



The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 6, Issue 2

September 2008

A Visit with Francis McCormack by Amy Swenson

When I was asked to interview Island Fiddler Francis McCormack, now 75, I was intrigued to try to find out how he developed into such a creative player who plays so many interesting variations and embellishments of tunes to suit his fancy of the moment. And how did he learn to back up singers so well that I witnessed an audience in Murray River screaming approval of his fiddling after every turn he took on the fiddle after Lester



Francis McCormack

MacPherson sang? It turns out the secret is no surprise – strong native talent combined with a rich musical background and many years of experience.

The youngest of 11 children, Francis was born on a small farm in St. Charles, PEI which is up near Souris. His mother, Ellie Gallant McCormack, loved music and played the piano and organ. His father Oliver was quite a good fiddle player. Francis' older brothers played the fiddle and guitar and were step dancers as well. So young Francis was surrounded by music from birth and became very interested in learning to play the fiddle.

However, Oliver did not allow the younger children to handle his instrument. So Francis' first fiddle was made from a wooden shingle. He clearly remembers how the kids made it. First, four notches were cut in the middle of both ends of the shingle. Then a neck and fiddle shaped body was whittled out, leaving a flat violin shape with notches for the strings. Mother's No. 12 cotton thread was pressed into service as strings, which were tightened over a home made mandolin-style bridge with a bit of curve on it. With a bit of care the four cotton strings could be tightened to somewhat resemble an E, A, D & G.

The wooden bow was easily split out of another shingle, but the rosin took time to find, as the kids had to search for pine resin that was dry enough to spread on the shingle bow. As you can imagine, if the resin was too sticky, the bow would not work very well! Now the sound of this completed instrument was not very loud, so Francis and his brothers came up with a way to amplify the shingle fiddle with a sardine tin. They

made a hole in each side of the lidless tin and tied it under the bridge of the fiddle. With this amplified shingle they managed to make enough noise to wake up a tired Oliver as he was resting after a hard day's work on the farm or in the woods.

Francis loved this first fiddle, but as time went along he developed an unbearable urge to try the real violin. He had to persuade his mother that he would take very good care of Oliver's violin and observe carefully when the case was opened so that he could replace everything exactly as it was when he was finished. Francis recalls that he was 8 years old when he finally convinced his mother to keep a lookout for Oliver's approach down the long lane while he practiced. He played as often as he could and taught himself quite a few tunes. Oliver finally discovered what had been going on when Francis was ten. The oldest boys were back home on furlough from the army and it was time for a big house party. They all took turns playing the fiddle for quite a while and then one of them said, "It's a pity that young Francis hasn't learned to play yet, he could give us a rest!" Oliver replied that Francis didn't play. This was just too much for Francis.

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The Island Fiddler

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

All editions of *The Island Fiddler* can be found on the internet at <http://www.peifiddlers.com>

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Francis cont. from page 1

He was eager to display his deviously learned skill! He grabbed the fiddle and astonished the whole family (with the exception of his Mom that is) with a fast rendition of Ragtime Annie and some other lively tunes. Oliver had some questions for his wife after that party!

Peace was made, and the next year, Francis was taking turns along with his brothers, spelling fiddler Peter Chaisson Sr. at the East Point square dances. Francis recalls that there were a number of very good step dancers in that area at the time, and that he and his brothers picked up a lot of steps from them.

Over the next many years, Francis worked in Nova Scotia and then in Ontario, but he and his wife Winifred always returned to the Island as much as possible, returning about 70 times over the 40 years they were away. He was always glad to get back and hear and play the Island music and never lost his fondness for the twisty Cape Breton and Island tunes that often baffle unrehearsed guitar and keyboard players. I recall visiting Francis a few years ago when he and keyboard player George MacDonald were practicing some twisty old tunes. Francis was playing at full throttle and shouting out the chords as they changed – wish I could do that!

Francis has fond memories of playing in Ontario for many years with a band called the Mountain City Playboys, with the late Bernie Hughes on lead guitar, Mike Crosty on drums, Ray Fougere on piano, Lucky Gaudet singing and playing guitar, and Owen Linkert on sax. They played many gigs around Hamilton and especially enjoyed the weekends playing on Hamilton Mountain. Francis also often played with his brother Billy who went blind at the age of five from untreated cataracts. This didn't stop Billy from learning to sing, play the guitar and compose songs. Billy's Blind Boy's Prayer was recorded by Wilf Carter.

