



# The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



December 2006

Volume 4 Issue 4

## Prince County Fiddlers Receive Life Memberships

The following fiddlers received Life Memberships at a dinner in Kensington on October 11th hosted by Libbe Hubley

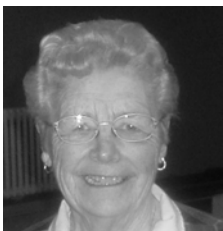
### Lottie Locke



Lottie's mother played piano and other instruments. Lottie plays the fiddle, and also the piano, guitar and accordion. Her first fiddle was from her husband and family "as a Christmas present in 1986." She joined the beginner class at the Community School in Kensington and the Prince County Fiddlers (PCF) in 1988 with John Gauthier as a teacher. She has been active in getting more young people into practice, hoping they

keep up their good work and hopes the PCF will remain as a group.

### Thelma Campbell



Thelma has fond memories of her father taking down the fiddle to play for us, "his captive audience." Many members of her family are musicians. She played at house parties and dances with her sister in the 40s. They were called the Andrew Sisters. To her surprise, she found a fiddle under the Christmas Tree. She was encouraged and introduced by Alvin Bernard to the PCF in 1988. Now she plays with a group called "Charlie's Angels" playing mostly Gospel music. Thelma likes every kind of music especially old time and anything close to the floor. She looks forward to more young people joining the Prince County Fiddlers group.

### Leith Thomson



Leith spent his formative years in Roseville in Western Prince County, P.E.I. Leith's father was a mouth organ player and played the fiddle. Leith went on to say "I can't remember a time when I didn't love Fiddle music." Growing up in the thirties and early forties, he recalls walking to neighbors to hear fiddle music broadcast on CFCY radio. Like many other Islanders of that era, Leith relocated to Ontario. It was during this time he began to play the fiddle with some good friends from Cape Breton. Leith credits his friends for encouraging and helping him get started and was primarily influenced by Andrew Jones who played in the style of Winston (Scotty) Fitzgerald. When Leith retired, he moved back to P.E.I. and played with the West Prince Fiddlers. The group was comprised of fiddlers Andrew and Lewis Jones, Ken Matthews, Elmer Robinson, Frank O'Connor,

Albert Noonan all accompanied by Dorothy Rogers on piano. Leith has been playing with the Prince County Fiddlers since 1990. When asked about his favorite tunes, he was a bit pressed to narrow it down; however, if he had to pick two, they would be the Bonnie Lass of Fisher's Row and the High-Level Hornpipe. Leith credits whatever success the group may have enjoyed thus far to the fact that people enjoy listening to them and they enjoy playing the old traditional music. Leith and his wife Ester live in Summerside, P.E.I. .

### Edgar Millar



Edgar was born in 1928 at Bideford, a small rural community between Tyne Valley and Ellerslie, P.E.I. Edgar was the second oldest in a family of six. In January 1930, when Edgar was two years old, it took two days by horse and sleigh to move his family to Kelvin Grove, near Kensington. They stayed overnight in Lot 16 and drove their cattle across the ice from Lot 16 to Summerside, out the Blueshank Rd to Kelvin Grove. Edgar learned to play the mouth organ at an early age, but gave it up after he married and began farming on his own. He began to play again, forty years later. Edgar and his Wife Betty married in September 1953 and purchased a farm. Edgar relates that he was always interested in violin music and took up the instrument at age 55 when he had more time (his farm and family had consumed most of his time up to that point in his life.) Edgar retired in 1991 allowing more time to spend on his music. He has been playing with the Prince County Fiddlers for about 15 years, and he is on the board of directors of the Maritime Fiddlers Association. Edgar was a regular player at Rainbow Valley and continues to play for four groups with a group of friends at various locations. Edgar is a regular at jamborees held at Irishtown and Sea View Community Halls. Edgar and Betty like to travel and attend many musical events off-Island. Edgar shares his gift of music as a member of the choir at Kensington United Church and has taught violin at Community School in Kensington for a number of years. In addition to playing the violin and mouth organ, Edgar has crafted five violins and a viola. Edgar also does capable repair work for a number of fiddle players. Edgar and his wife Betty live on Wilmot Valley Road, near Summerside.

**Write-ups of Lifetime Presentations will be in future issues on:** Alvin Bernard, Ivan Day, Audrey Day, Jim MacDougall, Libbe Hubley, Austin Paynter, Pete Doiron, Danny MacCormack, Glenna Bowness & Ivan Bowness

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*The Island Fiddler is the quarterly newsletter of the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society.*

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

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All editions of *The Island Fiddler* are on the internet at [www.peifiddlers.com](http://www.peifiddlers.com) where you can view/print.



