

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

THE LEAGUE INVITES CANADIAN YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS POETIC LICENCE CONTEST

There are two age categories, junior (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12). First place poems in each category will receive a cash prize of \$350, second place winners will receive \$300 and third place winners will receive \$250. All winning 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 memberships in the League of Canadian Poets for one year. For guidelines: <http://www.youngpoets.ca/>

JUST A QUICK REMINDER

SUBMIT YOUR TITLES FOR THE 2007 PAT LOWTHER AND GERALD LAMPERT MEMORIAL AWARDS

The deadline for submission to these awards is November 1st, 2008. For books that are published after this date, but still within the calendar year, please e-mail me by Nov 1st, 2008 to arrange to have the deadline extended to Dec 15th. Please note, titles will not be accepted past deadline unless these arrangements are made. If you are a League member, please contact your publisher to see if your title has been submitted before sending it in yourself to avoid duplication. For more information on these awards, and to download a submission form, please go to.... <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/awards.htm>.

NEWS FROM THE FEMINIST CAUCUS

By Anne Burke, Chair. With the November 1 deadline fast approaching for submissions to The Pat Lowther Award (see League web site for submission requirements), it might be good to keep in mind the list of Previous Winners, from 1981 to 2008 (also posted). One suggestion was to match these with a list of how many also (independently) won the Governor General's Award. Lowther was not only a poet who died relatively young (she was brutally murdered), but she was a League President, the first woman, perhaps, in the early years of this organization, an important observation. Some of us believe that the Lowther is an illustrious award that deserves wider publicity. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

NEWFOUNDLAND REPORT

By Nellie Strowbridge. The cozy Humber Valley is blooming with autumn colours dying for a poet's paintbrush as I sit at my laptop, hoping my new novel has some poetic moments.

After a busy summer, poets are going into the closet or, if need be, coming out of their closets to write tonnes of poetry. Marian Frances White is taking a much needed break to work on her poetry collection after pulling together a wonderful conference in St. John's.

Brian Campbell from Montreal attended The League of Canadian Poets Conference held in St. John's this year. He was inspired by words from my last book The Newfoundland Tongue to write a poem with a Downeast flavour He read Bringing Summer to the Rock on Jeff Gilhooly's CBC morning show. Brian has other good news. His manuscript of prose poems, tentatively titled Field of Gems has been accepted for publication by Signature Editions in Spring, 2009. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

President, League of Canadian Poets

***** Election Info & Links *****

USEFUL MATERIALS TO HELP GUIDE US THROUGH THE 2008 ELECTION FROM THE BPC

- The Association of Canadian Publishers. Make book publishing and cultural policy count in this election. <http://www.publishers.ca/election-2008.htm>
- What candidates need to know: <http://www.publishers.ca/election-2008-whatcandidatesneedtoknow.htm>
- Nine questions to ask your candidates: <http://www.publishers.ca/election-2008-questions.htm>
- Canadian Library Association. 2008 Election Campaign Kit: http://www.cla.ca/news/CLA_Election_Kit_2008.pdf

- Writers' Union of Canada. The Writers' Union of Canada demands politicians respond to recent funding cuts and commit to supporting and promoting the creative community:
http://www.writersunion.ca/av_pr160908.asp
- Magazines Canada. URGENT Member Election Initiative – Get Involved NOW: Contact your MP:
http://magazinescanada.ca/news.php?nID=514&cat=fp_news

MARGARET ATWOOD

From Thursday's Globe and Mail, September 24, 2008 at 11:00 PM EDT

What sort of country do we want to live in? What sort of country do we already live in? What do we like? Who are we?

At present, we are a very creative country. For decades, we've been punching above our weight on the world stage - in writing, in popular music and in many other fields. Canada was once a cultural void on the world map, now it's a force. In addition, the arts are a large segment of our economy: The Conference Board estimates Canada's cultural sector generated \$46-billion, or 3.8 per cent of Canada's GDP, in 2007. And, according to the Canada Council, in 2003-2004, the sector accounted for an "estimated 600,000 jobs (roughly the same as agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas and utilities combined)."

But we've just been sent a signal by Prime Minister Stephen Harper that he gives not a toss for these facts. Tuesday, he told us that some group called "ordinary people" didn't care about something called "the arts." His idea of "the arts" is a bunch of rich people gathering at galas whining about their grants. Well, I can count the number of moderately rich writers who live in Canada on the fingers of one hand: I'm one of them, and I'm no Warren Buffett. I don't whine about my grants because I don't get any grants. I whine about other grants - grants for young people, that may help them to turn into me, and thus pay to the federal and provincial governments the kinds of taxes I pay, and cover off the salaries of such as Mr. Harper. In fact, less than 10 per cent of writers actually make a living by their writing, however modest that living may be. They have other jobs. But people write, and want to write, and pack into creative writing classes, because they love this activity – not because they think they'll be millionaires.

Every single one of those people is an "ordinary person." Mr. Harper's idea of an ordinary person is that of an envious hater without a scrap of artistic talent or creativity or curiosity, and no appreciation for anything that's attractive or beautiful. My idea of an ordinary person is quite different. Human beings are creative by nature. For millenniums we have been putting our creativity into our cultures - cultures with unique languages, architecture, religious ceremonies, dances, music, furnishings, textiles, clothing and special cuisines. "Ordinary people" pack into the cheap seats at concerts and fill theatres where operas are brought to them live. The total attendance for "the arts" in Canada in fact exceeds that for sports events. "The arts" are not a "niche interest." They are part of being human.

Moreover, "ordinary people" are participants. They form book clubs and join classes of all kinds - painting, dancing, drawing, pottery, photography - for the sheer joy of it. They sing in choirs, church and other, and play in marching bands. Kids start garage bands and make their own videos and web art, and put their music on the Net, and draw their own graphic novels. "Ordinary people" have other outlets for their creativity, as well: Knitting and quilting have made comebacks; gardening is taken very seriously; the home woodworking shop is active. Add origami, costume design, egg decorating, flower arranging, and on and on ... Canadians, it seems, like making things, and they like appreciating things that are made.

They show their appreciation by contributing. Canadians of all ages volunteer in vast numbers for local and city museums, for their art galleries and for countless cultural festivals - I think immediately of the Chinese New Year and the Caribana festival in Toronto, but there are so many others. Literary festivals have sprung up all over the country - volunteers set them up and provide the food, and "ordinary people" will drag their lawn chairs into a field - as in Nova Scotia's Read by the Sea - in order to listen to writers both local and national read and discuss their work. Mr. Harper has signalled that as far as he is concerned, those millions of hours of volunteer activity are a waste of time. He holds them in contempt.

I suggest that considering the huge amount of energy we spend on creative activity, to be creative is "ordinary." It is an age-long and normal human characteristic: All children are born creative. It's the lack of any appreciation of these activities that is not ordinary. Mr. Harper has demonstrated that he has no knowledge of, or respect for, the capacities and interests of "ordinary people." He's the "niche interest." Not us.

It's been suggested that Mr. Harper's disdain for the arts is not merely a result of ignorance or a tin ear - that it is "ideologically motivated." Now, I wonder what could be meant by that? Mr. Harper has said quite rightly that

people understand we ought to keep within a budget. But his own contribution to that budget has been to heave the Liberal-generated surplus overboard so we have nothing left for a rainy day, and now, in addition, he wants to jeopardize those 600,000 arts jobs and those billions of dollars they generate for Canadians. What's the idea here? That arts jobs should not exist because artists are naughty and might not vote for Mr. Harper? That Canadians ought not to make money from the wicked arts, but only from virtuous oil? That artists don't all live in one constituency, so who cares? Or is it that the majority of those arts jobs are located in Ontario and Quebec, and Mr. Harper is peeved at those provinces, and wants to increase his ongoing gutting of Ontario - \$20-billion a year of Ontario taxpayers' money going out, a dribble grudgingly allowed back in - and spank Quebec for being so disobedient as not to appreciate his magnificence? He likes punishing, so maybe the arts-squashing is part of that: Whack the Heartland.

Or is it even worse? Every budding dictatorship begins by muzzling the artists, because they're a mouthy lot and they don't line up and salute very easily. Of course, you can always get some tame artists to design the uniforms and flags and the documentary about you, and so forth - the only kind of art you might need - but individual voices must be silenced, because there shall be only One Voice: Our Master's Voice. Maybe that's why Mr. Harper began by shutting down funding for our artists abroad. He didn't like the competition for media space. The Conservative caucus has already learned that lesson. Rumour has it that Mr. Harper's idea of what sort of art you should hang on your wall was signalled by his removal of all pictures of previous Conservative prime ministers from their lobby room - including John A. and Dief the Chief - and their replacement by pictures of none other than Mr. Harper himself. History, it seems, is to begin with him. In communist countries, this used to be called the Cult of Personality. Mr. Harper is a guy who - rumour has it, again - tried to disband the student union in high school and then tried the same thing in college. Destiny is calling him, the way it called Qin Shi Huang, the Chinese emperor who burnt all records of the rulers before himself. It's an impulse that's been repeated many times since, the list is very long. Tear it down and level it flat, is the common motto. Then build a big statue of yourself. Now that would be Art! Adapted from the 2008 Hurtig Lecture, to be delivered in Edmonton on Oct. 1

Related Articles:

[Artists 'should be landlords, not tenants'](#)

[Tory arts cuts not playing well to Quebec crowd](#)

[Liberals pledge to reverse Tory culture cuts](#)

[Dion makes \\$530-million in promises for arts, culture](#)

[Margaret Wente: The PM's phony war on the elites](#)

[Election 2.0: Globe stories, photos, graphics, quizzes, interactives, columns, opinion, games and more](#)

ARTS VOTE MANIFESTO

Attn: Stephen Harper, Prime Minister

CC: Stephan Dion, Jack Layton, Elizabeth May

The Cultural Community represents almost ten percent of the population, and creates almost 8% of the Gross Domestic Product. This figure grows even larger when we look at both Culture and Communications.

Artists want to be considered as an equal constituency in this country. Artists wish to receive government support and services in relation to our community's contributions to this country. For example, when we pay for it, artists should be eligible for unemployment insurance. And artists should not be excluded from public pension programs simply because artists are considered self-employed.

According to Federal Government Public Accounts, cultural spending amounts to less than 3 billion dollars in an annual federal budget of \$100+ billion. So Culture amounts to less than 3% of federal government departmental spending.

By contrast, military and security budgets amount to 30 - 40% of federal departmental spending. Does this mean security is ten times more important to the government than Culture and Communications?

Considering culture is the only thing this country still owns, government priorities should change, to better reflect all the contributions of the cultural community. Especially when culture is probably the world's best hope for a better future.

The cultural community would like to renegotiate its contract with government, so that culture can receive the public support and public services it deserves. Please forward this message to everyone with an interest in this matter. For more info: www.artsvote.info

COALITION WELCOMES NEWS OF LIBERAL PLEDGE AND ENCOURAGES ALL PARTIES TO SHARE THEIR VISION

The Canadian Arts Coalition welcomes the news of the Liberal party's pledge to increase the Canada Council for the Arts' annual operating budget to \$360 million and to restore \$45 million dollars in recent program cuts at the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Liberal pledge came through a press release issued on September 20, 2008 from Montreal and is part of their electoral platform.

The Coalition encourages all parties and candidates to put forward their position on arts and culture. To date, we have seen the Green Party, the Bloc Québécois, and the Liberals share their vision for arts and culture. We look forward to hearing from the other parties as the campaign continues.

