Holland. He borrowed a number of tunes from the Cape Breton repertoire and adopted the practice of using Cape Breton style cuts or bowed triplets, but using them differently. Some of the Cape Breton tunes he borrowed and adapted to suit his style included "King's Reel", "Anne Marie MacDonald's Jig", and "Cape Breton's Welcome to the Shetlands."

Besides learning the tunes, he had to learn the proper tempo and rhythmic swing for Island dancing. This he learned mostly from watching and getting advice from local step dancers, some of whom were masters of the art. One place that Dennis Pitre and his faithful accompanist Vincent Doucette would often encounter step-dancing was at the Tignish Harbor when fishermen came home from work.

Self-taught, a man of many talents - fisherman, business man, and entertainer - who has brought much joy and delight to many is St. Felix resident, our jovial "Denny Pitt".

The Island Fiddler

View and print all issues of The Island Fiddler in colour online at www.peifiddlers.com

Editor: Ward MacDonald celticsomething@gmail.com 902-314-7950

Advertising: Paul Cheverie pcheverie@pei.sympatico.ca 902-566-3551

Events Forecast: Marsha McCormick

Distribution: Lorraine McMillan

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.

> **MAILING ADDRESS** The Island Fiddler, 101 Kent Street, P.O. Box 3311, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5

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

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society Executive President/Secretary: Tammy MacEachern Vice President: Aaron Crane Treasurer: Amy Swenson	902-940-5949 902-388-1040 902-962-2273
Prince County Fiddlers Cathy Campbell cathycampbell6@hotmail.com	902-436-0380
Queens County Fiddlers Tammy MacEachern tammymac@hotmail.com	902-940-5949
Eastern Kings Fiddlers Anne McPhee annemcphee@pei.sympatico.ca	902-687-1521
Southern Kings Fiddlers Amy Swenson gagliano31@hotmail.com	902-962-2273
Acadian Fiddlers Dorothy Griffin-Farish dfarish1@eastlink.ca	902-432-9692
Morell Fiddlers Frank Lechowick falechowick@pei.sympatico.ca	902-894-4741

Privacy Statement Information collected is solely for use by The Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society.

Fiddle and/or Accompaniment (+) Teachers

Argyle Shore	Roy Johnstone (+)(Skype)	Fiddle	675-2541
Bear River	Sam Arseneau (+)	Fiddle	327-7262
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
	Kendra MacGillivray (+)	Fiddle	367-5606
	Ward MacDonald (+)	Fiddle	201-1758
	Matthew Reid	Fiddle	566-2894
Cumberland	Courtney Hogan	Fiddle	675-3593
Fortune	Mark Haines (+)	Fiddle	687-1404
Richmond	MacKinnon Family	Fiddle	854-2245
Rollo Bay	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
Souris	JJ Chaisson (+)	Fiddle	687-2261
Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116

Step-Dancing Teachers	
Brittany Banks	.902-314-7676
College of Piping	902-436-5377 or 877-224-7473
Jaime Bell	902-962-2846
Jennifer Carson	902-314-6386
Judy MacLean	902-969-4100 or 902-566-5545
Marlys Hamilton-MacLaren	902-887-3385 or 902-439-0278
Pierrette Arsenault	902-854-2091
Samantha MacKinnon	902-218-7027
Shirley Burke	902-368-2416
Susan and Libbe Hubley	902-836-3887
Tracy Arsenault	902-854-3237

