

east word

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA



Steven, the biker from Lawrencetown, sat back on his Harley, grinning. "This is cool," he said. "I love this."

LORRI NEILSEN GLENN "POEMS" STEVEN STRICKLAND OF LAWRENCETOWN AT THE FERRY TERMINAL IN HALIFAX.

Random Acts – Poetic Division

by Lorri Neilsen Glenn

"A poem?? Sure. Why not?"

"Oh, that poetry thing. I heard about you."

"Yes, go for it!"

And go for it we did. During the last week of October, 27 Canadian poets hit the pavement to sidle up to strangers, books in hand, and ask: "Would you like to hear a poem?" Although the first Random Acts of Poetry Week captured widespread media attention, its success – bringing poems to people who may not have heard one since high school – can't be measured in sound bytes or photo ops. Its real success was the gift of connection.

There was Barbara, the grandmother nosing through the stacks of the Alderney Gate library. "A what?!" she barked. "A poem?" Her eyes locked on mine as I finished:

"Oh, dear!" she said, giving my shoulder a hearty swipe.

"You're going to make me cry." Hard-hatted Danny had just hauled a wheelbarrow of cement along the dock outside when I stopped him. After I had inscribed a copy of *All the Perfect Disguises* for him and thanked him for his time, he leaned in, whispered, "You know, I write poetry too." Steven, the biker from Lawrencetown, sat back on his Harley, grinning. "This is cool," he said. "I love this." Not bad, I thought, for a guy whose helmet sports the sticker: I'm not the one with the #\$^&%^ attitude!

Doug the ex-railway worker by the tracks. Starry-eyed Georgie, plaids, stripes and polka dots hanging off her tiny shoulders, perched like Alice in an oversized chair in the seniors' home. Elizabeth, the quiet crossing guard:

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"You have made my day." Gaby, from the Mount: "What a civilized way to start a week." The local vet, a museum guard, an antique shop owner, two caffeine-slurping students at Café Vienna – everyone welcomed a poem. Well, almost. One tea drinker in a shop sighed heavily. "I guess," she muttered. By the time I finished the poem – about tea – she had offered a tepid smile.

For me, Random Acts of Poetry was initially about freeing poems from the dusty stacks of the library and from the clutches of the pedants and pedagogues. Returning poetry to where it began – in public spaces – and having fun in the process. Random Acts, conceived by Wendy Morton and supported by the Victoria Read Society and AbeBooks, revitalizes poetry in the way that the Spoken Word movement does. But what lingers from my 50-some encounters is not only the delicious thrill of randomness and surprise, or the chance to play literary Santa. It is something deeper, visceral. Each time, with each person, poetry held us suspended. We stopped. Traffic noise disappeared. Ear and voice cradled in an intimacy that a million have-a-nice-days could never achieve. For a few sweet human moments we connected, and we knew: yes, indeed, words rock the world.

Thanks to Paula Hutchinson, Rose Vaughan, Mary Jane Copps, Allan Neilsen, Marilyn Martell, Lindsay Brown, and Kelly Connors and others for their help. More information on the project is at www.randomactsofpoetry.com. ■

Mentor myths

Story is that before setting off for Troy, Odysseus turned to his trusted friend Mentor, asking him to keep an eye on Telemachus, the son recently born to Odysseus and Penelope. With Mentor's guidance the young man grew into the kind of individual who would make a parent proud, the kind of child who longed to roust insolent suitors from his mother's house. Athene steps in to aid the attractive young man and decides to disguise herself as Mentor so she can capitalize on the earned trust and familiarity to prompt Telemachus to bold undertakings.

While WFNS mentors aren't *necessarily* Goddesses of Wisdom, blessed with divine insight and power, they are seasoned writers and trustworthy counsellors who, over the past four years, have offered practical guidance to their apprentice writers while fretting over their well-being, success and accomplishments. Since the program began in the fall 2001, 40 writers have participated – 20 young writers making a brave commitment to work with 20 senior mortals. And we're beginning to see very concrete results from this approach: **Marilyn Iwama**, **Jacqui Halsey**, **Genevieve Lehr** and **Ami McKay** have each received book contracts; **Sue Cameron** placed first in the Atlantic Writing Competition; **Munju Ravindra** was invited to Banff; and **Laura Trunkey** has been awarded a scholarship from the Humber School of Writing to work with David Adams Richards.

This year's successful applicants were recently chosen by a peer jury from the largest number of submissions received in the history of the program. They are: **Miki Fukuda** who will be working on a poetry collection with Don Domanski; Emily Holton who is developing a novel with **Donna Morrissey**; Amy Jones who will be working on a story collection with **Linda Little**; **Shandi Mitchell** who's stepping out from behind the camera to draft a novel with **Sue Goyette**; and Jacob Mooney who is piecing together a poetry sequence with **Lesley Choyce**. ■

Winter works – Writing sessions at the Fed

WFNS offers the perfect antidote to winter's worst. Come in out of the cold. Explore new words. Surround yourself with the fission of fiction, passion of poetry, fancy of children's stories or fabled wealth ascribed to freelance writing! Or treat yourself to a brief fling – a one-workshop-stand with some of our finest writers. Served up with cookies, coffee and tea at an irresistible price and ridiculously convenient payment terms.

Steady Dates

Poetry with Maureen Hull

When: Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. from January 25 through March 22 (no session February 22)

Cost: \$140 WFNS members/\$175 non-members (easy payment terms available)

This is an 8-week workshop for anyone with a passion for poetry, a hidden clutch of poems under the bed, and a desire to develop their poetic voice in a supportive atmosphere. You will examine classic and modern poetry, and explore the tools of rhythm, rhyme, metaphor, extended metaphor, and poetic language through discussion and exercises. You will create new poems in both traditional and contemporary forms and, if you wish, develop some of your earlier poems.

Although participants will be working primarily as a group, time will be allotted for one-on-one discussion and consultation. You will practice reading your work to a small, sympathetic group of peers. Information on how and where to submit poetry will be available along with suggestions on how to deal with the inevitable, depressing (but challenging) rejection letter. There will be a gentle sprinkling of homework, but no bad marks. Participants should submit two poems by email at least one week before the first class. Please do not send as an attachment. It will not be opened.

Maureen Hull's poetry and fiction have appeared in many magazines and anthologies, most recently *An International Christmas* (BTC Audio Books, Goose Lane Editions). Her short story collection, *Righteous Living* (Turnstone Press), was short listed for the Danuta Gleed Award. In November she toured the Northwest Territories as part of the TD Canadian Children's Book Week.

Fiction with Sue Goyette

When: Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. from January 26 through March 16 at WFNS

Cost: \$140 WFNS members/\$175 non-members (easy payment terms available)

A fiction workshop for 12 participants that will explore the various ways into a story. Suitable for all levels of writers, the class will be divided into two parts. There will be lively discussions and writing exercises in the first hour of the class followed by a workshop for individual writers in the second. A great opportunity to meet other writers in your tribe, exchange ideas, lend support and commiserate over the difficulties that arise on the way to a story or stranded in the middle of one. Sue will help you investigate not only how conflict, theme, characterization and dialogue contribute to the structure of stories, but also how to make better use of observation to create character and plot.

Sue Goyette's first book of poems, *The True Names of Birds*, 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 and short listed for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize. Her second collection of poems, *Undone*, was released this spring by Brick Books and she has recently completed work on her next novel. Sue has taught at the Maritime Writers' Workshop, the Banff Wired Studio and the Sage Hill Experience.

Writing for Children with Norene Smiley

When: Thursday evenings, 7 to 9:30 from January 27 to March 24, plus Sunday, March 20 (no class on March 3)

Cost: \$140 WFNS members; \$175 non-members (Easy payment terms available)

If you have a passion to write for children or young adults but feel you need help to develop your work further, this workshop is for you. Designed to provide support and resources to children's writers, this workshop will give you just the motivation you need to keep moving forward with your craft.

