

east word



Binnie Brennan (left) and Joan Payzant.

Joan Murray Payzant

Binnie Payzant Brennan

The Nova Scotia writing community is richer for having had Joan Murray Payzant as one of its most long-standing, prolific, and enduring members. Joan was a founding member of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, and with her keen and abiding interest in local history, she enriched our literature with her vision and her stories. Joan died on August 14, 2013.

I come from a family of storytellers, and one of my favourites was my aunt Joan Payzant. For as far back as my memory will reach, I can recall her stories – family lore, Nova Scotia history, and tales of high seas adventures on Halifax harbour – usually laced with humour and accompanied by her warm laughter.



WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

ISSN 1187 3531

1113 MARGINAL ROAD

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3H 4F7

TEL: 902-423-8116

FAX: 902-422-0881

WWW.WRITERS.NS.CA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JONATHAN MEAKIN

E-MAIL: DIRECTOR@WRITERS.NS.CA

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:

ROBIN SPITTAL

E-MAIL: PROGRAMS@WRITERS.NS.CA

MENTORSHIP & OUTREACH OFFICER:

SUE GOYETTE

E-MAIL: EVENTS@WRITERS.NS.CA

COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION OFFICER:

HEIDI HALLETT

E-MAIL: WITS@WRITERS.NS.CA

EASTWORD EDITOR: PEGGY AMIRAUT

WFNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: SYLVIA GUNNERY

PAST-PRESIDENT: RYAN TURNER

VICE PRESIDENT: SARAH EMSLEY

SECRETARY: JAIME FORSYTHE

TREASURER: KATHRYN HERBERT

MEMBERS AT LARGE: DON AKER, BRIAN

BRAGANZA, BINNIE BRENNAN, KELSEY McLAREN,

ANDY WAINWRIGHT

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia is a registered not-for-profit organization that operates with funds raised from membership fees, from fundraising endeavours, corporate sponsorship, with operating support from the Government of Nova Scotia through the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and with project assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts – all of whom we gratefully acknowledge for assisting us to make the work of the WFNS possible. The WFNS is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, Access Copyright, the Canadian Children's Book Centre, CANSCAIP (Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers), the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), and the Nova Scotia Children's Literature Roundtable. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or of WFNS.

Services and markets advertised or mentioned are not necessarily endorsed by WFNS. We reserve the right to edit manuscripts and letters. Copyright to bylined material remains with the writer and cannot be reprinted without the permission of the writer.

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



The Canada Council
for the Arts

Le Conseil des Arts
du Canada



NOVA SCOTIA
Communities, Culture and Heritage

I first came to know Joan's writing through the publication of *Like a Weaver's Shuttle*, co-written with her husband, my uncle Pete Payzant (and Nimbus Publishing's first publication), and through her self-published *Who's a Scaredy-cat!*, at last count in its ninth printing and a classic in the Halifax Explosion literary canon. I was in awe of her curiosity, her tenaciousness, and the simple elegance of her writing.

When I began writing stories of my own, Joan was among the first to offer her experience and encouragement. Her support meant the world to me as I navigated the insecurities familiar to any emerging writer dealing with the business of submissions and rejections. She always had good ideas, and was happy to share her thoughts about writing, particularly her exasperation with the semi-colon (something I used rather a lot in those days).

Joan Murray Payzant enjoyed a professional career – and I'll quote her obituary – "... as a teacher, both in Dartmouth and briefly in Montreal (indeed she was a brilliant teacher, who influenced countless young people) ... Joan was a prolific and enthusiastic writer for most of her adult life. She wrote children's fiction (*Crumbs*, and *Who's a Scaredy-cat!*) but much of her work centred on the history of Dartmouth and Halifax. From 1979-1983 she wrote a column for the *Dartmouth Free Press*. Her first serious historical work was *Like a Weaver's Shuttle: A History of the Halifax-Dartmouth Ferries* which she co-wrote with Pete. This won the WFNS' Evelyn Richardson Memorial Non-Fiction Award in 1980. Other works include *Halifax, Cornerstone of Canada*, *Second to None: A History of Public Education in Dartmouth, NS*, *We Love to Ride the Ferry*, and (with Janet Kitz) *December 1917: Revisiting the Halifax Explosion*. She also wrote two family biographies, both privately printed."

Joan's generosity, gentle humour, and curiosity carried on through her illness. During my last visit with her in hospital, she was keenly interested to hear about my latest writing project, and she asked me questions and offered her thoughts about it. She then told me a story that left us both giggling. I wish I could have told her a week later that my writing project had found a publisher; instead I found myself at her memorial gathering, surrounded by Joan's family and friends at the Shubenacadie Interpretive Centre. The place was packed.

Joan Payzant's contribution to Nova Scotia's literary life, and the gift of her stories, is formidable. That, and the fact that I have managed to keep my use of the semi-colon in this article down to merely one, is a testament to her influence. ■

Lights, Camera, Action!

