

east word

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Atlantic Book Festival – May 5-12

Twenty-five books. Four provinces. One festival.

Here's the shortlist for all 10 categories of the 2007 Atlantic Book Awards. Our website (www.writers.ns.ca/bookfest07) has detailed author biographies and descriptions of the nominated titles. Check to see which of Atlantic Canada's leading authors are coming to your community for a reading or special event. The week is booked solid with events all over the region. The Atlantic Book Awards ceremony takes place at Pier 21 in Halifax, 1055 Marginal Road, Friday, May 11, 4pm.

Here are the nominees:

Atlantic Poetry Prize

Mary Dalton, *Red Ledger*, Véhicule Press
Steve McOrmond, *Primer on the Hereafter*, Wolsak & Wynn
Peter Sanger, *Aiken Drum*, Gaspereau Press

Best Atlantic Published Book

Bruno Bobak: *The Full Palette*, edited by Bernard Riordon,
Goose Lane Editions
East Coast Rug-Hooking Designs: New Patterns from an Old Tradition, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Nimbus Publishing
Ganong: A Sweet History of Chocolate, David Folster, Goose Lane Editions

Booksellers' Choice Award

Wayne Johnston, *The Custodian of Paradise*, Knopf
Ami McKay, *The Birth House*, Knopf
David Adams Richards, *The Friends of Meager Fortune*,
Doubleday

Ann Connor Brimer Children's Literature Prize

Janet McNaughton, *The Raintree Rebellion*, HarperCollins
Canada
Darlene Ryan, *Saving Grace*, Orca Book Publishers
Budge Wilson, *Friendships*, Penguin

Dartmouth Book Award Fiction

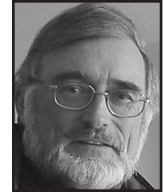
Maureen Hull, *The View from a Kite*, Vagrant Press
Stephen Kimber, *Reparations*, HarperCollins
Linda Little, *Scotch River*, Penguin



Mary Dalton



Steve McOrmond



Peter Sanger



Bernard Riordon



Deanne Fitzpatrick



David Folster



Wayne Johnston



Ami McKay



David Adams Richards



Janet McNaughton



Darlene Ryan



Budge Wilson



Maureen Hull



Stephen Kimber



Linda Little

WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA
ISSN 1187 3531
1113 MARGINAL ROAD
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3H 4P7
TEL: 902-423-8116
FAX: 902-422-0881
talk@writers.ns.ca
www.writers.ns.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Jane Buss
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: Susan Mersereau
WRITER TEAMMATE: Sue Goyette
FESTIVAL/OUTREACH: Sean Flinn
EASTWORD EDITOR: Peggy Amirault

WFNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Lezlie Lowe
PAST-PRESIDENT: Douglas Arthur Brown
SECRETARY: Marilyn Iwama
TREASURER: Kathleen Martin James
MEMBERS AT LARGE: Lorri Neilsen Glenn,
Renée Hartleib, Stephen Kimber, Jamie
Leck, Stephens Gerard Malone, Phil
Moscovitch, Sue Newhook, Sandra Phinney,
Joanne Taylor

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia is a registered not-for-profit organization that operates with funds raised from membership fees, from fund-raising endeavours, corporate sponsorship, with operating support from the Government of Nova Scotia through the Culture Division, Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, and with project assistance from Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts – all of whom we gratefully acknowledge for assisting to make the work of the WFNS possible. The WFNS is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, Access Copyright, the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), and the Nova Scotia Children's Literature Roundtable. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or of WFNS.

Services and markets advertised or mentioned are not necessarily endorsed by WFNS. We reserve the right to edit manuscripts and letters. Copyright to bylined material remains with the writer and cannot be reprinted without the permission of the writer.

Typeset in Amethyst, an original type design by Jim Rimmer, New Westminster, B.C. Printed offset at Gaspereau Press, Kentville, N.S.

NOVA SCOTIA
Tourism, Culture and Heritage



Patrimoine
canadien Canadian
Heritage



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Dartmouth Book Award Non-Fiction

Linden MacIntyre, *Causeway: A
Passage from Innocence*,
HarperCollins
Keith McLaren, *A Race for Real
Sailors*, Douglas & McIntyre
M. Brook Taylor, *A Camera on the
Banks: Frederick William Wallace and
the Fishermen of Nova Scotia*, Goose
Lane Editions

Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize

Wayne Johnston, *The Custodian of
Paradise*, Knopf
Linda Little, *Scotch River*, Penguin
Ami McKay, *The Birth House*, Knopf

Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-Fiction

Marq de Villiers, *Windswept*,
McClelland & Stewart
Linden MacIntyre, *Causeway: A
Passage from Innocence*,
HarperCollins
Natalie MacLean, *Red, White and
Drunk All Over: A Wine-Soaked
Journey from Grape to Glass*,
Doubleday

Margaret and John Savage First Book Award

John G. Langley, *Steam Lion: A
Biography of Samuel Cunard*,
Nimbus
Elaine McCluskey, *The Watermelon
Social*, Gaspereau Press
M. Brook Taylor, *A Camera on the
Banks: Frederick William Wallace and
the Fishermen of Nova Scotia*, Goose
Lane Editions

Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Illustration

Odell Archibald (Janet Skirving,
author), *P is for Puffin*, Sleeping
Bear Press
Brenda Jones (Lesley Choyce, author),
Skunks for Breakfast, Nimbus
Publishing
Ron Lightburn (Sharon Jennings,
author), *The Happily Ever Afternoon*,
Annick Press



Linden MacIntyre



Keith McLaren



M. Brook Taylor



Linda Little



Marq de Villiers



Natalie MacLean



John G. Langley



Elaine McCluskey



Odell Archibald



Brenda Jones



Ron Lightburn

Workshops and panel on writing for children – May 12

If you write for children and teens, treat yourself to the workshops and panel discussion slated for Saturday, May 12 at Writers Fed central – 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax (next to Garrison's Brewery, near Pier 21). The cost is \$35 for a single workshop or \$50 for two (pick one morning and one afternoon workshop). To register, contact WFNS at (902) 423-8116 or by email: talk@writers.ns.ca. The panel discussion is free and pre-registration isn't necessary.

9:30 - 11:00

In the Mind of a Child: First Person Narrative in Children's Fiction with Pamela Porter

To write first person narratives for children, we must be "in the mind of the child." But most of us shed our child minds as we grew up. In this workshop, we'll do an exercise to take us back into our child minds. We'll discuss the advantages and limitations of a child narrator for a story. If you are working on a piece of fiction in first person, bring it to the workshop and if time allows we will include your work in the discussion. Come equipped with paper and pen.

Pamela Porter is an award-winning poet and juvenile fiction author. *Stones Call Out* is her first poetry book publication. Her children's novel in narrative poems, *The Crazy Man*, received the 2005 Governor General's Award for Children's Literature. She currently lives in Sidney, British Columbia.

Telling a Canadian Story: Writing Picture Books, Biography and YA Fiction with Maxine Trottier

Explore the planning and writing of our own stories as picture books, biographies and young adult novels, as well as discovering practical ways of dealing and working with publishers. There are sensible ways to do



these things and still have fun and enjoy the wide world of children's books.

Maxine Trottier is a prolific writer of books for young people, spanning from non-fiction to picture books to novels. Details about her work can be found on her website (www.maxinetrottier.com). She divides her time between the shores of Lake Ontario in Port Stanley, Ontario, and Newman's Cove, Newfoundland overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

12:30 - 2:00

From Bird's Eye to Worm's Eye: The Art of Visual Narrative with Bill Slavin

Bill Slavin has illustrated more than 70 books for kids. When he reads the writer's words, visual images immediately come to mind that are often very close to the images that the reader will eventually see in the book. He does very little editing or reworking, trusting the integrity of those initial responses. He works largely from imagination, but of course when specific information is needed, researches items in his own extensive collection of resource material, at the library, or, more rarely – as it can be immensely frustrating – the Internet.

His work has received numerous awards, including the 2004 Blue Spruce Award and the 2004 CLA Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's medal, both for his work on *Stanley's Party*. He shares his studio in Millbrook, Ontario with his wife, Esperança Melo.



continued on page 4

Crossovers: Making the Leap from Documentaries to Non-fiction Books for Adults and Children with Elizabeth Etue

As with a non-fiction book, the best documentaries take shape first on paper. Whether that means writing copy for a narrator or “writing” the entire film by selecting and arranging the interview soundbites and natural sound, the documentary writer is the first person to see the film in their head as they lay it out on the page. Often, the writer is also the producer and director, and sometimes the photographer and editor, but it is in the writing stage that your precious stack of field tapes becomes a film. The leap to/from the book is a natural one, that you, too, may explore.

Elizabeth Etue is a radio and print journalist as well as the president of Virago Entertainment. She is the writer and associate producer of the documentary *Chasing the Dream – Women’s International Hockey*. She has enjoyed a 22-year career in book publishing and co-wrote a highly praised history of women’s hockey, *On the Edge*. Her latest book, *Born to Play*, recounts Olympic gold-medallist Hayley Wickenhauser’s rise to international fame with previously unpublished stories, photographs and quotes.

Both Sides of the Computer: An Author/Editor’s Tips for Writing Children’s Non-fiction with Elizabeth MacLeod

Get an insider’s view on what children’s publishers are looking for in non-fiction books and what makes good children’s non-fiction. You’ll also discover what editors expect of authors and what authors should expect of their editors. Gain new



insights into this challenging and rewarding field of writing for children.

Elizabeth MacLeod began work as an editor at *OWL Magazine*. She took a break from children’s publishing to write for a software company, then became an editor at Kids Can Press where she still is an author and freelance editor. Liz’s books range from non-fiction to picture books to craft books. *The Kids Book of Great Canadian Women* and *George Washington Carver* are her most recent books and Liz has edited books on topics ranging from hockey and Canada’s prime ministers to soap and sea monsters.

11:15-12:15 Panel Discussion –

Our Culture’s Compass: Publishing for Children in Canada with Valerie Burke-Harland, Peter Carver, Hadley Dyer and Kathleen Martin

Peter Carver has worked in Canadian publishing for 30 years as an editor, publisher, writer, and commentator, principally in the field of books for young readers. He is a three-time recipient of the Vicky Metcalf Editor’s Award. Since 1996, he has been editor of children’s and young adult books for Red Deer Press.

Valerie Burke-Harland is a journalist, storyteller and businesswoman who started her career as a freelancer for CBC and with radio stations in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. After a stretch running her own marketing company, she took on Marketing and Promotions for Red Deer Press in Calgary where you can find her planning and executing innovative launches for Red Deer’s spring and fall titles.

Writer and editor Hadley Dyer grew up in the Annapolis Valley and now lives in Toronto, where she is the children’s book editor at James Lorimer & Co. She also writes non-fiction children’s books, is a regular contributor to magazines, such as *Canadian Family*, *Toronto Life* and *OWL*, and teaches children’s publishing at Ryerson University. Set in the North End of Halifax, *Johnny Kellock Died Today* is her first novel.

