



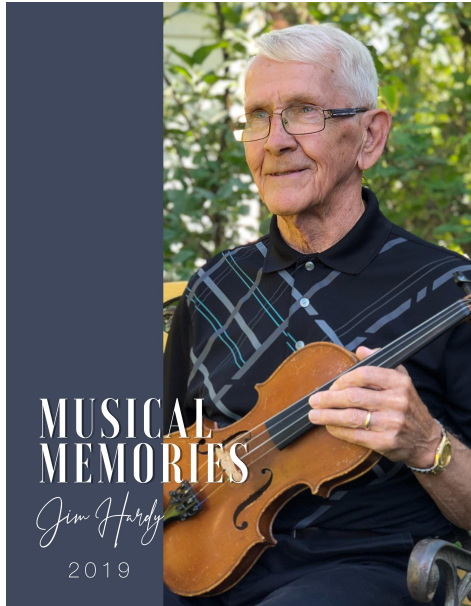
THE MARITIME FIDDLER



Maritime Fiddle Association Executive Members

President - Marcel Boulerice
Past President - Diane Hicks
Secretary/Treasurer - Brenda Parker
1st Vice N.S - Julie Johnstone

2nd Vice N.B -Stacey Read
Jr. Executive Member - Katie MacIivena
Librarian - Ron Noiles



Jim Hardy is a fiddler who lives in Riverview, NB. He hails originally from Bear River, NS but moved to New Brunswick where he took up the fiddle in the 1980's. The catalyst for him taking up the fiddle was when he and his wife, Myrna, heard Ivan and Vivian Hicks performing at a local mall one day. He'd tried as a youth to learn to play the fiddle and was unsuccessful, but this time he did it and would go on to discover he had a talent for composing tunes. Jim has composed many tunes over the years, some of which have been recorded by various artists on their albums. His most well known piece is, "In Memory of Tara-Lynne", for the much loved young fiddler, Tara-Lynne Touesnard, after her death.

Jim has done a great deal with his music. He's been an active member of the Sussex Avenue Fiddlers for decades and has traveled around Canada and the US with them. He has been president of the Maritime Fiddler Association and has been on the board of directors of the Fiddles of the World event (Halifax, NS 1999) but he had a musical dream yet to achieve, to see his tunes published.

In 2019 a team made up of Jim, Myrna, Ivan and Vivian Hicks, Stacey Read, Natalie Robbins and Cheryl Albert set to work to finally make his dream a reality. The goal was to have the book ready for Jim and Myrna's 60th wedding anniversary in the fall of that year. Not only would there be a book with tunes transcribed by Stacey Read, she also recorded each tune to be released as an accompanying CD with the book. During the afternoon of October 20, 2019, a few friends gathered at Jim and Myrna's home, along with family members who were visiting for the anniversary celebration. One by one the book team arrived to surprise Jim with the revealing of the completed book and CD.

The completed book contains ten tunes as well as a bio, photo pages of the folks who inspired the tunes and the lyrics Jim wrote for his tune, Memories. Congratulations to Jim on seeing his dream come true and happy 60th anniversary to him and Myrna.

****HOUSEKEEPING NOTES****

MFA MEMBERSHIPS available for everyone, any age.

One Year **\$15.00**, 2 Years **\$25.00** (best deal): Membership Year January to December annually,

Expiry year shown on envelope/subject of email following name.

New or Renewals send to: Brenda Parker, P.O. Box 2320, Stellarton, N.S. B0K 1S0

Membership questions: Doug Morash: rdouglas@ns.sympatico.ca, or 902-435-4168

A great gift to a friend anytime of the year.

Be sure to keep us updated with any changes in your address, email or phone. THANKS

**PLEASE NOTE- E-TRANSFERS NOW AVAILABLE - please send money to jimbrenda@eastlink.ca ,
password for all transfers should be fiddle, and your name should be included in Memo section to
ensure we credit membership to the correct person.**

UPCOMING CHANGES TO NEWSLETTER

The Maritime Fiddler has decided that in order to make this newsletter more accessible in the digital age and environmentally friendly, we will be offering digital COLOUR newsletters for our readers. We would like to encourage our members to take advantage of this. Please send your email address to :

rdouglas@ns.sympatico.ca or call Doug Morash at 902-435-4168 to have it added.

