

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

DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS POETRY BLOG 2009!!

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the League of Canadian Poets is proud to support our 2nd cross-Canada poetry blog open to all League of Canadian Poets members. This year's theme is "Poetry Planet." Members are encouraged to discuss and elaborate on themes of poetry related to the ideas of land, culture, nature and how we define Canada, from the very first Canadian artists, Aboriginal Peoples, and storytelling, and to today's youth, who reflect the diversity of the land and languages of Canadian cultural climates. Beginning April 1st, select submissions will be published on line.

Submission Guidelines:

Please send 1 poem to: lc nationalpoetrymonth@yahoo.com. Subject Line: National Poetry Month Submission. Submissions must be electronic and should not exceed 200 words. Send in MS word document AND within the body of your e-mail. Artwork (i.e. photographs, drawings, etc.) to accompany the poem is encouraged. Please include any accompanying artwork in jpeg, or tiff format, no larger than 400 X 400 pixels. Submissions will be accepted beginning **March 1, 2009** no earlier than 12:01 am (EST). (Sorry, no early submissions will be considered.) Poems will be accepted on a first come first serve basis and also taking into account geographical region. We are looking for representation from all over Canada.

Contact information should include: Your name, Province/Territory and city where you live. A biography is optional- please no longer than 50 words including internet links. For additional information please contact: lc nationalpoetrymonth@yahoo.com PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A CONTEST, RATHER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WORLD, TO SEE CANADIAN POEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS.

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERS PAGE: Visit the following links to update your bio, publications, picture or contact information on you League member page.

- Full members: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/fullup.htm>
- Associate members: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/assocup.htm>
- Poets in the Schools participation form: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/pits-update.htm>

If you have any questions please email Ingel at readings@poets.ca.

YOU'RE INVITED! LCP POETRY FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE 2009

Plans for the League's 43rd annual Poetry Festival and Conference are well under way. This exciting three-day poetry festival is scheduled for June 12 -14, 2009 in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference will take place at the SFU Harbour Centre, conveniently located in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

The League is very pleased to announce that Marilyn Bowering, long time League member and winner of both the Pat Lowther Memorial Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, will deliver the Anne Szumigalski lecture on Saturday, June 13, as part of the weekend's events.

Panels will include: *Spoken Word: Deep Roots and Diverse Fruits*; *Who's In, Who's Out? The Anthology*; *Working Class Heroes – work poetry and why it matters* and the Feminist Caucus panel on *Eco Poetry*. As always, there'll be a new members reading, and the Anne Szumigalski lecture is followed by dinner and the Pat Lowther and Gerald Lampert Memorial Awards Gala.

Registration forms will be mailed to all members, with the National Poetry Month poster, and will available online and by mail later this week. The registration deadline is May 1, 2009. Note that members should contact the office for discounted air travel with WestJet.

More on Marilyn Bowering: Marilyn Bowering has received many awards for poetry including the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and several National Magazine awards. Her work has twice been nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award. She was a 2008 Fulbright Scholar at New York

University. Her most recent books are "Green" (poetry) and "What It Takes To Be Human" (novel). Marilyn has travelled extensively and has lived in Greece, Scotland, the Queen Charlotte Islands, Spain and the United States. Her work has been translated into Punjabi, Spanish, Italian, German, Finnish and Greek. She is a Professor in the Creative Writing and Journalism Department at Vancouver Island University in British Columbia. She first became a member of the League in 1977 where she met poets who are still among her closest friends today. For more info: www.marilynbowering.com

NEWS FROM THE FEMINIST CAUCUS

By Anne Burke, Chair. I am working on the panel papers, with additional materials from the Feminist Caucus Panel 2008, on "Femin/Aged Inspirators: an Homage to Elder Women Poets", which was held at the AGM in St. John's, Newfoundland. Thank you to Magie Dominic, Penn Kemp, and Sue McMaster for their contributions. We sought presentations in whatever form you like, prose, poetry, performance, audio or video interview, etc. but which 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. We intend to launch this new title in the Living Archives Series of chapbooks at the 2009 AGM in Vancouver. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

***** News *****

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrate International Women's Day, March 7, 2009. Support Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. Contact www.cw4wafghan.ca for more information about Libraries in Afghanistan.

FINALISTS FOR THE THE RBC BRONWEN WALLACE AWARD FOR EMERGING WRITERS ANNOUNCED

The three finalists for the 15th annual RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers have been announced. The annual award is given to an author under the age of 35 for a sample of their work, unpublished in book form. The award alternates between poetry and short fiction; this year's award honours poets. This year's finalists -- chosen from a field of 135 -- are:

- Michael Johnson for *The Minnow and Other Poems*. Johnson's work has appeared or is forthcoming in publications including *The Fiddlehead* and *The Malahat Review*. He is 30 years old and lives in Vancouver.
- Jeff Latosik for *How the Tiklaalik Came Onto Land and Other Poems*. The 28-year-old Torontonian's poetry has appeared in several literary journals, including *Grain* and *Prairie Fire*.
- Emily McGiffin for *Wapiti Lake and Other Poems*. McGiffin, 28, lives in Smithers, British Columbia, and has published her work in *The Malahat Review*.

Whomever wins, expect to hear their name in the future: past winners include Michael Crummey and Alissa York. Bronwen Wallace was an acclaimed poet, author, and editor. She died in 1989 at the age of 44. Her first book of fiction, [People You'd Trust Your Life To](#), was published the following year. The award was founded by Wallace's friend Carolyn Smart, a fellow poet and head of creative writing at Queen's University. It was first handed out in 1994. The winner of the award -- to be announced on April 1 -- will receive \$5,000. The other finalists will receive \$1,000 each. This year's jury includes Don Domanski, Jeanette Lynes, and Anne Simpson

2009 CALGARY INTERNATIONAL SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

April 01 – 05 (Calgary) *April 15 – 17 (Banff), 12 Amazing Events, 50 Internationally Acclaimed Artists, featuring Lillian Allen (Toronto), Dub's lead originators, Juno Award winning artist, 2009 Golden Beret recipient; Regie Cabico (Washington), Spoken Word pioneer, Nuyorican & Def Jam Star; John Giorno (New York City), For over 5 decades, a Spoken Word revolutionary! Founder of Giorno Poetry Systems, New York underground mastermind; Raine Maida (Los Angeles), Canada's musical darling, leader of Our Lady Peace, Spoken Word solo artist; Ras Michael (Jamaica, Los Angeles), Rastafarian priest, renowned Nyabingi drummer! Creator of over 30 albums and more awards than we can mention; Robert Priest (Toronto), Award-winning singer/song writer & Spoken Word artist! Dr. Poetry on CBC's Wordbeat. Author of 15 books of poetry, & a hot button renegade & many more! For tickets: Megatunes, Pages Books on Kensington, or call 403.686.4292. For more info: www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com

NATIONAL AL PURDY DAY: APRIL 21, 2009

Al Purdy, the man widely regarded as Canada's first true national poet, died in April, National Poetry Month, in the year 2000. In a way, his death marked the end of a century in which the Canadian cultural identity – under pressure from separatist tensions, two world wars, the rapid development of the mass media and the sensation of being a young nation adrift between older colonial powers and our newer imperialist neighbour – experienced its most profound growing pains. No other poet was as resolute in addressing those pains as Al Purdy. He did so not only by writing about the issues head-on, but also by listening to the people around him, by writing a

poetry rooted in the daily life of the people and places of the Canada he knew and loved, from sea to sea to sea. He was writing poems that were relevant to Canadians, and, for over forty years, Canadians listened.

The position of Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate was not legislated into existence until 2001, so Purdy never ascended to the office that so many believed he was meant to inhabit. In lieu of any official laurels from Parliament Hill, the League of Canadian Poets created an award to honour Purdy for his exceptional status among Canadian writers, and, just weeks before his death, they invested him with the honorary moniker "The Voice of the Land." It was one of many accolades the poet would receive in his lifetime, and it would be among of the first to follow him, quite literally, to his grave.

