This is my final contribution to the Bulletin as editor: after two years, it’s now time for a new pen. I encourage all aspiring editors with a love for traditional music to contact our acting president, Nicole Beaudry; those who like to write on the subject, please get in touch with our new interim co-editors, John Leeder and George W. Lyon.

Our former president, Gregg Brunskill, requested that, above all, I publish the Bulletin on a regular basis. This I managed to do, despite some perilous times for our society: an uneven financial situation, to say the least; and an identity crisis (all of this compounded by the vast distances with which any national group in Canada must contend). But on the plus side, we have many devoted members, who keep the problems in their place and make society work a real pleasure. Two of these I must mention in closing.

George Lyon responded to my request for a special cowboy issue with a delightful Bulletin, vol. 25, no. 4. And I want to give special thanks to John Leeder for his consistent support and his recent initiative to proceed with our ever-popular directory of Canadian summer music festivals for 1992 (vol. 26, no. 1).

Let’s carry on!

The tired old plow horse staggers into the traces once again... No, come on, it’s not that bad! This time the “interim” label is attached, I’ve had a two-year holiday from the demands of editing, I have newer technology to make things easier, and also I have a spirited young stallion for a running mate, whom I count on for fresh ideas, enthusiasm and, most of all, doing all the hard work (just kidding, George...).

So what can you expect from the Bulletin now? First off, because of the our parent organization’s financial vicissitudes, you can expect a less glossy publication. We have to temporarily sacrifice production values while striving to

Ce numéro représente ma dernière contribution de rédacteur: après deux ans, je cède la place aux nouveaux. J’encourage tous les rédacteurs potentiels qui aiment la musique traditionel de contacter notre présidente intérimaire, Nicole Beaudry. En ce moment, adressez vos contributions au Bulletin aux co-éditeurs intérimaires, George Lyon et John Leeder.

Gregg Brunskill, le président antécédant, avait insisté que le Bulletin soit publié régulièrement, ce que j’ai pu réaliser, malgré une époque difficile pour notre société. Nous avons constaté un financement inégal et une crise d’identité rendue plus accrue par les vastes distances qui troublent toute association nationale au Canada. Cependant, nous avons beaucoup de membres très dévoués, qui savent mettre les problèmes dans leur propre contexte, et qui font du travail du rédacteur un réel plaisir. Parmi ces membres dévoués, il y en a deux qui méritent des remerciements spéciaux.

George Lyon a répondu à mon appel pour un numéro spécial sur les cowboys, et ce numéro 4 du vol. 25 s’est avéré des plus ravissants. Et je dois remercier tout spécialement John Leeder pour son soutien continu et pour sa décision d’entreprendre le guide très apprécié des festivals de musique en 1992 (vol. 26, no. 1).

Continuons ce bon travail!

Lynn Whidden

Donc le vieux cheval s’attelle encore une fois à la charrue ... Mais voyons, ce n’est pas si grave! Cette fois j’ai droit au titre de rédacteur intérimaire, après un congé de deux ans des labours de la rédaction. Et il y a la technologie nouvelle pour rendre les choses plus facile, et de plus il y a ce jeune étalon, mon associé, qui sera enthousiaste, plein d’idées fraîches, et surtout qui pourra accomplir toutes les taches difficiles. (Juste une blague, George...).

Donc à quoi s’attendre du Bulletin en ce moment? À cause des difficultés financières, il faudra sacrifier quelques aspects de la production, sans toutefois diminuer la qualité du contenu. J’aimerais voir une présence importante
maintain quality of content. Whether, during our (we hope short!) tenure, we will be able to achieve all our ideals concerning what the Bulletin’s content should comprise remains to be seen. For my own part, I hope we will be able to maintain a large presence from French Canada in our pages, bring you up-to-date news of what’s going on in the folk music scene across Canada, include in every issue songs both newly-written and traditional as well as tunes from Canada’s rich instrumental tradition, provide assessments of new recordings and books of Canadian folk music, and in general keep our readers in touch with all of the musical traditions of our country.

Meanwhile, in order to achieve our goals for the Bulletin, we hope to be able to rely on the support of our loyal readers and the committed membership of the Canadian Society for Musical Traditions. Don’t wait to be asked! We need your help in these troubled times!

Apart from the mixed metaphor (A stallion for a running mate? Beats an ass, I suppose, though I could name at least one election in which such a team won!), and an image whose implications I respectfully decline (A young stallion? I wish!), I have little to add to John’s comments. I too hope for an increased French presence, as well as for increased reader participation in the Bulletin. This need not always involve extensive research or highly practised writing skills. Readers may remember that a number of issues ran quotes of varying sizes from the local histories of Alberta; these I found during a series of research projects here. Many readers will undoubtedly have the local histories of their home towns or those of their parents. An afternoon turning the pages of these, and a half an hour to draft a letter requesting permission for the Society to quote, may offer to a wider readership a valuable and delightful glimpse into the musical life of a community we haven’t yet heard from.

There are many ways to participate in the Bulletin, including writing full scale articles and reviews. Readers are needed, too; if you enjoy any particular articles, share them with friends -- you might create members that way. Of course, John and I are open to criticism as well. Even better: if you’re not pleased with our work, consider taking it our of our hands and showing us how it really ought to be done!