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

Fiddling Related Websites

I lading 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/
Billy MacInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
Bowing Down Home	www.bowingdownhome.ca
Calendonian Orchestra	www.caledonianorchestra.com
Calvin Vollrath	www.calvinvollrath.com
Canadian Grand Masters	www.canadiangrandmasters.ca
Cape Breton Fiddlers	www.capebretonfiddlers.com
CB Fiddle Recordings	www.cbfiddle.com/rx/
Cape Breton Ottawa	www.cbsession.com/
Courtney Hogan	www.courtneyhogan.com
College of Piping	www.collegeofpiping.com
Cynthia MacLeod	www.cynthiamacleod.com
Fiddling Fisherman	www.fiddlingfisherman.com
Glengarry Fiddlers	www.glengarrycelticmusic.com
Gordie MacKeeman	www.gordiemackeeman.com
Ivan and Vivian Hicks	www.ivanhicks.com
Judy MacLean	www.judymacleandance.ca
Ken Perlman	www.kenperlman.com
Kendra MacGillivray	www.kendramacgillivray.com
Learn Tunes by Ear	www.slowplayers.org/SCTLS/learn
Learn Tunes by Video	www.youloop.io
Maritime Fiddlers Assoc.	www.maritimefiddler.ca
Music PEI	www.musicpei.com
PEI Fiddle Camp	www.peifiddlecamp.com
P.E.I. Fiddlers Society	www.peifiddlers.com
Richard Wood	www.rwood.ca
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca
Ross Family	www.rossfamily.ca
Roy Johnstone	www.royjohnstone.com
Tim Chaisson	www.timchaisson.com

Square dancing: the original social networking.

Year Two for Treble with Girls Winter Concert Series

A new venue and a stellar lineup of special guests are the highlights for year two of the Winter Fundraising Concert series in support of the QEH Foundation hosted by Treble with Girls.

Beginning Sunday, December 4th, the popular group will be performing at the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall in Stratford on a bi-weekly basis to raise funds for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation's 21st Annual QEH/Eastlink Telethon. The group's goal is to surpass the \$5,350 raised in year one.

The Queens County Fiddlers will kick off the series which will also feature some Christmas favourites thrown into the Treble with Girls set list of Celtic, maritime, country and original music.

Each show will include great music, a lot of fun and laughter and a few surprises along the way, all in the name of a good cause. There will also be a 50/50 draw and a homemade lunch served at intermission.

Guests throughout the series include Eddy Quinn, storyteller Dennis King, Lester MacPherson, Patrick Ledwell and Mark Haines, Janet McGarry with Serge Bernard and more.

Admission to the family friendly shows is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under (preschoolers free).

Exhibition Presents an Experience of the Joy and Vitality of Acadian Dance, Past and Present



The exhibition "Dansez: Acadian Dance Traditions on Prince Edward Island, Past and Present" will be on display at the Acadian Museum of Prince Edward Island, in Miscouche, until May 2017.

From the kitchen to the stage and everywhere in between, Acadian dance traditions echo through the ages, passed from generation to generation, from person to person. The exhibition presents an experience of the joy and vitality of Acadian dance, past and present, through numerous photos, video and audio clips of Island Acadian dancers and musicians, and even an opportunity to learn a few step dancing steps!

The exhibition has been curated by ethnomusicologist Meghan Forsyth, from Memorial University, NFLD, in partnership with the Acadian Museum of P.E.I.

The Acadian Museum of Prince Edward Island is open year round. Visiting hours are Monday to Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In July and August, the Acadian Museum is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information: (902) 432-2880. The Acadian Museum of P.E.I. is located in Miscouche, on Route 2, 10 km west of the city of Summerside.

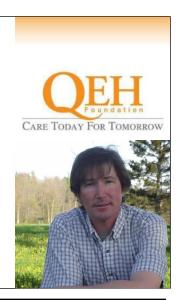


Treble with Girls Winter Fundraising Concert Series Dec 4 – May 7

Sundays, 2pm Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall, Stratford

Dec. 4 – Queens County Fiddlers Jan. 15 – Eddy Quinn Jan. 29 – Chaisson Trio Feb. 12 – Dennis King, storyteller Feb. 26 – Lester MacPherson

Adults \$10, 12 & under \$5, Preschoolers Free 50/50 Draw & homemade lunch at intermission





Frank Lechowick

Morell Fiddlers by Frank Lechowick

The Morell Fiddlers had a pleasant and rather easygoing fall season, with returns to our favourite venues – Riverview Manor in Montague and Atlantic Baptist Home in

Charlottetown. In these mixed shows of an hour or so we feel free to carry on, sharing our variety of talents in song and tune with people who enjoy them as much as we do. Later on, at the Seniors Active Living Centre in Charlottetown, our sets seemed to come off very well, thus proving the old saying that practice makes better, if not perfect. And we remember now how much the visitors who joined us over the summer and fall added to our music and our fun — Lorraine Lynch, Gavin McKenna, Vince Koughan and others who stopped in or helped out in a pinch.

