



# The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 7, Issue 3

December 2009

## Mohamed's Reel

### Tune Composer: Kevin Chaisson

By June Harper

Inspiration to write tunes comes by in a variety of ways — a dream, a feeling, an experience. The inspiration to pen Mohamed's Reel, is a wonderful example of how people come into our lives and touch us in a special way.

Earlier this year, Kevin Chaisson, a well-known, accomplished piano player, but noted from time to time to pick up the fiddle, played with band members made up of Kevin's friends from



**From Left; Joe Christian, Mohamed Mara, Kevin Chaisson, Blaine Peters, Preston Johnston, Tommy Kickham and Jim Townshend**

his "younger" days. The fundraiser in Fortune was being held to raise *"funds for the purchase and long-term maintenance of myoelectric hands for Mohamed Mara, a 27-year-old resident of Charlottetown, who left behind a life of horror when he came to Canada in early 2005. During the civil war in Sierra Leone in West Africa, rebel soldiers burnt Mohamed's small village to the ground. His mother, his father and his siblings were all massacred. He barely escaped with his life only to be caught later by more rebels who brutally cut off his hands. Mohamed survived this unimaginable ordeal, found his uncle and family, and escaped with them to the neighboring country of Guinea. He relocated to Canada four years ago as a refugee."* (*The Guardian*, 18-06-09)

A few weeks after the fundraiser, Kevin received a picture of Mohamed and the band members. He placed the picture on his kitchen table and went upon his day. A few days later, Kevin noticed the picture and a tune just "came out of nowhere."


Kevin plays at many worthwhile fundraisers, but was impacted by this particular event and Mohamed's story was the inspiration behind the tune. As Kevin was writing the tune, he was remembering all of the

tragedies that Mohamed had faced and was able to overcome. Although Kevin had initially sat down that day to compose a jig to go with a tune that Cape Breton fiddler Shelly Campbell wrote, the notes to what would ultimately become Mohamed's Reel were the ones that took centre stage.

Although Kevin wrote the tune, he was not sure what to name it. During the weekend of the 2009 Rollo Bay

Fiddle Festival, Kevin shared his idea with a few friends to sell tickets on the tune and the winner would have to opportunity to "Name That Tune." After overwhelming encouragement, the idea became a reality. Anne McPhee designed tickets to be printed off and with the help of Marlene Gallant, members of Kevin's family and his friends, the tickets were "flying" off the table.

At the Sunday afternoon concert, the announcement about the fundraiser was made to the large audience. Tickets were sold and over \$900 was raised. The winner was Minnie MacMaster, from Cape Breton (Natalie's mother).

Kevin called Minnie and told her that she was the winner of Name That Tune. Since she really could not remember the tune, Kevin played it for her over the phone. Still needing to hear it one more time, Kevin obliged and replayed the tune. Still not convinced she would remember the tune to be able to get the feeling to properly name it, she called her husband, Alex, to pick up the phone extension and have a listen. The tune is beautiful and knowing Minnie she just wanted to hear Kevin play the tune. Minnie called Kevin back a few days later and named the tune Mohamed's Reel. 

## The Island Fiddler

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## Scotland Update

By Marlene MacDonald

Seasons Greetings to All, I am pleased to pass on our trip to Scotland update. Our president, Ward MacDonald and I have been busy spreading the word and visiting our chapters to make sure we reach everyone. To date, we have over 30 travelers signed up, and we still have more visits to make.



Marlene MacDonald

Ward and I were very hospitably welcomed by new Southern Kings Chapter in November. Their group had some great questions about the trip, and seven people from their group added their names to our list of interested travelers! Ward also added some names to the list in late October when he and Blair Myers attended the Prince County Fiddlers practice.

Our next step is to make a trip "up home" to Souris in January to talk to the Eastern Kings Fiddlers and a trip up west to speak with some Acadian fiddlers as well.

We are continuing to work with Burton MacIntyre who was instrumental in organizing and fund-raising for the Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association trip to Scotland in 2008. Burton returned to PEI in October to share his experience first-hand with our members at our last Annual General Meeting.

I want to thank those who have put forth suggestions and fund-raising ideas. We welcome more ideas as we begin fund-raising in the New Year. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me at 368-1832.

