

# east word

## Promoting Craft and Community

by Jonathan Meakin, Executive Director WFNS

At the heart of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia's mission are three guiding tenets: that the WFNS supports the craft of writing, the business of being a writer, and the promotion of Nova Scotia writers as an important component of the creative economy. I would suggest the first of these core activities is well established, and our efforts devoted to the second will become more apparent in the coming months. It is the third that I would like to dwell on here – promotion.

The WFNS certainly has an important role to play in promoting its members or aiding members in their self-promotion, a role that requires further development in order to support a broad range of shifting needs and opportunities. For an arts service organization, though, promotion is seldom an isolated activity, but rather a function of its programs, services, and advocacy. To illustrate that point, I would like to take a close look at the weekend of September 20 and 21, which marked the culmination of two annual program cycles: the East Coast Literary Awards and the Atlantic Writing Competition.

The East Coast Literary Awards consist of the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, the J.M. Abraham Poetry Award, and the Evelyn Richardson Non-Fiction Award. The Raddall and Abraham awards are open to writers in all four Atlantic Canada provinces who meet residency requirements. The Richardson Award is open only to writers who are Nova Scotia residents. All three awards bear the imprint of their widely different history of formation and growth. As the steward of these



Bookmark attended the East Coast Literary Awards with all of the shortlisted titles. The independent bookstore has two branches – in Charlottetown and Halifax. In Halifax, Bookmark can be found on Spring Garden Road, near the corner of South Park Street, where it hosts a number of author and book events. Its online address is [www.bookmarkinc.ca](http://www.bookmarkinc.ca)



Part of the crowd at the award presentations and readings.



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awards, the WFNS manages them in the public trust and works to ensure their continued viability and relevance.

## The Winners of the 2014 East Coast Literary Awards

### Evelyn Richardson Non-Fiction Award

Stephen Kimber, *What Lies Across the Water* (Fernwood)

### The J.M. Abraham Poetry Award

Don Domanski, *Bite Down Little Whisper* (Brick Books)

### Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award

William Kowalski, *The Hundred Hearts* (Dundurn)

For more information about winning and shortlisted titles and their authors, see the June/July issue of *Eastword* or [www.writers.ns.ca](http://www.writers.ns.ca)

Obviously, the Awards program serves the writers and publishers of shortlisted titles. However, in partnership with regional and local stakeholders, WFNS is attempting to develop a programming cycle that runs from the shortlist announcement in June to the Awards celebration event in September, that will be as much about access, awareness, and advocacy as it is about promotion.

To date, the Awards programming cycle has focused on a reading series, which this year included readings by shortlisted writers at University of King's College and the Nook on Gottingen in Halifax, at the Alderney Gate Library in Dartmouth, and at Lane's Privateer Inn in Liverpool. In each case, we sought to partner with hosts keen on providing their communities with access to regional writers and with an opportunity to experience a "real, live author."

We also experimented with conducting mini-interviews with the shortlisted writers that we posted online and promoted via our social media channels, a strategy that helps us engage an audience that may not be familiar with the East Coast Literary Awards, the WFNS, or even writers from the region. Readers of *Quill & Quire* may have also seen the full page back cover advertisement for the East Coast Literary Awards shortlist in the September issue. Such promotion, then, not only drives book sales, but is also a form of advocacy – raising awareness of local and regional writers, and of the programs and services we offer writers of all kinds at all stages in their careers.

Awards programming also provides Nova Scotians with access to shortlisted writers and their work in meaningful and, at times, surprising ways. For example, to hear Newfoundland and Labrador's Ed Kavanagh discuss the editing process for *Strays*, his book of short fiction shortlisted for the Raddall Award, as an oral process was to understand the genesis of the distinctive and compelling voices driving the stories. Similarly, when Mary Dalton discussed weaving together lines from other poets for the series of centos in *Hooking* as its own form of creation, discussion ensued concerning



The East Coast Literary Awards winners: from left to right William Kowalski, Don Domanski and Stephen Kimber.

what kind of creative work goes on in giving public readings of works by other writers.

Looking ahead, it's moments like these we would like to foster more of, through different forms of engagement, master classes, online forums, and partnerships throughout the Atlantic provinces.

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**The deadline for entries to the 2015 East Coast Literary Awards is December 5, 2014. New and detailed guidelines are at [www.writers.ns.ca](http://www.writers.ns.ca).**

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The promotional aspect of the Atlantic Writing Competition (AWC) is something else entirely. Each year, we provide a showcase for AWC winners as the kick-off event for the Word on the Street (WOTS) Book & Magazine Festival in Halifax. In addition to the shortlist judges introducing them, the winning writers have the opportunity to read on the same stage as the national and regional writers that WOTS brings together. This reading is a perfect opportunity to bolster a burgeoning career or launch a new voice. Along with us making the first public announcement of the AWC winners at the East Coast Literary Awards celebration, it is an act of celebrating and promoting emerging writers within the broader literary community.

However, for the thousands of writers who have entered the AWC over its 37-year history, the program objective is evidently to support the craft of writing. Every entrant to the AWC receives feedback on the

submitted manuscript to help guide further development of the work. Our intent for the 2015 competition is to collaborate with writers' associations in Atlantic Canada to promote the program and reinvigorate participation throughout the region.

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**The deadline for entries to the 2015 Atlantic Writing Competition is February 2, 2015. New and detailed guidelines are at [www.writers.ns.ca](http://www.writers.ns.ca)**

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Of course, I am only scraping the surface of what the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia does in respect to promotion. And to put all this another way, I would like to leave you with two brief anecdotes from that busy literary weekend in late September.

The first concerns the special panel discussion we offered as part of the Word on the Street. Moderated by Andy Wainwright, the panel, *Writers & Influence*, featured Nova Scotian writers Shandi Mitchell, Carol Moreira, and Peter Sanger in a wide-ranging and cross-pollinating exploration of what influence was to them and where influence might come from in the future. The panelists shared personal accounts of their growth and development as writers, epiphanies of the everyday and esoteric, and responded to questions from the moderator, the audience, and each other.

The second is simply a series of impressions from the East Coast Literary Awards celebration during the evening of September 20. The gathering featured a packed house of writers, publishers, booksellers, readers, and volunteers; the warmth and wit of our MC, Olga Milosevich; WFNS members reading excerpts from shortlisted titles; and gracious words from the winning writers.

These gatherings were certainly celebratory and, in a sense, an opportunity for promotion of the Writers' Federation, of the Awards, and of writers of our region. In my view, though, these anecdotes underscore the original motivation that led to the formation, in 1976, of the WFNS as an organization run by writers for writers. They provide a reminder that despite the increasingly sophisticated strategies and tools of promotion at our disposal, and regardless of how artfully an arts service organization might employ promotion to serve programming goals, at the heart of our mission statement is human connection, an affirmation of community. ■



# The Winners of the Atlantic Writing Competition

The following were celebrated as winners of this year's Atlantic Writing Competition at the Word on the Street festival on September 21. On what was the last beautiful flourish of summer, all six judges introduced and welcomed all six writers to read before an appreciative audience. Congratulations all!

