

# eastword

## 2010 Atlantic Book Festival an inspiring literary feast

Debut novelist Shandi Mitchell scores a hat trick,  
Raddall Award celebrates 20 years & increases the prize  
Jill MacLean wins the Brimer for the second consecutive year



At the 20th anniversary celebration for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, held at White Point Beach Resort, Tom Raddall II announced next year's prize will increase to \$20,000. Left to right are: Sue Goyette of the WFNS; Tom Raddall II; Shandi Mitchell, winner of this year's Raddall Prize; WFNS program officer Hillary Titley; and executive director Nate Crawford at the Atlantic Book Awards ceremony in Dartmouth.

When informed of her nomination for the 20th annual **Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award** for her debut novel, **Shandi Mitchell** replied, "Wow, this is surprising! Happy news. It's a great honour being nominated for a Fed prize. I could never have imagined this when I nervously attended my first Federation Gala at the North St. Church years ago and thought, Here is a family."

A month later, *Under This Unbroken Sky* was named Best First Book in the Canada and Caribbean division

of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Shandi attended the Commonwealth awards in Delhi, India, and arrived home just in time to make it to the Atlantic Book Awards ceremony in Dartmouth on April 14, where she received both the **Raddall Prize** and the **Margaret and John Savage First Book Award**. For everyone who has read *Under This Unbroken Sky*, it is no surprise at all that this gripping, cinematic book is receiving such powerful recognition. "Well done," says her Writers' Fed family.



WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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Shandi, a current member of the Fed's board of directors, participated in the WFNS Mentorship program in 2005 with poet and novelist Sue Goyette. She is also a film director, who graduated from Dalhousie University with a degree in English and Theatre and then moved into film. Her award-winning short films have been featured at festivals across North America. In 2008 she was awarded the Canada Council's Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Endowment Award for outstanding mid-career achievement in media arts. Rights to *Under This Unbroken Sky* have been sold to publishers in seven countries. It was simultaneously published by Penguin Canada, by Weidenfeld & Nicolson (UK) and by Harper Collins (US) in August 2009.

Newfoundland's Michael Crummey also flew direct from India to attend the Atlantic Book Awards ceremony. His book *Galore* – also nominated for the Raddall – had won the Canada and Caribbean Region Best Novel Commonwealth Prize. He won the Raddall Prize in 2002 for *River Thieves*, and was also nominated this year for the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award.

Linden MacIntyre was also shortlisted for the Raddall for *The Bishop's Man*. He was also nominated for the **Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award** and the **Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction**, both of which he won. *The Bishop's Man* also won the most recent Giller Prize.

Book lovers were treated to readings and a reception with all three nominated writers, first at a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Raddall Award at White Point Beach Resort in Liverpool (Raddall's hometown), and again with readings from Shandi and Michael in Halifax at the University of King's College. Linden flew in from Toronto for a reading in Scotsburn earlier in the week as part of Read By the Sea's Village Reading Series.

**T**he *Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award* was established by WFNS and the Writers' Trust of Canada in 1990. The Federation was profoundly honoured that Thomas Head Raddall agreed to lend his name to this prize. The initial prize was \$1,000 but anonymous contributions from the author increased the value to \$2,000 in 1992 and began the establishment of an endowment for the prize. After Tom's death in 1994, the continued vision and the enormous generosity of the Raddall family has seen this endowment grow to the point where it now provides \$15,000 to the winning author – the largest writing prize in Atlantic Canada. Next year it will increase to \$20,000.

In his long journey from a pioneer to a patriarch of Canadian literature, Tom Raddall spent much of his married life in a sound-proof room labouring to perfect his craft. "I had to shut myself off," he explained, "literally shut myself off. I built a study ... and I would shut myself in there and live the lives of the people in my books." It is this extraordinary gift of time that Tom Raddall, and his son Tom, have given, in perpetuity, to the next generation of writers.

Previous winners of the Raddall include: Douglas Arthur Brown, Don Hannah, Linda Little, Donna Morrissey (twice), Edward Riche, Kenneth J. Harvey, Carol Bruneau, Alistair MacLeod, Wayne Johnston, Shree Ghatage, Alfred Silver, M.T. Dohaney, Bernice Morgan, David Adams Richards, John Steffler, Herb Curtis, and Wayne Johnston, who was the first recipient in 1991.

The 2010 **Atlantic Poetry Prize** celebrated three strong, diverse poets this year, with readings and panel discussions in New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Nova Scotia. On the day of the Awards, Don Domanski went to the podium and awarded the prize to **Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaassen** for

*Lean-To* (Gaspereau). A judge commented, "By the time I finished this carefully crafted book, I felt like I knew her." Tonja grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan, and now lives on a hill in Halifax with her husband and their three boys. Her first collection, *Clay Birds*, won the Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry in 1996. Her second collection, *Ör*, was shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Award in 2004, and her series "August: An Anniversary Suite" won a CBC Literary Award for poetry in 2005.

Two-time winner of the Atlantic Poetry Prize, Anne Compton was also nominated for *Asking Questions Indoors and Out* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), as was fellow P.E.I. native Zachariah Wells for his *Track & Trace* (Biblioasis).



**John Demont's** well-researched book, *Coal Black Heart: The Story of Coal and the Lives it Ruled*, stole the hearts of jury members, who found his book to be a powerful, original telling of a familiar true tale, to win the 33rd annual

**Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Prize for Non-fiction.** John has 25 years' experience as a national journalist. He is also an award-winning author of books and screenplays. Most of his career was spent as a senior writer, parliamentary correspondent and Atlantic bureau chief for *Maclean's Magazine*, where he wrote cover stories on everything from war, national and international politics, law, sports, and crime, to health, the environment and the world of science.



Also nominated were Jason I. Brown, for *Our Days Are Numbered: How Mathematics Orders Our Lives* and Harry Bruce for *Page Fright: Foibles and Fetishes of Famous Writers*.

**Jill MacLean** must have been feeling *déjà vu* as she approached the stage to accept the **Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature** for the second year in a row, this time for *The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy* – the sequel to her widely-lauded YA novel debut, *The Nine Lives of Travis*

*Keating* (which took last year's Brimer). Jill's books are set in Newfoundland. Over the years, she's canoed, kayaked, hiked, and snowmobiled there, travelled the coves by boat, and stayed in the outports. Little did Jill realize at the time that these experiences could all be called "research," or that her love of the province would translate into words.

Also nominated were Darlene Ryan for *Five Minutes More* and Valerie Sherrard for *Tumbleweed Skies*.



In all, 11 book awards and two H.R.M. Mayor's Awards were presented before a standing-room-only crowd at Alderney Gate Theatre.

Gloria McCluskey presented *The Mayor's Award for Excellence in Book Illustration* was presented to **Mike Holmes** for *This American Drive: An Illustrated Road Trip*. Holmes' artwork is full of charm and wit as it describes his journey from Halifax to Texas.

*The Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature* went to **Trudy Carey**. Manager for 31 years of Woozles Bookstore and a dedicated volunteer, Carey's contribution to reading and literacy in Nova Scotia has been invaluable.

This year's Atlantic Book Awards and Festival was bursting at the seams with activity from April 10th to the 18th. This year the festival boasted nearly 40 official events, with 27 writers travelling all over the Atlantic Provinces for readings, signings, presentations, school workshops and sessions – even math-inspired musical entertainment and t-shirt silk-screenings. There was an event for readers of every age and interest.

