

# eastword

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

## THE WORD ON THE STREET

That fun-filled festival – Word on the Street – sails onto Pier 20 on Halifax's waterfront, Sunday, September 28. Families and fans of all ages will enjoy books, magazines, activities, performers and author readings between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Hear a Maritime storyteller spin a yarn, pick out a great book from a local bookseller, or watch live performances by musicians and actors. There will be plenty to see and do at this year's festival, and best of all, the festival and all of its events are FREE!

Pier 20 is easy to find – it's on the waterfront. Take a leisurely stroll on the boardwalk from the ferry terminal past the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic past Bishop's Landing to the Port Authority building and there's Pier 20. Or follow Lower Water St to its end on Marginal Road where it meets the back of the Westin Nova Scotian hotel and look toward the water. And you have found it. Hell, it's kitty corner from the Fed offices! It's next door to where the cruise ships park when they're in town.

And speaking of ships, the tall ship *Silva* will be part of the festivities. *Silva* will host several writers, who'll be entertaining all and sundry with readings and stories from their books. *Eastword* understands there will be a definite nautical flavour to the readings on board. *Silva* can accommodate 150, either on deck or in its salons below deck.

Featured kids authors for the 2003 festival include: Don Aker, Susan Chalker Brown, Ted Staunton (he'll be giving a workshop at WFNS while he's in town, check page 4 for details), Alan & Lea Daniel, Brian MacFarlane, Barb Todd,



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WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA  
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Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

Canada

NOVASCOTIA  
Tourism and Culture

Janet McNaughton, Shirley Woods, Kristin & Jeff Domm, Linda Holeman, Lesley Choyce, and Budge Wilson, just for starters.

Featured adult authors include: Charles de Lint (a must for science fiction and fantasy fans), Leo McKay, Bill Cameron, Mark Jarman, Glen Sorestad, J.J. Steinfeld, Alison Smith, Isabel Huggan, Rhea Tregobov, Anne Simpson, Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaasan, Greg Cook, Kathy Mac, Lorri Neilson Glenn, Sue MacLeod, Mary Dalton, Douglas Burnett Smith, Jeanette Lynes, Alison Pick, Helen Humphreys, Michael Hennessy, Tara Manuel, Paul Butler, Cameron Royce Jess, Richard Cumyn, Beatrice MacNeil, Maura Hanrahan, Beth Ryan, Marq de Villiers, Don MacLean, Gordon Walsh, Scott Milsom, E.H. Rip Irwin, Robert C. Parsons, Hilda Chaulk Murray, Jeanette A. Auger, Stan Dragland, Billy Budge, Joanie Sutton to name just a few.



There will be an incredible array of exhibitors of magazine and book publishers, bookstores, and really interesting stuff like the Dawson Print Shop of Dalhousie University (where you can see how book production was done before the days of electronic digital magic. Keep an eye out for Strange Adventures Comic Bookshop, Woozles, The Book Room, Tattletales Books, the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association, Nimbus Publishing, Fernwood Books, Roseway Publishing and Gaspereau Press and that's just the start of a long, long, list, ranging from the traditional to the unconventional. Magazines such as The Fiddlehead, SaltScapes, and Geist will be on hand. As will various associations – such as EAC (Editors Association of Canada), Canadian Book Binders & Book Artists Guild of NS, Association of Translators & Interpreters of NS, and, of course, WFNS.

If you'd like to be an integral part of this national event to celebrate reading and writing, volunteers are welcome. Volunteering for the Word on the Street is fun and gives you a chance to mingle with the movers and shakers in the book and magazine community. WOTS director Heather Gibson is looking for help with a variety of festival activities. Just contact the WOTS office in Halifax by phone at 902-423-7399, fax 902-423-3102 or by email (wotshalifax@thewordonthestreet.ca). Or you can call the Writers Fed.

Word on the Street goes on rain or shine. And it's free. See you there. ■

# Back to school

## Fall workshops at the Fed

### Voice Training: Crafting Literary Short Fiction with Richard Cumyn

**When:** Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. from September 16 to November 4 at WFNS

**Cost:** \$140 WFNS members; \$165 non-members (Easy payment terms available.)

"Increasingly, in contemporary fiction, the energy of the narrative has been shifting from characterization to the author's voice." – Michael Orlofsky in "It Starts With Voice," *Writer's Digest*



This introduction to the art of writing literary short fiction takes participants from story germ to polished draft in eight weeks. With emphasis on developing an authoritative narrative voice, the workshop examines the subtle interplay of setting, character and plot in the making of a strong piece of fiction. Drawing on their own reading, experience and works-in-progress, as well as examples provided by the facilitator, practising writers talk and make choices about such matters as word choice, form, dialogue and action in their work. A guided exploration of craft rather than a set of prescriptive rules, the workshop provides focused writing exercise designed to stimulate creativity and address a range of specific concerns.

Richard Cumyn is the author of four collections of short fiction – including *I Am Not Most Places* (Beach Holme) and *The Obstacle Course* (Oberon) – and a novel, *The View From Tamischeira* (Beach Holme). He has published widely in periodicals and compilations including *The Journey Prize Anthology*. Fiction editor of *The Antigonish Review*, Richard lives in Halifax. ■

### Poetry with Sue Goyette

**When:** Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. from October 1 to November 19 at WFNS

**Cost:** \$140 WFNS members; \$165 non-members (Easy payment terms available.)

A workshop for 12 participants who have acquired and moved beyond basic skills in poetry, and who wish further development. The Poetry Workshop will focus on works in progress and will combine group discussion, writing time, and individual critiques.

Sue Goyette's first book of poems – *The True Names of Birds* (Brick Books) was nominated for the Gerald Lampert, the Pat Lowther, and the Governor General's Awards. Her first novel, *Lures*, was published in 2002 by HarperCollins. She is currently finishing her second collection of poems for Brick Books, *Undone*, and has begun work on her next novel. Recent poems have appeared in the anthologies *Breathing Fire* and *Meltwater*. ■

### Beyond the nuts and bolts – Freelance writing with donalee Moulton

**When:** Thursday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. from October 9 to November 13 at WFNS

**Cost:** \$125 WFNS members; \$150 non-members (Easy payment terms available.)

The freelance market is competitive, challenging and potentially profitable if you're well organized, resourceful, willing to work like stink and use your imagination. This is a workshop for writers who are beginning to place their writing in the marketplace and want to make it a profession. It's a volatile industry – magazine editors, staff writers and staff jobs come and go, but a freelancer who knows the craft can always meet a need with the right idea, carried through to completion as an article, at the right time. This is a hands-on workshop where you'll be thinking, writing and revising.

donalee Moulton has been writing professionally for more than 20 years. She is Atlantic correspondent for a half dozen trade journals, an editor, conference reporter, and expert medical writer in addition to writing speeches, news releases and corporate communications. ■



# Workshops

## Ted Staunton Tells Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Children's Publishing

**When:** Saturday, September 27, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (light lunch included)

**Cost:** \$40 WFNS members/\$50 non-members

This is your opportunity to pick Ted's brain. His broad experience ranges from *Puddleman*, one of Canada's most popular picture books, to the Monkey Mountain and Maggie and Cyril series of early readers, to his acclaimed YA novel, *Hope Springs a Leak*. Topics range from an overview of picture books to what kind of writer are you ... what do publishers want ... what do children want ... and how you can use humour to captivate young audiences ... with lots of opportunity in between for questions about any aspect of children's publishing.

Trained as a teacher, Ted Staunton is a frequent and highly entertaining speaker, performer and workshop leader in venues across Canada. He has appeared before the International Reading Association, the Canadian Booksellers Association, Reading for the Love of It, the Harbourfront International Children's Festival, and on many Canada Council tours. He is a 7-time National Children's Book Week touring author and has appeared frequently in libraries and schools.



## Making Them Real: Character Development with Janet McNaughton



**When:** Monday, September 29, 7 to 9 p.m. at WFNS

**Cost:** \$30 WFNS members/\$45 non-members

Why do some writers' characters seem more real than others? This workshop explores how writers can make

characters come to life. We begin with ways to make characters seem real by developing them in the imagination. We then discuss how various writing techniques can be employed to get those characters out of your head and onto a page without flattening them in the process. Writing exercises will give participants hands-on examples, and a checklist for applying techniques during revision will be provided. Come prepared to write.

Janet McNaughton has lived in St. John's, Newfoundland, for 23 years. She has written five young adult novels and one junior novel, ranging from historical fiction to science fiction and fantasy. Her books have won nine awards. Janet's writing companion is a 4-year-old parrot named Merlin, who chats and plays on a swing in the window beside her desk and sometimes tries to eat the houseplants.

