

*****News from the League*****

WE MISS YOU ANDREA!

Andrea Thompson, who has worked as Marketing and Promotions Manager for the League for more than five years, is moving on. We wish her all the best in the future, and want to acknowledge her contributions and commitment to the League. She has managed the League's award ceremonies, and also ran our youth projects. Andrea helped create a link between the League and the spoken word community's organization SWAN. Her energy and contacts have helped bring new membership to the League. In addition, she's helped organize numerous League events. Andrea, you will be missed. Thank you.

CHECK OUT THE LEAGUE'S FIRST CROSS CANADA POETRY BLOG!

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the League of Canadian Poets is proud to sponsor our first cross-Canada poetry blog open to all League of Canadian Poets members. This year's theme is "Poetry Without Borders." There will be a poem a day throughout the month of April. Thank you k.g. Sambrano for spearheading this wonderful new cyber celebration of National Poetry Month.

Be sure to check out the blog: <http://lcpnationalpoetrymonth2008.wordpress.com/>

**THE LEAGUE ANNOUNCES THE SHORTLIST FOR THE 2008
PAT LOWTHER AND GERALD LAMPERT MEMORIAL AWARDS**

Congratulations to the authors for their fine work, and many thanks to this year's jurors. Winners will be announced during the LCP Poetry Fest and Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland on June 21, 2008. (Please see <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/awards.htm> for author bios and book descriptions).

Lowther Shortlist 2008

Wolf Tree, by Alison Calder, Coteau Books, 2007
The Crooked Good, by Louise Bernice Halfe, Coteau Books, 2007
Two Hemispheres, by Nadine McInnis, Brick Books, 2007
Shell, by Olive Senior, Insomniac Press, 2007
Quick, by Anne Simpson, McClelland & Stewart, 2007 *
Going Around with Bachelors, by Agnes Walsh, Brick Books, 2007

Lampert Shortlist 2008

Radius of Light, by Joshua Auerbach, DC Books, 2007
Making Bones Walk, by Alex Boyd, Luna Publications, 2007
Wolf Tree, by Alison Calder, Coteau Books, 2007
Contrary Infatuations, by Dymphny Dronyk, Frontenac House, 2007
Ride Backwards on Dragon, by Kim Goldberg, Leaf Press, 2007
the sweet fuels, by Erin Knight, Goose Lane Editions, 2007

NEWS FROM THE FEMINIST CAUCUS COMMITTEE

By Anne Burke, Chair. Come and join us for the Feminist Caucus Panel, "Fem/Aged Inspirators", on Friday, June 20, at 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Gallery Room. This will build on the momentum of last year's session "Women Poets in Canadian History". The presentation will take whatever form the panelists like—prose, poetry, performance, audio or visual interview, etc.—but should address a living woman poet whose influence "forms, informs, inspires, goads, provokes, prods, stings, stirs, stimulates, spurs, incites, badgers, rouses and/or arouses you and your writing. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter.html

REPORTING FROM ONTARIO

By Eric Folsom. A long snowy winter made travel interesting but doesn't seem to have slowed down Ontario's poetry lovers. Now that we can see bare pavement, here is a much abbreviated survey of events across the province. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter.html

LCP (W)RITES OF SPRING POETRY READING/FUNDRAISER IN MONTREAL

League of Canadian Poets (W)rites of Spring Poetry reading/fundraiser will take place at Café Volver, 5604 Ave. du Parc, Montreal on Thursday, April 3rd from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm. \$5 suggested donation. Featured Readers: Maxianne Berger, Kelly Norah Drukker, Brian Campbell, Erin Mouré, Stephen Morrissey, Carolyn Zonailo, Angela Leuck, Oana Avasilichioaei and a general public open mike. May your poetree burgeon into bloom! For more info: 514-272-4419

LCP POETRY FEST AND CONFERENCE 2008 NOW ONLINE!

The LCP Poetry Fest and Conference will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland from June 20-22, 2008. Please see the League's webpage (<http://www.poets.ca/linktext/agm.htm>) for the registration and book launch forms, schedule, accommodations, panel descriptions and helpful links. Visit: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/agm.htm>

CHECK YOU MAILBOXES

The 2008/2009 membership invoices are in the mail. Please note: We now accept MasterCard as well. The form only indicates Visa, Amex and personal cheques. Simply note MC on the form if that is number you would like to make payment with. If you would like to work out a payment plan (example: 2 post-dated cheque payments of \$87.50), please contact Ingel at readings@poets.ca or 416-504-1657.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

See: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/memb.htm>

***** National Poetry Month*****

CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH THIS APRIL!

This April Canada will be celebrating its 10th annual National Poetry Month. This year's theme is Poetry Without Borders! How can poetry celebrate the diversity of cultural traditions in Canada? What are the possibilities for multilingual poetry events? How can poetry combine with other forms of creative expression? What does poetry without borders mean to you? This April, poets will be exploring these ideas in events taking place across the country. For a full overview of all the National Poetry Month festivities, please visit our NPM page at: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/npm.htm>

THE HISTORY OF NATIONAL POETRY MONTH IN CANADA

By Andrea Thompson. The idea to create a month dedicated to reading, writing, speaking and promoting poetry in North America began in the US, when the Academy of American Poets created the first annual National Poetry Month in 1996. Fueled by a desire to help inspire people of all ages to explore this passionate art form the Academy chose April; the beginning of the season of rebirth and renewal. For full article: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

YOUNG POETS' WEEK FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH: April 7 – 13, 2008

The League of Canadian Poets is gearing up for the 10th annual National Poetry Month, and young poets are centre stage. During the second week of April, **Young Poets' Week** will feature exciting projects and initiatives, across the country and online. And, new for this year, young poets will have the opportunity to post poetry videos on our forums while professional poets will offer readings and poetry writing tips through video clips filmed in Canada and around the world.

Once again, the League will be partnering with provincial writers' organizations to conduct a large-scale program to help bring poets into classrooms of schools across the country. Thirty poets will be reading to students in six provinces. The League will also be adding additional funds to their existing Poets in the Schools program, which will allow Ontario educators the opportunity to have a poet conduct a school-wide or classroom reading free of charge.

In association with the League, the National Film Board of Canada's Mediatheque in Toronto, will also be joining in the celebrations. Check out their guided viewing list of poetry films featured on their digital viewing stations, or sign up for their weekend family poetry-video workshop. (More info at: www.nfb.ca/mediatheque)

Also, Winners of our Poetic License Contest for youth will be announced during Young Poets' Week. Look for an announcement on the www.youngpoets.ca website, and for the winning poems to appear in the April issue of Re:Verse, the League's bi-lingual on-line e-zine.

BLUE ROOM PRESENTS: "BLUES & POETRY"

This event, now in its second year focuses primarily on poetry reading, but also includes musical performances. It's primary objective, is to expand and foster interest in poets and poetry during National Poetry Month. This year will feature readings from three poets, namely Nick Beat, Steve McCabe and Nancy Bullis' of The PoetiKs and surprise guest poets. There will also be a performance by the original blues based group Blue Room and an 'open mic' session. **Where:** The Rivoli, Toronto, in the heart of the arts and entertainment district; **When:** Saturday, April 12, 2008; **Start Time:** 9:00 p.m.; **Cost:** \$10.00 at the door. A 20% discount will be given to League of Canadian Poets members.

