

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

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR LCP POETRY FEST AND CONFERENCE MAY 9

You don't want to miss out on the exciting roster of events that will take place at this year LCP Poetry Festival and Conference to 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>

Plans for the League's 42nd annual Poetry Festival and Conference are well under way. This exciting three-day poetry festival is scheduled for June 20 – 22, 2008 in St. John's, Newfoundland. The conference will take place at the beautiful Battery Hotel and Conference Centre, situated on Signal Hill, with a spectacular view of the historic city's harbour and celebrated downtown area.

The League is very pleased to announce that Don McKay, long time member, winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize and two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, will deliver the Anne Szumigalski lecture on Saturday, June 21, as part of the weekend's events.

There will be a traditional east coast Kitchen Party on Friday night. Panels will include a discussion of the late Margaret Avison's work by several distinguished poets. 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 Awards Gala. Don't miss it!

WEBSTORE NEWS

The League's national council has decided to close down the Poetry Webstore. This follows almost one year of discussion. These are the reasons we're doing so at this time:

- 1) For a number of years now we have been selling less than a dozen books a year from the Webstore. We are about to face significant costs (thousands of dollars) for software upgrades if we continue with the Webstore. It's hard to justify those costs, and the additional staff time, when almost no books are being sold.
- 2) When the Webstore began, there was not much on-line bookselling in the Canadian marketplace, and so the context was different. Virtually all publishers of poetry are now selling their books through the major on-line sites, making the Webstore largely redundant.
- 3) For those members who depend on the League for having a personal web presence, this aspect of the League's website will continue. As before, you can have up-to-date book and career information posted on your member page (contact Ingel Madrus at <readings@poets.ca>). We know from tracking hits on the League's web site that the member pages receive much more traffic than the Webstore does.
- 4) As a council we are open to your ideas and suggestions about anything else the League can do to replace the Webstore. Talk to us at our festival in June, or send an e-mail to council members.

FRIEDLAND REPORT: CREATORS DESERVE GREATER SHARE OF ACCESS COPYRIGHT FUNDS

The League of Canadian Poets announced today that it concurs with the Friedland Report recommendations regarding Access Copyright, the organization that collects and distributes photocopying copyright fees on behalf of creators and other entities.

"Creators have been expressing concern over the distribution of collectively raised funds since 1988 when the original organization, Cancopy, came into being," said president Maurice Mierau. "Twenty years is a long time to wait."

An independent analysis of Access Copyright was undertaken by Toronto law professor, Martin Friedland, and

presented to the agency a year ago. Its main recommendations called for greater transparency and a fairer method of distributing of funds by Access. Funds now total \$20 million per year and some 75% are distributed to publishers, many head-officed in countries other than Canada, with only 25% being distributed to the creators of written and visual materials.

"The average cheque to individual creators is less than \$500. Friedland's report makes clear that changes are needed to address this disparity."

Access Copyright commissioned the study in 2006, after the League of Canadian Poets, Writers' Union of Canada, the Professional Writers Association of Canada, and Canadian Artists Representation, all voting member organizations of Access Copyright, called for an independent investigation and fundamental changes in how the collective distributes funds to creators.

In his report, Friedland, noted that the Access Copyright's policies are out of step with collectives around the world, and even in Canada, pointing out that Copibec, which has a similar role in the province of Quebec, distributes to twice as many creators in Quebec alone.

Distribution rates under other agencies average 50/50. "It should also be noted that the historical inequity needs to be addressed, too. Poets are among the most financially challenged creators in this country, and could well use reparation amounts to make up for income unfairly distributed to non-creators in the past."

The League of Canadian Poets, a non-profit arts service organization created in 1966, is the national association of professional publishing and spoken word poets in Canada. Its purpose is to enhance the status of poets and nurture a professional poetic community to facilitate the teaching of Canadian poetry at all levels of education and to develop the audience for poetry by encouraging publication, performance and recognition of Canadian poetry nationally and internationally.

The League speaks for poets on many issues such as freedom of expression, Public Lending Right, Access Copyright, contract advice and grievance. It is actively involved with other arts and literary organizations in discussion with government bodies on matters that affect writers.

Mierau concluded, "We have to continue to recognize that Access Copyright owes its very existence to the creators it serves, not the other way around."

Following attendance by the League's representative at the recent Access Copyright AGM, the League of Canadian Poets will present to its own June AGM in St. John's, Newfoundland, a discussion paper and consideration of the League's position on these moral and economic copyright issues. All responses to date by the Access Copyright Board to the Friedland Report will be reviewed by the League in preparation for further action the League may undertake as a longstanding creator group member of the Access Copyright licensing collective.

More info: Maurice Mierau, President mmierau@mts.net

NEWS FROM THE FEMINIST CAUCUS

By Anne Burke, Chair. There are some new titles in the Living Archives Series coming your way! Join us for the Book Launch Saturday evening, June 21. For those attending the Feminist Caucus Business Meeting, that afternoon, Mary Dalton will be able to update us on the "Satire and Humour Panel" which she ably chaired. (We will also be discussing the proposal, by Toby Brooks, for what would have been Pat Lowther's 75th Birthday in 2010.) For full report see www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

***** Poetry News *****

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

This 256-page anthology from Seraphim Editions, edited by Allan Briesmaster and Steven Michael Berzensky, includes work by 76 poets, many of whom are League members. It was launched in Toronto on April 27. Despite the transit strike, about 200 came out to hear brief readings from 25 of the poets. For a description of the book and excerpts from the Preface, see <http://www.seraphimeditions.com/crossing-lines.html>. Several other launches and readings follow in May. The price of the book is only \$19.95 and is in bookstores or can be ordered from the publisher. Contact Allan at abriesma@ican.net for further information.

In Victoria on May 9, organizer Wendy Morton will include a segment within the regular Friday night Planet Earth reading series dedicated to *Crossing Lines*. The readers will include Kim Goldberg, Isa Milman, Ann Sorensen, and Wendy herself. The readings begin at 7:30. The venue is The Black Stilt Coffee House, #103-1633 Hillside Avenue. \$3 admission. <http://planetearthpoetryatblackstilt.blogspot.com>.

The launch in Nanaimo on May 11 (Mother's Day) is at The Vault on Victoria Crescent at 1:00 pm. The organizer is Kim Goldberg, Goldberg@ncf.ca.

The launch in Ottawa on Wednesday, May 14 is at 7:00 pm at Mother Tongue Books, 1067 Bank Street (near Sunnyside). It will feature Ottawa-area poets Ronnie R. Brown, Peter Richardson, Terry Ann Carter, and Mark Frutkin; Kingston poet Eric Folsom; and Toronto poets Steven Michael Berzensky and Kent Bowman. Contact Terry Ann Carter, tacarter@rogers.com.

The launch in Nelson will be on the evening of May 21 at the Ideas Café in the Oxygen Art Centre. The contact person there is Jane Byers, jane_byers@hotmail.com.

The Vancouver launch will take place in the Great Hall in the Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace at 16th and Burrard, 7-10 pm Friday, May 23. It's being organized by CL poets Susan McCaslin (smccaslin@shaw.ca) and Heidi Greco (heidigreco@hotmail.com). Hal Wake, the Artistic Director of the Vancouver International Writers Festival, is the emcee. So far, nine of the anthology poets are expected to read, and Vancouver poet laureate George McWhirter will read a selection of poems of his choosing from the book, by poets not able to come.

VIRTUALLY LAUNCHED—AN ANTHOLOGY OF IMAGES, VIDEO AND WORDS...

The Edmonton Cultural Capital Program celebrated April as National Poetry Month by launching a web-based anthology, complete with images, video clips and text poems. The anthology is compiled from materials collected during the 2007 Edmonton Poetry Festival. You are invited to click below and enter the anthology on the Edmonton Poetry festival website: <http://www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com/poetryrecord.asp> . **Visitors to the web site can enter a contest to win poetry prizes.**

DESPERATELY SEEKING

Liza Potvin of Malaspina University-College is writing a paper in which she will be examining "the enormous popularity of poems posted inside public buses in Vancouver, the rise of spoken word poetry competitions in Vancouver cafés, and the increasing interest in traditional rhyme and other poetic conventions among young Canadian poets." Her paper will "argue that these new trends signal the rebirth of poetry in response to the bland and euphemistic language of corporatism."

If you know of any articles written on the subject of the decline of poetry, or the rise of new Formalism, please contact her: Liza Potvin, Department of English, Malaspina University-College, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5S5; Phone: (250) 753-3245 x 2118, Fax: (250) 740- 6459, Email: potvin@mala.ca.

SNAPSHOT PRESS HAIKU COLLECTION A FINALIST IN THE POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARDS

Snapshot Press is delighted that *The Unworn Necklace*, Roberta Beary's collection of haiku and senryu, was selected as a 'finalist' in the Poetry Society of America's William Carlos Williams Award. This is a rare, major recognition for haiku by the poetry mainstream. Roberta attended the 98th Annual Awards ceremony in New York City last night, where she enjoyed the company of Cor van den Heuvel (editor of *The Haiku Anthology*) and his wife, Leigh. The Award winner was Aram Saroyan's collected work, *Complete Minimal Poems*. There was one other finalist: *Sorry, Tree* by Eileen Myles.

The judge, Ron Silliman, has today written about the finalists on his hugely influential literary blog <http://ronsilliman.blogspot.com/>. He concludes that "Absent Aram Saroyan's *Complete Minimal Poems*, I knew I would have given the WCW Award to one of these two books. That is really all that distinguishes them from the 16 other great books I was still enthralled with as I finished my work for the Poetry Society of America. The only thing these books share in common is their power, and it's interesting to imagine what kind of statement either would have made had it been the volume selected. This is what I just hate about contests. Each of these volumes is a total winner."

Within the blog entry he writes extensively about *The Unworn Necklace* – interestingly considering haiku in a wider poetic sense – and concluding that:

"the aesthetic here of absolutely minimal strokes accumulating to create a far more powerful picture is really overwhelming. This is a book I never would have picked up – probably never would have seen, although it's

already gone into a second printing – that made me completely grateful to the Poetry Society of America and the Williams Carlos Williams Award for putting it into my hands.”

He also notes that “. . . it was the only British book in the entire process – Snapshot Press is one of the standard-bearers for haiku and tanka,” adding, quite correctly, that we “thus far (have) a pretty rudimentary website”!

