

# WEST COAST WRITERS

Writers Helping Writers



Founded 1921

**Canadian Authors Association - Vancouver**

**Winter 2008**

## Branch President's Message

### 2008 Winter Season

I extend warm greetings to all as we approach the winter season. Our Vancouver Branch has had an active fall, with three lively meetings featuring speakers Annette Humphries of Trafford Publishing, Kate Austin on romance writing, and Sylvia Taylor on building your writing platform, plus an informative writing workshop with Rodger Cove.

As our membership continues to grow well past the fifty mark, we are happy to welcome the new faces we see at our meetings. Networking and sharing are a big part of what takes place at our regular meetings and a significant benefit of your membership in CAA. We encourage more members to make a regular habit of attending. You will meet many fascinating writers and hear some of their work, as we feature one or two members providing short readings prior to our main speaker.

On Saturday, December 13, we will hold our Annual General Meeting and winter luncheon. We hope many of you will find a Saturday mid-day time convenient. Be sure to come along and bring a guest. As well as presenting reports of the year's activities, we will hold elections for several executive positions. Please consider how you may help our branch.

We have begun to prepare for our role hosting the 2010 CAA CanWrite! Conference here in Vancouver and we will need many helpers. Your participation in committee work and on our executive board will be greatly appreciated. Your increased involvement in our branch will help to deepen your friendships and allow you more input into shaping our activities.

Writing Circles should be starting in the coming months, so if you have not yet signed up and would like to

President's Message: Continued on page 2

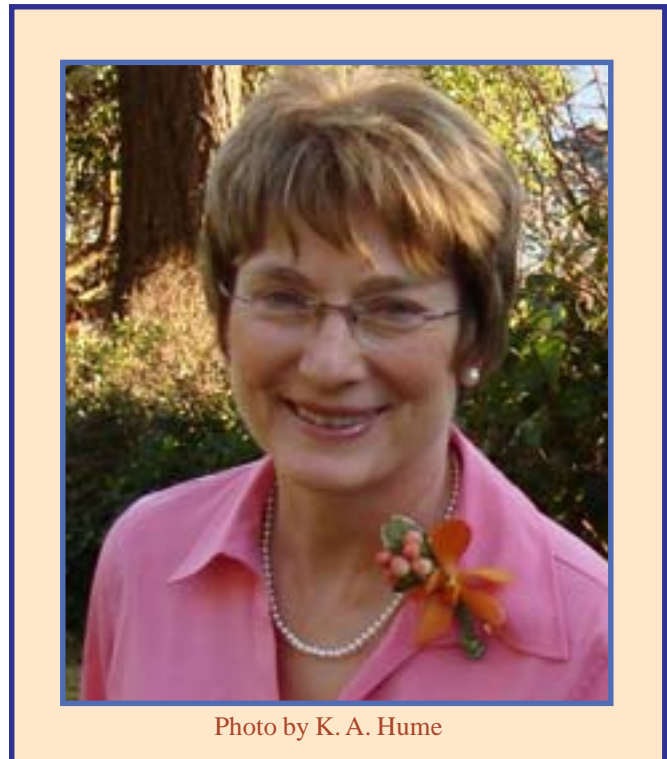


Photo by K. A. Hume

## Contents

Branch President's Message	p. 1 - 2
Can Write ! Vancouver 2010	p. 2
Contact Information	p. 8
Great BC Novel/Novella	p. 6
Meetings and Other Events	p. 3
Members' News	p. 5
New Titles - Vancouver Branch	p. 2
News for Members	p. 6
Past Meetings	p. 4
Presenting New Members	p. 7
Promote New Work	p. 8
Websites for Members	p. 6
Winter Meetings & Workshops	p. 3 - 4
Writer in Residence	p. 8

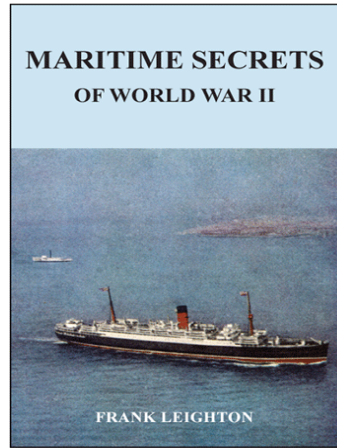
## NEW TITLES - VANCOUVER BRANCH

**Frank Leighton:** *Maritime Secrets of World War II*. Trafford Publishing, 2008. Catalogue #08-0948; ISBN 1-4251-8393-X. \$18.75.

