

east word

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA



MARY PRIMROSE

Budge Wilson on GG's shortlist

Friendships by Budge Wilson has been shortlisted for this year's Governor General Award for Children's Literature – Text. Published by Penguin, *Friendships* has received a warm reception. *Quill & Quire* raved, "Like Wilson's last collection, *Fractures: Family Stories*, this is an essential title for classroom and school libraries." It was "highly recommended" by *CM Magazine*: "This marvellous collection of short stories keeps the reader's interest and forces the reader to do some intelligent thinking both about the friendships described in the book and perhaps about the relationships in his or her own life."

Though Budge initially turned down the idea for the book when it was suggested by Penguin editors in the wake of her successful collection *Fractures*, the cost of the Hurricane Juan damage to her beloved Northwest Cove home, convinced her it was an advance she couldn't resist. And as she points out in her introduction, "Sometimes it's hard to recognize a friend, nor is a friend always a person. A friend can be an animal or a thought or a way of looking at things. Friendships can be between very diverse people – of differing ages, lifestyles, sexes, races, and social classes, but a friend is someone you like, someone you want to spend time with or think about. Without that friend, you'd be less comfortable in life, less safe. A friend is someone who listens to you when you talk, and who understands what you're saying." Thanks Juan, for being Budge's friend.

Also nominated are André Alexis for *Ingrid and the Wolf*, William Gilkerson of Mahone Bay for *Pirate's Passage*, Glen Huser for *Skinnybones and the Wrinkle Queen*, and Teresa Toten for *Me and the Blondes*. The English-language winners will be announced November 21 at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts in Toronto. ■

Solstice solace at your Fed

Yes, the darkest days are ahead but as sure as the Writers' Fed's annual Open House is set for 3 p.m. on December 7, we can promise you that after a brief two-week hiatus, the days will get longer, that the sun will win in its battle over darkness. So join your colleagues to trip the light-absolutely-fantastic at 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax.

The Solstice celebration that Christianity drew on was the Roman holiday Saturnalia. People suspended work and indulged in great feasts and drinking. They decorated their homes with greenery of all sorts (for greenery was the product of sunlight, of course) ranging from wreaths made of laurel to trees adorned with candles. Gifts were sometimes exchanged, especially with small children and writers. But the most interesting aspect of the holiday was the reversal of social order. Wars were suspended, quarrels forgotten, debts forgiven. Slaves exchanged places with their masters, and children became head of their families. In fact, the Romans went so far as to crown a mock king – "the Lord of Misrule." The holiday, needless to say, was extremely popular with the people in general, writers in particular.

Call a halt to plot's progress, don some festive finery, hone authorial repartée and come on down to mingle by the democracy-inducing punch bowl. It's your Federation's annual Open House: Fed family and friends are warmly welcomed. Potluck sugarplums sure to be greeted with rave reviews. ■

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NOVA SCOTIA
Tourism, Culture and Heritage



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The Digest

CFP stretches to Halifax

Betty Dobson and Donelda Kent, both members of the Canadian Federation of Poets, talked with Toronto-based CFP founder and president Tracy Lynn Repchuk, who agreed it was a great idea for a new branch in Halifax. The Grand Opening was held at Mollyz Diner on Gottigen Street in September with guest speaker and Halifax Poet Laureate Lorri Neilsen, an open mic, door prizes and a raffle. More information is available at www.federationofpoets.com

Eastern Front passes the torch

Continuing as the champion of our own stories in our own words in our own theatre, Eastern Front has passed the directorial baton from Hans Boggild to Scott Burke. A past director of productions at EF (as well as past Artistic Director of Ships' Company and Theatre New Brunswick), Burke will produce a season of the Word Premiere of Michael Melski's *Covette Crossing* running to November 12, *Share the Dream* with The Nova Scotia Mass Choir on January 20, *Singalong Jubilee: The East Coast Sound Celebration* from March 7 to 25, and the popular *On the Waterfront Festival* from May 4 to 13.

To subscribe or for more information, call (902) 463-7529 or visit www.easternfront.ns.ca

www.nimbus.ns.ca

Nimbus has completely redesigned its website . . . and reflecting the tone of the least age-challenged publishing team in the province . . . they've even got a blog. Don't miss Maureen Hull's achingly funny, too true advice to aspiring writers or Lesley Crewe's failure as a mother trying to get her kids to a reading on time.

You and your Public Lending Right

The round of PLR payments you received this year marked 20 years since the creation of Public Lending Right. PLR has continued to grow – from 4,553 registered authors in 1986 to 15,899 in 2006. Registered titles have increased from 16,584 to 67,142. The amount issued to authors in 2006 was \$9,001,099.

The PLR Commission reminds you that if you have moved recently, it is important that you inform the Commission of your new address and telephone number. You can do this by sending an e-mail to plr@canadacouncil.ca, by telephoning 1-800-521-5721, or by sending a letter to the Public Lending Right Commission, 350 Albert Street, PO Box 1047, Ottawa, ON K1P 5V8. For the purposes of verification, please provide your file number (this is the four- or five-digit number that appears in the upper-left hand corner of your PLR Earnings Summary). If you are not registered with the Public Lending Right Commission and would like information about the program, visit their website: www.plr-dpp.ca

SCC rules on Robertson © case

In 1995 Heather Robertson sued Thompson Corp. for copyright infringement by including her articles in databases without her permission. The class action suit wound its way through the courts until the Supreme Court of Canada decided in October 2006 that publishers could not include freelance material in databases without the writers' permission. *The Globe And Mail* report is at <http://tinyurl.com/ygpfpo> and the Canada.com news item at <http://tinyurl.com/yz37q9>. The SCC decision can be found at <http://scc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/2006/2006scc43/2006scc43.html>

A Wordstock of a weekend

by Miss Attribute

If you didn't attend this year's Gala, you missed something huge. For the first time ever, in the 29 year history of the Gala, underwear was flung from the stage. Yes, that's right: *underwear* flung from the stage. And that's not the best of it. I can't, however, tell you about that because we were all sworn to secrecy.

