

The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 11 Issue 1

Souris Show Hall Preparing for Another Successful Season





"WHEN THE WEST CAME BACK!! THEY COULDN'T STAY AWAY!" Peggy Clinton along with her Dad and talented friends from the western part of the Island will be returning to the stage at the Souris Show Hall on May 4th and 5th, 2013!! Tickets go on sale April 1st at www.sourisshowhall.ca.



The Celtic Ladies got everyone in the Christmas Spirit with their lively performances across PEI in December, 2012 as seen here during the last show of the season at the Souris Show Hall.

March 2013

The Island Fiddler

View all issues of *The Island Fiddler* Newsletter - 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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The Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society.

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	Samantha MacK	innon	892-0805		
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	Roy Johnstone		www.royjohnsto		
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www.timchaisson.com

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Tim Chaisson

Vishtèn



Nathan Condon

President's Report by Nathan Condon

Hello, fiddlers and friends,

As I look out my window and see nothing but snow coming down, all I can think about is warmer weather and no more snow. In saying that, this winter has brought on many new things for me and the PEI Fiddlers Society. Being the President is a task in itself. I want to thank

Jason Campbell, Marie MacIntyre, Paul Cheverie, and last but not least the hard working Anne McPhee, for everything that they are doing, as well as helping me through this process as it is new to me.

With another issue of The Island Fiddler Newsletter on the way, there are a few things I would like to address. First, I will be looking forward to heading to a few jam sessions/practices with each group. I can't wait to meet everyone and see faces that I have not seen in years. Of course, I am also looking forward to playing some tunes with everyone.

On April 14th we will be holding a fiddle jam and potluck at the BIS. The event will be held from 2:00 - 5:00pm. It will be a nice and relaxed atmosphere with no pressure on anyone; just a nice afternoon to enjoy yourself and the tunes. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the event!



An Honourary Life Member of the PEI Fiddlers Society, Lemmie Chaisson has made a significant contribution to Island fiddling with his extraordinary guitar accompaniment talent and as a fiddler. Lemmie, a member of The Chaisson Trio, has been a regular member of the Rollo Bay Kitchen Group for many years and he is greatly missed at weekly practices and events while he faces this next battle. Lemmie has brought joy to so many people with his gifts. It is time to for us to support him in his journey back to good health.



There was a good representation of PEI Fiddlers at the recent Fiddle Doo with back row: Clancey Beagan, Paul Cheverie, Mary Smith and Dorothy Griffin-Farish on keyboard. Front; Cecil Trainer, Linda Jensen-Moran, Marie MacIntyre, Lottie Locke and Mike Ramsay.



Eastern Kings Fiddlers by Anne M. McPhee

Fiddlers in Eastern Kings have taken winter in stride and made the best of it as usual, playing lots of tunes and getting out to events whenever the weather allowed.

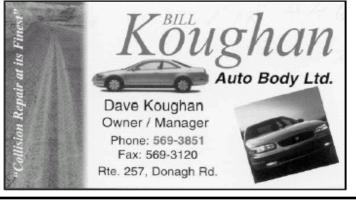
The Rollo Bay Kitchen Group has been working on some new tunes and having fun at it. The "Peter and Doreen Chaisson's Reel" composed by Kevin Chaisson and published in "Tunesmiths", has taken hold of us. It's one of those tunes that gets in your head and you can't get it out. That of course, makes it easier to play it. We are also having fun with Silver Spear and Hot Rod Reel, two great tunes many of us know from J.J. Chaisson's first CD, "In the Genes", which he recorded when he was just 16 years old. Along with some of the newer tunes from last year and some old favourites, each practice is providing everyone with a little challenge and a lot of fun.

Two performances by the Celtic Ladies at the Souris Show Hall in December brought the crowds out to enjoy their unique mix of Celtic and Christmas music. And a cold winter's evening in January was perfect for enjoying a scrumptious meal and great music performed by Cape Breton Fiddler Colin Grant along with accompanists Chris Babineau and Jason Roach at 21 Breakwater Restaurant. La Fédération culturelle de

l'Île-du-Prince-E d o u a r d is hosting another d i n n e r a n d concert on March 22 but make your reservations early as seating is limited and tickets sell out fast.