At the time of their occurrence some of the most dramatic maritime events of World War II were cloaked in secrecy. Allied governments invoked powerful Official Secrets Acts to obscure news of damaging events. Some of these stories remained secret for half a century.

The author, a World War II veteran, provides vivid accounts of these almost unknown events revealing acts of heroism and endurance by those on both sides of the conflict.

The seven stories cover every year from 1940 to 1944 and take place in such diverse parts of the world as the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and South Atlantic. The Royal Navy, U.S. Navy, Italian Navy, Axis U-



Boats, E-Boats and mini-submarines are all involved.

The author, through the stories of individual participants, recreates the tensions of the early years of the war when Britain and its Commonwealth allies were hanging on by a thread. In doing so he provides an understanding of the need for secrecy.

Later, as the tide of war begins to turn, he shows how the blanket of secrecy was imposed for much less valid reasons, in the process concealing hitherto untold acts of courage and gallantry. "Maritime Secrets of World War II" brings these dramatic events to life and highlights the Canadian links to many of them.

Born in England, author Frank Leighton enlisted in the Royal Air Force and trained to serve in the Air Sea Rescue service. From 1941 until 1943 he was based on the besieged island of Malta, before moving on into Italy. He ended the war as a Liaison Officer in the south of France. These experiences form the basis of his first book, *Frayed Lifelines: A Siege Survivor's Story*. (Trafford Publishing, 2003.)

After the war Frank completed a degree in Civil Engineering, and immigrated to Canada. Now retired, he lives in West Vancouver.

### Branch President's Message (Cont.)

[Continued from page 1](#)

participate, please let me know. These will be small groups of members meeting in different geographic locations, hopefully close to where people live. Each monthly meeting will feature a workshop critique of one member. This will be an exciting new program for our branch.

Once again, our February meeting will be open mic night, and we will add our silent auction just to give a bit of added interest. Prepare your short readings and sign up soon.

Happy writing to all, and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings over the next several months.

Best wishes

Margaret Anne Hume

### CanWrite Vancouver 2010

At the CAA Annual General Meeting in Edmonton, our branch proposal to host the 2010 Conference was accepted. Originally we thought to hold the conference in Victoria, but have since reconsidered. The conference will be held in Vancouver, because we will be better able to organize events working from our home base.

Jean Kay has accepted the position of Conference Coordinator, and she is now working on the conference agenda. UBC has been requested to reserve their conference facilities for June 24-27, 2010. Jean has also met with other members to discuss fundraising and grant applications.

We invite our members to join in the preparations. Remember: *Many hands make light work*. This is a great way to get to know your fellow members better.

BGM

## 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). Meetings are held in Vancouver at the **Alliance for Arts & Culture Centre**, Suite 100, 938 Howe Street (opposite the law courts), and are open to the general public for a nominal fee. These meetings include Branch announcements and guest speakers (or events), followed by 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/). For more information, contact Margaret Hume, Branch President (e-mail [mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org), or phone 604-806-0471).

CAA members are requested to wear their CAA name tags. If you do not have a name tag, please see Jean Kay before the meeting. 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. All CAA members are requested to arrive before 7 pm and may add books they wish to sell to the display table.

### Monthly Meeting Format

Prior to our featured guest speaker(s) at our regular monthly meetings, we allocate two ten-minute reading slots for members. Members can read from their writings, published or in progress. Our intention is to go alphabetically down the membership list to see who is available for the upcoming meetings.

If a member has a new book coming out, we will fit them in as close to their launch date as possible. Please prepare your presentation so you stay within the ten minute time frame. You will be given a two minute warning (peace sign) and then at ten minutes we will start to applaud to let you know your time is finished.

Please advise Jean Kay, Program Chair of any new books being published so we can assign a month to you. Jean can be contacted by calling 604-943-9247 or email [jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org](mailto:jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org). Members can also submit a summary of their new book, along with a jpg of the cover and order details to the National Newslines and to the West Coast Writers within six months of publication.