Lesley Crewe

Editor's Note: Nimbus published Lesley Crewe's first novel Relative Happiness in 2005, and it went on to become a best seller; as have her subsequent five books – Shoot Me, Ava Comes Home, Hit & Mrs., Her Mother's Daughter, and Kin. Relative Happiness is now on its way to becoming a feature film, shooting during November in Halifax and Hubbards. Lesley co-wrote the screenplay with film director Deanne Foley (The Magnificent Mollie McBride), Iain MacLeod and Sherry White. Producers of the movie are Lynne Wilson and Jill Knox-Gosse of Wreckhouse Productions (St. John's) and Alan Collins (The Poet, Drowning in Colour: The Art of Wayne Boucher) of Lady Hammond Entertainment in Dartmouth. Avi Federgreen of Federgreen Entertainment is the executive producer. Playback reports the film has a \$1.25 million budget, receiving support from Telefilm Canada, Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Film Development Corporation.

I'm dusting when the phone rings. "Hello, is this Lesley Crewe?"

"The one and only!"

I don't say that. I say, "Yes."

"My name is Alan Collins and I've read your book, *Relative Happiness* and I was wondering if you own your movie rights?"

I'm thinking, this better not be Ken MacDonald from up the road.

"As a matter of fact I do." The Writer's Fed of NS told me to keep them when I asked for advice about signing a book contract. (Love them.)

So starts a six-year journey to get this movie made. I stupidly tell a few people and have had nothing but "What's happening with this movie of yours?" ever since. The odyssey goes something like this:

Alan calls –

"It's happening!"

"It's not happening."

"It's happening!"

"Doesn't look good."

"Telefilm says no."

"We can re-apply."

"Newfoundland might be interested."

"Stephen Harper slashed the arts budget, so it's no for this year."

"Waiting for funding."

"Sorry. It doesn't look good."

"Maybe."

"We won't know for another eight months."

"A few people are interested."

"I'm hopeful."

"It's happening!"

When he tells me it's happening, I don't believe him. Would you?



I learn how to write a screenplay by spending three days in a barn with [filmmaker and novelist] Shandi Mitchell. My mind's fried but it's an invaluable experience nevertheless. Just probably not for her.

Then this mighty herd of fabulous Newfoundland women producers and an executive producer from Toronto come on board and join the endlessly patient Nova Scotia producer, Alan Collins. I know their names from emails, but to me they're one giant ball of movie people who I assume live in the same house and work for the same company.

So after withering on the vine like an old maid, the movie starts. I get to see audition tapes and pictures of the actors. Then poof ... we have a film schedule and they want me on the set to do interviews for the press. They also want me in a scene. This gives me hives.

My first glimpse of movie magic is in a church graveyard in Hubbards. It's exactly as I imagined it. People standing everywhere, big lighting screens and sound booms, a huge camera contraption that the DOP sits on ... the director of photography for those who aren't as movie savvy as I am ... a monitor that the director peers into, hair and makeup people, and a guy who carries rolls of coloured masking tape on his belt to mark where the actors stand. I'm escorted onto the set with hubby and Terrilee (Nimbus Publishing boss lady)

and told be very quiet. Someone gives me a mike and headphones so I can hear the actors say their lines. I'm Hugh Grant in the movie *Notting Hill*!

In between scenes, I'm introduced to the actors who are playing characters I made up in my head. There's Lexie smiling hello, and Adrian, who gives me a big hug. I'm standing by Joss as we select our lunch from craft service. I pet Ernie's real dog and a real Susan plays my best friend Susie. All of these make-believe people inhabit my first novel, back when I had no idea what I was doing and never dreamed they'd be in a book, let alone a movie. Not for a minute.



Lesley and "Adrian," a.k.a. actor Jonathan Sousa the Toronto International Film Festival's 2013 Rising Star Award-winner.

For my big scene I play a party guest sitting in a chair talking to someone. They tell me to lip-sync the alphabet to make it look real. My other hugely important job is to look at Adrian's ass when he walks by me. Doing that 20 times is *such* a burden. They even let my husband and daughter be background people. I'll never forget that.

My part in this is over. The movie people will handle it from here. They're extraordinarily kind and patient answering my questions and make me feel special. But that's the way we do it here in the Maritimes. The actors from away couldn't get over the hospitality and say they'd love to come back to Nova Scotia ... when it's warmer. Thank you Alan, Jill, Lynne, Megan, Deanne, Avi and everyone. It's been amazing and the movie isn't even out yet! Wait until I watch it in a theatre. I'll cry as soon as I see the opening credits and won't stop until it's over. So I'll warn you now, don't sit by me. ■

Markets, contests, etc.

■ **Atlantic Writing Competition for unpublished manuscripts:** Sponsored by WFNS. Deadline February 3, 2014. Open only to residents of the four Atlantic provinces. 7 categories – creative non-fiction (essays up to 3,000 words); novel; unproduced play; poetry; short story; writing for children; and young adult novel. Entry fee and entry form required, available on website. Online submissions are strongly encouraged. Details at www.writers.ns.ca and click on "awards & competitions."

