



The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 8, Issue 3

December 2010

“Fiddling Francis”

By Amy Swenson

"Fiddling Francis" or Francis MacDonald, now 72, was born at the family farm at St. Peter's Lake in October of 1938. His father Ronnie learned to play the violin from his grandmother, and sometimes played with Anneas McEachern, fiddler and father of Cec McEachern who played for years on the Don Messer Show. Francis' home



“Fiddling Francis” - Francis MacDonald

was always filled with fiddle music and song, as his mother loved to sing and could "jig" the fiddle tunes. Francis started playing at the age of 9 and his mother helped him learn tunes such as Down Yonder, the Flowers of Edinburgh and St. Anne's Reel. As well as learning from his parents, Francis was a big fan of W. Scotty Fitzgerald, Bill Lamey and Joe Maclean and after the family got a battery powered radio, they would all listen to fiddle music on CFCY Charlottetown, a station from New Carlisle which played a lot of Acadian tunes, and CJFX in Antigonish which of course specialized more in Cape Breton style fiddling. So Francis was exposed to a wide variety of tunes and styles, and continues to enjoy playing tunes from many genres to this day.

The local school Christmas concert was the scene for his debut as a fiddler, and after he got his drivers' license, he began playing at school dances during the summer. Soon he was part of a band that played for local square

dances. This group included Daniel Ross on piano, Albert McEachern on guitar and Joe Romand on drums. Later he hooked up with another group which included Francis Chaisson on piano, Sterling Baker on bass guitar and Lawson Baker on lead guitar. They had fun playing for the Legion and Fire Hall sponsored dances at

the Old Morell Hall. He was part of other groups which played for dances, weddings, anniversaries and other shindigs. At this time he was working in construction and was a heavy machine operator.

After Francis married, he went to work for 27 years on the Bordon ferries which did not allow much time to commit to musical activities. He did play in a lot of Fiddling Contests and won some prizes and recognition at them. Then he joined the PEI Fiddler's Society as an original member and enjoyed meeting many fiddlers from around the Island and Cape Breton. He has participated in the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival and always enjoys hearing the visiting fiddlers there every year. He has played his music in Dublin, Ireland, where his sister resides, and in almost every Canadian province.

One of his fondest memories is being a part of the Canadian Heritage Festival in Vancouver in 1981, as part of the delegation from the PEI Fiddler's Society.

The Island Fiddler

To view all editions of
The Island Fiddler in colour
online at www.peifiddlers.com

Editor:	Anne M. McPhee	687-1521
Asst Editor:	Ward MacDonald	626-8084
Distribution:	Lorraine McMillan	894-1128
Advertising:	Blair Myers	569-4518

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

The *opinions* expressed herein are not necessarily those of *The Island Fiddler*. *The Island Fiddler* does not assume any responsibility or otherwise with respect to the products or services advertised.

Mail: The Island Fiddler, 135 Kent Street,
P.O. Box 3311, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5
Email: annemcpee@pei.sympatico.ca

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society

Established 22 May 1977 * Incorporated 31 March 1983

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society Executive

Ward MacDonald, President	626-8084
Jason Campbell, 1st Vice President	886-2742
Marie MacIntyre, 2nd Vice President	969-7104
Anne M. McPhee, Secretary	687-1521
Paul Cheverie, Treasurer	566-3551

Prince County Fiddlers

Barry Thompson, President	836-3844
wbthompson@gov.pe.ca	

Queens County Fiddlers

Aaron Crane, President	388-1040
injury27@live.com	

Eastern Kings Fiddlers

Anne M. McPhee	687-1521
annemcpee@pei.sympatico.ca	

Southern Kings Fiddlers

Amy Swenson	962-2273
gagliano31@hotmail.com	

Acadian Fiddlers

Dorothy Griffin Farish	432-9692
dfarish1@eastlink.ca	


Privacy Statement

Information collected is solely for use by
The Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society.

