

CSTM Conference & AGM at St. John's, Newfoundland November 2-3, 2002

You can always expect an intense two or three days at the annual CSTM conference and AGM, and this year in St. John's was no exception. For Rosaleen and me it began with a warm welcome from Johanne Trew, who kindly met us at St. John's airport and told us that Anita Best had already arranged for us a B&B downtown. We renewed our acquaintance with Chucky's fish & chips and Newfoundland beer. As a historian I ought to be able to remember the name of the brand I liked best, since it was a date – was it 1882? – but perhaps the problem is that I had to sample several candidates before I could make up my mind. Then on Friday evening, heading east on Water Street, we met up with Marcel Bénéteau, and joined Anita and other conference goers for a meal at a local Chinese restaurant. We all know that socializing is the most important part of conferences...

Société Canadienne pour les Traditions Musicales/Canadian Society for Traditional Music: Conference:

The real business started early, perhaps too early for some of us, on Saturday morning in the MUN School of Music choral room. Here, for the record, is a list of the papers presented that morning:

Zainab Haruna: "Ethnomusicological Observations on African Traditional Music and its Performance"

Holly Everett: "The Many Lives of 'Cotton-Eyed Joe'"

David Gregory: "Forgotten Folklorist: Charlotte Burne and Shropshire Song"

Anna Guigné: "An Operative Model for Analyzing Kenneth Peacock's Newfoundland Song Collection"

Philip Hiscock: "Ten Things to Consider About 'The Star of Logy Bay'"

And then, after waiting a very long time for a hurried lunch at a local restaurant, the afternoon session:

Marcel Bénéteau: "Chansons traditionnelles in Motown"

Kristin Harris: "Integrating Vernacular Dance into Traditional Music Performance: An Ethnographic Account of the Auntie Crae Band"

Johanne Trew: "Conflicting Visions: Don Messer, Liberal Nationalism, and the Canadian Unity Debate"

Jodi McDavid: "'The Raiders of the Night': Residence songs of St. Peter's University"

Peter Narváez: "Regendering the Blues"

Then, after a brief presentation by Marcel Bénéteau about the Centre franco-ontarien de folklore at Sudbury, it was time for a wine & cheese reception hosted by the MUN School of Music. Thanks, Beverley Diamond, we were ready for a little alcohol by then. Not that the papers were dry - far from it - but it did seem a long day.

Following tradition, Saturday night was devoted to music making. The venue was Bitters Pub, on campus, and we were treated to a mixture of sets by two groups of local musicians and cameo performances by several of the CSTM regulars. Having been to St. John's before, I wasn't surprised by the high quality of musicianship displayed by members of the Auntie Crae Band and by a pick-up band of young instrumentalists, but it was delightful to hear traditional Newfoundland music played so well and enthusiastically. Obviously the local fiddling and singing traditions are alive and well in the hands of young and old. Now, I wish I had made a note of those musicians' names. Perhaps one of our CSTM members in St. John's could write and remind us, and we could print a formal vote of thanks to those guys in the next issue.

Here and now we can record our appreciation to those CSTM members who bravely stood up and gave us a song or a tune: Anita Best, Rosaleen Gregory, Marcel Bénéteau, John Leeder, James Prescott, Neil Rosenberg and Norman Stanfield,

among them. My apologies if I missed anyone out - I was back on the 1882 by then, and my memory of the evening is a little hazy. But I do remember quite vividly the ferocious snowstorm that greeted us when we finally ventured out of Bitters sometime after midnight. Those winds sure do blow cold - and hard - on the Atlantic coast.

Société Canadienne pour les Traditions Musicales/Canadian Society for Traditional Music: AGM:

Sunday morning was the turn of the AGM. Luckily the School of Music provided us with coffee and muffins, and there were enough people in attendance to provide a quorum. I was a bit hung over, and mildly embarrassed by not having realised that I was supposed to have provided a written editor's report. But I wasn't the only sinner, so I soon felt better. For the record, James Prescott (treasurer), Dave Foster (mail order service) and Gordon Smith (*Journal* editor) were among the virtuous ones who did it right.

