

CASCA
President's Report
May 2010

This has been an eventful year for CASCA. Fortunately it ended on a positive note with a successful conference in Montreal, thanks to the local organizers, and especially to Marie-Nathalie Le Blanc. Much of this report, in fact, concerns the work of others who have volunteered their time and talents to CASCA. My work as president was greatly facilitated by the members of the Executive. I am also very grateful to Andrew Lyons, winner of the Distinguished Service award, who has done a heroic job as editor of *Anthropologica*.

One of the most significant developments for CASCA this year was the transformation of the Website by our Communications Officer, Michel Bouchard. The position of Communications Officer was created in May 2009, in recognition of the increasing importance to CASCA of the Website and other new modes of communication. The site has been completely revamped, visually and technically as well as in terms of its content, and can now be easily located via Google. Moreover, it is fully bilingual, and the French is of high quality. All this is important not only for our membership in Canada but also for our international visibility. Because of Michel's work, detailed in his report (available on the CASCA Website), the site is taking a whole array of new functions in terms of information and exchange. For example, registration for the annual conference can now be handled by the CASCA website whereas up until this year, each year's organizers had to build their own web page for this purpose. Furthermore, Michel has set up a CASCA page on Facebook, a great space for informal exchanges among our members. He is also reworking the Website of our journal, *Anthropologica*.

Anthropologica also saw important developments this year. Like many other academic journals, ours was likely to be implicated in a lawsuit launched by Heather Robertson against multinational firms engaged in the electronic reproduction of material previously published in print form without arranging payment to the authors. One of them (Proquest, formerly University Microfilms and Micromedia) reproduces scholarly journals as

well as the work of freelance journalists. Andrew Lyons mobilized the necessary legal counsel so as to extricate CASCA from this lawsuit. He also dealt with the extremely complicated legal agreements around Anthropologica's inclusion in the JSTOR platform. Finally, Andrew has renewed the editorial board of the journal, such that it now includes a number of new members.

Our other publication, *Culture*, has been steadily acquiring greater visibility under the direction of Craig Proulx and Simon Hébert, members-at-large. Two issues were published this year. (Craig is now Secretary of CASCA and has been replaced by Christopher Fletcher as member-at-large and co-editor of *Culture*.)

My thanks to our Membership Manager, Karli Whitmore, who has looked after membership and the Listserv. Because of her careful management, CASCA became aware of a problem with Leversus whereby donations to the Society were not being properly processed. This occasioned an email campaign to recover what donations we could and has led the Executive to examine various alternatives for registering payments in the future.

Another important issue this year involved finding a venue for the 2010 conference as well as organizers. Given the limited time frame we had to work with, it made sense to accept the invitation of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to meet in Montreal as part of the Federation's Congress. Marie-Nathalie Le Blanc took on the daunting task of organizing the conference. Those who were present will agree, I am sure, that it was an intellectually stimulating gathering as well as a thoroughly enjoyable one. Fortunately venues have been secured for 2011 (at St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB; the conference is being organized in collaboration with the University of New Brunswick and Mount Allison University) and 2012 (University of Alberta, Edmonton).

Among the events at this year's conference was the Distinguished Service Award given to Andrew Lyons at the initiative of the Executive and the Weaver-Tremblay award that was presented to Gilles Bibeau. Our thanks to James Waldram, last year's recipient, who served as committee organizer for the Weaver-Tremblay award.

One of the issues that came to light as the 2010 conference was being organized was the high proportion of submissions from students, as compared with professors and practicing anthropologists. For the sake of CASCA and all concerned with the conference, it is important to keep the number of papers given by professors and researchers reasonably higher than those given by students. The solution in the long term is not, I believe, one of reducing the number of student papers accepted (as was necessary to do this year), but rather of increasing the number of submissions from professors and researchers. Ideally, in the coming years, more professors will propose panels where their students can give papers.

Among the questions that will become important in the coming years is that of recruiting new members, especially among new professors and practicing anthropologists. Given that more and more anthropologists are working primarily outside the walls of academe, this last is of particular importance. Janice Graham, CASCA's current president, has initiated efforts to recruit members among practicing anthropologists. In June 2010, at her first meeting as president, a new position on the Executive for a practicing anthropologist was created; it is currently held by Craig Chandler

The issue of membership numbers is closely tied to the question of how the Society can best serve its members. No doubt the Website will offer new ways to communicate and share knowledge in the coming years. CASCA's role as an advocate for anthropologists in its lobbying funding agencies (SSHRC, CIHR) will continue to be important. Finally, CASCA will have a role to play in the development of anthropology on a global level, notably through its participation in the World Council of Anthropology (<http://www.wcaanet.org>). I am sure that Janice Graham will lead CASCA ahead in all these areas, with the support and help of the Executive.

My warmest thanks go to the members of the Executive, and also Andrew Lyons and Karli Whitmore for their unfailing support and collaboration during my year as president and to all of you for your participation and interest in developing Canadian anthropology.

Deirdre Meintel
President, 2010