Fiddling cont from page 1

He recalls a marvellous ten-day event that included many different ethnic groups from across Canada. The fiddlers played twice a day in many different places around BC and had a fantastic time. Francis also played when Charles and Diana visited the Lobster Shanty in Montague.

Nowadays Francis lives on the Green Meadows Road and still plays for the occasional dance, variety concert and benefit. He also regularly plays at Seniors' homes in Charlottetown along with Joe Penny on guitar, Urban MacDonald on bass and Rita Morrison on piano. He knows a vast number of tunes, all learned by ear, and plays with the energy and beat of a good dance musician. Although he is not a composer of new tunes, he enjoys putting his own twist on the tunes he plays and advises that it was important for him to learn to hold his left hand up so he could easily move to higher positions in tunes that required them. He demonstrated this by playing an old highland jig and also what I think was Scotty Fitzgerald's Jig by Sandy MacIntyre which goes into the third position. He loves to add ornaments, trills, vibrato, runs and hammer-ons which embellish his playing artfully.

His violin is one his father found many years ago in his uncle's old house in West St. Peters. It was hanging in the attic and needed the skill of the late violin repairman Neil MacCannell to restore it to playability. It has served Francis very well since, and hopefully you will encounter Fiddling Francis and his favorite old fiddle soon at some Island event and have a chance to appreciate his lively playing. 



**Island Painting
and Decorating Ltd.**

- INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING
- WALLPAPER HANGING AND VINYL WALLCOVERING
- WALL REPAIRS AND SEAM FILLING OF NEW GYPROC

ALLISON DRAKE

TEL: 892-6677 CEL: 628-7066 FAX: 628-2284	5 WESTHAVEN CRESCENT CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. CANADA C1E 1L6
---	---

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	College of Piping	Fid.	877-224-7473
	Kathryn Dau Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
	Kendra MacGillivray	Fiddle	367-5606
	Ward MacDonald	Fiddle	626-8084
	Aaron Crane	Fiddle	388-1040
Cumberland	Courtney Hogan	Fiddle	675-3593
Fortune	Mark Haines	Fiddle	687-1404
Wheatley River	Cynthia MacLeod	Fiddle	940-1825
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
Souris	J.J. Chaisson	Fiddle	687-2261
Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116
	College of Piping	Fiddle	436-5377

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 566-5545
Marlys Hamilton-MacLean	887-3385 or 887-2873
Samantha MacKinnon	892-0805
Susan and Libbe Hubley	836-3887
Shirley Burke	368-2416
Tracy Arsenault	854-3237
Jennifer Carson	314-6386

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

Fiddling Related Websites

Anastasia DesRoches	www.anastasiadesroches.com
Billy MacInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
Caledonian Orchestra	www.caledonianorchestra.com
Canadian Grand Masters	www.canadiangrandmasters.ca
Cape Breton Fiddlers	www.capebretonfiddlers.com
Cape Breton Ottawa	web.ripnet.com/~bmacgi/
Chuck & Albert	www.chuckandalbert.com
Courtney Hogan	www.courtneyhogan.ca/home.html
College of Piping	www.collegeofpiping.com
Cynthia MacLeod	www.cynthiamacleod.com
Ivan and Vivian Hicks	www.ivanhicks.com
Judy MacLean	www.judymacleandance.ca
Ken Perlman	www.kenperlman.com
Learn Tunes by Ear	www.slowplayers.org/SCTLS/learn
Maritime Fiddlers Assoc.	www.MaritimeFiddler.ca
Music PEI	www.musicpei.com
PEI Fiddle Camp	www.peifiddlecamp.com
P.E.I. Fiddlers Society	www.peifiddlers.com
Richard Wood	www.peisland.com/richardwood
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca
Roy Johnstone	www.royjohnstone.com
Marlys Hamilton-MacLean	www.somersetsteppers.ca
Tim Chaisson	www.timothychaisson.com
Vishten	www.vishten.net
Waldrons Photos	www.flickr.com/photos/shywriter55/sets