**** Poetry News ****

NORTHERN ONTARIO CITY TO HOST POETRY FESTIVAL

It has been 100 years since the death of Dr. William Drummond in April 1907 who was recognized internationally as Canada's first national poet. Dr. Drummond practiced medicine in Cobalt, Ontario for several years writing his "patois" style poetry, using half French and half English to honour the French Canadian people. The Canadian habitant poet captured the spirit and everyday life of the Canadian voyageurs and pioneers of the 1800's and early 1900's. From April 3-6 the [Spring Pulse Poetry Festival](http://www.northernnews.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=951117) will be hosted in Cobalt featuring a number of local poets from literary and spoken word to musical and artistic interpreters of this form of art. The festival itself is a combination of the celebration of Dr. Drummond as an important historical figure as well as a showcase for local poets and artists who will express their art within a poetic context. Northern News: <http://www.northernnews.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=951117>

CALGARY NEEDS A POET (BUT SOME DON'T KNOW IT)

Calgary aldermen will soon be considering whether to spend taxpayer dollars to appoint a poet laureate charged with writing pothole prose and transit verse. Two aldermen, Joe Ceci and Druh Farrell, are quietly working with the Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA) to establish the position and are hoping to bring the plan to council next month. Ceci was reluctant to discuss details, but he said it's high time Calgary boosted its cultural reputation. "I think a poet laureate encourages Calgarians to participate and support the literary arts," he said. Ceci noted cities such as Edmonton, Toronto and Vancouver have recognized the importance of the position for years and it's time Calgary joined the pack. But not all members of council are ready to extol the virtues of a taxpayer-funded scribe when the city is facing shortfalls in various critical areas. Terry Rock, president and CEO of CADA, said there have been ongoing discussions for some time about the position and it's coming close to fruition. "I think the concept of having an ambassador for the arts in Calgary is something that really builds a sense of community," he said. "Politics can be dry -- Edmonton's poet laureate had fun with a poem about potholes and that's something that really engages people." Calgary Sun: <http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/Alberta/2008/03/13/4990646-sun.html>

CALGARY URGED TO SUPPORT WRITER IN EXILE PROGRAM

During the three years he was tortured and imprisoned in a jail in his hometown of Arbil, Iraq, Kurdish poet and journalist Jalal Barzanji held fast to his art. Now, Barzanji lives in a different world, one that celebrates his abilities rather than punishes him for them. He is the writer-in-exile in Edmonton, a post created through a partnership of various organizations, including the city and the U of A, with support from PEN Canada. When John Ralston Saul put out the challenge for Edmonton to host a writer-in-exile at a literary festival in late 2006, the city responded. Todd Babiak, author of *The Garneau Block* and *the Book of Stanley*, is a writer at the *Edmonton Journal*, and penned a column on the matter. It also ran in the *Herald* last July (and in a more prominent location, he notes). "He (Saul) had pointed out that Edmonton, like Calgary, is a city of immigrants and it's wrong that there wasn't a writer-in-exile program," Babiak says. Today, Barzanji is about halfway through his tenure. Down the highway here in Calgary, however, there's still no program. Babiak, now a member of the PEN board, isn't giving up the battle, however. To that end, Babiak is hosting the Words Without Borders event this week and will be reaching out to the literary community to once again try to park a writer-in-exile program in Calgary. *Calgary Herald*: <http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/booksandthearts/story.html?id=47cac079-aa51-4889-a52d-9c22501d3496>

**** Literary News ****

KING LEARY WINS CBC'S CANADA READS

Toronto author Paul Quarrington's book *King Leary* was declared the winner of CBC Radio One's annual "Canada Reads" contest Friday. The comical tale of an aging hockey legend was brought back into print with a new cover after being selected for the show. Quarrington hoped its victory in the five-day literary competition would earn the novel a new readership. Dave Bidini, a Rheostatics musician and author, had championed the title on the show, which saw celebrity panellists defending the merits of books on-air before referee Jian

Ghomeshi of CBC Radio's Q. "Finally, humour and wit have won the day, proving that Canadian writing is about more than just dark places and poetry," Bidini said after his pick won. Anchor Canada, publisher of King Leary, says it will make a substantial donation in the name of the novel to ABC Canada Literacy Foundation. The ChronicleHerald: <http://thechronicleherald.ca/Books/1042769.html>

REAL ESTATE COSTS FORCE MCNALLY ROBINSON OUT OF CALGARY

McNally Robinson, Canada's largest independent bookstore, is closing its downtown Calgary store on Aug. 1. The company, based in Winnipeg, has sold the historic three-storey building on Stephen Avenue to a land investment company, co-owner Paul McNally confirmed Thursday. The bookstore said it is not looking for a new location in Calgary. McNally blamed the closure on the costs of real estate in the downtown core, as well as high labour expenses in Alberta's boom. "The value of the real estate over-reaches the potential of the bookselling business," McNally said in a statement. "In an average cost structure, the store would be viable and profitable. In downtown Calgary, not so much." CBC Arts: <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/story/2008/03/13/mcnally-closes.html>

HILL, RICHARDSON MAKE THE COMMONWEALTH CUT

Novels by two Canadian writers are in the running for the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best overall book and best first-time book, the Commonwealth Foundation announced yesterday. The Book of Negroes by Burlington, Ont.'s Lawrence Hill prevailed over five other finalists in the best overall book category for the Commonwealth's Canada-Caribbean Region, while C.S. Richardson of Toronto bested the same number of finalists for the best debut book from the same region for The End of the Alphabet. The two titles now vie for prizes worth, respectively, approximately \$25,000 and \$12,500. They'll be competing against two finalists from each of the other designated Commonwealth regions. The winners are to be announced May 18. The Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080314.wbuzz14-3/BNStory/Entertainment/home>

DONNER PRIZE SHORT LIST ANNOUNCED

Books about gun culture, gangs and Canada's role in Afghanistan are among the finalists for the \$35,000 Donner Prize. The award is given to the best book on Canadian public policy. The winner will be announced April 16. This year's short list: Enter the Babylon System: Unpacking Gun Culture from Samuel Colt to 50 Cent, by Rodrigo Bascunan and Christian Pearce; Young Thugs: Inside the Dangerous World of Canadian Street Gangs, by Michael C. Chettleburgh; Fueling Our Future: An Introduction to Sustainable Energy, by Robert L. Evans; The People's House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention, by David E. Smith; and The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar, by Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang. The Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080326.wbuzz26-3/BNStory/Entertainment/home>

REVENGE OF THE INDEPENDENT BOOK STORES

Something odd is happening in Toronto: New little bookstores are popping up like crocuses in the spring earth. What gives? It appears that, Internet age be damned, a growing number of people like to read actual books, and seek them out in little shops with literate staff. On Queen West, Samara Walbohm, who founded Type with fellow University of Toronto Canlit PhD scholar Joanne Saul, is none too thrilled by the arrival of Book City two blocks away. "It's very early days," she says of the new competition. "We think that we helped to build this community as a book-loving neighbourhood. We were definitely surprised that they decided to open shop so close. They saw the nice book community we created, that's why they moved in." For Book City, the decision was simple: The firm last month closed its shop at Yonge and Charles streets, which had mostly lunchtime and weekday business, says staffer Jim Nicholson, and he and the books moved to this location, where locals have time to browse, especially weekends. Irene Luxbacher, a children's book author, lives next to Type and is a regular there, she says. "It's nice to see that there's another independent, smaller bookstore," she says. She used to shop a lot at the original Book City, on Bloor Street in the Annex. "Type has a very nice selection of books. It's edited well," she says. "Book City, the hours are late, you can eavesdrop on some interesting conversations." National Post: <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/toronto/archive/2008/03/24/revenge-of-the-independent-book-stores.aspx>

2008 MANITOBA BOOK AWARDS SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED

Celebrating Excellence in Writing and Publishing for 20 years! The Manitoba Book Awards Committee is pleased to announce the shortlists for the 2008 Manitoba Book Awards. The 20th Anniversary Gala will take place Saturday, April 26th, 2008, 7:30pm at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The event is free and all are welcome to attend. The shortlisted titles are online at: http://www.mbwriter.mb.ca/index.php/mwapa/MBA08_Shortlist_announced.html?virtuemart=pmohlkjp9ea8j100b81fi1986

THE WEST COAST BOOK PRIZE SOCIETY FINALISTS ANNOUNCED!

