

### **Karen Bass**

#### **Biography**

A fourth-generation Albertan, Karen was born and still lives in northwest Alberta where she recently retired from managing a small library. She has always been an avid reader, and often wrote essays and articles for the local newspaper, but her first attempt at fiction, coming after four years of working in the library, sparked a passion that she's certain will never fade. Her first YA novel, *Run Like Jäger*, combined the inspiration of a cousin who took part in an exchange program and Karen's long-standing interest in World War Two. While writing her book, she had the opportunity to travel to Germany and loves to talk about her travels, her stories, and how the two impact each other. Her second novel, *Summer of Fire* is also set in Germany and like her first, has a contemporary teen learn about WWII Germany. Her third novel, *Drummer Girl* (2011) has nothing to do with WWII, and instead tells the contemporary story of a girl who will do *almost* anything to get a gig as a drummer in a band.

#### **Presentations and workshops**

Karen's general presentation about her books covers a bit of her writing process, where her ideas came from, how travelling to Germany changed her first story in particular, and a bit of WWII history as it relates to the books. She has a Powerpoint presentation, primarily pictures from her travels in Germany, and does bring along some interesting items she has gathered along the way. If a teacher prefers, she can do a more focused presentation on aspects of the writing process.

Due to her books being geared for YA readers, Karen's presentations are best suited to junior and senior high. While a smaller group (max 30) is preferred for greater interaction, she can present to larger groups. Any group over 60 would require a microphone.

### **Marion Brooker**

#### **Biography**

Happy memories of a childhood growing up on a farm in southwest Manitoba which her grandparents homesteaded and in the house they built form the basis of Marion's first book *Noreen and The Amazing No-Good Horse*. It was from this home that Jim, her uncle, left when he joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders as an underage soldier to serve in World War 1. His letters home form a basis for *Hold The Oxo! A Teenage Soldier Writes Home* which intertwines what is happening in the young country Canada with Jim's experiences on the war front. A highlight of her writing career is the picture book *Tadeo's Search For Circles* illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker, her daughter.

Marion has written educational radio programs for Grades I to XII - dramas for opportunity classes, stories of historical and human interest as well as stories for Magic Door. She enjoys getting children and adults excited about telling *their* stories.

*Tadeo's Search For Circles*: Fitzhenry and Whiteside November 2011. Illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker  
*Hold The Oxo! A Teenage Soldier Writes Home* Dundurn Group August 2011  
*Home and Away Anthology*: House of Blue Skies 2009 Poetry  
*Writing The Land Anthology*: House of Blue Skies 2007 Poetry  
*Noreen and the Amazing No-Good Horse*: Borealis Press 2003  
*Jimmy Was No Hero* In Jeopardy: Western Canadian Literature for Youth, 1979  
*A Real Hero* Pingo (Grade IV reader) Gage Publishing Co., 1980  
*Thin Ice* Zap, Fitzhenry and Whiteside 1985

### **Presentations**

Marion Brooker invites the students into the world of writing – the excitement of finding ideas in everyday events and the art of capturing and keeping the reader's attention. Her presentation "If You Can Talk, You Can Write" creates a 'yes you can' approach with the students. Marion reads examples from her own works as well as from other favorite writers. She encourages participation by the students with prompts and short exercises on getting started and building the idea into story. With examples of illustrations she also follows a picture book from writer to illustrator to library shelf. Marion enjoys young people and makes her presentations fun and informative.

Junior High and High School activities will center around *Hold The Oxo! A Teenage Soldier Writes Home* using letters and artifacts to tell Jim's story. She will read from his letters about life in the trenches, being billeted in barns and relate them to World War 1 and Canada's role in it. Marion will speak about the decision she had to make and her experiences in writing her uncle's story.