■ **CBC Creative Non-fiction Prize:** (www.cbc.ca/books/canadawrites/literaryprizes/nonfiction/) Deadline February 1, 2014. Entry fee \$25. Includes memoir, biography, humour writing, essay (including personal essay), travel writing, and feature articles. The First Prize winner will receive \$6,000 and publication in Air Canada's *enRoute* magazine and on the Canada Writes website plus a two-week residency at The Banff Centre's Leighton Artists' Colony. The 4 runners-up will each receive \$1,000 and their stories will be published on the Canada Writes website. Details on website.

■ **The Malahat Review:** (www.malahatreview.ca) *Novella Prize:* deadline February 1, 2014 postmark. One prize of \$1,500. Fiction between 10,000 and 20,000 words. Online submissions ok. *Far Horizons Poetry Award:* deadline May 1. *Québécois Poetry in Translation Prize:* deadline May 15. *Constance Rooke Creative Nonfiction Prize:* August 1. Details on website.

■ **Grain Magazine 26th annual Short Grain Writing Contest:** (www.grainmagazine.ca/contest.html) deadline April 14, 2014. Poetry and fiction. 3 prizes in each category – 1st \$1,000; 2nd \$750; 3rd \$500. Online submissions ok. Details on website.

■ **SubTerrain:** (<http://subterrain.ca/>) is looking for submissions for its 2014 issues. Issue #67 Spring – Theme is Coincidence deadline February 1. Issue #68 Summer/Fall no theme, general submissions welcome, deadline May 1. Issue #69 Winter – theme is Meat, where the human relationship with meat will be explored in fiction, memoir and essay, deadline September 1. Details on website, click on "writers guidelines".

Bitten by the collaborative bug

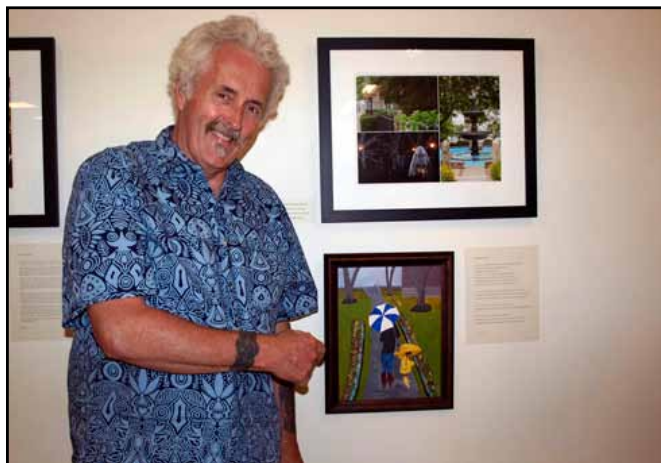
Sandra Phinney

Composer and jazz saxophonist Steve Lacy once said, "I think it is in collaboration that the nature of art is revealed." Artists and writers in Yarmouth have been collaborating and revealing the nature of art since 2007. It started with the Yarmouth Art Society inviting members of Write Away to pen poetry and prose inspired by the artists' work. The goal was a joint 8-week exhibit, with pairings of artwork and prose next to each other in the gallery at the Yarmouth County Museum. It was such a hit, it's been repeated for the past six years.

At first, writers wrote poems, fiction and non-fiction based on the

artists' work. Later the process was reversed, artists used the writers prose and poetry as inspiration. But the most successful efforts have been the past three years, with themed exhibits. A theme is selected early in the spring. Artists and writers team up in pairs, meet, consult, then start working on their own. About two weeks before the opening of the exhibit, the writers get together, roll up their sleeves and critique each other's work.

Judy Ferron, a long-time member of Write Away, says, "These collaborative exhibits provide the public with another stimulating dimension outside of the thriving



Artist Ivan Blades at the 2013 In the Gardens collaboration exhibit. (Margo Tassi photo)



Writer Marilee Bain (left) and Sue Doherty, who owns the garden that was painted, photographed and written about, discuss the grouping at the opening reception. Marilee's story was titled "Islands in the marsh." (Sue Hutchins photo).



Writer/artist Margo Tassi. (Ivan Blades photo)

hockey culture that defines the area. The arts' culture is nourished by the act of writers and artists conferring, researching and creating works from a themed project each year."

Artist Dan Earle, a member of the Yarmouth Art Society, concurs. He's been participating since the get-go. "Lately, we've had different themes or subjects, from lighthouses to historical artifacts and gardens. It works best when the artists and writers actually get together and chat about content and approach. And it's a lot of fun."

In 2013 the Yarmouth Arts Society and Write Away invited photographers and gardeners to take part. The local garden club came up with a list of 18 private and public gardens in the region. Teams of three – a photographer, writer and artist – combined to represent each garden. The resulting exhibit, "In the Gardens," graced the walls of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Western Branch in Yarmouth for 10 weeks in the summer.

