

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

LCP ANNUAL POETRY FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE

Thank you to all the members who sent in their registration forms. The book launch registration deadline is May 15, 2009. You can find festival information here: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/agm.htm>. Conference packages will be mailed out to all registrants in the last week of May. If you are unable to receive the package before the festival please email Ingel (readings@poets.ca) and we will be sure to bring it to Vancouver.

LCP MOTIONS TO AMEND BYLAW 1 AT THE MEMBERS AGM, JUNE 14, 2009

These motions were sent to all members (via email or post) on April 9, 2009. There are three motions to be voted on by members: one to amend the membership criteria; one to amend membership fees; and, one to strike the word Advisory and replace it with Executive in the League of Canadian Poets legal bylaws. If you are unable to attend the conference you can find the form for voting in Proxy online here: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/agm.htm>

Motion 1:

Joe Blades moved that membership criteria be revised as per Attachment A (Article 2_LCP membership.pdf). March 17, 2009. Motion seconded by Dymphny Dronyk. March 18, 2009.

WHEREAS the League's definition of "Canadian" isn't current with the times the amendment in 2.1 is proposed; whereas section 2.2 through 2.4 contained unnecessary, or erroneous definitions, clauses, or are redundant, a number of amendments have been proposed for clarification purposes; whereas terms in 2.5 can be clarified in keeping with the changing natures of Spoken Word–Performance Poetry, minor amendments are proposed; and the terms in clause 2.7 can be refined to be less demanding of potential applicants for full membership, be it resolved that:

The Membership Criteria of the League of Canadian Poets be changed to the following: See Attachment A (Article 2_LCP membership.pdf).

Motion 2:

Dennis Reid made a motion to increase fees for membership in the League of Canadian Poets. March 19, 2009. Motion seconded by Maurice Mierau. March 25, 2009.

Membership fees have not been increased for 18 years. Over the same period League expenses have grown steadily to the point where fees comprise only 17% of the League's budget today of \$385,000. It is time to raise fees to better help defray expenses and contribute to paying down a debt accumulated largely in 2004, as one measure in the League's Deficit Reduction Plan. The plan can be obtained from head office, as can the fees letter sent out earlier in 2009 that also lists the programs and benefits of membership, including our readings program.

Whereas membership fees have not been increased for 18 years, and League expenses have grown steadily over the same period, be it resolved that: Annual membership fees for all categories of League Members shall increase by \$10.

Motion 3:

Joe Blades made a motion to amend the By-Laws by replacing "Advisory Committee" throughout with the name of "Executive Committee". March 12, 2009. Motion seconded by Katherine Lawrence. March 12, 2009.

Whereas the term Executive Committee is more commonly used than Advisory Committee in not for profit organizations, be it resolved that:

"Advisory" [committee] be replaced by "Executive" [committee] in By Law No. 1, handbook and other League of Canadian Poets documents.

THE ANNE SZUMIGALSKI LECTURE SERIES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Please visit <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/anneszumigalski.htm> to read the lectures online. The Anne Szumigalski Lecture Series, proposed by Regina poet Paul Wilson in 2001 and approved by the League's National Council the same year, commemorates the award winning Saskatchewan poet, who died a few years earlier.

Szumigalski was a mentor to numerous prairie poets and much loved in the literary community, especially in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She was a founder of both the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Writers Guilds, and helped establish the literary magazines, Grain and Prairie Fire.

The lecture series was modeled after the Margaret Laurence series of lectures by distinguished Canadian writers, long held as part of the Writers' Union of Canada's annual general meetings. The Anne Szumigalski Lecture Series is generously sponsored by Jacques Nolin and Jennifer Boire.

YOUNG POETS' WEEK CELEBRATES EMERGING CANADIAN TALENT

The League of Canadian Poets is pleased to announce the winners of the *Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth*. The contest's categories consist of junior and senior age groups. Winning poets in each group will be awarded a cash prize of \$350 (first place), \$300 (second place), and \$250 (third place). All winning and short listed poems will be published in the League of Canadian Poets' e-zine, Re:verse at www.youngpoets.ca. All winners will receive *Poetic Licence* certificates and student membership in the League of Canadian Poets for one year.

Senior Category:

1st place: Rose Tubman-Broeren for *An Old Man to his Sons*
2nd place: Tomas Gustafson for *Ode to the Suburban Farmer*
3rd place: Kayleigh April Ratz for *In The Flesh*

Honorable Mentions:

Jaimie Beveridge for *An Assumed Pantoum*
Marley Poniedzielnik for *Poker Face*
Michael Saunders for *Mist*

Junior Category:

1st place: Shannon Guo for *Untainted*
2nd place: Truan Forsyth for *Tacky*
3rd place: Adam Ravenhill for *Madness*

Honorable Mentions:

Natasha Alcalde Lawton for *Swinging*
Genevieve Doyle for *Untitled*
Patrick Heaney for *The Day Grandma Died*

Jurors for the 2009 Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth: senior category: Nik Beat, Jenna Butler and Allan Rose; junior category: Desi di Nardo, Taylor Leedahl and Mel Sarnese. Thank you for all your hard work.

CALL FOR PAPERS – FEMINIST CAUCUS

Here is a project of the Feminist Caucus. It is a Call for Papers or materials of core interest to the Feminist Caucus over its history. This does not mean only the coordinators but also anyone else who has papers they would like to contribute. A contributor should accumulate papers in one or more cardboard boxes (empty wine boxes are fine.) You should please add a statement of your role in the Caucus, over what time period, and a shortlist of what is in the papers, with dates and details which are easy to compile, without great amounts of work needed.

