

# east word

## The Raddall, Richardson & Poetry prize winners



Steven Laffoley won the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Non-fiction Award for *Shadowboxing: The Rise and Fall of George Dixon* (Pottersfield Press).



The Atlantic Poetry Prize went to Lesley Choyce for his latest collection *I'm Alive. I Believe in Everything. Poems New and Selected* (Breton Books).



Russell Wangersky received the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award for his collection of short stories *Whirl Away* (Dundurn)



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Typeset in Amethyst, an original type design by Jim Rimmer, New Westminster, BC. Printed offset at Gaspereau Press, Kentville, NS.



Le Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

## The WFNS Literary Awards

The 2013 Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia Literary Awards and its \$29,000 in prizes were presented in September. The event was held at the Institute of Applied Creativity at NSCAD, just across the street from the Writers' Fed office. Stephanie Domet, Invisible Publishing author and host of CBC Radio's *Mainstreet*, emceed the proceedings, while Sarah Emsley and Ryan Turner presented the awards.

The Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, valued at \$25,000, was presented to Russell Wangersky of St. John's, Newfoundland, for *Whirl Away*, a collection of short stories published by Thomas Allen Publishers. Three of the 12 stories in the collection are optioned for films and are being adapted as screenplays. *Whirl Away* was also shortlisted for both the BMO Winterset Award and the 2012 ScotiaBank Giller Prize. Wangersky is the editorial page editor of the St. John's *Telegram* and is the author of novels, short story collections, and the award-winning non-fiction book *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself*.

He's currently working on two projects – a new collection of short stories, and a novel. In an interview with Tara Bradbury of *The Telegram*, Wangersky said he plans to use the Raddall prize money in the way it was intended: "The interesting thing about this prize is it was set up by Thomas Head Raddall to provide enough money to give writers enough time to write. His son has continued it and has increased the award substantially for that reason. I'm hoping it will actually do that. How it will pan out, I don't know."

Also shortlisted for the Raddall Award were Donna Morrissey for the *Deception of Livvy Higgs* (Penguin Group) and Keir Lowther for *Dirty Bird* (Tightrope Books).

The Evelyn Richardson Memorial Award for Non-Fiction was presented to Steven Laffoley for *Shadowboxing: The Rise and Fall of George Dixon* (Pottersfield Press). George Dixon (1878-1908) from Nova Scotia was one of the first great black boxing champions. The author of five non-fiction books, Laffoley's latest is *Pulling No Punches: The Sam Langford Story* – a biography of another boxing legend from Nova Scotia, Sam Langford (1883-1956). Also shortlisted for the Richardson Award were Jerry Lockett (*The Discovery of Weather: Stephen Saxby, the tumultuous birth of weather forecasting, and Saxby's Gale of 1869*, Formac) and Hugh MacDonald (*Cape Breton Railways: An Illustrated History*, Cape Breton University Press).

The Atlantic Poetry Prize went to Lesley Choyce for *I'm Alive. I Believe in Everything* (Breton Books). This collection of new and selected work 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. Choyce has published more than 70 books for adults and kids. Also nominated for the award were Carole Glasser Langille for *Church of the Exquisite Panic: The Ophelia Poems* (Pedlar Press) and George Murray for *Whiteout* (ECW Press). ■

# Salty Ink chats with Raddall Award-winner Russell Wangersky

*Chad Pelley, creator of Salty Ink: a spotlight on fresh Canadian fiction and poetry (<http://saltyink.com>), spoke with Russell Wangersky about Whirl Away and other topics. The interview is reprinted with permission.*

**CP:** *In what ways has being a journalist helped you be a better writer?*

**RW:** Being a journalist – particularly in print – has helped tremendously, first because it means I’m always working with words. That helps with finding the right language, with pace and pitch, it’s just a huge value to other writing. The other thing it helps with is concentration: every newsroom I’ve ever worked in has been noisy and chaotic – if you can write in that clamour, slipping into a story in the relative quiet of your own home seems far easier.

**CP:** *The authenticity of your characters is both commendable and notable, like how Dennis in “McNally’s Fair” knew everything that can go wrong with a rollercoaster and how to cheat your way into passing a safety inspection. Is it just a matter of meticulous research, an inherent need to be accurate, or has your day job made you an all-around trivia buff know-it-all?*

**RW:** My day job involves paying attention all the time, and poking into scores of things that I find interesting. I worked with a firefighter for several years who was a pressure vessel inspector – it sets you to thinking about what that involves. In order to do my job, I have to see things, and I have to talk to people about what they do, how they do it, and what they find irritating. Luckily, that’s become a skill I never turn off. It bugs family members sometimes, who wonder why I have to talk on and on with everyone I meet, but it’s hugely valuable.