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Susan and Libbe Hubley	.....	836-3887
Shirley Burke	.....	368-2416
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*If you wish to be listed as a teacher, contact the editor  
annemcphee@pei.sympatico.ca or 687-1521*

**Fiddling Related Websites**

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Billy MacInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
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**PEI Fiddlers Society AGM Report**

By Anne M. McPhee

The Annual General Meeting of the PEI Fiddlers Society was held on Saturday October 24th, 2009. There was good attendance and high interest in hearing the guest speaker, Burton MacIntryre, who talked at length and answered numerous questions about how the Cape Breton Fiddlers got over to Scotland and the planning and fundraising that is needed to get there.

Ward MacDonald reported that his main goal this year is to get plans underway to take a group of fiddlers from PEI to Scotland in early July 2012 with plans to be back in time for the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. Next steps are to start recruiting fiddlers and planning Society activities to fundraise for the trip.

All Chapters reported good fiddle activity in their regions and fiddle lessons and practices have resumed with lots of interest.

Ward reported that The Island Fiddler newsletter continues to be well received. Anyone who likes to write or knows of an interesting story is invited to submit their ideas or a biography to the editor for future issues of the newsletter. Advertisers are important to the continued production of the newsletter. If you know of someone who would like to place an ad in the newsletter, contact Blair Myers.

Memberships are important to the PEI Fiddlers Society. Individuals who are not Chapter members can submit \$20 to the Treasurer and receive the newsletter by email or in hard copy by request (see the Membership Form on the back of this newsletter).

The final piece of business was to formally extend an invitation to the Southern Kings Fiddlers to become an official Chapter of the PEI Fiddlers Society.





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Carolyn Drake

## Queens County Fiddlers Report by Carolyn Drake

Merry Christmas from all of us at the Queens County Fiddlers!

After a wonderfully busy summer, our group has been enjoying a quieter fall with regular practices at Queen Charlotte Intermediate School in Charlottetown and a chance to learn new tunes. We have a great new set of marches and reels underway and are putting together a new set of jigs. We hope to have both of these in our performing repertoire for 2010. The group is happy to welcome several new members this year, including a number of younger players. It's always great to see new faces. People are welcome to join at any time throughout the year.

More than 30 members turned out for a special practice at Andrews of Charlottetown on Remembrance Day evening, Nov. 11. We were welcomed by a large and enthusiastic audience of residents, as well as several staff members. They enjoyed a wide variety of marches, slow airs, strathspeys, jigs and reels, as well as step-dancing by Alice Cheverie, accompanied first by her father, Paul, and then by Aaron Crane. Aaron also did a great job leading the group for the evening.

Although many of the ceilidhs are on a break for the fall and winter season, members are still performing at a variety of events. Aaron Crane, Fiona MacCorquodale and Paul Cheverie have all played on different Sunday evenings at Judy MacLean's Sunday night Shenanigans, while Aaron and Fiona were also both scheduled to take the stage at a Christmas Daddies fundraiser in Charlottetown on Nov. 29.

Well-known fiddler and fiddle teacher Ward MacDonald has agreed to join us to lead a learning session before our weekly practices (6:30-7:30pm) during the winter. Ward will be teaching one tune per week by ear. The tune will be chosen each week based on who is present and what we are learning at QCF practices. These sessions are primarily for the benefit of young players, but everyone is welcome. The sessions will cover learning by ear; learning to learn by ear; learning how to tap your feet to marches, strathspeys, reels, jigs, waltzes,

hornpipes; learning to hear all the different ornaments (cuts, grace notes, trills, drones, warbles, vibrato, etc.); learning to play all those different ornaments (over time of course); and learning a new tune, that you will remember after you leave. The sessions got underway on Dec. 2. Please note that the session will be cancelled in the event that the regular QCF practice is cancelled (during storms, etc.). The session will also be cancelled on evenings that the QCF practices are moved to a nursing home or other location.

Looking ahead, Kathleen Vent is hosting a Christmas party for the group at her home on Dec. 13, beginning at 2 p.m.

Our last practice for 2009 is scheduled for Dec. 16 at Queen Charlotte, and we'll kick off 2010 with our first practice on Jan. 6.

