

The ISLAND FIDDLER

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society

Vol. 15 Issue 4

December 2017



Nathan Condon Benefit Concert

Wendell Cameron
15 October 2017

On October 15th 2017, a benefit concert was held at Trinity United Church in Summerside for the daughters of the late Nathan Condon. A packed house of over 500 people came to support the family and have a great evening of entertainment. The concert was hosted by Georgia Dawn Moose and included entertainers Catherine MacLellan, Eddy Quinn, Michael Pendergast, Cynthia MacLeod, Blue Streak, Not All There Band, Blu Gillis, Dave Wigmore, Harold and Marnie Noye, Rachel Campbell with Catherine and Jim Dickson, Pete Blanding and the Long River Players, step dancing by Marlys and Alexis MacLaren and Samantha MacKay. Steve Mollins and Steve Gaudet did a great job on sound and video to add to the evening. All



Chris Gauthier

Catherine MacLellan

moneys raised from the benefit have been put into a trust fund for Nathan's daughters. Each entertainer shared a touching description of a special moment or memory they had shared with Nathan. Throughout the evening, an original oil painting of Nathan, titled "Margaret's Waltz" by Bernadette

Kernaghan, was placed on the stage, slightly in the background where Nathan would usually stand. The painting was presented to Nathan's parents, Don and Sharon Condon at the end of the evening and the audience showed their appreciation for a wonderful evening of entertainment with a standing ovation.



MacLaren, Alexis, and Marlys, with Jon Matthews



Eddie Quinn



Cynthia MacLeod



Jim and Catherine Dickson with Rachel Campbell



Wendell Cameron, with Don and Sharon Condon



Michael Pendergast

The Island Fiddler

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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	314-7950
	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
Mariys Hamilton-MacLaren	902-887-3385 or 902-439-0278
Pierrette Arseneault	902-854-2091
Samantha MacKinnon	902-218-7027
Shirley Burke	902-368-2416
Susan and Libbe Hubley	902-836-3887
Tracy Arseneault	902-854-3237

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

Fiddling Related Websites

Anastasia DesRoches	www.anastasiadesroches.com
Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree	www.atlanticfiddlersjamboree.com
Autumn Swing Festival	www.AutumnSwing.ca
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.cbiddle.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
P.E.I. Fiddlers Society	www.peifiddlers.com
Richard Wood	www.rwood.ca
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca

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MURRAY HARBOUR TRAIN

MAURICE O'SHEA PEI

transcribed by A. Swenson 2011

Prince County Fiddlers



Cathy Campbell

This quarter has been steady with performances at local seniors residences. An

important highlight for our group was performing at Parkhill Place in celebration of Leith Thomson's 91st birthday. Leith has been a

long time member of the Prince County Fiddlers. His dedication and commitment to our group is greatly appreciated. We held our last practice of the year on December 11th and despite the wintry weather, we still had a great practice with several members in attendance, including Leith with a big smile. MacKenzie Wright also joined us and graced us with one of her favorites, Tennessee Waltz. We will resume practicing in the New Year. I must admit though, the most energetic crowd we play

for each year is the audience from Community Connections Inc. We usually add a few Christmas tunes to our program to lift the Christmas spirit! Jingle Bells seems to always be a huge hit! It truly is a blessing to share our gift of music with others as we will continue to do in the New Year.





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Acadian News



*Dorothy
Griffin-Farish*

Greetings
and Bonjour,
Everyone!

The Evangeline Region was pulsating with music all during the year, is especially busy during the Christmas season with beautiful carolling from the Mont Carmel Choir and other musical entertainment suitable for the season, along with all sorts of holiday fare truly fit for kings.

The Friday Night Jams are once again on a regular basis after many of the jammers attended the Celtic Colors festivities in Cape Breton in October. Some new young players are starting to join the group and are encouraged to continue.