Instructor Norene Smiley will help you find your unique voice by experimenting with point of view and tone, and capturing the child's voice. Using the rich resources of the books on the shelves at the WFNS Resource Library, you will analyze plot and character development, structure and pacing. Each class

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will feature discussions and/or writing exercises tailored to build specific skills. There will also be an emphasis on sharing work in progress and getting critical feedback in a supportive environment. The workshop provides an opportunity to meet other writers with common goals and challenges and to share ideas and marketing strategies. You should come with a project in mind that can be developed and honed during the eight weeks.

Norene Smiley has worked as an editor, bookseller, publisher, writer, teacher, publicist and arts administrator. She was Executive Director of The Word on the Street until 1999, and has served as a member of the Board of the Canadian Children's Book Centre. Today she is Director of the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards.

Freelance Nuts and Bolts with Lezlie Lowe



When: Thursday evenings, 7 to 9, from February 3 to March 24

Cost: \$140 WFNS members; \$175 non-members (Easy payment terms available)

This workshop for 12 participants covers the nuts and bolts of freelance writing – where to sell stories, approaching editors, avoiding common freelancing errors, developing story ideas, and getting paid. Lezlie will also help participants understand the basics of research, ways to focus and rewriting.

Lezlie Lowe is a freelance writer, broadcaster and researcher. She has worked as a writer and editor at *The Coast*, a Halifax weekly newspaper, since 1995 and has freelanced for publications such as *Flare*, *Atlantic Books Today*, *Rev*, *Visual Arts Nova Scotia*, and *2 magazine*. She has worked as the principle researcher on documentary films for Life Network, the Independent Film Channel and Bravo and is a writing tutor in the journalism program at the University of King's College.

Brief flings

The Spoken Word with Shauntay Grant

When: Friday, 18 February, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Cost: \$20 WFNS members; \$25 non-members

The Spoken Word aims to address all the fundamental questions: What is spoken word? How is it different from, and similar to, poetry/rap/hip hop? It will dispel common myths about writing poetry, such as having to adopt an established form to ensure your success. It will encourage freedom of expression and creativity and well as provide workshop participants with an opportunity to create one, or more, new work(s) of poetry and to perform for peers while receiving constructive feedback. The workshop will also provide examples of the art of performance poetry in a brief video presentation, recorded material and live performance.

Shauntay Grant holds a Bachelor of Music from Dalhousie and a degree in journalism from King's. She's musical director of the NS Mass Choir, founder of Word Iz Bond (a collective of spoken word artists), and has worked as writer/researcher/interviewer on CBC Radio and TV. She is a gifted spoken word poet whose talents are much in demand.

Something with Michael Redhill

When: Saturday, March 5, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost: \$45 WFNS members; \$65 non-members (light lunch provided)

Michael Redhill is the author of *Martin Sloane*, winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book for the Canada/Caribbean Region. He has also published five poetry collections and written many plays.

He is the publisher and co-editor, with Michael Ondaatje, of the literary magazine *Brick*. ■



PHOTO BY ANNA WILCOX

Heading North

by Maureen Hull

Earlier this year the Nova Scotia government axed its funding for *Pottersfield Portfolio*. My *second* thought was sympathy for the writers whose fiction I had selected for the upcoming but suddenly defunct issue. They were about to be informed by editor/owner Douglas Arthur Brown that *Pottersfield Portfolio* would be unable, after all, to publish their work. For some it would have been their first time in print. What a heartbreak! Along with the not-to-be-published stories (and poems and reviews and artwork) was my first editorial – not quite such a tragedy, but a bit of a personal disappointment in the midst of my general outrage as a writer, member of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and taxpayer.

The editorial was about Canada's north, my experiences there and my thoughts on why we should grab at any chance to go. I'd just received an invitation to join the TD Canadian Children's Book Week Tour in November and they'd solicited my preferences: where in Canada would I like to go? I'd already been to the Yukon, in 2001, to Dawson City where I'd spent January and February in Berton House finishing a novel. So. Northwest Territories, I said.

It took about 12 hours and 3,000 aeronautical miles to get from Halifax to Hay River on the shores of the Great Slave Lake. It's nowhere near Dawson City but there was that sun again, hanging low in the sky all day, slanting shadows so it always looks like early morning or late afternoon. In Norman Wells, where the temperature dropped 10 more degrees, there was that wonderful hollow boom when you walk on frozen, snow-covered boardwalk, and a reminder not to leave pets out overnight because wolves had been coming into town and snacking (they never eat humans, I was assured, but then I wasn't going walking at night in -28° weather, anyway). In every town there are ravens – huge, black as midnight, masters of the back alleys and the front streets. There is a river (there always seems to be a river), mostly frozen in November but not quite, with winding trails along the bank and pale ice-blue hills beyond.

There's the dress code: warmth, comfort, then style; the generous laid-back welcomes; the expeditions and tours and meals laid on. I sampled whitefish roe and smoked whitefish with champagne, dined on fresh pickerel with cajun sauce – had to work like the devil to keep from getting fat.

There are hundreds of merry, curious, questioning children, wonderful librarians (one of whom, Christine Gyapay, turned out to be Eleonore Schönmaier's sister), and teachers who arrange and promote readings. I walked into the library in Yellowknife and there was Susan Haley who stayed to hear me read my children's books, and to talk. She was, at that point, about halfway through her stint as Writer in Residence in Yellowknife. She used to live up there and there she is, back again.

In my unpublished editorial I wrote: 80% of Canadians live within 60 miles of the Canada/US border. A lot of us go south to visit, few of us go north. It's difficult to get there, it's expensive, it's cold most of the year. Behind



us, over our own shoulders, is the subject of myth and documentaries, a topic for essays and editorials, a source of news stories about land claims, substance abuse, sexual abuse in Residential Schools, violence, environmental damage – a huge mess of problems we feel guilty about because most, if not all, can be laid at our door, or the door of our European ancestors. Our culpability lies in our lack of resolution, ability and willingness to make amends and fix things. That said, this is not an exploration of those issues. It's an attempt to explain why you should go there, at least once in your life.

Here are some generalities which aren't always true so I will get in some trouble for making them, but mostly true, or true often enough that I'm going to put them down:

- ❖ It's staggeringly beautiful up there. The land, sky and sea are as wide as wide, as far as far, as grand as it gets on this planet.

- ❖ A larger percentage of the population seems to be calmer, more individualistic, more generous, friendlier, more concerned with living and less with lifestyle.

- ❖ The light is different; the dark is different. Think about how happy you are when the days start getting longer in the spring. Multiply that by a hundred. That much happiness is good for you.

The Canadian Arctic is our own national treasure and we don't appreciate it nearly enough or take care of it and its peoples nearly well enough. Spending time in the north will expand your view of yourself and your country. If you get a chance to go north, grab it with both hands. It will be a very fine piece of luck.

Me, I hope to write another children's book good enough to prompt an invitation to go touring again. I haven't been to Nunavut yet. ■

Adventures in the skim trade

by Steve Vernon

I launched my new novella, *Long Horn, Big Shaggy* at Chapters back in October, with a modest bit of success. I had a great experience. In a couple of hours of shmoozing and mingling I sold several dozen books, including a few copies of my collection *Nightmare Dreams*. I thought I'd pass along some tips and techniques that seemed to help sell books.

Set up a solid eye-catching display. I had a stuffed zombified buffalo, several stands to hold my books upright, and some signs to tape to the edge of the table. Though not everyone is going to write a novel with such an easily illustrated motif as my reanimated bison, remember this: You are going to be sitting in a store filled with books, at a table full of books. If you want to see that table empty, you may want to bring along a "prop" guaranteed to catch a person's eye. A stuffed raven, borrowed from a taxidermist. A coffin, with a life sized Frankenstein monster. A lava lamp. Anything to grab the attention of the folks who are walking into the bookstore. Stay tasteful if you're in a small tasteful store, but if you're going to be signing/launching at a large big-box like I was pizzazz never hurts.

It's great if you can have your table positioned close to an entrance. At both the Friday and Saturday launch/signing, I was about 10 feet from the door. I could hail anyone who walked in and call their attention to my display.