The group's annual general meeting will be held early in the new year. The date, time and location will be announced at practice and in the local media. Several spots on the executive are going to be available and members are encouraged to think about submitting their names. Anyone who is interested or who would like more information should contact our president, Linda Moran.

Finally, the annual concert is tentatively scheduled for May at the Carrefour Theatre in Charlottetown. There will be a more detailed report on the concert in the spring newsletter.

All the best for a merry, musical Christmas and a new year filled with the sounds of wonderful tunes, from all of us at the Queens County Fiddlers.




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### Interested in Learning to Play the Fiddle? Borrow one from the Queens County Fiddlers

The Queens County Fiddlers have a program to encourage young and old to learn to play the fiddle. Fiddles are loaned to those who are interested in taking up the fiddle but do not have access to one. The duration of the loan is one year after which it is assumed that the individual will acquire their own fiddle should she/he wish to continue.

The fee for one year is \$100 with a \$50 rebate if the fiddle is returned with no major damage. This fee will allow for replacement of strings and bows and general upkeep of the fiddles. For more information call Peggy Arsenault at 892-8242



**Southern Kings Fiddlers Report**  
by Amy Swenson

Fall 2009 has been an exciting time for the newly formed SKC Fiddlers. Most of our group was able to play for the Sturgeon and Cambridge ceilidhs this fall and we hope to continue to perform as a group around the area. Ward MacDonald, Tim Chaisson and Marlene MacDonald have dropped in to perform for us and to offer much appreciated encouragement to our new group. We have just been welcomed into the PEI Fiddlers Society and currently have 22 members signed up, most of whom have been able to come to our biweekly practices Monday nights at the Active Communities centre on Brook and Main in Montague. Due to the fact that many of our members participate in the Murray Harbour Community School fiddle class in the winter on Monday nights and the Hootenanny class there as well, we are taking a winter break and will be back at regular practice in early spring. Do call me at 962-2273 or Urban Chaisson at 962-3865 for more information on the group or the community school.

The Music Recital series sponsored by the Music Festival in Montague kicked off Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> and nearly 30 young pianists, fiddlers and singers did a fantastic job of entertaining us. Next recitals will be in late February and in April and any young student in the area is welcome to perform. The Hillcrest United church has good acoustics and a wonderful Yamaha baby grand piano for the keyboard artists to play on. Several of my students are also involved in Christmas concerts at churches and schools in the area.

I must tell you that I was given an early Christmas present by two anonymous ladies who

dropped by my place a few months ago when I was in the middle of a lesson. They plunked down a violin case and said "We know you fix fiddles and we just found this one at a garage sale marked 'As is \$5'. It's yours to fix up and maybe you or one of your students will enjoy playing it". They refused my offer to cover their cost and disappeared. When I finally had time to get to the repair last month, I discovered a violin in four pieces with extensive and very well done repairs to several bad cracks in the top, bottom and sides. The scroll had been grafted on to the neck and was not likely the original. The workmanship in the body of the instrument was very beautiful and it was made about 1762 by Johann Ulrich Fichtl of Mittenvald, Germany. In spite of the terrible accident it must have had many years ago, when I put the pieces back together, I am left with a lovely strong sounding instrument which I have been playing with great enjoyment. So anonymous ladies, wherever you are, thank you for your beautiful gift, and Merry Christmas to all.



**Lorne Valley Hall - A dedicated group of dancers converge on the Lorne Valley Hall every Wednesday night from 8:00 - 11:00 pm to listen and dance to the music of Peter and Kevin Chaisson. Bonnie Campbell occasionally plays a set of tunes on the fiddle and Ward MacDonald filled in when Peter was away this fall.**

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

The fiddlers of Eastern Kings have been on the go with no shortage of activities this fall. Fiddler J.J. Chaisson is hosting the Monticello Ceilidhs up until Dec 20 which will wrap up with a potluck supper. J.J. and his brother Koady play at the Old Triangle every Wednesday. One night J.J. took well known step dancer Bobby Fraser along - of course, Bobby got up to show them all how it's really done. Along with teaching fiddle and guitar to all ages and parenting his two small children while Julie works, J.J. is a busy guy.



