

# WEST COAST WRITERS

Writers Helping Writers



Founded 1921

Summer 2007

## Branch President's Message

The last four lines of Rudyard Kipling's marvelous poem "IF" read:

If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son.

We'll forgive old Rudyard his unintentional chauvinism. He lived in far different times. The point is, every minute we waste is a minute that can never be used again. It's one more tick of the clock towards the inevitable conclusion of our lives. To be successful as a writer requires more than mere talent. It demands hard work and dedication. We all know it also helps to have a modicum of good luck. It's that hard work and dedication, combined with the careful use of each of those sixty seconds that is most important.

A few years ago at a writers' conference in the States I sat with Australian novelist Bryce Courtney (at a bar, of course – well, it was a hot Hawaiian evening). Bryce told me his simple philosophy for success. "It's bum glue, mate. Just bum glue. You pour glue on your chair, sit on it and park yourself in front of your keyboard and write. That's all there is to it. Bum glue."

We all have busy lives, many of you with family or full-time jobs, but if we don't set aside time to write we will never achieve our goals. A few years ago on the occasion of the publication of one of my books, my late mother, bless her, said, "I could write a book." I'd heard that sort of comment before from others so I challenged her. "Okay, Mum, write me 1,000 words on any subject that interests you." A year later I asked her if she had completed the assignment. "No," she replied. "I haven't had time. I'm always too busy." Hmmm! She never did write that book.

As writers, we can't afford to be "too busy" to write. We need to make use of those precious fleeting minutes. We need to remember Bryce Courtney's words. "It's bum glue, mate." So, get out your glue (no, not crazy glue or you'll be sorry) and get focused. If you do, one day, you will be successful. It happened to me. It can happen to you too.

Enjoy your summer. Stay well. Stay happy, keep writing and ... good luck.

Anthony Dalton



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### CAA 86<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference

July 5-8, 2007 - Ottawa, Ontario.

Print the registration form at

[www.canauthors.org](http://www.canauthors.org) or

[www.canauthors-ottawa.org](http://www.canauthors-ottawa.org)

## SPOTLIGHT ON Bernice Lever

It's not easy to write about Bernice Lever when space is limited; her life has been so full and her accomplishments are many.

This lady of seemingly boundless energy, born in Smithers, BC, epitomizes the motto of the Canadian Authors Association: *Writers helping writers*. For Bernice, that's always a given. She has dedicated her adult life to teaching English, grammar, and the literary arts.

At the CAA she juggles a variety of valuable roles without losing touch with the Vancouver branch membership in particular and the national membership in general. Under the national umbrella she is currently Chair of the Grievance Committee, Regional VP British Columbia, and the national representative to the Public Lending Rights Commission.

At the branch level she is Treasurer of the Vancouver branch, Writer-in-Residence, and unofficial advisor to the president. In 2004 she received the Allan Sangster Award for her outstanding work for the Canadian Authors Association.

A past president of the Vancouver branch, Bernice's literary achievements are many and varied. She founded



### Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome Sally Errey, Bonnie Fournier, Jeane Manning, and Kathleen Schmitt to our membership, and welcome back Ava Mielke who left us for a while.

### New Members

Every time you make a new acquaintance in your literary world, tell them about the CAA and the benefits of membership. We always have time to embrace new members.

### Ida Vyss 1916 – 2007

CAA lost a former member with the passing of Ida Vyse in North Vancouver on March 28. A much-loved former high school teacher, Ida also had a degree in journalism and had written several plays and essays. Though her membership in CAA ended with the loss of her short term memory, Ida will be fondly remembered especially by the North Shore chapter of the CAA.

A celebration of her life was held in North Vancouver on June 20, which would have been her ninety-first birthday.

and coordinated the Richvale Writers Club (1967-2000) in Richmond Hill, Ontario. For 15 years she edited *Waves*, a prize-winning literary journal, in addition to editing for other publications including the Dundurn Group in Toronto.

She is regularly to be heard discussing her main loves: poetry, grammar, and the business of writing at writers' festivals, conferences and meetings across Canada. She has done the same in Australia, UK, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Japan, and our neighbour to the south. *The Colour of Words*, her English grammar text book, is a classic example of her talents.

She can be iconoclastic – just read a few of her poems in any of her eight poetry books to understand – yet Bernice Lever is, without doubt, a CAA icon. Long may she continue to be both.

Her long awaited new book, *Never a Straight Line*, will be published in 2007 by Black Moss.

Website: [www.colourofwords.com/](http://www.colourofwords.com/)

## 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 several workshops each year, for which a fee is charged. CAA members are offered a substantial discount on these fees. For details, please visit [www.canauthorsvancouver.org/](http://www.canauthorsvancouver.org/). Contact Anthony Dalton, Branch President for more information (phone 604-948-2654, or email [dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org)).