The words "The Voice of the Land," along with the insignia of the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada, are inscribed on Purdy's book-shaped gravestone, marking the place where his ashes are buried in the modest cemetery at the foot of Purdy Lane in Ameliasburg, Ontario near the famous A-frame.

That A-frame house, made out of second-hand lumber and original poetry, became the most famous writer's house in the country. Hundreds of writers and their housemates found their way to Roblin Lake to visit the Purdys and talk about poetry and history while downing beer or wild grape wine. Coleridge and his friends had their lake country, and now the Canadian poets would have theirs. A lot of poetry and prose came out of that hard-to-find place.

To prevent its second-hand wood from ending up on someone's scrap heap, and with the blessing and support of Eurithe Purdy, The Purdy A-frame Trust is raising funds to purchase and preserve the property, create an endowment and establish a poet-in-residence program.

In recognition of the importance of Al Purdy to Canadian poetry, the iconic symbol of the A-frame to Canadian culture, and in support of the Purdy A-frame Trust, the League of Canadian Poets officially declares APRIL 21, 2009 NATIONAL AL PURDY DAY. We invite all Canadian poets, and lovers of Canadian poetry to host a Purdy Party to raise funds to preserve this important cultural and heritage property.

For more information or to make a contribution to the Trust contact: Jean Baird, 4403 West 11th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6R 2M2. Phone: 604 224 4898 or email: jeanbaird@shaw.ca

16,514 CANADIAN AUTHORS SHARE \$9.9 MILLION IN PLR PAYMENTS

Over 16,500 Canadian authors are sharing \$9.9 million in Public Lending Right Commission payments for the public lending of their books by Canadian libraries during the past year. The PLR issues payments to writers, translators and illustrators every February. PLR payments are determined by verifying the holdings of a representative group of Canadian public libraries. The size of the payment increases with the number of libraries in which an author's eligible titles are found. This year, authors received an average payment of \$600 and the maximum payment per author was \$2,800. The distribution of payments by province is as follows:

Quebec \$3,918,240.40
Ontario \$2,999,724.60
British Columbia \$1,269,769.80
Alberta \$424,338.40
Canadians living abroad \$326,697.00
Nova Scotia \$253,472.20
Manitoba \$186,278.60
Saskatchewan \$182,661.60
New Brunswick \$177,065.40
Newfoundland and Labrador \$109,930.20
Prince Edward Island \$37,367.60
Yukon Territory \$8,458.60
Northwest Territories \$5,216.80
Nunavut Territory \$1,802.40
TOTAL: \$9,901,023.60

Change in the PLR Program for Next Year's Payments (February, 2010): In June, 2008, the PLR Commission unanimously adopted a new payment scale to be implemented for the February, 2010, author payments. In short, the books registered with the PLR program will be divided into four categories, based on the number of years they were registered, and each category will be paid based on a certain percentage. For further information, please visit www.plr-dpp.ca.

Canada is one of 23 countries that have an active PLR program. While the world's PLR programs are all administered differently, there are two common threads linking them all: the recognition of the right of authors to be compensated for the use of their works in libraries, and the understanding that PLR funds paid to authors are an investment in advancing that country's literary expression. The PLR Commission operates under the administrative aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Funding for the PLR program comes from the federal government through the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Authors interested in receiving PLR payment need to register by May 1, 2009. For more information about how to register, please visit www.plr-dpp.ca.

SETTLING WITH GOOGLE

This is the personal blog of John Degen, poet and novelist... who also happens to be Literature Officer for the Ontario Arts Council, administering funding support to Ontario's writing, publishing and literary presenting community. <http://johndegen.blogspot.com/2009/02/settling-with-google.html>. * This is not an official OAC blog. For official information about the Ontario Arts Council's support for literature, please visit the OAC site.

"EVERY GOOD BOY" WINS WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA'S SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SHORT PROSE COMPETITION FOR DEVELOPING WRITERS

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce that Julie Booker has won the sixteenth annual Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers, for the best story under 2,500 words, with her piece "Every Good Boy." The author will receive a \$2,500 cash prize. In addition, the Union will submit the winning story and the other eleven finalists' stories to three Canadian magazine publishers for their consideration. The Union initiated the Short Prose Competition in 1993 in honour of its twentieth anniversary. The Competition aims to discover, encourage, and promote new writers of short prose who are not yet published in book format, in order to provide opportunity and exposure to developing writers. This year, eighteen Union members donated their time and expertise to read nearly 400 outstanding submissions and distill them into a longlist of one hundred fifteen stories. These stories went on to a second round of twenty-one readers who selected the finalists to pass on to the 2008 Jury: Joan Barfoot, Carellin Brooks, and David Helwig. WINNER: "Every Good Boy" by Julie Booker. The Jury noted that "'Every Good Boy' tells its story in a way that manages to be humane while catching everything it observes just a bit aslant. It offers a child's eye view of some of time's odd and awkward and funny and painful moments. It does a lot in a few pages, just as a story should." Julie Booker's writing has appeared in journals, such as Prism International, The New Quarterly, Descant, and The Windsor Review, and in anthologies published by Coach House Press and Mansfield Press. She won honourable mention in the Prairie Fire Fiction Contest 2009. Her yet-to-be-published short story collection, Silver Hearts, was shortlisted for the John Metcalf-Leon Rooke Award in 2005, and she was a finalist in the 2006 Malahat Review Novella Contest. FINALISTS: The Falling, John Blackmore; Blue Velvet, NJ Brown; Adjusting, KerryAnn Cochrane; No Love Comes Easy, Susan Di Laudo; Hoofin' At The Hobos' Hoedown, Garth Holden; Can't Fool Me, Suzanne Keptwo; Tributary, Sarah Mian; All the Voices Cry, Alice Petersen; Going Solo, Munju Monique Ravindra; Ruby Slippers, Arlene Smith; The Rich Beggar Boy, Pradeep Solanki. FINAL JURY: Joan Barfoot, Carellin Brooks, and David Helwig.

ANTI-CENSORSHIP CRUSADER WINS WRITERS' AWARD

The Writers' Union of Canada today announced that the winner of its annual Freedom to Read Award is the former executive director of the Book and Periodical Council of Canada, and anti-censorship crusader, Nancy Fleming. Prior to her passing early last year, Ms. Fleming, who had headed the Book and Periodical council for twenty years, was largely responsible for Canada's annual Freedom to Read Week. "Nancy Fleming was a tireless foe of anyone who tried to limit the rights of Canadians to read or to write what they wished," said Wayne Grady, Chair of the Union. "Her years of fighting censorship have earned her this award. Although she has sadly passed on, her energy continues to drive Freedom to Read Week. We are honoured to be a part of it." As the executive director of what was then the Book and Periodical Development Council of Canada, Ms. Fleming helped launch Freedom to Read Week in 1984. Today, the Freedom of Expression Committee, which contains representatives of several creator organizations, continues to publish a yearly catalogue of challenges to free expression in Canada. Among the more controversial challenges, which the committee undertook, were the Fatwa issued by the Iranian Ayatollah Khomeini against Salman Rushdie for his book The Satanic Verses. More recently, book challenges have included the multiple charges brought against Stephen Williams and his wife Marsha Boulton, following the publication Williams' book on Karla Homolka (all but one of the charges were later dropped), and the efforts by the Canadian Jewish Congress to remove a child's book, Three Wishes, from an Ontario school book award reading list. "Nancy Fleming's dedication to fighting censorship continues to inspire us all," said Deborah Windsor, Executive Director of the Writers' Union. "The Writers' Union of Canada has long been involved with the Freedom of Expression Committee, and we are determined to help continue the

fight against censorship. It's what Nancy Fleming would have wanted." The award is to be presented at a special Freedom to Read Week event on February 25 at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The evening will feature interviews with previous award winners, journalist Derek Finkle, and Janine Fuller, owner of Vancouver's Little Sister's bookstore, noted for its long-standing dispute with Canada Customs over that agency's frequent seizures of books destined for gay bookstores. The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well being of all writers. For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

FROM THE BPC

The Globe and Mail has published two articles about e-books in the last few days, both of which raise interesting questions for the book industry. Links are below.