**CP:** *Pick three stories from the collection and tell us where the idea came from or what you were setting out to capture.*

**RW:** “Echo” – It’s a story that started while I was out running, when I ran past a small boy who said as clear as a bell “You don’t care what I think.” That made me wonder, what is his world like? Where do those adult words come from? Most of my stories start that way: trying to answer the question “what if you took that to the logical extreme?”



Russell Wangersky

“Sharp Corner” – The idea actually came from a small piece of road just outside of St. John’s where there have been a series of accidents on what should be a relatively easy-to-navigate gentle curve. There’s a house right on that corner, and after passing it a few times, I began to wonder what it would be like to live there.

“I Like” – I actually quite like cooking, and wondered what a relationship would be like if someone began to replace their need for physical contact with a kind of sensual relationship with food.

**CP:** *You’re writing both short [fiction] and novels. When an idea or character comes to you, how do you decide whether it’d be best served as a short [story] or a novel?*

**RW:** I almost always think things will end up being longer than they are – if I think an idea might be a 5,000-word short story, even if I think it’s going to be that length right while I’m in the middle of writing it, it tends to come to a relatively quick end as soon as I understand just how it’s going to end. I like to make the characters, let them do their own thing, and bring the piece to a

close when they've decided what's going to happen. I'm not a writer who does long-term planning of narrative arcs with maps or models – I don't enjoy that, because I always feel that you end up forcing your characters to do things they might not, if you let them do the talking. So I guess that, in reality, I let the characters and the issue decide whether it's a story or a novel – and I've only had limited experience with novels.

**CP: I find, personally, delivering a powerful short story is harder than writing a powerful novel. Why do you think that is?**

**RW:** I'm not sure I do. I think it's harder to deliver a powerful collection of short stories, because there are so many different kinds of readers, and it's hard to deliver a collection that people consistently enjoy – everyone has favourites and ones they don't like. The beauty of short stories, to me, is that as a writer you can sit and work and hold the whole thing in your head – you never lose your place or have to go back and see where and when things happen.

**CP: Do you have any favourite short stories, collections or short story writers?**

**RW:** Oh, that changes a lot. Right now, I'm really taken with three short-story collections: Dan Chaon's *Stay Awake*, the horrendously harsh but intriguing *Guilt* – Stories by Ferdinand von Schirach and Zsuzi Gartner's wonderful *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives*.

**CP: Is there one book you wish you [had written] or learned a lot from as a writer?**

**RW:** I think the book I learned most from was Alistair MacLeod's *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood*, which I first read in high school. It was the first book that actually sent the message that the things that were happening in the close world around me could actually have a broader value to others.

**CP: There's certainly a thematic link in all these stories – people with one foot past their tipping point. Was this intentional, to write a suite of stories around a concept, or are you always writing stories and grouped these together for a theme? Do you prefer themed collections as a reader?**

**RW:** I think themed collections and linked stories seem to be popular with publishers, perhaps because they feel that it's one way to try and subvert readers who [they] believe are more attracted to novels. In *Whirl Away*, the theme came after the stories – they just seemed to naturally fit together after the fact. I like both kinds –

except sometimes, you run into collections that stretch too far to make the theme work. And that can actually weaken the package.

**CP: What's the one story from this collection that's stayed with you the most? And [the] reason why?**

**RW:** For me, "Echo," just because the boy in that story seems to be so caught in the way his whole life will unfold. And that's a tragedy.

**CP: You've done very well with awards recognition and have been well-reviewed. But what's been one comment from media so far that you just couldn't wrap your head around?**

**RW:** I know that journalists and reviewers have busy lives and many other duties. By far the strangest comment I had to deal with, in terms of just leaving me stunned, was when I was on private radio in Halifax for my memoir *Burning Down the House*. I was on a call-in show, and the host sat me down, an ad started to run and he said, "I haven't read anything except the back cover. You've got 30 seconds to fill me in on what it's about." I think I wasted 10 of those seconds with my mouth hanging open.

**CP: This is your third book in a row [from] the fantastic Thomas Allen. Have you worked with the same editor each time, and is that a good thing, that familiarity with each other?**

**RW:** I've worked Janice Zawerbny for all three. She is a very gentle editor, although one that just politely won't give up when she sees a problem. We get along very well, and it is a good thing – you get an idea when either of you is uncomfortable with something. You also get to know the mechanics of the publishing house pretty well, and that helps a lot if anything gets in a jam – you know who and when to call.

**CP: You're writing books at quite a pace: one every two years since 2006. You've probably got another one underway, do you?**

**RW:** I've just finished the first draft of a novel, but a first draft that still has a lot of work to be done, because it is quite a peculiar thing. I like writing much more than editing – and I like to be working on something all the time. It means the house doesn't get painted, but I do manage to get potatoes in the ground in the spring. ■



# 36th Annual Atlantic Writing Competition Results



Don Aker prepares to announce the winner of the Joyce Barkhouse Writing for Children prize.

