



# The Island Fiddler



The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society

Vol. 11 Issue 3

## The Summer in Review

September 2013



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Chrissy Crowley, Jesse Francis, Anastasia DesRoches, JJ Chaisson, Mike Hall, Darla Chaisson at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Ten Strings & a Goat Skin at the Souris Show Hall.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Celtic Ladies . . . and Men at their Summer Series in Vernon River.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

KINDLE reunited again this summer with cousins from right: Koady, Kurt, Brent and JJ Chaisson and Darla MacPhee.

## The Island Fiddler

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Newsletter - in colour  
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### Fiddling Related Websites

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Anne M. McPhee

### PEI Fiddlers Society News From the Editor

Summertime is the time for music. House parties and ceilidhs, fundraisers and parades, concerts and festivals, it all happens in the summer and this year was no different. Members of the PEI Fiddlers Society were out and about all over PEI and the Maritimes, playing a big part in all these activities.

Summer is also a time for recognizing those who work hard to develop their skill and to thank those who support those efforts. Congratulations to Skye MacAusland of Darnley who was awarded this year's Bishop Faber MacDonald scholarship, valued at \$500. Sponsored by the PEI Fiddlers Society, this scholarship assists youth aged 8 – 18 to attend a one week fiddle camp of their choosing. With the help of this scholarship Skye, aged thirteen, attended the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in St. Ann's, Cape Breton this summer.

Congratulations also to Ward MacDonald who was selected by his peers to receive a Life Membership to the PEI Fiddlers Society. Raised in the Scottish fiddling tradition, a composer, a performer and a teacher, Ward served as President of the PEI Fiddlers Society for three terms over an eight year period. He is the founder of the PEI Fiddle Camp and promotes Island Fiddling wherever he goes. He has made a significant contribution to



Photo by Elizabeth Peters-Kearney

Ward MacDonald was presented with a Life Membership to the PEI Fiddlers Society by Anne M. McPhee and Paul Cheverie.

Island Fiddling by bringing Island fiddlers together like never before.

And we are very proud of Dorothy Griffin-Farish who has contributed an Acadian report to the Island Fiddler newsletter for many years. Dorothy is this year's recipient of the prestigious Golden Fiddle Award. Congratulations Dorothy!!

A group of twelve Island Fiddlers met up in beautiful St. Ann's, NS for the Cape Breton Fiddlers Association's 40th Anniversary celebrations, participated in the festivities and took part in the massed fiddlers portion of the event with over 140 fiddlers. It was a memorable moment for us all.

Watch for more information on this year's Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 19. E-mail notices will be sent when the time and location is confirmed. Hope to see you all there. 🐾



Photo by Gloria Burke MacDonald

A group of twelve Island Fiddlers participated during the Cape Breton Fiddlers Association 40th Anniversary with over 140 Fiddlers.





### Eastern Kings Fiddlers by Anne M. McPhee

The summer season got off to a fine start with the 5th Anniversary of the Festival of Small Halls. Three concerts were held in Eastern Kings in: Fortune, St. Margaret's and Dundas. All concerts were well attended and as usual, the entertainment was second to none.

Anne M. McPhee Kings in: Fortune, St. Margaret's and Dundas. All concerts were well attended and as usual, the entertainment was second to none.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Maine fiddler Frank Ferrel was joined by New Brunswick fiddlers Ivan Hicks and Samantha Robichaud at Fortune Hall.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Maggie and Cassie MacDonald played at St. Margaret's Hall. Maggie is tapping the tune on the fiddle with knitting needles.

The 37th Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival was another success this year. It's always nice to see people return year after year.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Chrissy Crowley - always a delight - continues to amaze us ever since her first time in Rollo Bay in 2007 (on left).



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Liam McGlashon, now 14 years old, also returned to Rollo Bay and delighted the crowds. Seen on the left in 2008.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Definitely one of the highlights of the Sunday afternoon concert was this brother and sister duo - Troy and Kendra MacGillivray.