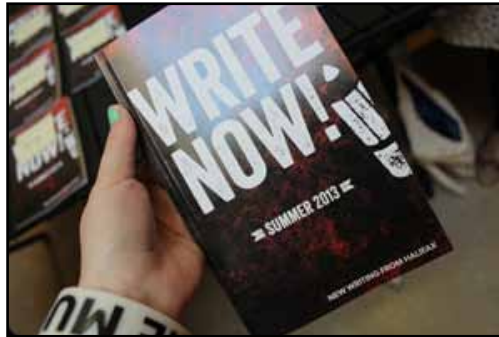
Coordinating a collaboration with so many players is a major challenge. Bottom line: There's much to learn from artists in other disciplines, be it painters, photographers, musicians ... It's a great way to stretch your imagination and have fun in the process. But limit the pairings or it can get unwieldy. ■

Write Now!

Write Now! is a creative writing program that brings together adult and youth writers from Halifax to share, collaborate and create. Funded by the 4Cs Foundation, Write Now! has found a welcoming home for the past two summers in the WFNS space. The 2013 program consisted of weekly workshops for nine weeks in July and August, where participants wrote songs, stories, poems, dialogue, spoken word, and even bound their own books. The program culminated in a book launch in September 2013, where writers read from their work to friends, family, and members of the community. Jaime Forsythe and Tiina Johns are the program co-ordinators. Invisible Publishing designed and printed the annual anthology of participants work.



Saul and Alison read a collaboratively written poem.



Tiina and Mel read their collaborative piece.



Youth and adults of the Write Now! program celebrate the launch of their book. Back row, left to right: Erica, Saul, Christiana, Georgia, Whitney, Mel, Alison, Stephanie, Chris. Front row, left to right: Amy, Kelsey, Laura, Courtney, Tiina, Jaime, Olivia. Missing: Brandon, Parker, Katelyn. (Photos by Courtney Bolivar)

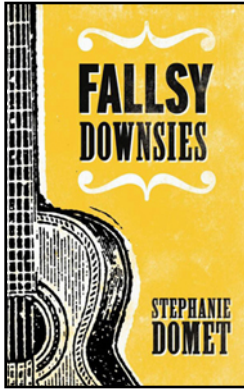


Whitney reads to a full house.



Olivia reads.

Impressed – new books



Fallsy Downsies

Stephanie Domet

Invisible Publishing \$21.95 Oct. 2013

ISBN 9781926743417

also available as an e-book

Lansing Meadows has one last shot to get it right. With the clock ticking, he sets out on the road one last time, to sing his songs to anyone who'll listen, and to try to right his wrongs, before it's too late. *Fallsy Downsies* is a novel about aging, art, celebrity, and modern Canadian culture, told through the lens of Lansing Meadows, the godfather of Canadian folk music; Evan Cornfield, the up and comer who idolizes him; and Dacey Brown, a young photographer who finds herself along for the ride.

Stephanie Domet lives in Halifax with her husband. Her debut novel, *Homing*, won the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award. She is forever trying to perfect homemade ravioli and a piano rendition of "Sweet Caroline".



Out For Blood

A Matt Murphy Mystery - Book Two

by H. Paul Doucette

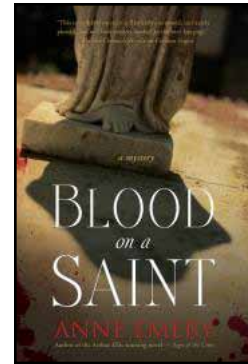
Melange Books, Dec. 2013

www.melange-books.com

There are bad cops, then there are *bad* cops. When one of the good ones receives a call about a major case he's working, he has no choice but to follow up on it. His instincts tell him that this could be a setup. It is.

Matt Murphy stood beside the hospital bed looking down at his best friend, now fighting for his life. Murphy knew that this might happen one day, it came with the job, but he still wasn't completely ready for the reality of it. As he stood there he vowed to find the one responsible and realized that for the first time in his life he wanted to kill someone.

H. Paul Doucette is the author of *Unfinished Business* and *A Role to Kill For*, the first book in the Matt Murphy series set in New York's Greenwich Village of the 1960s.



Blood on a Saint

Anne Emery

ECW, \$24.95 ISBN: 978-1-77041-122-7

also available as an e-book \$13.99

In the seventh book in the Father Brennan Burke and Monty Collins series, a woman announces that the Virgin Mary has appeared to her in Burke's churchyard, and hordes of pilgrims, souvenir hawkers, and reporters converge on the scene. And a controversial talk show host clashes with Burke. When a body is found at the apparition site, the talk show host is picked up for the murder.

Monty Collins takes on the loud-mouth as a client. But Monty and Brennan cannot talk to each other about what they find out, because one is bound by solicitor-client confidentiality and the other by the seal of the confessional. And Monty has other things to deal with in his personal life.