The Atlantic Book Awards and Festival is produced by the Atlantic Book Awards Society, which includes publishers, booksellers, librarians, and literary organizations, including WFNS, with representation in all four Atlantic Provinces. The Festival is made possible with the financial support of many government and corporate supporters, including Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts. ■

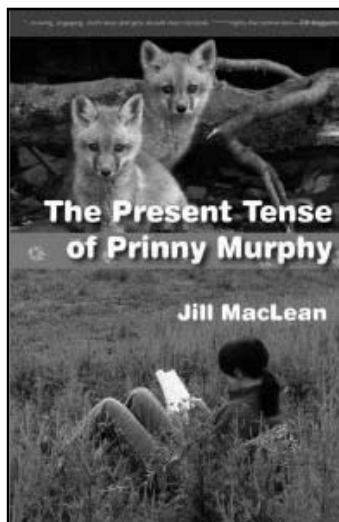
### The Mayor's Award for Excellence in Book Illustration



*This American Drive: An Illustrated Road Trip* by Mike Holmes (Invisible Publishing)

**Don't forget the  
WFNS Annual  
General Meeting,  
Saturday, June 5,  
12 noon at the  
WFNS office.  
Mentorship readings  
will follow. Everyone  
is welcome.**

## The Atlantic Book Awards complete shortlist



### Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature

Winner: *The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy* by Jill MacLean (Fitzhenry & Whiteside)

*Five Minutes More* by Darlene Ryan (Orca Book Publishers)

*Tumbleweed Skies* by Valerie Sherrard (Fitzhenry & Whiteside)

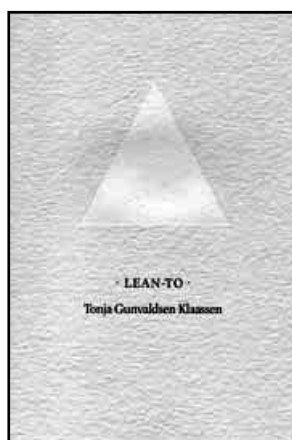


### APMA Best Atlantic-Published Book Award

Winner: *Birds of Newfoundland Field Guide* by Ian Warkentin and Sandy Newton (Boulder Publications)

*By the Rivers of Brooklyn* by Trudy J. Morgan-Cole (Breakwater Books)

*A Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Dictionary / Peskatomuhkati Wolastoqewi Latuwewaakon* by David A. Francis and Robert M. Leavitt (Goose Lane Editions)



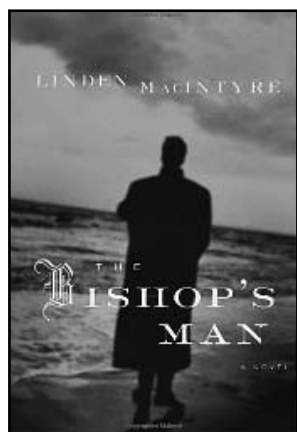
### Atlantic Poetry Prize

Winner: *Lean-To* by Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaassen (Gaspereau Press)

*Asking Questions Indoors and Out* by Anne Compton (Fitzhenry & Whiteside)

*Track & Trace* by Zachariah Wells (Biblioasis)

## Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award

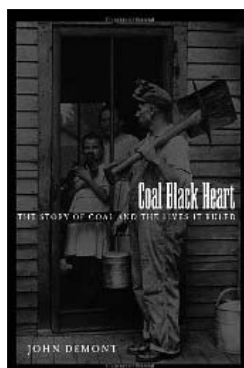


Winner: *The Bishop's Man* by Linden MacIntyre (Random House Canada)

*Galore* by Michael Crummey (Doubleday Canada)

*God Is* by David Adams Richards (Doubleday Canada)

## Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Prize for Non-Fiction



Winner: *Coal Black Heart: The Story of Coal and the Lives it Ruled* by John DeMont (Doubleday Canada)

*Our Days Are Numbered: How Mathematics Orders Our Lives* by Jason I. Brown (McClelland and Stewart)

*Page Fright: Foibles and Fetishes of Famous Writers* by Harry Bruce (McClelland and Stewart)

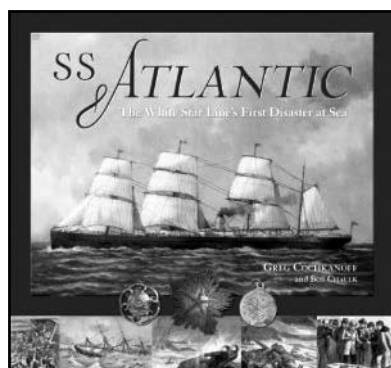
## Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction

Winner: *The Bishop's Man* by Linden MacIntyre (Random House Canada)

*I & I* by George Elliott Clarke (Goose Lane Editions)

*Migration Songs* by Anna Quon (Invisible Publishing)

## Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction



Winner: *SS Atlantic: The White Star Line's First Disaster at Sea* by Greg Cochkanoff and Bob Chaulk (Goose Lane Editions)

*IWK: A Century of Caring for Families* by Stephen Kimber, (Nimbus Publishing)

*All of Me* by Anne Murray with Michael Posner (Knopf Canada)

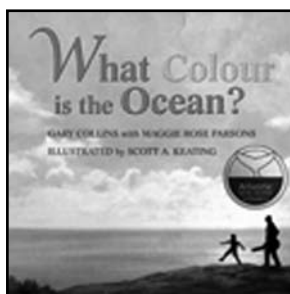
## Democracy 250 Atlantic Book Award for Historical Writing

Winner: *SS Atlantic: The White Star Line's First Disaster at Sea* by Greg Cochkanoff and Bob Chaulk, (Goose Lane Editions)

*Mi'sel Joe: An Aboriginal Chief's Journey* edited by Raoul R. Anderson and John K. Crellin (Flanker Press)

*Rig: An Oral History of the Ocean Ranger Disaster* by Mike Heffernan (Creative Publishing)

## Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Illustration



Winner: Scott A. Keating, *What Colour is the Ocean?* by Gary Collins with Maggie Rose Parsons (Flanker Press)

Kathy (HildaRose) Kaulbach, *Johnny and the Gipsy Moth* by Deannie Sullivan-Fraser (Tuckamore Books)

Marie Moore, *Cape Breton Wonders* by Shirley Everett and Chris Augusta Scott (Cape Breton University Press)

## Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award



Winner: *Under This Unbroken Sky* by Shandi Mitchell, (Penguin)

*Galore* by Michael Crummey (Doubleday Canada)

*The Bishop's Man* by Linden MacIntyre (Random House)

## Margaret and John Savage First Book Award

Winner: *Under This Unbroken Sky* by Shandi Mitchell (Penguin)

*Harbour View* by Binnie Brennan (Quattro Books)

*You Better Watch Out* by Greg Malone (Knopf Canada) ■

## Remembering Our Own: Claudette Vanessa Hammock



Left to right: Norene Smiley, Susan Atkinson, Jane Buss and Claudette Vanessa Hammock

Claudette Vanessa Hammock – or “Claude” as she was known at the Fed – worked full time at the Writers’ Federation in the early Nineties before establishing a career in Human Resources, for which she was passionate. Through the Nova Scotia Community College, Vanessa started a scholarship in her name in 2008 that assists one student each year who is pursuing human resources studies at NSCC.

“Fresh out of an English/Theatre program at Mount Allison in 1991-92, Claudette Vanessa Hammock was the *only* face at the Writers’ Fed office for a stretch of some months, while a search progressed to find a new E.D. – and what a face! Her grace, tenacity, energy, surpassing beauty, indomitable spirit and whacky sense of humour disarmed all, and left everyone feeling like a star. Hers was the first face to greet me when I arrived at the Fed. She was central to the expansion of Writers in the Schools and the establishment of Word on the Street. We shall not know her like again soon, and we are deeply in her zany debt.” – Jane Buss

“Claudette was all things bright and beautiful. I can hear her say, ‘Wait a minute ...’ dragging the ‘minute’ down and out, while she considered, perked a new plan, a different way to do whatever -- always better! She overcame a lot, stuff that would’ve done in another person. But she couldn’t overcome the cancer that claimed her at 40. Her oncologist called her the Champagne Bubble. She made us all – writers, readers, jazz musicians, co-workers in the government – laugh. Days with Claude were good.” – Susan Kerslake ■

## Access Copyright changing how it pays writers – register by May 31

Goodbye Creator Repertoire Payment, Hello Payback for Writers. Access Copyright is changing how it divides part of its money among writers.

Payback for Writers replaces the previous creator repertoire payment, which was shared equally among all creators no matter how much you published. As of this year, repertoire payments will vary depending on how much you contribute to the repertoire of works that are licensed by Access Copyright.

Payback is based on the following factors: what you published, how much you published, and when you published between 1989 and 2008.

If you do not send in a Payback claim to Access Copyright by May 31, you will not receive a supplementary payment when the cheques are sent out in November.

To continue receiving those annual cheques, it’s important that you check out the details at [www.accesscopyright.ca](http://www.accesscopyright.ca), click on Payback. Or contact Access Copyright by phone at 416-868-1620 or call 1-800-893-5777, toll-free. ■

**You’re invited to the  
Writers’ Fed A.G.M.  
Saturday, June 5,  
12 noon  
at the WFNS office.**



## Hillary Titley is Fed's Program Officer

Since March 1, Hillary Titley has occupied the Program Officer's chair at the WFNS office. Getting to know members as they e-mail, call and stop by the office has been a great pleasure for her. Looking forward to her future at the Fed, she says it will be exciting to learn about what makes the Fed work so well for such a diverse community of writers, and to explore opportunities to expand the Fed's profile in new and unique places.

