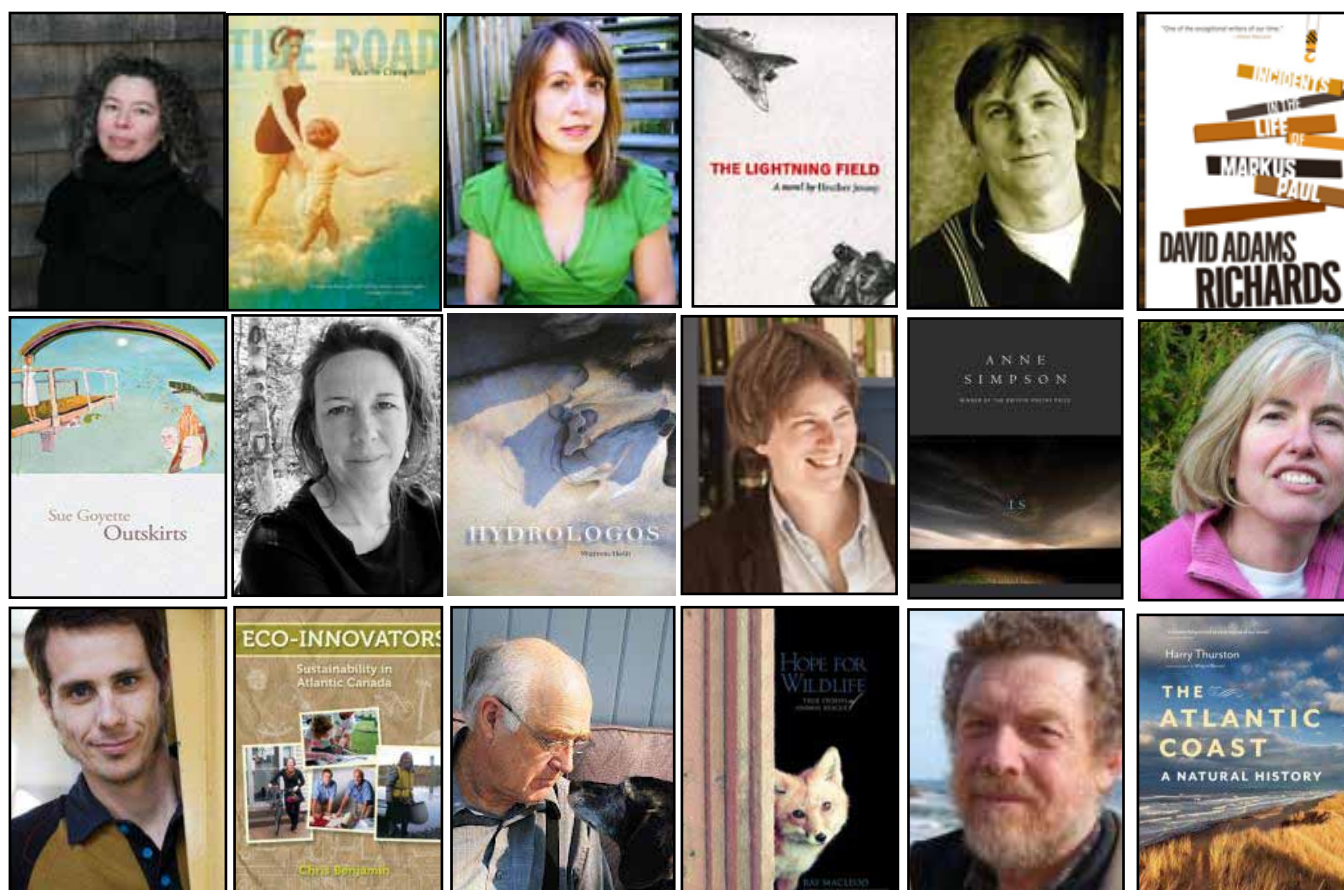


east word



Nominees for the 2012 WFNS Literary Awards

Shortlists for the Writers' Federation's three awards were announced on June 2 at the Fed's annual general meeting. Your nominees are (from top, left to right): **For the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award:** Valerie Compton, *Tide Road*, Goose Lane Editions; Heather Jessup, *The Lightning Field*, Gaspereau Press; David Adams Richards, *Incidents in the Life of Markus Paul*, Doubleday Canada. **For the Atlantic Poetry Prize:** Sue Goyette, *outskirts*, Brick Books; Warren Heiti, *Hydrologos*, Pedlar Press; Anne Simpson, *Is*, McClelland & Stewart. **For the Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction Award:** Chris Benjamin, *Eco-Innovators: Sustainability in Atlantic Canada*, Nimbus Publishing; Ray McLeod, *Hope For Wildlife*, Nimbus Publishing; Harry Thurston, *The Atlantic Coast*, Greystone Books/The David Suzuki Foundation. Our congratulations to all nine of these authors for their excellent books.

Throughout the summer and on into the fall, we will celebrate these writers and their work with a signature event dedicated to each of the awards and presented across the province: Poetry Prize nominees will be at the Acadia University Art Gallery on July 28, Richardson writers in Shelburne at the Osprey Arts Centre on August 11, and on October 11 Raddall nominees will be at Lane's Privateer Inn, Liverpool. The day after our Raddall readings, we will be



WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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RAMSEY

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NOVA SCOTIA
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back in Halifax on October 12 to present the prizes and fete the authors at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts' beautiful Lillian Percy Concert Hall.

Keep your ear to the ground as additional events, contests and more will be announced as we move forward through the year. In order to properly celebrate the Fed's awards and shortlisted authors, we encourage members to read and respond to the shortlisted books. We will be collecting responses for use in awards-related events and communications, so please direct your thoughts and feelings about WFNS literary award-nominated titles to us by...



Email:

Send your responses to director@writers.ns.ca.



Facebook:

Join the Fed's Facebook group and post your positive book reviews on our wall.



Twitter:

Compose a book blurb of 140 characters or less and direct it to @WFNS.



Post:

Address a letter containing your thoughts to Fed HQ at Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, NS, B3H 4P7.

President's Report

Kathleen Martin

There are four people in the Fed office: Heidi and Hillary and Nate and Sue. That's in alphabetical order, in case you're checking. And when I think of this year as president of the Fed, I think a lot of them.

I think of how Heidi's eyes have smiles in them. And I think of how it's impossible not to notice that she works in the realm of books and authors because if she didn't, I suspect there's a crucial bit of her that would die.

I think of how I used to believe that Hillary was quiet and how now I know that while she sits and listens her brain is actually spinning at an audible speed. In a seeming swoop, she turns an idea into a veritable plan. And she loves desserts, and that is an important quality in my mind.

I think of how many *Star Trek* references Nate drops that go over my head entirely. I also think of how thoughtful he is about details – delving through years of papers to make sure he gets things just right, or sending you a funny note when you need one. And I think of how he holds the weight of the Fed gingerly on his shoulders, balancing it carefully because it is so clearly precious to him.

Sue is funny and smart. You know that from reading what she writes on our e-loop every week. But when I think of her, I think of her oddly effortless, somewhat extra-sensory, wise poet sense. When I first met her, years ago now, I was writing a book about jellyfish. I

happened into the office to sign a cheque, and she could just tell that something was up. What was it, she wanted to know. I told her I was frustrated by the writing and mad at myself for worrying so much. And she said, "Of course you worry; you want your book to sing."

And I was amazed then because, frankly, there are not many people worldwide who would understand why a person would desperately want the lines on asexual reproduction of jellyfish to sing, but she did, and oh what a gift that pronouncement was to me then and is to me still.

It's true of Sue and Nate and Hillary and Heidi (now in reverse alphabetical order): they get what being a writer is. I always suspected that of them, even from afar. But now I've peeked behind the curtain and had a good look, and I can say with utter candor that those people backstage are really doing it out of love for you, and out of a belief in the importance of literature in all its forms, and out of admiration for your courage in writing even when you feel dumb about it.

I learned in this year as president that there are a lot of meetings at the Fed. The meetings – with nice people, and sometimes with food – make things go. They aren't interesting to read about necessarily, but they are what need to happen so that you can do your writing – so that you can come to an event or read at a school or take a course and know that you are being cared for

by what is widely recognized as one of the very best arts organizations in Canada. And that is something to be proud of, just like the Fed is proud of you when you do cool things like get nominated for a GG, or win a prize, or don't win any prize but put in the time (that you don't really have) trying to say something about something that matters to you in words that you risk writing out loud.