**Koady and J.J. Chaisson**

Speaking of busy people, Jenny McQuaid has written and published a new book called "Humorous Stories, Songs, Bizarre and Eerie Tales from North Eastern Prince Edward Island". This book



**Jenny and Leo McQuaid at the John McIntosh Monument in Naufrage.**

is a must read. The laughter starts in the very first story and from there on in you can't put it down. The book is dedicated to Teresa Wilson who says she read the whole book in one day.

The stories are based on real people and real events but in some cases the names have been changed ("to protect the innocent"). Meanwhile, Teresa's book is in its third printing. A sequel is in the works and Teresa hopes to spend most of the winter writing. These two women are so incredibly inspiring. Fiddlers, renowned storytellers and now authors; they never cease to amaze.



**Teresa Wilson**

Talk about inspiring; another grand lady from Goose River recently celebrated her 87th birthday. No big deal you say? Well, Mary MacLaren was in hospital this fall and very few people expected her to



**Mary MacLaren, age 87, at home in Goose River**

get out let alone go back to the Goose River Dances. But sure enough, she rose again and is back at the dances on Saturday nights, enjoying the music of Peter and Bonnie and Lemmie more than ever. Mary recalls taking fiddle lessons in Rollo Bay some years ago, when her daughter was battling cancer. Mary says playing the fiddle was the only thing that took her mind off her worries in those days.

Cont on page 7

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Eastern cont from page 6

In other news, fiddle lessons have resumed once again at the Rollo Bay School with a large group of beginner students under the care of Kathryn Dau-Schmidt. Another generation of



**The Chaisson brothers - Peter on fiddle, Kenny on bass and Kevin Chaisson on piano.**

Chaissons is beginning to trickle in with grandchildren of both Kenny and Kevin Chaisson starting this year. The "Kitchen Group" is substantially smaller now that Chad Mooney and Angela

Hogan are hard at the books at UPEI and Jimmy Townshend is sitting in on the intermediate class, learning to read the music. Peter Chaisson is taking a hard earned break this year but Lemmie Chaisson is helping out by accompanying us on the guitar.

Past graduates of the Rollo Bay fiddle lessons are doing extremely well these days. Tim Chaisson and Morning Fold have been nominated for five Music PEI Awards and an ECMA Award while Colette Cheverie has just earned a Canadian Folk Music Award and is nominated for a Music PEI Award and an ECMA award. Also nominated for Music PEI Awards are Richard Wood, Courtney Hogan and the Acadian group - Vishten. The Music PEI Week and Conference is in Charlottetown, Jan 20 - 23 while the ECMAs are in Sydney, Cape Breton, March 4 - 7, 2010. It will be a busy winter.

**New Traditional PEI Fiddling Website**

Ken Perlman has devoted much of the last year to working on a Prince Edward Island Traditional Fiddling Website. During the late fall and through the Winter, he selected audio clips from raw field recordings of well over 100 different fiddle players, edited them to make them listener friendly, and converted them to mp3 format. During April and May, he composed about 140 mini biographies, one for each of the fiddlers and other Prince Edward Islanders whose music or oral history clips are featured in this project. Recently he's been working on what he calls Tradition Pages. "Tradition Pages tell the story of Island fiddling in a series of relatively brief web documents linked to oral history snippets. That's almost done now and all that's left is selecting photographs and video illustrations for the site," says the ethnomusicologist.

This website has been made possible through a grant from the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The entire work is scheduled to be launched some time next year.



**Tunewriter Elmer Deagle (left), admits he has been inspired to write tunes on behalf of loved ones and family members when he hasn't had the money to go Christmas shopping.**

Acadian fiddler, Marie Livingstone (right) has written over 200 tunes, many of which are played by fiddlers all over Prince Edward Island. Most of Marie's tunes have been written out so they won't be forgotten.



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## The Fiddle That Came Back Again

By Teresa Wilson

Mel and Jack were invited  
To the lighthouse at Naufrage.  
They both arrived with fiddles  
Each tucked safely in its case.

They soon became acquainted  
That Sunday afternoon.  
Peter said, "Come, boys,  
And play for us a tune."

They tuned up together  
By plucking on the "A."  
After rosining up the bow,  
They were all set to play.

In fiddler's language, Jack said,  
"For warm-up tunes, what say  
*The Little Burnt Potato*  
and *My Darling Nellie Grey*."

