

# The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 13, Issue 4

December 2015

## **Outpouring of Love and Support for Anne McPhee**

As many of our members know, our beloved editor, Anne McPhee had a serious health scare in late September. We are overjoyed to report that she is recovering at home in Rollo Bay. Anne is a dedicated volunteer in her community. Besides being the editor of this newsletter, she also works with hospice and Souris Live Centre Stage. On November 15, Souris Live hosted a benefit for Anne and hundreds of her friends answered the call. A joyful afternoon raised funds to help in her recovery and also allowed her community to return the love that she displays every day.



Members of the Rollo Bay Kitchen Group (above) perform at a benefit for Anne McPhee on November 15 at the Souris Live Centre Stage. Their medley included 'Dot MacKinnon's reel' - a favourite of Anne's. Mary Chaisson (top right) and Donna Deagle-Peters (middle right) also delighted the crowded hall with their lovely voices.





Mark Haines (left) did a marvelous job as emcee and pulled double-duty performing as well. Silent Auction items fill the tables (above).





#### A Note From Anne

I am feeling better every day. Still having trouble with my close-up computer screen and sheet music vision. My balance and walking is coming good. My fiddling fingers still don't land



Anne M. McPhee

on the D & G strings. I have to work on that more. I'm planning to go back to the group January 4.

I have managed to get out to the stores. Getting lots of surprise greetings and hugs. All in all, Billy and I are very grateful to be having a Christmas this year. We are counting our blessings every day that I am home and continue to progress towards a full recovery.

### The Island Fiddler

### View and print all issues of The Island Fiddler in colour online at www.peifiddlers.com

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

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Fiddle and/or Accompaniment (+) Teachers							
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If you wish to be listed as a teacher, contact the editor

### **Fiddling Related Websites**

Vishtèn

Anastasia DesRoches www.anastasiadesroches.com Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree www.atlanticfiddlersjamboree.com Bellows and Bows www.mun.ca/mmap/back on track/b and b/ Billy MacInnis www.billymacinnis.homestead.com www.bowingdownhome.ca Bowing Down Home Canadian Grand Masters www.canadiangrandmasters.ca Cape Breton Fiddlers www.capebretonfiddlers.com **CB Fiddle Recordings** www.cbfiddle.com/rx/ Cape Breton Ottawa www.cbsession.com/ Courtney Hogan www.courtneyhogan.com College of Piping www.collegeofpiping.com Cynthia MacLeod www.cynthiamacleod.com Fiddling Fisherman www.fiddlingfisherman.com Glengarry Fiddlers www.glengarrycelticmusic.com Gordie MacKeeman www.gordiemackeeman.com Ivan and Vivian Hicks www.ivanhicks.com Judy MacLean www.judymacleandance.ca Ken Perlman www.kenperlman.com Kendra MacGillivrav www.kendramacgillivray.com Learn Tunes by Ear www.youloop.io Maritime Fiddlers Assoc. www.maritimefiddler.ca Matthew Reid www.mattreidmusic.com 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 Ross Family www.rossfamily.ca Roy Johnstone www.royjohnstone.com Tim Chaisson www.timchaisson.com

www.vishtenmusic.com

## Treble with Girls Concert Series Fund Raise for the QEH Foundation

Fans of acoustic Island music have a new winter concert series to look forward to. A new QEH Fundraising Concert Series hosted by Treble with Girls kicked off in November and runs every second Sunday afternoon at 2pm at the Benevolent Irish Society.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students 12 and under and preschoolers free. The last show before Christmas will be on Sunday, December 20th with Richard Wood. The series schedule for the New Year will be January 17th, February 14th & 28th, March 13th, April 10th & 24th and May 8th.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the Island's largest hospital and main referral centre. The QEH Foundation's mission is to raise funds for medical equipment for the hospital and rely on community support to be meet their goal each year.

In May 2016, the Foundation will be celebrating its 20th anniversary of the Eastlink/QEH Telethon, an event that each member of Treble with Girls and countless other Island entertainers have been a part of annually.

The Sunday afternoon shows will feature music from hosts Treble with Girls and their weekly guests, canteen service, a 50/50 draw, lunch at intermission and tickets on the QEH Foundation's WestJet raffle on a flight for two.



Treble with Girls: Jolee Patkai, Maxine MacLennan, Sheila MacKenzie and Norman Stewart

We appreciate our advertisers - they have been instrumental in helping us to get *The Island Fiddler* to you. Please give them your consideration.