PEI Fiddlers Society AGM Report

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the PEI Fiddlers Society was held on Saturday, October 23rd at the BIS Hall on North River Road. The meeting was well attended and all Chapters were represented. President Ward MacDonald offered special thanks to executive members Treasurer, Paul Cheverie; Secretary, newsletter editor Anne McPhee and Webmaster Gerry Cheverie for their support throughout the year. An election of officers was held and the following positions were filled by acclamation. President - Ward MacDonald; 1st Vice President - Jason Campbell; 2nd Vice President - Marie MacIntyre; Treasurer - Paul Cheverie; Secretary/Newsletter Editor - Anne M. McPhee. A potluck supper and music followed after the meeting.

Trip to Scotland

It was with regret that Ward MacDonald announced that the Trip to Scotland was cancelled. Unfortunately due to priorities with family issues at this time, Co-chair, Marlene MacDonald is unable to continue volunteering her time on this committee and Ward is not able to continue in a leadership role. Everyone involved agreed it was best to set the plans for the trip aside at this time.



COMPLETE SIGN SERVICE
18 PARK STREET
CHARLOTTETOWN P.E.I.



Toll Free: 1-888-222-9155
24 Emergency 628-9332
or 626-6901

368-3016
16 Walker Drive



Anne M. McPhee

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Report
by Anne M. McPhee

The number of fiddlers in Eastern Kings is on the rise. Due to the large number of new fiddlers, Kathryn Dau Schmidt has divided her beginners classes into two groups. Those who are picking up the fiddle for the first time start at 6:00. At 6:45 the next group starts and goes til 7:30. Then Kathryn joins the Kitchen Group to lend her support and expertise. Meanwhile, students who played in the intermediate group last year have joined the Kitchen Group and have quickly caught on to the set of tunes the group is working on this year. Anyone is welcome to come at 6:30 to go over the tunes slowly then the practice gets going with the whole group at 7:00. A few members of the group played at the Silver Threads Seniors Club in Souris this fall - a delight for the seniors as well as the fiddlers. Lemmie Chaisson accompanies the group on guitar and Ian Farr joined the group this fall and is coming along great as a backup guitarist. He will be missed as he heads south for the coldest months but promises to be back in April in time for our Family Night Concert.

Sadly, a familiar face will be missed at the next Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. Pat Dunphy passed away on August 31st at the age of 88 years. Pat played the fiddle herself plus she was known to play the piano while her husband Jack played the fiddle. She was often seen in the tuning room til the wee hours of the morning at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival and attended the event every year even if she had to moved around in a wheelchair. She was held in high esteem by anyone who met her.



A typical Kitchen Group practice with Bonnie Campbell (left), Lem Chaisson, Logan MacMillan and Len Gaudet.



John Campbell (left) and Sammy Arseneau working on some tunes with the Kitchen Group.



Christian Norton (left) looks on as Kathryn Dau Schmidt offers some tips on playing the tunes the Kitchen Group is working on this fall.

Collision Repair at its Finest

BILL Koughan
Auto Body Ltd.

Dave Koughan
Owner / Manager

Phone: 569-3851
Fax: 569-3120
Rte. 257, Donagh Rd.

A & D Backhoeing

Owner Allan MacDonald
Phone/fax: 961-2105
Cell: 393-5727

We'll take care of all your digging, trucking, sewer system, and landscaping needs



Amy Swenson

Southern Kings Fiddlers Report by Amy Swenson

The Southern Kings County Fiddlers have been continuing to practice every two weeks all fall and have decided to hold practices every other Monday night all winter in Montague.

We have attracted some more fiddlers who enjoy our laid back practice style and welcome visitors any time. Generally we first rehearse whatever tunes we plan to play at our next public appearance and then throw the tune choice open to everyone. We have learned a lot of new tunes this way and everyone gets a chance to go over tunes they are especially interested in trying or simply to show off something they have just learned.