## High Flight Poetry with Wendy Morton

**When:** Saturday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. (light lunch included)

**Cost:** \$40 WFNS members/\$50 non-members



Participants will consider the lyric elements of a poem: rhythm, rhyme and repetition. There will be time for writing, reading and discussion. With a commitment to the traditional lyric, the anecdotal and the narrative, Wendy Morton loves poetry; for her a poem is a way to make sense of the world through the heart and the mind.

Armed with this thought, Wendy, who lives in Sooke, BC, approached WestJet and asked them to sponsor her on a cross-Canada celebration of literacy, telling them that she would read poems on the planes, write poems for the passengers, read in schools and public places. They didn't say no and Wendy boarded her first jet in March 2002. In Nova Scotia, Daimler Chrysler Canada is providing her with a PT Cruiser for her Poetry Travels tour. Her poetry has been widely published in journals and in two books, *Private Eye* and *Undercover*, published by Ekstasis Editions. ■

# The Digest

## Playwrights Assembly – a play development working group

Neptune Theatre is very happy to announce the creation of the Playwrights Assembly – a play development working group.

Members meet monthly from September 2003 to April 2004, assisting each other in the development of a new play or play in progress. Meetings will involve table-top discussion of works in progress with visits from local directors, producers and actors. The aim is to develop a trusting community of playwrights, foster local writers and help them reach a higher level of craft. A selection of the works in development may be chosen for workshops with emerging actors and directors, culminating in 3-nights of public performances.

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 5:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Place: Neptune Theatre

Co-ordinator & Dramaturge: Colleen Marie Subasic

Interested writers should contact Colleen by calling (902) 420-0004 or emailing her at [colleesu@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:colleesu@ns.sympatico.ca) ■

## Reading with the RCMP

Pictou artist David MacIntosh recently donated his oil painting of Pictou Country RCMP Constable John Kennedy reading to a group of children to the Adopt a Library Program at the Pictou-Antigonish Library. The painting will be used to develop a poster to promote Kennedy's goal of "fighting crime, one book at a time."

Started just over three years ago at the Pictou-Antigonish Library, the Adopt a Library literacy initiative has since spread across Canada and has just been introduced in Uganda. The initial goal was to raise \$50,000 towards the purchase of children's books: to date, more than a million in cash and in-kind contributions have been received.

"If we can teach our kids to read today, maybe tomorrow we can keep them out of jail," said Kennedy. With a 65% illiteracy rate for inmates in Canada's prisons, the connection between crime and illiteracy is unequivocal. Corporal Scott MacKenzie concurred, observing that a newspaper today has more information than the average person assimilated in a life time a few hundred years ago, and we have more information than ever, through the World Wide Web. "But the information is useless if you can't read," concluded Kennedy. ■

## Packaging Your Imagination

CANSCAIP's (Canadian Society of Children's Author, Illustrators and Performers) annual conference is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., November 1, 2003, at Victoria College, University of Toronto. This glorious day of workshops led by professionals successful in their field is a high-octane kick-start to all that's relevant in writing, illustrating and presenting for children. Topics range from Picture Books with Nan Gregory, to Spicing Up Non-fiction with Jane Drake and Ann Love, to Writing in Different Genres with Kathy Stinson. Eleven different workshops are scheduled for the day at the low cost of \$110 which includes lunch. For full program details, check out [www.canscaip.org/pyi.html](http://www.canscaip.org/pyi.html) ■

## The Malcolm Ross Scholarship

To commemorate Malcolm Ross, the Dalhousie University Department of English is establishing the Malcolm Ross Scholarship, an annual award for an MA student in their department. They invite friends and admirers of Ross to contribute to the fund for this award in his memory.

Malcolm Ross was a prime mover in getting the work of Canadian writers into circulation, some of them such first-time, unknown writers as Alden Nowlan and Alice Munro. He included their work in the *Queen's Quarterly*, which he edited from 1953-56, and then in the New Canadian Library series. Canadian writers who had been first published elsewhere (as were Mordecai Richler and Margaret Laurence in London and New York) were also made readily available through the NCL series. It was Ross who in 1957 persuaded Jack McClelland (publisher of McClelland & Stewart) of the value of a series of Canadian works in paperback, a newfangled format but one that allowed for much cheaper book production and, therefore, books that could be afforded by students and casual readers. Would there have been anything like the New Canadian Library without Malcolm Ross's invention, energy, passion, commitment, and friendships?

Until the illness that led to his death in November of 2003, Ross continued to nurture writers, engage scholars, and gladden friends, among whom he counted generations of students.

Those who would like to make a donation, may do so by forwarding it to: Office of External Relations, Macdonald Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, B3H 3J5. ■

## Melanie Rutledge appointed Head of Writing and Publishing at Can Cou

On August 12, 2003, The Canada Council for the Arts announced the appointment of Melanie Rutledge as Head of Writing and Publishing, effective September 22.

Rutledge is currently an Acquisitions Editor in the Professional and Trade Division of John Wiley & Sons Canada Ltd. She previously worked as Associate Editor at CDG Books Canada Inc., as an Account Executive at Arts & Communications – a sponsorship agency that creates partnerships between Canadian arts organizations, business and government – and at Nicholas Hoare, a Toronto bookseller.

A graduate of McGill University in English Literature and Art History, Melanie Rutledge also has a background in dance and trained for eight years at the National Ballet School. She has been active in the National Ballet School Alumni Association, serving as co-chair of its Communications and Publications Committee. She was also Editor-in-Chief of *The Pillar*, a student publication, while attending McGill and was an editorial assistant at the university's alumni magazine, the *McGill News*.

Mark Watters, the Canada Council's Secretary-Treasurer, said Ms. Rutledge's "publishing background and her broad experience in the arts in Canada make her a wonderful addition to the Council."

Ms. Rutledge replaces Gordon Platt, who left the Council earlier this year to become Director of Book Publishing Policy and Programs at the Department of Canadian Heritage. ■

## Class action suite launched against entire Canuck print media

Heather Robertson is leading a new class action suit concerning freelance journalists' electronic rights. The Statement of Claim filed in the Ontario Superior Court on July 25, 2003, names the following American and Canadian media companies as defendants in the suit: The Gale Group, Inc., Proquest Information and Learning Company, Cedrom-SNI INC., TORSTAR Corp., Rogers Media Inc., and CanWest Publications Inc. These media companies are sued as representatives of a "defendant class," which includes the entire Canadian print media industry, including other smaller companies involved in newspaper, magazine and book publishing.

This new suit is prompted by a proposed settlement in a US case known as "In Re Literary Works in Electronic Databases Copyright Litigation." Lawyer Michael McGowen said it would have been a bad deal for Canadian writers to have been swept into the US settlement; hence, he advised his clients to launch their own class action suit against the entire Canadian industry. McGowen has been representing Robertson in a previous suit against Thomson Corporation for the past seven years. The new suit claims "statutory damages," a provision which was added to the Copyright Act in 1999 and generally provides for damages of at least \$500 per work infringed.

The Statement of Claim for the new suit calls for an injunction restraining publishers from infringing the copyright and moral rights of freelance writers through reproduction, distribution and communication to the public of works in any electronic media. It indicates that freelance writers licensed limited rights to their works, and typically only the right to publish the works once in Canada. Further, the claim refers to the "high-handed and arrogant conduct and wanton and callous disregard for the rights of the Plaintiff Class members," saying that the "... intent and motive of the Defendant Class members was to exploit the Works in Electronic Media for their own profit and to completely exclude the Plaintiff Class members from any financial benefit..." ■

## Gatenby closes the book on Harbourfront

On the eve of the International Festival of Authors 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, founder Greg Gatenby has resigned, confirming rumours circulating for months of friction between Gatenby and Harbourfront.

Widely credited with single-handedly building the Festival in Toronto into one of the world's premier stages for authors, Gatenby was both loved and loathed. Though his contribution is universally acknowledged, he vexed colleagues at other Canadian festivals by insisting that anyone reading at Harbourfront not do so anywhere else in the country for 30 days before or after. Children's writers were not considered; few biographers made the literary cut.

Harbourfront Centre CEO William Boyle has announced Geoffrey Taylor, who has been the manager of the reading series and the literary department for the past 12 years, as new Director. Already Taylor has announced plans for daytime programming for children – Step into Stories for school groups this season and a full scale children's festival for June 2005 – and been in touch with literary festivals across the country to talk collaboration. The 30<sup>th</sup> IFOA takes place in Toronto, October 22 to November 1 with such writers as Margaret Atwood, A.S. Byatt, Peter Carey, and Penelope Lively confirmed. For developing information, visit [www.readings.org](http://www.readings.org) ■



## Writing and Publishing Articles Etc., Lunenburg

Join Sandra Phinney, a published writer and experienced facilitator, for a workshop on writing and publishing articles. For those interested in corporate work, radio documentaries, essays, literary non-fiction – many of the same principles apply.