On November 3rd the Pumpkin Festival presented a concert at Ecole-sur-Mer, St. Eleanors, with fiddlers Louise Arsenault, Anastasia DesRoches, and Louise Vautour, accompanied by Helene Bergeron on piano, Remi Arsenault on bass, and Jonathan

Arsenault on guitar, with dancing by Marie Livingstone and Marcia Arsenault.

On November 19th Marie Livingstone and her step dance students did a flash mob at the Chez-Nous Seniors Home in Wellington to the delight of the residents. The dancers included Angele Arsenault, Marcia Whelan, Hermine Gallant, Norma Dugay, Paula Mills, Alberta Arsenault, Lawrence Arsenault Jr., and Sandy Arsenault. Marie also played fiddle with her brother Edward Arsenault, accompanied by Marguerite Gallant on piano and Normand Gallant on guitar.

Centre Belle-Alliance was the venue on Sunday, November 26th, of a concert Songwriters and Tunewriters Circle presented by Studio Dimanche, featuring a number of performers. Studio Dimanche is an environmentally conscious recording studio located in Miscouche and the brainchild of Brent Chaisson, who is no stranger to the P.E.I. music scene. Some of the performers included renowned multi-instrumentalist Keelin Wedge, the group DOC, consisting of Anastasia

DesRoches, Mylene Oulette and Brent Chaisson; singer-songwriter Danny Drouin; award-winning roots rocker Rick Sparkes, and special guests from Cape Breton, Dara Smith-MacDonald and Adam Young, offering up their brand of Celtic flair.

Amand Arsenault, Norman Arsenault, John Eudes Gallant, Edward Arsenault, Albert Arsenault, and Dorothy Farish continue from time to time perform at Andrews Lodge on Pope Road, and at the Parkhill residences in Summerside, to the delight of the residents.

The Village Musical Acadien, Abram-Village was a buzz of activity during December with Le Mariage d'Elizabeth Dinner Theatre, a Christmas Kitchen Party, and a Christmas Memories Concert featuring the Jos. Narcisse family accompanied by a house band composed of local artists Louise Arsenault, Jonathan Arsenault, Helene Bergeron and Shane Arsenault. The Village Musical Acadien hosted a New Years Eve Party on December 31st featuring a dance to the music of Misty Water.

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Queens County Fiddlers



Carolyn Drake

With another winter knocking on the door, it's easy to find a reason to stay inside and play your favourite tunes. Better yet, share some music over the Christmas and New Year season. Whether it's tunes or Christmas carols, gather friends and family together and have some fun. The Queens County Fiddlers are looking forward to the winter to keep up with the new tunes and sets that have been coming our way since returning to regular weekly practices in September and welcoming our music director Aaron Crane back to practice once "Anne and Gilbert" ended in October.

We had a chance to play some new tunes and our old favourites – along with a few Christmas carols – at Geneva

Villa in Charlottetown the middle of December. We also presented the residents with a copy of our new CD, "Ages", which we hope they will enjoy playing. By the way, anyone who is looking for a birthday or Christmas present for traditional fiddling fans should pick up a copy of "Ages". It's available downtown at Back Alley Music or check out the Queens County Fiddlers Facebook page.

Speaking of CDs, big congratulations go out to Cailyn MacAulay on the launch of her first CD, "Fortune Favours the Bow", in November. It was a great launch concert with terrific tunes, plenty of dancing and

some special guests, including some of the QCF members, who were pleased to be asked up on stage to perform a set with Cailyn.

Our annual memberships were paid in October and November. If anyone still has outstanding dues, talk to Marsha. We have a few new members this year, which is great, and lots of familiar faces.

Although we always lose a few snowbirds who head south for the winter, they'll be taking their fiddles with them and finding a bit of time to practice. For the rest of us, we're all looking forward to a winter of learning

new tunes and welcoming people to drop in to our practice sessions on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., at Andrews of Stratford in Stratford. We're always happy to see Andrews' residents there, too, since it's much more fun to play for an audience.

We generally take a bit of a break over the Christmas season, but other than that (and the odd stormy Wednesday), we'll be easy to find.