## **Maureen Bush**

### **Biography**

I loved writing as a child but had nothing to say, so I went on to other things, first a Bachelor's Degree in History, and then a Masters Degree in Environmental Design. I worked as a public involvement consultant and trained as a mediator until I discovered that I liked writing even better. I have a Post-graduate Certificate of Creative Writing from Humber College, and recently spent a week at the Banff Centre in a Young Adult writing course with Arthur Slade.

I have published four children's novels: *The Nexus Ring* (Coteau 2007), *Feather Brain* (Orca 2008), *Crow Boy* (Coteau 2010), and *Cursed!* (Orca 2010). *The Veil Weavers*, the third in the Veil of Magic series, will be released next spring (Coteau).

My stories have been nominated for, between them, five Reader's Choice Awards, including *Feather Brain's* nomination for the Alberta Rocky Mountain Book Award in 2010. *Feather Brain* was also an Ontario Library Association Best Books for 2008, and an honour book (second place) for the Ontario 2009 Silver Birch Express.

I have done presentations and readings at schools, libraries, award events and bookstores, in Calgary and surrounding area, Lethbridge, Toronto, and Uxbridge, Ontario, and have been a presenter at the Calgary Young Writer's Conference. I love connecting with kids, making them laugh, and inspiring them to read and, sometimes, to write.

For more information, please visit [www.maureenbush.com](http://www.maureenbush.com)

### **Presentations and Workshops**

I like to do interactive sessions with a maximum of 75 children, of an hour in length. Libraries and music rooms are great locations, as is a classroom for smaller groups. (Please, no gyms, as the children can't hear each other's ideas when we're creating a story).

I'll talk about my stories, particularly where the ideas came from, and then play a game with the students creating a story together. I'll read short selections, and leave time for questions.

I can also focus on a single book. For example, schools in Lethbridge have used Feather Brain for One School, One Book, in which every student is read the story, and each class studies the book. The themes of dinosaurs and bullying become the focus of both the in-class activities, and my visit.

I also enjoy working with junior and senior high students. The focus for these groups could be adjusted, to a writing-based session on generating story ideas, a discussion of writing and being a writer, or specifically to a career as a writer (as I have done for High School Career Days).

I'm happy to adjust the focus of my talk to the specific needs of the school.

## **Wendy Davis**

### **Biography**

Wendy Davis was born in 1928 in London, England. Her father was in the Indian Civil Service, and her mother took baby Wendy and her sister to India. Age 5 years, Wendy went to boarding school in England; her parents returned to India, leaving the girls with a beloved nanny. During the war, Wendy and her sister travelled to India. At the age of 15, she returned to boarding school in England. In 1974, Wendy immigrated to Canada as an occupational therapist. On retirement, she attended writing classes. Colleagues loved her anecdotes and encouraged her to have them published.

### **Presentations**

When I give presentations, I include my life experiences as well as where my ideas come from. I talk about what it's like to be a writer, and that stories are in every facet of daily

living. I encourage children and adults to write their own stories and give them pointers on how to tell a story.

### **Kim Deep**

#### **Biography**

Kim Deep, CMA, is a business coach and financial educator, an expert in cashflow management and systemizing business and personal finances, and a published author of the children's book, *Conductor Kash and the Prosperity Express*. Kim is currently in the process of publishing her 2<sup>nd</sup> children's book, *The Prosperity Princess*, Kim is an Edutainer and is certified in NLP training strategies, Kim is the founder and president of the Family Wealth Academy and Kidz Make Cents, and Business by Numbers Ltd. Kim has been a featured columnist for numerous national publications and on radio and TV. She is known as the "CFO on the Go" and the Financial Waste manager that empowers people with account-abilities.

#### **Presentations:**

Financial literacy goes hand in hand with literacy and writing. Money is another language that youth need to learn at a young age so they can build confidence and create their own financial independence.

Kim will share her inspiration for writing stories and books around financial literacy and why being clear on what you want is important especially in writing and finances. In the process, she will take the youth through interactive activities that will allow them to tap into their creativity but also learn some fundamental financial literacy skills in the process. Kim's experience with interacting with all ages in delivering her money camp and financial literacy programs in fun and engaging ways, allows her to bring to students an invigorating and lively discussion around finances and writing.