We played at the Sturgeon Ceilidh October 24th and have been asked to headline the Christmas Ceilidh December 5th. This is always a fun event and we'll play a few favorite fiddle tunes and then some of my younger students will join us for some Christmas carols. At the very least, we will be 25 strong & loud!

Some of us attended the Kensington Fiddle Doo Oct. 30th and we had a great time. Urban Chaisson, Paul Wisener and I played a couple of tunes from our end of the island, and had requests for copies of the music afterwards. We heard a lot of very fine fiddling from folks we don't often hear play in our end of the island, and I had a wish come true. Ivan Hicks graciously allowed me to play harmony with him on his lovely Grandma Lee's Waltz. I'm told we sounded good in spite of having absolutely no rehearsal.

A few weeks ago, we lost the oldest fiddler I have had the privilege to meet and play with. Captain Thomas Allen Trenholm of Murray Harbour, born in March, 1910, passed away in October after a fall. Many of the Southern Kings Fiddlers have played with him over the years and have enjoyed listening to his exciting and very clearly recollected stories of his life as a schooner captain. His friends got together at Memorial United Church in Murray River November 14 to celebrate his life. We all appreciated Dutch Thompson's talk and slide show which included many amazing photographs of Tom's boats, his seafaring father and brothers, and his wife Mary who sailed with him for many years. We were happy to hear again some of Tom's stories of seeing a German submarine surface when he was in the Merchant

Marine sailing to Newfoundland with only Mary as crew, and of delivering potatoes, coal, salt and lumber and a bit of rum in travels from Halifax to Pictou and the Caribbean.

Tom's father taught all his boys to sail the boats but he also insisted that they learn to play the fiddle, and as well, they were encouraged to learn to read music. This ability served Tom well in his later years - when he couldn't quite recall the start of a tune, he could look it up & then play away just fine. Over the Waves was his favorite waltz, so the Murray Harbour Five played it at the memorial along with Will Your Anchor Hold, not surprisingly Mary and Tom's favorite hymn.



Mary and Tom Trenholme

Now Tom had been a bit frisky at times over the years, and when he was resting in the hospital the week before he died, he was startled when a man announcing himself to be the police from Georgetown came to his bedside. Tom immediately tried to recall if he had done anything during his time years ago in Georgetown that could be coming back to haunt him! He was relieved to find out that he had misheard and that really the nice man was the priest from Georgetown!

Everyone who knew Tom will miss his sense of humour, his enthusiasm and determination (this included shovelling snow off his roof through his nineties), his amazing memory of the days of sail, and the friendly welcome he had for all his visitors over the years. Bon Voyage, Captain Tom.



Prince County Fiddlers
By Barry Thompson

Here are some photos readers might be interested in. To the right, taken around 1970 in front of Woolworths. They were all great players. They are John Gauthier, Ervan Sonier and Toussant Arsenault. On guitar is Ivan Day and Austin Paynter on accordion. Ervan ran a barber shop on Water Street West in Summerside. He was a great old time fiddler. He and Toussant Arsenault used to face each other and play without accompaniment, Larry O'Gaffe or The Island Boy, as it is sometimes called, their feet keeping perfect time to the music. It was something to witness.



The Bows and Strings - taken at the home of Toussant and Ann Marie Arsenault of Summerside in the early to mid 1970s. Sitting; the late John Gauthier, the late Toussant Arsenault and his wife the late Ann Marie Arsenault on piano. Their daughter Jean Arsenault on Bass. Standing; the late Ervan Sonier, Austin Paynter on accordion and Ivan Day on guitar.

Photo above was taken at St Mary's Church, Indian River about 10 years ago. Fiddlers Leith Thompson and Jim MacDougall. Austin Paynter on accordion, Peter Robinson on Bass. On piano is Darlene Harding and the fiddler on the right is Patsy Bulger.