The two McCormack brothers played a long gig at the infamous Terminal Hotel in Hamilton, which was nicknamed the Bucket of Blood since the street outside was frequently left bloody after the fights that so often spilled out of the bar! The bar owner, a hefty man named Stan, was delighted to

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Fiddle and/or Accompaniment Teachers

Abram Village	Louise Arsenault	Fiddle	854-2830
Argyle Shore	Roy Johnstone	Fiddle	675-2541
Caledonia	Amy Swenson	Fiddle	962-2273
Charlottetown	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
	Kendra MacGillivray	Fiddle	367-5606
	Jennifer LaLecheur	Fiddle	566-5430
Cumberland	Courtney Hogan	Fiddle	675-3593
Fortune	Mark Haines	Fiddle+	687-1404
Harrington	Cynthia MacLeod	Fiddle	672-2555
Kensington	Cathy Campbell	Fiddle	836-3887
Montague	Sheila Fitzpatrick	Fiddle	838-3334
Mount Stewart	Gary Chipman	Fiddle+	676-2599
Richmond	MacKinnon Family	Fiddle	854-2245
Rollo Bay	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
Rollo Bay	Jimmy Townshend	Guitar	687-2373
Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116

Step Dancing Teachers

College of Piping	436-5377 or 877-224-7473
Jaime Bell	962-2846
Jocelyne Arsenault	854-2721
Judy MacLean	969-4100 or 902-566-5545
Monique Pendergast	367-9218
Susan and Libbe Hubley	836-3887
Shirley Burke	368-2416
Tracy Arsenault	854-3237

If you wish to be listed as a teacher, contact the editor.
annemc1@pei.sympatico.ca or 687-1521

Fiddling Related Websites

Anastasia DesRoches	www.anastasiadesroches.com
Billy MacInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
Canadian Grand Masters	canadiangrandmasters.ca
Cape Breton Fiddlers	www.sfcelticmusic.com
Cape Breton Live	www.capebretonlive.com
Chuck & Albert	www.chuckandalbert.com
Courtney Hogan	www.courtneyhogan.ca/home.html
College of Piping	www.collegeofpiping.com
Cynthia MacLeod	www.cynthiamacleod.com
Gaelic PEI	http://www.gaelicpei.org
Ivan and Vivian Hicks	www.ivanhicks.com
Ken Perlman	www.kenperlman.com
Maritime Fiddlers Assoc.	www.MaritimeFiddler.ca
Nathan Condon	www.nathancondon.com
Ocean 100	www.ocean100.com
P.E.I. Fiddlers Society	www.peifiddlers.com
P.E.I. Music Awards	www.peiawards.com
Queens Co. Fiddlers	www.queenscountyfiddlers.com
Richard Wood	www.peisland.com/richardwood
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca
Roy Johnstone	www.royjohnstone.com
Tim Chaisson	www.timothychaisson.com
Tune Transcriptions	www.fiddlecase.com
Waldron Leard Photos	www.flickr.com/photos/skywriter55

Francis cont. from page 2

have the brothers there, as they attracted large crowds every night. Francis had to learn the numbers given to the tables spread out before him as he and Billy played away, and had to call out "Stan! Three!" or whatever if a fight was about to break out so Stan could stalk over and try to keep order! The Brothers got tired of this gig after 28 weeks and left, pretending that they had another offer. Soon Stan called back saying most of his patrons had left and persuaded the McCormacks to return at a better wage.

Francis also participated in a fiddling contest in Northern Ontario where he won a trophy for his fiddling and step dancing, but unfortunately this trophy was like the Stanley Cup, not the kind you get to keep. He also played and danced in 1969 on a popular TV show called Bill Long's Jamboree.

Francis retired from his bus and truck driving career 11 years ago and headed straight for PEI, where he and Winnie settled in Montague. Francis plays every year at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, on the ferry, at many benefits and ceilidhs and he fills in playing at the Goose River and Monticello dances. He was also at the popular St Mary's Church Summer Fair August fundraiser in Montague, where Eddy Quinn gladly took up his offer to be part of the entertainment.

Francis is always very encouraging to any young Island fiddler he has encountered and is going to set up the late Archie Stewart's fiddle for Archie's talented young granddaughter Kirsten, who has been badly bitten by fiddle fever. I hope all the readers will get a chance to hear Francis play and enjoy his creativity and enthusiasm and love of Island music.