### **Sue Farrell Holler**

#### **Biography**

A Grade 4 writing assignment gone awry, set Sue Farrell Holler on a path in which she practically stalks the neighbourhood postal carriers looking for letters addressed to her. The "ruined" assignment also began her journey as a writer, in which she is most often inspired by real people, real places and real events.

She is the author of two picture books and a middle-grade novel, all of which are set in Alberta. Her latest book, "Lacey and the African Grandmothers," received an honourable mention at the 2010 CAA Exporting Alberta Awards, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Rocky Mountain Book Awards.

As well as writing books for children, she is a freelance journalist who has had articles

published in local, regional and national publications, and is a regular columnist for Sun Media newspaper, the Daily Herald-Tribune. In her weekly column, “Family Matters,” she writes about the joys and challenges of family life.

Sue is an experienced speaker who has presented to thousands of Alberta school children since her first book was published in 1994.

*Lacey and the African Grandmothers*, Second Story Press, 2009.

*To the Pool with Mama*, Annick Press, 2000.

*To the Post Office with Mama*, Annick Press, 1994.

### **Presentations**

With a combination of storytelling and reading from her published works, Sue Farrell Holler brings to students a message of perseverance and following your heart. During her energetic presentation, Sue discusses her early life and the development of the writing habit.

### **Grades 4-8**

To set the tone of “*Lacey and the African Grandmothers*,” she begins with hand drumming and telling the story of White Buffalo Calf Woman, a First Nation’s legend that brings a message of hope and peace, and that is the basis of a chapter in “Lacey.”

Presentation includes a slide show of the real places and the real people who inspired the novel. Based on student/staff questions, discussion may move in several directions -- research, how to meld fact and fiction, the writing process, etc.

### **K- Grade 3**

Sue’s picture books evoke feelings of love and trust between mother and child.

“*To the Post Office with Mama*” and “*To the Pool with Mama*” work particularly well with students going on field trips to the post office or swimming pool. She discusses parts of the book (cover, title page, dedication) and the roles of people who make up a book (author, illustrator, publisher). Throughout the presentation, Sue tells stories, reads from giant-sized books and shows photographs of the real settings and characters.

### **Senior High**

Sue is willing to speak to small groups of students in Grades 9-12 who have a particular interest in writing and publishing. This informal session is run with a short introduction, and then follows a question and answer format.

## **M. Jennie Frost**

### **Biography**

M. Jennie Frost is a storyteller who has performed in 136 schools and public libraries

throughout Alberta, as well as to audiences of all ages (3 years old – seniors) in seven other provinces and one territory. In May 2011 she was selected by Storytellers of Canada—Conteurs du Canada to tour as a storyteller in Sault Ste. Marie and area during the Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s 2011 Book Week. Formerly a school and university Latin teacher, Jennie specializes in Greek and Roman myth and history, but she also has a wide repertoire of world folktales, narrative poetry, and literary stories.

As an author, Jennie has had prizewinning short stories and poetry published in literary journals and anthologies. Because her narrative poem *The Courtship of Hippodameia* won Honourable Mention in a Mellen Press Long Poem Contest, it was published as a book (Mellen, Lewiston NY, 2005). In 2005, thanks to a Canada Council grant, Jennie published a 2-CD set *Pygmalion and Other Greek Myths*. She also has stories in a book and on three CD-sets published by TALES (The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling.) She has been a member of the Stroll of Poets since 1996 and has given readings in many Strolls, Poets’ Havens, and in the Edmonton Poetry Festival.

In the past three years, Jennie has given student writing workshops and a talk to teachers at Young Author Conferences in Edmonton, Calgary, and High River.