Colin Grant and Jason Roach



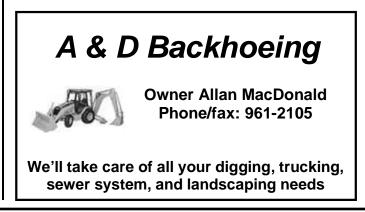
These days, we are all feeling pretty proud of Bear River native, Tim Chaisson. His seven Music PEI and three East Coast Music Award nominations have certainly put his name out there like never before. A cross Canada tour last fall, then a few weeks touring in Australia followed by performances in New York City and Toronto have kept him busy but he keeps in touch with family and friends with little video messages and live stream performances online whenever he can. His hand delivered new CD "The Other Side", was pretty calmly accepted by his friends and neighbours however, his appearances in the schools always get the students, and some of the teachers, all a-flutter. Speaking out against bullying and role-modeling to students about how to use your gifts to the fullest, are messages that are always well received from Tim by students, teachers and parents alike. Good job Tim!



Another Bear River native is making her mark. not only as an award winning step dancer but as an up-andcoming fiddler as well. Currently а member of the Queens County Fiddlers. Vanessa Bernard has been

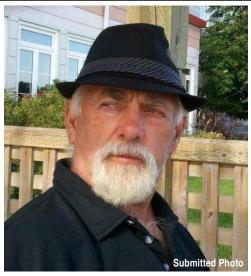
Vanessa Bernard

making the rounds at festivals and events across PEI for a number of years, most notably as the "Overall Dancer of the Day" at the Dundas Ploughing Match Dance Competition. For the past two years she played and danced as part of the Northumberland Ferries "Music on Deck" series and even danced to the music of Ashley MacIsaac at the 2012 Festival of Small Halls. She recently performed at the Fiddle Doo in Kensington and impressed everyone when she played the fiddle and danced at the same time.



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Now that we know that winter is not going to last forever; there is much to look forward to. The PEI Fiddlers Jam at the BIS on April 14th will be a great time for fiddlers and accompanists from across the Island to get together and showcase some of the tunes they have mastered and to join in and play along with the ones they are familiar with. The Rollo Bay Family Night Concert, always a big hit in the area, will be held on May 13th at 7:00pm at the Souris Show Hall and the award winning Event of the Year, Festival of Small Halls, is not that far off either. Goodbye winter - let the music to begin!! 24

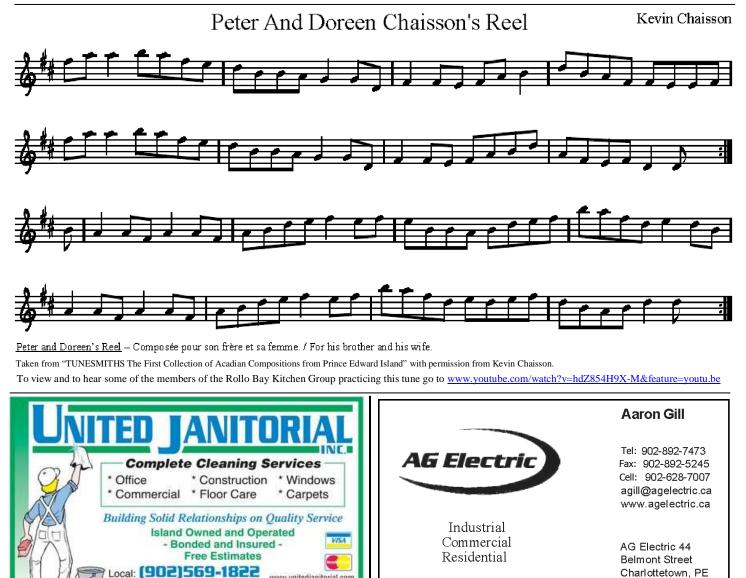


Elmer Deagle Sr

A great sadness descended on us all following the sudden, tragic loss of Elmer Deagle; one of Eastern PEI's most iconic entertainers. His kindness to all and his generosity of spirit will be long remembered by his family and his many friends. The people of Southern Kings also lost a great contributor to the music scene with the passing of Saundra Emery. Heartfelt condolences go out to all who were affected by a loss this past winter. Time heals but the scars remain. Be kind to each other.

