

east word

The results are in ... the celebrations begin

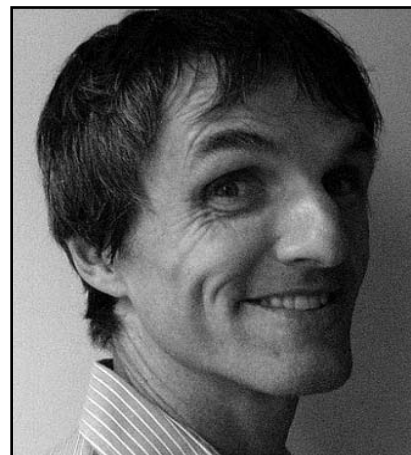
All are welcome to the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth on **Saturday, September 26 at 7 p.m.**, as we put the spotlight on some of Atlantic Canada's most promising emerging writers. The first-place winners in the five categories of the annual Atlantic Writing Competition for unpublished manuscripts – poetry, short story, writing for children, adult novel and young adult novel – will offer short readings from their winning works, and all those who placed in the competition will receive their awards.

This year's **Gala Celebration of Writers and Writing** will also feature special guests, fellowship with writers, publishers, booksellers, librarians and other members of the writing community from across the region, and a silent auction in support of the Writers in the Schools Program. The auction table will include rare, first edition and autographed books, accommodations at B & B's across the province, whale-watching tours, writer survival gift baskets, original art and crafts, and more.

The Competition, now entering its thirty-third year, saw over 250 writers from across the Atlantic Provinces submit new, untried work. Anonymous volunteer judges – made up of librarians, teachers, writers, booksellers and publishers – spent eight months providing individual feedback for each manuscript entered before choosing 22 writers to recognize with prizes or honourable mentions.

"If I could, I would be ready to share this novel with friends already," one judge exclaimed during the jury meeting that concluded with the unanimous decision that **Scott Fotheringham** of Halifax should receive the **H.R. (Bill) Percy Prize** for his novel manuscript, "The Rest is Silence." Also a scientist, Scott earned his BSc from the University of Guelph and his PhD in molecular biology and genetics from Cornell University Medical College in New York City, where he created many genetically engineered organisms, ranging from bacteria and fungi, to fruit flies. After leaving Manhattan he became an organic gardener, living rurally for many years in Nova Scotia. He currently lives in Halifax with his wife and young daughter, and works with people dealing with mental illness.

Second prize is awarded to **Colleen MacLennan** of Halifax, for her manuscript "Allah Is Not a Terrorist." Third goes to **Jim Williams**, who also lives in Halifax, for "Rock Reject." **Margaret Angus** (Dartmouth) receives an honourable mention for "The Life of Persistence," as does **Richard Toth** in Bathurst, NB, for "What is Given, Like Baggage."



Scott Fotheringham won the Percy Prize



Joanna Butler took the Barkhouse Award.



Paul Healey, winner of the Budge Wilson Short Story Prize.

eastword

WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia is a registered not-for-profit organization that operates with funds raised from membership fees, from fundraising 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 the Canada Council for the Arts – all of whom we gratefully acknowledge for assisting us 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, CANSCAIP (Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers), 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.

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The Joyce Barkhouse

Writing for Children Prize is awarded to **Joanna Butler** for "Calvin's Moose Hunt." Joanna lives in Bedford with her husband and two children. She has a BA in English literature and a BSc in biology and has worked most recently at the Department of Natural Resources and in the restaurant industry. Joanna, who has stayed at home with her children for the past eight years and has always loved children's books, started writing her own stories for children two years ago and is now a member of the local Scribblers writing group.

Matthew Webber in Lower Sackville receives second prize for "The Princess Without A Castle" and **Jacqueline Warlow** of Dartmouth is awarded third place for "Aargh: A Chilling Pirate's Tale."

The top **Poetry prize** goes to Halifax's **James MacSwain**, for his collection, "Ancestors." James was born in Amherst and earned a BA in English from Mount Allison University. He also studied theatre arts at the University of Alberta. After travelling and living in Europe, James settled in Halifax where he began a career in theatre and arts administration. Since 1980 he has been working in film and video. As a visual artist, he works in photo and collage-based images that have been exhibited across the country. An active member of many of the region's arts organizations, James is currently the Director of Programming for the Centre For Art Tapes.

Erin Whitney Moran, who lives in Lower Sackville, is awarded second place for "Construction," and **Janette Fecteau** (Antigonish) takes third prize for "Feathers in the Air



James MacSwain, winner of the Poetry Prize.



Dorothy Redfurn, winner of the young adult novel category.

Filter." **Marilyn Rudi** receives an honourable mention for her "Library Suite."

Dorothy Redfurn, who normally only shares her work with her beloved writing group – the Pit Crew – is awarded first prize in the **Young Adult/Juvenile Novel** prize for her manuscript, "In Interesting Times." After teaching in northern Quebec, Dorothy returned to her hometown of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, to raise her family.

She has a very supportive husband, mother-in-law, and two children. Dorothy joined WFNS two years ago, which, she says, gave her the resources and encouragement to start submitting her work for publication. **Chad Lucas** (Lower Sackville) receives second prize for "The Firemaker King," and **Orysia Dawdiak** (Charlottetown) is awarded third for "Rika's Shepherd." Honourable mentions go to **Jan Coates** (Wolfville), who participated in the 2008-09 mentorship program, for "Jacob's Long Walk" and **Peggy Pilkey** (Dartmouth) for "All Shook Up."

Paul Healey, a visual artist, is awarded the **Budge Wilson Short Story Prize** for his powerful story, "Vanishing." Paul settled into Rothesay, New Brunswick, nearly 20 years ago, after leaving his hometown of Toronto. He also has a background in jazz, classical guitar, and piano, and started writing fiction only very recently. He lives with his partner, Lise, and their dog.

Daniel R. Lillford, from Bridgetown, receives second prize for "The Woods." Third place goes to **Hannah Visser** (Crapaud, PEI) for "Waiting for Rain." Fellow Islander **Kim Smith** (Belfast, PEI) receives an honourable mention for "The Sex Life of Chickens," as does **Colleen Gillis**, from Sydney, for "From Now On."

Submissions are now being accepted for the 33rd Atlantic Writing Competition, in five categories: Novel, Short Story, Poetry, Writing for Children, and Juvenile Fiction/YA Novel. For complete guidelines and entry forms, visit www.writers.ns.ca/awc.html. The deadline is December 4. ■

It is time to say thank you to Jane Buss. And ...

Stephen Kimber, President, WFNS

This is not the way I would have chosen to start my first *Eastword* column as president of the Federation. Not that I haven't already said private, heartfelt thanks to Jane on many more occasions and in many more ways than she will ever know. But none of them has ever before been coupled with ... goodbye.

After 17 years as our Executive Director, Jane "Hugs and Busses" Buss has decided to move on. There is probably never a right time to leave, of course, but this may be as right a time as there can be.

Jane Buss – through her intelligence, her energy, her enthusiasm, her determination and, most of all, her unbridled passion for writers and writing (and, yes, perhaps even her occasional bloody single-mindedness in making sure the rest of the world knows that writing, and writers, matter, damnit!) – has created an 800-strong organization of Nova Scotia writers that is capable of standing on its own even after she leaves.

Under her direction, the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia has become a unique and powerful voice of, by and for our writers.

Ma Fed serves us, its members, through writing competitions, workshops, weekly e-loop updates, bimonthly newsletters, annual galas, Christmas parties, the mentorship program, lobbying the many powers that are, offering contract advice when we need it and, sometimes, just by being the friendly, soothing voice on the phone at the end of a too-long day in front of the word processor.

Our Federation serves the broader community too, through programs like Writers in the Schools that connect teachers and students with writers, and public readings that bring writers into the community.

Jane didn't do all of it herself, of course, but it's unlikely it all would have – or could have – happened without her. For which we are grateful – and thankful. And sad to see her go.

After Jane officially takes her leave on August 31, we will need to spend some time regrouping, rethinking and reassessing where we should go now from where Jane has taken us to date.

We will also need to think of appropriate ways to celebrate and honour all that Jane has meant to the Writers' Federation collectively and to so many of us individually.

But those are for the future. For today, I simply want to say, on behalf of writers from one end of the province to the other: Thank you, Jane!

Hugs and Busses to you too, dear lady! ■

Nate Crawford joins the Fed as Administrative Coordinator

The son of a writing Dad and a toymaking Mom, Nate was pretty much born into the Nova Scotian arts community, and has since grown into a committed contributor to that community himself. After taking a theatre degree at Acadia University, he went on to work with regional theatres from A (Atlantic Theatre Festival) to Z (Zuppa Theatre Co.).


Following 10 years in the theatre, spent acting, directing, producing, administrating, scrubbing rehearsal hall floors, and more, he "streamlined" and began to

focus primarily on writing. His poetry has appeared in the late, great *Gaspereau Review* and his play *Table Mountain Cabin* was presented by Live Bait Theatre and later picked up by Eastern Front Theatre's SuperNova Festival. *Table Mountain* originated with the Forerunner Playwrights Theatre, which he co-founded in 2003 and has gone on to provide first productions for such works as Fed member Catherine Banks' *Bone Cage*.

After a stint in the corporate world that took him to nearly every major Canadian city, Nate returned to the East Coast and completed a diploma in Library and Information Technology, which in the end led him to the doorstep at WFNS. He is the outgoing vice-president of the Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre, and recently completed work on a new full-length script at their annual playwrights' colony in Sackville,



New Brunswick. His heroes are Rupert Bear, Tintin, Jean-Luc Picard, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, and Michael Stipe. He's curiously aware that only two of those five people are real, and that three of them are bald. He's steadily been getting his 'Fed Legs' here at the home base and looks forward to working with, and for, all of you. ■



2010 Open Season Awards

*Plant your spring bulbs
early!*

The *Malahat Review* invites entries to its first-annual Spring showcase.

A prize of \$1000 will be awarded in each of three categories: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction, with the winners published in the Spring 2010 issue.

Don't fall back! Only by entering will you spring your writing forward.