### A Special Thank You

The PEI Fiddlers Society would like to thank Marie McGaugh, Paul Cheverie, and Ward MacDonald for their efforts in ensuring that this edition of our newsletter was created and distributed!

## Don't miss these Special Events!

### New Year's Eve Ceilidh Fortune Community Centre December 31 - 9p.m. to 1a.m.

for information call 687-2891



### New Year's Eve Kitchen Party

St. Margaret's Hall 8PM 902-687-2546

### Robbie Burns Dinner and Ceilidh

Belfast Pipe and Drum Band will be hosting its annual Robbie Burns Dinner and Ceilidh again this year from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel on January 23. For more information contact: Brady Singleton 902-569-2371, Kim Doherty-Smith 902-213-1364, Colin MacIsaac 902-394-0514, or Heather Joudrie 902-566-2546

#### Fiddle Jam in honour of Eddy Arsenault

March 13, 2016 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Vanier Centre in Wellington. All tunes will be chosen from Eddy's repertoire and any fiddler is welcome to join in.

### "Ceol Agus Caidre-Music and Friends"

**Winter Concert Series** at the Benevolent Irish Society Various performers Fridays 8 pm January 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, March4th, St. Patrick's Ceilidh –March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>,15<sup>th</sup>,29<sup>th</sup>, and May 13<sup>th</sup>







Carolyn Drake

### Queens County Fiddlers by Carolyn Drake

With the winter season just around the corner and snow already part of the forecast, practicing fiddle tunes indoors

where it's warm and cozy is a great way to spend some quality time.

And it's a great way for the members of the Queens County Fiddlers to keep up with some new tunes and sets that we have been working

on since coming back to our regular weekly practices in September. We've also had a chance to try out some of these new tunes for appreciative audiences with three visits to Island homes. nursing We played at Geneva Villa in Charlottetown on Nov. 11, a residence we always enjoy visiting.

Then in December, it was back-to-back Wednesday visits, first to

Andrews of Charlottetown on Dec. 9 and then Andrews of Stratford on Dec. 16. In celebration of the season, these two practices/concerts also featured a few favourite pieces of Christmas music, such as Silent Night, Jingle Bells and We

Wish You a Merry Christmas.

The group got an early Christmas present with the return of our piano accompanist, Jennifer Garrity, to practice on Nov. 11. Jennifer has been away from the group since August, and on Oct. 23, she, along with husband Stephen and daughters Anna and Olivia, welcomed Liam to the family.

Our annual memberships were paid in October, with a number of new members this year and some familiar faces from the past who

are back with us. As always, it's wonderful to see so many young people at practice, and we've had some terrific turnouts.

Although we always lose a few snowbirds who head south for the winter months, they'll be taking their fiddles with them and finding a bit of time to practice. For the rest of us, we're all looking forward to a winter of learning new tunes and

ta Hall enjoy a tune at the forward to a winter of ctice.

learning new tunes and welcoming people to drop in to our practice sessions on Wednesdays, 7:30pm, upstairs at the Long and McQuade building on Capital Drive in Charlottetown.



back-to-back Fr. Charlie Cheverie and Luka Hall enjoy a tune at the Queens County Fiddlers practice.

# 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



## New Recording from Glengarry Fiddlers



Glengarry Fiddlers at the Eastern Ontario Glengarry Highland Games 2015

The place is Eastern Ontario, the local hall in Williamstown, where every Tuesday night fiddlers of all ages from 11 to 80+ gather together to do what they love: play Celtic music.

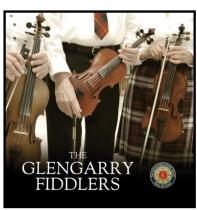
The Glengarry Strathspey and Reel Society has worked hard for many years to keep alive and promote interest in the Celtic/Scottish heritage and traditions in the greater Glengarry area of Eastern Ontario, particularly through music. Musicians young and old are encouraged to play fiddle. The MacLeod School of fiddling enrolls around 50 students each year and members of the society offer private lessons.

Each year there Is a call out to fiddlers from the area to play at the Glengarry Highland Games. In 2015 the invitation was to gather for a series of rehearsals and then the recording of music to create a CD under the direction of Ian R. MacLeod. Seventy fiddlers, two piano accompanists, and two rhythm guitar answered the call. After months of practise a lively collection of Scottish and Irish tunes were recorded.

All proceeds go to promote Celtic music in the greater Glengarry area. The Glengarry Fiddlers include seventy fiddlers including Reg McIntyre, originally from P.E.I and Ottawa fiddler, Arnold MacDonald, two piano accompanists, and two rhythm guitars. This initiative was sponsored and produced by The Glengarry Celtic Hall of Fame.