Hillary moved to Halifax from tiny Port Dover, Ontario, in 2002 to attend Dalhousie University. Her passion for movies and writing consistently distracted her, though she eventually got her B.A (Sociology) in 2009.

Her writing has appeared regularly on the film pages of *The Coast* since 2006 and she has been a member of the WFNS since 2007.

Previously, she was programs coordinator for the Linda Joy Media Arts Society, an awards-giving organization for emerging film and video-makers. She is a sucker for a hand-written letter, fresh stationary and notebooks, movie matinees, yarn stores, book stores and recipes that yield plenty of leftovers. She lives with her boyfriend, Dave Howlett, a comic book author and artist, and their cat, Jones. ■

## President's report: Good writing, Sue!

Stephen Kimber

Susan Mersereau had plans. After four years at the Writer's Federation of Nova Scotia, mostly as its program officer, she'd decided she was ready to move on. Last spring, she quit the Fed, travelled west by train to San Diego, then headed north to Banff where she'd spend five weeks at its famed writing studio, working on her own short stories and kick-starting what she imagined would soon be her new writing life in Vancouver.

Everything was going according to the dream – "I was in this wonderful writing bubble at Banff," she recalls – when she got an e-mail from Nova Scotia. The Writers' Federation was going through some major changes. Could she – would she – come home to help out?

Just for the summer?

And just part-time?

That was almost a year ago. We talked her into turning part-time into full-time, and the summer turned into fall, then winter and now spring. As the Acting Executive Director, Sue has guided us deftly and seamlessly through one of the most significant staffing transitions in our organization's more than 30-year history, without missing a beat and with her usual grace and good humour under pressure. She also served as a key member of the selection committee that helped choose Nate Crawford as our new Executive Director.

Transition complete. Time to go back to Plan A. But not before we say a sincere, heartfelt thank you!

Sue's roots in the Writers' Fed, and her own writing ambitions, run deep. When she was still in junior high school in Dartmouth, she took part in an earlier version of our Writers in the Schools program.

After earning her Master's degree at Queen's University, she returned home to Nova Scotia where she applied for a job at the Fed. If she hadn't gotten the job, she says now, she'd been considering moving to New Brunswick to take care of an ailing relative – and write.

Writing, in truth, has always been part of Sue's long-range plans. The Fed, she says, helped feed the dream. "Working at the Fed and writing have fueled each other," she explains. Watching young writers like Ryan Turner as they progress from entering WFNS writing competitions through mentoring and eventually publishing their own books is "very inspiring."

But it's time to focus on her own writing. After she leaves the WFNS at the end of April, Sue plans to finish up too-long-delayed work on her first short story collection. With that ready to send out into the world, she'll finally head to the west coast and her own new writing life.

Sue is ready to write her own story. We wish her well, and thank her for making our story so much better. Good writing, Sue! ■





E.D.'s report

## Where to begin

Nate Crawford

Well, now – where to begin? So very much has been happening here at Fed Central since the last *Eastword* went to press.

Let's see if I can make it all clear: Susan's been training me, as I've been training Hillary, except when Susan trains Hillary and I train myself, except when Sue Goyette trains Hillary and Susan trains me, or when Sue trains me and Susan trains Hillary. Then there's WITS on the go, and the Atlantic Book Festival; oh! The Atlantic Writing Competition's in full judicial swing too. Then there are the workshops, and oh yes, mentorships are afoot, members new and old are popping by every day with news, blues, and yahoos ...

Got it? Right-o. Talk to you next issue, then!

Just kidding. Despite the rambling chaos above, and the new staff all around, the Fed is working like a well-oiled machine and chugging along as effectively as ever. And despite the already impressive list of programs and services offered here, we're trying new things, initiating new programming, and dipping our toes into the pond of possibility on a variety of fronts.

One such initiative is already underway – on March 13, we held our first **WFNS Chat Room**, which, despite the Internet-inspired name, is actually a physical, face-to-face opportunity for members to meet and connect. A small group of us met, ostensibly to discuss issues brought up at the recent Writers'



One of the many reasons I'm loving this job. Look at these! All of these members' books were sent to Nova Scotian schools, thanks to the Writers in the Schools program and sponsors Bell Aliant and Canada Post.

Union symposium in Halifax. Yet this topic ended up serving as a springboard for all sorts of conversation. WFNS intends to have a Chat Room once a month, where the floor is open to anything on your minds. We'll next meet in early May, and would love to see you.

On another front – how are you reading this right now? Do you have a page in hand, or are you scrolling down a screen? In lieu of our last issue, you may have received a notice regarding our gradual switch to a new format – following that notice, dozens of you made the conversion to PDF format, and continue to do so. We thank you for helping us save a few pennies and a great many trees.

We aim to have our print production costs to a minimum following one more full print run. **If you want to continue receiving a paper *Eastword*, do let us know before our September issue.** If we do not have an e-mail address on file for you – not to worry. The paper version will continue to arrive at your door as usual.

This was, as best as our collective memory can recall, the first time there's been a bump in the *Eastword* road since 1992. From here on in, you can be assured that there won't be any more breaks and that things will continue to get bigger and better.

Expect new regular columns, a new *Paris Review*-style interview feature and more, as we continue to challenge our notions of what this periodical can be and do. I'm pretty darned excited about all this.

In fact, I'm pretty darned excited about *all* things WFNS, and so very happy to have all of you along for the ride. ■

**WFNS A.G.M. & Mentorship Readings  
– Saturday, June 5, 12 noon**

All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting at the Writers' Fed office at noon on Saturday, June 5. Join the five writers selected for last year's Mentorship Program as they celebrate the conclusion of their mentorships by giving public readings from the projects they worked on this past year. ■



## imPRESSed — new titles by WFNS members

### ***The Fossil Hunter of Sydney Mines***

**Jo Ann Yhard**

**Nimbus, 2010, \$10.95, ISBN: 978-155109-2**

In Jo Ann Yhard's debut young-adult novel, 13-year-old Grace receives a strange note regarding her father's recent, mysterious death and turns to her fossil-hunting buddies, Fred, Mai and Jeeter to help her figure it all out. As the clues and suspects start piling up and the investigation becomes more and more dangerous, Grace and her friends find themselves racing against time through treacherous sinkholes and abandoned mine shafts to figure out what really happened to her father.

Jo Ann Yhard grew up addicted to Nancy Drew mysteries and cryptoquotes. *The Fossil Hunter of Sydney Mines* won top prize in the young adult category of the 2006 Atlantic Writing Competition. Jo Ann lives in Halifax with her husband, James, where she writes mysteries and other stories on her yellow laptop, Bumble Bee.

### ***Unlocked***

**Cynthia d'Entremont**

**Word Alive Press, 2010, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-1-926676-73-9**

What if you lived in a world where killing is a rite of passage? Having survived 10 years in the brutal Garbage Heaps, Jaron longs for the security of a home and a family. Jaron discovers that his world holds more treachery and betrayal than he counted on and he is soon faced with the unthinkable choice to kill. Will the fragile threads of Jaron's conscience be strong enough to prevent him from following the designs of his unseen enemy?

Cynthia d'Entremont has published several non-fiction articles and has a short story in *A Maritime Christmas* (Nimbus, 2008). She has won both the Joyce Barkhouse Writing for Children Award and a Nova Scotia Talent Trust Scholarship in Literary Arts. Cynthia lives with her family in Halifax.

