

WEST COAST WRITERS

Writers Helping Writers



Founded 1921

Fall, 2006

Branch President's Message

Welcome back to our fall season at the CAA. I hope you all have had enjoyable summers. My message to you this time is a little different. I will offer some news but first I wish to draw attention to a special lady, seen here with me at a recent literary event.

Barbara Mumford is an editor and a publisher. She is also the wife of author Gordon Mumford, one of our much loved members. Although Barbara is not technically a member of the CAA, she is most certainly an Honorary Member. Without Barbara's seemingly untiring efforts we would, as a branch, achieve far less than we do now. Usually smiling, Barbara is a familiar face wherever the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association has a presence. She's always there beside our table, handing out information leaflets and chatting with visitors, at writing-related events throughout the greater Vancouver area. She rarely misses one of our monthly meetings, and she always arrives early enough to help position chairs. After the event she stays late to help stack chairs away again. Barbara served on the planning committee for the CAA national conference held at UBC in 2004. On the technical side, she looks after our branch website and the individual web pages for our members. She is also the hard working expert and editor behind this quarterly newsletter. In addition, Barbara serves on our branch executive and acts as an unofficial *aide memoire* to me.

Barbara Mumford, you are indeed a treasure. Thanks a million for sharing your talents and energy with us. Long may you continue as a special member of the CAA.

Now: to other news. The annual CAA conference has come and gone. My heartfelt congratulations to the Peterborough branch for a splendid few days. I have already booked to attend the 2007 conference in Ottawa. Shouldn't you be going too? Details are on the national website.

Here's a novelty: Thanks to the government's reduction in the GST from 7% to 6%, annual fees to the CAA have been reduced by \$1.50. As of October 1, 2006, membership will be \$159. That brings me to my favourite theme: adding new members. Every time you introduce a new member our branch earns \$35 to help fund our activities. Keep 'em coming, folks, we need the members and the money.

Finally, don't forget our non-fiction workshop on September 30. There are still some spaces available. And, please, keep Bernice Lever busy as our Writer in Residence. Our fall season starts on September 13 with guest speaker Timothy Taylor on hand to tell us about his award winning novels. Let's fill every seat in the house. I will look forward to seeing you there.



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ABOUT OUR MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings and Workshops

Vancouver Branch holds regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, September through June, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm). These meetings are open to the general public for a nominal fee, and are held at the **Alliance for Arts & Culture Centre**, Suite 100 - 938 Howe Street in Vancouver (opposite the law courts). Meetings include Branch announcements and guest speakers (or events). There will be time for socializing (and book signing) at the end of the evening.

In addition to our regular meetings, we offer one or two workshops each year, for which a fee is charged. These workshops are offered at a discount to our members. For details, please visit www.canauthorsvancouver.org/. For more information, contact Anthony Dalton, the Branch President (dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org or phone 604-948-2654).

CAA executive are requested to arrive by 6:40 pm to assist with setting up the room and also to stay after the meeting to put chairs away. CAA members are requested to arrive before 7 pm for their name tags and to add their books to the display table.

West Vancouver CAA Monday Morning Workshop

The Vancouver branch also hosts an outreach gathering for published writers and beginners in West Vancouver. Held on either the first Monday or Tuesday of the month, meetings are from 10 am to 12 noon at the Silk Purse Arts Centre. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday September 5. There will be informal critiquing, as well as discussions on marketing and other topics of interest to writers. For more information contact Janet Rough Young (604-925-4432) or janety@telus.net. Janet will give a printed update at the Tuesday meeting in September.

Book Displays at Events

From time to time, the Vancouver Branch has displays at various events where we hand out leaflets and information about the CAA and our Branch, as well as displaying (and selling) books by our members. Most recently the Branch had a table at the Summer Dream Reading Festival in Vancouver, on July 22.

At least one or two members are in charge of a table at each event, and others should volunteer to assist. The prime purpose of these events is to publicize the CAA and the Vancouver Branch. All members may display and sell books, but each individual is responsible for getting his/her book(s) to the event and collecting the book(s) afterwards.

2006 Future Meetings & Events

MEETING: September 13, from 7 to 9 pm
Alliance for the Arts
Guest speaker: Timothy Taylor



We are pleased to present celebrated Vancouver author **Timothy Taylor** reading from his new novel *Story House*. Taylor is well known for his highly successful first novel *Stanley Park*, for which he was nominated for the Giller

Prize in 2001 and the BC Book Prize's Ethel Wilson Award for Fiction in 2002.