In December, we will usher in the winter season of hibernation with a gala Christmas party, to be held in St. Peter's Bay at the Circle Club.

As the year closes, we look ahead to our

developmental challenges. Some folks wonder how our group, a body without a head, can survive. Well, it's still a mystery even to us. All I can say is, here's what we're like—a gaggle of very individual characters, musical personalities with a great range of interests and talents, a Noah's ark without a Noah; where everybody wants a say but nobody wants to boss. Tussles and turmoil, as Jean Vanier reminds us, are signs of learning and life, and it is our differences that make us fully human.

Finally, a word of care Patsy Bulger has been with about the changes we're all going through — in ears and eyes, joints and muscles, speed and endurance — all these, too, signs of life.



The Old Triangle Charlottetown 89 University Ave. Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4L1 (902) 892-5200 charlottetown@oldtriangle.com www.oldtrianglecharlottetown.com Food for the Body, Drink for the Spirit and Music for the Soul

Cathy Campbell

Prince County Fiddlers by Cathy Campbell

Our regular Monday night practices started back in September; however, we haven't really had much practice! We have been busy playing for local seniors' residences, including Chez Nous, Clinton View Lodge and Parkhill Place in Summerside. We have

an invitation to play at a seniors' residence in Tyne Valley as well as Community Connections Inc. We look forward to performing at these two locations in the near future.

We like to change up our performance program once in a while to mix the tunes up a bit. Our most recent program allows for inclusion so all our group members are given an opportunity to perform a solo by playing a tune, piece on the piano or vocal selection.

The Prince County Fiddlers have been around for almost 40 years and although we struggle to find new members, we continue to make our presence in the community as strong as we can.

One of our Lifetime members, Patsy Bulger, has

been with the group since 1978. Patsy grew up in East Bideford where music was a strong presence in home. Her father played the fiddle. Many of her siblings played the guitar and sang. Patsy's first instrument was the guitar and she remembers when she showed interest in the fiddle, her father wouldn't let



Patsy Bulger has been with the Prince County Fiddlers since 1978

her touch it. It appears her father valued that fiddle and couldn't bare the thought of it getting damaged. Patsy starting playing the fiddle at the age of 18 when she was able to get her own. Patsy recalls hearing that the Prince County Fiddlers were searching for new members and she joined up immediately. Patsy enjoys playing with a group, but within the last few years has graced us with solos while playing a delightful tune called Iona House. She admits that "St. Anne's Reel" is still one of her favourite tunes. Through my years of playing with Patsy, I would describe her as a gentle fiddler who may not play loud, but certainly knows our tunes well. She has a unique style that's sweet to the ear and she truly is a role model for others. Just look at that smile!!



Amy Swenson

Southern Kings Fiddlers by Amy Swenson

The Southern Kings Fiddlers have been practicing as usual every other Monday evening at the Rural Development Centre in

Montague at Brooke and Main.

We had a fun evening at the Sturgeon Ceilidh on November 6. The ceilidh was a benefit to help raise money for much needed upgrades to the sound system at the hall. December 3rd we will play some Christmas tunes and others at the Murray Harbour Christmas Craft Show, which is part of the Christmas in the Villages promotion. Our last practice for the year will be December 5th, but we will restart in January. Please call me at 902-962

Carrie Docherty, Madison Howe, Amy Swenson and Nicholas Matheson all performed at the Murray Harbour Children's Ceilidh November 18. Amy adds that all three of these kids are becoming very good performers!

-2273 if you want to know when we will meet.