Have a pitch prepared. It helps to have public speaking experience. I'm a performer and used to working with the public. All of you tongue-tied authors out there, practice in front of a mirror or, better yet, a friend. A further, more radical suggestion: take the time, prior to your launch, to enroll in a Toastmasters' class. I took one years ago and discovered I was a natural public speaker. It doesn't take much practice and the experience can aid you in this kind of situation. To look and to sound intelligent at interviews, talks, and signings is a huge asset for a writer. But above all, be yourself.

I greeted everyone coming in with a friendly "Good afternoon folks. Just launching a new horror novel here today." If they came over to the table, I'd pitch them with a quick intro of myself and the book. "My name's Steve Vernon. I'm Nova Scotia's only horror writer, as far as I know. This is my new book, *Long Horn, Big Shaggy*. A tale of back-from-the-dead mountainmen, time-travelling mad scientists and zombified buffalo." You're fly-fishing in the river of possibility. No telling what you might hook, but keep the line dancing.

Stay friendly. A lot of folks aren't into horror. Pity them quietly, but don't browbeat them into converting (it's probably not going to happen), and don't take their lack of interest personally. You're imposing on their time, forcing them to listen to your voice. It pays to stay friendly. If they rush past, give them a smile, or a nonsarcastic "Enjoy your browse."

Avoid long conversations. You'll miss potential customers. Yet, at the same time, it's the folks you talk to who are apt to buy your book. I had one gent who regaled me with a tale of his backpacking days. I listened politely, still talking to other folks, trying to appear friendly and interested (it was a good story, and if we'd been sitting at the bar I would have been taking notes). He saw how busy I was and bought two copies.

Know when to shut up. If the person is skimming the first couple of pages, shut up and let your printed words do their stuff. You're probably a better writer than you are a speaker. I sold a half dozen copies that way. Folks read the first page or so, liked the style, bought the book. Talk to someone else, while letting them read.

Most of all, have fun. I had one fellow ask me in a hale and hearty fashion "Are you having fun?" To which I answered (honestly, because it was true) "I'm having a ball!" Don't lose your perspective. You're sitting there talking to potential readers who are going to buy your product. Don't resent their presence. Welcome them.

Have a drink. Not that kind of drink – that's just a Hemingway myth. Have a beverage. Not a coffee, that's bad for your breath. Have a cup of nice herbal tea – I like peppermint – or a bottle of water. Keep a pocket of mints to sooth your throat. Small ones are best.

Bring a short prewritten announcement for the stores that want to make PA announcements. Don't rely on the ad-lib of a well meaning bookstore clerk. Print it out in a large, clear, easy-to-read font, and encourage them to make the announcement every half hour or so. It never hurts to encourage a crowd.

Biggest advice. Don't sit there like a bump on the log, but don't be pushy either. You're there to schmooze, so talk it up kiddo. There's no telling who you'll meet. I met two schoolteachers from two different schools who wanted to hire me to come talk to their kids about storytelling and writing. I met a radio host who wants to interview me. I met the head editor for an international publisher who I'd already pitched last month. She sounds positive and is interested in meeting with me about a collection of my folklore ghost tales.

Sometimes opportunity knocks, and sometimes you've got to hold the door against the right knuckles.

And have fun. ■

imPRESSed — the newest titles by WFNS members



Smoke and Mirrors

Lesley Choyce

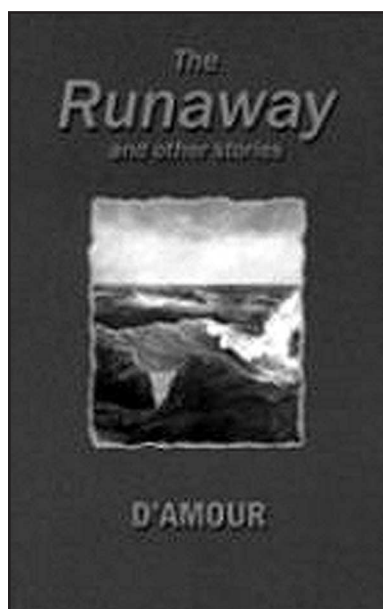
Dundurn Group, 2004, \$12.99

ISBN 1-55002-534-1

Sixteen-year old Simon has always been considered odd. Three years ago, a skateboarding accident caused some minor brain damage and made him even stranger. His career-driven parents mostly leave him alone and he spends much of his time living in his imagination.

When Andrea, whom no one else can see, appears to Simon in class, he is fascinated by her and strikes up a friendship, even though he knows she may be pure hallucination. Andrea says she is there to “help” him, but Simon discovers it is he who needs to help Andrea, not the other way around.

A resident of Lawrencetown Beach, Lesley Choyce has published more than 60 works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. His previous YA fiction, *Shoulder the Sky*, was winner of the 2003 Ann Connor Brimer Children’s Literature Prize and was also shortlisted for the White Pine Award.



The Runaway and Other Stories

Antoni, Ludger and Romeo D'Amour

Zenobi Publishing, 2004, \$24.95

ISBN 0-9736830-0-7

The Runaway is a collection of 37 short stories and tales by the D'Amour brothers: Romeo, Ludger and Antonio. The stories cover distance and time, from life in a small island in France in 1874 to an escape to the Magdalen Islands, and follow generations as they move to Baie-Ste-Anne and out into the world. The brothers describe adventures on the high seas and in the back woods with homespun humour, wisdom and a very human look at the days of the Great Depression.

Antonio D'Amour is a co-author and editor of the collection. A true Renaissance man, he has been a school principal, an army major, reporter, videographer, and now a painter and writer. He lives with his wife in Louisdale.



Pocket Rocks

Sheree Fitch

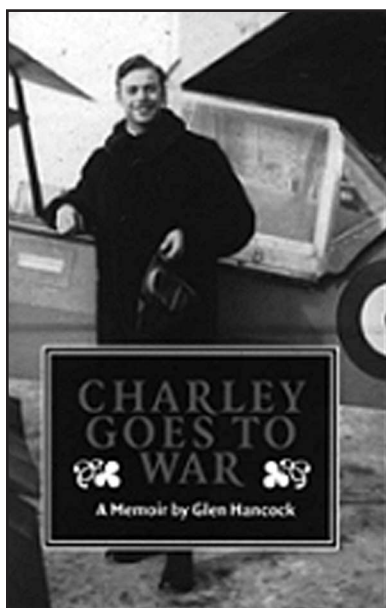
illustrated by Helen Flook

Orca Publishers, 2004, \$19.95

ISBN 1551432897

No matter how hard he tries, Ian Goobie can't do the things that the other children in his class can do. Then he finds a rock, a rock that fits perfectly into his pocket, a rock that touches all his senses and whisks him away into a whole other world. From then on, as long as he has a rock in his pocket, Ian can begin to cope with his daily challenges. That is until he stuffs so many rocks in his pockets that his pants fall down when he's in the schoolyard.

Sheree Fitch identifies with Ian. She knows all about the power of rocks. And she herself experiences some of the synesthesia that pulls her character into wonderful fantasy worlds. Sheree is an award-winning poet and author whose playful approach to language has brought joy to thousands upon thousands of children and many adults as well.



Charley Goes to War

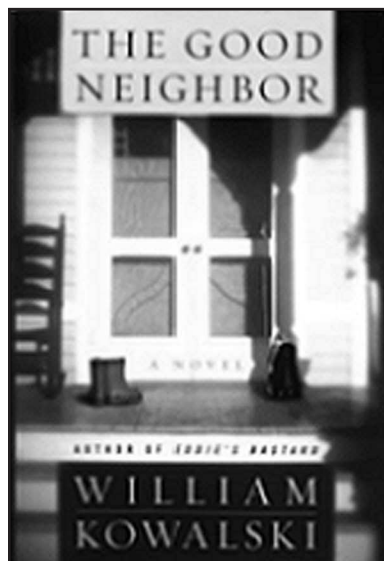
Glen Hancock

Gaspereau Press, 2004, \$27.95

ISBN 1-894031-95-4

Charley Goes to War is a personal account of the Second World War told by Glen Hancock, an RCAF airman from Wolfville. Hancock takes us from the streets of Wolfville in 1939 to Canada's training camps, and from his first operation with No. 408 Goose Squadron until the final defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945. With its elegance, authenticity and remarkable depth of feeling, Hancock's memoir maintains a refreshing balance between the headline events of the war and daily life in training and operation.