At a breezy prize-giving event at the Halifax Word on the Street Book and Magazine Festival on Sunday, September 22, the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia revealed the winners of the 36th Atlantic Writing Competition (AWC). These prize winners were selected from more than 100 entries and were judged by WFNS members and past AWC-winners who have achieved significant professional success. Judges this year were Marjorie Simmins, Lesley Crewe, Gary Blackwood, Susan McMaster, Keir Lowther, Don Aker, and Daphne Greer.

WFNS recognizes the support of the Province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage for the AWC program. We are pleased to work in partnership with the province to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.

The Atlantic Writing Competition program provides an important avenue for the development and promotion of emerging writers throughout Atlantic Canada. In addition to facilitating feedback through the AWC assessment process, WFNS seeks to partner with sponsors who are able to provide further mentorship support for prize winners. WFNS is grateful to the Canadian Society for Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers (CANSCAIP) for offering a Blue Pencil Mentorship package to the winners of the Joyce Barkhouse Writing

for Children Prize and the Young Adult Novel Prize categories. WFNS hopes to confirm sponsors for other AWC prize categories in the near future.

The Writers Fed is now accepting submissions to the 37th annual Atlantic Writing Competition. The deadline for submissions to AWC 37 is February 1, 2014, with shortlists for each category revealed on June 30, category winners announced on July 31, and the prize-giving ceremony in September. Details are available at [www.writers.ns.ca](http://www.writers.ns.ca).

Congratulations to all who entered the competition this year. The winners are as follows:

## *The Creative Non-Fiction Prize*

Judge: Marjorie Simmins

Winner: "Mine Said Wednesday" by Gillian Osmond (Lunenburg, NS)

## *The H.R. (Bill) Percy Novel Prize*

Judge: Lesley Crewe

Winner: "Enough" by Marina Harris (Indian Harbour, NS)

## *Unproduced Play Prize*

Judge: Gary Blackwood

Winner: "Science Inaction: a love story" by Griffin McInnes (Halifax, NS)

## *The Poetry Prize*

Judge: Susan McMaster

Winner: "I Wait in the Next Room" by Ryan Marshall (Noonan, NB)

## *The Budge Wilson Short Story Prize*

Judge: Keir Lowther

Winner: "Joey Moulton" by Steven Naylor (Halifax, NS)

## *The Joyce Barkhouse Writing for Children Prize*

Judge: Don Aker

Winner: "Secrets: A Strange Tale" by Georgia S. Atkin (Halifax, NS)

## *The Young Adult Novel Prize*

Judge: Daphne Greer

Winner: "The General Store" by Lori McKay (Dartmouth, NS) ■

# Congratulations to Alice Munro on winning the Nobel

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia wishes to congratulate Alice Munro on receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature 2013. Nova Scotia's writing and publishing communities should take note that this international acclaim, as well as the national laurels Munro has earned over the years, is for a writer whose work has a distinct regional focus. Writers may stake, or be drawn to, specific territory in their texts, but literature pays little attention to geography and grows, instead, in the expansive cartography of readers' minds. ~ WFNS

## Andy Wainwright recalls Alice Munro

In 1982 Alice Munro came to Halifax to give a reading at Dalhousie University. As a Canadian literature specialist in the Department of English who taught her work, I was delegated to introduce her. To provide some human context for what would otherwise be a basic recitation of her publications and accomplishments, I asked if we might meet for a drink before the reading. We did so in the old Victory Lounge on Spring Garden Road and talked about writing and the books we liked.

My memory is of a gracious, intelligent woman whose great talent, the ability to combine "deep caves ... with kitchen linoleum" in compelling, unforgettable ways, was profoundly evident over 30 years ago. If someone had told me back then she would be the first Canadian writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature I would not have been at all surprised. After the reading I transformed some of my thoughts and feelings into a poem and put it in the mail. She replied to thank me and say it was the first time anyone had ever written a poem for her.

## *Maiden Voyage for Alice Munro*

*by Andy Wainwright*

There are coordinates to fame  
You are not hard to find  
When I finally meet you in the bar  
It is too late  
Things the darkness hides  
The map-lines of our faces

We drink and laugh  
Navigating our lives like two friends  
Back from a skirmish, not a war  
You announce you could live in this city  
In a water-mark I plot  
The main street of your town

Later I reveal you to strangers  
Those who read you like a book  
In the harsh light    Our voices  
No longer searching for common ground  
Plugged into the crowd  
We lose whatever it was  
We had begun to find  
Your face in contour now  
Fifteen years of moving into the wind

But for awhile in the Victory Lounge  
It seems like once-upon-a-time  
Spices and Cathay, no maps  
Before we knew whole continents  
Were in the way

The maiden voyage, there  
On the quay the girls  
Between the lines  
Who let me hold their hands

# President's Report

Sylvia Gunnery

Summer is now officially behind us and we're digging out socks and cozy sweaters from bottom drawers. We've had lazy hours of reading in hammocks or on beaches, and we've been goofing off in the freedom of extended daylight. We've had intense hours of writing, trying to be faithful to our routines. I hope you've enjoyed it all.