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

### Mary Pike, *Foreign Soul*

Mary Pike is an award-winning Newfoundland author. Her short stories have appeared in *The Cuffer Anthology*, *Paragon*, and *Telling Truth: a collection of essays*. She has taught in South Korea, Japan, St. Lucia, and Nigeria.

## Budge Wilson Short Story Prize

### Brittany Kraus, *Murmurs*

Originally from Regina, Saskatchewan, Brittany Kraus moved to Halifax to attend university, and then decided to stay. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English (Honours) from the University of King's College, and a diploma in Music from Grant MacEwan University. She won the Clare Murray Fooshee Poetry Prize in 2013, and the 2012 Varma Award for Gothic Literature; both prizes were awarded by Dalhousie University. Her essays have been published in *Verso*, Dalhousie's undergraduate journal of literary criticism, and the *Nabokov Online Journal*.

## Joyce Barkhouse Writing for Children Prize

### Jim Sutherland, *The House the Captain Built*

As far back as Jim Sutherland can remember he's had a desire to translate his over-active imagination to print form. He has written stories in various genres for decades but only recently decided to take the craft seriously. Jim's day job is with Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency as a firefighter, a career he has held since 1990. This position has given him the opportunity to write training manuals and develop courses at his place of work. However, his biggest passion is creative writing, and it has been his lifelong dream to be a successful writer. Jim grew up in small-town Nova Scotia and moved to the city in the 1980s. He lives in Dartmouth with his wife of 24 years, where together they pastor a house church ministry.

## Young Adult Novel Prize

### Nayani Jensen, *Minstrel's Song*

Nayani Jensen is a 19-year-old engineering student at Dalhousie University. She loves literature, math, spending time in the backcountry, and writing (of course). Her short story "Real" placed in the top three for the 2013 TD national book-week contest, and her poetry has been published in the Robert Bateman Get-to-Know calendar. She plays and teaches the violin, and has been a member of both the University and Nova Scotia Provincial Youth orchestras. Music, folklore and the wild all play into "Minstrel's Song," the story of three young people on the run in a 17th-century equivalent setting.

## Poetry Prize

### Mary Ellen Sullivan, *Visits*

Mary Ellen Sullivan grew up on a farm outside Guelph, Ontario, and now lives in Halifax. Her poems and prose have been published in *The Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, *Leaf Press* (online), *The Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, the anthology *A Quiet Bashful Man: Remembering Malcolm*, *All Rights Reserved*, and *The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada* (online).

She is a regular contributor to *Open Heart Forgery* and is included in *Open Heart Forgery: Year One Anthology*. She has compiled three annual issues of *Open Heart Farming*, a free collection of 20 farm and food-centric poems by Nova Scotia poets.

## Creative Non-Fiction Prize

### Glenna Jenkins, *Digging for Bones*

Glenna Jenkins is a writer, editor and indexer who lives in Lunenburg. Her short stories have been published in *Jilted Angels: A Collection of Short Stories* (Broad Street Press), and *Riptides: New Island Fiction* (Acorn Press Canada).

Glenna received a mentorship from the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia to study with award-winning writer, William Kowalski. She is also a graduate of the Humber School for Writers, where she studied novel writing with two-time Governor General Award-winner, David Adams Richards.

Her upcoming novel, *Somewhere I Belong*, is based on a true story and will be published later this year by Acorn Press Canada. ■

## Photos from Word on The Street



The Writers & Influence panel, left to right Andy Wainwright, Shandi Mitchell, Peter Sanger, and Carol Moreira.



Elaine Lui dropped in to read from her book *Listen to the Squawking Chicken: When Mother Knows Best, What's A Daughter to Do? A Memoir (Sort Of)*.



Part of an attentive crowd taking in the day's readings.

## Toastmasters Club for Writers

Are you a writer who has an upcoming public speaking engagement?

Maybe you feel at home in front of an audience but would like to engage the crowd more and sell more books.

Do you feel nervous during interviews or Q & A sessions?

Would you like to volunteer with confidence when public speaking opportunities present themselves?

Do you enjoy learning new techniques from other writers?

Are you a lifelong learner?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you will benefit from a new program – a Toastmasters Club for writers.

Toastmasters is not simply about giving speeches; it is about building confidence and creating leaders. Members grow both personally and professionally. Come to a Toastmasters meeting as a guest and you might stay as a member. Anyone is welcome at any meeting.

Meetings will run from 6:30 until 8 p.m. on the first Thursday and third Monday of the month. For further information contact Collette Saunders at 902-405-1701 or [collettesaunders@hotmail.com](mailto:collettesaunders@hotmail.com), or Rosemary Drisdelle at 902-445-2298, or [info@rosemarydrisdelle.com](mailto:info@rosemarydrisdelle.com). ■



Stephen Kimber signing copies of his Richardson Award-winning book, *What Lies Across the Water*.

# The permission to write: St. George's YouthNet Writing Camp

by Kathleen Martin

I came across the rapper Jay-Z's book, *Decoded*, when I was preparing to help lead a writing camp for kids and teens this summer. WFNS sponsors the camp with funds raised last year by a workshop offered by Heather Jessup, and this year by the Fed's Spring Fling. The campers and I did a lot of things together, but it was Jay-Z's book that really caught their imaginations.

The writing camp takes place as part of the summer program at St. George's YouthNet. St. George's is the gorgeous round church on Brunswick Street in Halifax. Its administrative building includes a gymnasium with worn wooden floors, enormous windows, and a cluttered stage. Offices tucked just beside the stage spill out into a common room with comfy chairs and a couch. The calendar on the large blackboard outlines the summer's activities, ranging from cooking classes to backcountry camping trips at Kejī. Our writing camp was a weeklong block in July.

YouthNet was created to be a home away from home for kids from Halifax's Uniacke Square. When we gathered the first day, the boys talked animatedly about how we discussed rap lyrics during last year's camp. The girls were, I learned, fans of the singer Beyoncé, Jay-Z's wife. When we were making up stories about ourselves, more than one outlined elaborate scenarios in which they became singers exactly like – and sometimes with – Beyoncé.

I put my copy of Jay-Z's *Decoded* on the table a few days later. The cover art is striking. It is "Rorschach" by Andy Warhol in shiny gold on a matte black background. The kids were immediately drawn to it – an emblem, brazen, signature style for a king of rap.

The snapshot on the back of *Decoded* is gentle. Jay-Z balances on a green bench in front of a chain link fence. The pavement around him is cracked, tufts of grass pushing through in spots. It is scattered with maple seeds. His head is down and he is listening to what looks to be a radio or Walkman offered to him by a little boy in red and black high tops. The boy is watching Jay-Z's face in that way we look at people when we have shared something with them we hope they'll like.

