

WISP 2010 Presenter bios

Karen Bass

Biography

A fourth-generation Albertan, Karen still lives in northern Alberta (Hythe) where she manages a small library part-time. She has always been an avid reader, and often wrote essays and articles for the local newspaper, but her first attempt at fiction, which only happened 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* came out in October, is also set in Germany and has ties to WWII. She travelled to Germany to research that story as well and has pictures – ask to see them at your own peril.

Bibliography

Summer of Fire (Coteau Books, 2009), just released in October

Run Like Jäger (Coteau Books, 2008)

- Winner, Exporting Alberta Award, 2008 (awarded spring 2009)
- Silver Medalist for YA, Independent Publishers Awards, 2009
- Readers' Choice, Christian High School Book Club (Ontario), 2009
- HM for YA, ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year award, 2009

Presentations:

I have a Powerpoint presentation in which I talk about the journey of writing *Run Like Jäger*, from idea to novel. Part of the presentation includes a discussion of why I made the choices I did to include the parts of WWII that ended up in the book. The students end up getting a history lesson about WWII and in particular, the Eastern Front. I also have a few display items I use during the course of the talk.

I have also spoken about how seeing a place that is your story's setting impacts the plot. (Again, I have a Powerpoint for this.)

I can modify talks to focus on certain aspects of writing or publishing if requested. I do enjoy talking about the writing process, character development, and other nuts & bolts of writing.

Audience size: prefer max of 40-50, but because of the Powerpoint, the talk would work for a larger group.

Stephen R. Bown

I live in Canmore in the Rocky Mountains with my wife Nicky and two children. When I'm not writing I'm usually reading, mountain biking, hiking and camping in the summer, and downhill and cross country skiing in the winter. Last year I toured schools in British Columbia as part of the BC Book Prizes. I spoke about George Vancouver and history in general to kids in grade four to six. I really enjoyed it. My own kids are in kindergarten and grade one, so they are not quite there in terms of an interest in history, and I really appreciated being able to share a discussion of my work as a writer and a historian with younger people. My books are written for adults but my short talks last year were geared for kids. I could talk to any grade four and over (whenever they might study these type of topics in class) on topics related to history and exploration, specifically George Vancouver, the fur trade, how history is researched and written, etc.

Stephen Bown has long been interested in the history of science and exploration. He has been writing about adventurers, travellers and explorers for years. *Madness, Betrayal and the Lash: The Epic Voyage of Captain George Vancouver* was shortlisted for the Canadian Authors' Association Lela Common Award for Canadian History and won the 2009 BC Booksellers' Choice Award in Honor of Bill Duthie. He also won a writing award in 2002 for his two part article *A Journey of Pleasure – Milton and Cheadle's Historic Travels in British Columbia* in Beautiful British Columbia Magazine. His book *Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail* was an international critical success and was selected as one of the *Globe and Mail's* Top 100 books of 2004. His book *A Most Damnable Invention: Dynamite, Nitrates and the Making of the Modern World* was shortlisted for the Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction and the Canadian Science Writers Association Science in Society Book Award. He also co-wrote a regional travel/history *Forgotten Highways: Wilderness Journeys Down the Historic Trails of the Canadian Rockies*, published in 2007 and short-listed for the Canadian Rockies Award at the Banff International Book and Film Festival. His next book *Merchant Kings: When Companies Ruled the World, 1600-1900*, was published in September 2009.
Author website: www.stephenrbown.net.

Books

- Bown, Stephen R., *Merchant Kings: When Companies Ruled the World* (Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver/Toronto, 2009)
- Bown, Stephen R., *Madness, Betrayal and the Lash: The Epic Voyage of Captain George Vancouver* (Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver/Toronto, 2008)
- Bown, Stephen R. & Nicky Brink, *Forgotten Highways: Wilderness Journeys Down the Historic Trails of the Canadian Rockies* (Brindle & Glass, Edmonton, 2007)
- Bown, Stephen R., "A Most Damnable Invention: Dynamite, Nitrates and the Making of the Modern World" (Penguin Viking, Toronto, 2005)
- Bown, Stephen R., "Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail" (Thomas Allen Publishers, Toronto, October 2003).

Bown, Stephen R., *"Sightseers and Scholars: Scientific Travellers in the Golden Age of Natural History"* (Key Porter Books, Toronto, October 2002).