Phantom Limb, The InCorrection, Spirit in the Grass, The Day It All Blew Away, Conceit, For Now, The Last Wild Wolves ... These are but a few of the books shortlisted for the 24th Annual BC Book Prizes. The West Coast Book Prize Society congratulates all the authors, illustrators and publishers and thanks the judges who, collectively, selected the books from the 300 that were submitted this year. Visit our new [website](#) for a complete list of who is shortlisted for the following awards: BC Booksellers' Choice Award in Honour of Bill Duthie; Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize; Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize; Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize; Hurbert Evans Non-fiction Prize; Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize; Sheila Egoff Children's Literature Prize.

TIM BOWLING SHORTLISTED FOR CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE

Gaspereau Press is pleased to announce that Tim Bowling's novel *The Bone Sharps* (2007) has been shortlisted for the City of Edmonton Book Prize, one of nine arts awards presented by the City. Fellow nominees for this prize are Bert Almon for *A Ghost in Waterloo Station* (Brindle & Glass) and Meiko Ouchi for *Two Plays* (Playwrights Canada Press). The City of Edmonton Book Prize was established by the Edmonton City Council in 1995 and is awarded to titles addressing some aspect of the city or written by an Edmonton author. The prize is co-sponsored by Audreys Books. The winners of all nine awards, along with the winners of the Alberta Literary Awards, will be announced at the Mayor's Evening for the Arts to be held Monday 7 April at the Francis Winspear Centre in Edmonton. For tickets to this event or for more information about the awards, please visit www.writersguild.ab.ca

SAGE HILL WRITING EXPERIENCE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sage Hill Writing Experience is pleased to announce that Saskatoon writer Paula Jane Remlinger has been appointed Executive Director. Remlinger has been active as a writer and participant in the Saskatchewan writing community for a decade and is a Sage Hill alumna. She is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild mentorship program, and is currently on the Writers' Guild board of directors. She recently completed her M.A. in English at the University of Saskatchewan, where she worked as a tutor, teaching assistant, and ESL instructor. Her Master's thesis was on the poetry of Saskatchewan writer John V. Hicks. She has experience in the book trade, having worked at Thistledown Press in sales and promotion, where she also wrote teacher's guides. She has also worked at McNally Robinson Booksellers. Her writing has been published in *Fast Forward: New Saskatchewan Poets*, in literary journals, and will be broadcast on CBC Radio. Paula Jane Remlinger can be contacted at: 306-652-7395; sage.hill@sasktel.net. Information on Sage Hill Writing Experience is at: www.sagehillwriting.ca

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW! LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S BC BOOK PRIZE GALA

The gala will take place on April 26, 2008 at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver at 5:30pm. On March 6, we announced the [finalists](#) for the 24th annual BC Book Prizes. On Saturday, April 26, 2008, the winners of seven BC Book Prizes, as well as the recipient of the fifth annual Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence, will be feted before an audience of authors, publishers, media and friends. Emceed by Fanny Kiefer and featuring many well-known and beloved authors and personalities, the gala is sure to be a wonderful celebration of home-grown writing and publishing. BC's new Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, will also be in attendance. Book sales provided by People's Co-operative Bookstore. Our website now has an online [order form](#). When you book your tickets electronically, you'll get a confirmation email to send to us with your cheque.

KAREN KAIN ANNOUNCES SHE IS STEPPING DOWN AS CANADA COUNCIL CHAIR

Karen Kain, Chair of the Canada Council since September 2004, announced today she is stepping down on March 31 to dedicate herself completely to her full-time job as Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Canada.

"I accepted this position because I passionately believe in the essential role of the Canada Council and thought I would be able to devote sufficient time, attention and energy to it," she said in a letter to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. "Since my subsequent appointment as Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Canada, I have found it increasingly difficult to do justice to both positions."

"It is with regret that I accept Ms. Kain's resignation. Over the past three and a half years, she has contributed greatly to the successes of the Canada Council for the Arts," said Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages. "However, I understand her desire to fully direct her energy to her work with the National Ballet of Canada. I offer my sincere thanks for the leadership Ms. Kain has provided and wish her the very best in her future endeavours."

Ms. Kain described her experience at the Canada Council as "deeply rewarding" and thanked the federal government for increasing its financial support to the Canada Council during her tenure as Chair. The government announced last July that the Council's annual parliamentary appropriation would be increased by

\$30 million on an ongoing basis, following a one-time increase of \$50 million over two years. Ms. Kain also presided over the celebration of the Canada Council's 50th anniversary in 2007 and, most recently, the development of a new Strategic Plan and Action Plan to guide the Council's activities over the next three years.

"I have been deeply honoured to have had the opportunity to lead the Canada Council for the Arts, which is one of the most important public institutions in the country," she said. "I am particularly proud of the Council's 50th anniversary year, when we drew attention to the outstanding Canadian artists and arts organizations that have contributed so much to the lives of Canadians, with Council support. I am also grateful for the appointment of a new Director in Robert Sirman, who has brought a new dynamic to the Canada Council at this important time in its history."

Under the Canada Council's governance policy, Vice-Chair Simon Brault will assume the official duties of the position until a new Chair is appointed by the federal government. The Chair's responsibilities include presiding at meetings of the Council's 11-member Board and representing the Council in its relations with the government, Parliament and the public. Visit our web site at www.canadacouncil.ca.

***** Opportunities *****

Please note: The opportunities, contests or markets listed in this electronic newsletter are only an informational resource. We encourage all poets to thoroughly investigate all contests or markets before submitting their work.

THE FIRST ANNUAL BOLEN BOOKS CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE

Bolen Books and the Victoria Book Prize Society have established the first annual Bolen Books Children's Book Prize. The \$5000 prize will be administered by the Victoria Book Prize Society in tandem with the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize...see attached for details. For further information contact: Mary Virtue, President Victoria Book Prize Society info@victoriabutlerbookprize.ca or Rob Wiersema, Bolen Books rwiersema@bolen.bc.ca

BOSTON REVIEW ELEVENTH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

The winning poet will receive \$1,500 and have his or her work published in the November/December 2008 issue of Boston Review. Submit up to five unpublished poems, no more than 10 pages total. Any poet writing in English is eligible, unless he or she is a current student, former student, or close personal friend of the judge (John Koethe). Manuscripts must be submitted in duplicate, with a cover note listing the author's name, address, and phone number; names should not be on the poems themselves. Simultaneous submissions are allowed if we are notified of acceptance elsewhere. Submissions will not be returned. A \$20 entry fee (\$30 for international submissions), payable to Boston Review, must accompany all submissions. Submissions must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2008. All entrants will receive a one-year subscription to Boston Review, beginning with the November/December 2008 issue. The winner will be announced no later than November 1, 2008, on the Boston Review Web site. All poems submitted to the contest will be considered for publication in the Boston Review. Send entries to: Poetry Contest, Boston Review, 35 Medford St., Suite 302, Somerville, MA 02143

THIRD PERSON PRESS

Third Person Press is looking for short stories of up to 8000 words and poetry up to 30 lines, in the speculative fiction genre for Undercurrents Anthology. This includes: science fiction, fantasy, horror, magic realism, and paranormal (for example, ghost stories). The anthology is open to submissions from writers who live in or have a substantial connection to Cape Breton Island. You may, if you wish, explain your connection in a cover letter. Submissions should fit the theme of the anthology, which is Undercurrents. Deadline: March 15, 2008. Full guidelines and submission instructions may be found at: www.thirdpersonpress.com

TWUC's WRITING FOR CHILDREN COMPETITION

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce that submissions are being accepted until April 24, 2008, for the 2008 WRITING FOR CHILDREN COMPETITION. The winning entry will be the best Canadian children's story of 1,500 words in the English language, written by an unpublished author.

PRIZE ~ \$1,500 for the winning entry and the entries of the winner and finalists will be submitted to three Canadian children's publishers. JURY ~ We are proud to announce that Damien Fièrè, Jacqueline Guest, and Tim Wynne-Jones will serve as the jury.