Further, the Coalition encourages all Canadians to connect with the candidates in their ridings, be it through public events, written letters, by phone or in person, to let all candidates know how important arts and culture is for voters everywhere.

The Canadian Arts Coalition is Canada's largest ever group of artists, business leaders and volunteers assembled from across the country. We are united in the knowledge that greater public investment in the arts is essential to Canada's future. We believe that the high quality of life, for which Canada is known, depends on a rich, vibrant and diverse arts and heritage community. To learn more about the Coalition's position and objectives with regards to arts and culture in Canada, please visit our website: www.canadianartscoalition.ca. Parties and candidates interested in submitting their views on arts and culture may contact the Coalition by emailing info@canadianartscoalition.ca.

THE WRITERS GUILD OF CANADA AND ACTRA ARE ORGANIZING A MASS RALLY IN TORONTO IN SUPPORT OF OUR EXTRAORDINARY ARTISTS AND OUR CULTURE

The Writers Guild of Canada and ACTRA are organizing a mass rally in Toronto in support of our extraordinary artists and our culture on Wednesday, October 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in front of the CBC Broadcasting Centre at Front and John Street, at the foot of the entertainment district.

The WGC will ensure that we have clearance to conduct this rally from Toronto police. The WGC and ACTRA will work together to organize the event but we need your participation to help send a clear message to all political parties that Canadian artists are ordinary Canadians with real jobs and that there are plenty of us. And we have friends.

We would like to aim for a rally of one thousand artists and their friends. So please feel free to pass this e-mail on to any group that has not been identified in this e-mail.

If your members would like to join us on Wednesday, October 8th, please send me back a confirmation via e-mail. Or if you have any additional questions please contact me. Once you have confirmed your organization's attendance, either David Kinahan from the WGC at d.kinahan@wgc.ca or Joanne Deer from ACTRA jdeer@actra.ca will contact you to discuss the necessary details. Please note that each group will be responsible for their own signage.

ARTS FUNDING AT THE TOP OF THE ELECTION AGENDA BECAUSE CANADIANS KNOW THE VALUE OF THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

The Writers' Union of Canada questioned politicians on their commitment to artists; two parties responded

Recent cuts to federal funds and future support for artists has become a hot election issue because voters care about Canadian culture, said Writers' Union of Canada Chair Wayne Grady. "I'm sure all parties will want to take a closer look at how they respond to writers, other artists, and all Canadians who want vibrant and economically successful art in this country."

The Writers' Union of Canada wrote to the heads of Canada's five federal parties and selected cabinet ministers and critics asking for their positions on arts funding and recent cuts to important cultural programs. Two parties responded.

"Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office said they were forwarding our letter to the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry," said Grady. "The Honourable Jim Flaherty's office said the resources of an MP, including the Conservative Minister of Finance, could not be used for matters pertaining to a General Election, so they

were sending the inquiry to the Conservative Party of Canada. Doug Ferguson, President of the Liberal Party of Canada, wrote and addressed each of our eight questions. We have not heard back from the other parties.”

The Writers’ Union strongly protested the \$60 million in recent cuts to arts funding programs such as PromArt and TradeRoutes. “Those programs were an investment in our emerging and established artists and told Canada’s story to the world,” said Grady. “These funds had proved their worth as economic springboards, allowing Canada to compete in the global marketplace and have a presence on the international stage. We need to commit more money, not less, to ensuring a viable cultural identity in this country. Our artists, craftspeople and creative entrepreneurs deserve a secure living, which very few of them enjoy.”

The Writers’ Union has also encouraged its membership, comprised of more than 1,650 writers of books in all genres, to question their local federal candidates on their parties’ cultural policies and their own positions on supporting the creative community. The Writers’ Union is also calling attention to copyright legislation that will have a direct impact on creators, which was before the House of Commons prior to the election call.

“Political candidates who don’t believe Canadians value their artists, and are unaware that creators drive a huge portion of the economy, are out of touch,” said Grady. “Politicians and particularly the heads of the federal parties need to address the concerns of the vast number of Canadians who want to sustain and promote the cultural sector.”

The Writers’ Union of Canada asked politicians:

1. Does your party acknowledge that the federal government has a responsibility to invest in art and culture in Canada as it does in other sectors of national activity?
2. Does your party agree that artists, intellectuals, and cultural institutions contribute as much to the international image of Canada as athletes and business people do?
3. If so, what programs and policies will your party put in place to ensure that artists, creators, and intellectuals participate in Canadian foreign policy strategy?
4. Does your party intend to replace the programs dedicated to the internationalization of Canadian culture (PromArt and TradeRoutes)? Please provide specific details.
5. What does your party plan to do to stimulate and sustain the creative economy in Canada?
6. Is your party prepared to address the socio-economic needs of self-employed workers in the creative economy by finding ways to make the social safety net available to them?
7. New technology is affecting creators' rights in ways that deprive creators of compensation for use of their works. Is your party considering copyright law policies that will modernize our legislation and ensure that technology does not have a negative impact on creators' ability to earn a living?
8. Does your party intend to emulate Quebec’s policy of exempting a portion of income from copyright sources from taxation as an incentive for greater innovation and productivity?

The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well being of all writers. For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE ARTS ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF NEW WEB FEATURE ON THE 2008 FEDERAL ELECTION

The Canadian Conference of the Arts is happy to announce the creation of our new web feature on the [2008 Federal Election](#). We will post all five federal parties political platforms, their response to the CCA’s list of questions concerning their parties’ position on key issues for the arts and cultural sectors, news articles as well as the election door step kit which you and your members are encouraged to utilize in appropriate circumstances. Check out: <http://www.ccarts.ca/en/election2008/election2008.htm>

COMMUNITY ARTS ONTARIO HAS WRITTEN TO A VARIETY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Community Arts Ontario has written to a variety of public officials in order to express our concern regarding the \$46 million in cuts made since the election in 2006.

Many individuals and arts service organizations have made the case for how damaging these actions are to the Canadian business, trade and tourism industries. StatsCan reports that with \$6.8 billion in funding from all levels of government, the arts sector contributes \$26 billion to the Canadian economy and employs 740,000 workers. That is more than the agricultural, forestry, fishing, gas, utilities, oil and mining sectors (all of which also receive various types government subsidies). Consequently, we at CAO share a concern that cuts to the arts will harm the economy.

What we would also like to add to the discussion is a reminder of how much the arts contributes to the social and spiritual empowerment of Canadian communities and individuals. Art renews and revitalizes cities and towns; builds identity and pride; educates and trains; promotes health and well being; generates the passion necessary for rational thinking; contributes to the evolution of ideas, etc.

Over the years several reports (some commissioned by the federal government itself) attest to the fact that people involved in the arts are likely to participate in civil society and community activities in a variety of ways. For many people the arts is their first entry point into volunteerism, politics or community work.

It is clear to us that cuts to the arts sector negatively impact the ability of people and communities to articulate and act on their concerns. Bill C-10 makes it perfectly clear that this is the intent as it denies tax credits to film productions deemed "contrary to the public policy". Who defines public policy and who deems what is contrary to it?

Since artists are among the lowest income earners in Canada the cuts furthermore take resources away from those who are among the most in need.

Community Arts Ontario stands opposed to the federal governments attack on the arts sector and urges all Canadians to voice their opposition to the cuts.

FROM THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY

We have been working with the Canadian Arts Coalition to ensure that the arts and culture remain an issue during the federal election campaign. If you have a moment, kindly visit www.ivoteforculture.com to cast your vote online for culture. We're hoping to get lots of votes, and we're only at 4100. Feel free to send this link to anyone concerned about arts and culture in Canada. Thanks.

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

RANDOM ACTS OF POETRY BEGINS ITS FIFTH YEAR DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 1 TO 5, 2008

Random Acts of Poetry is a project of the Victoria READ Society, a non-profit literacy organization, established in 1976. Random Acts of Poetry is funded by The Canada Council for the Arts.

During the week, 25 acclaimed poets across Canada, from Victoria to Newfoundland, will commit Random Acts of Poetry in their cities and adjacent small towns. On buses and subways, in donut shops and cafes, police stations, grocery stores, shelters, curling rinks, on city streets and country lanes, poets will read poems to strangers and give them their books. Poets will also read their poems in ESL and Adult Literacy classes and, as well, will present poetry in middle school classes, and give the students a book of poetry written by middle school students, We Can Say This, published with support from of the TD Bank Financial Group.

Patrick Lane, one of Canada's premier poets, says of Random Acts of Poetry, "There are no accidents. Nothing is random. A poem sits in a poet's pocket and jumps out when you least expect it. It can nestle in a mechanic's ear, a politician's hand, a waitress's bright eye, somewhere, anywhere. You look up from work and there's a poem. It reads itself to you. It asks you to take a break. It says: Right here. Right now."

"Poetry," says Wendy Morton, founder of Random Acts of Poetry, "is the shortest distance between two hearts. I have read poems to hundreds of people, many of whom hadn't heard a poem in thirty years, and watched their eyes fill up with tears. Some burst into laughter or laid a hand on my shoulder, hugged me, took my hand. Poetry can connect us with each other as humans as no other art form I know. Poetry is a gift that we can create from whatever life has in store for us."

Across Canada poets will commit random acts in: Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Pickering, Trenton, Ottawa, Port McNicoll, Windsor, Montreal, Laval, Fredericton, Edmundston, Charlottetown, Halifax, and St. John's. For more info: <http://national-random-acts-of-poetry.blogspot.com/>

WRITERS' TRUST ANNOUNCES THE FIRST SHORTLISTS OF THE BOOKS SEASON: FIRST NOVELS, RAWI HAGE, AND MIRIAM TOEWS HEADLINE FICTION LIST

The first shortlists for this year's major Canadian literary prizes have been decided by the Writers' Trust of Canada. Finalists in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, and short fiction were announced at an event in Toronto held at Ben McNally Books. The winners of the awards, along with four other prizes, will be announced

at the eighth annual Writers' Trust Awards event on November 17, 2008. Total prize money awarded that night to Canadian writers will amount to \$155,000, making the event one of the richest awards nights in Canada.

Book lovers have the chance to win a set of this year's nominated titles by visiting www.writerstrust.com.

THE ROGERS WRITERS' TRUST FICTION PRIZE (\$25,000). Sponsored by Rogers Communications Inc.

Jury: Lawrence Hill (Burlington, Ontario), Annabel Lyon (Vancouver), and Heather O'Neill (Montreal)

Each finalist for this prize receives \$3,500.

- Rivka Galchen (New York City) for *Atmospheric Disturbances*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- Rawi Hage (Montreal) for *Cockroach*, published by House of Anansi Press
- Lee Henderson (Vancouver) for *The Man Game*, published by Viking Canada
- Patrick Lane (North Saanich, British Columbia) for *Red Dog*, Red Dog, published by McClelland & Stewart
- Miriam Toews (Winnipeg) for *The Flying Troutmans*, published by Knopf Canada

THE WRITERS' TRUST NON-FICTION PRIZE (\$25,000)

Jury: Derek Lundy (Salt Spring Island, British Columbia), Jan Wong (Toronto), and Darren Wershler-Henry (Toronto). Each finalist for this prize receives \$3,500.