Thus, for example, someone might write: a) correspondence between yourself and list of names on a Living Archives project; b) title of booklet, over what range of dates; c) plus copies of correspondence for the Feminist Caucus, between (list of names and dates); plus invoice and accounts for the project (date range); any originals of minutes taken at the FC business meeting by yourself (with dates in place).

Once your list is completed, each person should be prepared to send the list, to Anne Burke (plus contact information, such as mailing address, email, and phone number). This should be done by next fall, say the end of September, 2009.

Then, the compiled list will be sent to the National Library and Archives. Archives staff will come and pick up the papers from each person (or will have them picked up by a courier service) before the end of 2009, probably in late fall. This acquisition will be processed by the end of 2010.

Susan McMaster is our contact person in Ottawa but, if you have any questions, you can contact Anne Burke by email at femcaucusburke@yahoo.ca

NEWS FROM THE FEMINIST CAUCUS

By Anne Burke, Chair. **More on the Eco Poetry Panel.** Plan to join us on Friday, 12 June, 2009, at SFU Harbour Centre, Segal Centre, 1:45-3:15 p.m. Then plan for next year at the Business Meeting/Open Reading, 5-6 p.m.

Magie Dominic, who suggested the topic, says, "I wrote poems about the earth, the damaged sky, our little globe from all perspectives. The poems were set to music, sung and all recorded. The process was unique. The meeting of artistic minds, all strangers, all affected by the state of the earth and wanting to do something and the technology involved to make it happen." For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

B.C. APRIL UPDATE

By Yvonne Blomer. On April 10 Brian Bartlett and Yvonne Blomer read at the Black Stilt Coffee House in Victoria and raised \$300.00 through a raffle of (33) fabulous donations for the League of Canadian Poets. Raffle tickets were 1 for \$2/ 3 for \$5 or an arm length for \$10. Over 50 people were in attendance to see Brian (from Halifax) and local/LCP B.C. Rep Yvonne Blomer read. Prizes were donated by Russell Books, Café Ceylon, Ooh La La Cupcakes, Cadboro Bay Books, Munro's Books, Mole Restaurant, Silk Road Tea House, The Body Shop, The CBC, The Black Stilt Coffee House and books from LCP members (Barbara Pelman, Margot Button, Wendy Morton, Yvonne Blomer, Brian Bartlett, Dennis Reid and John Brooke (Jack Jones)); Barbara Pelman also donated 4 paintings. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

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

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PARLIAMENTARY POET LAUREATE

The Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken, today announced the appointment of Pierre DesRuisseaux as Canada's next Parliamentary Poet Laureate, effective immediately. Mr. DesRuisseaux is the fourth poet to hold this office. He replaces John Steffler, who has completed his two-year term.

"As a distinguished Quebec poet, writer, editor and translator, Mr. DesRuisseaux's exceptional work with language has influenced Canada's cultural landscape," said Speaker Kinsella. "His career-long fascination with Canada's literary traditions and history make him an excellent choice to engage us, as Canadians, in dialogue about the importance of verse in our national culture."

"With his extensive public and professional experience, Mr. DesRuisseaux has spent considerable time highlighting and celebrating the importance of the written word both within Canada and abroad," said Speaker Milliken. "As an advocate for poetry, language and literature, I welcome his appointment to a role that seeks to bring a strong voice to poetry in Canada."

Following an open call for nominations in June 2008, Pierre DesRuisseaux was selected by the Speakers upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee composed of Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages; Ingrid Parent, Assistant Deputy Minister, Library and Archives Canada; Robert Sirman, Director of the Canada Council for the Arts and William Young, Parliamentary Librarian.

Reflecting on his nomination, Pierre DesRuisseaux sees his role being enhanced by his exploration of the linguistic duality of Canada. "I feel that I am able to bring a different perspective to this position, particularly given my knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of Canada's two cultural and linguistic groups, and my involvement in both translation and popular culture research."

Mr. DesRuisseaux is the author of numerous volumes of poetry, as well as non-fiction and fiction. Mr. DesRuisseaux's poetry collection *Monème* won the Governor General's Literary Award. He is a frequent editorial and creative contributor to literary journals both inside and outside Quebec. He has written and researched many publications devoted to current Quebec culture, including *Le Dictionnaire des expressions québécoises* and *Le Dictionnaire des proverbes québécois*. Mr. DesRuisseaux is currently working on literary and ethnological projects and living in Pointe-Calumet, near Montreal.
Overview of Poet Program:

Federal legislators created the position of Parliamentary Poet Laureate in 2001 to draw Canadians' attention to the reading and writing of poetry. Pursuant to the *Parliament of Canada Act*, the Poet Laureate may perform a

range of duties, including: compose poetry, particularly for use in Parliament on occasions of state, sponsor poetry readings, advise the Parliamentary Librarian on the Library's collection and acquisitions to enrich the collection's cultural holdings, and perform related duties at the request of the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Commons, or the Parliamentary Librarian. Appointment of the Parliamentary Poet Laureate coincides with National Poetry Month in April designed to increase awareness and appreciation of the art of poetry in Canada.

Biographical notes and a photo of Pierre DesRuisseaux are available on-line at www.parl.gc.ca/poet.

THE GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE ANNOUNCES THE 2009 CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL SHORTLIST

Scott Griffin, founder of The Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry and David Young, trustee, announced the Canadian and International shortlist for this year's prize. The C\$100,000 Griffin Poetry Prize is one of the most lucrative poetry prizes in the world, exemplifying the international spirit of the form. The prize is awarded annually for the two best books of poetry, including translations, published in English in the previous year.