ELIGIBILITY ~ This competition is open to all Canadian citizens and landed immigrants who have not been published in book format in any genre and who do not have a contract with a book publisher. Original and unpublished (English language) fiction or nonfiction.

HOW TO SUBMIT ENTRIES: Entries should be typed or computer-printed, double-spaced, and numbered

on 8.5 x 11 paper, not stapled; Computer disks, CDs, e-mails, or faxes will not be accepted; Include a separate cover letter with title of story, full name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and number of pages of entry; Please type the name of entrant and the title of entry on each numbered page. This is not a blind competition; Make cheque or money order payable to The Writers' Union of Canada; Multiple entries can be submitted together and fees can be added and paid; with one cheque or money order, \$15 per submission; Entries must be postmarked by APRIL 24, 2008 to be eligible; Mail entries to: WFC Competition, The Writers' Union of Canada, 90 Richmond Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M5C 1P1.

RIDDLE FENCE

Riddle Fence, a St. John's, Newfoundland-based journal of arts & culture, is looking to fill its second issue with nothing short of literary genius-though we'll settle for the merely exemplary. Payment? How mercenary of you to ask. We pay \$30 a page for prose and poetry. We are currently considering submissions of poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction. Send us your best and keep the rest for yourselves. Please send no more than 3-4 poems or 1 piece of prose, maximum 5000 words in length. What are we looking for? What is anyone looking for: brilliance, innovation, that certain je ne sais quoi de sage-like insight that will blow away the doldrums and give our lives greater meaning. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2008. We accept submissions by snail mail (please include a self-addressed stamped envelope): Riddle Fence, PO Box 7092, St. John's, NL, A1E 3Y3 or by email (please send as an attachment in MS Word or Rich Text Format): riddlefence@gmail.com

VALLUM MAGAZINE

Vallum Magazine is accepting poetry submissions for the Fall/Winter 2008 (6:2) issue on CHILDREN. Poetry by adults on any aspect of childhood, the child, or poetry BY CHILDREN (up to 14 yrs old) is welcome. Please send up to 5 poems to: VALLUM/Children's Issue, PO Box 326, Westmount Station, Montreal, QC H3Z 2T5. Deadline: June 15, 2008.

BC AND THE GREEN IMAGINATION: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The life of the mind provides us with infinite ways to relate to the planet. Understanding the complexity of our relationship to it is today's single most important issue. In 2008, to mark British Columbia's sesquicentennial, The Malahat Review will devote its Winter issue to the Green Imagination. Focusing on creative approaches rather than on polemics and manifestos, this special issue aspires to place British Columbia-and the idea of British Columbia-at the ecological centre of the debate to showcase a variety of literary responses to questions such as: "What is wilderness?" ; "What is nature?" ; "Is the natural world our adversary to be conquered and tamed, as Georgius; Agricola argued in his 1556 "Defense of Mining the Earth" ; "Are we stewards of it, as P.K. Page suggests in her 1994 poem 'Planet Earth'?" ; "Are we an integral part of the natural world," as Don McKay and Chief Dan George contend? ; "What is the relationship between language and nature?" ; "What is nature writing?" Writers-B.C. residents and non-residents alike (i.e. true residents of the B.C. of the mind)-may widely interpret the theme of "B.C. and the Green Imagination." No restrictions as to form or approach apply: submissions of poetry, fiction, personal essay, memoir, cultural criticism, nature writing, literary journalism, and book reviews of relevant texts are welcome. An honorarium of \$40 per page will be paid for all accepted work. Only queries (and no submissions) will be accepted by email at malahat@uvic.ca Deadline and Info Send all submissions and mailed queries, accompanied by an SASE, to: B.C. and the Green Imagination The Malahat Review, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Stn CSC, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2.

POETS NEEDED @ SCHOOL OF WRITING @ CMU.

May 19-23: The March 1 deadline for application is now past, but we still have room for a few poets to study with Sarah Klassen during this enjoyable and intensive week at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg. Bursaries available. Workshops on spirituality, publishing, grants, and great evening readings by Tim Lilburn, Margaret Sweatman, David Bergen, Mary-Ann Kirkby, Victor Enns, John Weier, and Sandra Birdsell. Go to www.cmu.ca/writing_school.html for an application, or write english@cmu.ca.

TRYING TO GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR OF PUBLISHING? TRYING TO GET THAT PROMOTION? NEED TO HONE YOUR EDITING, PRODUCTION OR DESIGN SKILLS?

Registrations and applications are now being accepted in Canada's premier publishing education program: Simon Fraser University's Summer Publishing Workshops. Keep pace with the dizzying changes in the publishing industry. Work with the top publishing minds from across Canada and the US to hone you skills in all areas of publishing: books, magazines, editing, design and production. One and two day seminars will quickly get you up to speed in topical issues, trends and needed skills. Immersion and intensive workshops in book publishing, editing and design plunge you deep in the process with hand's on training by the best in the business. In 2008, more than 100 faculty, and approximately 450 participants, will come to SFU Vancouver in the downtown core for 38 workshops in books, magazines, editing, and design. At the Symposium on the Book crime writing aficionados and literary fiction connoisseurs alike will be stimulated and engaged in this year's

Symposium on the Book as 10 of Canada's top experts on all aspects of crime writing and publishing delve deep not only into the techniques and mechanics of writing crime, but into the role and place of 'genre' writing in Canada. <http://www.ccsf.sfu.ca/pubworks/symposium+book.html> or 778 782 5241.

CALL FOR POETS - DEADLINE APRIL 16, 2008

The Cooked and Eaten Poetry of Everyday Life Twelve Hour Poetry Marathon 12 hours of continuous poetry from 9am to 9pm, Friday, April 18th, 2007. Calling all poets! After the overwhelming success of last year's Poetry Month marathon, The Cooked and Eaten is holding our second annual marathon event. To make this happen we need at least 48 poets (last year we had 90) who would be interested in taking part. Poets, lyricists and all writers of verse are called to present their work aloud in restaurants and cafés, on street corners, in shopping malls, on the bus, at school, next to a tree in a forest with no-one there to hear it... Last year we had poets contact us from Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto, Nanaimo, Calgary, Winnipeg, and beyond. This year we'd love to hear from more poets on the East Coast and Quebec. Stand up and represent your city! Please pass this info along to others who would be interested. More poets, more poets, more poets! All we need to know from you is that you are willing to stand up wherever you are to read on Friday, April 18th between 9 am and 9 pm for up to 15 minutes. If you can find someone to audio record, photograph or videotape your performance we will create an archive of this material as it comes in. A program will be posted on-line and through our mailing list before the event showing where and when poets are reading so that your fans can find you. Don't be shy. This is about bringing poetry in all it's forms to all the corners of daily life. If you've got fifteen minutes of poems, or can make one poem last 15 minutes, you're in. If you aren't a poet, but have a favourite poem or three you'd like to read, you're in. If you do performance poetry or spoken word, all the better. If you are interested in participating please send the following information to readings@cookedandate.com: name, address, phone number, email, preferred time(s), length of reading, location of reading*, planned method of recording, if any (photographs, audio, video, artist rendering). Poets can arrange to read together or alone, in front of an audience or unattended, recorded or live only. Take this opportunity to be part of a cross country day of guerilla poetry.

MOUNTAIN WRITING AT BANFF CENTRE

Program Editors: Marni Jackson and Tony Whittome
Offsite Manuscript Development: August 11 to October 10, 2008
On-Site Residency: October 31 to November 21, 2008
Application Deadline: May 19, 2008
Financial assistance is available.