Besides the keynote talk entitled *The One and Only Thing You'll Ever Need to Know to Write the Perfect Piece of Writing*, there was a free *Sign Up With an Agent* booth and a table with book contracts for anyone who was interested in taking one. Of course, there was a bar with the best bartenders I've ever encountered. One knew the instant cure for self-loathing and doubt and between you and me, I haven't looked back. The other recited Dylan Thomas as he shook our martinis all night long. *Rage against the dying of the light* indeed and how about another Peach Bellini, my good man?

As per usual, there were plenty of Armani suits, gowns by Versace and Dior. Someone had managed to snag something early from the Ralph Lauren spring line-up and looked quite magnificent if you could ignore the unfortunate perm. I must say, dear scribes, we do wash-up well.

The winners made their way down the red carpet to the stage where they accepted their Golden Verb Statuettes. The speeches brought many to tears and the orchestra was patient as each of our celebrities took their time in thanking everyone right down to that lovely girl at Staples who has always been so helpful in choosing the right pen. Some even thanked Propeller beer, which you can buy right next to Staples and often, as we heard that night, many of us do, holding our reams of blank paper, new uni-ball pens and nary an idea to begin anything with.

After that lovely soirée, some of us (and you know who you are) tripped the light fantastic and landed at Word on the Street having had no sleep and no break from tangoing. Not that we're complaining. We spent the first several hours of the festival in the green room for the performers and the shrimp was divine! Who knew chocolate could be molded into such exquisite surreal um, things? But we had come to the festival to meet our adoring public and hand out information about this lovely organization which thousands more joined that very day at, dare I say it, Word on the Carpet. We had a special group of retired detective writers, tired of searching for the Tourism and Cultural Industry, looking



SUSAN KERSLAKE PHOTO

Lezlie Lowe and Renée Hartleib

for the actual street. After several of them were asked, rather rudely, to leave because of some ripping of the carpet incident that was blown wildly out of proportion in my humble opinion, the remaining detectives concluded that the closest thing to street was the parking lot, besides the carpet, of course. But why quibble. Congratulations WOTC for the great event!

We've actually started weaving our hair extensions in great anticipation for the next big event: The WFNS December Open House. The rumour is that there's going to be a miniature rendition of the Halifax Explosion and an ice swan sculpture but I digress.

Until then amigos, remember even the lowly earth worm has five hearts. *Valor!*



SUSAN KERSLAKE PHOTO

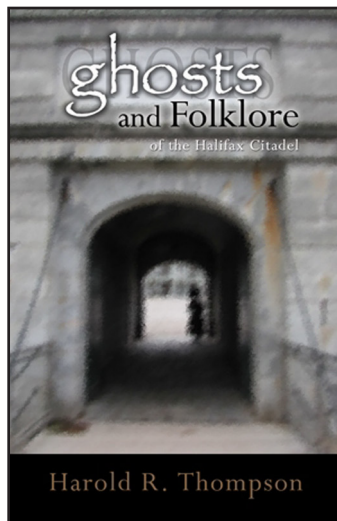
Mary Jo Anderson, Sue MacLeod and Kathleen Martin inspect the silent auction table.

Risky venture

Self publishing – Valour or vanity?

Harold R. Thompson recently wrote the Federation: “I think it’s about time I announce the publication of my new book, *Ghosts and Folklore of the Halifax Citadel*. I self published it (as a longtime employee at the Citadel, I know exactly where and how to sell it), though would like eventually to turn my little imprint into a small press that deals with history and folklore.”

With his note, Harold included this image of the cover and a description of the book, complete with price, ISBN (HT Books, ISBN 0-9780647-0-4) and where it may be bought: “. . . it is entirely appropriate that the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada, a museum where stories from our past, our heritage, are told, should also be the setting for tales of the supernatural, for history and folklore have a great deal in common. One is considered fact, and one is considered fancy, but sometimes it is difficult to separate the two . . . Ghostly apparitions, unexplained footsteps, and eerie figures that appear on security monitors are just some of the mysteries encountered by staff and visitors alike. In this volume you will also learn about secret tunnels and haunted wells as the author attempts to separate truth from rumour, folklore from fact.” At \$12.95 the book is a bargain which may be obtained at the Regimental Shop at the Citadel.



While the Federation doesn’t recommend self-publishing as a solution to the problem of what to do with the magnum opus that took you years to write, there are occasions when self-publishing is a good business decision. There can be a natural fit when the book is unlikely to have a large enough market to be picked up by a mainstream publisher but you know there’s enough interest for sales to cover the costs of producing the book. These might include site-specific books, genealogies, family, church or regional histories, personal memoirs for the family, experimental writing, chapbooks, community cook books.

However, unless you want to flounder in cumbersome boxes of books propping up the mattress, insulating the garage or providing an obstacle course in the attic, you need to approach it with a clearly thought-through business plan. Publishing is an expensive proposition and you’ll need to consider such things as your time, editing, permissions for quotations or illustrations, editing, proofing, barcoding, printing and binding, distribution, publicity, selling, taxes, handling and storage. With trade publishers extending a standard 40 percent discount to booksellers, margins in the book biz are minuscule and the local bookseller will

not welcome you with open arms because you’re not an established supplier. So if you don’t like sales work, think again. Selling books is a long slog.

You need to ask yourself some hard questions: Are you willing to invest that much money and that much time into seeing your book in print? Do you know who (beyond immediate family and your legion of friends) is going to buy your book and have you laid the groundwork for effective distribution? Are you prepared for the fact that you’re unlikely to see reviews of your work in the mainstream media, or be invited to read at those glamorous Writers’ Festivals, or even to see your cherished book in most bookstores?