\$3000

in total prize money

Entry fee:

\$35 CAD
for Canadians
(and residents of Canada)

\$40 US
for American entrants

\$45 US
for entrants from elsewhere

*All fees include a complimentary
subscription*

Deadline: Nov 1, 2009
(postmark date)

Complete guidelines:
malahatreview.ca
Inquiries: malahat@uvic.ca

Send your most
winning entry to:

The Malahat Review
Open Season Awards
University of Victoria
Box 1700, Stn CSC
Victoria, B.C.,
Canada V8W 2Y2

The Malahat Review
Defining excellent writing
since 1967

Word on the Street – Sunday, September 27

WOTS is back at the Cunard Centre on the waterfront on Sunday, September 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There's the Festival Mainstage with adult readings and performances, panel discussions, author interviews and celebrity readings. The BPIDP Atlantic Authors Stage showcases readings by some of Atlantic Canada's best adult authors followed by an audience Q&A. Conversations at Atlantic News features discussion panels, author interviews, and audience Q&As with history and non-fiction authors.

Graphic Novels and Young

Adult Readings promise to entertain adults and youth alike with panel discussions by graphic novelists. The Ross Creek Centre for the Arts Kids Activity Area will inspire your children to read and learn through the literary arts with some fantastic projects for kids aged 7 to 11. Our Children Kids Reading Stage features readings by children's authors and illustrators aimed at families and first readers, and information about literacy programs in Nova Scotia.

Check the WOTS website for details (www.thewordonthestreet.ca/wots/halifax). ■

Meet the WFNS board



Stephen Kimber (President) is a professor at the University of King's College School of Journalism and an award-winning writer, editor and journalist. *IWK*, his lively account of the 100-year history of Atlantic Canada's world-class Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre, will be published by Nimbus in September. He's the author of one novel (*Reparations*, HarperCollins) and seven non-fiction books, including *Loyalists and Layabouts*, *Sailors*, *Slackers and Blind Pigs: Halifax at War*, and *Flight 111: The Tragedy of the Swissair Crash*.



Mary Jane Copps (Past-President), in addition to being a writer, is also known as The Phone

Lady. An accomplished author, speaker and facilitator, her career has found her on the end of a telephone as a manager, a journalist, a salesperson, a researcher and a fundraiser. She has spent 21 years analyzing the psychology of a phone call and she now shares this information with entrepreneurs, not-for-profits, corporations and government departments in her quest to improve telephone communication everywhere! MJ also provides one-on-one coaching, facilitation of meetings/planning sessions, emceeing, editing and writing services.



Stephens Gerard Malone (Vice-president) has written for a variety of media, including television and magazines, and was shortlisted for the Dartmouth Book Award for his novel *Miss Elva* (Random House). Born in Ontario, educated in Montreal, he savoured a wide variety of work experience, including stints as a mortgage clerk in Calgary, a silver-service waiter in New Zealand, an envelope-stuffer in Toronto and a sex advice columnist. He settled in Nova Scotia where he

works as a technical writer in the aerospace industry. Random House released his third novel, *I Still Have a Suitcase in Berlin*, last year.

Don Roy (Treasurer) started writing in his forties, after taking a creative writing class at St. Francis Xavier University. He is a self-professed writing workshop junkie, having attended The Community of Writers in Tatamagouche, Writing With Style and The Wired Studio at The Banff Centre and numerous WFNS workshops. He was awarded a creation grant by Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage in 2007. His short stories have been published and he placed in the novel category of the 2008 Atlantic Writing Competition.



Renée Hartleib (Secretary) offers professional writing, editing, and research services to clients in various sectors, including business, government, academia, and not for profit. Based out of Halifax, she has more than 10 years experience in the field and offers a wide range of specialties. Book-length manuscripts, websites, newsletters, policy documents, and funky annual

reports are just some of the items she's shaped and crafted. Renée's fiction has appeared in the *New Quarterly*, *The Antigonish Review*, *Carousel*, and *The Fiddlehead*.



Vicki Grant wrote her first novel *The Puppet Wrangler* in 2004, after a career in advertising and television. She was immediately hooked on writing for YAs – young adults. *Quid Pro Quo*, her second novel, quickly became a best seller and won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Crime Fiction. *Res Judicata* followed to equally high acclaim. Vicki has a particular interest in reluctant readers. *Dead-End Job*, a thriller for teens, was named an ALA Quick Pick, as were her high/low novels, *Pigboy* and *ID*, all published by Orca.



Born near Boston, Massachusetts, **Steven Laffoley** has worked as a bookstore manager, a curriculum writer, a university professor,

a school principal, and a dues-paying member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters delivering beer in South Boston. A compulsive freelance writer, columnist and broadcaster, Steven has written dozens of articles and essays for online magazines and newspapers, as well as CBC Radio. His first book was *Mr. Bush, Angus and Me: Notes of an American-Canadian in the Age of Unreason*, which was followed by *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder*. His latest book, *Death Ship of Halifax Harbour* (Pottersfield Press), investigates McNabs Island and the cholera epidemic of 1866 and will be released in September.

Bretton Loney is an award-winning former reporter, columnist and editor of *The Daily News* in Halifax and *The Telegram* in St. John's, Newfoundland. His journalism career began at the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*. Born and raised in Bow Island, Alberta, he has undergraduate degrees from The University of Lethbridge and The University of King's College. Bretton, now a communications advisor with the Government of Nova Scotia, is currently working on a collection of short stories.



Christina McRae lives in Wolfville. Her poetry appears in many literary magazines, including *Descant*, *Room of One's Own*, and *The Antigonish Review*. She won a WFNS Mentorship to work with Marilyn

Iwama on her poetry manuscript, *Next to Nothing*, which will be published by Wolsak & Wynn this fall.



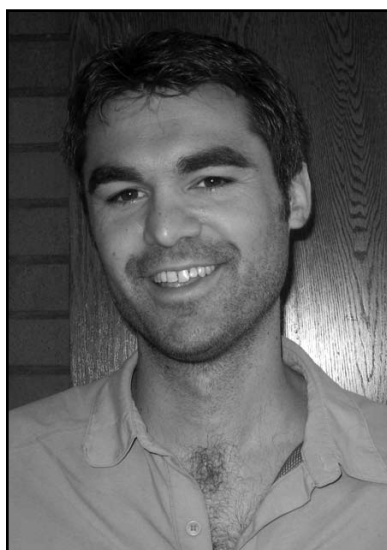
Judith Meyrick is a freelance writer and editor. She took a "Writing for Children" workshop at the Fed and discovered her passion for children's writing. Nimbus published her first book, *Gracie the Public Gardens Duck*. She writes articles and reviews and is currently working on a novel for 7-11 year olds, and several other shorter works for children. She edits a variety of different writings, including adult manuscripts and other non-fiction works and reports.



Shandi Mitchell is a writer and filmmaker, whose work has been described as visually poetic, emotionally resonant and sublimely

crafted. Her film, *Baba's House*, won more awards than there's room here to list. She partnered with Emotion Pictures and Thom Fitzgerald and collaborated on the films *Cherries*, *The Hanging Garden* and *Beefcake*. In 2008, she was awarded the Canada Council's Martin Lynch Staunton Award for Outstanding Mid-Career Achievement in Media Arts. She is also a fiction writer and her debut novel, *Under This Unbroken Sky*, which was selected for the WFNS mentorship program, has just been released by Penguin Books (Canada), Weidenfeld and Nicolson (UK), and Harper Collins (US). First translation rights have been sold to Kinneret (Israel).

Jon Tattrie is a journalist and writer. Over several itinerant years, he worked in a shelter for homeless men in Ireland, as a shrine-cleaner in an English Buddhist monastery, and as the only vegetarian cook



on the Isle of Iona. After a stint on *The Scotsman*, Scotland's national newspaper, he returned to Halifax to take a job on the now defunct *Daily News*. He currently freelances. Pottersfield Press published Jon's first novel *Black Snow*, set in Halifax in 1917.



Joanne Taylor (Honorary Life Board Member) writes for children and is published by Tundra Books. *Maclean's Magazine* named *Full Moon Rising* as one of 2002's best picture books in Canada. *There You Are*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the Canadian Library Association's Children's Book of the Year Award. *Making Room*, was Joanne's second picture book. She's working on two more children's novels. ■

Cabot Trail Writers Festival at North River – Oct. 2 to 4

The first annual Cabot Trail Writers Festival 2009 at North River on Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island will take place over the weekend of October 2 through 4.

The inaugural lineup of authors includes award-winning **Donna Morrissey**, author of *Kit's Law*, *Downhill Chance*, *Sylvanus Now* and *What They Wanted* (Penguin). Joining Donna will be Cape Breton's **Douglas Arthur Brown**, whose novel *Quintet* (Key Porter) is the winner of the 2009 Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize. As well, the Cabot Trail's own **Susan Zettell** will be featured. She recently published her first full-length novel, *The Checkout Girl*

(Signature Editions), after teasing us with her successful short stories.

The opening night Literary Cabaret will feature Donna Morrissey, in an evening of written words punctuated by the music of the Poe Trio (guitarist Paul MacDonald, fiddler and luthier Otis Tomas, and bassist Ed Woodsworth).

Workshops and author readings highlight Saturday. Donna Morrissey discusses Using Environment: environment can be used to show both character and setting, and adds authenticity to storytelling, as well as intrigue about the character. Susan Zettell expounds on Preparing and Researching a Novel. This session, for both writers and readers, takes us

through Susan's journey in creating *The Checkout Girl*. Bring questions. Douglas Arthur Brown's topic is The Liberal Truth: Why All Readers Are Secret Conservatives. The focus of this workshop is to introduce writers to how readers approach a work of fiction, and what writers must be mindful of when constructing their work.

The wrap-up Sunday Brunch with all of the authors will highlight the living practice of storytelling in a performance by the Cabot Trail's Bill Conall, a musician and writer (*The Rock in the Water*, Hidden Book Press 2009).

For details, visit www.cabottrailwritersfestival.com ■

Gaspereau Wayzgoose

Gaspereau Press is hosting its tenth annual Wayzgoose and Open House at its print shop located under the sign of the mirthful g at 47 Church Ave., Kentville, on Saturday, October 24. There's calligraphy and bookbinding workshops, papermaking and printmaking sessions, an offcut paper sale, an open house at the printshop, and readings. For details check out www.gaspereau.com. ■

Russ Barton Fiction Writing Courses For beginning & intermediate writers

New: Plot, Character, Setting, Dialogue, Theme & Symbolism

Halifax: West Park Mall,
Lacewood Drive
6 Lessons, Thurs., 9 a.m.-noon
Starts Sept. 24th. \$140 (18 hrs)

Create & Edit Fiction Courses

Interactive classes feature discussion
& exercises in editing, plotting,
openings, POV, genres, gender,
character dev., action through
dialogue, scenes & more.