Marion Brooker

Presentation

"If You Can Talk You Can Write" and we all love to talk! In the presentation I will not only talk but encourage the class to do so as well – with imagination, with ideas and by sharing their writing. Topics will touch on being a keen observer and listener, putting what you see and hear into action with words or pictures to draw in your reader. I will share with them a love of books with examples of antique books and will examine the roles of the author and illustrator using an artist's original illustrations. Appropriate activities will be designed for all ages and class sizes. Having fun with words is the objective.

Grades K – 2 From a bag full of surprises, *Noreen and The Amazing No-Good Horse* comes to life. Imagination will be put into action creating the No-Good Horse with collage. Demonstration of how a picture book is made. Imaginative readings.

Grades 3 – 6 What inspires a story? Examples of great beginnings with class participation in beginning a story of their own and from their chosen point of view. Sharing student's work. After a great beginning where do you go from there?

RESOURCE for Grade 4 Alberta: The Land, Histories and Stories. Early pioneers, early transportation and education are all part of the fictional story of *Noreen and the Amazing No-Good Horse*.

Marion grew up on a farm. Her love of words grew from her Mother reading *Sowing Seeds in Danny* by Nellie McClung and *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott to the children in the evening. Marion's own children would ask her to 'tell us stories of the farm' at bedtime and so her memories and story repertoire grew.

Graduate in Arts (English) from the University of Alberta.

Member: The Writer's Guild of Alberta; The Canadian Authors Association - former Board member of the CAA (Alberta); The Young Alberta Book Society and The Canadian Children's Literature Roundtable

Writing Credits:

Radio Writing: Educational radio programs for Grades I to XII: dramas for opportunity classes, historical and human interest, developmental dramas, stories for kindergartens
Publications:

Vimy (poem) *Home and Away Anthology*, House of Blue Skies 2009

I Will Speak (poem) *Home and Away Anthology*, House of Blue Skies 2009

Seasons (poem) *Writing The Land Anthology*, House of Blue Skies 2007

An Anthem (poem) *Writing The Land Anthology*, House of Blue Skies 2007
Noreen and the Amazing No-Good Horse: Borealis Press 2003
Thin Ice Zap Fitzhenry and Whiteside 1985
A Real Hero Pingo (Grade IV reader) Gage Publishing Co. 1980
Jimmy Was No Hero In Jeopardy: Western Canadian Literature for Youth 1979

Work in Progress: A creative non-fiction for young adults interspersing a soldier's letters home from World War 1 while intertwining what is happening in Canada at the time.

Kim Deep

Kim Deep, Certified Management Accountant, is a trainer and avid storyteller that utilizes masterful learning strategies to engage children in learning financial literacy in an interactive workshop, with readings and experiential activities that support the money concepts introduced in the book "Conductor Kash and the Prosperity Express".

Kim loves to have fun and take children three and up on a journey with the so very "Kool" Money crew and Conductor Kash. Using puppets, crafts, games and hands on activities, Kim encourages children to explore their creativity and expand their minds to learn financial literacy through Marty, the Money Bug and an engaging ABC book about prosperity.

With older youth Kim uses age appropriate games and activities to help simplify the language of money and help youth feel empowered with their finances.

Kim is a published children's author and her second children book in the Prosperity Series will be out in 2009. She also has published poetry, and has written for numerous magazines and publications. Kim is a Columnist with CBC Radio Wildrose Country "Deep Pockets with Kim Deep" where she shares tips and strategies to help parents and families get financially fit.

The Writer's Wealth workshop is 45 min -1 hour in length and includes working with grades K-12. Audiences of up to 30 is the preferred group size for this session.

M. Jennie Frost

Jennie Frost is a professional storyteller and author. Since 1996, she has performed for audiences preschool – seniors in festivals, concerts, conferences, libraries, and schools in 43 Alberta communities and in 6 other provinces. Because Jennie studied Classics at university and used to be a Latin teacher, she has a large repertoire of Greek and Roman stories. In 2005, Jennie's first book was published (Mellen, New York)—*The Courtship of Hippodameia*, in which Princess Hippodameia tells the story of her traumatic courtship. In 2005, thanks to a Canada Council grant, Jennie also published a 2-CD audio set *Pygmalion and Other Greek Myths*. She has had prizewinning stories and poems published in literary journals and anthologies, most recently being one of the winners of the 2008 Short Grain Contest for her story "Power." Jennie has given workshops at

young writers' conferences in Edmonton, Calgary, and High River.