Cheryl Edmonds, Fr. Charlie Cheverie, Nathalie Arsenault



Queens County Fiddlers

Eastern Kings Fiddlers



Anne M. McPhee

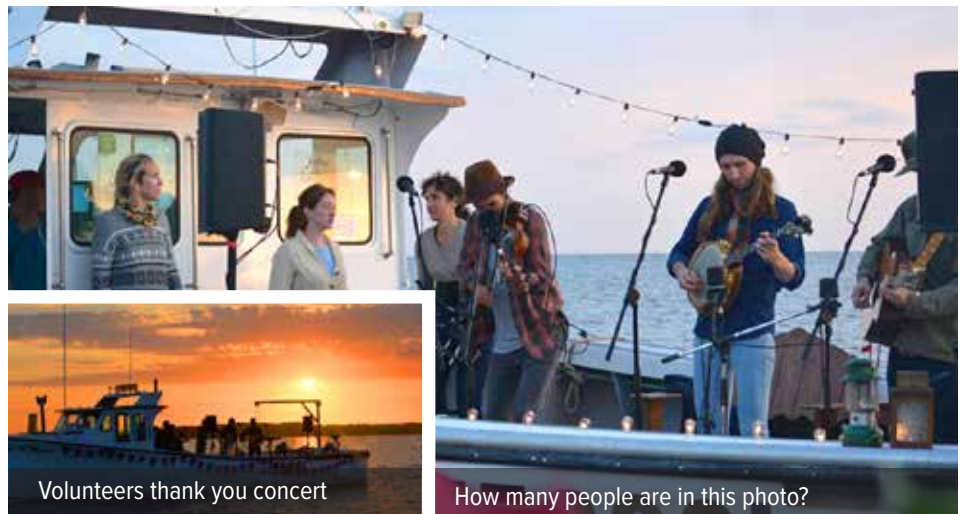
The Acadian Fest d'Est August 14 – 15 in Souris, welcomed home Paula Chaisson-Goulet from

Montreal to play fiddle accompanied by Louise MacKinnon. The sisters are daughters of Judy and the late Lemmie Chaisson, and it's evident that the apples did not fall far from the tree. There was much dancing and singing and Acadian food all enjoyed by a group of people of all ages.

On Aug 26th, Mark Haines welcomed his musical partner from Ontario, Tom Leighton and what a performance this duo delivered. With Mark on guitar, piano and lead vocals and Tom on accordion, bodhran, keyboard and harmony, the music had the sold-out audience enthralled.

The Eastern Kings Exhibition once again hosted the Rising Stars competition on Sept 9 – 10 and the youth in the area did not disappoint. In the not-too-distant future, listen for names like Jenny Chaisson, Kamden Jenkins, Callie Chaisson, Jenna Croucher and kitchen group youth members Zoe and Holly O'Regan. These young people are already making their mark at various concerts and benefits in the region.

As a massive thank you to the volunteers of the 41st Annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, Big Field Traditions board members along



Volunteers thank you concert

How many people are in this photo?

with The East Pointers organized a concert on the water out of the Souris Harbour called "Out in a Boat" on Sept 12th. The East Pointers were on a lighted and decorated fishing boat skippered by JJ Chaisson. There was a film crew taping the performance for the future CD release and a drone circulating above recording the whole scene. Rollo Bay volunteers and friends filled two other fishing boats and there was an epic dance party. It was the most memorable volunteer appreciation event I have ever been to, and I have hosted and attended quite a few such events.

Once the boats docked everyone was invited to a bonfire at Sheep Pond Beach. The sparks were flying from the huge fire going and the East Pointers joined us soon after for some wonderful tunes and songs from the new CD, What We Leave Behind. Thank you to The East Pointers and Big Field Traditions for such a lovely evening. They are hoping, if their schedules allow it, to make it an annual event, so get your names in to

volunteer in 2018! Volunteering with this crew is great fun and well worth the effort. And, in my experience, there can never be too many volunteers for an event like the fiddle festival, and the perks are amazing.

