The Sixth Annual Brandon Folk Music and Art Festival. August 1990. For more information, please write or phone:

Brandon Folk Music and Art Festival
Box 2047, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 6S8

North American Alliance of Folk Music and Dance

For the second time in as many years, representatives from across USA and Canada's folk community gathered to network and construct an organization.

Held in Philadelphia, PA, from January 25 to 28, the conference was hosted by the Philadelphia Folk Song Society and welcomed over 200 delegates from a wide variety of organizations. The delegates attended discussions and seminars on a wide range of topics, took part in regional networking sessions and by the end of the weekend elected a Board of Directors. Three Canadians have been elected to this Board. They include Ann Blaine from Vancouver, James Keelaghan and Shelley Romalis from Toronto.

Canada was well represented and warmly welcomed as an integral partner in this gathering. Canadian organizations represented were Ontario Council of Folk Festivals, Mariposa Folk Festival, Flying Cloud Folk Club in Toronto, The Woods Song and Dance Folk Society, Folklore International from Montreal, Halifax Harbour Folk Society, Vancouver Folk Festival and the Canadian Folk Music Society. Musicians who came to take part in the showcasing included Ann Lederman, Norm Hacking and Ken Whiteley from Toronto, James Keelaghan from Alberta, and Tom Lewis from Halifax.

The members of the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals have realized the many diverse rewards of networking and mutual problem solving, not only for themselves, but for other areas of our folk community. The OCFF, which has been in existence for over three years, hosts an annual conference for the volunteers and organizers from our member festivals, produces a newsletter and a promotional poster in the spring. This alliance parallels the work we in the OCFF are doing but on an international scale.

During this January weekend we made many contacts and came away with a number of ideas which could be of benefit not just within our own province but throughout Canada as well. Directories of available "folk music venues" is one such project we would like to encourage. With an increasing interest in "folk music", a more formal approach to networking can only benefit us all. It works in other communities — it can certainly work here.

We came away from the conference feeling a strong agreement with the aims and goals of the Alliance and a personal commitment to support these in whatever way feasible. We applaud the formation of this unique organization and wish it well.

Bill Marshall and Dianne Myers
Ontario Council of Folk Festivals
(204) 727-3928
Drew Caldwell

News from Tamarack

1990 is proving to be veteran Canadian folk group Tamarack's busiest year ever. The twelve year old traditional trio enjoying the success of their latest (and fifth) album "Shave the Bear." In support of the album they are on the road this
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