

WEST COAST WRITERS

Writers Helping Writers



Founded 1921

Fall 2007

Branch President's Message

Have you attended a writers' conference in the last year or two? In fact, have you ever attended a writers' conference? If you haven't you are missing great educational experiences and marvelous networking opportunities.



Photo © M.A. Hume.

I'm a bit of a conference junkie. I thoroughly enjoy the buzz of being with a large group of other writers for a few days. In May this year I was in Salmon Arm, BC, at the Shuswap Lake Writers' Festival. Early in July Ottawa called me for the annual CAA conference. As the summer comes to an end and fall takes over, I'm looking forward to going back to Alberta for the Edmonton International LitFest, then quickly back here for the Surrey International Writers Conference, and I will finish my year in December with a trip to Halifax, NS, to show my face at the national convention of the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers (yes, I enjoy face to face chats with other public speakers too). So, what's all this leading up to? It's simple: I want you – each and every one of you – to commit a few of your precious days to a combined educational and networking experience. I have two suggestions for you:

Take a look at the Surrey International Writers Conference (<http://www.siwsc.ca>) which takes place in our own backyard this October and, here's a bonus, the conference coordinator/writer-in-charge is none other than CAA Vancouver branch member and successful YA novelist, **kc dyer**.

My second suggestion is for you to put a few days aside next July for a visit to Edmonton, Alberta, for the annual CAA conference. It will be a special event – you can bet on that. The Albertans never do things by half. Too far to go, you think? No, it isn't. We will make it easy for you. We are planning to rent a couple of 7-passenger minivans and take a scenic drive through the mountains together. The Vancouver branch will pay \$500 towards the cost of gas, insurance, and the vans' rental. We will split the minimal balance, if there is any, between the participants. I have 4 people on my 'seats reserved' list already. Don't be left out. Send me a note, by e-mail or by regular post, and reserve your seat on the '*CAA Vancouver-Edmonton Express*.'

In the meantime, don't forget to drop by for our monthly meetings. For now, and for all the days to come, stay well. Stay happy. Keep writing and ... good luck with all your literary efforts.

Cheers,

Anthony Dalton

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SPOTLIGHT ON Margaret Anne Hume

Margaret Hume was born in Halifax, NS, but grew up in New Brunswick during the 1950s. During those formative years she became a huge fan of radio character *Maggie Muggins*, created by Fredericton's Mary Grannan. Margaret's passion for Mary Grannan's works would later be reflected in her own writings.

She is a graduate of both the University of New Brunswick and McGill University in Montreal, and was later a librarian at Concordia University.

Margaret's love of Canadian literature and storytelling is reflected in the choice she made for her first book. A few years ago she began the daunting task of researching and writing the first biography of her childhood hero. The result, published by the Dundurn Group of Toronto in 2006, was "*Just Mary*": *The Life of Mary Evelyn Grannan*.

At the same time Margaret edited the "*Just Mary*" Reader: *Mary Grannan, Selected Stories*, a new collection of stories and plays, written and broadcast by CBC storyteller Mary Grannan.

She is now working on her first novel.

A highly respected and hard-working member of the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Authors Association for several years, Margaret has held a variety of executive positions, and was a member of the 2004 National Conference committee. She is currently the branch Vice-President and Programs Coordinator. In 2008 Margaret will take one more step up the CAA ladder as she embarks on her new position as President of the Vancouver branch. She is an extremely popular and valuable member of the Canadian Authors Association.



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.

"What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure."

~ Samuel Johnson

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome back Liliya Valis 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.

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/. Contact Anthony Dalton, Branch President for more information (phone 604-948-2654, or email 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).

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: September 12, Lisa Manfield

Lisa Manfield, a Vancouver-based editor, writer and publishing consultant, will speak about the role of literary journals in building a writing career and on strategies for submitting.

Lisa has worked in print and online publishing for more than 10 years and is currently the Associate Editor at CGA Magazine. She also does freelancing and consulting through her company, and works primarily with magazines and non-profit groups to develop content, marketing collateral, courseware and communications materials.

EVENT: October 10, Miranda Pearson

Miranda Pearson was born in England and came to Vancouver in 1991. Her poetry has been published widely in literary journals and anthologies, and her first collection *Prime* was published in 2001. Miranda's latest book, *The Aviary*, was released in 2006 from Oolichan Books and was awarded the Alfred G. Bailey prize.

