

## Branch President's Message

### 2009 Summer Issue

When I became President of the Vancouver Branch in November 2007, one of my main goals was to increase the number of members who accept roles on our Branch Executive. I am pleased that several have taken up the challenge. I welcome and thank the members who have joined our Executive this year: Cathy Barzo as Membership Secretary, Joyce Goodwin as Writers' Circle Coordinator, Bob Mackay as Executive member-at-large, and Perry Wilson as Treasurer. It is energizing to have new faces and ideas around the table, and the extra hands to help. Our Branch benefits from their involvement. I also thank all those who have continued to serve on our Executive, and who help to make our Branch vibrant and rewarding.

Yes, we do have an active and exciting Branch, and I encourage all our members to take full advantage of the benefits CAA membership offers.

\* **For help with your writing**, you may join a Writers' Circle for friendly critiques of your works-in-progress. For more detailed review, you may approach our Writer-in-Residence, Bernice Lever, who offers experienced editorial assistance, encouragement, and suggestions for publication. If you enjoy online discussion on writing topics, you may join the Virtual Branch.

\* **For opportunities to read your work to an audience**, you may ask to do one of the short readings at a regular meeting, and sign up for our Open Mic in February.

\* **To promote your publications**, you may have a website hosted on our branch website for a low price of \$25 per year, or, if you already have a website hosted elsewhere, you may ask to link it to our site free. Remember to contribute your writing and book news to our *West Coast Writers* and the *National Newslines*. In addition, there will soon be a National CAA book catalogue in which you may



Photo by K. A. Hume

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## 2009 CONFERENCE

### CanWrite! at MagNet: June 2 - 6, 2009



#### CanWrite! at Mag Net:

CanWrite! 2009 is being held in Toronto as part of MagNet. The early-bird deadline for CAA members has been extended to May 24, 2004. If you want to take advantage of this offer, don't delay! Register now.

Looking for an opportunity to network with over 800 writers, editors, publishers and agents? Hungry for information on publishing, marketing and selling your books online? Want tips on landing an agent? Eager to learn from accomplished novelists, poets, script writers, creative nonfiction writers? Two solid days of professional development sessions .... It's all there at MagNet. This is the writers' conference you don't want to miss!

#### Three Ways to Register:

\* Online: [www.magnet.magazinescanada.ca](http://www.magnet.magazinescanada.ca)

\* By Fax: Send completed registration forms (see website for brochure) to 416-504-0437.

\* By Mail:  
Magazines Canada (MagNet)  
Suite 700, 425 Adelaide St. W.  
Toronto ON, M5V 3C1

#### CAA Gala Event

Can't make the conference but still want a great night out in Toronto mingling with authors and writers from

across Canada? There is still time to purchase tickets for this gala event with award-winning author Nino Ricci as keynote speaker and authors shortlisted for this year's Literary Awards. The tickets are \$25 for members and \$60 for non-members.

\* For tickets or details, contact Anita Purcell (toll-free) at 1-866-266-6222.

\* Or check out the conference website at: <http://www.canauthors.org/conference.html>

#### BRANCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Continued from page 1

list your books. Mark the Word on the Street Festival on your calendar for September 27 because you can display and sell your books at our table.

\* **For opportunities to learn**, attend our regular meetings to hear fascinating and instructive speakers. Attend the National CanWrite! Conferences and the MagNet conference this June, and keep a sharp lookout for our branch workshops. Obtain a copy of *The Canadian Writers' Guide* from our National office.

\* **For valuable networking and socializing**, come to our socials (next one is June 27), and hang around at the end of the regular meetings. Don't forget to explore our branch and National websites. The opportunities for growth, completion of work, and establishment of friendship are many. Do explore the possibilities. Take full advantage of your membership. If there is something new you would like to see our Branch do, talk to me or anyone on our Executive.