### Outside 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 sometimes selling) books by our members.

At least one or two members are in charge of a table at each event, and other members should volunteer to assist. The prime purpose of these events is to publicize the CAA and the Vancouver Branch. Unless otherwise stated, 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.

## WINTER MEETINGS & EVENTS

### MEETING: Saturday, December 13, 2008 Christmas Lunch / Annual General Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend our AGM and Christmas Lunch to be held at the White Spot Restaurant, 1616 W. Georgia St, Vancouver (Georgia & Cardero) starting at noon on Saturday, December 13th. Each member may bring one guest. Cost approx. \$18 per person. Please RSVP to Jean by Monday, Dec. 8th. Email [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org) or by phone 604-943-9247.

### MEETING: Wednesday Jan. 14, 2009, 7 pm Scott McIntyre: Publisher, Douglas & McIntyre

**Cost:** CAA Members free; Non-members \$5; Students (with student ID) \$2

Scott McIntyre is Douglas & McIntyre's founding partner and current Chairman, CEO and Group Publisher. Topics of discussion include: What is happening in the industry today? What are publishers looking for? What kind of authors are being accepted? What does a successful publication pitch include? Agents or not? UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity. For more information contact Jean at 604-943-9247 or e-mail [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### WINTER MEETINGS & EVENTS - Cont. from page 3

#### **MEETING: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 Open Mic Night & Silent Auction**

**Cost:** CAA Members free; Non-members \$5; Students (with student ID) \$2

February 11th is our Open Mic Night. Come and hear what people have been writing. Each speaker will be given five minutes to read their poems, magazine articles, or excerpts from their books. Members will be given priority. For more information, please contact Jean, by email [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org) or phone her at 604-943-9247.

#### **Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

**Cost:** CAA Members free; Non-members \$5; Students (with student ID) \$2

Information to come.

### Did You Miss These Meetings?

#### **MEETING: Sept. 10 - Annette Humphries: Trafford Publishing.**

Sandra Harper read from her new novel, *Not Until Now*. Annette Humphries of Trafford Publishing gave us an interesting input to what Trafford does. You can do it yourself, from typesetting, illustrations, editing, marketing, or buy into various packages, choosing some or all, for a price. It all sounds so easy and reasonable.

A word from other authors who have been there, done that. Traffords and similar services are an alternative to self-publishing. They may be good options **provided your book is intended only for family**, but the PODs and self-publishing route is a "last-resort". Before you invest, investigate. Get pricing from three or more companies, plus three copies of their past productions. Choose the level of production that suits your budget. And take courses on self-promotion and marketing because you are the bookseller and the distributor. Most bookstores and libraries do not accept these books, so your book may be sold only on Trafford's website. And it may be difficult to get your book reviewed in the press.

Print-on-demand printers produce a book that can be used as a marketing device, or given to family, but

professional writers should learn their craft, starting with small intimate writing groups. All writers should learn to critique, and to accept being critiqued by their peers. Our Writing Circles will help, so will small writing groups like the West End Writers and Burnaby Writing Society that do considerable workshopping and critiquing.

#### **WORKSHOP: Sat, Oct. 4 - Rodger Cove: Structure for the Storyteller**

In this workshop, Rodger Cove focused primarily on the principles of dramatic structure and crafting a strong character arc. He also touched on how to format and structure a screenplay. Cove is a senior instructor in the Writing Department of the Vancouver Film School and has written short fiction, stage and radio plays, and feature length screenplays. *Hair of the Sasquatch*, his feature film, premiered at the Calgary Film Festival.

