



The Island Fiddler

The Newsletter of the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society



Vol. 12 Issue 4

December 2014

EDDY ARSENAULT (1921-2014)

by Georges Arsenault

Well known P.E.I. musician Alfred 'Eddy' Arsenault of St. Chrysostome died on September 18, 2014 at Prince County Hospital in Summerside at the age of 92. Here is the text written by Georges Arsenault for the Evangeline Regional Music Hall of Fame, printed with permission.

Fisherman, carpenter and choral singer, Eddy Arsenault also gained a reputation as one of the best and most influential fiddlers on Prince Edward Island. Born in St. Chrysostome in 1921, Eddy learned to play the violin when he was about 16 years old. He started with the reels played by local musicians and with tunes he heard Quebec musicians performing on the radio.

Over the years, he perfected his own fiddling style, blending the local Acadian style with the Scottish style typical of Cape Breton. He played with such feeling and intensity that anyone who heard him was invariably touched by his music. Eddy gained an enviable reputation as a fiddler not only in his native province but also off the Island, thus influencing countless other musicians. He also contributed greatly to the revival of traditional music among the younger generations. Eddy Arsenault recorded two albums: *Eddy Arsenault - Egmont Baie* in 1981 and *Piling on the bois sec* in 1993 which include his own compositions "Herring Reel" and "Dragger's Reel".

At a time when very few fiddlers were available to play in public and up-and-coming



Eddy Arsenault in 2011 at the Atlantic Fiddlers Jamboree.

fiddlers were rare, one could always count on Eddy to liven up house parties, variety shows and festivals. Over the years, he was invited to play on many television shows and at traditional music festivals in both Canada and the United States. A veteran of the Second World War, Eddy had the honour of playing for Queen Elizabeth II and for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Eddy was also a choral singer. Following in his father's footsteps, Eddy joined the choir at Saint-Philippe and Saint-Jacques Church where he sang for

about 55 years. He became the principal soloist and served as choir director for a number of years.

Eddy was held in great esteem as shown by the many honours he received over the years. Notably, he was named "Acadian of the Year" by the Acadian Festival of the Evangeline Region in 1983; he received the Stompin' Tom Musical Pioneer Award from the East Coast Music Association in 1999; and, in 2003, he became the inaugural winner of the Golden Fiddle Award presented at the Atlantic Fiddlers' Jamboree.

Eddy is survived by his loving wife, Rita (nee Gallant), and children Marie (Elmer), Raymond (Céline), Helen, Peter (Marie) and Albert (Julie). Cherished grandfather to 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Also survived by sisters, Yvonne Arsenault, Emma (Camille) Cormier and Geraldine Gallant and brother, Amand (Marguerite) Arsenault.



The Island Fiddler

View all issues of *The Island Fiddler* Newsletter - in colour online at www.peifiddlers.com

Editor: Anne M. McPhee 687-1521
Advertising/Distribution: Paul Cheverie 566-3551

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS

Mail: The Island Fiddler, 101 Kent Street,
 P.O. Box 3311, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5
E-mail: annemcpee@pei.sympatico.ca

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society

Established 22 May 1977 Incorporated 31 March 1983

P.E.I. Fiddlers Society Executive

Tammy MacEachern, President 902-940-5949
 Jason Campbell, 1st Vice President 902-439-5775
 Aaron Crane, 2nd Vice President 902-388-1040
 Anne M. McPhee, Secretary 902-687-1521
 Amy Swenson, Treasurer 902-962-2273