We feel this landmark achievement for the ‘haiku community’ underlines a belief that haiku has a considerable potential audience beyond this community, and that English-language haiku of the highest quality can break down barriers that both exist, and are perceived to exist, between ‘mainstream’ poetry and haiku. This will ultimately be to the benefit of all in the haiku community – haiku needs readers – but it will only be possible if we are collectively and individually supportive of such opportunities as they arise.

We hope the re-design of the site will be completed in late May. In the meantime, please visit www.snapshotpress.co.uk if you would like to order a copy of *The Unworn Necklace*.

And please consider also visiting www.wingbeats.co.uk for details of another forthcoming Snapshot Press book that is already attracting considerable attention both within and outside haiku circles.

POETRY CONFERENCES AT ROBERT FROST'S NEW HAMPSHIRE HOME

30th Anniversary Festival and Conference on Poetry from July 27 – August 2, 2008. One of the country's longest-running poetry conferences, renowned for its setting and very special atmosphere (rigorous and friendly), featuring superb daily craft talks, workshops, and readings, with guest poets Cornelius Eady, Susan Howe, Chase Twichell, Jean Valentine, and David Wojahn; James Hoch, 2008 Resident Poet; and workshop faculty Patrick Donnelly, Linda Susan Jackson, Ilya Kaminsky and Ellen Doré Watson. Tuition: US \$900 + \$25 application fee for participants; \$480 + \$15 application fee for auditors, plus \$80 for six lunches and one picnic dinner (optional but recommended). \$80 for one-day visitors (includes morning talk, auditing a guest poet's workshop, and an evening reading; reservation required, with \$15 application fee).

ALSO OFFERING: Conference on Poetry and Teaching from June 30 – July 4, 2008. A unique opportunity for teachers to work closely with their peers and a team of illustrious poets who have particular expertise and enthusiasm for sharing poetry with young people, featuring conference director Baron Wormser and resident poet/teacher Dawn Potter as well as guest poets Alice B. Fogel, Mekeel McBride, Shara McCallum and J.D. Scrimgeour. Tuition: \$600, plus \$86 for five lunches and two dinners (optional but recommended). Eligible for 3 graduate credits through Plymouth State University (\$405 additional).

Frost Place Seminar from August 3 – 8, 2008. An intensive look at how the poetry of the past can influence, guide, and challenge contemporary writers: with a select community of poets, time to reconsider your own artistic work in the context of our complex literary tradition. Featuring conference director Jeanne Marie Beaumont along with resident poets Andrea Hollander Budy and David Trinidad and guest Rachel Hadas. 16 participants maximum (preference given to poets who've attended a previous Frost Place conference). Tuition: \$800 + \$25 application fee, plus \$140 for six dinners and four lunches (optional but recommended).

For more information or to apply, contact Jim Schley, Executive Director, The Frost Place, PO Box 74, Franconia NH 03580, (603) 823-5510 or rfrost@ncia.net www.frostplace.org

POET GARY GEDDES WINS B.C. LT.-GOV. AWARD FOR LITERATURE

Gary Geddes, a poet and humanist who also teaches creative writing, has been awarded the B.C. Lieutenant Governor's Award for literature. Geddes, author and editor of more than 35 books, was presented with the award Saturday evening at a gala for the B.C. Book Prizes. Winners of seven other B.C. book awards were also named at the Vancouver gala. Vancouver writer Mary Novik's debut novel, *Conceit*, won the prize for fiction. *Conceit* was chosen as a book of the year by Quill & Quire and long-listed for the Giller Award. *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*, a book by Vancouver authors J.B. MacKinnon and Alisa Smith about their quest to eat food grown and prepared close to home, won the award for best regional book. A book of essays by Quadra Island-based poet Robert Bringhurst, titled *Everywhere Being is Dancing*, won the prize for non-fiction. The West Coast Book Prize Society administers the awards, which are judged by a panel of jurists. For full CBC Arts article: <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/story/2008/04/27/bc-books.html>

ARTISTS BRING SPOKEN WORD TO YOUTUBE GENERATION

Would Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman have been stars in the YouTube age? A couple of Calgary's video poets certainly think so. "Poetry adapts to the medium of the modern world," says poet Sheri-D Wilson, founder of the Calgary International Spoken Word Festival, which is running at various venues throughout the month. "Technology allows us to take an ancient oral tradition and make it applicable to the world we live in. And if spoken word is the words of the people, for the people, and sites such as YouTube allow them to have a voice that is heard, then video poetry is a natural transition." Video poetry is a fairly new art form that has found its footing in our online, video-heavy world. Essentially a music video with poetry instead of song, it brings a traditional art form to the masses via modern, ubiquitous technology. In 2007, Wilson and filmmaker Sandi Somers collaborated on *Panty Poem in Paris*, a video poem shot in France's capital at the grave of Italian writer Guillaume Apollinaire. Pleased with the outcome, Wilson added a video poetry concert to this year's Spoken Word Festival. *Stop-Go Video-Poe & Live-Show* is an event that mashes multimedia with traditional spoken word and poetry reading. Taking place at the Arrata Opera Centre on Saturday, it will feature a series of curated video poems in between live poetry readings. The advantage of the video poem is that it can exist in a number of different media, and this ubiquity allows it to become part of the message. "Spoken word is very much about community, and because the electronic form is so accessible to so many, that's why poetry has made the shift into this form," says Wilson. "This form allows it to go online, to go on CDs, DVDs, TV, whatever." While this new form may seem to have as much in common with classical poetry as a music video does with a sonnet, Somers says there's one unifying thread between today's video poems and the works of the greats. "It all starts with the words on a page," she says. For full Calgary Herald article:

<http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/entertainment/story.html?id=81496a27-4590-4229-8ff3-f0ecd208bf7a&k=3018>

COBALT HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL POETIC FESTIVAL

The first annual Poetic Festival of its kind for the Temiskaming area in northern Ontario was held last week in conjunction with National Poetry Month in Canada. The Spring Pulse Poetry Festival celebrated the history and future of poetry and other art forms. It was an opportunity for local artists, poets, students and the public to showcase their artistic talent within a poetic context. There were four days of poetry, arts, food and fun to experience during the four-day festival that began Thursday and ended on Sunday afternoon with a Drummond Day Ceremony at the Classic Theatre. Poetry Festival Coordinator Tyna Silver said things went well this first time round and the committee hopes to expand its scope in future festivals, drawing from the deep creative well of our literary and artistic community. For full Northern News article:

<http://www.northernnews.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=978373>

***** Literary News *****

GILLER PRIZE JUMPS TO \$70,000

This fall marks the 15th anniversary of Canada's most prestigious English-language literary award, the Giller Prize for fiction, and to celebrate the occasion prize founder Jack Rabinovitch and its corporate sponsor Scotiabank are upping the total amount of prize money to \$70,000, it was announced yesterday in Toronto. The increase establishes the Giller, or as it is officially known the Scotiabank Giller, as the most valuable fiction prize in the country, far surpassing the Governor-General's Award for English-language fiction whose winner receives \$25,000. The new prize amount is almost triple the \$25,000 available in 1994 when Rabinovitch started the award to honour the memory of his late wife, literary journalist Doris Giller, who had died a year earlier. A Montreal native who now calls Toronto home, Rabinovitch kept the purse at that level until 2005 when Scotiabank came in as a partner, committing \$40,000 to the winner and \$2,500 to each of the four runners-up. Under the new regime, the winner is to receive \$50,000 while each runner-up wins \$5,000. For full The Globe and Mail article:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080402.wxgiller02/BNStory/Entertainment/home>

A FESTIVAL OF THE UNKNOWN WRITERS

The unheralded scribes of the world of writing will be in the spotlight at the third annual [Festival des écrits de l'ombre](#), a gathering set for May 16-19 in Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly, Quebec, about 30 kilometres upstream from Quebec City. The festival is a forum for writers who have never been formally published. It's also a four-day cultural playground with nighttime concerts and an opportunity to enjoy the attractions of Chaudière-Appalaches, one of the province's most scenic regions. "There are 50,000 books written every year throughout Quebec, but only 10 per cent - about 5,000 - are published by formal publishers," said Danielle Sarrazin, founder and director of the festival. The literary side of the event will include workshops for writers and readings for the public. The door is open for those who write in French, English or any other language. The material can be novels, screenplays, poems, essays, biographies, song lyrics, theatre pieces or history. Some authors will present photocopied manuscripts and others have self-published - paid for - their own books. The weekend activities on

Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, are expected to attract about 5,000 members of the public and 80 authors from throughout Quebec. The festivities will take place at 12 outdoor and indoor venues in St. Antoine de Tilly and nearby communities like Lotbinière and St. Apollinaire. For full Montreal Gazette article: <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/arts/story.html?id=7f582bfb-3c8d-4c73-a046-8c75da315470>

VANCOUVER COULD BE CITY OF LITERATURE

Could Vancouver be designated a UNESCO City of Literature? That's what Alma Lee, founder of the Vancouver International Writers Festival, and her supporters are hoping. "I decided the best way to present us as a city was as new; you know, we're new, we're young, we're vibrant, we're part of a new world," said Lee, who has been talking to representatives of the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization since 2004. During her talks with UNESCO, Lee at one point found herself at a meeting in Paris with representatives of the three other cities that are in the running: Amsterdam in the Netherlands; Alexandria, Egypt, and Cracow, Poland. It's formidable competition, but Lee said that after all the advocates had made pitches for their cities, UNESCO liked her "newness" pitch and encouraged her to continue with it. Lee and Association of Book Publishers of B.C. executive director, Margaret Reynolds, set up the Vancouver World City of Literature steering committee, whose members include writer Douglas Coupland, librarian Paul Whitney, author/Tourism BC chief executive officer Rick Antonson, Linda Svendsen of the University of B.C., Ann Cowan of Simon Fraser University and Alan Twigg of BC BookWorld. And they hired consultants Craig Riggs and Kiley Turner to produce an "application dossier" for UNESCO. It's a nicely worded, handsomely illustrated 57-page bid book with appendices listing B.C.'s literary associations, publishers, literary journals and literary awards. It calls Vancouver "a meeting place for the world's cultures and a focal point for the creative and cultural industries in North America." Public input is required, so a meeting has been scheduled for 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Vancouver Public Library's central branch. For full Vancouver Sun article:

<http://www.canada.com/vancouvernews/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=14a09ebd-dae8-4db3-8376-671c22262973>

FRYE FEST SHOWS OFF CITY'S VISION

The City of Moncton has managed in recent years to build an image through high profile events like festivals, concerts, the Atlantic Nationals Automotive Extravaganza and high profile sporting events. Everyone knows that, but it's worth reminding people that another Moncton event, the annual Frye Festival, has done an extraordinary amount for Moncton's image in other spheres. Nowhere was that more evident than it was Saturday night at la Theatre Escaouette, when Pulitzer Prize winner and Pen Faulkner Award winner Richard Ford told his audience how impressive it was for our city to show the vision and ambition to host a world class literary festival. "I congratulate the city fathers and mothers for thinking it was a good idea to honour Professor Frye this way -- for a literary critic no less," Ford said. "It's hard to imagine in America a city hosting a Lionel Trilling or a Harold Bloom festival." Having the moxie to host a major literary festival in Canada's most illiterate province does not alone turn that terrible situation around overnight. But you know, these things all help. The Moncton renaissance is by no means complete, but again this week there are signs it is well under way. For full Times & Transcript article: <http://timetranscript.canadaeast.com/news/article/280127>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 24TH ANNUAL BC BOOK PRIZES

The West Coast Book Prize Society congratulates all the authors, illustrators and publishers shortlisted for the 24th Annual BC Book Prizes. Thank you to the judges who, collectively, selected these books from the 300 submissions that were received this year. We heartily encourage book lovers—in British Columbia and beyond—to explore these titles. Support your local bookstore or visit a library near you to read the best of BC writing and publishing in 2007.

Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, Supported by Friesens, Transcontinental and Webcom, Judges: Margaret Gunning, Rob Wiersema and Carol Windley

- **Winner!** Conceit by Mary Novik (Publisher: Doubleday Canada)
- Adam's Peak by Heather Burt (Publisher: The Dundurn Group)
- Radiance by Shaena Lambert (Publisher: Random House Canada)
- The Reckoning of Boston Jim by Claire Mulligan (Publisher: Brindle & Glass)
- Soucouyant by David Chariandy (Publisher: Arsenal Pulp Press)

Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize, Supported by Abebooks, Judges: Kirk LaPointe, Rita Moir and Harold Rhenisch

- **Winner!** Everywhere Being is Dancing by Robert Bringhurst (Publisher: Gaspereau Press)
- The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating by J.B. MacKinnon, Alisa Smith (Publisher: Random House Canada)
- Interwoven Wild: An Ecologist Loose in the Garden by Don Gayton (Publisher: ThistleDown Press)

- Phantom Limb by Theresa Kishkan (Publisher: Thistledown Press)
- The Triumph of Citizenship: The Japanese and Chinese in Canada, 1941-67 by Patricia E. Roy (Publisher: UBC Press)

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, Supported by the BC Teachers' Federation, Judges: Elizabeth Bachinsky, Kate Braid and John Pass

- **Winner!** Forage by Rita Wong (Publisher: Nightwood Editions)
- The InCorrection by George McWhirter (Publisher: Oolichan Books)
- Ox by Christopher Patton (Publisher: Vehicule Press)
- Paper Trail by Arleen Paré (Publisher: NeWest Press)
- Soft Geography by Gillian Wigmore (Publisher: Caitlin Press)

Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize, Supported by BC 150, Judges: David Lester, Kate Walker and Judith Williams

- **Winner!** The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating by J.B. MacKinnon, Alisa Smith (Publisher: Random House Canada)
- Fortune's a River: The Collision of Empires in the Pacific Northwest by Barry Gough (Publisher: Harbour Publishing)
- The Last Wild Wolves: Ghosts of the Great Bear Rainforest by Ian McAllister (Publisher: Greystone Books)
- The Lost Coast: Salmon, Memory and the Death of Wild Culture by Tim Bowling (Publisher: Nightwood Editions)
- Spirit In the Grass: The Cariboo-Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape by Chris Harris (Publisher: Country Light Publishing)

Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize, Supported by the BC Library Association, Judges: Julie Burtinshaw, Shelley Hrdlitschka and David Ward

- **Winner!** The Corps of the Bare-Boned Plane by Polly Horvath (Publisher: Groundwood Books)
- The Alchemist's Dream by John Wilson (Publisher: Key Porter Books)
- Baboon: A Novel by David Jones (Publisher: Annick Press)
- For Now by Gayle Friesen (Publisher: Kids Can Press)
- Porcupine by Meg Tilly (Publisher: Tundra Books)

Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize, Supported by Kate Walker and Company, Judges: Alison Acheson, Kathryn Shoemaker and John Wilson

- **Winner!** A Sea-Wishing Day by Robert Heidbreder (Illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton , Publisher: Kids Can Press)
- The Day It All Blew Away by Lisa Cinar (Publisher: Simply Read Books)
- Elf the Eagle by Ron Smith (Illustrated by Ruth Campbell , Publisher: Oolichan Books)
- Jeffrey and Sloth by Kari-Lynn Winters (Illustrated by Ben Hodson, Publisher: Orca Book Publishers)
- Pink by Nan Gregory (Illustrated by Luc Melanson , Publisher: Groundwood Books)

BC Booksellers' Choice Award in Honour of Bill Duthie, Supported by BC Booksellers' Association and Duthie Books, Judged by members of the BC Booksellers' Association

- **Winner!** The Last Wild Wolves: Ghosts of the Great Bear Rainforest by Ian McAllister (Publisher: Greystone Books)
- The Blue Flames That Keep Us Warm: Mike McCardell's Favourite Stories by Mike McCardell (Publisher: Harbour Publishing)
- Fred Herzog: Vancouver Photographs by Grant Arnold, Michael Turner (Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre and Vancouver Art Gallery)
- A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah (Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre)
- Spirit In the Grass: The Cariboo-Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape by Chris Harris (Publisher: Country Light Publishing)

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence

- **Winner!** Gary Geddes

"From 15 Canadian Poets to Skookum Wawa to 20th Century Poetry and Poetics, Gary Geddes has raised the literary profile of both our province and nation, and has long been considered one of Canada's most important men of letters. He has given decades of his life to teaching Canadian literature and the craft of writing as well as

working as a university professor, writer-in-residence, critic, anthologist, translator, editor, and most importantly, writer. Gary Geddes' writings have crossed countries and continents in performance and translation. He has received numerous awards, including the E.J. Pratt Medal, a Canadian Authors Association prize, two Archibald Lampman awards, and the Gabriela Mistral Prize for service to literature and the people of Chile. His work as a poet has been generous in its outward-looking gaze. His poems bring song and light into darkened corners of the human experience, document silent and hidden lives, and enter politics through the individual and the personal. His newest book of poems, *Falsework*, explores the 1958 collapse of Vancouver's Second Narrows Bridge. His meditative memoir *Sailing Home: A Journey Through Time, Place and Memory* (2001) chronicles his return to the West Coast with a deep sense of awe and gratitude for the beauty, wildness, and history of this place. In whatever genre he pursues, Gary Geddes writes with eloquence and intense awareness of mystery within the commonplace, and the single human voice singing inside the crowd. He tells the truth, in all its rawness and splendour.

For the integrity of his creative work, for his active and generous promotion of other writers, and for the words he has given to help map the literary geography of British Columbia, we proudly celebrate Gary Geddes." – Jury member Carla Funk

2008 jury: Carla Funk, poet laureate for the city of Victoria; Margaret Reynolds, executive director of the Association of Book Publishers of BC; and Mel Bolen, owner of Bolen Books, Victoria.

HUNGER MOUNTAIN ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AUCTION ON [WWW.EBAY.COM](http://www.ebay.com) MAY 1 - 8, 2008 **[HTTP://STORES.EBAY.COM/CAROLINES-HUNGER-MOUNTAIN-STORE](http://stores.ebay.com/carolines-hunger-mountain-store)**

Join us for our annual fundraising auction, exclusively featuring manuscript critiques with notable authors. One-on-one critiques in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, flash fiction, and writing for children will be conducted by phone, email and mail. This is a great way to study with a writer you admire and support non-profit literary publishing! Or, a critique makes a great gift to a fellow writer. Participating authors include Randall Brown, Gillian Conoley, Evan Fallenberg, Robin Hemley, David Huddle, David Jauss, Cleopatra Mathis, Thomas Kennedy, Sebastian Matthews, Norma Fox Mazer, Jack Myers, William Olsen, Victoria Redel, Dara Wier, Baron Wormser, Tim Wynne-Jones, Xu Xi and many more. Visit www.hungermtn.org for details.

SAGE HILL WRITING EXPERIENCE PROGRAM DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 2, 2008

Sage Hill Writing Experience offers a special working and learning opportunity to writers at different stages of development. Top quality instruction, a low instructor-writer ratio, and the rural Saskatchewan setting offer conditions ideal for the pursuit of excellence in literary arts.

July 21 - 31, 2008

Location: St. Michael's Retreat, Lumsden, SK

- Introduction to Writing Fiction and Poetry with Jeannette Lynes and Bob Currie
- Playwriting Lab with Colleen Murphy
- Fiction Workshop with Terry Jordan
- Fiction Colloquium with Kristen den Hartog
- Poetry Workshop with Karen Solie
- Poetry Colloquium with Daphne Marlatt

Tuition is \$1095 per course, and includes instruction, accommodation, meals and all facilities. **Scholarships are available. Application Deadline: May 2, 2008 (extended).** Applications must be received by midnight on the deadline date. Contact: 306 652-7395, sage.hill@sasktel.net. For downloadable application forms and more information see: www.sagehillwriting.ca.

HACKMATAK ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2008 AWARDS

The winners of the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award 2008 were announced at a ceremony on Friday, April 25 at the Capitol Theatre in Moncton, New Brunswick. Julie Lawson, the author of *No Safe Harbour: The Halifax Explosion Diary* of Charlotte Blackburn was the winner in the English fiction category. Kathy Kacer, received the English nonfiction award for her book *Hiding Edith*. The winner of the French fiction category was Denis Boucher for *Le monstre du Lac Baker* and Melvin Gallant received the award in French non-fiction for his book *Ti-Jean-le-Rusé*. To see the new nominated books for the 2008/2009 Hackmatack Award and more information about the award program, check out our website at www.hackmatack.ca

THE WRITER'S UNION SPEAKS AGAINST A "BIG BROTHER" APPROACH TO THE ARTS

"Canadian films need to be encouraged, not sabotaged, as they would be by a clause in a tax bill originally designed to encourage a vibrant television and film industry in Canada."