Miranda is a graduate of UBC's MFA program in Creative Writing, where she was also on faculty. She is currently an instructor at Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio.

EVENT: November 14: Spider Robinson

Spider Robinson, of Bowen Island and author of 30 books, will read from his *Variable Star* (#31) novel written from an outline of Robert Heinlein (the father of Science Fiction/Fantasy.) In 2006, Spider published *Very Bad Deaths*, a novel, and a prize-winning trilogy reprint, *Star Dance*, co-authored with his wife, Jeanne Robinson. He has written many articles, songs and other genres, including his series, *Future Tense* in the *Globe & Mail*. Spider may sing to us as well as read from his books. Join us for a magical night.

Did You Miss These Great Meetings & Events?

EVENT: June 16

Our annual summer gathering for Vancouver Branch members and their invited guests was hosted by Anthony and Penny Dalton at their Delta home. See photos, p. 5.

MEMBER NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Above: The Dalton gang at the Ottawa conference - Matthew Bin, President Kitchener/Waterloo branch; Anthony Dalton, President Vancouver branch; Suzanne Harris, Regional VP – Alberta; and Evan Kenney, President Niagara branch. (Photo: © Lloyd Graham).

COMING EVENTS

WORD ON THE STREET

Sunday, September 30, 11 am to 6 pm, WOTS (Word on the Street) takes place at Library Square, Homer & Hamilton Streets.

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WRITERS & READERS FESTIVAL

October 16 to 21, Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival, at Granville Island. Visit their web site for details, <http://www.writersfest.bc.ca/>.

SURREY INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE

October 19 to 21, Surrey International Writers' Conference (with Master classes on October 18), at the Sheraton Guildford in Surrey. Register NOW. See web site for details, <http://www.siwcc.ca/>

DOROTHY LIVESAY EVENT

October 29, CAA will have a table at the Dorothy Livesay event, Vancouver Public Library, 7 pm.

ANTHONY DALTON was elected to the position of National co-Vice-President at the annual CAA conference in Ottawa early in July. He also took on the role of Awards Chair at the same time. Closer to home, he will be moderator of a panel on the concerns of climate change at an Explorers Club Symposium on Salt Spring Island in early September followed by a visit to Edmonton to present a workshop and deliver a motivational talk for the CAA Alberta branch.

Then, in October he will launch his new book, *Alone Against the Arctic* (from Heritage House) at the Edmonton LitFest. Also in October Dalton will be a presenter at the Surrey International Writers Conference.

kc dyer (KAREN DYER) is currently launching her latest book *Ms. Zephyr's Notebook*, along with along with James McCann's new book, and they are celebrating teachers. In August, they were at Kidsbooks in Vancouver and North Van, but you still have time to see them at Chapters on September 30, either at the Strawberry Hill store (1:00 pm) or the store at the Langley Bypass at 3:00 pm. Two events are scheduled for October 1: (Broadway & Granville in Vancouver) and Park Royal South in West Van, time tba.

Notebook was also selected to be toured for Canada Book Week this fall by CCBC, so she will be touring Ontario for a week in November. Karen is also the conference coordinator for the Surrey International Writers Conference in October.

JAN FURST is back from Norway, and was one of the readers at the AfrikaDey festivities.

SANDRA HARPER is home from Africa, and busy with her latest project, a novel called *Breaking Out*, and teacher resource package, *Kenya: Our Global Friend* for Grade Six students in British Columbia. A CIDA grant is providing for the distribution to Grade 6 teachers in British Columbia.

MARGARET ANNE HUME attended the CAA Conference in Ottawa in July, and then travelled to Moncton for her 40th class reunion at Moncton High School where she set up a table of her books on New Brunswicker Mary Grannan—*Just Mary: The Life of Mary Evelyn Grannan* and the *Just Mary Reader: Mary Grannan, Selected Stories*. While in Moncton, Margaret donated copies of her books to be placed in the various high schools in the city. In August, she took advantage of her successful bid from the December CAA Vancouver silent auction and had a delicious and enjoyable Norwegian dinner for six at the home of CAA member Jan Furst. She followed up with another successful auction bid and submitted some writing to CAA member Patrick Taylor for editing and comments. In September, Margaret will be presenting her biography of Mary Grannan to a Vancouver area book club.