Prince County Fiddlers

Robert Gallant 902-436-9811
robertkarengallant@msn.com

Queens County Fiddlers

Tammy MacEachern, President 902-940-5949
tammymac@hotmail.com

Eastern Kings Fiddlers

Anne M. McPhee 902-687-1521
annemcpee@pei.sympatico.ca

Southern Kings Fiddlers

Amy Swenson 902-962-2273
gagliano31@hotmail.com

Acadian Fiddlers

Dorothy Griffin-Farish 902-432-9692
dfarish1@eastlink.ca

Privacy Statement

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

Fiddle and/or Accompaniment (+) Teachers

Argyle Shore	Roy Johnstone	Fiddle	675-2541
Caledonia	Amy Swenson	Fiddle	962-2273
Charlottetown	Aaron Crane (+)	Fiddle	388-1040
	Cynthia MacLeod	Fiddle	940-1825
	Gary Chipman (+)	Fiddle	213-4978
	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
	Kendra MacGillivray (+)	Fiddle	367-5606
	Ward MacDonald (+)	Fiddle	218-8084
	Matthew Reid	Fiddle	566-2894
	College of Piping (+)	Fid.	877-224-7473
Cumberland	Courtney Hogan	Fiddle	675-3593
Fortune	Mark Haines (+)	Fiddle	687-1404
Montague	Sheila Fitzpatrick	Fiddle	838-3334
Richmond	MacKinnon Family	Fiddle	854-2245
Rollo Bay	Kathryn Dau-Schmidt	Fiddle	672-2711
Souris	J.J. Chaisson (+)	Fiddle	687-2261
Bear River	Sammy Arseneau (+)	Fiddle	327-7262
Summerside	Anastasia DesRoches	Fiddle	854-3116

Step-Dancing Teachers

Brittany Banks	902-314-7676
College of Piping	436-5377 or 877-224-7473
Jaime Bell	962-2846
Jennifer Carson	902-314-6386
Jocelyne Arsenault	854-2721
Judy MacLean	969-4100 or 566-5545
Marlys Hamilton-MacLaren	887-3385 or 439-0278
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 at annemcpee@pei.sympatico.ca or 687-1521

Fiddling Related Websites

Anastasia DesRoches	www.anastasiadesroches.com
Bellows and Bows	www.mun.ca/mmap/back_on_track/b_and_b/
Billy MacInnis	www.billymacinnis.homestead.com
Bowing Down Home	www.bowingdownhome.ca
Calendonian Orchestra	www.caledonianorchestra.com
Canadian Grand Masters	www.canadiangrandmasters.ca
Cape Breton Fiddlers	www.capebretonfiddlers.com
CB Fiddle Recordings	www.cbffiddle.com/rx/
Cape Breton Ottawa	www.cbssession.com/
Courtney Hogan	www.courtneyhogan.ca/home.html
College of Piping	www.collegeofpiping.com
Cynthia MacLeod	www.cynthiamacleod.com
Evangeline Region	www.regionevangeline.com
Ivan and Vivian Hicks	www.ivanhicks.com
Judy MacLean	www.judymacleandance.ca
Ken Perlman	www.kenperlman.com
Kendra MacGillivray	www.kendramacgillivray.com
Learn Tunes by Ear	www.slowplayers.org/SCTLS/learn
Maritime Fiddlers Assoc.	www.maritimefiddler.ca
Marlys Hamilton-MacLaren	www.somersetsteppers.ca
Matthew Reid	www.mattreidmusic.com
Music PEI	www.musicpei.com
PEI Fiddle Camp	www.peiffiddlecamp.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
Vishten	www.vishtenmusic.com



Tammy MacEachern

PEI Fiddlers Society News by Tammy MacEachern

Hello and Happy December everyone!

My name is Tammy MacEachern and I am your newly elected President of the PEI Fiddlers Society. Some of you may know me as being the President of the Queens County Fiddlers and some of you may have no clue to who I am. But I can tell you that I am super excited to be in this role and I will work diligently to maintain the integrity and growth of the society. I look forward to working with the other chapters to bring forth new ideas, and most important to keep the tradition on PEI alive and well.

The PEI Fiddlers Society AGM was held Thursday October 30th, 2014 at The Old Triangle upstairs in the Pourhouse. Special thanks to owner Paul Mansour for his amazing hospitality!! This AGM brought forth a change in the board as Nathan Condon was not able to re-offer as President. I would like to thank Nathan for steering the Society through the past two years. I would also like to thank Paul Cheverie, long time treasurer, for keeping the books extremely organized as he hands the reigns over to Amy Swenson. I know Amy will continue to keep the debits and credits balanced.

Thankfully I will have continued support from Jason Campbell, our first Vice President and Anne McPhee in her role as secretary. I will be looking for guidance from both of them from time to time.

And last but definitely not least we are welcoming Aaron Crane as second Vice President. Aaron is the musical director and past President of the Queens County Fiddlers. We work well as a team and plan on bringing our skills and love of the fiddling tradition to the PEI Fiddlers Society.

Fiddle and the Celtic tradition is a passion that runs deep through my blood. I look forward to meeting more members from the other chapters and working together to bring new ideas and lots of fun!