Judges Saskia Hamilton, Dennis O'Driscoll and Michael Redhill each read 485 books of poetry, including 33 translations, received from 32 countries around the globe. The seven finalists – three Canadian and four International – will be invited to read in Toronto at the MacMillan Theatre on Tuesday, June 2, 2009. The winners, who each receive C\$50,000, will be announced on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at the ninth annual Griffin Poetry Prize Awards Evening. For more info: http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com/awards_shortlist.php

Canadian Shortlist:

Revolver • Kevin Connolly (House of Anansi Press)
Crabwise to the Hounds • Jeramy Dodds (Coach House Books)
The Sentinel • A. F. Moritz (House of Anansi Press)

International Shortlist:

The Lost Leader • Mick Imlah (Faber and Faber)
Life on Earth • Derek Mahon (The Gallery Press)
Rising, Falling, Hovering • C. D. Wright (Copper Canyon Press)
Primitive Mentor • Dean Young (University of Pittsburgh Press)

NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO'S LARGEST POETRY ARTS FESTIVAL WAS A STUNNING SUCCESS

Our first year 810 people shared poetry over 4 days and 20 events. This year from March 21-28 spring pulse poetry festival organized 30 events and 1727 people experienced poetry themed events. In its second year the Dr. William Henry Drummond Poetry Contest has grown to 152 entries nationwide. Several local poets received honourable and judges selection mentions. It is the oldest poetry contest in Northern Ontario and one of the oldest in Canada. Begun in 1970 it will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. Our poet in the school program funded through the League of Canadian Poets saw Brantford Poet Laureate John B. Lee inspire over one thousand students in two days. Our poet laureate for 2009-2010 is again Ann Margetson.

IN OTHER WORDS – THE GLOBE AND MAIL CELEBRATES NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

In Other Words is the site blog for Globe Books. It is written by James Adams and Peter Scowen, as well as by occasional guest bloggers from the world of books. Check out *In Celebration of Planetary Poetry*: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/Page/document/v5/templates/blog?pastWeeks=200904&hub=WBook_sblog&x=20&y=8

THE AFTERWORD - THE NATIONAL POST CELEBRATES NaPoMo

Gord Downie may not want to know what the poets are doing, but we do. April is National Poetry Month -- NaPoMo -- and to celebrate *The Afterword* introduced readers to poets from across the country. To celebrate National Poetry Month (a. k. a. NaPoMo), The Afterword, the Post's online book blog, asked 30 poets -- one a day throughout April -- to talk about their passion for poesy. Check back each day to discover a new poet, and (more importantly) be sure to buy their books. Poet's Corner: <http://www.nationalpost.com/related/links/story.html?id=1532516>

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

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON THE GOOGLE SETTLEMENT

On April 28, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, which is overseeing the Google Books Settlement, extended the opt-out deadline from May 5, 2009 to September 4, 2009. The extended opt-out deadline is the new date by which class members must decide whether to remain in the settlement class and

receive the benefits of the settlement, object to the settlement, or opt out of the settlement. The final fairness hearing in the class action has also been rescheduled from June 11, 2009 to October 7, 2009. All other deadlines in the case remain the same, including May 5, 2009 as the date on or before which a book must have been scanned in order to be entitled to a cash payment. Online claims-filing and detailed information about the settlement are available here. Access Copyright will continue to update you with information on the Google Books Settlement as it becomes available. If you have any general questions, please contact us at 416-868-1620 (toll-free 1-800-893-5777) or email us by clicking here.

MAGAZINE PETITION

The Coalition of magazines fighting the potential Canadian Heritage cuts to arts, literary, and scholarly magazine funding has developed a petition, which you can find at the following links:

http://arcpoetry.ca/petition/Magazine_Petition.pdf

http://arcpoetry.ca/petition/Magazine_Petition_Francais.pdf

If you have some time to collect a few signatures, it would be most appreciated. Instructions are at the bottom of the petition.

HOT DOCS FEATURES FILMS ON WRITERS AND POETS

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, North America's largest documentary festival, which runs from April 30 to May 10, 2009 in Toronto features films on writers and poets. This year we are proud to present the following films:

- **Boris Ryzhy:** The Russian poet Boris Ryzhy was handsome, gifted and had achieved considerable literary fame when, at age 26, he took his own life. This exquisite, inquisitive tragi-comic doc goes to Ryzhy's hometown to ask why. http://schedule.hotdocs.ca/index.php/2009/film/boris_ryzhy
- **Diary of a Times Square Thief:** A mysterious diary from the 1980s, full of haunting prose and photos depicting New York's seedy underground, is purchased on EBay. What has become of the diary's troubled but ambitious writer and the desolate souls he briefly knew? http://schedule.hotdocs.ca/index.php/2009/film/diary_of_a_times_square_thief
- **Poetry in Motion:** Poetry in Motion is a vibrant, groundbreaking homage to the power of the spoken word, featuring such artists as Amiri Baraka, Michael Ondaatje, Four Horsemen, John Cage, William Burroughs, Charles Bukowski, and Allen Ginsberg. http://schedule.hotdocs.ca/index.php/2009/film/poetry_in_motion
- **René:** Veteran documentarian Helena Třestíková follows 17-year-old René's development from pimple-faced juvie, to tattooed convict, to published writer in this incredible document spanning twenty years of a life lived both inside and outside Czech prisons and politics. <http://schedule.hotdocs.ca/index.php/2009/film/rene>
- **P-Star Rising:** What's da word? P-Star is the world's youngest rap artist. An atypical tween, she rhymes what she knows: temporary housing, crack, single dad and bling. When the dough starts to flow, you wonder who's really the adult. http://schedule.hotdocs.ca/index.php/2009/film/p-star_rising

For more information on and screening times for any of our films visit <http://schedule.hotdocs.ca/>. Ticket Info: Prices are \$12 for screenings before 11 p.m., and \$5 after 11 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.hotdocs.ca, by phone 416-637-5150, or in person at The Documentary Box Office, Hazelton Lanes – Lower Level, 55 Avenue Road.