Anne Emery has worked as a lawyer, legal affairs reporter and researcher. She lives in Halifax with her husband and daughter.

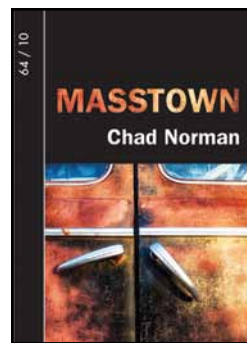


The Forest Tabernacle:
Memoir of Catholicism, Jesus, and a
Sexual Assault during a Bicycle Tour
Patrick D. Milroy

www.drpatmilroy.blogspot.ca
www.theforesttabernacle.com

In 1986, at the age of 24, Patrick Milroy took time off from university and embarked on a solo bicycle tour from St. Thomas, Ontario, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A spiritual journey, *The Forest Tabernacle* documents his struggle with the Roman Catholic religion of his childhood, his relationship with Christ, overcoming sexual violence, and answering the call to be a healer and educator.

Patrick Milroy, a motivational speaker and chiropractor, lives in Halifax.



Masstown
Chad Norman

Black Moss Press \$10
ISBN: 978-0-88753-519-2

Masstown is Chad Norman's fifteenth published book of poetry. It explores life on family-owned farms, specifically his grandparents' dairy farm. In this collection of poems accentuating the struggles of a life on a farm, he honours a way of life which relied on a once thriving industry, the family-owned-and-operated dairy farm.

Chad Norman works in a manufacturing plant, which affords him a schedule that befits his writing process. Living in Truro, Norman is inspired by the "laid-backness" of the town and its inhabitants. Part of his writing process includes taking long walks to "stir up the words when a poem is being stubborn." Chad Norman is a poet of grace and substance who writes about themes that are meaningful to his readers.



One's Aspect to the Sun

Sherry D. Ramsey
Tyche Books, Nov. 2013,
ISBN: 978-0-9918369-5-6
www.tychebooks.com

Captain Luta Paixon of the far trader *Tane Ikai* needs to know why she looks like a woman in her thirties – even though she's actually 84. She isn't the only one desperate for that information.

The explanation might lie with her geneticist mother, who disappeared more than 60 years ago. But even if her mother is still alive, it's proving to be no small task to track her down in the vast, wormhole-ridden expanse of Nearspace. With the ruthless PrimeCorp bent on obtaining Luta's DNA at any cost, her 90-year-old husband asking for one last favour, and her estranged daughter locking horns with her at every turn, Luta's search for answers will take her to the furthest reaches of space – and deep inside her own heart.

Sherry D. Ramsey is a writer, web and indie publisher, and self-confessed internet geek. She lives in Nova Scotia with her husband, two children, and two dogs. Visit Sherry's blog and website by surfing to www.sherrydramsey.com, or keep up with her more pithy musings on Twitter @sdramsey.

Executive Director's Update

Jonathan Meakin

Welcome to winter and the opportunity to justify spending more time indoors reading and writing, punctuated, of course, with some bracing outdoor winter activities. And welcome to the November/December 2013 issue of *Eastword* to help close 2013 and look ahead to 2014.

The last few months have been busy at the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia office, not only with the annual round of WFNS programs but also with a number of unheralded internal needs. Tasks such as reviewing processes and policies in order to identify gaps or needed updates, tackling several information technology issues, and a review of office record keeping is the kind of activity that attracts little fanfare (and rightly so), but which is essential to a well-run organization.

To help solidify and develop further our external and internal activities, the WFNS team is thrilled to welcome Robin Spittal as Communications and Development Officer. Robin brings a wealth of experience in marketing, communications, volunteer coordination, and graphic design, along with several accolades as an emerging writer. One of Robin's roles is to serve as the key contact for general member services, so do feel free to introduce yourself in person, via the phone or e-mail.

In September, we presented the 2013 WFNS Literary Awards and 36th Atlantic Writing Competition prizes. You will have read about both in the last issue of *Eastword*. The cycle for the 2014 Literary Awards is now underway, and we are exploring ideas for developing Awards promotion and associated programming between the shortlist announcement in June and the Awards presentation in September. Watch for announcements in the spring.

We also received feedback from Atlantic Writing Competition (AWC) entrants as to how a more compressed program schedule would be beneficial to their development as writers. Now, in order to provide entrants with the opportunity to act on manuscript critiques sooner, the annual deadline for submissions to the AWC is in early February (February 3 for the 37th AWC), with winners announced in late July ahead of

the September prize presentations. This amounts to a much tighter turnaround time than the previous system that took almost a year, and is part of several minor adjustments that will ensure the venerable AWC program will serve emerging writers for years to come.

The fall was also busy with the WFNS Mentorship program. From the 36 applications that were received, four participating writers were chosen and have been paired with an appropriate mentor. Congratulations to those who were successful. After sitting in on the mentorship jury process, I can attest to the quality of the submissions and the difficult choices the jurors faced. The fifth mentorship spot may take a different form in an effort to experiment with a slightly different take on the mentoring model. More about that in a future update.