1. Bedford:

Scott Manor House, 15 Fort Sackville
Rd. 10 Lessons. Mons. 9 a.m.-noon.
Starts Sept. 21. \$170

2. Dartmouth:

Pleasant St., near Boundary St.
10 Lessons Weds. 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.,
Starts Sept. 23 \$160 (25hrs).

To Register

Phone 902 463 9672

Email: rusbarton@eastlink.ca

Contests

■ **Winston Collins/Descant Prize for Best Canadian Poem:** (www.descant.ca) Entry fee \$29 includes sub to mag. Prize \$1,000, plus payment for publication in *Descant*; 2 Honourary Mentions \$250 each, plus payment for publication. Details on website. Deadline October 9 postmark

■ Atlantic New Cultures

Competition: Attn: Marjorie Stone, Dept. of English, Dalhousie University, 6135 University Ave., Halifax NS B3H 4P9 Deadline October 16. Prizes \$1,000, \$250 and \$100. A writing contest promoting cultural expression in Atlantic Canada relating to the themes of immigration, migration and/or cultural diversity in the region. Open to those who reside or who have previously resided in Atlantic Canada (including students and other temporary residents). Unpublished work only. 2,500 words max. Short stories, poetry/spoken word, creative memoirs, monologues, plays, works in translation. For information visit sites.google.com/site/atlanticwriters or contact robert.nathan@dal.ca

■ CBC Literary Awards: Deadline

November 1. Entry fee \$20. Details on www.radio-canada.ca/prixlitteraires/english/index.shtml Prizes: 1st \$6,000 and 2nd \$4,000 in each of 3 categories and publication in *enRoute* magazine. **Short story** (2,000-2500 words). **Creative nonfiction** (2,000-2,500 words) includes humour writing, memoir, biography, essay (including personal essay), travel writing, and feature articles. **Poetry** (1,000-2,000 words) a long narrative poem, a sequence of connected poems or a group of unconnected poems whose total

word count (excluding the titles) is between 1000 and 2000 words.

■ TWUC's Short prose competition for developing writers:

(www.writersunion.ca) SPC Competition, The Writers' Union of Canada, 90 Richmond St. East., Suite 200, Toronto, ON M5C 1P3. Open to writers not previously published in book format in any genre and who do not have a contract with a book publisher. Deadline November 3. Nonfiction and fiction up to 2,500 words. Entry fee \$25. Prize \$2,500. Details on website, under "contests."

■ The Fiddlehead 19th Annual Literary Contest:

Campus House, 11 Garland Court, University of New Brunswick, PO Box 4400, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3 (www.thefiddlehead.ca) **Poetry:** \$1,000 Ralph Gustafson Prize for Best Poem, \$500 each for 2 honourable mentions. Send up to 3 poems with no more than 100 lines per poem. **Fiction:** \$1,000 for best story, \$500 for 2 honourable mentions. Send 1 story up to 25 double-spaced pages. Winners will also be paid for publication in the magazine. Entry fee: \$30 includes subscription to mag. Deadline December 1 postmark.

Awards

■ Atlantic Poetry Prize, Evelyn Richardson Non-Fiction Award, Thomas Head Radall Atlantic Fiction Prize:

Deadline for these published book awards is December 4. For complete details visit www.writers.ns.ca (look under Competitions then under WFNS Book Prizes).

Mentorship deadline – Friday, September 11, 5 p.m.

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia invites applications from writers who wish to be considered for apprentice positions in the 2009-2010 mentor program for emerging Nova Scotia writers. ***The application deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, September 11, 2009.*** All applicants will be notified of the jury's decisions by the late fall, 2009.

This program is designed to address the needs of developing writers who are committed to their writing and creative development. This is not an introductory creative writing course. It is an intensive, hands-on opportunity intended to provide a disciplined and focused period of work during which developing writers may stretch and hone their craft in a supportive environment. The program is designed to be of support to writers who are on the cusp of professional publication.

The Fed welcomes applications from writers working in poetry, fiction, short fiction, non-fiction, and writing for children and young adults. The selection of the apprentices will be made by a jury of established writing professionals, who will then match successful candidates with appropriate senior writers in this region. The decisions of this jury will be final.

How to apply

There is no application form. Applications must be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of standard 8¹/₂ x 11 paper. ***Do not staple your application. Do not***

send more material than is required.

Apprentice applicants must be at least 19 years old.

In addition to supplying us with a 10-page sample of work in the genre in which you propose to work (samples that are longer than the requested 10 pages will be truncated at 10 pages), please send us a short cover letter (complete with postal address, email and phone number where you may be reached during business hours) that addresses the following:

- How long have you been writing? Summarize your writing activity for the past 12 months.
- Provide an outline of what you specifically propose to work on during the mentorship period.
- Give a description of the work you'll have available for the mentorship (i.e. number of poems written, number of pages completed of your fiction or prose manuscript).
- What goal have you set yourself for the relatively short time available (approximately five months)? Be specific.
- Are you willing and able to make writing a priority during the full course of the program?
- Why do you need to participate in the mentor program?

Time period

Participants will work together over a fairly flexible five month period starting in the early winter. Apprentices will be matched with mentors. WFNS provides an honorarium to the senior writer to work with the apprentice, who agrees to contribute time, work and effort without financial compensation during the mentorship period. At the conclusion of the mentoring cycle, emerging writers will participate in a celebratory public reading at the Federation.

Applications must be received by the Writers' Federation by 5 p.m. on September 11. Faxed and e-mailed materials will not be accepted.

Address your applications to:

Mentoring at the Fed
Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia
1113 Marginal Road
Halifax, NS, B3H 4P7

For further information, please call the Federation at (902) 423-8116.

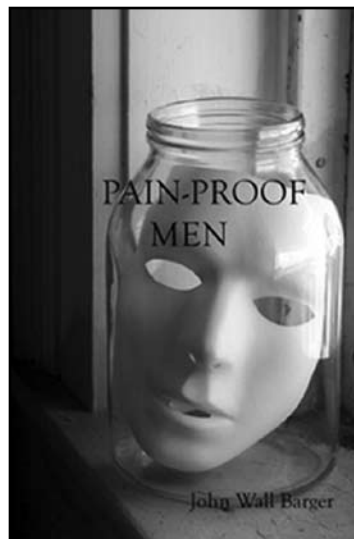
This program would not be possible without the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

imPRESSed — new titles by WFNS members



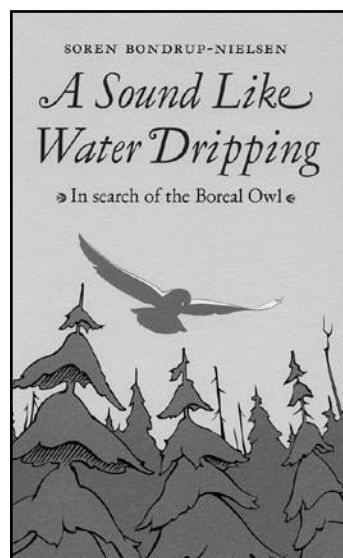
Pain-Proof Men

John Wall Barger

Palimpsest Press, 2009, \$18, ISBN: 978-0978491772

The voice that emerges in *Pain-Proof Men* is that of a derelict, who sings the names of God during the day and moonlights at a circus as a human pincushion at night. The personas in these poems (all manner of tricksters – from scarecrows, clowns, sailors, John Wayne, Clark Gable, to the confessional poet himself) are men in pain. All, however mythic and powerful, have failed at love and work and life, and feel an overwhelming ache. This human hurt that connects us all links the many voices in this multifarious, ludic book.

After a few years in the U.S., John Wall Barger grew up in Nova Scotia, and then moved to Vancouver, Ottawa, Rome, Prague, and Dublin. He now lives in Halifax. His poems and reviews have appeared in *The Malahat Review*, *Grain*, *Arc*, *Prism*, *Prairie Fire*, and other journals. He was included in the inaugural volume of *The Best Canadian Poetry 2008* (Tightrope Press).



A Sound Like Water Dripping: In Search of the Boreal Owl

Søren Bondrup-Nielsen

Gaspereau Press, 2009, \$26.95, ISBN: 978-1554470747

Biologist Søren Bondrup-Nielsen recalls his experience as a graduate student researching the boreal owl in northern Ontario and Alberta. In the spring of 1974, Bondrup-Nielsen travels by train to Kapuskasing to begin his study of this tiny, elusive bird. His inquiring mind and passion for both winter and the outdoors bring an infectious sense of adventure to his fieldwork. His studies are punctuated by close encounters with coyotes, bears and a moose, glimpses of the Aurora Borealis, first love and self-discovery. With some of the author's original journal entries, notes and sketches, *A Sound Like Water Dripping* captures the beginning of a committed and inspiring dedication to the study of ecology.

Søren Bondrup-Nielsen was born in Denmark and at 13 immigrated to Canada with his family. He is a professor at Acadia University, where he teaches ecology and conservation biology. He is the author of a memoir, *Winter On Diamond* and *Winter Nature, Common Mammals, Birds, Trees and Shrubs of the Maritimes*.



Harbour View

Binnie Brennan

Quattro Books, 2009, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-0-9810186-4-5

Harbour View is the story of six people whose lives intersect in a nursing home overlooking Halifax Harbour. Memories draw the residents, staff, and family members from rich and diverse pasts to a present filled with grace and poignancy. Threaded with music and connected by themes of dislocation, family legend, and longing, *Harbour View* offers a glimpse of the extraordinary lives of ordinary people.

Binnie Brennan has been published in several literary journals. *Harbour View* is the co-winner of the 2009 Quattro Books' Ken Klonsky Novella Contest. Her story *A Spider's Tale* was adapted for the stage in Halifax. For 20 years Binnie has enjoyed a career playing the viola with Symphony Nova Scotia. She lives in Halifax with her husband and two children.