- Taras Grescoe (Montreal) for *Bottomfeeder: How to Eat Ethically in a World of Vanishing Seafood*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- Carl Honoré (London, United Kingdom) for *Under Pressure: Rescuing Childhood from the Culture of Hyper-Parenting*, published by Knopf Canada
- Mark Kingwell (Toronto) for *Concrete Reveries: Consciousness and the City*, published by Viking Canada
- Margaret Visser (Toronto/Paris/south of France) for *The Gift of Thanks: The Roots, Persistence and Paradoxical Meanings of a Social Ritual*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- Russell Wangersky (St. John's) for *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fire and Losing Myself*, published by Thomas Allen Publishers

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*. The Journey Prize recognizes the best short story or excerpt from a novel-in-progress by a new and developing writer that had its first publication in a Canadian literary journal in the previous year. Jury: Lynn Coady (Toronto), Heather O'Neill (Montreal), and Neil Smith (Montreal). The journal that published the winning entry receives \$2,000.

- Dana Mills (Toronto) for "Steaming for Godthab," published in *Geist*
- Saleema Nawaz (Montreal) for "My Three Girls," published in *Prairie Review*
- Clea Young (Vancouver) for "Chaperone," published in *Grain Magazine*

Four additional prizes for a body of work will be presented at the Writers' Trust Awards event:

- Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life (\$20,000)
- Vicky Metcalf Award for Children's Literature (\$20,000)
- Writers' Trust Award for Distinguished Contribution
- Writers' Trust Notable Author Award (\$25,000)

The International Festival of Authors will hold a reading by the finalists of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize on October 29, 2008. For further information visit www.readings.org. The finalists of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize will also be in attendance at this year's Writers' Trust Gala, a prestigious fundraising event to be held on October 28, 2008, at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel. The Writers' Trust Awards event will take place in Toronto at the Isabel Bader Theatre on November 17, 2008. The Writers' Trust Awards are made possible through generous support from corporate, foundation, and individual sponsors. The national print media sponsor, *The Globe and Mail*, provides additional support. The Writers' Trust Awards receive no financial support from any government programs. The Writers' Trust of Canada is a charitable organization that supports Canadian writers and writing through various programs, including literary awards, financial grants, workshops, scholarships, and a writers' retreat. For more information visit www.writerstrust.com

THE PURDY A-FRAME PROJECT

So we built a house, my wife and I

our house at a backwater puddle of a lake
near Ameliasburg, Ont.

--Al Purdy "In Search of Owen Roblin"

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

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

Please write a letter of support and circulate this message to others who might be interested. Letters can be sent by mail or email to: Jean Baird, 4403 West 11th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6R 2M2 or jeanbaird@shaw.ca

LIBRARY LAUNCHES POET LAUREATE MAP OF CANADA

The Poet Laureate Map of Canada (www.poetrymap.ca) is unique to Canada, and the world! There are literary maps and poet maps, but we haven't yet found a poet laureate map. Our map features a photo, bio and poem from Canada's poets laureate, past and present, as well as links, and when available, audio and video files. Quotes, FAQs, and news about poets laureate and poetry also make this site a valuable resource.

A legacy project of Owen Sound's first Poet Laureate, Liz Zetlin, the web-based Poet Laureate Map of Canada showcases Canada's poets laureate, municipal, provincial and federal, and provides models for communities that want to create their own poet laureate position.

Liz Zetlin and Mayor Ruth Lovell Stanners invited poets laureate and mayors of their host-municipalities to participate. Response has been overwhelming, with nearly 30 poets laureate and 14 host communities listed on the Map.

We thank all those who have worked to make the Poet Laureate Map of Canada come to be a reality, and gratefully acknowledge the City of Owen Sound for funding this initiative. We invite all who view it, use it and learn from it to help the Library improve and update the Poet Laureate Map of Canada. We also invite you to add a link from your website to the map. Your comments are welcome at: library@owensound.library.on.ca

The map is being launched to coincide with National Random Acts of Poetry Week, October 1 to 5. For the past four years, Liz Zetlin has performed random acts in the Owen Sound area, raising the profile of poetry in her community.

The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library is pleased to host this poetry map. We hope that, through the Poet Laureate Map of Canada, poetry continues to take root not only in our homes and hearts, libraries and schools, but begins to flourish in the council chambers and board rooms of the nation.

MAYOR DAVID MILLER ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR THE 2008 TORONTO BOOK AWARDS

Mayor David Miller announced the five finalists of the 2008 Toronto Book Awards today at the Toronto Reference Library honouring authors of books of literary or artistic merit that are evocative of Toronto. The shortlist nominees* books represent a unique view of Toronto and made a great impression on the jury members.

The finalists for the 2008 Toronto Book Awards are:

- * Elspeth Cameron, for her biography, *And Beauty Answers: The Life of Frances Loring and Florence Wyle*, published by Cormorant Books;
- * David Chariandy, for his novel, *Soucouyant*, published by Arsenal Pulp Press;
- * Glen Downie, for his work of poetry, *Loyalty Management*, published by Wolsak and Wynn Publishers Ltd.;
- * Elyse Friedman, for her novella, *Long Story Short*, published by House of Anansi Press Inc.; and
- * Barbara Gowdy, for her novel, *Helpless*, published by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

"I want to congratulate all of the finalists of this year's Toronto Book Awards," said Mayor David Miller. "These wonderful books truly reflect this city's diverse community and I encourage all Torontonians to join me in reading all of the shortlisted books and experience our great city through the eyes of these authors."

*The Toronto Book Awards, like the Toronto Public Library, celebrate books, culture, and the wonderfully

diverse city in which we live,* said Jane Pyper, Toronto Public Library*s new Chief Librarian. *The Library is so pleased to be partnering with the City of Toronto to promote and raise awareness of this unique literary award, and to engage Torontonians in an exploration of their city through these evocative and compelling books.*

The winner of the 2008 Toronto Book Awards will be announced on Friday, October 17 at the Toronto Reference Library. Members of the public are encouraged to come out and celebrate at the evening gala that will be hosted by CBC*s Mary Ito.

VICTORIA BOOK PRIZE NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

Six authors from the Capital Region have been short listed for the 2008 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for adult literature and the Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize. The winner of each prize will be awarded \$5000. The finalists for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for adult literature are:

- JoAnn Dionne *Little Emperors: A Year with the Future of China* (Dundurn Group)
- Arleen Pare *Paper Trail* (NeWest Press)
- Mark Zuehlke *Terrible Victory* (Douglas & McIntyre)
- The finalists for the Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize are:
- Polly Horvath *The Corps of the Bare-Boned Plane* (Groundwood Books)
- Kit Pearson *A Perfect Gentle Knight* (Penguin Books)
- Chris Tougas *Mechanimals* (Orca Book Publishers)

Two independent juries comprised of representatives from the literary arts community were appointed by the Victoria Book Prize Society to review and assess 26 adult entries and 22 children’s entries based on literary merit. Founded in 2004, the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is a public/private partnership between the City of Victoria, Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies and sponsored more recently by the Greater Victoria Public Library, the Magnolia Hotel and Spa and the Union Club of Greater Victoria. This is the inaugural year for the Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize. The Victoria Book Prize Society establishes the policy and criteria for the prize, administers the competition and appoints the jury. The awards gala will be held at the Union Club of Victoria on October 15 at 7:30. At this time the prize winners will be named and the juries announced. The award event is open to the public and attendees will have the opportunity to meet the writers and have books signed. Further details will be announced. For further information call: Mary Virtue, President, Victoria Book Prize Society, phone: 250-386-5933.

THE 2008 SCOTIABANK GILLER PRIZE ANNOUNCED ITS LONGLIST OF BOOKS FOR THIS YEAR’S PRIZE

The 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize jury today announced its longlist of books in the running for this year’s prize. The jury selected 15 titles out of 95 books, submitted by 38 publishers from every region of Canada. Award-winning author and previous Giller Prize winner Margaret Atwood; Liberal MP, Foreign Affairs critic and author Bob Rae; and renowned international journalist, professor and author Colm Toibin comprised the 2008 jury. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the prize. From a highly competitive field, the Scotiabank Giller jury has selected the following titles for this year’s longlist:

- David Adams Richards for his novel *The Lost Highway*, published by Doubleday Canada
- David Bergen for his novel *The Retreat*, published by McClelland & Stewart
- Joseph Boyden for his novel *Through Black Spruce*, published by Viking Canada
- Austin Clarke for his novel *More*, published by Thomas Allen Publishers
- Anthony De Sa for his collection of short stories *Barnacle Love*, published by Doubleday Canada
- Emma Donoghue for her novel *The Sealed Letter*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- Marina Endicott for her novel *Good to A Fault*, published by Freehand Books/Broadview Press
- Steven Galloway for his novel *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, published by Knopf Canada
- Rawi Hage for his novel *Cockroach*, published by House of Anansi Press
- Kenneth J Harvey for his novel *Blackstrap Hawco*, published by Random House Canada
- Patrick Lane for his novel *Red Dog, Red Dog*, published by McClelland & Stewart
- Pasha Malla for his collection of short stories *The Withdrawal Method*, published by House of Anansi Press
- Paul Quarrington for his novel *The Ravine*, published by Random House Canada
- Nino Ricci for his novel *The Origin of Species*, published by Doubleday Canada
- Mary Swan for her novel *The Boys in the Trees*, published by Henry Holt/HB Fenn

Of the longlist, the jury writes: “These fifteen books vary widely in technique, in setting, and in tone — from the historical to the contemporary, from the comic to the satiric to the tragic, from the local to the international. Nothing unites them but the jury’s belief in their accomplishment: each contributes something fresh, original, thoughtful, or vital to the practice of fiction.”

ANNOUNCING THE JUDGES FOR THE 2009 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

Toronto, ON (September 22, 2008) – The trustees of the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry are pleased to announce that Saskia Hamilton (USA), Dennis O'Driscoll (Ireland), and Michael Redhill (Canada) are the judges for the 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize.

- Saskia Hamilton is the author of two books of poetry, *As for Dream* (2001) and *Divide These* (2005). She is also the editor of *The Letters of Robert Lowell* (2005) and a co-editor of *Words in Air: The Complete Correspondence between Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell* (2008). The recipient of a Bunting Fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Saskia Hamilton teaches at Barnard College, Columbia University, and lives in New York City.
- Dennis O'Driscoll was born in Thurles, County Tipperary, Ireland. His eight books of poetry include *Weather Permitting* (1999), which was shortlisted for the Irish Times Poetry Prize; *Exemplary Damages* (2002), and *New and Selected Poems* (2004). His latest collection of poems, *Reality Check* (2007), was shortlisted for the Irish Times / Poetry Now Prize in 2008. A selection of his essays and reviews, *Troubled Thoughts, Majestic Dreams* was published in 2001. He is the editor of *The Bloodaxe Book of Poetry Quotations* (2006) and its American counterpart, *Quote Poet Unquote* (2008). He has received a Lannan Literary Award (1999), the E.M. Forster Award (2005) and the O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry (2006). O'Driscoll's new book, *Stepping Stones: Interviews with Seamus Heaney*, is scheduled for publication in November 2008.
- Michael Redhill is a novelist, poet, and playwright, as well as the publisher and one of the editors of *Brick*. His most recent novel, *Consolation*, was longlisted for the 2007 Man Booker Prize, won the Toronto Book Award, and was the Toronto Public Library's inaugural One Book One City choice in 2008. His 2005 play, *Goodness*, won the Carol Tambor Prize in 2006 for the best play at the Edinburgh Fringe and has since played in New York, Vancouver, and Girona, and will open later in 2008 in Barcelona and Helsinki. Michael Redhill currently lives in the south of France with his partner and their two sons.

