



# The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 3, Issue 2

June 2005

## Kathryn Dau-Schmidt Celebrates 25 years of Teaching Island Students to Play the Fiddle

by Anne M. McPhee

This year, 2005, marks 25 years since Kathryn Dau-Schmidt first started traveling from Brackley Beach to Rollo Bay Consolidated School every Monday night to teach fiddle lessons to anyone who wants to learn. In a quest to promote traditional Island music, the money gathered from the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival was (and still is) used to provide fiddle lessons for music students in the local area. Kathryn Dau-Schmidt has been teaching these lessons since 1980.

Kathryn was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on an air force base to parents Barbara Bloom of Chicago, Illinois and Glenn Dau-Schmidt of Traer, Iowa. She moved with her mother to Saskatchewan in 1972. After a short stint at the University of Saskatchewan, she traveled east and finally settled in Prince Edward Island in 1978. She said it reminded her of rural Iowa with its network of extended families where everyone is connected to everyone and knows who everyone is.

Kathryn eventually started working for VIA Rail in 1979. She married Chester Stewart in 1983 and joined him on the farm that has been in the Stewart family since 1917, in Brackley Beach, PEI. There she gave birth to four children in six years who are now aged 20, 18, 16 and 14.

Kathryn has played the violin since she was 10 years old, learning the basics in the public school system in Wisconsin. When she arrived in Prince Edward Island she picked it up again and joined the Queens County Fiddlers in 1978. She had to learn some new tricks here though. In classical violin, a person must play with their bowing wrist quite stiff, while the Scottish fiddle is played with a fluid, loose movement in the bowing wrist. The hand that fingers the violin must be held so that an egg can be placed between the palm of the hand and the neck while fiddlers here often rest the body of the fiddle right on their wrists. Kathryn adapted herself to these changes but she drew the line at running the bow up and down between her legs like the occasional fiddler has been known to do!

When Kathryn joined the Queens County Fiddlers, there were a few older members who were able to read music but played mostly by ear. During those early years, music was gradually collected and put into sets to be played at the practices and concerts. Kathryn was, of course, able to read the music but often what was written was not what was played. On top of that, the tunes were

played at a speed that was all new to Kathryn but she gradually became more and more familiar with the tunes.

By 1979, most of the fiddlers were older men and they realized that they needed someone to start teaching the younger people. Kathryn volunteered to teach the reading of music while Sonny Webster (brother of Carl) agreed to teach the music. In 1980 she was approached by Joe Pete Chaisson and asked to come to Rollo Bay to teach the young people how to read the music. Joe Pete considered the ability to read to be a tremendous gift. To be able to pick up a sheet of music and play a tune that you never heard before was something else.

And so began Kathryn's odyssey into teaching Joe Pete's numerous grandchildren the art of reading music. At the time, Peter and Kevin's kids were 5, 6, 7 and 8 years old. She says she remembers JJ Chaisson starting classes at the age of six. His mother Donna said he was chomping at the bit to go to fiddle lessons but she had held him back until he was in Grade One. Kathryn says "he knew how to play more tunes than she did when he started". Most of the Chaisson grandchildren came to the classes already knowing how to play a few tunes so learning how to read the music was not all that high on their list of priorities. Kathryn says "The classes at Rollo Bay have always been a high point in my week. I have learned a lot about the style of the music from the students. They come in with the music bouncing around in their heads and I help them get it out through their fingers."

Kathryn remembers Brent Chaisson coming to the lessons.

He was playing quite a few tunes but as Family Night approached, he told Kathryn that he wanted to play a set he had heard on a new Natalie MacMaster tape. It was a fairly complicated set and Kathryn wasn't sure if he would master it but she agreed to help him and come Family Night, sure enough, Brent was able to play the whole set through. And of course, there was

Margaret (Joe Pete) Chaisson, sitting in the front row on Family Night, beaming and cheering on her numerous grandchildren as they played tune after tune, year after year.