Check them out at: www.glengarrycelticmusic.com.

## New Recording!



You can purchase a CD by sending a cheque for **\$25.00** made out to the Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame. This price includes shipping and packaging.

Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame P.O. Box 195 Williamstown, ON KOC 2J0

## J.J. The Fiddler

Ward Allan MacDonald



J.J. The Fiddler has recently been recorded by the Cape Breton group COIG on their latest Christmas release, Carols.









## Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

The Acadian Musical Village (Expo-Festival Centre) in Abram -Village will present its annual

Dorothy Griffin-Farish Christmas production of *An Acadian Down-Home Christmas* on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Storm date will be December 21<sup>st</sup>. This annual event will feature a variety of carols, modern and original songs, traditional stories, and memories of what it means to celebrate Christmas down-home with family and friends. Performers include Caroline Bernard, Marcella and Patsy Richard, Remi Arsenault, Louise Arsenault, Wayne Robichaud, and Jeannita Bernard.

The Harbourfront Theatre in Summerside featured the Cape Breton group COIG with our own Remi Arsenault playing guitar on Saturday, November 28<sup>th,</sup> and is now touring with this group. Way to go, Remi!!

Our regular entertainers are always available to play for parties, seniors' groups and manors. This time of year choirs and musicians, gather to practice and enjoy Christmas festivities and celebrations. Christmas is a very special time to visit the Evangeline region - for great food, great music, and a truly Christmas spirit!

Joyeaux Noel and Merry Christmas to Everyone! All the best for 2016!



## Eastern Kings Fiddlers Submitted by Marie McGaugh

I am stepping in for Anne as she regains her health and strength. She certainly is a hard act to follow. The Rollo Bay Kitchen Group meets every Monday night at 7pm under the direction of Darren Chaisson. We are learning two new tunes The Stone Frigate (P.M. Donald Carrigan) and Largo Law (19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish tune). We are also fine tuning our sets. We always return to our favorite tunes: Dot McKinnons Reel, Bear River Jig, Mary Hughes, Fingals Cave, Cutting Ferns and many others.

Kathryn Dau-Schmidt has a good group of eager students and they are learning and progressing more each week.

I must say on behalf of Anne - Thank You to all the musicians and supporters who came out to the benefit for her. I am so astounded at the outpouring of support and concern. Souris Live Centre Stage was just filled with wonderful musicians and the hall was packed. In these difficult times it is heartwarming to know that our Island community is so caring and generous. Especially generous with time the musicians gave to perform. It should not be a surprise when you realize all the work she does to support Island music and all her other activities.





### Island Fiddlers Out and About



The Chaisson Chistmas Ceilidh featured Kenny Chaisson and JJ Chaisson at The Pourhouse in Charlottetown.



Thursday Night Schooner Sessions continue at The Old Triangle in Charlottetown all winter



Queens County Fiddlers practice at Long & McQuade in Charlottetown



Queens County Fiddlers performing at Andrews of Charlottetown in December



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Frank Lechowick

## Morell Fiddlers by Frank Lechowick

We tried some new venues this quarter. The first request came from Leonard and Linda Deveau and their camping friends, who spend summer

weekends at parks around the Island. In September a handful of us led a ceilidh under the massive stone fireplace at the KOA Campground in Cornwall.

Fenton MacSwain joined in with guitar, harmonica and voice making the occasion sparkle. Later in the fall a full contingent of Morellers debuted at the *Atlantic Baptist Home*. It marked our last time playing (until next summer) with the popular old-time fiddler Lanie Lynch before she headed home to Boston. She closed with the Chicken Reel alongside the flapping and clucking Francis Stewart (though no egg turned up). We interspersed fiddle pieces with songs by Renie Webster, Emmett DeCoursey, Marion Pirch and George Johnston.

Our newest fiddler, Mike Praught from Fort Augustus, wowed us and the audience with a solo blues number. I forget what he called it, but it was one of his own compositions. The "Stunt of the Day" award went to Renie, who had us walking on water and skating on thin ice when the water pitcher got upset. Nonetheless we've been invited back to the Home a couple of times.

Also in the fall many of us ventured back to Vince Koughan's class at Donagh community school to take in some new tunes with old acquaintances. One was a march Vince wrote for his daughter's wedding.

As for new music, we are mastering Archie A's March, a tasty tune by Kinnon Beaton. Sterling Baker, who comes up regularly from Lakeside, has graciously provided us with cds of the march. (We're hoping to take on some of his own tunes in the New Year.) We're also reviewing some familiar carols, which will come in handy for our upcoming appearance at Riverview Manor in Montague.