"Everywhere I went I'd write," I read to the kids from Jay-Z's book. "If I was crossing a street with my friends and a rhyme came to me, I'd break out my binder, spread it on a mailbox or lamppost and write the rhyme before I crossed the street. I didn't care if my friends left me at the light, I had to get it out."

I could see in the kids' faces as they listened to that shift – that dawning of social permission to write.

And then I read: "I wanted to tell stories and boast, to entertain and to dazzle with creative rhymes, but everything I said had to be rooted in the truth of (my) experience ... I was on the streets for more than half of my life from the time I was thirteen years old. People sometimes say that now I'm

so far away from that life – now that I've got businesses and Grammys and magazine covers – that I have no right to rap about it. But how distant is the story of your own life ever going to be? The feelings I had during that part of my life were burned into me like a brand ... It's my core story and, just like you, just like anyone, that core story is the one that I have to tell."

It was an incredible gift to witness what those words meant to the people with me in that room. To hear someone they respected, someone whom they welcomed into their everyday lives through his music, telling them what they experience in life matters and can be strung together in phrases and sentences in a way that will help others see differently. To know it is words that gave Jay-Z his power – and that words of theirs might travel as far as his did. That their words and stories matter, too. That they might be listened to thoughtfully, like Jay-Z was listening in the picture on the back cover of the book.

Over the course of our week together, the kids read their work aloud, sometimes with confidence and sometimes hesitantly and sometimes not at all. But that afternoon, as part of a terrific spoken word workshop given by Stephanie Lent, each of them stood up in our big circle in the gym and read something about their life. Their core story. And when they did, somehow, their strength was different. I'll remember that. ■



# TD Canadian Children's Book Week

by James Leck

*Editor's Note: Every May about 30 Canadian writers, illustrators and storytellers spread out across the country to bring their books and the written word to kids in schools and public libraries during Children's Book Week. TD Bank and the Canadian Children's Book Centre combine to organize the extravaganza. In 2015, 29 English-speaking writers will be in all 10 provinces and three territories from May 2 to 9, when Don Aker will be in Quebec and Jan L. Coates visits British Columbia. James Leck was in Saskatchewan with his fictional teen detective Jack Lime for this year's Book Week, and has this to say about the experience:*

I learned early on that editors and agents weren't going to kick down my apartment door and demand to read my stories, so I started submitting my work to publishers. That's how I ended up getting published. The same rule holds true when it comes to getting selected for TD Canadian Children's Book Week. If you'd like to participate, you need to apply. Right about now, you're probably saying, "This article is rubbish, that's so obvious!" You're right, it is, but another lesson I've learned is that sometimes you need to state the obvious in order to spur people into action. And I would highly recommend participating in Book Week if you're eligible.

And that's the hitch, of course – not everyone is eligible. First of all, you have to have at least two professionally published books for children or young adults under your belt. The other really key rule, as I see it, is that one of the books has to have been released during the past year. So, if you've only got one professionally published book floating around in the world, then you're going to have to put another one out there. Get cracking. Or, if you've got two or more books already in the market, but they weren't released over the past year, then I'm afraid you've missed the boat. Doh!

If, however, you meet both of those criteria, then shake on over to the Book Week website – [www.bookweek.ca](http://www.bookweek.ca) – and check out a few of the other rules and regulations. Like I said, it's worth your time as it's an amazing opportunity that you won't regret.

Why is Book Week so amazingly awesome, you ask? Don't I have to fly to another province, then drive around from place to place giving one writing presentation after



another to groups of kids for five days straight? Exactly! That's exactly why it's amazingly awesome.

First of all, I got to fly to Saskatchewan, the only province in Canada I hadn't visited before, and then I got to drive from Saskatoon to North Battleford, Prince Albert and Melfort, with a few stops in between. On top of that, I did two to three writing workshops every day to students in their schools or at public libraries. Then, each evening, I'd roll into a new town, grab dinner, and hole up in a hotel room and try to meet a deadline for my latest book. That, to me, is heaven.

I used to be a high school teacher, so getting back into the classroom and working with students, particularly in relation to creative writing, is exhilarating. There are few things in the world better than walking into a grade eight classroom, filled with jaded teens who really couldn't care less about you and your writing, and then gradually see them become engaged. I don't know if there's *anything* better in the world than walking out of that class and having the tough kid, who was sitting in the back, come up and shake your hand on the way out.

I'm not saying I left every room to a standing O, that's not true, and I'm sure a few were just happy not to be doing math, but Book Week provides you with enough opportunities to interact with kids that you're bound to walk away with a few pleasant memories.

On top of that, the people behind the scenes, organizing your week, are exceptional. I didn't have a single glitch or hiccup during my time in Saskatchewan. Not from the flights to the rental car agency to the various hotels I stayed at. I couldn't organize my own

vacation that well. And last but not least, the teachers and librarians were outstanding hosts. I got to enjoy Vietnamese food in Saskatoon, a staff lunch in Prince Albert, and some delicious souvlaki in Melfort. Besides, they made me feel like a bit of a celebrity during my stay, and that's always nice.

**A** case in point of just how great Book Week can be is my final presentation of the week. It was at a school in Raymore, to 30 grade nine students, on a beautiful Friday afternoon. Not only was it hot and sunny outside, but it was their last class of the week and the rest of the students got to go outside and clean up around the school for Earth Day. They, however, would be holed up in a cramped library doing a creative writing workshop. Sounds like fun, right?

I have to admit, I was tired from a week of presentations and the two-hour drive I'd just done to get there. They were big, loud, and boisterous. It could've been a recipe for disaster, but the kids were great. They were just rambunctious enough for us to have fun without driving me crazy, which is probably the sweetest spot to be when you're trying to get kids to be creative. I walked out of that school, into the Saskatchewan sunshine, feeling fine as fine can be, thinking that Book Week was one of the best things I've ever done.

Is Book Week for everyone? Probably not, but if you enjoy a little adventure and you love getting in front of lots of kids on a daily basis, then you should give it a whirl. ■

## Introducing Linda Hudson – our new Arts Education Officer

*We are pleased to announce we have hired a new staff person. Linda Hudson is our new Arts Education Officer. She'll be administering the Writers in the Schools program and providing office support. Her hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. We asked her to write an introduction:*

Hello Everyone! I am delighted to say I am the newest WFNS staff member. I am excited to work for an organization that encourages writing in all its forms, and works to bring our amazing local talent into its well deserved spotlight. I am going to be tackling the Writers in the Schools program, and any other tasks that Jonathan and Robin can dream up. (I am sure they have a list already!) I am university educated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Mount Saint Vincent University, a Masters of Arts from Acadia University, and a Masters in Library and Information Studies.