**Proud Supporter
of Island Talent**

Shop outside the box.



OPEN: MON -WED 9:00AM-5:30PM, THURS & FRI 9:00AM-9:00PM, SATURDAY 9:00AM-5:30PM
DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTETOWN • OVER 90 SHOPS • INFO 894-9505 More online at WWW.CONFEDCOURTMALL.COM

ERVAN SONIER'S Hornpipe.

W.M.D.
MAY 1989.



Going Back Home

Slow Air
Ed. K. Dan-Schmidt

Composer: Emmett Hughes





Carolyn Drake

Queens County Fiddlers Report by Carolyn Drake

Merry Christmas and many happy holiday tunes from the Queens County Fiddlers!

The end of another active summer of music found us back at our regular winter practice home at Queen Charlotte Intermediate School in Charlottetown.

First on our agenda has been putting a new set together, which we expect to have ready to go for performances in 2011.

Fall also meant it was time to renew memberships in the group; just a friendly reminder that anyone who hasn't done so yet should renew by the end of the year. The cost is \$15. And, as always, people are welcome to join at any time throughout the year.

This fall was an extra-special season for one member of our group as our piano accompanist, Jennifer Garrity, her husband, Steven, and their daughter, Anna, welcomed a new addition to their family, Olivia Jenny, on Sept. 22. Jennifer has returned to her seat behind the piano and everyone is pleased to have her back.

In addition to regular Wednesday night practices, the group has played at a couple of special events. In late October, the Rotary Club held a special recognition night for Dr. Bud Ings, a well-known veterinarian and musician. The Rotarians asked the QCF to be part of the festivities at the Delta Prince Edward hotel by playing for about 15 minutes. We had a great turn-out for this event and were happy to add a bit of his favourite music to the occasion.

On Nov. 17, the group played at the Prince Edward Home for a large and enthusiastic group of residents and some of their family members. They enjoyed a wide variety of marches, slow airs, strathspeys, jigs and reels, as well as step-dancing, first by Alice Cheverie, accompanied by her father, Paul on the fiddle and then by one of our newest members, Vanessa Bernard, who was accompanied by Aaron Crane on the fiddle. As usual, the members of the group enjoyed the evening as much as the residents of the Prince Edward Home. More outings such as this will be happening in the new year.

Looking ahead, the group is scheduled to perform at a special Christmas party being held at Geneva Villa the evening of Friday, Dec. 10. We entertained there last year and had a great time.

Our last practice for 2010 is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 15 at Queen Charlotte, and we'll kick off 2011 with our first practice on Jan. 5. Watch your e-mails for any changes, as well as the winter weather forecast for cancellations.

May the holiday season find you enjoying concerts, ceilidhs, house parties, dances and plenty of great tunes in the kitchen. All the best for a merry, musical Christmas and a new year filled with the sounds of wonderful music, from all of us at the Queens County Fiddlers.

Safely Home



Catherine Patricia Dunphy (Pat)
Aug 31, 2010 of Souris,
Age 88 years



Thomas Allen Trenholme
Oct 20, 2010 of Murray Harbour
Age 100 years

Peter Mallard
CARPENTRY LTD.



Specializing In
Finish & Custom
Mill Work &
Cabinet Making

- Roofs
- Patios
- Suspended
Ceilings
- Residential &
Commercial

185 MacCallum Road, Marshfield
Charlottetown, RR#3
PEI, C1A-7J7

• NO JOB TOO LARGE OR SMALL •

Ph: 629-1232 Cell: 628-7464

UNITED JANITORIAL
INC.

Complete Cleaning Services

* Office	* Construction	* Windows
* Commercial	* Floor Care	* Carpets

Building Solid Relationships on Quality Service

Island Owned and Operated
- Bonded and Insured -
Free Estimates



Local: **(902)569-1822**

Toll Free: 1-866-486-4526

www.unitedjanitorial.com

email: admin@unitedjanitorial.com






**Dorothy
Griffin-Farish**

Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Seasons Greetings, Everyone!