Speaking of fun! There's something in the works for Island Fiddlers at the 2014 New Year's Eve celebration in Summerside. Keep your eyes peeled on your inboxes for more details!! Also, the 2015 PEI Fiddlers Society Fiddle Jam will be held Sunday April 12th at the BIS. I will be keeping everyone updated on new events and other goings-on in the Fiddle world on PEI.



*Congratulations
Richard and
Jessica!*

*He asked and
she said
YES!!!*

June 25 - 2016

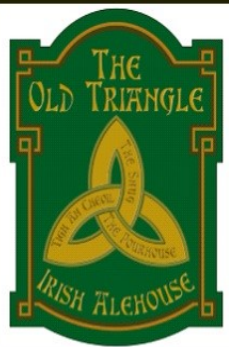
Your comments are important to us.

Send your e-mail to annemcphee@pei.sympatico.ca

or mail to **The Island Fiddler 101 Kent Street,
P.O. Box 3311, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W5**

Save paper and postage and view

The Island Fiddler Newsletter at www.peifiddlers.com



The Old Triangle Charlottetown

89 University Ave.

Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4L1

(902) 892-5200

charlottetown@oldtriangle.com

www.oldtrianglecharlottetown.com

*Food for the Body, Drink for the Spirit
and Music for the Soul*



Fiddle & Step Dance Lessons in Montague

Private & Group Classes

8 week sessions starting

January 7 & March 4

Call: (902) 838-3334

Email: sheilafiddle@gmail.com



Eastern Kings Fiddlers by Anne M. McPhee

It's been a busy fall season for fiddlers in Eastern Kings. One of the highlights was a Fiddling Flash Mob organized by the volunteers at Souris Live Inc. for PEI Culture Days on Sept 26. Nine Island fiddlers including—Mark Haines, Gary Chipman, Marlene Gallant, Paul Cheverie, Amy Swenson, Jim Townshend, Marie McGaugh, Sammy Arseneau and myself, with a guitarist, two bodhran's and a newfie stick for accompaniment—infiltrated the produce department at the SaveEasy in Souris and, one by one, joined Mark Haines in a roaring set of tunes. Shoppers were surprised and delighted by the impromptu show and before the group left the store, the performance was posted on Facebook. By the end of the weekend, the video had reached 28,000 people!! The event can now be viewed online by going to youtube.com and typing in Anne McPhee.

The Kitchen Group has resumed their weekly practices at the Rollo Bay School. Two classically trained youth, sisters Holly and Zoe O'regan (below), originally from Ireland, have joined the group in the kitchen, much to everyone's delight. There is a new energy in the group and lots of new tunes are coming to the surface and flying off the strings.



Photo by Anne M. McPhee

Holly and Zoe O'regan

The group was delighted to welcome Queens County Fiddlers Fr. Charlie Cheverie, Marlene Gallant, Carolyn Drake and Linda Moran to help us learn

Angelina's Reel, written by Lorraine Lynch and posted in the September newsletter. It's a catchy tune and we're enjoying learning how to play it. It was a good experience and fun for us all to play some tunes in a larger group. We hope they will join us again some time soon.



Photo by Elizabeth Peters

Members of the Queens County Fiddlers join the Kitchen Group in playing Angelina's reel.

Lots of plans are in the works for a variety of concerts over the Christmas season - most will include a fiddler or two. Get out when the getting's good and take in some music. It's sure to put a smile on your face.



Photo by Elizabeth Peters

Peter Chaisson helps out on Monday nights on fiddle or guitar.

UNITED JANITORIAL INC.

Complete Cleaning Services

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

Building Solid Relationships on Quality Service

Island Owned and Operated
- Bonded and Insured -
Free Estimates

Local: **(902)569-1822** www.unitedjanitorial.com
Toll Free: 1-866-486-4526 email: admin@unitedjanitorial.com

Mabel's Mobile Canteens

Scallops -- Fish -- Clams
Hamburgers -- Chickenburgers
Hotdogs -- Fries

Mabel Gallant
"You name it, I'll cook it"
P.O. Box 243, Charlottetown
902-368-1515



Frank Lechowick

MORELL FIDDLERS REPORT By Frank Lechowick

Two entertainers' dinners made for an unusual autumn for the Morell Fiddlers. The first was held at Sturgeon Hall and the second at Silver Threads in Souris. We had played a couple of times at the famed ceilidh next to St. Paul's Church in Southern Kings, but our record was set in October at Silver Threads where we were the only act for the whole night. Emmett DeCoursey would sing a couple of songs and then would join us for a few sets, and thus we alternated for the entire two hours, with Lorraine "Lanie" Lynch also interspersing some solo numbers. Our only break came with a solid lunch, thoroughly enjoyed. (As all musicians know, these welcome parts of the evening can vary from place to place.)