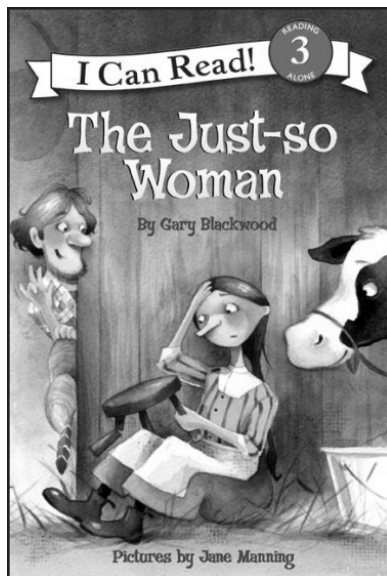
If the answers are yes and you have a good reason to self-publish, do it professionally. Hire a professional editor and designer, acquire an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), don’t forget about Cataloguing in Publication (CIP), registering your copyright, and securing a bar code.

For the right reasons, self publishing can be a very gratifying investment of time, energy and money. **Joan Payzant** self published *Who’s A Scaredy-Cat* in 1991 when this well-published writer had received rejection slips from 14 publishers. Convinced there was a need and a market for a book about the 1917 Halifax Explosion from a child’s perspective, Joan took a loan, published the book and . . . eventually made a small profit. The book is now on the Province of Nova Scotia’s school recommended list.

Garvie Samson – who had successfully published several hugely successful community genealogies concerning River Bourgeois – joined forces with **H.M. Scott Smith**, with whom he shared a passion for golf, to release profitable golfing guides to Atlantic Canada; and **Frank Macdonald** learned a great deal from his first publishing venture in 1990, *Assuming I’m Right* – a compilation of his humorous columns from the *Inverness Oran* which stood littering his home for years. A second collection, *How to Cook Your Cat*, was released in a smaller print run, with a better marketing plan, and recouped publisher Frank’s investment.

Be warned, be wary: don’t be swayed by vanity. There are any number of useful resources available on-line, at the library, in bookstores or from The Writers’ Union of Canada, which has released *Signposts: A guide to self-publishing*, which was compiled by the Book and Periodical Council but is now available through the Union. ■

imPRESSed — the newest titles by WFNS members



The Just-so Woman

Gary Blackwood
illustrated by Jane Manning
HarperCollins, 2005, \$21.85
ISBN13: 9780060577278

The Just-so Woman likes everything to be just perfect. In the morning she wakes up before the rooster crows. She does her chores. She feeds the cat. Then she fixes breakfast. That is how she likes things done, and so that is how she does them every day – until one day when nothing goes just the way she expects, and she learns that sometimes “just so” isn’t the only way things can turn out just right.

Gary Blackwood has written many novels for young readers, including *The Year of the Hangman* and *The Shakespeare Stealer*, an American Library Association Notable Children’s Book and School Library Journal Best Book for 1998. Having recently immigrated to Canada from the United States, Gary and his wife, Jean, and their dog, Keeper, now live in a 19th-century sea captain’s house overlooking Tatamagouche Bay.

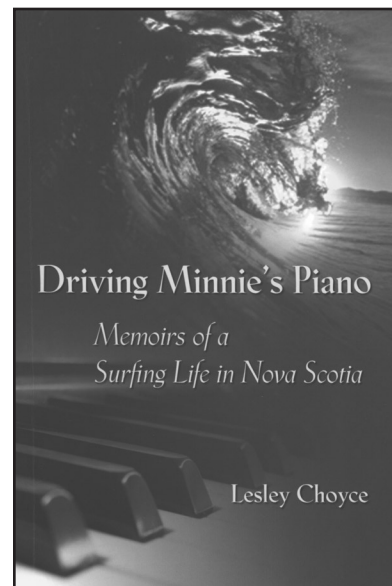


Backyard Circus

Jill Bryant
illustrated by Stephen MacEachern
Annick Press, 2006, \$11.95
ISBN 1554510112

Step right up to the most amazing show on earth . . . yours. *Backyard Circus* shows kids how to host their own big top performance with a little imagination and a whole lot of fun. Cheerful instructions and dynamic illustrations take young readers through everything step by step: from gathering talent, to creating costumes, to organizing acts that astound and entertain. Sprinkled with groaner jokes for clowning around and packed with circus-lore sidebars for enquiring ringmasters, *Backyard Circus* is every kid’s guide to joining the circus without ever running away.

Jill Bryant is the award-winning author of several books for children, including *Making Shadow Puppets* and *Amazing Women Athletes*. She currently lives in Manchester, England but visits her family and friends in Nova Scotia as much as she can.

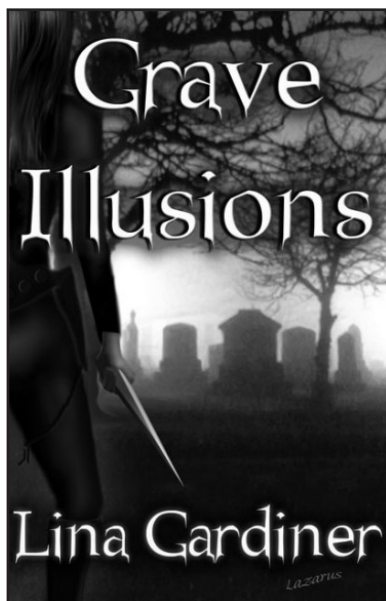


Driving Minnie's Piano

Lesley Choyce
Pottersfield Press, 2006, \$19.95
ISBN 1-895900-81-6

Novelist Lesley Choyce weaves together his real-life adventures living by the sea at Lawrencetown Beach on Nova Scotia’s Eastern Shore. He writes of his love for the rugged coast and the wilderness and tells tales of the ordinary and the extraordinary. Surfing is omnipresent as he writes of paddling in the North Atlantic, catching waves generated by the storms of all four seasons. If you ever wanted to know what it’s like surfing in Canada in the frigid depths of winter, you’ll soon find out.

Lesley Choyce has published more than 60 works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. His 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. He also hosts the literary TV show, *Off the Page*.