GASPEREAU PRESS WINS SIX ALCUIN DESIGN AWARDS

Six books designed by Gaspereau Press co-owner Andrew Steeves have been recognized in the Alcuin Society's 27th annual juried book-design competition. Four of the six winning titles are trade books which were published by Gaspereau Press in 2008. The remaining two books were designed for Anchorage Press, a private press operated by photographer Thaddeus Holownia in Jolicure, New Brunswick. The winning books demonstrate the impressive range of typographic styles and design applications which Gaspereau Press is able to produce. (Details on the winning titles are provided below.)

The Alcuin Society was founded in 1965 and promotes the appreciation of fine book design in Canada. This year's judges – Alan Stein, Frank Newfeld and E.A. Hobart (Zab) – examined 233 books published in Canada in 2008. A total of 32 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.

- First prize – Poetry: *The House that Stands* by Stefan A. Rose (published by Anchorage Press). This chapbook pays tribute to Trueman House, a men's residence at Mount Allison University recently converted into the University Centre. Designed by Andrew Steeves and printed and bound at Gaspereau Press.
- Second prize – Poetry: *The Muskwa Assemblage* by Don McKay (published by Gaspereau Press). This letterpress-printed poetry book is the first book which employs a jacket paper handmade by Gary Dunfield at Gaspereau Press. Designed and handprinted by Andrew Steeves at Gaspereau Press.
- Second prize – Prose fiction: *That Tune Clutches My Heart* by Paul Headrick (published by Gaspereau Press). Set in the 1940s, this short novel follows one girl's high school experience as recorded in the pages of her personal journal. The jacket features an original illustration by Wesley Bates. Designed by Andrew Steeves and printed and bound at Gaspereau Press.
- Second prize – Prose non-fiction: *Wisdom & Metaphor* by Jan Zwicky (published by Gaspereau Press). This is a redesigned hardcover edition of Zwicky's award-winning book of philosophy. The original version also won an Alcuin award for design in 2003. Designed by Andrew Steeves and printed and bound at Gaspereau Press.
- Third prize – Prose non-fiction illustrated: *In Black & White* by Wesley Bates (published by Gaspereau Press). This is a luxuriously illustrated memoir by one of North America's foremost wood engravers. Designed by Andrew Steeves and printed and bound at Gaspereau Press.
- Third prize – Pictorial: *Silver Ghost* with photographs by Thaddeus Holownia and text by Harry Thurston (published by Anchorage Press). An homage to the Atlantic Salmon rivers of Eastern Canada featuring 50 full-size stochastic duotone reproductions of Holownia's 17 × 7 inch contact prints. Designed by Andrew Steeves with Thaddeus Holownia. Printed at Hemlock Printers, Burnaby, BC, and bound at Roswell Bindery, Phoenix, Arizona. For more information or to request a high resolution cover image, please contact: www.gaspereau.com

ATLANTIC INK, THE WRITERS' FESTIVAL, READY TO FLY!

May 2 through 9, 2009 - ATLANTIC INK has penned in a vibrant week of programming to engage the public in a celebration of writers and writing in Atlantic Canada. With school presentations in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, a Gala Poetry Night in New Brunswick, A Great Mischief of Writers in Halifax and a seminar on The Google Settlement, the week's events will highlight the writing of twelve of this region's most accomplished writers and engage readers and writers in a lively conversation all about the value and importance of words. ATLANTIC INK, The Writers Festival, highlights the books of the twelve writers shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry, Brimer Children's Literature, Raddall Fiction and Richardson Non-fiction Awards. For full schedule, contact: Jane Buss/Bonita Hatcher, 902-423-8116. Details of shortlisted writers plus high resolution photos plus book covers are available at: www.atlanticink.ca

MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN GROWING CREATIVE SECTOR

Ontario is investing in the vitality of its arts and cultural sector and the continued growth of the creative economy. The province is providing a \$5 million increase in annual funding to the Ontario Arts Council to help the Council:

- Develop Ontario arts organizations and artists
- Promote art and culture in communities across Ontario
- Increase its services to artists and creators
- Ontario's Entertainment and Creative Cluster created over 80,000 new jobs in Ontario between 1999-2007, an increase of almost 40 per cent. This key economic sector is expected to grow faster than the rest of the economy over the next two decades.

For more info: <http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcl/en/2009/04/ontario-boosts-support-for-the-arts-1.html>

PRAIRIE FIRE'S WRITERS RECEIVE SIX NOMINATIONS IN 32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL MAGAZINE AWARDS

Prairie Fire, Manitoba's magazine of Canadian writing, found out this week that its writers have received six nominations in the 32nd annual national magazine awards. Laura Trunkey (Victoria, BC) was nominated in the Best Student Writer category for "Pennies in My Pocket: Stories of My Brother" (29, 2). Sheri Benning (Churchbridge, SK) was nominated in the Essays category for "Watching Woman: The Marysburg Project" (29, 1). Two writers received nominations in the category of Personal Journalism: Alex Leslie (Richmond, BC) for

"Prehistory" (29, 2) and Laura Trunkey for "Pennies in My Pocket". There were also two nominations in the Poetry category: Barry Dempster (Holland Landing, ON) for "Animalia" and "Distant" (28, 4) and Sylvia Legris (Saskatoon, SK) for three "Lore" poems (29, 3). The Gold, Silver and Honourable Mention awards will be announced in Toronto on June 5, at the 32nd annual National Magazine Awards gala.