"E-books: coming soon to a B.C. library near you" - published February 10th, 2009:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090210.wgtbooks0210/BNStory/Technology/home>

"A new chapter for digital books" - published February 9th, 2009:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090209.wrebooks10/BNStory/Technology>

NEW REPORT REVEALS 10 KEY FACTS ABOUT THE WORKING LIVES OF ARTISTS IN CANADA

A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada Based on the 2006 Census, the 26th report in the Statistical Insights on the Arts series from Hill Strategies Research, shows that there are 140,000 artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists include actors, choreographers, craftspeople, composers, conductors, dancers, directors, musicians, producers, singers and visual artists. The number of artists is slightly larger than the number of Canadians directly employed in the automotive industry (135,000). The report also notes that the broader cultural sector has about 609,000 workers and comprises 3.3% of the overall labour force in Canada. One in every 30 people in Canada has a cultural occupation. This is about double the level of employment in the forestry sector in Canada (300,000) and more than double the level of employment in Canadian banks (257,000).

The report highlights 10 key facts about artists in Canada:

1. The average earnings of artists are very low. The average earnings of artists are \$22,700, compared with an average of \$36,300 for all Canadian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 37%. To bridge the earnings gap and bring the average earnings of artists up to the same level as the overall labour force would require an additional \$1.9 billion in earnings for artists. The average earnings of artists are only 9% higher than Statistics Canada's low-income cutoff for a single person living in a community of 500,000 people or more (\$20,800). 62% of artists earn less than \$20,000, compared with 41% of the overall labour force. Six of the nine arts occupations have average earnings that are less than Statistics Canada's low-income cutoff for a single person living in a community of 500,000 people or more (\$20,800).
2. A typical artist in Canada earns less than half the typical earnings of all Canadian workers. Note: The median is a measure of the earnings of a "typical" worker in various occupations. Half of individuals have earnings that are less than the median value, while the other half has earnings greater than the median. For artists, median earnings are only \$12,900. A typical artist in Canada earns less than half the typical earnings of all Canadian workers (median earnings of \$26,900). A typical artist, on their own, lives in a situation of extreme low income: the median earnings of artists are 38% below the low-income cutoff for larger urban areas (\$20,800). In six arts occupations, median earnings are less than or about equal to \$10,000. This means that a typical actor, artisan, dancer, musician or singer, other performer or visual artist earns only about \$10,000 or less.
3. Artists' earnings decreased, even before the current recession. Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists decreased by 11% (after adjusting for inflation). In the overall labour force, average earnings grew by 9% during the same timeframe (after adjusting for inflation). The 11% decrease in the average earnings of artists between 1990 and 2005 is due to a 14% decrease between 2000 and 2005, after adjusting for inflation. Even without an inflation adjustment, artists' average earnings decreased by 3% between 2000 and 2005. All nine arts occupations saw substantial decreases in average earnings between 2000 and 2005, which contributed to a decrease for all nine occupations over the longer timeframe (1990 to 2005). The earnings gap between artists and the overall labour force increased from 23% in 1990 to 37% in 2005.
4. There are more female than male artists, yet women artists earn much less than men. The 74,000 female artists represent 53% of artists. In the overall labour force, 48% of workers are women. On average, female artists earn \$19,200, 28% less than the average earnings of male artists (\$26,700).

5. Aboriginal and visible minority artists have particularly low earnings. Aboriginal artists have particularly low average earnings (\$15,900), a 39% gap when compared with all Aboriginal workers in the Canadian labour force. The average earnings of Aboriginal artists are 30% lower than the average for all artists. With average earnings of \$18,800, visible minority artists earn 38% less than the average earnings of all visible minority workers in Canada.
6. Economic returns to higher education are much lower for artists than for other workers. University-educated artists earn 38% more than artists with a high school education. In the overall labour force, those with a university education earn more than double the average earnings of those with a high school education. The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (39%) is nearly double the rate in the overall labour force (21%). Artists with university credentials at or above the bachelor's level earn \$26,800, which is 53% less than the average earnings of workers with the same education in the overall labour force (\$57,500). In fact, the average earnings of university-educated artists (\$26,800) are less than the average earnings of overall labour force workers with a high school diploma (\$28,000).
7. Many artists are self-employed. At 42%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is six times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (7%). The average earnings of self-employed artists (\$15,200) are 51% less than the average earnings of all self-employed workers in Canada (\$31,000).
8. There are relatively few opportunities for full-time work in the arts. Nearly twice as many artists as other workers (42% vs. 22%) indicated that they worked part-time in 2005. Artists are employed for fewer weeks per year than other workers. In 2005, 68% of artists worked most of the year (40 to 52 weeks) compared with 77% of the overall labour force.
9. There has been substantial growth in the number of artists since 1971, but the rate of growth is decreasing. The number of artists in Canada grew much more quickly than the overall labour force between 1971 and 2006. There were three-and-a-half times as many artists in 2006 as in 1971. This is a much higher increase than the doubling of the overall labour force. The rate of growth in the number of artists has decreased during every period since 1971: 85% in the 1970s, 40% in the 1980s, 29% in the 1990s, and 7% in the shorter period of 2001 to 2006. The number of artists grew by much more than the overall labour force between 1971 and 2001 but less than the overall labour force between 2001 and 2006.
10. Artists, as a group, are becoming more diverse, older and better educated. Artists from visible minority groups more than doubled in number between 1991 and 2006 (123% growth). Artists 45 or older more than doubled in number between 1991 and 2006 (121% growth). There were 90% more artists with a university certificate, diploma or degree in 2006 than in 1991. There were 61% more artists with a college certificate or diploma in 2006 than in 1991. In comparison, there were 38% more artists and 22% more workers in the overall labour force in 2006 than in 1991.

Methodological notes: Individuals are classified in the occupation in which they worked the most hours between May 7 and 13, 2006 (the census reference week). The earnings statistics include an individual's wages and salaries as well as net self-employment income. Other income sources, such as income from government programs, pensions or investments, are excluded from the earnings statistics. The earnings statistics include amounts received from all employment and self-employment positions in 2005, not just the position at which the respondent worked the most hours during the census reference week. For more information The full report, funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Ontario Arts Council, is available free of charge on the Hill Strategies Research website (<http://www.hillstrategies.com>) and the websites of the funding organizations.

THE SASKATCHEWAN WRITERS' GUILD AND THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HAVE CREATED THE GARY HYLAND FUND

Dear friends, The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation have created the Gary Hyland Fund to recognize Gary's many contributions to his community and to writers, writing, and the arts. Quite simply, no one in Saskatchewan has provided such catalytic leadership to so many arts organizations: The Writers' Guild, the Sage Hill Writing Experience, the Moose Jaw Cultural Centre, and the Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation, among others. His creation and sustainment of the Festival of Words in Moose Jaw has given us one of the most exciting, warm, and intimate celebrations of writers and writing in Canada.

For many years Gary was a gifted high school teacher of English, and he is an award-winning author of seven books of poetry and editor of three anthologies. None of this was ever done at the expense of his tireless contribution to the public good. Even now, when, as many of you will know, he has contracted the cruelly debilitating ALS, he continues to work to see his dreams for the arts continue and thrive.

Reflecting his wishes, the Gary Hyland Fund has been created to do two things.