In that month we also appeared in front of a packed house at Judy MacLean's last Sunday Night Shenanigans of the season in Little York.

In the fall we bade goodbye to Lanie, who went home to Boston, her grandchildren, and her gigs at the Canadian-American Club. We look forward to her return next summer.

Another of our members, pianist Marion Pirch, easily rivals Emmett and Lanie for number of nights on the road, happily backing instrumentalists from Dundas to Montague, and well beyond.

Several Morellers again attended Vince Keoughan's long-running fiddle class at Donagh community school.

Here we would like to pay tribute to the village of Morell, which offers us a comfortable loft for our sessions throughout the year. To show our appreciation, Leonard and Linda Deveaux will

continue their tradition of presenting a choice Christmas tree to the village.

And for all you skeptics, we are happy to report that Emmett DeCoursey's latest invention is up and running. We are of course speaking of his motorized wheelbarrow, which by the way took the trophy for most original float in the parade at the Dundas Plowing Match. (For photos of Emmett tooling along in this wonderful machine contact Emmett or myself.) With the onset of winter, OK Tire is trying to locate snow tires. Particularly challenging will be the right rear (steering) wheel, and the fifth (power) wheel in the center front. 🐾



And finally, the moment we have long awaited. A photo of Emmett DeCoursey seated in his latest invention, a motorized wheelbarrow!! The photo was taken and submitted by his daughter.



Proud Supporter of Island Talent

**CONFEDERATION
COURT MALL**

DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTETOWN

Shop outside the box.

Open Mon-Wed 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Thurs & Fri 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Sat 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Over 90 shops and services

Information line: 902-894-9505

More online at confedcourtmall.com



Amy Swenson

Southern Kings Fiddlers by Amy Swenson

Fall has been a busy season for our group. We continued our biweekly practices in Montague and were happy to see fiddlers from other groups drop by to play with us. Lorraine Lynch has left for the States, but we were glad to have her with us all summer and we have promised to continue to play her nifty tune Angelina's Reel (see the last newsletter) although it is doubtful that we will ever manage to play it at the 200 plus beat per minute pace she can set! We hope that she will bring along another original tune which she returns.

The PEI Fiddler's Flash Mob in Souris on Sept. 26th was great fun. We had a good turnout for the Fall Festival Oct. 11th at the Community Centre in Murray Harbour, which celebrated the end of the first season of its popular Farmer's Market. I was suffering from a strange virus that day, so I only managed to lead the group for a half hour on stage. However, to my delight, the group continued to play on quite well "self-propelled" as it were. The confidence, stamina, and repertoire of our players has greatly improved since we started - they were on stage for an hour and a half! I rested behind my table of dried flower bouquets and enjoyed the show.

We played for the Silver Threads Seniors Club in Souris on October 29th, and watched an amazing assortment of witches, goblins and other strange creatures dancing to our waltzes. Apparently they enjoyed our group, as we are asked to return Dec. 3rd. On November 16th, I will have 12 young students at Hillcrest United for the first recital of the year, some playing fiddle music and some playing classical, and several insisting on playing duets. The Fiddlers will play at the Christmas Craft Show at the Harbour on Dec. 6th and we'll play a batch of Christmas favorites at the Sturgeon Christmas Ceilidh Dec. 14th, and then entertain at Gillis Lodge on the 20th.

Watch for two interesting concerts in early 2015, both involving classical orchestras playing music

inspired by the fiddle tunes of PEI! Leo Marchildon's "Canada Our Dear Home", which combines lyrics sung by Sylvia Mutch with tunes written by PEI fiddle composers, will be performed on the afternoon of January 10th by the Strathgartney Orchestra in the Georgian Room of the Rodd Charlottetown. The concert will include Torelli's Trumpet Concerto in D featuring our fine trumpeter Laura MacLeod, and a nice variety of works by other composers. Admission is by donation.