All three judges understand the importance of the Griffin Poetry Prize's international reach and may consequently call in books of English language poetry from around the world. Submissions for The Griffin Poetry Prize are accepted up until December 31, 2008. The shortlisted books (four International and three Canadian) will be announced on April 7, 2009 at a press conference in Toronto, Canada. For more information, contact: Press Relations and Publicity, June Dickenson, E-mail: publicity@griffinpoetryprize.com or Elana Rabinovitch, E-mail: press@griffinpoetryprize.com.

ONLINE WRITERS' COMMUNITY BASED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

For news of Red Room, a new online writers' community based in the San Francisco Bay Area, League members are invited to visit. New! Red Room, online writers' community: <http://www.redroom.com/author/robert-sward>

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR CANADIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE AWARDS

The Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) is pleased to announce the finalists for three of the four major children's book awards it administers. The finalists for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award were previously announced on August 6, 2008. The winners for all awards will be announced at a by invitation-only gala event at The Carlu in Toronto on November 6, 2008. The CCBC is happy to report that the prize money for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People has increased to \$5,000 (the original prize money amount was \$1,000). The Bilson Endowment Fund, which was created in 2005, received an influx of funds thanks to generous contributions from our members, the Wilson Foundation, TD Bank Financial Group and the Ontario Arts Foundation.

NORMA FLECK AWARD FOR CANADIAN CHILDREN'S NON-FICTION (\$10,000), Sponsored by the Fleck Family Foundation

- *At Vimy Ridge: Canada's Greatest World War I Victory* by Hugh Brewster (Scholastic Canada)
- *Birds of Prey: An Introduction* by Robert Bateman with Nancy Kovacs, illustrated by Robert Bateman (Scholastic Canada/Madison Press)
- *The Eco-Diary of Kiran Singer* by Sue Ann Alderson, Illustrated by Millie Balance (Tradewind Books)
- *This Is My Planet: The Kids' Guide to Global Warming* by Jan Thornhill (Maple Tree Press)
- *Weird Weather: Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Climate Change but Probably Should Find Out*
- Written and illustrated by Kate Evans (Groundwood Books)

MARILYN BAILLIE PICTURE BOOK AWARD (\$10,000), Sponsored by A. Charles Baillie

- *Lickety-Split* by Robert Heidbreder, illustrated by Dušan Petričić (Kids Can Press)

- My New Shirt by Cary Fagan, illustrated by Dušan Petričić (Tundra Books)
- Pink by Nan Gregory, illustrated by Luc Melanson (Groundwood Books)
- Please, Louise! by Frieda Wishinsky, illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay (Groundwood Books)
- Super Handyman: The Master of Tools, written and illustrated by Barroux, Translated by Jane Macaulay (Smith, Bonappétit & Son)

GEOFFREY BILSON AWARD FOR HISTORICAL FICTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (\$5,000), Sponsored by the Canadian Children's Book Centre's Bilson Endowment Fund

- The Alchemist's Dream by John Wilson (Key Porter Books)
- Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (Scholastic Canada)
- Eye of the Crow: The Boy Sherlock Holmes, His First Case by Shane Peacock (Tundra Books)
- Rise of the Golden Cobra by Henry T. Aubin (Annick Press)
- Tin Angel by Shannon Cowan (Lobster Press)

2008 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LITERARY AWARDS DATES ANNOUNCED BY THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

This year marks the 72nd presentation of the Governor General's Literary Awards, Canada's esteemed award for English- and French-language Canadian literature. More than 1,400 books have been submitted for the 2008 awards, in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, children's literature (text), children's literature (illustration), and translation. The Canada Council for the Arts funds, administers and promotes the Governor General's Literary Awards. The value of each award is \$25,000 and each winner will also receive a specially-bound copy of the winning book. The publisher of each winning book will receive \$3,000 to support promotional activities. Non-winning finalists will each receive \$1,000 in recognition of their selection as finalists, bringing the total value of the Awards close to \$450,000. BMO Financial Group has been the generous sponsor of the Governor General's Literary Awards since 1988. The Canada Council for the Arts is grateful to BMO Financial Group for its support.

Bookmark these dates!

- Tuesday, October 21, 10 a.m. - Announcement of finalists. All finalists, English- and French-language, will be announced at Ben McNally Books, 366 Bay St (at Richmond), Toronto. The list of finalists, together with downloadable images of the covers of the short listed books, will be posted on the Canada Council's website - www.canadacouncil.ca - as of 11 a.m. EDT on October 21.
- Monday, October 27, 8 p.m. - Reading at the International Festival of Authors. The English-language fiction finalists will read from their short listed books as part of the International Festival of Authors at the Fleck Dance Theatre (formerly Premiere Dance Theatre), Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. For more information about the reading, contact Becky Toyne, IFOA publicist, at 416-973-5836 or btoyne@harbourfrontcentre.com.
- Tuesday, November 18, 10 a.m. - Announcement of winners. All winners, English- and French-language, will be announced at the Theatre J. Armand Bombardier at the McCord Museum of Canadian History, 690 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal. The winners will speak at the news conference and will be available for in-person and telephone interviews immediately following the announcement. The list of winners, downloadable photographs and biographical information will be posted on the Canada Council's website - www.canadacouncil.ca - as of 11 a.m. EST on November 18.
- Wednesday, November 19 to Monday, November 24 - Salon du livre de Montreal. The finalists and winners' books will be highlighted at the Canada Council booth at the Salon du livre de Montreal, Place Bonaventure.
- Tuesday, December 9, 7 p.m., in Ottawa - Public Forum on Art Matters. For every ceremony honouring and rewarding the talents of Canadian artists, Rideau Hall-on His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond's initiative-organizes a forum called Art Matters. The forum brings together laureates, artists, academics, administrators and members of the public together to discuss and examine the challenges facing culture in our society. Details about this forum, which is open to the public and dedicated to literature, will be announced at a later date.
- Wednesday, December 10, 6 p.m. - Awards presentation at Rideau Hall. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, will present the 2008 Literary Awards. Media representatives wishing to cover the awards presentation should contact Marie-Eve Letourneau at the Rideau Hall Press Office, 613-998-0287 or meletourneau@gg.ca.

For more info visit our website at www.canadacouncil.ca.

SPOILED ARTISTS LIBERATION ARMY MANIFESTO

Attached is a rap piece sent by S.A.L.A. (The Spoiled Artists Liberation Army). The Arts matter! Matter is Art! Art makes us human! Humans make Art! The funding of the arts makes good aesthetic & business sense! Anyone

sacrificing themselves for art is guaranteed a heaven without virgins or politicians! We demand that our Prime Minister & Heritage Minister Make Art not War! Read a book! Attend a play! Colour outside the lines! We challenge them to live on an average artist's income! Artists are not spoiled! If you disagree, we will make Art out of you! Spoiled Artists Liberation Army. Or watch it performed on You Tube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETKcn3CGF68>.

***** 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.

PAT LOWTHER AND GERALD LAMPERT MEMORIAL AWARDS

We are now accepting submissions for our annual book awards for titles published in 2007. The Pat Lowther Memorial Award is given for a book of poetry by a Canadian woman published in the preceding year, and is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975. The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award is given in the memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who organized authors' tours and took a particular interest in the work of new writers. The award recognizes the best first book of poetry published by a Canadian in the preceding year. Both awards carry a \$1,000 prize, and are presented each year at the League's Annual General Meeting in June, with the shortlist announced during National Poetry Month in April. The deadline for submission to these awards is November 1st, 2007. For books that are published after this date, but still within the calendar year, please e-mail me by Nov 1st, 2007 to arrange to have the deadline extended (to Dec 15th at the latest). If you are a League member, please contact your publisher to see if your title has been submitted before sending it in yourself to avoid duplication. For more information on these awards, and to download a submission form, please go to: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/awards.htm>

THE 2008 CBC LITERARY AWARDS COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN!

The deadline for submissions is November 1st, 2008. The Awards are Canada's only literary competition celebrating original, unpublished works in both official languages. There are three categories: short story, poetry, and creative nonfiction, with cash prizes totaling \$60,000, courtesy of the Canada Council for the Arts, publication in Air Canada's enRoute magazine and visibility for the winners and their winning entries offered by CBC. To find out how to enter, go to www.cbc.ca/literaryawards

RURAL SLAM POETRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Live Poets Society of Lanark County invites you to come slam with the rural poets. We are having a Friendly Slam in order to fundraise to get the first rural team to the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word in Calgary. Come donate your words, your time, and/or your money to the cause. We need your help. There will be 2 rounds of slam, and an open mic between slam sets. If you have two memorized poems under three minutes you are welcome to come compete in the slam against poets from Ottawa and Lanark County. Or you may try your poems on the open mic. It all takes place at The Carleton Place Cinemas! There will be snacks to be bought, and raffle tickets and prizes. Come out and support LiPS and the rural spoken word scene. You might even be selected to judge the competition. It will be a rockin' time. If you've never been to a slam poetry event now is your chance! Sign up is at 7pm and the slam starts at 7:15pm sharp.

Date: Monday, October 13, 2008

Time: 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Location: Carleton Place Cinemas

Street: 17 Albert St. Carleton Place

City/Town: Carleton Place, ON

Contact Info Phone: 613-257-8715 or 613-878-4991

Email: danielle.gregoire@hotmail.com

2009 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE ENTRY DEADLINE REMINDER

This is a reminder that the deadline for the C\$100,000 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize is approaching. Books must be submitted postmarked no later than December 31, 2008 for books published between January 1 and December 31, 2008. Please remember to complete all necessary customs/duties paperwork when shipping your entries to ensure delays are avoided. If you have any [questions regarding the rules](#), or would like to download an entry form, please visit our Web site, at: www.griffinpoetryprize.com.

THIRD ANNUAL GOLDEN BERET AWARD

The Calgary International Spoken Word Festival is thrilled to present the third annual Golden Beret Award as part of the 2009 festival. The Golden Beret Award will be given to a Canadian spoken word artist who has made

a substantial contribution to the development of the discipline, through their own writing/performance works, and their involvement in the community at large.

The 2008 Golden Beret Award was presented to Calgarian Sarah Murphy, for her lifelong dedication to Spoken Word and contributions to grassroots activism.

NOMINATE NOW – And this is how!

Spoken word artists and/or friends interested in submitting for this soon-to-be-prestigious award are invited to send a one page letter via snail (address below), or on-line at www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com The deadline is October 30, 2008. Snail: 1428A – 44th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T3C 2A6.

The selection committee (comprised of four members of the business and artistic communities) will evaluate candidates based on the following qualities: originality of creative process, mastery of the genre, innovation, quality of writing, use of new technologies, contribution to community and openness to diverse voices.

The winner of the third Golden Beret Award will be invited to present their work at the 2009 Calgary International Spoken Word Festival in April, where the award will be announced.