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 with their name tags and to add their books to the display table.

### West Vancouver CAA Morning Workshops

The Vancouver branch also hosts an outreach gathering for published writers and beginners in West Vancouver. Meetings are held at the Silk Purse on Wednesdays near the end of the month. Notices will be sent to all members. For more information, please contact Vancouver Branch member Barbara Wyss (phone 778-338-4467 or email [bwyss@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:bwyss@canauthorsvancouver.org)).

### Book Displays at Various 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 we had a table at the World Poetry Gala at Vancouver Public Library on February 23.

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.

### 2007 Future Meetings & Events

#### **EVENT: June 16**

Our annual summer gathering for Vancouver Branch members and their invited guests will be hosted by Anthony and Penny Dalton at their Delta home.

#### **FALL MEETINGS**

We have a great line up for the fall, starting with Lisa Manfield (of *Room Magazine*), speaking on the role of literary journals in building a writing career on September 12. Our October speaker is poet Miranda Pearson, an instructor at Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio, followed by Spider Robinson, author of 30 books, in November. See the Fall issue of West Coast Writers for details, or visit our website.

### Did You Miss These Great Meetings & Events?

#### **MEETING: Wednesday, March 14**

Steve Crowhurst, motivational speaker and teacher, offered some valuable lessons, laced with his unique brand of humour. An avid writer, Steve has written 75 workshops, 165 magazine articles and 6 e-books.

#### **MEETING: Wednesday, April 11**

Rodger Touchie, Owner/Publisher of The Heritage Group, gave us a fascinating insight into publishing trends in Canada from the viewpoint of a successful author and publisher.

#### **WORKSHOP: Saturday, April 21**

Keith Maillard, a prize-winning author of thirteen novels and professor of creative writing at the University of British Columbia, led a workshop on fiction-writing skills

#### **MEETING: Wednesday, May 10**

Our speaker was George Plumley who talked about the changing nature of media interviews

## MEMBER NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

**Ted Bird**, writing as Edward Michel-Bird, has two books coming out in June 2007, both published by Booksurge: a new novel, *A Stolen Identity*, and a second edition (revised and unabridged) of his *Shadows on the Seine: Paris 1952*.

**Anthony Dalton's** next book, *Alone Against Arctic Seas*, will be published by Heritage House in Oct/Nov 2007. Soon after completing the final edits in early May, he co-presented a workshop for the CAA Victoria branch with Bernice Lever. Two weeks later he presented a workshop on research at the Shuswap Lake Writers Festival in Salmon Arm, BC. On June 25 he will be a reader at the World Poetry evening at the Vancouver Public Library. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, he will read from *Baychimo, Arctic Ghost Ship* at the Ottawa Public Library immediately prior to attending the CAA national conference in that city, where he will deliver the opening address and present a workshop on biographies.

**kc dyer** (Karen Dyer) is on the road again. Her new book *Ms. Zephyr's Notebook* came out this week. Early in June she was one of 30 authors and illustrators taking part in the Spring Book Hatching at Vancouver Public Library. At press time kc was in Toronto to present her new YA novel at the Canadian Children's Book Centre event at Book Expo, followed by a signing with her publisher, Dundurn at Book Expo a few days later. *Ms. Zephyr* has also been selected to be toured for Canada Book Week this fall by CCBC, so she will be touring Ontario for a week in November with the book as well. Karen is now the conference coordinator for the Surrey International Writers Conference in October.

**Jan Furst** is on his annual summer visit to his native Norway. Before he left, he reported that his new novel, *Ultimate Downsizing*, is now marketed by Amazon and Google Web Alert.

**Sandra Harper**, with a team of three educators, has just received a significant CIDA grant for the publishing and implementation of a novel, *Breaking Out*, and teacher resource package for Grade Six students in British Columbia.

**Margaret Anne Hume** presented book talks on her recent biography, *Just Mary: The Life of Mary Evelyn Grannan*, at libraries in Moncton, Saint John, Victoria, and Winnipeg in April and May, as well as making a presentation at the McNally Robinson Bookstore at Grant Park in Winnipeg. Agatha Moir interviewed Margaret about the book on *The Weekend Morning Show* on CBC Radio One, Winnipeg, on May 5, and the *Moncton Times and Transcript* reviewed the book on April 14.