#### **MEETING: Oct. 8 - Kate Austin: The state of affairs on affairs of the heart**

Kate Austin, best selling author of romance fiction, gave a useful talk about the wide range of topics and themes published in that genre. She explained that Romance Writers as a group sell more books and make more money on average than any other genre. She urged us to plan for "happy endings", but also to use imagination to create new obstacles and settings in a genre that has thousands of titles. Her website [www.kateaustin.ca](http://www.kateaustin.ca) has details of her many books and other publications. (B. Lever)

#### **MEETING: Nov. 12 - Sylvia Taylor: Platforms**

William Hay and Bonnie Fournier gave short readings. Sylvia Taylor, President of Federation of BC Writers spoke on an American term that publishers are now using: Platforms. She has a lively way to get her audience involved. The writers present were asked to list all the various aspects of their lives that contribute to who they are and what they have to offer to a prospective publisher. Platforms seem like an organized view of your "background" that writers should clearly state in a resume or interview. This includes all education, interests, experiences, volunteer and paid work, talents, dreams and much more. Her theme is that to present yourself with confidence, you need know yourself and your field of writing very well. Now, develop your Platforms, please. (B.Lever)

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Members' News

**ANTHONY DALTON** is currently working on two non-fiction books: *River Rough*, *River Smooth*, is the story of his two expeditions on Manitoba's Hayes River, main fur trade waterway for the Hudson's Bay Company, for Natural Heritage Books (no publication date set). The second book is *Arctic Naturalist*, a biography of J. Dewey Soper, Canada's foremost naturalist and Arctic explorer of the 1920s and '30s. The latter book will be published in the spring of 2010 by The Dundurn Group. He is collaborating on an adaptation of his book *Wayward Sailor* for a British television production company, and a collection of his own non-fiction adventure tales will be released by Bookland Press in the fall of 2009.

**SANDRA HARPER** is currently doing a series of readings of her new novel, *Not Until Now*, in the lower mainland, Vancouver Island and northern BC.

On Nov. 18, **BERNICE LEVER** was interviewed about her workshops and readings for the World Poetry Society on *World Poetry Cafe*, a weekly program broadcast on Vancouver's Co-op Radio. She read at "Wide Open Mic Night", a monthly Bowen Island words and music event, and also at Burnaby for *Poets Around the World* on Nov. 20. (see photo below).

**ALEJANDRO MUJICA-OLEA** was also reading at the *Poets Around the World* event (see photo below).



**Poetry Around the World:** Bernice Lever, Alejandro Mujica-Olea, and Douglas Aitken are shown (on left) at this event hosted by Lucia Gorea, Founder and host of Poetry Around the World - at Chapters - Burnaby Metrotown (Photo: courtesy of Lucia Gorea).

**BARBARA MUMFORD** has prepared a power point presentation to promote the Vancouver Branch of CAA. It can be shown on a laptop computer (or using a digital projector) at book tables at outside events as well as at our meetings. She has also updated the binder where we promote books by local CAA members. There are 100 titles now recorded on the list of books written by current Vancouver Branch authors.

In October and November, **GORDON MUMFORD** gave an illustrated talk about the Merchant Navy and WW II to four Grade XI classes at the New West Senior Secondary School and also to the N.W. Sea Cadets at the Armoury. This was part of the Dominion Institute's [www.TheMemoryProject.com](http://www.TheMemoryProject.com). Gordon will be a featured reader at the World Poetry event at Vancouver Public Library on Dec 15. The Zebra Publishing House website is now closed, and the website for his books is located at <http://www.publishing.gordonmumford.com/>

**BEN NUTTALL-SMITH** is currently working with editor Sylvia Taylor on a rewrite from his memoir *Run Skinny Run*, as well as *Flying With White Eagle* (the story of a bush pilot), and on a set of YA novels based on his manuscript for an historical novel, *Blood, Feathers and Holy Men*.

Ben was shortlisted for both the poetry award and the non-fiction award at the Surrey International Writing Contest. He had two poems in *Poemata*, the journal of the Canadian Poetry Association, his sung poem "My World" is featured on the on-line magazine *Pens on Fire*, while "The Old Man" won honorable mention and publication in *Lucidity*, a Texas magazine.

In early November, **LOIS J. PETERSON** launched *Meeting Miss 405* (Orca), her first children's novel, in conjunction with two same-day writing workshops. The next day she left for a mini book tour of the East Kootenays and the Kaleidoscope Children's Conference in Calgary. She presented her book at CWILL's Fall Book Hatching, and the Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable Hycroft event.