***** **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.

L'AFFICHE BARRIO POETRY POSTER

Sur Les Murs! One the Wall! Nous sommes maintenant bilingues. Posted in thirty-eight libraries from coast to coast and on the street in Toronto. Envoyez vos textes chez nous. Join a growing number of poets and artists who are publishing with us in both French and English. Dianne Reid, 117 Budea Cres., Scarborough, ON M1R 4W2.

POETRY READERS WANTED FOR PODCASTS

Poesy Planet is a weekly mini-podcast that will feature one poet reading five poems. 15 minutes max. Submit .mp3 recording of five poems with their titles and without commentary. For more info: <http://poesyplanet.libsyn.com/>

SEEKING 'MONDAY' POEMS

Leaf Press (BC) seeks poems for their weekly feature: Monday's Poem. Four poems are featured on the site each month. Send bio. Payment: 10080 minutes of fame. For more info: <http://www.leafpress.ca/guidelines.htm>

IRISH CONTEST SEEKS SATIRICAL POETRY AND PROSE

Boyne Writers Group (Ireland) invite satirical writing for the 2009 Swift Satire competition. Subjects: Banks and Bankers: A Modest Proposal or A Tale of a Tiger: Fat Cats Bring Down the Big Cat. (Reference is to the collapse of Ireland's "Celtic Tiger" economy.) Entries judged on satire, irony, absurd humour, acute political insight, grotesque imagination, and lacerating wit – the hallmarks of Jonathan Swift's best works. Prizes: 1st €500, 2nd €300, 3rd €100. Length: Prose -- 600-800 words; Poetry -- 30-100 lines. Entry fee: €7 (or £5 or \$10) per entry. Deadline: **June 5, 2009**. For more info: http://www.boynewriters.com/swift_satire_2009.html

BE THE NEXT CANADIAN 'LITERARY DARLING'

Pop Montreal and Matrix Magazine invite fiction and poetry entries for the Matrix Litpop Award. Categories: Fiction (5000 words max.) and Poetry (up to 5 poems). Prize: a round-trip ticket to Pop Montreal from September 30-October 5, VIP pass to the Pop Montreal Festival, accommodation, publication in Matrix Magazine with full honorarium, and presentation at a special Matrix Litpop event. Entry fee: \$25. Deadline: **June 19, 2008**. For more info: <http://www.matrixmagazine.org/litpop.html>

CELEBRATING POETS OVER 70: CALL FOR POEMS

Tower Poetry Society and the McMaster Centre for Gerontological Studies are soliciting poems written after the age of 70. Selected poems will be published in a jointly sponsored anthology. "Celebrating Poets over 70" will be the tenth volume in the Writing Down Our Years series published by MCGS. A maximum of four typed poems may be submitted. Send poems and a 50- word biography by email to Ellen Ryan (ryaneb@mcmaster.ca) or by mail to: "Celebrating Poets over 70", Tower Poetry Society, c/o McMaster University, 1280 Main St. W., Box 1021, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1C0. Individuals with poems selected will receive a free copy of the anthology. Due date: November 15, 2009.

WIRE INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT

On Tuesday, December 8th/09, WIRE invites you to attend The Organizers, readings by some of the Montreal area's preeminent hosts and producers of literary events in English. Readings by: Ian Ferrier, Jon Paul, Fiorentino, John Fretz, Jan Jorgensen, Julie Mahfood, Ilona Martonfi, Elizabeth Robert, Mike Spry, Colette Vidal. Three additional authors (prose or poetry) will be selected to read with this panel, based on the following:

Entry Rules:

- Submit 2-3 poems, to a maximum of 4 pages, or one short story, 1500 words maximum. Please include a brief bio with publications.
- You must have had at least one piece, but not more than five (poem, prose poem, postcard story or short story) published in a recognized small magazine, print or online (i.e. not a self-published or photocopied 'zine) such as carte blanche, Maisonneuve, Matrix, montreal serai, CV2, Arc, Fiddlehead, Malahat Review, Grain, Geist, Room and so on.

- You may not have published a book or collection of work
- You must be a resident of the Greater Montreal area
- You must be available to read on the evening of Tuesday, December 8th in Beaconsfield, West Island of Montreal
- Deadline: September 30th, 2009
- To enter: (e-mail only) julie.mahfood@videotron.ca

Questions? e-mail, or phone: 514-671-9941

ARC: CANADA'S NATIONAL POETRY MAGAZINE

Arc: Canada's National Poetry Magazine invites entries to its International Poem of the Year Contest. 1st Prize: \$1500; 2nd Prize: \$1000; 3rd Prize: \$750. Contest Entry: Entry fee is \$23, in Canadian funds, which entitles you to a one-year subscription of Arc mailed to a Canadian address, beginning with the Winter 2010 issue. (If you already have a subscription, you can give your new one-year subscription to a friend. Please include their mailing address.) Alternately, you can choose to have one issue sent to a U.S. or overseas address. You can pay your contest entry fee through the online [poetry stand](#) where we accept Visa, Mastercard, paypal, and e cheques. Alternately, you can send a cheque or money order with your mailed contest submission.