Francis McCormack received an Honorary Life Membership to the PEI Fiddlers Society in 2008. Life Memberships are granted to individuals who have made an exceptional or outstanding contribution to Island Fiddling. Francis is a very worthy recipient.



Anne M. McPhee

Eastern Kings Fiddlers by Anne M. McPhee

There just isn't enough room in this edition to write about all the fiddle events and people that were on the go in Eastern Kings this summer, so here is a pictorial account.



Howie MacDonald (left) and Dr. Ellen MacPhee (right) played to the enjoyment of a packed hall at the Eastern Kings Community Centre during the successful first annual Festival of Small Halls.



Dolph MacIntyre (left) was overwhelmed with emotion when he received an appreciation award from the Goose River Building Co-operative for his many years as a dedicated volunteer as carpenter and repairman, and as MC at the weekly dances.



Howie MacDonald (right) was seen performing on the Island a number of times this summer along with some of his friends; shown here with **Brenda Stubbert** on fiddle at the Monticello Log Hall.

By all accounts the 32nd Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival was a resounding success with wonderful weather, good crowds, and great music, song and dance. Marlene MacDonald did a top notch job as emcee; Elmer Deagle Jr. did fantastic work on sound as well as coordinating the first annual Tune Writers' Circles; and the younger musicians once again raised the bar for excellence in musical abilities.



Congratulations to the organizers and all the participants of this year's event.

Marie Livingstone (right) dances to the fiddle music of **Ward MacDonald** accompanied by **Jeff Matheson** on guitar. Jeff and his wife Kim are always welcome at the event. Kim is an accomplished New Brunswick fiddler and Jeff will accompany any fiddler on piano or guitar.



15 year old **Allan Cameron** from Mabou (above) is always ready to smile while playing the fiddle.



Chrissy Crawley (above) and **Chad Mooney** (left) - both superb young fiddlers.

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From left—assistant organizer **Elmer Deagle Jr.** played banjo, fiddle, guitar and mandolin over the course of the weekend while **JJ Chaisson** played a few tunes from his new CD "The Gift". **Brent Chaisson** on guitar. **Ward** (with his dad) **Allan MacDonald** (right) played a set on the outdoor stage.

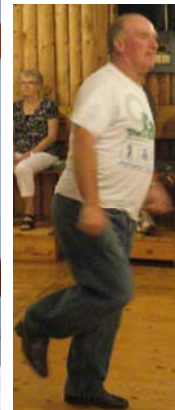


Pastelle LeBlanc (left) and **Pascal Miousse** (right) members of **Vishten**, entertained a large crowd with their lively Acadian music during a Tune Writers' Circle.

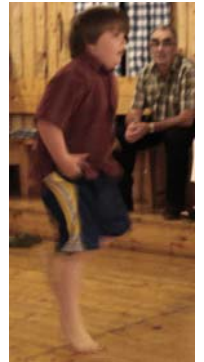
Troy MacGillivray took time out of his busy schedule to play before the large crowd.



Musicologist **Ken Perlman** (left) returned to the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival this year and played a few tunes on his banjo. **Buddy Longaphie** (right), a regular at the festival warms up his fiddle in the tuning room as his mother listens in.



Bobby Fraser (left) demonstrates his award winning step dancing skills while **Chris MacDonald** (right) flies into "turbo" mode at the Monticello Ceilidh.





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Amy Swenson

Southern Kings Report by Amy Swenson

The summer has flown by and lots of music with it. Eddy Quinn's Close to the Ground Concert Series at Pooles corner has been very popular again this year. There is still time to catch a September show.

Troy MacGillivray of Antigonish will be performing with Fiddler's Sons on Sept. 4th, country singer Lester MacPherson on Sept. 11th, the amazing Celtic Ladies on Sept 18th, and the series will wind up this year with Kevin, Peter and Lemmie Chaisson joining Eddie and the gang. At \$10, this is one of the best deals on the Island! All tickets are sold at the door- arrive a bit early for the best seats. Concerts are Thursdays at 8 pm.

All of the local ceilidhs this summer have been well attended. Attwood O'Connor has been up to his usual hijinks, playing such a high speed version of Flowers of Edinburgh at Sturgeon Ceilidh one night that I thought for sure his strings would catch fire. Nothing like 78 years of playing to loosen the fingers up for such a feat! The Murray Harbour Ceilidh has had a lot of visitors from away, one night counting 32 guests from all over Canada, the US and Europe. More ceilidhs at Sturgeon, Dundas, Murray Harbour and Kilmuir are yet to come this fall, so check the Events Forecast elsewhere in the Island Fiddler for details.