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Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Always exciting for the kids and parents at the Fiddle Festival is a performance by the Rollo Bay Fiddle Students led by fiddle teacher Kathryn Dau-Schmidt and accompanied by Kevin Chaisson.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Daughter Louise MacKinnon filled in for Lemmie at a number of performances by The Chaisson Trio with Kevin and Peter, including the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival and the BIS. Lemmie was dearly missed but his presence was certainly felt wherever they went.

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Carolyn Drake

**Queens County Fiddlers  
by Carolyn Drake**

When it comes to fiddling, there's no such thing as "the lazy, crazy days of summer," because it seems everyone just wants to play, perform, practice and listen as much as possible. That was certainly true for the members of the Queens County Fiddlers this year.

The group got a chance to play together a couple of times, including a great evening at Whisperwood Villa early in the summer and, of course, the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival. Rollo Bay was better than ever this year with fantastic group and individual talent, as well as a chance to take part in workshops. We played on Sunday afternoon under the great leadership of Vince Keoughan and with Jennifer Garrity on keyboard. Many thanks, Vince, for getting us through our sets.

The reason we were without our music leader, Aaron Crane, is that Aaron has been having an exciting summer as a cast member of Anne & Gilbert – The Musical, which is on stage on select days and evenings until Oct. 13 at The Guild in Charlottetown. He plays the role of Moody MacPherson, a fiddling sensation who pines for Anne Shirley. If you have a chance, check it out.

Aaron has also been busy this summer with his weekly ceilidhs, which wrapped up the end of August at St. Andrew's Chapel, just east of Mount Stewart. Joining him at the ceilidhs this summer is another busy member of the Queens County Fiddlers, Fiona MacCorquodale, who also found time on her summer holidays to launch her second CD, "Grounded". She held a launch party at Our Lady of Assumption Parish Hall on July 27 for the CD, which features 11 tracks.

We kept to a fairly ambitious practice schedule all summer with good turnouts almost every Wednesday evening. It was great to welcome some of our summer folk back to play, and it was great to see several of our members take advantage of fiddle camps both here and in Cape Breton.

Speaking of Cape Breton, several fiddlers from the group also performed on the mainstage of the Gaelic College in St. Ann's, along with some other P.E.I. fiddlers and a host of Cape Bretoners, for a special 40<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration on Aug. 18. In addition, group member Linda Moran, who is also a member of the Cape Breton fiddlers, performed with that group a week later for a special concert at the Fortress of Louisbourg along with 300 other fiddlers marking the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Ile Royale – now known as Cape Breton Island.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

**A few Queens County Fiddlers made it over to Cape Breton seen here in a jam with some Cape Breton Fiddlers. From left Paul Cheverie, Allan MacDonald, Blair Myers and Cecil Trainer.**

We said good-bye (for a while anyway) to two of our teen members who have been with the group for several years. Katie Sonier and Josh Vriends. Both graduated from Grade 12 in June and are both leaving P.E.I. to further their education. Be sure to keep in touch and keep playing. And come back to practice when you can.

We are tentatively scheduled to start back to weekly Wednesday night practices on Sept. 11 on the second floor of the Long and McQuade building in Charlottetown. Watch your e-mails and The Guardian for complete details.

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Dorothy  
Griffin-Farish

### Acadian News by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Bonjour and Cheers to All!

What a summer this has been for musical activity in the Evangéline region! House parties, fiddle festivals, musical benefits - you name it and it happened here. From the very young to the very

old, participation was bubbling over with joy and enthusiasm. Younger and younger people are taking to the fiddle and other musical instruments, to step-dancing, and to singing - ensuring that the Acadian musical traditions are kept alive for future generations.

Over the summer months the Wellington Friday Night Jammers have had as visitors and participants people from the United States, Quebec, Newfoundland and Western Canada. All seem to enjoy the lively music provided by the group.