Selected Bibliography

- *The Courtship of Hippodameia*, Honorable Mention, 2002 Mellen Press Long Poem Contest, Mellen, Lewiston, New York, 2005.
- *Pygmalion and Other Greek Myths*, 2-CD set funded by Canada Council, (Edmonton), 2005.
- "Power," Prizewinner, 2008 Short Grain Contest. *Grain Magazine*, Winter 2008.
- "The Bear," *Under the Wide Blue Sky: Alberta Stories to Read and Tell*, Red Deer Press, 2005.
- "Space," first prize for Alberta Branch in the CAA National Millennium Story Contest. *In All Directions*, (Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2000).
- About 25 poems in literary journals and anthologies.

Presentations: I work with students K – 12 and talk with the people who book me to work out the details of my presentations—how many students, for how long, and in what space—so that we are both satisfied with the experience. For storytelling, except in unusual circumstances, I ask for a maximum of 30 K – gr. 1 students, 60 gr. 2 – 6 students, and 100 junior high or high school students. As I want workshops to be interactive, my maximum is 30 people.

Storytelling (Kindergarten – Grade 12)

- a mixture of folktales, narrative poetry, and/or literary stories suited to the age group of the audience

OR

- whole programs of
 - Greek mythology or history
 - Roman legends and history
 - Chinese folk tales
 - Hans Christian Andersen tales (gr. 4-6 or junior/senior high)
 - literary stories (junior/senior high)
 - Ghosts and Gore (gr. 6 – 12)
 - Halloween Happenings (K – gr. 6)

Talks (gr. 6 – 12)

- Readings and talk about my writing/storytelling process (gr. 6 – 12).
- A Quick History of the English Language (gr.6 – 12).

Workshops (1 class)

- How to Learn to Tell a Story (2 hours)
- Living in the Story World: Using Images to Deepen Characters and Setting in Writing or Telling Stories (1 or 2 hours)
- Rubbing Noses With the Sky: Writing With Vivid Sensory Detail. Can be slanted towards poetry or prose. (1 or 2 hours)

- Learn to Write the Greek Alphabet, with stories and vocabulary-building discussion (2 hours)

Jaqueline Guest

Jacqueline is a Metis writer who lives in a log cabin nestled in the pinewoods of the Rocky Mountain foothills of Alberta. Her award winning books are unique in that many of the main characters come from different ethnic backgrounds including First Nations, Inuit or Metis. Her well-drawn characters face issues common to every child such as bullying, blended families and physical challenges and are strong role models for today's youth. Jacqueline's historical novels for young readers' present Canada's vibrant past as an exciting read every child will enjoy. Her young adult mysteries address teenage problems in a sensitive way while still providing a great page-turner. Jacqueline's interactive curriculum-based **Historical Presentations** appeal to students in all grade levels and are of interest as they incorporate her own background as she shows how the Metis people are a strong part of the fabric of Canada's past. Her **Wild Ride Writing Workshops** provides the *EasyKey Method* to facing a language arts exam and passing! She also teaches writing how-to's and encourages children to follow their own literary dreams. Jacqueline has participated in Mamawenig, the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering, where she helped shape the direction of Native literacy in Saskatchewan. She has performed pro-bono workshops at the Edmonton Young Offenders Centre, presented for the Cultural Diversity Institute, University of Calgary, Batoche Historical Site and participated in Back to Batoche Days, and Fort Calgary's Metis Cultural Festival. Jacqueline has been a speaker at numerous professional organisations in her capacity as writer and reading advocate as well as presenting at student writers' conferences. She recently finished working as **Writer in Residence** for the Marigold Library System and is a member of Calgary Arts Partners in Education Society. Jacqueline has been nominated for a *National Aboriginal Achievement Award* and the prestigious *Esquao Award* for outstanding achievement by an Aboriginal woman. She has travelled extensively and as far away as Nunavut to spread the good word on literacy. A strong advocate of reading, Jacqueline believes the key to the future is through better literacy today.