Peter Chaisson, who never did learn to read the music, considers it to be a real disadvantage. His oldest son Stephen picked



Kathryn Dau-Schmidt



Kathryn with the Intermediate Class of 2005



## The Island Fiddler



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### **P.E.I. Fiddlers Society**

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**Established 22 May 1977 - - - Incorporated 31 March 1983**

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at <http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/~paul.cheverie/tif.htm>  
where you can view/print.**

### **Fiddle Practices Open To The Public**

#### **Prince County Fiddlers**

Mondays 7:30 pm 'Community Connections' Summerside 836-3844

#### **Queens County Fiddlers**

Wednesdays 8:15 - 9:15 pm St. Pius X Hall Parkdale 569-4592

#### **Eastern Kings Fiddlers**

Mondays 7:00-8:00 pm Rollo Bay Consolidated School 687-1521

### *Kathryn ... from Page 1*

up a bit of it in the fiddle lessons but only recently applied himself and has learned how to read music really well. Peter says it's an amazing thing to be able to "read the music and play it at the same time, full tilt".


For a number of years Kathryn taught fiddle in Murray Harbour, Vernon River, and then in Rustico but as her family grew she was forced to cut back on the number of hours away from home. Once her children became more independent, Kathryn returned to university in 1992 and graduated from UPEI in 1997 with an honours degree in Biology. She received her Bachelor of Education degree with a secondary in science in 1999. She did some substitute teaching for about five years and spent some summers collecting and studying mosquito larvae as well as inspecting crops for potato wart. In 2004 she went back to UPEI to work on her Masters degree and won a UPEI Graduate scholarship.

This spring Kathryn was awarded the prestigious and lucrative Canada Graduate Scholarship. This will allow her to continue her ground breaking research work in studying the European Corn Borer, a moth that has been traditionally found in corn and has now been found in potato stems. It also means she won't have to fill her parlour with mosquito larvae this summer and she will be able to spend more time with her family.

Through all of this, Kathryn has had to make many sacrifices. With so much of her time taken up in recent years, with parenting and teaching and going to school and working, she has not been able to attend many of the Queens County practices. She remains involved in the Island fiddle culture as much as possible, mainly through her students. She organizes the annual Family Night Concerts in Rollo Bay as well as in Charlottetown. She promotes and encourages her students to attend the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival where they are showcased at the beginning of the Sunday afternoon concert every year.

Kathryn has shown tremendous dedication to her students over the years and has been involved in teaching many of the young fiddlers who now carry on the tradition on Prince Edward Island. Along with the many Chaisson grandchildren which include great fiddlers like Stephen, Melanie, JJ, Timothy, Bradley, Koady Chaisson and Elmer Deagle; graduates of her classes include such names as Richard Wood, Cynthia MacLeod, Maria MacDougall, Sheila MacKenzie and Chad Mooney.

*Kathryn Dau-Schmidt has played a huge part in fulfilling Joe Pete's vision of keeping the music tradition alive and well on Prince Edward Island. We congratulate you and thank you Kathryn for a job well done.*



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**Richard Wood Featured at The Grand Masters**

The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championship has announced the selection *International Touring Sensation* **Richard Wood** as it's special guest artist for the 2005 edition of its National Fiddle Contest. The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship is held in Ottawa and is one of Canada's most prestigious fiddle events. The contestants are hand picked from every province and territory across the country and represent "the best of the best".



**Richard Wood**

From Prince Edward Island, Richard has been wowing audiences for over a decade. He is a staple on the folk festival circuit and has entertained in Canada, The United States and throughout Europe. He has appeared with Shania Twain on The David Letterman Show and Good Morning America. Most recently, Richard completed two successful tours in the U.S. and performances in Denmark and Bosnia. Richard will be performing two shows at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Competition as part of the event. His high impact, energetic style has made an impact on audiences around the world.

(from a Canadian Grand Masters Press Release)

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**Fiddle Summit**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fiddle Summit will take place at the Carrefour Theatre in Charlottetown Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. The event promises to be a thrilling night of the best fiddle music played in the Maritimes, hosted by Cape Breton's J.P. Cormier with Hilda Chiasson-Cormier on piano, and special guest Richard Wood long with other Island fiddlers Roy Johnstone, Ward MacDonald, Nathan Condon and Courtney Hogan.