Kimmy la Lune

Katia Canciani

Editions Bayard, 2008, \$8.95, ISBN: 9782895792208

Kimmy est toujours dans la lune. Écouter les consignes, se dépêcher, ne rien oublier? Ce n'est pas pour elle ! Elle est trop rêveuse, trop distraite, trop étourdie, on le lui reproche souvent. Mais, malgré ses petits défauts, Juliette aime par-dessus tout son amie Kimmy. Une série qui met en valeur les particularités de chaque enfant, sans taire ses faiblesses, ni oublier ses forces. Un album pour favoriser l'estime de soi des enfants lunatiques.

Née au Québec, Katia habite la vallée de l'Annapolis. Auparavant pilote professionnelle, elle a mis ce monde de côté afin de se consacrer à ses trois enfants. Son premier roman, *Un jardin en Espagne. Retour au Généralife* fut lancé en mars 2006. Katia est à l'occasion pigiste pour *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse*. Katia écrit aussi pour la jeunesse. Elle a célébré le lancement de trois séries: *Crinière au vent*, pour les 8 à 10 ans; *Mon meilleur ami*, pour les 3 à 8 ans; et *Riquili*, pour les 3 à 5 ans.



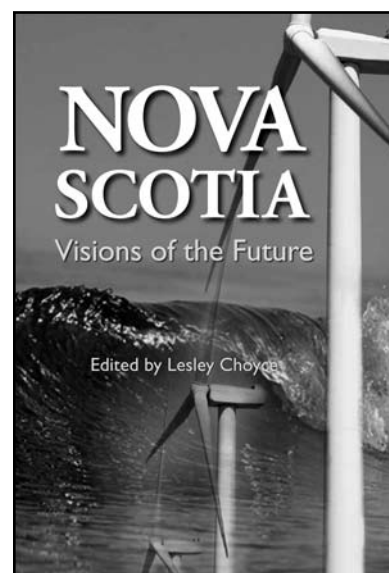
Nova Scotia: Visions of the Future

Edited by Lesley Choyce

Pottersfield, 2009, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1897426074

In the summer of 2008, Pottersfield publisher Lesley Choyce sent a letter to a select and varied list of Nova Scotians to contribute to a book about Nova Scotia's future. The letter read, "Absolutely anything goes. The bolder the vision, the better. Which future? Anything beyond 10 years and up to 1,000." Topics covered include the environment, technology, immigration, urban and rural life, politics, family, and much more. Some of the 42 contributing writers are: Marq deVilliers, Peggy Hope-Simpson, Richard Zurawski, Rodney MacDonald, Budge Wilson, Alan Wilson, Dr. Richard Goldbloom, Carol Bruneau, Tom Gallant, Geoff Regan, Sunyata Choyce, Neal Livingston, Barb Stegemann, Bob Howse, Ralph Martin, Chris Benjamin, Jon Tattrie, and Stephen Clare.

Lesley teaches at Dalhousie University, runs Pottersfield Press and has published nearly 60 books for adults and kids. He lives at Lawrencetown Beach.



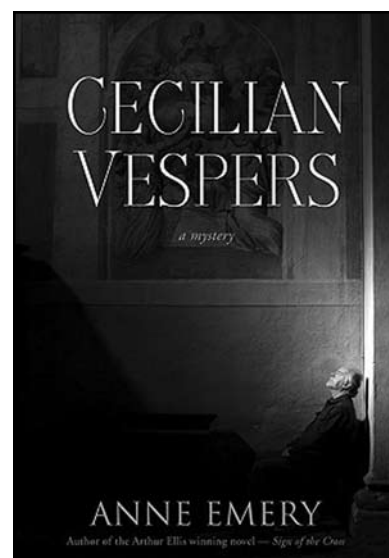
Cecilian Vespers: A Mystery

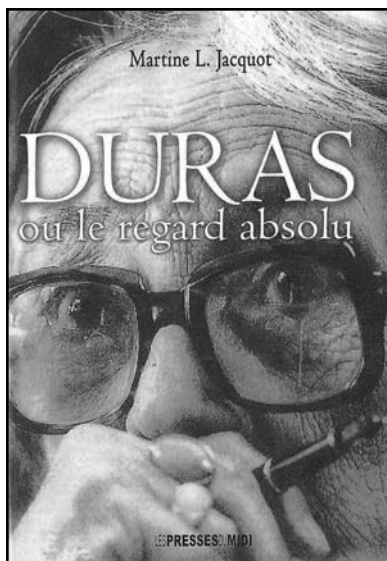
Anne Emery

ECW Press, 2009, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1550228618

Lawyer and bluesman Monty Collins is used to defending murderers and occasionally investigating murders himself, but he's never come up against anything like the case of a world-renowned German theologian, found dead on the altar of an old church in Halifax on Saint Cecilia's Day. The controversial priest, once a top insider in the Vatican, was known to provoke strong feelings in Catholics of all ideological stripes, and now those feelings have overflowed with horrifying results. At least Monty knows where to look for clues; his friend Father Brennan Burke has just opened a choir school at the church, and the students provide an international cast of suspects.

Anne Emery is the author of *Sign of the Cross* (2006), *Obit* (2007), and *Barrington Street Blues* (2008). Anne was born in Halifax and grew up in Moncton. She has worked as a lawyer, legal affairs reporter and researcher. Anne lives in Halifax with her husband and daughter.





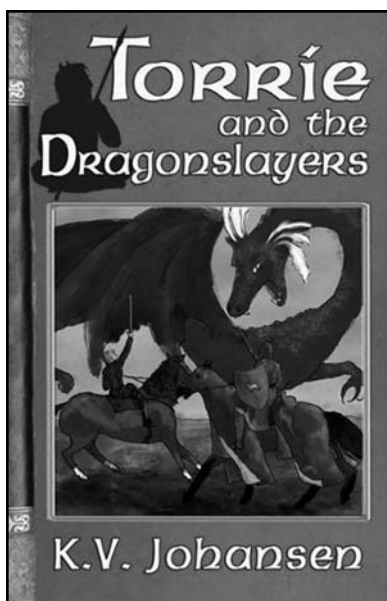
Duras

Martine L. Jacquot

Les Presses du Midi, 2009, ISBN: 978-2812700538

Cet important essai sur la romancière et cinéaste Marguerite Duras n'est pas une simple étude universitaire mais le regard d'une romancière sur le travail d'une autre romancière. Cette recherche met à jour un élément jamais exploré jusqu'à cette date, et qui donne à relire l'œuvre de Duras à cette lumière: pourquoi tant de lenteur, d'inaction, de silences dans l'œuvre durassienne? C'est en effet le regard, un regard bien spécifique, qui soutient les histoires, retient les personnages, et donne un sens à l'œuvre entière.

Poète, romancière, nouvelliste et essayiste basée dans la vallée de l'Annapolis, Martine L. Jacquot signe ici son 23^e livre.



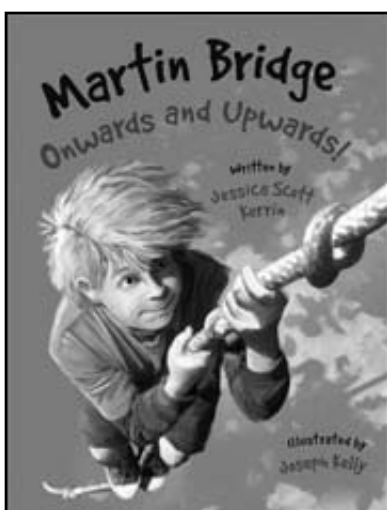
Torrie and the Dragonslayers

K.V. Johansen

Sybertooth Inc., 2009, \$10.95, ISBN: 978-0981024400

Once there was a prince who set off on a quest for a magic sword. He ran into a bit of trouble with a sorcerer, who didn't like trespassers, and the sorcerer's wolf-headed guards. Once there was a young woman who decided to run away from home. Luckily for the prince, who was in her father's dungeon by then, she decided to rescue him first. His father's kingdom is being laid waste by a dragon and the Sword Wormbane may be their last hope. Luckily for both of them, Torrie came along as well. He begins to suspect that the story of the sorcerer and the Sword Wormbane is bound up with his own past ...

K.V. Johansen has published over a dozen books, mostly fantasy and science fiction for young readers, including the critically-acclaimed *Quests and Kingdoms: A Grown-Up's Guide to Children's Fantasy Literature*. *Torrie and the Dragonslayers* is book five in the Torrie Quests series.



Martin Bridge: Onwards and Upwards!

Jessica Scott Kerrin

Kids Can Press, 2009, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-1-55453-160-8

Junior Badgers are all about rocket launchings, surviving in the woods and building weapons. So there's no room in the troop for Martin's pushy classmate, Laila Moffatt. But when Laila shows everyone the ropes, Martin comes to appreciate what it takes to earn the Badge of Courage. Join Martin Bridge in two new adventures as he endures his mom's keyboard practices, learns about animal scat (poop!), eats bugs, handles snakes and builds a catapult!

Jessica Scott Kerrin lives with her family and their pet tortoise in downtown Halifax. They like to share outdoor adventures, including a jungle trek in Costa Rica, and a sailing tour of Croatia. In addition to writing, Jessica has managed galleries, dance schools and museums, and she has worked with artists, performers and curators.

The Hundefräulein Papers

Kathy Mac

Roseway, 2009, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-1552663004

Hunde/fräulein: Dog/nanny. For five and a half years Kathy Mac lived in Sambro Head, NS, looking after anywhere from four to 12 English Setters. The post entailed maintaining the ocean-side doghouse and looking after the many, varied houseguests of the hundemutter – ocean activist Elisabeth Mann Borgese, youngest daughter of Thomas Mann. These poems take their tone from the days and dogs that inspired them.

Kathy Mac teaches at Saint Thomas University and was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for poetry in 2002 for *Nail Builders Plan for Strength and Growth* (Roseway).