Novels:

At Risk, Racer, Rookie Season, Secret Signs, Racing Fear, Rink Rivals, Soccer Star, Belle of Batoche, Lightning Rider, Free Throw, Hat Trick, War Games, Wild Ride, Triple Treat, A Goal In Sight, White Out

Awards and Nominations:

Canadian Children's Book Centre Our Choice Award: *Hat Trick, Free Throw, Rookie Season, Rink Rivals, A Goal in Sight, Soccer Star, Belle of Batoche, Secret Signs, and Wild Ride*

Hackmatack and R.Ross Annett Award Nominee: *Secret Signs:*

Arthur Ellis Mystery Award Nominee: *Wild Ride*

Golden Eagle Nominees: *Wild Ride, Rookie Season, Rink Rivals, A Goal In Sight*

Red Cedar and R.Ross Annett Award Nominee, Ontario Library Association Best Bet Selection;

Edmonton Public Schools Best of the Best Award: *Belle of Batoche*

For more information, please visit www.jacquelineguest.com

Joyce Harries

Joyce is the author of *Girdles and Other Harnesses I Have Known*, and *Twice in a Blue Moon; Poems by Joyce Harries*. Her writing has been anthologized in three anthologies.

She prefers to work with students in Grade 4-5-6 or Junior High in a classroom setting.

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 due to inoculations almost world-wide.

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 points out to children some facts about aging – how skin loses its elasticity but how when one gets older, you can remember all the good things too.

Joyce's grandchildren are surprised that when she was a child she didn't know about or have, jeans, jets, clothes dryers or computers. She couldn't see wars, starving children or cartoons on TV. There wasn't any TV. Milk and coca cola came in glass bottles. No plastic. Children didn't wear black or purple. Families ate dinner together.

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?

For more information see www.joyceharries.com

Jeananne Kathol Kirwin

Jeananne Kathol Kirwin writes primarily in the genre of creative non-fiction, but also poetry and fiction (short stories). The following is a partial bibliography:

- *Greetings from Cool Breezes* (Borealis, 2005) is based upon her family's sailing sabbatical. This book won the CAA Alberta Branch Exporting Alberta Award in 2006.

- “Sundowners in the Cockpit”, *Outside of Ordinary* (Second Story Press, 2005). Her travel writing appears in this anthology, and has also been short-listed for the CBC Literary Awards competition.
- “Through Rose-Coloured Goggles”, *Writing the Land* (House of Blue Skies, 2007). Her poetry appears in this anthology.
- *Sign of Hope! 25 Years 25 Stories* (Catholic Charities, 2008). This commissioned non-fiction book marks the anniversary of a charitable organization.

The following is a summary of recent speaking engagements:

- Topics include “*Cool Breezes* from a Kid’s Perspective,” “Living in the Moment,” “Travel Writing Tips,” “Creative Non-fiction for Kids,” “Sea Change: A Prairie Family Goes to Sea,” “A Second (Literary) Journey Aboard *Cool Breezes*,” “Publishing Contracts,” “Copyright in a Nutshell,” “The Canadian Authors Association” and “Live Your Dream.”
- Venues and clients include Probus Club of South Edmonton, Northgate Seniors Writing Group (keynote at award presentation), West Edmonton Christian Church (keynote at weekend retreat), Editors Association of Canada, Concordia College, Alberta Education, Bennett Centre Writing Camp, Archbishop Macdonald High School Speakers’ Forum, Writing in Schools Program at numerous elementary schools, Alberta Offshore Sailing Association, Edmonton Power and Sail Squadron, Canadian Authors Association – Vancouver Branch, Writers Guild of Alberta, Grant MacEwan Community College (Minerva and Words for Hire), International Reading Association, Rotary Clubs, fitness clubs, book and writing clubs, sororities, Edmonton Public Library, St. Albert Public Library, Coopers Boating Centre and One4Yacht Fractions, St. Albert Mothers of Preschoolers
- Media interviews with CBC Radio – Victoria, CFRN TV, Global TV (Edmonton and Vancouver), CKUA Radio, City TV, CISL Radio, The Weather Network, Omni TV, The Biography Channel
- Features on *Greetings from Cool Breezes* appear in *The Edmonton Journal*, *Law Matters*, *Pacific Yachting*, *The Boat Journal*, *Lawyers’ Weekly*, *The Edmonton Sun*, *The Calgary Sun*, *Nexus Alumni*, *Luxe/Glow*

Presentation/Workshop Overview

Jeananne Kathol Kirwin has delivered numerous presentations and workshops in a variety of formats for elementary, junior high and high school students through the WISP program and by private arrangement. She is open to accommodating varying classroom/assembly needs.