**Island Fiddlers' Most Recent Recordings**

Artist	Album Title	Contact
Timothy Chaisson	something acoustic	687-3464
Nathan Condon	Playing in The Sand	836-4388
Roy Johnstone	Summertime	675-2541
Kendra MacGillivray	Over The Waves	367-5606
Sheila MacKenzie	Sheila MacKenzie	367-6015
Cynthia MacLeod	Crackerjack	672-2555
Queens County Fiddlers	Forty Fiddles Flat Out!	961-2105
Richard Wood	Infectious	894-3836

**Island Fiddle Related Web Sites**

Timothy Chaisson	<a href="http://www.timothychaisson.com/">http://www.timothychaisson.com/</a>
Nathan Condon	<a href="http://www.nathancondon.com/">http://www.nathancondon.com/</a>
The Fiddle Farm	<a href="http://www.thefiddlefarm.com/">http://www.thefiddlefarm.com/</a>
Roy Johnstone	<a href="http://www.royjohnstone.com/">http://www.royjohnstone.com/</a>
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Cynthia MacLeod	<a href="http://www.cynthiamacleod.com/">http://www.cynthiamacleod.com/</a>
Music on the Wheatley	<a href="http://www.musiconthewheatley.com/">http://www.musiconthewheatley.com/</a>
National Music	<a href="http://www.nationalmusic.ca/">http://www.nationalmusic.ca/</a>
One Stop Fiddle Shop	<a href="http://www.onestopfiddleshop.com/">http://www.onestopfiddleshop.com/</a>
P.E.I. Music Awards	<a href="http://www.peiawards.com/">http://www.peiawards.com/</a>
Queens County Fiddlers	<a href="http://www.queenscountyfiddlers.com/">http://www.queenscountyfiddlers.com/</a>
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	<a href="http://www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca/">http://www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca/</a>
Sobers Music	<a href="http://www.sobersmusic.ca/">http://www.sobersmusic.ca/</a>
Richard Wood	<a href="http://www.peisland.com/richardwood/">http://www.peisland.com/richardwood/</a>

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## Queens County Fiddlers


Carolyn Drake

With the launch of the group's debut CD, *Forty Fiddles Flat Out!*, the Queens County Fiddlers turned their attention through the winter and spring to regular practice and preparation for a wide number of performances. The group continues to practice every Wednesday from about 8:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. The later time period has allowed the start up of a new group, known as the Learners' Circle. This group of fiddlers of all ages meets for about 45 minutes prior to practice and, with the help of some of the more experienced players in the group, has been working on many elements of playing. Ward MacDonald, Roy Johnstone, John Murley and Sheila MacKenzie have taken turns leading the circle and have focused on various types of ornamentation, timing for jigs, reels and waltzes and how to get the most out of practice sessions. The circle has also proven to be a great place to work on upcoming sets that need some polish prior to being performed in front of an audience. Those who are taking advantage of the weekly teaching sessions are thrilled with the results and the chance to improve their playing. Ward MacDonald, who is behind the Learners' Circle, says it will continue at least until the end of June and possibly up to the last Wednesday before the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival.

All the practicing has had group members in good tune for plenty of guest appearances throughout the late winter and into the spring. After holding its annual open house, the group scheduled practice sessions at the Prince Edward Home and Beach Grove Home, which were greatly enjoyed by the residents, staff and family members. The Queens County Fiddlers also opened and closed the televised Easter Seals Telethon on Monday, March 7, and were the special guests at the Orwell Ceilidh on a snowy Sunday evening later that month. More recently, the group was on stage at a special commemorative concert and ceremony held on Mothers' Day, May 8, at the Charlottetown Civic Centre in honour of Canadian veterans and their wartime service. The final event of the spring season will be their own annual spring concert, set for May 28, at the Carrefour Theatre in Charlottetown with special guest Dara Smith from Antigonish, the Prince County Fiddlers and several other solo performers.