In my travels, I have had the pleasure of being employed at various institutions that will lend guidance to my work for the WFNS. I have been a graduate Research Assistant at Acadia, completed my MLIS practicum at the Halifax Public Library, and was an intern at the Dalhousie Centre for Learning and Teaching. I have assisted in the coordination of events (e.g., the annual CLT conference), provided literacy training, and work for the Halifax Regional School Board in the Excel program.

Those are the nitty-gritty facts about myself; however, if you are interested in the slightly less professional side of me, here are some tidbits I would like to share with you.

Working with authors and being surrounded by the arts community has been a dream job since I was a small child.

I love to read. I will try any style or genre, and I find myself particularly interested in why people like or dislike a book.

I love to cook. I dream of owning a set of Grohmann knives, and was fortunate to attend a few classes from a Master Chef.

I cannot resist a dance floor. Once the music starts, I feel the need to boogie.

I am genuinely interested in people and the lives they live. Everyone has stories to tell, and oftentimes it gives me a great perspective on how to see the world in a different way.

On that note, I encourage everyone to introduce themselves. If you have any questions, suggestions, or basic comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to working with everyone, and wish you all the best. ■



## Impressed – new books by members



### ***Ties That Bind***

**L.P. Suzanne Atkinson**

**Friesen Press, \$22, June 2014**

**ISBN-paperback-978-1-4602-4848-5**

**ISBN-ebook-978-1-4602-4849-2**

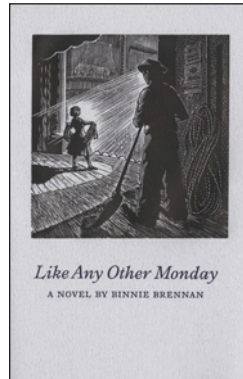
**<http://lpsabooks.wix.com/lpsabooks#>**

This is a novel about a woman, both unexceptional and extraordinary. It is about how she's affected by people and happenings around her and how, in turn, she effects the lives of others. It is a story of forgiveness and loss; a story of learning to love and be loved; a story of growing, of friendship and of simple pleasures.

The novel spans six decades, weaving together the culture, politics, and landscapes of those times.

Like all of us on our journey, we are bound by our experiences, shaped by our choices, and molded by the vessel of life that surrounds us. The power to change course comes with the gaining of insights into the impacts of the ties that bind.

This is Suzanne Atkinson's second book and first novel. *Emily's Will Be Done*, a work of creative non-fiction, was published in July 2013. Suzanne and her husband live on the South Shore.



### ***Like Any Other Monday***

**Binnie Brennan**

**Gaspereau Press, \$27.95, Sept. 2014**

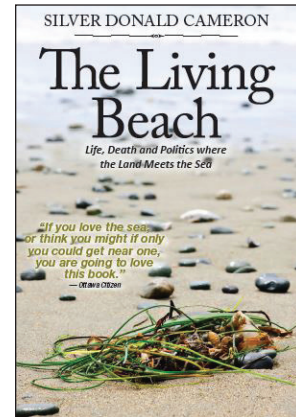
**ISBN: 9781554471386**

**[www.gaspereau.com](http://www.gaspereau.com)**

After breaking up the family act in 1916, Keatonesque comedic performer Billy Pascoe retreats to Muskoka to consider his prospects as a solo performer. Instead, Pascoe discovers an unlikely partner and straightman in Lucinda Hart, one half of a disbanded song-and-dance sister act. While still wrestling to mesh their vastly different experiences of rehearsal and performance, Pascoe & Hart hit the vaudeville circuit, perfecting their act, gaining each other's trust and winning over audiences.

Brennan's portrayal of the intimate, often tenuous interactions underlying the collaborative creative process reminds us of the stage's kinship with everyday life, where limits must be tested and risks taken in the pursuit of greater dreams.

Binnie Brennan is the author of a collection of short fiction, *A Certain Grace*, and a novella, *Harbour View*, which was shortlisted for an Atlantic Book Award in 2010. She lives in Halifax, where she plays the viola with Symphony Nova Scotia.



### ***The Living Beach:***

***Life, Death and Politics where the Land Meets the Sea***

**Silver Donald Cameron**

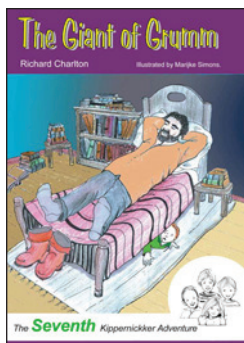
**Red Deer Press \$22.95, 2014**

**ISBN 0-88995-509-7**

**[www.reddeerpress.com](http://www.reddeerpress.com)**

An account of the dance at the ever-changing boundary between the land and the sea. Silver Donald Cameron uses a study of the elements of the beach to build a case for the beach as an integrated, living entity in its own right, and a model for the unity of all things on Earth. Cameron's book leads his readers to an awakening of the processes of life around us. He begins with the science of waves and sand, and gradually reveals the inter-relatedness of all the habitues of the beach. The final destination is an understanding of how all living things are woven together in the fabric of life and what that means for "the stewards of the Earth".

This is the second and revised edition of *The Living Beach*, which won the Evelyn Richardson Award in 1999, got rave reviews, and was named one of the year's 100 best books by *The Globe and Mail*. Silver Donald Cameron is an acclaimed author, filmmaker, playwright, host and executive producer of TheGreenInterview.com. His work includes plays, films, radio and TV scripts, hundreds of magazine articles, and 17 books. He lives in Halifax. His website is [www.silverdonaldcameron.ca](http://www.silverdonaldcameron.ca).



### ***The Giant of Grumm***

**Richard Charlton**

**Little Fishes Publishing \$8**

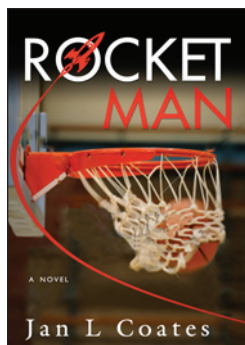
**ISBN 978-0-9738438-8-0**

**<http://dickcharlton.com/>**

In the seventh instalment of the Kippernickker Adventure Series, Nicolas, Jonathan, Sarah and Matthew Kippernickker use their Adventure Key and visit the village of Grumm where a sign says, All are welcome except Giants. This is because in a castle on the hill next to the village there lives the terrible Giant of Grumm. Once again the Kippernickkers are called to help. When Major Murdle's army fails in its attempt to capture the giant, the Kippernickkers think of a plan.

The Kippernickker Adventure Series are chapter books for Grades 2 to 5 that take an hour to read. The adventures are available in print, CD, and as an audiobook. Each story is about 10,000 words, 80 pages in eight chapters, and the audio books and CD's run for 60 minutes.

Richard Charlton is a professional electrical engineer with a variety of extracurricular writing and dramatic productions to his credit, spanning many years with many published and performed works. He created the Kippernickker Adventure Stories for his grandchildren in California, who asked for the stories so often he decided to write them all down.



