

Dire Straits—Yet Again!

It must be September—the **Canadian Folk Music Bulletin** is undergoing another financial crisis. This time it's been unforeseen and not of our own making.

Our sister publication, the **Canadian Journal for Traditional Music** (formerly the **Canadian Folk Music Journal**) has been fully funded by grants throughout its existence. For the most recent issue, however, those grants were no longer forthcoming. Funds had to be diverted from moneys which would in other days have been used for the **Bulletin**. In effect, approximately one-quarter of the **Bulletin's** budget vanished unexpectedly.

A number of donations from individuals have helped to soften the blow, and the prospect of grant money from The SOCAN Foundation at the end of 1989 makes it possible for us to run a short term deficit. The **Journal** is pursuing other grant possibilities, although it likely will continue to require some CSTM funds in future. Nevertheless, this situation cannot continue. The upcoming Annual General Meeting is thus extremely important as to the future of the **Bulletin**, and of CSTM itself.

Some proposals have already been raised for discussion at the AGM. One of these is to increase membership rates. The

rates have been unchanged since 1993, despite important increases in printing and postage costs.

Another suggestion is to publish the **Bulletin** three times a year instead of four. This could be accomplished without diminishing the content (i.e., the number of pages) in any significant way. Its main drawback would be the effect on time-sensitive features such as the Folk Festival Directory. It was our experience last year that publishing only three issues produced a worthwhile saving in postage and printing costs.

These suggestions will be discussed at the meeting, as well as any others that arise. It is thus more important than ever that as many members as possible attend the meeting, and that members who can't attend contribute their ideas, and take part in the meeting by proxy.

I know—we say that every year. But this year more than ever we need your attention, your input and your participation. Please give some thought to the issues, make your ideas known and, if you can't attend the meeting, take time to fill out the proxy form and confer it on someone who'll be in attendance.

—John Leeder