Looking ahead, the group has a fairly busy summer of performing with several concerts lined up. On Friday, June 17, they will open the entertainment portion of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life at the Charlottetown Driving Park with a half-hour performance between 6 and 6:30 p.m. Then in July, all roads lead to Rollo Bay for the annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, July 15-17. The Queens County Fiddlers will be in their usual spot in Sunday afternoon's concert, but keep a lookout for solo performances by many group members throughout the weekend. And don't forget the workshop series.

Our final scheduled concert for the summer, as of the end of May, is with the Prince County Fiddlers, at their annual summer concert in August in Kensington. It sounds like plenty of good music over the next few months. And anyone who still hasn't had a chance to take the sound of the Queens County Fiddlers home with them can do so by picking up *Forty*

*Fiddles Flat Out!* this summer. It will be available wherever the group is playing, as well as in a wide variety of stores across P.E.I. Check out [www.queenscountyfiddlers.com](http://www.queenscountyfiddlers.com) for a list of where it will be for sale. 

## FIDDLE CARE

Thought I would write about care for the fiddle over the different seasons.

Winter can be very hard on instruments especially in homes with forced air furnaces as these tend to produce low humidity. A good range is 50 to 60%, more is better. In fact they tend to sound better with more humidity. A friend of mine, from Calgary Alberta each year goes to Japan to play for a few weeks, his comments are "I wish my violin sounded as good in Calgary (humidity can be as low as 2% there) as it does in Japan" (very high like 90% or more).

Better cases have hydrometers and humidifiers however one way to make a humidifier: - Take a bar of soap container (one that is used for traveling) put a piece of foam rubber in it, poke some holes in the top, add a little water and close the top. Put this inside the case.

I don't recommend those "green snake" things, as they lie across the back, in one small spot, they are very wet when first put in, then they dry out, so the poor fiddle is wet one minute and dry the next, not good.

Now pegs... Always remember they work on a tapered friction principal. So if they are slipping, push in as you turn them. If they are hard to turn, pull out (slightly) as you turn them. Of course this applies if they have been fitted correctly.

The only "peg dope" I would recommend is "Hill" but this should only be applied by a professional if you don't want more problems. If the pegs are slipping, don't use chalk or glue. (Don't laugh). The first fiddler I met on the Island told me that each year (whether it needed them or not) he put on a new set of strings on his fiddle, tuned it up, then glued the pegs with a little "crazy glue". He said they slipped on me once when I was playing in a concert; they'll NEVER do that again"! Pegs seem to like to slip when it's dry and stick when it's wet.

Summer; don't leave your fiddle in your car when it's hot. I've had to restore many a fiddle's varnish due to this. Most good varnishes on a fiddle are softer than say the lacquer finish on a guitar, so the finish can be ruined when not looked after. This brings me to another point about the finish. I know that a lot of fiddlers leave the rosin on the top and fingerboard after they play... well I suppose they think that looks great but it doesn't help the varnish nor the sound. Some people ask me what they should clean their fiddle with; just use a piece of paper towel, wipe the rosin off, including the strings, and then toss the paper towel, don't use it again, get a new piece each time.

The bow; always undo the tension off the stick, so it will keep the camber (curve).

Hope you enjoy my column, let me know if there are any questions you want answered; I'll try to answer them.

**Richard Le Page:** phone: 659-2932 email: [info@rlepageviolins.com](mailto:info@rlepageviolins.com)  
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**Richard Le Page**

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## Eastern Kings Fiddlers

Anne M. McPhee

Things are winding up for another busy season of music, fun and good times in Eastern Kings County as well as on the rest of the Island. May 16<sup>th</sup> was the annual Family Night Concert at the Rollo Bay school. Here students are given the opportunity to do a solo performance, on stage, live, as well as to perform in their groups in front of an extremely appreciative audience - their families. This always proves to be an entertaining evening followed by a delicious lunch and social and this year was no exception. There was a good turnout and everyone who performed did an excellent job. This evening also marks the end of formal fiddle lessons at the Rollo Bay school as everyone goes off in their own directions to entertain or enjoy the summer season. We hope to see everyone back in October, the Monday after Thanksgiving. Anyone is welcome to join.

