

REGIONAL REPORTS

ALBERTA

Most clubs are now at the end of their season with just a few extending into May for final concerts. Now it's time to reflect and plan for the new season which starts again in mid-September. Due to the festival activity in the province this summer, there will be some special concerts: July 3, **The Tannahill Weavers** at the **Calgary Folk Club**; August 7, **Cilla Fisher**, **Artie Trezise** and **Hamish Imlach** at the **Rocky Mountain Folk Club**.

Folk clubs all over Alberta have been fortunate in receiving good media coverage. The Calgary press has shown interest in the clubs and reviews of folk artists have been prominent. In Edmonton a great deal of hype has been given to lesser-known performers—it is gratifying to see that acts other than "big names" are considered newsworthy.

A recent visit to the **Lethbridge Folk Club** revealed a club off to a very sound start. The organizers are to be highly commended for their achievements to date; Jim Mountain and his committee are certainly not afraid to tackle the hard work associated with running a folk club. Their audience is composed of a very healthy cross-section of the population and the standard of audience participation and expectation is very high. There were many musicians present. Of particular interest was the trio of **Jim Mountain** on whistles, **Bill McGrath** on fiddle, and **Ian Burnett** on melodeon. It was very heartening to see a mixture of youth and old-timers playing so well together.

Rumour has it that Calgary's **Rocky Mountain Folk Club** is applying for a "Building Restoration Grant" following the visit of the **Friends of Fiddler's Green** in March. The singing led by the Friends was so powerful that stress to the main beams of the cedar log clubhouse is suspected! The weekend visit by the

Friends will be long remembered. Of particular interest was the day of workshops which attracted over 170 people. This is the first workshop of this kind in the province and credit must be given to the Rocky Mountain Club for setting it all up and getting the support of Alberta Culture for financial backing, the Calgary Board of Education for facilities and advertising, and the local folk clubs for spreading the word. This event has paved the way for future workshops.

News of summer festivals: the **Red Deer Festival** on June 30/July 1 will feature the Tannahill Weavers, Britain's top folk band. On August 4 the **Canmore Folk Club** hosts the **Third Annual Heritage Day Folk Arts Fair**. It's an informal day for the whole family, opening in the traditional grand style—a stagecoach ride through town. From morning till dusk the fair will feature continuous live entertainment, craft booths, community service displays and food from many lands, and the day will close with an Alberta 75th Anniversary fireworks display. The **Edmonton Folk Festival** takes place on August 8-10. Patterned after other major festivals, this will be the first of its kind in Edmonton. The organizers hope it will become an annual event, co-ordinated with the Winnipeg and Vancouver festivals, creating a circuit for performers. During the entire month of August, the "**Travelling Folk Caravan and Good-Time Medicine Show**" will be touring the province (artistic director—Mitch Podolak), sponsored by Alberta Culture as a 75th Anniversary project.

In order to make this regional report represent the whole province, I'd really like to hear from you with reports, news and views for the next issue. Please write to me before May 28th (*Ed. Anne's address on inside front cover*).

Anne Davies