### ***Rocket Man***

**Jan L. Coates**

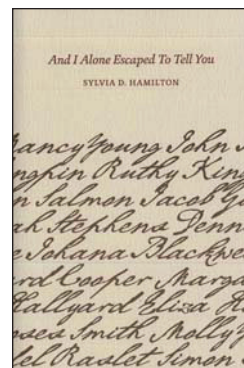
**Red Deer Press, \$12.95, April 2014**

**ISBN: 978-0-88995-494-6**

**[www.reddeerpress.com](http://www.reddeerpress.com)**

If only 14-year-old Bob could go back to being the Mr. Invisible of his superhero days. Back when he wasn't always being compared to his super-talented, hardcore basketball-god brother and perfect little sister. Back when Roy and Kyle didn't know he existed. To make matters even worse, his dad is really sick and getting sicker. When Bob begins planning a fundraiser basketball game in support of cancer research, things start to look up.

Jan L. Coates lives in the Annapolis Valley. She is the author of *A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk* (Red Deer Press) that was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature. The *Power of Harmony*, a middle grade novel also from Red Deer Press, was a finalist for the Ann Connor Brimer Atlantic Book Award.



### ***And I Alone Escaped to Tell You***

**Sylvia D. Hamilton**

**Gaspereau Press, \$19.95, April 2014**

**ISBN 9781554471362**

**[www.gaspereau.com](http://www.gaspereau.com)**

*And I Alone Escaped to Tell You* evoke the lives of early Black Nova Scotians and of the generations that followed. The settlement of African peoples in Nova Scotia is a richly layered story encompassing many waves of settlement and diverse circumstances – from captives to “freedom runners” who sailed north from the United States with hopes of establishing a new life.

The poems in *And I Alone Escaped to Tell You* endeavour to give these historical events a human voice, blending documentary material, memory, experience, and imagination to evoke the lives of these early Black Nova Scotians and of the generations that followed. This collection is a moving meditation on the place of African-descended people in the Canadian story and on the threads connecting all of us to the African diaspora.

Sylvia D. Hamilton is a poet, filmmaker and writer whose awards include a Gemini and the Portia White Prize. She was a contributor to, and co-editor of, *We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up: Essays In African Canadian Women's History*. She lives in Grand-Pré.



***Les oiseaux de nuit finissent aussi par s'endormir***

**Martine L. Jacquot**

**Les Éditions David, October 2014**

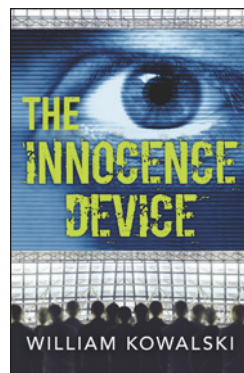
**ISBN 978-2-89597-432-1 \$21.95**

**also available as an ebook and a PDF  
www.editionsdavid.com**

En transit à Paris après un séjour à Moscou, Ève, interprète de métier, est bloquée à l'aéroport en raison du mauvais temps. Juste avant d'embarquer pour Ottawa, elle croit entendre aux nouvelles télévisées le nom d'une personne qui a jadis eu un impact déterminant dans sa vie et qui réveille en elle des souvenirs enfouis depuis plusieurs décennies. Que sont devenus Charles et tous ceux qui, sans le vouloir sans doute, l'avaient poussée à partir précipitamment de chez elle?

Errant de ville en ville (Tanger, Montréal, Prague), tel un oiseau migrateur qui n'arrive jamais à se fixer, Ève a le curieux sentiment d'être partout de passage. Petit à petit, grâce à l'influence réconfortante de sa grande complice Dacha, de ses amis Maxime et Julien, puis de Charles, elle parvient à se réconcilier avec sa propre histoire.

Globe-trotter et collectionneuse de mots, Martine L. Jacquot écrit à plein temps entre la Nouvelle-Écosse et de multiples destinations nécessaires au renouvellement de son inspiration. Romancière, poète, nouvelliste, essayiste et auteure pour la jeunesse, elle a publié une trentaine de livres, dont l'essai *Duras ou le regard absolu* aux Presses du Midi (France). *Les oiseaux de nuit finissent aussi par s'endormir* est son premier roman aux Éditions David.



***The Innocence Device***

**William Kowalski**

**Rapid Reads, Raven Books, \$9.99**

**An imprint of Orca Book Publishers**

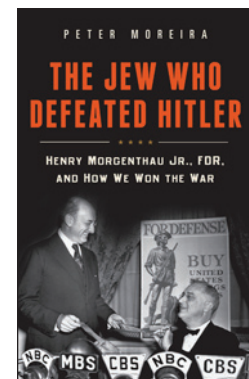
**www.rapid-reads.com**

The year is 2147. Chago, 24, is a prisoner in a world made up only of prisoners and those who guard them. The only bright spot in his life is his son, whose mother is a guard. To resolve overcrowding in the prison, the warden introduces the Innocence Device, a high-tech machine he claims can determine innocence or guilt. The prisoners riot and take over the prison.

*The Innocence Device* is William Kowalski's fifth title in Orca's Rapid Reads series for adults with reading challenges, who have come to reading late in life or are working on their English language skills, and for strong readers looking for a quick read. It joins *The Barrio Kings*, *The Way It Works*, *Something Nobel*, and *Just Gone*.

Kowalski's other novels – *Eddie's Bastard*, *Somewhere South of Here*, *The Good Neighbour*, and *The Adventures of Hash Jackson* – have been translated into several languages and are international bestsellers. His latest book, *The Hundred Hearts*, described as "The Catch-22 of Afghanistan," recently won the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award.

William can be found at  
williamkowalski.com



***The Jew Who Defeated Hitler***

**Henry Morgenthau Jr., FDR, and How We Won the War**

**Peter Moreira**

**Prometheus Books \$26.50, Nov 18, 2014**

**ISBN: 978-1-61614-958-1**

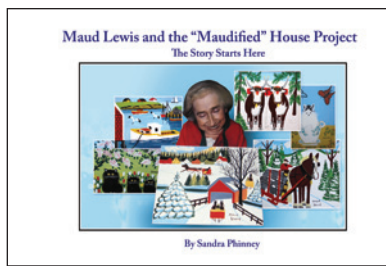
**www.prometheusbooks.com**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt coined the slogan "The Arsenal of Democracy" to describe American might during World War II. The man who financed that arsenal was his Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau Jr. This is the first book to focus on the wartime achievements of this unlikely hero – a dyslexic college dropout who turned himself into a forceful and efficient administrator and then exceeded even Roosevelt in his determination to defeat the Nazis.

In addition, Morgenthau championed aid to Britain before America entered the war; initiated and oversaw the War Refugee Board, spearheading the rescue of 200,000 Jews from the Nazis; and became the architect of the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, which produced the modern economic paradigm. The book also chronicles his many challenges, ranging from anti-Semitism to the postwar "Morgenthau Plan" that was his undoing.