The Murray River Community has once again shown its generosity to Islanders in need. A stupendous crowd of over 2200 attended a benefit ceilidh at the Northumberland Arena on August 25th for the Moore family of Murray River who lost their sawmill in a tragic fire earlier in August. The all-star cast of performers included the Celtic Ladies, Richard Wood, Eddy Quinn, Jaime Bell, Garnet Buell, Bluestreak and the Paper Lions, formerly known as Chucky Danger Band. The Moore family was greatly touched by this outpouring of help from the community, our summer visitors and the performers.

Vernon River Community School is starting up again at the end of September. I will be teaching both the beginner and more advanced fiddle classes - come and join the fun. The great potluck at the closing is worth all the 'hard work'! I can be often found at the Tales of the Riverbank Bookstore (across from the Magic Dragon in Murray River) until mid-October.

I will have my fiddle with me, so anyone is welcome to come by to jam and entertain customers. This beautiful bookstore also has new and used CDs and hundreds of vinyl records - come by and check it out! We are willing to trade for any good used Fiddling CDs and Records. Call 962-2880 for hours of operation.

Attwood O'Connor (right) was surprised and pleased to accept an Honourary Life Membership to PEI Fiddlers Society for his outstanding



contribution to Island Fiddling. The award was presented at the Singing Strings Concert at the Georgetown Theatre in June, where he also played.

Fiddle Practices Open To The Public

Acadian Fiddlers Wellington 436-5532

Fridays 8:00 pm Boys & Girls Club

Prince County Fiddlers Summerside 836-3844

Mondays 7:30 pm Community Connections

Queens County Fiddlers, New Location TBA

Wednesdays, Contact Linda 963-2236

Morell Fiddle Group Morell 961-2962

Thursdays 7:00 pm Above the Pharmacy

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Rollo Bay 687-1521

Mondays starting Oct 20th 7:00 pm at the School

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Queens County Fiddlers Report by Carolyn Drake

Another busy summer of fiddling is drawing to a close on P.E.I. and, as always, there was never any shortage of great music to enjoy, virtually every day of the week. I hope everyone had a chance to take in a few ceilidhs and concerts or just jam with some musical friends on a deck.

The Queens County Fiddlers found plenty of time for playing this summer, both as a group and as individuals. The group had an extremely good turnout of players on Saturday, June 28, at the annual Highland Gathering in Summerside, where we performed several sets over the span of a couple of hours. It was also a great chance to soak up some of the other elements of Scottish culture, such as Highland dancing and the incredible music of the pipe bands.

The group made its annual trek to perform at and enjoy the annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, July 19-20, always a highlight on the summer calendar. And in August, we performed at the Prince County Fiddlers' annual concert at the Kensington Arena.

Many thanks to everyone in the group who was able to take time out of the summer to get to some or all of these events and especially to Vince Keoughan for leading the group.

A great big congratulations goes out to our QCF piano accompanist Jennifer Garrity and her husband, Steven, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Anna, a little earlier than expected on July 23. Will this be another great Island piano player, step dancer, fiddler or maybe all three? With her mother on the keyboard, she'll certainly hear some great music in the house from a very young age. All the best Jennifer. We're looking forward to you and Anna joining us at practice as soon as possible.

QCF fiddler Courtney Hogan has had an exciting summer that has seen her host her own Sunday night ceilidh series in New Dominion, as well as travel to Italy with the Singing Strings to perform in a youth festival, where their director John Clement said they were extremely well-received everywhere they played.



Courtney Hogan



The Singing Strings performed one of their many fundraising concerts to an appreciative crowd at the Georgetown Theatre on June 8th to pay for their trip to Italy.

It must be great to be young and full of energy because less than a day after flying back from Italy, Courtney was on the Charlottetown waterfront playing a gig with Gordon Belsher and Todd MacLean. Jet lag, what jet lag?

Other Queens County Fiddlers who were busy with regular shows this summer included Sheila FitzPatrick with Mulligan Stew, The Celtic Ladies and a brief fill-in with Fiddlers' Sons and Aaron Crane who hosted two ceilidhs each week in St. Andrew's and Stanhope. He was often joined by Matthew Reid at both locations. Matthew kept busy playing at Peakes Quay on Saturdays, as well as in Sturgeon and Hunter River, and he has a couple conventions and dinner theatres lined up to play.

