



The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 9, Issue 1

September 2011

Playing for the Love of the Music



Francis McCormack of Montague has rarely missed the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival in the past 35 years and this year was no different. A Life Member of the PEI Fiddlers Society, Francis has played the fiddle most of his life and continues to play with a twinkle in his eye, for the love of the music.



Mary Smith received a PEI Fiddlers Society Life Membership at the Prince County Fiddlers Annual Concert in Kensington while President Barry Thompson and Life Member Libbe Hubley look on. Mary attributes her love of the music and zest for life to her late father who lived to be 103 and enjoyed life to the fullest.



Celtic Ladies - Darla MacPhee, Jaime Bell, Jocelyn Ludgate, Sheila Fitzpatrick and Jon Matthews delighted audiences at two sold out concerts at the Souris Show Hall and one at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Charlottetown. **See Playing page 3**

The Island Fiddler

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Fiddle and/or Accompaniment Teachers

Abram-Village	Louise Arsenault	Fiddle	854-2830
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Charlottetown	Aaron Crane	Fiddle	388-1040
	Kathryn-Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
	Kendra MacGillivray	Fiddle	367-5606
	Ward MacDonald	Fiddle	626-8084
	College of Piping	Fid.	877-224-7473
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Rollo Bay	Kathryn-Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
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Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116
	College of Piping	Fiddle	436-5377
Wheatley River	Cynthia MacLeod	Fiddle	940-1825

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College of Piping	436-5377 or 877-224-7473
Jaime Bell	962-2846
Jennifer Carson	314-6386
Jocelyne Arsenault	854-2721
Judy MacLean	969-4100 or 566-5545
Mariys Hamilton-MacLean	887-3385 or 887-2873
Pierrette Arsenault	854-2091
Samantha MacKinnon	892-0805
Shirley Burke	368-2416
Susan and Libbe Hubley	836-3887
Tracy Arsenault	854-3237

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

Fiddling Related Websites

Anastasia DesRoches	www.anastasiadesroches.org
Billy MacInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
Calendonian 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.rwood.ca
Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest	www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca
Roy Johnstone	www.royjohnstone.com
Mariys Hamilton-MacLean	www.somersetsteppers.ca
Tim Chaisson	www.timchaisson.com
Vishten	www.vishten.net
Waldron's Photos	http://www.flickr.com/photos/shywriter55/sets/

Playing cont. from page 1



Brenda Stubbert and Kimberly Fraser having some fun.



The Judy MacLean Dancers Danielle and Isabelle Saunders with fiddler Richard Wood, Judy MacLean, Gordon Belsher, front is Madison McPhee age 7, Alyssa Dalton age 9, and Alice Cheverie.



Cynthia MacLeod at the Festival of Small Halls.



Cape Breton fiddler Andrea Beaton with Irish fiddler Liz Carroll from Chicago played at Eastern Kings Community Centre during the Festival of Small Halls.



Some loyal fiddle fans have rarely missed a Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival regardless of weather conditions.

**PEI Fiddlers Society
 Annual General Meeting
 Saturday, October 22, 2011
 Benevolent Irish Society
 582 North River Road, Charlottetown
 3:00pm – PEI Fiddlers Society AGM
 (All are welcome)
 4:00pm – Potluck Supper followed by music
 (Bring your instruments!)**

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Report by Anne M. McPhee



Between the Festival of Small Halls, the 35th Annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival and all the ceilidhs and concerts, there were plenty of fiddlers from near and far

to keep fiddle enthusiasts on their toes all summer long. Here are some photos of just a few of the people that were seen out and about.



People of all ages enjoy dancing at Island Ceilidhs.

J.J. Chaisson hosted the popular Monticello Ceilidhs with Bonnie Campbell on piano.



Buddy Longaphie, always a crowd pleaser, hasn't missed too many Fiddle Festivals over the years.



Marlene MacDonald MC'd the entire Fiddle Festival and some Small Halls concerts.