**When:** Saturday, September 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** Lincoln Street Gallery (above Kinley's Drugstore), 264 Lincoln St., Lunenburg

**Fee:** \$65

**Contact:** Augusta by email [augusta7@eastlink.ca](mailto:augusta7@eastlink.ca) or Sandra Phinney 902-742-2236 ■

## Calling All Books

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia is calling for submissions to the Thomas H. Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize, the Evelyn Richardson Prize for non-fiction by a Nova Scotia writer, and the Atlantic Poetry Prize. Eligible books must have been published during the 2003 calendar year.

The **Raddall Fiction Prize** and **Atlantic Poetry Prize** are open to native or resident Atlantic Canadians who were either born in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick and who have spent a substantial portion of their lives living there, or who have lived in one, or a combination of these provinces, for at least 24 consecutive months prior to the entry deadline date.

The Raddall Prize of \$10,000 is awarded to adult fiction, either a novel or collection of stories, published for the first time in 2003. The Atlantic Poetry Prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to a full-length book of adult poetry published as a whole for the first time in 2003.

The **Evelyn Richardson Prize** of \$1,000 is open to writers who were born, or who have lived for the past year, in Nova Scotia. Eligible titles are adult non-fiction books published during the 2003 calendar year.

The deadline for nomination for each award is December 5, 2003. To enter, four copies of the book and a simple statement attesting to the eligibility of the writer as well as the writer's current address, should be forwarded to the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax NS B3H 4P7. Nominated books will not be returned. ■

## Brimer Nominations

The Nova Scotia Library Association is seeking nominations for the 14th annual Ann Connor Brimer Award, a \$1,000 prize for a children's book which makes an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Atlantic Canada. The award recognizes excellence in writing. Eligible authors must be alive and residing in Atlantic Canada at the time of nomination. The book, which must have been published in Canada between November 15, 2002 and October 15, 2003 must be intended for children up to the age of 15. The book may be fiction or non-fiction, except textbooks, and must be readily available. The Brimer Steering Committee reserves the right to accept or reject nominations. Nomination forms are required and are available from Lara McAllister, Bedford Public Library, c/o 32 Glendale Avenue, Sackville, NS B4C 3M1. For further information, call (902)490-5855 or e-mail [belm1@nsh.library.ns.ca](mailto:belm1@nsh.library.ns.ca) Three copies of the nominated title plus the nominations form must be submitted by the October 15, 2003, deadline. ■

## Dig Your Roots talent search underway – seeks spoken word and electronic dance artists

Deadline: September 26

The National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA/ANREC) is calling for submissions for its national talent development initiative.

Dig Your Roots features independent artists from across Canada, through a series of genre-specific compilations and live concert broadcasts. After a successful first year with Dig Your Roots – Hip Hop, this year will see the continuation of the series with its second and third projects focusing on Spoken Word and Electronic Dance.

Independent artists are invited to submit their work to be featured on the Dig Your Roots website. Following a national selection process, artists will be chosen to appear on compilations to be released in the spring of 2004. Each album will feature three artists from each of the following 5 regions: BC, Alberta, and Yukon; Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NWT, and Western Ontario; Eastern Ontario; Quebec and Nunavut; and the Atlantic Provinces. These artists will take part in a series of regional concerts, each of which will be broadcast live coast-to-coast on participating radio stations.

For more information visit [www.DigYourRoots.ca](http://www.DigYourRoots.ca) ■

# Community of Writers a success for everyone

by Mary Jane Copps

“Transformational” is the word Rose Vaughan uses to describe her experience of Community of Writers at Tatamagouche this summer. I tend to say it was my most powerful creative experience – ever!

High praise for a writers retreat in existence for only three years. Which begs the question: “What makes it work so well?”

The location is a wonder, not just in terms of natural beauty – the river, the canoes, the TransCanada Trail, the field labyrinth – but also in terms of the people who are the Tatamagouche Centre. They supply an atmosphere that sustains and supports creativity – excellent meals, comfortable rooms, delicious snacks, access to computers, photocopiers, microphones, etc., and questions or requests met with an attentive ear and a welcoming smile. All this allows for writers to focus on only one thing – writing.

The professional writers who instruct workshops are chosen not only for their knowledge, but for their ability to deliver that knowledge. This year Linda Little, Sheldon Currie and George Elliott Clarke provided insight into the novel, short story, and poetry, respectively. The results, which I got to hear during an evening café of readings, were phenomenal. Every voice, from every workshop, was strong, clear and vital.

Crucial to this success are the artists/adult educators who work with the professional writers. Gwen Davies, founder of Community of Writers, Rose Adams and Margot Metcalfe have filled this role each year. They maximize the delivery of information and the productivity of each group, by providing support and energy to both students and instructor. It is the dynamic between co-facilitators, a teaching model used by the Tatamagouche Centre, that gives “power” to the impact this week has on individual writers.

The Community also benefits from its retreaters – a group of seasoned writers who use the week to work independently on existing projects. These writers give scheduled readings during the week and, more importantly, share their knowledge and experience with everyone during meals and casual get togethers.



THE COMMUNITY OF WRITERS AT THE TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE IN JULY (PHOTO BY: DEREK HENDSBEE)

LEFT TO RIGHT: KNEELING: LAURIE BRINKLOW, ROSE ADAMS, GILLIAN STRONG, MARY JANE COPPS

SECOND ROW: ELIZABETH PEIRCE, JULIE MCMANUS, GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE, CYD HAYNES, ALLISON COMEAU, JOANNE JEFFERSON, ROSE VAUGHAN, LIZA OLIVER

BACK ROW: JEAN CHARD, DIANE HICKS MORROW, MARY BURNIGHT, JOE SZOSTAK, DAVID POTTER

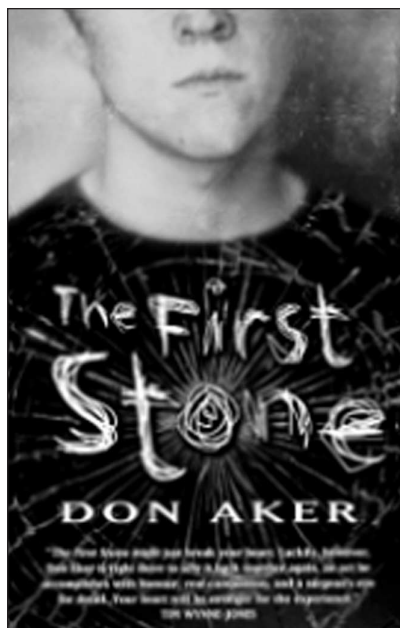
I heard the phrase “community of writers” for the first time several years ago, when I attended a retreat in Rogersville, New Brunswick, led by Joan Clark. During one of our evening gatherings, Joan welcomed each of the six participants into “the community of writers.” She was telling us that, yes, we were indeed writers, but also letting us know that as such, we must not only receive but give support to other writers. And not only learn from, but also teach, other writers. In viewing our writing as a part of a larger whole, we strengthen our own work, and the work of all Canadian writers.

I think of these words often, and do my best to honour them. In creating Community of Writers, Gwen Davies honours them as well, as do all those who participate in this amazing summer event.

And this year, more writers participated than ever before, moving Community of Writers to a new level of success – the waiting list! So, I’m giving you a bit of advance notice about 2004. Confirmed instructors are Carole Langille for Poetry and Stephen Kimber for Creative Non-Fiction. The third instructor is expected to be confirmed by mid-September, so look for detailed information at Word on the Street. ■



## imPRESSed — the newest titles by WFNS members



### The First Stone

Don Aker

HarperCollins Publishers, 2003. \$15.99  
ISBN 0-00-639285-7

Squeezing the rock in his clenched fist made Reef feel powerful. And angry. It was easy, then, to look down from the overpass and choose an anonymous target. Now Leeza Hemming's world has exploded, her body twisted and broken from the car crash that nearly killed her.

Facing months of torturous rehabilitation, Leeza finds a friend in an unlikely hospital volunteer, a young man who looks like he would rather be anywhere than in a hospital. Reaching out to one another in an unconscious need for healing, neither Leeza nor Reef can guess that their fragile bond is based on an act of cruelty and hate.

Author of three books for young adults, Don Aker has worked as a classroom teacher for more than 20 years and has written and co-authored several educational texts. His YA books and short stories have won several national competitions. He lives in Middleton with his wife and two teenaged daughters.