Grave Illusions

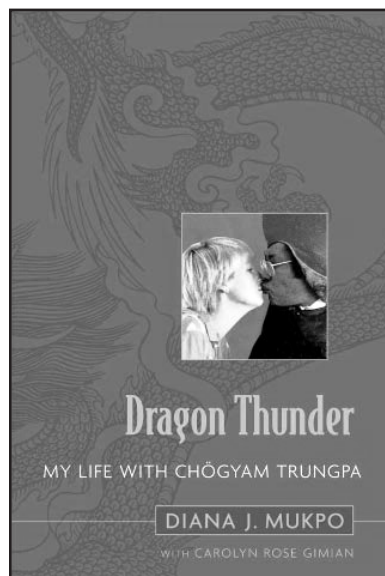
Lina Gardner

Imajinn Books, 2006, US\$11.00

ISBN 1-933417-95-1

New York City is in the grasp of a deadly, unseen enemy – at least unseen by normal society. Lieutenant Jess Vandermire is uniquely specialized to fight this threat. It's her job to forge a black-ops team of men and women who wouldn't be considered under normal circumstances. But these aren't normal circumstances. Team members have to be tough and expendable. When Jess tells John Brittain – ex-cop and team member – the truth about herself, will he stay and fight or turn against her and not only destroy the fragile relationship developing between them but threaten their lives?

Lina Gardiner has had the writing bug for as long as she can remember – since making up stories as a child to entertain herself on long trips in the car with her family. Once her own children had grown up and gone to university, Lina began to write seriously. *Grave Illusions* is her first published book. She lives in Geary, New Brunswick.



Dragon Thunder: My Life with Chogyam Trungpa

Diana Mukpo with Carolyn Rose Gimian

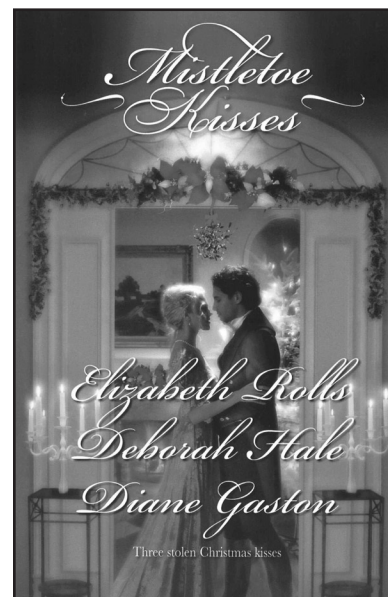
Shambhala Publications, 2006, \$24.95

ISBN 1-59030-256-7

Diana Mukpo led an extraordinary life as the “first lady” of a burgeoning American Buddhist community in the 1970s and '80s. Surprising events and colorful people fill the narrative as Diana seeks to understand the dynamic, puzzling and larger-than-life man she married and to find a place for herself in his unusual world.

Trungpa attracted thousands of students in North America and is credited with introducing many key Buddhist concepts into the English language and psyche. He founded more than 100 meditation centres and wrote dozens of popular books on meditation, Buddhism, and the Shambhala path of warriorship. In *Dragon Thunder*, the reader gets an intimate look at this compelling and enigmatic figure through the eyes of his wife of 17 years.

Carolyn Rose Gimian was the founding director of the Shambhala Archives, the archival repository for Chogyam Trungpa's work.



Mistletoe Kisses:

A Soldier's Tale

A Winter Night's Tale

A Twelfth Night Tale

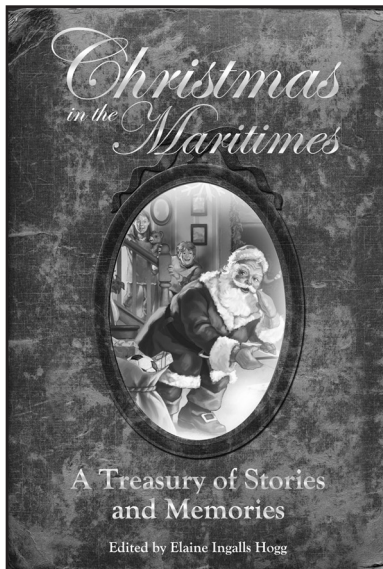
Deborah Hale, Diane Gaston,
Elizabeth Rolls

Harlequin Historical, 2006, \$6.50

ISBN 0-373-29423-9

In Deborah Hale's “A Winter Night's Tale,” this year's festivities for Christabel Wilton and her young son will be sparse and cold – or so she thinks. When the man she'd loved and lost returns, offering her warmth, comfort and a true family Christmas, she can't resist!

Since winning the Golden Heart award in 1997, Deborah Hale has written more than a dozen historical romances and two fantasy novels. She lives in Lower Sackville with her husband of 25 years and their four fast-growing children.



Christmas in the Maritimes

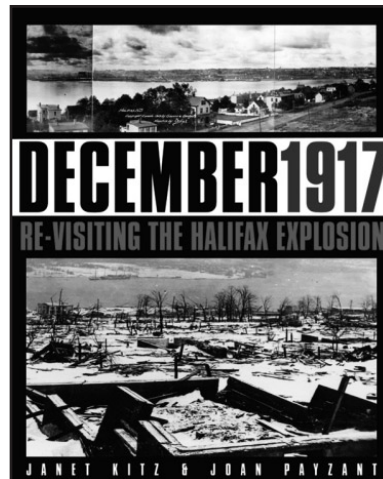
Edited by Elaine Ingalls Hogg

Nimbus, November 2006, \$14.95

ISBN: 1551095947

Christmas in the Maritimes is a heartwarming look at Christmas traditions from Maritimers at home and away. It is a collection of favourite yuletide memories written by readers of the *Times & Transcript*, the *Daily Gleaner* and the *Telegraph Journal* who contributed to the canadaeast.com website, as well as by writers, editors, historians, researchers and other wordsmiths in the Maritimes. The magic of the season comes alive in every story, reminding us about the history of our region as well as what is truly important about the Christmas season.