Kathleen Martin is the author of six non-fiction books for children. She is the Atlantic Liaison for the Canadian Children’s Book Centre, has edited children’s fiction books for Front Street/Cricket Books in Chicago, and was an acquisitions editor for the Cricket Magazine Group. She also writes for adults. She is the Atlantic correspondent for *Marketing Magazine*. She edits fiction, poetry and non-fiction books for publishers in Canada and the United States, and has written for a variety of magazines and newspapers. ■



2007 ATLANTIC Book Awards

Nominated for the Atlantic Poetry Prize

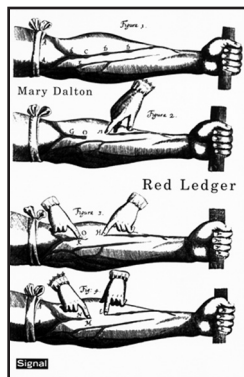
Mary Dalton

Red Ledger

Véhicule Press, 2006, \$16.95

Collection number four from Mary Dalton packs tight the tough and visceral with the erotic and the sociopolitical. Writing in *The Globe and Mail*, Jane Urquhart, who chose the book among her best of 2006, notes, "It's sensuous, surprisingly lively at times, and sometimes very wonderfully dark; the emotions revealed in these poems taste like atmosphere."

Mary Dalton lives in St. John's and teaches at Memorial University. Her outstanding contribution to the arts has been recognized with the Newfoundland & Labrador Arts and Letters Award. Mary's previous book, *Merrybegot*, won the 2005 E.J. Pratt Poetry Award and was shortlisted for the Winterset and Pat Lowther Memorial Awards.



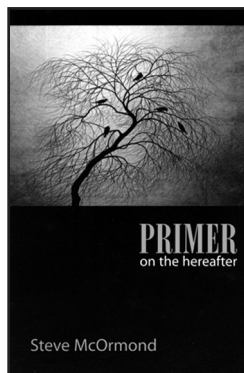
Steven McOrmond

Primer on the Hereafter

Wolsak & Wynn, 2006, \$17

With precision and purpose, Steve McOrmond penetrates the surfaces of daily life, rural and urban, here and afar, in search of other, or greater, meanings. Home, loneliness, belonging and worth (of the self and of objects around him) all come into sharp resolve here.

Steve McOrmond lives in Toronto. Born in Nova Scotia, he grew up on PEL. His work has appeared in *Fiddlehead*, *Geist* and *Grain* and his first book of poetry, *Lean Days*, was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award.



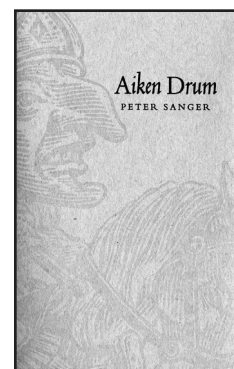
Peter Sanger

Aiken Drum

Gaspereau Press, 2006, \$19.95

This collection finds Pete Sanger writing from his poet's heart while employing his archaeologist's eye. When the "poetic champions compose" (as Van Morrison sings) they hold equal long-buried classical imagery and ideas with those of the local and immediate. Sanger does this well. Sanger's fierce intelligence and rigor holds the opposites in perfect balance.

Peter Sanger has published seven collections of poetry, including *Earth Moth* and *Arborealis*, a collaboration with photographer Thaddeus Holownia. His recent prose work includes *White Salt Mountain: Words in Time*. The poetry editor of *The Antigonish Review*, he lives in South Maitland, Nova Scotia.



Nominated for the Best Atlantic Published Book Award

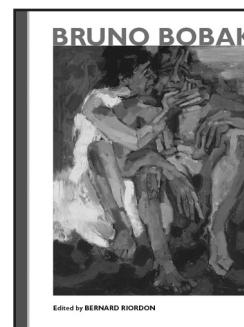
Bruno Bobak: *The Full Palette*

edited by Bernard Riordan

Goose Lane Editions, 2006, \$65

Bronislaw Josephus ("Bruno") Bobak discovered art in classes organized by Group of Seven's Arthur Lismer at the Art Gallery of Toronto (later the Art Gallery of Ontario). He became Canada's youngest Official War Artist and held leading positions at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver and the UNB Art Centre in Fredericton. His figurative paintings are known for their bold expressionism and large scale. In six essays by curators and artists, with reproductions of his work, Bobak's art and life leap from the page.

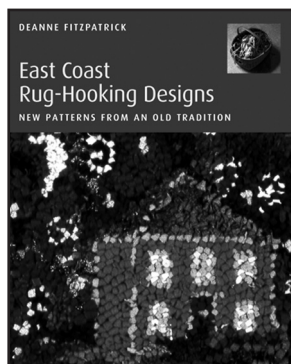
Bernard Riordan was founding director of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. He is now director of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton. He's also written *Nova Scotia Folk Art: Canada's Cultural Heritage* and *Joe Norris: Painted Visions of Nova Scotia*.



Deanne Fitzpatrick
East Coast Rug-Hooking Designs:
New Patterns from an Old Tradition
 Nimbus, 2006, \$19.95

East Coast Rug-Hooking Designs is filled with more than 30 patterns of coastal-inspired hooked mats, each pattern accompanied by the stories that inspired them. The designs range from those suitable for beginners to those that will challenge the experienced hooker. Each design includes basic instructions, a pattern to copy, a list of necessary supplies, rug-hooking tips, a story about the design and a photograph of the finished hooked rug.

Deanne Fitzpatrick grew up in Freshwater, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, and now lives in Amherst. Her mother and both her grandmothers hooked rugs, as a pastime and as a chore of necessity. Deanne works as a full time rug-hooking artist and her work is exhibited at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and has been featured on CBC's *Land and Sea*.

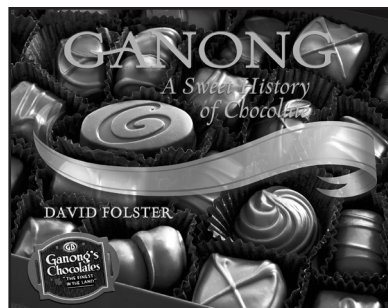


David Folster
Ganong: A Sweet History of Chocolate
 Goose Lane Editions, 2006, \$24.95

Family-owned entrepreneurial businesses have driven the Atlantic Canadian economy for well over a century. They've also defined the culture of this region. *Ganong: A Sweet History of Chocolate* illustrates

the Ganong company's beginnings in 1873, when James and Gilbert Ganong opened a tiny grocery store in St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Since then, five generations of the family have maintained Ganong's specialty in making sweets, but also in advertising, package design and more. Gorgeous photos and insightful text let readers feast on this story.

David Folster is a journalist, social historian, and heritage and conservation activist. He is the author of *The Great Trees of New Brunswick* and *The Chocolate Ganongs of St. Stephen, New Brunswick*, which was shortlisted for the 1990 Canadian Business Book of the Year Award.



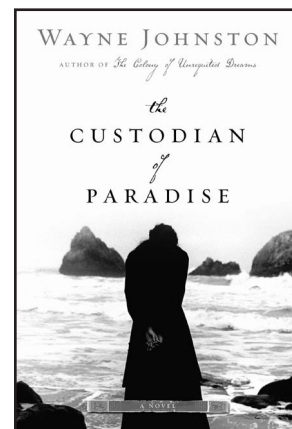
Nominated for the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award

Wayne Johnston
The Custodian of Paradise
 Knopf, 2006, \$22 sc, \$34.95 hc

Who wouldn't want to follow Wayne Johnston on his return to the literary territory first explored in *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*? Of course, this time the quick-witted and cutting Sheilagh Fielding leads the way. The journey leads to deeper and further isolation and solitude, a state in which Fielding immerses herself. So much the better to tell her story of being abandoned as a child and burned by love as a young woman – all the while followed, and cared for, by her mysterious Provider.

Born in Newfoundland, Wayne Johnston grew up in Goulds, a few miles south of St. John's. He now lives in Toronto. His novel *The Divine Ryans* won the first Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize in 1991, as did *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* in 1999. Since 2004, he's been Distinguished Chair in Creative Writing at Hollins University in Virginia.

Wayne Johnston's *Custodian of Paradise* is also nominated for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize

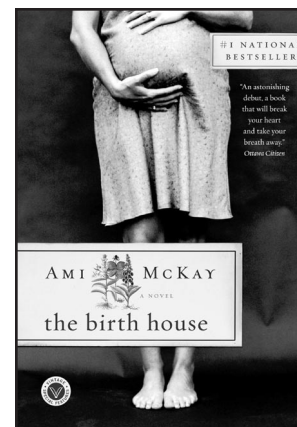


Ami McKay
The Birth House
 Knopf, 2006, \$22

There's great import to the birth of Dora Rare. She's the first female born to the family in five generations. Dora's life continues to be charged as she befriends and studies under the spirited Acadian midwife, Miss Babineau. Soon the still young but brash medical establishment – in the guise of Dr. Gilbert Thomas – confronts them and their work in Scots Bay, Nova Scotia. A death casts suspicion on the midwives and the community divides behind and against. With historic and well-researched detail, as well as an appreciation for the political, this narrative brings the past in full dimension to the present.

Ami McKay, and this book, started out in journalism. Her work has aired on CBC Radio's *Sunday Edition* and *OutFront*. When she and her family moved to Scots Bay, she discovered their home was in fact a former birth house.

Ami McKay's *The Birth House* is also nominated for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize.



David Adams Richards
The Friends of Meager Fortune
Doubleday, 2006, \$21

Ah brothers. Often so close and yet so far apart. It takes a novelist of David Adams Richards' calibre to unravel the mystery of this sibling relationship within the confines of a compelling story. Will and Owen Jameson grow up in the Miramichi, the sons of a logging kingpin. The elder Will inherits the father's love of labour and his toughness, but also his fate. The younger Owen looks inward and escapes into books. After the fall of the father and the first son, it's up to Owen to define the family legacy and to redefine himself.

Born in Newcastle, New Brunswick, David Adams Richards has returned time and again to the Miramichi. His book *Mercy Among the Children* shared the Giller Award in 2000. *The Friends of Meager Fortune* just received the 2007 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book for Canada/Caribbean Region. The overall winner is announced May 27.

Nominated for the Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature

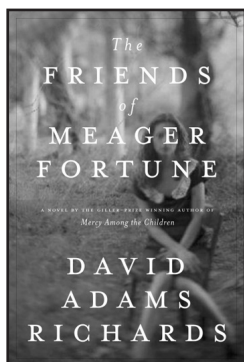
Janet McNaughton
The Raintree Rebellion
HarperCollins Canada, 2006, \$15.99

Welcome back Blake Raintree! Now 18, the heroine of the critically acclaimed *The Secret Under My Skin* returns to the city of her birth. She's now an aide to a justice council charged with addressing the wrongs of the technocast. She searches her past, aided by the microchip her parents planted in her arm at birth. What she learns causes her to question everything she knows about herself and to search for the love and acceptance she's been denied her entire life, and, finally, to make a wrenching choice.

Janet McNaughton has lived in St. John's for more than 20 years. She's the bestselling author of several award-winning young adult novels including *Catch Me Once*, *Catch Me Twice* and *An Earthly Knight*, which won the Bruneau Family Children's Literature Award and the Mr. Christie's Book Award.

Darlene Ryan
Saving Grace
Orca Book Publishers, 2006, \$9.95

Teenaged Evie faces a big, tough decision. She suspects her baby, which she was forced to give up for adoption, is being neglected. She snatches the child back and convinces her boyfriend Justin



to drive her to Montreal where she plans to start a new life as a mother. When the baby won't eat and she and Justin argue, she ends up alone in a small town. As the baby becomes sicker, Evie must decide whether to admit her mistake and turn herself in, or to keep running.