This was the message The Writers' Union of Canada carried to Ottawa last week when Susan Swan, TWUC Chair, and Deborah Windsor, Executive Director, appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

Ms. Swan was speaking before the Senate Standing Committee to express the Writers' Union's opposition to Subsection 120(3)(b) of Bill C-10: An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

If this subsection of the bill is passed it will have a Minister of the Crown, or the Government of the day, interpreting "public policy", and making that interpretation a test for tax benefits for Canadian artistic productions. "If allowed to pass as is, Bill C-10 could open the way to using Canada's tax system as a de facto film censor," Ms. Swan declared.

The TWUC Chair reminded the Committee that public policy guidelines are already in place for government bodies funding Canadian films and Canada has existing laws dealing with violence, hate, obscenity and child pornography that are used to prevent distribution of films with illegal content. Denying support to film producers through tax credits would not only make it impossible to finance controversial films that might not be appreciated by the government of the day, but would also impose a "chill" on artists involved in making films.

Ms. Windsor told the Senators that Canada does not need an extra-judicial system to judge Canadian films. "To do so contravenes the democratic principle of collective sharing of the public costs for institutions like our schools and other public bodies," she said. "It introduces a 'big brother' approach to the arts – one that gives unwarranted and dangerous powers to government. Passage of Bill C-10 in its present form would confirm that Canadian culture is entering perilous times."

The Union also fears that the provision in Bill C-10 will lead to "increased self-censorship by writers and other artists and will cast a greater chill on the expression of ideas," Ms. Windsor said. "This is unacceptable in a society that has enshrined freedom of expression in its Charter of Rights and Freedoms." She called on the Standing Committee to recommend Senate rejection of the bill as presently written. For more info:

www.writersunion.ca

SPRING SIZZLES WITH ATLANTIC BOOK FESTIVAL 2008

Twenty-five books. Four provinces. One Festival. May 6 to 15, 2008!

The shortlists have been announced. The Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize has increased to \$15,000. The Book Festival website is a-shimmer with readings, signings, workshops and the complete details of the nominated authors and books for Atlantic Book Festival 2008. Take a magical mystery murder tour of Halifax with Steven Laffoley...a workshop with imaginary characters with Sheree Fitch...a Gala Soirée at FRED in Halifax with readings and interviews ...celebrations in Saint John, St. John's, Sydney, Truro, Pugwash, Charlottetown ...join us for the not-to-be-missed Atlantic Book Awards Ceremony on Monday 12 May, 4 pm at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth.

Aided and abetted by the creative team at Halifax Public Libraries, readers throughout Atlantic Canada can wager on the winning books. Match your wits with the judges. A Glorious selection of shortlisted titles will be awarded to two individuals who choose the prize-winning authors. Go to halifaxpubliclibraries.ca to place your bet!

This year's nominees are:

Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize

Don Hannah, *Ragged Islands*, Knopf Canada
Bernice Morgan, *Cloud of Bone*, Knopf Canada
David Adams Richards, *The Lost Highway*, Doubleday Canada

Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction

Marq de Villiers, *Witch in the Wind: The True Story of the Legendary Bluenose*, Thomas Allen Publishers
Stewart Donovan, *The Forgotten World of RJ MacSween: A Life*, Cape Breton University Press
Steven Laffoley, *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder*, Pottersfield Press

Atlantic Poetry Prize

Don Domanski, *All Our Wonder Unavenged*, Brick Books
George Murray, *The Rush to Here*, Nightwood Editions
Anne Simpson, *Quick*, McClelland & Stewart

Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction

Beatrice MacNeil, *Where White Horses Gallop*, Key Porter Books

Carol Bruneau, *Glass Voices*, Cormorant Books

David Doucette, *North of Smokey*, Cape Breton University Press

Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction

A. J. B. Johnston, *Endgame 1758: The Promise, the Glory and the Despair*, Cape Breton University Press

Stewart Donovan, *The Forgotten World of R. J. MacSween: A Life*, Cape Breton University Press

Marq de Villiers, *Witch in the Wind: The True Story of the Legendary Bluenose*, Thomas Allen Publishers

Margaret and John Savage First Book Award

Bob Mersereau, *The Top100 Canadian Albums*, Goose Lane Editions

Stephanie Domet, *Homing: the whole story (from the inside out)*, Invisible Publishing

Fred Armstrong, *Happiness of Fish*, Jespersion Publishing

Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration

Eric Orchard, *A Forest For Christmas* (Michael Harris, author), Nimbus Publishing

Richard Rudnicki, *Gracie, The Public Gardens Duck* (Judith Meyrick, author), Nimbus Publishing

Nancy Keating, *A Puppy Story* (Susan Pynn, author), Tuckamore Books

Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association Best Published Book Award

Beaverbrook - A Shattered Legacy, by Jacques Poitras, Goose Lane Editions

Miller Brittain: When the Stars Threw Down Their Spears, by Tom Smart, Goose Lane Editions

Gracie, The Public Gardens Duck, by Judith Meyrick; illustrated by Richard Rudnicki, Nimbus Publishing

Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award

Steven Laffoley, *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder*, Pottersfield Press

Jacques Poitras, *Beaverbrook: A Shattered Legacy*, Goose Lane Editions

Harry Sawler, *Twenty-first Century Irvings*, Nimbus Publishing

Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature

Alice Walsh, *A Sky Black with Crows*, Red Deer Press

K.V. Johansen, *Nightwalker: The Warlocks of Talverdin*, Orca

Valerie Sherrard, *Speechless*, Dundurn Group

For the Schedule of Events please see the Events, Readings, Workshops section of this newsletter or visit or visit www.writers.ns.ca/bookfest08

EPIC STORIES OF HEROES AND SURVIVORS WIN AT THE WRITERS' TRUST AWARDS:

Lawrence Hill and Anna Porter headline List of Winners. The works of great Canadian authors were honoured at the Jane Mallett Theatre at the seventh annual Writers' Trust Awards. Burlington native Lawrence Hill was awarded the \$15,000 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for his harrowing novel *The Book of Negroes*, about a forgotten chapter of black history. Toronto author Anna Porter won the \$15,000 Nereus Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize for *Kasztner's Train: The True Story of Rezso Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust*, a comprehensive account of a Hungarian Holocaust hero. Six other authors received awards for their excellence in literature: Craig Boyko, Martha Brooks, Michael Crummey, Graeme Gibson, David Helwig, and Diane Schoemperlen. Eight prizes were awarded with a combined value of \$123,000, making the event one of the richest awards nights in Canada.

***The Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize* (\$15,000), Sponsored by Rogers Communications Inc.**

- Winner: Lawrence Hill (Burlington, Ontario) for *The Book of Negroes*, published by HarperCollins
- Finalists (each receives \$2,000):
- Robert Hough (Toronto) for *The Culprits*, published by Random House Canada
- Nancy Huston (Paris, France) for *Fault Lines*, published by McArthur & Company
- Shaena Lambert (Vancouver) for *Radiance*, published by Random House Canada
- M.G. Vassanji (Toronto) for *The Assassin's Song*, published by Doubleday Canada

Jury: Kevin Major (St. John's), Kim Moritsugu (Toronto), and Madeleine Thien (Montreal)

***The Nereus Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize* (\$15,000). Sponsored by Nereus Financial Inc.**

- Winner: Anna Porter (Toronto) for *Kasztner's Train: The True Story of Rezso Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust*, published by Douglas & McIntyre
- Finalists (each receives \$2,000):
- Katherine Ashenburg (Toronto) for *The Dirt on Clean: An Unsanitized History*, published by Knopf Canada
- Tim Bowling (Edmonton) for *The Lost Coast: Salmon, Memory and the Death of Wild Culture*, published by Nightwood Editions
- Barry Gough (Victoria) for *Fortune's a River: The Collision of Empires in Northwest America*, published by Harbour Publishing
- Douglas Hunter (Port McNicol, Ontario) for *God's Mercies: Rivalry, Betrayal and the Dream of Discovery*, published by Doubleday Canada

Jury: Greg Gatenby (Toronto), John Metcalf (Ottawa), and Aritha Van Herk (Calgary, Alberta)

The Writers' Trust of Canada/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize (\$10,000). Made possible by James A. Michener's donation of his Canadian royalty earnings from his 1988 novel, *Journey*, and awarded to a new and developing writer for the best short story or excerpt from a novel-in-progress that had its first publication in a Canadian literary journal in the previous year.

- Winner: Craig Boyko (Victoria) for "OZY"
- Finalists:
- Krista Foss (Hamilton, Ontario) for "Swimming in Zanzibar," published in *The Antigonish Review*
- Rebecca Rosenblum (Toronto) for "Chilly Girl," published in *Exile*

Jury: Caroline Adderson (Vancouver), David Bezmozgis (Toronto), and Dionne Brand (Toronto)

The Vicky Metcalf Award For Children's Literature (\$15,000). Sponsored by the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation. Awarded to a writer of children's literature for a body of work.

1. Winner: Martha Brooks (Winnipeg)

Jury: Nora Flynn (St. John's), Jean Little (Guelph, Ontario), and Susan Perren (Toronto)

The Timothy Findley Award (\$15,000). Sponsored by the Writers' Trust of Canada. Awarded to a male writer in mid-career for a body of work.

2. Winner: Michael Crummey (St. John's)

Jury: Joan Barfoot (London, Ontario), Douglas Glover (Gansevoort, New York), and Jack Hodgins (Victoria)

The Marian Engel Award (\$15,000). Sponsored by the Writers' Trust of Canada. Awarded to a female writer in mid-career for a body of work.

3. Winner: Diane Schoemperlen (Kingston, Ontario)

Jury: Caroline Adderson (Vancouver), Gayla Reid (Vancouver), and Nino Ricci (Toronto)

The Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration Of A Writing Life (\$20,000). Supported by Beatrice Wright. Awarded to a writer whose life has been dedicated to writing as a primary pursuit, for a body of work.

4. Winner: David Helwig (Charlottetown)

The Writers' Trust Award For Distinguished Contribution. Awarded to an individual or organization for long-standing involvement with the Writers' Trust.

5. Winner: Graeme Gibson (Toronto)

The 2008 Writers' Trust Awards event is made possible through generous support from corporate, foundation, and individual sponsors. The Writers' Trust would like to thank *The Globe and Mail* for continuing to be the event's national print media sponsor. Other sponsors include Bassett Productions, Charton Hobbs, Effen Vodka, Push Design, and Steam Whistle Pilsner.

For writers' biographies, complete jury citations, information about the Writers' Trust, and a chance to win a set of this year's nominated titles, please visit www.writerstrust.com.

2008 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The Writers Guild of Alberta is thrilled to announce the finalists for the 2008 Alberta Literary Awards! The Alberta Literary Awards recognize and celebrate the highest standards of literary excellence from Alberta authors.