## From the Editor's Desk

Congratulations to the new President, Sheila MacKenzie. Again I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the publication of this newsletter. Without this contribution of many members, "this newsletter would not happen." To borrow a line from Past President Ward MacDonald on the Newsletter and the Website: "They are the backbone of our Society." We are offering a sincere thanks to Gerry Cheverie who designs and maintains the [www.peifiddlers.com](http://www.peifiddlers.com) Web site

***I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas  
And a Very Happy and Prosperous  
New Year***



#### Annual General Meeting Report by Paul Cheverie

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 28 October 2006 at the Atlantic Superstore in Charlottetown. All chapters were represented with a full quorum in attendance. Highlights include:

**Financial Report** - all chapters have contributed funds to the Society; more ads are anticipated soon for the newsletter. The Society and The Island Fiddler newsletter are in good financial shape;

**Past President Ward MacDonald** outlined the accomplishments over the past few years (Newsletter, Web Site, Life Members, By-Laws). He acknowledged the honour and privilege of serving as President since 2002 and looks forward to serving as Chair of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee;

**By-Laws** - revised to reflect the current aims, objectives, and structure, were passed;

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** - a committee of six members has put together a proposal for a day long celebration with various themes, probably in August 2007 - volunteers are needed and most welcome, to ensure a successful celebration;

**Ken Perlman** - back on PEI for 6 weeks this fall, gave a presentation about his current research into newer and older Island fiddlers;

**Membership** - current members of the chapters are automatic members of the Society with a portion (\$5.00) of their membership fee remitted to the Society; as well, a direct membership to the Society (for those with no chapter affiliation) was set at \$10.00 and are now available from the Treasurer;

**Music** - a few fiddlers shared some tunes, accompanied by Ken Perlman on banjo;

#### New Executive elected -

<b>President</b>	- Sheila MacKenzie
<b>First Vice-President</b>	- Ward MacDonald
<b>Second Vice-President</b>	- Carolyn Drake
<b>Secretary</b>	- Anne McPhee
<b>Treasurer</b>	- Paul Cheverie

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**Fiddle and/or Accompaniment(+) Teachers**

<b>Abram Village</b>	Louise Arseneault Fiddle +	854-2830
<b>Argyle Shore</b>	Roy Johnstone Fiddle	675-2541
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<b>Charlottetown</b>	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt Fiddle	672-2711
	Ward MacDonald Fiddle	626-8084
	Kendra MacGillivray Fiddle	367-5606
	Gail Matheson Piano	628-1370
	Robert Arseneault (Sobers)	368-3237
	Sheila Mackenzie (Nat'l Music)	566-2894
<b>Cumberland</b>	Courtney Hogan Fiddle	675-3593
<b>Fortune</b>	Mark Haines Fiddle +	687-1404
<b>Harrington</b>	Cynthia MacLeod Fiddle	672-2555
<b>Kensington</b>	Cathy Campbell 436-0380	836-3887
<b>Montague</b>	Mark Haines Fiddle +	687-1404
<b>Richmond</b>	MacKinnon Family Fiddle +	854-2245
<b>Rollo Bay</b>	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt Fiddle	672-2711
<b>Summerside</b>	Anastasia DesRoches Fiddle	854-3116

**Fiddling Related Web Sites**

<b>Anastasia Desroches</b>	<a href="http://www.anastasiadesroches.com">www.anastasiadesroches.com</a>
<b>Cape Breton Live</b>	<a href="http://www.capebretonlive.com">www.capebretonlive.com</a>
<b>Chuck &amp; Albert</b>	<a href="http://www.chuckandalbert.com">www.chuckandalbert.com</a>
<b>CJFX Radio</b>	<a href="http://www.989xfm.supremeserver11.com">www.989xfm.supremeserver11.com</a>
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<b>P.E.I. Music Awards</b>	<a href="http://www.peiawards.com">www.peiawards.com</a>
<b>Queens Co Fiddlers</b>	<a href="http://www.queenscountyfiddlers.com">www.queenscountyfiddlers.com</a>
<b>Richard Wood</b>	<a href="http://www.peisland.com/richardwood">www.peisland.com/richardwood</a>
<b>Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest</b>	<a href="http://www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca">www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca</a>
<b>Roy Johnstone</b>	<a href="http://www.royjohnstone.com">www.royjohnstone.com</a>
<b>The Fiddle Farm</b>	<a href="http://www.thefiddlefarm.com">www.thefiddlefarm.com</a>
<b>Tim Chaisson</b>	<a href="http://www.timothychaisson.com">www.timothychaisson.com</a>

Fiddlers in Eastern Kings photos, by Waldron Leard, 2006  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/shywriter55>

**Fiddle Practices Open to the Public**

<b>Prince County Fiddlers:</b>	Mon. 7:30pm 836-3844
Community Connections S'side	
<b>Queens County Fiddlers:</b>	Wed 7:45-9pm
St Pius X Hall Parkdale	569-4592
<b>Eastern Kings Fiddlers</b>	Mon. 7 - 8 pm
Rollo Bay Consolidated School	687-2584
<b>Acadian Fiddlers</b>	Fri. 8:00 pm
Boys & Girls Club Wellington	854-2570

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Judy MacLean . . . . .	969-4100 or 902 566-5545
Shirley Burke . . . . .	368-2416
Jaime Bell. . . . .	962-2846
Monique Pendergast. . . . .	367-9218

**If you are a teacher and not listed, you can call the editor at 569-2762 or via email at [jhebert@eastlink.ca](mailto:jhebert@eastlink.ca)**

**A New PEI Fiddling Project By Ken Perlman**

The Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa authorized me to record and collect oral histories from as many old-time Island fiddlers as I can during a two-month residency. The materials I collect – audio recordings, video recordings, and still photos – will go into a special traditional music archive at the Museum.