Murray Harbour Community Centre hosted a Children's Ceilidh Nov. 18th which was much enjoyed. Several very talented young people performed at the old upright piano (now restored to its snug location on an inside wall) and sang some lovely songs. Young fiddlers Carrie Docherty and Nicholas Matheson who sometimes play with the Southern Kings Fiddlers gave much appreciated lively performances, as did Madison Howe in her debut performance of three fine fiddle duets. I played along with Nicholas Mathe-

Complete Cleaning Services

Office * Construction * Windows
* Commercial * Floor Care * Carpets

Building Solid Relationships on Quality Service
Island Owned and Operated
- Bonded and Insured Free Estimates

Local: (902)569-1822

www.unitedjanitorial.com
Toll Free: 1-866-486-4526 email:admin@unitedjanitorial.com

son in a performance of his original slow air duet "Memories of Winters Past", which is a lovely piece. Nicholas is currently studying classical style but he is also composing another fiddle tune, and the first half of it sounds promising.

I have been helping music teacher Wendy Evers with her efforts to start a first ever violin

class Mondays after school at Belfast Consolidated. A dozen enthusiastic kids from Grades 3 to 9 are now learning some Christmas tunes. The Southern Kings Fiddlers are donating rosins for the program, as there is not enough money in the school budget for violin repair, strings and rosin.

We are also planning a concert in Eastern PEI to celebrate National Fiddling Day on the third Saturday in May. Two local fiddle groups will perform, along with a number of young people plus a couple

of seasoned older fiddlers. It should be a really fun afternoon and we will donate the proceeds to Ken Perlman's effort to digitize a valuable collection of fiddle tapes and include them in the Bowing Down Home website. Hopefully other fiddle groups on the Island will also get on the bandwagon and think of a way to raise some money for this important contribution to the historical archive of Island fiddling.

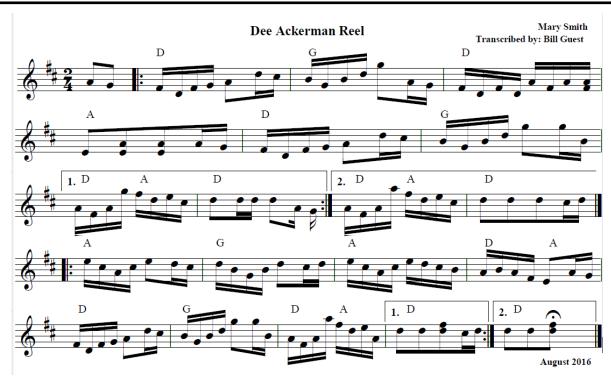
Have a great Christmas and a musical 2017!!

Reasonable Bow Rehairing & Violin Repairs

Bridges, sound posts & pegs adjusted or replaced, Gluing problems fixed

Private Fiddle Lessons for all ages Amy Swenson, MA

Member, Strathgartney Orchestra Southern Kings Fiddlers 902-962-2273 gagliano31@hotmail.com



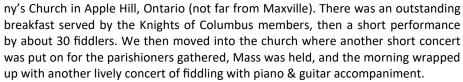
I wrote this tune for a nice lady, Dee Ackerman from Hudson, New Hampshire. She was a tourist who had visited PEI for a number of years each summer up until she came down with cancer. She was very down when I spoke to her on the phone, so I told her I was going to compose a tune just for her. She was so excited when I told her I would call and play the tune for her as soon as I finished it. I also told her I would call it "Dee Ackerman's Reel". A couple of years earlier, her sister had passed away and Dee sent me her sister's Hopf fiddle. Sad to say, the day the tune was completed I was actually going to the phone to call her when it rang, Dee had passed away. So she never did get to hear the tune; however, I think of her each time I play it.

Mary Smith

A Fiddle Mass

Submission by Reg MacIntyre, member of The Glengarry Fiddlers, a fiddle orchestra formed in early 2015 by members of the Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame.