Your Board of Directors has had two meetings (one in July and one in September) with committee work continuing throughout the summer (more about that in a minute). The WFNS Literary Awards, the announcement of the Atlantic Writing Competition winners, and our presence at Word on the Street were at the very top of our to-do list. By now, many of you know first-hand that the energy poured into those events has definitely paid off. A gigantic Thank You to our office staff, Board members, and volunteers who contributed to the work (lots and lots of work) and to the fun (lots and lots of fun)!

This year, we have a new structure for governance of our organization: the Board meets every second month with committees meeting during the months in between. This is a very good rhythm for getting work done and providing support for the Board and for our Executive Director. The committees are: Finance, Fund Development, Membership, Personnel, Policies & Procedures, Programs, Recruitment & Nominating, and Strategic Planning.

Jamie Forsythe summarized the function of the new structure in her minutes from our June 24 Board meeting: "A committee in itself doesn't have the power to pass a motion or to expend funds – instead, it does the legwork to bring information to the board. This helps with division of labour and gives focused energies to specific areas. Having members on committees engages membership and provides the opportunity for membership representation across the province. Builds greater capacity in the organization to do more things. A lot of committee work can be done through emails, phone calls, Skype, etc., saving on travel time and easily keeping everyone connected."

In the *Eastword* summer issue, I spoke about volunteers "jumping in and splashing around" (my mind was obviously at the beach). Those of us who are working in the office and serving on the Board would appreciate your volunteer efforts, for sure. As the need arises, we'll post requests for volunteers on our weekly e-loop. You might drop into the office or call – perhaps an hour of your time would ease the day's workload a bit. Some of you may be able to help without even leaving home. If you're a Writers' Council member, for example, you might respond to email questions about writing and publishing. As a volunteer, you'll share time with friends, make some new ones, and be part of helping the WFNS grow even stronger. Bonus! ■



# Markets etc.

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

■ **The Malahat Review:** ([www.malahatreview.ca](http://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 invites 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.

# Who's doing what



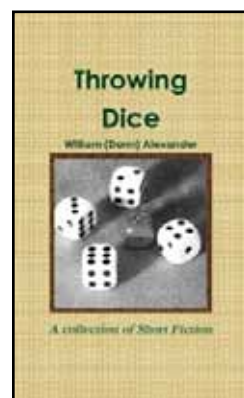
■ Internationally renowned rug-hooking artist Deanne Fitzpatrick is auctioning off the 15 hooked rugs she created for her new book collaboration with award-winning children's author **Sheree Fitch** called *Singily Skipping Along*, published by Nimbus. Bidding is open until 5 p.m., Sunday, December 1 at [singilyskipping.ca](http://singilyskipping.ca). Each rug that Fitzpatrick created for the playful children's picture book about body movement for kids aged two to five is one-of-a-kind and an amazing piece of artwork. All of the proceeds from the auction go to L'Arche in Atlantic Canada. L'Arche communities are places where people, with and without intellectual disabilities, come together to learn from each other, discover life-long friendships, and work to create a more compassionate world. For more about Deanne's work, see [www.hookingrugs.com](http://www.hookingrugs.com).

■ **Val Spencer** has a story included in the 2013 edition of *Best Canadian Stories*, out next month from Oberon Press.

■ The Creative Nova Scotia Awards were presented on October 25. And two of the five Established Artist Recognition Awards went to Writers Fed members. **Carol Langille** has four books of poetry published with a fifth due out soon. Her most recent collection *Church of the Exquisite Panic: The Ophelia Poems* (Pedlar Press) was shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize. Carol teaches poetry at Dalhousie University and travels extensively giving readings and workshops on the art of poetry. **Christy Ann Conlin** is a fiction writer, essayist, dramatist and poet, who has three new books scheduled for publication in the future, including a novel, *Listening for the Island*; a short story collection, *The Diplomat: Stories of Exile and Return*; and a young adult novel, *Meadowsweet*. The Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award was presented to the Town of New Glasgow and the County of Pictou. The prestigious Portia White Award went to Laurie Swim in recognition of her 40-year career in advancing the craft of quilting to the fine art audience and for carving a niche through fibre art that is comparable to any realist painter in Atlantic Canada.

