

east word

Announcing the shortlists for the WFNS Literary Awards

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia announced the shortlist for the 2013 WFNS Literary Awards at the Company House on Gottingen Street, Halifax. During the inaugural Fighting Words! The Fed's Literary Trivia Challenge, WFNS president Sylvia Gunnery revealed the names of authors in the running for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, and the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Non-Fiction Award.

The WFNS Literary Awards celebrate and promote excellence in writing from Canada's Atlantic region. Award jurors deliberated 68 submitted titles to select the nine finalists – two from Newfoundland, one from PEI, and six from Nova Scotia – for the three awards.

"Each year, the success of our Awards program is a testament to the diversity and quality of writing from our region," said Gunnery. "This year's finalists introduce local, national, and international readers to remarkable works written by Atlantic Canadians and published in 2012."

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the WFNS Literary Awards Ceremony in Halifax on Saturday, September 21, following a day of public events and readings celebrating the awards. Shortlisted writers will also appear at Halifax's Word on the Street Book and Magazine Festival on Sunday, September 22..

See page 2 for the nominees.



Part of the festivities at The Company House announcing the shortlists for the WFNS Literary Awards. Left to right: Kathleen Matin, Sarah Emsley, and Sue Goyette.



Heidi Hallett.

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And the nominees are ...

Evelyn Richardson Non-Fiction Award

Shadowboxing:
The Rise and Fall of George Dixon
by Steven Laffoley
Pottersfield Press

"... Before all the great black boxing champions of every age and every weight class, there was George Dixon. He was the first. He was the greatest. And this is his story."

Steven Laffoley is the author of *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder*; *Death Ship of Halifax Harbour*; *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*; and the forthcoming *Pulling No Punches: The Sam Longford Story*. He lives in Halifax.

The Discovery of Weather:
Stephen Saxby, the tumultuous birth of weather forecasting, and Saxby's Gale of 1869
by Jerry Lockett
Formac

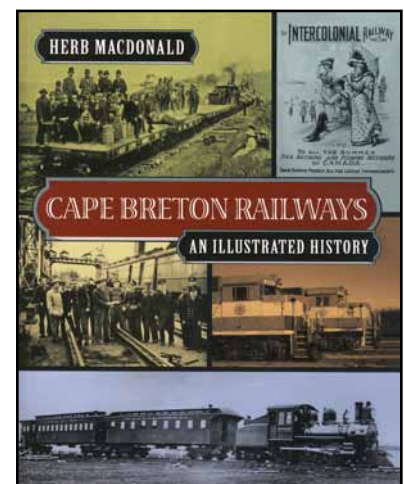
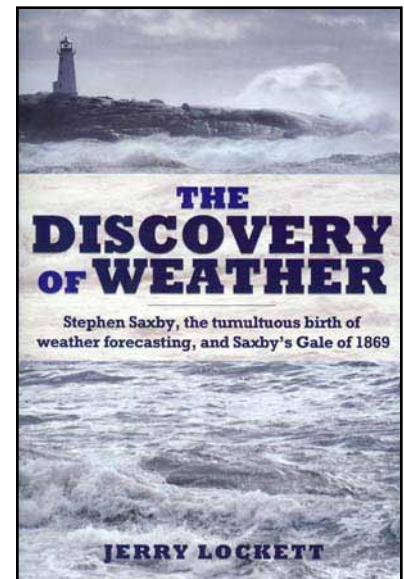
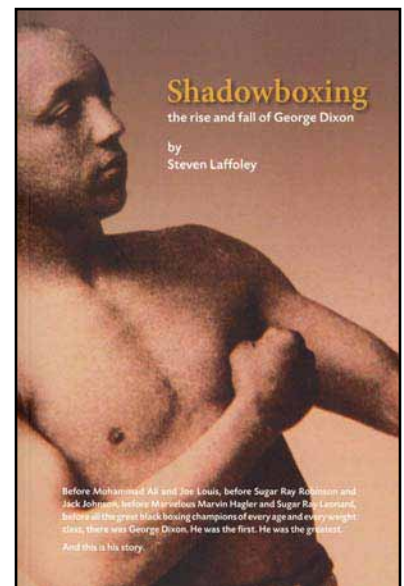
"... In the mid-nineteenth century, ... Stephen Saxby found a surefire way of predicting storms ... a popular but somewhat eccentric theory that weather disturbances are linked to stages in the moon's orbit of the earth."

Jerry Lockett has been writing about conservation, the environment, natural sciences, sailing, and the oceans for more than 25 years. His first book was *Captain James Cook in Atlantic Canada: The adventurer and map maker's formative years*.