### **Presentations and Workshops**

**Storytelling:** Jennie selects her stories’ subjects and lengths to suit the age of her audience. She is flexible about how sessions are organized and always talks to her host before she comes about class groupings and possible story programs. She usually tells folktales since she believes that the world’s folktales are a heritage that will enrich and enlarge the lives of students of any age, and she loves sharing them. She often adds narrative poetry for younger classes or a literary story for older classes so students may have a non-analytical experience of literature

**Writing:** Jennie will talk about her writing to gr. 5 – 12 students. For workshops she wants one class, usually for 2 hours, so there is time for writing exercises. She can do a one-hour workshop about writing concretely, but in that will involve discussion with the class rather than written exercises.

**Other Presentations:** Jennie is fascinated by word history. Since Latin words are the source of 40 % of English vocabulary, for grades 5 – 12 she offers an hour’s talk on the history of the English language emphasizing Latin’s contribution. She also gives a 2-hour workshop on learning to write the Greek alphabet, with stories and talk about word derivation.

## **Jacqueline Guest**

### **Biography**

With 16 published novels, Métis author Jacqueline Guest has over twenty years experience in classrooms sharing her extensive information on all aspects of writing, editing, and publishing. Her book award nominations include the Silver Birch, Red Cedar, Hackmatack and Arthur Ellis Mystery Awards. Topics are geared for today’s

audience and include wild motorcycles chases, runaways, the war in Afghanistan and violent video gaming. Jacqueline's curriculum based, interactive and highly visual Historical Presentation makes the Era of the Fur Trade come alive for students and teachers alike. (Interactive presentation available.) Her newest book, *Ghost Messages*, shows readers how the World Wide Web has its roots here in Newfoundland and how the Fenian plot to take over Canada could have succeeded. (PPT presentation in conjunction with book available.) Her Easy Key Writing Workshops give a three-step solution to achieving higher marks on any writing assignment, including the dreaded PATs! She lives in a log cabin in the high foothills of the Rocky Mountains and when not writing, teaching or mentoring, Jacqueline enjoys activities ranging from white water rafting to dog sledding plus practicing her Hail Mary chess moves.

For more information of books and presentations, please visit [www.jacquelineguest.com](http://www.jacquelineguest.com) for details. If questions occur, email [writer@jacquelineguest.com](mailto:writer@jacquelineguest.com) for the answers.

## **Presentations**

### **History and Culture Presentation**

A Blast from the Past- The Era of the Fur Trade in Canada

Join Jacqueline Guest, author of 16 novels, as we re-live the era of the fur trade from Canada's fabulous past. This interactive presentation brings history to life as students, in Métis costume, travel on an imaginary voyageur canoe trip to the Hudson Bay Trading Post with a load of beaver pelts, try their hand at aboriginal games, and learn how to use a buffalo brain to its fullest! With over 50 actual artifacts from the past, including Hudson Bay Trade Beads, fur pelts, buffalo bone fishing hooks, horn sewing needles, First Nations toys and tools, this highly visual presentation is one both students and staff will remember. Curriculum based, this is Grade 4, 5 and 7 Social Studies stepping off the page and onto the stage.

### **Ghost Messages: How the WWW Began in Canada**

Set sail on the voyage of a lifetime! Discover how the *World Wide Web* really began. This is the story of the ill fated 1865 attempt to lay the transatlantic cable from Ireland to Newfoundland, but the submarine cable is only part of the tale, added to this is a list of mayhem including:

- a fortune telling Irish lass who hides out on the biggest ship ever built
- the fiendish Fenian plot to sabotage the cable by driving a spike through its heart
- supernatural elements with documented history supplying the solution
- the lethal race to find a stolen golden treasure.

Factual/actual history is woven into a tale of danger and mystery giving insights into events that changed communication for all time.

A Complete Novel Study Package including:

1. A great Book Club Selection for Grade 5 through Grade 10
2. In-Depth Teacher's Guide available
3. Books supplied at a special book club price.
4. Follow us at <http://ghostmessagesbookclub.blogspot.com>
5. A comprehensive *Meet the Author Event* consisting of:

- a 30 minute PPT presentation which includes photographs and illustrations from the voyage
- background insider information on the writing process
- a Morse Code quiz to puzzle
- a Q & A Session allowing readers to ask the questions
- a special autograph session
- book marks and totally awesome prizes

Readers will see an *actual piece of the 1865 cable* that started today's tidal wave of communication!