PLEASE NOTE- NO PAPER COPIES WILL BE MAILED AFTER 2021

Newsletter Content

If you have an article, a tune or a picture you would like featured in the Maritime Fiddle Newsletter, please send along to our new editor, Stacey Read. Stacey is excited to find out what is happening in your local fiddle scene and would love to share it with all our members. Please email her at staceyread@gmail.com.

SHIVERING STRINGS

Gordon Stobbe's 11th Winter Music Camp February 7-9, 2020

Instructors:

Gordon Stobbe – Kelli Trottier – Stacey Read – Skip Holmes – Kimberley Holmes

All music camp sessions will be held at Best Western - Glengarry, Truro NS.

Shivering Strings Camp Format

Based on extensive experience as a camp instructor, Gordon Stobbe designed the Shivering Strings format to maximize use of time at camp and enhance the camp experience for participants. When students register, they receive a link to sheet music and audio clips for the music they will work on at camp. Students come to camp ready to play the tune (with or without the music) and can concentrate on skills other than learning the music. Each group of fiddlers works with each instructor. The accompaniment classes work on ways to accompany these submitted tunes. All students work together on an orchestra piece – audio clip and sheet music are available in advance. At the final event on Sunday afternoon, everyone plays every tune. For tunes too advanced for some, simplified backup lines are available.

New!

This year we will have a Master Fiddler class in addition to our regular fiddle classes. This Master Class is for very advanced students only. To participate in this class, you:

- will have no music in advance; you must be able to learn music by ear in the class
- must easily play keys with 4 flats or 4 sharps
- must be able to play in 3rd position
- must be comfortable with vibrato

New!

This year we will have a keyboard class. Regular group sessions will be with Kimberley Holmes.

Note: Accompaniment and Keyboarding classes are dependent on sufficient enrolment.

Print Registration Form

- ☐ Intermediate Fiddle ☐ Advanced Fiddle ☐ *New* Master Fiddle – *see inside for details*
☐ *New* Keyboard ☐ Accompaniment (Guitar/Mandolin/Accordion etc.)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Camp Fees

\$275 per person 19 and over. See website for fees for children under 19: www.shiveringstrings.ca

Etransfer to: nbshiveringstrings@gmail.com or make cheques payable to: Shivering Strings

Mail registration to: Nancy Barkhouse, 395 Conrad Rd, Lawrencetown, NS, B2Z1S3

Begin the weekend early with Friday afternoon workshops!

For a flat fee of \$25.00 we will be offering a variety of Friday Afternoon Workshops for Registered Camp Participants. Non-camp participants may register for these workshops for a flat fee of \$45.00.

Full camp details are on the website – including online registration.

Entertainment Dates December 2019 Newsletter

NB Fiddle Jams

Mondays	Apohaqui (Wilmot Owen)	506-696-7265	
Mondays	St. Antoine Fiddling	506-525-2539	7:00PM
Tuesday	Carleton Co. Fiddlers	506-328-3468	7:00PM
Wednesdays	Miramichi Fiddlers	506-622-8281	7:00PM
Wednesdays	Sussex Ave Fiddlers	506-386-2996	7:00PM
Wednesdays	Wednesday Evening Fiddlers	506-473-1053	7:00PM
Thursday	G.M.F.	506-384-0317	7:00PM
Thursday	Jocelyn Bourque's Fiddle Jam	506-382-7838	7:00PM

NS Fiddle Jams

Tuesdays	Bedford Fiddle Group	902-835-5988	7:30PM
	Trinity Fiddlers	902-688-3136	9:30AM
	Lunenburg Co.Fiddlers (2nd & 4th)	902-543-5356	7:00PM
Wednesdays	Down Home Fiddlers	902-435-4168	7:00PM
Thursdays	Metro Fiddlers	902- 434-1345	7:00PM
	Kings Fiddlers (2nd & 4th) Kentville Lions Hall	902-679-3338	7:15PM
Fridays	Good Time Fiddlers (1st,2nd ,3rd Fridays)	902-673-2909	10am-noon

Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex, Brookfield

Dances

NS - Every Tuesday	Truro Legion- Goodtime Seniors, Truro, NS	902-890-5766	7:30PM
Last Thursday	St. John's Hall, Westphal, Dartmouth, NS,	902-434-0633	7:30PM
Fridays –Sept-June	Douglas St. Recreation Centre,Truro,NS	902-897-0107	7:30PM
1st Saturday	Fellowship Hall, Upper Musquodoboit, NS	902-384-2282	7:30PM
3rd Saturday	Fellowship Club, Upper Musquodoboit, NS	902-384-2282	7:30PM
2nd Sunday	Musical Fiddle Doo Lr Shiminicas Comm. Hall	902-447-3113	1:00PM
Last Sunday	Musical Afternoon Wentworth Rec Centre,	902-548-2244	1:30PM

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2020

January 1 ,	HAPPY NEW YEAR		
12	Kimberley's Carroll's Corner Fiddle Jam-Fund Raiser	1-4:30pm	
30	Old Time Dance St.John's Hall, Westphal, Dartmouth, NS -Country Trio		7:30pm
February 7-9	Shivering Strings Winter Music Camp, Best Western Glengarry, 150 Willow Street Truro **		
16	Kimberley's Carroll's Corner Fiddle Jam-Fund Raiser	1-4:30pm	
15	Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck, LionsClub, Peter St., Salisbury, NB		2:00 pm
27	Old Time Dance St.John's Hall, Westphal, Dartmouth, NS -Country Trio		7:30pm
March 7	Fiddle Doo & Pot Luck, Senior Resource Centre, Demille Crt, Hampton		2:00 pm
15	Kimberley's Carroll's Corner Fiddle Jam-Fund Raiser	1-4:30pm	
26	Old Time Dance St.John's Hall, Westphal, Dartmouth, NS -Country Trio		7:30pm
April 4	Fiddle-Doo & Pot Luck, Seamens Hospital, Miramichi NB		2:00 pm
18	MFA Spring Workshop, Bible Hill Junior High School, Truro NS		
19	Kimberley's Carroll's Corner Fiddle Jam-Fund Raiser	1-4:30pm	
23	Old Time Dance St.John's Hall, Westphal, Dartmouth, NS -Country Trio		7:30pm

Please send your Entertainment Dates before 1st February for the March publication

The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra to Visit the Maritimes By: Cheryl Albert

Over the years you may have seen the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra on TV on PBS or Bravo. The orchestra, dressed in various tartans are a lighthearted, talented group of musicians playing traditional as well as renditions of modern tunes like the theme from “Game of Thrones”. They are a delight to watch and listen to and in 2020 you can see them live in person as they come to the east coast of North America in celebration of the group’s 40th anniversary.

The last time the orchestra came to Canada was eight years ago when they came to Toronto, Ontario. One of their more recent tours was to China in 2012.

Flying an entire orchestra overseas to play in two countries brings on a wealth of logistics to take care of from government paperwork to flights, lodging, ground transport, venues and so much more. Then as well as getting the people overseas, their instruments must also make it safely over. So it is quite an honour that they have chosen to come all this way to our neck of the woods.

Their Maritime dates are:

Apr 02 - Fredericton , NB – Fredericton Playhouse
Apr 03 - Charlottetown, PEI – Confederation Centre
Apr 04 - Riverview, NB – Riverview Arts Centre
Apr 06 - Halifax, NS – Dalhousie University Arts Centre

They are called the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra but they also include other instruments: piano, bass, cello, accordion, flute, keyboard, and percussion in the full group. Being Scottish, there are of course also pipers .

It is noteworthy that all the performances the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra are to the benefit of various charities they support and have raised over a million pounds over the years.