Taylor is also the author of *Silent Cruise* (2002), a collection of short stories and a novella, which was runner up for the Danuta Gleed Award in 2002. Beyond his fiction, Taylor works in journalism and film. His non-fiction magazine work has been widely published in Canada and the US, and has earned numerous awards. His film writing includes the adaptation of *Stanley Park* for feature film, and more recently, the feature adaptation of his short story *Silent Cruise*. Please mark your calendars and join us for this special evening.

Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

EVENT: September 24 (Sunday) 11 - 6 pm - WOTS

Vancouver's annual Word on the Street festival takes place on the streets immediately surrounding the Vancouver Public Library. Our branch will have a table (V18) at this event, and members are invited to display their books, and help publicize the Vancouver Branch.

MORE ABOUT OUR MEETINGS & EVENTS

WORKSHOP: Saturday, September 30, 9 to 4 pm
Alliance for the Arts

Leaders: Anthony Dalton and Margaret Hume

Anthony Dalton and **Margaret Hume** will conduct a full day non-fiction workshop at the Alliance for the Arts. The workshop will take attendees through the non-fiction book publishing process, from concept to publication.

Dramatic creative nonfiction writing is a form of storytelling which relies on relating factual information in such a way as to make it as exciting as fiction. This one-day workshop will guide you through the various steps required to take an idea from concept to the completion of a non-fiction book manuscript. You will learn research techniques, and how to manipulate tone, structure, argument, dialogue, pacing and factual details to tell your story. We will employ a series of exercises to give you the confidence to tackle a book-length project, including discussing examples of published non-fiction. Feel free to bring a few pages (no more than 10) of your work for a group critique and feedback from the instructors. As part of this workshop we will also cover saleable stories, pitching to editors, and getting published.

There will be a lunch break at midday. Bring your own or head for the nearest eatery. We will supply tea, coffee and water.)

Space is limited, so please book your attendance as soon as possible by sending a cheque for the full amount made payable to: **CAA Vancouver**, and mail to: Anthony Dalton, CAA Vancouver, 844 Pacific Drive, Delta, BC, V4M 2K3. CAA members: \$30. Non-members \$50.



MEETING: October 11, from 7 to 9 pm
Alliance for the Arts

Guest speaker: Pamela Richardson

Pamela Richardson will read from her recent book, *A Kidnapped Mind: A Mother's Heartbreaking Memoir of Parental Alienation*. In this heartrending and compelling story of her estrangement from and reunion with her child, Richardson describes with courage and honesty her lengthy battle with her child's father who indoctrinated the boy to believe his mother had abandoned him, the legal system, their psychologist, the school system, and even the child himself, as she sought to protect her son. A former Vancouver broadcaster and journalist, Richardson is today a full-time mother to two teenagers, while continuing her involvement with school, community, and arts organizations.



MEETING: November 8, from 7 to 9 pm

Alliance for the Arts

Guest speaker: tba

Information to come

Did You Miss These Great Meetings & Events?

SUMMER PICNIC: Saturday July 29

Hosted by kc dyer in her Lions Bay eyrie.

EVENT: Summer Dream Festival, Saturday, July 22

Several CAA members, including Bernice Lever and kc dyer, were among the readers.

MEETING: Wednesday, May 10.

An informative and entertaining evening with James Hawkins, a police commander in the UK for 20 years, and a Canadian private investigator. Hawkins has now written eight books in the Inspector Bliss series.

MEMBER NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

CAA Member Achievements

Anthony Dalton presented two workshops at the CAA National Conference in Peterborough, Ontario, in July. In August he visited the Victoria branch for their

Victoriana Tea afternoon. He has had three articles accepted by *The Boat Journal* in the last few months.

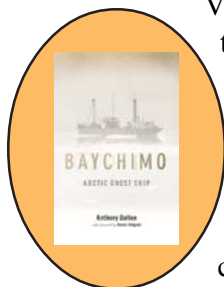
Anthony's new book, *BAYCHIMO, Arctic Ghost Ship*, will be released by The Heritage Group in early

October. In the meantime he is continuing work on an illustrated history of the ships and boats of the Hudson's Bay

Company, as well as a biography of the late Canadian explorer and naturalist *J. Dewey Soper*. As a member of the CAA national executive he has taken on the demanding role of Fundraising Chair. Early in September Anthony will be a guest speaker at a special gathering of The Explorers Club on Saltspring Island, BC.