C1A5H1

Elmer Deagle died suddenly on November 27, 2012 at 66 years of age. Beloved husband of Dianne (nee Chaisson) and loving father of Rhonda (Joe), John (Pamela), Donna (Stephen), Jerry (Genevieve), Dion (Courtney), Lisa (Blaise), Elmer Jr. (Veronique), Maurice (Melissa) and Charity (Elizabeth). He leaves behind fifteen grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.



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Southern Kings Fiddlers by Amy Swenson

The Southern Kings Fiddlers enjoyed playing to an enthusiastic crowd of residents and visitors at Perrin's Villa in early December. We were joined by resident Ambrose Casey who was delighted to play with us once again.

Amy Swenson

Several of us also went to the Gillis Lodge just before Christmas and got some of the residents up dancing with our waltzes.

We were recently challenged by Anne McPhee to produce a tune list, which was an interesting exercise for us. We discovered that our group can play 55 tunes (not including Christmas songs) well enough to perform in public, including 9 tunes by local composers which are thus far unique to our group. We also have a list of 34 more tunes, (and counting!) that we are currently working on. This spring and summer, we are going to be learning some of Kinnon Beaton's lovely recent compositions, including Jane Andrew's Slow Air (from the Failte album), and Archie A's March and the Mabou Inn Waltz from Kinnon's 2010 Tunesmiths CD which is one of my all time favorite fiddle CDs.

Our spring practice sessions are scheduled for Monday nights from 7 to 9 pm on March 4 and 18, April 1, 15 and 29, and May 13 and 27. Everyone is welcome to drop by to listen or to play their fiddle with us. It doesn't matter whether you learn by regular notation, by ear or by my large colour-coded "bubble notes", we have fiddlers learning all three ways. Do check with either Urban Chaisson at 962-3865 or with me at 962-2273 before coming to practice with us at the Active Communities Rural Development Building in Montague at Brooke and Main, to confirm the date, in case there are any changes to the practice dates.

"I must be getting better (on the fiddle) because the dog has stopped whining." Used with permission from the Collection of Island Author David Weale.



Some of the Southern Kings County Fiddlers gathered at Perrin's Villa in Montague on Dec 2, 2012. From left: Wayne MacLean, Urban Chaisson, Bernard Farrell, Mel Giddings, Francis Stewart, Ethyl MacQuarrie, Grace Walsh, Marie MacIntyre, Paul Demeulenare, Shirley Stewart, Amy Swenson, Ambrose Casey, George Curran, Paul Wisener, Frank Lechowick, Florrie Whiteway, Hughie Jackson.



Queens County Fiddlers by Carolyn Drake

The members of the Queens County Fiddlers have been enjoying the winter season with plenty of new tunes as our music director Aaron

Carolyn Drake Crane has been providing us with everything from waltzes and marches to jigs, strathspeys and reels.

With the new music and Aaron's encouragement, new sets are taking shape that we are hoping we'll soon be able to share with friends and audiences.

It's exciting to have so much new music to work on, and it's exciting to have had so many players at our weekly practices. Despite the winter weather (and we hope the worst is behind us now) and missing members who are fortunate enough to be able to get away to somewhere warm and sunny, we've had some great turnouts to our Wednesday evening practices on the second floor of the Long and McQuade building in Charlottetown.

As far as performing in public goes, it has been a quiet winter for the group. We finished up just before Christmas with a well-attended, enthusiastic evening of music at Geneva Villa in Charlottetown, and we plan to visit additional seniors homes in the Charlottetown area in March, April and May.

Some of our individual players have been out and about sharing their talents at ceilidhs, fundraisers and concerts, and a few members were able to get up to the Fiddle Doo in Kensington that was organized by our friend, Mary Smith.

This month, the group's annual meeting will be held at its weekly practice location on Wednesday, March 20, beginning with pizza and refreshments and



moving into what we hope will be an efficient meeting with maybe a bit of time left over for tunes. Members are urged to attend as there are always issues that need to be discussed, finalized and voted upon.

And even though there is still snow on the ground, it's not too soon to think about applying for the annual Queens County Fiddlers Scholarship this spring. Watch our website as well as local media for further details.

Finally, our congratulations go out to Aaron, who received the Musician of the Year Award at the Music P.E.I. gala on Feb. 2 at Confederation Centre of the Arts. In addition to being an excellent fiddler, Aaron is a member of the Charlottetown-based group, English Words, which also picked up two Music P.E.I. Awards the same night.