Fredericton resident Darlene Ryan wrote *Rules for Life*, an ALA Best Book nominee. She's also the author of *A Mother's Adoption Journey*, which draws on her own experience adopting a baby girl from China.



Budge Wilson
Friendships
Penguin Canada, 2006, \$12.99

Friendships are limitless in their nature and character. Budge Wilson understands and honours this in *Friendships*, a subtle and moving collection of stories about surprising moments of understanding from unlikely sources. In "The Snake," a girl faces her fears with help from a strange ally; in "Father by Mail," a teenager writes all the things he could never say to the parent who has left him behind; and in "Bruno," a boy discovers a way to deal with a bully.

Halifax resident Budge Wilson, one of Canada's best-loved authors for young readers, tells perceptive and contemporary stories that show struggling boys and girls making a connection with someone who can bring them to a kind of balance.



Nominated for the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction

Maureen Hull
The View from a Kite
Varagant Press, 2006, \$15.95

Exceptional character and circumstance combine in this debut novel. Teenaged Gwen is the thoughtful and observant storyteller illuminating life inside one of the last tuberculosis sanatoriums in Nova Scotia during the 1970s. The hospital's surroundings, fellow patients and the disease's manifestations (her research notes are interspersed throughout) all come clear. So does the wry humour about her own escapades. And so too the glimpses into a violent and dark past.



Born and raised in Cape Breton, Maureen Hull now lives on Pictou Island in the Northumberland Strait. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. Her short story collection, *Righteous Living*, was shortlisted for the Danuta Gleed Award and several of her stories have been read on CBC radio.

Stephen Kimber
Reparations
 HarperCollins Canada, 2006, \$19.95

This is a gutsy first novel that meets head on an unresolved issue in Nova Scotia: Africville. The book opens with the trial of a young black man who, while working for the municipal government, steals government money in the name of reparations for the shattered community. The presiding judge and the defence attorney in the case both share a connection to Africville's fate – razed by the city in the '60s – and to each other. As they wade through decades of political manipulations and social strife, both lawyer and judge confront their intertwined pasts.

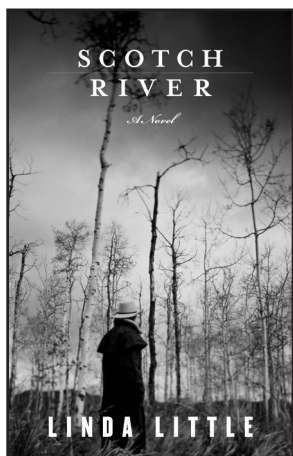
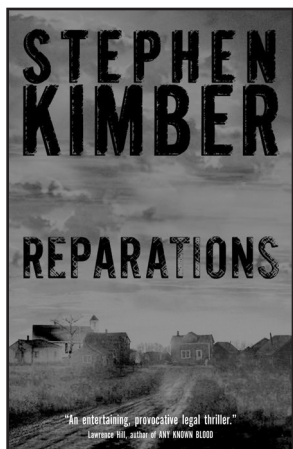
Stephen Kimber is an acclaimed, award-winning writer, editor, broadcaster and professor in the School of Journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax. He is the author of five non-fiction titles including *Sailors*, *Slackers* and *Blind Pigs: Halifax at War* and *Flight 111: The Tragedy of the Swissair Crash*.

Linda Little
Scotch River
 Penguin, 2006, \$30

A cowboy comes home to the Maritimes after his rodeo partner dies. With no one and nothing to hold on to, Cass Hutt gives up the riding and ranch life out West to follow a mysterious land deed back to Scotch River, Nova Scotia. Once he's back, sketchy boyhood memories slowly resolve and Cass is faced with an unforgettable cast of characters bound together by the mysteries of blood and the burdens of memory.

Growing up in Hawkesbury, Ontario, Linda Little came to settle in River John, Nova Scotia. Her first novel, *Strong Hollow*, was nominated for the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction and the Books in Canada Canada/Amazon First Novel Award.

Linda Little's *Scotch River* is also nominated for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize



Nominated for the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction

Keith McLaren
A Race for Real Sailors
 Douglas & McIntyre, 2006, \$29.95

The anticipation, pressure and thrill of each and every International Fisherman's Cup race – it ran from 1920 to 1938 – enlivens these pages. It was a 40-mile ocean course that battered and bruised every ship. Along with much else, national pride was on the line every time. McLaren writes with the firsthand knowledge of a sailor and the skill of a storyteller (for many, that's one and the same).

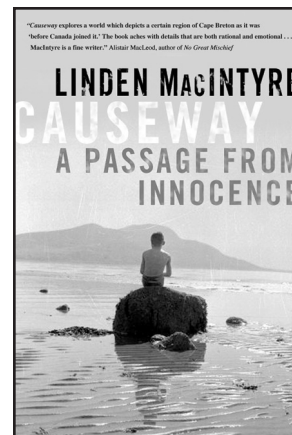
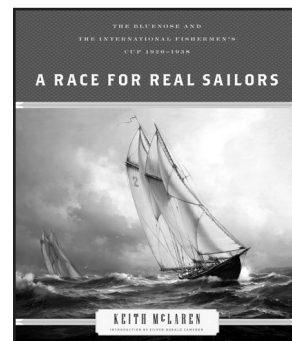
Born in Victoria, Keith McLaren now lives in North Saanich, British Columbia. McLaren crossed Canada to attend the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. He's worked on the sea for more than 35 years, most recently as Master of *The Spirit of Vancouver Island*. His previous books include *Bluenose*, *Bluenose II* and *Light on the Water*.

Linden MacIntyre
Causeway: A Passage from Innocence
 HarperCollins Canada, 2006, \$34.95

Fifty-five years ago, the Canso Causeway connecting Cape Breton Island and the Nova Scotia mainland was completed. For a tiny village this was massive change. The transformation was also deeply personal as veteran CBC-TV journalist Linden MacIntyre shows in this evocative memoir. Suddenly he could imagine catching up with his father, Dan Rory, who was always away. Just as quickly, he could imagine crossing himself, leaving behind people like his Gaelic-speaking grandmother, Peigeag, who may or may not have been able to cure or curse you. Added to the clarity of MacIntyre's memory and appreciation for character is a sharp sense of humour.

An award-winning journalist on *The Fifth Estate*, Linden MacIntyre's first novel, *The Long Stretch*, was shortlisted for the 2000 Dartmouth Book Award and the Canadian Booksellers Association Libris Award. MacIntyre was born in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, and grew up in Port Hastings, Cape Breton. He now lives in Toronto.

Linden MacIntyre's *Causeway* is also nominated for the Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction.



M. Brook Taylor

A Camera on the Banks:

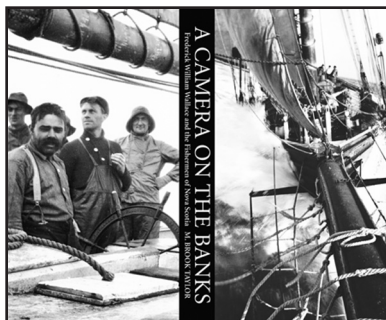
Frederick William Wallace and the Fishermen of Nova Scotia

Goose Lane Editions, 2006, \$24.95

This book provides a lens on the importance of the camera as storyteller in the early 20th century and on a transformative period – when unassisted sail was in its decline – in the fishery off Nova Scotia. Brook Taylor's text captures the detail, voices and concerns of the day. It places you on the pitching and rolling decks of ships, thanks to black-and-white documentary-style pictures of journalist and commercial artist Frederick William Wallace.

M. Brook Taylor is a history professor at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. He curated an exhibit of Wallace's work at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

M. Brook Taylor's *A Camera on the Banks* is also nominated for the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award.



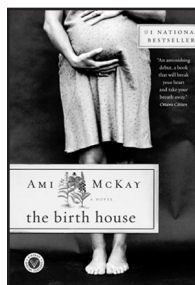
Nominated for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize

Ami McKay

The Birth House

Knopf, 2006, \$22

Ami McKay's *The Birth House* is also nominated for the Booksellers' Choice Award. See page 6.

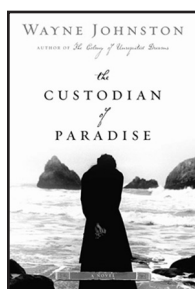


Wayne Johnston

The Custodian of Paradise

Knopf, 2006, \$22 sc, \$34.95 hc

Wayne Johnston's *Custodian of Paradise* is also nominated for the Booksellers' Choice Award. See page 6.

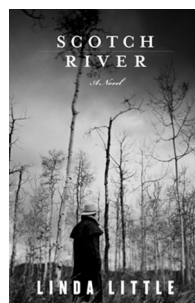


Linda Little

Scotch River

Penguin, 2006, \$30

Linda Little's *Scotch River* is also nominated for the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction. See page 8.



Nominated for the Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction

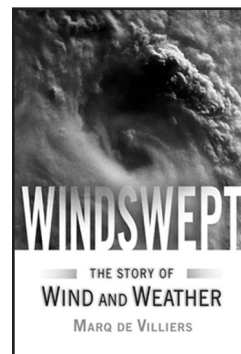
Marq de Villiers

Windswept: The Story of Wind and Weather

McClelland & Stewart, 2006, \$22.99

The book opens when de Villiers is a child, almost driven off a cliff by a ferocious wind. It closes with Hurricane Ivan pounding at his door in Nova Scotia. In between, *Windswept* explores how the ancients viewed wind; whether global warming is causing more severe weather; early sailing lore; and the psychological effects of the Santa Ana winds.

Marq de Villiers' nine non-fiction books include *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource*, which won the Governor General's Award for Non-fiction. With his wife, Sheila Hirtle, he wrote *A Dune Adrift: The Strange Origins and Curious History of Sable Island*, which won the Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction. Formerly a nationally renowned journalist, Marq now writes books from his home in the teeth of the weather in Port Medway, Nova Scotia.

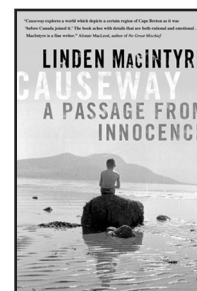


Linden MacIntyre

Causeway: A Passage from Innocence

HarperCollins Canada, 2006, \$34.95

Linden MacIntyre's *Causeway* is also nominated for the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-fiction. See page 8.



Natalie MacLean

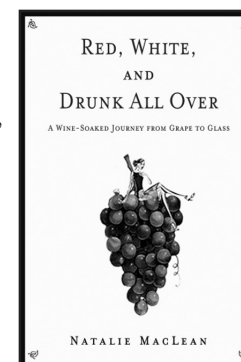
Red, White and Drunk All Over:

A Wine-Soaked Journey from Grape to Glass

Doubleday Canada, 2006, \$29.95

Natalie MacLean leads you into the action, the art, the heart of winemaking. She writes with a sense of humour, a nose for investigative inquiry and a knowledge as deep as a pinot noir – coupled with the ability to deliver it in clear, accessible prose. Follow her as she labours in a California grape harvest, dons the sommelier's role in a French restaurant and serves the refined customers in a New York shop; or take instruction on how to read complex guides or hold a tasting.

Award-winning, Ottawa resident Natalie MacLean's wine journalism is read all over the world. She appears in many magazines, including *Saltscapes* and *Chatelaine*, and publishes the highly popular free e-newsletter *Nat Decants*.