■ **Miki Fukuda's** poem "Breakfast Is the Most Important Meal of the Day" is forthcoming in *Beer and Butter Tarts: Canadian Food Literary Journal* in December. Also, Paisley Chapbook Press will release her chapbook of poetry *An Apparition as a Goldfish in a Glass Bowl* in November. ■ **Don Domanski's** ninth book of poetry – *Bite Down Little Whisper* (Brick Books) – has earned him his fourth nomination for the Governor General's Literary Award

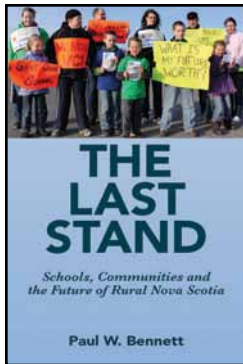
in Poetry. He won the GG in 2007 for *All Our Wonder Unavenged*, which also received the Atlantic Poetry Prize and the \$25,000 Lieutenant-Governor's Masterworks Award in 2008. In an interview with Andrea Nemetz in the *Chronicle Herald*, Don said *Bite Down Little Whisper* is his interpretation of "our place in nature, the interconnectedness of the world of humans, plants and animals."



■ **Dann Alexander's** latest book, *Throwing Dice*, is now available through Lulu.com at a price of \$9.51 plus \$5.99 shipping and handling. It will be available on Amazon in December. *Throwing Dice* is a collection of experimental short satire mixed with some storytelling, with some of the stories set in Atlantic Canada. Dann is a freelance writer based in Beaver Bank. His first book *Planned UnParenthood, Creating A Life Without Procreating* was released last year and continues to sell through online retailers worldwide.



# Impressed – new books



***The Last Stand***  
***Schools, Communities and the***  
***Future of Rural Nova Scotia***

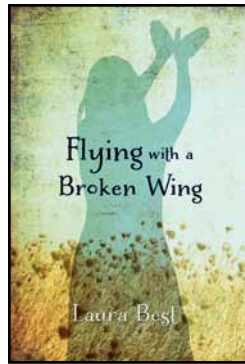
**Paul W. Bennett**

**Fernwood Sept. 2013 \$19.95**  
**ISBN 9781552665787**

The clock is ticking for rural and small town communities in Nova Scotia. Paul Bennett argues that to offset the demographic shift that threatens to extinguish what remains of rural communities, schools must be transformed once again into vital community hubs. Rather than continuing the trend toward centralized, bureaucratic school systems, we must build or maintain smaller community schools and support innovative local enterprise to create sustainable living practices and provide community-based education on a more human scale.

This is the sequel to *Vanishing Schools, Threatened Communities: The Contested Schoolhouse in Maritime Canada, 1850-2010*.

Paul W. Bennett is a Halifax author and the founding director of Schoolhouse Consulting.



***Flying With a Broken Wing***  
**Laura Best**

**Nimbus Sept. 2013 \$12.95**  
**ISBN 978-1-77108-038-5**

Cammie Deveau is visually impaired. She's being raised by her bootlegging aunt and dreams of a new life. When Cammie learns about a school for blind and visually impaired children she's convinced a new life is waiting for her in Halifax. Cammie and her best friend devise a plan to blow up the local moonshiner's still. But things get worse than she ever imagined.

Laura Best has had more than 40 short stories published in magazines and anthologies. Her first young adult novel, *Bitter, Sweet*, was shortlisted for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People and made the Best Books for Kids and Teens 2011 list. She lives in East Dalhousie. Visit her at [laurabest.wordpress.com](http://laurabest.wordpress.com)



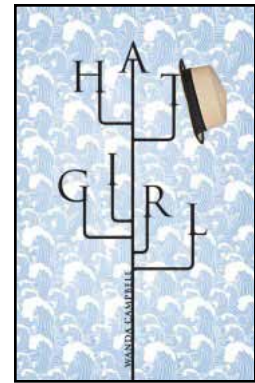
***Our Own Little World***  
***in paintings and verse***

**Geoff Butler**

**published by Geoff Butler,**  
**Granville Ferry, NS, \$35**  
**ISBN 978-0-9694447-3-2**  
**[geoffbutlerartstudio@gmail](mailto:geoffbutlerartstudio@gmail.com)**  
**902-532-5707**

150 colour paintings with poems. The earth is our own little world in space, and the particular countries we live in are its neighbourhoods. We also live in our own little private worlds. The paintings and verse in this book peer into each of these worlds.

Geoff Butler is a painter, writer and book illustrator, born on Fogo Island, Newfoundland, near Brimstone Head which has been designated by the Flat Earth Society as one of the four corners of the earth. Geoff practices his art daily so as not to fall over the edge. His self-published books include *Art of War: Painting it out of the Picture*; *The Look of Angels: Angels in Art*; and *With Every Breath We Take*, a modern fable in which a snowflake helps put an end to war. Every now and then, he strolls down Alphabet Soup Road to write and illustrate children's books.