The Calgary Spoken Word Society, which presents the Calgary International Spoken Word Festival, is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to showcase local, national & international spoken word artists; to present culturally diverse works; to offer innovative and progressive approaches to literacy; and to give voice to under-represented communities. For more information: Please call Sheri-D Wilson or Colette Mactaggart: 403.686.4292

RBC BRONWEN WALLACE AWARD FOR EMERGING WRITERS

A prize of \$5,000 will be awarded to the best work of poetry. Two honourable mentions will each receive \$1,000 prizes. Applicants should submit 5 – 10 pages of previously unpublished poetry. To be eligible candidates must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, under the age of 35, unpublished in book form and without a book contract, but whose literary work must have appeared in at least one independently edited magazine or Anthology. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2008. Submissions should be sent to: RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers c/o The Writers' Trust of Canada, 90 Richmond Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1P1. For further information please visit www.writerstrust.com or contact: James Davies, Program Manager (Prizes and Awards) 416.504.8222 x 245 or jdavies@writerstrust.com

MAYWORKS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY INFO SESSIONS AND DATE CHANGES

In the fall of 2008, the Mayworks Festival will be holding two information sessions to talk to potential applicants about the festival and the application procedure. If you are interested in the festival but haven't felt like you know how to submit an idea, or what we're really about, feel free to attend either of the two meetings listed below and find out more. This will be an excellent opportunity to find out more about Mayworks, how we program, the submission process, and to run ideas by us. Bring your questions and ideas - the info sessions are open to any community member, artist, trade unionist – all are welcome! Downtown Community Information Session on Monday October 6, 6-7:30 pm, Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil Street. Parkdale Community Information Session on Tuesday October 7, 6-7:30 pm, Parkdale Library, 1303 Queen St. W.

WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK LITERARY COMPETITION 2009 www.wfnb.ca

Deadline: Postmarked by November 14, 2008

Categories: Individual poems / Short fiction / Non-Fiction / Children's Literature

INDIVIDUAL POEMS 100 lines maximum, SHORT FICTION 4000 words maximum, NON-FICTION 1500-2500 words, CHILDREN'S LITERATURE 20,000 words maximum, Entry fee: \$15 WFNB members / \$20 Non-members, Prizes: 1st - \$150, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50.

- THE SHEREE FITCH FICTION PRIZE BY YOUTH is open to youth, 14-18 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2009, 4000 words maximum, entry fee: \$5, prizes: 1st - \$150, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50
- THE DAVID ADAMS RICHARDS PRIZE - \$400, For a collection of short stories, a short novel, or a substantial portion of a longer novel (not to exceed 30,000 words). Work must be unpublished although some individual stories may have been previously published. Manuscript Entry Fee: \$30
- THE ALFRED G. BAILEY PRIZE - \$400, For poetry manuscripts not previously published, in whole or in part, in book/chapbook form (individual poems published or accepted for publication in periodicals may be included). Length - at least 48 pages. Manuscript Entry Fee: \$30
- JUDGES FOR ALL CATEGORIES TBA

Mail entries and fee to: WFN, PO Box 37, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2. For more info: phone: (506) 459-7228 or email: wfn@nb.aibn.com. For more info and full competition rules, and poster, please visit our website: www.wfn.ca

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS 16TH ANNUAL SHORT PROSE COMPETITION FOR DEVELOPING WRITERS \$2,500 PRIZE

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce that submissions are being accepted until November 3, 2008 for the 2008 SHORT PROSE COMPETITION FOR DEVELOPING WRITERS. The winning entry will be the best Canadian work of 2,500 words in the English language, fiction or nonfiction, written by an unpublished author. Prize: \$2,500 for the winning entry and the entries of the winner and finalists will be submitted to three Canadian magazines. Jury: We are proud to announce that Joan Barfoot, Carellin Brooks, and David Helwig will serve as the jury. Eligibility: This competition is open to all Canadian citizens and landed immigrants who have not had a book published by a commercial or university press in any genre and who do not have a contract with a book publisher. Original and unpublished (English language) fiction or nonfiction. How to submit entries:

- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, in a clear twelve point font, and numbered on 8.5 x 11 paper, not stapled.
- Computer disks, CDs, e-mails, or faxes will not be accepted.
- Include a separate cover letter with title of story, full name, address, phone number, e-mail address, word count, and number of pages of entry.
- Please type the name of entrant and the title of entry on each numbered page. This is not a blind competition.
- Make cheque or money order payable to The Writers' Union of Canada. Multiple entries can be submitted together and fees can be added and paid with one cheque or money order, \$25 per submission.
- Entries must be postmarked by November 3, 2008 to be eligible.
- Mail entries to: WFC Competition, The Writers' Union of Canada, 90 Richmond Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M5C 1P1.

Results will be posted at www.writersunion.ca. Manuscripts will not be returned.

WRITING AND YOGA RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Fall is a time of taking stock, pulling the last of the fruit from the trees, and getting ready for winter. What are you thankful for? How can you live more fully as you step into the cold months ahead? This rejuvenating retreat will give you a chance to reflect on your life with gratitude, grace and awareness. Come for gentle yoga to stretch and settle your body, and writing exercises to invite you to look inside yourself. Enjoy mouth-watering vegetarian meals prepared by talented chef Nicola Lawrence, using fresh local and organic produce. Experience the peace and calm of a silent Sunday breakfast. Pack your hiking shoes and a good book, as you will also have free time to walk, sleep, read, breathe and take in the natural beauty of the colourful Northumberland Hills. Writers and Yogis of all levels of experience are most welcome, including those with no experience at all.

Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5, 2008

Harmony Dawn Retreat Centre, 90 minutes from Toronto

\$395 before Sept 20, \$425 after

Sliding Scale Spots available

Contact Chris Fraser - chris@footprintmemoirs.com

DESCANT ANNOUNCES THE 2009 WINSTON COLLINS / DESCANT PRIZE FOR BEST CANADIAN POEM

Descant is pleased to announce the 2009 Winston Collins / Descant Prize for Best Canadian Poem. This annual prize is awarded in memory of Winston Collins, writer and enthusiastic teacher of literature at the universities of Cincinnati, Princeton and Toronto. The prize will perpetuate his remarkable talent for encouraging self-expression through writing. Rules: Maximum entry length is 100 lines, typed, double-spaced; Note that jury process is blind: the writer, should therefore not be identified on the, entry: include a separate cover sheet with, name, address, email & phone number, and the title of the submitted poem; Previously published material, or material accepted elsewhere for publication, cannot be considered; Include a S.A.S.E. (with appropriate Canadian postage/ IRCs/ USD \$1); Descant employees are not eligible to enter. Judges: The judges for this year's competition are: Nora Kelly and Eric Wright. Entry Fee: \$29 (includes GST + a one-year subscription; make cheque or international money order payable to: Descant); Multiple entries are allowed: however, each entry must be accompanied by its own entry fee; Note that current subscribers will receive a one-year extension to their subscription period. Deadline: Oct. 10 / 08. Postmarked, and mailed to: 2009 Winston Collins / Descant Prize Competition, P O Box 314, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2S8. Winner & Honourary Mentions will be announced Feb 20, 2009. One Winner will be awarded. CAN \$1000; Two Honourary Mentions will be awarded

CAN \$250 each; additionally, the chosen poems will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of Descant 2009 Winston.

MEMBERSHIP/INFORMATION/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

Membership/Information/Administrative Assistant Position

Institution/Organization: Arts Council Windsor + Region

Location: 1942 Wyandotte St. E Windsor, Ontario

Closing Date: September 26, 2008 5pm

Email: info@acwr.net

The ACWR is seeking an intelligent and organized individual to fill the position of Membership/Information/Administrative Assistant.

The Administrative Assistant provides a professional, knowledgeable and organized front-line presence in the Administration area and key administrative support to the Executive Director and Board. The successful candidate possesses at least two years experience as an Administrative Assistant, in a not-for-profit environment preferable; outstanding organizational and computer skills; excellent written and verbal communication skills; an agreeable disposition; and an interest in the visual arts. Salary to be determined by experience. Hours of work: Flexible part-time, 8-24 hours per week. Employee status: Six month contract renewable. Please email, mail, or deliver applications to: Executive Director, Arts Council Windsor and Region, 1942 Wyandotte St. E, Windsor, Ontario, N8Y-1E4 or info@acwr.net

ARTSBUILD ONTARIO SEEKS AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ArtsBuild Ontario is a not-for-profit organization located in Toronto whose mission is to address the cultural infrastructure challenge facing Ontario's small and mid-sized performing and visual arts organizations, working in collaboration with constituent service organizations, culture sector partners and public sector partners. The long-term vision is to develop a permanent, independent capital finance fund offering funding, financing and capacity-building technical assistance, designed specifically to address the challenges these groups face.

Over the next five years ArtsBuild Ontario proposes a program of EDUCATION to build capital project management capacity in the sector, INFORMATION to assist stakeholders and funders to quantify and prioritize the status of potential capital projects and SOLUTIONS to address the acute capital infrastructure crisis facing Ontario's small and mid-sized performing and visual arts organizations. Underlying these initiatives is a robust ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT plan to ensure that the projects are well managed and that the organization is sustainable in the long term. ArtsBuild Ontario is seeking an experienced cultural administrator with an interest in public policy to lead and manage these programs. Required qualities include: Creativity, innovative thinking and independent initiative; Extensive strategic planning and advocacy leadership skills; Knowledge and experience liaising with all levels of government; Strong collaboration with extensive network in the arts community; Experienced partnership with volunteer Board and Advisory Committee; Skillful communication and confident spokesperson role. Responsibilities include: Revenue: funding applications and stewardship; Administrative: management of Board and Advisory Committee; Financial: budget preparation & reporting; Strategic: short- and long-term planning, identification of opportunities; Education: workshop series; web resource centre development; Information: bi-annual quantitative study of sector and needs database; Solutions: research into alternate financing solutions; Partnerships: collaboration with culture sector partners. This is a three-day per week services contract at a competitive rate that commences November 1st 2008. Please send a cover letter and resume, before 5 pm on October 8th 2008 to Sandra Tulloch, President, ArtsBuild Ontario at 56 Harbord Street, Toronto M5S 1G2
ArtsBuild Ontario thanks all applicants however only those being considered for an interview will be contacted directly.

CALL FOR AUTHORS AND PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS LIT CITY 2009

The City of Toronto's Cultural Services is planning a three-month celebration of Toronto's literary heritage: LIT CITY 2009. Planned in conjunction with the 10th annual Doors Open Toronto and the 175th anniversary of City of Toronto, LIT CITY 2009 will celebrate writers who find inspiration in Toronto and use the city as a setting for their work.

From Friday, March 6, 2009 (the City's 175th 'birthday') to the Doors Open Toronto weekend, May 23 and 24, 2009, the city will become an open book featuring writers, established and emerging, fiction and non-fiction, in an illuminating marriage of Toronto authors with architecture and books with buildings. Activities include site specific readings and book launches, walking tours, panel discussions and workshops. The Toronto Public Library will be a major partner, especially during April when Keep Toronto Reading One Book will feature LIT CITY events citywide.

We are looking for authors of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, memoir, graphic novels, biography, mystery, plays, young adult and children's titles (both new titles and recent releases) that fit the LIT CITY 2009 programming mandate. Please contact Jennifer Murray at Porch Light Consulting with programming ideas and questions. jennmurray@porchlightconsulting.ca

VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL HAIKU INVITATIONAL

The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is pleased to announce its fourth annual Haiku Invitational. Poets are asked to submit one original, unpublished haiku on cherry blossom. This year's invitational will be judged by Bill Higginson and Penny Harter. Deadlines: Haiku will be accepted from October 1, 2008 – December 19, 2008. Entry fee: None. Submissions: Haiku must be submitted online at www.vcbf.ca. Prizes: Top haiku will be featured at the March 28, 2009 concert of the VSO and appear in Vancouver buses and SkyTrain cars during March and April 2009. Other selected entries will be published on the VCBF website and be read at festival events.

\$1,000 RALPH GUSTAFSON PRIZE FOR BEST POEM, \$500 EACH FOR TWO RUNNERS-UP, \$1,000 FOR BEST STORY, \$500 EACH FOR TWO RUNNERS-UP, ADD IT UP — THAT'S 4,000 DOLLARS!