First, it will provide funding for the Gary Hyland Literary Endowment, which will award a grant annually to a Saskatchewan emerging writer (one who has not yet published a book) of any age. Similar to Saskatchewan Arts Board or Canada Council grants, the funds from this award will be used to enable an emerging writer to develop his/her craft through subsidizing research for a writing project. The grant will be administered by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.

The second purpose of the Fund is to provide assistance to others afflicted with ALS. This will take the form of the purchase of expensive respiratory and other equipment which will greatly assist those with ALS to remain active and productive for a much longer time than many now do.

Contributors to the Gary Hyland Fund can designate which proportion of their donation should go to each of these projects (all of the funds can be directed to one or the other or they can be divided as contributors wish). They can use the form in the enclosed brochure (attached) , or send the donation directly to the Gary Hyland Fund, the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, 2-2700 Montague Street, Regina SK S4S 0J9. Donors who contribute more than \$20.00 will receive a charitable donation receipt.

We hope that you will consider giving generously to the Gary Hyland Fund, just as Gary has given so generously of himself to so many others.

Yours sincerely, Robert Calder, Past President, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild. Honorary Directors: Bob Currie, Jane Urquhart, Sharon Butala, Ken Mitchell, Shelagh Rogers, Yann Martel, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Lorna Crozier, and Patrick Lane.

**TOO MANY WIVES, TOO LITTLE WATER:
YEAR'S BEST POLITICAL BOOKS TO COMPETE FOR \$25,000 WRITERS' TRUST AWARD**

The Writers' Trust of Canada announced the finalists today for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. The \$25,000 prize will be presented on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at the sold-out Politics and the Pen Gala in Ottawa. The value of the prize has been increased this year by \$10,000. The five finalists are: Daphne Bramham (Vancouver) for *The Secret Lives of Saints: Child Brides and Lost Boys in Canada's Polygamous Mormon Sect*, published by Random House Canada; James Orbinski (Toronto) for *An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action in the Twenty-first Century*, published by Doubleday Canada; Erna Paris (Toronto) for *The Sun Climbs Slow: Justice in the Age of Imperial America*, published by Knopf Canada; Marie Wadden (St. John's) for *Where the Pavement Ends: Canada's Aboriginal Recovery Movement and the Urgent Need for Reconciliation*, published by Douglas & McIntyre; Chris Wood (Cowichan Bay, Vancouver Island) for *Dry Spring: The Coming Water Crisis of North America*, published by Raincoast Books.

Now in its ninth year, the prize is awarded annually to a non-fiction book that captures a political subject of interest to Canadian readers and enhances understanding of the issue. The winning work will be one that combines compelling new insights with depth of research and is of significant literary merit. Strong consideration will be given to books that, in the opinion of the jury, have the potential to shape or influence Canadian political life. The prize is sponsored by CTVglobemedia and is supported by the Politics and the Pen Gala. The jury of Toronto Star national affairs writer and author Chantal Hébert, author and journalist William Johnson, and Globe and Mail deputy managing editor David Walmsley selected this year's finalists. Each finalist will receive \$3,500. The Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing was established in honour of the outspoken and popular member of Parliament from Windsor, Ontario, who died on December 9, 1998. Politics and the Pen is the highlight of the capital's winter social calendar and an important annual fundraising event benefiting the Writers' Trust. The March 4 celebration of literature and politics will take place at the Fairmont Château Laurier. Microsoft Canada sponsors the Politics and the Pen dinner, and MTSAllstream Inc. sponsors the Politics and the Pen pre-dinner and post-dinner receptions. The Writers' Trust of Canada is a charitable organization that supports Canadian writers and writing through various programs, including literary awards, financial grants, workshops, scholarships, and a writers' retreat. For further information about the Writers' Trust and this year's finalists, and to win a set of this year's nominated titles, please visit www.writerstrust.com.

******* 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.

SAGE HILL WRITING EXPERIENCE IS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HELPING WRITERS DEVELOP THEIR CRAFT!

Spring Poetry Colloquium At St. Michael's Retreat in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, from May 13-26, 2009.
Facilitator: Anne Simpson; Guest Poet: John Barton. **Application Deadline: March 15, 2009.**

A facilitated retreat for eight poets who have a publication record and are working towards manuscript completion. Includes a 'wired' component where writers will be given the opportunity for a one-on-one email follow-up with the instructor. Instruction occurs within an immersion setting over a relaxed fourteen days with an emphasis on individual writing and manuscript revision. Application is open to writers 19 years of age and older, regardless of city, province, or country of residence. Applications are juried.

Anne Simpson's most recent poetry collection is *Quick* (2007), winner of the Pat Lowther Award. Her previous books of poetry are *Light Falls Through You* (2000) and *Loop* (2003), winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize. She also writes fiction, and has published two novels: *Canterbury Beach* (2001) and *Falling* (2008). Her essays on poetics and art, *The Marram Grass: Poetry and Otherness*, will be published in the spring of 2009. She has been an artist-in-residence at the Dalhousie University Medical Humanities Program and writer-in-residence at the University of New Brunswick. She lives in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

John Barton has published eight books of poetry and five chapbooks, including *Sweet Ellipsis* (1998), and *Hypothesis* (2001). A bilingual edition of his third book, *West of Darkness: Emily Carr, a self-portrait*, was published in 2006; his ninth collection, *Hymn*, is forthcoming from Brick Books in 2009. Co-editor of *Seminal: The Anthology of Canada's Gay-Male Poets* (2007), he has won three Archibald Lampman Awards, a Patricia Hackett Prize, an Ottawa Book Award, a 2003 CBC Literary Award, and a 2006 National Magazine Award. The former editor of *Ottawa's Arc*, he lives in Victoria, where he edits *The Malahat Review*. In 2008–2009, he is the Writer-in-Residence at the Saskatoon Public Library.

Tuition: \$1395 includes instruction, accommodation, and meals. Some scholarship funding is available to help defer costs. For application procedures, please visit our website at <http://www.sagehillwriting.ca>. If you have additional questions, feel free to drop us an email: sage.hill@sasktel.net.

CITY OF VANCOUVER POET LAUREATE - CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The City of Vancouver is requesting submissions for the position of Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate position was created in December 2006 and the successful applicant will be the City's second Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate must be a Vancouver resident. Please see the Vancouver Verse website for details: <http://www.vancouververse.ca/2ndPoetCall.html>. Deadline for expressions of interest - **March 11, 2009**. Hard copy expressions of interest should be sent to: City of Vancouver Poet Laureate Selection Committee Library Administration, 7th Floor, Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, British Columbia Canada, V6B 6B1.

SCHOOL OF WRITING AT CMU IN WINNIPEG

Attention creative writers! We invite you to join us at the School of Writing at CMU in Winnipeg, May 4-8, 2009. Cost of the week-long course is \$520. The deadline for applications is **March 2, 2009**. This year's School features classes on Advanced Fiction with David Bergen; Intermediate Fiction with David Elias; Poetry with Barbara Nickel; Life Writing with Joanne Klassen and Eleanor Chornoboy; and (NEW this year) Creative Non-Fiction with Myrna Kostash. Many exciting special guests will be in attendance to read and talk about the writing life. Some bursary support is available. For more information about application, including description of portfolio for admission, visit www.cmu.ca/schoolofwriting or email schoolofwriting@cmu.ca

CALGARY HERALD POETRY CONTEST

Now is your chance to release your inner poet. The Calgary Herald and the Calgary International Spoken Word Festival are presenting a spoken word poetry competition to coincide with the 2009 festival, which runs April 01 – 05 in Calgary, and April 15-17 in Banff. To participate, write a poem with the theme of Spring Fever. Submit it to our judges in text, audio or video format (in a file smaller than 8 MB in size) by **March 15, 2009**. The contest will be judged by spoken word festival's Sheri-D Wilson, Sarah Murphy and Tom Wayman. Poems may be submitted to www.calgaryherald.com/send-us-your-news. Our judges will choose a winner. The prize is two passes to the 2009 Calgary Spoken Word Festival, and we'll post your poem on CalgaryHerald.com and CalgarySpokenWordFestival.com for the world to see. Good luck!