Now there has been a whole board full of people helping out this year, too: Brett and Brian and Don and Jamie and Jon and Marlo and Ryan and Sherry and Stephens and Val. I'd like to say that they are equally amazing, and they too have spent a lot of time at meetings that were short on alcohol and long on hours. And after more than one very late night I drove home feeling like I'd just wandered out of the Halifax equivalent of a Parisian salon – where people have discussed the very nature of writing and literature with passion and compassion and a moral compass that would renew your faith in all kinds of things had you been there.

But it was me who was the lucky one sitting at the table, and I'm thankful to all of you for giving me that tremendous opportunity. And in return I wish you good luck with your work. May the joyful soaring parts be many and the really hard parts be worth it. And, when you are finished, may your work help your readers find the peace they are searching for. ■

Writers Federation AGM Minutes

Saturday, June 2, 2012

WFNS Office, 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax

Members and Staff Present:

Stephens Gerard Malone, Brian Braganza, Binnie Brennan, Gwen Davies, Jim Lotz, Shirley Godfrey, Georgina Godfrey, Jaime Forsythe, Jennifer Merlin, Russ Barton, Susan Kerslake, Susan Haley, Chris Benjamin, Julie Vandervoort, Peggy Amirault, Alex Boutilier, Jon Tattrie, Ryan Turner, Valerie Compton, Stephanie Domet, William Kowolski, Brett Loney, Budge Wilson, James Leck, Sandra Barry, Heidi Hallett, Hillary Titley, Sue Goyette, Nate Crawford.

Call to order and Welcome:

In the absence of the President, Vice-President Ryan Turner welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

Brian Braganza moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Jim Lotz.

Approval of Minutes of the AGM held June 4, 2011:

Jon Tattrie moved; seconded by James Leck.

Business Arising: None.

President's Report: Delivered by Ryan Turner for Kathleen Martin (see page 3)

Treasurer's Report and presentation of review engagement report; appointment of auditor for 2012/13:

Stephens Gerard Malone presented the report. Susan Kerslake moved the approval of the review engagement report for the 2010/11 fiscal year, and that Darrell Cochrane, CA, be appointed auditor for 2012/13. Brett Loney seconded.

Standards Committee Report:

Ryan Turner announced that the 2011/12 Standards Committee has reviewed and recommended the following individuals for inclusion in the WFNS Writers' Council:

Scott Fortheringham, Kars, ON
Daphne Greer, Newport
Wendy Kitts, Riverview, NB
Carol Little, Charlottetown, PEI
Diane Lucas, Halifax
Angela Mombourquette, Halifax
Melanie Mosher, Head Chezzetcook
Gloria Wesley, Halifax

Executive Director's Report:

Delivered by Nate Crawford. (See Page5)

Nominating Committee Report and presentation of proposed slate of directors for 2011/12:

Ryan Turner proposed the slate of the WFNS Board for 2011/12:

Kathleen Martin, Past President
Ryan Turner, President
Jon Tattrie, Vice President
James Leck, Treasurer
Julie Vandervoort, Secretary
Brian Braganza
Binnie Brennan
Valerie Compton
Dian Day
Jaime Forsythe
Marlo MacKay
Sherry Ramsey

Ryan Turner called three times for further nominations from the floor. There being none, he declared the slate and named officers elected.

Brett Loney and Stephens Malone were thanked for their years of dedication and service to the WFNS board.

Adjournment: Susan Kerslake made a motion to adjourn. ■

Executive Director's Report

Nate Crawford

Another Year. Not only is that the title of one of many films on an ever-growing list of "Things I'll Get to When I Have the Chance," it is what we have behind us at the Writers' Federation. I can only echo Kathleen Martin's sentiments regarding our staff and our activities, as I couldn't have said it better myself. I have to thank Kathleen, the board of directors, and the staff for their tireless work in keeping pace with the momentum of this ever-growing organization.

In 2011/12 we welcomed over 100 new members to the Federation. We vetted 179 manuscripts and short pieces for the Atlantic Writing Competition, and celebrated the winners at Word on the Street as the audience spilled out of their tent and onto the Halifax waterfront. We developed 14 workshops that were enjoyed by 150 grown-ups, and put writers in front of roughly 45,000 students through the Writers in the Schools program. We held salons, hosted readings, launches, and visiting writers, and as ever flung open the doors for our Christmas Open House and tied one on with the whole gang. Behind closed doors, we welcomed dozens of writers into the office to discuss their triumphs and tribulations as they navigated the literary landscape throughout the year.

The numbers tell one story. Different stories are told by individuals, be it of an e-loop that came at the exact time someone needed a motivating hit of Sue Goyette's wit and wisdom, or of an e-loop that changed the course of a career thanks to a job listing. Or perhaps there was a child in front of someone at a WITS visit, whose eyes took on a new glow which signified that the writer may have just said something they'd remember for the rest of their lives. These "invisible benefits" that we get word of every so often are among our own motivators.

Also motivating us are the remarkable books that continue to come out of our membership: *Big Town*, by Stephens Gerard Malone. *Kamakwie*, by Kathleen Martin. *Maxed Out*, by Daphne Greer. *The Virgin Cure*, by Ami McKay. *Cross Katie Cross*, by Donna Morrissey and her daughter Bridgette. *Holidays*, by Darcy Rhyno. *Vox Humana*, by E. Alex Piece. *a possible madness*, by Frank MacDonald. Even an annual list could go on for an hour,

and we've been happy to support these books by hosting their launches in some cases and assisting with their promotion in others, be it through our newsletter, our website, or in perhaps the most effective way, in excited conversation with other writers and the public.

Then there are the up-and-comers; those aforementioned 179 submitters to this year's writing competition, and our mentorship participants, who you will hear from today. You can literally see the future when you delve into the work submitted to these programs – just last month we were delighted to attend the Halifax launch of *The Rest Is Silence*, a manuscript submitted by Scott Fotheringham to the 2009 competition that now has a home with Goose Lane Editions, and on the shelves of readers across the country.

And is there another cultural federation with this many honorary doctorates among its membership? Jim Lotz was honoured this year at St. Mary's University. George Elliot Clarke at Acadia. And Budge Wilson at Mount St. Vincent University; her second in as many years – I've seen her in that wild cap and gown so often that by now I'm beginning to suspect she's enjoying a second career as a writing instructor at Hogwarts. The influence we can, and will, have on our province is astonishing, and we continue to take pride in offering support to this remarkable community.

Yet while this was a triumphant year in many ways, it was also a particularly sad one. It seems that an unusual number among the Fed family lost members of their own kin within the last 12 months, and to them we offer our condolences – if we have not already. It was with shock and dismay that we learned of the recent passing of Nancy Zinck, a regular, dynamic presence at many past Federation workshops. And we must again acknowledge the loss of Maxine Tynes, that great poetic sounder of the black voice in Nova Scotia, and Joyce Barkhouse, children's writer extraordinaire and longtime bosom friend of the Fed. Yet there are happy notes that have come out of these sad situations – Joyce willed a significant amount of funds to the Fed, as well as encouraging donations in her name, so she continues to support her writing community in her special way. And following a tragedy in the life of Fed member Jodi

DeLong, members came together to provide her with a significant amount of her own to aid in a difficult time.

Words cannot truly express how heartening it is that such things can come out of our organization. I should remind the membership that the Fed maintains an emergency fund for writers – to assist with its sustainability, Fed member Lorri Nielsen Glenn and editor Carsten Knox have compiled a book of writing advice from our own community, called *Saltlines*. The book will be launched this summer, so keep your eyes and ears open for announcements.

Finally, a word about government – as ever WFNS has been regularly engaging with government at every level, be it with the city's cultural activities program, the Canada Council, and the province of Nova Scotia. Over the past year the provincial culture division has been actively soliciting the advice of the entire arts community as they put together a five-point plan that includes a re-introduction of an independent funding body that mirrors the former arm's-length arts council, and the recent introduction of Status of the Artist legislation. While the operating funding we receive from the province remains the same as it has been for years, our relationship with government has never been better, and vice versa. I'd also like to welcome Leonard Preyra to his brand-new position as Minister of Communities, Culture, and Heritage, announced this Thursday.

But it's not just up to us to engage government – while we currently have a mayor whose staff repeatedly forgets that he has literary awards named after him by the municipality, come October we will most likely have a mayor whose family has actively sponsored a book award for many years. Yet despite this encouraging fact we have to keep in mind that the importance of arts and culture is understood the least at the municipal level. While positive change is happening at the provincial level, the attitudes of municipal councillors don't jive with that which the province has put forth this year. We currently have the least amount of municipal arts funding in Canada among cities of comparable size. So to those of you who live in HRM, keep this in mind this year come election time.