We will soon take a summer break from our regular monthly meetings. I hope to see many of you at the wonderful MagNet Conference in Toronto June 2-6, and at our summer social in Vancouver on June 27. Good luck with your plans for the summer, whether they include writing conferences, courses, retreats, vacation, travel, or rest. May it be a valuable time and may you return in the fall energized and refreshed.

Keep writing!  
Margaret Anne Hume

## SPOTLIGHT ON TED BIRD

Edward A. Bird (pen name Edward Michel-Bird) is a long time member of our Vancouver branch, and a Life member of the CAA. Ted, to his many writer friends, has completed his eleventh book. *A Legal Abduction?* will be published in June 2009.

After his studies at UBC, he spent ten years in Paris, gaining a PhD at the Sorbonne and then teaching. In his years in the UBC French Department, he wrote articles, three textbooks and co-authored one with his wife. It was only after retirement that he began writing novels and a collection of ten short stories.

Currently, he is creating his twelfth book, *Death in a Rose Garden*, set in West Vancouver where he lives. His books show his very keen observance of his surroundings in travels to various countries and people's characteristics from virtues to foibles. His warm hearted friendliness comes through even in books in which he has to kill a "character or two as some plots get too crowded".

From his college summer job grew *A Wild Yukon Adventure*, just as massive 545 page first book, *Shadows on the Seine: Paris 1952* made good use of his years in France and for which he received a fine review from *Writer's Digest*. "The writing crackles with authenticity, and tells a fascinating story that lends itself well to the thriller genre." In mystery novels set in Europe or North America, there is always a romantic thread to be followed that has its own moments of suspense woven into the crimes to be solved.

His titles and covers prepare his readers for a pleasurable read: *Diamonds from the Darkside*, *The Coverley Pines Affair*, *A Crime Too Perfect*. More about his titles can be found on [www.govehill.ca/](http://www.govehill.ca/).

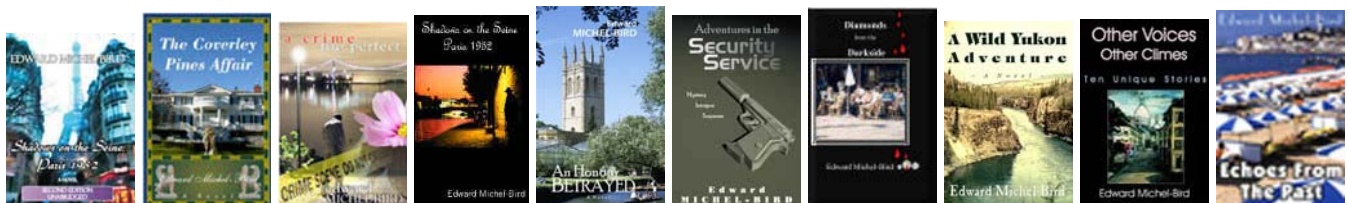
Ted enjoys talking about writing and with other writers. For years, he spent part of our winter in San Diego, taking part in both university writer conferences and courses, as well as the Tuesday Night Writers'



Group. With his active mind, "writing seemed the best solution to retirement". He explained that it got easier with each book, saying, "just get a sense of a character in a bind", and then the story flows. Even some characters "take over the plot". Completing a book a year is a challenge for us all. Bravo, Ted!

Ted has many pleasant recollections of CAA socials and meetings held on the North Shore "under the able leadership of Frank Wade and others." His books have been published with Trafford and Book Surge, so he can talk about the publishing routes that worked well for him. Vancouver branch has several, well experienced authors able to mentor those just joining our ranks.

*By Bernice Lever*



## INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

### Bob Mackay



Bob Mackay lives in Surrey and writes historical fiction. He is currently on the lookout for a publisher for his first novel, a story based on his father's experiences in the First World War.

Present projects include novels set in the Korean War and the cold war world of submarines.