Peter looked at Mary Ann  
And he could plainly see  
That playing fiddles in her kitchen  
Was not the place to be.

Follow me to the tower, boys.  
Take your fiddle and your bow.  
You can sit out by the railing  
And let the music flow!

But first, like all good fiddlers,  
You must have a sip  
Of good old Demerara Rum.  
I have a flask here on my hip.

Then, let me show you a picture  
That only God above can do.  
They walked around the catwalk  
And observed the lovely view.

They seated with their fiddles  
And let the music soar

Across the Gulf of St. Lawrence  
And the Bear River shore!

They played waltzes, rants and  
hornpipes; Marches, jigs and reels.  
The neighbours came from miles  
around and stood listening in the  
fields.

Mel said, "There is one more tune.  
It hasn't any name.  
I learned it from a lumberjack  
When I worked away in Maine."

Jack listened attentively  
While Mel played loud and clear.  
He said, "I'll learn to play that lovely  
tune; If it takes me all the year!"

*(After an hour or so, Jack is glaring  
at his fiddle.)*

"I give up! It's all your fault!  
I was born never to fail!"  
He took the Strad-copy by the neck  
And crashed it on the rail!

Later, when Peter went to wind the  
light; He saw through the open door  
Out there on the catwalk,  
Jack's fiddle, all over the floor.

Peter carefully wrapped the pieces  
In a canvas he had found  
And placed it in the attic  
Of his old home, safe and sound.

Owen, Jack's eldest son,  
Heard this story 'true.'  
He headed to the old home  
And knew just what to do.

He ran up the flight of stairs,  
To the attic, he did go  
And found the canvas package  
Put there seventy years ago.

He took the pieces to a fiddle doctor;  
Who said, "It will take a month or two.  
I'll have to send to Halifax  
For a special kind of glue."

Finally, Owen got his fiddle home  
All strung and shiny new.  
He played a spell every day.  
At night, he played it too.

He dearly loved that fiddle  
And played it o'er and o'er.  
Maybe, because it was his Dad's  
He loved it that much more.

Somewhere up in Heaven  
Where the music is something grand,  
Three fiddlers are playing there  
In God's heavenly band.

Mel and Jack are playing  
The tune that has no name;  
And Owen plays his favourite,  
"Will You No Come Back Again." 🐦

*This poem is based on a true story told by  
the late Owen MacDonald, of St. Peter's  
Bay, about an old fiddle his dad once  
played with Teresa's dad Mel MacPhee  
and how Owen brought it back to life.*



**Teresa Wilson celebrated her 80th birthday & book launch with a big party and a huge cake. From left daughter Judy, sister Emma, Teresa, and daughter Bernice.**

### Fiddle Practices Open To The Public

**Eastern Kings Fiddlers** Rollo Bay 687-2584  
Mondays 7:00 Rollo Bay School

**Prince County Fiddlers** Summerside 836-3844  
Mondays 7:30 pm Community Connections

**Southern Kings Fiddlers** Montague 962-2273  
Alternate Mondays 7:00 pm Active Communities

**Queens County Fiddlers** Charlottetown 569-4592  
Wednesdays 7:30 pm Queen Charlotte Intermediate

**Morell Fiddle Group** Morell 961-2962  
Thursdays 7:00 pm Above the Pharmacy

**Acadian Fiddlers** Wellington 436-5532  
Fridays 8:00 pm Boys & Girls Club





### Prince County Fiddlers Report By Barry Thompson

The Prince County Fiddlers continue to meet and practice on Monday evenings. In October we

Barry Thompson held our annual meeting. The officers of the chapter were reappointed for another year. Following the meeting we were pleased to welcome Ward MacDonald and Blair Myers for a visit. Ward brought the chapter up to speed in regards to the trip to Scotland in 2012. After the meeting we spent the rest of the evening playing tunes. Ward and Blair - come back anytime. Indeed, the more the merrier; visitors are always welcome.

In October we entertained the residents of Wedgewood Manor. The Prince County Fiddlers were also pleased to participate at the Fiddle Doo and Potluck organized by Mary Smith and the Maritime Fiddlers Association. This event was largely attended. Two bus loads of fiddlers from Moncton and the Saint John areas made the trip. Ivan and Vivian Hicks and the Sussex Avenue Fiddlers also joined in the fun.