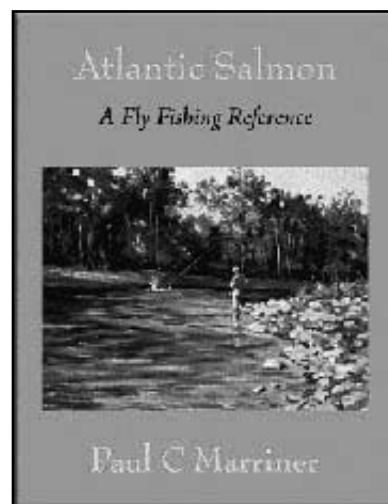
Atlantic Salmon: A Fly Fishing Reference

Paul Marriner

Gale's End Press, 2009, \$40, ISBN: 978-0973338355

Atlantic salmon angling is intimidating to some, challenging for most, and second-nature to a few. To help the first two groups, and entertain (and perhaps intrigue) the last, Paul Marriner has distilled more than 40 years of his fly-fishing experiences on some 150 publicly accessible salmon rivers into this book. The book contains 300 photos and illustrations. All of the more than 250 photos are in colour.

Paul Marriner is associate editor and a columnist for *The Canadian Fly Fisher*, the fly-tying columnist for *Eastern Woods & Waters*, a field editor of *Outdoor Canada Magazine* and *Eastern Fly Fishing*, and a masthead contributor to *The Angling Report*. Paul lives in Mahone Bay.



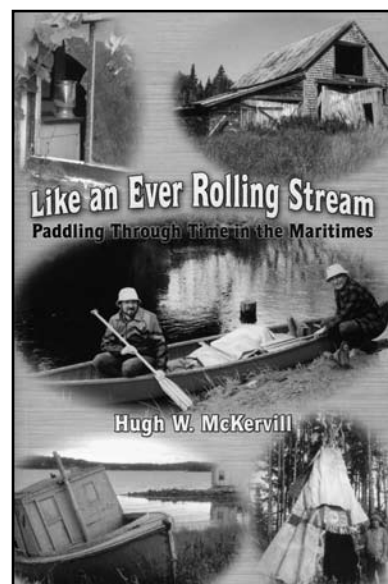
Like an Ever Rolling Stream: Paddling Through Time in the Maritimes

Hugh W. McKervill

Four East Publications, 2009, \$19.95 ISBN: 978-1-897462-11-9

When two men head off on a weekend canoe trip in 1976, they have little idea of the epic journey ahead. Despite many miseries endured on that first trip they decide to repeat the adventure, and for the next 20-odd years their annual outings take them on explorations of the rivers, lakes, and coastal regions of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Along the way they happen upon traces of poignant dramas and strange events that occurred in the forgotten recesses of time and place, and forge an enduring friendship, despite being inexorably carried forward by the currents of time to different places in life.

Since taking early retirement in 1993, Hugh McKervill has been an editorial contributor to the *Atlantic Salmon Journal*. He has written scores of articles for many magazines, focusing mainly on history, social/cultural issues, and outdoor recreation. The author of three previous non-fiction books: *Darby of Bella Bella*, *The Salmon People*, and *The Sinbuster of Smoky Burn*, Hugh is also an award winning member of The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia and provides his own photography for many of his published articles.





Under This Unbroken Sky

Shandi Mitchell

Harper, 2009, \$30.50, ISBN: 978-0061774027

In the spring of 1937, Teodor Mykolayenko returns to his struggling family after a year spent in prison for the crime of trying to feed them. His wife and children have been living under the care of his sister Anna on the harsh and unforgiving prairie landscape. A survivor of war, labour camps, and Stalin's crimes in Ukraine, Teodor is determined to make a new life for his family, so he takes to the land with desperation and resolve.

Shandi Mitchell spent her childhood on a military base on the Prairies but now makes her home on the East Coast of Canada. Her award-winning films have been featured at festivals across North America. *Under This Unbroken Sky* is her first novel.



Bridget's Black '47

Dorothy Perkins

Dundurn Press, 2009, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-1-55488-400-1

Bridget Quinlan is a spirited 13-year-old girl when the Irish potato blight of the 1840s shatters her life. Tragedy strikes when crops fail and typhus spreads, killing her brother, Rory. With soldiers evicting the ill and unemployed, the Quinlans are forced to accept the offer of a passage to Canada. Appalling conditions on board the ship contribute to many deaths so that by the time they reach Grosse Île, Quebec, Bridget and her sister are alone in the world. The two are adopted by a kind farming family, and, after all the sadness and loss, a surprising turn of events brings them lasting joy.

Dorothy Perkins is the author of *Last Days in Africville* and the award-winning *Rachel's Revolution*. She lives in Blandford.



Migration Songs

Anna Quon

Invisible Publishing, 2009

Joan is on the brink. Cough drop addict, school bus driver, mixed race daughter of a Maoist English father and a Chinese-Canadian mother, Joan struggles for meaning after a friend's death reveals a secret life. *Migration Songs* is a lyrical journey in search of identity and belonging, and witness to the power of kindness.

Anna Quon is a writer living in Dartmouth. She writes with compassion and ferocity about the struggle to grow up without a tribe of one's own. Drawing on her own experience as a half-Chinese-Canadian raised on Canada's East Coast and her own ambivalence about belonging, Anna has self-published two chapbooks of poetry, *Poems for 4 Seasons* and *Half Empty*, and three poetry zines. Travelling to St. Petersburg on a scholarship from the Summer Literary Seminars Russia and completing a first draft in 2007 has led to *Migration Songs*, her first novel.

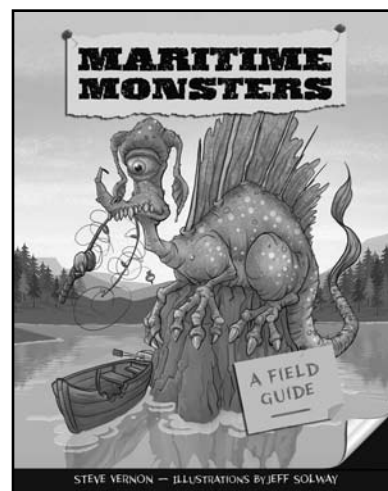
Maritime Monsters

Steve Vernon, illustrated by Jeff Solway

Nimbus, 2009, \$12.95, ISBN: 978-1-55109-727-5

This children's picture book is a field guide to Maritime monsters, taken from local folklore and legends. The monsters described include Prince Edward Island's Old Hook-Snout, New Brunswick's Acadian Werewolf, Nova Scotia's Parker Road Phantom and Newfoundland's Not-So-Cuddly Kraken! Each entry includes a short story featuring the monster and a field guide entry: location, diet, size, frequency, description, and special monster-hunting advice. An indispensable resource for the young Maritime monster hunter!

Steve Vernon learned the storytelling tradition from his grandfather, and as part of the Writers in the Schools program he now teaches the art of storytelling to Nova Scotia children. He's the author of more than 50 published short stories, and his books include *Halifax Haunts: Exploring the City's Spookiest Spaces*, *Wicked Woods: Ghost Stories of Old New Brunswick*, and *Haunted Harbours*. Steve lives in Halifax.



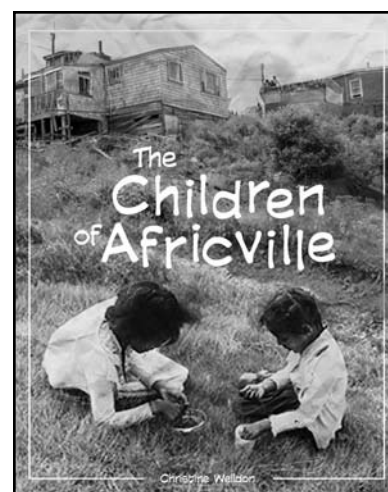
The Children of Africville

Christine Welldon

Nimbus, 2009, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-1551097237

In *The Children of Africville*, Christine Welldon tells the story of Africville and its residents in an easy-to-read, accessible format for young readers, recounting the community's history and describing what life was like for the children who lived there. Drawing heavily from interviews with people who grew up in Africville, including Irvine Carvery, Bernice Byers, and Terry Dixon, the book is targeted to the grade three reading level and curriculum.

Christine Welldon, an educator and reading specialist, advocates for children's learning through books. She makes connections to the educational curriculum in her writing, with works that include *Addressing the Gender Gap in Boys Reading* (Teacher Librarian); *Canadian National Railway: Pon Git Cheng* (Grolier); *Canadians All* (Methuen); *Letters from Rosa* (Gage). She currently divides her time between Blue Rocks, Nova Scotia, and Toronto, Ontario.



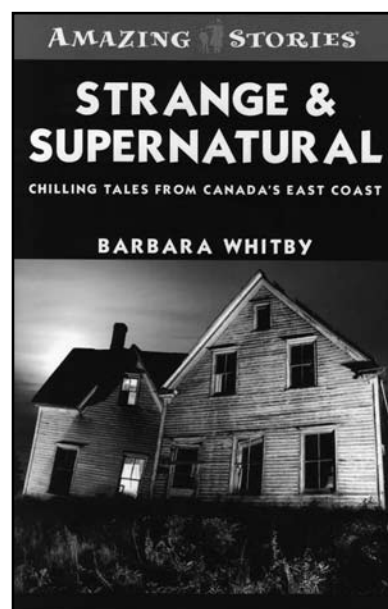
Strange & Supernatural Chilling Tales From Canada's East Coast

Barbara Whitby

Lorimer, 2009, \$9.95, ISBN: 978-1-55277-410-6

Spine-chilling accounts of school hauntings after the Halifax Explosion, premonitions of the Titanic tragedy, the phantom reappearance of the *Yarmouth*, the Great Amherst Poltergeist mystery, the cursing of the Narrows in Halifax Harbour, and the famous "Bell Island Hag" in Newfoundland are just some of the supernatural stories found in this collection from the Amazing Stories series.

Barbara Whitby has been published in a variety of anthologies, literary magazines and newspapers, and has broadcast her work on CBC radio. She is the author of the history *The Last of the Beothuk*, also an 'Amazing Stories' title. She lives in Halifax.



**Mrs. Beast****Pamela Ditchoff****Stay Thirsty Press, 2009, \$9.99****(Kindle Edition only – available through amazon.com)**

Mrs. Beast begins with Beauty who shortly after marrying the Prince realizes she preferred her loving Beast to the vain, eccentric Prince. Leaving the comforts of the castle, she embarks on a quest to find Elora, the enchantress who changed the Beast into a Prince, and convince her to change him back into the Beast. Her journey takes her through Grimm Land, where she meets Snow White, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella and learns what became of them after they married their princes.