Cape Breton Railways An Illustrated History
by Herb MacDonald
Cape Breton University Press

"... For over a century-and-a-half ... railways played a central role in supporting change as some areas of Cape Breton evolved from a rural and agricultural society into an urban and industrial one."

Herb MacDonald has been researching and publishing Canadian railway history since 1999. A frequent contributor to *Canadian Rail*, the journal of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association, his work has also been published in England. Recently retired from the Nova Scotia public service, Herb is now a Research Associate at the Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies at Saint Mary's University, Halifax.



Atlantic Poetry Prize

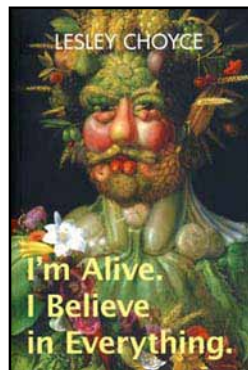
I'm Alive. I Believe In Everything

by Lesley Choyce

Breton Books

"... It perhaps comes as no surprise that a book with this title covers a wide range of subjects: war, peace, surfing, organic gardening, aging, seaweed, Halifax, Saskatoon, Glasgow, outhouses, cement mixers, crows, watermelons, mushrooms, geese, truth, lies, and madness – to name a few."

Lesley Choyce teaches part-time at Dalhousie University, runs Pottersfield Press and has published over 70 books for adults and kids. His recent novel, *Cold Clear Morning*, is currently being developed as a feature length movie.



Church of the Exquisite Panic:

The Ophelia Poems

by Carole Glasser Langille

Pedlar Press

"... Who else could imagine Ophelia as she was meant to be – determined, strong-voiced, mad ... These are thrilling poems: precise, biting, insightful, on a razor's edge."

Originally from New York City, where she studied with the poets John Ashbery and Carolyn Forché among others, Carole Langille now lives in Black Point, Nova Scotia. The author of a short story collection, a children's book and three books of poetry, Carole has been nominated for the Governor General's Award and the Atlantic Poetry Prize. She currently teaches Creative Writing: Poetry at Dalhousie University.



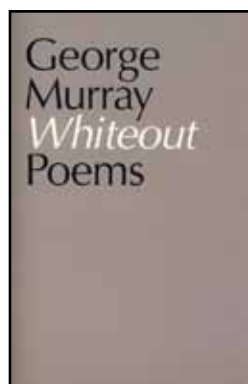
Whiteout

by George Murray

ECW

"... Named after the surface condition in which no object casts a shadow, the horizon cannot be seen, and only dark objects are discernible, these poems explore how accidental voyeurism can force reconsideration and reconciliation."

George Murray's six books of poetry include *Glimpse: Selected Aphorisms*, *The Rush to Here*, and *The Hunter*. He regularly reviews poetry and fiction for *The Globe and Mail*. From 2003 to 2011, he was the editor and operator of the popular literary website Bookninja.com. He lives in St. John's, Newfoundland.



Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize

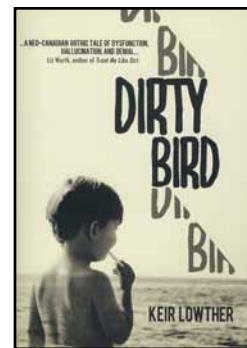
Dirty Bird

by Keir Lowther

Tightrope Books

"... the story of one young boy, haunted by loved ones dead and alive, and trapped in the grotesque world that surrounds him."

Keir Lowther lives in Prince Edward Island with his wife, two children and their dog. He is a past participant of the WFNS mentorship program and his great-grandfather was Lucy Maud Montgomery's first cousin. *Dirty Bird* recently won the Margaret and John Savage Award for best first book at the Atlantic Book Awards.



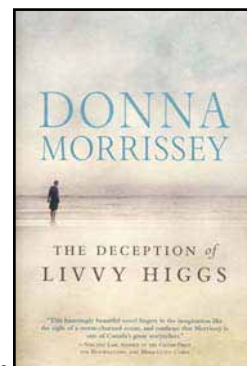
The Deception of Livvy Higgs

by Donna Morrissey

Penguin Group, Viking Canada

"... For two traumatic days, Livvy Higgs is besieged by a series of small heart attacks while the ghost of her younger self leads her back through a past devastated by lies and secrets."

Donna Morrissey's first book, the best selling, award-winning *Kit's Law*, was translated into Japanese, German and Dutch. Her second novel, *Downhill Chance*, won the Raddall Award for Fiction, and *Sylvanus Now* won the Raddall and the Booksellers' Choice Award. *What They Wanted*, a sequel to *Sylvanus Now*, was released in 2008.