On Feb. 1st, Roy Johnstone and the PEI Symphony will present his new symphonic poem, "Abegweit: Symphony for an Island", which combines traditional music of PEI with classical forms. Roy was invited to be a soloist with the Symphony this year, and instead of just having the Symphony back him up while he played fiddle tunes, he decided to try composing a new piece, and is grateful for a grant from the Arts Council and for assistance from Dr. Rich Covey of UPEI.

Our fiddle group will continue to meet alternate Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, and anyone is welcome to drop in and try some tunes with us. We meet at the Rural Development Centre at Brooke and Main St. Montague. Please call me at 962-2273 for the dates of practices, as I do not have the list of dates yet for 2015. Best wishes for a musical Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Safely Home

Alfred 'Eddy' Arsenault

September 18, 2014 Summerside, age 92 years. A Life Member of the PEI Fiddlers Society. Known as one of the best and most influential fiddlers on Prince Edward Island.



Virginia Tremaine Kinsman

September 23, 2014 at Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Music was a love of hers. She played violin with the Queens County Fiddlers and was a violinist and Charter Member of The Caledonian Orchestra of Nova Scotia.



CLEF

Celtic Learning & Educational Foundation
Yearly Memberships Available Now! \$30
Email: clefpei@gmail.com Call: (902) 838-3334
facebook.com/clefpei

DOCHERTY'S
AUTO SERVICE
838-4468

THE INTERPROVINCIAL RED SEAL PROGRAM
CANADA
EXCELLENCE THROUGH TRAINING

Jason Docherty
Tire, Wheel, Electrical, Exhaust, Alignment, Suspension Specialist

Main St. Montague
PEI COA IRO

Fax: (902) 838-3292

Wheel Alignment • Tires • Brakes
Exhaust • Oil Changes • Suspension
Electrical Diagnosis



The CLEF Report!
by Sheila Fitzpatrick

As of September 22nd, CLEF (Celtic Learning & Educational Foundation) is a registered and incorporated non-profit organization. Co-founded by Maxine MacLennan and myself - Sheila FitzPatrick, along with Richard Wood, the organization's mission is to sustain, promote and perpetuate all areas of Celtic culture across PEI including music, song, dance, language and history. Our primary focus will be on youth and getting young people more engaged and participating in living Celtic traditions.

In July and August, we ran the canteen at the Brackley Beach Fiddle & Song concert series and raised enough to cover our costs of incorporating. Our next vision was to be able to send an Island fiddler to the Buddy MacMaster School of Fiddling at the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre in Judique, Cape Breton during the Celtic Colours Festival. We held a tribute concert to Buddy MacMaster at the BIS Hall on September 13th featuring Dwayne Cote from Cape Breton, along with our own Fiddle Monsters with Aaron Crane and myself. We were very excited to raise enough money to send Keith Mullen to attend this exciting program. Keith enjoyed himself immensely and CLEF looks forward to being able to do this again in 2015.

We held a Fall raffle with some amazing prizes, including two tickets to the opening night of Celtic Colours. On Nov. 8th, we hosted a workshop with fiddler Wendy MacIsaac while she was here for her CD launch. That night, we presented our Fiddles, Food and Fashions Show that had local fashions being modeled by some well-known Celtic musicians including Tammy MacEachern, Emma Doucette, Courtney Hogan-Chandler, Mark MacDougall, Norman Stewart and Richard Wood! We had an amazing time with some great music and food as well!

CLEF yearly memberships are now available for \$30. You'll receive discounts to and get notification of our events before anyone else and be invited to special member-only events and more! For a copy of the form, email us at clefpei@gmail.com or send us a Facebook message. You can Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/clefpei. We are also putting out an official call for board members, preferably people with an interest and knowledge in any area of Celtic culture such as music, dance, Gaelic language or Island/Celtic history. We are looking forward to lots of exciting activities in 2015!

And on behalf of all of us at CLEF – Sheila FitzPatrick, Maxine MacLennan, Richard Wood and Mark MacDougall - Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhath ùr! (Scottish Gaelic for Merry Christmas and Happy New Year) - Le gach Dea-Ghui i gcomhair na Nollag is na hath bhliana! (Irish for 'With every good wish for Christmas and the new year!')



Just a few of CLEF's activities in 2014.