Waldron Leard (left) was honoured to accept a PEI Fiddlers Society Honourary Life Membership Award at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival from Society President, Ward MacDonald. Waldron is well known in Eastern Kings and is more commonly seen behind the camera, not in front of it. Waldron has been chronicling the Fiddle Festival and other fiddle events in Eastern Kings for many years and is the manager and co-owner of the ekpei.ca website with Ana Gallant. Photo sets from this event and others are at - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/shywriter55/sets/>



Melanie, the daughter of Peter and Doreen Chaisson, was home from out west this summer and delighted everyone who heard her play.





Watch for more from Cape Breton fiddler Gillian Head. A student of Mike Hall, this was Gillian's first Fiddle Festival but let's hope it won't be her last.

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Ellen MacPhee playing the Small Pipes.



Troy MacGillivray and Louis-Charles Vigneau mesmerize the crowd with vocals and tunes.



Howie MacDonald is always a favourite on the fiddle or the piano.



The final concert of the 35th Annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival ended with members of the Chaisson Family playing a blast of favourite tunes. (L-R) Kevin, Koady, Peter, Kenny Chaisson, Jerry Holland Jr., Brent, Tim and Lem Chaisson.

Fiddle Practices Open To The Public

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Rollo Bay 687-1521
Mondays 7:00 pm Rollo Bay School - Oct 17
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 - 9:30 pm Above the Pharmacy
Acadian Fiddlers Wellington 436-5532
Fridays 8:00 pm Boys & Girls Club

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Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Fiddling festivities, flying feet, dinner theatres, community concerts, house parties, anniversary celebrations and the Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree pretty well sums up what went on in the Evangeline area of the province since our last newsletter. My apologies if I miss some people's names or events - it's difficult to keep up with all the activity in this region.

The P.E.I. Fiddle Camp took place at Augustine Cove from June 19th to the 25th. Among this year's list of instructors were Richard Wood, Pascal Miousse, Emmanuelle and Pastelle Leblanc from the group Vishtèn, as well as Dr. Ellen MacPhee, Tim Cummings, Meghan Forsyth, Ward MacDonald and Andrea Beaton. Training was offered for fiddle, accordion, guitar, mandolin, banjo and whistles, as well as dance and voice.

From June 16th to the 26th the Festival of Small Halls was held throughout the province. In the Evangeline area performances were given by Samantha Gallant, The Once and Le Vent du Nord. The group Vishtèn performed at the Linkletter Community Hall, and Anastasia DesRoches, accompanied by Brent Chaisson & Mylène Ouellette, performed at the Lot 16 Community Hall, Lot 16.

On June 18th the dance group Les Steppeuses performed at a fundraising ceillidh at the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts in Summerside. This was in aid of the East Prince Chapter of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of PEI. Le Steppeuses also performed for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their visit to P.E.I. in early July.

On Tuesdays of July, August & September, from 8 p.m to 11 p.m., beginning July 19th, music jams are held at the Expo Centre in Abram's Village. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, from July 13th to August 25th, the 6th annual Dinner Theatre took place. Debbie Montgomery, one of the regular members of the Friday Night Jammers, was one of the performers at the Dinner Theatre.

From July 29 - 31, 2011 the 24th Atlantic

Fiddlers' Jamboree was held at Abram-Village, with a Jam held on Friday evening, the 29th, which included the Friday Night Jammers plus fiddlers and other musicians from other parts of the Island, and from off-Island. A Fiddlers' Musical Brunch held at the Expo Centre on Sunday, July 31st, followed in the afternoon by a concert and the presentation of the Golden Fiddle Award to "Young" Peter Chaisson of King's County, P.E.I., who is recognized as "one of the prime exponents of Scottish fiddling on P.E.I."

At this concert, to the delight of all, the grand old-time Acadian fiddler of the area, Eddy Arsenault, along with his brother Amand on guitar, played a number of lively tunes.