On Sept 30, Souris Live once again welcomed Mark Haines and Patrick Ledwell to perform their 5th Annual Island Fall Review. A comical look at Island Life, there was also plenty of music in the show including a beautiful tribute to the Islands share of soldiers who fell at Vimy Ridge and other sites during WWI and II.

The Tip to Tip Hoedown was a tremendous success in communities across the Island and even in Truro, NS. Souris Live was delighted to host the Finale on Oct. 14 after the crew had perfected the show over the summer. It was the best Hoedown ever. Members of the sold-out crowd were literally on the edge of their seats waiting to see what antics they would be up to



Youth in the wings to play at Rising Stars competition at EK EX



Kenny Chaisson and Darla MacPhee



Mark Haines and Patrick Ledwell



Hoedown Crew - Stephen Perry, Alphonse Perry, Peggy Clinton, Johnny Ross, Cathy and Victor Doucette



Paula & Louise at Acadian Fest d'Est



Eastern Kings Ukulites ukulele

next. They did not disappoint. On Oct 22, a fundraising concert was held at St. Mary's Hall to support Lennon House, a new recovery house in South Rustico, to help those recovering from addictions and mental health issues. And local musicians came out to support this worthy cause and a huge crowd attended. Similar events have been held in a number of communities across the Island and our musicians do not disappoint, all willingly giving of their time and talents to support our fellow Islanders

in their time of need. If you take a drive down Main Street in Souris be sure to take notice of the new Legion that celebrated its grand opening on Nov 5 with all the dignitaries present including our new Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Antoinette Perry. After years of planning, proposal writing and fundraising, there is a brand new fully accessible Legion Home in Souris at the same location as the old one. And as we found out, it is also a

great new venue for local events. On Nov 26, Don't Ye Know Theatre hosted an old fashioned Christmas Concert at the new Souris Legion Home with a wide variety of local talent of all ages performing some old classic Christmas music as well as some new performances and performers. The venue was lovely, every seat was filled and the performances were all delightful.

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Southern Kings Fiddlers



Anne Swenson

We have had a busy fall season. Some of us have played at the Murray Harbour Celidhs, which

end Dec. 8th with a Christmas Ceilidh at the Community Centre. Several of us attended the Sturgeon Ceilidh party for performers on November 2nd and joined fiddlers Allan MacDonald and Vince Savoie on stage to play some lively tunes. The Christmas Market at Murray Harbour was a busy scene December 2nd, and the Fiddlers enjoyed playing there again this year. We were joined by newly minted fiddler Alex Jackson, who played on Compass Nov 30 to help advertise the Christmas in the Villages event. His brother Darren is learning bodhran and is also keeping his 1/4 sized fiddle warm. Rumor has it that their father Leonard has also been struck with the fiddle bug, so we may see them all on stage together someday. This fall five different families who are learning to play the violin together have been coming to me for lessons; this includes a total of 11 kids and 5 parents. It is great fun, and bodes well for the future of fiddling on the island!

With the help of teacher Taylor Johnson, several students at Belfast

Consolidated have formed a band which includes fiddlers Alex Jackson, Macy Hancock and Carrie Docherty. They played at the Belfast Christmas Concert Dec. 13th featuring their lively version of

Christmas in Killarney! Macy is now proudly playing her late grandfather Howard Hancock's old fiddle, and Carrie is delighted with her older German violin, one of 34 that came to me through a shop which closed recently in Boston. Wendell Simpson of Atlantic Violins in Moncton obtained them and had the bright idea that I could fix them up and get them out to Island players. Thank you Wendell!

