

From the Editors



The main focus of this issue is on the recent CSTM conference and AGM, held in November at Douglas College, New Westminster, BC. You will find two accounts of the weekend, by conference organizer Jon Bartlett and by outgoing CSTM president Norman Stanfield. We have reprinted the president's and treasurer's annual reports, along with several others (including our own editors' report and Gordon Smith's for the *Journal*), as well as the minutes of the AGM and a comprehensive listing of the Society's new officers, board of directors, etc.

This edition opens with one of the papers delivered at the conference, Norman Stanfield's examination of the May Day tradition in New Westminster. We expect to print two more articles based on 2005 conference presentations in the next issue (40.1). Shorter pieces in this issue include those by Jon Bartlett on fiddle teaching in Vancouver, by Norbert Ruebsaat about his family's tradition of singing German folksongs, and by Lorne Brown about the impact of the gramophone on francophone culture in Canada. We also have the new CSTM president's first fireside chat, Rosaleen's regular column on singing the Child ballads, and the usual quota of CD reviews (but no book reviews this time, which is quite unusual). Anyway, we hope you find the contents interesting and useful, and that you will take the time to renew your annual subscription to CSTM. According to James Prescott's treasurer's report, CSTM membership has slipped a little recently, which is one reason why we have been forced to raise the annual membership fee. It is still a bargain, though, so please don't hesitate. We have some excellent issues lined up for 2006 and we would hate for you to miss them!

This is a good opportunity for us to thank John Leeder, our hard-working review editor, and music editor Maureen Chafe, for their assistance during the past year. It was – and is – much appreciated. A big thank you, too, to the distribution volunteers in Calgary who take care of the practical business of making sure each issue gets mailed to subscribers. And, finally, another thank you to Maureen, who took the photographs of CSTM members singing in New Westminster that you will find on the cover and in various places inside this issue. The battery in our camera died and no one else we asked for photos came through with any, so Maureen saved our bacon!

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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