Elaine Ingalls Hogg wrote the popular history *When Canada Joined Cape Breton* and the children's picture book *Remembering Honey*. She writes a column for the *Kings County Record*, and her articles have appeared in many magazines. She has also contributed to CBC's *Out Front* and *First Person Singular*. She currently lives in Smiths Creek, New Brunswick.



December 1917:

Revisiting the Halifax Explosion

Joan Payzant and Janet Kitz

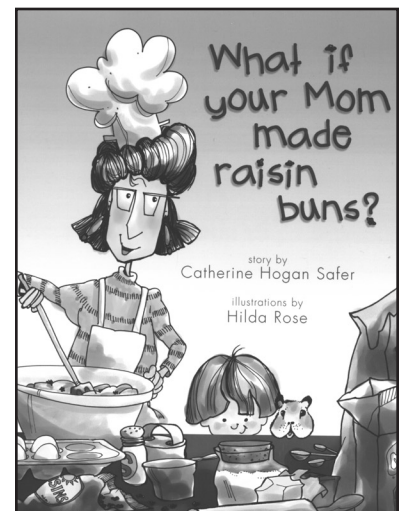
Nimbus, 2006, \$21.95

ISBN 1551095661

December 1917 is a photographic guide to the Halifax Explosion by Janet Kitz and Joan Payzant. They profile locations in Halifax and Dartmouth that were affected by the explosion, looking at the role of the explosion in the transformation of the two cities. Stories and anecdotes reveal the ways in which the explosion touched the lives of citizens, and original research brings to light new aspects of the explosion.

Janet Kitz is regarded as the foremost authority on the Halifax Explosion. She is the author of *Shattered City; Survivors: Children of the Halifax Explosion* and *Point Pleasant Park: An Illustrated History*. Janet moved to Nova Scotia in 1971 and currently resides in Halifax.

Joan Payzant is a long-time resident of Dartmouth. In addition to *Like a Weaver's Shuttle*, she has written numerous books, including *Who's a Scaredy-cat!*, a popular children's book about the Halifax Explosion, and *We Love to Ride the Ferry*.



What if Your Mom Made Raisin Buns?

Catherine Hogan Safer

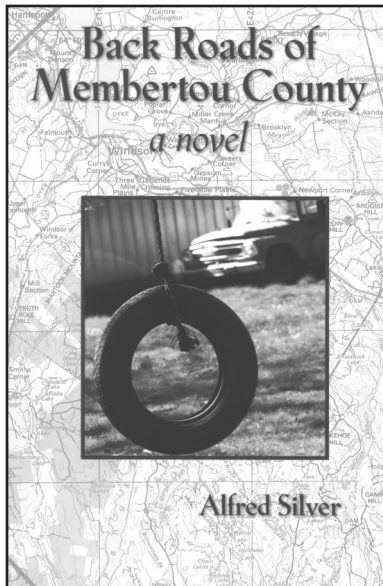
Illustrated by Hilda Rose

Tuckamore Books, 2006, \$12.95

ISBN 1-897174-03-9

Stanley is five years old. He loves raisins almost as much as he loves bugs. When his mom makes raisin buns for afternoon tea, Stanley's imagination gets the better of him with hilarious consequences.

Originally from Newfoundland, Catherine Hogan Safer currently lives in Dartmouth. Her novel, *Bishop's Road*, was shortlisted for the 2005 amazon.ca/Books in Canada First Novel Award. *What if Your Mom Made Raisin Buns?* grew from a story she told her daughters when they were very young. This is her first children's book.



Back Roads of Membertou County

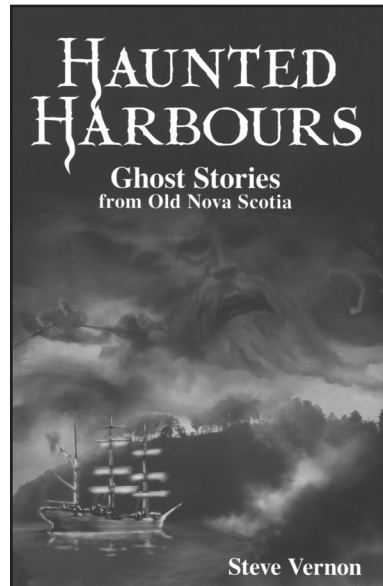
Alfred Silver

Pottersfield Press, 2006, \$19.95

ISBN 1-895900-81-6

Introduced in *Clean Sweep*, Bonnie and Ben Marsden return in *Back Roads of Membertou County*. When the upper echelons of law enforcement put the squeeze on anybody remotely connected with Jack Burton, a shadowy dangerous man, not even Bonnie's friend RCMP Corporal Kowalchuck can prevent Ben from going to jail. The complex situation puts the Marsden marriage to a test. Bonnie amateur sleuthing helps resolve one legal crisis but lands them in another more dangerous predicament that threatens their marriage and their lives.

Winner of the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize, Alfred Silver has published 10 novels, including *Clean Sweep*, *Three Hills Home*, *Acadia*, and *The Haunting of Maddie Prue*. Born in Brandon, Manitoba, Alf now lives with his wife in a farm house in Ardoise, Nova Scotia.



Haunted Harbours

Steve Vernon

Nimbus, 2006, \$14.95

ISBN 1-55109-592-0

Haunted Harbours is a collection of ghost stories from Nova Scotia – from the restless spirits of Devil's Island to the Black Dog of Antigonish Harbour. Documented and well-known stories from the provincial archives are mixed with word-of-mouth legends of strange happenings and scary sightings from across Nova Scotia. Steve Vernon relies on his storytelling experience to create moody and terrifying tales from the annals of history.

Steve Vernon was born in the woods of the North Canadian Shield, in Ontario. He learned the storytelling tradition from his grandmother. He now lives in Halifax and is the resident fortune teller at Little Mysteries Bookstore on Barrington Street.