- (1) General Assembly Presentation. The author discusses the genesis of *Greetings from Cool Breezes*, and shows a short PowerPoint presentation depicting the sailing sabbatical taken by her family, including her school-aged children. She then describes the publishing process, and provides hands-on experience to assembled students by circulating the diaries and emails that formed the basis of the book, followed by the boxed manuscript, and finally the book itself. She

also presents an overview of different genres of writing, ranging from fiction to non-fiction, through an overhead visual. The presentation is followed by a question-and-answer period. The usual length of this presentation is 20-30 minutes, but can be shortened to 15 minutes and extended to 45 minutes.

*High School Presentation: In addition to the above, the author presents thematic information on topics such as risk-taking, perseverance, following dreams, and living in the moment. *Junior High and Upper Elementary Presentation: In addition to the above, the author presents general information on the genre of creative non-fiction.

- (2) Classroom Workshop. Using an overhead projector and with young author books from her own collection, the author provides an overview of the genre of creative non-fiction in the context of a spectrum of writing. She then discusses the elements of the “creative” aspect of that genre. Focusing on travel writing, in particular the postcard story, the author leads classrooms of up to 25 students through a few writing exercises that lead to the creation of their own travel writing. By the end of the workshop, students will have experienced the drafting, critiquing, and editing stages of writing. If their teacher so wishes, the project could be extended to completion as a homework assignment. *Recommended for Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, minimum of 45-50 minutes per classroom.

As an example of a two-hour (120 minute) school visit, the author could provide a presentation to assembled Grades 4-6 students for 20-25 minutes, then two 45-50 minute workshops to two Grade 6 classes.

Margaret Macpherson

Edmonton writer, Margaret Macpherson has published six books in the last nine year; everything from Shoot em’ up Westerns to stories of Canadian heroines. She writes both fiction and non-fiction and in her presentations she teaches the differences (and the similarities) between the two. For Margaret, writing is the act of occupying someone else’s skin, seeing life through the eyes of others. It’s kind of creepy and kind of exciting and it helps you learn about worlds you don’t necessarily belong in. In her presentation, Margaret will share how she became a writer, she will read from her books, and reveal different secrets she has learned along the way that could help you become a writer, too. Margaret has a Masters degree in Fine Arts, she’s Past President of the Alberta chapter of the Canadian Authors Association, and she has three (almost) teenage kids. She’s a writer, a teacher and a Mom.

Sheelagh Matthews

A strong generalist, Sheelagh has been writing on a freelance basis since 1988. She has been published in newspapers, magazines, newsletters, books and the web.

Her monthly columns on environmental and social issues have been published since 2005 in the [Okotoks Western Wheel](#) and other newspapers, she covers the sustainability beat for [Okotoks Living](#), and she writes profiles and features for several magazines and newsletters, including [AHFMR Research News](#).

The author of six children's non-fiction books, Sheelagh writes on subjects ranging from industry and science to celebrity profiles. She also writes for the Web, and worked on an award-winning environmental education website commissioned by The City of Calgary (www.envirosquad.com) aimed at Grades 4, 5 and 6 students.

Sheelagh's presentations range from thought-provoking sessions on topics of importance and interest to children, youth and teens, to informative talks about her books. Her goal is to engage, inform and enlighten her audiences, inspiring them to pick up a book and read or take up a pen and write.

Sheelagh is the creative person in charge at The Idea Garden (www.ideagarden.net), a writing and editing services firm operating out of Black Diamond, Alberta. Having worked in adult and children's literacy for almost five years, Sheelagh remains a strong advocate of reading and writing.

Non-fiction Books:

Canadian Industries: Mining, Weigl Educational Publishers Limited, 2007.
Remarkable People: Bono, Weigl Publishers Inc., 2008.
Remarkable People: Steve Irwin, Weigl Publishers Inc., 2008.
Structural Wonders: Pyramids of Giza, Weigl Publishers Inc., 2008.
Structural Wonders: Sydney Opera House, Weigl Publishers Inc., 2009.
Structural Wonders: Beijing National Stadium, Weigl Publishers Inc., 2009.