In closing, as I prepare this report for submission to *Eastword* editor Peggy Amirault, I would like to add a little something to the print version – our thanks and gratitude for her work on the Fed's newsletter, and for making us all look so good. Cheers to Peggy! ■

Summer readings

Atlantic Poetry Prize Reading, Wolfville, July 28

2012 nominees Warren Heiti, Sue Goyette, and Anne Simpson will read, talk, mix and mingle at the Acadia University Art Gallery, Wolfville, 10 Highland Avenue, in the Beverage Arts Centre.

Read by The Sea, River John, July 21, rain or shine

For the morning WordPlay session, Don Aker, Kathy Kaulbach and Philip Roy will read and conduct workshops for children and young adults.

On centre stage is Madeleine Thien, Rawi Hage, Julia McCarthy and Silver Donald Cameron. CBC's Stephanie Domet and well-known journalist Joan Baxter share the interviewing honours, engaging the authors in discussions about themselves and their craft. In the event of inclement weather the readings will be held indoors at the River John Consolidated School.

The Fest Feast follows the readings. Tickets for the dinner – a choice of smoked pork chop or veggie lasagna – are \$15. The day wraps up with a cabaret style Open Mic event.

For details visit www.readbythesea.ca

Port Medway Reader's Festival

At the Old Meeting House on Long Cove Road, Port Medway. Tickets are \$15 for each Saturday evening reading and \$10 for the Sunday afternoon reading. For details and driving directions visits www.portmedwayreadersfestival.com

Sunday, July 15, 2 p.m. Linda Spalding reads from *Who Named The Knife*.

Saturday, July 28, 7 p.m. Beth Powning reads from *The Sea Captain's Wife*.

Saturday, August 11, 7 p.m. Elizabeth Hay reads from *Alone in the Classroom*.

Evelyn Richardson Prize Reading – Osprey Arts Centre, Shelburne, August 11

On Saturday, August 11, the three nominees for the 2012 Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non Fiction – Chris Benjamin, *Eco-Innovators* (Nimbus); Ray McLeod, *Hope For Wildlife*, (Nimbus); Harry Thurston, *The Atlantic Coast* (Greystone Books) – will read from and discuss their work, answer questions, sign and sell books.

There's also a busy schedule of music and words at the Osprey Centre during the summer. Details can be found at <http://ospreyartscentre.com/>

The Board of Directors

Ryan Turner, President, is a Halifax-based writer whose stories have been published in many journals including *Prairie Fire*, *filling station* and *The New Quarterly*. In 2009, his short story collection, *What We're Made Of*, was published by Oberon Press.



Kathleen Martin, Past President, is a journalist and the author of several children's non-fiction books about animals, as well as *Kamakwie: Finding Peace, Love, and Injustice in Sierra Leone*. She is an editor, book reviewer, and executive director of the Canadian Sea Turtle Network.



Jon Tattrie, Vice President, is a freelance journalist and writer. He works for CBC.ca, Metro Canada, *The Chronicle-Herald*, *Halifax Magazine* and *Progress* magazine, among others, and is the author of the novel *Black Snow* and the non-fiction book *The Hermit of Africville*, both published by Pottersfield Press.



James Leck, Treasurer, has worked as a teacher in Canada, Japan and Kuwait. His book *The Adventures of Jack Lime*, published by Kids Can Press, is the first in a series of YA mysteries starring a hardboiled teenage detective.



Julie Vandervoort, Secretary, writes creative non-fiction and memoir and has worked extensively in human rights law and as an environmental activist. Her publications include *Tell the Driver* (University of Manitoba Press, 1992) and *The Perimeter Dog* (Libros Libertad, 2011).



Brian Braganza is a program associate with HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development and co-founder of the Bridgewater Community Christmas Society. He also leads wilderness trips. He lives on a farm with his wife and daughter and is currently writing a poetry manuscript that is an exploration and a building of home.



Binnie Brennan's short story collection, *A Certain Grace* (2012) and her novella, *Harbour View* (2009) were published by Quattro Books. Her short stories have appeared in Canadian and American journals, including *Existene*, *The Adirondack Review*, and *All Rights Reserved*. Binnie is a violist with Symphony Nova Scotia.



Valerie Compton writes fiction and non-fiction and teaches fiction writing. Her articles and reviews have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *Gourmet* (US) and *The Citizen* (Ottawa), among others. Her novel *Tide Road* was published in 2011 by Goose Lane Editions.



Dian Day is a writer, editor, and researcher who has also worked as a reporter, communications consultant, health promoter, teacher, and artist. Her first novel, *The Clock of Heaven*, was released in 2008 by Inanna Publications.



Jaime Forsythe is a poet, fiction writer, editor, and journalist. She edited the Invisible Publishing anthology *Transits: Stories from In-Between*, and her writing has appeared in a number of magazines and journals, including *This Magazine*, *Geist*, and *The New Quarterly*. Her first full-length poetry collection, *Sympathy Loophole*, was published this spring by Mansfield Press.



Marlo MacKay: After more than 10 years of working in public and school libraries, Marlo moved to the Communications and Marketing department of Halifax Public Libraries, where she was the editor of the *Library Guide* and the media contact for the library, among other duties. She is currently The Dalhousie Libraries Communications Coordinator.

Sherry D. Ramsey writes speculative fiction for both adults and young adults, has been the editor/publisher of The Scriptorium Webzine for Writers for over 10 years, and is a founding editor of Third Person Press. Her short stories, articles, and poetry have appeared in print, online, and over the airwaves.



Atlantic Book Week

Chris Benjamin

This year's Atlantic Book Awards gala was held in St. John's, NL, with WFNS members Susan White, Harry Thurston and Chris Benjamin returning home with awards among their luggage – the Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature, the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction, and the APMA Best Atlantic-Published Book Award, respectively. We asked Chris Benjamin to file a report from the field following his week on the glorious Rock.

Wish I had a window seat. Iceberg anyone? I can't tell from this angle. Got to remember my suit – tucked it in the wrong overhead. Nervous traveller no matter how many air miles. Oh, the landing; we should applaud. St. John's.

Book tucked away and running down an airport bathroom with my plastic-covered suit bouncing and worming its way down my back, the metal hanger imprinting my fingers. They let that on the plane?

St. John's. St. John's escalator down to volunteers with signs saying "Atlantic Book Awards." Aint they a sight?

"Who's got him? You got him?"

"No, I'll wait for Heather Jessup – after all I've heard of her so I ..."

"First time here, Chris?"

The question of the week.

To the hotel, volunteers giving the guided tour and history of St. John's on the way, complete with housing prices and newspaper offices, should I be seeking work. "Thanks for bringing summer, Chris. Twenty-six in May, that's new."

The theme of the week.

Hotel check in and a short

walk, just a little past Long Dick's Sausage Emporium, to the next scene: Afterwards Bookstore, to meet Deputy Mayor Shannie Duff, who graces my book and made St. John's a world-class walking city. She buys a secondhand copy of my novel and I sign it – we accidentally use it, and not my award-nominated non-fiction book, in the photo op.



Chris Benjamin and Shannie Duff

I read and answer questions and shake hands and say thank you and go for a walk. Three volunteers pull over at three separate times to offer me a lift. I take the third offer – they're so keen. She takes me to a camera shop to buy more memory and points out things to take pictures of.

I walk back to the Fat Cat on George St. to meet Doug Underhill and Trudy J. Morgan-Cole. Oh, and their publishers. We're all up for the same award, which is a half-writer half-publisher recognition. I didn't realize I'd have to open up about my relationship with my publisher, on stage, while sitting next to my publisher – with my other publisher goading us on

from the crowd: "Enough of this nice talk, give us the real dirt!" Should have recorded it for reality TV.

Lucky we have CBC's Mack Furlong facilitating – I hear he used to referee for UFC.

Afterward it's all smiles and the publishers head off to drink Grand Marnier, eat caviar and sign multi-billion dollar deals, like they do. I join St. John's writers Chad Pelley and Wanda Nolan to drink and eat vegetarian sandwiches and bitch about agents – whom we adore! The big day is tomorrow but we're mum on it – predictions are gauche, taboo, and a big fat jinx.

Next day, folks are everywhere – out-of-town writers clinging desperately to local actors, publishers, producers, performers dragging them up Signal Hill – hey look a reading by Democracy 250 Award for Historical Writing nominee James E. Candow from his book, *The Lookout: A History of Signal Hill*, right on Signal Hill! And iceberg watching – everyone sees one but poor poor pitiful me. Some even see whales, I hear. I'm with environmental journalist Alison Dyer, who also graces my book. No icebergs but a lot of information about the oil boom's downside and the recent social evolution of St. John's – fascinating history.