They have a website with lots of info: www.sfo.org.uk You can also see their videos on their You tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/scottishfiddle>

Super Fiddle Show 2020

This annual event has been a fan favourite for 31 years. This year’s show will feature some of the Maritime’s finest talent and will put an emphasis on the many faces and languages of the fiddle – the dance fiddle of waltz; jigs and reels; the country back-up fiddle; the fiddle of swing, jazz and blues; and the Irish, Scottish and Acadian fiddle sounds. Besides the fiddle, the show will include vocal guests along with organizers Ivan and Vivian Hicks and the Sussex Avenue Fiddlers. This show makes a wonderful Valentine’s and Mother’s Day gift. Get your tickets early as it is always a sold out event. Proceeds from this show go to Riverview High School Safe Grad.

Saturday, May 9th, 2019 – 7:30pm Riverview Arts Centre – 400 Whitepine Rd, Riverview NB

Tickets

Early Bird: \$18.50 + HST + \$3.50 Service Charge

Door: \$21.50 + HST + \$3.50 Service Charge

Advance reserved seat tickets are now available from:

- Frank’s Music - 245 Carson Dr, Moncton (in the Long & McQuade building) - ph. 854-1672
- Sobey’s (Tobacco Shop) - 1160 Findlay Blvd, Riverview - ph. 386-4616
- Jean Coutu - 438 Coverdale Rd, Riverview - 853-0825
- Ivan Hicks - ph. 386-2996

Online at: www.RiverviewArtsCentre.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Learning to play a musical instrument, at any age, is both a challenge and a reward. As we age, our motivation, patience and time to practice increases in proportion with our loss of flexibility and dexterity. If it is the fiddle that you are trying to learn, you have two added challenges. The violin doesn't have any frets, and you have to use a bow to produce the sound. You first have to learn the fine motor skills needed to place the fingers at the right place on the fingerboard. It might not feel natural at first, since you totally have to rely on your ears to train your fingers and brain. It might be a big challenge at first, but in no time, it becomes second nature.

It is never too late to start. I still remember my instructor, when I asked him if I was too old to start playing the violin, telling me: "tomorrow will even be later". We all have our reasons and regrets for not having started earlier. But what we have lost in dexterity and brain flexibility, we gain in self motivation and enjoyment. I remember a workshop leader at a workshop that I attended a few decades ago, telling us that we should never attempt to play a new tune by ear, before we can whistle or hum it correctly. I think of him every time I want to tackle a new tune.

Whether we get our instruction in the formal classroom setting of a music school, or the more intimate setting of the instructor's residence, learning to master the fiddle, remains the same. Learning to play the fiddle should not be a destination. It should be more like a trip or a journey. Every little improvement can be compared to the change of scenery that we encounter when we travel in an unfamiliar environment. Every minute improvement is like a change of scenery that encourages us to move forward and discover more surprises.

A big question is still open for discussion. "Should I learn by using the notation or the tablature method?" Adults seem to prefer the tablature method, even with its limitations, to the notation method. They find reading the tablature easier than reading the notes. In order to overcome the limitations of the alpha-numerical notation system, music instructors have been very imaginative and creative. By using signs and symbols of various kinds, they have devised a system that demystifies the complexity of the tune, and makes the learning of a new tune easier. Every teacher seems to have developed its own personalized system. The only consistency seems to be letters to identify the four strings and numbers to identify the finger positions. Adults find it easier to understand and comprehend the notation method since they immediately see which finger to use and on which string.

Personally, I find it most helpful, when the tablature also displays the notation above it. Even if I cannot read music, I do have a basic notion of the theory of music and by comparing the notation and the tablature, it helps me to better understand the melody that I am trying to learn. One method, that I find particularly helpful and more standardized, is when the fingering is shown on four horizontal lines representing the four strings of the violin or mandolin or on six lines for the guitar. Saying that one notation method is better than another one would be futile. The important thing is to use the method that you are most comfortable with, give you the best results and provide the most enjoyment.

Happy fiddling and the best in 2020.

Marcel Boulerice

Canadian Bluegrass Documentary with a Maritime Link By: Cheryl Albert



There is a fascinating new audio documentary series call “The Folk”, which brings out the story of bluegrass music in Canada. Moncton fiddler, Eddy Poirier, is featured in this special project.