Sadly, one of the greatest supporters of fiddle music passed away on April 25, 2005. The head of the Chaisson Family, Margaret (Joe Pete) Chaisson left her 9 children and their spouses, her 53 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren to carry on the Chaisson family music tradition. Her family was her pride and joy and over the past 25 years she rarely missed attending a Family Night Concert. She was dearly missed by everyone there.

Another fiddle icon passed away on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Hilda MacDonald died at the age of 101. She is survived by 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by her special nephew George Mel MacPhee, of Monticello, who carries on the fiddle tradition along with his sisters Mary Warren and Teresa Wilson, both of Goose River.

Mary Warren reports that a group of student fiddlers and their families will be back at Warren's Cottages in Goose River in August to put on a fiddle workshop called the Spud Blossom Special Musical Retreat. This group hails from Massachusetts and is headed by Myra MacLeod who plans to immerse her students in the Island fiddle culture. There will be lots of music and entertainment.

Mary is planning to open her café on Tuesday evenings this summer for an informal kitchen party. It is situated at Goose River right on the cape on the beautiful north shore where the sun sets right over the water. Gatherings will happen throughout July and August starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The highly successful St. Peter's Friday night ceilidh's will be moving to Monday nights at the Circle Club while the Dundas ceilidh's are starting up Friday nights at the Dundas Plowing Match Grounds. If you want to play at either ceilidh just bring your instruments and put your name on the list when you arrive. Your name will be called when it's your turn to play. There are plenty of accompanists to back you up and everyone has a great time.

JD (Dolph) MacIntyre reports that plans are in the works to get the Goose River dances started up again on Saturday nights at the Goose River Building hopefully sometime in June. These are always a great evening of good music and dancing with a pot of north side tea and coffee on the go all evening long. A delicious lunch is served around 11pm with more dancing after. Everyone is welcome.



*The Kitchen Class L-R:* Kathryn MacDonald, Anne M. McPhee, Lemmie Chaisson, Peter Chaisson. *Back:* Chad Mooney and Jimmy Townshend

The Rollo Bay Ceilidhs will be starting up again on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm on June 16 for the summer months. They are held in the Ceilidh barn on the grounds of the Fiddle Festival Field in Rollo Bay. Watch for the flashing sign on Route 2. You can't miss it. There's lots of parking and a great dance floor for kicking up your heels. The music cannot be beat with the Chaisson family providing most of the entertainment and the biscuits are the best for miles around. A great time for young and old alike.

Meanwhile up at the other end of the Island, one of the Acadian fiddlers has reported that they have a practice every Friday night at 8:00 pm year round at the Boys and Girls Club in Wellington. Marie Livingstone has tons of music and is a big help with the group. They have 8 or 9 regulars along with guitar and piano players and a number of frequent guests including Eddy Arsenault, Peter Arsenault, Albert Arsenault, Edward Arsenault and Jimmy MacDougall. Sure sounds like a good time. The person to contact is Norman Arsenault and his number is 854-2570. Everyone is welcome.

And last but not least is the highlight of the summer - the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. It all started with one concert on a Sunday afternoon in July of 1976 with the combined efforts of Bishop Faber MacDonald, Joe Pete Chaisson, and the Eastern Kings Fiddlers Association. Our "Festival Under the Stars" is held every year on the third weekend in July so don't forget to reserve July 15, 16 and 17, 2005 for all kinds of fiddle, fun and festivities. It is the oldest festival of its kind on the Island and has grown to include Friday and Saturday workshops, 1 Friday concert, 2 Saturday concerts, 2 Sunday concerts, as well as old-time dances for both young and old. This years head liners include Andrea Baton, Troy MacGillvery, BanShee and many more.