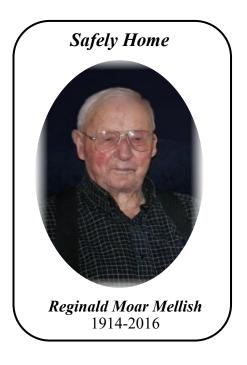
Our group received an invitation last October (2015) to attend a "Fiddle Mass" at St. Antho-



The organizers hold this event annually, which attracts parishioners and neighbours throughout the area. The Knights prepare a great feed, and together with the outstanding music, the surrounding community are encouraged to come together in fellowship and friendship.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the event, met a lot of fine people, and wondered why such an event wouldn't work in many churches and denominations. I thought it worthwhile passing on this note in the hope it will prompt others to try something similar.





Cheverie's Reverie



This tune was composed in memory of Gerard (Gerry) Cheverie, Lifetime member of the PEI Fiddlers Society and former editor of The Island Fiddler who passed way in 2015. Calvin Vollrath is an internationally renowned fiddler, teacher, judge, and composer from St. Paul, Alberta. He has composed over 475 fiddle tunes and his extensive collection can be viewed at www.calvinvollrath.com.



Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Greetings & Bonjour Everyone! How quickly 2016 has passed! Here it is almost Christmas once again, and people in the Evangeline area are busily preparing for the holiday season - baking, putting up Christmas decorations,

and especially practicing Christmas music for church celebrations. Music is part of life in this region all year - with house parties galore, but the Christmas season is a very special time among Acadian people.

Sincere congratulations to Georges Arsenault, popular writer, storyteller, and researcher of Acadian history on Prince Edward Island on recently being inducted into the Order of Canada. Georges is involved in many summer programs put on at the Acadian Museum in Miscouche, many of which involve music from the Evangeline area.

La Belle-Alliance in Summerside launched the fourth Pumpkin Festival from October 22nd to the 30th. Numerous events occurred both at La Belle-Alliance and at the Acadian Museum in Miscouche during this period. An Acadian Kitchen Party was the start of this fall festival. Some of the musicians included Louise Arsenault, Hélène Arsenault and many others.

Many members of the Friday Night Jammers spent more than a week this fall attending the Celtic Colors Celebrations in Cape Breton and performing with fiddlers and accompanists from Cape Breton and other areas.

A Variety Show featuring Peter and Albert Arsenault, Gary Gallant, an adult choir, Jeannette MacLellan, and Karine Gallant with her invited guests, plus a number of step dancers, was held at the Mont Carmel Parish Hall on Sunday evening, November 6th. This show was put on to help the Notre-Damedu-Mont-Carmel Church renovation project.

The group Amand and Friends, which includes John Eudes Gallant, Fred Arsenault, Amand Arsenault, his son Norman, Edward P. Arsenault, Elaine Arsenault, and Dorothy Farish performed at the Andrews Lodge and Parkhill Place in Summerside. Many members of the group also perform at the Chez Nous in Wellington.

Musical events being planned from now until after Christmas in the Evangeline area are too numerous to list. Check with your friends, Community Happenings, and Facebook to find out what is going on, and where. There will be a Christmas concert at the Mont Carmel Parish Hall on December 11th, beginning at 7 p.m.

Have a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017!



BOWS . CASES . PICKUPS

STRINGS • PARTS
VIOLIN MAKING
TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Atlantic Violin Supplies
520 Front Mountain Road, Moncton, NB E1G 3H4
(506) 858–9886 sales@atlanticviolinsupplies.com
http://atlanticviolinsupplies.com



Eastern Kings Fiddlers by Anne M. McPhee

Summer didn't really end in Eastern Kings for quite a while. As long as the good weather lasted so did the music. Souris Live continued to present weekly shows until early October, including the wrap up of

another successful Sunday Night Hoedown weekly Concert series on Sept 4th, hosted all summer by Peggy Clinton, Johnny Ross and fiddler Keelin Wedge, with special weekly guests including three shows that welcomed her dad Alphie Perry along with Victor Doucette, his wife on bass and Stephen Perry on fiddle, always a sell out. On September 25th, The Avonlea Showband delighted the audience with humorous Island stories and songs from Mike Pendergast, great fiddling, guitar playing and singing by Leon Gallant, bass and guitar accompaniment by Remi Arsenault and drumming and spooning by Brendan Peters. Put them all together and we had a lot of laughs and good old fashioned entertainment. On Oct 1st, Patrick Ledwell and Mark Haines put on a lively, interesting and fun show pointing out some of the quirkier elements of daily Island life over the past year, keeping their show current and upbeat so you can go year after year and see lots of new items and song.