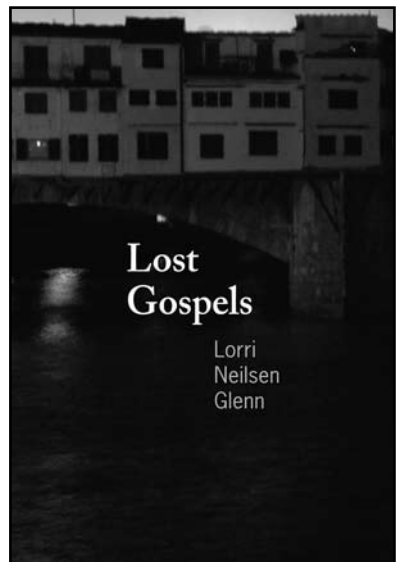
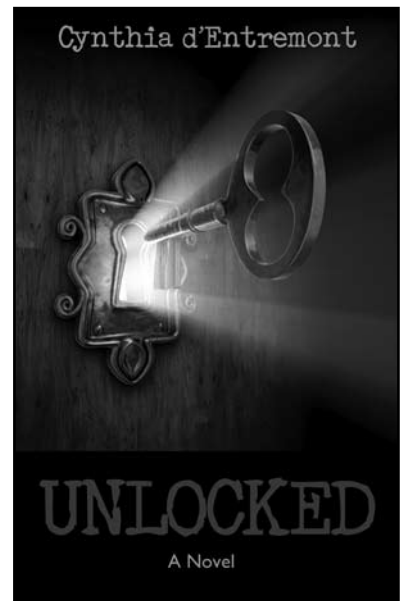
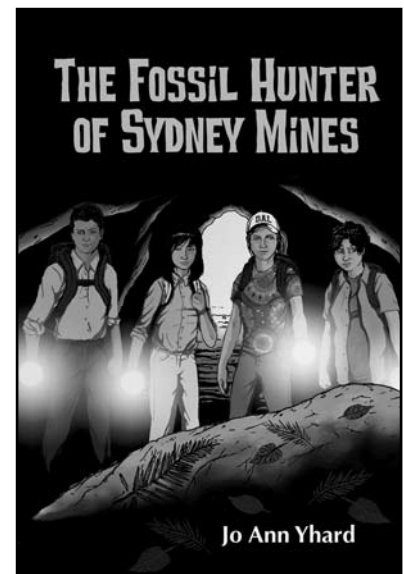
### ***Lost Gospels***

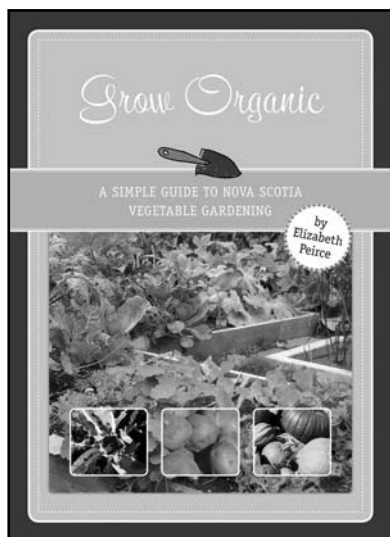
**Lorri Neilsen Glenn**

**Brick Books, 2010, \$19, ISBN-13: 9781894078771**

Lorri Neilsen Glenn's new collection confronts the deaths of dear friends and family members, returns to her prairie childhood and youth, and engages hard questions of mortality, and of existence in a world fraught with suffering and violence (both global and domestic). Central is the poetic sequence "A Song for Simone" – a conversation between the poet and French mystical philosopher Simone Weil. Here is poetry reaching out to embrace a manner of being in the world that at once moves beyond the world and engages it fully.

Lorri Neilsen Glenn is the author of four poetry collections and author/editor of six academic books. She was Halifax Regional Municipality's Poet Laureate from 2005 to 2009.





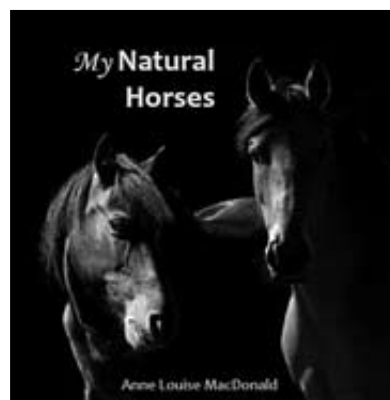
### ***Grow Organic***

**Elizabeth Peirce**

**Nimbus, 2010, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-155109-750-3**

A simple and accessible guide for Nova Scotian vegetable growers, *Grow Organic* tethers its advice and guidance to the specific Nova Scotia growing season. *Grow Organic* contains vital information on what grows best in the region, where to locate organic seeds, as well as recipes and inspirational profiles of organic farmers and gardeners from around Nova Scotia.

Elizabeth Peirce is a writer, gardener and English professor based in Halifax. She has worked in vegetable gardens since she was old enough to hold a watering can and is passionate about local food and food security issues.



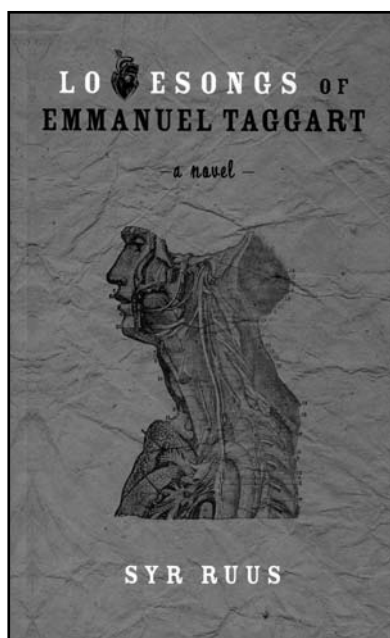
### ***My Natural Horses***

**Anne Louise MacDonald**

**Hug a Horse Farm, 2009, \$20.12, ISBN: 978-0981391007**

Geared towards younger readers, ages seven and up, *My Natural Horses* is an introduction to creating exceptionally healthy, happy horses. The book features two horses, Isabelle and Prince, in full-colour photographs demonstrating the principals of Natural Horse Care. Large text highlights important points for younger readers to retain, while smaller text gives more details to entertain and inform an older audience.

Anne Louise MacDonald has been writing and publishing avidly since the mid-1990s. *My Natural Horses* is her first non-fiction work and reflects two of her life's passions: writing for children and a love of horses.



### ***Love Songs of Emmanuel Taggart***

**Syr Ruus**

**Breakwater Books, 2009, \$18.95, ISBN: 978-1550812633**

Winner of the 2006 H.R. (Bill) Percy Prize for an unpublished novel, *Love Songs of Emmanuel Taggart* became Syr Ruus's first published book in August of last year. Emmanuel (M) Taggart leaves the office one day feeling ill, though doctors find nothing. M, however, becomes convinced he is suffering from some undiagnosed fatal disease and grows increasingly impossible to live with, until he develops a bond with Juhan Lipp, an elderly man who seems to boast all the necessary wisdom that M lacks.

Syr Ruus was born in Estonia at the start of the Second World War. As a small child, she escaped with her mother to Germany before immigrating to the United States, where she grew up and received her education. In 1970, she moved to Nova Scotia, working as a teacher while raising her three children. She has written a prize-winning juvenile novel and published short fiction in anthologies and journals.

### ***The City Speaks in Drums***

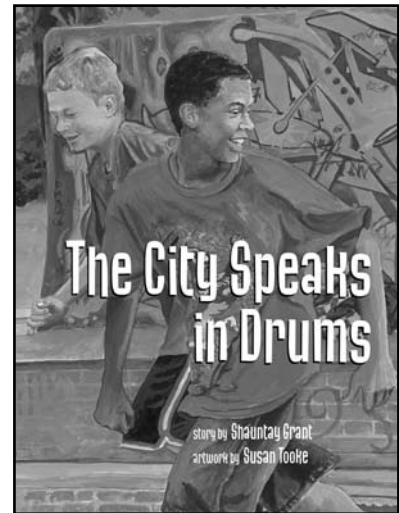
**Shauntay Grant**

**illustrated by Susan Tooke**

**Nimbus, 2010, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-155109-758-9**

The vibrancy of life in Halifax shines through in Shauntay Grant's story of two boys taking in what the city has to offer. Susan Tooke illustrates the boys' journey from their North End neighbourhood, to the Citadel, to the Public Gardens, to the waterfront and all points in between, capturing real locations and the familiar figures that populate them in stunning detail.

Shauntay Grant's first children's book, *Up Home*, won the 2009 Atlantic Book Award for Best Atlantic-Published Book. She is Halifax's poet laureate. Susan Tooke was an Atlantic Book Award winner as well for her work on *Up Home*, taking the Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration. Susan received the Halifax Mayor's Award for Illustration in 2003.



### ***Lobster Fishing on the Sea***

**Maureen Hull**

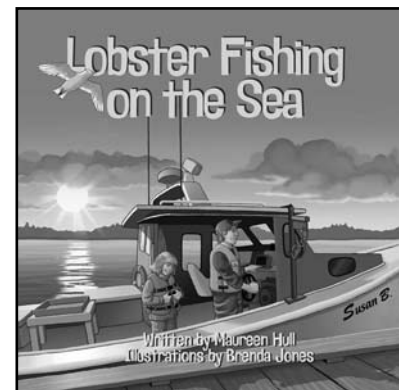
**illustrated by Brenda Jones**

**Nimbus, 2010, \$8.95, ISBN: 978-155109-754-1**

Susan is invited to join her father on his lobster fishing boat in the Northumberland Strait. Together they empty traps and observe the different sea creatures like rock crabs, sculpins and many others. *Lobster Fishing on the Sea* boasts a simple storyline and incorporates plenty of information about lobster fishing and marine life.