Summer is a magical time in Eastern Kings when people come home from away or experience their first unforgettable visit. No matter who you are or where you come from, you will leave the Island reluctantly and yearn for the day you can return. There is so much to experience here and intermingled through it all is the music. Whether it's a wistful slow air, the smooth rhythm of a waltz or the toe tapping beat of a jig or reel or two, the music underlines every experience and can be found in every corner of the Island. There is something for everyone happening every night of the week in Eastern Kings throughout the summer. There's lots to keep a person busy and moving and on the go all summer long. Hope to see you all.



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### Prince County Fiddlers

Barry Thompson

Although our group remains relatively small, we have attracted at least two more interested fiddlers. Sheldon Hardy from the Freeland area and Ruth Croken from Kensington have joined us at practice and hopefully will become members of our group. We are also pleased to welcome Ruth Fitzgerald from Kildare. Ruth is a talented guitar player and vocalist who will be more than able to add some variety to our program. Over the past three months we have continued to practice our regular selections and have been working on some new music, some of which has been transcribed by Robert Gallant. We were fortunate in that weather conditions did not force us to cancel any practices.

Edgar Millar taught fiddle at the community school in Kensington. He received some part time assistance from Barry Thompson. Edgar had a rather large class of enthusiastic students. The group was able to perform a couple of numbers at the school closing . Hopefully we will be able to attract some new members from the area community school groups. On May 2, 2005, three fiddlers from our group; Jim MacDougall, Leith Thomson, Patsy Bulger along with our Keyboard player Darlene Harding and guitar accompanists Ruth Fitzgerald, Ronnie Albert and Alan Crozier received certificates of appreciation for playing at the Chez Nous community care facility in Wellington. The appreciation night was held at the Wellington Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and recognized performers and groups who perform regularly on Sunday nights at the facility.

Nathan Condon has been busy playing at a variety of different venues with Neil Matthews and Blu Gillis. He also plays with the band " Not All There". He is working on a new CD, recording at SandCastle Studio in Borden. This is to be launched during the Summer season. Nathan will be playing several nights a week at the Rainbow Room located at Rainbow Valley in Cavendish

Since the last report we were happy to accept an invitation to perform for the residents of Clinton View Lodge. The residents expressed appreciation in hearing the old tunes once again.

For the Summer months The Prince County Fiddlers have accepted invitations to play at the Wyatt Heritage properties located in Summerside on June 24th. The Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, and the Irish Festival to be held in the Community of Emerald Junction .We will also be practicing and preparing for our annual concert on August 13th, to include Fiddlers from the three chapters of the PEI Fiddlers Society and special guest dancers.



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### Fiddler's Shop Talk



**Roy Johnstone**

As with everything else in life, your mental attitude makes all the difference and fiddling is no different. There are as many different reasons for playing the fiddle as there are fiddlers. Everyone has their own twist on why they spend hours trying to draw a horsehair bow across the strings. I too, play for many different reasons: to make a living, to enjoy the company of other musicians, to watch with delight when someone gets up and dances, but mostly I play because I love it. Playing the fiddle is part of who I have become. It hasn't always been like that and at times I still have to remind myself to just appreciate the joy of making music. It's an ancient pastime and I believe it's a part of our genetic cultural make-up. For me, music is as essential as air to our well being. So why do YOU play the fiddle? Your answer may seem obvious or even different from one day till the next, but whatever your answer, let it guide your practice.

So let's talk about practice. For many this word conjures up images of forced labour or detention after school. Practice is putting your motivation to play the fiddle "to work, or perhaps I should say "putting it to play". Both work and play can bring very meaningful rewards. To make your practice time enjoyable, you need to have a good space in which to practice, preferably in a well lit room where you won't disturb and you won't be disturbed (if necessary, a mute will help). Have all the stuff you need handy, music stand, tapes and CD's to play along with, etc. We are creatures of habit so if you can develop a regular routine for practicing, all the better.