Awards jurors have deliberated over more than 120 submissions to select 21 finalists in seven categories. Finalists represent the best literary work written by Alberta authors and published in 2007.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the Alberta Literary Awards Gala on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Tickets for the Alberta Literary Awards Gala may be purchased by contacting the Writers Guild of Alberta at (780) 422-8174 or 1-800-665-5354. For more information, please contact Kelsey Everton at the Writers Guild of Alberta. More info: www.writersguild.ab.ca

2008 Alberta Literary Awards Shortlist

R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

- Marty Chan (Edmonton)—*The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul*, Thistledown Press
- Katherine Holubitsky (Edmonton)—*The Big Snapper*, Orca Book Publishers
- Gail Sidonie Sobat (Edmonton)—*A Glass Darkly*, Great Plains Publications

Georges Bugnet Award for Novel

- Todd Babiak (Edmonton)—*The Book of Stanley*, McClelland & Stewart
 - Nina Newington (Edmonton)—*Where Bones Dance*, The University of Wisconsin Press
 - Darcy Tamayose (Lethbridge)—*Odori*, Cormorant Books
- Honourable Mention: Curtis Gillespie (Edmonton)—*Crown Shyness*, Brindle & Glass

Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction

- Tim Bowling (Edmonton)—*The Lost Coast: Salmon, Memory and the Death of Wild Culture*, Nightwood Editions
- Donald B. Smith (Calgary)—*Honoré Jaxon: Prairie Visionary*, Coteau Books
- Chris Turner (Calgary)—*The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need*, Random House Canada

Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Fiction

- Roberta Rees (Calgary)—*Long After Fathers*, Coteau Books
- Ron Wood (Calgary)—*And God Created Manyberries*, Frontenac House

Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama

- Stewart Lemoine (Edmonton)—*At the Zenith of the Empire*, NeWest Press
- Stephen Massicotte (Calgary)—*The Oxford Roof Climber's Rebellion*, Playwrights Canada Press
- Mieko Ouchi (Edmonton)—*The Blue Light*, from *Mieko Ouchi: Two Plays*, Playwrights Canada Press

Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry

- Bert Almon (Edmonton)—*A Ghost in Waterloo Station*, Brindle & Glass
- Dymphy Dronyk (Grande Prairie)—*Contrary Infatuations*, Frontenac House
- Paulette Dubé (Jasper)—*First Mountain*, Thistledown Press

Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Prize

- Carmen Pearson (Bragg Creek)—"Re-stepping the Worn Trail"
- Aletheia Plankiw (Edmonton)—"Right-Through Stare"
- J. Mark Smith (Edmonton)—"The Molecule that Went Behind the World"

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 shortlisted titles for this year's awards are:

McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award

- So this is the world & here I am in it by Di Brandt, published by NeWest Press.
- The Penance Drummer and Other Stories by Lois Braun, published by Turnstone Press.
- The North End: photographs by John Paskievich, published by University of Manitoba Press.
- Be Wolf by Wayne Tefs, published by Turnstone Press.

McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award (Older Category)

- Mistik Lake by Martha Brooks, published by Groundwood Books.
- Exploits of a Reluctant (But Extremely Goodlooking) Hero by Maureen Fergus, published by Kids Can Press.
- Sandbag Shuffle by Kevin Marc Fournier, published by ThistleDown Press.
- The Whirlwind by Carol Matas, published by Orca Book Publishers.
- Dear Canada: Not a Nickel to Spare by Perry Nodelman, published by Scholastic Canada.

John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer

- Alison Calder (Poet)
- Carolyn Gray (Playwright)
- Brenda Hasiuk (Novelist)

Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book by a Manitoba Author

- Wolf Tree by Alison Calder, published by Coteau Books.
- Framing Identity: Social Practices of Photography in Canada (1880-1920) by Susan Close, published by Arbeiter Ring Publishing.
- Influenza 1918: Disease, Death and Struggle in Winnipeg by Eshyllt W. Jones, published by University of Toronto Press.

Mary Scorer Award for Best Book by a Manitoba Publisher

- Framing Identity: Social Practices of Photography in Canada (1880 to 1920) by Susan Close, published by Arbeiter Ring Publishing.
- The Land Where the Sky Begins: North America's Endangered Tall Grass Prairie and Aspen Parkland, photographs by Dennis Fast, text by Barbara Huck, published by Heartland Associates.
- The North End: photographs by John Paskievich, published by University of Manitoba Press.
- Sunny Dreams by Alison Preston, published by Signature Editions.

Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award

- Influenza 1918: Disease, Death and Struggle in Winnipeg by Eshyllt W. Jones, published by University of Toronto Press.
- Holding My Breath by Sidura Ludwig, published by Key Porter Books.
- The North End: photographs by John Paskievich, published by University of Manitoba Press.
- A Glowing Dream: A Memoir by Roland Penner, published by J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing.
- The Winnipeg Jets: A Celebration of Professional Hockey in Winnipeg by Scott Taylor, published by Studio Publications.

Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction

- The Penance Drummer and Other Stories by Lois Braun, published by Turnstone Press.
- A Possible Life by Simone Chaput, published by Turnstone Press.
- Twenty Miles by Cara Hedley, published by Coach House Books.
- A Feast of Longing by Sarah Klassen, published by Coteau Books.
- Be Wolf by Wayne Tefs, published by Turnstone Press.

Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award for Non-Fiction

- Building Communities: The Changing Face of Manitoba Mennonites by John J. Friesen, published by Canadian Mennonite University Press.
- Take Comfort: the Career of Charles Comfort by Mary Jo Hughes et al., published by the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
- Influenza 1918: Disease, Death and Struggle in Winnipeg by Eshyllt W. Jones, published by University of Toronto Press.
- Paddling South: Winnipeg to New Orleans by Canoe by Rick Ranson, published by NeWest Press.
- Canada's Wheat King: The Life and Times of Seager Wheeler by Jim Shilliday, published by the Canadian Plains Research Centre.
- Imagined Homes: Soviet German Immigrants in Two Cities by Hans Werner, published by the University of Manitoba Press.

Aqua Books Lansdowne Prize for Poetry / Prix Lansdowne de poésie

- Wolf Tree by Alison Calder, published by Coteau Books.
- heures d'ouverture by Charles Leblanc, published by Les Éditions du Blé.
- Exaucée by Christian Violy, published by Les Éditions des Plaines.

Manuela Dias Book Design of the Year Award

- Architecture University of Manitoba: Catalogue '07, designed by Evan Marnoch and Zach Pauls, published by the Department of Architecture, University of Manitoba.
- Framing Identity: Social Practices of Photography in Canada (1880 to 1920), designed by Zab Design, published by Arbeiter Ring Publishing.
- Gertrude Unmanageable, designed by Zab Design, published by Arbeiter Ring Publishing.
- Marconi in the Sculpture of John McEwen, designed by Lisa Friesen, photographs by Ernest Mayer, published by The Winnipeg Art Gallery.
- Take Comfort: the Career of Charles Comfort, designed by Frank Reimer Design, photographs by Ernest Mayer, published by The Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Best Illustrated Book of the Year Award

- heures d'ouverture, designed by Bernard Léveillé, illustrated by Brigitte Dion, published by Les Éditions du Blé.
- The North End: photographs, designed by Steven Rosenberg (Doowah Design), photographs by John Paskievich, published by University of Manitoba Press.
- Take Comfort: the Career of Charles Comfort, designed by Frank Reimer Design, photographs by Ernest Mayer, published by The Winnipeg Art Gallery.

GASPEREAU PRESS WINS THREE ALCUIN AWARDS

Gaspereau Press is delighted to announce the recognition of three of its books in the Alcuin Society's 26th annual juried book-design competition.

Robert Bringhurst's *Everywhere Being is Dancing* won first prize in the category of non-fiction. This book was designed by Robert Bringhurst and Gaspereau Press co-owner Andrew Steeves and was typeset in Giovanni Di Faccio and Lui Karner's Rialto Piccolo and Fred Smeijers' Quadraat Sans, for the main texts. The hardcover edition was printed offset on wove paper and bound cloth over boards, with an offset printed jacket.

Tim Bowling's *The Bone Sharps* tied with Ameen Merchant's *The Silent Raga* (published by Douglas & McIntyre and designed by Jessica Sullivan) for second place in the prose fiction category. *The Bone Sharps* was designed by Andrew Steeves, typeset in Baskerville, a neoclassical type designed by John Baskerville in the 1750s. The pages were printed offset on laid paper, with a letterpress-printed cover. The cover, jacket and interior feature illustrations by Jack McMaster.

Finally, *Gaspereau Gloriatum Vol. 1 – Poetry*, an anthology edited by Michael deBeyer, Kate Kennedy & Andrew Steeves, won third place in the poetry category. *Gaspereau Gloriatum Vol. 1* was designed by Andrew Steeves, typeset in Dutch type designer Fred Smeijers' Quadraat and Quadraat Sans. The pages were printed offset on laid paper and bound Finnish-style into an offset-printed cover.

The Alcuin Society was founded in 1965 and promotes the appreciation of fine book creation. This year's judges – Sue Colberg, Jason Dewinetz and Tim Inkster – examined 254 books published in 2007. A total of 35 awards were granted in eight categories: Children's, Limited editions, Pictorial, Poetry, Prose fiction, Prose non-fiction, Prose non-fiction illustrated and Reference. The winning books will be exhibited internationally at the Frankfurt, Leipzig and Tokyo book fairs, and at locations across Canada. For more information about the awards and about the Alcuin Society, please visit www.alcuinsociety.com

Gaspereau Press is a literary publisher and printer based in Kentville, Nova Scotia. The press is committed to literature and the book arts, incorporating a range of modern and antique forms of printing and binding to create books that are distinctive in manufacture and design. In addition to its trade editions, Gaspereau also produces limited edition hardcovers, letterpress books and an occasional chapbook series.

TIM BOWLING RECEIVES GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP

Gaspereau Press is delighted to share the news that author Tim Bowling has been named one of this year's Guggenheim Fellows. Bowling received the fellowship, worth \$46,000, to work on a collection of poems about salmon fishing and the Fraser River.

Since its establishment in 1925, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has awarded more than \$265 million to nearly 16,500 individuals. This year, in the competition for the United States and Canada, the Foundation awarded 190 fellowships to artists, scientists and scholars, in fields ranging from medicine and earth science to film and photography. Among the handful of Canadian poets who have received this prestigious fellowship in past years are Margaret Atwood, Margaret Avison, Robert Bringhurst, Anne Carson and A.F.