Fall teaching gigs included the full-day workshop Writing Fiction for Kids, one on point of view, and half-day characterization and dialogue workshops. Contact Lois at [lp@loispeterson.net](mailto:lp@loispeterson.net) for information about school visits, storytelling presentations and writing workshops. Also, check out her blog at <http://lpwords.blogspot.com/>

## NEWS FOR MEMBERS

### MEMBERS' WEBSITES

Branch Members can have an individual webpage site and e-mail address on the branch website for a nominal fee. For details, please contact Margaret Hume (e-mail [mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org), or phone 604-806-0471).

If you have a website, you can have it listed on the Vancouver Branch Members page. Double your chances of being noticed by having both a site associated with our Branch and your existing site.

You can also have your website(s) mentioned on the CAA National site. For information, see <http://www.canauthors.org/members.html>.

### Membership Dues: the 4/3 Special Offer

Because of last July's GST reduction, the annual membership dues are now \$157.50. Using the 4/3 special offer, if you bring in 3 new members (or people who have not renewed their membership for 18 months), you can extend your own membership for a year FREE. Or better still, share the benefit. That way EVERYONE will pay only \$118.13 each. There is also a discount if you sign up (by yourself) for a two-year membership.

### Great BC Novel / Novella Contest

**Mother Tongue Publishing Limited** are searching for the great BC novel or novella. Deadline May 31/09. Entry fee \$35. This contest is open to all writers living in British Columbia. \$1000 advance. Winning ms. will be published in 2010. Please read GUIDELINES under Submissions at <http://www.movertongue.com> or email [info@movertonguepublishing.com](mailto:info@movertonguepublishing.com).

Mail entries to:

The Great BC Novel/Novella Search  
Mother Tongue Publishing Limited  
290 Fulford-Ganges Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K6  
Tel: 1-250-537-4155; Fax: 1-250-537-4726

*Masthead*, a magazine that reported news and jobs in the Canadian magazine industry is closing. The Nov/Dec 2008 edition will be the last issue produced by North Island. Also [MastheadOnline.com](http://MastheadOnline.com) will cease at a date to be announced.

Reporter: C. Barzo

### PUBLIC LENDING RIGHTS

If you are an author, co-author, editor, translator, illustrator, photographer or anthology contributor, you may be eligible for a PLR payment for the service of your books held in Canadian public libraries. The registration period runs from Feb. 15 to May 1 2009.

If you moved recently, please update your address on the website, or using contacts listed below..

Not registered? Visit the PLR website or use the following contact information.

- \* Website: <http://www.plr-dpp.ca/>
- \* Public Rights Commission, 350 Albert, P.O. Box 1047, Ottawa ON K1P 5V8
- \* Tel: 1-800-521-5721 OR Fax: 613-566-4418
- \* E-mail [plr@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:plr@canadacouncil.ca)

### 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.

### COMING LITERARY EVENTS

**WORLD POETRY SOCIETY 8th ANNUAL GALA: February 27, at 7:30 pm.** Lifetime Achievement Awards and other awards will be presented. The WPS Gala takes place at the Vancouver Public Library on Granville Street.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Joyce Goodwin; Andrea Koehle Jones; Daniel Kalla; Leila Kulpas; Craig McLachlan; Carol Tulpar; and Sandra Wickham.

We also extend congratulations to Kathleen Schmitt for achieving the status of professional Member in the Canadian Authors Association!

## PRESENTING NEW MEMBERS

From time to time, we ask new members to write a short piece to introduce themselves. This month we present two **unedited** bios submitted by William Hay and Craig McLachlan

### William Hay



William Hay, three time recipient of the Kenneth R. Wilson Award, is best known for short stories he's contributed for over 20 years to the *Medical Post*. He began his medical writing as contributor and editor of the University of Manitoba, *Meditoban* while co writing a medical column for the *Winnipeg Sun*.

An offshore solo sailor, he served on the board of the *Currents*, the Blue Water Cruising Associations international journal to which he's been a regular contributor.

In 2005 he self-published a book of his poetry called *Caesarian Poems*. Presently he's seeking a publisher for a book of collected short stories. In addition he's working on a mystery and two non-fiction books, one on alcoholism and the other on sexuality.

Financially he's doing better with his writing than when he recited poetry for \$10 a "set" in smoky 'sixties' coffeehouses. His other interests include spirituality, theatre and dance, and adventure travel.