2009 CALGARY INTERNATIONAL SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Make a Difference. This grassroots festival is run by volunteers, and our volunteers are very important to us. Join our team April 01-05, 2009! Meet People... Our Number one priority besides putting on a fabulous festival is for all our volunteers to maximum fun while they are at the festival. Experience World-Class Poetry! We have many fabulous volunteer positions to choose from: Pre-festival posters and programs; Promotional distribution

Per-Event Front-of-House; Ticket sellers/ Ushers/ Merch sellers; "Set-up" and "Strike" of the venues; Transportation; Security . Here's what you do: Call me or email Barb Fisher, barb@ciswf.com or 403.686.4292.

HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARIES' WORD UP! TEEN POETRY AND SPOKEN WORD CONTEST

Contest and website details open March 1, 2009

Do you have notebooks full of poetry stashed in your room, or maybe just the odd verse jotted in the margins of your scribbler? Maybe you prefer your poetry as spoken word performance. No matter how you like it, we want it! Submit your poems or spoken word pieces for a chance to win great prizes! Submissions will be posted on our website, www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/teens/. Prizes will be awarded in both junior and senior high categories, 1st place Winner's Choice: Flip video camcorder, or 8GB iPod nano, or \$150 Future Shop Gift Card; 2nd place: \$100 Mall Gift Card; 3rd place: \$50 Mall Gift Card. Guidelines:

- Entrants must be residents of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Open to youth in Grades 7-12.
- Entries will be judged in two categories - Junior High (Grades 7-9) and Senior High (Grades 10-12).
- You must submit your own original work. Individual entries only - no groups. Your name should NOT appear on your entry.
- All styles will be considered - free verse, rhymed verse, haiku, sonnet, rap, etc.
- Each participant may enter up to 3 submissions.
- Entries can be dropped off at any branch of the library, or submitted online as electronic files via the library's web site.
- Entries must be accompanied by an application form available at your local library or online at halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/teens/
- Entries must be delivered to a library, or entered online by **Saturday, April 25 / 5 pm, 2009**.

Awards Event: Winners will be announced, and prizes awarded at the Word Up! Teen Poetry and Spoken Word Awards Event on Friday, May 22 from 6-8:30 pm at the Keshen Goodman Public Library. For more information call 490-6410.

2009 PRAIRIE FIRE PRESS AWARDS

2009 Prairie Fire Press - McNally Robinson Writing Contests Bliss Carman Poetry Award - Judge: Don Domanski, Short Fiction - Judge: Paul Quarrington, Creative Non-Fiction - Judge: Charles Wilkins. \$6,000 in prizes. First prize in each category \$1,250, 2nd prize \$500, 3rd prize \$250. Deadline: November 30, 2009. For information contact: Prairie Fire Press, 423-100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1H3. Phone: (204) 943-9066, E-mail: prfire@mts.net, or check out our web site for guidelines at www.prairiefire.ca.

IN RETRO MAGAZINE

In Retro Magazine (short for everything in retrospect) is accepting submissions for contributions to the Poetics Retronized section within our publication. Poetics Retronized is a six page ongoing series with two components: A guest contributor section and the contest section. Guest Contributors: Contributors are those who would not necessarily want to be part of the contest, as the contest is primarily meant for those still waiting to be discovered in their own right. That being said, the work of the contributors, may or may not have been published. The decision to publish a contributor's piece in the magazine would then be based on the merit of the piece alone (also considering the background of the poet and the relevancy to the magazine issue at hand). Published example: There may be a recently published book, currently in stores, and an excerpt may be taken from that book – with all the appropriate permissions of course; Unpublished example: A previously published contributor may have some new pieces not yet put into a book, that they may want to introduce to the public. Perhaps the pieces may be part of a collection in the process of or with plans of being published in the future... For the integrity of the magazine, we are trying to keep the content as original as possible, so it would be our preference that contributor pieces have not been previously published (though I know this may not always be possible). In any case, published or otherwise, the magazine can serve as a form of publicity for the contributing writer... And in exchange, their work inspires new writers and new fans of their work and of the genre itself. This is why our magazine section combines the work of both the experienced as well as the novice poet. The Contest: Where novice Canadian poets, specifically from Southern Ontario (Toronto to Windsor) to start, wish to enter and have their work judged in a contest. There are no entry fees and poems cannot have been previously published (as noted in the online rules section – www.in-retro.com/poetics.html)

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED

An intensive workshop for authors who want to know how to get published and who want to understand the publishing process on March 12, 19 and 26, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Learn:

- how to prepare covering letters and book proposals that get results
- how to target the editor or agent who will be receptive to your writing

- the publishing process from manuscript to bookstore (and online)
- how to market your book
- the pros & cons of literary agents and self-publishing
- how to build your author profile and increase your sales
- what's happening in Canadian publishing today

Workshop Leaders: Cynthia Good is the former President and Publisher of Penguin Canada and current Director of the Creative Book Publishing Program at Humber College. Jennifer Murray is the former Vice-President of Marketing, Penguin Canada and Kids Can Press. Iris Tupholme is the Vice-President & Publisher of HarperCollins Canada. The workshop runs from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Toronto Writers' Centre located at 627 Bloor Street West, a few of blocks west of Bathurst. Fee: \$340.44. For information, contact: Cynthia Good at 416-675-6622 ext. 3462 or cynthia.good@humber.ca. To register online: A Humber student number & Visa or MasterCard is required. New students phone 416-675-5005 to receive your permanent Humber student number and then go to: <http://parttimestudents.humber.ca/>. Select "View All Courses" and then scroll to bottom of course listing and choose the Creative Writing link. Course CRWR 218. To register by phone: Registration Centre: 416-675-5005

If you're unable to make these evening sessions, our next Insider's Guide to Getting Published workshop will be held July 20 & 21 from 9:30 to 4:30 each day. This follows the annual Humber School for Writers Summer Workshop, which runs from July 11-17, 2008. For further information, please see Humber's part-time studies calendar at <http://parttimestudents.humber.ca>

BOREALITY PROJECT - PRAIRIE FIRE PRESS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT ITS FIRST WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Prairie Fire Press is pleased to present its first writer-in-residence, Katherine Bitney (January 2009 - October 2009). Manuscript Evaluation Service: New, emerging and established writers from across Manitoba are invited to have their manuscripts read by Katherine Bitney. Copies of manuscripts may be dropped off at Aqua Books, 274 Garry Street; or mailed to Prairie Fire, att: Writer-in-Residence, 423-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3; or sent via email to borealkate@gmail.com. This writer-in-residence service is a free service offered to all Manitoba residents; however, preference will be given to writers writing about and/or out of the boreal forest of Manitoba. This could include writers living in a boreal forest community, or who have moved elsewhere from a boreal forest community, or who have simply spent time in the boreal forest, whether for purposes of recreation, research, work or some other reason.

Submission Guidelines:

- Include a cover letter containing a brief description of your writing background and the kind of feedback you feel you need.
- Provide your name, address, email and phone number. Katherine will contact writers directly via email or phone.
- Manuscripts will be accepted until October 1, 2009.
- Manuscripts should follow strict submission standards: typed in 12-point font (prose double-spaced, poetry single-spaced) on one side of the page only.
- Prose submissions should not exceed 15 pages; poetry should not exceed 6 poems.
- Writers may submit work more than once.

