



Pembroke & Area Fiddling Association Inc.  
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## **General Update from the Pembroke and Area Fiddling Association**

The Pembroke and Area Fiddling Association Inc. is a not-for-profit organization run by a volunteer board of directors. The board consists of Ian Hamilton, Daniel Schryer, Don Rosien, Rhodina Gardner, Mary Fraser, Krista St-Louis, Terri-Lynn Smith and Bob Prudomme. The Association has been running the Pembroke Fiddling & Step Dancing Contest and the Fiddle Park in the Ottawa Valley for the past 45 years.

The Association's aim is to promote the fiddling and step dancing traditions rooted in many of our community's, campers' and contestants' lives. The Fiddle Park is held at Riverside Park (961 Pembroke St. W., Pembroke, ON) and opens Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The contest is held at the Festival Hall (401 Isabella St, Pembroke, ON) on August 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. We changed the venue of the contest to provide a better experience for our contestants and viewers.

The Association has always been a not-for-profit organization and has been successful for 45 years due to an amazing group of volunteers. Many volunteers have retired their services since our last event. We thank them for their generous donation of time and energy and for the many years they have helped make our fiddle & step dancing contest run smoothly. We are in dire need of a new generation of volunteers, please reach out to our board of directors if you wish to help.

We have closed all the baseball diamonds as per the City of Pembroke's request and to reduce the cost of repairs. In the past, damages from trailers and vehicle traffic have cost The Association \$9,000 to \$26,000 on a yearly basis. We ask campers to consider the damages caused by daily vehicle traffic during wet conditions in order to minimize the cost of repairs to the park.

For the past 45 years, the event has always financed itself through admission fees generated from Fiddle Park and the competition. During the past 5 years of operation, the event had a yearly cost of \$100,000 to run. Unfortunately, our yearly revenue during this time has been \$90,000. Running a deficit for several years has put the future of this event at risk and will be impossible to continue without adequate revenue. We are currently looking for and would greatly appreciate sponsorship from any interested businesses or individuals/groups.

We are excited for this year's competition and park activities. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely,

The Board of Directors for the Pembroke & Area Fiddling Association