**Bernice Lever**- 2 poems in *Butterfly Thunder* anthology by The Ontario Poets Society. Title of her 2007 Black Moss book of poems changed to *Never a Straight Line*. On May 5, she co-led a workshop "Writing: a Successful Business" with Anthony Dalton for the Victoria CAA branch. On May 25., she read poetry at the opening to Shuswap Festival, then gave a workshop on Saturday 26th and some Blue Pencil sessions. On June 3, she read poems at LitLive in Hamilton, Ontario; on June 7, for the Richvale Writers Club in Richmond Hill, Ontario (the club she started 40 years ago); and at the Ottawa Public Library on June 9, preceded by a CAA Ottawa luncheon for her. She will also share poems on the July 5 opening night of CAA annual conference in Ottawa. On July 10, she is at a PLR meeting under Canada Council as the CAA rep. Yes, fighting for funds for all Canadian writers with books in libraries.

**Gordon Mumford** has an article and several photographs accepted by the *Old Africa* magazine for their June-July 2007 issue. They will also include information on purchasing his books. <http://www.oldafricamagazine.com/>. He is busy with final edits for *In Fate's Footsteps*, the third book in his trilogy.

**Ben Nuttall-Smith** had a five stanza poem "Childhood Memories – England" published recently in *All That Uneasy Spring*, a Leaf Press chapbook edited by Patrick Lane. Ben is currently "slugging away at the fifth draft of a magical- realism cum historical novel *Blood, Feathers and Holy Men*." He hopes to have that one ready for the Surrey Conference in October.

**Lois Peterson** presents Write @ the Library, a series of moderated critique sessions on alternate Wednesday nights, 6:45-8:45 at the Newton Library, 13795-72 Avenue, starting on Wed. June 27, for new and experienced writers working on prose or poetry. \$7 per session covers meeting room and refreshments. Contact [lpwordssolutions@hotmail.com](mailto:lpwordssolutions@hotmail.com) or 604-596-1601 for info.

In May Lois presented a workshop for the Federation of BC Writers, concluded a six-week session of Writing From Life, and conducted an editing workshop for the Richmond Writers Group. Her article on handling interruptions appears in the August issue of *The Writer* magazine, and she will be spending the summer working on two linked children's novels.

The *Muskoka Sun*, May 24, 2007, edition published a memoir, "Horsing Around in Muskoka's Past," with a 1950 photo of **Janet Rough Young**, her parents and her sister. This is the 4th year that Janet has been so honoured.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CAA Vancouver Branch

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

#### 2006/07 Vancouver Branch Executive:

- \* Branch President: Anthony Dalton, 604-948-2654, [dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* Vice-President: Margaret A. Hume, 604-806-0471, [mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* Treasurer: Bernice Lever, 604-947-0017, [blever2@hotmail.com](mailto:blever2@hotmail.com)
- \* Recording Secretary: VACANT
- \* Membership Chair: VACANT
- \* Web Master: Barbara Mumford, 604-520-1487, [webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* Promotion: Jean Kay, 604-943-9247, [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org)
- \* Program Chair: Margaret Hume, 604-806-0471, [mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* West Coast Writers: Anthony Dalton, 604-948-2654, [dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org), & Barbara Mumford 604-520-1487, [webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org)

### CAA National Office

Alec McEachern, Administrator

Address: 320 South Shores Road, P.O. Box 419,  
Campbellford ON K0L 1L0

Telephone: 705-653-0323; Toll-free: 1-866-216-6222; Fax:  
705-653-0593; Email: [admin@canauthors.org](mailto:admin@canauthors.org)

Website: <http://www.canauthors.org/>

#### DO YOU RECEIVE PAYMENTS FROM PUBLIC LENDING RIGHTS AND ACCESS COPYRIGHT?

Please send a note or e-mail to PLR and Access Copyright each time you get a payment.

Your messages stating the need and appreciation of these separate programs are quoted to the fund givers: Canada Council and politicians.

### Writer in Residence

Here's a golden opportunity to have your work read by an expert. Bernice Lever, our official Writer in Residence, is a former editor with the Dundurn Group (among many other accomplishments). She will read and comment on the first 20 pages of your manuscript for the nominal sum of \$25. This is a true bargain.

Those who have already taken advantage of this service have offered high praise for Bernice's thoughtful and professional comments. Please contact Bernice at 604-947-0017, or R.R. #1, B69, Bowen Island, BC, V0N 1G0, or e-mail [blever2@hotmail.com](mailto:blever2@hotmail.com).

### Do You Have a Website, or Want One?

Publicize yourself and your talents.

- (1) Members of the Vancouver Branch can have an existing website listed on the Members' page.
- (2) Members can also have an individual webpage site and e-mail address on our branch website for a nominal fee. For information, please contact Anthony Dalton (e-mail [dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org)).
- (3) All CAA members can have their website mentioned on the CAA National site. See <http://www.canauthors.org/members.html> for information.

### WEST COAST WRITERS: Summer 2007

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](mailto:dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org), 604-948-2654) or Barbara Mumford 604-520-1487, [webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org)).

#### Publication Deadlines

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