Presentations:

Water and You: This presentation is designed to get students thinking beyond the bathroom when it comes to water. Where does our water come from? How much water is there, anyways? What are water's many gifts? How do we use it? How do others use it? How do we care for it? How do we conserve it? These questions and more are presented in an eye-catching visual presentation.

Literacy and the Environment: How can reading be good for the planet? Don't we use up forests of trees to publish books? This presentation takes a look at how literacy and being eco-friendly are interconnected, not unlike how organisms and the environment are interconnected in the web of life. Further reading suggestions are provided in this session, especially books that offer tips to reduce our carbon footprint.

It Takes Guts to Write: Writing is more than hard work. It takes guts to write. Facing that blank piece of paper or blinkity blank screen is a matter of muster. And that's only

the first step. During this presentation Sheelagh will share her own personal experience of finding the courage to write. Her journey includes an early love of books, lifelong learning, a period of paralyzing fear, issues with self-confidence and, finally, the courage to stand up and say what she believed needed to be said—no matter what others thought!

Writing a Report: Hey, kids! Here's your chance to take some tips from a pro when it comes to writing your next report. Sheelagh shares her not-so-secret success formula for tackling and taming the dreaded report. As these assignments involve far more than just writing, this session will give you tips on process and timing, too.

The Story Behind...: These presentations are designed to give students a behind-the-scenes look into a specific book (see list of publications). What stood out as really interesting to learn? What were the back stories? What got left in, what was edited out? Challenges, rewards and research methods—yes, these too will all be told!

Writing IS an Option: This presentation will give students a peek into the writing life. What does it take to write a book, a magazine article, a column? How are topics researched? What is the marketplace like?

Hugh McAlary

I was born in Toronto, Ontario in January 9, 1955. I went to Carlton University and majored in English/Philosophy and Law. Enjoyed writing rhyming poetry all my life. I have one self published children's book called the *Beastly Limericks*. As well, a number of poems published in the Edmonton Stroll of Poets Anthology. Have worked in the door hardware business for 30 years and presently perform educational presentations (Lunch and Learns) for the local architectural community. I have been a member of the Edmonton Stroll of Poets for about 10 years. I have taken a number of creative writing courses offered by the University and Colleges in Edmonton. My other interests include athletics (golf, squash, walking and pilates) guitar and travel. I am married to my wife Nancy Gilmore for 31 years. I have one living relative, my sister Nancy McAlary living in Toronto. I have two cats.

The *Beastly Limericks* are self published. The limericks are humorous and seem to be appreciated by both young and old. The *Beastly Limericks* can be a useful educational tool:

1. to help develop the memorization skills of the children, through humour and illustrations.
2. to develop the children's vocabulary by giving them unfamiliar words and peaking their curiosity to look them up.
3. to give them information about the animal kingdom and some of the interesting behaviours one can find in nature.

We also use puppets as a visual aid and the children really love playing with them as we read along. We have presented this to E'cole St. Angela I which attention deficit disorder children were actually well behaved for the hour presentation. This is in consideration of

the circumstances was quite rewarding. We have had parent's comment their their children really enjoy the book and have memorized their favourite limericks.

Andy Michaelson

Andy returned to writing poetry and prose as he closed in on retirement. He joined Edmonton's Stroll of Poets to perform his work and until recently was the Associate Members Representative and Chair of the Communications Committee on the National Council of the League of Canadian Poets, member of the Canadian Authors Association, Writers Guild of Alberta, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Raving Poets Society and Poet's Ink.

Often described as a back-fence philosopher, Andy has been an artist member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's Learning through the Arts program working with the elementary school curriculum and poetry in grades four, five and six. He continues to be involved in schools as part of the CAA's Writers in Schools Program. He conducts Writing Opinion workshops in high schools and writes a regular opinion column for the St. Albert Gazette.

Andy was appointed Writer in Residence at the Michif Interpretive and Métis Resource Institute in 2008, was contracted to develop lesson plans and conduct writing workshops during the St. Albert International Children's Festival May 2008. He has been commissioned by CBC Radio, published in several anthologies and was featured on the National Poet Laureate's website by Pauline Michel.

As part of a 2008 and 2009 provincial exchange between the poets of BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan hosted by the League of Canadian Poets, Andy read in Edmonton, Grand Prairie, Calgary, Saskatoon, Hinton and Jasper and conducted writing workshops at Victoria School of the Arts as part of Edmonton's Poetry Week.