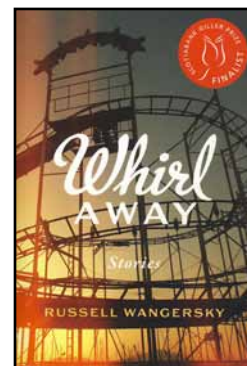
Whirl Away: Stories

by Russell Wangersky

Thomas Allen & Son

"... These stories look at what happens when ... characters safe in the world of self-deception or even self-delusion, [are] forced to face the fact that their main line of defense has become their greatest weakness."

This latest collection of short stories by Russell Wangersky's was shortlisted for the 2012 ScotiaBank Giller Prize. His most recent novel is *The Glass Harmonica*. His previous book, *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself* won Canada's largest non-fiction prize, the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, the Rogers Communications Newfoundland and Labrador Non-Fiction Book Award, and the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction. Wangersky lives and works in St. John's, Newfoundland, where he is an editor and columnist with the *St. John's Telegram*. ■



Minutes of the WFNS Annual General Meeting, June 8, 2013

Location:

Office of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia

Members Present:

Don Aker, Peggy Amirault, Russell Barton, Bob Bent, Binnie Brennan, Ian Colford, Gwen Davies, Sarah Emsley, Renee Field, Jaime Forsythe, Corinne Gilroy, Shirley Godfrey, Sylvia Gunnery, Jessica Kerrin, Susan Kerslake, Stephen Law, Bosko Loncarevic, Stephens Gerard Malone, Kathleen Martin, Kelsey McLaren, Shandi Mitchell, Melanie Mosher, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Andrew Wainwright, Ken Ward, Kate Watson, Budge Wilson.

Staff Present:

Sue Goyette, Heidi Hallett, Hillary Titley, Jonathan Meakin.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

Susan Kerslake moved to approve the agenda; Ian Colford seconded.

Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on June 2, 2012:

Susan Kerslake moved to approve the minutes; Stephens Gerard Malone seconded.

Business Arising From the Minutes: None.

President's Report:

Delivered by Ryan Turner (see page 5)

Treasurer's Report and presentation of the 2012/2013 financial statement:

Presented by Kathleen Martin for Kathryn Herbert. Susan Kerslake moved to approve the report; Gwen Davies seconded.

Notes from Kathleen: Kathryn Herbert has been doing amazing things with our accounts and bookkeeping, revising account structures and clarifying the structure of our investments. Our unrestricted net assets currently total \$37,492.

Financial challenges to address include: growing

programs; government funding that has remained static over the past few years; and the need for new sources of revenue to support government funding, such as sponsorships or private donors.

To address these challenges, we need policies and procedures to be in place, a cleaner budget, and the help of our membership.

Appointment of Auditor for 2013/14:

Susan Kerslake moved that Darrell Cochrane, CA, be appointed auditor for 2013/14. Lezlie Lowe seconded.

Standards Committee Report:

Ryan Turner announced that the 2012/13 Standards Committee has reviewed and recommended the following individuals for inclusion in the WFNS Writers' Council:

Nicole Dixon, Renee Field, Joan McArthur, Jon Pierce Genevieve Sawchyn

Nominating Committee Report and presentation of proposed slate of directors for 2013/14:

Ryan Turner proposed the slate of the WFNS Board for 2013/14:

Ryan Turner, Past President; Sylvia Gunnery, President; Sarah Emsley, Vice President; Kathryn Herbert, Treasurer; Jaime Forsythe, Secretary; Don Aker; Brian Braganza; Binnie Brennan; Kelsey McLaren; Andrew Wainwright

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

Valerie Compton, Dian Day, James Leck, Marlo Mackay, Kathleen Martin Sherry Ramsay, Jon Tattrie and Julie Vandervoort were thanked for their years of service and dedication to the WFNS Board.

Executive Director's Report

Delivered by Jonathan Meakin (see page 6).

Adjournment

Susan Kerslake made a motion to adjourn at 12:08 pm. ■

2013 AGM Reports

President's Report

Ryan Turner

As you likely know, the year had a demanding start. In the absence of an Executive Director, we held membership-wide brainstorming sessions with an encouraging turnout from our community. The membership, Board, and staff asked some necessary questions and discussed foundational ideas which we look forward to responding to and building on in the coming years.

After moving from Edmonton to Hubbards just before the holidays, Jonathan Meakin joined us in March. Jonathan brings to the position of Executive Director over 10 years of experience in Alberta's arts and heritage sectors. He worked as the acting director with Alberta's Ministry of Culture. He managed the Alberta Foundation for the Arts' operating and project grant programs for artists and arts organizations. He was the Executive Director for the Young Alberta Book Society, and as those who have seen his résumé know, I could go on and on.