Maureen Hull makes her home on Pictou Island in the Northumberland Strait where, for a number of years, she worked as a lobster fisher. Her fiction and poetry has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. She is also the author of several books, including the short story collection, *Righteous Living*, and a novel, *The View From a Kite*.

Brenda Jones recently moved back to her native Prince Edward Island to take up illustrating full-time. Her other illustration credits include *Skunks for Breakfast* and *Buddy the Bluenose Reindeer*.



### ***Eagle of the Sea***

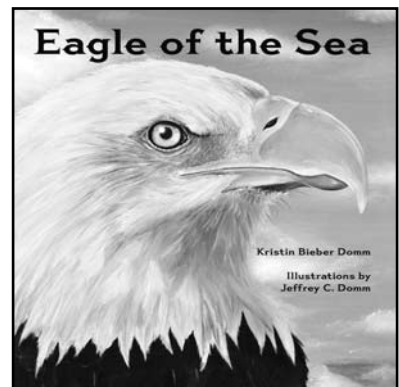
**Kristin Bieber Domm**

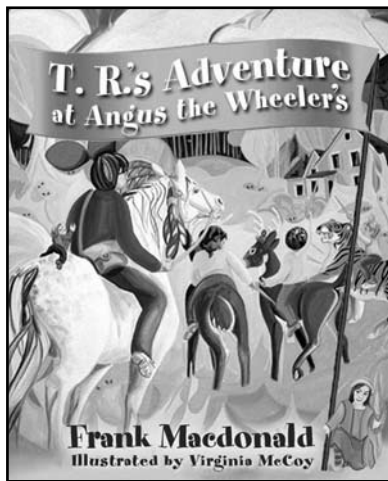
**illustrated by Jeffrey C. Domm**

**Nimbus, 2010, \$9.95, ISBN: 978-155109-749-7**

*Eagle of the Sea* features Atlantic Canada's largest bird of prey, the eagle. The text describes the eagle's life cycle, hunting prowess and natural habitat, while the colourful illustrations bask in the details of adorable, young hatchlings learning to fly and majestic adult eagles soaring through the air, pursuing prey.

Kristin Bieber Domm and Jeffrey C. Domm collaborated on the hugely popular children's title *Atlantic Puffin*. Kristen has been a teacher for 28 years and is the author of four previous titles for children. Jeffrey has been teaching illustration and drawing at NSCAD University for over 16 years and has illustrated more than 30 wildlife-related books.





### ***T.R.'s Adventure at Angus the Wheeler's***

**Frank MacDonald**

**illustrated by Virginia McCoy**

**Cape Breton University Press, 2010, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-1-897009-45-1**

Ten-year-old T.R. decides to share a secret with his brothers – elves and fairies occupy the garden of their neighbour and a princess has been abducted and is held hostage at a farmhouse known as Angus the Wheeler's. T.R. enlists his bored siblings to help free the princess and fight an epic battle of good versus evil.

Frank MacDonald is a novelist and a columnist based in Inverness, Cape Breton. His debut novel was *A Forest For Calum* and his weekly columns for *The Inverness Oran* have been compiled into two books, *Assuming I'm Right* and *How to Cook Your Cat*. Illustrator Virginia McCoy is Frank's partner. They have previously collaborated on children's books.



### ***The Shadow Road:***

**Book Four of The Warlocks of Talverdin Series**

**K.V. Johansen**

**Orca Book Publishers, 2010, \$9.95, ISBN: 9781554691654**

Betrayed by a member of his own family, abducted, poisoned, and forced to recreate an ancient spell that might – if it doesn't kill him – open the lost Shadow Road, Nethin, son of a Nightwalker lord and a human witch, is thrown into a struggle for survival in a dying land. The lives of every Nightwalker of the Homeland rest on Nethin's ability to survive death itself and defeat a prince of the Nightwalker-hating Yehillon cult on a suicide mission.

K.V. Johansen is the author of several fantasy and science fiction novels for children and teens, as well as short story collections for adults and the "Pippin and Mabel" picture books. She is also the author of *Quests and Kingdoms: A Grown-Up's Guide to Children's Fantasy Literature*. She lives in Sackville, New Brunswick.



### ***Loose Pearls and Other Stories***

**D.C. Troicuk**

**Cape Breton University Press, 2010, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-1-897009-43-7**

*Loose Pearls* is a collection of short stories, gems from a practiced and gifted writer whose insights and imaginings are, as the title suggests, beautiful and mysterious. In contrast with the superficial sameness of a string of pearls, Troicuk calls our attention to the unique and the flawed. Like natural pearls, her characters are alive with subtle, resilient and troubled colours.

D.C. Troicuk lives and writes in Glace Bay. Her writing has previously been published in *Canadian Living*, *The Antigonish Review*, *Pottersfield Portfolio*, *The Gaspereau Review*, *The Nashwaak Review* and two anthologies. *Loose Pearls* is her first book.

# Who's doing what

■ **Nimbus** will publish **Steve Vernon's** first YA novel this fall.

■ **Melanie Furlong** won the first prize of \$1,000 in the Atlantic New Cultures Competition for her story "The Last Honest Man in Havana." Melanie is also a current participant in the WFNS mentorship program.

■ **J. Hugh MacDonald** is Poet Laureate of Prince Edward Island for the next three years. Check out [www.poetrypei.com](http://www.poetrypei.com).

■ **Betty Bednarski's** English translations of short stories by Jacques Ferron, Quebec's great physician-writer, will be published this summer in a new, revised and expanded edition in the McClelland & Stewart New Canadian Library series. The 41-story collection, *Tales from the Uncertain Country and Other Stories*, will have a Translator's Foreword and an Afterword by Betty. It should be in bookstores in mid-August.

■ **Sherry D. Ramsey** saw two new short stories come out in March: "Encountering Evie" in the anthology *Destination: Future* from Hadley Rille Books (which received a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly*) and "The Big Freeze" in New Zealand's *Semaphore Magazine* (available online at [www.semaphoremagazine.com](http://www.semaphoremagazine.com)).

■ **Meredith Dault** continues to pursue a freelance writing career in Kingston, Ontario, where she's also pursuing a Master's degree in Cultural Studies at Queen's University. She expects to graduate in the spring of 2011 and will be writing and directing a documentary about her family as part of her thesis project.

■ **Munju Ravindra** has a piece in *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World*, where she shares the pages with Diane Ackerman, Alice Walker, Barry Lopez and Barbara Kingsolver. It will be released in September in the U.S.



■ What's this? A screenwriter on the set of their own film? And being allowed to hold the equipment? **Josh MacDonald's** screenplay *The Corridor* came to gory, horrific life during a February shoot in Halifax and at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts near Canning.

■ Good news for **Vicki Grant's** YA novel *Not Suitable for Family Viewing*. The Ontario Library Association named the teen mystery one of 2009's Best Bets for Young Adult readers. Ten novels were named to the list and all Canadian YA fiction published in 2009 was eligible. The book is nominated for the 2010 Snow Willow Award, given through the Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Award program (SYRCA). It's also up for the Canadian Library Association's (CLA) Young Adult Book Award, which recognizes an author of an outstanding Canadian work of fiction published in 2009

that appeals to readers between the ages of 13 and 18. The award will be presented on June 3 at the CLA conference.

■ **Richard L. Provencher's** poetry appeared in *Paragon 111*, *Folly*, *Parenting Express*, and *Perceptions*.

■ Look for **Joanne Merriam's** short story in *Strange Horizons* and haiku in *Four and Twenty* and *tinywords*.

■ **Stephen Davidson** writes: "Because of a notice carried in Notes from The Fed my children's story about Black Loyalists was published in the February 2010 issue of *R.E.A.L., the Canadian Kids Magazine*. I submitted "The Story of the Five Stones," the account of a Black Loyalist as he fled slavery, joined the British, settled in Birchtown, Nova Scotia, and then immigrated to Sierra Leone. By recalling the episode connected to each of five stones, his descendants remember their heritage. Although I have published a history e-book, a young adult novel and a feature article for *The Beaver Magazine*, this is my first published work for children. It would never have happened had Notes not carried the request for stories. Thank you!"

■ **Pamela Callow**, author of *Damaged* (MIRA Books), read from her upcoming thriller as part of The Annex Bookstore's A Mid Winter's Afternoon. Pamela also led a Q & A about the publishing process at the bookstore in Tantallon.

■ *Arc's* Poem of the Year contest results are out. **Alex Pierce's** poem, "Common Loons," placed third.