A Sky Black with Crows

Alice Walsh

Red Deer, 2006, \$11.78

ISBN 0889953686

In the early 20th century, Katie Andrew, a feisty teenager, goes with her family each summer to fish the Labrador waters. When her father is lost at sea, Katie's mother refuses to leave the outpost and waits for him to return. The entire family falls ill, and her mother dies. Katie awakens after her illness in the orphanage run by the Grenfell Mission. She is devastated by the disappearance of her youngest sister, who has been adopted by a well-to-do photographer and his family. *A Sky Black with Crows* takes Katie through a series of events that are as vital to her search for her sister as they are insightful of the history of the Atlantic region at a time when Canada was about to make its early mark on the world.

Alice Walsh was born in northern Newfoundland and now lives in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. She is the author of four books for children, including *Pomiuk: Prince of the North*, which won the 2005 Anne Connor Brimer Award.

Who's doing what

■ **Racked** – members' work appearing in the astonishing assemblage of journals, e-notes and mags crossing your editor's desk into the Fed Reference Library (open 9:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday for your amusement and edification): She may have forgotten to forward a bio, but **Laura Best**'s story in the latest *Grain* tells all about 'What Nobody Knows', while **Kathy Mac**'s poems are a dazzle of word love; and long-ago summers emblazoned fall at the office with the arrival of *The Malahat Review* and **Melanie Jasmine Grant**'s poem 'Children in a field'. Elsewhere in the journal **George Elliott Clarke** reviews Olive Senior's *Over the Roofs of the World* (Insomniac); *The Aurorean* features a recent poem from **Mary Turnbull Burnight**; **Kimberley Hicks** has parlayed her article, 'Weaving a World Vision', which appeared in *Saltscapes* into a feature for *Alpaca Magazine*. The story focuses on a family-owned mini-mall operation in PEI that is transforming the cottage fibre industry around the world. When not exercising her second serial rights, Kimberley also found time to write two short book reviews for *Atlantic Books Today*; **Tracy Leal** is stretching her freelance wings writing about the local music scene in the *East Coast Blues Newsletter* to get some clips for her cv and placing an author interview/review with *The Chronicle Herald*; *The Source Health and Wellness Magazine* featured **Heddy Johannesen**'s byline with an article on pets and seniors; recent poems by **Richard Provencher** appear in *Quills* and *The Dublin Quarterly* while one of his stories was included in *A Million Stories* and future stories are scheduled

for *Raconteur*, *The Country Connection* and *Skive Quarterly*; *Strange Horizons* was graced with 'The Bather', a new poem by **Joanne Merriam** and *Alba* published her 'Evenings at Brownlow Park' and 'Public Gardens'; **Gary Saunders** gives us the 'lock, stock and barrel' on hunting jargon in *Rural Delivery* while **Frank Macdonald** works his way through pounds by joining Elder Fields Project, a western Cape Breton initiative that delivers fresh vegetables to subscribers in the area; **donalee Moulton** has a love affair with wine as she reviews Natalie MacLean's new book (*Red, White, and Drunk All Over: A Wine-Soaked Journey from Grape to Glass*) for *Saltscapes* while **Sandra Phinney** clambers through crumbling houses whose owners have found and restored their great bones and **Jodi DeLong** ponders ponds and window boxes, and **Harry Bruce** is still hunkered down on the back porch telling us that money isn't everything.

■ **Kudos** – **Daniel Paul** found himself in Ottawa in October, inducted into the Order of Canada and listening to these words from Governor General Michaëlle Jean: "Celebrating excellence is so much more than handing out medals. It is recognizing outstanding actions. More than that, it is holding up as role models those who inspire us – all of us and generations to come. The example you have set leaves no doubt that nothing is impossible when you make the effort. The results are obvious: you are our very best, for you have given the best of yourselves. We honour you today, for you have surpassed yourselves in virtually every area of human

endeavour." Wearing his new minted Order of Canada medal, Danny spoke about the mark he made with his 1993 book *We Were Not the Savages*: "I upset the apple cart a little bit in Nova Scotia with changing history, you know, getting the truth out a bit . . . all of a sudden they begin to pass you medals." This spring Fernwood Publishing released a new 21st-century edition (its third incarnation) of *We Were Not the Savages: A Mi'kmaq Perspective on the Collision between European and Native American Civilizations*.

■ **And more Kudos** to the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library! Though many universities and public libraries across Canada boast writers-in-residence, PARL sustains the only writer residency in the Maritimes. **Harry Thurston** is their third writer-in-residence, starting in early October until April with a three-week break over the festive season. He follows in the footsteps of **Sheldon Currie** and **Anne Simpson**. Listening to feedback from budding writers and satisfied patrons who used the program, it became crystal clear to PARL that this was a much-needed service to their community. Steve MacLean, PARL's Community Outreach Coordinator, was heard extolling, "And damn it! It's just so rewarding . . . It makes sense, for the love of all that's right . . . libraries . . . authors . . . writers!"

■ **Never tired of kudos** – Read to Me! Nova Scotia's Family Literacy Program, directed by **Carol MacDougall** and championed by **Sheree Fitch**, is among the 29 world-wide organizations promoting reading to be nominated for the

prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Representatives from Sweden will be in Halifax this fall to look at this innovative approach that emphasizes the cradle end of life-long learning. Every child born in Nova Scotia receives a Read to Me! bookbag, complete with book, a special library card invitation, a book buck, reading video and list of literacy resources in the province. At 5 million Swedish crowns, the ALMA is the world's largest children's and youth literature prize. Because it is paid for by public funding, it is in many ways an award from the Swedish people to the world. It results from the deep affection of generations of Swedes for Astrid Lindgren and her characters – Pippi Longstocking, Karlsson on the Roof and others. The administrators feel that “good children's literature gives the child a place in the world, and the world a place in the child.”