We needed Jonathan. He brings not only his credentials but a great deal of compassion, a sense of humour and a clear passion for writers and the craft of writing. I know I speak on behalf of our entire Board when I say we are exceedingly thankful to have him, as we have been thankful for the hard work and dedication of Heidi, Hillary and Sue, our remarkable staff, over this past year.

The Writers' Federation has given me much in the decade I've been a member. I am forever grateful for the support I received from Jane and company in the beginning, and I sincerely believe that Nate did do his best in the brief time he was here. That said, the task ahead is a large one. I wish to lay out for you today some of the changes the Board of Directors, in collaboration with Jonathan and his team, are busy developing for implementation in the near future.

First is a comprehensive Policies & Procedures Manual, which will act as the backbone of the organization. This is a massive but vital undertaking that will ensure due process is followed and will give a constantly changing board a stable foundation upon which to work.

The next is a reinvigorated and clearly defined committee structure that will channel the expertise and enthusiasm of Directors, general members, and staff to advance critical governance and operating objectives for WFNS.

Along with a whole host of programming and fund development challenges we will be facing, WFNS is in the midst of building on the fall planning sessions in order to develop a comprehensive three-year strategic plan.

All of these things beg immediate attention, but they cannot be done all at once. It will take vision and planning as well as the support of staff and a dedicated Board. What I can promise you is that there is incredible potential. Thanks to Jonathan and our staff, we have made huge steps forward in just a few short months, steps toward building a well-managed and financially-sustainable organization that has at its core a group of people who care very much about books and writers and the written word.

To paraphrase a message that then-Vice President Jon Tattrie and I wrote to the membership earlier this year, the Federation both exists for and is run by the writers of Nova Scotia. We all want to see it vibrant and healthy. Without it, we would no doubt all continue to write in isolation, but with it, we have a community and a group of people working away on our behalf. ■

2013 AGM Reports

Executive Director's Report

Jonathan Meakin

In three years, the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia will turn 40, a significant milestone that will require suitable celebration. After decades of youthful energy and strength of purpose, perhaps middle age for WFNS is the slow realization its stride has shortened a little, that its connection with the culture in which it came to consciousness is now an awareness of a widening generational gap.

So what's a mature organization to do? It takes stock and works harder, holds close the earned knowledge that shaped its past and embraces the questions that define its present. To that end, WFNS is currently reviewing and planning, much of it in respect to its mechanisms of internal business before turning to its public face of profile and programming.

As you all know, the institutional memory of an organization cannot reside in the minds of its directors, members or staff, but rather in an organizational infrastructure that constantly records and reassesses what is done and how. WFNS has begun to address a wide range of needs in this regard: updated human resource policies; a records management system that determines what, how, and why we archive, of both hardcopy and electronic files; a comprehensive policies and procedures manual; a new committee structure that will draw on the expertise and experience of Board directors, members, and staff to advance the multi-faceted work of the organization; and so on. Hardly work that



will attract attention or excitement, but essential nonetheless.

A review of WFNS programs with the goal of increasing efficiency in budgets and processes is also underway, and yet the commitment to providing programs that serve WFNS members and an external public remains. Programs such as Writers in the Schools, Mentorship, Literary Awards, Workshops, and the Atlantic Writing Competition continue to meet or surpass their program objectives thanks, in particular, to the WFNS office team of Sue Goyette, Heidi Hallett, and Hillary Titley, and also because of a dedicated Board and you, WFNS members.

It is clear that WFNS boasts a dynamic ecology of programming, a system that Sue Goyette has described as supporting the full spectrum of development: from young experimenters, through emerging writers, to professional authors. (And to that list we should also add

'disadvantaged writers', those who strive to overcome socioeconomic and cultural barriers just as much as striving to develop their craft.)

So with improved processes and successful programs, what more should WFNS do?

Well, as a provincial arts service organization, our mandate is to serve the entire province as well as the full course of a writing career. Fulfillment of that provincial mandate requires resources and plans that must be carefully and organically developed in order to be sustainable, as well as the cultivation of new (or renewed) methods for engaging members throughout the province. Perhaps the main challenge for WFNS is to evolve from an organization born of a somewhat centralist twentieth-century arts management mindset to one nimble and responsive to the rapid shifts in cultural and communications praxis of the twenty-first century.

A strategic plan, and an annual assessment of that plan, will help guide WFNS in this still new century by providing a clear focus and the appropriate tools with which to shift focus when required. Such a plan will identify key strategies for advancing the WFNS mission; establish measurable goals and objectives to assess progress in realizing those strategies; review significant changes in the operating environment; and identify new risks and opportunities in relevant contexts.