The Souris Regional School grade 11 and 12 students are busy holding fundraisers for their 2017 trip to commemorate the centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge - the First World War battle that paved the way to an Allied victory, and solidified Canada as an independent nation. One fundraiser was organized by Kitchen Group member Sammy Arseneau and classmate Allyson MacCormack and a fiddling fun night was held at the Centre Stage on Nov 6th, opening with Darren Chaisson, his dad Kevin, and Louise MacKinnon on guitar and vocals. Sheila MacKenzie played some great tunes and Kenny Chaisson played some great old tunes. And before the break, Sammy handed in her MC hat and picked up the fiddle for some great tunes. After the break, Peggy Clinton took the stage for some lively singing and was joined by 12-year-old Jenny Chaisson (a young cousin of JJ's from his fathers side of the family) who accepted a last minute request to sing and delighted the audience with her pitch perfect voice and beautiful songs. There were a number of door prizes donated by local businesses and a 50/50 draw. It was a great way to



Mabel's Mobile Canteens

Scallops -- Fish -- Clams Hamburgers -- Chickenburgers Hotdogs -- Fries

Mabel Gallant "You name it, I'll cook it" P.O. Box 243, Charlottetown 902-368-1515 spend a cold damp November evening with members of our community.

A large surprise 70th birthday party was held for Kenny Chaisson in the Ceilidh barn at the Rollo Bay fiddle field on the Labour Day weekend. Being the weekend of the annual family reunion, it was assumed it would be no problem to get Kenny there as he has never missed the event. But wouldn't you know it, without him having a clue of what was afoot, he decided to spend the evening at home for a change. A plan was quickly devised to tell him the hot water heater was not working and before you knew it, he was walking in the door and all the little children swarmed to wish him a happy surprise birthday. It was a very joyous sight to see and of course with the music of Shelley Campbell and Allan Dewar from Cape Breton, it wasn't long before he was on the floor for a set. He then accepted an invitation to play some tunes but remarked if he had known we were having a party for him, he would have brought his own fiddle to play!

Thanks to the hard work of the new non-profit group Big Field Traditions and the success of the 2016 Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. Eastern Kings is keeping the tradition of fiddling alive

Members of the PEI Fiddlers Society gathered for the Annual General Meeting at the Pourhouse on October 27.



In photo from L to R: Patrick McKenna, Anne McPhee, Lorraine McMillan, Tammy MacEachern, Anne Campbell, Jennifer Garrity, Marsha McCormick, Paul Cheverie, and Amy Swenson.

including offering fiddling lessons to people in the community which are now well underway with a good crowd of beginners and improvers learning to read the notes under the instruction of Kathryn Dau-Schmidt. The Kitchen Group has a bigger group than we've ever seen. Welcoming as many as 20 members some nights, some who play by ear and others who play by note, including a new piano player. Darren Chaisson is doing a great job of gathering tunes and leading us all with help from dad Kevin and uncle Kenny. Several new sets are now in the works and we are all enjoying the tunes and the camaraderie. While we no longer play in a kitchen, the atmosphere remains very warm and welcoming and anyone is welcome to join us to play or just to listen. Both groups now practice at the Souris Regional School on Longworth Ave in Souris. It's a lovely big venue with lots of room and plenty of parking.