There's no end to musical events and festivities in this area.

These are just a few.

Surrounded by family, colleagues and parishioners, Father Eloi Arsenault celebrated the 40th anniversary of his priesthood this fall. A special Mass took place at the Egmont Bay Church. A special homily was delivered by Father Eddie Cormier. Lots of great music followed, including entertainment by the comedy duo of Chuck and Albert, singing by several different people, and selections played on the pipe organ by a number of individuals from both Egmont Bay and Mont Carmel parishes.

Everyone in the area knows "Roger Co-op", the delightful entertainer from Wellington who plays the accordion and piano with ease and who is a great Master of Ceremonies at various events. His brother Julien Arsenault recently received the Seniors' Award offered by the Island's Seniors' Secretariat for his volunteer work in the community. Congratulations, Julien!

The 4th Pumpkin Festival was a splendid success. This year's Pumpkin Festival was held from October 22nd to the 30th, with most of the events held at the Centre Belle-Alliance, 5 Ave Maris Stella, Summerside - or more familiarly known as the French School in St. Eleanors. Some of the musical events during the Pumpkin Festival included an "Acadian Kitchen Party" on Friday, October 22nd, from 7 - 10 p.m. with fiddlers Pascal Miousse, Ward MacDonald, Peter Arsenault, Jesse Francis, Trevor Profitt and special guest Bertrand Deraspe. A "Fall Colours Concert" featuring Patricia and Marcella Richard with guests, and LA GRANGE À FIDÈLE with Paul D. Gallant and the Outhouse Boys, consisting of Alan Gallant, Rémi Arsenault, Wayne Robichaud, Michele à Pete Arsenault and others whose names I do not remember took place the same evening at the Harbourfront Theatre in Summerside.

A Fall Brunch on Sunday, October 24th, featured entertainment by Anastasia DesRoches, Brent Chaisson and Mylène Ouellette and was held at the Loyalist Country Inn, Summerside. On Friday, October 29th, the album "Tunesmith" by Kinnon Beaton & Friends was released during a concert at Centre Belle-Alliance featuring Kinnon Beaton, family members and friends from Cape Breton. The final concert, entitled "Tourbillon de chansons" was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 30th at Centre Belle-Alliance, featuring Carmen Campagne.

Other features during the Pumpkin Festival included a coffee break with music on Saturday, October 23rd from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. featuring Brandon Arsenault and Mitchell Richard, a ceremony in honor of singer Angèle Arsenault and author Georges Arsenault, presented by La Compagnie des Cent Associés at the Acadian Museum in Miscouche.

The Fiddle Doo was again held in Kensington this fall, on Saturday, October 30th at the Murray Christian Centre. A great number of musicians from various parts of P.E.I. and New Brunswick, including Ivan and Vivian Hicks, performed to a packed centre. The Acadian region was represented at the Fiddle Doo by Dorothy Griffin-Farish.

Amand Arsenault, Fred Arsenault, Leona Cheney, Dorothy Griffin-Farish, Alice Bérubé, Norman and Paula Arsenault have performed several times at different manors and seniors homes in Summerside during the summer and fall.

The Friday Night Jammers are back to normal on Friday night at the Wellington Boys' and Girls' Club after taking a few Friday nights off to attend festivities connected with the Pumpkin Festival. Also some of the regular members, including Orrin and Marie Livingstone, attended the Celtic Colors Celebrations in Cape Breton.

During the Christmas season musical events will be numerous throughout the area. Keep an eye on your newspapers, the Buzz or the Internet to find out what's going on and where. There are so many parties this time of year it's hard to keep up with all the activity. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! Enjoy the holidays!





Fiddle Shop Talk

By Roy Johnstone

Roy Johnstone

The Sunday afternoon sessions at the Old Triangle Alehouse are going very well with many players "from away" joining in and saying how pleased they are that a regular session is being held.