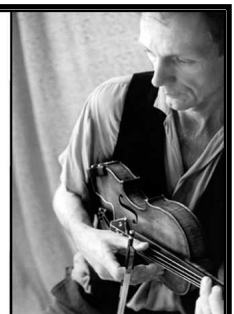
What to practice is a key question and here a good teacher will be very helpful but a good book on fiddling geared to your level will also be very useful. Here are a few pointers that I've picked up along the way to guide my practice. Loosen up before you begin playing, play slowly and listen closely to the sound of each note, stay as relaxed as possible, watch that your bow crosses the strings tangentially (at roughly 90 degrees), play double notes to check your intonation (eg. open G string with 3rd finger on D string), learn your scales and listen closely to other fiddlers. Playing the fiddle can be a lifetime pursuit so don't expect to play like the masters right away. Enjoy the ride as your playing evolves and improves little by little. Have fun, play with other musicians, and enjoy the experience of playing and practicing!

Till next time keep the bow rosined and the fiddle in tune!!!

*(ECMA multi-nominee, performer and recording artist, Roy Johnstone, has a website at <http://www.royjohnstone.com/>)*

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Father Faber

**Bishop Faber's love of the fiddle is reflected in its use as a symbol on his bishop's coat of arms**



**Bishop Faber - 25 years a bishop**

The Most Rev. J. Faber MacDonald, Bishop of Saint John, and founding member of The P.E.I. Fiddlers Society celebrates 25 years as a bishop in 2005. On January 17, 1980, he was appointed Bishop of Grand Falls, Newfoundland. He was ordained bishop in Charlottetown on March 19, 1980, and was installed in Grand Falls on the following March 25. On October 23, 1998, Bishop MacDonald was transferred to Saint John, New Brunswick, where he was installed on January 12, 1999. Our prayers and sincere best wishes to Bishop Faber.



**Bishop Faber**

**Fiddle Related Events Forecast**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
28 May 2005	Queens County Fiddlers Ann. Concert	Charlottetown - Carrefour Theatre	569-4592
04 Jun 2005	A Fiddle Summit	Charlottetown - Carrefour Theatre	659-2932
01 Jun-31 Aug	Avonlea Concert	Cavendish - Avonlea Village	963-3050
24 Jun 2005	Howie MacDonald CD Release/ with Dave MacIsaac and Mac Morin	Charlottetown - St. Pius X Hall	367-6015
28 Jun-31 Aug	Celtic Festival	Summerside - College of Piping	436-5377
29 Jun-30 Aug	Evening Frolic Concerts	Cavendish - Rainbow Valley	963-2221
15-17 Jul 2005	Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival	Rollo Bay Fiddle Field	687-2584
7&28 Jul 2005	Chiquesa - a bilingual show	Summerside - Jubilee Theatre	854-3116
29 Jul 2005	Buddy MacMaster, Joey Beaton, and The Chaisson Brothers	Georgetown - Kings Playhouse	888-346-5666
29-31 Jul 2005	Atlantic Fiddlers Jamboree	Abram Village	854-3300
30 Jul 2005	Prince County Fiddlers	Emerald Junction Irish Festival	886-2400
5-7 Aug 2005	Fiddlers & Followers Weekend	Cavendish - Rainbow Valley	963-2221
10 Aug 2005	Winnie Chafe	Georgetown - Kings Playhouse	888-346-5666
13 Aug 2005	PEI Fiddlers in Concert	Kensington - Community Gardens Arena	436-9811
23 Aug 2005	Cape Breton's Beolach	Georgetown - Kings Playhouse	888-346-5666
4 Sep 2005	Acadian Festival Fiddle & Step Show	Abram Village	854-2324
Mon & Thu	Roy Johnstone	Shaw's Shindigs	672-2022
Mondays	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	961-2899
Tuesdays	Chapel Ceilidh	Mount Stewart - St. Andrew's Chapel	-----
Tuesdays	Kitchen Party	Goose River - Warren's Cafe	961.2301
Wednesdays	Ceilidh	Souris - Seniors Silver Threads	687-2396
Wednesdays	Square Dance	Old Lorne Valley School	687-2584
Wednesdays	Roy Johnstone	Victoria Village Pub	658-9999
Thursdays	Ceilidh (starting 16 Jun)	Rollo Bay Fiddle Field Barn	687-2584
Thursdays	Close to the Ground Concert Series	Pooles Corner - Kaylee Hall	394-1115
Th/Fr	C-EST What? - COMEDY	Charlottetown - Confederation Centre - The Mack	566-1267
Fridays	Ceilidh at The Irish Hall	Charlottetown - B.I.S. Hall	892-2367
Fridays	Ceilidh & Dance	Dundas Plowing Match	583-2113
Saturdays	Dance	Goose River	961-2205
Sundays	Ceilidh & Dance	Monticello Log Hall	628-1254
Sundays	Hot Plaid Show	Charlottetown - B.I.S. Hall	675-2541
Tu/We/Th	Fiery Faith and Fiddles	Clinton - Red Road Country Inn	886-3154
Su/Mo/We/Th	Scottish Music Concert	Richmond - MacKinnon Homestead Grounds	854-2245