MEMBER NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

BERNICE LEVER's 8th book of poems, "Never a Straight Line", published by Black Moss Press, Windsor, ON, is in their Palm Poet Series. Book launches on Bowen Island and Vancouver area are to be set. Her poem, "Leeches" was in "Verse Afire", Vol. 3, No. 3 with The Ontario Poetry Society.

Her World Poetry Society readings include Aug. 27, regular multicultural meeting; Sept. 1, part of "AfrikaDey" celebrations; and Sept. 30 at Word on the Street's "Poet Corner Tent", all 3 in Vancouver.

Bernice has her memoir piece on the Black Mountain Poets' summer workshop at UBC in 1963 on the website for "Reckoning '07" which will include Sept. 14 & 15 events celebrating BC's world of books. Two hundred invitees: writers, editors, librarians, booksellers and more will be at SFU's downtown Vancouver campus.

From Oct. 1 to 10, as part of "Tag-along Series" to LCP's Random Acts of Poetry, Bernice and some Bowen Island poets will give spontaneous readings in cafes, handing out pages of their poems to listeners.

At the Surrey International Writers Conference, Oct. 19-21, she is helping fellow CAA member and chief SWIC organizer, Karen Dyer, by being a poetry judge and Blue Pencil session leader. Bernice is also on 3 panels: "Literary Novels-- where are they going in Canada?" with Timothy Taylor & Steven Galloway; "Published Poet--an Oxymoron?" with George McWhirter, Vancouver PoeLaureate; and "The Color of Words", alone explaining that grammar lore aids one's style. She and other CAA members will help Anthony Dalton promote CAA memberships to the 800 expected registrants during the event.

J. GORDON MUMFORD's article and photographs--originally scheduled for the June-July issue-- appeared in the August-September issue of the *Old Africa* magazine. <http://www.oldafricamagazine.com/>. His fifth book, *In Fate's Footsteps*, is now being edited as a stand-alone book, and is almost ready for submission. He was one of the readers at the AfrikaDey Festival on September 2, and a volunteer at the World Poetry table during the two-day event.

ROSEMARY PATTERSON and her daughter **CATHY PATTERSON-STERLING** have moved to Qualicum Beach. Rosemary released her new novel, *Alaska Now: a Novel about Alaskan Oil, Native Corporations, Wildlife, Identity and Love*, through BookSurge last month. She is trying to help the yellow-billed loon and other Alaska wildlife seriously endangered by plans to drill for oil in the Beaufort Sea, ANWR, and the National Petroleum Reserve.



Photos from our summer gathering.

Above: Sandra Harper, Jean Kay, Penny Dalton, Anthony Dalton, Jerry Clarke-Ames; Below: Gordon Mumford, Barbara Mumford, Margaret Hume. (Photos: © M.A. Hume).



Interested in reading from your work?

We will continue to offer short reading opportunities to CAA members prior to our main speaker at our regular second Wednesday-of-the-month meetings at the Alliance for Arts and Culture. If you are interested, please contact Margaret Hume at 604-806-0471 or mahume@telus.net.

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
- * Vice-President: Margaret A. Hume, 604-806-0471, mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org
- * Treasurer: Bernice Lever, 604-947-0017, bernice@colourofwords.com
- * Recording Secretary: VACANT
- * Membership Chair: VACANT
- * Web Master: Barbara Mumford, 604-520-1487, webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org
- * Promotion: Jean Kay, 604-943-9247, JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org
- * Public Relations Chair: Lloyd Meeker, (604) 677-4699
- * Program Chair: Margaret Hume, 604-806-0471, mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org
- * West Coast Writers: Anthony Dalton, 604-948-2654, dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org, & Barbara Mumford 604-520-1487, webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org

CAA National Office

Alec McEachern, Administrator

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705-653-0593; Email: admin@canauthors.org

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

CAA 87th Annual National Conference

July 3-6, 2008 - Edmonton, Alberta.

For information and registration form

[http://www.canauthors.org/
conference.html](http://www.canauthors.org/conference.html)

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.

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).
- (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: Fall 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, 604-948-2654) or Barbara Mumford 604-520-1487, webmaster@canauthorsvancouver.org).

Publication Deadlines

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