This project is meant to be a follow up on an earlier one I conducted back in 1991-2 for the Earthwatch Organization. During that period we recorded roughly 80 Island fiddlers. One result from the Earthwatch project was a book and CD set published in 1996 called "The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island."

At the halfway mark of the current project, I have conducted about 30 sessions with fiddlers from all over PEI, from Tignish to Bayfield to Flat River. It has been a delight to reconnect with old friends from the original project, and a joy to encounter new players. Among the fiddlers I've met with so far are . . .

**Prince County:** Joe Albert, Eddy Arseneault, Edward P. Arseneault, Peter Arseneault, Pat Doucette, Victor Doucette, David Gaudet, Harry Lecky, Dennis Pitre, Fred Richard;  
**Kings County:** Francis MacCormack, Allan MacDonald, Francis MacDonald, Ward MacDonald, Sheila MacKenzie, Hughie McPhee, Attwood O'Connor, Bud Stewart;  
**Queens County:** Howard Hancock, Billy MacInnis, Jr., Clarence MacLean, Leonard McDonald, the Ross Family Band, Cecil Trainor, Elliott Wight

Meanwhile if you know any old-time fiddler I should know about (or are one yourself), please contact me at (902) 629-9473, or [kenperlman@aol.com](mailto:kenperlman@aol.com).



### Southern Kings Fiddlers Report by Amy Swenson

The summer and fall Ceilidh season is over and preparations are being made for special holiday events. The Murray Harbour Drama Club is having a Christmas Ceilidh in early December; contact Fay Fraser at 962-2157 for more information. The Wood Islands and Area Development Corporation hosted the first of a series of Ceilidhs at the Plough the Waves Community Centre on Oct. 28th. A good crowd, many in costume, attended the fun event. Fiddlers Attwood O'Connor, Cecil Chapman, Linda Stewart and myself and stepdancer Janine Chapman were some of the entertainers. Call 962-3761 for the dates of future Ceilidhs at the Centre.

The Kings County Music Festival hosted three recitals for young musicians in the area on November 19th at 2 pm at the Hillcrest United Church, the others will be in February and April. Interested people may call me at 962-2273 in the new year for those dates. Piano students will be excited to play on the new Yamaha Grand Piano recently donated to the church. There was approximately eighteen keen young beginner and intermediate fiddle students there Nov. 19th as well, as interest in learning to play the violin is continuing to be strong in this area.

The Vernon River Community School Fiddle Class has been busy this fall. Taught by Sheila MacKenzie, the class has both beginners and more experienced students and I hear they have been having fun learning a Jerry Holland march as well as old standards such as the Balkan Hills. I will be teaching the Murray Harbour Community School Classes which will start in early January on Monday evenings and which will have a beginner and an advanced class. Call me for more information.

I have been busy making plans to produce a Made on P.E.I. "Bubble Note" Fiddle Tutor for beginner and intermediate students. Over the past seven years, I have been teaching with a new and very easy to learn method of coding notes on the treble clef - I call them 'bubble notes' and have found that they are very well liked by young students as well as adults. In fact, I have taught students aged 4 to  
*...see Southern Kings, page 7*

### Island Fiddle fans will be kicking up their heels

Once again throughout the winter months with the "P.E.I. Welcomes Cape Breton" Concerts Series in Charlottetown. Organizers have made a few changes to the series including changes in time and venue to accommodate the interest of their supporters. The monthly concerts will be held on Saturdays at Holy Redeemer Hall at 7 Pond Street in Charlottetown and will cater to an audience 19 and over. The show runs from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm starting in January 2007. Admission is \$10 per person and for more information please call Marlene MacDonald at 368-1832. Marlene and fellow organizer Ward MacDonald look forward to seeing all those faithful followers that travel the Island from Wellington to South Lake and they welcome any new followers of this fine tradition.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Holy Redeemer Hall, 7 Pond St. Charlottetown, 8:00pm  
 Saturday, January 27, 2007 - Mairi Rankin  
 Saturday, February 24, 2007 - TBA  
 Saturday, March 24, 2007 - TBA  
 Saturday, April 28, 2007 - TBA  
 Saturday, May 26, 2007 - TBA

### The Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck

A Fiddle Doo was held on October 21 at the the New London Complex. The event drew over 300 listeners and approximately 70 entertainers! Fiddlers came from many parts of N.B. including Park Avenue Fiddlers, Winston Crawford Fiddlers, and Miramichi Fiddlers.