And while on the topic of programs that foster creative writing, WFNS offered two workshops this fall: James Leck's Writing for Young Adults and El Jones Introduction to Spoken Word. We had to postpone the spoken word workshop until the spring, but the Writing for Young Adults workshop has been a success and an affirmation of the abiding interest in such development opportunities. The Writers-in-the-Schools program is also well underway with over 90 schools throughout the province hosting presentations by Nova Scotia writers. Once again, we were surprised by new schools participating in the program, which is always encouraging.

As the WFNS team looks ahead to 2014, there are a number of items on our wish list in addition to programs already underway: new workshops, member-engagement initiatives throughout Nova Scotia, a revamped volunteer program, renewed services, and more. And your Board of Directors is, among many other things, looking ahead to the WFNS fortieth anniversary and to engaging all members in dialogue about the future direction of WFNS. Clearly, there is much to look forward to, not least of which is a WFNS mandate strengthened through your support.

On behalf of the WFNS Board and the now full complement of office staff (Heidi, Robin, and Sue), I wish you all an enriching and rewarding 2014. ■



Robin Spittal

Communications & Development Officer

Hello everyone. I am very pleased to have joined the staff of the WFNS in early December. If someone asked me what my ideal job would be, this would be it.

So, what exactly will I be doing for you all? Well, I'll be taking over the task of running social media from Heidi. Prior to starting at the WFNS, I had the pleasure of running the social media for the 33rd Atlantic Film Festival this past September. I hope to expand on what Heidi has been doing, to serve the members and to promote WFNS activities to the general public. If you're on Twitter, be sure to follow us @WFNS.

I will also be your front-line membership, uh ... guru, I suppose? That's a terrible word. How about point of contact? That's better! Other than that, I'll be working with Jonathan on developing programs and streamlining processes. Terribly exciting! (No, I'm not being facetious. I'm looking forward to it.) I'm also going to be developing a volunteer program. So those of you who have been looking to get more involved, stay tuned.

Here's a little bit about me. I have had a love of the written word for as long as I can remember, from my childhood reading *Saddle Club*, my teenaged years reading *Star Trek* novels, to more sophisticated literary choices coming into high school and beyond. I am a writer, myself. I have a degree in English and Creative Writing from Dalhousie. Nothing



published yet. Being immersed in this world, even for such a short time, has given me inspiration for my own projects.

Whenever people ask me where I'm from, I take a breath and say, "Well ..." I had a nomadic childhood as an Air Force brat. I have tons of family in New Brunswick (owing to a partial Acadian background) but spent the biggest chunk of my life in British Columbia. I've been in Halifax five years now, and I adore it. Nova Scotia has my heart.

If this first week is any indication, I have plenty to look forward to. Jonathan, Heidi and Sue have been incredibly welcoming, as have the board members and those of you I had the pleasure of meeting at the Christmas Open House.

Happy Holidays, everyone! I look forward to supporting you all as you weave wonderful words.

And yes, my last name is pronounced how you think it is. ■

Public Lending Right

Registration begins Feb. 14

Registration for PLR begins on February 14 and closes on May 1. The Canada Council for the Arts distributes annual payments to Canadian authors through the Public Lending Right (PLR) Program as compensation for the free public access to their books in Canadian public libraries. For details visit <http://plr-dpp.ca/>.

Banff Centre deadlines

Visit www.banffcentre.ca/writing for news on writing workshops at Banff. **Literary Journalism** (March 15 application deadline) offers eight established writers of non-fiction an opportunity to develop a major essay, memoir, or feature piece.

A month-long residency enables writers to work on their manuscripts during individual consultations with faculty and during round-table discussions. **Wired Writing Studio:** June 14 application deadline. Offers a unique context for poets, fiction, and other narrative prose writers to pursue their own artistic visions and voices. Intended specifically for those at an early or intermediate career stage, the program offers an extended period of writing time (two weeks in Banff and 20 weeks online), one-on-one editorial assistance from an experienced writer/editor, and an opportunity for involvement with a community of working writers.

Mountain and Wilderness Writing: June 15 application deadline. In this residency program, six writers delve into their own writing projects (essay, memoir, biography, feature article, poetry, or work of fiction) on a topic in the area of mountain or wilderness culture. This includes writing with a focus on adventure, history, or the environment.

Who's doing what

■ **Margo Wheaton** spent three months in New Brunswick creating poems about three specific areas and environments: Cap-Pele, Sackville/Tantramar, and the Moncton area. As part of a pilot project, Margo received a Creative Residency Grant from Arts Nova Scotia. For information on the program visit <http://novascotia.ca/cch/investing/artsns-funding/residency-program/>

■ McClelland & Stewart released **Alistair MacLeod's** latest short story, *Remembrance*, as an e-book (\$2.99), just in time for Remembrance Day. The publisher said, "... *Remembrance* is a powerful reminder of why Alistair MacLeod is one of the most beloved storytellers of our time."