Katherine Bitney is the author of three critically acclaimed books of poetry: *While You Were Out* (Turnstone Press, 1981), *Heart and Stone* (Turnstone Press, 1989) and *Singing Bone* (The Muses' Company, 1997), and is currently working on a fourth collection of poems. She has also written short fiction, novels, plays and scripts for radio. With Andris Taskans, she co-edited *A/Cross Sections* (MWG, 2007). Katherine is a founding member of the Manitoba Writers' Guild and a founding editor of *Prairie Fire* magazine. She has worked as an editor, mentor, writing instructor, and creative director for literary events for over 35 years. www.katherinebitney.com. Katherine's residency at Aqua Books is part of a larger, multi-year project being undertaken by Prairie Fire Press in collaboration with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra under the title "Boreality." The purpose of this project is to celebrate the boreal forest of Manitoba through a multidisciplinary approach involving writing, music, soundscape and photography. Katherine is one member of a creative team that will go out four times to sample the environment and produce new works of art for all Manitobans. "Boreality" is made possible in part by support from the Winnipeg Arts Council's New Creations Fund. For more information, please call us at (204) 943-9066 or email prfire@mts.net.

THE bpNICHOL POETRY CHAPBOOK AWARD

A prize of two thousand (\$2000) is offered for the best poetry chapbook in English published in Canada in 2008. The chapbook should be between 10 and 48 pages long. This 24th annual award is sponsored by Phoenix Community Works Foundation. The poet or publisher should submit 3 copies (not returnable) and a brief curriculum vitae. Please make sure to include your phone number and email address and send to: The bpNichol Chapbook Award, 316 Dupont Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1V9. Entries close **March 31st, 2009**. For more information about Phoenix Community Works Foundation please visit: www.pcwf.ca. For more information on bpNichol himself and his work, check out <http://www.bpnichol.ca/>.

DESIGN CONTEST - PROFESSIONAL GIG

Interested in designing for the Arts? The Calgary International Spoken Word Festival is now accepting prototype design for our 2010 festival! It's easy, what we're looking for is a postcard that represents who we are. Check out our other festival designs on our website – the winner will develop their festival designs from the prototype. Be Seen... If chosen, your design will be the face of the largest Spoken Word Festival in Canada, and will be circulated on thousands of programs, posters, handbills and web-material around the world. Exposure... You can show yourself to the world and this will be an excellent addition to your portfolio. Get Paid... If you win you will get paid and this will be negotiated. Deadline: **May 15, 2009**. Interested parties should send their prototypes and inquiries to festival director, Sheri-D Wilson at sheridwilson@shaw.ca.

THE 9th INTERNATIONAL MULTICULTURAL-MULTILINGUAL POETRY READING

The 9th International Multicultural-Multilingual Poetry Reading in conjunction with The United Nation's Dialogue Among Civilizations Through Poetry, World Poetry Day (March 21), World Water Day (March 22) and Mother Language Day (21 February). Organized to foster tolerance, respect and cooperation among peoples. Theme: River Poems/ Poèmes des rivières /Poemas de los ríos. 21 March 2009, Saturday 5 to 8 pm immediately after the Fredericton Small Press Fair / Salon du Livre du Fredericton / Feria de Editoriales Pequeñas - (including Nuestro espacio), Fredericton, NB, Canada. Organized by: Nela Rio, the Founder of International Multicultural-Multilingual Poetry Reading, with the support of Gallery ConneXion, revue ellipse mag, Broken Jaw Press, the Latin American Cultural Centre, Registro de Autores Creativos de la Asociación Canadiense de Hispanistas, the Latino Association of New Brunswick, and the Grupo Fredericton de la Academia Iberoamericana de Poesía. We invite you to join us in the 9th celebration! Previous celebrations, since 2000, have featured poets and members of the community reading in many languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Cantonese, Mandarin, German, Japanese, Dutch, Danish, Urdu, Turkish, Amharic, among others. This event is open to the general public and admission is free. Registration form for poets: Please include your name, postal address, email address, the text of the poem (use Time New Roman, 12 point). The poem should have 30 lines maximum, including stanza breaks (this is for the purpose of printing it in a poster for exhibition at the event). Send this information to nelario@rogers.com **BEFORE MARCH 15th ,2009**. Please note: this community event will not be paying artists or performance fee. Registration for readers: Read a poem from your favorite poet at this event. Please include your name, postal address, email address, the name and country of the author poet. (use Time New Roman, 12 point). The poem should have 30 lines maximum, including stanza breaks (this is for the purpose of printing it in a poster for exhibition at the event. Send this information to nelario@rogers.com **BEFORE MARCH 7, 2009**

ONTARIO WRITERS' CONFERENCE

The Ontario Writers' Conference, sporting its new logo and website, needs you to be a part of our exciting new image by stringing 1-10 sizzling words together as a slogan (or tagline) for use from now on. Win a place of distinction for your genius (as well as a special thank-you gift!) All entries are eligible to win a draw for a book-basket. Help us spread the word by lending us yours! Enter (free) as often as you like between February 15th and April 1, 2009 at www.thewritersconference.com.

IRELAND: POETRY OF PLACE - WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND - JULY 3-13 '09 WITH RONNA BLOOM

Let the land inspire your words and your vision. Travelling to abbeys, mountains, forests, and pubs of Ireland, this workshop offers both guidance and free reign to write or photograph. Most mornings we will gather for a brief session of instruction, using writing or images, to direct and focus the attention. These sessions include short talks on ways of responding to the world using a pen or camera, specifically designed writing exercises, and discussion. Then off to sites where you will have time to explore the landscape in whichever medium you choose. The itinerary is set in the villages, broad peat lowlands, and the dramatic coastline of Western Ireland. Possible highlights include a salon with contemporary writers, artists or craftspeople, a visit to Yeats' home at Thoor Ballylee and homemade soda bread.

Ronna Bloom has been running workshops in Canada and abroad for many years. She has published three books of poetry and teaches writing at the University of Toronto. In her workshops, Ronna uses the work of

poets, writers, and artists to direct and inspire participants and to support their creative processes. Ronna, who lived in Ireland in the 80's, returns in 2009 with this new workshop for writers and photographers. For information: <http://ronnabloom.com> or <http://www.phototc.com>.

JACKPINE PRESS REQUIRES AN ADMINISTRATOR TO WORK 5 HOURS A WEEK IN ITS SASKATOON OFFICE

JackPine Press, literary publisher of fine, limited-edition, handmade chapbooks requires an Administrator to work 5 hours a week in its Saskatoon office. The Administrator provides essential day-to-day administrative support for JackPine's volunteer-based Editorial Collective. Administrative duties include: database management, website updates, correspondence with artists and authors, launch coordination, travel coordination, book distribution and sales, promotional activities, and overseeing regular bookkeeping/banking practices such as deposits and payments. The administrator is also responsible for grant writing (usually once per year), in consultation with the Collective.