■ Happy birthday, Elizabeth Bishop! A toast was raised to the late, great writer at the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia's annual birthday party, where guests were treated to readings of Bishop's work by Carmen Klassen, Coleen Gareau, Claire Miller, Truman Layton, John Barnstead, John Plant, Suzie LeBlanc and Susan Crowe. Born in the U.S., the noted poet had strong connections to Nova Scotia and Great Village through her grandparents. For more information on Bishop and Nova Scotia visit [www.elizabethbishopsns.org](http://www.elizabethbishopsns.org)

■ *Geist* published **Julie Vandervoort's** creative non-fiction essay in the fall of 2009 and a postcard story this spring. Julie was a keynote speaker at the University of Amsterdam, where she presented her story "Measures" at the conference, *Imagining Amsterdam: Visions and Revisions*.

■ *The Malahat Review* announced the winners of its 2010 Open Season Awards and **Lorri Neilsen Glenn** took first prize in the poetry category. **Ann Graham Walker** was also a finalist on the short list.

■ **Harry Thurston** spent the winter as the Haig-Brown Writer-in-Residence on the banks of the legendary Campbell River, on Vancouver Island. Besides working on a fictional memoir called *Lost River*, he's been seen casting a fly for winter steelhead into the waters made famous by the late Roderick Haig-Brown, internationally known author and pioneer conservationist. As a dedicated fly

fisher, environmentalist, and natural historian himself, Harry considers it a privilege to serve under the auspices of the Haig-Brown name.

■ **Nanci Lee** was accepted to a Banff Writing Residency for the Spring program. So were **Gwen Davis, Ryan Turner** and **John Wall Barger**.

■ **Brenda Tate** is the featured writer and photographer in *Triggerfish Critical Review #3*, a poetry e-zine. *Thanatopia*, one of the pieces in the feature, placed third in the 2009 Poetry Superhighway Contest. *Soundzine* ([www.soundzine.com](http://www.soundzine.com)) also published her work.

■ **Janice Acton, Joyce Glasner, Leah Benvie Hamilton** and **Laura Best** drew upon memories of growing up in rural communities to contribute essays to *Country Roads: Memoirs of Rural Canada*, an anthology released this month by Nimbus.

■ **Cat Delany** is the winner of Samuel French Inc.'s 2009 Canadian

Playwrights Competition. Samuel French will publish and license her full-length satire, *Welfarewell*. Cat, a poet, playwright and journalist has been published widely in magazines and her writing and photographs have appeared in *The Michelin Green Guides*.

■ **Chris Benjamin** is a lean, not-so-mean writing machine. Roseway will publish his first novel, *The Names of Strangers*, this fall, which won the Atlantic Writing Competition in 2008. Rattling Books ([www.rattlingbooks.com](http://www.rattlingbooks.com)) has just released his short story, *Delia and Phil*, in audio. Look for his short fiction in the fall issue of the *Nashwaak Review* and in this year's *New Society Anthology*; another short story won third place in the Atlantic New Cultures Competition and will be published online. Chris's creative nonfiction will appear in *Descant's* writers in prison issue this fall. He also has pieces in the November 2009 issue of *Your Workplace* and the January issue of *This Magazine*. And last but not least, he has a contract with Nimbus to write a non-fiction book – *Green Soul: a tour through the lives of Atlantic Canada's sustainable trailblazers* – to be published in 2011.

■ Two chapters from **Carole Langille's** memoir have been accepted for publication, one in *Transition* and one in *The Society, St. Peter's Journal of Visual and Literary Arts*.

■ **Sheldon Currie** dropped into Halifax's Bus Stop Theatre in April to see Eastern Front Theatre's production of his hit play, *Lauchie, Liza & Rory*, that he adapted from his short story. After the performance, he answered questions from the audience. The play will be staged at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in April 2011.



■ The Halifax Fire Department dropped into **Alistair MacLeod's** recent reading at St. Mary's University. Alistair's story "The Closing Down of Summer" was itself briefly closed down by the SMU Physical Plant. Flanked by Alistair and a fire fighter, a representative of SMU lets the assembled masses know the space would have to be rearranged due to fire regulations, since Alistair had drawn such a rock-star-sized crowd. What a night!



■ **Bill Crowell** (left) attended SleuthFest, the Annual Mystery Writers of America (Florida Chapter) conference, where the keynote speakers were Stephen Cannell and David Morrell, big names in thrillers, TV and film. He chanced into being the moderator of a panel discussion on Film vs. TV scripts. Also on the panel were Herb Sennett, Professor of Film at Palm Beach Film School; John Dufresne, Professor at FIU and bestselling author; Tom Rowe, documentary film maker and novelist; and Matthew Quinn Martin, screenwriter and actor.

■ **K.V. Johansen** was in Europe in April, specifically Austria and Macedonia. Her first stop was Vienna for the launch of her latest book, *The Shadow Road*, at an event organized by the Canadian Embassy. Then it was off to the International Book Fair in Skopje, where she received the International Anna Frank Award for Children's Literature and attended the launch of the Macedonian translation of her novel, *Torrie and the Snake-Prince*. K.V. also took part in a panel discussion on children's literature in Canada and Macedonia as part of a Day of Canadian Culture organized in co-operation with the Canadian Embassy in Belgrade.

■ Lest you think the Fed's new Executive Director **Nate Crawford** might be a literary threat, be advised that he recently came in *second* in the Atlantic Cat Hospital and Cat Nap Inn's Limerick Contest, held annually in honour of Patrick, a special needs cat who lives at the inn. Should Nate seem moody and distant in the weeks, months, and perhaps even years to come, be assured, it's not you. It's coming in second and missing out on the chance to be photographed with his favourite cat.

■ **Michael Bawtree** and **George Elliot Clarke** joined Michael Enright for Voices from the Train, a special episode of CBC Radio 1's *The Sunday Edition*. The full-length interviews are on the CBC's website.

■ **Steve Vernon** and Jennifer Greylon contributed to *eVoVe: Vampire Stories of the New Undead*, and in April signed copies of the book at Chapters in Halifax.



■ **Cynthia D'Entremont** launched her YA novel, *Unlocked*, on April 10 at the Great Hall of the Dalhousie University Club.

■ **Nancy Wilcox Richards'** ninth book, *How to Handle a Bully* was released by Scholastic in April. She was one of the featured writers at Moncton's Frye Festival.

■ In celebration of April as National Poetry Month, The Halifax Club's Literary Luncheon Series presented **George Elliott Clarke** and **Brian Bartlett**, who read from their work, participated in a panel discussion and answered audience questions.

■ **Mike Parker's** thirteenth book, *Buried in the Woods: Sawmill Ghosts Towns of Nova Scotia* published by Pottersfield, weighs in at 208 pages and includes 208 photographs. Its companion volume *Gold Rush Ghost Towns of Nova Scotia*, published last year, also includes more than 200 photos.

■ **Sandra Phinney** was in Wales in March for the annual conference of TMAC – the Travel Media Association of Canada. She returned home with two awards for her travel writing – best outdoors/adventure feature and best people photo.

■ Dancing Cat Books, an imprint of Cormorant Books will publish **Jill MacLean's** novel for young adults – *Home Truths* – this fall.

■ **Gwen Davies** just got a note from the Banff Centre saying she's been accepted to Banff's five-week writing studio.

■ **Bill Conall** of Tarbot, Cape Breton, is on the shortlist for the annual Stephen Leacock Award for Humour for his book *The Rock in the Water*, published by Hidden

Brook Press. The shortlist of five was whittled down from 68 books, the largest field since the award began in 1947.

■ **Jon Tattrie's** second book will be out this summer from Pottersfield Press. *The Hermit of Africville: The Life of Eddie Carvery* is the story of a man who as a teenager in the 1960s saw his home in Africville bulldozed into oblivion by the City of Halifax. In 1970 he pitched a tent on the site and moved in to protest the demolition and destruction of a community. He's still there.

■ **Jim Lotz's** latest book, *Canada's Forgotten Arctic Hero: George Rice and the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, 1881-1884*, (Breton Books), caught the attention of PBS-New York, which is producing an *American Experience* program on the expedition, also called the Greely Expedition. In April, Jim flew to New York to participate in the production. Then he was off to Kitchener, Ontario, for The Working Centre's reissue of his 1977 book, *Understanding Canada: Regional and Community Development in a New Nation*. The book describes social change and social action in Canada in the 1960s and early 1970s, a time of great turmoil, tension and idealism.