Apart from a useful, if inconclusive, discussion of several tricky and perhaps divisive issues that have been left to the new CSTM Board to decide, the AGM achieved three things. It affirmed that the Society is still alive and kicking, it passed a few motions, and it elected a new slate of officers and Board of Directors.

Here are the minutes:

Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for Traditional Music, held on November 3, 2002. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland:

[MSC = Moved, Seconded, Carried]

In attendance: Marcel Bénéteau, Anita Best, Beverley Diamond, Paula Flynn, David Gregory, Rosaleen Gregory, Zainab Haruna, Philip Hiscock, John Leeder, Kate Power (non-participating observer), James Prescott, Norman Stanfield, 5 proxies.

Reminiscences of the late Bill Sarjeant were shared, and other departed members (notably Cliff Allen) and other scholars (notably Lise Waxer) were remembered.

1. *Agenda*: MSC that the agenda be approved.
2. *Minutes*: MSC that the minutes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting be adopted as distributed.

3. *Reports*:

President (Norman Stanfield) (oral report)
MSC that the report be received with thanks.

Treasurer (James Prescott)
MSC that the report (see below) be received with thanks.

Secretary (John Leeder) (oral report)
MSC that the report be received with thanks.

Mail Order Service (Dave Foster)
MSC that the report be received with thanks.

Mail Order Service Website (Gord Sherret) (no report)

Bulletin (David Gregory) (oral report)
MSC that the report be received with thanks.

Journal (Gordon Smith) (written report, see website)
MSC that the report be received with thanks.

Membership Secretary (James Prescott)
MSC that the report (see below) be received with thanks.

CSTM Website (Heather Sparling) (no report -- overseas)

Discussion arising from reports:

It was suggested that written reports to the AGM be posted in advance on the website.

Members were urged to contact their MPs concerning issues in the field.

It was decided that the President would act as liaison with the International Council for Traditional Music.

Norman Stanfield volunteered to check into reported problems with the server for the Mail Order Service. It was queried whether the same person could serve as webmaster for both websites. John Leeder reported that Gord Sherret was relinquishing the webmastership and discussions were under way re transferring it to Mike Ballantyne. Zainab Haruna volunteered to assist as necessary.

David Gregory offered to consult with Dave Foster concerning the state of the Mail Order Service, with the matter to be reviewed at the next AGM.

The possibility of a name change for the Bulletin was discussed, and suggestions called for.

Motions voted:

MSC that the Society provide a listserv, with Zainab Haruna as manager.

MSC that the Society take immediate steps to determine if it would still be advantageous to register the Society in Alberta, and if so to commence the process of registration, and that the President review progress no later than the end of May 2003, and that if it has been determined that it would not be advantageous to register, or if there is no useful progress towards registration, the President then write a letter to Phil Thomas asking his permission to release his \$300 donation for use for the general purposes of the Society.

4. *Next Conference and Annual General Meeting (2003):*

MSC that the board be authorized to select a site for the 2003 Annual General Meeting and Conference, taking into account the earlier proposal from Athabasca University.

5. *Elections:*

The following persons were elected (subject to acceptance, in the case of members not in attendance):

President: Norman Stanfield
 Vice-Presidents: Marcel Bénéteau, Lorne Brown
 Secretary: Vacant, to be filled by co-option
 Treasurer: James Prescott

Directors: Mike Ballantyne, Carmelle Bégin, Sandria P. Bouliane, Maureen Chafe, Margaret Chan, Judith Cohen, Paula Flynn, Dave Foster, Pauline Greenhill, David Gregory, Julie LeBlanc, John Leeder, Danielle Martineau, Peter Narváez, Murray Shoolbraid, Heather Sparling, Kati Szego, Phil Thomas [Bégin and Martineau subsequently declined, Bouliane did not respond]
 Ex officio positions: Past President: Leslie Hall
 Bulletin Co-Editor: Rosaleen Gregory
 Journal Editor: Gordon Smith

6. *Constitution:* Notice of Motion from the 2001 meeting, that the Archivist be added as an ex officio Director, tabled until 2003 due to lack of distribution.