Congratulations to one of the youngest members in the group, Kristyn Visser, who played for P.E.I. at the national under-14 girls soccer championship this summer and was a member of the Winsloe-West Royalty team that captured the provincial club championship in late August in the girls under-14 premier division. She was also named the MVP of the championship tournament. Anyone who would like to see Kristyn play will be able to watch her in October when P.E.I. hosts the national club championship in her age group.

Speaking of the fall, the QCF have returned to their regular Wednesday night practices in Charlottetown, but are currently in search of a new home as St. Pius X Hall is scheduled for demolition in September. A new location is yet to be determined, so please call our president, Linda at 963-2236 for an update and to get on her emailing list. As always, everyone is welcome at practice— all ages and abilities, including guitar players, piano accompanists, fiddlers, etc. An audience is also welcome, so if you enjoy good tunes, feel free to stop by.



Dorothy
Griffin-Farish

Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Numerous musical events and celebrations were held during the summer. Because 2008 was the 400th anniversary of Quebec City and the 250th year since the Deportation of Acadians from Prince Edward Island a great number of gatherings were held for these commemorations - and these gatherings all featured Acadian music.

LES GIRLS, Peter Arsenault, Brandon Arsenault & Mitchell Richard, Father Eloi Arsenault, Vishten, Les Tapageuses, Samantha Gallant and dancers Marcia Arsenault, Paula Arsenault & Dianne Ouellette were among the performers at the Festival of Small Halls which was held from June 14 to June 22, 2008.

The city of Summerside hosted the Francodôme and artists from the Francoforce project cultural program from July 25th to 27th. This was a co-operative pan-Canadian intergovernmental and community project developed as part of Quebec City's 400th anniversary celebrations and which will be visiting all Canadian provinces and territories. The tour was held along the Green-shore Waterfront and included Karine Gallant, well-known violinist from Mont-Carmel.

The 21st Atlantic Fiddlers Jamboree was held at the Expo-Festival Centre in Abram-Village July 25-27, 2008. The line-up featured Kinnon and Betty Lou Beaton and Andrea Beaton from Cape Breton, Bernard Felix from Newfoundland, George Wilson from Vermont, U.S.A.; Bertrand Deraspe from the Magdalen Islands, and Melissa Gallant from New Brunswick. Other entertainers at the Jamboree included Eddy Arsenault, his brother Amand, J.J. Chaisson, Brandon Arsenault, Peter Chaisson, Peter Arsenault, Anastasia DesRoches, Edward P. Arsenault, Marie Livingstone and husband Orrin, Ward MacDonald, Matthew Allain, Denise Daigle and others. Kevin Chaisson was featured on piano and Rémi Arsenault on the bass and guitar. On Friday the 25th at 7:30 p.m. the Official Opening was held, followed by The Big Jam - entertainment by all in attendance who had an instrument, including members of the Friday Night Jammers and many of the entertainers mentioned above. On Saturday the 26th there were two Fiddling Concerts - one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 9:00 p.m. Also on Saturday a number of workshops were held, including button accordion workshop with Bernard Felix, piano accompanying tunes workshop with Kevin Chaisson, step-dancing workshop with Tracy Arsenault, and advanced fiddlers workshop with Bertrand Deraspe. On Sunday the 27th a Musical Brunch was held from 10:30

a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a Fiddling Concert starting at 1:00 p.m. - the finale of this concert being the presentation of the Golden Fiddle Award to Anastasia DesRoches. Her list of accomplishments can be viewed by checking her web site at <http://anastasiadesroches.com/>



Golden Fiddle Award Winner,
Anastasia DesRoches

LES GIRLS, which includes Louise Arsenault, Hélène Arsenault, Janelle Richard, Samantha Gallant, Stephanie Collicutt, Caroline Bernard and Paige Gallant are completing a nine-show series at the Confederation Centre of the Arts, as well as performing at the Stan Rogers Folk Festival and King's Theatre in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia - to name just a few. On July 27th this group left for Poitiers, France to perform there.

Le Fricot, a cabaret music show featuring Rémi Arsenault, Mario Robichaud, Daniel Drouin, Wayne Robichaud, and fiddler Brandon Arsenault, has been playing two nights a week all summer long at the Centre Expo-Festival. It is interesting to note that this year the Centre Expo-Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until August 7th the Centre Expo-Festival featured a dinner theatre of comedy and music entitled "Téléthon entêté". Performers included fiddler Anastasia DesRoches, singer Christina Gallant-MacLean, Pierre Poirier, Pierre Arsenault, Julie Arsenault and Nicholas Arsenault.