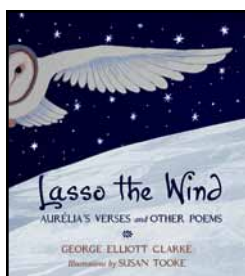
***Hat Girl***

**Wanda Campbell**

**Signature Editions \$17.95**  
**ISBN 978-1927426-20-3**

Pertice McIlveen, a young Ontario woman who loves Hemingway and hates hats, receives a mysterious key in the mail. Accompanied by her best friend Es, she travels to Gannet Island off the coast of New Brunswick to find the door it fits into. There she discovers a cottage by the sea has been willed to her by a secret benefactor, PM, on the condition she wears the hats that come with it. She accepts the challenge. As she seeks to solve the mystery of PM, Pertice is changed by the hats she wears and the islanders she meets.

*Hat Girl*, which won the H.R. Percy Prize in the 2010 Atlantic Writing Competition, is Wanda Campbell's first novel. She has published several collections of poetry, including *Daedalus Had a Daughter*. She lives in Wolfville, where she teaches Creative Writing at Acadia University. She has also edited anthologies for Penguin and *Hidden Rooms*, an anthology of early Canadian women poets.



***Lasso the Wind*  
Aurélia's Verses and Other  
Poems**

**George Elliott Clarke**

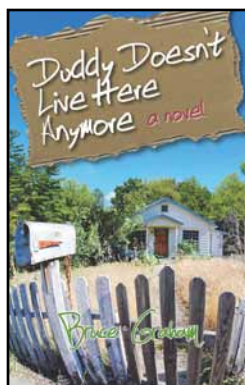
**Illustrations by Susan Tooke**

**Nimbus Oct 2013 \$24.95  
ISBN 978-1-77108-050-7**

The first collection of children's poetry by renowned poet and playwright George Elliott Clarke. By turns absurd, witty, playful and profound. Clarke's poems speak to the vivid wonder, the bright joys, and the secret pains of growing up in this world. There is a separate section at the end of the book, a group of poems Clarke wrote to his daughter, Aurélia, on her birthdays until she turned nine. The reader sees the stages of childhood through a father's eyes.

Also featured are bold and contemporary collage illustrations by Susan Tooke, the award-winning artist and children's book illustrator.

George Elliott Clarke is originally from Windsor, Nova Scotia. He's the Poet Laureate of Toronto, where he teaches Canadian literature at the University of Toronto.



***Duddy Doesn't Live Here  
Anymore*  
A Novel**

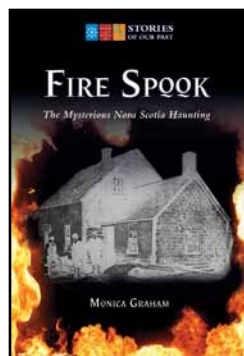
**Bruce Graham**

**Pottersfield Press \$19.95  
ISBN 978-1-897426-52-4**

The story of Duddy McGill – dreamer, schemer and a walking disaster. Set in rural Nova Scotia, on the Parrsboro shore of the Bay of Fundy, this hilarious story chronicles one man's misguided vision of himself and the chaos he unleashes on his neighbours.

Duddy McGill was first introduced in *Ivor Johnson's Neighbours*. Here they are again, the same cast of characters with a few new faces added, ten years later and trying to come to grips with life and all its challenges and complexities.

Bruce Graham, the author of several books published by Pottersfield Press, lives in Parrsboro. Ship's Company Theatre has adapted three of his novels – *The Parrsboro Boxing Club*, *Ivor Johnson's Neighbours*, and *Diligent River Daughter* – for the stage.



***Fire Spook*  
The Mysterious Nova Scotia  
Haunting**

**Monica Graham**

**Nimbus Sept. 2013 \$15.95  
ISBN 978-1-77108-093-4**

A comprehensive retelling of one of Nova Scotia's most mysterious legends. Monica Graham exposes the fascinating history behind the fire-spook of Caledonia Mills, a true story that spread as quickly and uncontrollably as the flames that started it all. But were these spontaneous fires and sinister sightings the work of a poltergeist, or of a troubled young woman? Featuring real testimonies, original research, and over 60 images, *Fire Spook* mingles old rumours with fresh insights, providing a comprehensive look at one of Nova Scotia's most haunting mysteries.

Monica Graham, a freelance writer for newspapers and magazines across the country, is the author of several books of non-fiction, including *Historic New Glasgow*, *Stellarton*, *Trenton*, and *Westville* and *The Great Maritime Detective*. Monica lives near Pictou.