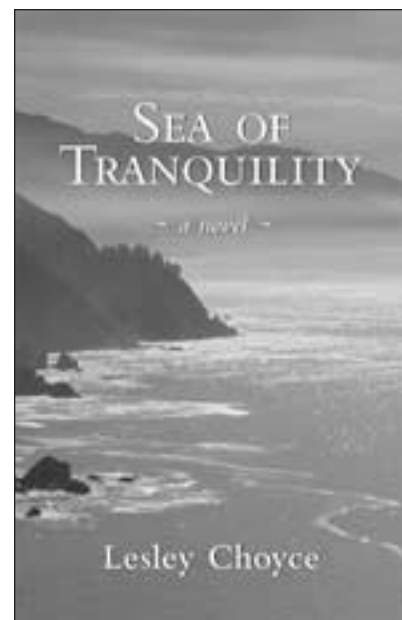
### Ode to Newfoundland

Geoff Butler

Lyrics by Sir Cavendish Boyle  
Tundra Books, 2003. \$19.99 (hc)  
ISBN 0-88776-631-5

Buffeted by the sea, blessed with rugged and beautiful terrain, and lashed by harsh weather, Newfoundland and Labrador is a unique place. "Ode to Newfoundland" was written a century ago but it reflects the heart, wit, and spirit of people as memorable as their land. Geoff Butler's whimsical paintings and detailed notes accompany the words of Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial anthem and celebrate the spirit of life on The Rock.

Geoff Butler grew up on Fogo Island, Newfoundland. He saw much of the province while traveling with his minister father to different outposts. A renowned painter and the winner of the Ruth Schwartz Children's Book Award, Geoff's love of his native province is evident in his children's books. Geoff now lives and paints in Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia.



### Sea of Tranquility

Lesley Choyce

Simon & Pierre, 2003. \$21.99  
ISBN 1-55002-440-X

For Sylvie, Ragged Island – and the whales who swim around it – is the only world she has ever known. It is the place where she was born and raised, where she lived with her four late husbands, and where she plans to live out her remaining years. It is also home to a community whose love for the island is immense. When the Nova Scotia government decides to shut down the ferry service that is the lifeblood of Ragged Island, the residents see their world beginning to disappear. *Sea of Tranquility* is the lyrical and moving story of an island struggling to survive. Lesley Choyce's seventh novel is rich with engaging characters, a page-turning storyline, and uproarious humour.

Winner of the 2003 Ann Connor Brimer Award for *Shoulder the Sky*, Lesley teaches part-time at Dalhousie University, runs Pottersfield Press, and has published nearly 60 books for adults and children. Lesley Choyce lives and surfs year round in East Lawrencetown.



## Trembling on the Edge of Political Change

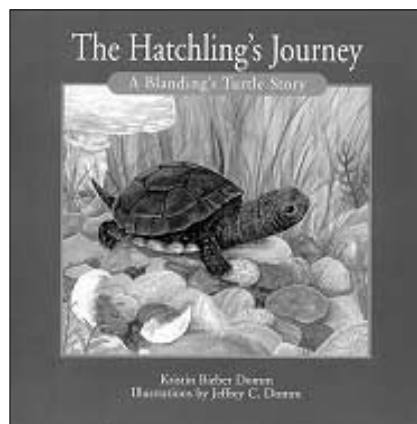
Michael A. Cox.

Published by Michael A. Cox, 2003.  
\$19.95 ISBN 0-9681689-2-2

Michael A. Cox writes in his preface: "The impetus for writing this book is a belief that any parliamentary government based on political parties will not employ proper nonpartisan, unattained solutions to either the present or the future problems of society."

The book offers the author's overview and analyses of the history of Nova Scotia politics and the present political scene. Cox reflects on the reasons that have caused a democratic deficit in the parliamentary system and offers an alternative to the existing political management process.

Mike Cox is a retired merchant and author of *Cruising the Eastern Shore*, a sailing guide to cruising routes and anchorages along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. He lives and writes in Musquodoboit Harbour.



## The Hatchling's Journey: A Blanding Turtle Story

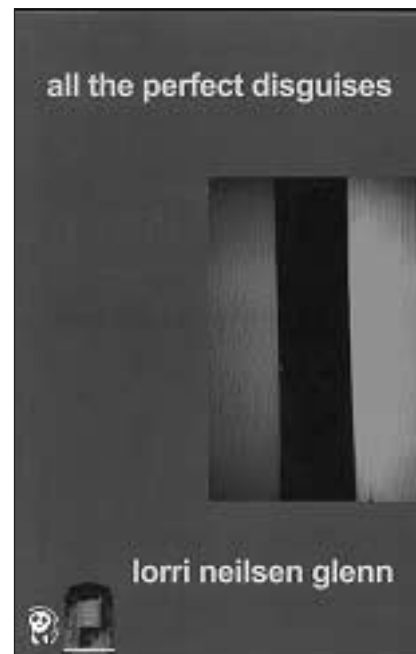
Kristin Bieber Domm;  
illustrated by Jeffrey C. Domm

Nimbus Publishing, 2003. \$8.95  
ISBN 1-55109-438-X

Elen loves turtles. Tuma, her cousin, helps to protect the Blanding's turtle, a rare species that lives near Nova Scotia's Kejimikujik Lake. Elen has come with her family to the Kejimikujik National Park for a Mi'kmaq ceremony to honour the history and culture of her people. After the ceremony, she hopes to join her cousin to check for new turtle hatchlings at the protected nest sites across the lake. Will she encounter a Blanding's turtle hatchling for the first time? Will she get a chance to watch it begin its mysterious journey toward a safe winter place? In this richly illustrated story, Elen discovers that the turtle hatchling's journey is not so different from her own.

Kristin Bieber Domm has been a teacher for more than 20 years. She is the author of *Ahmed and the Nest of Sand*, included in the annual CCBC Our Choice book selections.

Jeff Domm is a wildlife illustrator with 20 book titles and many awards to his credit. Director of the Nova Scotia Wildlife Society, Jeff has been teaching at the NSCAD for 10 years. He paints from his studio in Cow Bay.



## All the Perfect Disguises

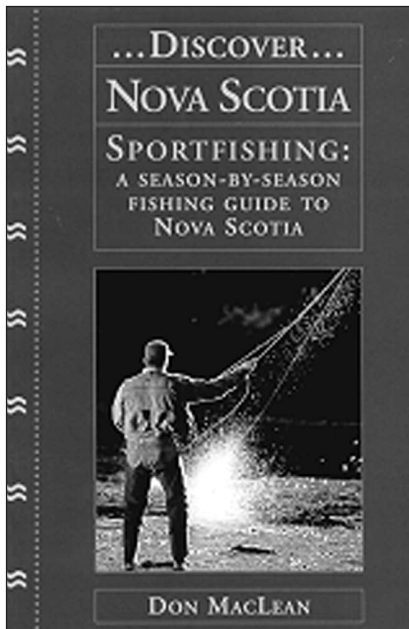
Lorri Neilsen Glenn

Broken Jaw Press, 2003. \$17.95  
ISBN 1-55391-010-9

Last October, Lorri Nielsen Glenn's poetry manuscript, "All the Perfect Disguises," won the 2003 Poet's Corner Award and has now been published by Fredericton's Broken Jaw Press.

Daphne Marlatt comments, "Here is a seasoned feminist eye, an Irish bite. Here is also the raw throb and ache of life lived in deep connection with the past, with seasoned time, and with the history that people's interlaced lives create in a community. And here is beguiling music, ecstatic rhythms danced in a dazzling array of lines. Lorri Neilsen Glenn's first book of poetry has been well worth the wait."

Raised on the prairies, Lorri Neilsen Glenn lives in Hubbards and teaches ethnography and writing at Mt. St. Vincent University. She is the author of several books on research and literacy, including the award-winning *Knowing Her Place* (1998).



**Discover Nova Scotia –  
Sportsfishing:  
A Season-By-Season Fishing Guide  
to Nova Scotia**

**Don MacLean**

**Nimbus Publishing, 2003. \$15.95**

Nova Scotia has always been a sportsfishing paradise. From tidal rivers to freshwater lakes, the province offers a wide variety of fish species at the drop of a fly. Veteran fisherman and writer Don MacLean follows the six provincially designated areas, describes the major angling species found in each and the best season to land them. As a fisheries biologist he provides detailed information on the ecology and life history of the major fish species of the province. This book can be enjoyed by anglers at home or on the water, and is a must for anyone who wants to know when and where to discover the thrill of fishing in Nova Scotia.

Don MacLean is a biologist who works on sportfish management. His weekly column, "Tight Lines," appears in several Nova Scotia newspapers, and his articles on fishing, fly trying and traditional skills have appeared in *Eastern Woods and Waters*, *Atlantic Salmon Journal*, *Saltscapes*, *Canada's Outdoor Sportsman*, and *Fly Tyer*.