Glen Hancock has worked as a journalist, editor and columnist. After serving overseas in World War II, he worked with Imperial Oil and later was involved in the formation of the School of Journalism at the University of Kings College. His previous books include *My Real Name is Charley: Memoirs of a Grocer's Clerk*, *History of the Acadia University*, and *Nova Scotians and the House They Live In*.



The Good Neighbour

William Kowalski

HarperCollins, 2004, \$34.95

ISBN 0066211379

When Colt and Francie Hart stumble upon an empty 150-year-old house during a weekend drive in the country, they both fall in love with it. For Colt, the house will become a trophy representing his success trading stocks. For Francie, a blocked poet, the house whispers hints to reawaken her creativity.

The couple begins the transition from city dwelling to country life, yet the more they learn about the house, the more it drives them apart. When Francie discovers an old family cemetery hidden on the property, it brings out qualities in each of them that come as a total surprise. *The Good Neighbour* is a story of two people who, in looking for a place to call home, find themselves instead.

William Kowalski is the author of *Eddie's Bastard*, *Somewhere South of Here*, and *The Adventures of Flash Jackson*. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, he now lives in Mahone Bay with his wife and daughter.



The Sorrowing House

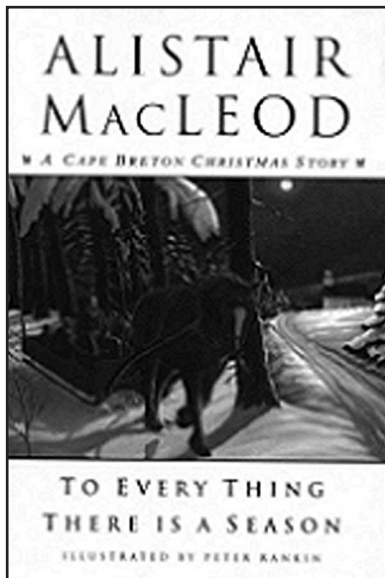
Genevieve Lehr

Brick Books, 2004, \$16

ISBN 1-894078-36-5

Genevieve Lehr's first collection of poetry is as large in heart as it is in sorrow. She mines world literature, folk culture, folk songs and her own experience for the notes and melody adequate to encompass the mystery of being, with its attendant darkness and its redemptive light. The book is wide-ranging, using the lyric, prose poem, long poem, song and meditation to draw the reader in. Lehr explores the primal links between mother and child, father and child, child and world, loss and enrichment, suffering and joy.

Genevieve Lehr grew up in Dark Cove, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland. She lives in Bayside, Nova Scotia, with her children William and Arianna.



**To Every Thing There Is a Season:
A Cape Breton Christmas Story**
Alistair MacLeod

illustrated by Peter Rankin

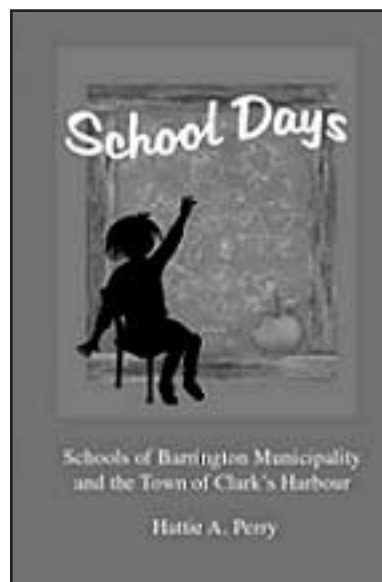
McClelland & Stewart, 2004, \$19.99

ISBN 0-7710-5565-X

Told through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy, *To Every Thing There Is a Season* describes Christmas on a farm on the west coast of Cape Breton. The time is the 1940s, and the family of six children excitedly waits for Christmas. They wait especially for their oldest brother, Neil, working on the lake boats in Ontario, who sends intriguing packages back home for Christmas.

Will he arrive in time? Will his younger brother be thought old enough to stay up late on Christmas Eve to join the adult gift-wrapping role of helping Santa Claus?

Alistair MacLeod, author of *No Great Mischief* (winner of the Dublin IMPAC award) and the short story collection, *Island*, is one of the world's greatest writers.



School Days:
Schools of Barrington Municipality
and the Town of Clark's Harbour

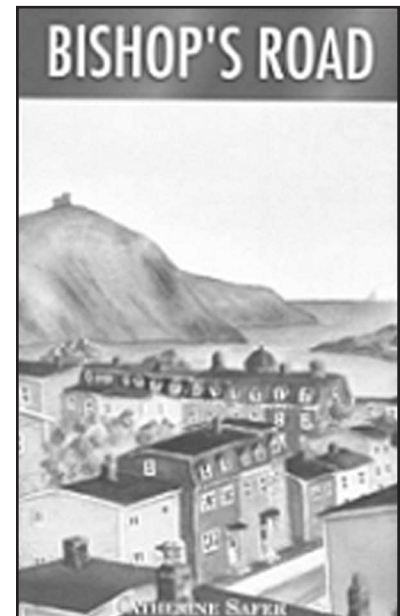
Hattie Perry

Spindrift Publishing, 2004, \$36.95

ISBN 0-9691458-9-6

Years ago every little community had its own schoolhouse. Having been a teacher, Hattie Perry has maintained an interest in schools and the education of the young. Although she did not grow up in Shelburne County, she taught there and has noticed the many changes in education. This prompted her to put together a book about the schools throughout Barrington Municipality and in the town of Clark's Harbour.

Hattie Perry graduated with a Teacher's License from the Provincial Normal College in Truro in 1939 and taught in various schools throughout the province. Author of several books on local history and genealogy, Hattie lives and writes in Barrington.



Bishop's Road

Catherine Safer

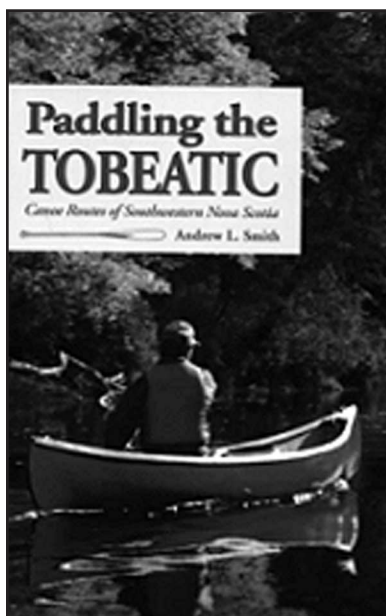
Killick Press, 2004, \$19.95

ISBN 1-894294-78-5

Mrs. Mifflin's boarding house on Bishop's Road was a convent until the Sisters of Joy dried up suddenly and blew away. It is large with many rooms, not accustomed to noise or quick movement though it is quite familiar with haunted dreams.

Judy is the most recent arrival and with her comes a wonderful disturbance. It hitched a ride in her pocket and finding the inhabitants of Mrs. Mifflin's house needing a little more than they had bargained for, has decided to stay awhile. With the moon's blessing it creeps under doors and through closets leaving smudges of itself on shirts and underwear, photographs and letters. It goes to the attic for a quick look around before sliding under a pillow to nap.

Catherine Safer has been scribbling quietly – madly – since the nuns taught her to write. Born in the Codroy Valley and raised in Gander, Newfoundland, Catherine now makes Halifax her home. *Bishop's Road* is her first novel.