Rules: General: No simultaneous submissions and no previously published (or accepted for publication) submissions. Do not include a SASE. Manuscripts will not be returned. No faxed or emailed submissions are allowed. The winning entries will be published in the Spring 2009 issue of The Fiddlehead (No. 239) and on our web site. The winning authors will be paid for publication in addition to their prizes. Vetting is blind. Do not put your name and address on your manuscript. Instead include a cover page with the title(s) of your submission, which genre (short fiction or poetry), and your name and address, phone number, and email address. One Fiction Entry is one story of up to 25 double-spaced pages. One Poetry Entry is up to 3 poems with no more than 100 lines per poem. Entry Fee \$30 (CAD) for Canadian entries and \$36 (USD) for U.S. and overseas entries. Make your cheque or money order payable to The Fiddlehead and enclose it with your entry. The entry fee includes a one year subscription to The Fiddlehead. You may enter multiple times, but only your first entry in each category will be eligible for a subscription. Deadline: Postmarked by December 1, 2008. For Further Information email us at: fiddlehd@unb.ca. Send Entries to: The Fiddlehead Contest, Campus House, 1 Garland Court, UNB PO Box 4400, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5A3.

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

STUART ROSS'S POETRY BOOT CAMP on Saturday, October 18, 10am-5 pm (w/ 45-minute lunch break) Christie/Dupont area, Toronto, ON, \$75 includes materials & light snacks, To register, write Stuart at hunkamooga@sympatico.ca

A relaxed but intensive one-day workshop for beginning poets, experienced poets, stalled poets, and haikuists who want to get beyond three lines. Poetry Boot Camp focuses on the pleasures of poetry and the riches that spontaneity brings, through lively directed exercises and relevant readings from the works of poets from Canada and abroad. We'll also touch on revision and collaboration. Arrive with an open mind, and leave with a heap of new poems!

STUART ROSS'S COLLABORATIVE POETRY on Monday, October 27, 6:30-9:30 pm, Christie/Dupont area, Toronto, ON, \$35 includes materials & light snacks, To register, write Stuart at hunkamooga@sympatico.ca

Spend an evening writing poems with complete strangers! This new workshop explores the exciting possibilities that arise when more than one brain creates a poem. A wide range of approaches < including methods used by the Surrealists and the New York Poets < will spark poems unlike anything you've ever written.

2008 NATIONAL SLAM! IN CALGARY!

November 5th – 9th 2008

Auburn Saloon, #163 115 9th Ave SE

Central Library – John Dutton Theatre - 616 Macleod Trail SE

Hosts: The Calgary International Spoken Word Festival & SpoCan

The 2008 NATIONAL SLAM! & Canadian Festival of Spoken Word is coming to Calgary in November and The Calgary International Spoken Word Festival is gearing up with SpoCan to host Canada's top slam poets. SLAM teams (12 teams of 4) from across Canada will fly into Cowtown for five action-packed, burgeoning days of workshops, discussion, and high-octane head-to-head bouts of 3-minute poems – until a winning team is crowned on the 8th! Spoken Word heavyweights shane avec i grec, Clifton Joseph, D. Kimm, Shane Koyczan, Dwayne Morgan, Andrea Thompson, R.C. Weslowski, and Sheri-D Wilson will headline throughout the week.

Calgary's own Golden Beret winner, Sarah Murphy, will open the celebration with the launch of her spoken word CD, when bill danced the war.

POPULARITY: The SLAM phenomenon has taken hold in Calgary and the audiences continue to grow exponentially. Hundreds of emerging poets have taken an interest in this fabulous new form. Each month, ten poets storm the stage to share their words and beats to packed-out, cheering crowds! Judges from the audience score their performances in three intense rounds of poetic excellence, until a winner is crowned! With different local performers every time, SLAM nights are impossible to predict and not to be missed!

How Will The National SLAM! Competition Work? Five days of SLAM bouts, workshops, networking, open mics, CD launches, discussions, public forums and word innovation. Twelve teams including Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Halifax, & Montreal. Bouts on November 6th and 7th, with the final, winner-crowning round on the 8th. If a SLAM poet SLAMS for longer than 3 minutes, points are deducted. Scores are based on: 1) the poem, 2) the performance, and 3) audience reaction. For a detailed line-up, please visit: www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com

ATWATER POETRY PROJECT

Kaie Kellough and Camille Martin will be reading at the Atwater Library Auditorium, 1200 Atwater Avenue on Wednesday October 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

- Kaie Kellough was born in Vancouver, grew up in Calgary, and resides in Montreal. He is a bilingual author, editor, educator, and performer. His words make sound sense, be bop inflected, and syncopate Canada's multiple solitudes. Kaie has dubbed and inked his way across Canada and into the United States, recently performing at the Hilltown Folk Festival in Massachusetts. He is the author of *Lettricity* (Cumulus Press 2004) and the editor of the *Talking Book* anthology (Cumulus Press 2006). He was writer in residence for the 2005 Toronto Intl Dub Poetry Festival. Kaie is currently working on a second book of poems, titled *Maple Leaf Rag*.
- Camille Martin, a Toronto poet and collage artist (www.camillemartin.ca), is the author of several chapbooks and *Codes of Public Sleep* (BookThug, 2007), which Carla Harryman called a "shattering signal from a laudably wild tongue that will not keep still for our death-drive culture." Recent work is published or forthcoming in *The Literary Review*, *PRECIPICE*, *The Walrus*, *West Coast Line*, *This Magazine*, *White Wall Review*, and *Peter O'Toole*. Her current project is a collection of sonnets. She has presented her work in numerous cities in the United States and Canada. Currently she teaches writing and literature at Ryerson University.

Free admission. All are welcome. For more information on upcoming readings and poets, or to listen to recordings of previous Atwater Poetry Project readings visit www.atwaterlibrary.ca/poetry

BLUE METROPOLIS TAKES WING WITH LITERARY EVENTS IN TORONTO

Saturday, October 4, 4 p.m. and Sunday, October 5, 1:30 p.m.

Toronto French Book Fair, Elizabeth Hall

Exhibition Place, 180 Princes Boulevard

The Great Toronto Translation Slam

The Translation Slam, the signature event of Blue Metropolis Foundation, is a panel discussion on language highlighting the literary translator's role. Two poets – one francophone and the other anglophone – read their own poem, and four translators read the translations they have worked on independently. With poets Yannick Renaud and Beatriz Hausner, and translators Al Moritz, Nicole Perron Martel, Ray Ellenwood and Rachel Martinez. Hosted by Émile Martel and Russell Smith. In English and French. Partners: Canadian Heritage, French for the Future, and Glendon College.

Full details on these and other events and programs can be found at our Web site at www.bluemetropolis.org

COOKED AND EATEN READING SERIES

October 6, 2008, 8pm, Gordon Best Theatre, 216 Hunter Street West, Peterborough, ON. Featuring Jean Rae Baxter, Catherine Graham, Peter McEwen and Nauri Parkinson. For more info:

<http://www.cookedandateen.com/archives/events/20081006.html>

SPOKEN WORD TALK-ROCK TO TORONTO

On Monday, October 6 TOFU (Tons o' Fun University) will bring their unique brand of spoken word talk-rock to Toronto. Featuring Shane Koyczan, Mike McGee and C.R. Avery. Clinton's, 693 Bloor Street West. 8pm. \$10. Hosted by Dave Silverberg. 416-312-3865. For more info, check out

<http://www.myspace.com/tonsoffununiversity>

LITERARY ARTS PROGRAMS AT THE BANFF CENTRE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Banff Centre is now accepting applications for the following programs:

- Spoken Word 2009
April 6 to April 18, 2009
Application deadline: January 30, 2009
Director: Sheri-D Wilson. A unique milieu for spoken word artists to explore and develop their voice and performance dynamics through daily classes, editorial assistance and engaging in a vibrant network of artists. Financial assistance is available.
- Writing With Style (Spring) 2009
April 20 to 25, 2009
Application deadline: February 2, 2009
Director: Edna Alford
Faculty: Michael Crummey (Chapter One Novel), Alan Cumyn (Writing for Children), Marilyn Dumont (Poetry), Myrna Kostash (Creative Non-Fiction.)
- Writing With Style (Fall) 2009
September 14 to September 19, 2009
Application deadline: May 13, 2009
Director: Edna Alford
Faculty: Trevor Herriot (Memoir), Jeanette Lynes (Poetry), Mark Anthony Jarman (Short Fiction), Joan Clark (Writing the Past/Historical Fiction). Gain confidence in a specific writing genre, while shaping a work-in-progress under the guidance of an experienced editor.
- Writing Studio 2009
April 27 to May 30, 2009
Application deadline: October 31, 2008
Director: Greg Hollingshead, Edna Alford, Don McKay
Faculty: Marilyn Bowering, Dionne Brand, Steven Galloway, Jack Hodgins, Isabel Huggan, Karen Solie. This five-week residency offers poets and narrative writers an extended period of uninterrupted writing time, one-on-one editorial assistance, and an opportunity to engage with a community of working writers. Financial assistance is available.
- Wired Writing Studio 2009 - 2010
October 5 - 17, 2009 (2-week on-site residency in Banff)
November 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 (20-week online residency)
Application deadline: June 19, 2009
Writing genres offered: Fiction and other narrative prose and Poetry.
Director: Fred Stenson
Faculty: Caroline Adderson, Stan Dragland, Pasha Malla, Sid Marty, Alison Pick. Writers and poets pursue their artistic visions through one-on-one editorial assistance from experienced writers/editors, as well as through involvement in a community of working writers, both on-site at The Banff Centre and online for five months following the residency. Financial assistance is available.

For more information: 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 or www.banffcentre.ca.

ROWERS PUB READING SERIES, TORONTO

Wednesday, Oct 1st 7:30 pm. at Rowers Pub, 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor, Toronto, ON. (416-961-6277)
October Features: The Rowers Pub Reading Series, which runs the first Wednesday of the month, has as its second season premiere: Karen Connelly (The Lizard Cage - Random House Canada, 2007); Dennis Lee (yesno - Anansi, 2007); and Susan Perly (Love Street - The Porcupine's Quill, 2001). We acknowledge financial assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada; The League of Canadian Poets; and a donation from Alexander McCall Smith. For more information please visit www.owerspubreadingseries.com

SEASONAL COACH HOUSE BOOKS' LAUNCH TORONTO

Please join us at our seasonal Coach House Books' launch, where we'll send our new fall fiction, poetry and drama titles into the publishing stratosphere. Come by Stones Place (1255 Queen Street West) on October 9th at 8 p.m. for a night of short readings and celebration. Lenin's Ghost himself would not miss the release of Mike Hoolboom's The Steve Machine, Michael Blouin's Chase & Haven, Margaret Christakos's What Stirs, Jeremy Dodds's Crabwise to the Hounds, Kyle Buckley's The Laundromat Essay and Darren O'Donnell's [boxhead]. Beat the breadline and get these books hot off the presses. Doors at 8:00 p.m.