### **Charmaine Hammond**

#### **Biography**

MA, BA, is an international transformational speaker, helping people live inspired, resilient lives and is a leading trainer in corporate North America helping transform workplaces.

Charmaine is also an award winning and bestselling author of *On Toby's Terms* (Bettie Youngs Books, Sept. 2010), *Toby The Pet Therapy Dog – and his hospital friends* (Bettie Youngs Books, Aug. 2011), and *Bounce Forward* (Hammond International Publishing, April 2011), and has been published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul- What I learned from the dog* (Sept. 2009). She is also co-authoring a new book *GPS Your Best Life*. Her book *On Toby's Terms* is currently in development to become a major motion picture! She has been featured on CBC, CTV, Global TV, 820 CHAM, Alberta Prime Time News, many major newspapers, and in various magazines.

You can find all that Charmaine offers at [www.hammondgroup.biz](http://www.hammondgroup.biz) and [www.ontobyterms.com](http://www.ontobyterms.com)

### **Joyce Harries**

#### **Biography**

Joyce was born in Edmonton in 1928. She turned 20 on her honeymoon. She and her husband, Hu Harries, had six children. One died in the polio epidemic of 1953. Joyce mentions this in her talk to the children and how polio has almost disappeared world-wide due to inoculations.

She is the author of *Girdles and Other Harnesses I Have Known* (Lone Pine Publishing, 2000), and *Twice in a Blue Moon* (Spotted Cow Press, 2007) Her writing has been anthologized in five anthologies and learned journals.

#### **Presentations**

Joyce reads from both her books, telling of what it was like to grow up in the depression years in Edmonton. Although during her married life, she had the

experience of owning and working on 3 ranches with her family, they always lived at the main house in Edmonton.

She explains how one gets a book published. How difficult it is. How J.K. Rowling had many publishers tell her they “couldn’t fit her book into their lists”. She talks about the rules for writing fact or fiction many of which are the same.

Joyce prefers to present to grades 4 through 7

Joyce poses the question to the children of what *their* grandchildren will find about life today that will seem strange. And what about the marvels they might write about that their grandchildren will find ordinary in the future? This often prompts great flights of fancy.

### **Faye Reineberg Holt**

#### **Biography**

Faye loves the stories and photos of Western Canada’s past and is deeply committed to history, writing, reading and visual literacy. She has authored 11 books and co-authored a travel book. Other credits include poems, articles, interviews and short stories. In her blog, “Can’t Quit Learning” (Wordpress), she discusses writing, western Canadian history, photographs and learning opportunities. Editor for three books and a literary magazine, she was writer-in-residence for Calgary Public Library and Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, Calgary. Working with all ages, she offers week-long residencies, full day programs and individual classes in schools. As well as mentoring youth, she teaches adult writing workshops, including for Mount Royal University. Also, she has presented at writing, history and teaching-related conferences. Her books include: *Canada’s Rocky Mountains* (2010); *Alberta: A History in Photographs* (2009/1996); *Alberta: 100 Journeys* (2007); *Prairie Twins: Alberta & Saskatchewan Photographic Memories 1905-2005* (2004); *Awed, Amused & Alarmed, Fairs, Rodeos, Regattas in Western Canada* (2000); *Sharing the Good Times: Prairie Women’s Joys & Pleasures* (2000); *Homemade Fun: Games and Pastimes of the Early Prairie* (1999); *Monarchs of the Fields*, (1999); *Threshing: Early Years of Harvesting* (1999); *Out of the Flames: Fires & Fire Fighting on the Canadian Prairies* (1998); *Ice Fog* (Poetry Chapbook, 1991). *Settling In: Early Homes of Western Canada* will be released in 2012. *Help* (1997) await reprint.