***Spit Feathers*  
Lobster Chronicles 3**

**Jessica Scott Kerrin**

**Kids Can Press Aug. 2013  
\$16.95  
ISBN 978-1-55453-708-2**

Ferguson is trying to help his grandfather figure out his legacy. His grandfather doesn't want to have any regrets, like his old friend McDermit, who famously caught a giant lobster but regretted not returning it to sea. So when another giant lobster is caught in their fishing community and put up for auction, Ferguson cooks up a plan with his grandfather to bid on the lobster and set it free. Will this be his grandfather's legacy or will the town's richest man ruin everything?

*Spit Feathers* is the third book in The Lobster Chronicles – joining *Lower the Trap* and *A Narrow Escape* – a trilogy about how life changes for three boys in a small coastal town when a giant lobster is caught. Each book describes the same events through a different boy's eyes.

Jessica Scott Kerrin is the author of the bestselling Martin Bridge series. She lives in Halifax.



***Spotted Dog Last Seen***

**Jessica Scott Kerrin**

**Groundwood Books**

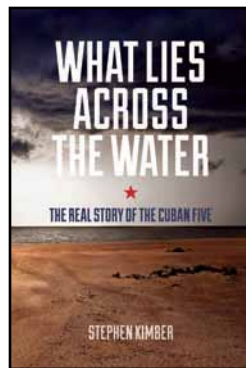
**\$14.95, 978-1-55498-387-2;**

**E-book \$8.95**

**ISBN 978-1-55498-388-9**

A mystery novel for middle readers. Derek isn't happy about having to do repair duty at the old cemetery for his grade-six community service project. But when the lessons on cemetery care turn out to be so strange and interesting, he doesn't have time to dwell on the past. And when it rains, the lessons take place in the nearby public library, which means he can avoid the cemetery altogether, at least for an afternoon.

One day an anonymous donation arrives at the library – a copy of a new mystery novel, with a secret code penciled inside. And when Derek and his friends track the clues from one mystery novel to the next, they discover a time capsule filled with clues that may finally help Derek put his haunting past and terrifying memories and nightmares to rest.



***What Lies Across the Water*  
*The Real Story of the Cuban Five***

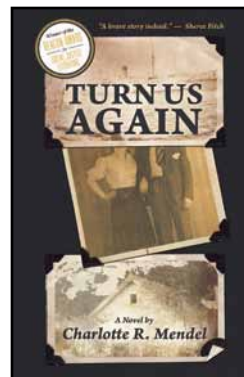
**Stephen Kimber**

**Fernwood, August 2013**

**\$29.95 ISBN 9781552665428**

*What Lies Across the Water* recounts the events leading up to the arrest of five Cuban anti-terrorism agents wrongfully arrested and convicted of “conspiracy to commit” espionage against the United States. In light of America’s supposed post-9/11 zero-tolerance policy toward countries harbouring terrorists, the story of the Cuban Five illustrates the injustice and hypocrisy of this case. Award winning journalist and author Stephen Kimber answers questions such as: Why were these men, who tried to prevent terrorist attacks against Cuba, charged with espionage against the United States? And why does the U.S. continue to protect and harbour known terrorists?

Stephen Kimber is a professor of journalism at the University of King’s College in Halifax and an award-winning writer, editor and broadcaster.



***Turn Us Again*  
*A Novel***

**Charlotte R. Mendel**

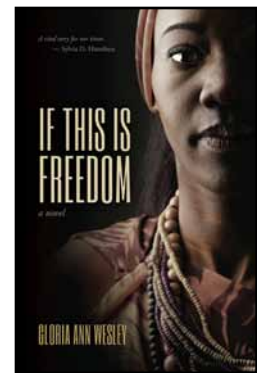
**Roseway, Sept. 2013, \$20.95**

**ISBN 978-1-552665701**

Called to his dying father’s bedside, Gabriel Golden’s life is turned upside down after receiving his mother’s journal. It chronicles his mother’s life in post-war Britain, her genteel upbringing and her eventual marriage to Gabriel’s father. Gabriel is shocked as he discovers dark secrets about his parents’ relationship, shaking his preconceptions about his father – and himself.

Based on a true story and winner of the H.R. Percy Novel Prize in the Atlantic Writing Competition and the Beacon Award for Social Justice, *Turn Us Again* is a powerful exploration of the dynamics within family relationships, enticing the reader to embark on a journey towards a more complex understanding of the issue of abuse.

Charlotte R. Mendel’s writing has appeared in *City Lights*, the Tel Aviv supplement of *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Breastfeeding Diaries*, *The Nashwaak Review*, *The Healing Touch of Horses* and several other anthologies. She lives in Enfield.