■ **Heddy Johannesen's** recent publications include a short story in *Horror Novel Reviews: One Hellacious Halloween Volume 1*; essays in Moon Books' *Paganism 101: An Introduction to Paganism by 101 Pagans* and in the Winter Solstice issue of *Eternal Haunted Summer Ezine*. *Essential Herbal* will publish her article on herbs in its January/February issue.

■ Fans of the Halifax Common and poetry may be pleased to know that Gaspereau Press has published *Writing the Common: Being An Anthology of Poetry Commemorating the 250th Anniversary Of the Halifax Common*, edited by **Andrew Steeves**. These poems by 31 writers reflect the diversity of ways in which citizens relate to the Common, their subject matter ranging from the rhododendrons in the Public Gardens to the Rolling Stones concert, from romances to dog walking and from nostalgia to heartache and grief. Together they explore the concept

of public space and the unique role that it can play in the life of a city. Contributors include: **George Elliott Clarke, Tanya Davis, Joan Dawson, Sue Goyette, Joanne Jefferson, and Michelle Paon**.

■ **Marjorie Simmins'** memoir, *Coastal Lives*, will be published by Pottersfield Press in the spring. It is an unabashed love story – a tale of two coasts, east and west, two writers, herself and author Silver Donald Cameron, and many definitions of home, evolving and complex. Punctuated with previously published articles and essays, her hybrid memoir relates this tale of love and resistance with humour and candour.

■ **Chad Norman** wrapped up a two-month tour of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, reading from *Masstown*, his new poetry book from Black Moss Press, in Halifax. He's arranging a 2014 tour of universities in Atlantic Canada, with some cafés and bookstores thrown in.

■ **Susan McMaster** was shortlisted for the Montreal International Poetry Prize for her poem "My Head Is Full of Pakistan." It will appear in the Global Poetry Anthology (<http://montrealprize.com/2013-global-antology/>).

■ HarperCollins will publish **Sarah Mian's** debut novel, *When The Saints*, in 2015.

■ **Gwen Davies** says *Apogee Magazine* from High Point University, North Carolina, published her story "Moving" in its Spring 2013 edition. And she won first prize in the *The Antigonish Review's* Sheldon Currie

Fiction Contest for "She Knew I'd Be There".

■ **Valerie Spencer's** story "The Amaretto", originally published in *The Fiddlehead*, is included in *Best Canadian Stories 2013* (Oberon).

■ **Jennifer Stone's** short story "Double Exposure" appeared in *Riddle Fence* Issue 15. Signature Editions wants to publish her short story collection *Prerequisites for Sleep* in 2014.

■ **Sara Emsley**, the chair of the WFNS Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the following members to the **Writers Council**: **Lindsey Carmichael, Stephen Law, Cealleigh MacCath-Moran, Hugh MacDonald, Carol MacDougall, Laurie Glenn Norris, and Evelyn C. White**.

■ The following became new WFNS members in 2013. If there any inadvertent omissions or errors in this list, please contact the office so we may correct our records.
Stephen Abbass (Dartmouth)
L.P. Suzanne Atkinson (Liverpool)
Karen Bailey (Halifax)
Bonnie Lee Baird (Mahone Bay)
Suann Barr (Dartmouth)
Katherine Barrett (Lunenburg)
Wanda Baxter (Lunenburg)
Patty Baxter (Halifax)
Joanne Bealy (Halifax)
Kris Bertin (Halifax)
Shashi Bhat (Halifax)
Allan Billard (Fall River)
Roisin Boyle (Halifax)
Susan (Brennan) Halifax
Josh Brown (Halifax)
Donna Burton (Kingston)
Barbara Caldwell-Pease (Halifax)
Lisa Card (Lower Sackville)
Lindsey Carmichael (Lewis Lake)
Lisa Carol (Halifax)

Jamie Chambers (Dartmouth)
 Katherine Chapman
 (Dartmouth)
 Jasmine Chater (Bedford)
 Leigha Chiasson (Dartmouth)
 Jessica Chisholm (Halifax)
 Matthew Clairmont (New
 Minas)
 Caira Clark (Halifax)
 Colleen Clarke (Halifax)
 Jeanie Cockell (Stillwater
 Lake)
 Tim Covell (Halifax)
 Chris Davison (Dartmouth)
 Tanya Dawson (Halifax)
 Paul Diekelmann (Baddeck)
 Nicole Doiron (Halifax)
 Stacy Doiron (Halifax)
 Pierre Doucet (Arcadia)
 Jacqueline Dumas
 (Dartmouth)
 William Dunsworth
 (Hubbards)
 Monika Dutt (Sydney)
 Kelley Edwards (Halifax)
 James Enman (Halifax)
 Carolyn Everett (Sydney
 Forks)
 Janette Fecteau (Antigonish)
 Gavin Fridell (Halifax)
 Andrew George (Lower
 Sackville)
 Jack Godsoe (Dartmouth)
 Jennifer Graham (Halifax)
 Sheila Graham-Smith
 (Middleton)
 Maxine Hancock (Canning)
 Liesl Harewood (Halifax)
 Dave Howlett (Halifax)
 Bruce Hubley (Shearwater)
 Eric Hustvedt (Mill Village)
 JoAnne Johnson (Halifax)
 Bauke Kamstra (Port
 Williams)
 Darrel Kanyok (Halifax)
 Michelle Karis (Halifax)
 Justin Kawaja (Halifax)
 Kate Kennedy (Halifax)
 Sheila Kindred (Halifax)
 Kelly Klein (Halifax)
 Janet Kravetz (Halifax)
 Allison Lawlor (Prospect)
 Deborah Long (Sydney)
 Diane Losier (Fletchers Lake)
 Allan Lynch (New Minas)