Andy and artist Aaron Paquette are in process of completing a book of art, poetry and text about the history and legends of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Canada. The manuscript is now deadlined for early 2010.

Tololwa Mollel

Biography

Tololwa Mollel is a storyteller, dramatist and an award-winning author of over 15 children's books, which include *The Orphan Boy*, *Rhinos for Lunch and Elephants for Supper*; *Song Bird*; *To Dinner for Dinner*; and *My Rows and Piles of Coins*, and several plays. Mollel's books have been published in Canada, the U.S., Australia and Britain; and in various languages in South Africa, Korea and Tanzania where he was born. He has worked as a theatre actor and a dramatist in Canada and in Tanzania. Mollel combines his storytelling, writing and dramatic skills in theatrical projects and other creative work for and children. In the late 1990s, he served as President of the Writers Guild of Alberta.

His stories have been used for a variety of theatrical projects in schools and other settings. Mollel has presented and performed widely in schools across Canada and the U.S. Of his presentations and workshops, Mollel says: “*I aim to provide a feast for the eye, the ear and most important, the mind.*”

Tololwa Mollel is available for presentations in schools for a **maximum number of 100 students**; as well as for workshops in writing and storytelling with programs that he can adapt for all ages, for a **maximum number of 25 students**, unless otherwise stated or agreed upon with a school.

Presentations:

Mollel reads from his books and plays and talks about their themes and settings. He discusses his writing process and sources of his inspiration, and also answers questions. For younger children, and for the older in some cases, he makes participatory use of storytelling and songs.

Writing workshops: Life stories

Mollel will guide students to shape and share, orally and in writing, stories based on:

- Special and interesting memories from their lives.
- Family and community stories, which may have been received.
- Accounts of acts of giving they have experienced

To inspire students, Mollel will share orally and in writing, his own personal stories.

Writing workshop clinics

In clinics adaptable to grade levels, Mollel will impart to students, within the framework of their ongoing writing projects, skills to write, revise and edit their work, helping them with elements such as plot, images, writer’s block, and shaping ideas. For younger students, Mollel will work on a group story, weaving in their contribution and pointing out crucial things about writing.

Writing workshops cafés

In workshop cafés, which he envisages is especially suitable for junior high and senior high students, Mollel will work with a smaller negotiable number of students than in a workshop, on aspects such as how to get started, how to break down a big writing task. He will share insights into his own process through a computer projected demonstration of snippets from drafts of his work; as well as illuminating comments on the writing process by a range of writers.

Storytelling workshops

- *Storytelling*: Mollel will guide students to tell and perform an engaging tale that he will share. He will then help students to do their own storytelling of the tale, encouraging older students to perform for younger students.
- *Storytelling with Drama*: Mollel will guide students to add drama to storytelling, with use of minimal elements, re-interpreting and adapting a tale to a degree that depends on grade level.

Pierrette Requier

Biography/Bibliography

I am interested in facilitating writing workshops in schools and in involving teachers in a very people-friendly, easily accessible writing process, thus leaving them with tools to enhance their teaching of writing. During my teaching career, I have reveled in introducing poetry and fiction in both French and English and in facilitating the students' innate ability to write. The writing process calls forth delight and opens a space for self-expression in surprising ways. I encourage performance presentation as a way of extending the joy of finding one's voice. With a bit of encouragement, students love to read their pieces.

After finishing my master's thesis, and having attended several writing and performance workshops with well-published writers I created the Wind Eye Writing Seminars which have I been hosting for ten years, thus creating a space for aspiring writers to develop their craft. Participants who know another language are encouraged to include it in their work.

I enjoy the Alberta poetry scene, and support the arts through attending festivals, conferences, book launches, and through participating in reading in public. I have been a member of the Stroll of Poets Society for 18 years. As well, I belong to a French writing group. We have done a number of collaboration/presentations, some multilingual, with musicians.

My manuscript of prose poems, *Details From the Edge of the Village*, has appeared in March 2009 as part of Calgary's Frontenac House Quartet Series. The pieces in this collection, (in its second printing), lend themselves to working at writing with students. As well my work has appeared on CBC, CKUA, on several websites, in journals and anthologies.

