

# *NEWS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK AND P.E.I*

By Kathy Mac

Hugh MacDonald is PEI's Newest Poet Laureate!

Hugh MacDonald had a great 2009; Random Acts of Poetry was an astounding success, he's written many pages of new poetry, and as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, he is PEI's shiny new Poet Laureate (the fourth for that province).

Ross Leckie had five of his poems published in the Fall 2009 issue of *The Malahat Review*. Edward Gates had a auto-biographical prose poem "Lakeside School" published in "The Nashwaak Review."

2009 was an excellent year for me, Kathy Mac—the two highest points had to be my book *The Hundefraulein Papers* coming out with Roseway Publishing, and attending the Banff Writing Workshop last spring. If you've never been to part of the Banff Arts Centre Writing Program, try, try, try... it's an astonishing and work-renovating experience.

I also got unexpectedly wrapped up in League business. I'm in my second year as a member of the print part of the Membership Committee, working with Joe Blades and Eric Folsom. I took over as Council Rep for NB/PEI this summer. And somehow, this autumn, I got pegged to be the interim Secretary to the Board. No one's quite sure what that means yet; we're defining the role, which will be made official at the June 2010 AGM.

Here's the catch, though; my day job is about to get much more onerous for a year, at about the same time as the League's AGM. So in June I'm going to have to disengage as much as possible from the League business. Please think about stepping up.

If you're in this region, consider becoming the NB/PEI rep – it involves quarterly teleconferences, compiling this newsletter entry every month or so (I've been bad about getting these in on time, but the office staff still loves me. I think.), and dealing with some e-mail business. Most weeks there's nothing much going on; in a busy week, rep business takes a couple of hours.

The Membership Committee is a great gig. You get free books! Free new books, of poetry, by people you've read in periodicals but who haven't had a book before. What could be better?

And the Council is working to make the secretary's position a clear and interesting part of the Executive.

Happy winter times. Best writing to you all.