As for resources, WFNS continues to build relationships with municipal, provincial, and federal public arts funders – and despite all the vagaries of economic policy, the creative economy continues to gain currency in political discourse. Greater fiscal security, however, can only be attained by diversification of our revenue, whether through philanthropic benefactors, planned giving, private foundations, fundraising events, and corporate partnerships.

Growth is also possible through partnerships with stakeholders that aid program delivery – this year's Mentorship program, for instance, has been further enriched through a mutual partnership with the Quebec Writers' Federation with the support of the Writers' Trust of Canada, a successful initiative that we hope to develop (and model) further.

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia benefits from a tremendous Board, staff, and membership, who, collectively, are the lifeblood of this organization. And while it has been an honour to work with the entire Board, I must single out Kathleen Martin and Ryan Turner for their tireless patience in answering my many, many questions during my first three months as executive director. WFNS has been through a significant transition, and we must all acknowledge the tremendous contributions of the Board and of staff to keep programs running, the doors open, and the lights on.

Finally, WFNS will be losing a very important member of its team: after three years providing programming, membership, and administrative services, Hillary Titley is moving on to new opportunities. Her last day at WFNS was June 28, and we wish her the very best in her future endeavours. ■

2013-14 Board of Directors

Ryan Turner, Past President

Ryan Turner is a Halifax-based writer whose short fiction has appeared in various Canadian journals including *Prairie Fire*, *filling station* and *The New Quarterly*. His first book, *What We're Made Of* was published by Oberon.



Sylvia Gunnery, President

Sylvia Gunnery writes teen and children's fiction, as well as professional resources for teachers. Since 1977, she has been a member of the Writers' Federation and is pleased to serve as president for the second time (the first was 1990-91). Her recent novels are *Emily For Real* (Pajama Press) and *Game Face* (Lorimer). She lives at Crescent Beach on the South Shore.



Sarah Emsley, Vice President

Sarah Emsley is the author of *Jane Austen's Philosophy of the Virtues* and editor of Edith Wharton's 1913 novel *The Custom of the Country* (Broadview Press, 2008). She has taught literature and writing at Dalhousie University and Harvard University, and is currently working on a novel.



Kathryn Herbert, Treasurer

Kathryn works with organizations and entrepreneurs, helping them align their financial management with their vision and goals, creating integrated systems. Leading organizations through periods of transition and making sense of tangled backlogs are among her specialties. She has a Business Administration degree with a concentration in Accounting from Mount Saint Vincent University and specialized training in marketing, fund raising and group facilitation. Kathryn lives in Lower Sackville.



Jaime Forsythe, Secretary

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 in 2012 by Mansfield Press.



Don Aker

Don Aker has been a high school teacher, literacy mentor, and university instructor as well as a writer. The author of 19 books, among them several award-winning novels for young adults, Don lives with his wife on the Bay of Fundy shoreline.



Brian Braganza:

Brian Braganza is a Program Associate with HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development and co-founder of the Bridgewater Community Christmas Society. He has been leading wilderness trips for 15 years. Brian lives on a farm in rural Nova Scotia with his wife and daughter and is currently writing a poetry manuscript that is an exploration and a building of home.

**Binnie Brennan**

Binne Brennan's short story collection, *A Certain Grace* and her novella, *Harbour View*, were published by Quattro Books. Her short stories have appeared in a number of Canadian and American literary journals. She is a violist with Symphony Nova Scotia.

**Kelsey McLaren**

Kelsey McLaren is an Associate with Pink Larkin who practices Labour and Employment and Entertainment Law. She regularly gives talks on legal issues for artists. Kelsey previously worked as an editor for a local book publisher. Her short stories have appeared in various publications.

**Andrew J. Wainwright**

Andy Wainwright was born in Toronto and has lived in Nova Scotia since 1972. He taught Canadian literature and Creative Writing at Dalhousie University for 30 years where he is now McCulloch Emeritus Professor in English. He is the author of five books of poetry, three novels, two biographies, a play, and an opera libretto. ■



Hillary says goodbye

Hillary Titley

Friday, June 28, marked the end of my tenure here at WFNS. I am incredibly grateful for the three years I spent working with all of you and I leave enriched by your contributions to the Fed and our writing community at large.

I would like to thank Nate Crawford and Susan Mersereau for welcoming me to the Fed back in March, 2010. It was a considerable boost of confidence for me that I will not forget.

During my stay, Heidi Hallett, Sue Goyette and, recently, Jonathan Meakin have been generous and patient in sharing their considerable knowledge and experiences with me. I'd like to speak directly to them and say, it is because of you that I will move on to whatever is next as a better employee, a better writer and a better person. I am having trouble expressing in words what that means to me, so take that mention of being a better writer with a grain of salt.