THE OPEN TEXT READING SERIES @ CAPILANO U FALL 2008

- Thurs Oct 23 11:30 - 1 LB 321
- Poet and critic STEVE COLLIS is the author of three books of poetry, *Mine* (New Star 2001) and *Anarchive* (New Star 2005), which was nominated for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, and *The Commons* (Talonbooks 2008). His essays on contemporary poetry and poetics have appeared in many Canadian and American journals, and he is the author of two book-length studies, *Phyllis Webb and the Common Good* (Talonbooks 2007) and *Through Words of Others: Susan Howe and Anarcho-Scholasticism* (ELS Editions 2006). A member of the Kootenay School of Writing collective, he teaches American literature, poetry, and creative writing at Simon Fraser University.
- Thurs Oct 30 11:30 - 1 LB 321
- RENEE RODIN, poet and visual artist, was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. She came to Vancouver in the 60s and in the 80s began R2B2 Books along with its reading series which she ran for 8 years. Rodin is the author of *Bread and Salt* (Talonbooks, 1996) and the chapbook *Ready for Freddy* (Nomados, 2005).

For information on the Open Text series, watch our blog at www.capilanocreativewriting.blogspot.com. For more information on the Associate of Arts in Creative Writing Degree Program, see our website: www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/english/creative-writing.html

GRANT WRITING FOR ARTISTS - TORONTO

Instructor: Barbara Gilbert (with a representative from the Toronto Arts Council). Dates: Tuesdays, October 21, October 28 and November 4, 2008. Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Location: 215 Spadina Avenue, Alterna Boardroom, Toronto, ON. In the first session, a representative from the TAC will provide information on the granting process in general; the jury process; helpful hints; and answer questions. In the remaining sessions, Ms. Gilbert will discuss information such as: effective writing and editing skills; how to write about art; application requirements; the importance of quality documentation; and common mistakes. Opportunities to share an in-progress application with the class will allow for constructive criticism. This class concludes shortly before the deadlines for the OAC's grants: Visual Artists: Emerging and Grants to Media Artists: Emerging; and the Canada Council's Assistance to Visual Artists: Project Grants. This is a great opportunity to perfect your application! Topics to be discussed will include: Writing and editing basics, Artist statements for grant applications, The jury process, Documentation, Proposal writing, Common mistakes. Single Workshop: Member Rate: \$120, Non-Member Rate: \$150, Any Two Workshops: Member Rate: \$200, Non-Member Rate: \$250, All Three Workshops: Member Rate: \$280, Non-Member Rate: \$350. *All prices include the required textbook, *Information for Artists* (CARFAC Ontario, 2005). If you already own a copy of the textbook you will be given a discount; you must call the office to register in order to receive the discount. To register, please contact CARFAC Ontario by telephone at 416-340-8850. Pre-registration is required to ensure a spot.

RANDOM ACTS OF POETRY BEGINS ITS FIFTH YEAR DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 1 TO 5, 2008

Random Acts of Poetry is a project of the Victoria READ Society, a non-profit literacy organization, established in 1976. Random Acts of Poetry is funded by The Canada Council for the Arts.

During the week, 25 acclaimed poets across Canada, from Victoria to Newfoundland, will commit Random Acts of Poetry in their cities and adjacent small towns. On buses and subways, in donut shops and cafes, police stations, grocery stores, shelters, curling rinks, on city streets and country lanes, poets will read poems to strangers and give them their books. Poets will also read their poems in ESL and Adult Literacy classes and, as well, will present poetry in middle school classes, and give the students a book of poetry written by middle school students, *We Can Say This*, published with support from of the TD Bank Financial Group.

Patrick Lane, one of Canada's premier poets, says of Random Acts of Poetry, "There are no accidents. Nothing is random. A poem sits in a poet's pocket and jumps out when you least expect it. It can nestle in a mechanic's ear, a politician's hand, a waitress's bright eye, somewhere, anywhere. You look up from work and there's a poem. It reads itself to you. It asks you to take a break. It says: Right here. Right now."

"Poetry," says Wendy Morton, founder of Random Acts of Poetry, "is the shortest distance between two hearts. I have read poems to hundreds of people, many of whom hadn't heard a poem in thirty years, and watched their eyes fill up with tears. Some burst into laughter or laid a hand on my shoulder, hugged me, took my hand. Poetry can connect us with each other as humans as no other art form I know. Poetry is a gift that we can create from whatever life has in store for us."

Across Canada poets will commit random acts in: Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Pickering, Trenton, Ottawa, Port McNicoll, Windsor, Montreal, Laval, Fredericton, Edmundston, Charlottetown, Halifax, and St. John's. For more info: <http://national-random-acts-of-poetry.blogspot.com/>

OCTOBER 1ST TO 5TH - RANDOM ACTS OF POETRY'S 5TH EDITION - QUÉBEC CHAPTER

This year's participants and cities Élizabéth Robert (Montréal, Laval, Beloeil), Danielle Shelton (Montréal, Laval), Patrick Coppens (Laval, Ste-Rose, Montréal). <http://national-random-acts-of-poetry.blogspot.com/>

October 6th to 12th - Noches de poesia's LIBER08 Delegation in Barcelona for FERIA internacional del llibres Translators Elisabet Rafols-Sagués and Élizabéth Robert will be accompanying their authors to launch Troc-Paroles/Barata de paraules (Adage/Pagés) at Liber 2008 and perform live in Barcelona at Sala Almazén on October 9th and 10th. Poets Danny Plourde, Robert Berrouët-Oriol, Omar Alexis Ramos, Angel Mota and Catherine Kidd, accompanied by Catalonia's very own Josep Maria Sala-Valldaura, will read along side their translators and in interaction with live video-poems inspired by their texts. Video-poems and visual performances are created in collaboration between vj Raimundo Morte (Catalonia) and Orangerine Production (Québec). Barcelona performances will also feature a musical interlude by famous tango singer Sandra Redher (Argentina/Catalunya).

http://nochesdepoesia.com/noches/d_l_gation_ndp_liber08_en_spectacle_almazén_barcelona_9_octobre_2008

RONNA BLOOM WORKSHOPS

Writing Your Way Out of a Paper Bag, Sunday, September 21, 2008, 2-5pm

Poetry and the Sacred Hoo-Hah, Thursday, November 20, 2008, 10am-4pm

Plus a new website: <http://www.ronnabloom.com> more about Poetry Coaching, Workshops, Psychotherapy, Books -- you will find everything if you snoop around. With special thanks to the excellent Andrea Kreuger, Camino Creative, for her instinct, skill, and most fitting design.

QUEBEC WRITERS' FEDERATION WORKSHOPS FALL SESSION 2008

Develop your writing with the mentorship of an acclaimed professional writer and feedback from your peers. Workshops take place at the QWF office, Suite 3, Atwater Library unless otherwise indicated. Full Workshop Descriptions and Bios of Workshop Leaders are at www.qwf.org/workshops.

EIGHT-WEEK EVENING WORKSHOPS

- FEATURE AND TELEVISION SCRIPTWRITING. MONDAYS, 6 to 8 p.m. – October 6 to December 1 (no meeting Oct. 13). Led by Gerald Wexler, best screenplay Genie winner for Margaret's Museum; writer for multiple episodes of TV series, The Hunger, produced by Tony and Ridley Scott.
- lovely as trees: writing on nature and the environment. MONDAYS, 8 to 10 p.m. – October 6 to December 1 (no meeting Oct. 13). Led by Martin Silverstone, co-founder of Canadian Wildlife and Wild magazines, writer for EXPLORE and Harrowsmith CountryLife; editor of The Atlantic Salmon Journal.
- CREATIVE NON-FICTION: THE ART OF FACT. TUESDAYS, 6 to 8 p.m. – October 7 to November 25. Led by Elaine Kalman Naves, two-time winner of the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction, winner of two Canadian Jewish Book Awards and of a Canadian Literary Award for Personal Essay.
- chapter one (or even Tolstoy had to start somewhere). TUESDAYS, 8 to 10 p.m. – October 7 to November 25. Led by Joel Yanofsky, winner, Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction, and Canadian Jewish Book Award. Columnist for the Gazette; reviews and articles in Canadian Geographic, Walrus, Village Voice, Chatelaine, Globe and Mail.
- TALES FOR TEENS: WRITING YA FICTION. WEDNESDAYS, 6 to 8 p.m. – October 1 to December 3 (no meeting Oct. 8 or Nov. 19). Led by Monique Polak, author of eight YA novels, four selected for the Canadian Children's Book Centre's "Our Choice" list; and Lori Weber, author of five YA novels, three on the Canadian Children's Book Centre's "Our Choice" list, and on one the American Library Association's best books list.
- FICTION: PUTTING LIFE INTO LANGUAGE. WEDNESDAYS, 8 to 10 p.m. – October 1 to December 3 (no meeting Oct. 8 or Nov. 19). Led by H. Nigel Thomas, author of seven books including three novels and a collection of short stories. Short-listed for the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction.
- EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT POETRY (BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK). THURSDAYS, 6 to 8 p.m. – October 2 to November 27 (no meeting Oct. 9). Led by Carolyn Marie Souaid, author of five books of poetry, winner of the David McKeen Award and finalist for the A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. Poetry editor for Signature Editions.
- THE SHORT STORY SPRINT: FROM THE START POSITION TO THE FINISH LINE. THURSDAYS, 8 to 10 p.m. – October 2 to November 27 (no meeting October 9). Led by Marci Denesiuk, author of The Far Away Home, co-winner of the 2005 McAuslan First Book Prize.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

- SONG-WRITING TONIC. SATURDAY, October 4, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Led by Connie Kaldor, Juno-winning singer/songwriter with nine albums; called "one of Canada's most significant contemporary folk performers" (Billboard Magazine).
- RESEARCH & RIGHTS CLEARANCE: BOOKS, FILM, VIDEO & MUSIC LYRICS. SATURDAY, October 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Atwater Library Auditorium. Led by Elizabeth Klinck, "Queen of Canadian film researchers." Has researched for hundreds of international documentaries that have won Emmy, Gemini, Peabody and Academy Awards; has taught at Ryerson; led research and rights clearance workshops in Canada and abroad. Recently nominated for an Emmy and received the FOCAL UK Lifetime Achievement Award.
- WRITING FOR CHILDREN'S MAGAZINES: GETTING STARTED. SATURDAY, November 1, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Led by Anne Renaud, author of four children's books; short-listed for the Silver Birch Award, the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award and the Red Cedar Book Award. Has published over 100 articles, poems, crafts projects and stories in children's magazines.
- WRITING FOR THE EAR: THE UNIQUE POWER OF RADIO. SATURDAY, November 22, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Room 2.409, Journalism & Communications Bldg., Loyola Campus, Concordia University). Led by Peter Downie, award-winning CBC national and regional radio and television host for over 30 years (Midday, Man Alive, As It Happens, Morningside and Cross Country Check-Up); produced and hosted weekly radio documentary series Tapestry; Winner, 2007 Michael Monty Memorial Award for Excellence in Broadcast Teaching, awarded by the Canadian Radio Television News Directors Foundation.

INTERACTIVE ART INSTALLATION UNVEILED AS PART OF NUIT BLANCHE 2008

This past July, angela rawlings worked with Rea McNamara and Nicholas Longstaff, two media artists in residence at the Canadian Film Centre. They created an interactive art installation called "Shh Aah Ohh" during their tenure, which incorporates sound poetry with live projection and participant-directed movement. The sound poetry included in the installation was recorded in solo sessions with Lillian Allen, Rob Read, and angela rawlings. They will unveil their installation to the public as part of Nuit Blanche 2008 (October 4, 7pm to October 5, 7am) at the Lennox Gallery, (12 Ossington Avenue, just north of Queen Street West, Toronto, ON). Everyone is invited!

FIRST EVER COMOX VALLEY STORY SLAM

Our first Comox Valley Story Slam will be on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the Casa Nova restaurant on Comox Ave. (in the Port Augusta Hotel). Here are the Story Slam rules - remember we need at least 6 and preferably 10 people to read at the first Story Slam. I've already coerced my family and friends to come out. Hopefully you can do the same.