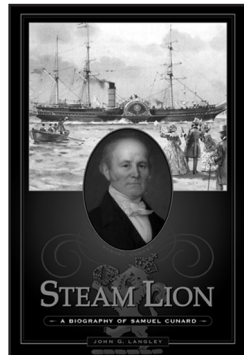
Nominated for the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award

John G. Langley

Steam Lion: A Biography of Samuel Cunard
Nimbus Publishing, 2006, \$29.95

This is the first full-length biography of Halifax-born-and-bred Samuel Cunard, the shipping magnate who dominated the 19th century world of international trade. His influence endures as the Cunard Line continues today. John G. Langley covers the growth of the company and the other commercial and social concerns of this historic figure.

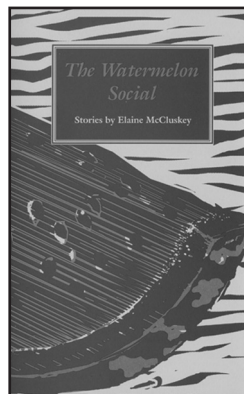
Halifax resident John Langley is a retired lawyer and a world authority on Cunard and his company. He founded the Cunard Steamship Society, a group dedicated to the preservation and exchange of historical information and related memorabilia and has consulted on films and documentaries.



Elaine McCluskey

The Watermelon Social
Gaspereau Press, 2006, \$25.95

The usual suburban tropes fade away in Elaine McCluskey's debut collection of 10 stories. Nothing TV-sinister happens in these pages; instead there are depths for the reader to plumb in every story. McCluskey renders the stillness and quiet of suburban communities in note-perfect style, the same result she achieves when she writes of children from their points of view. Without relying on place names, there's something essentially Atlantic in these stories.

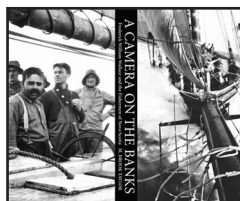


Elaine McCluskey's stories have appeared in *The Antigonish Review*, *Gaspereau Review* and *Pottersfield Portfolio*. The title story in this collection was shortlisted for the 2004 Journey Prize. A former Bureau Chief for Canadian Press, McCluskey lives with her family in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

M. Brook Taylor

A Camera on the Banks:
Frederick William Wallace and the Fishermen of Nova Scotia
Goose Lane Editions, 2006, \$24.95

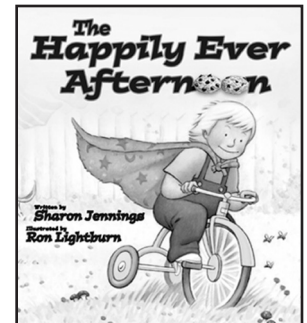
M. Brook Taylor's *A Camera on the Banks* is also nominated for the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-fiction. See page 9.



Nominated for the Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration

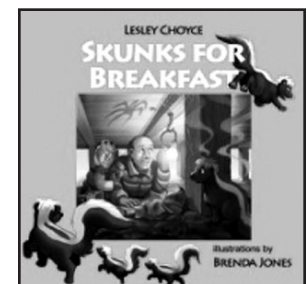
Ron Lightburn, *The Happily Ever Afternoon*
(Sharon Jennings, author)
Annick Press, 2006, \$8.95 sc, \$19.95 hc

Birthdays are for wishes and the imagination. On his birthday, a boy pictures a room full of treasure. Our hero goes on a quest to get a cut of the cake before the party starts. But he'll have to outwit ferocious dragons, endure distant exile, and outrace the most formidable guardians of them all: his parents. Ron Lightburn is the award-winning illustrator of several books for children, including *How Smudge Came* and *Waiting for the Whales*. He lives in Kentville.



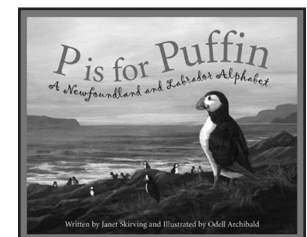
Brenda Jones, *Skunks for Breakfast*
(Lesley Choyce, author)
Nimbus Publishing, 2006, \$8.95

Everything about Pamela's family and life is normal until the skunks arrive, and arrive. Then suddenly everything about her life, and her family, stinks. But Pamela takes heart, then action with her father, trying their darndest to get rid of the smelly pests, one after the other after the other. Born and raised in PEI, Brenda Jones now works as an illustrator, commercial designer and film animator in Montreal. She has illustrated a dozen books, including *Lobster in My Pocket* and *Mr. Sweetums Wears Pink*.

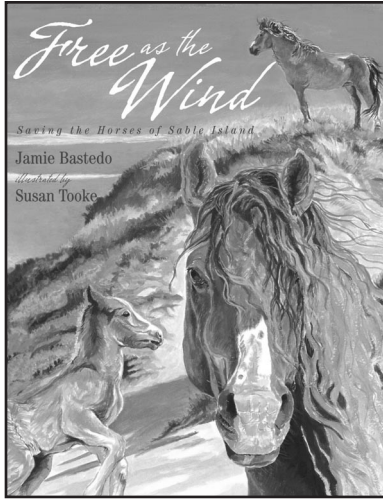


Odell Archibald, *P is for Puffin: A Newfoundland and Labrador Alphabet*
(Janet Skirving, author)
Sleeping Bear Press, 2006, \$18.95

The unique visual and spoken language of Newfoundland and Labrador is celebrated in this collaboration by illustrator Odell Archibald and author Janet Skirving. Archibald makes a painting for each letter in the alphabet. Archibald's work is colourful, detailed and textured. These unforgettable scenes combine with thoughtful text from Skirving, perfect for anyone and everyone who's visited – or wants to visit – the beloved Rock. Odell Archibald grew up in Stephenville Crossing and now lives in Kippens with her family. She also has a cottage in Salmon River, on the west side of Newfoundland.



imPRESSed — the newest titles by WFNS members



Free as the Wind

Jamie Bastedo

illustrated by Susan Tooke

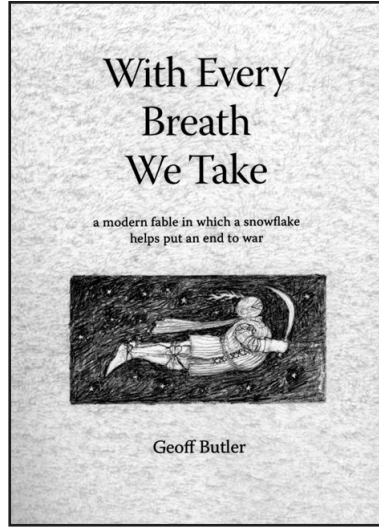
Red Deer Press, 2007, \$19.95

ISBN 0889953503

Free as the Wind is set in the early 1960s, when the wild Sable Island horses were to be removed and sold at auction. School children wrote to Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, pleading with him to restore the horses to the island – to save them from certain death. This fictional account of that pivotal moment in Canada's history follows Lucas Beaugard, son of the retiring superintendent of Sable Island, as he befriends and then plots to save Gem, one of the horses of Sable Island.

Jamie Bastedo, a popular science writer, has written books on northern nature and numerous natural history magazine features.

Susan Tooke lives in Halifax. She received the Mayor's Award from the Halifax Regional Municipality for illustrating *Full Moon Rising*. Her illustrated books include *A Fiddle for Angus* and *Brave Jack and the Unicorn*.



With Every Breath We Take:

a modern fable in which a snowflake helps put an end to war

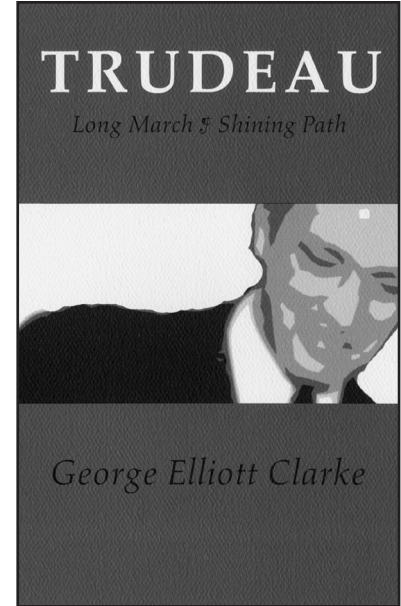
Geoff Butler

Self-published, 2007, \$17.50

ISBN 978-0-9694447-2-5

When beleaguered by the troubles of this world, we ask, "What can one person do?" A grandmother asks this question and lets her imagination run wild. She is sick and tired of war. Inspired by the World War I "Christmas truce" when soldiers came out of their trenches and fraternized with their enemies, she crochets snowflakes to bring about an unexpected snowstorm and a modern day re-enactment of that truce.

Visual artist Geoff Butler lives in Granville Ferry. He has written, illustrated and self-published two books, *Art of War: Painting It Out of the Picture* and *The Look of Angels: Angels in Art*. Tundra Books has published his children's books, including *Ode to Newfoundland*.



Trudeau: Long March, Shining Path

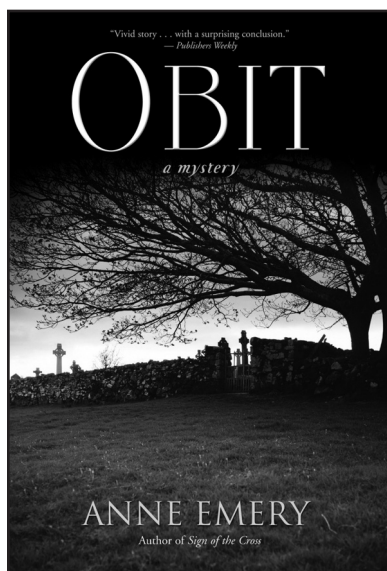
George Elliott Clarke

Gaspereau Press, 2007, \$21.95

ISBN 9781554470372

This dramatic poem is an irreverent, jubilant portrait of the life and politics of one of Canada's most controversial political heroes. Clarke's poem provides a whimsical and informative look at the balance of world powers in the 1960s and 70s, infused with the spirit of the many revolutions taking place during these years.

George Elliott Clarke was born in Windsor, Nova Scotia. He is currently the E. J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Toronto.



Obit

Anne Emery

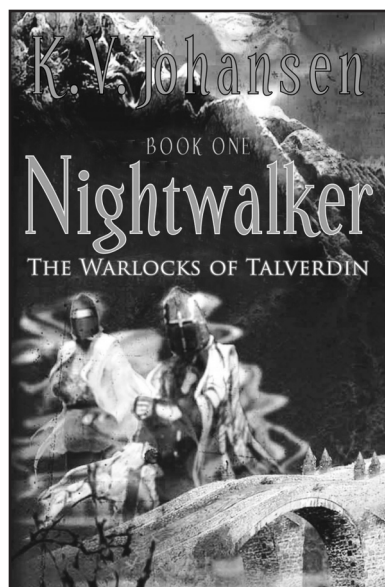
ECW Press, 2007, \$28.95

ISBN 978-1-55022-754-3

Father Declan Burke fled Ireland 40 years ago and never looked back. Now in New York, he thinks he's put the old country behind him, until he reads the obituary of Cathal Murphy. The obituary is not about Murphy at all, but a coded indictment of Burke's own life. And an announcement of his impending death. Burke's former lawyer Monty Collins investigates the obit with its allusions to Burke's IRA past, but he gets no help from Burke.

From the farms of Ireland to the tenements of New York City, Collins is confronted by a cast of enigmatic characters.

Anne Emery is a graduate of Dalhousie Law School. She has worked as a lawyer, legal affairs reporter and researcher. She lives in Halifax with her husband and daughter. Her first novel was *Sign of the Cross* (2006).