I am eager to see what the Fed does next and will be proud to continue on as a member of this fine organization. As for myself, I don't know what my destination is next, but I am looking forward to the journey. ■

The Eastword Interview ... Sylvia Gunnery

Q. You were formerly a teacher and have always been a writer. How has teaching informed your writing and vice-versa?

Teaching young people has always been a great match for my writing. I've stolen story ideas, characters, clothing styles, snippets of conversation, and much more from students in my own classes and those I meet through WITS visits and writing workshops. My character, Leo, in *Emily For Real* is so close to Theo who was in my grades 10 and 11 classes, that I phoned him to ask if he minded my using "him" as one of my characters. He had one question: "Do you kill him in the end?" He gave the okay when I told him Leo was alive and well at the end of the novel.

And there's another way that my writing and teaching fit well. I hadn't expected this at all. As I got into writing for teens, I truly had to get inside their worlds – not just think like a teen, but be a teen. The empathy I had for my students became deeper. In the classroom, at staff meetings, or on committees with the Department of Education, I was a strong advocate for young people. It was so easy. Natural. I was representing them from the inside, not from the sidelines. That made my teaching career even more satisfying.

Q. You were President of the WFNS Board of Directors in the 1990s and now are back to serve in the same role. Can you tell us how the place has changed from then to now?

Yes, there are changes since the early nineties, but some very important things have stayed the same. There's the same positive energy and sense of moving forward to continue to be a strong support for Nova Scotia writers at all stages of their careers, for sure. And there's the same relaxed and focused community – our members, staff, and the Board.

Of course, there are changes, too. We now have more flexible space with our own offices and the open area we share with other arts organizations. That's a big plus. And I love the walls stacked high with our books!

Our programs are even stronger – workshops, mentorships, writing competitions, WITS (Writers in the Schools), literary awards, etc. That makes sense because we've had all those years to learn ways to improve. Technology has given us our website, the regular e-loops and *Eastword* online. These are all informative, entertaining, and necessary communication links.



Our membership numbers have grown, too. Who wouldn't want to join the Fed with all that we offer?

Q. You are a long-time participant in the Writers in the Schools program – have your visits to classrooms changed over time? What, if any, changes have you witnessed during your participation in the program?

Our WITS program is one of the most successful in Canada. Across Nova Scotia, writers are working with public school students of all ages, offering them experiences that make their own reading and writing more meaningful. These WITS visits open the door for students to think of becoming professional writers, themselves. Such a big deal!

At the same time, teachers and librarians are making meaningful connections with writers, sharing friendships and growing professionally. Sometimes we don't really think about those benefits of our work in schools.

The organization of WITS visits is a huge job, more than ever. Yet it all works smoothly: schools apply, authors are contacted, the visits happen, and the paper work is completed. The email applications make it easier for teachers to get involved.

We are more substantially funded, most encouragingly by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, which recognizes clear connections between the provincial curriculum outcomes and our author visits to schools.

And, writers' fees for WITS visits have increased over the years to a more professional level.

Q. As President of the Board, what challenges do you see WFNS facing during your term?

We had our first Board meeting on June 24th. What a team! Jonathan Meakin, our new Executive Director, is experienced and talented. His suggestions for clearly documenting the functions of staff, committees, and the Board will help to make sure we continue on as a successful, focused organization. Each Board member has come to the table ready to work, and there's lots of variety of talent among them. "Challenge" just might bear too much of a negative connotation for what's ahead for us as a team.

We do want to make sure the interests of all our members are given ample attention. That means trying to make connections with every corner and cove in the province – maybe we'll find ways to hold meetings of the Board or of committees in various locations outside the Halifax area. (Of course, meetings can be a euphemism for kitchen party.)

I would also like to see more attention given to our members who are established writers. Perhaps, in collaboration with other Atlantic writers' organizations and The Writers' Union of Canada, we can put more focus on their issues/concerns.

Last fall, our WFNS literary awards were presented at a wonderful gala event, bringing writers and readers together to celebrate our very best. The event was a vigorous, collective cheer. It is of highest importance to keep up the momentum of those literary awards. Mark your calendars right now for Saturday, September 21, to make sure you're in on the fun and the fanfare.

Q. What role can members play in this new era of the Fed? What advice would you give to a member who wishes to get involved somehow?

Our members are the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. No members, no Fed. Please stay connected in whatever way works for you. Ask questions. Complain. Compliment. Offer to do whatever you're happy doing to help out. My advice to members? Jump in and splash around with us – it's fun and it's definitely worthy of your volunteer time. ■

Markets, etc.

■ **Room** (www.roommagazine.com) "Room is a space where women can speak, connect, and showcase their creativity." Calling for submissions Issue 37:2 open issue, deadline: October 31. Issue 37:3 Geek Girls, deadline: January 31, 2014.