On October 20, I played with some members of the Strathgartney Orchestra at the investiture of our new Lt. Governor, Her Honour Antoinette Perry in Tignish. Antoinette is a musician and great supporter of PEI music which is sure to be reflected in her tenure. Following the ceremony, Leo Marchildon gave an organ concert at St. Simon and St. Jude Church on its newly restored tracker action organ built in 1882 by Louis Mitchell of Montreal. I had heard about this organ in BC when I was playing with Ed Bernard, a guitar player who grew up in Tignish,



Some of the Southern Kings Fiddlers played at the Murray Harbour Community Centre Christmas Market December 2nd. Photo from left to right: Wayne Maclean, Bernard Farrell, Alex Jackson, Darren Jackson, Paul Demeulenare, Florrie Whiteway, Leslie Stewart, Lorna Sutherland, and Amy Swenson.

and I was delighted to finally hear this amazing instrument in such a beautiful setting.

The Southern Kings Fiddlers are taking a winter break from January through March of 2018. Fortunately there is an local opportunity to play and jam at the Murray Harbour Community School which starts Monday, Jan 8th at 7pm with Fiddle Class, which is led by Charlie MacNeil, and with the Hootenanny Jam session Wednesday evenings at 7pm starting Jan 10th. During our break, I am going to be adding tunes in our Southern Kings repertoire to the PEI Fiddlers website which are NOT in the vast Queens County tune collection. I hope this will encourage the other branches of our island fiddlers to to the same so that the website will reflect all the regions of the island and allow us to more easily share our favorite tunes.

Wishing you all a winter filled with happy music.

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Fiddle Doo at The Murray Christian Centre



Fiddle Doo Gathers a Crowd



Ivan Hicks, Jim MacDougall, and Mary Smith

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon in Kensington PEI, weather wise, and as well, an afternoon of fantastic music. The island turnout was small, maybe because the date had to be moved to Sunday instead of the usual Saturday. However, for those who attended the Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck they were treated to some of the best entertainers in the country.

A large number of fiddlers, & other entertainers, came from many parts of New Brunswick, some from as far away as Bathurst, Saint John area, as well as, Moncton area.

I was very pleased to have the Prince County Fiddlers, and a

fiddler from the Queens County Fiddlers take part in the afternoon.

The afternoon started off with some great fiddling from the Prince County Fiddlers, then a great variety of excellent performers. There were a number of highlights during the course of the afternoon. Ivan & Vivian Hicks and our own Jim MacDougall sure put on a fantastic display of great fiddling. They were fantastic!! Another special highlight of the afternoon was Roger Lanteigne who is one of the best accordion players in all of Canada. He had people listen in amazement as he played the Orange Blossom Special on the accordion. Then Roger and Ivan teamed up to

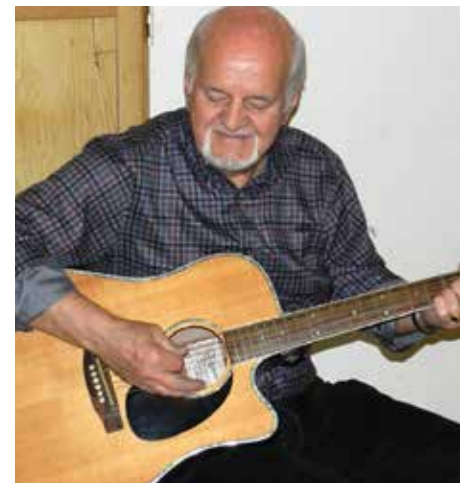
play which included one of Roger's own compositions ATV Ride.

It was nice to have Paul Cheverie a member of the Queens County Fiddlers play with Ivan Hicks and to have Paul play a great fiddle tune composed by his father, Ann & Paul's Waltz.

It was a lovely afternoon of music, fellowship & food. Thank you to all who attended, all the entertainers, and those who brought food.

The next Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck is Saturday at 2 p.m. May 18, 2018

Hope to see you on May 18th in Kensington



SESSION ETIQUETTE

Tips for the enjoyment of all!

Watch whoever started the set for cues. If you can't quite hear them, watch their foot for the timing. Never push the rhythm!