**The Brevity of Red**

**Jill MacLean**

**Signature Editions, 2003. \$14.95  
ISBN 0-921833-92-X**

*The Brevity of Red* is the product of long reflection on loss: of a daughter, a sister, parents; and of familial stories. These intelligent, vivid, carefully crafted poems honour the dead, yet they avoid easy answers. Although they affirm the power of love and are centred in the personal, their tendency is centrifugal. With fresh metaphors and emotionally resonant images, MacLean questions those places where we seek solace: our artistic imaginations, our religious traditions and myths, as well as the entrancing, but arbitrarily cruel natural world from which we spring.

Born in England, Jill MacLean moved to Nova Scotia with her family in 1950. After earning her Bachelor of Science from Dalhousie University, she worked in NS, NB and PEI and completed a Master's in Theological Studies at the Atlantic School of Theology. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals including *The Antigonish Review*, *CV2*, *Prism International*, and many others. Currently based in Winnipeg, Jill is moving back to Nova Scotia this fall.



**how we play at it: a list**

**matt robinson**

**ECW Press, 2002. \$15.95  
ISBN 1-55022-551-0**

"at first: the suspension of/disbelief. then, comparison, the compulsion//to equate it": Adam and Eve, hockey sticks and baseball games, the hairbrushes the dead leave behind, photographs and stains on the carpet, love in filthy apartments, someone's cat hit by a car.

matt robinson's second collection of poetry catalogues the bits and pieces, the art and artefacts, the acts and atrocities that make up the living of lives. In poems whose images and metaphors weave into and around each other, *how we play at it: a list* articulates and exposes, at times even interrogates, how it is we "play" about our days.

Recipient of The New Brunswick Foundation for the Arts' Emerging Artist of the Year Award for 2003, matt's poetry has been honoured with many national and international awards. His work has appeared on radio and television, and in numerous anthologies. matt robinson teaches at UNB in Fredericton. *how we play at it* is his second collection of poetry.



# Get ready to act:

## Minority spells opportunity

Mary Jane Copps, President WFNS

You need my column for the September issue of Eastword!! You're kidding – I mean it's only the first week of July. It isn't? It's the middle of August? Are you sure?

Well, of course Jane's sure – she wouldn't make a mistake about the month. But I'm still shaking my head at the speed of my summer. In fact, when I'm finished this column, I'm going to get busy organizing a few last minute adventures: call that friend who likes to go camping, and the other friend with the sailboat, and the other one that likes to play tennis . . . Well, you get the idea. I strongly suggest you pick up the phone yourself.

Despite its speed, the summer did not bring a respite from things political. As you all know, we had an election. Said election put the kibosh on the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia's last scheduled meeting with the Tourism and Culture folks, but there's a commitment for a meeting in September, and I think it will be fun. Why? Because we now live in a province with a minority government. My response to this? Yeah!!!

Part of the reason for my enthusiasm is that I lived in Ontario during its last minority government. And it was great! Great because the public learned more about what was really going on in the hallowed halls of the provincial legislature. And great because unheard voices suddenly began to come through loud and clear.

So, in terms of this province's arts community, minority spells opportunity. And we better grab it while it's here. Both the NDP and the Liberals have clearly stated, on more than one occasion, that they not only support arts and culture, but that they support reinstating an arms-length arts council. Now, if both these parties agree, and were to present a united front on this issue . . . They do outnumber the Conservatives . . . Do you see where I'm going here?

The summer has given us an opening, a way, to be heard loud and clear over the coming months, and to create change, change that will benefit us as individuals, and the province as a whole, for many, many years.

A "planned" effort is being discussed, but don't wait for that to be announced. Pick up your pen or your phone, compose an email or send a fax to your NDP or Liberal MLA, and to Darrell Dexter and Danny Graham. Remind them of their commitment to the arts and ask them to act on that commitment.



And in Ottawa, Joan Clark continued to lead the charge in discussions with Canadian Heritage and The Canada Council of the Arts regarding the Public Lending Right Commission (PLR). In April 2003 the PLR Commission was informed by the Council that the author payment budget would be cut by \$630,000 – because the Canada Council's endowment fund is significantly reduced due to havoc in the financial markets.

According to Joan's letter to me of July 2, 2003: "We believe an internal budgetary matter such as this for the Council is not to affect Public Lending Right."

To this end, she has met with Canada Council director, John Hobday, and with the Council's Board of Directors, and is scheduled to meet soon with senior Council staff. Joan has forewarned me that, "Should it not be possible to come to an agreement that is satisfactory to the Public Lending Right Commission, we shall be asking for help."

Which means I will be asking you to grab a pen! So, as the fall begins to settle around us, might I suggest you keep your favourite writing pad handy, along with some envelopes and stamps. I have a premonition I'm going to be asking you to send out more than one letter before the snow flies.

Oh yes, and hurry and make that date for another outdoor barbeque, and that trip to the beach, and . . . A happy and colourful fall to all. ■

# Who's doing what

**Racked:** members' work appearing in the tempting treasure trove of journals, mags and e-signals crossing your editor's desk into the Fed Reference Library (open 9:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday for your amusement and erudition): two new poems from **Sue MacLeod** in *The Antigonish Review*, and fascinating musings on the legacy of Che Guevara in an essay from **Wayne Curtis**; **Gary Saunders** has two upcoming pieces in *Canadian Geographic* "Canoe Cape" will appear in November along with a piece on the Nova Scotia floods; *Saltscapes* continues to glow with vibrant writing and in **Jodi DeLong's** case, vibrant heritage plants, or in **Kate Langan's**, hand-made paper in which she captures summer before we all sit and natter with **Harry Bruce** about Atlantic tightwads on the 'Back Porch'; *Pottersfield Portfolio* features Atlantic Writing Competition winners including **Susan Cameron** in the latest issue, along with new work from **Carole Langille** ... you can't miss it on the newsstands with a Nicole Dextras' gleaming image of an oriental Venus emerging from a circle of fire under a viaduct; **Karla Henderson's** seen her poems featured recently in Acadia's *Estuary* magazine and is a-twitter that one of the songs she's written was included in the Acadia compilation CD released in July; **Jocelyn Bethune** is again great with words and with child (#3 due in October) having signed back on with the *Cape Bretoner* to do the regular 'Rural Round-up'; **Don MacLean** remembers his proverbs - 'Go to the ant ... consider her ways and be wise' in his ant-ly advice to flyfishers in *Eastern Woods & Waters* where you can also find **Hugh McKervill** imag-

ining better ways to know your kids than taking them out to the wilds, as well as interviewing Max Spicer; travel's at issue in the current *The Fiddlehead* with **Richard Cumyn** aptly represented with an excerpt from *The View from Tamischeira*; did you know that in a recent poll, 71% of Australians said they would not support a free trade agreement with the US if it resulted in fewer Australian tv programs? As editor of *Canadian Screenwriter*, **Phil Moscovitch** does. In the current issue he takes a 20/20 look at ways Canada can support drama, and also offers sage advice on the dread film release form; don't miss the Fall edition of *Grain* and short grain postcard story winners **Lorri Neilsen Glenn** and **Jim Lindsey** chosen for their "poise, flair, conundrum, not only in that order but in every order possible"; **Joanne Jefferson's** been out to the gallery for *Visual Arts News* reviewing 'From the Shore' at Acadia University while **Sandra Phinney** took a long look at Nelson Surratte's paintings in the Government House Acadian History through Art exhibit and **Gary Castle** drove by Kay Stanfield's appearance at the Mary E. Black Gallery; **Nancy Muzzatti** has been on a roll with five articles appearing in *Coastlines*, which is distributed to independent weeklies up and down the South Shore; wouldn't you love to wash dishes with **Jim Lotz** whose reverie on the subject added bubble to *The Globe And Mail's* Facts and Arguments page this summer; *Thought Magazine* made **Thea Atkinson's** summer with their inclusion of an excerpt of her unpublished novel "Throwing Clay Shadows"; **Thomas Head Raddall's** account of the Halifax Explosion in "In My Time" appears in the

recently released *Stories from Ink Lake* (Random House), edited by Michael Ondaatje; where better to be in the summer than *Green's Magazine* as is **Laura Best** with her story "That Summer at Tom Stacey's"; there's some crafty writing in the summer issue of *Nova Scotia Craft News* with **Theresa Perrin** introducing "haptic" art; **Steve Vernon** expanding on the theme, **Lara Morris** adding substance while **Joyce Glasner** steps back to review *The Persistence of Craft*, edited by NSCAD President Paul Greenhalgh; and speaking of art ... **Alice Burdick** checked out the MSVU Gallery and the Blind Stairs exhibit for the summer issue of *Arts Atlantic*; **Donna D'Amour** had a pitch-perfect summer with articles appearing in *The Beaver* and *Style at Home*; **Joanne Merriam** may have strayed from Fed Central but she's keeping the literary fires fed: five of her poems are included in *Reactions 4* (Pen & Inc. Press), two in *Room of One's Own*, another in *The Antigonish Review* and a third in *Bovine Free Wyoming*; **Patty Mintz**, who is full-time editor for *The Regional Magazine*, a specialty publication distributed from Windsor to Digby, will see her sixth feature article in the next issue of *Saltscapes*; when she won first prize in the 2002 Atlantic Writing Competition, everyone wanted to know where they could read **Judith Green Ferron's** essay. "Inside Aunt Margaret's World" complete with a picture of Aunt Margaret was featured in the June issue of the national *Presbyterian Record*; **Joey Fitzpatrick** is refreshingly pragmatic about finances in *The Chronicle Herald's* Business Section - not even fazed by things funereal.