There were many Island entertainers including the Prince County Fiddlers. Lots of great music, good food, and great helpers in the kitchen were appreciated. The next Fiddle Doo will be on Feb. 3, 2007, 2-7pm at New London complex. Organizer, Mary Smith would like to thank all who came and helped in making the event run so smoothly.

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### Acadian Fiddlers by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Fancy fiddling and flying feet were very much in evidence at Le Jamboree Atlantique des Violoneux 2006 - the 2006 Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree - held from August 4 - 6, 2006 at the Expo-Festival Center in Abram-Village, P.E.I. Highlighting this 19<sup>th</sup> Fiddlers' Jamboree was feature artist, 84-year-old Cape Breton fiddler Buddy MacMaster, one of the most sought-after musicians in Canada, whose graceful touch makes him one of the greatest fiddlers of all time. What an honour it was to have this great musician as special guest at this event! MacMaster was accompanied on piano by Kevin Chaisson of Rollo Bay. Event coordinator Nick Arsenault, himself an upcoming fiddler, remarked that he had been kept busy answering calls from all over the country and beyond.

The weekend began on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. with the official opening and the cutting of the horse hair to kick start the jamboree. A reception was next, followed by a fiddle jam. The Friday Night Jammers, plus many other entertainers, played to their hearts' content before a large group in attendance.

The first main event took place on Saturday afternoon, entitled "Meet the Masters." Here Buddy MacMaster, accompanied by Kevin Chaisson on piano, fascinated and delighted the large crowd of people with his unique and beautiful arrangement of fiddle compositions, followed by a highly anticipated evening that included Peter Chaisson, Clack'azing, Elmer Leblanc and Buddy MacMaster.

Some of the entertainers at this Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree included Elmo Leblanc from St. Anne-de-Kent, NB, who conducted a fiddle workshop on Saturday, just before the evening concert; Dianne Oueltte, who conducted a square dance workshop - also on Saturday evening - in which traditional Acadian steps were taught, with Edward (Polycarp) Arsenault, a hardcore Acadian fiddler from the Evangeline region, supplying the music for the session; Eddy Arsenault and his brother Amand who had the spotlight on Saturday and Sunday afternoons; Eddy's son Peter Arsenault, who with Edward P. Arsenault took turns entertaining during the brunch that was held in the Centre on Sunday; J.J. Chaisson, who was showcased on Sunday afternoon; Louise Arsenault, who kickstarted the Sunday afternoon show at 1:00 pm; Keelin Wedge, Anastasia DesRoches, 13-year-old Brandon Arsenault; Cynthia

Cormier, Karine Gallant, Philippe Leblanc, the group Clack'azing; Ward MacDonald and Peter Chaisson. Many other musicians contributed to this delightful event - too many to mention here.

The Fourth Golden Fiddle Award Presentation was made by Jocelyne Arsenault following Sunday afternoon's "Big Show." This year's recipient was Edward (à Polycarpe) Arsenault of St. Chrysostome, who was one of the founders of the Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree and was instrumental in the development of fiddle and Acadian music in the region. He is a lively fiddler who is one of the preferred ones to accompany step-dancers in the area. Edward plays at almost every festival and event in the area, including the Friday night jams at the Boys and Girls Club in Wellington. He is also a prolific composer, penning such compositions as "The Mussel Reel," "Harmony Reel," and the famous "Acadian Reel." This modest, kindly individual, who on receiving his award, a painting representing a fiddle player by local artist Lucie Bellemare, simply thanked the committee for selecting him to receive the award, adding, "I don't deserve this." So like Edward à Polycarpe!

Previous recipients of The Golden Fiddle Award include Eddy Arsenault, Zelie-Anne Arsenault-Poirier, and Amand Arsenault.

In other news from this area, Karine Gallant, daughter of Gary and Monique Gallant of Mont Carmel, has had a busy summer. She spent four weeks in Ireland at "The Blast", University of Limerick from about the end of June until July 25<sup>th</sup> and from there she went to California for two weeks at a Scottish summer camp "Valley of the Moon". Karine is in her third year of study in traditional music at Juliette College in Quebec. She is showcasing in Moncton on November 10, 2006 for 20 minutes at "L'Francofête-en-Acadie" and will have a booth and promotional material concerning her demo "K'ryne". Way to go, Karine!

The group Vishten have an upcoming CD launch. Watch the paper for more details.

Peter Arsenault attended the North American Fiddle Convention in Aberdeen, Scotland in late July, 2006, and played his violin there, accompanied by Ken Perlman of Boston on piano.

*see Acadian Fiddlers, page 6*

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**Acadian Fiddlers, cont. from page 5**

Peter is a frequent player at events in the Evangeline region and beyond. His brother Albert and friend Chuck have showcased in France, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec, and were featured in the Deep Roots Festival in Wolfville, Nova Scotia in September. Their comedy show is going to Calgary in November, and it has been nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award on October 28<sup>th</sup> on the Comedy Channel. Check their website at for more information.