In this unique residency program, six participating writers delve into their own writing projects (essay, memoir, biography, feature article, or book project) on a topic in the area of mountain culture, mountain environment, mountain life, adventure, climbing, and/or mountain history. Within the spectacular environs of Banff National Park, the residency offers participants the time, privacy, and editorial resources to focus on their proposed pieces. The Mountain Writing program dates overlap with the 15th annual Banff Mountain Book Festival - one of the world's premier platforms for mountain writers. For more information and to apply: The Banff Centre, Office of the Registrar, 107 Tunnel Mountain Drive, Box 1020, Banff, Alberta T1L 1H5. 1-800-565-9989 or 1-403-762-6180 or arts_info@banffcentre.ca ~ www.banffcentre.ca

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR AN ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY ON RESTORATION ECOLOGY

Deadline: September 1, 2008. Madhur Anand (University of Guelph) and Adam Dickinson (Brock University) invite submissions for an anthology of poems concerning different approaches to the scientific and linguistic questions of "restoration" or "reclamation" in an ecological context. Potential poems are not necessarily required to literally feature Sudbury, but they are particularly interested in works that re-imagine this infamous Canadian symbol. They welcome work that explores any aspect of the physical response of the landscape to human perturbation (such as urbanization, climate change, and invasive species) and our attempts to mitigate these effects. They also welcome work which explores the restoration of complex human ecologies in the wake of industrial devastation. Additionally, they encourage the submission of formally innovative works that consider discursive ecologies and their relationship to re-claiming natural and cultural spaces. They welcome submissions from emerging and established poets, as well as scientists and naturalists. They also encourage submissions from residents, former residents, hitchhikers, tree-planters, cross-country travelers, and anyone else who has visited Sudbury. While previously published work will be considered, they especially encourage submissions of new material. Simultaneous submissions are permitted; however, they would appreciate being informed promptly if your work has been accepted elsewhere. Please submit no more than 10 pages of poetry and a short biography (including links to Northern Ontario and a publication history) for consideration via email attachment (.rtf or .pdf) to restoration.anthology@gmail.com <<mailto:restoration.anthology@gmail.com>> with your last name in the subject line.

THE BRIDPORT PRIZE 2008 INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

The Bridport Prize is the richest OPEN writing competition in the English language – with £5000 first prize for a short story (of up to 5000 words); and £5000 first prize for a poem (of up to 42 lines). The Bridport is also known as a tremendous literary stepping stone – the first step in the careers of writers such as: Kate Atkinson, Tobias Hill, Carol Ann Duffy and Helen Dunmore. Anyone can enter – so long as the work is previously unpublished. It costs £6 per story or poem and the closing date is 30th June 2008. Entries can be made by post or online: www.bridportprize.org.uk. Postal entry forms are available online or by sending an SAE to: The Bridport Prize, PO Box 6910, Dorset DT6 9BQ. Please call 514-933-0878 or email info@qwf.org to register or for more information.

ORIGINS - A NEW PROPOSED QUARTERLY AND CHAPBOOK COLLECTION

ORIGINS - a new proposed quarterly and chapbook collection for September 2008. We are calling for submissions of the best TEN poems you would like to submit from the last year. The proposed purpose is to produce a series of chapbooks plus a quarterly dealing with the best Canadian art, both emerging and established, that we can find. If you are interested, contact the editor at kristianbertin@hotmail.com, or send hard copies to ORIGINS, 33 Hazelton Ave. Yorkville, Suite 409, Toronto ON, M5R 2E3.

******* Events and Readings *******

"INFLUENCY 4: A TORONTO POETRY SALON" STARTS THIS WEDNESDAY!!!

Looking to bring more poetry discussion into your life? Consider joining us at INFLUENCY 4: A TORONTO POETRY SALON, offered by the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies Creative Writing Program. The Spring 2008 line-up of guest poets features: Dennis LEE, A. RAWLINGS, Kevin CONNOLLY, Rachel VIGIER, Karen CONNELLY, Gary BARWIN, Allan BRIESMASTER, Rachel ZOLF. April 2 to June 4, 2008, Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30 pm at 158 St George Street, Presentation Hall, School of Continuing Studies. Immediately south of Bloor and St George. For Writers and Readers Alike. Eight accomplished poets working in distinctive styles will appear as both guest readers and peer critics in this unique lecture-reading series hosted by Margaret Christakos. Each poet's engaged critique of a colleague's work will be followed with a reading by the poet under discussion. A group discussion led by Christakos will follow. Registrants will accumulate critical vocabulary to discuss more fluently the divergences of approach, motive, process and product typical of Toronto's multitranscultural literary culture. The course is \$199 for ten weeks. The books under discussion will be distributed at the first class for a materials fee of \$100. Register at www.learn.utoronto.ca: SCS 1777 Inluency 4: A Toronto Poetry Salon. For more info email Margaret Christakos at mchristakos@hotmail.com.

THE WRITERS' TRUST OF CANADA PRESENTS ZOE WHITTALL PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The Writers' Trust of Canada presents Zoe Whittall *Putting it all Together, Shaping your poetry manuscript* on Sunday, April 6, from 2pm – 4pm at the Lillian H. Smith Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Registration is free but space is limited. To register, or for more information, please contact: Kyle Greenwood, Program Manager, email: kgreenwood@writerstrust.com, phone: 416-504-8222 x243 or check out www.writerstrust.com.

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH SO WE'RE DISHING OUT A GREAT FEAST OF STUFF TO DO TO CELEBRATE

We will be bringing west coast poets bill bissett and Elizabeth Rhett Woods to town. They'll be reading and giving workshops (more on the workshops below). bill bissett will have a few public office hours during which you can meet him and talk poetry. There a casual reading and chat you can enjoy with bill at the Holiday Inn. And because it was so successful last year, we're repeating the Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon which will take place from 9 am to 9pm, April 18, 2008, from coast to coast and beyond. Elizabeth Rhett Woods and bill bissett and some local favourite poets will cap off the marathon at the Gordon Best Theatre from 6-10pm that night. You can find the whole schedule of events [on the website](http://www.cookedandateen.com/archives/events/20080418.html). (<http://www.cookedandateen.com/archives/events/20080418.html>).

TORONTO LAUNCH OF CROSSING LINES: POETS WHO CAME TO CANADA IN THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

On Sunday, April 27, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, this important 256-page anthology, which includes work by many League members, will be launched by Seraphim Editions. See <http://www.seraphimeditions.com/crossing-lines.html>. The launch is at the Revival, 783 College Street, Toronto, east of Ossington. Free admission. Snacks and cash bar. (The Vancouver launch will be on May 23; look for details on that and other related events in next month's Newsletter.) Edited by Allan Briesmaster and Steven Michael Berzensky, Crossing Lines is the first major anthology of poetry by men and women who grew up in the U.S. and then emigrated to Canada during the Vietnam War era (1965-75). It offers surprising insights into this watershed period and explores provocative themes related to our own time. 76 poets are represented here who have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to Canadian culture and society. A remarkable number have achieved great literary

distinction, and all have powerful poetic statements in this book. The poets are: Bert Almon, George Amabile, Peter Anson, Rosemary Aubert, Edward Baranosky, Judith Hill Benson, Steven Michael Berzensky, E.D. Blodgett, Michael Boughn, Kent L. Bowman, Ronnie R. Brown, Terry Ann Carter, Sue Chenette, Jim Christy, James Deahl, Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, Jim Erkiletian, Guy Ewing, Chris Faiers, George Fetherling, Eric Folsom, Douglas Gary Freeman, Katerina Fretwell, Mark Frutkin, Kim Goldberg, Heidi Greco, Elizabeth Greene, Roger Greenwald, Jeremy Harman, Ernest Hekkanen, Bruce Iserman, Ellen S. Jaffe, Pat Jasper, Michael Lee Johnson, Joseph Jones, Kenneth Klonsky, Daniel M. Kolos, Richard Lemm, Edward Lemond, Alison Lohans, Keith Maillard, Dave Margoshes, Steven McCabe, Gary McCarty, Susan McCaslin, Marianne Micros, Isa Milman, Steve Moore, Wendy Morton, Joe Nickell, Ken Norris, Barry N. Olshen, Bud Osborn, Pam Oxendine, Wayne Padgett, Ruth Roach Pierson, Wayne Ray, John Reibetanz, Peter Richardson, Marcia Rodríguez, Leon Rooke, Bernadette Rule, Libby Scheier, Paul Schwartz, Norm Sibum, Ann Sorensen, Ken Stange, Allen Sutterfield, Robert Sward, Rae Marie Taylor, Richard Teleky, Judy Wapp, Sue Wheeler, J. Michael Yates, Liz Zetlin, and Michael Zizis.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SPREAD THE WORD - EROS