Recently retired as a lawyer, Bob's earlier experiences include the Canadian navy where he

navigated destroyers and submarines, and stints teaching school and ranching in the interior of BC. He believes that strong characters make for strong plots.

An Associate Member, Bob is now Member-at-Large on the executive committee of the Vancouver Branch.

### Judith K. Parker

When I was preparing to move to Vancouver BC from Ohio, my friends and neighbors kept asking, "Do you like to fish?" (That's pronounced "feesh" in my old neck of the woods and is somehow associated with CANADA.)



No, I don't fish, although I used to. Growing up on a small family farm with a lake, I fished, swam, rowed, and ice-skated—no, not all at the same time. I also used to teach. For over thirty years, I was both as an administrator and a teacher of programs for students with special needs.

Now I write full time. No, I did not keep my day job. Now

writing is my day job. I've had four books published: *Waiting for Spring*, which I describe as a cheaply produced chapbook of flawed and highly depressing poems, *Stone Pillars*, a collection of poems about a television show (please don't ask), *Four from Wishes*, a collection of speculative short stories, and my first novel, a science fiction adventure, *Counterfeit World*. I'm now supposed to be working on my second novel, a mystery-adventure set during World War II. Since writing Chapter Sixteen of that one, I've written a raft of poems (yes, poems come in rafts, just as lions come in prides and crows in murders), several short stories, and two novellas.

Now, thanks to my writing circle, I'm ready to finish that second novel. On to Chapter Seventeen.

Blog: <http://secondnovel.blogspot.com/>

Judy Parker is a Professional Member of CAA.

### Perry Wilson

During what I call my writing career, I've dabbled in a number of genres but have not found one that feels like mine. I am definitely a genre writer; my thoughts are not deep enough to attempt literature.

I started writing in my early 20s and found life got in the way of writing too easily as I built my career in banking, from front line officer, to branch manager, to senior project manager.

Last year I made a commitment to myself that I would place importance on writing, and I have managed to stick with it despite being downsized and starting a project management consulting business.

I am working on three novels in three genres (fantasy/romance, serial killer mystery, and a 'will she catch them' mystery). I think of it as variety rather than writing ADD. I have submitted two of my works, a short story to a magazine and a novel to a contest. Now I type with fingers crossed: it's not as hard as it sounds.

Perry Wilson, an Associate Member, is Branch Treasurer.



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Meetings and Workshops

Vancouver Branch holds regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, from 7 to 9 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm), with socials in December and June. 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. Please visit [www.canauthorsvancouver.org/](http://www.canauthorsvancouver.org/) for details, or contact Margaret Hume, Branch President (email [mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:mahume@canauthorsvancouver.org), or phone 604-806-0471) for more information.

CAA members are requested to wear their CAA name tags. If you do not have a name tag, please see Cathy Barzo 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 for sale to the display table.

### Monthly Meeting Format

Prior to our featured guest speaker(s) at our regular monthly meetings, we allocate one or 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 to 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.

Please see details of our summer social below. No meetings or events are scheduled for July and August. Details of the Fall events in Sept. 1st issue of WCW. The **Word on the Street Festival** takes place on September 27. You can display and sell your books at our table.

### Next Meetings & Workshops

#### EVENT: Sat. June 27 - Summer social.

CAA June Social will take place at noon at the White Spot (1616 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, near Stanley Park). Members may bring one guest. There will be a choice of three menu items. Cost is \$17 per person. Please reserve early as space is limited. RSVP to: [jeankay@dccnet.com](mailto:jeankay@dccnet.com)

#### OTHER SUMMER EVENTS

Other summer festivals include the **Bowen Writers and Readers Festival** (July 10-12); the **Sooke All Art Show** in Sooke, BC (July 10-12); and the **Summer Dream Literary Arts Festival**, at Lumberman's Arch, Stanley Park (August 22). If you wish to read at this last event, please see page 10 for information.