I look forward to working in schools. The most challenging and interesting part of the writing process is beginning again.

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 go 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.

Books (currently available in Canada are identified with an *)

Julie, (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1985); Book club p.b. Canada, Australia and N.Z.- (Scholastic-TAB, 1987); British- (Spindlewood Books 1988); (British p.b.) (Canongate Kelpies 1990)

*(mass market p.b.) Scholastic 2005

The Doll (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1987), (Canongate Kelpies, 1989),

De Pop, Altiora Averbode, 1988, (Dutch Trans.)

Yesterday's Doll, (Apple Paperbacks, 1990), (U.S.A. p.b.)

* (mass market p.b.) Greystone/Douglas & McIntyre, 1995; Floris Books, 2002

Julie's Secret, (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1991)

* (mass market p.b.) Greystone/Douglas & McIntyre, 1995

Ghost Voyages, (Scholastic-Tab, March 1992)

* (Reprint) Coteau Books (q.p.b.) 2002

Summer of the Mad Monk, (Greystone Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 1994)

* (mass market p.b.) Greystone/Douglas & McIntyre, 1995

Vanishing Act, (Red Deer College Press, 1997)

On Wings of a Dragon (Fitzhenry & Whiteside (h.c.) 2001)

* (Paperback) Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2003

Ghost Voyages II: The Matthew (Coteau Books (q.p.b.) 2002)

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)

Ghost Voyages III: Endeavour and Resolution (Coteau 2004)

Angelique II: The Long Way Home (Penguin 2005)
Wings of Evil (Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2005)
The Spy Who Wasn't There: Adventure in Istanbul (Coteau 2005)
Angelique II: Autumn Alone Penguin 2005
Angelique II: Angel in the Snow Penguin 2006
The Spy Who Wasn't There 2: Murder in Mexico (Coteau 2006)
Ghost Voyages IV: Cartier & Champlain (Coteau Books 2008)

For more information on Cora please see her website at www.CoraTaylor.com

Nazima Uppal

Naz makes her career as a producer, writer, model, and actress for print, radio, stage, and television.

Naz Uppal, Alberta's hottest South Asian radio celebrity, worked at 101.7 World FM in Edmonton, under the name "DJ Ayesha." She was responsible for all aspects of programming of "DJ Ayesha's Hindi Remix Party," and "DJ Ayesha's Remix Party," including finding entertainment news, song selection, recording, and DJing. She was in charge of four shows per week and produced the show for two years. Naz's South Asian Youth Show was filled with South Asian music, urban music, hip-hop, and reggae. The main focus of the show was to introduce Urban Desi Music (music created by South Asian artists) and Bollywood Remixed Music to the current World FM listeners. The show broadcast in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, and English.

Currently, Naz is a member of The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (ACCT); Alberta Motion Pictures Industry Association (AMPPIA); Women in Film and Television (WIFT-A); The Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ); The Canadian Authors Association (CAA), and most recently, The Film and Video Arts Society (FAVA).

Naz also completed her studies in the Television/Film Producer's Emergence Program. The goal of the program is to prepare students for careers as independent producers for television. The program was taught by Ava Karvonen (Reel Girls Media) and run by Cheryl Dalmer (NAIT).

Naz Uppal now works on several independent projects under the labels "Smokin' Hot Productions," and "Desi Girl Productions." Smokin' Hot Productions is a new production company working on its first made-for-TV production. Several new ideas are in pre-development and development as well.

Naz Uppal is committed to (but not restricted to): creating multi-cultural and multi-lingual projects, providing a creative voice to the growing South Asian communities in Alberta and Canada, developing and serving Alberta's and Canada's South Asian communities creatively, listening to the evolving television and film needs of immigrant

and 1st and 2nd generation Canadian audiences of South Asian descent and creating projects that reflect Canada's diversity.

In addition, Naz makes every effort to encourage a deeper understanding of human and cultural relationships; and to eliminate cultural misunderstanding and prejudice. Naz's main goals are to encourage South Asian Canadians to express themselves creatively, and join the ranks of the entertainment industry. Naz plans to teach a mixed generation of Canadians, incredible stories that help them to relate to their South Asian friends, classmates, and peers. Naz is pleased to introduce her first, made-for-tv production, *Sumayyah's World*. A feature film trilogy spin-off of *Sumayyah's World* is also in the works (pre-development).