■ **CV2 The Young Buck Poetry Prize: Contemporary Verse 2:** has a new poetry contest exclusively for writers under the age of 35. Grand prize \$1000 and publication in CV2. Deadline Oct. 1. Details on website – www.contemporaryverse2.ca.

■ **The Malahat Review contest:** (www.malahatreview.ca) Open Season Awards: 3 categories poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, deadline Nov 1. Details on website.

■ **Prairie Fire:** annual writing contests: (www.prairiefire.ca) Poetry (up to 3 poems, max 150 lines), Short fiction (1 story, 10,000 words max), Creative non-fiction (1 essay 5,000 words max). Deadline Nov. 30 postmark. Details on website.

■ **The Malahat Review:** (www.malahatreview.ca) **At Home in Translation theme issue.** *The Malahat Review* invites the world's writers to Canada through works in translation from a Canadian perspective. Deadline March 15, 2014. Looking for: English translations of contemporary (written and/or published since 1970) poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction from any language or country. Also invite submissions of translated works by Québécois and Québécoise writers and of writing from Acadie and elsewhere in French-speaking Canada. Equally interested in translations of work by Canadian writers in languages other than English and French, including the works of First Nations writers. Translators: must be Canadians, Canadian residents, or Canadian expatriates, may be trained professionals, knowledgeable authors, or proficient enthusiasts. Also invites thoughtful essays about the process of translation and the importance of translation today, as well as reviews of works in translation published by Canadian translators and/or Canadian publishers. Details on website.

Impressed – new books



Illicit Sonnets

George Elliott Clarke

Eyewear Publishing, July 2013 ISBN: 978-1908998064 www.eyewearpublishing.com

Illicit Sonnets – a bawdy modern reboot of *Sonnets from the Portuguese* – tells of the love between Salim and Laila, an “elderessa”. Their highly sexed romance, bridging cultures, generations and seas, is unfolded in poetry as sparkling and as shameless as champagne.

Toronto’s Poet Laureate, George Elliott Clarke is one of the most popular Canadian poets. He teaches African-Canadian literature, a field that he pioneered, at the University of Toronto.

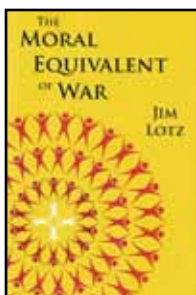
The Moral Equivalent of War:

The New Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Community Development

Jim Lotz

Working Centre Publications \$24 ISBN: 978-0-96780189-1-0

www.theworkingcentre.org/publications



Jim Lotz has spent over 50 years studying the characteristics that contribute to underdevelopment. In this fresh take on community development, he references a 1910 essay by William James “The Moral Equivalent of War” to focus on how clear-sighted moral action can improve communities. This book expands on Lotz’s community development themes while focusing on new roles in the field, social and community entrepreneurs, individuals who link personal, organizational, and community development through democratic methods. By exploring five communities doing development differently, Lotz invites us to understand the cultural and organizational issues that are involved. The main goal of this book is to tell the best stories of human co-operation.

A freelance writer, consultant and independent researcher. Jim has worked 25 different jobs, ranging from university professor to grouse beater. He has written about 30 books.



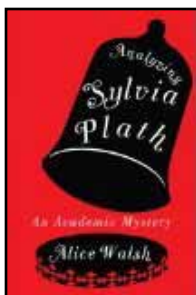
Membrane

Carol Moreira

Fierce Ink Press July 2013 www.fierceinkpress.com, hardcover, paperback and e-book

You can’t outrun the membrane ... For Tanya turning 16 sucks. When she gets slimed at a bus stop she finds herself in an alternate universe and faced with another version of herself. Her alternate universe double is cool and confident, P – short for Princess because in Tanya’s eyes she is one – is part of Resist, which is preparing for an invasion by the Others. Are the Others really mobilizing to take over P’s universe or has there been galactic miscommunication? On the other side of the membrane, who can Tanya trust to make it back to her universe alive?

Carol Moreira has had an international career in journalism. She is currently a partner in the Atlantic Canadian business news site www.entrevestor.com and editor of *Celtic Life International*. Her first YA novel, *Charged*, was published by James Lorimer in 2008.



Analyzing Sylvia Plath

Alice Walsh

Thomas & Mercer ISBN: 978-1612186597

At Evangeline University’s literary conference in Nova Scotia, someone attempts to kill Dr. Elizabeth Wilcox, the best-selling author of a controversial new book on Sylvia Plath, English professor Isobel Harding must dig into the lives of her friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to determine who could be at the centre of this deadly maze of intrigue, which grows more disturbing with every twist.