#### MEETING: Wednesday, September 9

Details of this meeting will be posted as they become available. For more information, contact Jean at 604-943-9247, or email [jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org](mailto:jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org).

## PAST MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Did You Miss These Great Meetings?

#### **March 11: Jane Hall, *The Red Wall: a Woman in the RCMP***

The March monthly meeting of the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association was chaired by poet Jean Kay. I've already expressed my suspicions about what shifty characters authors are. Well, the proof of this was evident tonight. The RCMP finally sent a spy to keep an eye on the lot of them, especially Bernice. Bernice Lever is an editor. She's kind of a talent scout for publishers and we all know how shady those characters are.

Jane Hall was the RCMP woman. It's amazing what this world famous force will do to infiltrate an organization! The RCMP clearly figured they needed an authentic author. Jane must have been a volunteer. She admitted tonight that she spent eight years writing her book, *The Red Wall, a Woman in the RCMP*. She had to spend another year rewriting it. It's the first book by an RCMP woman about her time in the force. "Creative non-fiction," she called it, adding, "Like Farley Mowat, but I didn't have to chase wolves naked."

She was told--she said--"If anything I protected people who didn't deserve to be protected." She's been married 26 years and the mother of two boys and two girls. Her husband--"a classic"--was there filming her presentation.

She compared the major traditional publishing house offer that she'd received where she would have been a 'small fish in a big pond' to the offer from General Store Publishing House. She'd co-published her book with the latter, sharing the cost and profits, and keeping the right to sell direct, which she does at <http://www.theredwall.ca/>.

"I need a new motorcycle," her husband had said. They'd both ridden motorcycles together when they met. "There are six themes in the book," Jane said, "but it's really about a social revolution. There's murder, arson, rape and the Depot but there's a lot more than that." Short listed for a prestigious writing award and reference read now in universities, it's already going onto the recommended read list. That's the kind of dedication that goes with the RCMP: Nine years of effort just to get someone into the Canadian Authors Association to keep an eye on things.

No doubt, that famous medical writer and CAA member, Patrick Taylor, skipped back to Ireland on a tip the RCMP were following him.

With *The Red Wall* going into a second printing, Jane Hall is working on a follow-up book. My grandmother had commissioned me to buy *The Red Wall*. Jane's dedication reads: If we all work together we can 'maintain the right'.

The meeting ended with Jane reading an hilarious passage from her book. Sure she's a great author, a great speaker too, but no one's fooling me. The RCMP spared no expense in getting the best to keep an eye on the CAA. Probably she's tasked personally by the Prime Minister to make sure the guts of Canadian culture don't get spilled to the Americans or worse.

By William (Bill) Hay

<http://williamhaywriter.blogspot.com>

#### **April 8: Caroline Adderson, Author**

The April CAA West Coast Branch meeting in the Howe Street Alliance for the Arts Building was certainly racy. Spring was in the air. The meeting opened with a reading by kc dyer from *A Walk through a Window*.

My first surprise was to hear the vivacious children's writer say that the "language is much more colourful and varied" in today's children's writing than when she began. Her first book was marketed to young adults. "I didn't know I wrote for young adults. I wrote what I liked to read and found out I was immature," she humorously shared. In response to a question from the audience she replied, "I refuse to write down to kids. I've never used a lesser vocabulary." This is her fifth book, and the first published by Doubleday.

Next, Caroline Adderson stated that she sometimes thought of herself as a six-foot tall, big-boned woman, except when she stood beside her six-foot tall husband which suddenly made her feel a shrimp. Given the laurels she's received for her exquisite writing, she probably once was 10 feet tall but has become bent over by the load. She has won two Ethel Wilson Fiction awards, three CBC Literary Awards, been nominated for the Governor General's Award, long listed for the Giller award and much more. Her novels *History of Forgetting* (Key Porter, 1999) and *Sitting Practice* (Thomas Allen, 2003) are published internationally. *Pleased to Meet You* (Thomas Allen, 2006) is her latest collection of short stories.