Nathan Condon and Barry Thompson entertained the residents of Clinton View Lodge. It was great to see our former members Ivan and Glenda Bowness at the Lodge. Ivan joined us on the piano for the evening.

The Prince County Fiddlers were sad to bid farewell to a former member and great fiddler in the person of Pete Doiron. While Pete's health has not permitted his participation he was always a

supportive member of the audience when we played at Wedgewood Manor. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Leona and family.

We extend get well wishes to Jim MacDougall who has been recovering from surgery. Jim has been missed by the group and will hopefully be back soon. The Prince County Fiddlers will entertain the clients at Community Connections on December 16th on the occasion of their annual Christmas party.

The Prince County Fiddlers would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.



Mary Smith on piano, accompanies Nathan Condon on fiddle. The next Fiddle Doo and Potluck will be held on Saturday Feb 6, from 2:00 - 7:00 in Kensington.



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Dorothy  
Griffin-Farish

### Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

"Let's Celebrate and Bridge Friendships" was the theme of the Evangéline Region's 107<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Exhibition and Festival Acadienne held from September 4 - 6, 2009. On Sunday afternoon, September 6<sup>th</sup>, there was lively concert of fiddling and stepdancing held with Roger "Co-op" Arsenault as Master of Ceremonies. Fiddlers included Peter Arsenault, Anastasia DesRoches, Edward P. Arsenault, Melissa Gallant, Brandon Arsenault, and Andrea Beaton. Accompanists on keyboard and piano included Mylène Ouellette, Marie Livingstone, and Philippe Leblanc and on guitar were Mitchell Richard and Remi Arsenault. Individual dancers for the afternoon event included Mylène Ouellette, Genevieve Ouellette, Jocelyne Arsenault, Father Eloi Arsenault, Marie Livingstone, and Pierrette Arsenault. Paula Arsenault, Marcia Arsenault and Dianne Ouellette dance as a group. A number of students also danced as a group. The evening ceremonies opened with selections by Brandon Arsenault on fiddle accompanied on guitar by Mitchell Richard. Les Tapageuses, the 30 member dance troupe, and Mario Robichaud and his band also performed. Angele Arsenault, born in Abram-Village and who is famous all over as an Acadian singer and performer, gave the finale. Master of Ceremonies for the evening show was Patrick Arsenault. During the day, the Acadian of the Year Award was presented to the Wellington Fire Department.

Anastasia DesRoches has been involved in many musical events during the season. She, Caroline Bernard and Caroline's mother Jeannita Bernard were featured in "Le Cabaret" at the Centre Expo-Festival in Abram-Village. Anastasia was also featured at the Fiddlers' Sons second-last "Close to the Ground" concert as special guest at the Kaylee Hall in Poles Corner on September 17<sup>th</sup>,

accompanied by Brent Chaisson on guitar and Mylène Ouellette on piano. To check out what upcoming events Anastasia has in future, check her web page.

During the third edition of the Festival de la citrouille or Pumpkin Festival, which was held from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, music played a major role. This year's theme of the festival was "Fall Colours". On Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> an Acadian Kitchen Party, with performances by five of the best women fiddlers, was held at Centre Belle-Alliance in Summerside. The fiddlers were Louise Arsenault, Andrea Beaton, Anastasia DesRoches, Karine Gallant and Samantha Gallant. One of the highlights of the festival was the grand concert on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Harbourfront Theatre. This concert, entitled "Les couleurs de l'automne", featured the Evangeline region's Gadelle and Acadian artist, originally from Paquetville, N. B., Edith Butler. Numerous other events took place during the week. The close of the Festival on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, was a concert with Chuck et Albert and pre-launch of their new CD "Energie". This was held at Centre Belle-Alliance.

Congratulations to Edmond and Zita Gallant of St. Timothy on receiving the Acadian Order of Merit presented at a banquet at the annual general meeting of La Société Saint-Thomas d'Aquin. Not only is this couple very involved in music for Sunday Mass at their parish, Our Lady of Mont Carmel Church, but they provide music and songs for manors, perform at amateur theatre plays, and sit on the board of the Sister Antoinette DesRoches Historic Committee because of their interest in preserving Acadian heritage.