Peter Moreira is the author of *Hemingway on the China Front: His WWII Spy Mission with Martha Gellhorn* and *Backwater: Nova Scotia's Economic Decline*. He is a principal of Entrevestor, a blogging and data service that covers innovative industries in Atlantic Canada. He has 30 years experience in journalism in Asia, Europe, the U.S., and Canada.





***Maud Lewis and the “Maudified” House Project – The Story Starts Here***

**Sandra Phinney**

**Hawthorne Lane Publishing \$14.95**

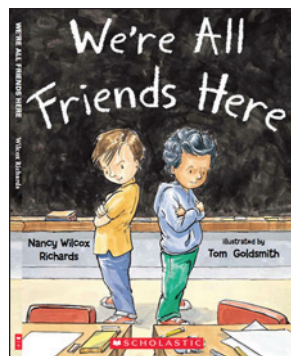
**ISBN: 978-0-9809346-4-9**

**Available at bookstores, newsstands and museums in Yarmouth, or by contacting the author**

During the winter of 2014, the Friends of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Western Branch Society started a project to “Maudify” the town of Yarmouth by inviting local artists to paint cedar children’s playhouses. Why? To let the world know that world renowned folk artist Maud Lewis had roots in Yarmouth; to celebrate the artistic talent in the region; to beautify the town; and to raise funds for children’s programs at the AGNS branch in Yarmouth.

This book is a photo documentary of how the project unfolded. It features background information about the artists (16 adults and nine students) and how the 11 houses they created came to be. There’s also information about Maud Lewis, and a few stories from people who knew her or have her paintings. Finally, it’s a statement about the importance of volunteers and how a community can rally around a common goal and make things happen.

Sandra Phinney is a journalist who lives in Canaan, overlooking the Tusket River. This is her third non-fiction book. Her website is [sandrphinney.com](http://sandrphinney.com).



***We’re All Friends Here***

**Nancy Wilcox Richards**

**Illustrated by Tom Goldsmith**

**Scholastic Canada Ltd**

**ISBN: 9781443128322**

This clever, funny picture book for kids ages three to seven demonstrates there are two sides to every story. Sonny and Arthur have been thrown together since nursery school, but the two boys couldn’t be more different. Sonny is careful and studious while Arthur is a whirlwind of mess and noise. Although their teacher Ms Nowe reminds the students in her class that “we’re all friends here,” Sonny and Arthur aren’t really convinced they can ever be friends.

But when Arthur is not on the school bus one day, Sonny realizes it’s pretty boring without his usual seatmate. Could it be true that the two boys are good for each other, even though they are so different? With all the humour and silliness that appeals to readers of this age, the story is cleverly told in alternating perspectives – first from Sonny’s point of view, and then from Arthur’s – that will get kids thinking about putting themselves in someone else’s shoes.

Nancy Wilcox Richards is the author of 13 books. She has been an elementary teacher for 30 years and she resides with her husband, two children, a golden retriever dog, and a cantankerous cat on an almost perfect lake.



***Prerequisites for Sleep***

**Jennifer L. Stone**

**Signature Editions, \$19.95, Oct. 2014**

**ISBN: 978-1927426-48-7**

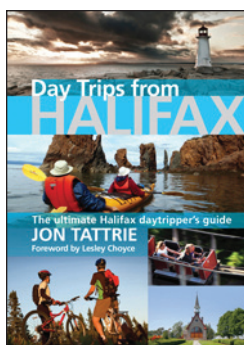
**also available as an e-book**

**<http://www.signature-editions.com>**

In *Prerequisites for Sleep*, her first collection of short stories, Jennifer L. Stone has created a fictional world rich with dilemmas. The 13 stories describe the bartering between individuals and their consciences at the end of the day – the deals and concessions one makes to live with oneself and to, hopefully, get a good night’s sleep. The collection hinges on events that create the need for this nightly bartering. Whether it is the decision itself, the aftermath, or the failure to make a decision, the characters will all have sleepless nights. And who among us doesn’t?

Although most of these characters are firmly rooted in Stone’s Maritime landscape, their challenges are universal. They are people we recognize. They step off the page alive as family, friends, and neighbours.

Jennifer Stone’s fiction has appeared in numerous literary magazines. The title story “Prerequisites for Sleep” was selected by Nelson Education Ltd. to appear in *Canadian Content*, Seventh Edition. In 2010, she was awarded first prize in *Grain*’s 22nd Annual Short Story Contest. She lives in Mineville.

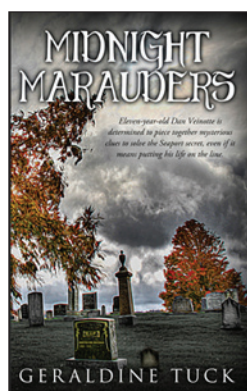


**Day Trips From Halifax:  
The Ultimate Halifax Daytrippers Guide**  
**Jon Tattrie**

**MacIntyre Purcell Publishing, \$19.95**  
**August 2014, ISBN 978-1-927097-44-1**  
**www.macintyrepurcell.com**

A densely packed guide to Nova Scotia's most raucous adventures, inspiring landscapes, and amazing history, *Day Trips From Halifax* ensures that visitors to and residents of the region never have a boring weekend again. From tidal-bore rafting on the Shubenacadie River or strolling among lions at the Oaklawn Zoo to searching for ancient fossils on Joggins Beach, *Day Trips from Halifax* is filled with all you need to know about the area's local eateries, hidden beaches, unexpected hiking trails and much, much more.

Jon Tattrie is a multi-media freelance journalist and author. He writes for local, regional and national publications. At the CBC, he's an online journalist, TV and radio reporter and occasionally documentary-maker. His books include *Cornwallis: The Violent Birth of Halifax*, *The Hermit of Africville*, and *Black Snow: A novel of the Halifax Explosion*.



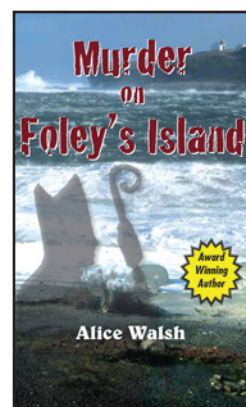
**Midnight Marauders**

**Geraldine Tuck**

**WindyWood Publishing**  
**www.windywoodpub.com**  
**Nov. 2014, ISBN 978-1502416551**  
**available as a Kindle-book (\$3.99) and**  
**print book at Amazon.com**

Set in the early 1930s, this historical adventure highlights rumrunning along the South Shore of Nova Scotia. When 11-year-old Dan Veinotte, son of a Canadian Preventive Service Officer boards the *Martha-Rae*, he discovers the town peddler, Corker, is smuggling rum. He can't tell his father because he owes Corker his life. This junior detective is determined to piece together mysterious clues to solve the Seaport secret, even if it means putting his own life on the line.