■ **Jan Coates** has signed a contract with Red Deer Press for a middle-grade novel about the Lost Boys of Sudan. She worked on the novel with mentor **Gary L. Blackwood** as part of the WFNS 2009 Mentorship Program. Over the past few months, Jan has written five chapter books to be published later this year by JLS, a Korean-based English-language school with offices in B.C.

## New members:

Andrew Anderson  
Michelle Brunet  
Arthur Bull  
Randy Bullerwell  
Jennifer Hill  
Bethany Myers  
Sharon Robart-Johnson  
Peter Roberts  
Eric Rountree  
Janet Sketchley  
Edward Seyforth  
Stephanie Reidy  
Catherine Panteluk  
Shelley Goodwin  
Joyce Gevo  
Joan MacDonald  
Janice Comeau  
Heidi Rushton  
Catriona Wallace  
Fraser Nelund  
Maryann Martin  
Janice Kenefick  
Shannon Hilchie  
Stephen Law  
Bonnie Rose  
Amanda Jendrick  
Candice Croft  
Vicki Cameron  
Shanomi Murray  
Guy Van Amburg  
Justine MacDonald  
Nancy Evans  
Lauren Sculthorpe  
Mariana Harris  
Walter Theriault  
Beverly Rach  
Robert Campbell  
Michael Lingard  
Janice Fuller  
John J. Guiney Yallop  
Nina Newgate  
Diane Gaudet  
John Graham Pole  
Cheryl Theriault  
Lis Van Berkel  
Patrick J. Wall  
Shirley Ann Wood  
Richard Woodbury  
Blanche Yeadon ■

## East Coast held its own in 2009; 2010 looks good

Ron Foley Macdonald

2009 was hardly a banner year for English-Canadian cinema. But in what was clearly a fallow year, the east coast produced both the top English-Canadian box office champ – Halifax-based Mike Clattenburg's *Trailer Park Boys 2* – and the most internationally acclaimed English-Canadian feature – Newfoundlander Adrianna Magg's *Grown Up Movie Star*, invited to the prestigious Sundance Festival in January.

With only two and a half million of Canada's 35 million inhabitants, would it be rash to state that the east coast's storytelling traditions might be stronger than the rest of English Canada's? If Telefilm Canada, the main funding body for feature films, was rewarding performance, would that mean that Atlantic Canada deserves more attention and/or funding due to our stellar performance in 2009-10?

It's an interesting question. If we are indeed punching above our weight class, as the old cliché posits, then is there something we are doing right that the rest of English Canada is doing wrong?

Telefilm Canada does indeed reward box-office success – to a point. Mike Clattenburg was preapproved for his next project due to the big sales of *TPB 2*. His next film, the intriguingly titled *Afghan Luke and the Burgundy Of Hash*, stars American actor Nick Stahl in the lead, giving the film a fighting chance in the even bigger U.S. market. It's already shooting in and around Halifax.

And there's a rash of fascinating low-budget feature projects slated for shooting on the east coast in 2010. Writer/director Rohan Fernando's *Snow* wrapped in February. Filmmaker Chaz Thorne's take on screenwriter Michael Amo's full-length drama *Whirlygig* completed principal photography in April. And actor/author Josh MacDonald's intriguing sci-fi script *The Corridor* went before the lenses at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts, near Canning, while there was still snow on the ground.

Paul Kimball's vampire flick *Eternal Kiss* and Jay Dahl's zombie thriller *There Will Be Monsters* each got through their post-production phases before our early spring got going, even though both films had been shot months earlier.

It's not unusual for low-budget indie films to slowly navigate their way through the labyrinth of post-production houses scheduling. Sometimes it's the Volkswagen, Atlantic Loto or Bell Aliant commercials that pay the bills, while cinema auteurs rely on short ends, late nights, weekends and holidays to get their sound and picture edits done. T'was ever thus, from Brian De Palma to Francis Ford Coppola.

Coming up for the summer season are some long awaited projects, such as Thom Fitzgerald's *Cloudburst*. As a trial run, the writer/director delivered a live drama version staged in April at the new Plutonium Playhouse in Halifax. The film version will star Brenda Fricker

and Olympia Dukakis as an elderly lesbian couple driving from Maine to Lower Economy, Nova Scotia, and on to marriage in Lunenburg.

Three Nova Scotia-set book-to-film projects are still lingering out there in the development and financing zones. Ami MacKay's *The Birth House*, Alistair MacLeod's *No Great Mischief* and Lawrence Hill's *The Book Of Negroes* will most likely make it to camera sometime, if not in 2010 then next year. Being an acclaimed best-seller, of course, will make the respective waits all the more worth it.

The fact that Telefilm Canada changed the rules for book options a few years ago might be of interest to anyone thinking of that big \$25,000 to \$40,000 payoff for all the work they poured into that tome. Options now run for four years rather than two. Regrettably, the fees did not double for the option, even if the timeline did.

So, if we go back to our question of does the East Coast deserve more attention, I can't imagine why anyone would answer in the negative. Only, of course, if you lived in Montreal or Toronto. Otherwise, our fearsome domination of the English-Canadian cinema scene might linger on into 2011. ■



A little bonus came with a shipment of hay to the residence of cherished WFNS member Susan Kerslake – in the form of a lone field mouse, who has since been evading Susie at every turn. The lil' guy has been ghosting around her apartment, and has become such a compelling narrative that we couldn't help but share it with you.

Evidence of his presence to date has been scant, yet this photo, in which he/she appears, Yeti-like, in a tray of oat grass, proves that an unwanted guest is indeed present ...



If this photo were in colour, you might be able to dimly discern two brown eyes peering out from within the circle of green grass.

But what do you call such a mouse? Writer friends have weighed in. A neighbour calls it Tyrano because of what it has done to Susie. Budge Wilson says it's a "him" and his name is Murphy. Susie calls him, simply ... Destiny.

Whatever you call him, he has the psychological hold of a whole army over our Susie: he's a master of mouse, a misery of mouse, mischief of mouse, startle of mouse ... have mercy oh Mouse!

The Mouse Report will re-occur until such a time as Mr./Ms. Tyrano Murphy Destiny has made their exit from the premises, yet keep your own mouse stories on the back burner for future columns! ■

## Workshops hither and yon

### Great Blue Heron Writing Workshop at St.F.X.

This workshop, which runs from June 29 through July 4 at Antigonish, invites mid-level writers to engage in small-group sessions in fiction with Linda Little, memoir with Beth Powning, playwriting with Daniel MacIvor, and poetry with Sue Goyette. Lorri Neilsen Glenn will lead a Youth Writing Workshop. For details visit [www.mystfx.ca/workshops/gbheron](http://www.mystfx.ca/workshops/gbheron)

### Maritime Writers Workshop at UNB

The MWW runs from July 5 through the 9th at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. You can pick and choose from a series of one-day workshops in everything from How to Get Started to Life Writing to fiction and screen writing to How to Get Published. \$115 per workshop or \$450 for the week. Details on website ([http://extend.unb.ca/pers\\_cult/writers/](http://extend.unb.ca/pers_cult/writers/)) or contact Alison Howells at 506-452-6360 or email [ahowells@unb.ca](mailto:ahowells@unb.ca)

### Writing in a Time of Exile with Anthony De Sa & Gwen Davies

The Tatamagouche Centre on the Northumberland Strait is the site for this July 25 to 30 workshop. Join Anthony De Sa and Gwen Davies for a week of intensive work with your writing, contemplative space, personal conferences, and critique. The conversation is also open to the social context of our worlds, with their issues of class, age, cultural assumptions and whatever else keeps us – and our characters – up at night. Come to challenge and inspire your writing. For writers with some experience, published or unpublished. For details visit: <http://tatacentre.ca/programs/details/1454>

### 2010 SFU Summer Publishing Workshops

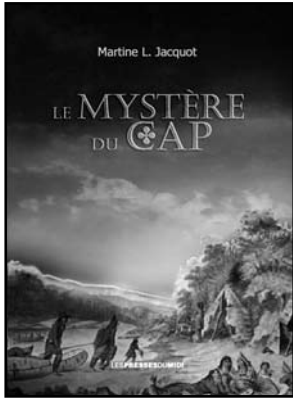
If you're interested in the book publishing industry The Canadian Centre for Publishing Studies at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia is the place for you. Check out their website for a complete list of workshops available at its Summer Publishing Workshops – [www.ccsp.sfu.ca/pubworks](http://www.ccsp.sfu.ca/pubworks). There's something for everybody in Books, Magazines, Design, Editing, Writing, and New Media. ■

### Banff Centre deadlines

The deadline to apply for The Banff Centre Wired Writing Studio Program is June 20. It runs from October 4 to 16 (2 weeks on-site residency in Banff) then from November 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 (20-week online residency). Faculty: Fiction and Narrative Prose: Jacqueline Baker, Connie Gault and Joan Thomas. Poetry: Don Domanski and Alison Pick. For details visit: [www.banffcentre.ca](http://www.banffcentre.ca) ■

# Oops!

Our apologies to Martine Jacquot as we mangled the French description of her latest book, *Le Mystère du Cap*, in a previous imPRESSed column. Here's the correct text.