5:30 comes too soon. Suddenly writers everywhere smelling fresh and looking presentable, fancy even. Makeup and slacks, the occasional tie. We share taxis to the LSPU

DECLASSIFIED
MOST
WANTED
WRITERS

CASE: The Mentorship Program
For Emerging Writers

SUPERVISOR:
The Writers' Federation
of Nova Scotia

DATE: Summer 2012

June 2, 2012

Halifax, NS

Dear Citizen,

You have in your hands a dossier assembled by the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia of some of the province's most dedicated and talented emerging writers. Last scene occupying cafe tables, community centre rooms and library common spaces under the supervision of their assigned mentors, these writers will now be sent out into society at large. Familiarize yourself with their files; you may be called upon one day to identify them at book launches, author readings and/or literary awards.

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia thanks you for your vigilance.

Signed,

Sue Goyette
Program Officer

Nate Crawford
Executive Director

This public service is made possible with generous assistance from
The Canada Council for the Arts



The Canada Council | Le Conseil des Arts
for the Arts | du Canada

PHOTO :

RECORD OF PARTICIPATION



PROTÉGÉ NAME : Carmelita Boivin-Cole

SUMMARY :

Carmelita lives in Annapolis Royal with her husband Dr. Richard Holt. They have four children and some very enjoyable grandchildren. Her first novel is based on boxes of family materials put together by her grandmother. She studied in France under a Fulbright fellowship and holds a Ph.D. from Harvard in Comparative Literature. Her government career included: Treasury, Privy Council Office, Communications, and Health. She is a former CEO of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

ASSIGNED MENTOR : Susan Haley, novelist

TESTIMONY :

What project have you been working on during the course of the project?

I have been working on my novel, titled "The People in the Boxes." At seventy, Claire fights the onset of dementia by writing stories about women from her family history across twelve generations from 1634 in Quebec to the 21st century; she finds herself grappling with whispered expectations of what women can and can't do and tries to find out the truth about two dark family secrets.

What book or writer caused you to fall in love with writing?

Poetry in French and then English. Emily Dickenson was my English favorite when I was very young. And, for fiction, Jane Austen. I spoke mainly French at home and in elementary school so I learned English reading authors like these!

What drew you to the Mentorship program?

I think I saw a paragraph in the Chronicle Herald about the WFNS. I went on the web and discovered the Mentorship programme. As a first-time fiction writer, I felt I needed all the help I could get so I applied.

What would you say to anyone thinking about applying to the program?

I'd say that this is a wonderful opportunity to work with a published writer. In my case, Susan Haley provided me with insights into the craft of writing and into my own story that I would never have figured out on my own. "Go for it".

STATEMENT :

Exerpt of "The People In The Boxes"

Prologue to Part Two: Journeys into the Unknown

I hear the wind. J'entends le vent. It whistles softly out of the forest and the past.

My story slips like a moth from its chrysalis--wings beating against the wind-- trying to find its own color and pattern and rhythm. Three girls, only eight or ten years old at the start. Children still: Marie from 17th century Quebec, and then me, a young mid-20th century girl in Maine, and in between a shadowy figure, Zandrine, from the late 19th century.

We crisscross, link, and separate across twelve generations, pushing back the boundaries of the whispers bit by bit. What a woman must, can, or shouldn't do. Tu dois, tu peux, tu ne dois pas. Three girls, curious, questioning, and not quite understanding. Chafing at restraints. Spinning through gossamer and iron threads that knit and reknit and sometimes break.

Who am I? How far can I go? And what do I want?

J'entends le vent. D'un pays d'antan.

PHOTO:

RECORD OF PARTICIPATION



PROTÉGÉ NAME: Meagan Campbell

SUMMARY:

Meagan has lived in Halifax for the past 10 years. She is finishing up high school this year and plans to take the next year off to travel. Having taken writing courses at the Writer's Federation and elsewhere for several years, she hopes to study creative writing, among other subjects, in the future.

ASSIGNED MENTOR: Stephanie Domet, writer, entertainer

TESTIMONY:

What project have you been working on during the course of the project?

With the mentorship program, I have been working on a first draft of a dystopian young adult novel set in 2300 North America. "Bleached" is about a world in which global warming has forced anyone who works outside to work and live at night, making bleached white skin a stigma of the lower class. Teenage Zadie gets drawn into the night world when she decides to help a young girl she sees bleeding in the street who, as Zadie soon learns, is part of the resistance.

What book or writer caused you to fall in love with writing?

Roald Dahl's *The BFG* caught my imagination in the second grade and has never let go. The story showed me the freedom you have as a writer to create an entirely new world.

What drew you to the mentorship program?

For the past few years, there had been a story mingling in my head that I needed to get onto paper. I was excited to hear about the possibility of a mentorship to help me along the way.

What would you say to anyone thinking about applying to the program?

Allow yourself to dive into the deep end; putting the work in and receiving help and feedback is invaluable to anyone who wants (or needs) to write.

STATEMENT:

Excerpted from "Bleached"

As we lower down the last rungs of the rope ladder, the warehouse goes silent except for the shuffle of hundreds of feet. I squeeze the wood hard so my sweating palms don't slip and make the final jump to the floor. I turn to face a crowd of kids surrounding us, each pale white and wearing a band of fabric around their head that attaches a light above their eyes. Behind them, sheets of paper covered in scribbled handwriting drape from every wall. My eyes drift up to the rafters we've just come through, which hang small lights like the ones on the kids' heads.

The smallest of them can't be older than ten, and they quickly wheedle their way to the front where a broad girl stands staring at me. A thick neck stretches the collar of her sleeveless shirt, and her head is shaved like the rest. To avoid her glare, I look down at the wooden planks covered in dust. The heavy doors behind us have scratched up the entire area of the floor, as if they take a new path with each open and close. I rip at the braille the mosquitoes have written on my arms and wait for Chet to say something.

"She'll stay here tonight." The warehouse stretches as far back as I can see, but his voice fills the place with ease.

The girl is the first to object. Her face no longer blank, she motions her head to the back door for Chet to follow her out. The kids start talking to each other, and within seconds I lose the sound of my own heavy breath. Minutes later, they come back in, bringing a wave of hot air as they push the door open.

PHOTO :

RECORD OF PARTICIPATION



PROTÉGÉ NAME : Iain MacLeod

SUMMARY :

Iain MacLeod is a screenwriter from Pictou County. A graduate of the Canadian Film Centre, he wrote and directed several short films before transitioning into television writing where he wrote on *Street Cents* and *Trailer Park Boys*. His co-written feature debut *Beat Down* should be out later this year but most of all he wants to write the great Pictou County novel, which is where the real money is anyway right?

ASSIGNED MENTOR : William Kowalski, novelist

TESTIMONY :

What project have you been working on during the course of the program?

During the mentorship programme I was teamed with mentor Bill Kowalski (you're awesome Bill, thank you!) as I planned and began to write my novel *Leftovers*. Though still developing it's a first person account of growing up in New Glasgow.

What book or writer caused you to fall in love with writing?

I'm not really sure I'm "in love" with writing to be honest, it's more this on-again-off-again dysfunctional thing (please help me). But when I was about 16, I read Gunter Grass's *The Tin Drum* and it was the first time, though I wouldn't have been able to explain it then, that I realised how funny and strange and wonderful a book could be. Without sounding ridiculous it really opened something up for me. Too bad about the terrible movie they made out of it.

What drew you to the mentorship program?

I'd had this novel fragment for years and, having heard great things about the programme, I thought it might be just what I needed to help push me towards finishing it.

What would you say to anyone thinking about applying to the program?

Do it. And if you get in, make sure you're organised. The time literally flies and before you know it, it's over. So have a plan. The programme is an amazing opportunity but like anything else you're only going to get out of it what you put into it.

STATEMENT :

Excerpted from "Leftovers"

There were these kids at the back of class. Mostly guys but sometimes girls too. They'd wear jean jackets with the names of their favourite bands written in ink on the back. A lot of them had long hair but not all. They looked pretty rough. Like the kind of people you would not want to cross. Ever.

Even though some of them lived on my street and I'd been in school with them since grade primary I didn't know what their voices sounded like. They never talked in class other than to say "present" during roll call after O Canada played on the PA. And even when they said that it mostly just sounded like a grunt. If I had to guess I'd say at least half of them couldn't really read. Maybe more. Some of them probably didn't even know the name of the language they spoke was English. Seriously. They'd just sit at the back looking tough and never be called on. Some of them looked out the window the whole time, others just stared straight ahead.