A series of summer concerts took place at the Mont Carmel Parish Hall. Among the performers included Anastasia DesRoches, the Mont-Carmel Seniors' Club Choir, and a host of others.

French Toast, featuring Chuck and Albert Arsenault, Angèle Arsenault, Melissa Gallant and Les Tapageuses performed at the Harbourfront Jubilee Theatre during the summer, to the delight of audiences.

A "Big Jam" featuring local artists took place at the Centre Expo-Festival on August 29th during the 106th edition of the Evangéline Agricultural Exhibition and Acadian Festival. This event ran from Thursday, August 28th to Sunday, August 31st, in Abram-Village. Many musical artists from P.E.I. and from New Brunswick were featured throughout the Festival.

Not included in this listing are the numerous house parties, frolics and other musical events, such as entertaining the seniors at local manors and seniors' homes. There are just too many to mention. My apologies to any musicians whom I have failed to mention in this write-up and who have added to the great musical talent of this region.

Bishop Faber Attends The 32nd Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival



Bishop Faber MacDonald

Bishop Faber MacDonald (left) played a lively set of old tunes on the stage of the 32nd Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival accompanied by Jeff Matheson on piano. Widely known as

“the Bishop”, Faber MacDonald was born in Little Pond. He served for many years in Newfoundland and in New Brunswick. He is now retired but leads a very active life and travels quite a bit. His most recent CD “All Out for the Gullies”, produced by Jeff Matheson of Atlantic Musician Inc., is a collection of lovely old tunes. All proceeds from the sale of the CD goes to New Dawn, (L’Arche Saint John).

The Bishop spoke eloquently at the Sunday morning mass in the ceilidh barn. He referred to the connection between music and spirituality. “The Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival is not a religious event. It serves the gift of music and music enriches the soul. In a sense, it is a spiritual event.” The explosion of new gifts among women and the young and the emergence of world class musicians was never foreseen when the fiddle festival began. “We just didn’t want Cape Breton to get ahead of us.” Bishop Faber joked. “What we now know is that if we take good care of the gift of music, the music will do the rest.” And so it has.



Bishop Faber MacDonald at the 32nd Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival

Fiddle Shop Talk by Roy Johnstone



I’m just back from a inspiring 10 days at the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention in St John’s, NL. Fiddlers from Galacia, Sweden, Scotland, Ireland, the US and Canada presented workshops and concerts. Roy Johnstone More about this in later issues. Sunday Sessions are continuing at Brennan’s pub. Check BUZZ for details.

There is a lot of research showing that learning to play an instrument has significant advantages for your brain development, regardless of the age at when you start learning. At an older age the process of learning a new instrument or even continuing to learn new tunes, etc. reduces the impact of aging.

A few new aspects related to learning will help you learn easier and the information will be remembered for a longer period. Getting a good night’s sleep has been shown to be very important in learning new information. In fact getting a good sleep is as important as practicing. The practicing you do should include the actual task of playing the tune as well as imagining you are playing the tune. Imagining you are playing sends the same motor and neurological signals to the brain and to the muscles as actually playing and this has been shown to significantly improve the tasks that are being learned. Give this a try as you learn a new tune. Once you have figured out the melody and which fingers you are using along with your bow movements, take some time to just sit quietly and imagine playing the tune. Do this for three or four times through the tune and then get a good night’s sleep. Learning to sing or hum the melody before playing the tune is also a good approach to learning a new tune and you will remember it better.

For more information on these studies check out the following link which gives more details on the fascinating and functional relationship between our brains, sleep and the learning process:

<http://www.newenglandconserv-atory.edu/studentLife/documentsPracticingandCurrentBrainResearchbyGe-brian.pdf>

Keep your bow rosined and the fiddle in tune.