As always, our usual Wednesday night practices get underway at about 7:30 p.m. People are always welcome to stop by and bring along their fiddle or guitar or just enjoy the music.



Judy MacLean will be starting her Sunday Night Shenanigans on Sunday, May 12 at 7:00pm with the ever popular Kevin Beanland Show hailing from Newfoundland. Judy also continues to teach countless students the art of step dancing. Call Judy at 969-4100 or 566-5545.



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Prince County Fiddlers by Barry Thompson

The Prince County Fiddlers continue to meet after a bit of a time-out for the Christmas Season.

We performed as a group Barry Thompson for the residents of Wedgewood Manor in Summerside. Mary Smith and I the residents of the Kensington entertained Community Care. Then Nathan Condon and I entertained the residents of Clinton View Community Care in January. Our Group performed for the residents of the Wedgewood Manor on February 25th. Some of us were happy to participate at the Fiddle Doo and Potluck held recently in Kensington. Very nice to see and make music with friends from New Brunswick and PEI.



Prince County Fiddler, Barry Thompson accompanies Jason Campbell on fiddle at the recent Fiddle Doo in Kensington.



PEI Branch, 161 St. Peters Road Charlottetown, PE C1A 5P7

Val Handrahan Branch Manager PEI Branch Office (902) 566-4212 Cell (902) 394-1247 vhandrahan@controlsequipment.com



Vivian and Ivan Hicks continue to travel to PEI to support and promote the well received Fiddle Doo's in Kensington. Fiddle Doo's are held across New Brunswick on a regular basis.



Mary Smith, a member of the Sussex Avenue Group, Prince County Fiddlers and a Life Member of the PEI Fiddlers Society, continues to host the Fiddle Doo's in Kensington in October and February and enjoys playing a few tunes during the supper hour.

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Griffin-Farish

Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Bonjour and Cheers to All!

Isn't it splendid to see the days lengthen and grow more pleasant after the wicked weather we experienced in February! To look, however, at the positive side, the stormy weather offered time between shoveling for music practice.

The Acadian group Vishtèn, which includes Pastelle and Emmanuelle LeBlanc from the Evangeline region and Pascal Miousse, have been extremely busy of late. During January the group toured Australia. In February they entertained in New York before going to Austria. During March Vishtèn will entertain in Austria, Switzerland and Italy, and in April they will perform in Quebec and parts of the United States. Vishtèn's latest album "Mosaik" is nominated for two East Coast Music Awards. To learn more about this fantastic trio go to Google on the Internet and type in "Vishten".

The Friday Night Jammers have been busy all winter. The crowds vary at the Wellington Boys' and Girls' Club on Friday nights, depending on road conditions and other factors - including the "flu." Marie Livingstone continues to transcribe notes for the fiddlers and chord charts for the accompanists. Everyone is welcome to come join the fun.

Dorothy Griffin-Farish represented the Friday Night Jammers at the Fiddle-Doo at the Murrav Christian Centre on February 2nd. Ivan & Vivian Hicks, a number of musicians from New Brunswick, and entertainers from Eastern P.E.I., including a couple of simply spectacular step-dancers from "down East", were at this event. Chairperson and organizer for the event was Mary Smith from Rustico. Special thanks to those who organized and prepared the food for the delicious supper, not only for this particular Fiddle-Doo, but for all the ones held so far at the Murray Christian Centre.

The group "Big River" performed at a ceilidh at Parkview Senior Citizens Club on February 6th. Nick Arsenault, main singer of this group, sang many songs made famous by the late Johnny Cash, sounding incredibly like that famous singer. Fiddler Peter Arsenault, accompanied by Hélène Bergeron on piano, were also featured at this ceilidh.

Amand Arsenault, his son Norman Arsenault, Fred Arsenault, Margaret Gallant and Dorothy Griffin -Farish recently performed at the new Summerset Manor in Summerside and at Park Hill Place, Summerside. Amand and Friends also often play at Wedgewood Manor and Andrew's Lodge. Being from the Evangeline region, Armand and Norman plav at many house parties and provide entertainment at the Chez Nous in Wellington. Singer Leona Cheney often sings with this group.