7. *Other Business:*

MSC that Maureen Chafe be appointed Archivist.

MSC that a decision as to the desirability of remaining a member of the International Council for Traditional Music be deferred until the 2003 AGM.

A proposal from Precana Thompson (Cash Back Alliance) was deemed unworthy of discussion.

MSC that the Society thank the organizers of the Conference/Annual General Meeting, particularly Anita Best, Bev Diamond and Kate Power.

8. *Adjournment:* MSC that the meeting be adjourned.

Here are two of the written reports (one in full, the other abbreviated). For other written reports, see the CSTM website:

<http://www.yorku.ca/cstm/minutes2002.htm>

(John Leeder will also mail printed copies of the full reports to anyone without Internet access)

Report of the CSTM Membership Secretary, 2002 (abbreviated version) (James Prescott):

Figures in this report are as of 2002 October 20. Members who have not paid up beyond the end of 2001 have now been deleted. See Table 1. Since the last report (October 2001) there have been 11 new individual memberships added. With deletions, there has been a net change of minus 2. There were also 3 new institutional memberships added, for a net change of minus 4. The overall net change is minus 6. This drop in membership is similar to last year, but note that the high number of members in the grace period (paid to the 1st quarter of 2002) indicates a further drop of 10-15 members in December. This has already had a negative effect on membership revenue for the year.

Table 1: Paid Up Status

Year	Quarter	Individuals	Institutions	Total
2002	1st	20	1	21
2002	2nd	5	0	5
2002	3rd	15	2	17
2002	4th	19	66	85
2003	1st	50	0	50
2003	2nd	7	1	8
2003	3rd	9	0	9
2003	4th	6	1	7
2004	1st	19	0	19
2004	2nd	1	0	1
2005	1st	1	0	1
Not Invoiced		5	37	42
TOTAL		157	108	265

For a more detailed analysis of membership trends including several more tables and graphs, plus a profile of members and their affiliations, see the full report on the CSTM website at <http://www.yorku.ca/cstm/minutes2002.htm>

Treasurer's report and financial statements for the year ending 2002-August-31 (James Prescott):

The financial statements comprise a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Income and Expenses. The financial statements are unaudited. A number of notable financial events occurred during this financial year.

First, the down side.

- We continue to lose members steadily. Our gift of an extension of individual memberships by one issue did

not bear fruit. There are an unusually large number of members in the grace period, those whose memberships expired after the first Bulletin of 2002. This means that the membership numbers and membership revenues are out of step, with membership revenue being lower than the membership numbers would suggest. Membership revenues are down by about \$400.

- Donations, fund-raising, single issue sales, and royalties from CANCOPY are all down this year, a combined decrease in revenue of about \$900.

Second, the financially neutral side.

- We have not yet received the SOCAN grant of \$1000 for the Bulletin for 2001, but as we do expect to receive the grant this can be considered financially neutral.

- Revenue from the AGM is less than last year by about \$600, but as we budget for zero income from the AGM this can be considered financially neutral.

- Our printing and mailing costs, while higher than last year, represent a full five issues, and are in line with last year's budget, so this can be considered financially neutral.

- This year the Mail Order Service went from a surplus to a deficit, a difference of about \$1050. As the Mail Order Service accounts are kept separate from the main accounts, and as the expenditure was used to increase our inventory, this can be considered financially neutral. For details see Dave Foster's report.

- We have not yet been able to bring our financial reserve up to the planned level. The proposed prudent financial reserve is \$2550, composed of \$1650 (being 20% of one year's administration and publication expenses) plus \$600 (set aside to cover members who have paid for more than one year in advance) plus \$300 (to cover registration of the Society in Alberta, not yet spent, concerning which we will be proposing a motion at this year's AGM).