The Polycarpe Arsenault family played for a concert in the Magdalen Islands in September, featuring Edward and Joceyline on the fiddles.

Lots of good stuff going on. It's hard to catch everything. Contact me by telephone at 902-854-2063 or by e-mail at dfarish@isn.net to let me know all the activities of the Acadian community.

**Eastern Kings Fiddlers Report by Anne M. McPhee**

Looking back over the past year, it has been very busy and productive for many of the Eastern Kings Fiddlers, individually, in groups and as a whole. While numbers were down for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, everyone had a wonderful time under warm sunny skies and starlit nights with a quality of music not easily found anywhere else. Enough funds were somehow found once again to provide free fiddle lessons at the Rollo Bay Consolidated School to anyone with the desire to learn, regardless of age or past experience.

For the first time this year, the Eastern Kings fiddle students joined the students from Charlottetown, Donagh School and Southern Kings for a Fiddlemania concert which was a resounding success. Teachers Kathryn Dau-Schmidt, Amy Swenson and Ronita Baird are doing a tremendous job in sharing their passion for fiddle music and it is showing in the abilities of their students.

One of the greatest success stories out of Eastern Kings this year is of course the Celtic Ladies who all originate from Kings County. They had another successful season entertaining Islanders and visitors all summer long at the Guild and returned to play before the "hometown" crowd for the final concert of the season at the Kings Playhouse in Georgetown. As always, this was a real treat for everyone. Lead fiddler and Rollo Bay fiddle lessons graduate, Sheila MacKenzie was recently elected as the President of the PEI Fiddlers Society.

Congratulations Sheila!! We sure are proud of you.

Meanwhile, Tim Chaisson has produced another CD and while it is predominantly vocal, there is a lot of fiddle music in the background giving the CD something of a celtic flavour. Everyone is now anxiously awaiting the release of the new Chaisson Family CD which will hopefully be out by Christmas.

The Rollo Bay ceilidhs were very well attended all summer long ending with a successful fundraiser for the MacIntyre House. The Goose River dances have reported record breaking attendance every Saturday night this past year, an indication that fiddle music is alive and well in Eastern Kings. The Lorne Valley dances have a good turnout every Wednesday as well. The Monticello ceilidh continues to draw a crowd especially in the summer but could use some support now that the fall season is upon us.

Waldron Leard, local historian and website designer did a pictorial account of everything fiddle in Eastern Kings this summer. He took literally hundreds of photos at the Fiddle Festival and other fiddle events in the region and has downloaded them for viewing on his website. You can find the link at [www.peifiddlers.com](http://www.peifiddlers.com) under The Chapters and Eastern Kings Fiddlers. This is truly a wonderful tribute to the fiddlers of PEI. Thanks Waldron.

As for the Island Fiddler Newsletter – which was revived under the initiative of outgoing PEI Fiddlers Society President Ward MacDonald – over the past year and a half this newsletter has been a tremendous vehicle for improving communications among various fiddlers and fiddling groups across the Island. This may be more apparent in rural areas than in the more urban centres but there is no question that it has had a positive effect Island wide. Having Amy Swenson on board reporting on fiddle activities in Southern Kings and Marie Livingstone reporting on the Acadian fiddlers for the past year, has opened the eyes of many people about the variety and number of fiddle activities going on across the Island. Getting to know other fiddlers allows for improved networking and provides greater incentive to travel to other concerts. Not to mention access to the variety of music styles played across the Island.

*see Eastern Kings, page 7*

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### Fiddle Care by Peter Dawson *The Bow*

Like the violin, the bow is fragile and must be maintained properly. Most importantly, always loosen the hair of the bow when it is not in use, so that the stick is touching the hair. Do not over-tighten the hair. It should only be tight enough while playing that the stick won't touch the hair. Over-tightening the stick can cause the bow to lose its curve or "camber".

If you play your instrument every day, the bow should be rehaired every 6-8 months. As it gets older, the hair stretches and may be too loose to tighten properly; when this happens, attempting to tighten the bow can seriously damage the stick. Other indications that it is time for a rehair is the use of more and more rosin to make the hair grip the strings and the breaking of hairs, especially on the playing side.



**Peter Dawson**

Be very careful how you handle the bow. Never tap the stick on a music stand or other hard object. Never leave it on a music stand: if it falls, there is a good chance that the head will break. This can sometimes be repaired, but the bow loses most of its value and the break may open up again.