I often wondered if they'd made some kind of deal with the teachers like they wouldn't make any trouble as long as they weren't called on in class. It's definitely possible. One of my teachers was caught stealing bags of chips from the canteen and another got two girls pregnant. And that's just the stuff we know about. Neither of them was fired by the way, one got counselling and the other nothing. Well except for the chips.

Anyway they'd sit at the back and kill time before they could go to vocational school or work in the woods or if they were a girl maybe get knocked up by some guy and get their benefit. I mean not even the Army was a choice for most of them.

PHOTO:

RECORD OF PARTICIPATION



PROTÉGÉ NAME : Vincent McGillivray

SUMMARY:

Vincent McGillivray was born in New Waterford, made the proverbial escape to Toronto, and then pined for all things oceanic. He settled in Halifax, where he works in the telecommunication industry. Vincent's second job is that of poet. He has honed his craft at various writing workshops and seminars in Halifax. His poetry has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Grain* and *CV2*.

ASSIGNED MENTOR: Kate Kennedy, poet, editor

TESTIMONY:

What project have you been working on during the course of the program?

The focus of my project was to better understand approaches to piecing together a full poetry manuscript. During this process, a good deal of my older poems were revisited, and completely new poems were written.

What book or writer caused you to fall in love with writing?

Growing up in small town Cape Breton, I distinctly remember being drawn to the poetry of the Beats, specifically Gary Snyder and Jack Kerouac.

What drew you to the Mentorship program?

I was instantly drawn to the Mentorship program, since it is the only program I'm aware of that provides a mentee with a supportive environment, a seasoned mentor, and adequate time and focus to grow as a writer.

What would you say to anyone thinking about applying to the program?

I'd strongly encourage prospective applicants to apply. This is a rare opportunity to gain new focus and perspective as a writer.

STATEMENT:

Two poems

Sextant Song

For music to become the curve of a shell,
smooth enough to the touch to let you in,
it has to have once been the crash of ocean
when an ocean was your unannounced womb,
where you moved strangely through common spaces
like a body both drowning and learning to walk.
The crashing — a beacon that followed you slowly
from the archipelago of certainty
through an unmapped canal in the heart
to sea again. And now, from a warm bed,
your boat since anchored and finally scuttled,
you can drift back, a different sort of explorer,
to those old caverns of so much travail —
how they've become crystallized inside a shell
that only the crashing of an ocean can reveal.

A Bigger Thing

The frail man
is your brother.
You are driving
in the countryside.
He has stopped wearing
his wristwatch.
Ice cream, a ploy
to be alone
so you can say
a bigger thing.
Your brother drops
his cone,
steadies his hand,
apologizes.

You say not to worry,
that's the beauty
of Scotchgard.
You catch a little
doppelganger grin.
He puts his window down
and sleeps —
the warm air coming in
against your face
these years later.

PHOTO :

RECORD OF PARTICIPATION



PROTÉGÉ NAME : Ella Silver

SUMMARY :

Ella is a busy writer. Recently returned from a leisure writing and photographic expedition in rural southwest China, she also calms her hypergraphic neuroses with a weekly online love and sex column "Amoure and More", pays the bills as a technical writer and keeps up on a vibrant and busy series of blogs and forum discussions. "I have no idea why i ever started writing," she often says "Life seemed so much simpler when the pin was still in the grenade, you know?"

ASSIGNED MENTOR : Jackie Torrens, writer, actor

TESTIMONY :

What project have you been working on during the course of the program?

I am currently working on my first novel - a shaky but well-structured coming of age story about why we isolate ourselves. It's tentative and sure-to-change working title is "The Colony."

What book or writer caused you to fall in love with writing?

What book DIDN'T cause me to fall in love with writing? I never had that "one book" or that "one story". I had many stories and many books going back as far as my first taste of Dr Seuss and wrote my first story, a horrific, nihilistic rendition of Pinocchio, when I was 6, fraught with betrayal, gore and spelling mistakes. (Spoiler: Everyone died in the end) All I knew was that I loved stories. I loved to hear them. I loved to tell them. I never thought about WHY I write. One does not think about why they breathe.

What drew you to the Mentorship program?

My friend. She told me it was a shame I wasn't writing as much as I should. She showed me the program competition and said "you should apply". I said "no."

She said "I dare you to apply".

I said "okay."

What would you say to anyone thinking about applying to the program?

I dare you to apply.

STATEMENT :

Exerpted from "The Colony"

Family was not something with a tight grip. Family had more of a firm handshake. Sabrina's family was not the kind to hang onto anything, it seemed. Passing one another in the hall produced a feeling of discomfort for all involved. Everyone had their solitary tasks and pursuits and somehow the household ran itself like a great headless blunder. A massive, perpetual public works project. Guests felt so uncomfortable when they came calling that no guests came calling. The dinner-table by far was the worst place on earth. A totem in shambles with each carved face bent in mindless infinity, only raised to one another on those occasions when the owner was trying to figure out why they were here with these strangers in the first place. It seemed no one, try as anyone might, could understand his relationship to anyone beyond words like "uncle" or "cousin" or "duty" or "obligation" or even "self". Maybe once there had been a time when they had tried to understand those things. But if so, it was certainly before Sabrina had ever arrived. In the weeks following her appearance on the homestead, she imagined what each of these people in her family must be like and, as she had little else to go on, she assumed their physical appearance manifested itself in their personality. Their sameness had never bothered her one way or the other. It was easy to predict the consequences of most of her actions and soon she had learned the family skill of invisibility. The old aunts and snobbish cousins had been more than happy to leave the solitary girl to her solitary pursuits and this glorious dream-world of tepid tolerance continued relatively uninterrupted for four years.

How to Apply

There is no application form. To be eligible for this program, writers must provide the following information and materials. Applications must be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of standard 8½ x 11 paper. DO NOT STAPLE your application. DO NOT send more material than is required. Applicants must be at least 19 years old.

In addition to supplying us with a 10 page sample of the work you have in progress (samples that are longer than requested 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 twelve 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 to try and achieve during the time available (approximately five-six months)? Be specific.

Are you willing and able to make writing a priority during the full course of the program? If not, please don't apply.

Why do you need to participate in the mentorship program?

About the Program

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 Federation welcomes applications from writers working in all disciplines, including poetry, fiction, non-fiction, writing for children and young adults, and short fiction. 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.

Participants will work together over a fairly flexible five month period starting in January. 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. Apprenticing writers and mentors must be available for an introductory meeting at the beginning of the program and for the public reading at its conclusion.

Deadline: *October 1, 2012.*

These applications must include a \$25 application fee. Faxed and e-mailed materials will not be accepted. Address your applications to WFNS Mentorship Program, 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, NS, B3H 4P7. For further information, please call our office at 423-8116.

Hall, find our local others again. It's not just writers. It's the whole arts community celebrating writers. "You're all winners," they say, over and over, before, during and after the ceremony. And "winner" is not a euphemism for "loser" on their lips. We feel special, like we've accomplished something. We've faced off against a blank page and beaten the bastard black or blue and sometimes blood red with our pens – or keyboards. We've hurled our creations into the talons of agents and publishers, who have toughened the helpless things and tossed them to the snarling hungry masses, who paid with their hard-earned dollars and time to read them and said, "That's a damn good book."

We did that, and St. John's – the best damn arts community in the country – wants us to be proud of ourselves. They say so in speeches, applause, laughter, smiles, hugs and tears.

We eat and drink and congratulate each other. We should be proud. We've beaten not only the pages, but also the odds. [And also a Prime Minister who'd rather we stopped thinking so hard.]

We go to our rooms late, and most of us leave the next day, regretfully. We should have stayed longer. But we know too well about laurels crushed by lingering bums. Always more to do: families to care for, day jobs to nourish us (if indirectly), mentoring and teaching, studying and researching, feting the accomplishments of others. And always more to write.

Because next year, there's another ABA road trip, destination unknown. All that's certain is this: we're glory bound. ■

2012 Atlantic Book Awards winners

The winners of the 2012 Atlantic Book Awards were announced May 17 in St. John's, Newfoundland, the first time the annual event took place outside of Nova Scotia. Amy House hosted the sold-out event, which also featured a performance by Andy Jones and a few words from City of St. John's Poet Laureate Tom Dawe. This is also the first time that two of the Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards – Ches Crosbie Barristers Fiction Award and The Bruneau Family Children's/Young Adult Literature Award – were presented as part of the Atlantic Book Awards.