Streaked brown hair, gold necklace, brown wool jacket and blue jeans, she was a beautiful young

## PAST MEETINGS (continued)

woman who read excerpts with captivating animation.

*Sitting Practice* is the story of the love of a nurse and a man who meet and then are in a car accident which causes her paraplegia and is solely his fault. The book is the story of how things fall out. She touchingly shared that as it recently went into print in the US she received a letter from a woman in a wheelchair that said it was the 'most authentic book' she'd read.

She started as a short story writer; her first collection was *Bad Imaginings*. She said that she felt short stories were more like poetry whereas novels were more like plays and dramatizations. She didn't write poetry but believed poetry was the highest form because the fewer the words the harder it is to write. She was the 2008 Writer in Residence at the Vancouver Library, and is truly an inspiration.

The message I took away from tonight's meeting was "climax". Not what it might seem to some given the robustness of the meeting. In answer to my question about the complexity of novel writing Caroline Adderson had said it was good to have some idea of the 'climax' and that the story should 'aim there'. I love the CAA even if it means associating with the likes of writers.

By William (Bill) Hay

<http://williamhaywriter.blogspot.com>

### May 13: Daphne Bramham and *The Secret Lives of Saints*

Award-winning *Vancouver Sun* columnist Daphne Bramham spoke about her recent book, *The Secret Lives of Saints* (Random House, 2008), describing the big differences in work practices of journalists and book writers. The standard journalistic practice is to avoid the editor and file stories at the last minute to prevent cuts and changes. A book editor, she learned, is a supporter and partner who helps bring the writer's vision to fruition.

Not knowing the basics, Bramham found the road to publication challenging. When offered a telephone introduction to top editor Anne Collins, Daphne didn't recognize the name of Random House's renowned head. After their initial conversation, she spent six months learning how to present a non-fiction book proposal. Collins passed her to another editor with whom Bramham established an excellent working relationship. He refused to discuss her work until he had read it three times. She accepted his decision to delete two chapters, as it led to the creation of a more relevant chapter.

By this time, Bramham had been writing columns on the polygamist community of Bountiful, BC, for more

than a year. This led to more contacts. By late 2005 she had enough material for a book. The Attorney General of Utah had successfully prosecuted Warren Jeffs, a Mormon leader with 80 wives, and referred to fundamentalist polygamist Mormons as "North America's Taliban".

For the experienced and respected journalist, it was a shock when her first proposal was rejected and she was told to organize her material more effectively. The timeline was tight, and she had six months to write the first draft. Having no idea of what lay ahead, Bramham continued to write her column and carry out her other journalistic duties. To write her book, she had to establish a home office and obtain her own reference tools.

While Bramham was working on the book, the BC Teachers' Federation asked her to speak at a Human Rights conference in Creston, a town about ten minutes from Bountiful. Though her newspaper did not want to cover this event, Bramham took vacation time and went. There she met three women who in the two days that they spent together described their lives. These three gave her the material that would become the "connective tissue" of the book, and through them, she met others.

Bramham already knew a lot about Bountiful, a small town in the Kootenays, but there was a great deal of other research to be done. She needed to study the beliefs of the Fundamentalist Mormons, and research their history in Canada. She also had to interview the young males, who were known as the "lost boys." The status of these unwanted males was too low to rate even a single wife, and they worked like slaves until, either disillusioned or evicted outright, they left the community, lacking education or essential social skills. Unlike the women, they were rarely pursued and all too often ended up as alcoholics and drug addicts.

In sharp contrast, the male leaders of the Fundamentalist Mormons were religious playboys, their lives filled with young wives, mansions and fancy cars. Bramham also talked to these polygamist husbands, including Winston Blackmore, the leader of Bountiful and self-satisfied possessor of 26 wives.