Like the violin, never leave the bow in direct sunlight, and keep it away from heat and cold. Never allow anybody to repair or adjust your bow who isn't a qualified and well-trained stringed instrument repair person. Someone who also repairs trumpets and flutes probably doesn't have the experience and training necessary to do the quality of work needed and could do more harm than good. Taking care of your violin bow is somewhat as crucial as taking care of your instrument. The most important thing to avoid is over-tightening it. When you are done playing, loosen the hair completely, and then bring it back just a single turn of the button. This will keep the hair even but allow the bow to relax, which is particularly important when the weather is cold and dry; the hair can shrink enough overnight to pull the head off a bow that has not been loosened. Your bow will need rehairing when you feel that it is no longer digging into the string, or when you have lost a number of the bow hairs, or when they just get dirty from use. When the bow is rehaired, be sure that not too much hair is put on--this will lessen its playability and might harm the head or the frog. Also be careful not to use too much rosin. It is what gives bow hair a good grip on the strings, but too much will clog the hair, accumulate on the strings, and cause the bow to skate rather than grip.

**Peter Dawson is a well-known luthier, composer, and recording artist in Ottawa. View his Web site at: [www.peterdawson.ca](http://www.peterdawson.ca)**

### ***Southern Kings...cont. from page 4***

82 using this method, both privately and in groups at Community Schools. Currently, the notes are being used in Donagh and Sherwood Schools fiddle and string classes. They enable students who may not have mastered reading regular notation to play successfully in a group with those who do read notes. I am hopeful that this

P.E.I. invention will help teachers and students of all ages have more fun learning to play both fiddle and classical music.

I am very glad to report that the string programs at Sherwood, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Stonepark and Glen Stewart Schools in Charlottetown are in operation again this year and the four teachers involved are very enthusiastic about increasing awareness of their programs and eventually in restoring a string program to Charlottetown Rural High School. The teachers plan a fundraising and awareness-raising concert in February which will involve all of their string classes. Please contact me for information on the date for this concert in the new year. Happy fiddling and have a great holiday season!

### ***Eastern Kings...cont. from page 6***

Also, our readers now have an opportunity to make valuable contributions to the Island's music legacy. An example of this is when Patricia Brooke submitted a beautiful story about her father, Lenie Bolger in the March 2006 issue, just a few short months before he passed away at the age of 98. What a wonderful legacy for the family and for all Island Fiddlers. This is truly the purpose and the reason for continuing the efforts of the newsletter and for keeping it about the fiddle and the Island. Thanks to all the contributors to the newsletter over that past year and a half, we look forward to hearing from more of you in future.



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### CJFX Continues Fiddling Tradition

The following interview was conducted via email in October 2006 by Ward MacDonald (**WM**). The interviewee is Jo Ann England (**JE**), host of the CJFX Ceilidh.

**WM:** *Jo Ann, for those readers that may be unfamiliar with your show, can you begin by describing what the CJFX Ceilidh is and how long it has been running?*

**JE:** The CJFX Ceilidh is an hour long program dedicated to Celtic music that airs Monday through Friday 6-7pm on X-FM 98.9/102.5 FM. Our coverage area includes Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough & Inverness Counties, as well as much of Prince Edward Island. The Ceilidh has been a part of the CJFX tradition for more than 50 years and has seen many transformations during that timeframe. I took on the role of Ceilidh host in July 2006 from Donald MacLennan – a fiddler from Cape Breton who left the station at that time. Over the years many people have hosted The Ceilidh, probably most notoriously Ray MacDonald who is credited with launching the careers of many Canadian Celtic artists. He left very big shoes to fill and I'm not sure anyone ever could fill them! But I'm happy with the direction I've been taking the show and look forward to what comes along in the future.

**WM:** *Can you describe the philosophy behind the Ceilidh?*

**JE:** This is a tough question because it really changes with each new person to take over hosting duties. Ultimately, however, the station itself has an underlying philosophy: it acknowledges the massive role the Scottish culture has had on our communities and is committed to preserving the music and giving the listening audience a medium in which to hear this music. For me, I believe it's important to not only play the more popular Celtic music out there today but to also acknowledge where we've come from. As such I have re-introduced the "Ceilidh Classic Cut", which was first introduced, I believe, by former host Jon Matthews. On each program, listeners have the opportunity to hear from some of the great artists of the past...including for example Donald Angus Beaton, Colin J. Boyd, Hugh A. MacDonald, etc. Additionally, it's important to support the young up and comers so I encourage all those starting out to drop us a line and let us know how things are going with their careers.

**WM:** *What kinds of things do you think about while you prepare the show each day?*

**JE:** There are so many things to think about while preparing the show. I think about the people who will be listen-

ing...what do I think they might like to hear? I think about a good mix of artists...geographically speaking, instrumentally speaking. You like to have a good mix...plus I like to have a strong blend of types of tunes...jigs, reels, strathspeys, hornpipes, marches, waltzes, slow airs. Different people have different tastes and when you're appealing to such a large audience, you have to have a good mix.

**WM:** *Can you tell our readers what they may hear on a typical Ceilidh program?*

**JE:** Honestly, I play what I like myself and that seems to be resonating with listeners. The show is dominated by fiddle music – the feedback strongly suggests that this is what people want to hear more and more of. Then, as mentioned previously, there's the Ceilidh classic cut. I try to include a song in there now and again & I may throw in a guitar or piano CD...or any other Celtic instrument, the harp, the whistle, the pipes, the flute, etc. When possible, I feature live interviews with artists & often during these interviews some live music as well. Since taking over the reigns in July, I've had interviews with Andrea Beaton, Troy MacGillivray, Shane Cook, Natalie MacMaster, Ron Hynes and Kimberley Fraser. Before Christmas, we'll also be talking with Glenn Graham about his new book. And included in every program is the Ceilidh bulletin – this is where people have the opportunity to hear about live Celtic music happening in our coverage area.