Moritz. For more information about the Guggenheim Fellowship and a complete list of this year's successful candidates, please visit the Foundation's website: www.gf.org

Tim Bowling is the author of seven poetry collections, including *The Memory Orchard* and *Fathom* (GP, 2006), which won the Alberta Book Award for poetry in 2007. Two of Bowling's collections have also been shortlisted for the Governor General's Award. He is the author of three novels, most recently *The Bone Sharps* (GP, 2007), which was nominated for this year's City of Edmonton Book Prize. Originally from Ladner, BC, Bowling now lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

***** **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.

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.

PANDORA

Pandora's Collective Kisses and Popsicles Spring Poetry Contest. For more information, please visit: <http://www.pandorascollective.com/contest.html>. Deadline: May 15

ACORN-PLANTOS AWARD

The Acorn-Plantos Award for Peoples Poetry is awarded annually to a Canadian poet, based on a book published in the previous calendar year. The work should follow in the tradition of Acorn, Livesay, Purdy, Plantos and others by being accessible to all people in its use of language and image.

The award is open to any living poet who is a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. The work may be entered by the poet or the publisher. The award itself honours the poet. The award consists of a cheque for \$500.00 CDN and a medallion. The deadline for entries published in 2007 is June 30, 2008, received. To enter, send five copies and a cheque for \$25.00 for each title to: Acorn-Plantos Award, c/o Jeff Seffinga, 36 Sunset Avenue, Hamilton, ON, L8R 1V6. For further information contact jeffseff@allstream.net. Previous winners include Christine Smart, Ronnie R. Brown, Laisha Resnau, and Erin Noteboom.

BERTON HOUSE WRITERS' RETREAT CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Writers' Trust of Canada is now accepting applications for the position of writer-in-residence at the Berton House Writers' Retreat in Dawson City, Yukon. There are four positions available between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Each position is for a three-month period. The residency provides a unique opportunity for Canadian writers to devote a significant time to their writing and to advancing their writing careers. A monthly honorarium is provided and housing and transportation costs are covered. Writers are required to perform a public reading in Dawson City and Whitehorse and are encouraged to interact with the local community.

Applicants must:

- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents;
- have published at least one book and be established in any creative discipline (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, play/screenwriting, children's literature, journalism, etc.).

Applications must include:

- a resume listing professional writing experience;
- a completed application form.

Remuneration: \$6,000 honorarium for a three-month term.

To download an application form or for further information visit bertonhouse.ca. The Berton House Writers' Retreat program receives funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Klondike Visitors' Association, and Aeroplan. Additional support is provided by the Dawson City Public Library and the Whitehorse Public Library.

To Apply: jdavies@writerstrust.com or The Writers' Trust of Canada, Attention: Program Manager (Berton House Writers' Retreat), 200-90 Richmond Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 1P1 or by fax 416.504.9090. Deadline for applications is September 30, 2008

DIASPORA DIALOGUES ISSUES 2008 OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Looking for emerging writers of short stories, poetry and drama in the GTA

Diaspora Dialogues invites submissions to its annual publishing/mentoring program from emerging GTA writers of short stories or creative nonfiction less than 3,000 words in length; plays of any length; or up to 5 poems, with each poem being no more than 75 lines. (See below for definition of "emerging.") Applicants are welcome to enter more than one category, but no more than one submission per category please.

Diaspora Dialogues is committed to supporting a literature of Toronto that is as diverse as the city itself. Writers are encouraged to keep this mandate in mind, but addressing this theme directly is not essential in the submission. The setting of the works must be, at least in part, the greater Toronto region. First and second-generation immigrants, and First Nations writers are especially welcome.

Through an adjudicated process, a shortlist of approximately 15 writers will be chosen and each assigned (free of charge) to an established writer or dramaturge in a mentoring capacity to gain feedback on their work. All short-listed writers will be given an opportunity to read their work in Diaspora Dialogues' popular multi-disciplinary performance series, which takes place across the city throughout the year in partnership with venues like Luminato, The Word on the Street, Nuit Blanche, Harbourfront, Toronto Public Library and others. The plays chosen for the program will be given public readings using professional actors and directors. A selection of finished pieces will be published in the annual Diaspora Dialogues anthology, TOK: Writing the New Toronto, available in bookstores across the country.

The 2008 Diaspora Dialogues mentors include Anar Ali, Ken Babstock, Lawrence Hill, Daniel David Moses, and Antanas Sileika.

Diaspora Dialogues supports the creation and presentation of new stories, poetry and drama that reflect the complexity of the city back to Torontonians through the eyes of its richly diverse writers. Please see www.diasporadialogues.com for further details about us. We welcome your submission! Deadline is May 9, 2008. Early submissions are encouraged. Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline. Successful applicants will be notified in early June 2008.

THE MALAHAT REVIEW INVITES POETS TO ENTER THE FAR HORIZON AWARD FOR POETRY

The Malahat Review, Canada's premier literary magazine, invites emerging poets from Canada, the United States, and elsewhere to enter the Far Horizons Award for Poetry. Eligible poets have yet to publish their poetry in book form (a book of poetry is defined to have a length of 48 pages or more). One prize of \$500 (CAD) is awarded, plus payment at the rate of \$40 (CAD) per printed page upon publication. Poets contributing to The Malahat Review have won or been nominated for National Magazine Awards for Poetry and the Pushcart Prize.

Emerging poets may enter up to three poems per entry. Each poem may not exceed 60 lines. No restrictions as to subject matter or aesthetic approach apply. Entry fee required: \$25 CAD for Canadian entries; \$30 US for American entries; \$35 US for entries from Mexico and outside North America. Entrants receive a one-year subscription to The Malahat Review for themselves or a friend. Poems previously published, accepted or submitted for publication elsewhere are not eligible. Entrants' anonymity is preserved throughout the judging. Contact information (including an email address) should not appear on the submission, but along with the title on an enclosed separate page. No submissions will be accepted by email. No entries will be returned. The winner and finalists will be notified via email. Entrants will not be notified by separately by letter or separate letter about the judges' decisions even if a SASE is included for this purpose. The winner will be announced with the publication of his or her entry in The Malahat Review's Fall 2008 issue, on the Malahat web site, and in Malahat lite, the magazine's quarterly e-newsletter in October. Send entries and enquiries to: The Malahat Review, Far Horizons Award for Poetry, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Stn CSC, Victoria, B.C., V8W 2Y2 Canada.

BOSTON REVIEW'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

Deadline: Sunday June 1. Info: <http://bostonreview.net/>. Judge: John Koethe, First Prize: \$1,500. Complete guidelines: 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. 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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY ON RESTORATION ECOLOGY

Deadline: Monday September 1. 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 with your last name in the subject line.

MOUNTAIN WRITING AT BANFF CENTRE ON-SITE RESIDENCY: OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 21, 2008

Application Deadline: Monday, May 19. Info: www.banffcentre.ca. Program Editors: Marni Jackson and Tony Whittome. Offsite Manuscript Development: August 11 to October 10, 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, CANADA. 1-800-565-9989 or 1-403-762-6180 or arts_info@banffcentre.ca

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

T.A.P. PROJECT FOR SOCIAL AND CREATIVE INNOVATION

On May 9, 2008, students from Brock University's Department of Dramatic Arts will become global citizens as they participate in T.A.P. (Turn Around Project), a sharing of international art forms and culture in Japan.

Professor Jane Leavitt from the Department of Dramatic Arts, and Michael St. George, an arts educator and renowned Dub poet, along with 10 Drama in Education and Society students, will run integrated arts programs at Jelly Bean English School, Teshima Elementary School, Teshima Junior High School, and Teshima Shinaikan, an orphanage on the island.

Professor Leavitt states, "During this project, Brock students will interface with Japanese culture by staying with the families of the children they teach, thus creating an integral life experience for both Brock and Japanese students. As Canada wholeheartedly embraces multiculturalism, this experience for future teachers can only enhance classroom learning. "

T.A.P.'s mission is to create and maintain integrated arts projects for youth, which foster and promote reciprocal exchange in order to strengthen and build communities. At the root of T.A.P.'s conviction is the firm belief that the arts are essential to human development, and provide unique opportunities to engage, question and confront issues and relationships in our world.

This project will be filmed and made into a documentary, which will be shown as one of the celebratory events marking the 80th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations in 2009. Kazunori Kawada, the Japanese Consul General in Toronto, has selected T.A.P. not only because it shows cultural and educational relationships between the two countries, but because it is a unique program that is offered free to the children in Japan. NHK, Japan's leading documentary film company, will film parts of the integrated art workshops in Kumamoto, and T.A.P.'s work will air on Japanese T.V. sometime in June. For more information about T.A.P. visit www.turnaroundproject.com.

TORONTO'S ROWERS PUB READING SERIES

Wednesday, May 7, Rowers Pub Reading Series. Olive Senior, Stephen Cain, Gale Zoë Garnett, Chandra Mayor. 7:30 pm. Harbord House, 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor, Toronto, ON (416 961- 6277)
www.rowerspubreadingseries.com

THE INSOMNIAC PRESS SPRING POETRY LAUNCH

The Insomniac Press Spring Poetry Launch is at Dora Keogh Traditional Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, ON on Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. Celebrate the launch of three new books of poetry:
The Debaucher by Jason Camlot (Insomniac Press),
The Red Element by Catherine Graham (Insomniac Press)
and *Dead Cars in Managua* by Stuart Ross (DC Books / Punchy Writers Series).

ATWATER POETRY PROJECT BOOK LAUNCH

Thursday, May 8, 2008 - 6pm (readings 7pm) at Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Avenue, Westmount, QC. Come for some wine and to celebrate the launch of: *The Prison Tangram* by Claire Huot & *The Humbugs Diet* by Robert Majzels and *Quase Flanders, Quase Extramadura* by Andrés Ajens & *Charenton* by Chus Pato. Both translated by Erin Moure.

COOKED AND EATEN REGULAR SERIES - MAY 5, 2008

May 5, 2008, VOL. 8, Issue 13, The Gordon Best Theatre, 216 Hunter St. W, Peterborough, Ontario, 8:00pm. Featuring:

Ronnie R. Brown is an Ottawa writer whose work has appeared in over 100 magazines and anthologies in Canada and beyond. The winner of the Sandburg-Livesay Anthology Prize, and, most recently of the national Acorn-Plantos People's Poetry Award--for her 4th collection, *States of Matter* (Black Moss Press 2005)-- Brown has also participated in the wilder and crazier side of poetry as a Poet Laurette for Peter Gzowski, one of Ottawa's original "Random Acts" poets and with a staged production of her work, *On Falling Bodies* (presented at the Atelier of Ottawa's NAC).