Pamela Ditchoff was raised in Michigan. Her first novel, *The Mirror of Monsters and Prodigies*, was a semi-fictional oral history of dwarves, giants, conjoined twins, bearded women, and other special people. In 2003, Ditchoff's second novel, *Seven Days & Seven Sins*, was published by Shay Areheart at Random House. She is currently working on a sequel to *Mrs. Beast* entitled *Princess Beast* that will also be published by Stay Thirsty Press. She lives in Liverpool.

Ground shifts slightly in banner film year

Ron Foley Macdonald

Film Nova Scotia CEO Ann MacKensie gave a fascinating report to CBC Radio listeners early in August that exposed some interesting facts about the industry here. First, 2008 turned out to be the sector's best year, generating \$150 million. Secondly, more than half of that activity was service-oriented. Service production differs from indigenous production in that the film and television projects originate from elsewhere, and only shoot in Nova Scotia. Up to now, we have almost always, unlike British Columbia, had more local production that service productions from away.

The split has usually been about 60-40. With a local industry driven by strong production companies (Salter Street/Halifax Film, Big Motion Pictures and Arcadia Entertainment) and major figures such as Michael Donovan, David MacLeod and John Wesley Chisholm, it has managed to ride out most of the torturous ups and downs of a mainly government-funded industry. Up to now. After the convulsions of the big Canadian broadcasters and distributors and the endless battle between the broadcasters and the cable industry over carriage fees and participation in the Canadian Television Fund (CTF), the True North film production landscape is pitted with rubble and ruins.

Canwest/Global keeps missing refinancing deadlines. Rogers, the cable giant that bought the CITY TV Empire, has been ordered by the CRTC to buy 60 hours of Canadian feature films, after it neglected to do so over the last two years. With the smoke of this frenzied repositioning stalling the efforts of our local producers – these are, after all, some of the major markets they sell to – it has become infinitely harder to put together deals to create locally made film and television.

Indigenous production spreads more money around than service production. Locals spend in development, pre-production and post-production, while service production drops almost all its money in the shooting phase. The result is that Halifax has the largest, strongest and most diverse motion picture scene in the region, mostly due to the strength of our local production.

That seems to have changed. While the dollar value is larger, local post-production houses operated at very low capacities through 2008. While the service production has come from some interesting places – the big German co-production of Jack London's *The Sea Wolf*, for example – there's no question that the old "hewers of wood and drawers of water" image still plagues those providing services for offshore producers. Film crews, of course, are glad of the work. And keeping Nova Scotia attractive to global producers through generous tax credits is a winning proposition for our production sector. With three big German co-productions scheduled for 2009 – *Moby Dick*, tentatively starring William Hurt and Ethan Hawke, two Johanna Trollope novels and a new dramatic TV series from Big Motion Pictures (*Meet Phil Fitz*) – the volume of work looks promising.

To some sectors, such as post-production, the picture doesn't seem quite as bright. The shift denotes a change where Nova Scotians have even less control over a volatile industry. Of course, it could just be part of the normal ups and downs of a cyclical and occasionally flippant sector. Or it could be the sign of things to come. ■

Who's doing what

■ Just one poet from Nova Scotia is among the 75 authors from around the world whose poetic tributes to Leonard Cohen are included in the upcoming book *Leonard Cohen: You're Our Man*, to honour him on his 75th birthday – and that's **Susan Borgersen**. Artist/writer Susan writes from her Glorious Mud Gallery Studio in East Port Medway, "I once (many moons ago) won a 2nd in poetry in the Atlantic Writing Competition. I am so pleased that I kept writing." Margaret Atwood is also included in the anthology. Details on the book, which is a fundraiser to establish a writer in residence at Cohen's old high school in Montreal, can be found at www.publicpoetry.wordpress.com.

■ **Heddy Johannesen** has an article on sacred chalices in the fall issue of *Circle Sanctuary*. Her article about the upcoming Seaport Market in Halifax is published in *The Source's* food issue. She performed a poetry reading at Local Jo's cafe in April for National Poetry Month, and her poem "Midwinter" was posted on the League of Canadian Poets Second Annual Cross-country Poetry Blog.

■ **Frances Jewel Dickson's** new book, *Skipper, The Sea Yarns of Captain Matthew Mitchell* (Pottersfield Press), is scheduled for release in September. Mitchell went to sea at 14 in 1931 and retired 45 years later, then spent the next 30 years as Shore Captain of the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, until he retired in 2006. A launch at the Fisheries Museum in Lunenburg is anticipated sometime in the future.

■ *Lovesongs of Emmanuel Taggart* by **Syr Ruus**, the 2006 winner of the H. R. (Bill) Percy Award in the Atlantic Writing Competition, was released by Breakwater Press in August. Syr is looking forward to participating in Word on the Street this September, as well as other readings and book signings in the fall.

■ In July, **Chad Lucas** of Lower Sackville was one of 12 finalists, out of more than 800 entries, in The Writers Union of Canada's Writing for Children competition with his short story "Whiz Kid," an excerpt from a young adult novel in progress.

■ **Jessica Scott Kerrin's** eighth title in the Martin Bridge series, *Martin Bridge: Onwards and Upwards!*, was recently published. *Martin Bridge: In High Gear!* is nominated for the 2009-2010 Hackmatack Award. Along with *Martin Bridge: The Sky's the Limit!*, it was also selected as a Best Book of Exceptional Caliber by the Canadian Children's Book Centre for 2009. Jessica is currently working on a trilogy for older elementary school readers.

■ Good news from the Writers Federation of New Brunswick's annual writing competition to **Eleonore Schönmaier**, who won the Alfred G. Bailey Prize for her poetry manuscript "What We Don't Think of Packing." Poetry and music complement each other as Eleonore proved in combination with Jamie McLaren playing cello at the Music Room in Halifax and at the Biscuit Eater Books and Café in Mahone Bay in August. Look for three of Eleonore's music-themed poems in *The New Quarterly*. Additional

poems are forthcoming in *Descant* and *The Antigoniish Review*. Recently her poems have been published in *Prism International*, *Dreamcatcher* (UK) and in Dutch translation in *De Tweede Ronde* (Amsterdam).

■ **Laura Best** asks, "Is this the part where I mention that my first young adult novel is set to be released in October?" Laura is thrilled to report that *Bitter, Sweet*, which is set on Dalhousie Road in the 1940s, is being published by Nimbus.

■ **Sherry D. Ramsey's** short story "The Ambassador's Staff" appeared in the anthology *Thoughtcrime Experiments*, available online at

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<http://thoughtcrime.crummy.com>. She's also busy serving as secretary-treasurer for SF Canada, Canada's national association for speculative fiction professionals.

■ **Binnie Brennan** will launch her novella, *Harbour View* (Quattro Books), on Monday, October 5 at 7:30. Join the fun at Seasons Bistro, Atlantica Hotel, (formerly the Holiday Inn), 1980 Robie St., Halifax. Toronto writer John Calabro will also launch his novella, *The Cousin*.

■ In 2008 **Michael Bawtree** was commissioned to create a one-man show about the famous capture of two bridges by six gliders behind enemy lines in Normandy at midnight on D-Day 1944, several hours before the landings on the beaches. Michael wrote *The Pegasus Bridge Show!* in prose and poetry, and performed it in the UK. In March he produced a DVD of the show. Proceeds from the performances and DVD have gone to Army Charities.

■ **Lesley Crewe** will be launching her fourth novel, *Hit & Mrs.* (Vagrant Press) in Cape Breton and Halifax in September.

■ **Sarah Mian** was a semi-finalist in CBC Canada Writes 2009 and also won first place in *The Coast's* postcard fiction contest.

■ **Warren Heiti** received an honourable mention in the National Magazine Awards for "the uncollected works of sallie chisum," published in *Event*.

■ **Richard L. Provencher** hosted a poetry reading recorded for Cablevision, featuring **Paul Zann**, **Penny Ferguson** and Chad Norman.

■ **Jennifer Stone** writes, "*The Fiddlehead* writes the most inspiring rejection letters, often hand written, quarter-sized notes of encouragement that make you want to try harder and submit to them again. I know this because I have amassed a small collection of them over the past few years. So when I finally received an acceptance, I couldn't help but feel that I had accomplished something." Her short story appears in their summer fiction issue. Another will appear in the *Wascana Review*.

■ **Carol Little's** first novel, *Hide Your Life Away*, was nominated for the 2009 Montaigne Medal, was a finalist for the Eric Hoffer 2009 Grand Prize, winner in the General Fiction category of the Eric Hoffer Awards (www.hofferaward.com) and a finalist in the 2009 Indie Book Awards (www.indiebookawards.com). For more info, check out her website at www.carollittleauthor.blogspot.com.

■ **Chris Benjamin's** eclectic mix of recent publications include: a short story "Delia and Phil" in Ratling Books' *Earlit Shorts 4* collection of short fiction, available on CD; an essay, "The Futurology of Fatherhood" in the Pottersfield Press anthology, *Nova Scotia: Visions of the Future*; and a feature article, "The Myth of the Wealthy Environmentalist," in the summer edition of *Briarpatch* (in the company of work by Noam Chomsky, no less).

■ Over the past several months, **Brian Bartlett** has given readings of his poetry in Saint John, Charlottetown, Victoria, Vancouver, White Rock, Kelowna, Manhattan, and Antigonish, where he coached this year's poetry workshop at the Great Blue Heron Workshop. This fall, Alfred Gustaf Press of North Vancouver will publish a chapbook

selection of his haiku inspired by Charlie Chaplin movies.

■ **Renée Hartleib's** story, "Growing Breasts," will appear in the fall issue of *The Fiddlehead*.

■ Wolfville writer **Pamela Catherine (Cat) Delaney** will be heading to Mumbai, India, where her new play, a satire called *Welfarewell*, has been chosen for a staged reading at the 8th Women Playwrights International Conference. Cat read from the play in February at The Space in Halifax. Her family drama screenplay *The Legacy of Love* has been optioned by Opine Entertainment in Los Angeles, and is expected to go into pre-production later this year.