The Judy MacLean
Private School of Dance
home: 902-566-5545
cell: 902-969-4100
web: judymacleandance.ca
e-mail: judymacleandance@eastlink.ca
Member of the Canadian Dance Teachers Association (CDTA)
Dance with the Best, dance with us
"SUNDAY NIGHT SHENANIGANS"

Canada's Music Store
Sales / Rentals / Repairs / Lessons / Print Music / In-Store Financing
Long & McQuade | www.long-mcquade.com
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Charlottetown - 902.368.3237 ▪ Summerside - 902.436.3237



Carolyn Drake

Queens County Fiddlers by Carolyn Drake

Season's greetings to all from the Queens County Fiddlers.

With the fall season rapidly turning into the cold of the oncoming winter, we are enjoying the chance to be practising our fiddle tunes indoors where it is warm (when we're not busy Christmas shopping, that is).

The QCF returned to a regular weekly practice schedule in mid-September. It was wonderful to see so many people back and ready to tackle new music. Right out of the gate, the group was off to volunteer to play at a special Cooper Institute fundraiser being held at the Carrefour Theatre in Charlottetown on Sept. 19. We were very happy to be asked to take part in this event, as one of our former members, the late Father Andrew MacDonald, was a big supporter of this group's work. We did a couple of group sets, and our three "fiddle monsters" Jenna Cyr, Lindsey Doiron and Cailyn MacAulay), accompanied by Jennifer Garrity, played for Tory Burke who step danced.

In October, a number of members attended the annual meeting of the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society held at the Old Triangle and then enjoyed a chance to play some tunes after the meeting.


Nov. 5 saw us out on the road to the Prince Edward Home in Charlottetown, an outing we always enjoy. This was followed by playing for 90 minutes at the Speakers Tea, hosted by Speaker Carolyn Bertram, at Murphy's Community Centre on Nov. 12.

We have invitations to play at a couple of seniors homes in the Charlottetown area before the winter weather arrives, and we are looking forward to sharing some great traditional music and maybe a few tunes for the Christmas season.

And speaking of tunes, the group is excited to

be working on a new set of jigs written by our music leader, Aaron Crane: Ninety and Ten, The Windy Jig and X's and O's. We're also working on a new set that will feature one of our favourite tunes by Kevin Chaisson, Dot McKinnon's Reel.

We are all looking forward to a winter of learning new tunes and welcoming people to drop in to our practice sessions on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., upstairs at the Long & McQuade building on Capital Drive in Charlottetown. And speaking of welcoming people to our practices, the Queens County Fiddlers want to thank one of our most faithful fans, Betty Foster, who stops by to enjoy our music almost every Wednesday. Accompanied by Claire Arsenault, we are always happy to see them both.

We'll be taking a bit of a break over the Christmas season, but other than that (and the odd stormy Wednesday), we'll be easy to find. 



Meet Queens County Fiddlers newest honorary member, (centre) Betty Foster (who does not wish her age to be known)! She comes to every practice to encourage the group and to hear the group play Tennessee Waltz for her. Claire Arsenault (right) drives her every week. Betty's membership card was presented to her by Jennifer McQuaid (left). Betty plays the fiddle herself.

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



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



Prince County Fiddlers by Cathy Campbell

The Prince County Fiddlers are back on track with regular Monday night practices. During this quarter, the fiddlers had the pleasure of playing again at Chez Nous in

Cathy Campbell Wellington where three young step dancers put on quite a performance. We played at the final Ceilidh at the MacKinnon Homestead. After sharing a tasty potluck with people from all over, we took turns performing. Hats off to Mary Smith for hosting yet another successful Fiddle Doo at the Murray Christian Center, Kensington. The hall was full of entertainers from NB, PEI and other regions.

A special thank you to Mary who faithfully drives all the way from North Rustico to provide us with piano and/or guitar accompaniment, and play fiddle solos during various performances. We appreciate the dedication.

At this time, the Prince County Fiddlers would like to welcome Bill Micallef as our newest member. Bill recently moved to PEI from Annapolis Valley, NS where he was a member of the Bridgetown Fiddlers. We look forward to swapping tunes.