Ellen S. Jaffe grew up in New York City and moved to Canada in 1979; she became a dual-citizen in 1993. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario and in 2002, she co-organized Hamilton's first "Celebration of Jewish Writers and Writing" with her colleague Lil Blume. Her published books include *Writing Your Way: Creating a Personal Journal*; *Water Children* (a poetry collection), and *Feast of Lights* (a novel for young adults). In addition, Ellen has adapted Margaret Laurence's children's novel *Jason's Quest* into a play, performed in 2001 by Adventures in Children's Theatre. She works with Learning Through the Arts (a program run by the Royal Conservatory of Music), teaching writing in schools and other settings, and has received grants for both writing and "artists in education" from the Ontario Arts Council.

Gil McElroy is the author three books of poetry: *Dream Pool Essays* (Talonbooks, 2001), *NonZero Definitions* (Talonbooks, 2004), and *Last Scattering Surfaces* (Talonbooks, 2007). Gil McElroy has curated exhibitions for art galleries and museums in Canada, and written for art magazines in Canada, the United States and Australia. A selection of his essays, articles and reviews was published as *Gravity & Grace: Selected Writing on Contemporary Canadian Art* (Gaspereau Press, 2001), and in the anthology *CRAFT Perception and Practice: A Canadian Discourse* (Ronsdale Press, 2002). His visual art has been exhibited in public galleries and artist-run centres across Canada. He currently lives in Colborne, Ontario. Gil McElroy will bring both poetry and his critical writing to the Cooked and Eaten audience inviting them to think of words and images.

MAY 12 - OPEN MIC. AT THE SPILL

Monday May 12th, 8 pm, The Spill Café, Peterborough, ON. Open stage hosted by poet Andrew Nurse.

NINE GREAT POETS. ONE NIGHT ONLY. 2008 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE SHORTLIST READINGS.

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 7:30 pm at MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building, University of Toronto, 80 Queen's Park, Toronto. Book now to ensure your seats. Last year sold out! Tickets: General Admission \$10, Seniors, Students and Affiliates \$5. Call (905) 565-5993 or order tickets online at: www.griffinpoetryprize.com/tickets

Griffin Poetry Prize 2008 Canadian Shortlist

- The Holy Forest: Collected Poems of Robin Blaser • Robin Blaser, University of California Press.
- Notebook of Roses and Civilization, Robert Majzels and Erin Moure, translated from the French written by Nicole Brossard, Coach House Books.
- Why Are You So Sad? Selected Poems of David W. McFadden • David McFadden, Insomniac Press/4 a.m. Books.

Griffin Poetry Prize 2008 International Shortlist

- Notes from the Air: Selected Later Poems • John Ashbery, HarperCollins Publishers/Ecco
- Ripple Effect: New and Selected Poems • Elaine Equi, Coffee House Press
- The Complete Poetry: A Bilingual Edition, Clayton Eshleman, translated from the Spanish, written by César Vallejo, University of California Press
- Selected Poems 1969-2005 • David Harsent, Faber and Faber

Trustees: Margaret Atwood, Carolyn Forché, Scott Griffin, Robert Hass, Michael Ondaatje, Robin Robertson, David Young. Judges: George Bowering, James Lasdun, Pura López Colomé. For more info: www.griffinpoetryprize.com

bpNICHOL CHAPBOOK AWARD PRESENTATION NIGHT A CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN POETS AND THEIR WORK.

Join us as we announce this year's winner.

Date: Wednesday, May 21st, 2008

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: The Central, 603 Markham Street in Mirvish Village (South of Bloor and 1 block west of Bathurst.

Parking: metered parking available on Bloor, Bathurst and Markham. A city parking lot is located just north of Bloor on Markham. A private lot is located on Lennox.

Cover: Free Admission

Emcee: Luciano Iacobelli, founder of LyricalMyrical Press

Each year, \$1000 is awarded to the best poetry chapbook written in English and published in Canada. Please join us as we announce this year's winner. It will be an interesting evening of entertainment, selected poetry readings and a gathering of Toronto poets, friends and bpNichol fans. The event is Free or if you wish you can make a donation to the bpNichol Chapbook Award through Phoenix Community Works Foundation: 334 Bloor W., #505, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3A7 Tel: 416 964-3380 or write natalie@pcwf.ca. This event was organized by the bpNichol Chapbook Committee; Dane Swan, Sandra Kasturi & Rocco de Giacomo. If you plan to attend, please **RSVP** as we have limited seating: Natalie (416) 964-3380

NARRATIVE MATTERS CONFERENCE

2008 Theme: "Storying Our World" As humans we continually story our experiences. We construct our world through our personal, community, institutional and political narratives. The 2008 Narrative Matters conference theme aims to explore all of these narrative sites. Narrative continues to gain recognition as something people do, use and research. The Narrative Matters conference provides a meeting place for people interested in doing, using and researching narrative in diverse contexts and fields. The blurring and crossing of boundaries catalyzes discussion and inquiry at Narrative Matters conferences. For more info:

<http://www.narrativematters.com:80/>

HEALING TREE BOOK LAUNCH

You are invited to the launch of Healing Tree by Michaela Sefler on May 3, 2008 at 3:00 pm -5:00 pm at DIAMOND BOOKSTORE, 5035 Sherbrooke Street, W. Montreal, QC. (514) 481-3000. Healing Tree is Michaela's sixth published compilation of poetry. Michaela Sefler is a mystical poet living in Montreal, Canada. Her poetry is spiritual and esoteric and her poems allude to ancient ideals. In her poetry she draws on the Qabbala, and other ancient writings, to convey a message of hope, and survival describing present realities in the light of ancient truths. She has six published compilations of poetry. Still true, A fortress in my heart, The sun is hot, Through the ages, Healing tree. and Seven stars. For more info: <http://msefler-inspiration.net>.

ATLANTIC BOOK FESTIVAL 2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Atlantic Book Festival 2008 (dates and times are subject to change. Visit www.writers.ns.ca/bookfest08 for up-to-the-minute details, changes and additions)

Tuesday May 6

10 am PRESENTATION – Richard Rudnicki, illustrator, with Gracie, the Public Gardens Duck at Cole Harbour Library

Wednesday May 7

10 am PRESENTATION – Eric Orchard, illustrator, with A Forest for Christmas at Bedford Library, Bedford

7 pm READING – Carol Bruneau with Glass Voices at Alderney Library, Dartmouth

7 pm LAUNCH – Steve Vernon with Wicked Woods at Fredericton Public Library, 12 Carleton Street, Fredericton

7 pm LAUNCH – Ken Smith with History of Disaster at Bathurst Book Gallery, 145 Main Street, Bathurst

Thursday May 8

Noon READING & DISCUSSION – Stephanie Domet with Homing and Robbie MacGregor, publisher Invisible Books. First books – writing them, publishing them at Spring Garden Road Library, Halifax

7 pm Harvey Sawlor with Twenty-first Century Irvings at Keshen-Goodman Library, Halifax

7 pm READING – Cape Breton celebrates Atlantic Book Festival at McConnell Memorial Library, 50 Falmouth Street with Marq de Villiers, Beatrice MacNeil & Susan Zettell

7pm LAUNCH – Shauntay Grant and illustrator Susan Tooke with Up Home at Nelson Whynder School, 979 North Preston Road

Friday May 9

Am SIGNING – Marq de Villiers at Cole's, Sydney

7 pm READING – Don Domanski, George Murray, Anne Simpson, Herménégilde Chiasson, Study Lounge-Ward Chipman Building-UNBSJ, Saint John, NB

7 pm READING – Marq de Villiers with Witch in the Wind at Thomas More Church Hall, Pugwash

Saturday May 10

11 to 3 Shorts! – a day of exploration and writing workshops with Sheree Fitch, Stephens Gerrard Malone, Shandi Mitchell and Philip Moscovitch at WFNS

11:30 – 12:30 SIGNING – David Adams Richards at Frog Hollow Books, Halifax

2 pm WORKSHOP – David Adams Richards at Spring Garden Road Library, Halifax, sponsored by the Writers' Trust of Canada

7 pm READING – Don Domanski and George Murray, Charlottetown, PE with PEI Writers' Guild

7 pm GALA BOOKFEST READING AT FRED, 2606 Agricola, Halifax with David Adams Richards, Stephanie Domet, Steven Laffoley, Stewart Donovan, moderated by Sue Goyette

Sunday, May 11

12 – 2 SIGNING – David Adams Richards at Chapters, Dartmouth

2 pm Magical Mystery Murder Tour with Steven Laffoley, Hunting Halifax

3 – 5 SIGNING – David Adams Richards at Chapters, Halifax

Monday, May 12

9 – 2 Halifax Grammar School hosts K.V. Johansen, Alice Walsh and Lesley Choyce

9 am Cobequid Consolidated Elementary in Old Barns (near Truro) hosts illustrators Nancy Keating, Eric Orchard and Richard Rucnicki

4 – 6 Atlantic Book Awards Ceremony at Alderney Theatre, Dartmouth

Tuesday, May 13

10 am READING – K.V. Johansen with Nightwalker at Alderney Library, Dartmouth

2 pm READING – Don Hannah with Ragged Islands at Alderney Library, Dartmouth

7 pm READING – Bernice Morgan with Cloud of Bone at Keshen-Goodman Library, Halifax

Thursday, May 15

7 pm READING – Stephanie Domet with Homing at Keshen-Goodman Library, Dartmouth

7 pm LAUNCH – Lawrence Coady with The Lost Canoe at Downhome Shoppe & Gallery, 303 Water Street, St. John's, NL

7 pm READING – Marq de Villiers, Bernice Morgan, George Murray at The Studio, 272 Water Street, St. John's, NL hosted by Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador

WORDSTORM!