Nightwalker: Book One

The Warlocks of Talverdin

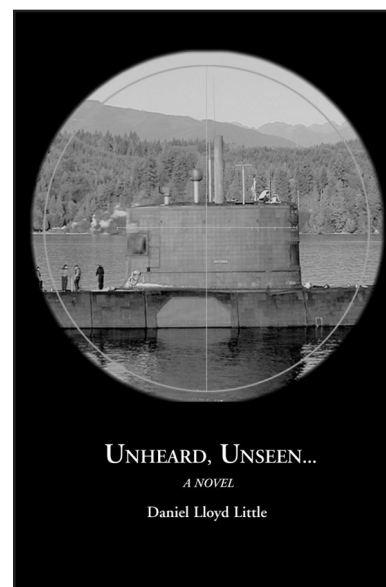
K.V. Johansen

Orca Book Publishers, 2007, \$9.95

ISBN 9781551434810

Maurey has always been persecuted for the colour of his skin and eyes. All he knows about his parents is that his mother died the day he was born. When the king's chancellor discovers Maurey possesses a ring belonging to the missing queen and another that may be the key to finding the hidden kingdom of the inhuman warlocks of Talverdin, he is imprisoned, revealed as a Nightwalker and sentenced to execution. Rescued by a young baroness, Maurey sets out on a dangerous journey to the land of his father's people. If he and Annot are to survive and prevent the destruction of the last refuge of the Nightwalkers, Maurey will have to call on skills he never knew he possessed, and win the trust of both sides of his family.

K.V. Johansen is the author of *Quests and Kingdoms*, a history of children's fantasy literature. She currently lives in Sackville, New Brunswick.



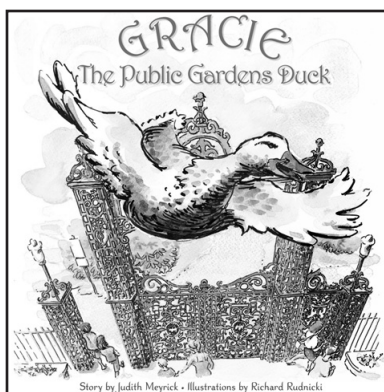
Unheard, Unseen . . .

Daniel Lloyd Little

Self Published, 2006, \$15.82 (available from amazon.ca) ISBN: 0-595-41542-3

It is 2009 and North Korea has purchased four outdated submarine-launched ballistic missile boosters from a French company. The US and Canadian governments know what the unstable North Korean leader intends for the rocket boosters in light of his failure to successfully launch a missile of his own. When a covert mission to intercept the rockets unravels due to mechanical problems with the ultra-quiet spy submarine USS Jimmy Carter, a replacement must be found and quickly! The solution comes in the form of a Canadian submarine.

Originally from Moncton, New Brunswick, Daniel Little has called Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, home since 2003. A deep-rooted interest in military history from an early age has led him to explore many of North America's museums and battlefields, and to acquire an extensive library on all aspects of warfare.



Gracie, The Public Gardens Duck

Judith Meyrick

illustrated by Richard Rudnicki

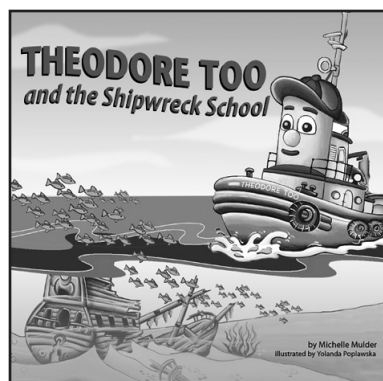
Nimbus. Spring 2007, \$16.95

ISBN 978-1-55109-605-6

Gracie has a nice, comfortable life in the Halifax Public Gardens. Her days are full of swimming in lakes and fountains, napping in bushes, and gobbling up the delicious treats that visitors to the park bring especially for her – muffins, popcorn and peanut butter sandwiches. Yum! But one day Gracie's favourite people stop giving her food. What's happening? Why won't anyone share their lunch? Aren't they worried she'll starve? Despite her best efforts, Gracie's turned away by all her food sources, and to fill up she has to turn to, well, duck food. And despite herself, she starts to enjoy it.

Judith Meyrick is a freelance writer. Judith's home is in Halifax but she is currently in Waiganui, New Zealand, on an extended writing retreat.

Richard Rudnicki is a visual artist living in Halifax.



Theodore Too and the Shipwreck School

Michele Mulder

Nimbus, June 2007, \$8.95

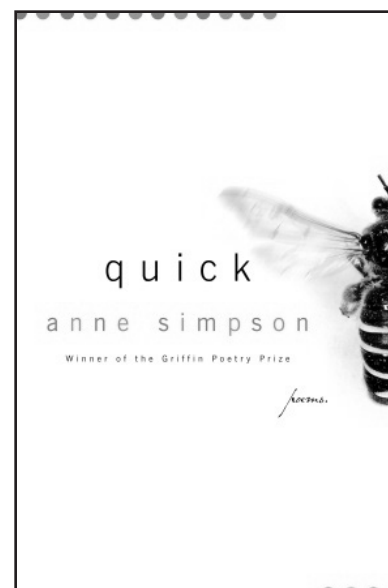
ISBN 978-1-55109-609-4

When Theodore Too and Lucy Tug decide it's a perfect day for an adventure, they visit the Shipwreck School, a school of fish who live by an old sunken ship. But there's no sign of the fish until they look down and see the fish caught in a stray net. Oh no!

This is the second book in the series featuring Theodore Too, the youngest tugboat in Halifax Harbour, full of questions and eager for adventure. With his friends Lucy Tug, McKay Bridge, Dartmouth Ferry, Guy Seagull, George Lighthouse and Fisherman Murphy, he explores the harbour and saves his friends.

Michelle Mulder's articles have appeared in *Maclean's*, *Canadian Geographic* and *Reader's Digest*.

Yolanda Poplawski is an illustrator and graphic designer. She's the author and illustrator of *A Halifax ABC* and illustrator of *Theodore Too and the Too Long Nap*. She also illustrates greeting cards depicting Nova Scotian scenes.



Quick

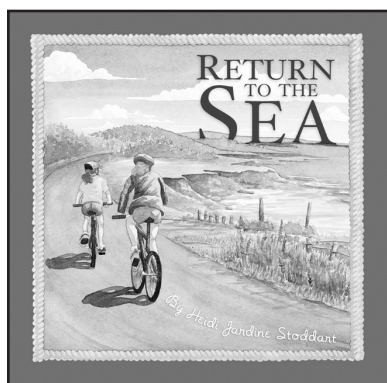
Anne Simpson

McClelland & Stewart, 2007, \$17.99

ISBN 978-0-7710-8091-3

The human body is a world. How it contains all that it does, how it is altered, and how it is transformed after death are the concerns of *Quick*. From the shock of a near fatal car accident to a meditation on the body as one world within other, larger worlds, the book becomes an anatomy in itself.

Anne Simpson's two previous collections of poetry are *Light Falls Through You*, winner of the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Atlantic Poetry Prize, and *Loop*, winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize and a finalist for the Governor General's Award. She lives in Antigonish.



Return to the Sea

Heidi Jardine Stoddart

Nimbus, 2007, \$10.95

ISBN 978-1-55109-606-3

In *Return to the Sea* a young girl and her family set off on a summer road trip from Ontario to the Maritimes. On their way to their grandparents' cottage in New Brunswick they visit many of the most famous tourist attractions east of Ontario: historic Quebec City; the world's longest covered bridge in Hartland, New Brunswick; the legendary tides of the Bay of Fundy; Peggy's Cove; the city of Halifax; and Anne's Prince Edward Island. Everything – from the car ride to pirate stories, bonfires, and bike rides – is cherishingly documented by a young girl.

Heidi Jardine Stoddart is the author of two other children's books, *East to the Sea* and *A Nothing-to-do Day*. Heidi currently lives in Rothesay, New Brunswick, with her husband, and spends most of her time teaching, drawing, painting, and looking for shells at the seashore.



The Confluence

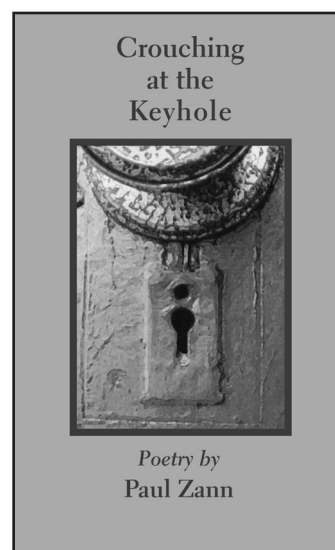
J.A. Wainwright

Mosaic Press, 2007, \$24.00

ISBN 0-88962-847-2

The Confluence is the story of Kate Bradley, who is haunted by the loss of her father in a wild British Columbia river and takes up residence in a remote part of France; of Alain Auberjean, a concert violinist who believes his father was a Resistance hero executed by the Nazis; and of elderly and mysterious Madeleine Serault, who fought with the Maquis in World War Two and now protects a troubling secret in a small French village.

J.A. Wainwright is McCulloch Professor in English at Dalhousie University. He has published five books of poetry, including *Flight of the Falcon: Scott's Journey to the South Pole 1910-1912* and *Landscape and Desire: Poems Selected and New*, and two novels, *A Deathful Ridge: A Novel of Everest* and *A Far Time*. He also edited *A Very Large Soul: Selected Letters from Margaret Laurence to Canadian Writers* and *Every Grain of Sand: Canadian Perspectives on Ecology and Environment*.



Crouching at the Keyhole

Paul Zann

Borealis Press, 2007, \$15.95

ISBN 978-0-88887-331-6

This poetry collection offers detailed imagery and a gallery of unusual characters. A versatile author, Paul Zann has written several books, from picture books and YA novels to adult novels and plays. His poems have appeared in journals in Canada, United States, England, Spain and Australia, including *Grain*, *The Antigonish Review*, and *Pottersfield Portfolio*.

A Canadian citizen born in Australia, Paul Zann emigrated in 1968. After teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, he moved to Truro, Nova Scotia. His YA novels, *The Aussie Six in Canada* and *The Aussie Six in Australia* are also published by Borealis Press; *The Aussie Six in Spain* is forthcoming.

Aerobics for Writers

by Sue Goyette

Let's face it, we sit. Still. For long periods of time. Occasionally in the yogic position called Downward Slog: in a chair, feet solidly on the ground, upper body bent towards desk, forehead resting on keyboard or blank page. Breathing deeply. Sighing. Alright, moaning though chanting would be preferable.

After realizing the thing I kept bumping into when I rolled my chair to my desk was my stomach, I began lifting books. Literally. I have a ton of them. I buy them in the hopes of reading them. I buy them and imagine myself lounging with a bowl of something on the aforementioned stomach revelling in someone else's words. Yes, occasionally I read one. But they do have other uses.

The Book Pull

For this exercise you need: one skipping rope, weight-lifting gloves, some chalk, a unitard, a headband, deodorant, a book on tying knots, one Loverboy record, a record player, an answering machine, an understanding family and curtains.

Step 1: Study the knot tying book. Write a pantoum or a postcard story with a particular knot in mind. Extend the metaphor of the knot until it either gets tangled or snaps the rope. Close the curtains. Put on the unitard. It is exciting, isn't it?