Contest Rules: All contest submissions must be submitted by post mail. All cheques or money orders should be in Canadian funds and made out to the Arc Poetry Society. Arc welcomes Poem of the Year entries from Canada, the United States, and around the world, but if you live outside Canada we still need to receive your entry fee in Canadian funds. It is easiest if you use the [Poetry Stand](#) to submit your contest entry payment. Otherwise, you should be able to obtain a money order in Canadian funds from your post office, if you are not able to write a cheque in Canadian funds. Entrants may submit up to two unpublished poems with your \$23 fee. To include extra poems, add \$5 per poem. No e-mail submissions accepted. Length of each poem must not exceed 100 lines. Entrant's name, address, e-mail and phone number must not appear on the poems, but instead on a separate sheet that also lists the titles of the poems entered. Judging is blind. No entrants (including winners, honourable mentions, or authors of Editor's Choice poems) may substitute, before, during, or after judging, a revision of any poem already submitted to the contest. No poems will be returned. Judging: Arc editorial consortium. Next Deadline: Entries must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2009. Only winners will be notified by October 15, 2009.

Privacy Notice: Unless you indicate otherwise, Arc may share addresses of entrants to the 2008 Poem of the Year Contest with similar literary magazines or related organizations for promotional purposes. If you would like your address information kept private, write "Please don't share my address" near your address information on the sheet you include with your submission. Your request will be honoured.

Shortlist: 50 shortlisted poems, pending permission of their authors, will be eligible for the Readers' Choice Award. Visit this site between September 1 and September 30, 2009 to read poems contending for Readers' Choice and cast your vote! Publication: Winning poems will be published in Arc's Winter 2010 issue (published December 2009). Send entries to: Poem of the Year Contest, Arc: Canada's National Poetry Magazine, P.O. Box 81060, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 1B1.

SEEKING VIDEOPOEM SUBMISSIONS

Pacific Cinémathèque and curator Heather Haley are seeking videopoem submissions from around the world for the annual Visible Verse screening and performance poetry celebration. SEE THE VOICE: Visible Verse is North America's sustaining venue for the presentation of new and artistically significant poetry video and film. Official guidelines: Visible Verse seeks videopoems, with a 15 minutes maximum duration. Either official language of Canada is acceptable, though if the video is in French, an English-dubbed or subtitled version is required for consideration. Videos may originate in any part of the world, however. Works will be judged on true literary merit. The ideal videopoem is a wedding of word and image, the voice seen as well as heard. Please, do not send documentaries, as they are outside the featured genre. Videopoem producers should provide a brief bio, full name, and contact information in a cover letter. There is no official application form nor entry fee. Send, at your own risk, videopoems and poetry films/preview copies (which cannot be returned) in DVD NTSC format to: VISIBLE VERSE c/o Pacific Cinémathèque, 200-1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2L7, Canada. Selected artists will be notified and receive a screening fee. Deadline: Sept. 1, 2009. For more info: hshaley@emspace.com

CALL FOR THE COOKED AND EATEN 2009-2010 SEASON

It's now really easy to apply to read at the Cooked and Eaten. All you need to do is go to our online Writer's Application and fill out as much information as necessary. Your name and info will be added to the list of applicants and you will be considered for a reading next season. Deadline for Canada Council Eligible Readers:

FEBRUARY 15, 2009; Deadline for all other readers: MAY 15, 2009. [Guidelines](#) for readers are available on our website at: <http://www.cookedandateen.com/about/getcooked.html>. In our online application you can express your interest in reading at our special events, which include: The Dog Days of Summer Open Mic at the Pig's Ear Tavern (August); The 20 Minute Word Project (September); Artsweek Site Specific Readings (September); Children's Readings at Titles Bookstore (late November); December Open Mic; Valentines Erotica Night (February 2010); The Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon (April 17, 2009). We'll be sending another call just for the poetry marathon, so if that's your thing, you can let us know now, but we'll be sending out a special call just for that day during the month of February. If you have any questions or want to let us know what you think of our new online application process, please send us an email (readings@cookedandateen.com).

DESIGN CONTEST - PROFESSIONAL GIG

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

2009 PRAIRIE FIRE PRESS AWARDS

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

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - THE BANFF CENTRE

Writing With Style (Fall) 2009

For writers of all levels

Edna Alford, director

September 14 - 19, 2009

Application deadline: May 13, 2009

Faculty: Joan Clark - Writing the Past/Historical Fiction, Mark Anthony Jarman - Short Fiction, Trevor Herriot - Memoir, Jeanette Lynes - Poetry

In this unique workshop, writers edit and shape a work-in-progress under the guidance of an experienced editor. The program encourages the development of new ideas and allows writers to gain confidence in their own style and voice.

Wired Writing Studio 2009-10

Fred Stenson, director

On-site residency: October 5 – 17, 2009

Online residency: November 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010

Application deadline: June 19, 2009

Faculty:

Fiction and other narrative prose: Caroline Adderson, Pasha Malla, Sid Marty

Poetry: Sue Goyette, Stan Dragland

The program is a unique opportunity for poets and writers of fiction and other narrative prose to pursue their artistic visions and develop their own voices through one-on-one editorial assistance from an experienced writer/editor, as well as through involvement in a community of working writers, both on-site and online.

Financial assistance is available.

Self-directed Writing Residency (Summer)

July 6 - October 30, 2009

Application deadline: June 30, 2009

Residency length must be a minimum of three days.

Self-directed writing residencies provide time, space, and facilities for individual research, editing, and manuscript development.