You are invited to Spread the Word - EROS - at the launch of the 2008 Calgary International Spoken Word Festival. Join hands with hundreds of other Calgarians to form the world's longest human chain and help carry life-size letter spelling love, to the top of the library. Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 5:00 p.m., Memorial Park, 1221 – 2 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta. For more information, call 403-686-4292

BOOK LAUNCH: TONGUES OF WHITEWASHED STONE

Tongues of Whitewashed Stone by Five Poets, Cranberry Tree Press, 2008: Lenore Langs, Dorothy Mahoney, Leila Pepper, Karen P. Ouellette and Marie Groundwater will be launched at The Art Gallery of Windsor, 401 Riverside Drive, W., Windsor, Ontario, Wilkinson Room on April 13, 2008 from 2:PM to 4:PM. No cover charge. Everyone welcome!!!

BOOK LAUNCH: DOUBLE LIVES: WRITING AND MOTHERING

Double Lives: Writing and Mothering, coedited by Shannon Cowan, Cathy Stonehouse and Fiona Tinwei Lam and published by McGill-Queen's University press, features moving personal essays by a number of writers on the struggle to create while parenting, including poets Di Brandt, Susan Musgrave, Robyn Sarah, Anne Simpson, Janice Kulyk-Keefer, Stephanie Bolster, Catherine Owen, Rachel Rose, sharron proulx-turner, Elizabeth Greene, Susan Olding, Sally Ito, and Fiona Tinwei Lam, as well as several excellent prose writers. Quill & Quire has recently remarked that Double Lives is a "courageous and revealing book" that "...opens up and out, managing to be philosophical, pragmatic, nurturing, and intensely personal....." The book will be launched in the following cities, with readings by contributors:

- Saturday, 3 May, 2008 Another Story Bookshop Toronto, ON 5-7pm
- Sunday, 4 May, 2008 Novel Idea, Kingston, ON 2-4pm
- Monday, 5 May, 2008 Paragraphe Books, Montreal, QC 5- 7pm
- Saturday, 10 May, 2008, Little Nest Café (www.littlenest.ca), Vancouver, BC 7pm

TECHNOLOGY IN THE ARTS

The University of Waterloo Centre for Cultural Management and Carnegie Mellon University Center for Arts Management and Technology introduce you to a new collaborative initiative: Technology in the Arts: Canada May 9 & 10 2008. Join us as we examine and discuss how Canada's arts and heritage professionals are using technology for both administration and programming. Please visit our website for more information: www.technologyinthearts.ca

CIRCUS OF WORDS / CIRQUE DES MOTS

For the past three years, we have produced the Circus of Words / Cirque des mots as part of the Canada wide National Poetry Month event. The multilingual cabaret features poets, musicians, actors and dancers performing poetry-driven pieces. The shows have proven to be such a success that we have decided to do it again. Every year, about 300 people have attended the sold-out shows. The Greatest Show on Earth will take place on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the La Sala Rossa, 4848 St. Laurent Blvd., Montreal. Tickets \$15.00.

This year we are featuring Nicole Brossard, Quebec's godmother of postmodern poetry with musicians, Richard Sommer poet & dancer Vicki Tansey, Tom Konyves Vancouver videopoet, John Asfour Lebanese-born poet and lute player, Noah Zacharin Toronto based poet/songwriter Kaie Kellough. Montreal spoken word performer

Wall of Patrons

In order for us to pay the talented artists and technicians fair wages for their work, we are asking you to become a patron of the Circus. For a contribution of \$20, your name will go on our Wall of Patrons page in the evening's program. This year the Circus is going GREEN! To save trees and reduce our toxic footprint, our program is going virtual. It will appear on our website (over 100,000 hits) and be e-mailed to about 500 people. We receive no grants. It is all out of love and pocket. If you wish to contribute, please make your cheque out to Poetry in Motion / Poésie en mouvement and mail it to (on or before March 14, 2008) 518 Birch Street, Saint-Lambert, Quebec, J4P 2N1. We also take cash in unmarked \$20.00 bills. Unfortunately, because we are not incorporated, we cannot provide tax receipts. This is strictly for the love of art and fair wages for the artists. We also, of course, invite you to attend. Reservations (514) 488-3185 OR (450) 671-7659 after April 10th.

COACH HOUSE GOES TORONTO WITH SPRING LAUNCH

On Wednesday, April 9, one of Toronto's most consistently interesting literary presses unloads its latest chamber of armor-piercing books upon the reading public – and this season, most of them have been manufactured right here in Toronto. The Coach House Spring Launch features new novels from acclaimed Toronto author Maggie Helwig (recently spotlighted in Toronto Life) and celebrated Toronto-based playwright Claudia Dey, and both books feature Ontario's capital city as their settings, even as a character in itself (though a quite different character in each novel). The night also includes the launch of books by Toronto artist, writer and columnist RM Vaughan, with his scandalous poetic memoir; new Toronto resident Jordan Scott, with his poetics of stuttering; and visiting Vancouver poet Jen Currin with her collection of surrealist urban fairy tales. Together they will perform short readings and send off their brand-new titles at a very special event at Stones Place (1255 Queen Street West). The Coach House Spring 2008 Launch with readings by Maggie Helwig, Claudia Dey, RM Vaughan, Jordan Scott and Jen Currin. Stones Place, 1255 Queen Street West Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

WORDS WITHOUT BORDERS

CALGARY FIRST STOP—LITERARY TOUR FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On Thursday, April 3 WordFest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival will host Words Without Borders at the Calgary Public Library's John Dutton Theatre. The event is the first stop of PEN Canada's cross-country literary tour featuring an exciting line-up of established Canadian writers alongside members of PEN's Writers in Exile Network.

The event features authors from around the world who bear witness, speak out, and write about both local and global political issues. The evening of readings explores international perspectives on freedom of expression and honours the power and vitality of the writer as provocateur.

Taking part are David Davidar, head of Penguin Canada, and author of the forthcoming novel *The Solitude of Emperors*; Afua Cooper, award-winning poet, author, and recording artist selected by *Essence Magazine* as one of 25 women who are shaping the world; Jalal Barzanji, a Kurdish writer and poet from Iraq now the City of Edmonton-PEN Canada writer in exile; and Sheng Xue, a poet and journalist who left China after Tiananmen Square.

The tour will also raise critical awareness around the work of PEN Canada for the release of imprisoned writers, support of exiled writers in Canada, and advocacy on local and international issues of freedom of expression. Events will also take place in Edmonton and Vancouver.

Words Without Borders

In partnership with WordFest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival, 403.294.7462

Thursday, April 3rd 7:30pm

Ticket Price \$10 (suggested admission)

Central Library, John Dutton Theatre, 616 Macleod Trail Southeast

Thank you to our event sponsors: the Edmonton Journal, Canada Council for the Arts and The Calgary Public Library and to The Banff Centre for their support.

CALENDAR OF SPOKEN WORD AND SLAM POETRY

The calendar of spoken word and slam poetry events in the valley looks like this. April: 3rd- Workshop at Valley Books, Perth 7-9pm \$5.00; 24th- Perth Slam at Valley Books, Perth 7-9pm Featuring The Oneness Collective \$5.00; 29th- The Spoken Word Plot at Ironworks Pub, Almonte 7-9pm. May: 1st- (unconfirmed) Workshop at The Black Canvas Cafe, Arnprior 7-9pm \$5.00; 27th- The Spoken Word Plot at Ironworks Pub, Almonte 7-9pm 29th- Arnprior Slam at The Black Canvas Cafe, Arnprior 7-9pm \$5.00.