Step 2: Pose in front of the mirror while pretending to be interviewed by Shelagh Rogers. Speak meaningfully about how your knot poem or story represents humankind. It is important at this stage not to turn sideways or

backwards. These vistas of yourself in a unitard may cause every word you'd ever write to flock so far from you, you'll be both speechless and wordless. Concentrate on your eyes.

Step 3: Ask yourself these questions: are the curtains truly drawn? Why do I even have a Loverboy record? Stop yourself there and write a list of reasons why you may indeed own a disk of a strange Canadian boy band wearing very tight pants and headbands. The list can begin with something like: when I was 12, I believed in a lot of things.

Step 4: The skipping rope is coiled like a snake in your office, the curtains are drawn. Your answering machine will announce to the world that you're busy doing something important. You now have either a knot poem or story and a list that is an outline of a memoir you can now begin to tackle. It's time to pick the right books.

Picking books involves not only hefting the book by weight but also looking at the author photo. If the author looks successful, beautiful or satisfied, the book will not do. You are to find author photos of people who look like they're in laundromats, people you'd have a beer with. Amass a pile. Many of you will forget what you're doing at this point and begin to read. The day will get away from you. Your children will also want to wear a unitard and will fight over the weightlifting gloves. They will roll in the chalk.

It is later than you realize, the fight has deteriorated into whiny demands for supper. Put your writing clothes back on. Bow to your understanding family. Seriously. You've been wearing a unitard for the love of god. You know who Loverboy is. And they still like having you around. Count your blessings and say no to dessert. ■

AGM alert! – June 2

Noon. Saturday, June 2 at the Writers' Federation. Mark it on your calendars. Although there is about a half-hour of official business that must be completed to keep The Powers That Be satisfied, the Fed's AGM more resembles a picnic social than a bored meeting. It's a time to bring a special dish to share with friends, to learn of Federated plans for next year, catch up with your colleagues and applaud a new-minted crop of mentored writers. This year, we'll be introducing you to works-in-progress from Ann Foster (mentored by Vicki Grant), Christina McRae (Marilyn Iwama), Marlene Stanton (Susan Haley), Keir Lowther (Bill Kowalski) and Marilyn Rudi (Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaassen).

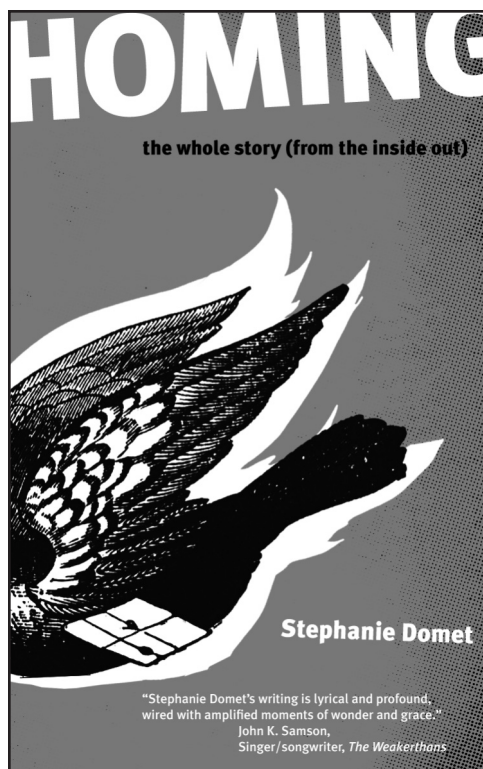
Jane always frets about quorum so assuage her angst with an RSVP to the Federation at talk@writers.ns.ca. See you at your annual general meeting. ■

Invisible in Nova Scotia

Invisible Publishing, an ambitious new small press based in Halifax and Montreal, launched its first catalogue with readings in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

Co-publishers Robbie MacGregor of Halifax and Nic Boshart of Montreal plan to offer an alternative to mainstream publishing, focusing their efforts on emerging and underpublished writers. They use their technological savvy to communicate with each other and their writers – who span the country – through video conferencing and other tools, while being committed to the values of community-based art organizations. MacGregor says Invisible aims for a “collaborative rather than coercive” relationship between publisher and writer. “At Invisible, publishers and authors recognize a commitment to one another, and to the development of communities which can sustain and encourage storytellers.”

Invisible collected manuscripts from British Columbia to Newfoundland for a short story anthology, *Transits* (edited by Jaime Forsythe), in which movement is central. To promote the book, contributors to the anthology helped organize launches in independent bookstores and arts centres in their communities, including readings by Nova Scotia writers at the Khyber Centre for the Arts in Halifax. *The Same Woman*, a novel by Thea Lim of Toronto, explores women’s relationships and how they can be affected by our culture, and was launched in Halifax, while *Homing* by Halifax writer Stephanie Domet was launched in



Toronto.

Homing: the whole story from the inside out (ISBN 978-0-9782185-0-8, \$14.95) is the debut novel of writer and radio personality, Stephanie Domet. A funny, urban love story, *Homing* is about a woman who’s grown afraid of the outdoors, a ghost that’s lost its way, a musician who’s trying to find *his*, and Sandy and Harold, a pair of homing pigeons who help them bring it all back home.

Invisible Publishing invites writers who share their ideals and sense of community to make submissions of literary fiction and creative non-fiction (no genre fiction or poetry at this time). For submission guidelines, visit www.invisiblepublishing.com/ ■

Gaspereau wins 2 Alcuins

Gaspereau Press has added to its already impressive collection of awards. In April the Alcuin Society’s 25th annual juried book-design competition recognized two of its books for outstanding design.

Robert Bringhurst’s *The Tree of Meaning*, designed by the author and Gaspereau Press co-owner Andrew Steeves, won first prize in the category of non-fiction.

Tim Bowling’s *Fathom*, also designed by Andrew Steeves, tied with Michel van Schendel’s *L’Oiseau, le vieux-port et la charpentier* (published by L’Hexagone and designed by Anne-Maude Théberge) for third place in the poetry category. Both books will be exhibited internationally at the Frankfurt and Leipzig Book Fairs, and in locations across Canada.

The Alcuin Society promotes the appreciation of fine book creation. This year’s judges – Alan Brownoff, Jan Elsted and Glenn Goluska – examined 252 books published in 2006. A total of 34 awards were granted in eight categories: Children’s, Limited editions, Pictorial, Poetry, Prose fiction, Prose non-fiction, Prose non-fiction illustrated and Reference. For more information about the awards and the society, visit www.alcuinsociety.com

Gaspereau Press is a literary publisher and printer based in Kentville. The press is committed to literature and the book arts, incorporating a range of modern and antique forms of printing and binding to create books that are distinctive in manufacture and design. In addition to its trade editions, Gaspereau also produces limited edition hardcovers, letterpress books and an occasional chapbook series. ■

Who's doing what

■ **By-lines:** noted in that mad miscellany of magazines, papers and e-publications that careen through/under/over the transom, ricochet off your editor's desk and bounce into the Fed library – open from 9:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday – for your greater erudition and amusement: With *Bad Time* emblazoned on the cover, *Grain* offers a very good time with poems from **Sue Goyette** and a soaring story from **Abby Whidden**; *Travel*, from the good folks at *Saltscapes* extols summer in the Atlantic region with **Darcy Rhyno** canoeing the Tobeatic wilderness, **Shelley Cameron-McCarron** scalping all the best concert tix before exploring the Parrsboro shore, **Jodi DeLong** getting down and dirty with the latest spa mud-wrap, and **Sandra Phinney** exploring summer school from theatre workshops to birdwatching; “Little Eric”, a new story from **Elaine McCluskey** has a good life in *The Fiddlehead* where, in later pages, **Kathy Mac** plumbs “May;” **Joanne Merriam**, having accomplished a move from south of the Mason-Dixon line to New England, continues to write and find publication. One of her short stories was featured in *Stirring* in December while March saw another in *Strange Horizons* and new poems are in the January issues of *Alba* and *Chiaroscuro*; “Dear Georgie”, constructed by **Brian Bartlett** from snippets of correspondence between his grandmother and great uncle in October 1918, appears in *The Malahat Review*; *Saltscapes* sizzles with spring with **Jodi DeLong** heading “Back to the Garden”, **John DeMont** looking at the right way to do economic development in Atlantic Canada and **Harry Bruce** concluding his perch on the back porch.

■ **In the Launch Slipway:** **Stephanie Domet**, with the ink still wet on her first novel, *Homing: The Whole Story (from the inside out)* from Invisible Press, hit the road in April stopping at The Sparrow in Toronto and Co-op Bookstore on Bishop Street in Montréal; capturing the wind of Sable Island was no mean feat but **Susan Tooke**'s illustrations for *Free as the Wind* (Red Deer Press) sail high and free at a launch at the Nova Scotia History Museum this May; how **Harry Thurston** finds time to write two peerless books almost every year is astonishing! His latest, *Broken Vessel: Thirty-five Days in the Desert* (Gaspereau) embodies a landscape lush in negation – the Sahara. It was launched with a tour that included an appearance at the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto for the This is Not a Reading Series in an evening entitled Gaspereau Goes Green: Seven Hydrogen-Powered Poets Tackle the Environment. Other stops were Hamilton, Moncton, New Glasgow and Halifax; the Grand Manan Museum was the appropriate launch site for **Elaine Ingalls Hogg**'s latest from Nimbus, *Historic Grand Manan*; **George Elliott Clarke** has never been accused of doing anything by halves, so it comes as no surprise that he's celebrating a double “launch” this April. Gaspereau released his latest dramatic poem *Trudeau: Long March, Shining Path* to coincide with the theatrical launch at Harbourfront in Toronto of his opera of the same name, working with jazz composer D.D. Jackson.

■ **Kudos:** Spring and shortlists abound! Voted on by members of the Canadian book industry, CBA Libris Awards celebrate the best in Canuck books and the

people behind them: those whose passion, ingenuity, creativity and collaborative spirit helped books connect meaningfully with readers in the previous year. Among this year's nominees are **Ami McKay** with *The Birth House* cited for Fiction Book of the Year as well as author of the year while Kelly Hill, who designed the book for Knopf Canada, is cited for Book Design. Nimbus Publishing is singled out for Marketing Achievement of the Year for their display contest for *Steam Lion* and Gaspereau, a special nod, as Best Small Press Publisher of the Year. *Otello and Desdemona*, earned **Virginia Hayden** an Honourable Mention in the short screenplay contest run by Calgary's Thin Soapy Films; **Katia Canciani**'s first novel, *Un jardin en Espagne* is shortlisted for Le Prix des lecteurs Radio Canada as well as for Les Prix Éloizes; The Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award is an award created six years ago by the professional organization for school librarians in Oregon and they're a very discerning group as is evidenced by their nomination of **Jessica Scott Kerrin**'s *Martin Bridge: ready for takeoff!*; *The View from a Kite*, **Maureen Hull**'s debut novel from Nimbus is among the 10 books shortlisted for the prestigious Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award. The winner will be announced at the CLA conference in St. John's this May; **Jan Coates** rewrote her submission to the Atlantic Writing Competition and “Goodbye to Wollypoggle” garnered third place honours in the WFNB annual competition. Rewrites work!

■ **E-dition:** **Flavia Lytle**, and partner Olivia Finlay, have launched *Indy Mum Zine*, a half-size publication

with art, writing and drawing made into portable format and chock-a-block with comics, rants, book and film reviews, crafty projects and fun ideas that are reflective of the world in which we live ... and they're looking for material at www.myspace.com/indymum1; **Heddy Johannesen's** first book, *Metamorphosis: A Poet's Symmetry* is now available on line at www.publishyourself.ca

■ **Marilyn Iwama** was on a mountain-high in residence at the Banff Colony last month, working her characteristic enchantment and completing a manuscript on nothing less than mortality and the magic of living.