ECMA multi-nominee, performer and recording artist, Roy Johnstone has a website at: www.royjohnstone.com

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Events Forecast

For up-to-date events visit www.peifiddlers.com; www.festivalspei.com/events or check local listings

Sundays 8 pm	Monticello Ceilidh,	Monticello - Log Hall	Rte 16 Monticello	902-687-2547
Sundays 8 pm	Sunday Night Shenanigans	Benevolent Irish Society	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Every Second Sunday 6:30	Ceilidh	St. Paul's Parish Hall	Sturgeon	902-962-3918
Last Sunday 2-5 pm	Roy Johnstone	Brennan's Pub and Eatery	Charlottetown	902-675-2541
Last Sunday 7-9 pm	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4282
Sun Mon Wed Thurs 7:30 pm	Scottish Ceilidh Concert	MacKinnon Homestead	Richmond	902-854-2245
Mon & Wed 7:30 pm (til Sep24)	Ross Family Ceilidh	W.I. Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-569-4551
Mondays 8 pm	Ceilidh & Dance	Holy Name Hall	St Peter's Bay	902-961-2899
Mondays 7:30 (til Sep29)	Long River Players	Murray Centre	Kensington	
Every other Monday 7:30	Ceilidh Kitchen Party	Bingo Country, Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
Wednesdays 8 pm	Square Dance	Old Lorne Valley School	Lorne Valley	902-687-2584
Wednesdays 8 pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Thursdays 7:30 pm	Kitchen Party	Brennan's Pub and Eatery	Charlottetown	902-675-2541
Thursdays 7:30 (til Sep25)	Ceilidh	Stanley Bridge Women's Institute	Stanley Bridge	902-836-4310
Thursday 7:30 (til (Sep25)	Lot 7 Ceilidh	St. Mark's Hall	Burton	902-859-2504
Fridays 8 pm	Friday Night Ceilidh	Dundas Ploughing Match Grounds	Dundas	902-583-2113
Fridays 8 pm	Music, Song and Dance	Benevolent Irish Society	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Every Other Friday 7:30 pm	Drama Club Ceilidh,	Murray Harbour Hall	Murray Harbour	902-962-2157
Saturdays 9 pm	Goose River Dance	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205
Every second Saturday 8 pm	Square Dancing	York Community Centre	York	902-629-1869
Every third Saturday 8 pm	Reuban's Jamboree	Sea View Hall	Sea View	902-836-3844
First Saturday 8 pm	Ceilidh	Kilmuir Hall	Kilmuir	902-838-4768



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The Battle of the Boyne

*Paddledoo/PW Colln
arr. T. Traub 8-31-2005*

Am G Am Am Am Am
G Am Em Am G Am
Am C |¹ G Am Em Am |² G C Em Am

Bishop Faber MacDonald plays this fine slow air on his CD "All Out for the Gullies"

Fiddle and Trophy on Display at the 32nd Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival



Pius Cheverie, grandson of Neil Cheverie, was at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival this year with copies of the story of how his grandfather won The Charlottetown Contest of 1926 along with the trophy he won and the fiddle that he played. "There were 41 fiddlers on the list of entries published two days before the contest started. This great turnout when there were only "at least 15 expected" - caused the organizers to schedule Monday the 29th in addition to the 30th. Then, when a large contingent from Eastern Kings was snowbound several days on the train from Souris, they added a third night. The eventual winner, Elmira's Neil Cheverie, was on this delayed train, as were a number of other finalists; they may even have benefited from the extra practice they had on the train."

The following excerpts are taken from "The Great Fiddling Contests of 1926" by Jim Hornby. The whole story can be found at peiffiddlers.com—Memories



Neil Cheverie (1876-1963)



Charlottetown Contest Trophy

"The winter of '26 produced great falls of snow. George Cheverie recalls that tunnels had to be dug across Main Street in Souris for much of that winter because the snow was too deep to be cleared." "From among eight fiddling finalists, Neil Cheverie was first, William Harvey of Ellerslie second, and Robert Weeks of Highfield third. Cheverie won a medal and his trip to Boston; Harvey won ten dollars in gold, and Weeks five dollars." "The winner, Cheverie (1876-1963), was known for the lift and precision of his fiddling, and for his ability to put cuts, slurs, time and grace notes into his

tunes for greater variety and drive. Like many others in Eastern Kings, he was both a farmer and fisherman, and he drove a rural mail route."



Neil Cheverie's fiddle

Fiddle Lessons will be offered

by Kathryn Dau-Schmidt
in Charlottetown on Wednesday nights and
in Rollo Bay on Monday nights.
A weekly fiddle practice will be offered
under the direction of Peter Chaisson
in Rollo Bay on Monday nights.
Please phone Kathryn at 672-2711 or
Peter Chaisson at 687-2584
for further information as to times and dates.

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