BOOK LAUNCH: DISMANTLED SECRETS BY MONTREAL POET MAXIANNE BERGER

Dismantled Secrets confirms Maxianne Berger's remarkable dexterity with language and poetic form. Drawing on Dylan Thomas's invitation to play with literary devices and inspired by the work of surrealist painter Rene Magritte, Berger juxtaposes ordinary objects with unusual contexts to achieve extraordinary and thought-provoking results. Each poem in this collection is a spectacle - whether of light or dark - that pulses with energy, drama and a true sense of the absurd. Berger is a writer, reviewer and translator in Montreal.

The book launch is free and open to the public. Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm at Librairie Paragraphe Bookstore, 2220 McGill College Ave. Montreal, Quebec. Bookstore Contact: 514 845 5811 or paragraphbooks@paragraphbooks.com or Publisher Contact: 905-972-9885 or simone@wolsakandwynn.ca

TORONTO'S ROWERS PUB READING SERIES

Wednesday, April 2, Rowers Pub Reading Series. Lawrence Hill, Maureen Scott Harris, Adam Sol. 7:30 pm. 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor (416 961- 6277) www.owerspubreadingseries.com

DUB POETRY YOUTH WORKSHOP

Workshop Description: Set in an anti-oppression framework and using storytelling as art for social change, d'bi.young will engage 15-30 youth in a two-day workshop at the Britannia Community Centre, culminating in a public performance at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on April 28th. Much of d.bi young's work focuses on identity and esteem building, while addressing inter-sectionality. Targeting high school and older youth (ages 14- 21), these workshops will and take race, class, gender, ability, language, culture, and sexuality into consideration. The youth will perform alongside a showing of d'bi's critically acclaimed albums and books in a Dub Poetry Storytelling Session and the launch of her new book from Women's Press, rivers...and other blackness...between us. Location & Times: April 26 - 11:00 am – 6:00 pm, Britannia Community Services Centre, 1661 Napier St; April 27 – 1:00 PM – 6:30PM, Britannia Community Services Centre; April 28 – 8pm Performance, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1885 Venables St. Cost: \$50 Registration: ongoing until April 7th, 2008. Space is limited to 30 youth participants. Contact: Ruthie Tabata, ruthie@magneticnorthfestival.ca, 604-638-7489. For more info: www.magneticnorthfestival.ca and www.dbiyoung.net

WORKSHOP No. 1 - THE ART OF WRITING SCIENCE AND NATURE

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1200 Atwater Avenue, Suite 3

Workshop leader: Wayne Grady

Fee: \$75

Science writing is the lingua franca of the information age. It includes genres as seemingly diverse as the quiet natural history essay, articles on medicine and health, and investigative reporting on such hard-hitting issues as the environment and genetic engineering.

Workshops participants will discuss the hot science topics of the day and their significance – how to talk about science – and how to translate them into writing that is accessible to the average reader while remaining true to the science. Using examples from some of today's best science and nature writers, we will also learn how to develop an "idea" into a "story," and how to pitch stories to magazine editors and book publishers.

Other topics to be discussed include research methods and interview preparation, story structure, the difference between magazine, newspaper and book writing, and science writing ethics.

Participants should come to the workshop having thought about and lightly researched an idea for a magazine article or book on a science issue.

Wayne Grady has been a magazine writer and editor for 30 years; he has also written 11 books of nonfiction, most recently *The Great Lakes: The Natural History of a Changing Region*; edited 15 anthologies of short fiction and nature writing; and translated 12 novels from the French.

He has won numerous National Magazine Awards, three Science in Society awards, and has been shortlisted for four Governor-General's Awards, one of which he won. He is also an adjunct professor in the Creative Writing Program at the University of British Columbia.

WORKSHOP No. 2 - WRITING THE PAST, OR EXCUSE ME, YOUR RESEARCH IS SHOWING

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1200 Atwater Avenue, Auditorium

Workshop leader: Marilyn Simonds

Fee: \$75

An intensive workshop on the particular challenges of writing convincing and compelling fiction set in the past. Through examples and writing exercises, participants will explore the issues of research (how much is too much?), finding an original, yet authentic voice, the use and abuse of archaic language and syntax, and the legal/ethical dilemmas involved in shaping real-life characters and events into fiction. The course will cover research sources and techniques as well as tricks for “getting into” historical characters and ferreting out the insidious, hideous beast of anachronism.

This workshop will be useful for serious writers beginning a new project as well as those with a manuscript underway. Writers with a work-in-progress are invited to send no more than a 10-page sample at least 3 weeks in advance. It will be returned on the day of the workshop with detailed comments. If possible, time will be set aside for short personal conferences. Send samples by email to admin@qwf.org by March 21 at the very latest. Please write “For Simonds” in the subject line.

Merilyn Simonds is an award-winning writer whose books include *The Convict Lover* (set in 1920), a finalist for the Governor General's Award, and the internationally acclaimed story collection, *The Lion in the Room Next Door*. Her novel, *The Holding*, set in 1859 and 1990, was on the Canadian Independent Booksellers' bestseller list for six months, and was selected a New York Times Editors' Choice.

***** Members News *****

ALLAN BRIESMASTER

On Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 pm, Allan is in a panel in the Ottawa Writers Festival at the Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa: “Secrets of Literary Publishing: Why We Publish and How to Survive and Thrive in Today’s Turbulent Marketplace.” With Stan Dragland (Brick Books), Beth Follett (Pedlar), and Allan Briesmaster (Quattro), and hosted by Sean Wilson. For details, go to: <http://www.writersfestival.org/events.html>.

On Saturday, April 19, 1:30 - 4:30 pm, Allan is one of six readers in the Richmond Hill Public Library’s 4th Annual Poetry Gala. The others are Roo Borson, Barry Dempster, Molly Peacock, Ruth Roach Pierson, and David Seymour. Free Admission, Refreshments, Book Table. Southwest corner of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie, Richmond Hill, ON.

VIVIAN DEMUTH – NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Vivian Demuth is the author of the poetry chapbook *Breathing Nose Mountain* and the ecological novel, *Eyes of the Forest*. Her work has been published in Canada, the United States and Europe. Each summer, she hosts an annual Poetry on the Peaks event at a mountain firetower where she works. She has read her poems on CBC radio and she has taught writing in homeless shelters and at the Women's Studio Center in New York. Her poetry website is: www.poetspath.com/exhibits/viviandemuth

PENN KEMP

Upcoming Events Celebrating Poetry Month:

- April 3, 12-1 pm, 2008. Penn’s reading at the Clarke Auditorium, Malcolmson Lecture Theatre, 250 College, Toronto, ON. Sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets for National Poetry Month: Poetry Without Borders. 1-3 pm, Penn’s Workshop: Writing to and through Conscious Change. How is writing relevant to sustainability? Penn offers several examples of sustaining poetry, short fiction and plays that inspire, awe and delight. How can we too articulate our convictions in ways that move the reader to action? Exercises from Penn's book on creativity, *What Springs to Mind*, give participants direct experience and practical suggestions for spurring the imagination and honing writing skills. Read more on www.mytown.ca/whatspringstomind/ and <http://syc-cjs.org/sustainable/UWO+2007+%3A+Uncurbing+your+Enthusiasm%3A+Writing+Sustainability&bl?PHPSESSID=eac5dadeefdbbf062fd9e56e7b46dd46>.
Workman Arts, Clarke Auditorium, Malcolmson Lecture Theatre, 250 College, Toronto, ON. Contact: Anita_Aenishaenslin@camh.net, 416-583-4339
- April 3, 6-9:30 pm, 2008. Poetry Without Borders at A FEAST OF AUTHORS, part of the Toronto Dollar 10th Celebration, St. Lawrence Market, Toronto. A night to remember!
- Penn is co-coordinating poetry readings. If you’re a poet who would like to read (three minutes max!), contact her at pendas@pennkemp.ca up till March 24. After that, please contact: Marilyn Hotta, 416 363 6012, <moolyn@hotmail.com>.
- Meet Canadian writers! In addition to a Book Market where more than 50 of your favourite authors will be selling and signing their books, there will be the Annual Toronto Dollar Awards, Readings of both Poetry and Prose, a Children’s Story Time, Book Launches, Musical Entertainment, an open mike, tables for literary organizations and publishers, a Raffle, great food and much more! National Poetry

Month will be celebrated with readings by selected poets as part of Poetry Without Borders. Toronto Dollar hosts this event, with 10% of every Toronto Dollar sold going to support local charities. The FEAST is held during the annual St. Lawrence Market Customer Appreciation Night.