Eddy was born in Rogersville, NB in 1943 and had an interest in music very early on. He picked up the fiddle at the age of seven and didn’t look back. He taught himself other instruments such as guitar and banjo, accordion, harmonica and bass. In the cabin that he grew up in, the family enjoyed a lot of music but bluegrass really caught Eddy’s heart and interest. He had a band called the Westmorland Hillbillies and later, the Blue Diamonds and Bluegrass 4. At one point he was offered the position of banjo player for the house band of a new TV show. Eddy decided not to take that gig which would become none other than the highly popular Buck Owens and Roy Clark show, Hee-Haw.

Eddy continues to play today and has a number of family members who have carried on the family’s passion for music. You can catch them at various concerts, community and charity events.

The Folk – Is the brainchild of Mike Tod, a Canadian music researcher and is worth listening to. There is far more than audio available if you go to their website. Each of the 13 episodes has a written history complete with photos. A real treasure trove for fans of bluegrass, folk and historical fans. It’s a well-researched and presented look at the American roots of bluegrass and how it evolved from other styles like jazz and African-American blue and Scottish tunes.

You’ll find Eddy included in the documentary as one of the first bluegrass musicians in Canada - a pioneer of the genre.

All thirteen episodes are available to listen to for free on the program’s website www.thefolkpodcast.com Simply select the episode you would like and click the green play button.

A word from our Junior Executive Member- Katie McIlvena

My name is Katie McIlvena and I am 13 years old. I have played the fiddle now for 6 years. In my free time I love to watch and listen to fiddle music. One of the groups I listen to frequently is a group called The Lumber Jills. The Lumber Jills are a Traditional Fiddling Group based out of New Brunswick. They are really one of the greatest fiddle groups I have ever known, just the way they all come together and compliment one another. They really inspire me when it comes to playing the fiddle and step dancing.

I am also in a group called the Lil' Jills, so they inspire me to maybe one day be just like them. When the Lumber Jills are on stage, it just makes me happy the way they perform. You can't help but smile, tap your feet and have a good time!

They also released a new album last year and off of the album their track Mae Rose is my absolute favourite. The Lumber Jills were recently nominated for a Canadian Folk music award in the category New Emerging Artist of The Year which is amazing! Good Luck to them and grab a copy of their CD if you haven't already. Is a great listen!



**For more information on The Lumber Jills, please email
lumberjills4@gmail.com**



The Maritime Traditional Music and Dance Camp is BACK for the 2nd Year! Come learn French, Celtic, and Indigenous music and dance from the Maritimes! This year we will be featuring traditional Lebanese music and dance as well. Scholarships and billeting are available, all ages and levels welcome! Registration opens February 1st, there are 80 spots available, and last year we sold out so don't put off registration!

Register here: <https://www.maritimetraditionalcamp.com/>

Follow us on Instagram: @maritimetraditionalcamp

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maritimetraditionalcamp/>

Bethany McQuade is a member of the Wednesday Evening Fiddlers in Perth-Andover NB and at age 15 has been playing with the group for 5 years. She became interested in music while visiting with family in Ontario and after returning home convinced her Grandmother to get her a fiddle. At age 10 she joined the Wednesday Evening Fiddlers and was soon on stage with the group.

Over the past 5 years she has been very active with the group and thanks to very caring Grandparents she has been able to attend music camps, workshops and other events to advance her interest in music. Travelling with the group she has entertained audiences around the Maritimes and Maine and as far away as Nashville and Pigeon Forge Tennessee.

Bethany enjoys the playing of Ivan Hicks and this past spring she had the opportunity to meet and play some tunes with Ivan and Vivian at the Fiddle-Doo in Harvey NB. As with all fiddlers her choice of favourite tunes changes often, but she is enjoying playing Jerusalem Ridge and likes the lively Bluegrass style of playing. She recently recorded a CD of some of her favourite tunes including Jerusalem Ridge, Shingle the Roof and a number of other tunes.