The winners are:

Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature: *The Year Mrs. Montague Cried* by Susan White, (Acorn Press) Also nominated were: *Betsy Wickwire's Dirty Secret* by Vicki Grant (HarperCollins) and *Chasing Freedom* by Gloria Ann Wesley (Roseway Publishing)

APMA Best Atlantic-Published Book Award: *Eco-Innovators: Sustainability in Atlantic Canada* by Chris Benjamin (Nimbus) Also nominated were: *Salmon Country* by Doug Underhill, photographs by André Gallant (Goose Lane Editions) and *That Forgetful Shore* by Trudy J. Morgan-Cole (Breakwater Books)

Democracy 250 Atlantic Book Award for Historical Writing: *Necessaries and Sufficiencies: Planter Society in Londonderry, Onslow and Truro Townships, 1761-1780* by Carol Campbell and James F. Smith (Cape Breton University Press). Also nominated were: *The Lookout: A History of Signal Hill* by James E. Candow (Creative Book Publishing) and *Imaginary Line: Life on an unfinished border* by Jacques Poitras (Goose Lane Editions)

Dartmouth Book Award for Non-fiction: *The Atlantic Coast: A Natural History* by Harry Thurston (Greystone Books and David Suzuki Foundation). Also shortlisted were: *Necessaries and Sufficiencies: Planter Society in Londonderry, Onslow and Truro Townships, 1761-1780* by Carol Campbell and James F. Smith, (CBUP) and *Heroes of the Acadian Resistance* by Dianne Marshall (Formac Publishing)

Jim Connors Dartmouth Book Award (Fiction): *Great Village* by Mary Rose Donnelly (Cormorant Books) Also shortlisted were: *Diligent River Daughter* by Bruce Graham (Pottersfield Press) and *a possible madness* by Frank MacDonald (CBUP)

Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration: Sydney Smith for *There Were Monkeys in My Kitchen* by Sheree Fitch (Nimbus). Also shortlisted were: *Thank You for My Bed* by Doretta Groenendyk (Acorn Press) and *A Day with You in Paradise* by Lennie Gallant, illustrated by Patsy MacKinnon (Nimbus)

Margaret and John Savage First Book Award: *The Town That Drowned* by Riel Nason (Goose Lane Editions) Also shortlisted were: *The Lightning Field* by Heather Jessup (Gaspereau Press) and *A Description of the Blazing World* by Michael Murphy (Freehand Books)

The Bruneau Family Children's/Young Adult Literature Award: *Jack and the Manger* by Andy Jones, illustrated by Darka Erdelji (Running the Goat Books & Broadides) Also shortlisted were: *edge of time* by Susan M. MacDonald (Breakwater Books), *Dragon Seer's Gift* by Janet McNaughton (HarperCollins)

Ches Crosbie Barristers Fiction Award: *Moonlight Sketches* by Gerard Collins (Creative Book Publishing) Also nominated were: *New Under the Sun* by Kevin Major (Cormorant Books) and *double talk* by Patrick Warner (Breakwater Books). ■

Who's doing what



PHOTO BY PAUL DARROW

■ **Jim Lotz:** Doctor of Civil Law, *Honoris Causa*. Saint Mary's University presented Jim with an honorary degree at the May graduation. The citation read in part: "Northern traveler, community developer and author, Jim Lotz has spent more than 50 years addressing critical social issues and making a positive contribution to communities around the world." Born in Liverpool, England, in 1929, Jim arrived in Canada in 1954 and in 1971 he moved to Nova Scotia. A fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America, Jim has written 28 books on subjects that range from the Canadian Arctic and Canadians at war to the Canadian Pacific Railway, Moses Coady and community development.

Jim has three books due out this year. Pottersfield Press has *The Gold of the Yukon: Dawson City and the Klondike after the Great Gold Rush* scheduled for October. In September, Lorimer will release *Diaster at Dieppe: The biggest debacle in Canadian military history* as part of its Amazing Stories series. *The Moral Equivalent of War* (The Working Centre) examines ways in which human energy is being directed to peaceful pursuits in development, highlighting the role of social and community entrepreneurs.

■ **Sylvia Gunnery** launched her novel *Emily For Real* (Pajama Press) at the Bridgewater Library in May. Hosted by the South Shore Public Libraries, it was also a celebration of the libraries' writer-in-residency program established in 2008. Sylvia, who was the first writer to be offered the residency, benefited from the time to work on the initial draft of the novel.

■ **Silver Donald Cameron named to the Order of Canada:**

Silver Donald Cameron, writer and environmentalism, has been made a member of the Order of Canada. Silver Don is being inducted "for his contributions as a journalist, writer, educator, consultant and dedicated community activist." In a journalism career that spans more than four decades, his work includes plays, films, radio and TV scripts, an extensive body of corporate and governmental writing, hundreds of magazine articles and 17 books, including two novels. One of his current interests is TheGreenInterview.com – a subscription web site of extended interviews with the thinkers, writers and observers whose ideas and perceptions are leading the way to a new era of sustainability.



PHOTO BY DAN CALLIS

■ **George Elliott Clarke**, pictured here with Libby Burnham, Chancellor of Acadia University, was awarded an honorary doctorate in letters by the university on May 13 – his eighth. In his remarks, he noted that Acadia had awarded his great-grandfather, William Andrew White an honorary degree in 1935. He stressed to the graduates that, "The true value of education is that you question all, that you read between the lines. That while our ideals are clearly stated in our constitutions and laws, it is up to each and every one of us to apply the gift of analysis ... to ensure that our ideals are actually put into practice and are actually realized."

On the writing front George's *Poesie e Drammi*, (*Poems and Plays*), edited and translated into Italian by Giulio Marra, was published in Venice, Italy, in April by Studio LT2. Launches were in Venice and Vicenza. Hundreds attended!



PHOTO BY DEAN CASAVECHIA

■ **Budge Wilson** – shown here with her husband Alan – gave the convocation address at Mount Saint Vincent University on May 18 and received a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. In presenting Budge for the honor, Susan Drain said, in part, “... Reading Budge Wilson ... is like discovering an extended family you didn’t know you had ... One of the many things I like about Budge Wilson – besides her name, which is surely enough to commend her as an unbudging individualist – is that she came to this writing business, or at least, to the publishing part of it, quite late. I like the fact that she studied philosophy and psychology ... before she had the good sense to switch to English. ... I particularly like the fact that she has had a varied career: this woman has never been stuck in a rut. She’s been a commercial artist, a photographer, a mother, a fitness instructor, a faculty wife, and a book illustrator. When you look back at it, that career was obviously a thorough apprenticeship for writing. Parenting, painting or post-graduate study, psychology, photography, or fitness, they all develop the power of observation and the patience and perseverance necessary to a career in writing. Moreover, her great good fortune in being born and brought up in Nova Scotia, followed by the experience of goin’ down the road to Ontario, means that her books are infused with a sense of place, even when that place is not Nova Scotia. ...”

■ **Margaret Ommanney** launched her book – *Argyle Abuptic Festival ... 25 years of memories* – June 1 in Argyle.

■ **Charlotte Musial** picked up an honourable mention for her entry in *Canadian Writer’s Journal* short fiction contest. Her story “The Other Woman” will be published in *CWJ* and in *Choice Works*, Vol. 17, a separate publication of all the contest winners.

■ **Joanne Light** gave a reading in Toronto at Pauper’s Pub as part of The Art Bar Poetry Series.

■ **Blanca Baquero** spent this past winter translating a book of poetry and prose written by Quebec author, Anne-Marie Labelle, *Ma lumière est une ombre/My Sunshine is a Shadow* (Labelle Édition). Blanca writes, “What a joy it was to accomplish the feat and finally see it published. It was a lot of hard work but the subject matter, adoption and motherhood, was so moving and realistic that the translating simply became a joy. The author, a single and dynamic writer and artist, adopts a baby from Haiti. With her poetic pen, Anne-Marie describes the pressures and realities of life when raising a child, the daily routines, the rituals, the rules, the absence of a father, as well as the joys and frustrations that accompany what is accomplished and what is not accomplished. By unveiling intimate feelings, one realizes that motherhood has no blood type. It flows and thrives on love and devotion alone. Anne-Marie had to wait two years before her dream to adopt a child became a reality.”

■ **Kathy Leveille** is putting the finishing touches on a new novel, *Standing in the Whale’s Jaw*, to be released next spring by Tighrope Books.

■ **Alice Walsh’s** latest YA novel *A Long Way From Home* will be out this summer from Second Story Press. Another book is scheduled for next year from Tuckermore Books.