The last issue of **The Island Fiddler** named off a great many entertainers in the Summer Concert Series at Mont Carmel Parish Hall. Some others included Alice Bérubé, Stéphane Bouchard and Debbie Rousselle-Montgomery, Fraser McCallum, Louise Arsenault and the Joe Narcisse family, the group Big River (Nick Arsenault, Peter Arsenault, Allan Gallant and Pierre Poirier), Samantha and Nick Arsenault, Keelin Wedge, Kaylee Arsenault, Jordan Cameron, Ward MacDonald, Patricia and Marcella



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Louise Arsenault is an energetic Acadian fiddler much sought after as a delightful performer and fiddle teacher, seen here at the 2013 Festival of Small Halls concert in Fortune.

Richard, the family trio of Sylvie Toupin, Jacques Arsenault and their son Alex, pianist Max Keenlyside, singers Albert and Mona Arsenault, flute player Corinne Cormier, a former member of the group PANOU, singers-songwriters Brielle Ansems, Mario Robichaud and Madeleine Albert; fiddler Trevor Profitt, Amand Arsenault, son Norman and his wife Paula Arsenault; their son Shane, and Norman and Paula's granddaughter Kaylee, as well as a number of step-dancers: Isabelle and Danielle Saunders, Keana Arsenault, Brooklyn Richard, Madison Simpson, Les Gars de par Chez-Nous, Les Claqueuses (Janelle Arsenault, Mélanie Arsenault, Britney Arsenault, Taylor Poirier), Krysten Cameron, Colby Arsenault, Marissa Gallant, Breanna Gaudet and Britney Arsenault. My apologies if I have missed anyone. The summer concert series took place each Sunday night from July 7 to August 25.

During this concert series Zakk Cormier appeared for the first time as a solo artist in Mont Carmel. This young singer-songwriter and fiddle player, who also plays numerous other instruments, is no stranger to the music scene. Being a descendant of the musical "Joe Bibienne" family of Abram-Village, he gets his talent honestly. He is often playing on Friday nights in Wellington with the Friday Night Jammers, and in various other locations. Zakk is a very energetic, passionate and lively musician. Keep it up, Zakk!

Julien Robichaud, 10-year-old son of Patricia Richard and Mario Robichaud, made his big stage debut at Mont Carmel Hall on August 11<sup>th</sup>. This young man, who is also a descendant of the "Joe Bibienne" clan, is an excellent piano player. His repertoire includes ragtime, contemporary and jazz. This young man is destined for a great future in music.

Debbie Rousselle-Montgomery, Louise, Gerald and Julie Arsenault and Zakk Cormier were stars in the French dinner theatre *Les belles histoires de par chez nous*, held at the Centre Expo-Festival over the summer. The show was written and directed by Wayne Robichaud.

Louise Arsenault, former member of Barachois and Gadelle, her daughter Louise and son Jonathan performed at the Old Belle River Church on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Half of the proceeds of this concert was towards cancer research. Fiddler Louise also headlined a ceilidh in June as well as on August 12<sup>th</sup> at Winslow United Church as a fundraiser for the church.



from Acadian page 8

Amand Arsenault of the duo "Eddy and Amand" celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August a party was held at the Vanier Centre in Wellington to celebrate this fine gentleman's life. His family members, numerous relatives and friends from near and far were there. Amand is always the life of the party wherever he goes, whether he is playing the guitar, singing, dancing, telling stories or teasing someone. Where there is music and fun - there is Amand and his wife Marguerite.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree ran from Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with events in three locations: the Centre Expo-Festival in Abram-Village, the Mont Carmel Parish Hall and the return of the Meet the Masters concert at the Beach House in Mont Carmel. On Friday night the Wellington Friday Night Jammers performed for two hours at the Mont Carmel Parish Hall. This was followed by a dance with Jean Françoise Bertheaume from Quebec as caller. This chap is also an excellent step-dancer who led some of the dancing workshops over the weekend. Several interactive workshops on step-dancing and fiddling were held on Saturday. Topping the list of performers at this year's jamboree were the Greely Savoy Dun group from Louisiana; Chrissy Crowley from Cape Breton; Louise Arsenault from Evangeline region; Maja Kjaer Jacobson and David Boulanger from Quebec, and J.J. Chaisson, along with fiddlers Peter Chaisson, Peter Arsenault, Jonathan Arsenault, Karine Gallant, Jesse Francis and Iain MacInnes, and accompanists Kevin Chaisson, Helen Bergeron, Brent Chaisson and Ryan MacNeil of the Barra MacNeils. A musical brunch was held at the Centre Expo-Festival on Sunday. This was followed by the closing concert and the awarding of