Paddling the Tobeatic

Andrew L. Smith

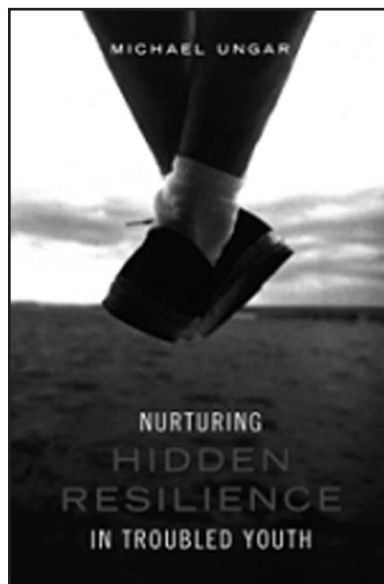
Nimbus Publishing, 2004, \$24.95

ISBN 1-55109-492-4

The majority of the lush, meandering rivers of southwestern Nova Scotia emerge from deep within the Tobeatic, the province's largest protected wilderness area. This extraordinary region contains vital reserves of biological diversity: stunning lakes, and rivers, as well as ancient ties to the province's cultural heritage.

Blending wit with rugged pragmatism and interspersing fascinating tidbits of local and natural history, paddler and back-county explorer Andrew Smith has created the definitive guide to canoeing in the Tobeatic. Packed with a wealth of information, the book speaks to both the seasoned canoeist and the casual outdoor enthusiast.

Andrew Smith's early family trips down the Tusket River sparked a life-long love of canoeing. A retired teacher, he is the author of a number of magazine articles on canoeing in Nova Scotia. Andy lives in Central Argyle.



Nurturing Hidden Resilience in Troubled Youth

Michael Ungar

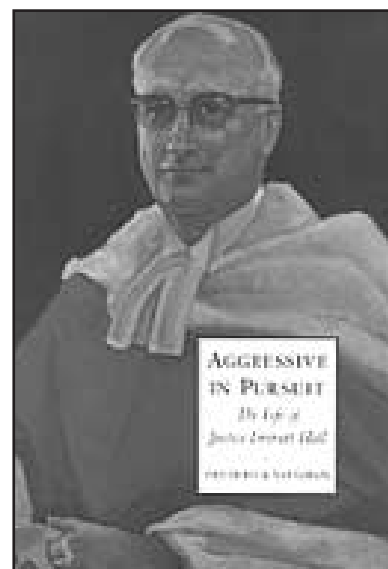
University of Toronto Press, 2004, \$29.95

ISBN 0-8020-8565-2

Timely in subject and original in perspective, *Nurturing Hidden Resilience in Troubled Youth* challenges what popular media refer to as a "youth problem." Ungar's book offers a comprehensive theory of resilience and a model for the application of this theory to direct practice with high-risk youth in clinical, residential and community settings.

Using detailed case studies, Ungar finds that high-risk youth explain their problematic behaviours, such as gang affiliations and drug and alcohol use, as strategic ways to compose healthy stories about themselves that bring them experiences of control and acceptance. Unlike most literature on risk and resiliency, Ungar's text provides a novel and fresh approach to the idea of resiliency and, perhaps more importantly, gives voice to the adolescents themselves.

Michael Ungar is an associate professor at the Maritime School of Social Work at Dalhousie University. He lives with his family in Halifax.



Aggressive in Pursuit:

The Life of Justice Emmett Hall

Frederick Vaughan

University of Toronto Press, 2004, \$50

ISBN 0-8020-3957-X

Few people have had greater impact on the lives of Canadians than the late Supreme Court justice Emmett Hall. At the forefront of several important judgments in the 1960s and 1970s – such as *Truscott and Calder* – Hall is perhaps best known for his role in the adoption of universal health care at the federal level. Based on extensive interviews with Hall and people who knew him, Frederick Vaughan's *Aggressive in Pursuit* tells Hall's remarkable story.

Frederick Vaughan is a professor emeritus in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Guelph.

Honouring Stanley writer Alden Nowlan

by Pam Lovelace

In the communities of Stanley and Mosherville, Hants County, visitor comments gathered in a guest book at the local picnic park proved the impetus for establishing a monument dedicated to the life and literary achievements of poet, playwright and novelist Alden Nowlan. The general public was invited to attend the unveiling of the monument on Sunday, November 7 at the Stanley/Mosherville Community Hall, Route 236, Hants County.

Born in Stanley, East Hants, in 1933 Alden Nowlan led a short, but fascinating life. As a young boy, he was a voracious reader and writer. With grade five barely begun, Nowlan left school, accused of plagiarism. Owen Lowe, next-door neighbour and childhood friend, recalls how Nowlan was not a typical kid. "As he got older, he became more withdrawn and would just stay in the house and read all the time. He was a sickly child but ended up having a really interesting life and winning awards. Alden was a diamond in the rough."

It was Ken Miller, the editor of *The Windsor Tribune* in the early 1950s, who first recognized Nowlan's talent and helped him, at 19, get a job with a newspaper in New Brunswick. This move proved a life-changing experience. His poetry was getting published in the United States, he was being paid more for his writing and his standard of living improved greatly. Before his untimely death at 50, Nowlan would publish 25 books.

Though he suffered from severe depression and flirted frequently with notions of suicide, Nowlan continued writing, supported by the love of his wife and son. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and Canada Council grants and in 1968 won the Governor General's Award for Poetry. Shortly after, he became the writer-in-residence at the University of New Brunswick, where he remained until his death in 1983.

Author Greg Cook, originally from Yarmouth and now living in Saint John, wrote a biography of Nowlan, *One Heart, One Way: Alden Nowlan, A Writers Life* published by Pottersfield Press in December 2003. Cook was close to Nowlan during Alden's last 20 years. Cook wrote the book because he believes Nowlan is "such a gift that he should be shared. I think students should be reading this man or else their education just isn't complete." ■

Not just hook & bullet!

Len Rich, Eastern Director of the Outdoor Writers of Canada (OWC), has returned from the Fall Board of Directors meeting held November 5 to 7 near Orangeville, Ontario. Rich says a great deal was accomplished at the meeting, including approval of a member-get-a-member campaign complete with a major incentive – a week-long trip to a Labrador sportfishing lodge valued at \$4,500.

Each member in good standing who sponsors a new writer will be entered into a draw every time they register someone new. The winning name will be drawn next May. The only catch is that the winner produce an article or program for a major publication or other media outlet.

The Outdoor Writers of Canada is not limited to "hook and bullet" types of writers, says Rich. "Many people write about other activities which take place in the outdoors, such as sailing, camping, outdoor cooking, rock climbing or hiking. All of these areas would qualify a writer for membership."

For further information about the Outdoor Writers of Canada, visit www.theoutdoorwritersofcanada.com or contact Len Rich at (902) 251-2962 in River Hebert, or call his toll free number 1-866-786-0791. ■

TD Bank invests in literacy – funds two \$20,000 book awards & a \$20,000 literacy advocacy award

The Canadian Children's Book Centre and TD Bank Financial Group announced a major new award for Canadian children's literature. The TD Canadian Children's Literature Award will be the richest prize awarded in Canada for children's writing. Starting next November, two prizes of \$20,000 each will be awarded to the most distinguished French and English book of the year. A total of \$20,000 will also be awarded to English and French honour book winners. In addition to the TD Children's Literature Awards, TD is also creating a \$20,000 TD Literacy Advocacy Award that will go to an individual, organization or company who is making a meaningful contribution to literacy and lifelong learning in Canada.

For more information on the awards or TD Canadian Children's Book Week contact The Canadian Children's Book Centre at (416) 975-0010, or email info@bookcentre.ca, or check www.bookcentre.ca or www.bookweek.ca. ■

New Poet Laureate announced

Pauline Michel succeeded George Bowering as Canada's Poet Laureate on November 18. A fluently bilingual writer, actor, singer and teacher from Asbestos, Quebec, Michel currently lives in Montreal. She helped to create such popular children's television series as *La Maison de Ouimzie* and *Hello Moineau*. "A job like this is amazing," the 60 year-old Michel said of the two-year appointment which carries a \$12,000 honorarium and up to \$10,000 in travel expenses. ■



Canada Reads!