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Fr. Charlie Cheverie's Reel

Ward Allan MacDonald



(This composition of Ward's has been recorded by Sheila MacKenzie, Cynthia MacLeod, and The Queens County Fiddlers)

**Where can I get Fiddle or Accompanist(+) Lessons?**

<b><u>Abrams Village</u></b>		
Louise Arsenaault	Fiddle +	854-2830
<b><u>Argyle Shore</u></b>		
Roy Johnstone	Fiddle	675-2541
<b><u>Charlottetown</u></b>		
Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
Ward MacDonald	Fiddle	961-2105
Kendra MacGillivray	Fiddle	367-5606
Gail Matheson	Piano	628-1370
National Music	Fiddle +	566-5824
Sobers Music	Fiddle +	961-2105
<b><u>Fortune</u></b>		
Mark Haines	Fiddle +	687-1404
<b><u>Harrington</u></b>		
Cynthia MacLeod	Fiddle	672-2555
<b><u>Kingsboro</u></b>		
Gail Matheson	Piano	628-1370
<b><u>Montague</u></b>		
Mark Haines	Fiddle +	687-1404
<b><u>Richmond</u></b>		
MacKinnon Family	Fiddle +	854-2245
<b><u>St. Peter's</u></b>		
Ward MacDonald	Fiddle	961-2105
<b><u>Stratford</u></b>		
Alanna Keoghan	Fiddle	566-5862
<b><u>Summerside</u></b>		
Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116
Grace Law	Fiddle	436-0497
Kim Vincent	Fiddle	436-0497
<b><u>Rollo Bay</u></b>		
Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711

**Dog Eared!**

Little Harold was practicing the violin in the living room while his father was trying to read in the den. The family dog was lying in the den, and as the screeching sounds of little Harold's violin reached his ears, he began to howl loudly. The father listened to the dog and the violin as long as he could. Then he jumped up, slammed his paper to the floor and yelled above the noise, "For Pete's sake, can't you play something the dog doesn't know?!"

**Safely Home**

**Margaret Mary Chaisson, 25 Apr 2005**, wife of the late Joseph (Joe Pete) Chaisson of Bear River - mother of Katherine (Armand) Melanson, Peter (Doreen) Chaisson, Kenny (Theresa) Chaisson, Shirley (Bennett) Campbell, Kevin (Karen) Chaisson, Gloria (Philip) MacIntyre, Donna (Kenny) Chaisson, Dianne (Elmer Deagle and Darlene (Erroll) Campbell; sister of Mary Ellen (Kenneth) Chaisson; special grandmother to 53 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.  
*Margaret will be greatly missed by the thousands who knew her and by the thousands who knew of her.*

**Hilda MacDonald, 31 Mar 2005, age 101**, avid Island fiddler.. Survived by 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by her special nephew George Mel MacPhee, of Monticello, who carries on the fiddle tradition along with his sisters Mary Warren and Teresa Wilson, both of Goose River.

**Your comments are important to us.**

Send your email to [dardave@eastlink.ca](mailto:dardave@eastlink.ca) or send your snail mail to  
 The Island Fiddler PO Box 204 Cornwall PE C0A 1H0

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