Continuing at The Mermaid's Mug, 357 Wesley Street, Nanaimo, BC. WordStorm is an on-going reading series that focuses on all types of the spoken word: poetry, short fiction, storytelling, music, and song. There are two components of WordStorm - a prearranged reading series, and an excitingly competitive spoken word competition. (Reserve a ticket and ask to be an open mike reader or sign up at the door.) The readings will always be a mix of genres, and the sign-up for WordStorm will be in categories - poetry and prose. The key elements will be quality writing and entertainment. Material read must be the reader's own work, and be read without props or instruments. Three judges will be chosen from the audience for each WordStorm, and audience participation is encouraged. The sign-up for WordStorm Open Mike can be in advance, by email, and also between 6:30 and 7:00 at the door. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. The money collected will go entirely to prize winners and towards minimal operating costs. The Mermaid's Mug has a capacity of about 50 people, so don't be disappointed, reserve ahead through by email, or take your chances at the door. All reservations must be picked up before 6:30 or they will become void, and spaces will be given out on a first come, first served basis. No refunds. You can reserve with payment for future events at the reservation table on any night of WordStorm. Come out to just listen and be entertained, or sign up to be part of the entertainment. Everyone is welcome!

From its beginning WordStorm has played to packed houses with a full slate of readers-some coming from as far away as Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, Courtenay, Qualicum, Duncan, Ladysmith, Prince Rupert (via Shawnigan Lake), Protection Island and Gabriola Island, Port Alberni, Switzerland and Ucluelet. For more info: www.wordstorm.ca

LAST CALL FOR HAPPINESS READING SERIES

It's a Poetry Month reading four days into May!

Dennis Cooley and Gloe Cormie will be featured for this Last Call for Happiness Reading, Playmaker's Lounge, Canad Inns, 1405 St. Matthews Ave, Winnipeg, with music by Little Ken and The Late Night Embers, Sunday, May 4, 2 PM.

POETRY AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE, OR POETRY AND THE SACRED HOO-HAH

Listening to poetry is an act of opening. So is writing it. One invites the other. In this day-long workshop, we will use poems and conversations as jumping off points to explore what poetry points to. We'll look at what words like mystery, spirit and soul mean to each of us. What images do they conjure? What gestures? How do they feel in your mouth? We will listen and write. Go deeper into the sacred hoo-hah of poetry, working with poems of Raymond Carver, Rumi, Eduardo Galeano, Jane Hirshfield, Mary Oliver and, most importantly, yourself.

Saturday June 21st, 10am-4:00pm

\$130 before May 30th; \$150 after.

Location: Greenwood & Danforth, Toronto

contact ronna.bloom@utoronto.ca

WRITING YOUR WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG

Is there a recurring frustration or a block that keeps throwing itself at you? This three hour intensive workshop includes a brief talk about blocks, frustrations and the tactics we use to avoid/deal with situations. It proposes "writing into the block" and employs at least three writing opportunities in the session. They are meant to open the experience to let some air in and see what's there, and, perhaps, offer the possibility of new directions. This is done in a creative, non-didactic way and it doesn't promise to solve anything! It's meant to be fun.

Saturday July 12th, 10am-1pm

\$75 before May 30th; \$90 after.

Location: Greenwood & Danforth, Toronto

contact ronna.bloom@utoronto.ca

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

ALLAN BROWN

Allan Brown's nineteenth volume of poetry, the chapbook Biblical Sonatas, was issued by Serengeti Press in February. Allan launched the collection on April 3 at Breakwater Books, the Powell River independent Bookstore. He also read a selection of the work at the Anglican church Jazz Vespers on April 12, and gave a full reading and talk at the Powell River District Public Library on Apr 30. He will be involved in other events in Vancouver and Victoria in the fall.

TERRY ANN CARTER

Terry Ann Carter will be launching *CARPE DIEM: Anthologie Canadienne Haiku/Canadian Anthology of Haiku/ Les Editions David /Borelais Press* (with Marco Fraticelli and Francine Chicoine) at the BLUE METROPOLIS MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL, Delta Centre-Ville, Les Courants, 777 University Street, Montreal, Sat. May 3, 1:30 - 3:00 pm and at Prescott Hall, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Friday evening, May 16, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Anthology information will be forthcoming from www.borealispress.com Terry Ann is also conference co-ordinator for NORTHERN LIGHTS: Haiku Conference (May 16 - 18) at Carleton University. The conference will host haiku poets from Canada, the U.S. and Japan, at their annual festive weekend of readings, lectures, workshops. For more information: www.haikucanada.org

GLOE CORMIE

Gloe Cormie will be a featured reader with Dennis Cooley in the Last Call for Happiness Reading series, Playmaker's Lounge, Canad Inns, 1405 St. Matthews Ave, Winnipeg, with music by Little Ken and The Late Night Embers, Sunday, May 4, 2 PM.

Gloe Cormie has been chosen by the jury for Manitoba Writers' Guild Poetry in Motion Competition 2008, for her poem # XXXII Direction Ghazal. She is one of eight winning poets, including League Members Kate Bitney and Méira Cook. The Poetry in Motion Competition 2008, will be launched in Winnipeg this June.

VIVIAN DEMUTH

Vivian Demuth read poems from *Breathing Nose Mountain* on Sunday April 13th at the Ottawa International Writers Festival at the National Library and Archives, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. She will also be reading from her ecological novel, *Eyes of the Forest*. This event was co-sponsored by Dusty Owl Press.

KIM GOLDBERG - NEW FULL MEMBER

Kim Goldberg is an author, poet, photographer and art activist. She has penned five full-length books, more than 2,000 articles and various chapbooks. Her poetry has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies in North America and abroad including *Tesseract*, *PRISM International*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Rampike*, *filling Station*, *The Arabesques Review* and elsewhere. Her 2007 book, *Ride Backwards On Dragon* (Leaf Press), is a poetic mapping of her wanderings through eight years of silence and Taoist mysticism to emerge with a newfound voice. It was shortlisted for the Lampert Memorial Award.

Born and raised in Oregon, with a Biology degree from University of Oregon, Kim moved to Vancouver Island with her family during the Vietnam War years and has lived in Nanaimo ever since. She has organized coffeehouses and other Nanaimo events for Poets Against War and for Writers Against the War. A frequent performer at local spoken word events, Kim also co-hosts a periodic Urban Poetry Café on a local radio station, reading poems from Guantánamo detainees, the Cuban Five, Iraqi citizens and other disenfranchised voices.

In 2006 she staged the Urban Eyes Art Exhibition featuring 52 Nanaimo artists and architects on the theme of urban development. She conceived the show after a vacant lot on her block was bulldozed for condo development, revealing a homeless encampment. In 2008 she unveiled Nanaimo's first Poem Gallery in a vacant storefront window, displaying the work of 18 local poets. Kim is the creator of *The Dude Chronicles* and other hand-built book art under her own imprint of Pig Squash Press.

HEATHER HALEY

PUNK POET PRINCESS

Old School and proud of it, Heather Haley and RPW Records are gearing up for a spring release of her groundbreaking AURAL Heather cd of spoken word songs, ³Princess Nut.²

AURAL Heather is Heather Haley, Roderick Shoolbraid and ³a unique, sublime fusion of song and spoken word.² Shoolbraid is a dazzling guitarist, composer, sound designer and DJ. Haley is a maverick poet, singer, author and media artist often found pushing boundaries and always on the vanguard. ³A Canadian national treasure,² Haley started writing verse in high school influenced by poets like bp Nichol, ee cummings and Susan Musgrave. Her life as a bona fide artist began on the stage of the infamous Smilin' Buddha fronting the all-girl punk band the Zellots. She was a member of The 45s with Randy Rampage and Brad Kent of DOA and the Avengers. Later she formed HHZ-Heather Haley & the Zellots-praised by music critic Craig Lee as one of "Ten Great LA Bands". She has made a commitment to honesty, feeling, craft and a sense of the absurd. ³Supple and unusual², her work asks all the questions a nice girl's not supposed to ask.

Haley is a gutsy and compelling performer who enjoyed a stint as an official BC Transit busker and has appeared at the Vancouver International Writers Festival, Crush Champagne Lounge, the Lamplighter Pub,

Rime, Thundering Word, the Art Bar in Toronto, Words & Music in Montreal, the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City, Red Sky Poetry Theatre in Seattle, Shakespeare & Sons in Prague, the Roar Lit Crawl with Edmonton's Raving Poets band and on CBC and Book Television. In 2004, she teamed up with Roderick Shoolbraid to produce a series of live shows and their first cd, Surfing Season. As Haley returns to her roots, their sound has evolved into the spoken word songs of AURAL Heather. This is ³brawny, uncompromising language from a voice that demands to be reckoned with² and there is nothing precious or flowery about the poetry on ³Princess Nut.² It rocks, in more ways than one!

Come celebrate at the official AURAL Heather, ³Princess Nut² CD launch, Thursday, May 29 at the Media Club in Vancouver with Susan Cormier, Beth Southwell and her band, Kedrick James, AURAL Heather and emcee Kyle Hawke. Poet and publisher Warren Dean Fulton will be selling pooka press wares including one of Heather's poems featured as part of the photo booth broadside series.

RPW Records is an independent label in British Columbia, Canada that showcases, promotes and sells independent music. They produce the compilation albums Violent Femmes and Coffee Music for Coffee Beings. Further information on AURAL Heather and Heather Haley is available through her website, <http://www.heatherhaley.com> as well as four tracks from ³Princess Nut²

CARMELO MILITANO

Carmelo Militano essay "D.H. Lawrence and Italy" is the lead essay in the collection 'Strange Peregrinations: The Italian-Canadian Literary landscape, published by the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies, University of Toronto. The editors launched the collection in Montreal at the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival and Carmelo was on hand to read and discuss.

As part of poetry month in April, Carmelo read at Bar Italia in Winnipeg in the coast to coast national poetry marathon organized on April 18 by the Cooked and Eaten, Petebourgh, Ontario.

JAMES REANEY

Admired as one of Canada's literary giants, very little is known of Reaney's visual art practice. *The Iconography of the Imagination: The Art of James Reaney* (January 16 – May 18, 2008 at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, ON) will introduce Reaney as an artist and provide an overview of his artistic production from the 1940s to the mid-1990s as well as examine his art in relation to his writings. Reaney states that art has been a "constant" in his life, and much like his writing grew out of a desire to "keep a record" (Jean McKay, "What on earth are you doing, Sir?" *ArtScape*, Issue 5, June 2006, 10).

The Iconography of the Imagination is the first major public exhibition of the artist's work. The exhibition features more than fifty works. In addition to previously unseen images, it will include Reaney's well-known literary masterpieces *Twelve Letters to a Small Town*, *Souwesto Home*, and *The Dance of Death at London, Ontario*, on which he collaborated with artist Jack Chambers. For more info: <http://www.mcmichael.com/exhibitions/jamesreaney/index.cfm>

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.

The League of Canadian Poets receives operating funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.