The first hour is a slow session and the second half is by ear and at regular tempo. These will continue every Sunday except Dec 26. The Irish set dancers are often in attendance as well so come out and join in the music or kick up your heels in a jig or a polka.

Heading into the winter is a good time to reevaluate your fiddle playing and to plan out some activities that will help you move towards playing better. Self evaluation of your playing is a bit difficult at first but with some practice it will be very rewarding since it allows you to direct your own learning process. For example, consider your bowing. Can you play jigs smoothly with a strong rhythm? The drive and power of the jig comes from the bow arm and getting the lift in your playing will make a big difference in your sound. Practice playing the 6/8 rhythm of a jig paying attention to the first eight note of each triplet. Playing with as little muscular tension is key and transfer the accent gently through your bow hand. I find that most of the pressure is coming through my index finger to the bow.

For any of the dance styles, you can identify an area to work on; Strathspeys, the strong cuts for instance; Hornpipes, a lighter lift to the playing; Airs, longer bows with more expression. Each player will have her own areas to work on. Don't choose too many or that will be self defeating. Choose a few areas and work on them daily for a few months and I'm sure you will see improvements.

Some players just concentrate on learning new tunes but this can be problematic if that's all you do. Often the tunes are not appropriate to your level of

playing and you end up frustrated or worse; with a physical ailment from the stress. Having a good teacher to guide you can help (check out the list of fiddlers willing to teach in the Island Fiddler Newsletter) and I know of a few good books. Two that are more traditional are Matt Cranitch's The Irish Fiddle Book and Traditional Scottish fiddling, a player's guide. Tools for Musicianship by Matt Glazer is more oriented towards jazz and blues but any musician will find it useful. It covers rhythm, advanced ear training, harmony and melodic development and composition (three CDs included).

Perhaps this is one area where classical music has it's advantages. The program of learning is structured to take you through a series of exercises and tunes that help to evolve your playing sequentially. If you know of some good books that take a developmental approach to traditional music please e-mail me and I will mention them in the next shoptalk.

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



A Sunday afternoon session at the Old Triangle Alehouse in Charlottetown.



*Once you've experienced our soap,
you'll be baaaaa-ck for more.*

*Visit 4224 Portage Road (Route 6),
Brackley Beach, PEI*

*Call Toll Free 1-800-793-1644 or 902-672-2242 Locally
www.GreatCanadianSoap.com*

Reasonable Bow Rehairing & Violin Repairs

Bridges, sound posts & pegs adjusted or replaced,
gluing problems fixed

Private Fiddle Lessons for all ages

Amy Swenson, MA
Member, Strathgartney Orchestra,
Southern Kings Fiddlers and Queens County Fiddlers
902-962-2273 gagliano31@hotmail.com

A Letter to the Editor

In the *Maple Leaf* of May 1931, a correspondent reported on a trip he took to PEI in August of 1930. (*The Maple Leaf* was a magazine published in Oakland, California for Islanders away.) About three miles west of Rock Barra he visited Donald Aenaes McDonald. Donald is described as "one of the Island's champion fiddlers" and was married to a MacEachern of the area. The tunes played included:

Over the Hills to Yon Town
Duke of Fyfe
The Ghost Tune
Flowers of Edinburgh
Lord MacDonald's Reel
The Spring Tune
Lovely Flora

We have not been able to identify Over the Hills, Ghost Tune and Spring Tune, and perhaps Lovely Flora. It would be interesting to hear these tunes. Anyone with suggestions is welcome to contact us at 894-4741 or by email at falechowick@hotmail.com

Sincerely,

Frank & Juanita Lechowick



Judy MacLean's Sunday Night Shenanigans at York Community Centre has been drawing great crowds and great musicians. Seen here is Richard Wood (seated), host Judy MacLean and guest Colton Matheson (2010 Easter Seals Ambassador).