■ **George Borden** heightened the holy week season for members of the congregations of Cornwallis Street Baptist Church in Halifax and Second Baptist in New Glasgow with a staging on his one-hour drama, *The Easter Story: From Garden to Glory*.

■ The Halifax International Writers Festival blazed along Spring Garden Road at the end of March with readings by **Linda Little, Ami McKay, Lorri Neilsen Glenn, Stephanie Domet, Marq de Villiers, Maureen Hull** and their colleagues from the ROC. Audiences were warm and welcoming and one couldn't help but note that founder Heather Gibson's family is instrumental in its success, greeting, meeting and feeding some of the finest writers in the country. Meanwhile, a month later, up the road in Moncton, au deux langues officielles du Canada, 27 authors, including our own **Elaine McCluskey** and **Lesley Choyce**, participated in the workshops, dialogues, readings, debates, lectures and kitchen parties

that make up the Northrop Frye Festival.

■ **Maureen Hull's** piece on coyotes which appeared on the Facts & Arguments page in the *Globe & Mail* earlier this year sparked such interest that a CBC *Land and Sea* crew has been ferrying across to Pictou Island to do a film, which will be narrated by Maureen.

■ **Jeff Domm** has collaborated with the Natural History Museum of Nova Scotia where you can see his work in an exhibit of Endangered Marine Animals of the Atlantic until June 22.

■ **Linda Clarke** spent March and April doing a residency at Yale School of Medicine where she worked with story, both written and told, in the Program for Recovery and Community Health in the Department of Psychiatry.

■ April is gaining poetic momentum with annual celebrations of all things poetic scheduled from coast to coast throughout North America. **Heddy Johanssen** was on stage at The Seahorse thanks to The League of Canadian Poets; CBC was lining up lyricists like luminous stanzas and facing them off across the land (in Halifax, **Shauntay Grant** and **Sue Goyette** were front and centre); Sue then headed off down the road to Ottawa to add voice to a five-star rated reading for The Tree Reading Series at the Royal Oak Pub; and Poetry Month proved the perfect occasion for **Anne Simpson** to appear at the Antigonish launch of her latest collection from McClelland & Stewart, *Quick*.

■ Meanwhile, Port Medway became a centre for children's literature in April with a Children's Readers Festival featuring **Michelle Mulder**,

Marjorie Speed and Nancy Wilcox Richards.

■ Since it spun off the presses in February, **Michael Ungar's** *Too Safe for their Own Good* has been grabbing headlines and gaining speed. Michael "appeared" with Shelagh Rogers on *Sounds Like Canada*, was featured on the *Macleans* cover with a story on "bubblewrapped" kids, appeared in the *National Post*, *Chronicle Herald*, *Canadian Press*, was highlighted in spots on *Live at Five* and on the CBC Noon regional phone-ins in the Maritimes, Saskatchewan, BC, Alberta and Ontario. Michael survived a whirlwind five-city book tour of Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and Halifax and continues to be overwhelmed with requests for interviews. *Eastword* empathizes with Michael in this marvellous quandary and extends warmest congratulations.

■ The Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Authors Association has recently collected writing by members to create *Atlantic Musings: A Tribute Anthology (1921 to 2007)*. The book marks 86 years of accomplishment as it brings closure to a Chapter that has seen many changes over its long history of nurturing writers and providing an arena for serious literary discussion. **George Borden, Sandra Phinney** and **Sandra Oakley-Andrews** are among the writers represented in the elegiac collection.

New Members

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

Sandra Church, Williamswood

continued on page 19

Portolan

Noun. Singular. (pl. portolans or portolanos) (historical) [Italian *portolano* from *porto* Port] : 1. a book of sailing directions with charts, descriptions of harbours and coasts, etc. 2. an annotated bibliography of Atlantic Canadian children's literature held by University of New Brunswick libraries.

The Eileen Wallace Children's Literature Collection at the University of New Brunswick has announced **Portolan: The Bibliography of Atlantic Children's Literature**. An exciting new online research tool, Portolan is described as a "robust, user-friendly" resource intended for anyone interested in Atlantic Canadian books for children with more than 1,800 entries and over 700 annotations (www.lib.unb.ca/collections/clc/portolan)

Portolan has been under development in the Eileen Wallace Children's Literature Collection (www.lib.unb.ca/collections/clc) for three years. It began as a simple research assignment. The Collection's Advisory Committee had decided several years ago to make works by and about Atlantic Canada a key focus of collection development. The Wallace Collection is the largest research collection of its kind in Atlantic Canada and Atlantic Canada is under-represented in broader surveys of Canadian children's literature, so it seemed logical that the Wallace Collection establish itself as a centre for regional holdings and as a locus for research in this area.

In 2004, the curator realized that although the collection now housed a broad array of Atlantic Canadian books for children, there was no easy way to identify and find

these books among other collection materials. Some form of finding aid was in order. Collection staff began a makeshift bibliography intended mainly for internal purposes; the intent was to label the books themselves with some form of spine sticker. As they delved into the collection, however, they realized that the extent of the collection's holdings and those of the larger UNB library system were indeed significant. At that point the bibliography became an end in itself. Relying on what little research had been done in the area, they began to cobble together a picture of Atlantic Canadian children's literature.

The earliest work uncovered in the research, *Miss Grove's Little Grace, or, Scenes in Nova Scotia*, is dated 1846. The adventure tales by James De Mille and J. MacDonald Oxley along with works by one-time Fredericton resident, Juliana Horatia Ewing anchor their 19th century collection. Two key books that defined the region and/or the genre, L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* and Margaret Marshall Saunders' *Beautiful Joe*, followed in the early 20th century. Mary Grannan's radio and television adaptations in the mid-century reveal the broadening of the genre to other media than print and Brunswick Press's books are early examples of the picture book genre in the region.

As the century progressed publishing trends evolved: the early works that came out of Boston Publishing Houses eventually gave way to a Canadian-centred model with Toronto publishers taking centre stage. Late in the 20th century regional publishing houses that deal with children's literature started to

emerge, particularly in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. In part, the story of this bibliography is the story of a genre coming of age in a region that not only helped to define it but that has also been defined by it. The influence of L.M. Montgomery has been large on this region, yet one look at the plurality and scope of this bibliography and it becomes clear that this is a region of distinct voices and varied artistic talents. From folklore to picture books; from Acadian works to tales by and about the First Nations people of the region, Atlantic Canadian Children's literature is a rich ground for research and for pleasure. ■

New Members – Continued from p 18

W.G. (Wendy) Eggleton, Centre
Burlington
Denise Gallupe, Porters Lake
Colleen Gareau, Hammonds Plains
Carolyn Hockley, Dartmouth
Sara Jewell, Port Howe
Richard Levangie, Lunenburg
Trevor MacLaren, Halifax
Alexander MacLeod, Dartmouth
Ellen MacPherson, Windsor
Kendra Markowski, Lake Echo
Deirdre M. Moore, Dartmouth
Elizabeth Montgomery, Enfield
Lizzy Nickleson, Windsor, ON
Jim Prime, New Minas
Kristina Robinson, Lunenburg
Rebecca Schneidereit, Halifax
Judith Todd, Halifax
Angela Vermeir, Dartmouth
Cathleen M. White, Antigonish
Dave Whitman, Lawrencetown
Rob Wolf, Antigonish
H. Millard Wright, Halifax
Ann Marie Yorke, St. Peters
Kory Yorke, St. Peters ■

ReMEMBERing OURS

Rita Joe 1932-2007

Remembered as the poet laureate of the Mi'kmaq people, Rita Joe didn't begin writing until she was in her thirties. In the late 1960s, the *Micmac News* printed one of her poems and the editor encouraged her to keep writing, eventually offering her a regular column. When, in 1974, she saw an ad for the Writers' Federation's inaugural Atlantic Writing Competition, she gathered up the courage to submit some of her poems but kept this secret from her family so she wouldn't have to share the bad news if she didn't win. She won and attended in full ceremonial garb. Four years later she published her first book, *Poems of Rita Joe* (Abanki Press). Rita Joe wrote the following letter to the Federation in February, 1986:

"Let me tell about a brief story about myself. I was born in Whycocomagh, which comes from the word *Way-co-baq*, meaning end of the waters. My parents were Josie Gould Bernard and Annie Googoo. My mother died when I was five and after a succession of foster homes I lived with our dad from 1941 to 42 when he died. From there it was Oxford Junction for me until I came to my senses and asked to be taken to Shubenacadie Residential School. The stay there was constructive to my way of thinking, being bullied and compared to my older brothers, the one who was just ordinary; the other who was exceptionally bright. When the comparison was expected of an answer, I usually picked the humble one to my likeness, for he was gentle and kind. Roddie, the gentle one, disappeared from Whycocomagh in 1980. Never found. The exceptional one, Matt, joined the armed forces in Canada and the US. I loved both of them but they are gone, only their spirits I feel, because I think love communicates where there is no substance.

"I have a family of a loving husband and ten children. Their help is greatly appreciated in many forms. For instance, there is one who is a teacher – she helps with my grammar. The one in Grade XII, she helps with historical data. The one who drives me to schools on speaking engagements is a story herself, even an unusual storyteller, living in an unusual house. The other people on my reservation I can call on any time. I am a daughter or a grandmother to everyone in Eskasoni. Who can ask for more? I want to be an exceptional writer, a memory I want to leave behind, an orphan child, picking herself off the misery of being a nobody, moving little grains of sand about the first nation of the land. I have many friends among other writers since I joined Writers' Federation as well."



Over the years, Rita Joe continued to publish and received many more prizes and citations: four honorary degrees, an Order of Canada, and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. She was one of the few non-politicians ever to be appointed to the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

Rita Joe was buried at the Holy Family Parish overlooking the Bras d'Or in Eskasoni on March 28. Lindsay Marshall bid her farewell with the following words:

Rita Joe
Sleep my gentle woman
Let all know you've won your battles
Using wisdom, spoken words and your gentle soul
You've moved me, taught me and given me
A love of words.
Step into your birch canoe
And push away from shore.
See the whirls as your paddle moves you
across land and water.
The sun in its orange and clear sky
Grows larger as you point your kwitn
Towards our Grandfather the sun.
When you reach the farthest shore
Remember us. Speak of us
And pray for us
Gentle Warrior Woman

Note taken: Letters to the Editor

Self-publishing continued

This is a follow-up to Kathleen Tudor's letter in the March/April issue of *Eastword* concerning the supposed vanity of self-publishers. Oh, vanity! That which swells heads, thereby sending hats, hairpieces and eye glasses flying. That which causes the top-heavy to swagger. We self-publishers are crying out for help. Cure us of this social curse!

Behavioural modification techniques like cognitive therapy or boot camp may succeed, but there is a more promising treatment lurking within our profession of writing. My proposal to crush the vanity of self-publishers is simply to let us become eligible for book awards. Allow me, in all humility, to explain.

Only mainstream publishers and their writers are given the opportunity to bask modestly in the limelight afforded by most book awards. However, it is this very model of modesty that will counter all self-publishers who dare to vainly walk alone into the spotlight. There are three ways in which access to this venue will give relief from the burden of vanity.