Grand old-time Acadian fiddler Eddy Arsenault with brother Amand on guitar delight the audience at the 2011 Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree in Abram-Village.

Nathalie Arsenault, a descendant of the "Joe Bibienne's" and an accomplished fiddler, also



Nathalie Arsenault

entertained at the Sunday afternoon concert, along with her husband, Jamaica-born Pepeto Pinto, a professional steel drum player. Frank Ferrell, a noted fiddler from the United States also was a guest fiddler during the Jamboree.

See Acadian page 7

Acadian from page 6



Jamaica-born Pepeto Pinto, a professional steel drum player entertained a large crowd at the 2011 Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree.

A performing group, Ten Strings and a Goat Skin, consisting of Jesse Periard, Caleb Gallant and Rowen Gallant, was a new feature at the 2011 Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree on Saturday, as well as Alexandre Deraspe, an energetic young fiddler from the Magdelen Islands accompanied by Louis-Charles Vigneau, also from "The Maggie's".

Numerous people from the area continue to provide entertainment at the Chez Nous in Wellington and to Andrew's Lodge and Park Hill Place in Summerside.



Peter Chaisson of Bear River was honoured to receive the prestigious Golden Fiddle Award while his wife Doreen graciously accepted a bouquet of flowers.

National Acadian Day, August 15th was celebrated in various communities throughout the

Island. In the Evangeline area an evening of great music, plus a magician to entertain the children, was held at the Expo Centre in Abram Village.

The weekend of August 21st featured festivities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Evangeline School. On Friday, August 19th, the group Chaffrail performed at L'Étable at the Expo-Festival Centre in Abram Village. This group hails from Bouctouche, N.B. and was formed in 2009. The word "chaffrail" is an old Acadian word meaning a lot of noise. The group lived up to its name.

Over the summer the Mont-Carmel Summer



(L - R) Brenda Stubbert, Marie Livingstone, Kimberly Fraser

Concert Series were held at the Mont Carmel Hall. Featured guests included Alice Bérubé, Hélène Bergeron, Samantha Gallant, pianist Max Keenlyside, dancers Robyn Gallant, Alex Arsenault, and Les Steppeuses; Peter Arsenault, Nicholas Arsenault, Allan Gallant, Pierre Poirier,

Trevor Profitt, Natalie LeBlanc and Matthew Allain. Also, Ward MacDonald, Richard Wood, singers/songwriters Natalie LeBlanc, Corey Doucette, and singer/songwriter Fayot; Les Coups d'pieds, a dance group composed of Breannah Gaudet, Joceline Leblanc, Isabelle Bernard, Alex Arsenault and Nathalie Richard, as well as the dance group Les Pas parfaits, composed of Darlene Gallant, Paulette Arsenault, Ruth Arsenault, Pierrette Arsenault, Kelly Richard, and Paula Arsenault. Till next time, cheerio! 🐾

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Queens County Fiddlers Report by Carolyn Drake

The end of the school year and the start of summer saw the members of the Queens County Fiddlers head to their regular summer practice site — Carolyn Drake Andrews of Stratford. Between vacations, trips, attending fiddle camps and playing at ceilidhs and concerts or hosting their own shows, our numbers were sometimes down a bit, but the enthusiasm was always up for some good tunes, which were well appreciated by the residents of the facility.

The first performance for the group this summer was the annual trek to the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival in July to perform on Sunday afternoon.



Jennifer McQuaid, Aaron Crane, Paul Cheverie and Vince Keoughan of the Queens County Fiddlers play at the 35th Annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival.

Then in early August, it was time to pay a return visit to the Burton Ceilidh where Leona Dalton and her crew served up a warm welcome, as well as a delicious supper before we took the stage. We can't say enough about this event - anytime you're in West Prince on a Thursday evening in the summer be sure to take it in.

