



## A Fiddleheads Violin School Publication

Volume 2

Fall 2001

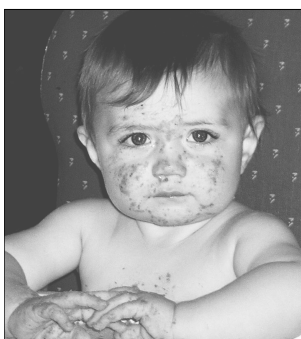
Number 1

Articles and layout by **Rhiannon Schmitt**, Fiddleheads Violin School Instructor and Owner

### Celebrating Ryan Schmitt's First Birthday!

It's hard to believe it, but **our little baby is turning one year old**. This past year has been a tremendous time of growth, challenge, and unimaginable satisfaction for Mason and me.

Ryan's latest developments include eating solid foods. He eats anything from fruit to pasta to ice cream! He especially likes feeding himself ↴.



His vocabulary has increased to include "Mama," "Dada," "Hi," "Bye," "Kiki," and "Nini" ("breast" in Bulgarian and Zulu!)

Ryan dances to music and takes great delight in playing with the stereo. **Mason** has taught him hand drumming. **Rebekah** is helping him learn to walk on his own!

Come see Ryan's great new developments!

We are celebrating his birthday a day early and invite you to join us. ❖

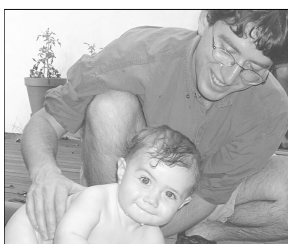
#### **Ryan's Birthday Party**

**Date:** Saturday, Oct. 27

**Time:** 2 PM

**Location:** The Schmitt's  
7080 50th Street, NE,  
Canoe

Bring your smiles  
and **don't worry about gifts.**



Sir Ryan's sophistication still shows through the refried beans (top right); Learning to drive on Hwy 1 near Merrit (above); Pool time with Dad (bottom)

### Welcome Back!

I am thrilled to be back teaching full-time this fall. I realize, after the long break, how much I miss my "fiddle friends."

Several new students have started-up and are progressing along quickly. I welcome **Melinda, Chelsea, Robin, Ari, Yanna, Jennifer, Piper, Leona, Bria, and Shale.**

Violin has become a desirable teen past-time this fall. I now teach 7 violinists between the ages of 13 and 17.

I am taking new students with spaces on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays.

### Cancelled Thursdays

It seems Thursdays are a popular night for me to play lately! I am performing in the *2001 Salmon Arm Business Excellence Awards* event on October 25. As well, I am playing in a concert with my friend and fellow musician **Anna Höstman** in Squamish on November 22.

Unfortunately this means that *Fiddleheads* rehearsals and private lessons will be affected on these dates. See me with any questions and/or concerns.

| Thursday, October 25  | Thursday, November 22  |
|---|--|
| No Fiddleheads rehearsal.<br>Lessons are as scheduled.<br>(No changes.) ☺ | No Fiddleheads rehearsal.<br>All lessons are <b>cancelled</b> .<br>They will be rescheduled. ☹ |

## More Classes Available



I am considering starting a “jamming” group that would meet twice a month for 2 hours at a time. “*Bracken Jam*” players will learn a few new tunes, improvise, and have the great experience of playing with other people. Unlike *Fiddleheads*, where we read and rehearse the same songs, the focus would be learning by ear, sight-reading, and “jamming.” However, players of all levels and ages can join.

When we meet depends on who joins and their schedules. I was thinking of **Saturdays** around **10 am** in my home. What works for you?

A few of you have expressed an interest in a theory class and I would be happy to oblige you. The class would cover the basics on chords, scales, modes, progressions, and more. Basic Note-Reading is a pre-requisite. Class numbers should be at least 5 people to make preparing it worthwhile.

Let me know if you are interested in either of the classes and we can get the ball rolling!

### Making Music for Our Elders

I ask all *Fiddleheads* students to donate their time to perform monthly for senior residents at Pioneer Lodge, Bastion Place, and Fountain View. This is great experience for playing in public and the residents enjoy it as well. I always feel good providing this service. (Beginners are encouraged to try it too!) Call **Joan Wiley** at **833-3606**.

### Classified Ads

**Used Violin for Private Sale:** 1/2 Size Suzuki Outfit. Excellent case. Bow is so-so. Asking \$300. Cindy: 832-7686

**Missing:** CD recording of *Mozart Violin Concertos 3 & 5*. I loaned it out to someone and haven't seen it since. I miss it terribly! Do you have it? Rhiannon: 833-5626

#### Featured Article:

## Is Your Violin a *Pain* in the Neck?

We have all experienced discomfort when wearing shoes that don't fit properly and have replaced them with new ones. So why do we insist on playing violins that don't fit?

Many violinists complain of sore backs, neck pains, and red marks under their chins after practice. Proper technique can do much to alleviate these complaints, but some of the cure lies in proper rests.



Your chinrest should “fit your face,” meaning it should match the contours of your jaw line and cheek.

Some chinrests have a large hump on the

top, and others have a large, shallow cup. My personal favourite is the “tailpiece mount” style that extends over the tailpiece.

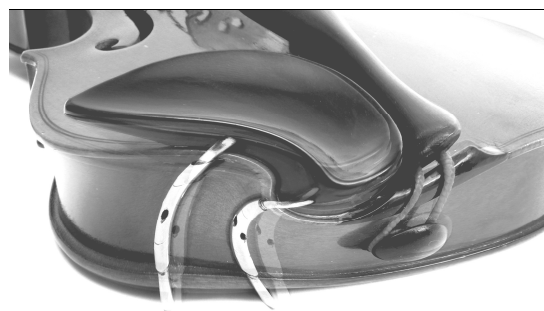
Your shoulder rest should also fit the contours of your body. I recommend a metal rest that can be bent to fill in your body's dips and curves. It should also be height adjustable, especially if you have a long neck.

Ideally you should be able to hold your violin up by your chin and without raising your shoulder or clamping your chin down.

Always try out new chin and shoulder rests before you buy them.

Remember that your chinrest will not feel the same without your shoulder rest, and vice versa. Feel free to adjust them to your shape and move them around the violin for best

## Choosing the right chin and shoulder rests.



support.

Get creative and try new combinations.

**Joan Cleveland** has invented a shoulder rest that is quite comfortable and works like a charm. It is made from an old wetsuit!

I have a few chin and shoulder rests here and encourage my students to take them home to try out. (In fact, a few of them were ones I bought and didn't take to and would be happy to sell them!)