**WM:** *Where do you find the recordings that you feature on air?*

**JE:** We have a vast library at CJFX that has been collected over the years so I draw almost exclusively from that collection. Unfortunately much of the old stuff is gone...as we only play CDs, so the 78s, the records, the tapes...due to technological advances we're no longer able to play them – although, thankfully, many families have restored old 78s, records and tapes. I also solicit material from artists I hear about through the grapevine. My friends are always telling me about one artist or another that I should be contacting. But I certainly welcome emails, letters, etc from anyone with ideas!

**WM:** *In today's world of frenzied popular culture, how do you think the Ceilidh maintains its place on CJFX?*

**JE:** I've been told that The Ceilidh reaches an average of 5200 households each and every day, so there is obviously still a high demand for Celtic music. We do live in an area that is predominantly Scottish and the Celtic music

See CJFX, page 9

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**CJFX...cont. from page 9**

community is a driving force behind the preservation of the Scottish culture. So we are truly blessed to be broadcasting from such a location. But, I think it's more than that. The management at CJFX holds strong connections to the music, which is really the heart of our communities, and they are incredibly supportive of the program. Without the support from Station Manager Dave MacLean and Program Director Barry MacKinnon, there likely wouldn't be a Ceilidh. Thankfully we have such a strong team of individuals who believe in the necessity of a program like this.

**WM:** *How do you stay in touch with the fiddling community?*

**JE:** I grew up listening to fiddle music and that's pretty much all I listen to on my personal time. My circle of friends includes many fiddlers and I attend as much live fiddling as I possibly can. I'd love to be able to do more, but with other commitments that's not always possible. This is why I would love to see more fiddlers touching base with me...just to let me know what is happening; if they're going out on tour, if they're releasing a new album, etc etc. The audience is always interested in what's happening.

**WM:** *What do you love the most about hosting the Ceilidh?*

**JW:** There's really not much I don't love about hosting The Ceilidh. It seems to be an extension of the rest of my life – I am Chair of the Antigonish Ceilidh Association, I'm a member of the Antigonish Highland Society and I've worked with various Celtic musicians over the years, helping them with biographies, press kits, etc. I love being able to play music that I love for people who love it as much as I do. I love getting to meet so many different artists. I love being invited to host ceilidhs or concerts. I love sharing the music of my ancestors with such a large, devoted audience.

For further information, contact:

Jo Ann England PO Box 5800, Antigonish, NS B2G 2R9  
www.cjfx.ca 902 863-4580 cjfx@cjfx.ca  
joann\_england@hotmail.com

**Fiddle Shop Talk by Roy Johnstone**

In this shop talk I'm including one of my favourite tunes, it's also one that I am often requested to play. In learning any new tune from sheet music there's a simple sequence to go through that will help you be able to play the tune. What's the key signature? Without going into a long explanation here, the major sharp keys are C, G, D, A with each key having one more raised note than the previous key. So C has no raised notes (only the white keys on the piano), G has one raised note F# and D has two raised notes (F# and C#), A has three raised notes (F#, C# and G#). For now we'll stop at three sharps.

Sheebeg Sheemore has two raised notes so it's in the key of D Major. So the notes of the tune will fall in the D scale, D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D to cover the octave. The notes and pattern for the major scale was covered in one of my previous shop talks.

Next is the time signature. In this case 6/4. That means 6 beats per bar and each beat is a quarter note. This piece could also be written in 3/4 in which the bar lines would fall after every three beats.

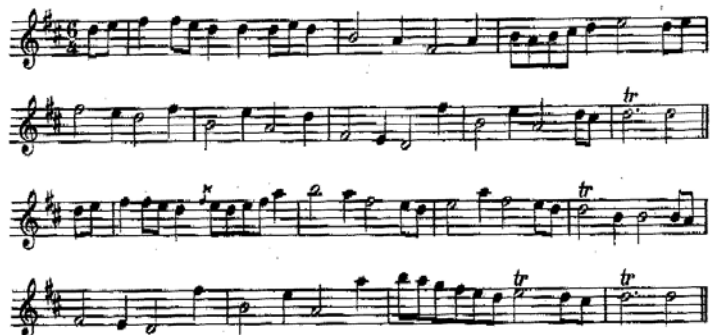
Before beginning to play don't forget to do a warm up to loosen up (covered in previous shop talks.) I often play the scale for a new tune I want to learn. Play the scale slowly and try differing fingering positions as you play into the higher notes. The notes on the page are just the skeleton for the tune. Adding grace notes, double stops, rolls, etc. will embellish the melody and add more interest. Be discreet with these embellishments and listen to recordings to see how other players add these embellishments.