This next Battle of the Books refereed by Bill Richardson begins on CBC radio on February 21, 2005. Five Canadians are championing five books in animated debate throughout the week. Hometown Girl **Donna Morrissey** will step into Centre Ring to extoll the virtues of *Rockbound* by Frank Parker Day. Originally published in 1928 by University of Toronto Press with a setting that conjures up a fog-shrouded Tancook Island and a plot of elemental proportions, *Rockbound* evokes the power, terror and dramatic beauty of the Atlantic peopled by savage farmer-fishermen. Other contestants hanging from the ropes are Olivia Chow fighting for Margaret Atwood's dystopian *Oryx and Crake*, Rufus Wainwright going the distance for *Beautiful Losers* by Leonard Cohen, Roch Carrier brawling on behalf of *Volkswagen Blues* by Jacques Poulin, and Sherraine MacKay with épée raised to guard *No Crystal Stair* by Mairuth Sarsfield. ■

Cavan leads Access Copyright

Since arriving at Access Copyright, The Canadian Copyright Licencing Agency, at the end of June, succeeding a retiring Fred Wardle, Maureen Cavan has had a rapid education in copyright matters. Meeting with copyright experts from around the globe as well as senior government officials responsible for copyright matters here in Canada to discuss trends and issues, she is gaining insight into the effect of the digital realm on copyright and the future of copyright law in this country.

Prior to joining Access Copyright, Maureen Cavan spearheaded a project for the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association to develop and implement a national cooperative, multi-media marketing campaign in support of the Canadian magazine industry. Before that, her roles included Chief Operating Officer and Publisher of *Saturday Night*, General Manager of *National Post Business*, Publisher of *Harrowsmith Country Life*, and Associate Publisher of *Canadian Living* magazine.

Cavan is a graduate of the Western Executive Program. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of ABC Canada Literacy Foundation since 1990 and is currently Past Chair of the organization. Over the

course of her career, she has been actively involved on the boards of many industry organizations including the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association and Print Measurement Bureau.

[Any Canadian citizen who has published works in Canada in print form may become an Access Copyright affiliate. This includes writers, illustrators, photographers, and publishers of books, magazines, journals and newspapers. It costs nothing to become an Access Copyright affiliate. As an affiliate, you will receive royalties whenever your works are copied. For information check their website (www.accesscopyright.ca)] ■

Fiction Writing Classes with Russ Barton

Creative Writing 1. Halifax: 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Mondays, starting January 24. 10 lessons. \$165. Lacewood Drive Shopping Centre, Halifax.

Creative Writing 2. Dartmouth: 7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, starting January 26. 10 lessons. \$145. Pleasant Street.

Russ Barton's courses for intermediate and beginning authors use examples from literature and feature exercises in creativity and composition. Students share fiction and discuss their work in a supportive atmosphere. Assignments, edited by the instructor, are based on curricula. Russ Barton has taught Creative Writing since 1985.

Topics covered: beginnings; basic action; tension; conflict; manuscript presentation; openings, endings; plots; truth; points of view; characterization; editing; revising; flashbacks; foreshadowing; narrative; setting; scene; sequel; humour; gender in fiction; haiku; writing for children and teens; genres; names and more.

For information or to register phone Russ Barton at (902) 463-9672 or email rusbarton@eastlink.ca.

Who's doing what

■ **Racked** – members' work appearing in the copious cornucopia of e-signals, journals and mags crossing your editor's desk into the Fed Reference Library (open 9:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday for your adulation and astonishment): *Nova Scotia: Open to the World* is blossoming into winter with **Donna D'Amour's** recent 'Flower Power' which touts NS as a hotbed of horticultural tourism; the autumn issue of *The Fiddlehead* eulogized Fred Cogswell, an enormous figure in our country's letters and for many years the driving force behind the journal and the press which evolved into Goose Lane Editions. **Brian Bartlett** reminisces on a poet who insisted that 'the fear of life' is more damaging than 'the fear of death.' Elsewhere in the issue, **Carole Langille's** story 'Visiting Seymour', **Melanie Jasmine Grant's** poem 'Let's not talk of love or chains...', and **Lynn Davies' review** of Adam Dickinson's *Cartography and Walking* jostle with new work from some of the finest writers in the country; **Veronica Leonard's** pen is smoking! Over a two month period, six of her freelance articles found their way to audiences: an overview of post secondary schools in Atlantic Canada for *Atlantic Business*, two stories for *Abilities*, an overview of accessible travel in Japan for *Transitions Abroad* and a lifestyle piece for *First*. One of her stories is part of an anthology – *Super Seniors* – that hit the market in late November; **Faith Piccolo** headed Cheticamp-way in December, featuring this Acadian Cape Breton gem in *The Navigator*; a riot of Christmas colour exploded on this desk as *Saltscapes* weighed in for Christmas, opening with **Hugh W. McKervill's** delightful remembrance of the Irish lad with a lucky cap who survived the almost sinking of the *Metagama* to become Hugh's grandfather, followed by **Jodi DeLong** clinging to more colourful rocks in alpine plantings before indulging in seasonal smoked salmon, festive poinsettia and the spirit of Christmas, mummered up by **Darcy Rhyno** examining the health of a

maritime tradition of tomfoolery, before **Shelley Cameron-McCarron** tries to narrow down choices in a season rich with books for holiday book giving; the inaugural issue of *The Halifax Review* is out featuring a poem from **Mary Turnbull Burnight** whose work is also currently appearing in *Poetry Nottingham*; 'A far cry from lighthouses' was the lavish 2-page *Globe & Mail* Visual Arts section spread by **Meg Federico** who visited artist Nancy Edell in her rural home and studio in Bayswater; Christmas wouldn't have been Christmas without **Elaine Ingalls Hogg's** 'A Christmas Miracle' being featured in the *NB Reader*. Elaine also had another seasonal story in the *Kings County Record* and an article in the recent *Wesleyan Life*; **Kathleen Martin-James** introduces the current issue of *Children's Book News* with an overview of what it is to be a non-fiction writer; **Thea Atkinson's** work has been appearing in a range of markets recently – *The Shore*, *Spoiled Ink* and *Thirteen Magazine*; *Lichen* featured **Laura Best's** story 'Part Two' in the fall issue; **Richard Provencher** writes that his work has appeared recently in *Northern Views*, *Expressions of Soul*, *The Danforth Review* and *Jones Av.*

■ **Kudos to: Stephen Kimber** who won the Torgi Literary Award for CNIB Produced Non-fiction for *Sailors, Slackers and Blind Pigs: Halifax at War* (published by Doubleday Canada and narrated by David Mills). Now in their 20th year, the Torgis, judged by CNIB Library clients, recognize excellence in alternative format books that have been produced for Canadians who are blind or visually impaired; **Robert Finley** was thrilled to learn that Ivan Steenhout won the GG Award for *Les Indes accidentelles* (Editions de la Pleine Lune), a translation of Robert's prize-winning *The Accidental Indies* (McGill-Queen's University Press); **Julie Vandervoort**, whose postcard story has been shortlisted by *Geist*; **Betty Dobson** who earned an honourable mention in the recent *Writers Weekly* 24-hour Short Story contest; **Vicki Grant** (*The Puppet*

Wrangler, Orca) and **Dorothy Perkyns** (*Last Days in Africville*, Beach Holme) whose books have been nominated for the 2005 Silver Birch Award; and to **Maxine Trotter** whose *Our Canadian Flag* (with illustrations by Brian Deines, Scholastic Canada) has been nominated for a Blue Spruce Award while her *Sister of the Wolfe* (KidsCan Press) is nominated for a Red Maple; **Jeanette Lynes** who won third prize in CV II's Poetics of Space contest with her poem 'Elegy for Country Girls in Love with Hockey Stars'; **Andrew Younger**, who is tearing himself away from a busy Writers in the Schools (WITS) schedule to serve as the newly elected councillor representing East Dartmouth - The Lakes; **Virginia Hayden** whose screenplay, *The Inspiration*, was semi-finalist in the British Short Screenplay Competition; **Jill MacLean** whose *The Brevity of Red* was short-listed for the Acorn-Plantos Award for People's Poetry.