this year's recipient of the Golden Fiddle Award.

I was very much surprised and honored to be the recipient of the 2013 Golden Fiddle Award, and I very much appreciate the fact that I was chosen to receive this award. Although I do not play the fiddle, I very much enjoy the fiddle music of Prince Edward Island and accompany fiddlers and other entertainers at various gigs and parties.

The Exposition agricole et le Festival Acadien of the Evangeline this year was held from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. This event each year proves to be a great success. A jam session was held on Friday night, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Expo-Festival Centre, a fiddle and gigue show on Sunday afternoon, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m., and the closing ceremonies took place at 7 p.m. Sunday night with the choosing of the Acadian and Young Acadian of the Year.

Till next time, cheerio!



Submitted Photo

Dorothy Griffin-Farish accepts the Golden Fiddle Award from 2013 Atlantic Fiddlers Jamboree Coordinator, Caroline Arsenault.



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Barry Thompson

**Prince County Fiddlers  
by Barry Thompson**

Changing Times is a group inspired to bring a spirited and lively mix of folk, Irish, country and fiddle favorites to those who love a good song or a toe tapping tune. The group consisting of Kevin Arthur, Jason Campbell, and Barry Thompson have been crowd pleasers in recent years at ceilidhs, pubs and good ole kitchen party gatherings. Changing Times prides itself with catering to the requests of a diverse audience with down home musical overtones as rich as the Island's soil. Kevin Arthur, the group's lead singer, is an inviting vocalist that delivers easy listening song choices with a bit of laughter on the side. Next in line is Jason Campbell who embodies proof of the Island's preservation of fiddle talent with his uplifting reels, jigs, and strathspeys. Lastly is Barry Thompson, a multifaceted

musician who has accompanied a wide variety of Island entertainers with a true passion and merit to Island music. The group looks forward to entertaining at any opportunity and would like to thank everyone for their support.



Photo by Melissa Arthur

The group Changing Times includes from left: Kevin Arthur, Barry Thompson and Jason Campbell.



Submitted Photo

Prince County Fiddlers were seen and heard on a float during the Lobster Carnival Parade this summer.



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The Baddeck Gathering

P.M. A. MacDonald



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

JJ's son MacGuire gets a close up view of the action.



Submitted Photo

Billy MacInnis played at the Fiddlers and Followers Weekend.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Lemmie's daughter Mary Chaisson.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

The Food Bank fundraiser finale in Memory of Elmer Deagle at the Souris Show Hall.