Musical Buy and Sell



FOR SALE German made fiddle with the name "Schroetter" clearly visible on a tag on the inside. Told by a reputable music retailer in Toronto that it is of pre-war vintage, perhaps 1938 or 39, which would make it at least 70 years old. The price is \$700.00. Anyone interested can call 569-2763 or email: paddler@eastlink.ca



For Sale - Full size Fiddle/Violin in perfect condition. Comes with a nice lined case, bow, extra set of strings, is tuned and ready to go. Asking \$350. Call Cherry Wakeham 902-367-1948 or email: cherrywakeham@hotmail.co.uk

Fiddle Doo Oct. 30th

written by Mary Smith

The Murray Centre in the town of Kensington, PEI was the site of a wonderful afternoon of entertainment. The Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck on Oct 30 2010, drew entertainers and listeners from far and wide; Island fiddlers as well as New Brunswick fiddlers and singers played to a delighted packed house. The entertainment was second to none which included Fiddle Champion Ivan & Vivian Hicks and representatives from a number of fiddle clubs from on and off the Island. PEI clubs represented were The Prince County Fiddlers, Queens County Fiddlers, Southern Kings Fiddlers and the Acadian Fiddlers. Clubs from New Brunswick included the Sussex Ave Fiddlers, the Saint John Sussex Area Happy Go Lucky Fiddlers, the Fredericton NB Area Wednesday Evening Fiddlers as well as the Greater Moncton Fiddlers. The event is held a couple of times each year on PEI with the intention of bringing people together for an afternoon of great music and hopefully to foster a deeper appreciation of traditional old time music. The event also provides an opportunity for people to have a chance to experience and enjoy the various styles of fiddling and fiddlers. A big thank you to all who turned out, brought food, and helped in the kitchen.

The next Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck is on Feb. 5, 2011.

Bernadette's Flowers
— Where great designs start —

Bunbury Mall
Stratford



Every day is a special day,

At Bernadette's Flowers

Arrangements

For all occasions

**Great Friendly Service
We Deliver Island wide**

Events Forecast

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

Sundays 2 - 5 pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 4 - 7 pm	Ward MacDonald	Red's Corner (former Whim Inn)	Pooles Corner	902-626-8084
Sundays 7 - 9:30 pm (monthly)	Sun Night Shenanigans	York Community Hall	York	902-566-5545
Sundays 7:30 pm	Kitchen Party	St. Margaret's Parish Hall	St. Margaret's	902-687-2584
Sundays 2 - 9	Sunday Music Jams	Expo-Festival Centre	Abram Village	902-854-3300
Third Sunday 1:30 pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
Third Sunday 7 pm	Kellys Cross Ceilidhs	Kellys Cross Church Hall	Kelly's Cross	902-658-2290
Last Sunday of the month 7-9 pm	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4282
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
Tuesdays	Georgetown Ceilidh	Old Lions Club	Georgetown	902-652-2316
Wednesdays 8 pm (until Dec 22)	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
Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:30	Irish Set Dance Classes	Benevolent Irish Society Hall	Charlottetown	902-566-3447
Fridays 8 pm (begin Jan)	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 Hall	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
New Years Eve 9 pm	Dinner and Dance with Peter Chaisson	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205
New Years Eve 9:30	Richard Wood & Gordon Belsher	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Saturday Feb 5, 2011 2 - 7	Fiddle Doo and Potluck	Murray Christian Centre or Legion	Kensington	902-963-2356

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

Wednesdays 7:30 pm Above the Pharmacy

Acadian Fiddlers Wellington 436-5532

Fridays 8:00 pm Boys & Girls Club

PEI FIDDLERS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Membership \$20 _____

Address _____

Donation \$ _____

City _____

Payable to: PEI Fiddlers Society

Province/State _____

Mail: PEI Fiddlers Society

Postal/Zip Code _____

135 Kent Street, P.O. Box 3311,

Email _____

Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5

Quarterly Newsletter; Email Yes No

Snail Mail Yes No