### Craig McLachlan

Craig began writing speculative fiction short stories in 1985 as a hobby. His first radio drama was a collaboration with journalist Maureen Korman (aka mystery writer Dee Korman) in 1987. This Halloween murder mystery was the first of many radio dramas (under the pseudonym Jonathon Mackay) 'til 2000.

In the early '90s, Mister McLachlan had an astronomy article published and also wrote an astronomy column in a local magazine. He conducted both legal and scientific research for other writers. Years later, Craig had a non-fiction article appear in FedBC's *WordWorks*.

As the twentieth century came to a close, Craig co-created/developed and co-wrote a science fiction tv series, "Starship Jaeger", which has a five-year arc. The pilot was written and remaining 109 episodes outlined. Craig J. McLachlan is also a producer, currently looking to sign "Starship Jaeger".



From 2001-2002 he wrote (under another pseudonym) for an animation DVD. Craig recently submitted four short stories to the coveted Cecilia Lamont Literary Contest. In addition to writing, he has edited both fiction and non-fiction, with a focus on structure and style.

Currently, Mister McLachlan has attached himself to a planetarium special presentation as both script editor and voice actor. He is also executive producer for a paranormal radio production and a mountain biking tv show, working towards both airing in 2009. Craig is a member of the CAA; the Tale-Tellers, a local radio drama society; White Rock Writers Group; Aussie Wordsmiths, an on-line writers group, and a co-founder of a White Rock authors support group. Craig J. McLachlan can be reached at: [tales2telca @yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tales2telca@yahoo.co.uk)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### CAA VANCOUVER BRANCH

##### Branch Website:

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

##### Vancouver Branch Executive, 2008/2009:

- \* Branch President: Margaret Anne Hume  
604-806-0471, [mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* Branch Past-President: Anthony Dalton  
604-948-2654, [dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:dalton@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* Branch Vice-President: Jean Kay  
604-943-9247, [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org)
- \* Membership Chair: VACANT
- \* Program Chair: Jean Kay  
604-943-9247, [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org)
- \* Promotions & Public Relations Chair: Jean Kay  
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- \* West Coast Writers: Barbara Mumford  
604-520-1487, [editor@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:editor@canauthorsvancouver.org)

#### CAA NATIONAL OFFICE

Administrator: Alec McEachern

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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)

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

#### WRITER IN RESIDENCE (for members)

Bernice Lever, Writer in Residence for Vancouver and Ottawa branches, is a former editor with the Dundurn Group. She will read and comment on the first 20 pages of your manuscript for the nominal sum of \$25. Those who have taken advantage of this service have high praise for her thoughtful and professional comments.

For a reasonable cost, she edits manuscripts and gives marketing advice. She comments on mailed, printed pages, using a dialogue of suggestions to support writers in their revisions. She works on prose articles and books: fiction, factual or memoirs, as well as poetry. She does not work on stage or video scripts, nor with scientific or heavily documented manuscripts.

Members may contact Bernice at R.R. #1, B69, Bowen Island, BC, V0N 1G0, at 604-947-0017, or e-mail [bernice@colourofwords.com](mailto:bernice@colourofwords.com).

#### GET NOTICED! Promote NEW Work

It's time to share your writing/publishing/public speaking news with fellow members.

Don't forget the WCW "New Titles" feature when you have a NEW publication. This includes books, radio series, plays, songs, and /or magazine articles. Send 100 words Don't forget to include the price and where people can get your work. Send this information to [editor@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:editor@canauthorsvancouver.org), and headed 'New Titles'. Attach a .jpg file if one is available.

Also don't forget that the CAA National Newslines has a "Canadian Authors Publish" feature so send a copy to [anne.osborne1@sympatico.ca](mailto:anne.osborne1@sympatico.ca)

#### WEST COAST WRITERS

West Coast Writers is published quarterly by the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Authors Association, and is available on the branch website. Branch members can request to have a copy mailed to their postal address. Please submit articles/news to B. Mumford, 413 - 3 Rialto Court, New Westminster BC V3M 6P2 (tel: 604-520-1487 or e-mail [editor@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:editor@canauthorsvancouver.org)).

**PUBLICATION DEADLINES:** Spring (Feb. 15),  
Summer (May 15), Fall (Aug. 15), Winter (Nov. 15).