President's Message

I am very pleased to represent the Canadian Society for Traditional Music and especially delighted that our next annual meeting will be held in Winnipeg, a vibrant city that is central geographically as well as culturally. I hope as many members as possible will attend this meeting so that we can share concerns and ideas as well as revitalize our society. There are many issues facing us, but I am convinced that our contribution to Canadian knowledge of the roots of the English folk revival; George Lyon used the repertoire of one cowboy poet to illuminate Alberta's culture, past and present; Phil Thomas led us in Vancouver Island songs from his wide Pacific Northwest collection; young Eric Oscar astounded us with the breadth of his inborn talent on various types of accordion; and Bill Sarjeant and David Spalding sang and discussed Child ballads, with a few contributions from others (including one from me, perhaps more lurid than the situation called for). Saturday evening, once more Cowichan Folk Guild hosted an event for us, this time a coffeehouse with numerous local performers, followed by a song circle where we out-of-towners got to share songs with the Islanders. We thank the Guild for hosting the weekend and showing us a good time.

Sunday we got down to business. Since the minutes of the Annual General Meeting are reproduced elsewhere in this issue, I won't go into overall specifics here. One small change affecting Bulletin subscribers is that the grace period for renewing is reduced to three months from six, giving us some small potential savings. The challenges facing the Bulletin were of course dwelt on, with no miracle solutions emerging, but everyone is aware of the situation, and people are supportive.

The downside of the meeting was the attendance, in smaller numbers than anticipated. We rather rattled around in the available space; I had a room with six bunks to myself, for example! While we had a quorum for the AGM, and the business was thus conducted properly, it would have been preferable to have had more participation from across the country. I'm told that the weekend that was chosen conflicted with some ethnomusicological events, and that in future we'll have to return to our more usual end-of-October time. (Back to being away from home at Hallowe'en, I guess!) The date, combined with the less central location, deterred many potential participants from Central Canada, is the consensus.

Be that as it may—we had a fun weekend, we got our business done, we raised consciousnesses, we formed and deepened friendships, and we built momentum for the future. We'll keep you posted as plans for next year's meeting are firmed up. [JL]

Errata: The dandy photo of Powell River's Enjoyment Band, which accompanied Martin Rossander's letter in the last issue, was taken at the Open Air Market by Rod Innes, the Garlic King of the Sunshine Coast (a sobriquet to which we might all well aspire!).

How could we omit Tam Kearney from the list of members of Friends of Fiddler's Green last issue (p. 34)? That'd be like a list of the world's richest men leaving off Bill Gates! And, of course, Jim Strickland's name isnt "Jom."

For good measure, we misspelled Mryka Hall-Beyer's name at p. 55 last issue, to heap further coals of fire upon our heads. Sorry, all!