

EDITORIAL

We regret to say that you hold in your hands the last issue of *Canada Folk Bulletin*. We have decided to cease publication, and we thought we'd tell you exactly why.

It takes an average of thirty hours a week to publish the *Bulletin*. This work has been undertaken by four very busy people, week in, week out, for almost three years. We can no longer afford that time. We have tried to find other skilled volunteers who might like to take over the publication, but we have not been successful. We have tried to obtain funding (from the Canada Council and elsewhere) so that the *Bulletin* might employ a part-time staff person to take part of the load, but we have been unsuccessful.

Our circulation has not grown over these past three years: new subscriptions just balance non-renewing subscriptions. We don't know why this is, but it is disheartening. The magazine is still marginally in the black. If

we manage to sell a lot of back issues, we'll be able to go out of business in style, without shortchanging our printers.

All these factors explain why the initial self-motivated enthusiasm we all shared is gone. We don't know exactly whom we're serving, and in the absence of someone to say, "You can't quit!" we simply *must* quit. Individually, we are still committed to the music and the philosophy outlined in many issues of the *Bulletin*, and we will continue to promote that philosophy by other means.

In our very first editorial (Jan.-Feb., 1978) we said that "we see the task of *Canada Folk Bulletin* as facilitating the flow (of news) east and west..." and we suggested that "through the *Bulletin*, clubs and groups that already exist can exchange news; by doing so, *Canada Folk Bulletin* can act as a catalyst in the creation of new clubs." We hope we have helped in these areas.

The Editorial Board: Jon Bartlett
Nola Johnston
Tony Montague
Rika Ruebsaat
Bob Webb