■ **Break out the launch champagne and bubbles!** A new voice in YA horse stories is born! **Anne Louise MacDonald** received her author copies of her first YA novel for KidsCan Press just before Christmas. *The Ghost Horse of Meadow Green* tells the story of tortuously shy Kim and her besting of bully Squawky to defend her horse. Available at a bookstore near you this spring! **Catherine Safer** arrived at the Fed's annual Open House with a copy of her first novel, *Bishop's Road* (Killick), in hand. Years in the writing, Catherine – who was Hogan when she was Director of the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador – was born in the Codroy Valley, raised in Gander and now makes her home in Halifax. Initially launched at the Khyber Club, *Bishop's Road* was relaunched with a real shindig in St. John's during the Christmas season; Another new novel was on show at our Open House – **William Kowalski's** *The Good Neighbour*, hot off the HarperCollins press. Bill, who is author of *Eddie's Bastard*, *Somewhere South of*

continued on page 14

Here and *The Adventures of Flash Jackson*, was born in Pennsylvania and now lives on the South Shore with his wife and daughter; **Jonathan Campbell** was on the reading trail this fall as he launched his first novel *Tarcadia* (Gaspereau). After appearing at Word on the Street Halifax, he was off to Toronto, Hamilton, and St. Catherine's for readings; Christmas season at The Khyber was hot! One of the hottest launches to hit was **Genevieve Lehr's** for *The Sorrowing House* (Brick). Genevieve worked on the poetry collection during a mentorship program with **Sue Goyette**; Sometimes the launch venue is simply perfect for the book and in the case of **Fred Vaughan's** latest from UTP, Osgoode Hall on Toronto's Queen Street West was a no-contest setting for *Aggressive in Pursuit: the Life of Justice Emmett Hall*; Because several stories are set there, Tony D'Amour and brothers launched their book, *The Runaway*, in Baie-St-Anne to an animated crowd and brisk sales and coverage in three New Brunswick newspapers as well as a feature in *The NB Reader* (Donna D'Amour, Tony's partner, has written a 4-part series on the perils and pluses of self-publishing and how *The Runaway* came to be at www.absolutewrite.com); *Whereverville*, a play from **Josh MacDonald** is now available as 'the book' from Talon Books. It was launched with great theatricality this fall at Bookmark in Halifax; November saw the launch of **Hattie Perry's** newest book, *School Days: The Schools in Barrington Municipality and the Town of Clark's Harbour*. The book is available locally at Wilson's V&S in Barrington Passage who are accepting orders at (902) 623-2300. Visa welcome. Just ask for Richard or Wendell.

■ You can't keep a good man down! **Glen Hancock** has worked as a journalist, editor and columnist. He served overseas with the RCAF in World War II and for many civilian years with Imperial Oil. He was there for the founding of Kings College Journalism School and is now celebrating the release of another book. *Charley Goes to War* (Gaspereau) is his account of his years with the RCAF from

1939 to 1945, and during November Glen read to enthusiastic audiences at the Spring Garden Road Library in Halifax and at the Wolfville Legion.

■ Perhaps the most exquisite trade publishing in Canada is coming out of Kentville, NS. Gaspereau Press is regularly cited in annual GG nominations, frequently recognized by the Alcuin Society for the peerless beauty of their work, and in addition to managing a growing trade publication with strengthening international sales, the Press regularly releases Devil's Whim chapbooks. **Brian Bartlett** is the most recent beneficiary of this whimsical impulse. *Travels of the Watch* is a group of poems beautifully printed in a limited edition of 300 numbered copies.

■ **Alice Burdick** has been included in another deliciously titled anthology – *Surreal Estate: 13 Canadian Poets under the Influence* – released in November by The Mercury Press. Alice was in Upper Canada to participate in a Lexiconjury Reading with BC novelist Ryan Knighton as well as to appear at The Gig with poet John Tipton.

■ Guess **Donna Black** is not the retiring type! Though she stopped teaching last June, she immediately released a children's picture book, *Manners Matter*. Launched at the Tantallon Library in the fall, it's selling well throughout the region and as far afield as Australia and Wales.

■ **Linda Little's** first novel *Strong Hollow* was noticed! It was short-listed for the Dartmouth Book Award and the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize and won the Cunard First Book Award. Two years later, she's just signed with Penguin for her second novel, *The Iron Bridge*. Set again in the Nova Scotia interior, it introduces more of the people of the neighbourhood and features a brief appearance from Jackson Bigney, whom you will all remember from *Strong Hollow*. The book is scheduled for spring 2006 release.

■ **Don Sedgewick**, Transatlantic Literary Agency, has inked another deal, signing **Marq de Villiers** and Sheila Hirtle to a contract with Patrick Crean, Thomas Allen Publishers, for *The Bluenose*, which will use interviews with the remaining crew and newly discovered archival material to highlight the international legend and enduring symbol that is the *Bluenose*. While the ink was still wet, Marq and Sheila signed another contract with M&S for *Timbuktu* scheduled for the fall of 2006. Don also brokered the sale to Cormorant Books of **Carol Bruneau's** upcoming novels: *Berth* is set for fall 2005, to be followed by *The Thin Place* the following fall.

■ October found **Greg Cook** in Windsor, Ontario, helping Black Moss Press celebrate their 35th anniversary by reading from his new and selected poems, *Songs of the Wounded*, at the Art Gallery of Windsor at their annual book fair.

■ January will find **Carol Bruneau** teaching writing at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and **Anne Simpson** has signed up to be part of the faculty next fall at the Banff Writing with Style sessions. Week-long workshops for writers of all levels, this program is perhaps Banff's most accessible writing program. For details, visit www.banffcentre.ca. Anne will also be leading several workshops for WFNB this spring.

■ Hot on the heels of sold-out audiences and rave reviews for her play *The Fighting Days* at Eastern Front Theatre, **Wendy Lill** was centrestage herself during a Tribute Evening that honoured the contribution she's made over the years not only to the citizens of Dartmouth but for the people of Canada. Wendy's own 'fighting days' included going to bat for those with disabilities, championing concerns of the arts and culture communities, and fighting for local community social and economic development. Thank you Ms. Lill.

■ When you're included in an anthology, even one so prestigious as *The Journey Prize Stories* released annually by McClelland & Stewart, it's a particular delight to have your story receive special notice from reviewers. The *Globe & Mail's* Saturday Books section did just that with **Elaine McCluskey's** 'Watermelon Social.'

■ **Ami McKay** worked on it alone. She worked on it with **Richard Cumyn** as part of the Fed's mentorship program. It won second place in the Atlantic Writing Competition but Ami was breathing champagne-scented, rarified air when she learned that her first novel, *The Birth House*, will be published by Knopf Canada as part of the New Faces of Fiction program in spring 2006.

■ **Betty Dobson's** been working up an inky sweat. With regular columns in *Writing the Bottom Line* and *Canadian Culture*, she's taken on editorial responsibility for *Halifax: The Other Half*, a collection of historical and contemporary stories about noteworthy women commissioned by the Zonta Club.

■ Montréal's Mercutio Press has just published **Jeanette Lynes's** poetry chapbook, *Sporting in New Scotland*.

■ Mary Jane Copps's story, 'The Two-Toned Blue Dodge Coupe,' appeared in *Transitions* in November, an annual publication out of Regina.

Welcome, or welcome back, to:

Donna Black, Head of St. Margaret's Bay
Judy Brée, Dartmouth
Amanda Campbell, Halifax
D. Owen Carrigan, Halifax
Michael Condé, Halifax
Geoffrey Cook, Montreal, Quebec
Ann Dulhanty, Wolfville
James Dunphy, Dartmouth
Melanie Furlong, Lower Sackville
Heather Anne Jenkins, Digby
Cameron Harding, Halifax
Uwe Kaufmann, Yarmouth
Rafe Macpherson, Toronto, Ontario
Brad McRae, Halifax
Pat Millar, Dartmouth
Christine Pressburger, Yarmouth
Gillian Reid, Chester
Len Rich, River Hebert
Francesca Simon, Dartmouth
Randolph Gray Smith, Hantsport
Roberto Tiangco, Halifax
David Wimsett, Halifax

Markets, etc.