A few weeks later a small but enthusiastic group of fiddlers and accompanists was back on stage at the Indian River Festival to open a sold-out show that also featured the Prince County Fiddlers and well-known New Brunswick fiddler Ivan Hicks, along with his wife, Vivian. As usual, the famed church, which was designed by Island architect William Critchlow Harris, proved to be a joy to play in as the acoustics are among the best in the province.

As usual, our thanks go out to the management of Andrews of Stratford for continuing to welcome us there every Wednesday evening and to the residents and their family members who are faithful audience members. It's always much more fun to have someone to play for.

Group members are encouraged to watch their emails for our first practice in September back at Queen Charlotte Intermediate School on North River Road in Charlottetown. As usual, people are welcome to stop by and bring along their fiddle or guitars or just enjoy the music. New sets are already in the works for the fall, and we will be resuming our monthly visits to seniors' homes as part of our regular routine.



Queens County Fiddlers Loaner Fiddle Program

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 deposit fee for one year is \$100, of which, \$50 will be reimbursed at the end of the year, 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 902-892-8242.

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Barry Thompson

Prince County Fiddlers

By Barry Thompson

The Prince County Fiddlers have had a fairly active summer, especially August. We were scheduled to participate in the Summerside Lobster Carnival Parade but got rained out. However we did make it down to Clinton view Community Care facility on the occasion of our former member, Ivan Bowness's birthday and all the other residents who happened to have a birthday in July. Our Annual Concert was held on August 13th at the Community Gardens Arena in Kensington. Although attendance was down from other years, we were pleased to see Mary Smith, a valued member of our group, receive a PEI Fiddlers Society Life Membership. The award was present by Society secretary Anne McPhee, a member of the Rollo Bay Kitchen Group.

On August 20th we participated in an Island Ceilidh hosted by the Indian River Festival at St. Mary's Church in Indian River. The event is presented as part of a weekend devoted to traditional music. The following night we shared a kitchen party with the Long River Players as part of the annual Kensington and Area Harvest festival.

We have continued to meet every Monday for our weekly practice sessions but we are going to take a couple of weeks off and will be back at it on Sept 12th. Here's hoping everyone enjoys whatever the rest of the Summer brings and we look forward to the fall activities.



Jackie Biggar and Jim MacDougall



Thelma Campbell, Lottie Locke and Mike Ramsay



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Southern Kings Fiddlers Report by Amy Swenson

We had a busy summer starting with a performance at the Sturgeon Ceilidh July 3rd and at Rollo Bay Fiddle Fest on July 17th, where we had 23 on stage. Then we played on a lovely summer evening at the Highland Games weekend on August 6th at Selkirk Park. We enjoyed having three back-up players with us that evening, including Mel Giddings on guitar, Gary Hughes with his keyboard and Ben Abbott playing celtic drum, which sounded great with our Scottish march sets. Afterwards, it was a real treat to hear Ward Macdonald on fiddle with Ellen MacPhee on Scottish small pipes - their duet on Neil Gow's Lament for Whiskey was especially delightful. We are back playing at Sturgeon ceilidh August 28th.

Our oldest member, Ambrose Casey, 90, was recovering from an operation for our first three summer events but he came back to practice as soon as he could and had an adventure on August 14th at the Sturgeon ceilidh. He thought we were playing that night and showed up with his fiddle. He was whisked up to the stage with Urban Chaisson and Jack MacLeod on guitars, and Ambose managed to get a rare standing ovation with his spirited performance! He was still grinning from ear to ear at our practice August 22nd. Our youngest member, Merlin M'Cloud, 10, has also been playing at Sturgeon ceilidh this summer and also with me at the Murray Harbour Ceilidh.

Merlin and I attended the 2nd Annual PEI Fiddle Camp in June. It was a great week of terrific teaching and musical fun. Lessons were offered in fiddle (from beginner to advanced), step dancing,

banjo, small pipes, border pipes, accordion, guitar, keyboard, whistle and Celtic drums. Merlin was especially delighted to sit in on his idol Richard Wood's classes and he learned all three tunes Richard was teaching. The food and the company were great and the concerts every evening were fantastic. If you can possibly get to the Camp next June even for just a day or an evening concert, don't miss it!!!