Bernice Lever presented a workshop at the CAA National Conference in Peterborough in July. She won a finalist prize in the Pandora's Collective – *Words on Robson* poetry contest and read poems at the Summer Dream Reading Festival on July 22. Three of her pieces (one poem and two prose) will be published in the 2006 North Shore writers anthology: watch for *Red Dog Outhouse, Adam, and Same Sex Wives*.

Bernice shows no signs of slowing down. Three of her poems: *Pixilated, Panic* and *Circular Doors* were featured in *Enchanted Crossroads*, the Ontario collection of the Ontario Poetry Society. Another of her poems, *Going for Gold* was in their newsletter, *Verse Afire*. On



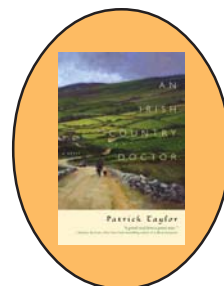
the third Thursday of each month Bernice reads from her work at *Telling Tales*, near her home on Bowen Island. In early August she attended the Victoriana Tea in Victoria where she announced the winners of the Victoria branch's poetry contest.

Jan Furst's new book, *Ultimate Downsizing*, should be available by the end of September. He will be reading at Afrika Dey in New Westminster on Saturday Sept. 2, between 1 & 2 pm at the Queensborough Community Centre.

Jean Kay had a poem accepted in the Canadian Poetry Association Anthology.

Gordon Mumford was in England & Wales to discuss publicity for his African trilogy and Merchant Navy books. He will be reading at the Afrika Dey Festival in New Westminster on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 3:30 pm. Extra research has delayed production of *In Fate's Footsteps*, the final book of his Drums Trilogy, but the final draft is nearing completion.

Patrick Taylor has had a busy year so far. Pat was a guest speaker at one of our meetings last year and is now a member. He has had four boating articles published in *Pacific Yachting*, one in *48 Degrees North*, plus bi-monthly book reviews in *Stitches: the Journal of Medical Humour*. His new novel, *An Irish Country Doctor*, will be published in February 2007 by Tom Doherty and Associates of New York under their Forge imprint.



Our Own Anthology?

Various CAA branches across the country have published trade paperback anthologies of members' written works. If any of you feel we should do the same, please let me hear from you by phone or by e-mail. I know we have enough talent out there to produce a fine volume. I just need your input. I'm waiting!

Writer in Residence

Don't forget, if you want advice on your manuscript from an expert, Bernice Lever is our official Writer in Residence. Bernice, a former editor with the Dundurn Group (among many other accomplishments), will read and comment on the first 20 pages of your manuscript for the nominal sum of \$25. Contact Bernice at 604-947-0017, or R.R. #1, B69, Bowen Island BC V0N 1G0, or email blever2@hotmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

CAA Vancouver Branch

Branch Website: <http://www.canauthorsvancouver.org/>

2006 Vancouver Branch Executive:

* Branch President: Anthony Dalton, 604-948-2654,
dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org

* Vice-President: Margaret A. Hume, 604-806-0471,
mahume@telus.net

* Treasurer: Bernice Lever, 604-947-0017,
blever2@hotmail.com

* Recording Secretary: VACANT

* Membership Chair: VACANT

* Web Master: Barbara Mumford, 604-520-1487,
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* Program Chair: Margaret Hume, 604-806-0471,
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* West Coast Writers: Anthony Dalton, 604-948-2654,
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WEST COAST WRITERS: Fall, 2006

West Coast Writers is published quarterly by the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Authors Association. It is distributed free to all branch members, or available by subscription (\$10/yr). Please submit articles or news to Anthony Dalton (dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org, 604-948-2654) or Barbara Mumford 604-520-1487, webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org).

Publication Deadlines

Submission deadlines are: Winter (November 15), Spring (February 15), Summer (May 15), Fall (August 15).

Get Your Book Noticed

To get your book mentioned on local television try sending a professionally assembled Press Kit, including your brief biography, book storyline, a copy of the book and photocopies of particularly relevant passages to Global TV. Contact person:

TMacIsaac@GlobalTV.com

Do You Have a Website?

Publicize yourself and your talents.

(1) Members of the Vancouver Branch can have their own website and e-mail address for a nominal fee. Please contact Anthony Dalton (e-mail dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org) for information.

(2) All CAA members can have their their author website mentioned on the CAA National site. See <http://www.canauthors.org/members.html> for more information.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome Patrick Taylor and Tara Kimberley Torme to our membership.