The Evangeline School is making sure that future generations will remember the music of the past in the Acadian region and the great part that "Eddy" Arsenault has played in keeping fiddle music alive in the area. A number of fiddles have been donated to the school and a project has been set up between Pierrette Arsenault and the music teacher to teach young students how to play the fiddle. A group of fiddlers from the area will be involved in this project.

A heritage event held on February 17, 2013 at the Acadian Museum in Miscouche to celebrate Heritage Month included showing of items used by people in the "old days", along with stories from the past. Of course, such an event would not be complete without Acadian music and dance.

On Friday evening, March 15th, 2013, at 7 p.m. Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2013 will take place at the Centre Expo in Abram Village. There will be a trivia followed by a kitchen party with a group named Cordes à Vents. Guest musicians are Melissa Gallant, Philippe Leblanc and Mario LeBreton. Everybody is invited to bring their instruments.

Till next time, happy fiddling!

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People came from all over PEI came out for the Colin Grant concert at 21 Breakwater in Souris. Anne McPhee of Rollo Bay (centre) was able to visit with members of the Friday Night Jammers; Norman and Paula Arsenault, from the Wellington area.

PEI FIDDLERS JAM Sunday, April 14 - 2:00pm

The PEI Fiddlers Society is hosting a Fiddlers Jam at the Benevolent Irish Society Hall on North River Road on Sunday, April 14 from 2:00 – 5:00pm with a potluck supper to follow. All members of our Chapter groups, including accompanists, are invited: Prince County, Queens County, Southern Kings, Eastern Kings and the Rollo Bay Kitchen Group. Also, members of the Acadian Friday night Jammers and the Morell Fiddlers are being specially invited to attend along with friends and family members. Any Island Fiddler is welcome to attend.

The format for the afternoon will include inviting established fiddlers to play some tunes and all fiddlers are welcome to join in at any time if they hear a tune they know and they wish to play along. Also, if a group would like to play a few tunes from their repertoire, they are most welcome to do so and anyone can join in and play along.

In an effort to identify some common tunes that we can all play, each group was invited to send in a list of tunes that they commonly play. The results were extremely interesting. Each group submitted a list of 50 – 60 tunes that they play on a regular basis. The Acadian Jammers listed an impressive 90 tunes! Out of the 220 tunes submitted, 75 of the tunes were played by more than one of the groups – all the rest were unique to each area. Of course, there are fiddlers in the groups who play many tunes not played in the group. The most common tunes are listed in the next column.

The main goal of the event is to encourage all the fiddlers and their accompanists to feel relaxed and comfortable and to not feel any pressure to perform. Come play if you want; or just listen. Whatever each person is most comfortable with. Accompanists are welcome to accompany their own groups and/or to play along in the Big Jam or wherever they feel most comfortable. The more the merrier!!

PEI Fiddlers Most Common Group Tunes 2013

Ashokan Farewell Carter MacKenzie Chase Me Charlie Crossing to Ireland Dan Collins' Father's Jig Duke of Gordon's Birthday Faded Love Fr John Angus Rankin Flowers Of Edinburgh Glencoe March Headlands March Heather on the Hill Homeward Bound A Hundred Pipers Memory of Herbie MacLeod Irish Washerwoman Irishman's Heart to Ladies Jack Daniel's

Lime Hill Boys Lament for his Dragon MacPherson's Lament Fr Charles MacDonald Mrs MacLeod's My Cape Breton Home Paddy on the Turnpike Put me in the Box Road to the Isles Sandy MacIntyre's Trip to Boston Shandon Bells Jig Sheehan's Reel Smash the Window Space Available St. Anne's Reel Stan Chapman's Jig Stella's Trip to Kamloops Westphalia Waltz

P.E.I. Fiddlers Invited to Cape Breton Fiddlers 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Plans are underway to have at least 15 PEI Fiddlers attend and perform at the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the Cape Breton Fiddlers Association at the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts & Crafts, St. Ann's, Cape Breton, N.S., August 16, 17 & 18th, 2013. More details will be outlined at the PEI Fiddlers Jam or you can contact Linda Jensen-Moran 963-2236 for more information.