Geraldine MacAulay
 (Sydney)
 C.S. MacCath (Baddeck)
 Mary P. MacDonald (Sydney)
 Matt MacDonald (Westville)
 Eva Madden (Halifax)
 Joanne McCormick (Halifax)
 John McDonell (Cow Bay)
 Rob McDowell (Pictou)
 Emily McEwan-Fujita
 (Dartmouth)
 Sharon McKay (Cornwall)
 Sue McKay Miller
 (Englishtown)
 Laura McLean (Halifax)
 John McLeod (Halifax)
 Mary McManus (Halifax)
 Baleigh McWade (Lakeside)
 Rosemary Metz (Prospect)
 Kimberley Michaud (Beaver
 Bank)
 Kari Mitchell (Dartmouth)
 Whitney Moran (Halifax)
 Ruth Morris Schneider
 (Baddeck)
 Patrick Murphy (Halifax)
 Steven Naylor (Halifax)
 Anita Newman (Dartmouth)
 Jamie Nickerson (Halifax)
 Adam Noble (Halifax)
 James O'Brien (Halifax)
 Rosalie Osmond (Lunenburg)
 Garth Oxner (Dartmouth)
 Susan Paddon (Margaree
 Harbour)
 Steve Perry (Halifax)
 Melanie Pitman (Halifax)
 Kimberly Pittaway
 (Dartmouth)
 Alexander Porter Muntz
 (Sydney)
 Alisa Pothier-Merrett (Upper
 Northfield)
 Jen Powley (Halifax)
 Chantel Reid-Demeter (New
 Waterford)
 Chantelle Rideout (Halifax)
 Marilyn Riley (Windsor)
 Ingrid Ross (Waverley)
 Maureen Ryan-Clair
 (Antigonish)
 Jacquelyn Shaw (Halifax)
 Marijke Simons (Dartmouth)
 Andrea Skinner (Halifax) ■

Thank you

Please join us in thanking the following for their generous donations to the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia in 2013.

Anne Bakody	Anne MacDonald
Blanca Baquero	Jill MacLean
Marcia Barss	Alexander MacLeod
Brian Bartlett	Rowland Marshall
Jane Baskwill	John McDonell
Steve Baskwill	Ami McKay
Blair Beed	Bill McKinnon
Sophie Bérubé	Heather Mead
Myles Bisson	Rosemary Metz
Deborah Bliemel	Patrick Milvoy
Brian Braganza	Shandi Mitchell
Tyne Brown	Sheila Morrison
Pearl Chan	Lorri Neilsen Glenn
Susan Church	Jen Ochej
Joan Cleveland	Eleanor Parke
Tom Cogswell	Dorothy Perkyns
Ian & Colette Colford	Margaret Pilkey
Lisa Comeau	Heather Pycrz
Lesley Crewe	Dr. Thomas Raddall
Joan Dawson	Denise Reashore
Burris Devanney	James Ruddy
Rosemary Drisdelle	David Ryan
Nina Eddy	Nancy Saunders
Chris Folk	Karen Schaffer
Jaime Forsythe	Judith Scrimger
Heidi Fruth-Sachs	Susan Sellers-Bain
Catherine Garagan	Norene Smiley
Corinne Gilroy	Julia Somody
Shirley Godfrey	Val Spencer
John Goossens	Julie Strong
Margaret Graham	Deannie Sullivan-Fraser
Daniel Gray	Carla Taylor
Joann Griffin	Harry Thurston
John. J. Guiney Yallop	Donna Truesdale
Jackie Halsey	Nicole Uzans
Moiria Harding	Martin Wallace
Veryan Haysam	Anne-Marie Walsh
Christina Hilchie	Mary Whelan
William Jessome	Guylaine Williams
A.J.B Johnston	Rita Wilson
Rebecca Jones	Budge Wilson
Sarah Kester	Nicole Yeadon
Stephen Kimber	Home and Heart Child
Rose-Marie Lohnes-Hirtle	Development Centre
Bosko Loncarevic	Crystal Vaughan, Pebbles and
Diane Losier	Buttons Letterpress ■
Mary-Elizabeth Luka	