Mountain Writing 2009

Off-site manuscript development: August 11 - October 10, 2009

On-site residency: October 30 - November 20, 2009

Application deadline: May 22, 2009

Faculty: Marni Jackson, Tony Whittome

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.

For more info: 1-800-565-9989 or 1-403-762-6180 or arts_info@banffcentre.ca / www.banffcentre.ca

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

ROWERS PUB READING SERIES

- Claudio Duran (*La infancia y los exilios/Childhood and Exile* - Split Quotation/La Cita Trunca, 2008);
- Katherine Govier (*The Ghost Brush* - an upcoming novel); and,
- Eric Winter (*The Man in the Hat* - Hidden Brook Press, 2007).

Harbord House, 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor (647) 430-7365 on Monday May 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Free - a hat is passed. We acknowledge financial assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada; The League of Canadian Poets; Tightrope Books, and donations from Scott Griffin and Alexander McCall Smith. For more information please visit www.owerspubreadingseries.com

BOOK LAUNCH FOR SHARON MARCUS AT BEN MCNALLY BOOKS, THURSDAY MAY 21ST

Toronto based poet and novelist Sharon Marcus announces The Sufi Press publication of her latest novel, *The Boatman's Holiday*. The story, set mainly in the Toronto of the 1960s, presents another side of that explosive era connected to an artistic, intellectual fringe, neither silent majority nor pop cultural minority. She invites everyone to join her for the Book Launch at Ben McNally Books, 366 Bay Street, just south of Richmond, Toronto, ON on Thursday May 21st, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

WOLSAK AND WYNN WILL LAUNCH RON CHARACH'S FIRST FORAY INTO NON-FICTION PROSE

Wolsak and Wynn will launch Ron Charach's first foray into non-fiction prose, *Cowboys & Bleeding Hearts*, subtitled *Essays on Violence, Health & Identity* at Toronto's Nicholas Hoare Bookstore, 45 Front St. E., Toronto, ON on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 PM (doors open 6:30.) The book's controversial subject matter is presented with the deft touch Ron uses in his letters to all three national newspapers, and that kept readers so entertained during the sixteen years of the *Globe Challenge*. Ron offers a new way to conceptualize violence in North America, as well as dealing with the complex interplay between psychiatry and poetry, conventional and alternative medicine, Jewish identity and its influence on one's political views, and the addictive challenges to young people surrounding electronic media, computer games, pornography and mythic marijuana.

MASHED POETICS PRESENTS A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

Mashed Poetics Presents A Night Of Music And Spoken Word featuring:

- Black Sabbath Cover Band: Rat Salad performing Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" album in its entirety
- 8 Vancouver Spoken Word Poets writing and performing new work in response to the songs including: Angelo Renai: War Pigs, Rc Weslowski: Paranoid, Julie Parrell: Planet Caravan, Daniel Wood: Iron Man, Maggie Ulysses: Electric Funeral, Martin Vansteinburg: Hand Of Doom, Shannon Rayne: Rat Salad, The Svelte Ms. Splet: Faeries Wear Boots
- Plus Chris Gilpin performing his accordion epic--Adult Man.

It's all happening at The Cottage Bistro on Main Street (Main and 29th) on Thursday, May 28. Show starts at 9 pm. \$5 – 10 sliding scale. All ages venue. For more info: rcarcee@yahoo.ca or 604 215 9230.

THE PACIFIC FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK

The Pacific Festival of the Book and the Greater Victoria Public Library present Open Book, a noon-hour reading Friday, May 8 hosted by Linda Rogers with M.A.C Farrant, Pauline Holdstock, Harold Rhenisch, student Victoria poets and Ontario poet and songwriting sensation Robert Priest. Friday, May 8, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. Victoria Public Library, Main Branch. Open to the Public. Info: tel:(250) 361-9941 e-mail: ekstasis@islandnet.com. M.A.C. Farrant, Harold Rhenisch, Pauline Holdstock & Robert Priest.

GREAT BLUE HERON WRITING WORKSHOP

The Great Blue Heron Writing Workshop will run from June 30 to July 5, 2009 at St. Francis Xavier University, in Antigonish, NS. Brian Bartlett – poetry; Lorri Neilsen Glenn – memoir; Alistair MacLeod – fiction; Donna Morrissey – fiction; Colleen Murphy – playwriting. For more information, feel free to contact Brenda Riley at gbheron@stfx.ca. And have a look at the website: www.stfx.ca/workshops/gbheron

JUST WRITE WORKSHOPS 2009

Just Write Workshops 2009 facilitated by Dawna Proudman.

- Loving your Muse, Saturday 23 May. Nourish your longings. Turn over the compost of your creative experience. Transform obstacles into tools. Prepare the soil. Feed your imagination. Plant your words. Invoke the light. For beginners and everyone in need of a little sustenance and renewal.
- Wrestling with Your Inner Critic (with affection and humour) Sunday, 24 May. Develop divinely creative ways to edit, deepen and spin your writing on its (metaphorical) ear! Give your internal critic a towel and maybe some smelling salts but definitely take away his or her whistle! Learn the art of picking oneself up off the mat, time and time again. Get your worst editing frustrations up against the ropes. Perfect your victory dance!

Author of *Elements of Grace*, editor of *Strong in My Skin* and *Saugeen Stories*, and co-founder of the Words Aloud Spoken Word Festival, Dawna Proudman has facilitated JUST WRITE! workshops for students of all ages since 1993. As one of Owen Sound's Poets of the Month, her interview, bio and a selection of her poetry can be viewed at www.owensound.library.on.ca, (click on Poet Laureate and Poet of the Month Icon, then click on Dawna Proudman in left hand column). 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., fee: \$85 per day includes lunch, materials & refreshments. Sign Up for Both Days: \$150. Accommodation, Breakfast & Dinner: \$80/person/night. SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE RESERVE EARLY. dproudman@sympatico.ca or (519) 369-5867, Durham, Ontario.