Some of the individuals who have continued to provide music and entertainment at manors and seniors' homes in Wellington and Summerside include Norman Arsenault and his wife Paula, Alice Bérubé, Fred Arsenault, Amand Arsenault,

**Acadian cont from page 10**

Dorothy Farish, Edward P. Arsenault, Leona Cheney, Tracy Arsenault and her group of dancers, Jim MacDougall and the Prince County Fiddlers, Margaret Gallant, Peter and Albert Arsenault.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the first ceilidh of the 2009 -10 season was held at Parkview Senior Citizens' Club in Summerside. Featured were Roger "Co-op" Arsenault and Friends, who provided some lively music, jokes and songs, Fred Arsenault, Max Arsenault, Alice Bérubé, Sylvie Toupin, Rose Arsenault and Dorothy Farish.

A number of members of the Evangeline region have taken their musical talent and performed in other parts of Canada, the United States, and Europe. Check the various web sites found within this newsletter to find out their activities.

With the Christmas season upon us there are sure to be a number of house parties and other musical events in the region. More on those in the next newsletter. Till next time, Cheerio, Merry Christmas and all the best for 2010!



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**How to Learn a Tune by Ear**

Roy Johnstone passed along an interesting website that outlines the benefits of learning to play a tune by ear. While there are obvious benefits of being able to read music, learning to play by ear gives you the opportunity to play better, learn faster, retain more tunes and concentrate more on technique. You can check out the website at:

[www.slowplayers.org/SCTLS/learn.html](http://www.slowplayers.org/SCTLS/learn.html)



The Judy MacLean Dancers were at the 2009 Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. (left to right) Janine Chapman, Judy MacLean, Richard Wood (who played for them) and Alice Cheverie.

**Safely Home**

*Peter Cornelius Doiron*  
September 29, 2009 at age 85.

*Long time member of the*  
*Prince County Fiddlers and a*  
*Life Member of the PEI Fiddlers Society*

**Drop in and see pharmacist Paul Jenkins.**  
**Show your Fiddler's Society Membership Card to obtain**  
**a gift & special prescription benefits.**



**Events Forecast**

For up-to-date events visit [www.peifiddlers.com](http://www.peifiddlers.com); [www.festivalspei.com/events](http://www.festivalspei.com/events) or check local listings

Sundays 2 - 5 pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 7 - 9:30 pm (monthly)	Sun Night Shenanigans	56 St. Peter's Road	Charlottetown	902-566-5545
Sundays 8 pm til Dec 20	Ceilidh with JJ Chaisson	Monticello Log Hall	Rte 16 Monticello	902-687-2261
Sundays 2 - 9	Sunday Music Jams	Expo-Festival Centre	Abram-Village	902-854-3300
Second Sunday 6:30	Ceilidh	St. Paul's Parish Hall	Sturgeon	902-962-3918
Second Sunday (begin Feb) 2-4pm	Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
Alternate Mondays 7:30 pm	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
Wednesdays 9 pm	J.J. and Koady Chaisson	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Fridays 8 pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St Peter's Bay	902-961-2899
Fridays 8 pm	Music, Song and Dance	Benevolent Irish Society	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Every Second Friday	Murray Harbour Ceilidhs	Murray Harbour Community Centre	Murray Harbour	902-962-2157
Saturdays 9 pm	Goose River Dance	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205
First Saturday 8 pm	Ceilidh	Kilmuir Hall	Kilmuir	902-838-4768
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Sunday Dec 20, 7 pm	Acadian Christmas	Expo-Festival Centre	Abram-Village	902-854-3300
Sunday Dec 20, 7 pm	A Christmas Concert	Tracadie Community Centre	Tracadie Cross	902-676-2945
Boxing Day Bash 4 pm	Richard Wood & Gordon Belsher	Olde Dublin Pub, 131 Sydney St	Charlottetown	902-892-6992
New Years Eve 9 pm	Dinner and Dance with Peter Chaisson	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205
New Years Eve	Richard Wood & Gordon Belsher	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Saturday Feb 6, 2010 2 - 7	Fiddle Doo and Potluck	Murray Christian Centre or Legion	Kensington	902-963-2356

**Mohamed's Reel**

reel © Kevin Chaisson, 2009

**PEI FIDDLERS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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