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Events Forecast

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

Sundays 2 - 5pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 2 - 9pm	Sunday Music Jams	Expo-Festival Centre	Abram Village	902-854-3300
Second Sunday 7-9pm	Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
Third Sunday 1:00pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
Third Sunday 7pm	Kellys Cross Ceilidhs	Kellys Cross Church Hall	Kelly's Cross	902-658-2290
Fourth Sunday 7pm	Music in Motion Ceilidhs	Winsloe Lions Hall	Winsloe	902-368-8449
Last Sunday of the month 2-4pm	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4282
Sundays 7 - 9:30pm (May 12)	Sun Night Shenanigans	York Community Hall	York	902-566-5545
Sundays 7:30pm (late May)	Kitchen Party	St. Margaret's Parish Hall	St. Margaret's	902-687-2584
First and Third Mondays 7pm	Ceilidh Kitchen Party	Bingo Country, Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
Tuesdays 7pm	Georgetown Ceilidh	Kings Playhouse	Georgetown	902-652-2316
Third Tuesday 7pm	Lions Club Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-3956
Wednesdays 8pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Wednesdays 9pm (late May)	J.J. and Koady Chaisson	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:30pm	Irish Set Dance Classes	Benevolent Irish Society Hall	Charlottetown	902-566-3447
Fridays 8pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St Peter's Bay	902-961-2899
Every 2nd Friday til end of Apr 8pm	Ceol Agus Caidre	Benevolent Irish Society Hall	Charlottetown	902-566-3273
Fridays 8pm (start May)	Music, Song and Dance	Benevolent Irish Society Hall	Charlottetown	902-892-2367
Saturdays 9pm	Goose River Dance	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205
		ough O'Carolan with Rob Drew on g n and mandola at the Benevolent Irish		

Sat Mar 16: 10 - 4pm	Fiddle, guitar and harmonica workshops by Acadian federation Andre Brunet - fiddle, Eric Beaudry - guitar		
	Pierre-Luc Dupuis – harmonica. \$30 includes lunch. Centre Goeland, Wellington. 902-370-7333		
Friday, Mar 22: 6pm	An evening of music and great food at 21 Breakwater Restaurant, Souris 902-687-2556		
Sunday, Mar 24: 2pm	Benefit Concert & Silent Auction for Lemmie Chaisson, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Souris, 902-652-2511		
Sunday, April 14: 2-5pm	4: 2-5pm PEI Fiddlers Society Fiddle Jam and Potluck, Benevolent Irish Society Hall, Charlottetown 902-687-1521		
May 4: 7:30pm, May 5: 2p	m Peggy Clinton and Friends, "The West Came Back", Souris Show Hall, www.sourisshowhall.ca 902-687-1521		
Sunday, May 12: 7pm	The Kevin Beanland Show, Sunday Night Shenanigans, York Community Centre, PEI 902-566-5545		
Monday, May 13: 7pm	Rollo Bay Fiddle Students and Kitchen Group Annual Family Night Concert, Souris Show Hall, 902-687-1521		
June 13 - 23rd	Festival of Small Halls - 50 performances, 11 days, 30 rural community halls - www.smallhalls.com		
July 12 - 18th	PEI Fiddle Camp www.peifiddlecamp.com for details and to register		
July 19, 20, 21st	37th Annual Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, Rollo Bay. www.rollobayfiddlefest.ca		
Aug 2, 3, 4th	Atlantic Fiddlers Jamboree, Abram Village, PEI www.atlanticfiddlersjamboree.com/en/		
Aug 16, 17, 18th	Cape Breton Fiddlers Association 40th Anniversary Celebrations, Gaelic College of Celtic Arts & Crafts,		
	St. Ann's, Cape Breton, N.S. www.capebretonfiddlers.com/index.php?/festival-2011-information.html		

Fiddle Practices Open To The Public

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Rollo Bay 687-1521 Alternate Mondays 7:00 pm 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 940-5949 Wednesdays 7:30 pm Long & McQuade Morell Fiddlers Morell 961-2962 New Day Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm Above the Pharmacy Acadian Fiddlers Wellington 436-5532 Fridays 8:00 pm Boys & Girls Club

PEI FIDDLERS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name		Membershi	Membership \$20		
Address		Donation \$	Donation \$		
City		Payable to:	Payable to: PEI Fiddlers Society		
Province/State			PEI Fiddlers Society		
Postal/Zip Code			101 Kent Street, P.O. Box 3311,		
E-mail Address			Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5		
Quarterly Newsletter:	E-mail 🗆	Website 🗆	Regular Mail 🗌		