The book assignment was tough and time consuming. After many hours of interviews, Bramham was living and breathing her subject. She cried over it and dreamed about it. Just after she had revised the manuscript and sent it off, Warren Jeffs, the convicted Utah Mormon, attempted suicide in prison. Bramham pleaded successfully with her publisher to add some material about this new development before the book went to press.

Bramham's creation has been nominated for four awards, and now this journalist is hooked on books. This time she knows the ropes and she's ready.

By Carol Tulpar

## CAA WRITERS' CIRCLES

### Writers' Circles - CAA Members Only

The Vancouver Branch is initiating new Writers' Circles (critique groups) for members only, in four general areas: Burnaby, Surrey/Langley, Vancouver and the North Shore.

The intention is for these groups to be self-directing and meet in premises at no cost to the CAA. For example, groups can be held in each others' homes, or in coffee shops.

#### Guidelines

Circles will meet every two weeks or once a month. Meeting time will be decided by members themselves. The duration of meetings for such groups is usually two hours.

Work to be critiqued is distributed in advance, either electronically or in person at the previous meeting. Prose submissions should be no longer than 2000 words. Poetry 150 lines in length whether an epic or several short poems.

Material should not be previously published. Material previously critiqued may be resubmitted with editing changes made.

Members may decide on a time limit for each critique. For example, a group can allow each individual exactly three minutes for comments, followed by general discussion.

#### General Information

Members of the Vancouver Circles recognize that material submitted by other writers is the property of that writer, and agree that they will not use any part of the material presented by other writers in any way.

Critique comments should be written on the copy of the manuscript text at the relevant point of reference within the text or following the paragraph; comments on the manuscript are usually more readily understood.

All manuscript text will be returned to the contributing writer following critiquing of the material.

A broader critique of the material can be provided in narrative form at the end of the manuscript material, on the bottom or back of the material, or on a separate piece of paper that will be given to the contributing writer, if the critiquing member wishes to do so.

#### A critique should:

- \* be substantive, focusing on plot or character development, narrative strengths or weaknesses, accuracy of background material, etc. and have the goal of helping the writer improve the written material;
- \* not be concerned about punctuation, syntax or word choices unless they present a comprehension problem or when the word has been incorrectly used;
- \* include both constructive criticism and warranted praise.

Group members should listen without commentary and not attempt to contradict while another member is critiquing.

We each contribute to the process based on our own experience, which may differ from experiences of other members. It is the writer who must decide on the validity of each contribution.

Once each member has had an opportunity to critique the material uninterrupted, a general discussion of the material and the feedback can occur with all members participating.

While being critiqued the writer should not engage in dialogue with the critiquing member in an effort to justify the original material or to alter the reader's perception of the material.

As in all gifts, it is ultimately up to the recipient, in this case the writer, to determine its value.

The first Writers' Circle group was formed in Vancouver, with six members who plan to meet bi-weekly. Groups are now being planned for other areas. If you are interested, please contact Joyce Goodwin, the Writers' Circles Coordinator (phone 604-929-6143 or email [irevann@gmail.com](mailto:irevann@gmail.com)).

By Joyce Goodwin

## VANCOUVER MEMBERS' NEWS

**Jane Hall** will be in Texas to lecture on June 1st at the Texas Women's University as part of a leadership course for Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs.

**Sandra Harper** has just returned from four months in Kenya. While she was volunteering at the university in Western Kenya, she was writing a sequel to her popular children's novel, *Breaking Out*, a story for youth about the challenges faced by a boy and his family in rural Kenya. She has also completed a series of travel articles about Kenya. Since her return to Vancouver, Harper has been busy with presenting to students in schools about Whycliffe's heart-rendering story in *Breaking Out*, as well as giving readings in Lower Mainland libraries about her fictionalized novel, *Not Until Now*, about Francis Rattenbury, the architect of the BC Legislature Buildings.

Harper will be reading from *Not Until Now: the Rattenbury's Story* at the Langley City Library on May 30 at 2 pm and on June 9 at 7 pm at the Vancouver Public Library.