1. Writers must read/perform their own original stories
2. Stop watch starts ticking as soon as contestant begins talking. So don't introduce yourself -- get right into it.
3. 5 audience judges are selected by the organizers. Highest and lowest scores are dropped, middle three added together.
4. Times of 5:05 minutes or less, no penalty (5 second grace period). Over 5 minutes and you receive a .5 point penalty for every 10 seconds (or portion) over (ie. 5:11-5:20 = 1 point. 5:51-6 min = 3 points).
5. Gong at seven minutes.
6. Writers names are drawn randomly from a hat for the order of appearance.
7. Highest score after penalty deductions receives ALL audience donations from pass the hat. (Tied high scores share the prize) and is eligible for a spot in Slam Off.
8. Sign up begins at 6:30 p.m. Cut off when the Slam stage opens/or at 10 writers.
9. No props.

WORDS ALOUD 5 SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL

November 6-9, 2008

Venues in Durham - Owen Sound - Walkerton, Ontario

Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7 pm (www.tomthomson.org)

The Words Aloud Festival and the Gallery present an evening with noted poet Don McKay and artist /poet Marlene Creates. This free collaborative talk, illustrated with images and readings, will delve into the practice of land-based art and poetry. Don McKay is the winner of two Governor General's Literary Awards for Poetry and the Griffin Poetry Prize. Born in Owen Sound, Don now lives in St. John's, Newfoundland. He is the feature poet at this year's Words Aloud Festival). Marlene Creates is a visual artist who lives in Newfoundland. Her art practice, spanning 30 years explores the relationship between human experience, memory, language and the land, and her work is part of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery's permanent collection. (www.marlenecreates.ca)

Main Stage Performances – Nov. 7, 8, 9 at the Durham Art Gallery featuring:

Friday, Nov. 7, 7:30 pm: Don McKay, Cat Kidd, George Elliott Clarke

Saturday, Nov. 8, 7:30 pm: Ayanna Black, Sheng Xue, David Bateman

Sunday, Nov. 9, 3 pm: Molly Peacock, Neal McLeod, Klyde Broox

SLAM performances featuring the Last Call Poets:

Saturday, Nov. 8, 1 pm at the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library

Sunday, Nov. 9, noon at Above Stedmans, plus an open stage

Children's Program – Peter and the Wolf , 1:00 PM Victoria Jubilee Hall, Walkerton with the Kitchener Waterloo

Symphony Quintet and mystery narrator

Workshops with Amanda Hiebert, Cat Kidd and Neal McLeod

for full program details Visit www.wordsaloud.ca. We'll be updating it soon. Or contact Liz Zetlin:

ezetlin@gmail.com

LOVERS, AND OTHERS

AN EVENING OF POETRY ON THE THEME OF LOVE, UNION, AND RELATIONSHIPS

Poets and musicians featured: Ian Ferrier, Stephen Morrissey, Joshua Auerbach, Laura Mitchell, Michael Lithgow, Taqralik Partridge, Alejandro Saravia, Virginia McClure, Kelly Norah Drukker, Milton Dawes, Janet Pasternak, Jeffrey Mackie, Ilona Martonfi at Ciné Express, 1926 Ste-Catherine W. (metro Guy-Concordia), Montreal, QC on Sunday, October 26, 2008. Doors open 6:30 P.M. Reading 7:00 P.M. At the door \$5

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

MADHUR ANAND – ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Madhur Anand was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario in 1971. She has published over 40 scientific articles in ecology and currently holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Ecological Change at the University of Guelph. Her poetry has appeared in Lichen, CV2, The New Quarterly, The Malahat Review and Room and The Shape of Form, an anthology of creative writing about science and math. She lives in house over a century old with her husband and two children.

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

A.RAWLINGS

- Toronto: Nuit Blanche new media art installation with sound poetry @ Lennox Gallery, October 4-5, 7pm-7am. The installation, conceived by Rea McNamara and Nicholas Longstaff, is an interactive investigation into shadowplay and exploration of the Trickster. The installation features pre-recorded sound poetry by Lillian Allen, Rob Read, and me.
- Toronto: Nuit Blanche reading @ St. Thomas' Church, October 4, 2008 (10:30pm). I'll read with Alixandra Bamford, Kyle Buckley, Maggie Helwig, Bill Kennedy, and Chris Piuma for the Fantasia Salon.
- Toronto: Reading @ Explicit Fantastic Exhibit, October 29, 2008. Louise Bak curated the Dirty Laundry reading as part of the Explicit Fantastic exhibit. I'll join featured readers Tamai Kobayashi, Lisa Foad, Steve Venright, Greg Kearney, and Souvankham Thammavongsa.
- Edmonton: Reading @ Olive Reading Series, November 11, 2008. I'm ecstatic to experience my first reading in Edmonton!
- Vancouver: Reading @ Kootenay School of Writing on November 21, 2008. I'll join Jonathon Wilcke for an evening of sound and text. Jonathon and I plan to debut a collaboration in addition to reading excerpts from our current solo works-in-progress.

LEANNE AVERBACH

1) Leanne Averbach's short film based on her long poem TEACUPS & MINK has won BEST DIRECTORIAL DEBUT at the Los Angeles screening at the NYInternational Independent Film & Video Festival.

2) Leanne's poem "To the Lighthouse" was chosen for Best Canadian Poetry Anthology, 2008

3) Leanne will be reading in New York City (though few if any of our League people will be here to access it...) at Barnes & Noble Cabaret Series, 66th & Broadway, New York City, 6-7 p.m. Sept. 22 (see poster below)

Thanks for spreading the word! ☐All the best, Leanne

RONNA BLOOM

I have a web site! Check it out at: <http://www.ronnabloom.com/>

TERRY ANN CARTER

Terry Ann Carter appears in interview with a number of other North American haiku poets in *HAIKU: The Art of the Short Poem* a film by Tazuo Yamaguchi. Several of her poems appear in the Film Anthology. More information at www.brooksbookshaiku.com. "Haiku is a short poem discovered by my Japanese people...this film is a modern textbook speaking with a multimedia tongue telling the tale of the short poem...from the humble beginnings where the inventors, Basho and Issa, used haiku as the most sacred medicine from their garden of sorrowful laughter ...following the incredible journey across the Pacific Ocean in the Zen knap sacks of Nano Sakaki and R.H. Blyth...and on the road with the cigarette stained palms of Kerouac, Snyder and Ginsberg who played its beat into the minds and hearts of Sonia Sanchez, Bruce Ross, William J, Higginson....the tale brings us to the present day with haiku firmly rooted in the lush pages, pens, and mouths of a wide open field of contemporary poets" T. Yamaguchi

ENDRE FARKAS

Endre has posted some photos and thoughts about his Newfoundland adventure and the League's Festival and Conference in June. See his website at: www.endrefarkas.com.

SUSAN MCCASLIN

Susan McCaslin's poems have appeared in three recent anthologies: *White Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood*, *Ascent Aspirations Magazine*, and *Crossing Lines: Poets Who Came to Canada in the Vietnam Era*. Her poems have appeared in *Precipice*, *Room*, *Descant*, and *The Merton Journal*, and her recent volume of poetry, *Lifting the Stone*, was recently reviewed in *Room*. Susan also delivered a paper on the peace poetry of Denise Levertov and Thomas Merton and had an essay on Blake and peace published in *The Pacific Rim Review of Books*. Since the launch of her latest book, *Lifting the Stone* (Seraphim Editions), she has read at the Fort Art Gallery in Fort Langley, The Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace, the Planet Earth Poetry Series in Victoria, the Wired Monk in Vancouver, the UBC Robson Square Bookstore, the Vancouver Public Library, and for a conference of the Association of College and University Instructors of English at UBC. In April of '08 she toured in Edmonton where she gave three readings. Finally, in early June she moderated a workshop at the "Our Way Home" conference at SFU Harbour Centre celebrating the contribution to arts and culture of women war resisters who immigrated to Canada from the States during the Vietnam era.

ALLAN ROSE

Allan Rose will be hosting two Toronto book launches for "Butterflies in Winter and Other Poems" with the internationally acclaimed New Orleans style jazz band, the Hot Five Jazzmakers.

Both events will feature readings by the poet, plus a full three set musical performance by this outstanding band, which, in addition to numerous Canadian engagements, headlines at New Orleans' prestigious French Quarter Music Festival every year.

The first one will be at C'est What, Canada's oldest brew pub, on Saturday, October 4th, 2008, starting at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free. The pub is located on the south side of Front Street, just a few doors east of Church Street.

The second will be on Friday, November 14th, 2008 at The Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 948 Sheppard Avenue West, on the north side, just east of the Allen Expressway. Doors are at 6:30 and the show starts at 8:00 p.m.

For this very special tribute to honour our veterans, and especially 90 year old Sam Meltzer (last surviving member in Canada of Montgomery's Desert Rats) on his birthday, the band is increased to a seven piece, and all poems will complement musical selections from both World Wars.

The poet will also be reading his very popular tribute to Sam Meltzer, "The Desert Rat in Summer". This annual ticketed event always draws a capacity crowd. For further information and tickets, please contact Allan at arose@rogers.com, arose@icesports.com, 416-748-1977 or 416-661-5900, ext. 251.

MARI-LOU ROWLEY – EVENTS FOR FALL 08

- event: [Tonight It's Poetry \(edit\)](#)
date: September 21, 2008 07:30PM
location: Flint, 259 2nd Avenue, Saskatoon, Canada
description: Reading from *Suicide Psalms* and other work.
- event: [Launch of *Suicide Psalms* \(edit\)](#)
date: September 30, 2008 08:00AM
location: McNally Robinson Booksellers, 3130 8th Street East, Saskatoon, Canada
description: *Suicide Psalms* is both hymn and visceral scream—of loss, despair, hope and ultimately

redemption. These poems are drawn out with quick precision, as if they were indeed written in haste, or delirium, before tightening the noose, or firing the pistol, or jumping off of the ledge.

- event: [Launch of Suicide Psalms \(edit\)](#)
date: October 22, 2008 07:30PM
location: Montmartre Cafe, 4362 Main Street, Vancouver, Canada
description: Launch and reading of Suicide Psalms
- event: [The Art Bar Poetry Series \(edit\)](#)
date: November 11, 2008 08:00PM
location: Clinton's, 639 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Canada
description: Reading
- event: [Reading/performance/launch \(edit\)](#)
date: November 15, 2008 02:00PM
location: Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery, New York, NY, United States
description: Reading, book launch, maybe science-poetry dialogue.

ROBERT SWARD

Robert was one of the featured readers in the Ninth Annual Sonoma County Book Festival on September 20, 2008 from 10:00am - September 20, 2008 5:30pm in Santa Rosa, CA.

GEORGE WHIPPLE

British Columbia poet George Whipple's eleventh book of poetry, *Swim Class* and other poems, will be launched on Friday, November 7 at 8 p.m. at St. Thomas's Church, 383 Huron Street, just south of Bloor St. W. between Spadina Ave. and St. George.

As George is unable to attend, the launch will feature four readers who will read poems from earlier books as well as from the new collection: Barry Dempster, W. J. Keith, John Robert Colombo, and John Terpstra.

Please join us for the reading in the church at 8 p.m. and the reception that will follow in the parish hall. This event will also be an opportunity to celebrate twenty years of poetry readings at St. Thomas's.

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

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