Sheebeg Sheemore translates into "little hill and big hill" and was written by the blind Irish harpist Turloch O'Carolan. There are references to a battle between the fairy kings having taken place in the vicinity so that may influence your interpretation of the tune.

Enjoy and till next time keep your bow rosined and the fiddle in tune.

**Roy Johnstone is an ECMA multi-nominated performer and recording artist. View his Web site at:**

[www.royjohnstone.com](http://www.royjohnstone.com)

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**Supporting P.E.I. Fiddlers**



The Prince County Fiddlers were one of a number of acts performing at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual West Prince Cancer Jamboree on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Bloomfield Provincial Park. Other acts performing included the Helping Hands band and Nautical Mile. Thousands of Dollars were raised for this worthy cause. Photo by: David MacDonald (West Prince Graphic)

### The Prince County Fiddlers Report by Barry Thompson

We are pleased to report a rather active past 3 months. Our annual concert on August 12 was another success. Special thanks to the following: Queens Co. Fiddlers, Lady Slipper Dancers, and Step Dancer Tracy Arsenault for their participation. On August 21, we played at the opening of the Annual Kensington Harvest Festival and on August 27 we were pleased to be able to participate in the Musical Fundraiser held at Bloomfield Provincial Park in aid of the P.E.I. Cancer Society. On October 4<sup>th</sup> we accepted an invitation to play for a Discovery Tours bus tour at the Loyalist Inn and Convention Ctr in Summerside. The tour group originated from the state of Washington. This group liked to interact, clap, tap their

feet, and especially liked to dance to the waltzes.

The group had lots of questions to ask and seemed very interested in our music and group. Special thanks to Mary Smith for filling in for us on piano on rather short notice.

The Prince County Fiddlers were pleased to host a roast beef supper held at the Col. E. W. Johnstone Branch #9 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Kensington, catered by the Ladies Auxiliary of the branch on October 11. The main purpose of this event was to award life memberships to a number of fiddlers and accompanists who have long been associated with our group. The presentations were made by our association president Ward MacDonald, with introductions by Libbe Hubley, who capably acted as emcee for the evening. Other guests, Carolyn Drake, Marlene MacDonald and our newsletter editor Joseph Hébert representing our provincial association. Also in attendance were Pete and Cindy Blanding representing the Long River Players. We were very happy to welcome Estelle Bolger, widow of the late fiddler and life member of the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society, Lenie Bolger and their daughter Patricia Brooke. Ms. Brooke wrote a fine tribute to her father which was featured in the March issue of our newsletter. The evening ended with lots of great music and conversation.

On October 23 we held our annual general meeting. On the agenda was the election of officers for the next year. It was moved and seconded that the current president, Barry Thompson, and current secretary treasurer, Edgar Millar, retain their duties for another year. We also brought forward ideas pertaining to attracting new members, and alternate ways of conducting our practices.

We are pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Long River Players in presenting a concert, to be held at the Murray Christian Education Center in Kensington, on Monday December 04 at 7:30 PM. Proceeds from the concert will be to the benefit of a local charity. As we are still in the planning stage, further details will be forthcoming. In the near future we hope to be able to attend a Friday evening practice and jam session with our friends the Acadian Fiddlers in Wellington.

*See Prince County, Page 11*

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Wednesdays	Square Dance	Lorne Valley Hall	687-2584
Wednesdays	Ceilidh	Souris - Seniors Silver threads	687-2396
Saturdays	Dance	Goose River	961-2205
Sundays	Ceilidh & Dance	Monticello Log Hall	687-2547
2nd & 4th Saturdays	8:00—11:00 pm Ceilidh	Irishtown Hall	836-4208
3rd Sat every month	Jamboree	Seaview Hall Ed Miller	436-7135

**30th Anniversary. . .cont. from page 11**

stage and a covered stage to use if the weather doesn't co-operate. In addition, the college has box office facilities for ticket sales, as well as an established volunteer base.

A firm date for the celebration is expected to be announced by the end of December. In addition to the concert, organizers are looking at possibly including workshops, a jam session, and/or a dance.

The goals of this special day include commemorating the founders of the group, celebrating the accomplishments of the group over 30 years, promoting the organization and fiddling on the Island and highlighting the talent in this province to the rest of the world.

The celebration will centre around a number of themes, including family, tradition, old and new generations, male and female fiddlers, dancing, as well as different styles of fiddling including Scottish, Irish, Acadian and Old Time.

The committee is looking into funding and sponsorship. Sub-committees are also being formed, and there are plenty of jobs to go around. It's a great project to get involved with, and if anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Ward MacDonald at 626-8084.

**Fiddle Doo Polka**

Mary Smith



**Peggy Arsenault and Ward MacDonald look on as Ken Perlman makes a presentation at the PEIFS AGM. Ken also played a few rare recordings of some older P.E.I. fiddlers.**

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