Geraldine Tuck's young adult novel was first published by Nimbus in 1991 for their New Wave Series. It has been re-edited and is now available on Amazon, both as an e-book and a paper copy. Geraldine is currently working on the second novel in the series, *Moonlight Marauders*.



**Murder on Foley's Island**

**Alice Walsh**

**WindyWood Publishing**  
**www.windywoodpub.com**  
**\$9.49 ISBN 978-0993849626 Nov. 2014**  
**available at Amazon.com**

People on Foley's Island are thrilled to have the renowned hypnotist, Prospero, perform at the community hall. However, when Prospero calls his hypnotized subjects back to the stage, Jake Peckford is not with them. After the show, concerned friends go looking for him. Hours later the archbishop is found murdered on the beach, and Jake becomes the prime suspect. A severe storm prevents the forensics team reaching the island, and Blanche St. Croix, a rookie RCMP officer, is in charge. As she proceeds with the investigation, she finds secrets, cover-ups, and no shortage of suspects. Even the archbishop has a few skeletons in his closet.

Alice Walsh writes fiction and non-fiction for adults, teens and children, and her articles and short stories have been published in various magazines and anthologies. A number of her books have been shortlisted for or won awards and several of her books have been listed as Best Books for Children and Teens in Canada. Her most recent books include *Analyzing Sylvia Plath* (a murder mystery) and *A Long Way Home*. Alice lives in Lower Sackville.

# Who's doing what

■ The nominations for the Governor General's Literary Awards are out, and two WFNS members are on the shortlists. **Lesley Choyce** is nominated in the Children's Literature category for his novel in free-verse *Jeremy Stone* (Red Deer Press). **Georgette LeBlanc** is nominated in the French poetry category for her poetic novel, *Prudent* (Les Éditions Perce-Neige). Georgette received the Lieutenant Governor's Masterworks Arts Award in 2010 for her books *Alma* and *Amédé*.

■ The Canadian Children's Book Centre announced the shortlists for their six book awards. Two Fed members are nominated for the John Spray Mystery Award. **Jessica Scott Kerrin** is up for *The Spotted Dog Last Seen* (Groundwood Books). Also nominated is **James Leck**. James said, "I was flabbergasted to find out *The Further Adventures of Jack Lime* (Kids Can Press) was nominated. That was a book I started writing in Dartmouth, it was revised while living in Kuwait, and finished while on vacation in Banff. As a result, it always felt like a wandering child, without a place in the universe. So, I'm pleased as punch."

**Philip Roy** is on the shortlist for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People for his novel *Mr. Bell & Me* (Cape Breton University Press).

**Meghan Marentette** is on the shortlist for the Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy for her book *The Stowaways* (Pajama Press).

The complete list of awards and nominees can be found at [www.bookcentre.ca/news/finalists\\_ccbc\\_awards\\_2014](http://www.bookcentre.ca/news/finalists_ccbc_awards_2014).

■ **Melanie Mosher** was one of the featured writers at Word on the Street in Toronto where she read from *Fire Pie Trout* – her picture book illustrated by Renné Benoit and published by Fifth House. For five- to eight-year-olds, it's Melanie's first book. She lives on the Eastern Shore.

■ **Joanne Merriam's** poetry is in Third Man Records book and vinyl combo anthology *Language Lessons: Volume I*, edited by Chet Weise and Ben Swank, alongside writing by Jake Adam York, C.D. Wright, Pinckney Benedict, and others. *Language Lessons* is a triple treat. The 321-page hardbound book features contemporary poetry and prose from more than 20 award-winning and/or award-nominated poets and authors. It is also two vinyl LPs of jazz, psychedelic-punk, poetry, blues, and pop. Included are five pieces of frameable broadsides of poems by C.D. Wright, Frank Stanford, Brian Barker, Jake Adam York, and Chet Weise with original art. It's available at [www.thirdmanrecords.com](http://www.thirdmanrecords.com)

■ September was busy for **Peggie Graham**. Say The Word Again, a collaborative art installation incorporating her poem and art by visual artist Rita Lamontagne was featured at Afterglow: A Bridgewater Art Experience. This marked the pair's third collaboration. Their installation piece, In Her Empty Room, was part of a show at the LaHave Bakery Gallery.

■ **Lisa Harrington's** latest YA novel *Twisted* is just out from Dancing Cat Books.

■ *The Eternal Haunted Summer Ezine* has a poem by **Heddy Johannesen** in its autumn issue. *Circle Magazine: Celebrating Nature, Spirit and Magick* published her essay in #118. *Essential Herbal* will feature one of her articles. Moon Books included her essay about the Inuit Goddess Sedna in their book *Naming the Goddess*, that was released in September and available on Amazon.

■ **Jan L. Coates** will be touring the Lower Mainland of British Columbia during TD Children's Book Week in May 2015. Two new books are scheduled for this fall from Caramel Tree – *The Legend of Avalon* and *Aladdin*. And Nimbus Publishing will release her picture book – *The King of Keji* – in the spring of 2015.

■ **Don Aker** will have three books out in the spring of 2015 from three publishers. HarperCollins will release *Delusion Road* (a teen novel), while Scholastic will print his historical teen novel *Brothers in Arms: The Siege of Louisbourg*, and Pearson Education will launch his middle level novel *Touch Twice*.

■ Pottersfield Press will publish **Jim Lotz's** thirtieth book in the spring. With his customary humour, courage and forthrightness, he tells the story of his life and adventures in *Sharing The Journey*. Always an independent and mindful thinker, prepared to take the road that best suited his skills and beliefs, Jim shares what he has learned during his years working at 25 different jobs from farmer to university professor.



■ **Peggy Horgan** will launch her first novel at an event in November in Charlottetown. Double Dragon Publishing ([www.double-dragon-ebooks.com](http://www.double-dragon-ebooks.com)) has just released *For A Song*, her award-winning fantasy fiction novel. This is her first published novel and she attributes this achievement to her win in the 34th Atlantic Writing Competition. "It still seems unreal to me, but then I see the beautiful book cover with my name on it and get a little weepy all over again. It's a dream come true," said Hogan.

An experience in Hogan's past was the inspiration for the story: "I volunteered at a long-term care facility and played music for the residents. During the first few songs, you could barely hear me through the shuffling and general hubbub. Then, like magic, the room grew quieter and people relaxed. You could see the tension melt away from their faces." It was this revelation that gave music a whole new dimension for Hogan. In *For a Song*, the protagonist discovers the very real healing – and hurting – power of music.

Peggy has lived in different places, has challenged herself with a variety of careers, and travels to places where she hopes to find something unusual. With a degree in English from St. Francis Xavier University and a lifelong passion for the written word, she says it was a simple segue to create fantasy fiction where the different, challenging, and unusual is expected at every turn. A few years ago, she and her husband moved to New Glasgow, Prince Edward Island, where she is working on her next novel whose heroine lives just a few miles away in a small fishing village.

