

COHA Chair's Remarks

It is with real gratitude that we say farewell to the previous *Forum* Editor, Ronald Labelle. For a decade, Ronald has steered the journal from his University of Moncton Centre for Acadian Studies. His scholarship and his concern for the work of oral historians in Canada have resulted in many important and fascinating issues over these years. Ronald had a small but skilled team of publishing assistants as well as support from the University of Moncton, and we are grateful to all of them for all of their work.

One of the abilities that we will miss most is their bilingualism. As we move to new Editors, we lose that fluency in French. Contributions in French as well as English are still most welcome, however, and will be considered on their merits by our Editorial Board.

The Canadian Oral History Association was represented at the annual meeting of the American Oral History Association in Bethesda, Md. in October, 2003, by a small but lively group. An Ontario panel, with discussant, presented the results of several oral history projects focused on community institutions, and Peter Geller, a contributor to this issue of *Forum*, presented material derived from his work with oral history as a tool for post secondary education in Canada's north.

Do visit the COHA website at www.ncfn.carleton.ca/oral-history. There you will find helpful information concerning oral history projects, an invitation to correspond, publications of interest, a listing of COHA leadership, and notices of upcoming oral history events. In addition, all are invited to support Canadian

oral history work by becoming members of COHA using the link to the membership form. The cost is not great; the support is important to COHA; and membership insures continued receipt of forthcoming issues of *Forum*. We welcome requests to link our website to others which explore oral history.

The Canadian Oral History Association agreed to present a two-day workshop for interested members of the Archives Association of Ontario early in 2004. Tailored to the needs of the participants in the Toronto area, the workshop covered methodology and equipment, techniques and storage, benefits and challenges. COHA is pleased to formulate workshops for groups and welcomes inquiries through the website.

It continues to be a delight to work with the many historians who value oral history and develop its uses. As this issue of *Forum* demonstrates, historians from coast to coast are hard at work. With our geographical distances and our diverse disciplines, our disparate interests and our wide ranging backgrounds, oral historians have much to offer one another and the communities in which we practice.