Over the summer, we have had several visitors at our practices and always enjoy meeting new players. We meet every other Monday at 7 pm in Montague at the Active Communities Inc. building at Brooke and Main all year round. Please call me or Urban Chaisson for the practice schedule. We are now working on more Emmett Hughes compositions as well as continuing to collect tunes from other local composers. One of our favorites, Urban's own Sinclair's Mandolin, was chosen as a camp tune at Fiddle Camp and has gone on to be a favorite at fiddler George Fowler's class at the Maine Fiddle Camp in August. It was fun to receive a recording of his class playing the tune! Best wishes for a musical fall season!



Urban Chaisson and Marie MacIntyre wait to go onstage.



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Southern Kings Fiddlers playing at the 35th Annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival during the Sunday evening concert.

Original Fiddle Tunes from Prince Edward Island by Emmett Hughes Revised and Reprinted



Emmett Hughes

A revised version of Original Fiddle Tunes from Prince Edward Island which includes 115 fiddle tunes composed and written by Island Fiddler Emmett Hughes was recently published to help very talented fiddler and composer. These

tunes were composed over ten years starting when Emmett turned 60 and were originally published in 1991 and 2000.

The collection includes slow airs, waltzes, jigs, marches, slow and fast strathspeys and reels, in seven major and five minor keys. The book is available at cost, only \$10 a copy. The original run of 50 copies sold out quickly, so a reprint is planned this fall. Please call Frank Lechowick at 894-4741 or Amy Swenson at 962-2273 to order a copy.



Clancey Beagan

Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations go out to Queens County Fiddlers member Clancey Beagan from Johnston's River who was awarded the 2011 Queens County Fiddlers' Scholarship. As this year's recipient, Clancey attended a one week session at the PEI Fiddle Camp in June.

The scholarship, established in 2006, provides a youth aged 10 - 18 the opportunity to attend a one week fiddle camp either at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's, Cape Breton or the PEI Fiddle Camp in Augustine Cove.

Clancey, aged sixteen, has been playing the fiddle for six years and has been a member of the Queen's County Fiddlers for two.



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Events Forecast

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

Sundays 2 - 5 pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 7 - 9:30 pm	Sun Night Shenanigans	York Community Hall	York	902-566-5545
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays	Music in Motion Ceilidhs	Winsloe Lions Hall	Winsloe	902-368-8449
Alt Sundays 6:30 pm thru Oct	Sturgeon Ceilidhs	St. Paul's Parish Hall	Sturgeon	902-962-3918
Third Sunday 7 pm	Kelly's Cross Ceilidhs	Kelly's 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 7-9 pm	Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
Third Sunday 1:30 pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
Mondays 8 pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St Peter's Bay	902-961-2027
Tuesdays	Georgetown Ceilidh	Kings Playhouse	Georgetown	902-652-2053
Wednesdays 8 pm	Square Dance	Old Lorne Valley School	Lorne Valley	902-583-2759
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
Thursdays 8 pm Jul 7 - Sep 29	Fiddlers' Sons & Courtney	Hogan, Kaylee Hall	Poolles Corner	902-838-4399
First Thursday 7:30 pm	Ceilidh	Kilmuir Hall	Kilmuir	902-838-4768
Fridays 8 pm	BIS Ceilidh	582 North River Road	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Fridays 8 pm	Ceilidh & Dance	Dundas Ploughing Match Grounds	Dundas	902-583-2319
Alternate Fridays June 10 - Sep 30	Ceilidh	Murray Harbour Drama Club	Murray Harbour	902-962-2792
Saturdays 9 pm	Goose River Dance	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205

Sinclair's Mandolin

Urban Chaisson (PEI)

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