We'll end the year with the Christmas party. For the first time it will be held at the pleasant Circle Club in St Peters, as kindly arranged by Shirley MacKenzie.



**Cathy Campbell** 

## Prince County Fiddlers by Cathy Campbell

During this quarter, the Prince County Fiddlers performed at Chez Nous, the Somerset Manor, and a Fiddle Doo in Kensington where we were able to team up with the Queens County Fiddlers. This

was a nice change up from our regular routine. Always a pleasure to share some common tunes and blend styles together.

Our biggest performance was a two hour show we played at the St. Louis Community Center. For many of us it was our first time playing at this venue. Special thanks to Keelin Wedge and her mom Elaine for gracing us with their talents. The Junior Prince County Fiddlers also got invited to perform at a Christmas concert in Malpeque.

We have no scheduled performances for the remainder of the year, but that could change at any time. With the busy season upon us and bad weather starting, we will soon stop weekly practices and return early January.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas filled with lots of great music, delicious foods and loving family.

### One on One Fiddle and Guitar Lessons

\$15 for 30 minute private lessons Any level welcome





CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

sam.arseneau@hotmail.com call or text: 902-327-7262 facebook.com/sammy.arseneau



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### Southern Kings Fiddlers by Amy Swenson

The Southern Kings Fiddlers have been practicing every two weeks as usual all fall, and we performed again at the popular Murray Harbour

Farmer's Market on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Market now runs from the first weekend in July through the end of October, and is a nice venue for young buskers as well as for local farmers and crafters.

We will play at the Christmas Craft Fair at the Harbour Dec. 5th, and again at the Sturgeon Christmas Ceilidh Dec. 6th. We visit Gillis Lodge on December 12 at 2 pm, and plan to entertain at more senior's residences in the New Year.

I had the honour of playing with my student Macy Hancock at the memorial service held for her grandfather, the late Captain Howard Hancock. The service was held October 18th,in a unique and beautiful outdoor location off Douses Road, which has been established as a tree

plantation honoring the descendants of the Hancock and MacDonald families. On a gentle south facing slope, hundreds of trees of many kinds have been planted and are thriving. Howard was an avid fiddler and was very proud to have helped build such a beautiful environmentally friendly legacy. Google Hancock-MacDonald Forest for a look at the website and some lovely photos.

It has been so good to hear that the Rollo Bay fiddle classes established by the Chaisson family are continuing this year, despite the loss of Peter Chaisson. One of my students, Austin Walker, is attending the class and is coming back with renewed enthusiasm for practicing and perfecting his tunes, so Kathryn Dau-Schmidt and her helpers are continuing to do a great job there!

The Blaquiere sisters Isabelle and Eliza are loving Sue Irvine's Junior Singing Strings Program but I am happy to report that they are also continuing to play fiddle music and to step dance up a storm. They are playing with me at the Christmas concert at Cambridge Hall Dec. 4th and at Memorial United in Murray

River December 12 at their Christmas concert as well. (We plan a three part version of some Christmas tunes, as they are both getting to be strong enough players to carry a part on their own!) They are also playing with the Junior Strings and the Stratford Community Choir at Park Royal United on December 13 at 2:30 pm.

My students Carrie Docherty and Macy Hancock will perform some Christmas tunes with me at the Belfast Christmas Ceilidh on December 18. After that, I plan a fun holiday with my two daughters and three granddaughters, the newest due to arrive any day now!

December 7 will be SKF last practice of the year, then we start up again on January 4 and 18, February 1, 15 and 22, and March 14 and 28. Everyone is welcome to come and listen or try some tunes with us. We meet at the Rural Development Centre at the corner of Brook and Main in Montague from 7-9 pm. We usually go through 40 tunes or more and everyone gets a chance to choose a tune or two, so it is good fun. Hope to see you there in the New Year.