SUMMER WRITING ON SALT SPRING ISLAND:

June 19-22 retreat with Lorraine Gane. Explore the rich terrain of your deepest writing during this four-day retreat on magical Salt Spring Island. A sense of possibility will emerge for this new writing, along with renewed vigor for ongoing projects. Accommodation ranges from rustic cabins for \$40 a night single and mid-ranged motel rooms to luxury b&bs (list provided; also see <http://www.gulfislands.net>). The retreat costs \$375 (\$325 with registration and \$100 deposit by May 1), which includes four writing sessions (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), lunch and optional one-on-one consultation (group dinner extra). Writers working in all genres and levels of experience welcome. Lorraine Gane is a poet, writer, teacher and editor. Her writing has been widely published in magazines, journals and newspapers across North America. She has taught at the University of Victoria and Vancouver Island University, and is now working on a new collection of poems, "The Blue Halo," and a book on writing. For more information: ganegoodger@saltspring.com; 250/537-5294.

******* New Members *******

MICHAEL MIROLLA – FULL MEMBER

Michael Mirolla is a Montreal-Toronto corridor novelist, short story writer, poet and playwright. Publications include two novels—the recently-released *Berlin* and *The Boarder*—and two short story collections—*The Formal Logic of Emotion* and *Hothouse Loves & Other Tales*. A collection of poetry, *Light And Time*, was recently published with an English-Italian bilingual collection of poetry *Interstellar Distances/Distanze Interstellari* due out later in 2009. An Italian translation of *The Formal Logic of Emotion* has been accepted for publication. His short story, "A Theory of Discontinuous Existence," was selected for *The Journey Prize Anthology*, while another short story, "The Sand Flea," won first prize in the Arkansas College Media Association Convention and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. A poem, "Blind Alley," was shortlisted for the Winston Collins/Descant Prize for the Best Canadian Poem in 2007, while another poem, "Moths and Trees," took second price in the 2006 Association of Italian Canadian Writers Literary Contest. His short fiction and poetry has been published in numerous journals in Canada, the U.S. and Britain. In 2009, he has been invited to read in Manhattan as part of the Association of Italian-American Writers conference. He is also presently embarked on the book signing/launch tour for his novel *Berlin*, titled *First We Take Manhattan, Then We Launch Berlin*, which includes readings in the New England states as well as Nova Scotia.

ROB ROLFE – FULL MEMBER

Rob Rolfe was born in London, Ontario, in 1947. He is a librarian, trade unionist, and has been active in social justice issues for many years. He now divides his time between Toronto and Wiarton. He has published one book of poetry, *The Hawk* (Quattro Books, 2008), and two poetry chapbooks. His poems have appeared in *The Fiddlehead*, *Impulse*, *Grain*, *This Magazine*, *The Prairie Journal*, *Canadian Dimension*, *Rikka* and *Our Times*.

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

RON CHARACH

Wolsak and Wynn will launch Ron Charach's first foray into non-fiction prose, *Cowboys & Bleeding Hearts*, subtitled *Essays on Violence, Health & Identity* at Toronto's Nicholas Hoare Bookstore, 45 Front St. E., Toronto on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 PM (doors open 6:30.) The book's controversial subject matter is presented with the deft touch Ron uses in his letters to all three national newspapers, and that kept readers so entertained during the sixteen years of the *Globe Challenge*. Ron offers a new way to conceptualize violence in North

America, as well as dealing with the complex interplay between psychiatry and poetry, conventional and alternative medicine, Jewish identity and its influence on one's political views, and the addictive challenges to young people surrounding electronic media, computer games, pornography and mythic marijuana.

KIM GOLDBERG

Kim Goldberg won the Rannu Fund Poetry Prize for speculative writing for her poem "Visitation." The prize is worth \$500. The Rannu Fund, new this year, will award a \$500 prize each year in both the poetry and fiction categories of speculative literature. More info here: <http://chizine.com/sandrakasturi/kim-goldberg.htm>

SHARON MARCUS

Toronto based poet and novelist Sharon Marcus announces The Sufi Press publication of her latest novel, *The Boatman's Holiday*. The story, set mainly in the Toronto of the 1960s, presents another side of that explosive era connected to an artistic, intellectual fringe, neither silent majority nor pop cultural minority. She invites everyone to join her for the Book Launch at Ben McNally Books, 366 Bay Street, Toronto, just south of Richmond, on Thursday May 21st, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

STEVEN MCCABE

Steven McCabe's 11:22 short film (video poem) *My Story is Not My Own* was screened at the 36th annual Athens (Ohio) International Film + Video Festival, which took place from April 24, 2009 to April 30, 2009. For more info on the festival: <http://www.athensfest.org/>. For more info on the film: www.mystoryisnotmyown.com.

ALEXANDRA OLIVER

Alexandra Oliver has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the West Chester Poetry Conference in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Entering its 15th year, the conference focuses on various aspect of formal poetry, narrative poetry, New Formalism and Expansive Poetry. It has become the largest poetry-only conference in the United States.

EVA TIHANYI

Eva Tihanyi's new book *Truth and Other Fictions* (Inanna Publications) will be launched at the Chinchilla Lounge (upstairs at Lolita's Lust) 513 Danforth Ave., Toronto, on Thurs., May 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. This is Tihanyi's first story collection.

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.