***If This is Freedom*  
*A Novel***

**Gloria Ann Wesley**

**Roseway, Sept. 2013 \$19.95**

**ISBN 978-1-552665718**

*If This Is Freedom* continues the story of struggle for black Loyalist settlers in Nova Scotia after the American Revolutionary War that began in *Chasing Freedom*. In the black settlement of Birchtown, times are especially hard for the former slaves. Like many desperate Birchtowners, Sarah Redmond has signed an indenture agreement, a work contract meant to protect her rights and ensure a living wage. Sarah’s employers do not honour the agreement, and Sarah and her family are all but shattered when she takes a wrong step – one she’ll come to regret as it sets off a chain of events that put her under further pressure. With her faith in the settlement running dry and the Birchtowners abandoning the settlement, Sarah faces the taxing option of whether to hold on to the only real life she has ever known or let go.

Gloria Ann Wesley is a writer and poet. Her first novel was *Chasing Freedom*, also published by Roseway.





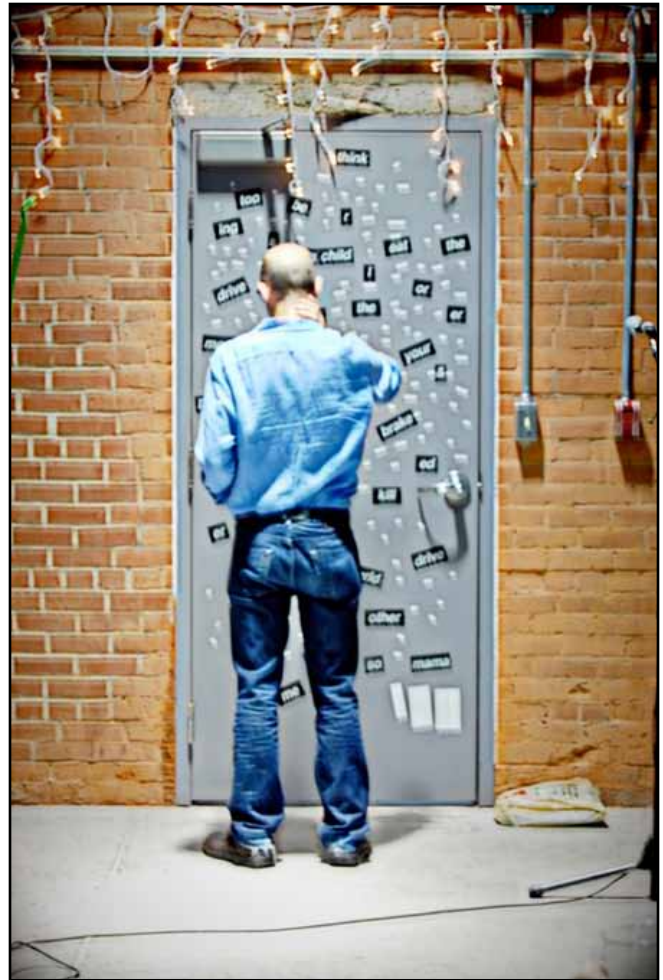
### Carol McDougall wins Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature

The Beacon Social Justice Literary Society is pleased to announce that Carol McDougall is the winner of the 2013 Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature. Carol's winning manuscript, *Wake The Stone Man*, was chosen by a jury of writers, and will be published by Roseway Publishing in the spring of 2015. Set in Northern Ontario the novel follows the complicated lives of two girls whose friendship is torn apart by personal tragedy and the impact of the Residential school system.

Carol McDougall lives in Dartmouth, but grew up in Thunder Bay, which inspired the landscape for *Wake the Stone Man*. McDougall has been active in the Nova Scotia writing community for many years as a writing instructor, editor, and publicist. She is the author of the *Nova Scotia Guide to Frugal Living*, and co-author of Baby Steps, a series of board books for babies. *Wake the Stone Man* is her first novel.

Carol is the Founding Director of Read to Me! the hospital-based early reading program which provides a free bag of books and reading resources to every baby born in Nova Scotia. In 2005 McDougall received the Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature, and the 2010 Progress Women of Excellence Award for her contribution to the Arts.

Now in its third year, the Beacon Award was created to celebrate fiction which promotes social justice issues, and is given annually to an unpublished novel. For more information visit: [www.beaconaward.ca](http://www.beaconaward.ca) ■



Steven Laffoley musing over "magnetic poetry" at the WFNS Literary Awards.

## Contests

■ **The Malahat Review:** University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Stn CSC Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2 (<http://web.uvic.ca/malahat/>) **2014 Novella Prize: The Malahat Review Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction** – Deadline February 14, 2014. One prize of \$1,500. Entries may be sent by regular mail or email. Enter a single work of fiction, with a minimum length of 10,000 words and maximum length 20,000 words. No restrictions as to genre, subject matter, or aesthetic approach apply. Entry fee \$35 for first entry. Entry fee includes subscription. **Far Horizons Award for Poetry** – Deadline May 1, 2014. Eligible poets have yet to publish their poetry in book form (a book of poetry is defined to have a length of 48 pages or more). Writers who have self-published a book of poetry are ineligible. Send up to 3 poems. One prize of \$1000. Details on website.