Another musician who has been supporting us for a while now, but most recently joined us on a regular basis is none other than Peter Robinson. Peter is a retired music teacher from Tyne Valley, PEI. Born in Charlottetown into a musical family, Peter has taken his talent and love of music and developed it into a music educator career spanning over three decades. During his career he has spent all of his professional life as the music teacher at Ellerslie Elementary School where he also provided noon time fiddle instruction for students. He has taught music, classroom and computer skills to two generations of budding musicians, using grade level instruction and choir to create an interest and love for music including voice, violin, guitar, recorder, ukulele, percussion and piano. In his community, he has passed on this love of music to many as a teacher at Community School, private piano instructor, organist, choir director, Music Director of the Tyne Valley Area Vacation Bible School, violin and piano accompanist for Nosco School of Theatre Arts, and a member of the program committee for the West Prince Music Festival. Outside his community area, he has served as president of the PEI Music

Educators, Member of Department of Education Curriculum Committee, Music PEI and the Inaugural winner of the PEI Council of the Arts award For Music Education. Peter leads by example. As a multi-instrumentalist, he has played with the PEI Symphony, PEI Regiment Band, Valley Trio, Charlottetown Community Clash, Prince County Fiddlers and the Music PEI and ECMA nominated group Lazy Jacks. Peter is a founding Member of the Prince Edward Island Symphony Orchestra. There is yet more to Peter's extensive resume, but I think we can all agree his love for music and contribution to music on PEI has been an impressive journey. We appreciate the knowledge, talent and professionalism he will bring forth to our group.



Peter Robinson

Lastly, we were honored to perform at the Clinton View Lodge for Estelle Bolger's 105th Birthday celebration. Estelle and her late husband, Lenie Bolger, were both members of the Prince County Fiddlers. Lenie was an excellent fiddler, playing until the age of ninety-six. Estelle was first to become a member after taking up fiddle lessons and step-dancing at the age of seventy one. Estelle's daughter, Patricia Brooke and her granddaughter were there to sing some beautiful songs. Patricia has written over one hundred and fifty original songs and has performed all over the world. They are a very talented family indeed.

In closing, practices are Monday nights from 7:30 - 9:30 at Community Connections, 701 Water Street, Summerside. All are welcome to attend.

We just received word that Estelle Bolger died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday, November 20, 2014, after three happy days at her new home, at the Wedgewood Manor, Summerside, Our condolences go out to the family.

"Collision Repair at its Finest"

BILL Koughan
Auto Body Ltd.

Dave Koughan
Owner / Manager
Phone: 569-3851
Fax: 569-3120
Rte. 257, Donagh Rd.

A & D Backhoeing

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

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



Acadian News
by Dorothy Griffin-Farish

Hi Everyone!

Time surely flies by! Seems like no time since the beginning of 2014 - now here it is almost to a close.

Dorothy Griffin-Farish Our great buddy and out-standing fiddler from St. Chrysostome, Eddy Arsenault, passed away on September 18th in his 93rd year. I often accompanied Eddy and his brother Amand when they played at the manors and seniors' homes in Summerside and at the Chez Nous in Wellington, and very much enjoyed playing the keyboard with them. Their music came right from their hearts. Eddy's legacy of music will live on through his musical family, as well as through the records, tapes, and CDs on which his lively tunes are featured - as well as on youtube. A great man who will be sorely missed, Alfred "Eddy" Arsenault.

Many of our Acadian musicians have been performing at the Lot 7 ceilidhs at St. Mark's Hall, Burton, Lot 7 this year. Some of the entertainers from the area included Nick Arsenault and Big River, his wife Samantha who plays violin, Louise Arsenault and H el ene Bergeron.

The fifth edition of the Grand Ruisseau Song Festival took place from September 26 - 28 at Mont Carmel Parish Centre. Among the performers included singers Krysten Cameron, Taylor Sonier, Zakk Cormier, Joceline LeBlanc, Natasha Arsenault, Jean-Eudes Gallant, Patrice Deraspe, Jacinthe Laforest, the musical group Visht en, as well as the choir of  cole -sur-Mer, Mona and Albert Arsenault, Robert Gallant, Pat Durant, the 4 Cord Boys, Alex Arsenault, Jacques Arsenault, Sylvie Toupin, the group Harmony, composed of Debbie Roussele-Montgomery, Keelin Wedge and Tracy Gallant, and singer/songwriter Lennie Gallant, joined on stage by

Anthony Rissesco on violin, his nephew Jeremy Gallant on keyboard and Jonathan Gallant on caj n/ percussions, as well as Caroline Bernard on accordion.