■ **Doretta Groendyk's** newest picture book for kids – *Hockey Morning, Noon and Night* – is available from Acorn Press Canada.

■ **Martine Jacquot** was chosen author of the month for September by Éditions David. Her latest novel from the Ottawa publisher is *Les oiseaux de nuit finissent aussi par s'endormir*. Martine was invited to the book fair in Shippagan (Salon du Livre de la Péninsule Acadienne), Dieppe and Montreal, with lots of interviews and round tables. Her poetry is also featured in the *Anthologie de la poésie des femmes en Acadie*, published by Éditions Perce-Neige in Moncton.

■ Enfield & Wizenty will soon release **Elaine McCluskey's** new short story collection *Hello, Sweetheart*.

■ **Lesley Choyce**, who writes for adults, children and teens, has 85 books in his résumé. And he will add two more to the list this fall. Ekstasis Editions has just published his latest poetry collection, *All Alone at the End of the World*. In November, Red Deer Press will release his young adult novel *Into the Wasteland*.

■ Inspire! Toronto International Book Fair is appropriately named. The November 13 to 16 event features 400 Canadian and international authors, more than 300 hours of programming, and eight stages and feature areas. **Binnie Brennan** and **George Elliott Clarke** will be in attendance at Canada's largest book fair.

■ The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award is a reading program designed to advance literacy and foster a joy of reading among Atlantic Canadian kids in grades 4, 5 and 6. The kids vote for their favourite books and authors, selecting the winners. The 2014-15 English fiction shortlist includes *Game Face* by **Sylvia Gunnery** (Lorimer), *Me & Mr. Bell* by **Philip Roy** (Cape Breton University Press), *The Hidden Agenda of Sigrid Sugden* by **Jill MacLean** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), and *The Power of Harmony* by **Jan L. Coates** (Red Deer Press). Details on the Hackmatack Award and how to participate can be found at [www.hackmatack.ca](http://www.hackmatack.ca). *Me & Mr. Bell* and *The Hidden Agenda of Sigrid Sugden* are also nominated for the Silver Birch fiction award, a similar reading program in Ontario.

■ **Jennifer Hatt** is a freelance writer in New Glasgow. She established Marechal Media to publish her own books, the Finding Maria series – *Finding Maria*, *Orchids for Billie*, and *Can Love Bloom in a War Zone*. Her fourth in the series, *Song of the Lilacs*, will be out later this year. Jennifer's now branched out into publishing other writers. She says, "The only excitement that can match seeing your own book emerge from the box is making that happen for someone else." Marechal Media is the publisher of *When Freddie Gardner Played: My Life and Times in Aberdeen School of Nursing 1951-1954* by Mary (Foote) Sheehan. Jennifer's website is [www.FindingMaria.com](http://www.FindingMaria.com).

■ **Jon Tattrie's** second novel will be published by Pottersfield Press in the fall of 2015.

## Chris Benjamin is Writer-in-Residence at PARL

Passion needs to come from deep within, and every writer has it. For Chris Benjamin, his passion for writing, helping others and spreading the literary word in the community is why the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) is excited to announce him as their eleventh Writer-in-Residence from September to December 2014.

PARL's Writer-in-Residence program provides an important access point for emerging writers into the world of writing and publishing at a grass-roots level in rural communities. The Writer-in-Residence acts as a mentor to writers (and readers) in the community of all ages and abilities (from the budding new wordsmiths to 'old hands' at the trade, from hobbyists to hardened professionals) by giving workshops, reviewing manuscripts, providing criticism, and offering advice about publishing.

A freelance journalist and author, Chris Benjamin has written for a long list of Canadian and American magazines and newspapers. His debut novel, *Drive-by Saviours* (Roseway), was longlisted for Canada Reads 2011 and a ReLit Prize. His second book, a non-fiction piece titled *Eco-Innovators: Sustainability in Atlantic Canada* (Nimbus), was the winner of the 2012 APMA Best Atlantic-Published Book Award and a finalist for the Richardson Non-Fiction Prize. A series of short video documentaries were made, based on the book.

His newest book, *Indian School Road: Legacies of the Shubenacadie Residential School* (Nimbus) was released in August. Benjamin has always been a storyteller with a passion for social justice, sustainability and human health.

Writing Workshops are open to the public. Mentoring is by appointment only.

The Writer-in-Residence provides numerous writing workshops for youth and adults of all genres, from composing memoirs, crafting poetry to writing articles for magazines, author readings and book launches, and mentorship opportunities for budding wordsmiths.

Personal mentoring consultations can be arranged by calling Holly MacLean with PARL Outreach Services – Pictou County, 902-755-6031 or toll-free 1-866-779-7761, or Elizabeth (PARL Outreach Services – Antigonish County, 902-863-2486) for more information, and to reserve an appointment.

The library website is [www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca). And Chris's website is <http://chrisbenjaminwriting.com>. ■

## ALIS speaker series about art and the business of art

Join ALIS – Artists' Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia – at their monthly educational and information sessions with a focus on practical tips and legal info. Taking place on the third Thursday of the month, talks run from ninety minutes to two hours. There is a \$10 fee for each session or a pass for the entire series is available. Doors open at 6 p.m. and speakers will begin at 6:30 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis St., Halifax. After each session, there's networking and socializing at the Old Triangle Restaurant (5136 Prince Street).

**November 20 – Beyond Boilerplate and Bombproof: Error-proofing your Contracts, Copyright and Publishing.** In this session, which is sponsored by the WFNS, author Pamela Callow will give the "warts-and-all" look at publishing and contracts while Julie Sobowale will give some practical and legal information on what to look for in contracts, how to avoid pitfalls, and make sure you walk away with a little more knowledge about the publishing world.

January 15, 2015 – Art and Social Media: What can go wrong? Speaker: David Fraser, McInnes Cooper

March 19 – Making Money from Your Music

April 16 – "So, I have this genius idea for a gadget" Copyright, Trademarks and Patents for Businesses and Innovative Ideas. Speakers: Heather Oke, Department of Justice and Jon Penney, Schulich School of Law (Dal)

May 21 – You and the Courts: A Short Intro to Self-Advocacy. Speaker: Julien Matte, Federal Court

Artists' Legal Information Society (ALIS) is a not-for-profit organization which provides free legal information to artists in Atlantic Canada. It supports artists in their roles as entrepreneurs by providing legal education on how to both protect and promote their creative works. It was founded in 2010, by a group of law students who recognized that artists often confront unique legal issues and may not have the right tools to address them. This need was not previously being met in Atlantic Canada, while similar organizations have been helping artists access justice for many years in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. Based in Halifax, ALIS provides services throughout Atlantic Canada.

For more information and to register visit ALIS's website at <http://nsalis.com> ■