■ **Sue Goyette** won the 2012 Pat Lowther Memorial Award for the best book of poetry by a Canadian woman. Of her winning book, *ousskirts* (Brick Books), the judges said, “Sue Goyette’s poems are immediately inviting. She brings to her work a confident voice, fresh conversational language, energetic narrative style and sure rhythms. Her unflinching attention to both the fraught territory of family life and the wider realm of the natural world garners material rich in tension and vitality. The resulting poems do not harangue, but speak with conviction, intelligence and a compassion so genuine the reader feels awed and implicated. Soaring above the details of description, narrative and imagery, these poems consistently demonstrate the clarity and wisdom of the poet’s vision and her mature craftsmanship.” Also nominated were: *A Page from the Wonders of Life on Earth* by Stephanie Bolster (Brick Books); *Small Mechanics* by Lorna Crozier (McClelland & Stewart); *Yes* by Rosemary Griebel (Frontenac House Media); *Groundwork* by Amanda Jernigan (Biblioasis); and *Forge* by Jan Zwicky (Gaspereau Press). Sue’s fourth collection of poems, *Ocean*, is forthcoming from Gaspereau Press in 2013.

■ The 2,100 entries to CBC's annual creative non-fiction competition have been whittled down to a long list of 33. Two Nova Scotians are on that list: Garry Leeson of Kingston for "Jimmy Smiles at Everyone," and **E. Alex Pierce** of Sable River for "Sweetbriar." The short list will be posted on CBC Books at www.cbc.ca/books on July 9.

■ **E. Alex Pierce** read from her collection of poems, *Vox Humana* (Brick Books), in April as part of the Planet Earth Poetry reading series hosted by The Moka House in Victoria, BC.

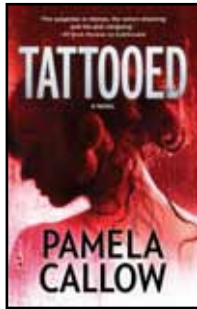
■ In April, **Stephen Kimber** gave a talk at the Center for International Policy in Washington about his upcoming non-fiction book *What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five*, which will be published by Fernwood next year. "Shootdown," an excerpt from the book, is now available as an ebook from Amazon. .

■ **Heddy Johannesen** is "happy to say that *Essential Herbal* magazine is printing my second article on Herbs for Well being in their summer issue."

■ **New books for September and the fall:** Yes, the summer has only just begun but it's never too early to anticipate a harvest of new books. Nimbus will publish *Long Shots: The Maritime Teams That Played for the Stanley Cup* by **Trevor J. Adams**. In the early 1900s, a host of professional, minor-pro, senior, junior, and college leagues competed across the continent for the Stanley Cup. In that era, it was a challenge cup, and it seemed as though every Canadian town – big or small – had a fair shot at the big prize, including the Halifax Crescents, the Sydney Millionaires, the Moncton Victorias and the New Glasgow Cubs. **Steve Vernon**'s latest tome from Nimbus digs up the dirt on murders from 1770 to 1929. *Maritime Murder* unearths historically buried, and occasionally unsolved, violent crimes from across Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia in 19 macabre tales that divulge a diverse array of bygone crimes, trials and the eerie aftermath from botched executions and poisonous tea, to "axe" murders and curious cover-ups. **Lesley Crewe**'s sixth novel, *Kin* (Nimbus) traces the tangled lines of loyalty, tragedy, joy, and love through three generations of families beginning in Glace Bay in the 1930s and ending in Round Island in 2011. Nimbus will also release *Apples and Butterflies* by **Shauntay Grant** – a gentle, lyrical poem about a family's autumn vacation that shows Prince Edward Island in a light we don't often see – the bright blue and orange light of fall. Tamara Thiébaux-Heikalo's rich and wild illustrations

build a narrative with the text, showing us the family beachcombing, flying kites, and picking apples. Cape Breton University Press has three books on the horizon, including *Trapper Boy* by **Hugh R. MacDonald**. *Blood Brothers in Louisbourg*, by **Philip Roy**, begins in 1744 when 15-year-old Jacques arrives with his father from France. In the forests surrounding the fortress, Two-feathers, a young Mi'kmaw, watches hoping to find his father who, he has been told, is an important man among the French – they have never met. The paths of Jacques and Two-feathers cross and their worlds collide during the violent siege by British forces in 1745. *Thomas: A Secret Life* by **A.J.B. Johnston**, set in early-18th-century France, is the imagined life of Thomas Pichon. A series of adolescent adventures provide striking background to his character. Rejecting parental insistence that he become a priest, Thomas steals away to Paris. There, nearly broke, he works as a lowly office clerk, joins the ranks of aspiring French writers and serves as a part-time spy for the Paris police. A rendezvous with a high-class courtesan brings a new possibility and Thomas plots a future in which he can have his cake and eat it too. Goose Lane Editions has *Of Earthly and River Things: An Angler's Memoir* by **Wayne Curtis** scheduled for October. As Proust recalled his past through the delicate taste of a madeleine, so, too, Curtis ruminates on growing up on the Miramichi River, albeit through the more uniquely Canadian flavour of the home-cooked doughnut. The essays are a nostalgic trek through history and elegy for a vanishing culture, a world where people were grateful to the river for its bounty. Acorn Press will publish *Ten Thousand Truths* by **Susan White** and two books by writer/illustrator **Doretta Groenendyk** – *Bully 101* and *Spin to the Sea*. Formac will publish *The Discovery of Weather: Stephen Saxby, the tumultuous birth of weather forecasting, and Saxby's Gale of 1869* by **Jerry Lockett**. Jerry tells how we learned to forecast weather and the extraordinary story of the prediction that came true on October 4, 1869, for the century's worst storm on the East Coast. He also explores the possibility that a similar storm could recur and cause unparalleled damage on North America's Atlantic coast. Also from Formac is *Pit Pony: The Picture Book*, a new edition of **Joyce Barkhouse**'s classic novel. Illustrated by Sydney Smith, the story has been retold in an abbreviated version for young readers. Lormier will publish **Pam Hickman** latest title *Righting Canada's Wrongs: Italian Canadian Internment in the Second World War*. It tells how prejudice and racism set the stage for a roundup of hundreds of loyal Italian Canadians, who were imprisoned in internment camps in Ontario and New Brunswick.

Impressed – new books by members



Tattooed

Pam Callow

**MIRA Books, June, 2012,
Paperback, e-Book, audiobook,
ISBN: 978-0778313021**

She is obsessed with tattoos. He is obsessed with her. When a body is found on the outskirts of Halifax, rumors run wild about the victim's identity. But tattoo artist Kenzie Sloane knows exactly who she is. They share a tattoo ... and a decade-old secret. Lawyer Kate Lange remembers Kenzie Sloane, part of the same crowd that attracted her sister, Imogen, before her death. Now Kenzie needs her help. And Kate needs answers. But there are others who know about the tattoo and its history. One is watching Kenzie's every move, waiting for the perfect moment to fulfill a dark promise that had been inked in her skin.

Pam Callow lives and writes in Halifax. This is the third volume of four planned books in the Kate Lange series, after *Damaged* (2010) and *Indefensible* (2011). A fourth book is scheduled to be released later this year.



small flames

Dina E. Cox

**Signature Editions \$14.95
ISBN: 1-897109-92-X**

small flames is Dina E. Cox's first poetry collection – a book that speaks of beginnings and endings, and of new beginnings. Quiet, contained poems flare up with the intensity of peak experience – in moments of childhood, womanhood, birth, death, and the infinite. These are the poems of a woman who has known in her life most things we all know, but has seen further than many of us are given to see.

Dina Cox has been published in a variety of journals and anthologies. Born and raised in Saint John, New Brunswick, she now lives in Ontario. Dina is also a musician, a mother of four, and grandmother to eight.



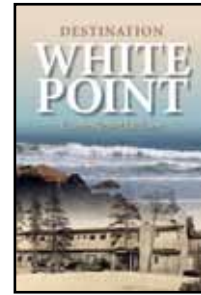
Lunar Lifter

Alison DeLory

**Bryler Publications \$9.95
ISBN: 9781927003275**

When Cameron and Erin use magic marker to decorate a giant refrigerator box, they never imagine that it will be the start of a wild lunar adventure where they must use their imagination to find a way home.

Alison DeLory is a Halifax-based freelance journalist, editor, and consultant. With a specialty in health-care communications, she has also published articles on a wide range of topics in many local and national publications.