In addition to her fiddling she takes part in her school choir and also sings in her church choir. She has been involved in the Victoria County Music Festival over the past 7 years, receiving gold awards and being called back to play in the concert on several occasions.

In addition to her music, Bethany is very active in sports playing soccer and basketball and has competed with her team in the Provincial Basketball Tournament. Last year she also coached basketball part time. When time permits, she also enjoys skating and down hill skiing.

As for future plans she is considering a career in the medical field leaning toward becoming a surgeon.

The Wednesday Evening Fiddlers and all her many friends wish Bethany every success in the coming years as she continues on her life's journey.



Note: I tell students that depending solely on a music career is a little risky and it is a good idea to have another profession to fall back on. The example I use is a Doctor can still play the fiddle but you may not want a fiddler looking after your medical needs. In Bethany's case maybe we will want Dr Bethany looking after us.
Article by: **Garold Hanscom**

Tara Lynne Memorial Award



As we near the nomination deadline for the Tara Lynne Touesnard Memorial Award (Feb 15,2020), we would like to take a moment to explain to our readers the importance of this award and how you can be a part of ensuring that Tara's legacy continues to live on.

This award was founded after Tara Lynne, a well known fiddler from River Bourgeois, NS, lost her life in a motor vehicle accident at the age of 21. Tara Lynne was a wonderful fiddler with great devotion to community service, and was know for her kind and caring personality. The recipient of this award does not need to be a fiddler, however, much be active in the preservation of Old Time Fiddling and should possess the qualities of Tara Lynne, such as dedication to Old Time Fiddling, concern for people and community affairs and a willingness to share their talents.

Please note that names that are submitted for nomination are only carried forward for 2 years, and then must be resubmitted again if the nominee has not won. Here are the recipients of the prestigious award.

Ivan and Vivian Hicks
Keith Ross
Ron Noiles
Lorimer Higgins
Kimberley Holmes
Garold Hanscom
Lloyd Tattrie
Raymond and Marlene MacDonald
Al McVicar
Helen Edgar
Krista Touesnard
Mary Smith
Normand Breau

Jim Delaney
Lee Lowerison
Ernest Depres
Jocelyne Bourque
Liz and Jamie Durning
Jack Sibley
Art Benedict
Gordon Spears
R.Douglas Morash
Susie Eisan
Ken Wood
Susan Butler

To submit a nomination for 2020, please email staceyread@gmail.com with a brief bio and reasons why you believe your nominee should be the recipient. The winner will be announced in the Spring and awarded at the Maritime Fiddle Festival in July.

A Virtual Kitchen Party By: Cheryl Albert

Since 2005 Ivan and Vivian Hicks have been hosting motorcoach and other groups at their home facility, Down Home Fiddle Productions. These tours include a dinner, tour of the home and museum and conclude with a concert by Ivan and Vivian along with audience participation. It's an easy going atmosphere where anything can and will happen and there are lots of smiles and plenty of toe-tapping.

A common comment to the Hicks is, "We live so far away. We wish we could come to one of your events." For others, they may live close but due to health it's difficult for them to get out to concerts anymore and they miss the music they once enjoyed at live shows.

With that in mind, Ivan and Vivian along with their head of social media, Natalie Robbins, have put together an online concert that can be enjoyed in the comfort of one's home. The inaugural concert was recorded by Natalie on December 16, 2019 during the visit of the motorcoach group from Nancy's Tours.

The Down Home Fiddle Productions Christmas Kitchen Party can be purchased online for \$9.99 and with that it grants unlimited access to the hour long concert for as many times as one wishes. It can be viewed on any computer, tablet or smartphone. There is "Christmas" in the title but there is a great mix of non-holiday fiddle favourites and some vocals too.

This first online concert is a test to see what folks think of this format. If it's successful then further online events are planned with upgraded recording. A possible musical documentary of sorts is also on the drawing board.

Have a look at www.downhomefiddleproductions.com to view the Kitchen Party trailer or to purchase your online viewing ticket.

!! SAVE THE DATE !!

Maritime Fiddler's Association Workshop - Truro, NS

April 18,2020 - Bible Hill Junior High School

Teachers and Times TBC