#### **Presentations and workshops**

Faye offers writing workshops and presentations. Both include PowerPoint images, but workshops offer opportunities for students to write. Presentations combine images, ideas/stories and readings related to our past. On request, presentations can end with a writing suggestion. For Faye’s WISP programs, groups are limited to 30 students but she can adapt her hour-length programs to fit your schedule. For full program descriptions of workshops and presentations, see her website ([www.wordsandhistory.ca](http://www.wordsandhistory.ca)). If planning for larger groups or other dates, see her website and other programs (e.g. [www.yabs.ab.ca](http://www.yabs.ab.ca)).

For elementary students, popular presentations include *Alberta, Homemade Fun and Prairie Twins* (Alberta & Saskatchewan). *From a Child's Point of View* is offered as both a presentation and as a writing workshop. Other writing workshops include *Journals, Finding Characters and Stories in Photos, and Whose Story Is It?* For junior and senior high students, *A Jumble of Genres* can be a workshop or presentation. Although available for other ages, the presentation *Stories of Our Heroes and Heroines* is especially relevant for Grade Eight. A former teacher, Faye wants to inspire kids—of all ages—to value words, history and photos, but helping them discover something new and enjoy the process is vital, too.

### Audrey Shield

#### **Biography**

Audrey Shield is a retired teacher and is now a freelance writer in the genres of poetry, fiction and personal memoir. Audrey presents workshops in writing and storytelling to adults and children. Presently she is involved in the Barrhead Library's 'Story time' and 'Writer-in residence' programs.

She has literary work published in magazines and anthologies. Her work has been produced for CBC radio and her 'Postcard story' was one of the winners in the 2010 Woman's Words U of A writing contest. Currently she is working on two chapbooks. Audrey has working with students from K to High School.

#### **Presentations**

I prefer to work with one class. My programs are very flexible and I like to meet the specific needs of individual teachers.

#### **Senior High**

##### **1. Poetry – A Raving Review**

Using the theme of 'Ravens', a poetry overview will be presented. A variety of forms will be discussed and examples shared. Writing exercises can be included.

##### **2. Writing Fiction – Get to The Point**

Students experience a variety of short fiction genres. Examples will be presented and a discussion of the effect and advantages will follow. Student writing exercises can be included.

##### **3. Storytelling - Listen and Learn**

Using different types of stories, we will explore the 'oral' aspect of Communication.

#### **Junior High**

##### **1. Poetry – Action**

Narrative or lyric poetry can deliver a kick. Using the Pantoum, we will create action poetry.

##### **2. Writing Fiction – Same Story 3 Ways**

We will explore a story written as a newspaper article, dramatic monologue and poetry.

**3. Storytelling – Urban Legends**

**Upper Elementary**

- 1. Poetry – It doesn't have to rhyme.**  
Let's make a poem! You can't do it wrong!
- 2. Writing Fiction – Legends**  
Why? Listen to some legends from around the world and then write one.
- 3. Storytelling – Folktales Travel**  
Comparing several versions of Cinderella.

**Lower Elementary**

- 1. Poetry – Tickle Your Toes**  
Listen to some funny poetry and then write a class poem.
- 2. Writing Fiction – Able to Leap Tall Buildings**  
Let's look at action words.
- 3. Storytelling**  
Fun stories told with props and involvement.

**Cora Taylor**

Cora was born at Fort Qu'Appelle and grew up on a farm near Fort Carlton in Saskatchewan. She attended high school in Duck Lake. In 1955 she moved to Alberta. She currently resides in Edmonton, Alberta and part of the year in Sauble Beach, Ontario and St. Petersburg, Florida

She was editor of the Alberta Poetry Yearbook from 1980 to 1985. Her articles and short stories have been published in Chatelaine, Canadian Living, Heritage Magazine, Branching Out, Canadian Author and Bookman and The Edmonton Journal. Short Stories have been aired on CBC's "Alberta Anthology" and "Booktime" and two of her stage musicals have seen production. She was Editor of the Canadian Children's Book News from 1993-1996. She has been a speaker at many Conferences and Conventions and has taught numerous creative writing classes in Canada and the United States.