During Arts & Culture Week in BC, **Gordon Mumford**, **Gavin Hainsworth**, and **Alejandro Mujica-Olea** took part in the Royal City Book Festival, displaying their books on Saturday April 25 at the Royal Centre Mall. Gavin and Alejandro also gave readings that afternoon in the New Westminster Public Library.

**William Hay** had his article, "Our White Lab Coats" accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *The Medical Post*.

**Bernice Lever** was made a Life Member of The Ontario Poetry Society. Her poem "Privates" was published in *The Toronto Quarterly* and 2 poems in *Expressions*, 2009 book from the Wm. Henry Drummond contest. On July 10-12, she will be active in the *Write On Bowen Writers' Festival* as a speaker, picnic host to Leiben setting, Blue Pencil worker and more.

**Ben Nuttall-Smith's** poetry was featured in the April edition of *Cyclamens and Swords* ([http://www.cyclamensandswords.com/main/page\\_artwork\\_ben\\_nuttallsmith.html](http://www.cyclamensandswords.com/main/page_artwork_ben_nuttallsmith.html)). He will be at Black Bond Books, South Surrey Warehouse, 1-15562-24th Avenue on Saturday, May 23rd, from 2 to 3 pm. 10% of all sales will be given to the Peace Arch Community Services Food Bank.



Bernice Lever, reading for the Al Purdy A-Frame fundraiser.

In April, **J. Gordon Mumford** spoke to two Grade 7 classes at Lord Kelvin School in New Westminster as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations. He also gave a presentation on the Battle of the Atlantic on April 29 to the Sea Cadets at HMCS Discovery.

On Sunday, May 3, he joined other veterans from the Royal Canadian Navy and Merchant Navy to observe the 64th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic at Sailor's Point in North Vancouver.

**Patrick Taylor's** best seller *An Irish Country Doctor* is now available in German and Dutch editions. The Spanish edition was released in April.

The paperback Irish Edition will appear in June to be followed by the Irish hardback of *Irish Country Village* in October. Hungarian has now been added to the other nine foreign language *Readers Digest* condensations of *Doctor Village*, have been acquired by Readers Digest for translation into Czech, Slovak, and Polish.

The fourth book in the series, *An Irish Country Girl* is scheduled for release in February 2010. Patrick, while enjoying his stay in Ireland, is now at work on book five, *An Irish Country Partnership*. He reads in Londonderry in May and at the Boyle Festival of the Arts in July.

## NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### 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)

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

As GST was reduced to 5% in January 2008, annual membership dues are now \$157.50. If you bring in 3 new members (or people who have not renewed their membership for 18 months), under the 4/3 special offer you can extend you 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.

### 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 already have a website, you can have a link to that website listed on the Vancouver Branch Members page.

Or you can double your chances of being noticed by having both a new site associated with our Branch webpage 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>.

### The 6th Annual Summer Dream Literary Arts Festival

Saturday August 22 at Lumberman's Arch,  
Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC (12 - 7 pm)

This event is an annual, engaging, outdoor festival established to raise public awareness regarding the on-going literary events, programs and resources available in the community. We will be incorporating literary performances, dancers, local bands, panel discussions, open mics and a children's area with puppet shows, music, story tellers, face painting and craft tables. There will also be information tables showcasing community groups and resources such as the Vancouver Public Library and The Federation of BC Writers. Full details are on their website: [www.pandoracollective.com/sdrfestival.html/](http://www.pandoracollective.com/sdrfestival.html/)

Vancouver Branch will have a table, but it will not be manned. Members are welcome to use it. Please note: no one is allowed to sell books, etc. in the park.

If you are interesting in giving a reading, CAA has a place reserved on the Granville Stage, from **5:30 to 5:50 pm**. For details, please contact Jean Kay. Email [jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org](mailto:jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org) or call her at 604-943-9247.