## ***Le Mystère du Cap***

**Martine L. Jacquot**

**Les Presses du midi (France), 2009,  
10€, ISBN 978-2-8127-9**

Par quel tour de magie peut-on bien faire disparaître un énorme rocher? Pourquoi effrayer les habitants de tout un village? Que faire pour que tout redevienne normal? Dans un temps ancien, au pays des Mi'kmaq, le géant Glooscap est venu résoudre un mystère. Malgré sa force, il a eu besoin d'aide, et tu peux peut-être l'aider, toi aussi...

Originaire de France, Martine L. Jacquot habite non loin du Cap Blomidon. En le regardant un soir au coucher du soleil, elle a imaginé cette histoire qui ressemble à une légende. Dans les paysages enchanteurs de la vallée de l'Annapolis, elle écrit toutes sortes de livres pour les petits et pour les grands. Déjà enfant, elle aimait jouer avec les mots et rêver devant des cartes de géographie. Voir du pays et raconter des histoires, voilà en effet ce qu'elle fait maintenant: elle voyage souvent et écrit presque tout le temps! ■

# Markets, etc.

■ **Invisible Publishing:** is now accepting short fiction, up to 1,200 words, in the themes of organization and disorganization for an upcoming creative book project, The Rememberer. Broad guidelines – your piece could be an ode to the disorganized person, or simply a story with themes of forgetting, remembering, etc. Electronic submissions to [jenner@invisiblepublishing.com](mailto:jenner@invisiblepublishing.com) with Rememberer Submission in the subject line. Deadline May 19.

■ **Dancing Cat Books:** an imprint of Cormorant Books, 215 Spadina Ave., Studio 230, Toronto, ON M5T 2C7 ([www.dancingcatbooks.com](http://www.dancingcatbooks.com)). Publishes literary fiction, nonfiction and poetry for young adults and middle-grades, as well as picture books. Accepting texts for picture books, between 300 and 1,000 words. Not interested in folk tales or picture book texts written in rhyming couplets. Looking for novel-length, character-driven fiction with complex storylines for middle grade and young adult readers. Not accepting high-interest/low vocabulary fiction. Seeks unique nonfiction proposals for the picture book genre and middle grade category and will look at exceptional young adult non-fiction projects, but to a lesser degree.

■ **AJN, the American Journal of Nursing,** seeks poems and short personal essays on experiences related to health care for its Art of Nursing and Reflections departments. Authors need not be health professionals. Original perspectives and clear, unsentimental writing are preferred. \$100 honorarium paid upon publication. Guidelines at

[www.editorialmanager.com/ajn](http://www.editorialmanager.com/ajn).

■ **Descant:** PO Box 314, Station P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8 ([www.descant.ca](http://www.descant.ca)) Deadline for the theme issue Sicily is 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.

■ **AMC Outdoors** inspires readers to get outside and get involved by providing high-quality coverage of outdoor recreation, education, and conservation topics throughout the Northern Appalachian region, from Maine to Virginia. Generally pays \$500-\$700 for features and \$150-\$400 for department columns. Publishes 6 times a year. Guidelines at [www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/contributor-guidelines.cfm](http://www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/contributor-guidelines.cfm)

■ **Earth Island Journal:** 2150 Allston Way, Suite 460, Berkeley, California, 94704 ([www.earthisland.org/journal](http://www.earthisland.org/journal) – for writers guidelines click on Writers) Provides readers with cutting-edge environmental reporting and commentary from around the world. Looking for stories that anticipate environmental concerns before they become pressing problems, stories that scan the horizon for the next big issue. Seeks to tell the stories of individuals and communities who are successfully defending and restoring the Earth. Pays 20

cents/word for shorter dispatches (1,200-1,500 words) and for longer investigative features (2,500-3,000 words).

■ **The Quarc Issue call for submissions:** The editors of *New Quarterly: Canadian Writers & Writing* and *ARC Poetry Magazine* are collaborating and are soliciting two different kinds of work, under the headings Particle Fictions and Collisions & Collaborations:

**Particle Fictions:** "Quark, n2.... Particle physics. Each of a group of subatomic particles regarded ... as basic constituents of matter. ... Six quarks are known (designated up, down, strange, charm, bottom, and top ...), with a corresponding number of antiquarks" (OED). *New Quarterly* editor (and sometime physicist) Erin Noteboom adds, "The top and bottom quarks used to be called truth and beauty; unfortunately, no one could remember which was which."

Send short work in any genre (poems, stories, essays, 1-3 pages in length), taking as your title one of those beguiling quark-names: up, down, charm, strange, top, bottom, beauty, truth. You need not take particle physics as your theme: the quark-name may be merely your jumping-off point. Deadline Sept. 1. Send to QUARC, c/o The New Quarterly, St. Jerome's University, 290 Westmount Rd N., Waterloo, ON N2L 3G3.

**Collision & Collaborations:** *The New Quarterly* and *Arc Poetry Magazine* will produce two special issues devoted to collections, collisions, and collaborations in science and the literary arts. Accepting submissions of new work (or proposals for new work) from:  
(1) poets or fiction writers whose writing makes use of metaphors

from the sciences or engages scientific themes, or who are interested in the "scientific" elements of literary practice;

(2) scientists or mathematicians drawn to fiction and poetry, or who are interested in the poetic (even the fictional!) elements of scientific practice;

(3) articulate skeptics, on either side of the disciplinary divide. Feel that poetry and science have, as Leopardi maintained, "a sworn and eternal enmity"? Let them know.

Submissions may be solo or joint: send your poems, stories, essays; or propose an interview/conversation you'd like to undertake (writer with scientist, scientist with writer).

Deadline for submissions of proposals for conversations/interviews, etc. is May 30, by email to Anita Lahey, editor@arcpoetry.ca. Deadline for submissions of new work is September 1. Address submissions to QUARC, c/o ARC, PO Box 81060 Ottawa, ON K1P 1B1. Include S.A.S.E. for response.

Details on website – [www.tnq.ca/contribute/call\\_for\\_submissions/](http://www.tnq.ca/contribute/call_for_submissions/)

## Contests

■ **CV2's 35th Anniversary Poetry Contest:** ([www.contemporaryverse2.ca/](http://www.contemporaryverse2.ca/)) *Contemporary Verse 2* turns the big 35. The catch is that each poem must incorporate "35" somehow or somewhere in the submission. It could be that a poem is 35 lines or 35 stanzas or it could be that literally the number 35 is used or written out, or included in the title. All they ask is that if the use of "35" is not immediately obvious, for example each line is thirty-five words in length, that you include a note in the entry explaining how you have used the requisite number.

Although they will not award extra points for being tricky, they are definitely open to innovation. 3 prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$150 plus paid publication. Entry fee is \$24. Send 1 to 4 poems, Deadline July 1. Details on website.

■ **The Malahat Review:** University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700 Stn CSC, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2 ([www.malahatreview.ca](http://www.malahatreview.ca)) **Creative Non-Fiction Prize** (\$1,000) Deadline August 1. Between 2,000 and 3,000 words, No restrictions as to subject matter or approach – may be personal essay, memoir, cultural criticism, nature writing, or literary journalism. Entry fee \$35. **Open Season Awards:** deadline November 1. A prize of \$1,000 in each of three marquee categories: poetry (up to three poems per entry; maximum length for each poem is 100 lines), short fiction (one story up to 2,500 words per entry), and creative non-fiction. (one article up to 2,500 words). Entry fee \$35. Details on website, click on Contests.

■ **Prairie Fire:** 423-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3. ([www.prairiefire.ca](http://www.prairiefire.ca)) Deadline November 30. Entry fee \$32 (includes sub to mag). One fiction entry consists of one story, maximum 10,000 words. One poetry entry consists of 1, 2, or 3 poems, maximum 150 lines. One creative non-fiction entry consists of one article, maximum 5,000 words. 3 prizes in each category: \$1,250; \$500 and \$250. Details on website.

**You're invited to the  
Writers' Fed A.G.M. and  
Mentorship Readings  
Saturday, June 5,  
12 noon  
at the WFNS office.**