Richard, Gordon and Santa backstage at 2015 Christmas Stars Concert for the QEH





### **Events Forecast**

Abram-Village	Expo Centre Resto-Bar LA TRAPPE	902-854-3300 902-854-3300	Acoustic Music JamSundays 2—9pm Kitchen PartyFridays 9-midnight
Bonshaw	Bonshaw Community Centre	902-675-4282	Ceilidh Concert4th Sunday 7—9pm
Charlottetown	Old Triangle	902-892-5200	Irish SessionSundays 2—5pm
	Seniors Active Living Centre-UPEI	902-682-8388	Ceilidh3rd Sunday 1:30pm
	Jack Blanchard Hall 7 Pond Street	902-894-7385	Music in Motion CeilidhLast Sunday 7pm
	Old Triangle	902-892-5200	Schooner SessionThursdays 7—9pm
	Bingo Country Riverside Dr.	902-940-6702	Ceilidh Kitchen Party1st & 3rd Mondays 7pm
	Benevolent Irish Society	902-892-2367	Treble with GirlsAlt Sundays 2pm
	Benevolent Irish Society	902-892-2367	Music and FriendsVarious Fridays 8pm
Dunstaffnage	Olde Dunstaffnage School Centre	902-629-1494	Ceilidh1st Sunday 7pm
Fortune	Fortune Community Centre	902-687-2891	Ceilidh3rd Saturday 8—10:30pm
Georgetown	Kings Playhouse	902-652-2316	CeilidhTuesdays 8pm
Goose River	Goose River Hall `	902-961-2205	DanceSaturdays 8—11pm
Kellys Cross	Kellys Cross Church Hall	902-658-2290	Ceilidh3rd Sunday 7pm
Lorne Valley	Old Lorne Valley School	902-583-2759	Square DanceWednesdays 7pm
Pooles Corner	Kaylee Hall	902-838-4399	CeilidhFridays 8pm
Souris	Silver Threads Club	902-687-2396	CeilidhWednesdays 8pm
Stratford	Cotton Centre	902-569-2732	Kitchen Party Ceilidh2nd Sunday 7—9pm
	Cotton Centre	902-569-3956	Lions Club Ceilidh3rd Tuesday 7pm
St. Peters Bay	Circle Club	902-739-3334	Ceilidh DanceFridays 8pm
Wellington	Boys & Girls Club	902-436-5532	Workshop & JamFridays 8—11PM
Winsloe	Winsloe United Church	902-368-1233	Ceilidh2nd & 4th Mondays 7:30pm

### Old Triangle

The Old Triangle will host Chrissy Crowley, Colin Grant, Jason Roach and Remi Arsenault on the main floor stage on Jan 15 & 16 and then again on Feb 26 & 27. No cover!

The amazing Cape Breton Dance Pipers "Nuallan" will have two nights of music on Jan 29 & 30. Main floor. No cover. Nuallan Members: Kenneth MacKenzie, Kevin Dugas and Keith MacDonald (along with other pipers, accompanists and dancers at times) They have a new CD out and we'll make this a PEI release party.

## **Notable Quotes and Quips**

fif you ever need to restore your faith in humanity, just go to a good old fashioned square dance in Lorne Valley, PEI. Strangers welcoming you, giving you hugs and sharing their stories, people actually making eye contact with each other while dancing, holding hands with random people, and at the end of the night, a delicious homemade lunch prepared by the locals, with love. Now that's true community spirit!

- Nathalie Arsenault

### Get Well Soon Wishes

We want to send a special note out to Queens County Fiddlers member Bobby Cunningham who is recovering in hospital.



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Flash back! Brent Chaisson and Elmer Deagle rock out in the tuning room at Rollo Bay, 1988.



Rannie MacLellan, Ward MacDonald, and Fr. Charlie Cheverie performing at the Fiddlers Three concert at the Benevolent Irish Society in September.

### **Fiddle Practices Open to the Public**

### Eastern Kings Fiddlers

Rollo Bay 902-687-1521 Mondays 7:00pm Rollo Bay School October to May

### **Prince County Fiddlers**

Summerside, 902-436-0380 Mondays 7:30pm Family Connections

### Southern Kings Fiddlers

Montague 902-687-2273 Alt. Mondays 7:00pm Active Communities

### **Queens County Fiddlers**

Charlottetown 902-940-5949 Wednesdays 7:30pm Long and McQuade

#### Morell Fiddlers

Morell 902-961-2962 Thurs. 7:30 Morell Pharmacy

#### Acadian Fiddlers

Wellington 902-436-5532 Fridays 8:00pm Boys and Girls Club

#### How do I become a member of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society?

You can join the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society through a local chapter or by contacting the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society Treasurer, Amy Swenson at: P.E.I. Fiddlers Society 101 Kent Street, PO Box 3311, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8W5.

### What are my benefits of membership?

For \$10 per year, you will receive a hard copy of The Island Fiddler by mail. Your contribution will also go to support the goals, objectives, and activities of the Society including The Island Fiddler, our website: www.peifiddlers.com, and the promotion of fiddle music across P.E.I. for years to come.

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