■ **Recently launched:** With a preface by CBC's Shelagh Rogers, a new anthology – *Nobody's Mothers: Life Without Kids* – edited by Lynne Van Luven and published by TouchWood Editions, includes a contribution ('Patchwork') from **Mary Jane Copps**; a fine new anthology, *A Ragged Pen: Essays on Poetry and Memory* just out from Gaspereau Press, includes contributions from **Robert Finley** and **Anne Simpson**; Orca will publish two more YA novels by **Vicki Grant** – *Pig Boy* is due this fall and *IDed* is scheduled for the spring; Stride, the UK publisher that released her first collection of poetry has included nine new poems from **Joanne Merriam** in a new anthology, *The Allotment*, released this fall; **Wayne Curtis** has collected highlights of his life and of life in a new collection of essays, *Wild*

Apples, just published by Goose Lane Editions; **Jeff Domm**'s most recent work is a collection of four nature guides released this summer by Formac in their Pocketguide series – *Whale Watching on Canada's East Coast*, *Nature*, *Fossils*, and *Canada's Atlantic Seashore*; **Douglas Arthur Brown** tore himself away from centrestage as suave MC at the Fed's Annual Gala to centrestage at Word on the Street where he read from his recent Cape Breton University Press release of *The Komodo Dragon and Other Stories*; prolifically published as an author for young readers, **Alain Rimbault** is très heureux to welcome his début novel for adult audiences – *Roman et Anna* – just out in a beautifully slip-covered, French-flap trade format from Éditions Hurtubise.

■ Symphony Nova Scotia likes **Binnie Brennan**'s story, *A Spider's Tale*, so much they've asked her to put it into development for the orchestra's popular Family Series. During the winter and spring, Binnie will work with David Overton and his dramaturgy student at Dal's Theatre Department to evolve the story into a production for SNS's Christmas 2007 season.

■ **Frank Macdonald**'s debut novel *A Forest for Calum* has been longlisted for the 2007 IMPAC Dublin Literary Prize. Nominated by libraries around the world, the 2006 prize was awarded to *The Master* by Colm Tóibín. Frank was on the road sharing a reading stage with Linden MacInyre this fall for the Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council.

■ **Liz Crocker** worked with her friend and professional colleague Bev Johnson to collaborate on a book that focuses on the essential ingredients of good health care.

The result, *Privileged Presence: Personal Stories of Connections in Health Care* has just been released by Bull Publishing. Chock-a-block with firsthand stories of pain, healing, cruelty and kindness, the tales of families and friends, peoples' lives, the book includes useful reading lists, organizations and questions to be asked that will prove invaluable to patients, their families and friends and health care professionals.

■ The Centre Court at WFNS bubbled with wine, laughter and conversation as **Maureen Hull** launched her first novel, *The View From A Kite* (Nimbus). Musing that husband David would be hearing the book for the first time and had suggested on their drive down from Pictou Island that she choose “something lively,” Maureen has no problem doing just that by simply beginning at the beginning. The book continued to be heard at the following weekend's Word on the Street (Carpet?) festival, and again in early November at a festive Pictou County launch at the New Glasgow Public Library.

■ **Laura Trunkey** was over the moon to learn she'd been awarded a scholarship from the BC Arts Council to help underwrite her costs to take an MFA in Creative Writing at Simon Fraser University. The Federation spotted her first, awarding Laura a mentorship several years ago to work on her writing with **Carol Bruneau**.

■ **Michelle Herx** had a busy pumpkin season producing *Awake, O Pumpkin*, *A Wake* with direction/writing by Pat Gould-Thorpe for the Windsor Pumpkin Festival.



Daniel Bone and Sheree Fitch

■ **Sheree Fitch** was jetsetting this summer – a keynote address for the Peel Board of Education in Toronto and out to Sechelt, BC, for the writers’ festival (you call that work?) where she shared the stage with **Donna Morrissey** with a quick touchdown in Halifax to greet Daniel Bone who won his provincial history fair with a project inspired by reading Sheree’s book *The Gravesavers* which had been shortlisted for Ontario’s Red Maple Award. The prize was that he – and 200 other young historians – got to come to Halifax.

■ Our loss is Saint John’s gain. To make it possible for his young daughter and wife to be close to parents and grands, **Clyde Wray** has resituated and recently wowed audiences at the Saint John Arts Centre with an evening of Sonnets by the Fireside with guitar accompaniment by Doug Jones.

■ **donalee Moulton** and Barbara Cottrell won an Atlantic Gemstones Jasper Award for excellence in print publications for researching and writing *Guide for Girls!*. Published by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, *Guide for*

Girls! is a tool to help young girls find answers to their questions and help them prepare for all kinds of challenges as they begin their journey to adulthood. It has ideas from girls, and the women who work with them. It also has space for girls to write about their dreams, so they can think about them, play with them and make some decisions. It’s available from the Advisory Council’s website (www.gov.ns.ca/staw/pub.htm). The Gemstones are presented by the Nova Scotia chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society.

■ **Concluding kudos** – *To Find Us: Words and Images of Halifax* – an anthology project overseen by **Sue MacLeod** as her Halifax Poet Laureate undertaking – is one of the five nominees for the inaugural Lieutenant Governor’s Masterwork Award. The finalist will be announced on October 19 at a ceremony in Pictou, just after *Eastword* goes to press. The \$25,000 Award has been created to recognize the excellence and creation of a particular work of art or performance of art which has made a significant impact in its public presentation and has contributed to the historical

development and contemporary practice of the art form.