The fourth edition of the Fall Colours Pumpkin Festival of Summerside, hosted by La Belle-Alliance, took place from October 22nd to the 30th. An Acadian Kitchen Party launched the festival on Friday, October 22nd from 7 - 10 p.m. Entertainers included Pascal Miousse, Jessie Francis, Peter Arsenault, Ward MacDonald, Trevor Profit, and guest player Bertrand Deraspe from Magdalen Islands. On Sunday, October 24th, as part of the festival, a fall brunch featuring Anastasia DesRoches, Myl ne Ouellette and Brent Chaisson was held at the Loyalist Country Inn.

A Fiddle-Doo was held in the Murray Christian Centre, Kensington on Saturday, October 25th, from 2 - 7 p.m. I represented the Friday Night Jammers at this event and played keyboard all afternoon. A large number of fiddlers and entertainers from New Brunswick, as well as a choral group from Rustico and the Prince County Fiddlers made for an entertaining afternoon.

Gary Gallant, Caroline Bernard, Remi Arsenault, Patricia and Marcella Richard, and Louise Arsenault were featured on Friday, November 7th, at an Acadian soiree at the Milton Community Hall as part of the 2014 Minutes of Story and Song series. Louise and H el ene Bergeron were also featured on Sunday afternoon, November 23rd, at a musical event at La Belle-Alliance.

With longer nights and with the Christmas season fast approaching, choral groups and musicians of the area are busy practicing their gigs, as well as helping entertain at manors and seniors' homes both in the Evangeline region and in Summerside.

Merry Christmas to one and all, and all the best for 2015!



Bernadette's Flowers
— Where great designs start —
Bunbury Mall
Stratford

We Deliver
566 4000
Toll Free 1 877 766 1898
Bernadette & Gloria Praught
Every day is special!

Every day is a special day,
At Bernadette's Flowers
Arrangements
For all occasions
Great Friendly Service
We Deliver Island wide

Aaron Gill

Te: 902-892-7473
TAX: 902-892-5245
Cc.: 902-628-7007
agill@agelectric.ca
www.agelectric.ca

Industrial
Commercial
Residential

AG Electric 44
Belmont Street
Charlottetown, PE
C1A5H1

Dragger's Reel

Eddy Arsenault



Fiddle Practices Open To The Public

Eastern Kings Fiddlers Rollo Bay 687-1521
Mondays 7:00pm Rollo Bay School Oct 20 - May 11

Prince County Fiddlers Summerside 436-0380
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 _____

Iona Corner Waltz

Maurice O'Shea, PEI 2012

transcribed by A. Swenson, 2014

Maurice wrote this Waltz in memory of many fine summer picnics at the church in Iona when the community would gather, play music and dance in the 1930s and 40s.

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
Second Sunday 7:00 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
Last Sunday 7:00 pm	Music in Motion Ceilidh	Winsloe Lions Hall	Winsloe	902-368-8449
Fourth Sunday	Bonshaw Ceilidh	Bonshaw Hall	Bonshaw	902-675-4093
First and Third Mondays 7:00pm	Ceilidh Kitchen Party	Bingo Country, Riverside Dr.	Charlottetown	902-940-6702
Tuesdays 8:00 pm	Georgetown Ceilidh	Kings Playhouse	Georgetown	902-652-2053
Third Tuesday 7:00 pm	Stratford Lions Club Ceilidh	Cotton Centre	Stratford	902-569-3956
Wednesdays 8 :00 pm	Ceilidh	Silver Threads	Souris	902-687-2396
Wednesdays 8:00 pm	J.J. and Koady Chaisson	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Thursdays 7 - 9 pm	Weekly Music Sessions	Old Triangle Irish Alehouse	Charlottetown	902-892-5200
Fridays 8:00 pm	Ceilidh & Dance	St. Peter's Bay Circle Club	St Peter's Bay	902-961-2027
Fridays 8:00 pm	Ceilidh at the Irish Hall	Irish Cultural Centre (BIS)	Charlottetown	902-566-3273
Alternate Fridays 7:00 pm	Ceilidh	Murray Harbour Drama Club	Murray Harbour	902-962-2792

Please note: St. Margaret's Kitchen Parties and the Goose River Dances will not be held this winter but watch local listings for a possible New Years' Eve dance.

2014 Christmas Stars Concert for the QEH Sat Nov 22 at 6:00 pm Jack Blanchard Centre, 7 Pond St., Charlottetown 902-566-5545.

Tickets at door or by donation.

Fiddle Doo and Potluck - Saturday, March 21, 2015; 2:00 - 7:00 pm Murray Christian Centre, Kensington 902-963-2356