**Events Forecast**

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

Sundays 2:00-5:00pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Sundays 7:00-9:30pm into Oct	Sun Night Shenanigans	York Community Hall	York	902-566-5545
Sundays 7:30-10:30pm	Kitchen Party	St. Margaret's Parish Hall	St. Margaret's	902-687-2546
First Sunday 6:00pm	Sturgeon Ceilidhs	St. Paul's Parish Hall	Sturgeon	902-962-3918
Second Sunday 7:00-9:00pm	Kitchen Party/Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-2732
Third Sunday 1:30pm	Ceilidh	Seniors Active Living Centre, UPEI	Charlottetown	902-628-8388
Third Sunday 7:00pm	Kellys Cross Ceilidhs	Kellys Cross Church Hall	Kelly's Cross	902-658-2290
Last Sunday 7:00pm Nov 24	Music in Motion Ceilidhs	Winsloe Lions Hall	Winsloe	902-368-8449
Last Sunday 7:00-9:00pm	Ceilidh/Concert	Bonshaw Community Centre	Bonshaw	902-675-4282
Mondays 8:00pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St Peter's Bay	902-961-2899
Mondays 7:30pm	Kensington Ceilidhs	Murray Centre	Kensington	902-886-2480
First and Third Mondays 7:00pm	Ceilidh Kitchen Party	Bingo Country, Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
Mon & Wed 7:30 pm til Sep 18	Ross Family Ceilidh	Stanley Bridge W.I. Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-569-4551
Tuesdays 7:00pm	Georgetown Ceilidh	Kings Playhouse	Georgetown	902-652-2053
Tuesdays 7:30pm til Oct 8	Scottish Ceilidh Concerts	MacKinnon Homestead Grounds	Richmond	902-854-3513
Third Tuesday 7:00pm	Stratford Lion's Club Ceilidh	Robert Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-3956
Wednesdays 7:30pm	Ceilidh in the City	Murchison Centre	Charlottetown	902-569-3327
Wednesdays 8:00pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Wednesdays 8:00pm	Square Dance	Old Lorne Valley School	Lorne Valley	902-583-2759
Thursdays 8:00pm til Sep 26	Fiddlers' Sons & Courtney	Hogan, Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-838-4399
Thursdays 7:30-9:30 til Sep 26	Ceilidh - Nathan Condon	Stanley Bridge W.I. Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-836-4310
Thursdays 7:30pm til Oct 3	Lot 7 Ceilidhs	St. Mark's Parish Hall	Burton	902-892-7948
First Thursday 7:30pm	Ceilidh	Kilmuir Hall	Kilmuir	902-838-4768
Fridays 8:00-11:00pm til Sep 27	Belfast Kitchen Party	Belfast Rec Centre	Belfast	902-659-2277
Fridays 7:30 pm til Sep 14	Mary Smith & Friends	Stanley Bridge W.I. Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-963-2356
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh at the Irish Hall	Irish Cultural Centre (BIS)	Charlottetown	902-566-3273
Fridays 8:00pm	Ceilidh & Dance	Dundas Ploughing Match Grounds	Dundas	902-583-2319
Alternate Fridays til Sep 30	Ceilidh	Murray Harbour Drama Club	Murray Harbour	902-962-2792
Saturdays 9:00pm	Goose River Dance	Goose River Hall	Goose River	902-961-2205
Saturdays 7:30pm til Sep 21	Richard Wood Kitchen Party	Stanley Bridge Hall	Stanley Bridge	902-962-3204
Thurs Sep 12 - 8:00pm	Louise Arsenault	Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-838-4399
Thurs Sep 19 - 8:00pm	Troy MacGillivray	Kaylee Hall	Pooles Corner	902-838-4399
Sat Oct 26 2:00 - 7:00pm	Fiddle Doo and Potluck	Murray Christian Centre	Kensington	902-963-2356

**Fiddle Practices Open To The Public**

**Eastern Kings Fiddlers** Rollo Bay 687-1521

Mondays 7:00pm Rollo Bay School Oct 21 - May

**Prince County Fiddlers** Summerside 836-3844

Mondays 7:30pm Community Connections

**Southern Kings Fiddlers** Montague 962-2273

Alternate Mondays 7:00pm Active Communities

**Queens County Fiddlers** Charlottetown 940-5949

Wednesdays 7:30pm Long & McQuade

**Morell Fiddlers** Morell 961-2962

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30pm Morell Pharmacy

**Acadian Fiddlers** Wellington 436-5532

Fridays 8:00pm Boys & Girls Club

**PEI FIDDLERS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Payable to: PEI Fiddlers Society

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: 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