■ **Pamela Ditchoff** was interviewed in June by Lois Legge for an article that appeared in the *Chronicle Herald* regarding her newest novel, *Mrs. Beast*. It was produced as an ebook for Amazon's Kindle and can also be downloaded on iPhone and iPod Touch. She's already signed a contract with Stay Thirsty Press for a follow-up novel, *Princess Beast*. Pamela was the guest writer at two book clubs in Liverpool who chose her earlier novel, *Seven Days & Seven Sins*, as their book of the month. Last winter, she visited a grade four class and conducted a poetry writing workshop.

■ **Kathryn Bjornson**, a graduate of the 2007-08 WFNS mentorship program, recently had a poem, "After Clean," published in *CV2* and another, "To Shyness," has appeared in *Inscribed*. Kathryn also writes articles for teachers, one of which ("Canadian Poets Across the Curriculum: Fred Wah and Joy Kogawa in the Canadian History Class") has been published on the

youngpoets.ca/teachers_lounge website that is run by the League of Canadian Poets. ■

■ Eastern Shore writer **Karla Henderson** read four pieces of nature-related poetry at Seaforth's Hope for Wildlife Society during National Poetry Month. One piece, "Spring at Hope's," was subsequently published in the *Eastern Gazette*.

■ **Steve Vernon**'s first children's picture book, *Maritime Monsters* (Nimbus), will be released in time for Word on the Street. His do-it-yourself ghost tour, *Halifax Haunts: Exploring the City's Spookiest Spaces* (Nimbus), is ready for a second printing. He has a story appearing in *Hard Ol' Spot* (Killick) and his second novel, *Devil Tree* (Delirium) – a tightened draft of the horror-historical that placed second in a previous Atlantic Writing Competition – is being released this October, just in time for Halloween.

■ **Carol Ann Cole** spent much of this year writing her third book, *If I Knew Then What I Know Now, The Clarity that Comes with Cancer and Age*, which includes stories from others who have opened their hearts to share their challenges of retirement, cancer and mental illness. It will be released this fall by Pottersfield Press

■ Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer and **Christy Ann Conlin** shared the stage for an evening of reading and literary dialogue in July at Frog Hollow Books in Halifax.

■ The Ships Company Theatre in Parrsboro likes **Bruce Graham**'s novels. Throughout July, Ship's Company showcased Bruce's novel, *Ivor Johnson's Neighbours*, adapted for the stage by Charlie Rhindress.

A few years ago they also adapted his first novel, *The Parrsboro Boxing Club*, for a theatre production. Both books are published by Pottersfield.

■ *Call of a Distant Shore* by **Corrie Hoebers** received the Silver Award from the IPPY Literary Awards for Canada East-Best Regional Fiction.

■ **matt robinson** won the *Malahat Review*'s long poem prize for "Against the Hard Angle," which appears in the summer issue.

■ **George Borden** remembered the World War I No. 2 Construction Battalion (The Black Battalion) by writing a song for the 16th Commemoration Ceremony to honour the historic group. Sung by his relatives The Bowden Brothers, it was heard for the very first time by a multicultural crowd of military personnel and civilians that filled the de Coste Centre in Pictou.

■ Artist/writer **Linda Johns** had an exhibition at the Mary E. Black Gallery at NSCADU on the Halifax waterfront – right across the street from the Fed. *Invocation: Sculpture in Stone & Whalebone, Wood & Clay* ran until September 6. You can view some of these beautiful sculptures at www.lyghtesome.ns.ca and click on virtual exhibits.

■ The first annual Atlantic Author Day, sponsored by the Atlantic Publishers' Marketing Association, was held on July 11 at bookstores and other venues across the Atlantic provinces. The event included writers featured in the *Atlantic Summer Reading Guide*, including **Jon Tattrie, Carrie Muller, Elaine MacCluskey, Len Wagg, Deannie Sullivan-Fraser, Kathy Mac, Judith Meyrick, Susan Tooke, Richard Rudnicki, William D.**

Naftel, Susan Zettell, Beatrice MacNeil, and Heidi Jardine Stoddart.

■ In February, McClelland & Stewart published *We Generation: Raising Socially Responsible Kids* by **Michael Ungar**. Michael reports it will also be published in Australia and New Zealand by Allen & Unwin and by Da Capo, a division of Perseus, in the US in October. He also has a textbook coming out with Brooks/Cole, affiliated with the world's largest textbook publisher, Cengage, which will have distribution across the US, Canada and abroad, and will include some training videos shot in NS. Michael also edited two volumes recently published by University of Toronto Press.

■ **Marjorie Kildare** thanks WFNS for sharing information about writing workshops, including those hosted by other organizations. She attended Charlotte Gray's writing workshop in Annapolis Royal in June, then Diane Morrow's week-long writing in North Rustico at Prince Edward Island's School of the Arts. Later in the summer, she travelled to Tatamagouche for **Sheree Fitch**'s writing weekend, and will possibly be in attendance for **Norene Smiley**'s workshop in Pugwash. WFNS will host a full roster of writing workshops in Winter 2010. For more workshop information, visit www.writers.ns.ca/workshops.html.

■ **Kate Watson** kept busy checking out Lawrencetown's One Life Surf School and catching the waves across Canada for *Lifestyle Magazine* and dropping in on the Halifax Summer Opera Workshop for July's *Halifax Magazine*.

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■ TD Children's Book Week is on the horizon – November 14 through the 21 to be precise. Two of the 29 writers reading and visiting schools and libraries across the country are Fed members. **Vicki Grant** will be spending the week in Alberta and **Heidi Jardine Stoddart** will be in Ontario.

■ In addition to the publication of three new books in six months with Les Presses du midi, France (*Miracle dans le pré*, *La bande à Nanouk*, *Duras ou le regard absolu*), **Martine Jacquot** has seen some of her work translated into Arabic and published in *Abso* (Dubai, The Emirates), *Al quds al arabia* (London, England) and *Ashratt* (Lebanon).

New Members

Augusta
Katalin Burness
Dr. Mimi Champagne
Jennifer Margaret Cosby
Tanya Davis
Deborah Johnson
Anne Lévesque
Anne MacLean
Katrina Nicholson
Laurie Glenn Norris
Allison Smith
Christen Thomas

The e-version of Eastword

A digital version of *Eastword* is available by e-mail as a PDF. If you'd like to help save a tree, reduce our postage bill and get the newsletter a lot quicker than the print version, you can contact the office by phone (423-8116) or by e-mail (talk@writers.ns.ca). ■

Copyright debate takes aim at your livelihood

Peggy Amirault

The major asset a writer has is copyright – the ownership of what you produce as a writer, be ye a novelist, poet, or freelance writer. That asset is under seige – and has been for some time – so writers have nothing to lose by making their voices heard in the copyright debate.

The federal government is yet again toying with the Copyright Act. It wants the comments of both creators and users by September 13. Halifax was on the consultation tour in August. But on the Friday before the Monday meeting the location wasn't on the Copyright Consultation website (www.copyright.econsultation.ca/) and the regional publishing industry had not been notified. That didn't stop several creator organizations from making their opinions known. You can find the transcript of the meeting on the Copyright Consultation website – on the left side menu click on Round Tables/Events then on Transcripts then on the Halifax entry.

Access Copyright, (<http://accesscopyright.ca/>), also known as the Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency, represents both publishers and writers. It recently sent the following letter to its affiliates, urging them to make their voices heard:

"By now you must have heard about the federal government's summer-long consultations on reforms to the Copyright Act. Like other creator and publisher organizations, Access Copyright will make formal submissions to the government on our priorities as your rights collective. Nevertheless, it's vital that you also get involved to ensure your voice is heard.

"This is because an important aspect of these consultations is being expressed online, and that debate is dominated by individuals who do not agree you should get fair compensation for digital and other reproductions of your works.

"It's a simple fact that users outnumber us. But Canadian users involved in the online debate are so adept at leveraging the Internet and social networks to their advantage, there's a danger that your voices as Canadian creators and publishers will be drowned out by the chatter. Your interests need to be expressed as forcefully as possible, and it's up to you to get involved to make that happen.

"So what can you do? To begin with, go online <http://copyright.econsultation.ca/> and tell people who you are and what you do. Before posting a comment online, you do need to register, but not to worry, registration takes all of one minute. Tell them you need and deserve to get paid for what you do, and tell them why it's in their interest as Canadians that you do. The more you make your presence felt, the more effective you will be.

"What else can you do? Use social networking tools to generate discussion of your perspectives. Shoot a video of yourself, post it on You Tube and then Twitter or Facebook the link. We won't even try to offer suggestions on being imaginative and provocative as that's your domain, not ours. But do what you

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can, as often as you can, as loudly as you can, and encourage colleagues and friends to do the same.

“Here’s a sample of the sort of message that needs to get out there:

“My name is Jane Doe and I’m a writer. I’ve published xx novels and xx plays in Canada, and I am read all over the world. This is my livelihood. It pays the rent and puts food on the table. I have a right to benefit from my work and get paid for it. I need to get paid, or I can’t go on. When someone reproduces my work for free, it destroys the market for it, and I suffer the consequences. Don’t let them make that legal. It’s not right, and it’s not fair. Creators need to get paid.”

“That’s the bottom line: It’s only right, it’s only fair. Creators need to get paid.

“Over to you!”

As I work on *Eastword*, on August 20, the Copyright Consultation website has a notice dated August 18 that says over the last few days they received “hundreds of form letter submissions originating from a single IP address.” The form letter will be posted in the submission centre only once and they “will add the names of submitters as received, so that participants will know their contributions have been recorded.”

So it’s working for somebody, whether it’s in favour of writers being fairly compensated is the question. I hope it’s from creators responding to Access Copyright’s suggestion. ■

Transcon agreement upsets freelancers

Peggy Amirault

Many freelance writers are upset with Transcontinental Media’s new freelance contract. Transcontinental is the leading publisher of consumer magazines in the country – including *Canadian Living*, *More*, *The Hockey News*, *Homemakers* and *Elle Canada*. Its magazines cover four broad categories: consumer; business; entertainment, sports and leisure; and trade publications. It is also the second largest community newspaper publisher in Canada. Then there’s its “digital platform” that “delivers unique content through more than 120 Web sites.” So its reach is wide and presumably the agreement will cover work done for any of these outlets.

The “Author Master Agreement” says, “You retain the copyright ownership of each Work that you provide subject only to the rights granted to the Publisher below.”