Alice Walsh lives in Lower Sackville, where she writes fiction and nonfiction for adults and children. Her published work includes nine books and numerous articles and short stories.

Who's doing what

■ **Kelsey McLaren** is the Managing Editor of *A Legal Guide for Writers*, released by the Artists' Legal Information Society in June for WFNS and all writers in Nova Scotia. The free guide explains legal issues that writers commonly encounter in the process of publishing their works. Copies are available at the WFNS office and online at <http://pinklarkin.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/A-Legal-Guide-for-Writers.pdf>

■ **Bretton Loney** was one of 12 finalists in The Writers' Union of Canada's 20th Annual Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers for his story "Tommy's Mother". The competition received 505 entries.

■ **Charlotte Musial**'s creative non-fiction essay, "An Accidental Pas de Deux," made the long list in CBC's current Canada Writes competition.

■ **Hugh R. MacDonald**'s YA novel *Trapper Boy* (Cape Breton University Press) is in the Spring 2013 edition of *The Best Books for Kids and Teens* magazine, from the Canadian Children's Book Centre.

■ Also in the Spring issue of *The Best Books for Kids and Teens* is **Kat Kruger**'s debut novel *The Night Has Teeth* (Fierce Ink Press). The winner of the 34th Atlantic Writing Competition's YA novel category, it's Book 1 of the Magdeburg Trilogy featuring Connor Lewis, a teen in the middle of a battle between born and bitten werewolves in Paris. Book 2, *The Night Has Claws*, is due out in September. Cbj Verlag/Random House Germany has the German translation rights to the trilogy.

■ **Sara Jewell Mattinson**'s column for *The Oxford Journal* – "Field Notes" – was a finalist at the Atlantic Community Newspaper Awards in the Best Specialty Column category. Sara is periodically on CTV *Morning Live* talking to Cyril Lunney as the community correspondent for Oxford. In October, she'll be a presenter at the Alzheimer Society's provincial conference, providing a family's perspective on dementia and caregiving.

■ In 2013-14 **George Elliott Clarke** will be at Harvard University. He'll join the Canada Program as the William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies. He'll teach one graduate Department of English course, Black 'Epics' of the Americas, and one undergraduate course, Black Like Who?, while organizing a seminar series and a faculty conference.

■ **Heddy Johannesen**'s essay, "The Fires of Beltaine," is in the Spring Equinox edition of *EternalHauntedSummer.com*.

■ There's a new updated edition from Nimbus of **Stephen Kimber**'s *Flight 111 A Year in the Life of a Tragedy*. Fernwood Publishing will soon publish *What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five*.

■ Fall books are on the horizon. Cape Breton University Press will publish **Philip Roy**'s YA novel *Me & Mr. Bell* in October. Philip's *Blood Brothers in Louisbourg* (CBU Press) will soon be available in French from Éditions Perce-Neige. Acorn Press will release *Step Outside*, **Doretta Groenendyk**'s latest illustrated kids' book. (Doretta's art can be viewed at doretta-art.com and www.detailspastandpresent.com/content/page/catalog/artist/1041/). Look for

Gloria Ann Wesley's second novel in September, when Roseway releases *If This is Freedom*, continuing the story of Sarah Redmond in the Black Loyalist settlement of Birchtown.

Charlotte R. Mendel's manuscript, *Turn Us Again*, won the H.R. Percy Novel Prize in the Writers' Fed's annual Atlantic Writing Competition, then the 2012 Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature, and it will be available in October from Roseway. Fernwood will release *The Last Stand: Schools, Communities and the Future of Rural Nova Scotia* by **Paul W. Bennett**, a sequel to *Vanishing Schools, Threatened Communities: The Contested Schoolhouse in Maritime Canada, 1850-2010*. As part of its Stories of Our Past series Nimbus will publish **Monica Graham**'s *Fire Spook, The Mysterious Nova Scotia Haunting* – a comprehensive look at the fascinating history behind the fire spook of Caledonia Mills. **Sheree Fitch** and Deanne Fitzpatrick combined their talents to produce *Singily Skipping Along*, due out from Nimbus in October. It's a "body movement multi-sensory inventive language poem" by Sheree for kids ages two to five. Deanne's hooked rugs provide the illustrations. Nimbus will publish an illustrated poetry collection for middle-grade readers, a collaboration between poet **George Elliott Clarke** and artist **Susan Tooke** – *Lasso the Wind, Aurélia's Verses and Other Poems*. **Laura Best**'s second YA book from Nimbus will be available in September. *Flying With a Broken Wing* tells the story of Cammie Deveau, a visually impaired girl, abandoned by her mother at birth and being raised by her bootlegging aunt. **Bruce Graham**'s latest novel, *Duddy Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, will be out in September from Pottersfield Press..