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**On the Launch Horizon:** **Vicki Grant** has two books scheduled from Orca – *The Puppet Wrangler* this fall followed by *Qui Pro Quo* in 2004; **Hugh Macdonald** feted the launch of his fourth collection of poems, *Cold Against the Heart* (Black Moss) this August at the Confederation Centre Library in Charlottetown; **Don Aker**'s newest YA novel, *The First Stone*, is already receiving rave reviews as it soars from the HarperCollins launch pad; this October **Dorothy Perkins** will be celebrating the launch by Beach Holme Publishing of her latest historical adventure for young adults, *Last Days in Africville*; **Alice Walsh** has two new books headed to market, *Pomivk: Prince of the North* as well as a history of Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia (Gaspereau Press); **Richard Cumyn** is basking in glowing reviews for his recent collection of nine stories, *The Obstacle Course* (Oberon) which hit the bookshelves last summer; **Heather Laskey** will be celebrating the release of *Night Voice: Heard in the Shadow of Hitler and Stalin* due out from McGill-Queen's University Press in October; **Paul Zann** has wrangled *The Aussie Six in Canada* onto a snowbank thanks to Borealis Press which will be tobogganing it onto the market this October; McClelland & Stewart has launched **Anne Simpson**'s second collection of poetry, *Loop*, to seamless praise across the country; *A Darker Light* by **Heidi Priesnitz** will be released by Dundurn Press this October. Heidi's third book joins her Vally-published collection of short stories, *Tangled with Leaves* and novel, *Drifting*; it's not everyday that a Canadian poet has a new collection of hockey poems – **matt robinson** will this spring with a limited edition letterpress chapbook from BC's Frog Hollow Press; with *Mystery at Port Royal* now available from Borealis

Press for young adult readers, **Barbara Little** decided younger children needed a Nova Scotia story. Cubhunter Cubby Books has just released her *Mimikej and the Far Too Big Moccasins*;

**Kudos:** **Catherine Banks** was one of the three category winners in Theatre BC's Playwriting Competition with "Bone Cage", and we're thrilled to hear that Toronto's Equity Showcase Productions is producing *Three Storey Ocean View* this October with direction from Pamela Halstead; there were over 650 entries winnowed down to 12! **Margaret Angus** and "The Trouble with Trouble" was one of these finalists in The Writers' Union of Canada Writing for Children competition.



**Michael Ungar** read about it in Friday's News from Ma Fed. By day, an associate professor at the Maritime School of Social Work at Dal and author most recently of *Playing at Being Bad* (Pottersfield), Michael honed his fiction chops and sent a story off to the *Toronto Star*. While he was away on holiday, he received the following e-mail: "Your story, 'Stale', has won the first prize in the *Sunday Star*'s short story contest. That means you have won \$10,000 as well as the tuition fee for The

Humber School for Writers Creative Writing Correspondence Program."

**Heard it on the Airwaves:** Oops, missed **Janice Comeau**'s animated contribution to CBC Radio-1 Mainstreet Book Club which is keeping talk of the best in Canuck fiction front and centre; **Lisa Teryl**'s regular contributions to deciphering all things legal are sage and supportive; while **Michael Haynes** gets his hikes in during the dawning hours on *Information Morning*. Over on Bell Road at CBC-TV, Mary Walsh is hosting Open Book with **Lesley Choyce** hobnobbing with Lloyd Axworthy and Warren Kinsella; **Sue Goyette** rubbing shoulders with Geoff Pevere and Peter MacNeill; and **Sylvia Hamilton** dispelling shadows with

Brian Johnson and Kathleen Edwards. Hope you all were lucky enough to hear the rebroadcast of **Ami McKay**'s compelling Sunday Morning documentary, *Daughter of Family B*.

■ It was the opening of the International Theatre Institute's World Theatre Congress at the Grand Parade, Halifax. Though Premier John Hamm was unable to attend, the event was opened with the mellifluous **Clyde**

**Wray** who was commissioned to write a poem for the occasion. Clyde has a new play headed for the rehearsal hall, *Coz We All Ain't Heroes*, with One Light Theatre Company in Halifax.

■ **Melanie Jasmine Grant** took the Federation's motto of "helping writers to help themselves" to heart. Linked through the Fed to the Talent Trust website

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(www.nstalenttrust.ns.ca), she made application ... and was rewarded with a scholarship to take a poetry course with **Brian Bartlett** this fall. Congratulations.

■ Hungry? Well, you now have help! **Stephen Maher** (the hungry critic) has a 170 suggestions for your gustatory appetites in *A Reliable Guide to the Restaurants of Nova Scotia* just out from Nimbus. Honest, irreverent and not too snooty to join you for fish n' chips, Stephen's the man to keep you clear of any dining pitfall.

■ **Alice Burdick** spent early June on the West Coast entertaining the clientele at Milk (those Lotus Landers maintain uniquely different drinking establishments from ours) with poems from her *Simple Master* (Pedlar Press) prior to being interviewed by the Sad Goat himself, Bill Richardson, and receiving paeans of praise for her work in *subTerrain*.

■ After serving as a resource person on a meeting on affordable housing, **Jim Lotz** contributed a piece on the subject – "grassroots centre curbs housing crisis in inner city" – to the June 1 issue of *Catholic New Times*. Sifting for gold in earlier experiences, Jim pulled nuggets from his 1963 mistaken turn while crossing of the Chilkoot Pass following the 1898 Gold Rush Trail, and crafted them into a piece ("Over the Chilkoot: The Wrong Way") for *The Yukoner Magazine*.

■ When not minding his 8-month old son Onyx or tending his garden, **Derek Bradford** has been making his mark, participating in and being chosen as one of the 10 finalists in *Contemporary Verse 2's* two-day poetry contest. He also marked World Peace and Poetry Day with

a performance of his work on the Halifax waterfront.

■ **Alf Silver's** doing it in French. Editions Trait d'Union in Québec has acquired translation rights to his Rad-dall Award-winning novel, *Acadia*. Originally published by Ballantine/Random House in New York, it has gone out of print as the publishing company shifted through innumerable corporate affiliations. Poetic justice that it become available in French, telling as it does of the first civil war in North America with Acadians on either side of the Bay of Fundy pitted against each other in pitched sea battle.

■ In a nation where 1,000 copies marks run-away success in the poetry market, **Sue Goyette** is thrilled that *The True Names of Birds* (Brick) is headed into a sixth printing. After reading at the Festival of Words in Moose Jaw this summer, Sue headed across the prairie into the Qu'Appelle Valley to teach at Sage Hill.

■ Also in Moose Jaw reading from new releases were **Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaassen** and **Sue MacLeod**. Sue found herself participating in a panel of Laureates from across the country – George Bowering (Canada), Dennis Lee (Toronto), Glenn Sorestad (Regina) – which was moderated irreverently by Vancouver writer Tom Wayman, who quipped that he thought having to serve as a poet laureate was like caging the canary and telling it how to sing.

■ Keeping up with **Lesley Choyce** is as likely as containing greased lightning. This summer Dundurn Press released his seventh adult novel, *Sea of Tranquility*, adding to his extraordinary list of more than 50 titles of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Did

we mention his band? The teaching load? Filmmaking? That he's a publisher in his own right? Occasionally surfs?

■ **Edith Comeau Tufts** hasn't allowed 84 years of living to slow her down, addressing visiting high-school classes at Université-Ste-Anne and delivering a lecture to the graduating French class at St. FX. Her book, *Le Petit Acadien*, is now in every elementary school in Louisiana and also was recently adopted at the Memramcook School in NB.

■ The Face-It Project continues. Park West School unveiled a multi-cultural mosaic composed of over 600 tiny ceramic tiles featuring self portraits of every student in the P to 9 school, coincidentally representing the 24 languages from more than 30 counties reflected in the school's student body. Creator of the Face-It Project **Laura Jolicoeur** has involved more than 10,000 children across Canada since she began in 1998 with the goal of illustrating how they perceive themselves in the new millennium.

■ It's Halifax's biggest annual show and now there's a book about it. **Brian Cuthbertson**, with assistance from designer Arthur Carter, was applauded at the Cambridge Military Library on the launch of *Gunpowder & Grease Paint: The Nova Scotia International Tattoo*. Published by Nimbus in concert with the Tattoo Society, the richly illuminated volume looks at 25 years of tattoo accomplishments and stories.