If you sign, these rights include “the ongoing non-exclusive right to do in respect of the Work any other act that is subject to copyright protection under the Canadian Copyright Act (including, without limitation, the right to produce and reproduce, translate, develop ancillary products, perform in public, adapt and communicate the Work, in any form or medium) as well as to authorize others to do so on behalf of or in association with the Publisher ...”

Once the agreement is signed it covers any other work a writer does for Transcon in the future.

Then there’s the kicker at the end of the agreement: “The Publisher’s accounting department

will not process payment for your Work(s) unless your invoice is preceded by a signed Master Agreement.”

PWAC, the Professional Writers Association of Canada, has advised its members not to sign the agreement as it stands. The Writers Federation of Nova Scotia has joined at least nine other writers organizations – including, the Canadian Freelance Union and the Writers Union of Canada – in advising their members not to sign the agreement in its current form.

In mid July David Johnston, executive director of PWAC, and Derek Finkle of the Canadian Writers Group met with Transcontinental representatives to discuss writers’ concerns. Stay tuned for further developments. ■

Freelance writers groups

There is strength in numbers and the freelance writer can feel somewhat isolated. Experienced and new freelancers might want to check out PWAC (www.pwac.ca) and the CFU (the new Canadian Freelance Union at www.cfunion.ca). A couple of American organizations – the American Society of Journalists and Authors (www.asja.org) and the National Writers Union (www.nwu.org) – may also be of interest. ■

Markets, etc.

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia does not necessarily endorse the markets or competitions listed here. Please make every effort to check any market or competition before submitting material. Read several issues of the magazine first before submitting material. Publishers usually sell single, sample copies and you can check their websites for back issues and writers' guidelines. Check your local library for public access computers.

■ **Existere – Journal of Arts and Literature:** Vanier College 101E, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3 (www.yorku.ca/existere/) Publishes twice a year. Deadline for the Spring/Summer 2010 issue is 23:59, December 31, 2009. Publishes exciting new works of poetry, visual poetry, short fiction, postcard fiction, photographs, art, reviews, essays, and short plays.

■ **Descant:** (www.descant.ca) Plans 2 theme issues for 2010 (1) Ghosts and The Uncanny – deadline March 1, 2010. *Descant* turns ghost hunter and dares to explore the murky connections between life and death, science and superstition, folk beliefs and fictions. Looking for apparitions of all kinds. (2) Sicily – deadline: June 1. perhaps no other island conjures up such vivid images as the ancient island of Sicily. What comes to mind? Romantic idyll or land of feuding rivalries? The mafia? An island apart from mainstream Italian culture? What is your Sicily? Does every culture have its own Sicily — its own outsiders living within its midst? Explode the stereotypes and delve into a modern reality of what Sicily represents for you as a writer. *Descant* is requesting submissions of unpublished fiction, poetry, essays, photography and previously unpublished works of translation from the Sicilian.


■ **Annalemma:** (www.annalemma.net) a literary and arts magazine that publishes short fiction, essays/creative

non-fiction, art and photography twice a year. Length up to 5,000 words. Accept simultaneous submissions. No poetry. “On the rare day when there is electricity in the air, like it feels before a tornado, we have been known to accept previously published material.” Payment starts at \$50.

■ **Electric Literature** (www.electricleadership.com) A bimonthly anthology of short fiction. Publishes as a print-on-demand paperback or as an e-book for the Kindle or iPhone. Looking for stories charged with wit and emotional gravity right from the first sentence. Website says they pay \$1,000. Publishes 5 stories from 500 to 7,000 words.

■ **YES! Mag:** 501-3960 Quadra St., Victoria, BC V8X 4A3 (www.yesmag.ca) seeks to encourage interest and appreciation for science in children, provide positive role models for both girls and boys, and inspire children to continue pursuing their interest in science. Audience is 10- to 15-year-olds. Focuses on Canadian content and Canadian science and scientists. Read first before querying. Sample pages on website. Every issue contains feature articles, regular departmental pieces, and a theme section. Hands-on projects give readers a chance to experiment with concepts introduced by the theme. Writers guidelines on website under “contact us.”

■ **Alternatives Journal:** Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1 (www.alternativesjournal.ca) Publishes bimonthly. Canada's national environmental magazine, delivers thoughtful analysis and intelligent debate on Canadian and world environmental issues, the latest news and ideas, as well as profiles of environmental leaders who are making a difference. Dedicated to in-depth analysis of environmental issues, including ecological, social and economic dimensions. Combines the learned rigour of an academic journal with the accessible style and format of a general-audience magazine. The oldest environmental policy journal in the country. Writers' guidelines on website, click on Contributors Guidelines at bottom of web page. Honoraria of about 10 cents a word to professional and amateur writers and students.



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www.publishyourself.ca

Report on the Mountains: The Banff Centre

by Susan Mersereau

Since I first started working with the Writers' Federation in the summer of 2005, I've been watching writers return home after participating in the Banff Centre's writing programs in Alberta. "I don't know what goes on up in those mountains," I'd say, "but writers always come back emitting light!" Now, experiencing my own glow after having spent five brilliant weeks at the Writing Studio, which runs each year in May, I understand what goes on "up in those mountains." I also now understand why it is so difficult to describe the experience.

Each year, 24 applicants from across the country are chosen to participate in the Writing Studio program – 12 poets and 12 who write fiction or other narrative prose. At the Banff Centre, a writer will find: fellowship with like-minded souls; space and time to work on their writing without distraction from the regular "workaday" world; experienced, thoughtful, mentors; the opportunity to participate in a public reading, and to attend other cultural events; mountains that will humble you to your knees; and probably a few elk and more than a few deer and cheerful ground squirrels. There are also inspiring artists in other disciplines at the Centre – visual artists, musicians, playwrights, actors – even math geniuses!

I applied to work on my first collection of short stories. It was extremely encouraging simply to have been accepted into the program – I had only one short publication credit while several participants already had one or more published books. I

was assigned a beautiful room with a large desk and expansive view of the mountains and valley. In a world where writers are used to having to defend their craft – "Fine, you're a writer, but what do you really do?" – it was refreshing and startling to be in an environment where no such explanations are required. It's difficult not to feel a sense of validation, for example, when someone hands you a laminated card with your name and picture on it, and the word "ARTIST" next to them.

The Writing Studio is mostly self-directed, with assigned mentors to offer customized editorial assistance. There are also weekly group meetings in poetry and prose to discuss the craft and industry of each. I was thrilled to be assigned to work with Edna Alford, whose short stories I have admired for many years. This was also Edna's last of many years as the Associate Director of the program. I also worked with prose writer Isabel Huggan. Because the program is very social – everyone normally meets for dinner each evening in the dining hall, for example – I found the Writing Studio to be more conducive to revision than to developing new work. The Centre also offers self-directed residency programs that allow for more seclusion.

With his unique elixir of meditation, visualization, facial and vocal exercises, faculty member Colin Bernhardt, who has taught speech and acting for many years, was on



Edna Alford (left) and Susan Mersereau at Banff.

Photo by Mary Jo Anderson

hand to help participants prepare for public readings. Writers could sign up for individual and group sessions.

By the end, I was girded with polished stories ready to be submitted for publication, crucial knowledge about my own story-writing patterns and how to improve them, experience presenting my work publicly, encouragement from mentors and peers, and with new – surely life-long – friendships across the country. More than anything, I arrived home with a new confidence and commitment to my craft – and that, I believe, is what the "Banff glow" is all about.

Not everyone can take five weeks out of their lives to participate in something like the Writing Studio. The Banff Centre offers a number of other terrific writing programs, including a one-week "Writing with Style" session in the fall and spring; a fall "Wired Writing" program, where writers stay at the Centre for two weeks to meet with a mentor, followed by several weeks of online mentorship; as well as spoken word, journalism, and other specialized programs. The deadline for the Writing Studio is usually near the end of October. For details on the Centre's programs, visit www.banffcentre.ca. ■

Writer-in-Residence sets up shop in Yarmouth Library

Ian White, Western Counties Regional Library

Creative and critical help has arrived for writers in Southwestern Nova Scotia through a new library-based Writer-in-Residence program.

"The intent of the program is to help encourage local authors, get them writing, and, hopefully, published," said Debbie Duke Little, Coordinator of the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth. The Yarmouth library is the base for writer-in-residence **Sandra Phinney**. The Yarmouth County freelance writer has written two books and her articles have appeared in more than 60 Canadian and American publications.

Western Counties Regional Library will launch the 12-month initiative and introduce Sandra during an open house on September 9 at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library. The evening features a panel of four published writers who will share their writing journey and field questions from the audience.

"I'm excited about this program," Sandra said. "The program provides a springboard for all writers. Some writers may want to learn how to revise and edit their work or they may need to develop stronger characters, better scenes or more compelling narrative. Others may want to write a book but don't know whether they should deal directly with a book publisher, seek an agent, or self publish. These are the kind of topics that are included in the program. My role is to help people find their way through the writing and publishing maze, and to provide resources."

The program is being developed according to the skill level of,



Author Sandra Phinney, left, and Debbie Duke Little, Coordinator of the Yarmouth branch of Western Counties Regional Library hope the Writer-in-Residence program provides a springboard for writers in Southwest Nova Scotia to write, develop their writing and, hopefully, get published. (Ian White photo/Western Counties Regional Library)

and interests determined by, the participants. Novices to seasoned writers of all genres (poetry, memoir, children's stories, fiction or non-fiction) are encouraged to take part. The only criteria are that participants want to improve their writing and have their work published.

Phinney is at the Yarmouth library from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month presenting seminars on the craft of writing and tips on getting published. Every third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 7 p.m. she provides one-on-one mentoring by appointment. She provides ongoing support through e-mail in between meetings.

"It's an opportunity that a lot of people don't have access to in a rural

community," Debbie said. "We have a lot of talented people in this region and this is a great chance to work with a published author."

This project is funded through Commonwealth of Writers: Our Writers/Our Libraries, administered through the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia and Western Counties Regional Library.

(Editor's Note: In addition to being a WFNS member, Sandra Phinney is also a member of the Professional Writers Association of Canada (PWAC), the Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC) and the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ). For more information on Sandra visit her website, www.sandraphinney.com). ■