And in the blink of an eye, Christmas is approaching. Fundraisers are in the works for the Lions Club Christmas food box campaign to ensure anyone who needs some help can have a good Christmas. My health continues to improve little by little now so it's nice once again to be able to submit a report even while typing with only one hand. Doctors still warn

me about being careful not to take on too much so I am very grateful to Ward MacDonald and Paul Cheverie for keeping The Island Fiddler newsletter alive. They certainly know now how much work is involved in producing a publication like this, but it is work well worth striving for, connecting Island fiddlers from one end of the Island to the other. I continue to struggle with weakness and pain in my left hand and arm so for the first time, I have started taking actual fiddle lessons with Mark Haines to learn more about using proper technique to stay in tune and it is a big help as well as lots of fun. Mark is a marvelous teacher and tailors his lessons to each player. He invited me to play in a concert last spring and he modified a part for me that involved playing all open strings!! It sounded great and it was fun. I continue to play with the Kitchen Group as best I can and if I play off key, no one complains.

On behalf of the Kitchen Group, I would like to wish everyone a great Christmas season filled with music, family, friends and all the good things the season brings. And all the best in 2017.





DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTETOWN

Shop outside the box.

Open Mon-Wed 9:00 am - 5:30 pm Thurs & Fri 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Sat 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Over 90 shops and services Information line: 902-894-9505 More online at confedcourtmall.com



Carolyn Drake

Queens County Fiddlers by Carolyn Drake

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the Queens County Fiddlers!

It seems the more things change

the more they stay the same as the group has returned to its old stomping grounds at Queen Charlotte Intermediate School for our Wednesday night practices. Those who like to listen are still

invited to join us there – just come in off the main entrance facing North River Road and take a right. Practice time is 7:30 p.m.

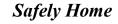
After a busy summer season that saw many of our players scattered far and wide, we are now back together – complete with our music director, Aaron Crane, and making plans for the next year.

In the immediate future, we are set to play at a number of nursing homes in the Charlottetown area before Christmas. After going to Andrews of Charlottetown on Nov. 16, we will be at the Garden Home on Nov. 30, Corrigan Lodge the afternoon of Dec. 6, the Mount Continuing Care Facility on Dec. 7 and Geneva Villa on Dec. 14. We are also performing on Dec. 4 at our Lady of Assumption Parish in Stratford – special guests of Treble with Girls at their kick-off concert for their annual fundraising series for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Then we'll take an unofficial break for the holiday season, but don't put those fiddles away as

there will likely be plenty of opportunities to play a few tunes for family and friends.

We might also want to put in a little extra practice time as January and February will be big months for the group in preparation for recording a new CD. It has been more than 10 years since Forty Fiddles Flat Out! was recorded, so it's high time we get some new tunes out there for people to enjoy. The recording time is tentatively scheduled for late February with a release date and lots of other details to be announced. Stay tuned!





Clyde Marshall DeMone
on Sunday, December 4, 2016
Longtime member of the
Queens County Fiddlers and Life
Member of the PEI Fiddlers Society



PEI Branch, 161 St. Peters Road Charlottetown, PE C1A 5P7

Val Handrahan Branch Manager PEI Branch Office (902) 566-4212 Cell (902) 394-1247 vhandrahan@controlsequipment.com controlequipment.com