■ When not inspiring us all to be perspiring in the garden, **Jodi DeLong** has taken on the job of Atlantic Regional Director on the Board for the Periodical Writers of

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Association. Meanwhile, **matt robinson** is the new President for the League of Canadian Poets, with **Lorri Neilsen Glenn** serving as the NS/NL rep, while Joe Sherman does the same for NB/PE.

■ The Directors, members and staff of WFNS are delighted to extend the warmest welcome, or welcome back, to the following member writers:

Tim Alison, Meteghan  
Margaret Bettoni, Halifax  
Erna Buffie, Halifax  
Beverley Burlock, Port Mouton  
Pam Calabrese MacLean, Antigonish  
Dina E. Cox, Unionville, Ontario  
Mark Deal, Windsor  
J. Gregory Dill, Dartmouth  
Maria E. Gillespie, Pleasantville  
Corey Hardeman, Halifax  
Karla Henderson, New Glasgow  
Twila Johnson, Stillwater Lake  
Rose-Marie Lohnes-Hirtle, Mahone Bay  
A.A. (Tony) MacKenzie, Merigomish  
Stephen Maher, Halifax  
Sondra Mantle, Truro  
Nancy Malek, Stillwater Lake  
Elaine McCluskey, Dartmouth  
Tom McNeill, Halifax  
Charlotte Mendel, Halifax  
Chad Norman, Truro  
Amanda Pelham, Halifax  
Terry Gordon Pippy, Halifax  
Helen Pretulak, Brackley, PEI  
Carmen Regan, Halifax  
Mona Rogers, Upper Musquodoboit  
Atulya Saxena, Halifax  
Sheila Smith, Halifax  
Elizabeth Stevens, Canal, NB ■

## www.writers.ns.ca

*"The Writers Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS) This in-depth site provides information on WFNS objectives, membership, competitions, awards and news about events in the provincial arts community. Included are excerpts from the WFNS newsletter Eastword and bio-bibliographies of WFNS members. This site provides a wealth of information for aspiring writers on topics such as manuscript evaluation, funding, copyright, and markets and resources for writers. Included are extensive links to online journals and literary organizations."*

So says the National Library of Canada in their Selected Canadian Websites, introduced with "These sites have been chosen for their usefulness in aiding researchers in the appreciation and study of Canadian literature."

The BC Writers Guild includes us under Resources, commenting that "WFNS has done a wonderful job of putting together a list of writing resources. Favourites include ..."

The WFNS website began in 1993. Richard Cumyn wandered into the Federation office and spun an unlikely tale of webs, nets and chebuctos, volunteering to establish a virtual presence. Whatever that meant, we went for it: over the decade, with a monumental investment from Joanne Merriam and ongoing summer buffing from our students, WFNS, the website, has grown to gloriously reflect the Fed's mandate: "to help writers to help themselves."

This summer, we were blessed with the talent of Liming Xu, a graduate student in Electronic Commerce at Dal. She has spent the summer revising, revamping and creating new features for your website. Links to publishers, organizations and resources have been checked, and the Federation's entire library holdings catalogued and put on-line in a searchable database.

www.writers.ns.ca offers writers everywhere a rich resource: everything from information on awards for which Nova Scotia writers may be eligible, to details concerning agents and contracts, plus a constantly revised listing of events happening in our community, professional webpages for Writers' Council members, Writers in the Schools booking information, and links to a vast marketplace. Visit today, visit tomorrow, visit often. If there's material that you think ought to be there and isn't, give the office a shout and we'll see what can be done. ■



LIMING XU



VLASTA VAN KAMPEN

### Mark November for Kids

Canada's perennial favourite, TD Canadian Children's Book Week, kicks off this year on November 1 and runs through the 8th. Families and Friends is the theme which permeates the works of the 2003 tour participants.

**Sylvia Gunnery** will travel from Nova Scotia to Québec, and Marthe Jocelyn and Frieda Wishinsky will be visiting us here in Nova Scotia, joining 25 other writers trundling from pillar to post across this vast land.

Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation is sponsoring a national writing contest for children in Grades 2 to 6, and the TD Bank Financial Group, in cooperation with Ministries of Education and school boards across the country, will be giving a copy of Manjusha Pawagi's *The Girl Who Hated Books* (Second Story Press) with illustrations by Leanne Franson to every first-grader in Canada.

In Nova Scotia, writing workshops are scheduled here at the Fed with Marthe Jocelyn (November 1, 10:30 to 2) and Frieda Wishinsky (November 8, 10:30 to 2), as well as the ever popular Bowl for Brimers and the annual Brimer Lecture. Details will appear at our website as available, and for more National Book Week information, visit [www.bookweek.ca](http://www.bookweek.ca) ■

## Gaspereau Press Wayzgoose, October 18 & 19

Gaspereau Press is one of a handful of literary publishers in Canada that print books in-house. Because of its unique position as a printer and publisher, and its commitment to typography, fine printing and book making, Gaspereau has developed an annual community event that brings the whole community in direct contact with the tools of the trade: type, ink, paper and the printing press. On October 18 and 19, Gaspereau Press will host its fourth annual wayzgoose and open house at its printing works in Kentville. The event will include the following activities and workshops:

### Poetry Workshop

Author Jan Zwicky of Victoria, BC, will facilitate a poetry workshop for 10 writers. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their publication experience and a 5-page sample of recent work to be submitted with their application. This workshop will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 9 until noon at the Kings Courthouse Museum. There is a \$20 registration fee.

### Bookbinding Workshop

Book artist Ruth Legge of West Brooklyn, NS, will host a bookbinding workshop for 10 people. During the 3-hour workshop, participants will fold, sew, back and cover a blank-paged journal in a cloth-spined, paper-covered binding. No previous bookbinding experience is required. Materials will be supplied. Participants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. This will be held Saturday, October 18, from 9 until noon at the Gaspereau Press printing works. There is a \$20 registration fee.

### Book-Arts Lecture & Open House

This year's lecture will be delivered by internationally celebrated poet and typographer Robert Bringhurst, author of *The Elements of Typographic Style*. His lecture is entitled "The Body of the Reader and the Body of the Work." This is intended for a general audience and will be presented Saturday, October 18, at 1 p.m. in the Cornwallis Dining Room, Cornwallis Inn, 325 Main Street, Kentville. Free admission.

### Open House at the Printing Works

There will be an open house at the printingworks (Saturday, 2:30 to 5 p.m.). Come and see demonstrations of both modern and antique production methods. Free admission.

### Public Roundtable

Moderated by Susan Haley, the roundtable explores the limits of punctuation. Panelists include Robert Bringhurst, George Elliott Clarke and Jan Zwicky. Come take part in this informal and engaging conversation. Presented Saturday October 18 at 7 p.m., upstairs at Paddy's Pub, Kentville. Free admission.

### Sunday Readings

Gaspereau Press will launch a number of new books during the wayzgoose. Come and hear readings from a number of , including George Elliott Clarke, Susan Haley and John Terpstra. Presented at 2 p.m. in the Cornwallis Dining Room, Cornwallis Inn, 325 Main Street, Kentville. Free admission.

For more information, contact Beth Crosby at 902-678-6002. ■



# Markets, etc.

*Remember that you have access to the Internet and the World Wide Web through your neighbourhood library and its Public Access Computers. Appearance of a market or contest in this column does not imply an endorsement by WFNS.*

■ Anyone who's written poetry, fiction and non-fiction about the Saskatchewan River is invited to contact Myrna Kostash for possible inclusion in a Reader's Companion to the Saskatchewan River scheduled for 2005. She can be reached at kostashm@yahoo.ca or at #110, 11716 - 100 Ave., Edmonton, AB T5K 2G3. (WGA WestWord)

■ **Knight Literary Journal:** Knight Media Strategies Inc, Attn: Knight Literary Journal, PO Box 449, Spout Spring, VA 24593 USA (www.knightjournal.com) Now accepting material for Vol. 2. Include name, address, and email address in upper left corner of first page. SASE for return of ms. Replies in 2 months. Sim subs ok but notify if accepted elsewhere. (Wordwrap)

■ **Surface & Symbol:** (news@scarborougharts.com) The Scarborough Arts Council newspaper is now accepting poetry submissions. Send up to 3 poems, 30 lines max each, and the spaces between stanzas count as lines. Send the poems in the body of the email (attached files will be deleted). Pays in copies.

■ **Vallum: contemporary poetry** PO Box 48003, Montreal QC H2V 4S8 (www.vallummag.com) An upcoming issue will focus on "Reality Checks." Deadline November 1. Send 4 to 7 pages of original, unpublished work. Check website for details.