## 2010 CONFERENCE NEWS

### CanWrite! 2010 – June 23-27, 2010 - Update



**Victoria is the place to be in June 2010.** Not only do we have great accommodation rates at the **Harbour Towers Hotel** for our conference dates June 23 to 27, but the hotel will extend them for three days prior and three days after the conference, if space is available. So plan to make Victoria your vacation destination next summer and take in CanWrite! 2010 at the same time. For reservations, please email: [reservations.harbourtowers@silverBirchhotels.com](mailto:reservations.harbourtowers@silverBirchhotels.com) or phone 1-800-663-5896. Be sure to mention that you are part of CanWrite! 2010.

Room Options	Residential View	Ocean View
Standard Guest Room	\$129.00	_____
Superior Guest Room	_____	\$139.00
King Bachelor Suite	\$159.00	_____
One Bedroom Suite	\$179.00	\$199.00
Two Bedroom Suite	\$229.00	\$249.00

More good news! **Patrick Taylor**, our bestselling author of the Irish Country Doctor series, will be a keynote speaker. Patrick will also accept six 1500 word pieces of fiction, no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>, and give one hour one-on-one evaluations with the authors on Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> as part of CanWrite! This wonderful opportunity is being offered at \$169 to those attending the conference and \$199 for non-attendees. Start thinking about your fictional writing to submit.

**Applying Technology to Writing** is the main theme of the conference. Come and learn tips and tricks on getting the most out of your word processing and formatting. Learn how to create a Power Point Presentation. Learn about story structuring for screen, or blogs, or EBooks. All that and more will be available, complete with handouts.

Stay tuned for more exciting news about CanWrite! 2010.

Jean Kay, Conference Coordinator  
 CanWrite! 2010 - Victoria  
 Canadian Authors Association National Conference  
 Email: [jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org](mailto:jkay@canauthors.vancouver.org)

### WRITER IN RESIDENCE (for members)

Bernice Lever, a former editor with the Dundurn Group, is Writer in Residence for the Vancouver and Ottawa branches. She reads and comments 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 will edit manuscripts and will give 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, and 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 email [bernice@colourofwords.com](mailto:bernice@colourofwords.com).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### CAA VANCOUVER BRANCH

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

#### Vancouver Branch Executive, 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 & Program Chair: Jean Kay  
604-943-9247, [JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org](mailto:JKay@CanAuthorsVancouver.org)
- \* Recording Secretary: Ben Nuttall-Smith  
604-535-2977, [nuttall-smith@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:nuttall-smith@canauthorsvancouver.org)
- \* Treasurer: Perry Wilson, 604-816-1083  
[perrywilson@gmail.com](mailto:perrywilson@gmail.com)
- \* CanWrite 2010 Conference Coordinator: Jean Kay
- \* Member-at-Large: Bob Mackay, 604 541-9098  
[bob.mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:bob.mackay@hotmail.com)
- \* Membership Chair: Cathy Barzo, 604-685-4828,  
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- \* Publicity Chair: BenNuttall-Smith, 604-535-2977,  
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- \* Web Master: Russ Harvey,  
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- \* Writing Circles Coordinator: Joyce Goodwin,  
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#### CAA NATIONAL OFFICE

**Interim Executive Director:**  
Anita Purcell

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

### CAA - VANCOUVER WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER

CAA-Vancouver issues a warm welcome  
to our new associate member:  
Doris Kavanagh-Gray.

### 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. And don't forget to include the price and where people can get your work. Send to [editor@canauthorsvancouver.org](mailto:editor@canauthorsvancouver.org). and put "New Title" as the subject. Attach a JPG file if one is available.

Also don't forget that the *CAA National Newslines* has a "Canadian Authors Publish" feature so please remember to send a copy of your message 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:**Fall (Aug. 15), Winter (Nov. 15), Spring (Feb. 15), Summer (May 15).