Weekly Events Forecast Winter 2017

For a complete list of 2017 Festivals, Events & Ceilidhs on PEI, visit

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

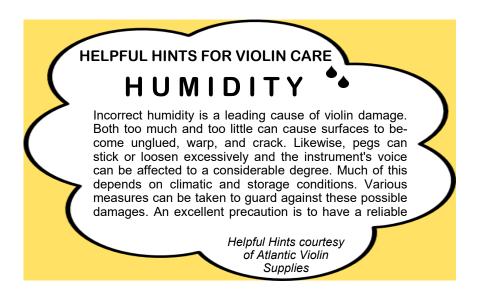
Sundays 2:00-5:00pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 8:00pm	Kitchen Party	St. Margaret's Parish Hall	St. Margaret's	902-687-2546
Sundays 7:30pm	Sunday Night Ceilidhs	Cymbria Lions Centre	South Rustico	902-963-2793
Sundays 7-9 pm	Ceilidh	Hunter River Lions Club	Hunter River	902-964-2417
1 st Sundays 7:00pm	Ceilidh	Olde Dunstaffnage School Centre	Dunstaffnage	902-629-1494
4th Sundays 2:00-4:00pm	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4093
2nd Sundays 7:00-9:00pn	n Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
2 nd Sundays 7:00pm	Ceilidh	Hunter River Lions Club Hall	Hunter River	902-964-2536
3 rd Sundays 1:30pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
3 rd Sundays 7:00pm	Ceilidh	Kelly's Cross Church Hall	Kelly's Cross	902-658-2290
1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00pr	n Ceilidh/Kitchen Party	Bingo Country, Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
2nd & 4th Mondays 7:30p		Winsloe United Church	Winsloe	902-368-1233
Tuesdays 8:00pm	Georgetown Ceilidh	Kings Playhouse	Georgetown	902-652-2053
3rd Tuesdays 7:00pm	Lions Club Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-393-2264
Wednesdays 6:30-9pm	Old Time Music Jam	Murphy Community Centre	Charlottetown	902-569-2471
Wednesdays 8:00pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm	Schooner Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh at the Irish Hall	Irish Cultural Centre	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Fridays 7:30-11pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St. Peter's Bay	902-739-3334
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh	Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-838-4399
Fridays 8:00-11:00pm	Workshop & Jam	Boys & Girls Club	Wellington	902-436-5532
2 nd Fridays 7:30pm	Kitchen Country Ceilidh	Wheatley River Community Hall	Wheatley River	902-964-2586
Saturdays 3:00-6:00pm	Kitchen Party	Summerside Legion	Summerside	902-436-2091
Saturdays 8:00pm	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 Acadian	Abram-Village	902-854-3300

Upcoming Special Events Winter 2017

Jan 13-14 7:00pm	Richard Wood & Gordon Belsher – The Old Triangle — <u>www.oldtrianglecharlottetown.com</u> – 902-892-5200
Jan 15-May 7 Alt Sundays	Treble with Girls Winter Fundraising Concert Series Our Lady of Assumption Parish Hall, Stratford , 2 pm
Jan 20 6:30 pm	Highland Pub Night (Courtney Hogan, College Students & Instructors) – College of Piping - 902-436-5377
Jan 21 7:30 pm	Ceilidh for Glenaladale – Tracadie Cross Community Centre – 676-2123
Jan 21 6:30 pm	Robbie Burns Fundraising Gala – The College of Piping – 902-436-5377
Feb 4 8:00 pm	The Shack Wacky Review (Patrick Ledwell & Mark Haines) – The PEI Brewing Company - 902-629-2739

Grammar is a device used to accentuate the delivery of language on a page. **Bowing** is much the same for fiddling.





A & D Backhoeing

Owner Allan MacDonald 902-393-5727

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







Bernadette's Flowers

Where Every Day is Special
Arrangements for all occasions
Great Friendly Service
We Deliver Island Wide

902-566-4000

www.peiflorist.com



Fiddle Practices Open to the Public

Eastern Kings Fiddlers

Souris 902-687-1521 October to May Mondays 7:00pm Souris Regional School

Prince County Fiddlers

Summerside, 902-436-0380 Mondays 7:30pm Community Connections

Southern Kings Fiddlers

Montague 902-962-2273 Alt. Mondays 7:00pm Active Communities

Queens County Fiddlers

Charlottetown 902-940-5949 Wednesdays 7:30pm Queen Charlotte School

Morell Fiddlers

Morell 902-961-2962 Thursdays 7:30pm Morell Pharmacy

Acadian Fiddlers

Wellington 902-436-5532 Fridays 8:00pm Boys and Girls Club

What are my benefits of membership?

For \$20 per year, you will receive hard copies of The Island Fiddler by mail. Your contribution will also support the activities of the Society including The Island Fiddler, our website and the promotion of fiddle music across P.E.I.

PEI FIDDLERS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM			
Name		1-year Membership \$20	
Address		Donation \$	
City		Payable to: PEI Fiddlers Society	
Province/State		Mail to:	PEI Fiddlers Society
Postal/Zip Code		-	101 Kent Street, P.O. Box 3311
E-mail Address		-	Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5
Quarterly Newsletter:	E-mail	Website	Regular Mail