

From the Editors

“And about time too,” you may well say when this issue finally arrives in your mailbox. We had intended it to be published in May, before the FSAC conference at Church Point, NS, but there’s many a slip between cup and lip. Your editors were lucky enough to spend June in Ireland and July in England and Quebec, and so it’s only now (August) that we have been able to put the finishing touches to the issue. But better late than never, and we solemnly undertake to have 39.2 ready in time for the 2005 CSTM conference in New Westminster. Remember the conference dates – November 4th to 6th – and plan on being there. We are looking forward to a Friday evening concert by local singers and musicians, a Saturday night informal singers’ circle (call it a party, if you like!), a ballad workshop, and, of course, some excellent papers. You will find a formal call for presentations on page 40 of this issue. *Please send your paper proposals to us at the address below by September 20th (we are extending the deadline by three weeks from the previously announced September 1st deadline). They can also be sent by e-mail to davidg@athabasca.ca.* All other enquiries about the conference and AGM should go to the conference organisers, Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat. Their e-mail address is <Jon_bartlett@telus.net>.

In this issue we continue our policy of printing short articles that celebrate, analyse and explain diverse aspects of Canadian musical culture from coast to coast to coast. The three pieces you will find in these pages evoke the multicultural nature of musical traditions on the West Coast, in the industrial heartland of Ontario, and on the shores of Atlantic Canada. And next time, if things pan out, we will include the North. In addition, apart from our usual quota of book and CD reviews, you will also find some excellent songs. Two of them are compositions by well-known figures on the Canadian folk music scene, “Old Songs’ Home” by Shelley Posen and “Still the Song Lives On” by Clary Croft; others are more traditional, the first items in what we hope will be a regular column devoted to singing versions of the Child ballads. This issue also includes a cumulative index for 2004, courtesy of John Leeder.

Canadian Folk Music is your magazine and the nature and quality of its contents is largely dependent on what you, our readers, contribute in terms of articles, reports, letters and reviews. Usually we have more submissions than we can possibly print, but at other times the tide of contributions seems to ebb for a while. At the moment we have the Summer and Fall issues planned but we don’t know what you will find between the covers of 39.4 this winter. It would be nice, for example, if we could print a series of reports on the traditional music scene across Canada in the year 2005. So how about setting pen to paper and telling us what has been happening this year in your neck of the woods? Did you attend (or perform at) any festivals? Is there any traditional music in your local folk club these days? Did you discover any new singers or songs that really excited you? Please use the magazine to share your thoughts and experiences with other CSTM members. That way we can do our bit to help keep the community of Canadian traditional music enthusiasts strong and vibrant.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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