■ Women writers who have friends or relatives with mental illness are invited to submit essays to an anthology on "Living with the Heartbreak of Mental Illness." Submissions should focus on emotional impact, action taken to deal with the sufferer's illness, coping mechanisms, successful healing, re-establishing family harmony. Send typed essays, 10 to 12 pages double-spaced to Anthology, Ride the Wind Publishing, PO Box 3831, Courtenay, BC, V9N 7P2. Deadline December 31. Payment: a copy of the book.

■ **The People's Poet:** seeks poetry of all kinds for website, book projects and journals via email (peoplespoet@ntlworld.com). Website: www.thepeoplespoet.co.uk

■ **Murderous Signs:** c/o The Grunge Papers, PO Box 20517, 390 Rideau St., Ottawa ON K1N 9P4. Email: grunge@achilles.net (www.achilles.net/~grunge/msigns) A literary zine dedicated to presenting comment, prose, poetry, and perspective on subjects literary and cultural, and to the notion that the printed word, well crafted and aimed, can be used as weapon. Pays 3¢/word for prose or 25¢/line for poetry on acceptance. Articles, essays, commentary, fiction: 1,500 to 2,000 words max. Subscriptions: \$5 for 2 issues, \$8 for 4 issues.

■ **Greenboathouse Books:** 643 Niagara St, Victoria, BC, V8V 1J1. Email: info@greenboathouse.com (www.greenboathouse.com). Accepting poetry chapbook submissions. Chapbooks are hand-made, no more than 30 pages, and print runs are small (100). Not interested in poetry that rhymes or is centre-justified. Looking for mini-collections/sequences of poems or postcard short stories, a single long

poem or short story, or an interesting mix of these or any other literary form that might work particularly well in chapbook format. Check their website for details and to see what they like (www.greenboathouse.com/submissions.htm).

■ **This Magazine:** Julie Crysler, Editor, 401 Richmond St. W Suite 396, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8 (www.thismagazine.ca) welcomes queries from writers, working journalists and freelancers. Readership is Canada-wide, so no local issues unless they have national interest or implications. A good *This* article offers background and context to ongoing national issues, a challenge to the mainstream media perspective, or an important story that hasn't been told elsewhere. Subject matter includes the arts, culture, politics, labour, feminism, and sexuality, with a focus on quality writing and in-depth research. This is a small budget operation so they often ask unknown writers to write on-spec (no guarantee of acceptance). "Although we pay freelancers as much as we can, we frequently ask people who have a full income elsewhere to write for an honorarium of \$100." For information on departments and feature, visit their website and click on "Write for *This*."

■ **The Sun:** Sy Safransky, Editor, 107 N. Roberson St., Chapel Hill NC 27516. (www.thesunmagazine.org) Publishes essays, interviews, fiction, poetry. Tends to favour personal writing, but also looking for thoughtful, well-written essays on political, cultural and philosophical themes. No journalistic features, academic works or opinion pieces. Pays up to \$1,000 for major essays, \$300 to \$750 for other essays and interviews, \$300 to \$500 for fiction, and

continued on page 19

\$50 to \$200 for poetry. May pay less for very short works. Read the magazine before submitting. Sample copies available \$5 US.

■ **Llewellyn Publications:** PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383 ([www.llewellyn.com](http://www.llewellyn.com)) Publishes New Age occult, metaphysical, fantasy, fiction and non-fiction. Looking for works for ages 8-12, 12-18. Accepts entire manuscripts or proposals (cover letter, outline, sample chapters). Has specific procedures and requirements for submitting manuscripts. Check website ([www.llewellyn.com/history/submit.php](http://www.llewellyn.com/history/submit.php)) Pays 10% net royalties. (from Canscaip)

■ **Story Friends Magazine:** 616 Walnut Ave., Scottsdale, PA 15683-1999 ([www.mph.org](http://www.mph.org)) Wants well written stories, told by child protagonist who solves own problems. Message and values subtle (consistent with Christian, but not religious). Lesser holiday stories, realistic, multicultural, love and caring themes. Stories to 800 words. Pays 3 to 5¢/word. Buys poetry 4 to 16 lines, traditional style, pays \$10. Send to editor Susan Reith Swan (from Canscaip)

■ **Enslow Publishers:** Box 398, 40 Industrial Rd., Berkely Heights, NJ 07922-0398 ([www.enslow.com](http://www.enslow.com)) Educational publisher wants writers for non-fiction series, grades 1 & 2, also biographies, social issues, science, self-help, and high interest topics for reluctant readers. No fiction, fictionalized history or dialogue. Special subject knowledge an asset. Query with outline, market analysis and relevant writing experience. Attn: Vice President Editorial Dept. Pays flat fee or advance and royalty. (from Canscaip)

■ **Illumination Arts Publishing Co.** PO Box 1865, Bellevue, WA 98009 ([www.illumination.com](http://www.illumination.com)) Publishes "high quality, enlightening children's picture books with enduring, inspirational and spiritual values." Seeking fiction and non-fiction stories 500 to 2,000 words. Details on website.

## Awards

■ **Bronwen Wallace Memorial Award:** The Writers' Trust of Canada, 40 Wellington St. East, Suite 300, Toronto, ON M5E 1C7. James Davies, prize administrator, phone 416-504-8222, fax 416-504-9090, email: [jdavies@writerstrust.com](mailto:jdavies@writerstrust.com). Short fiction category. An annual award of \$1,000 given to a writer under the age of 35 not yet published in book form and without a book contract. Must have been published in at least one independently edited magazine or anthology. Submit no more than 2,500 words of an unpublished English-language prose fiction sample. Blind judging. Include name, address, telephone number on cover sheet. Entries not returned. Deadline Sept. 30.

## Contests

■ **Theatre in the Raw 1-Act Play Writing Contest:** Theatre in the Raw, Artistic Director/One Act Play Contest, 3521 Marshall St, Vancouver BC V5N 4S2. Phone 604-708-5448. Email [titraw@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:titraw@vcn.bc.ca) Deadline Sept. 30. An original 1-act play, unpublished and unproduced, no longer than 25 double-spaced typed pages equal to 30 minutes, no more than 6 characters, presented in proper stage-play format. SASE for return of script. First prize \$150 and at least one dramatic reading or staging of play at a Theatre in the Raw café/venue. 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40. Entry fee \$25/play

or \$40 for 2. Make cheques payable to Theatre in the Raw.

■ **AQT Vancouver 2004 Writing Contest:** A Queer Theatre sponsors this contest open to all local, national and international writers. Submissions are accepted of plays (dialogue, monologue), poetry and other forms of performable writings (visual/dance/musical). No restrictions on length, subject, themes, and content, but remember it is a "queer theatre company." Submitted work must not have been professionally performed in North America. Official entry form necessary. Deadline December 1. Details on website ([www.queertheatre.com](http://www.queertheatre.com))

■ **TWUC's Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers:** SPC, The Writers Union of Canada, 40 Wellington St., 3rd floor, Toronto ON M5E 1C7 ([www.writersunion.ca](http://www.writersunion.ca)) Deadline November 3 postmark. \$2,500 prize. Open to Canadian writers unpublished in book format and without a contract from a book publisher. \$25/entry. Name must not appear on manuscript. Unpublished non-fiction or fiction up to 2,500 words in English.

■ **Ray Burell Award for Poetry:** c/o Valley Writers Guild, PO Box 534, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0. Unpublished poetry, single-spaced, up to 60 lines. Deadline November 7 postmark. Entry fee \$5 (payable to Valley Writers Guild). No limit to entries. Send 2 copies of each entry: one with complete ID, including email, and one with no author ID. Grand prize \$500. Secondary prizes \$200/\$100, 3 honourable mentions of \$20 each. Winners published in *The Grist Mill*.

# At our WITS beginning

It all starts again on September 15 at 9 a.m.

Our blonde heads will be spinning and the tips of our speedy fingers smoking at the keyboard as we open bookings for the 2003–04 Writers In The School season. The new WITS site is up and running at our main webpage with a colourful menu of writing and literacy exercises, readings, workshops and other activities offered by more than 70 writers participating in the program. (To reach the site, visit [www.writers.ns.ca](http://www.writers.ns.ca) – then click on “writers in schools” in the left side column). Teachers and librarians can book author presentations designed for specific age groups in a variety of writing disciplines. As in previous years, Ma Fed has invited visiting writers to take part in the program. This fall, Newfoundland’s Janet McNaughton, Ontario’s Ted Staunton, and Manitoba’s Linda Holeman will share their books and tips on writing with Nova Scotia schools.

Our warmest thanks go to all WITS angels who continue to make sure this worthwhile project continues and grows:

Don Aker  
Susan Atkinson  
Mary Jo Anderson  
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George Elliott Clarke  
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