First, by submitting our usual inferior publications, we self-publishers will quickly come to realize we are just not up to scratch since these awards are given solely on merit. This will be a tremendous blow to our egos.

Second, if by some long shot the self-publisher wins one of these awards, he or she will not be tempted to gloat because the aura surrounding these industry awards is not tainted by vanity and some of this is bound to rub off on the self-publisher.

Third, and I think this one is the most important, it is the participatory process itself that is so critical to therapeutic success. We self-publishers will come to see ourselves as a small part of the company of publishers and writers lining up for these awards. The shared experience of being given the opportunity to feel the warmth of the aforementioned light will cause us to approach it only on bended knee.

To bring this rehabilitative technique to the fore, I would ask Ma Fed to lobby on behalf of her self-publishing children. For starters, and to cite just one example, the Writers' Federation could bring this discriminatory practice of excluding self-publishers to the attention of those responsible for the Governor-General's Literary Awards.

To the credit of the Writers' Federation, I understand the Atlantic Book Awards are already open to self-publishers, but I wonder if anybody of the indie persuasion is ever asked to sit on the juries. You know, just to add balance to the jurying proceedings.

At the risk of losing another pair of eye glasses, may I state that, since 1990, I have self-published two books (with a third forthcoming) and have had four other books published by a mainstream publisher. Obviously, then, my vanity is not a chronic affliction. Yet it is during my acute episodes of vainglory that I wish I could have access to the therapy that I now espouse. In the meantime, I manage as best I can to live an independent life, knowing at the end of the day that all art is self-publishing.

Geoff Butler
Granville Ferry

(Editor's Note: WFNS hosts three published book prizes: the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize, the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Prize and the Atlantic Poetry Prize. Past juries have included individuals who have self-published. With a panel of three, a writer member of each jury is also joined by a bookseller, librarian, "unconflicted" publisher or other writing professional, which differentiates the panels from the peer jury composed entirely of writers that is common with the GGs.)

Markets, etc.

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia does not necessarily endorse any of the markets or competitions listed in Eastword. Please make every effort to check any market or competition before submitting material. It's always a good idea to read a magazine first. Publishers usually sell single, sample copies. Check the publications' websites for writers' guidelines and sample copies. Your local public library has public access computers.

■ **THEMA:** Box 8747, Metairie LA 70011-8747 (<http://members.cox.net/thema>) Publishes three times a year. Each issue is based on a different theme. Upcoming themes and deadlines: Henry's fence, July 1; When things get back to normal, November 1. The target theme must be an integral part of the plot, not necessarily the central theme, but not merely incidental. Guidelines on website. Payment: short story \$25; short-short piece, up to 1,000 words \$10; poems \$10; artwork – \$25 for cover, \$10 for interior page display.

■ **Clues: A Journal of Detection:** (www.heldref.org/clues.php) Published quarterly this peer-reviewed journal welcomes scholarly articles on all aspects of mystery and detective material in print, TV and film without limit to period or country covered. Currently, it's looking for paper for the Fall 2008 issue: The Girl Sleuth, with a deadline of October 31, 2007. Details on website.

■ **Looking for plays:** Playwright/editor Kit Brennan is compiling and editing a book for Signature Editions that will feature complete plays of various lengths, ranging from 10 minutes to full-length, by Canadian playwrights. They will all be three-handers that have had at least a semi-professional, fringe or workshop production, and have not been previously published. Hard copy submission to Kit Brennan, c/o Department of Theatre, Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, QC H4B 1R6. Include an overview of the play's production history and a short bio. Scripts will be accepted from June 1 to August 31. Inquiries after June 1 to kbrennan@alcor.concordia.ca

■ **/nor – New Ohio Review:** (www.ohiou.edu/nor) a new biannual journal published by the creative writing program at Ohio University. Features poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction.

■ **Atlanta Review:** PO Box 8248 Atlanta GA 31106 (www.atlantareview.com) Deadlines June 1 for the Fall issue and December 1 for the Spring. Send no more than 5 poems per submission. Fiction and non-fiction under 20 pages.

■ **hoboeye:** (www.hoboeye.com) a quarterly online poetry mag.

■ **Who wears short shorts?** Ottawa literary publisher Chaudiere Books is seeking submissions by Canadian writers of short fiction of no more than 1,500 to 2,000 words for an upcoming anthology project. Seeking vibrant, engaging works perhaps more “language” than “narrative,” but not exclusively. Details at their website – www.chaudierebooks.com Deadline August 15. Chaudiere Books, c/o 858 Somerset St. West, main floor, Ottawa ON K1R 6R7 (include s.a.s.e. if you expect work returned) or by email to rob_mclennan@hotmail.com

■ **Contrary:** an online quarterly (www.contrarymagazine.com and click on “on the contrary” for details) publishes commentary, fiction, poetry, and work that declines to conform to single categories. Pays \$20 for each byline that appears in their navigation bar, \$60 for featured work.

■ **Dark Sky:** an online publication (www.darksnymagazine.com) that welcomes short fiction and non, poetry, reviews, essays, and articles.

■ **Alimentum, the literature of food:** PO Box 776, New York NY 10163. Bills itself as the only literary journal all about food. Seeks fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry all around the subject of food. (www.alimentumjournal.com)

■ **Blackbird: an online journal of literature and the arts:**

(www.blackbird.vcu.edu)

Publishes twice a year. Does not read material from April 15 to September 15. Accepts material by regular mail or e-mail. Send one prose piece or 2 to 6 poems. Pays after publication.

■ **Cadillac Cicatrix:**

(www.cadillaccicatrix.com) “reads poetry, fiction, memoir, nonfiction, criticism, journalism, reviews, letters, and novel treatments for consideration in Cadillac Cicatrix and for other projects.”

■ **BookLand Press:** (Toronto) is currently accepting manuscripts for both novels and biographies of Canadian athletes. For submission guidelines see www.booklandpress.com/4.html

■ **The Nova Scotia Policy**

Review: In June, writers will have a new place to publish essays and short reports with a political—and personal—flavour. The first issue of the quarterly journal, *The Nova Scotia Policy Review*, will be mailed to subscribers in June and the editor is seeking essays (30¢/word, up to 2,000 words). The Review is interested in policy effects on people and the role people play in shaping policy. Phone or email the editor for details on scope, style and submissions: Rachel Brighton (editor & publisher) (902) 665-4538, Fax: (902) 665- 4981, Email: submissions@policyreview.ca

■ **Mirrorstone Books:** is looking for submissions of YA fantasy novels as well as series proposals. Visit: <http://ww2.wizards.com/books/mirrorstone/Submissions.aspx> for all the details.

■ **Champagne Shivers:** an annual print magazine, is a paying market for poets, fiction writers and artists who work in the horror genre. For information, <http://samsdotpublishing.com/vineyard/CSguidelines8.html>

■ **Horizon Magazine:** Henry Saley, RR #1, Brechin, ON L0K 1B0 (www.saleypublications.com) “A digest of good stories and humour.” Monthly. Content includes fiction, personal experiences, opinions, humour, informative pieces. Pays 2¢/word. Prefers pieces between 1,000 and 2,000 words, but shorter pieces ok, longer pieces may be serialized. Looking for eye-catching photos \$15 if published. \$30 for cover.

■ **Dark Recesses Press:** is looking for dark speculative fiction and horror. Submission guidelines at: <http://darkrecesses.com/SubInfo.htm>

Contests

■ **Black Orchid Novella Award:** sponsored by *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* and The Wolfe Pack. Are you the next Rex Stout? Each entry must be an original unpublished work of fiction (15,000 to 20,000 words) that conforms to the tradition of the Nero Wolfe series. First prize is \$1,000 and publication in

Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. Deadline: May 31 postmark. For rules and submission procedures go to www.nerowolfe.org

■ **The Antigonish Review: 7th Annual Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest and 3rd Annual Sheldon Currie Fiction Prize:**

\$2,400 in prizes. Deadlines: Fiction entries must be postmarked by May 31; poetry must be postmarked by June 30. Entry fee: \$25 for either contest or you may enter both contests for an additional \$10. This includes a one-year subscription to TAR which will begin with the fall issue, 2006. Make cheques or money orders payable to The Antigonish Review. Mail submissions to: The Antigonish Review Contest, Box 5000, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5. For further information, email TAR@stfx.ca, Phone 902-867-3962 or visit www.antigonishreview.com

■ **The 2007 PRISM**

international Literary

Nonfiction Contest: c/o PRISM international, Creative Writing Program, UBC, Buch. E462 - 1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 (<http://prism/arts.ubc.ca>) Deadline September 30 postmark. Entry fee \$27 for one manuscript, \$7 for each additional ms. Must be original and unpublished. Details and entry forms on website.

BusSTOP – \$13.60 and a soap box

Jane Buss, Executive Director, WFNS

It's been a while since I dusted off the old soapbox: far too busy at the Fed, but I found myself pondering some statistically-freighted reports the other day and I got out my calculator and tried to make sense of some of the material.

\$13.60. Not a lot of money. Will almost buy you a copy of Budge Wilson's *Friendships* (\$12.99) if you squelch a little on the federal sales tax (91 cents) ... how many years have we been trying to get rid of that? It's a lot less than the Fed's annual dues; it will buy me a quarter tank of gas for my tiny car and let me travel about 100 kilometres.

But for \$13.60, I can navigate the universe, chart new territories without adding to carbon emissions and greenhouse gas. That's what each Nova Scotian paid last year to share a library system. Collectively, we contributed just under \$13 million. What a deal!

But that \$13 million is not keeping up with the cost of inflation (a 21% rise since 1999), the increase in staff salaries (a much more modest 9% increase over the same period) or skyrocketing book prices (24% increase). The Department of Education funnels operating funds to libraries in Nova Scotia. While the DOE's budget has increased 30% since 1999, library allocations have crept behind,

averaging 1.4 % annually. Meanwhile in the Pictou-Antigonish Library (PARL) system, for example, there's been a 400% increase in library visits over the same period.

Indeed throughout our regional library network, even where there's been a decline in population, there's been no decrease in use, and more services are being added to meet the obvious needs. Traditional services include: administration of branch libraries open to the public; circulation of books and other materials; research assistance on any topic; reading suggestions; support for school curriculum; search and loan service from other Canadian and US libraries; local history and genealogy collection and research services, programming that supports reading and educational skills development.

New developments include round-the-clock online service with catalogue and requests; online full-text collections of over 10,000 magazines, encyclopedia, health and wellness resources, car repair and much more; websites; public internet and technology access with 611,754 uses of a computer each year; government services delivery; and the use of libraries for public space.

There's a mother and daughter book club at the Amherst Library, a writer-in-residence in

New Glasgow, regional library systems in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have helped to birth and ensure a robust Hackmatack Children's Choice Award and PARL hosted a Placemaking Training Seminar in partnership with the town of New Glasgow that discussed the use of a community based approach to the development and revitalization of towns, neighborhoods and cities.

BUT public libraries are funded by the Department of Education by population, and all regional libraries are affected by increases and decreases in population. Six of the eight regional libraries are experiencing a decrease in population at the same time as they're coping with an increased need for their services.

A community that stimulates and challenges the individual is a better community and will provide better citizens, better employees, a better business climate than one where there is little stimulation. Libraries are a perfect example of an organization created to provide this stimulation, but you can't take out what you haven't put in. Now's the time to let the Minister of Education know how much you care about your public library – The Honourable Karen Casey, PO Box 578, Halifax, NS, B3J 2S9. ■