- Pendas Productions will also be launching *Samsara* by Katerina Fretwell, *Cantos North* (cd) by Henry Beissel, *Gathering Voice* (book & cd) by Penn Kemp/Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy and *Focus* by Doug Valteau.
- Pendas Poets ride again! An April tradition ongoing! We will have a long Pendas table, wo/manned by poets, staggered and staggering... staggered because these Toronto Dollar events are FAB. At the Pendas table, you can meet our poets: Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy, Katerina Fretwell, Emily Hearn, Penn Kemp, Daniel Kolos, Blaine Marchand, and Douglas Valteau, who are all reading their work as well. We will also be performing several different translations of Penn Kemp's *Poem for Peace in Many Voices*: just another way that this event will transcend borders, in this case language barriers. Because the poem for peace is read first in English, then in French, then in other languages, the audience can participate in the translations as if all the languages read were familiar: they already know the sense and rhythm of the poem for peace from hearing it first in English. And so this little poem truly transcends linguistic borders. All five of the readers have contributed to, translated and/or participated in readings of "Poem for Peace in Many Voices", so they are old hands. We will be reading English, French, Spanish, Italian, Ojibway, Pig Latin, Elvish, Hungarian, Ancient Egyptian, Latin, Pashtun (from Afghanistan) and Zulu. See www.mytown.ca.poemforpeace. Confirmed readers for "Poem for Peace in Many Voices" are Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy, Katerina Fretwell, Penn Kemp, Daniel Kolos, Michael Mirolla, Blaine Marchand, Vusi Moloji.
- Saturday, April 12, 1-4pm. Main Hall, Branch 140, The Royal Canadian Legion 95 Kirk St., Clinton, ON (519) 482-3554. This is a Multicultural, Multilingual Event!"Crossing the Line! Poetry Without Borders" A National Poetry Month Celebration! Featuring Guest Poets: Ronda Eller (Clinton), Katerina Fretwell (Parry Sound), Penn Kemp (London), Vusi Moloji (Ottawa), Daniel Kolos (Priceville), Michael Mirolla (Toronto). All these poets will also be reading "Poem for Peace in Many Voices", including a grand finale with the audience. These poets will dazzle you as they cross the lines of poetry topic and style in their performances - a "Must-See" for any literary enthusiast! Free Admission + Coffee/Tea. Contact: SkyWing Press, RR2 Clinton, ON (519) 482 8043. <http://www.skywingpress.com> Contact: Ronda Wicks <skywingpress@gmail.com>, <http://www.skywingpress.com>. Sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets and the Canada Council for the Arts for National Poetry Month: Poetry Without Borders.
- April 25, 2008, 12-1 pm, 2008. Reading with bill bissett and Penn Kemp. You can hear their duet of "Poem for Peace in Two Voices" on www.myspace.com/pennkemp. Clarke Auditorium, Malcolmson Lecture Theatre, 250 College, Toronto, ON. Sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets for National Poetry Month: Poetry Without Borders.
- 1-3 pm, Penn's Workshop: Writing to and through Conscious Change. How is writing relevant to sustainability? Penn offers several examples of sustaining poetry, short fiction and plays that inspire, awe and delight. How can we too articulate our convictions in ways that move the reader to action? Exercises from Penn's book on creativity, *What Springs to Mind*, give participants direct experience and practical suggestions for spurring the imagination and honing writing skills. Read more on www.mytown.ca/whatspringstomind/ and http://syc-cjs.org/sustainable/UWO+2007+%3A+Uncurbing+your+Enthusiasm%3A+Writing+Sustainability&bl?PH_PSESSID=eac5dadeefdbbf062fd9e56e7b46dd46. Workman Arts, Clarke Auditorium, Malcolmson Lecture Theatre, 250 College, Toronto, ON. Contact: Anita_Aenishaenslin@camh.net>, 416-583-4339
- April 25, 2008. Penn, I.V. Lounge reading, 326 Dundas Street West, Toronto. Free.

MARILYN LERCH

Marilyn Lerch will launch her second collection of poetry, "Witness and Resist" (Morgaine House, Pointe Claire, Quebec) on April 4, 2008 at the Writers' Federation of New Brunswick Literary Weekend in Miramichi. "Witness and Resist" is a work passionately personal and deftly political.

ALICE MAJOR

Alice Major's newest collection, *The Office Tower Tales*, takes its starting point from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, but moves the story-telling six centuries forward and several thousand miles to the northwest. Readers meet receptionist Aphrodite, Pandora from accounting and Sheherazad, the girl from public relations. They gather to share coffee breaks and lunch hours over a nine-month period that builds toward the year 2000, and the birth of Pandora's first (and illegitimate) granddaughter, Sheherazad tells her friends seventeen tales that halt the hectic march of time and speak to their concerns about growing old, working, loving, and living in an urban world. You can find information about ordering at <http://www.uap.ualberta.ca/UAP.asp?LID=41&bookID=783>.

She will also be doing a reading tour in southern Ontario soon: Friday, April 4, 8 p.m. – The Cove, Westport, Ontario (With Eric Folsom & T. Anders Carson); Saturday, April 5, 2 p.m. – North Crosby Hall, North Cosby, Ontario (With T. Anders Carson); Sunday, April 6, 2pm – Mother Tongue Books, 1067 Bank Street, Ottawa (With Anne Le Dressay and Nicholas Lea); Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. – Toronto Renaissance Conspiracy, Renaissance Café, 1938 Danforth Ave. and Friday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. – Books & Company, 289 Main Street, Picton (Exact time TBC)

DAVE MARGOSHES

Dave Margoshes will be reading in Hamilton, at the GritLit Festival, Sunday afternoon, April 6, 1:30 p.m., should you happen to be down that way. It's at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King St. West, followed by two readings in Toronto: Tuesday, April 8 at 8 p.m., the Art Bar Poetry Series, Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., by Christie subway station; and on Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., reading fiction at Toronto WordStage, Cervejaria, 842 College St., just west of Ossington.

CLAIRE SHARPE – NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Claire Sharpe returned to Toronto in 2005 after spending six years in England. Her poetry has been shortlisted for the 2007 CBC Literary Awards, accepted by Contemporary Verse 2, and published in Canadian and UK-based journals including The Antigonish Review, echolocation, Dream Catcher, Magma, and Oxford Magazine.

Her essay on writer Tove Jansson was published in Tove Jansson Rediscovered (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). Claire received her MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia.

CAROL STEPHEN

Carol Stephen received an honourable mention for her poem, Invisible, which will be published in an upcoming anthology of The Ontario Poetry Society. She also has a poem, Faded to Black, being published in the April issue of the ezine at Palabras press. And a short story, Fashion Freeze, to be published in an upcoming issue of The Voice, an Ottawa women's literary publication. Later on in the year, she will have another poem, "If I Could", which will be published in a limited edition publication called Labour of Love.

St@nz@ is distributed monthly to members of the League of Canadian Poets. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or post a notice, send an e-mail to readings@poets.ca If members don't have e-mail access, we'll be happy to send print summaries by snail mail. Please send a note to the League office requesting us to do so. Address: 920 Yonge St. Ste.608, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3C7. Send news to readings@poets.ca.

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