Mention of a market or competition in this column does not imply endorsement by WFNS. For those without Internet access or a computer, there are public access sites in public libraries throughout the province.

□ **Vallum: contemporary poetry** P.O. Box 48003, Montreal, QC H2V 4S8 (www.vallummag.com) Seeking poems, essays and criticism for an upcoming theme issue entitled "The Desert." Ideas: the Sahara, the Gobi, the Sonora, the Arctic; the desert as a source of inspiration, revelation and challenge; desert-dwellers, human or otherwise; the wasteland versus the oasis. Send work exploring the desert as a physical, spiritual or mental place. But don't make it too dry! Deadline: March 15. Include SASE. Pays contributors an honorarium and one issue.

□ **All Things Portuguese:** A Portuguese-Canadian anthology of writing and visual art planned for Fall 2005/Spring 2006 by Paulo da Costa and Fernanda Viveiros. Submit one piece of prose (short story, self-contained novel excerpt, creative non-fiction, one-act play or essay up to 5,000 words) or poetry (up to 80 lines). Include cover letter, a brief bio and list of publishing credits. For visual art submit drawings, paintings, photography (b&w or colour) sculpture, pottery, jewellery, fabric art. Deadline March 30. Email Fernanda Viveiros at fernanda@shaw.ca for information.

Contests

Blind judging: information identifying the writer must not appear on the manuscript. Include a cover letter with your name, address, phone number, email, title(s) of entry(ies), and word count.

□ **PRISM international's 19th Annual Short Fiction Contest:** c/o PRISM international, Creative Writing Program, UBC Buch E462 - 1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1. (<http://prism.arts.ubc.ca>) Deadline: January 31 postmark. \$2,000 grand prize, 5 runner-up prizes of \$200 each. All winning stories will be published and receive an

additional payment of \$20/printed page. Length: up to 25 pages, double-spaced. Blind judging. Entry fee is \$25 for one story (includes 1-yr. sub) and \$7 for each additional story.

□ **17th annual Short Grain Writing Contest:** PO Box 67, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3K1. (www.grainmagazine.ca/contest.htm) Deadline January 31 postmark. 3 categories: Prose poem – a lyric poem written as a prose paragraph(s) in 500 words or less; Postcard story – narrative fiction, up to 500 words; Dramatic monologue – a self-contained dramatic speech given by a single character, up to 500 words. Prizes: 4 prizes of \$500 in each category and publication in *Grain*. Basic entry fee (includes subscription to magazine) is \$28 for two entries in any one category. Blind judging. Details on website.

□ **Kelpies Prize competition:** Floris Books, 15 Harrison Gardens, Edinburgh, UK, EH11 1SH (<http://florisbooks.co.uk/kelpiesprize>) A cash prize of £2,000 will encourage and reward new contemporary Scottish writing for children. Authors do not need to live in Scotland to qualify for the prize. Deadline February 28. The winning manuscript will be published in the Kelpies list in September/October 2005. Manuscripts must be 40,000 to 60,000 words and unpublished (although the author may have been previously published). The story must be set in contemporary Scotland and should be suitable for both boys and girls aged 9-12. Application form necessary, available on website.

□ **2005 Long Poem Contest:** Malahat Review, University of Victoria, Box 1700 Stn CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2. (www.malahatreview.com) Submit a long poem or cycle of poems (up to 20 pages), previously unpublished. Deadline: must be received by March 1.

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Blind judging. Entry fee \$35 (includes subscription). 2 prizes \$400 each, plus \$30/page with publication. Include SASE for return.

❑ **North of 55: A Non-Fiction Writing Contest** – North of 55 Contest Trustee, PO Box 1578, Stn. Main, Carleton Place, ON, K7C 4M3. Deadline March 31. Co-sponsored by the Canadian Authors Association and *Up Here* magazine. Subject matter has to be about, or take place, north of the 55th parallel in Canada. Non-fiction, previously unpublished, not contracted for publication, between 600 and 1,500 words. Submit up to 3 entries. Blind judging. Entry fee: CAA members or current *Up Here* subscribers \$15, all others \$20 (includes 1-year subscription to *Up Here*). Make cheques or money orders payable to CAA/*Up Here* Contest. Prizes: 1st – \$250 and a 1-year membership in CAA (value \$160) and possible publication in *Up Here*; 2nd – \$50 and an *Up Here* fleece top. For more information: www.CanAuthors.org or www.uphere.ca or email gillfoss@magma.ca.

❑ **Event creative non-fiction contest #18:** Event, The Douglas College Review, PO Box 2503, New Westminster, BC V3L 5B2 (<http://event.douglas.bc.ca/contest.html>). Deadline April 15. Entry fee \$25 (includes subscription). Prizes: 3 prizes of \$500 plus payment for publication in Event 34/3. Other manuscripts may be published. Up to 5,000 words. Blind judging.

❑ **2005 Far Horizon Award for Short Fiction Contest:** Malahat Review, University of Victoria, Box 1700 Stn CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2. (www.malahatreview.com) Deadline: must be received by May 1. Entry fee \$25 (includes sub to magazine). Open to emerging writers who have yet to publish their stories in book form. Previously published stories not eligible. Up to 3,500 words. Blind judging. One prize of \$500, plus \$30/page with publication.

❑ **The Antigonish Review Contests,** Box 5000, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5 (www.antigonishreview.com). 2 contests. Entry fee \$25 for either contest or enter both contests for \$35. **1st Annual Sheldon Currie Fiction Prize:** Deadline May 31 postmark. Blind judging. Stories on any subject. 3,500 words max. Prizes 1st \$600 & publication, 2nd \$400 & publication, 3rd \$200 & publication. **5th Annual Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest:** Deadline June 30 postmark. Blind judging. Poems on any subject. Total entry not to exceed 4 pages. Maximum 150 lines. Entries might be one longer poem, or several shorter poems. Prizes 1st \$600, 2nd \$400 & publication, 3rd \$200 & publication.

Awards

❑ **British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction:** \$25,000 award for excellence in Canadian literary non-fiction. Deadline January 15. Sponsored by the British Columbia Achievement

Foundation c/o 6209 Angus Dr., Vancouver, BC V6M 3P2, email info@bcachievement.com (www.bcachievement.com). Books must have been published in Canada in English between January 1 and December 31, 2004. Self-published books are not eligible. Writer must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. Only publishers may enter.

❑ **2004 Danuta Gleed Literary Award:** \$10,000 award for best first Canadian collection of short fiction in English. 2nd and 3rd prizes of \$500 each. Eligible titles are first collections of short fiction written by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and published in Canada in English in the 2004 calendar year. Send 4 copies along with a cover page outlining author, title, and publisher to: The Writers' Union of Canada, 90 Richmond Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, ON, M5C 1P1. Deadline January 31. For more information, visit www.writersunion.ca.

Memorial University Dept. of English Author Residency

The Department of English of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, invites applications for an Author Residency for Fall Semester 2005 or Winter Semester 2006, subject to the availability of matching funds from the Canada Council and Memorial University.

The position is intended to honour an established writer whose work is deemed to be of great merit. (Previous Writers-in-Residence include Wayne Johnston, Kevin Major, Kenneth J. Harvey, Marilyn Bowering, Patricia Young, Guillermo Verdecchia, and Lisa Moore.)

In the course of the residency, the author continues his or her writing projects, while making time available to students and writers within the university and in the community at large.

Authors wishing to be considered for the position are asked to provide a letter of application and a *curriculum vitae* by **January 28, 2005**. When the successful candidate is selected, joint application for funding will be made to the Author Residency program of the Canada Council. Remuneration for the position, if approved, will be \$12,000 (plus return air fare). Applications should be addressed to:

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