In 1989 she served as Writer-in-Residence at the Calgary Public Library and in 1990 she was Writer-in-Residence at the St. Albert Public Library. She was Writer-in-Residence at Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton in 1994. In 1997 she was Writer-in-Residence at Jane Franklin College, University of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

**Presentations**

The sessions will be one hour long and consist of a half hour talk about books and writing. If the class has read or is reading one of Cora's books she is able to into

much more detail concerning ideas, research, character development, planning and rewriting. As well, she would bring material relevant to the background of that particular book. Using the material in the book Cora will be able to give specific examples and show how the students might use some of her techniques in their own writing. If no book has been studied, the talk will be general without examples.

The second part of the session consists of a brief reading and an opportunity for the students to ask questions about writing in general or about specific books and experiences Cora might share with them. In this way, material can be covered that is of particular interest to the group involved, material that might have been missed in the general talk.

*Julie*, (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1985);  
*The Doll* (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1987),  
*Yesterday's Doll*, (Apple Paperbacks, 1990), (U.S.A. p.b.)  
*Julie's Secret*, (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1991)  
*Ghost Voyages*, (Scholastic-Tab, March 1992)  
*Summer of the Mad Monk*, (Greystone Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 1994)  
*Vanishing Act*, (Red Deer College Press, 1997)  
*On Wings of a Dragon* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside (h.c.) 2001)  
*Angelique: The Buffalo Hunt* ( Penquin (q.p.b.) 2002)  
*Out on the Prairie* (Scholastic Canada (h.c.) 2002 (p.b. 2004))  
*The Deadly Dance* (Coteau 2003)  
*Wings of Evil* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2005)  
*The Spy Who Wasn't There: Adventure in Istanbul* (Coteau 2005)  
*VICTORIA CALLIHOO: An Amazing Life* (Eschia Books 2009)  
*The Spy Who Wasn't There: CHAOS IN CHINA* (Coteau Books 2009)

For more information on Cora please see her website at [www.CoraTaylor.com](http://www.CoraTaylor.com)

### **Twila Thompson**

#### **Biography**

My first novel, *Flight of the Wild Geese*, received excellent reviews in American and Canadian publications, was featured in 'Best of the West' and was nominated for several awards. My second novel, *Retro Girl*, also received positive reviews in Prairie Books Now and Manitoba Style. A third book, *Rooster*, is in the final stages of publication and a fourth, *Lisa*, will follow in 2012. Each book features Metis or Aboriginal characters in an urban setting (Edmonton and area), who are struggling to find their own path in a confusing and sometimes difficult world, and all are published through Pemmican Publications in Winnipeg: <http://www.pemmicanpublications.ca/>

I enjoy discussing plot, dialogue, the ideas behind the books and any other questions or issues individuals might ask, with a particular interest in encouraging other emerging

writers to follow their own unique voice and interests. I intend for my books to entertain my readers, as well as give a sense of our basic humanity, the power we have as individuals, and the unknowns we all face in life.

My website with features and excerpts from all four novels and can be found at:  
<http://tdthompsonauthor.yolasite.com/>

### **Presentations**

**Author Visits:** Reading from one or more novels, answering questions, discussing format, ideas and any other interests of the audience. Adjusted to grade, abilities, education and age levels. Audience size: up to 50

**Writing Workshops:** Reading an excerpt from one or more novels and taking questions. Audience is split into groups for creative writing exercises. The goals of the activities are catered to audience's interests and abilities. Goals can range from exploring the limitlessness of creativity to practicing the planning and brainstorming that happens before story writing ever begins. Audience size: up to 30.

**Manuscript Workshops:** An opportunity to polish individual writing skills and discuss writing with a published author. This offers specific in-depth guidance and feedback. Audience size: up to 30.