Destination White Point

Frances Jewel Dickson

**Pottersfield Press, June 2012,
\$17.95 ISBN: 978-1-897426-36-4**

White Point Beach Resort on Nova Scotia's South Shore has been in business since 1928, persevering through early bankruptcy, the Great Depression, World War II, and a sometimes unforgiving climate in the hospitality industry. It's now rebuilding the main lodge destroyed by fire in 2011.

Destination White Point draws on the oral history of former and current staff and guests, some whose experiences date back to the 1930s, to paint authentic pictures of work and play at White Point.

Frances Jewel Dickson lives on the South Shore. She is the author of *The DEW Line Years: Voices from the Coldest Cold War* and *Skipper: The Sea Yarns of Captain Matthew Mitchell*, both published by Pottersfield Press.



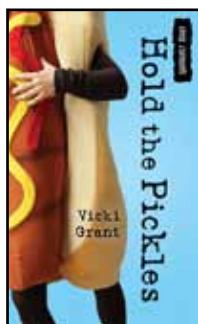
The Book of Leaves

Pamela Ditchoff

CreateSpace, May 2012, \$16
ISBN: 978-1-475252187

This coming of age novel invites the reader into Peonies Teas, a teashop in a Victorian house in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It's the story of Deanna Penwick, a girl born with the gift, born into a tea leaf reading family stretching back to the 1700's when *The Book of Leaves* was begun. At her eighth birthday party, the spirit of her great grandmother Julia appears with a message. As Deanna's aunts, Pekoe, Darjeeling, and Verbena enter the story they bring lessons on the blessing and curses of being female and how to distinguish one from the other.

Pam Ditchoff lives on the South Shore. Her books include: *Poetry: One, Two, Three; The Mirror of Monsters and Prodigies; Seven Days & Seven Sins; Mrs. Beast: A Novel; and Princess Beast.*



Hold the Pickles

Vicki Grant

Orca Currents, March 2012,
\$9.95, ISBN: 978-1-554699209

Fifteen-year-old Dan Hogg gets a job as a hotdog mascot at a food fair and finds himself caught up in another action-packed mystery. He's thrilled because he wants money to hire a professional trainer to help him with his scrawny physique. But he's in a hotdog costume and handing out samples. Dan, or rather Frank Lee Better, his mascot persona, gains the attention of a pretty girl named Brooke. The attention is great until Dan finds himself under attack from Cupcake Katie and a mysterious guy with a strange interest in Brooke. It's not until he's huddling in a bathroom in nothing but his tight white underwear that Dan begins to suspect Brooke's attention might be too good to be true.

Vicki Grant is the award-winning author of young adult novels.



Valery the Great **(stories)**

Elaine McCluskey

Anvil Press, May 2012, \$20
ISBN: 978-1-897535-89-9

Valery the Great is a crackling, electric collection of dark humour that follows the bizarre and beautiful lives of its protagonists. Sometimes sweet and gentle, sometimes sharply sarcastic, the unique narrative voices in this collection are always powerfully touching. In the title story, a young woman from New Brunswick uses figure skating as a way to fill the void left by her deceased father, and ends up as a Russian circus performer who dances on ice with two skating bears. We also meet an unlikely swim-team member, a crude and ineffective search and rescue volunteer, and Sparky, an ancient boxing trainer, who recalls the tumultuous life of his childhood friend, a dwarf named Maurice.

Elaine McCluskey is the author of the boxing novel *Going Fast* (Goose Lane Editions, 2009). Her first short story collection, *The Watermelon Social*, was published by Gaspereau Press in 2006.



Rock Reject

Jim Williams

Roseway, Sept. 2012, \$19.95,
ISBN: 9781552665169

It's the 1970s. wracked with guilt and self-loathing after the death of his wife, Peter Stevens abandons his life in Toronto for one of exile and desolation in Stikine, a ghastly mountain-top asbestos mine in northern British Columbia. He witnesses the devastating effects of mining on the health of his fellow miners, the environment and the nearby Aboriginal community. Drawn into the miners' union and safety committee, Peter's confrontations with company officials give him the strength to come to terms with the tragic consequences of his self-centred behaviour, which led to his wife's death.

Rock Reject is a story about accepting responsibility for one's actions, corporate irresponsibility and the blind pursuit of profit at the expense of physical and environmental health.

Jim Williams worked in the asbestos mine and mill depicted in *Rock Reject*. He lives in Halifax, where he divides his time between his massage therapy practice and writing.

Markets, etc.

■ **The Capilano Review** (www.thecapilanoreview.ca) Issue 3.19 (Winter 2013) will be a special issue on narrative, October 1 deadline. Has a long history of publishing new and established Canadian writers and artists who are experimenting with or expanding the boundaries of conventional forms and contexts.

■ **Conjunctions** (www.conjunctions.com) published by Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Publishes innovative fiction, poetry, criticism, drama, art and interviews by both emerging and established writers. There is also a weekly web magazine.

■ **Northwind:** (www.northwindmagazine.com) a quarterly online/Kindle magazine looking for provocative and compelling fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Publishes 10 stories and 20 poems per issue. Only pays for the issue's featured story (\$150). Other contributors will be provided with a dedicated page on the site for biographical information (including photo), any relevant web site links, and an optional feedback form for readers.

■ **Ryga: a journal of provocations** (www.rygajournal.ca) published twice a year by Okanagan College in Kelowna, BC. Showcases the work of writers who explore social issues. Seeks socially-engaged poetry, fiction, and drama. Payment: \$100. Accepts email submissions.

■ **The Adirondack Review:** (<http://adirondackreview.homestead.com/>) is an online quarterly magazine of art and literature. Publishes poetry (submit 2-5 single-spaced poems with a brief bio), fiction (likes modern tales with a quality of

timelessness: stories with realistic, powerful dialogue and dynamic characters), translation, essays, interviews, (interested in nonfiction essays and interviews relating to the intersections of art and literature with politics, economics, education, music, and science), and reviews, plus art and photography. Publishes established and emerging writers, and very open to unpublished poets and writers. Online submissions.

■ **Alternatives:** (www.alternativesjournal.ca) 6 issues a year. Aims to publish the best environmental writing in the country. Looking for feature articles, shorter reports, notes, interviews, resource guides, visual images related to article themes, cultural commentary and humour, reviews of relevant books. Each issue contains both theme and non-theme material. Upcoming themes are in their Call for Submissions so sign up for their newsletter or monitor the 'What's New' section of the website. Themes: Jan/Feb 2013 Life Cycles – stories about successful bioremediation projects; projects or people that are developing new methods or technologies for repurposing waste, improving water quality, harvesting renewable energy, and so on. Story ideas that present a unique perspective on the curious life cycle of an animal, plant or raw material would also be appropriate to pitch. Mar/Apr 2013 Greenbelts – stories about greenbelt conservation and sustainable land use models that have worked or are working in other countries. Profiles of pioneers in greenbelt policy or activism. Stories about exotic or endangered animals and their relationship with a wildlife corridor. May/June 2013 – Art & Media. Queries should explain, in 300 words, the content and scope of the article, your

intended approach, tone and style. Detailed writers guidelines www.alternativesjournal.ca/contributors-guidelines

■ **Breathe Magazine:** (www.breathemag.ca) A quarterly with a detailed look into the lifestyle of those who participate in adventure and endurance sports. Full of personal stories of competitive and non competitive adventures and expeditions, objective interpretations of industry trends, new product spotlights and lifestyle specific food recipes, it will appeal to enthusiasts ranging in age from young adult to mid life.

Contests

■ **2012 Constance Rooke Creative Nonfiction Prize:** The Malahat Review, The University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700 Stn CSC Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2 (<http://web.uvic.ca/malahat>) Deadline August 1 postmark. Entry fee \$35 (includes subscription). Prize \$1,000. Length between 2,000 and 3,000 words. Details on website.

■ **Riddle Fence:** PO Box 7092, St. John's, NL A1E 3Y3 (www.riddlefence.com) Win big prestige, publication and four days at Piper's Frith: Writing at Kilmory, an intense writing experience held every October in Newfoundland. Deadline: August 3 postmark. Stories must be in some form of English (any dialect); maximum of 4,000 words. Entry fee \$35 (includes a one-year subscription). Details on website, open to email submissions.

The Foundation

Endless thanks to those of you who provide the foundation on which the Fed is built – not only with your writing, but with your generous donations to “the cause.” Every penny counts toward our book prizes, our writing competition, our mentorship program, Writers in the Schools, and all of the day-to-day duties we undertake for the good of the writing community. To those who gave back to their fellow writers in the past fiscal year, we, your happy humble servants, thank you.

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