For the financial year 2002-2003 the following budget is proposed for administration and publications (that is, including neither the AGM nor the Mail Order Service, both of which are assumed to break even):

- Membership fees of \$5700 plus donations of \$250 plus SOCAN grant of \$1000 plus single order sales of \$100 plus GST rebate of \$200 plus net royalty revenue of \$50 plus fund-raising of \$100 gives us income of \$7400.

- Administration and general publication expenses \$800 plus \$150 ICTM membership. This leaves us \$6450 to spend.

- One 60 page Journal for December 2002, printing expenses \$1200 plus mailing expenses \$850. This leaves us \$4400 to spend.

- Four Bulletins, all 40 pages, printing expenses \$3400. Assuming that the December issue is mailed with the Journal, mailing expenses of \$1800. This results in a deficit of \$800.

- The opening balance of \$1200 plus the expected SOCAN grant for 2001 in arrears minus the deficit of \$800 and minus \$300 ICTM membership in arrears and minus an additional \$500 transferred to the reserve will leave us with a closing balance of \$600, plus the reserve of \$2550.

If there is no additional income, and if we continue to have a deficit of about \$800 per year, we can operate for three more years before requiring an increase in membership rates. Because it takes a year for the full benefit of increased rates to be felt, we will probably be proposing a motion to increase membership rates at the AGM in 2004. This will mean operating with less than the prudent financial reserve during late 2004 and 2005. The value of a membership is currently about \$32, so individuals paying \$25 are getting a deal.

Here are the names and addresses of those elected:

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The Last Word

At our request, CSTM President, Norman Stanfield, penned these brief reflections on the the weekend, his first visit to St. John's:

Was it three months ago that we met in Newfoundland and Labrador for our annual general meeting? It seems like two hours ago. My memories are as fresh as the wind that was blowing over the spartan landscape, straight off the Atlantic, gun-green sea. We couldn't have arrived at a better time. The weather, vacillating between cobalt blue skies and white-out blizzard, showed the "Rock" in its toughest minded mood, with homes and businesses, campuses and Parliament buildings, huddled together for warmth and comfort.

And that is certainly the predominant spirit of our gathering on the campus of the university. Don't let me give you the wrong impression here; the facilities for the conference were state-of-the-art, brimming with photographs of proud musical achievements, but step outside the door, and the sense of humbleness quickly sets in, making the kindness of our hosts even more keen.

Our hosts. Everything you've ever heard about the generous spirit of the Newfoundlanders is not the product of an over-heated Public Relations spin-meister. It's true to the bone. And this was never more evident than in the evening when we

gathered at a campus pub and sang and played for each other in a corner while students played snooker and darts in the other. The real litmus test is always the bar-keep. Our cheerful soul told me that "folk music is pop music here and we can never get enough of it". The middle duffers sang new and old material (including myself who became strangely obsessed by the local beer and shouted out a folk song of the Kwakiutl First Nations people) but we were also gobsmacked by young local lions singing and playing jigs and reels on acoustic instruments like there was no tomorrow. I didn't know whether to clap or gasp at the overwhelming exuberance of the music-making.

I'm restricted to just a few words of salutation, so I shall refrain from listing the many people that made our stay so invigorating (although perhaps I'll sneak in the names of Anita Best, renowned Newfoundland ballad singer, who I vividly remember from a national Christmas TV special, and Dr. Beverley Diamond, who trucked us around in cars, fed and watered a couple of us, as well as opened the metaphorical and real-time doors of the Music Department).

Perhaps the last word needs to go to a description of the intense pleasure of hearing and talking about "our" music in the midst of a campus that devotes itself to all aspects of folk culture in Canada and abroad, through the lens of the Canadian experience. Memorial University is singular in this regard, but it must surely be a mandate of our society that we encourage other campuses to be the foci of the living music-making which we call "folk" or "traditional" and which continues to re-invent and re-energize itself. Don't we all know that our music is, after all is said and done, "still water that runs deep".

Norman Stanfield