The ideal candidate will express

- knowledge of, or a sincere interest in, the Canadian literary publishing scene
- proficiency in Microsoft Office, specifically Excel, Word, email software and Access
- bookkeeping experience
- grant writing experience
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- superb organization and planning skills
- self-motivation and an ability to work independently

Start date: April 1, 2009, Salary: \$15/hour. Applicants should submit a resume of related experience and a cover letter by March 15, 2009 to JackPine Press, Box 7731, Saskatoon, SK S7K 4R5. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

WOMEN IN 2009 POETRY CONTEST

This is a call to all poets who write about WOMEN. Write about someone who inspires you. You can use a character depiction or can use a triumphant situation or surprise us. "ALL" writers welcomed, original and unpublished entries. Winners will be notified in April, 2009 by Oneal Walters, and their names published here. All poems remain the property of the poet. 1st Place \$110 US, plus interviewed, 2nd Place \$60 US, 3rd Place \$30 US. Submission fee \$7.00 US (Approx \$8.44 CAN) per poem. Email entries to: women2009@theagebegins.com. Deadline: March 12, 2009. Be the 1st winner of this poetry contest! Printed snail mail entries and submission fees to: Oneal Walters' WOMEN in 2009 Poetry Contest, P.O. Box #21034 Jane Finch Mall P.O., 3975 Jane St., Downsview, ON, M3N 3A3. (Make money order or certified check payable to: Oneal Walters)

CALL FOR THE COOKED AND EATEN 2009-2010 SEASON

It's now really easy to apply to read at the Cooked and Eaten. All you need to do is go to our online Writer's Application and fill out as much information as necessary. Your name and info will be added to the list of applicants and you will be considered for a reading next season. Deadline for Canada Council Eligible Readers: FEBRUARY 15, 2009; **Deadline for all other readers: MAY 15, 2009.** [Guidelines](#) for readers are available on our website at: <http://www.cookedandateaten.com/about/getcooked.html>. In our online application you can express your interest in reading at our special events, which include: The Dog Days of Summer Open Mic at the Pig's Ear Tavern (August); The 20 Minute Word Project (September); Artsweek Site Specific Readings (September); Children's Readings at Titles Bookstore (late November); December Open Mic; Valentines Erotica Night (February 2010); The Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon (April 17, 2009). We'll be sending another call just for the poetry marathon, so if that's your thing, you can let us know now, but we'll be sending out a special call just for that day during the month of February. If you have any questions or want to let us know what you think of our new online application process, please send us an email (readings@cookedandateaten.com).

***** Events, Readings and Workshops *****

BRICK BOOKS

And now to the readings that are confirmed so far for January right through to April 2009. Check out the brief snapshot of the upcoming author readings in order of appearance. The details of times and venues follow can be found at <http://www.brickbooks.ca/>.

10th ANNUAL ART BAR DISCOVERY NIGHT

Tuesday 3 March 2009 at Clinton's, 693 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON. Guest Host: Nancy Bullis. On Discovery Night, up to 20 poets present their own work and are judged by audience ballots. Open to anyone who has never featured at the Art Bar Poetry Series. There are 3 rounds.

RULES

- 1) You must sign yourself up
- 2) Poets are free to work in any style
- 3) No props, costumes, musical instruments allowed
- 4) Each poet gets 3 minutes to present one poem
- 5) Audience decides by ballot which poets continue to the next round

Sign-up begins at 7:30pm. Competitors should bring 3 poems, no longer than 3 minutes each. Prize is a feature reading at the Art Bar on Tuesday 14 April 2009.

Previous Winners: 2000 Ed Keenan & Ewald Kroon (tie); 2001 Souvankham Thammavongsa; 2002 Andrea Jarmai; 2003 Jacob Scheier; 2004 Nick Thran; 2005 Alex Nassar; 2006 Nashira Dernes; 2007 Marilyn Potter 2008 Jerome Paul.

ALISTAIR MACLEOD TAKES THE STAGE AT ATLANTIC INK, THE WRITERS FESTIVAL

Alistair MacLeod returns to his home province to speak at ATLANTIC INK festivities on Friday, May 8, 2009 at 7 pm in the Scotiabank Conference Theatre, Sobey Building, Saint Mary's University. ATLANTIC INK, The Writers Festival is a week-long fanfare recognizing the twelve finalists for this year's Ann Connor Brimer Children's Literature, Atlantic Poetry, Thomas H. Raddall Fiction and Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction book prizes.

The showcase takes place from May 4 through May 9 with readings, signings, school appearances, writing workshops and panel discussions in the four Atlantic provinces from Charlottetown to Saint John, Halifax to St. John's and points in between. Public events will be hosted by the PEI Writers' Guild, the Lorenzo Reading Series, the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, and others. Programming details and shortlists for the four prizes will be announced on March 17, 2009 at www.atlanticink.ca. The winners will be announced May 8, 2009.

For further information, contact: Jane Buss/Susan Mersereau, Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, 902-423-8116, talk@writers.ns.ca, Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, www.writers.ns.ca or 902 423 8116.

THE VANCOUVER POETRY SLAM AND VANCOUVER POETRY HOUSE

<http://vancouverpoetryhouse.com/> present for one night only in Vancouver on Saturday, March, 14th @ The Wise Hall (1882 Adanac at Victoria). Salt Lines Tour brings four of the most accomplished spoken word artists to Vancouver in one show! This verbal quartet will storm, sing, slam, and sling salt into the eye of all that has ever silenced voices meant to be heard. Their celebration is one of being basic to the earth as salt. These women represent some of the strongest and most respected talent coming out of the international Poetry Slam circuit. Andrea Gibson, Tara Hardy, Sonya Renee And Denise Jolly plus Burlesque Magic Happenings by Va Va Vunderbust And Burgundy Brix. Tickets are \$10 in advance and available at The Vancouver Poetry Slam On March 2nd and March 9th at Café Deux Soleils or you can reserve advance tickets at slater.lisa@gmail.com. Tickets will be \$15 at the door.

BRANTFORD ARTS BLOCK

Rob Read, Paul Hegedus and Kemeny Babineau read on March 3, Tuesday, 7pm at the Brantford Arts Block, 80 Dalhousie St (downtown Brantford, ON). Please come out and enjoy three authors published by BookThug, Toronto's avant guardian press.

Rob Read lives in Poplar Hill, Ontario (near London). His most popular indent is Daily Treated Spam, currently on hiatus. His book O Spam Poems, published by BookThug, won the General Go, Vernor reward in 2005. He produces Produce Press when the lemons need squeezing. Read is also the author of Descriptive Sketches, which was lovingly published by Laurel Reed Books at some point in recent memory.

Paul Hegedus was born in Saskatoon. He is currently working on a yet to be titled visual poetic project. He teaches kindergarten in Brampton, Ontario. He is the author of Noise Present at the Moment Less Clear, a chapbook published by BookThug in 2006. In Stereo is his first book. "In stereophonic recording, twin microphones are positioned in order to more accurately record and represent a sonic moment. In Stereo takes this as its guiding principle. The collection is a record of dualities: this is split speaker, split personality, poetic turntablism flipped a-side to b-side. Found language from a wide variety of source texts forms a mashup of

manipulated sampled materials: from CD copyright lingo to pop culture text to sound ecology, pataphysics, Sun Ra and Gertrude Stein. In Stereo demonstrates the potential transience and fluidity found within recorded meaning.”

Kemeny Babineau almost lives in Brantford but he still has a short drive getting there. He has authored several chapbooks over the last decade including VDB Wordlist published by BookThug. “Babineau’s work often appears in many forms either simultaneously or sequentially as he moves from concrete to sound and back into the lyric with an emphasis on deep image, rhythm and pun. Always thoughtful, always engaging, his poetry is a wild spin through the postmodern. Despite the opacities of hindsight Babineau has 20/20 visions with a third eye that undermines the optics of assumption. This is an artist for the 21st century.”. –Malcolm Randall, Canadian Poetry Previews

2009 CALGARY INTERNATIONAL SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

April 01 – 05 (Calgary) *April 15 – 17 (Banff), 12 Amazing Events, 50 Internationally Acclaimed Artists, featuring Lillian Allen (Toronto), Dub’s lead originators, Juno Award winning artist, 2009 Golden Beret recipient; Regie Cabico (Washington), Spoken Word pioneer, Nuyorican & Def Jam Star; John Giorno (New York City), For over 5 decades, a Spoken Word revolutionary! Founder of Giorno Poetry Systems, New York underground mastermind; Raine Maida (Los Angeles), Canada’s musical darling, leader of Our Lady Peace, Spoken Word solo artist; Ras Michael (Jamaica, Los Angeles), Rastafarian priest, renowned Nyabingi drummer! Creator of over 30 albums and more awards than we can mention; Robert Priest (Toronto), Award-winning singer/song writer & Spoken Word artist! Dr. Poetry on CBC’s Wordbeat. Author of 15 books of poetry, & a hot button renegade & many more! For tickets: Megatunes, Pages Books on Kensington, or call 403.686.4292. For more info: www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com

ROWERS PUB READING SERIES

The Rowers Pub Reading Series has as its March features: Adam Getty (Repose - Junction Books, 2008); Linda Leith (Marrying Hungary - Signature Editions, 2008); Gianna Patriarca (My Etruscan Face - Quattro Books, 2007); and John Stiles (Taking the Stairs - Nightwood Editions, 2008). We acknowledge financial assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers’ Union of Canada; The League of Canadian Poets; Tightrope Books, and donations from Scott Griffin and Alexander McCall Smith. For more information please visit rowerspubreadingseries.com. Rowers Pub Reading Series, 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor (647) 430-7365, Monday March 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Free - a hat is passed.