New Members

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

Deborah Banks, Sherbrooke
 Janet Barkhouse, Mahone Bay
 Cathryn Bjornson, Dartmouth
 Terrilynn Chiasson, Halifax
 Ann Clarke, Dartmouth
 Sheila Cole, Halifax
 Paul Craig, Boutiliers Point
 Brenda Crane, Dartmouth
 Elinor deGraaff, Hammonds Plains
 Dina Desveaux, Halifax
 Clare Dugas, Pleasantville
 Ben Gallagher, Halifax
 Glen Gray, Sydney
 Cheryl Greenberg, Middle Sackville
 Leah Hamilton, Upper Stewiacke
 Warren Heiti, Halifax
 Heather Jessup, Halifax
 Chris Kallerag, Hammond’s Plains
 Ellen Kearney, Halifax
 Alison Kempton, Halifax
 Donelda Kent, Halifax
 Lesley Langley, Lower Sackville
 Karen LeBlanc, Halifax
 Barb Lombard, Canning
 Dorothy Lynch, Halifax
 Leighton MacDonald, Eastern Passage
 Ursula MacKinnon, Halifax
 Steven Mayoff, Ellerslie, PEI
 Elaine McManus, Halifax
 Heather Mead, Bedford
 Margaret Overington, Head of Chezzetcook
 Darlene Porter, Baie Verte, NB
 Dennis Praest, Halifax
 Sandra Sammons, Hampton
 Marlene Stanton, Halifax
 Gail Tattrie, Beaver Bank
 Megan Venner, Kingston
 Angela Walker, Dartmouth
 Loretta White, Chester
 Raymond Zinck, Dartmouth
 Richard Zurawski, Halifax

Markets, etc.

■ **The Vagrant Revue of New Fiction: an anthology of short fiction by Atlantic Canadian writers:**

Vagrant Press is looking for mind-blowingly good unpublished short fiction (2,000 to 10,000 words) – short stories, graphic vignettes, novelettes, excerpts from works in progress – in any genre. Contributors must live in one of the four Atlantic provinces. Deadline December 1. Editors are Sandra McIntyre and Mary Jo Anderson. Multiple submissions ok. Include cover letter with name, address, phone number, e-mail, title and total word count of story, a brief bio outlining writing experience, if any. Ms pages should be numbered but with no identifying information. Compensation: acceptance comes with a short paragraph byline and one copy of the anthology plus a small cash payment, to be determined based on the number of stories accepted. Send submissions by e-mail or mail to: Sandra McIntyre, Editor, The Vagrant Revue of New Fiction, P.O. Box 9166, Halifax NS B3K 2E8. E-mail: editorial@nimbus.ns.ca

■ **Descant:** PO Box 314, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2S8 (www.descant.on.ca) Looking for submissions for an upcoming theme issue – Iran (deadline December 31). Review writers' guidelines on website before submitting. *Descant's* current issue (134) features Cuba Inside/Out.

■ **Acreage Life, enhancing your country lifestyle:** (www.acreagelife.ca) The first Canadian magazine to cater specifically to the needs and interests of acreage owners. Readers are primarily country converts maintaining jobs in the city while living on properties of 1 to 25 acres. Guidelines say, "We are eager to purchase, on assignment, freelance writing that is appealing, reader-friendly and fresh. Stories should convey a sense of place." Query first. Pays 60¢ per published words on publication. Writers' guidelines on website (go to bottom of page and click on guidelines).

■ **Acres U.S.A., a voice for eco-agriculture:** (www.acresusa.com) monthly news publication on sustainable agriculture published in Austin, Texas.

■ **American Forests:** a quarterly US mag about trees, forests, and forestry issues. Looking for non-fiction material. (www.americanforests.org)

■ **Blackbird:** (www.blackbird.vcu.edu) an online journal published by the Virginia Commonwealth University Dept. of English twice a year. Guidelines on website. Payment after publication.

■ **Parabola, the search for meaning:** (www.parabola.org) a quarterly devoted to exploring the quest for meaning as it is expressed in the world's myths, symbols and religious traditions. Each issue is organized around a theme. Sex is on the agenda for the next issue, deadline January 5. Welcomes original essays. Rarely considers fiction and only if directly related to the theme of an issue. No poetry. Payment on publication ranges from \$150 to \$400.

■ **Antietam Review:** an annual publication published in Maryland, (www.washingtoncountyyarts.com/antietam_review.thm). Fiction (\$50 to \$100), poetry (\$25/poem), photography (\$25/print). Guidelines on website.

■ **Beloit Poetry Journal:** (www.bpj.org) a quarterly published in Farmington, Maine. Seeks unpublished poems.

■ **Brilliant Corners: A Journal of Jazz & Literature:** (www.lycoming.edu/BrilliantCorners) publishes jazz-related fiction, poetry and non-fiction twice a year.

■ **Callaloo:** (www.press.jhu.edu/journals/callaloo) A quarterly published by the Dept. of English at Texas A&M University. Publishes original works by and critical studies of black writers worldwide. A rich mixture of fiction, poetry, plays, critical essays, critical studies, interviews and visual art.

Awards

■ **Dartmouth Book Awards:** 2 prizes of \$1,500 each to honour books published in 2006 which have contributed the most to the enjoyment and understanding of Nova Scotia and its people. Two categories: fiction and non-fiction. A third prize of \$1,500 will go to the winner of the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award. Publishers with eligible titles are asked to submit 4 copies along with a completed submission form. The entry fee is \$10 per title. Deadline is 4 p.m., Monday, December 4. For information and nomination forms go to: www.halifax.ca/bookawards/submissions.html

■ **Griffin Poetry Prize:** deadline is December 31. There are two categories – Canadian and International – and a \$50,000 prize for each. Books published between January 1 and December 31, 2006 are eligible. For information www.griffinpoetryprize.com

Contests

■ **Prairie Fire 2006 writing contests:** Prairie Fire, 423-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg MN R3B 1H3. (www.prairiefire.ca) Deadline November 30. **Bliss Carman Poetry Award** (1 to 3 poems/entry, maximum 150 lines). **Short fiction** (1 story/entry, maximum 15,000 words). **Creative non-fiction** (1 article per entry, maximum 5,000 words). Prizes: 1st \$1,000; 2nd \$500; 3rd \$250 in all categories. Entry fee \$27 per category (includes 1-yr sub). Work must be unpublished. Winning pieces will be published in *Prairie Fire*, with authors paid for publication.

■ **Manitoba Writers' Guild writing contest:** Friends is the theme. Open to writers across Canada. Broken into two age groups, Adult (18+) and Youth (13-17), and three categories (Fiction, Poetry and Non-Fiction). Deadline: December 31. Entry fee: adult \$15, youth \$10. Details at www.mbwriter.mb.ca/contest/friends.htm