Be aware of how you're interacting with the group. If you're not playing, be respectful of the melody, players, and patrons. Don't talk over the music.



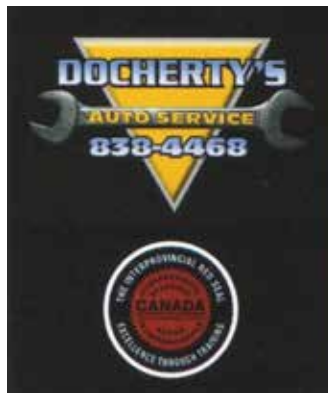
Pay close attention to your volume, don't play louder than everybody else, especially the leader of the set.



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Weekly Events - Winter 2017

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www.tourismpei.com/pei-festivals-and-events,
www.ceilidhs.ca,
www.buzzon.com

Sundays 2:00-5:00pm	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 7:30pm	Sunday Night Ceilidhs	Cymbria Lions Centre	South Rustico	902-963-2793
1st Sundays 7:00pm	Ceilidh	Olde Dunstaffnage School Centre	Dunstaffnage	902-629-1494
4th Sundays 2-4pm incl Oct 29	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4282
4th Sundays 7-9pm	Music in Motion	Jack Blanchard Centre	Charlottetown	902-368-8449
2nd Sundays 7:00-9:00pm	Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
2nd Sundays 7:00pm	Ceilidh	Hunter River Lions Club Hall	Hunter River	902-964-2536
3rd Sundays 1:30pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
3rd Sundays 7:00pm	Ceilidh	Kelly's Cross Church Hall	Kelly's Cross	902-658-2290
1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00pm	Ceilidh/Kitchen Party	Bingo Country, Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
2nd & 4th Mondays 7:30pm	Winsloe Ceilidh	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 pm	Old Time Music Jam	Murphy Community Centre	Charlottetown	902-569-2471
Wednesdays 8:00pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Wednesdays 7:30pm mid Nov	Ceilidh in the City	Jack Blanchard Family Centre	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Thursdays 7:00-10:00pm	Schooner Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Fridays 8:00 pm	Ceilidh at the Irish Hall	Irish Cultural Centre	Charlottetown	902-739-3334
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St. Peter's Bay	902-854-3300
2nd Fridays 9pm-12am	Kitchen Party	Resto-Bar La Trappe	Abram-Village	902-838-4399
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh	Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-436-5532
Fridays 8:00-11:00pm	Workshop & Jam	Boys & Girls Club	Wellington	902-964-2586
2nd Fridays 7:30pm	Kitchen Country Ceilidh	Wheatley River Community Hall	Wheatley River	901-854-3300
Fridays 9-12	Kitchen Party	Centre Expo-Festival	Abram Village	902-436-2091
Saturdays 3:00-6:00pm	Kitchen Party	Summerside Legion	Summerside	902-659-2554
Saturdays 8:00pm	Belfast Ceilidh	Belfast Rec Centre	Belfast	902-838-4399
Saturdays 8-11pm	Pig & Whistles	Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-854-3300
Saturdays 8:30pm	Kitchen Party de Cuisine	Village Musical Acadien	Abram-Village	

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Member, Strathgartney Orchestra

Southern Kings Fiddlers

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Prince County Fiddlers Practice



Cailyn MacAulay CD Launch at Benevolent Irish Society



Olivia Garrity Stepdancing



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Sundays, 2pm @ Assumption Parish Hall
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Music, door prizes, 50/50 draw & homemade lunch!
Adults \$10, students \$5, Preschoolers Free

Nov. 12 - the Chaisson Trio	Nov. 26 - Jon Matthews
Dec. 17 - Courtney Hogan -Chandler	Jan. 14 - Keelin Wedge
Jan. 28 - Storyteller Dennis King	Feb. 11 - Taylor Johnston
Feb. 25 - Peggy Clinton & Johnny Ross	
Mar. 11 - Cian O'Morain & Mary MacGillivray	
Apr. 8 - Finale Kitchen Party!!	