INFLUENCY 6: A TORONTO POETRY SALON

April 1 to June 10, 2009, Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9:30 pm.

- April 1: Introductory Talk by Margaret Christakos
- April 8: Billeh NICKERSON on Jacqueline LARSON’s Salt Physic (Pedlar)
- April 15: Jacqueline LARSON on Sina QUEYRAS’s Expressway (Coach House)
- April 22: Sina QUEYRAS on M. NourbeSe PHILIP’s Zong! (Mercury/ W.W. Norton)
- April 29: M. NourbeSe PHILIP on Glen DOWNIE’s Loyalty Management (Wolsak & Wynn)
- May 6: Glen DOWNIE on Adam SOL’s Jeremiah, Ohio (Anansi)
- May 13: Phil HALL on Billeh NICKERSON’s The Asthmatic Glassblower (Arsenal Pulp)
- May 20: Adam SOL on Sue SINCLAIR’s Breaker (Brick)
- May 27: Sue SINCLAIR on Phil HALL’s White Porcupine (BookThug)
- (no class June 3)
- June 10: Registrants’ Intertexts and Salon Closing Party

Influency is an innovative 10-week lecture-reading course featuring eight contemporary guest poets in person. This Spring 2009, a remarkable group of poets—Glen Downie, Phil Hall, Jacqueline Larson, Billeh Nickerson, M. NourbeSe Philip, Sina Queyras, Sue Sinclair and Adam Sol—will take part, facilitated by Margaret Christakos. Offered through the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies Creative Writing program, this is the sixth session since “Influency: A Toronto Poetry Salon” began in Fall 2006. Please join us for this flow-chart series of generously prepared talks by Toronto poets becoming fluent in the work of some of our contemporaries, combined with dynamic half-hour poetry readings and engaging, pleasurable hour-long discussions. Registrants compose written responses to all the poetries encountered. By presenting poets from many of the micro-communities in the city’s literary scene, “Influency” creates the opportunity for social and intellectual interaction, and builds a passionate audience for contemporary poetry in general. Over the ten-week course, registrants gather critical vocabulary for discussing contemporary poetry alongside an enhanced range of sensibility and ability to fluently discuss the nuanced divergences of approach, motive, process and influence

typical of Toronto's multitranscultural literary culture. This salon course is offered at an accessible price of \$225. Course materials (8 books, one by each participating poet) will be available at the first class, for \$100. Register NOW! SCS 1777 – 006 Fluency: A Toronto Poetry Salon at www.learn.utoronto.ca or 416-978-2400. For more information please email mchristakos@hotmail.com.

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED

An intensive workshop for authors who want to know how to get published and who want to understand the publishing process on March 12, 19 and 26, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Learn:

- how to prepare covering letters and book proposals that get results
- how to target the editor or agent who will be receptive to your writing
- the publishing process from manuscript to bookstore (and online)
- how to market your book
- the pros & cons of literary agents and self-publishing
- how to build your author profile and increase your sales
- what's happening in Canadian publishing today

Workshop Leaders: Cynthia Good is the former President and Publisher of Penguin Canada and current Director of the Creative Book Publishing Program at Humber College. Jennifer Murray is the former Vice-President of Marketing, Penguin Canada and Kids Can Press. Iris Tupholme is the Vice-President & Publisher of HarperCollins Canada. The workshop runs from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Toronto Writers' Centre located at 627 Bloor Street West, a few blocks west of Bathurst. Fee: \$340.44. For information, contact: Cynthia Good at 416-675-6622 ext. 3462 or cynthia.good@humber.ca. To register online: A Humber student number & Visa or MasterCard is required. New students phone 416-675-5005 to receive your permanent Humber student number and then go to: <http://partimestudents.humber.ca/>. Select "View All Courses" and then scroll to bottom of course listing and choose the Creative Writing link. Course CRWR 218. To register by phone: Registration Centre: 416-675-5005

If you're unable to make these evening sessions, our next Insider's Guide to Getting Published workshop will be held July 20 & 21 from 9:30 to 4:30 each day. This follows the annual Humber School for Writers Summer Workshop, which runs from July 11-17, 2008. For further information, please see Humber's part-time studies calendar at <http://partimestudents.humber.ca>

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

DIEGO L. BASTIANUTTI

Please join us and poet Diego L. Bastianutti for an evening of poetry in English & Italian on Thursday, March 19th at 6 pm at Sophia Books, 450 West Hastings St (@ Richards), Vancouver, BC. Poet Diego Bastianutti will read excerpts from his latest book, PER UN PUGNO DI TERRA-FOR A FISTFUL OF SOIL.

ALLAN BRIESMASTER

On Sunday, March 22 at 1:30 pm, Allan and Bunny Iskov will co-host the launch of the chapbook Poets For Life, from Beret Days Press, featuring poems by the six Life Members of The Ontario Poetry Society. There will be readings by Allan, Marty Gervais, Katherine L. Gordon, John B. Lee, and Elana Wolff. Cervejaria, 842 College St. in Toronto (just west of Ossington). 416-588-0162. Doors open at 1:00, free admission.

www.theontariopoetrysociety.ca/TOMarch09.htm - or contact Allan at abriesma@ican.net for more info.

GWEN MOLNAR

Dundurn Toronto has just published Gwen Molnar's teen novel, Hate Cell a Casey Templeton Mystery.

NELLIE P. STROWBRIDGE

Pasadena is caught over with snow. The winter carnival is in full swing and conkerbells, like crystal carrots, are hanging off my eaves four feet long. I was invited to read from my poetry collections at the Hospitality Newfoundland Conference in Corner Brook. That went well. I would like to hear from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia members, or whoever, on their latest news and forthcoming events. Some of the League's former members I contacted agreed to renew their membership. Riddle Fence, a Newfoundland-based journal is accepting unpublished submissions of poetry etc. until March 2, 2009. Go to www.riddlefence.com for more information.

ROBERT SWARD

- NEW INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE, College Literature Anthology, edited by Nicholas Delbanco and Alan Cheuse, poem "God is in the Cracks," McGraw-Hill, April 2009.
- New & Selected Poems, 2010, Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, CA
- CROSSING LINES: POETS WHO CAME TO CANADA IN THE VIETNAM WAR ERA, edited by Allan Briemaster, two poems, "On My Way to the Korean War" and "Report From the Front," Seraphim Editions, Hamilton, Ontario, 2008.
- BEAR FLAG REPUBLIC, Prose Poems and Poetics from California, edited by Christopher Buckley and Gary Young, four poems, "Dr. Sward's Cure for Melancholia," including 1. Melancholia, 2. A Face to Sadden God, 3. In Heaven, Too, There are Jews, (and) 4. The World is Broken, Greenhouse Review Press/Alcatraz Editions, 2008.
- THE CURE WITHIN, A History of Mind-Body Medicine, by Anne Harrington, "Personal Stress Assessment (Found Poem)," reprinted from FOUR INCARNATIONS, W.W. Norton, New York, 2008.

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