

Editor's corner

After a small hiatus, we are again publishing the Newsletter. The last issue was entirely produced by our very busy President, George Fulford whom we would like to thank heartily for his long standing devotion to S.A.A.M.. After all, in addition to being the President, he published the Newsletter, and he also made the inaugural presentation after the Annual General Meeting this October. This year we are starting with a shrunk membership and it is more than ever important to make our students and colleagues understand the interest and relevance of applied anthropology, and the role that our society may fulfil. Our new President, Dr. Richling is going to dedicate his efforts to make this possible and we should all support him. S.A.A.M. is not just a debating society, it is also an attempt to create networking and influence the real world. Our past workshops on hydroelectric dams in Northern Manitoba and the other on Globalization and Community both managed to give a voice not just to social

scientists but also to concerned citizens, a voice that was amplified by the publication of the proceedings. Let this be a hint about what we can do next.

Since we had only one meeting so far, there is not much editorial comment to make, especially as the summary of Dr. Fulford's presentation follows. I wish to ask the members to volunteer pieces of information, comments, short articles that they would like to share with the other members. You may also know an activist or a person engaged in development aid or similar activity, whose opinions and advice we would like to learn about. Please contact me at my email address: chodkie@cc.umanitoba.ca

Do not forget to consult our Web site www.Saaminc.org, and if you have not yet bought it, get a copy of our latest book, *Globalization and Community, Canadian Perspectives*, (J.-L. Chodkiewicz and R.E. Wiest editors) 2004, which can be found at the University of

Manitoba bookstore and
McNally Robinson bookstore.
J.-L. Chodkiewicz

**Society for Applied Anthropology in Manitoba
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
October 1, 2005
University of Winnipeg**

Introductions - 22 people were in attendance

Election of Executive Members for 2005-06

Following a call for nominations, the slate of candidates listed below was acclaimed:

President:	Barnett Richling
Vice-President:	Menno Wiebe
Secretary/Treasurer:	Michael Reid
Membership Coordinator	Brian Myhre
Newsletter Editor	Jean-Luc Chodkiewicz
Web Master	Doug Hamm
Member-at-Large	Rumel Halder
Member-at-Large	Ellen Judd

Review of the Year's Activities

Outgoing president George Fulford offered a brief summary of SAAM's activities in the past year, including the four presentations the Society sponsored. A precis of each of these is contained in the October 2005 issue of *Anthropology in Practice*,@ SAAM's newsletter. He also spoke of plans to host several speakers in the coming year, and stressed the need for SAAM to increase its membership not only from among faculty and students at the city's two universities, but from the community at large. George deserves top marks for the energy and enthusiasm he brought to the Society during his term as president.

Treasurer's Report

Michael Reid reported on SAAM's finances, all of which derive from the sale of memberships. A full report of income and expenses is attached.

Adjournment of the Business Meeting.

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Presentation by George Fulford entitled **“Preventing Aboriginal Language Loss: What Applied Anthropology Can Do (and Undo) to help.”**

Dr. Fulford discussed his ongoing research with the School District of Mystery Lake in Thompson and with the Ministry of Education, Citizenship and Youth . His team focused on 60 participants., among whom 11 families participated actively. The study focused on language use in this bilingual environment , and was especially concerned with the language use of young children. Fulford commented on the unprecedented numbers of speakers of Aboriginal languages of Canada, and Manitoba in particular, who have adopted English as their principal (and in many cases) only means of communication.

If this trend continues, within a generation only very few of Canada's Aboriginal languages

will still be viable. Several generations have not spoken their language, due to the residential schools and the dominant use of English in all official interactions with schools, health and justice administrations, but also due to radio and television programs all in English. Now, even in remote northern communities television, internet and video-cassettes are seducing the young generation and imposing English.

Fulford argued that of the approximately 50 Aboriginal languages of Canada, only three (Cree, Objibway and Inuktituk) are presently secure from extinction. In many bilingual families, the children do not get enough exposure to Cree to become fluent, and it is

unlikely that they will pass on their incomplete knowledge to their own children. Thus, the children of bilingual parents are likely to become monolingual English speakers. However a variety of initiatives, such as bilingual programs in schools and a variety of community projects with the collaboration of elders, represent a hopeful sign that much can be done to prevent the loss of Canada's aboriginal languages.

Dr. Fulford's fascinating presentation was illustrated with video-clips of testimonies from various Aboriginal people. It was followed by a lengthy discussion that brought to light a number of comments. Several members elaborated on Fulford's comment that radio, television, books, magazines, video-cassettes are all in English and that most business meetings and official interactions occur in English, constituting a strong force threatening Aboriginal languages. Residential schools punished the use of Aboriginal languages and affected respect for their culture, so that some parents felt ashamed of their

cultural heritage and did not teach their language to their children. Even now, some can be heard commenting: "What would it be good for?"

But it is not too late and the elders could be recruited to teach and revive interest for their heritage and traditions, including their language. Several people commented that this best be done in the bush, rather than in the classroom. As we commented on the fact that lawyers, judges, health officials, superintendents of schools and other such officials are all monolingual speakers of English and impose English as the sole means of communication, Menno Wiebe suggested that a relevant initiative of S.A.A.M. could be to send a strongly worded letter demanding of these different administration that they force all such officials to be accompanied by an interpreter. This is of course an example of the kinds of actions that would ensure that S.A.A.M. is not just a debating society, but really an engaged and active society for APPLIED anthropology!

Society of Applied Anthropologists of Manitoba (S.A.A.M.): MEMBERSHIP LIST

Updated:

Name	Phone	Email	Status
Executive Members			
Richling, Barnett	786-9875	b-richling@uwinnipeg.ca	President
Wiebe, Menno	475-7766		Vice President
Reid, Michael	779-7664	mcreid@yahoo.com	Secretary/Treasurer
Hamm, Doug	667-7642	doughamm@shaw.ca	IT Website Coordin.
Myhre, Brian	772-2139	brianmyhre@shaw.ca	Membership Coordi
Judd, Ellen	474-7674	ejudd@cc.umanitoba.ca	Member-at-Large
Leinaweaver, Jessaca	474-7649	j_leinaweaver@umanitoba.ca	Member-at-Large
Chodkiewicz, Jean-Luc	474-6330	chodkie@cc.umanitoba.ca	Newsletter editor
General Members			
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Halder, Rumel	261-3075	sumonju@yahoo.com	Member
Hamm, Doug	667-7642	doughamm@shaw.ca	Member
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Schimmer, , Brian	474-8999	schwimm@ms.umanitoba.ca	Member
Wiebe, Menno	475-7766		Member