



No. 10: April 2018

Upcoming Events

Monday,
April 16

**General Meeting
and
Ian Williams**

Monday,
May 28

**General Meeting
and
Patricia Sandberg**

Monday,
June 18th

**NSWA 25th Birthday
and
Year-End Bash**

Next Newsletter

*The Winning Issue
July 2018*

Venue for meetings:
The Program Room, 3rd Floor
North Vancouver City Library
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Write On!

Newsletter of the North Shore Writers' Association
Linking North Shore writers since 1993

Past President's Message

Doug MacLeod

Trees bloom sweetly, sunshine warms our faces and the days grow longer. Welcome to Spring!

The downside is that it's harder to concentrate on writing with inviting weather outside. Don't despair, the North Shore Writers' Association provides lots of stimulating activities to help keep your mind on writing.

This year there is, once again, a spectrum of engaging activities, appealing to a variety of interests and skills. We were treated to thrilling presentations by Iona Whishaw, Eve Lazarus and Carol Cram at the January, February and March general meetings. We look forward to April and May with presentations by Ian Williams and Patricia Sandberg.

Poets are getting their monthly fix at Rippling Sonnets, the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 at the Lynn Valley Library and Creative Quills in Verse, the last Wednesday of the month, 1:30 to 3:30, also at the Lynn Valley Library. Una Bruhns and Deborah Kelly capably host these events. Dare to be Heard continues to provide an opportunity for writers of all genres to read their work to a supportive audience. Hosted by Mark Turriss, Dare happens on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 at the North Vancouver City Library.

In partnership with NV City Library, Sonia Garrett helped to organize two well-attended Writing With Writers workshops, featuring Alexander Boldizar on humour, and Mary Ann Clark on romance. NSWA hosted the Saturday Workshop on February 24 which garnered a good turnout. Eileen Cook

presented on Characters That Pop off the Page and Darren Groth spoke on Narrative Voice. They sent us home with lots of ideas for our writers' toolbox. Thanks go to Mark Turriss and Joanna Gould for working with me to make that day possible. The workshop was presented with the support of the North Vancouver City Library.

The entries for the writing contest are in the judges' hands as I write. Participants are hoping their names will be called when the results are announced on April 21st at the North Shore Writers Festival. A dedicated committee worked hard to organize the contest this year: Sonia Garrett, Kelly Hoskins, Mark Turriss and me. Good luck to all the contestants. If you didn't enter, there's always next year!

There's more to come. On April 20 and 21 we're participating in the North Shore Writers Festival at the West Vancouver Memorial Library. For the last two years the NSWA has fielded a team for the Friday Night Literary Contest. It's tremendous fun and you get to show off your literary knowledge. We also sponsor a writers' panel and a writer's café to start things off on Saturday morning. The festival is one of the most exciting events of the year and it's free!

Finally, the NSWA is 25 years old! We have a birthday bash planned for our June 18 wind-up at the Silk Purse in West Vancouver. You'll be able to sip wine and take in some live jazz music. This year we're ditching the potluck theme and serving a light meal. Listen for more details at the April and May general meetings. This is a party you won't want to miss. ■

**News, features and more,
visit NSWA website:
www.nswriters.com**



Photo: Pixabay

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Spring has finally sprung! Judging by the large number of submissions received for news, poems, prose, and the 100-word challenge, I would surmise our membership has been busy creating through the dark months. A big collective pat on the back.

This issue is filled with notices for fantastic upcoming events like the North Shore Writers Festival, guest speakers, workshops and publishing tips. Samples of talented writing are on exhibit from our group of diverse poets and writers. You'll also find a short interview with our youngest member.

As I continue to receive and read your work, I am struck by the diverse artistry within the NSWA. Our next newsletter is "The Winning Issue" to appear in late spring/early summer. Then we break for the summer and return with the autumn issue. Please continue to forward your writing news and short inspired pieces to be considered for future newsletters (e-mail preferred). I welcome them all.

Finally, happy quarter century, NSWA! To celebrate, a special year-end party is being planned for June 18th at the Silk Purse in West Vancouver. Celebrate our writing community with food, wine and music! My good friends of the "TKK Jazz Trio" will provide the musical backdrop for the celebratory evening. Come out for a fun evening!

Enjoy and write on,
Wiley Ho

editornswa@gmail.com

North Shore Writers' Association
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Submission deadline for fall newsletter: August 31

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Submission Guidelines

- *Submissions can only be accepted from NSWA members*
- *Submissions to the Editor, at: editornswa@gmail.com (in WORD format, please, within the body of the email, if possible; illustrations in JPEG format)*
- *Space is limited and lengthy submissions (over 700 words) are therefore discouraged*
- *The Editor reserves the right to make revisions or corrections*
- *Publication in WRITE ON! is at the discretion of the Editor, in consultation with the Executive*

Disclaimer: *Contributors are responsible for the accuracy, originality, reliability, etc., of their submission content, and any views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor and/or the NSWA.*

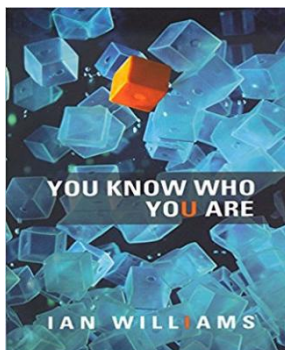
**Monday
April 16
General Meeting**



Followed by guest speaker poet and fiction writer, Ian Williams

Ian Williams completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of Toronto and teaches in the Creative Writing program at the University of British Columbia. He was the 2014-2015 Canadian Writer-in-Residence at the Calgary Distinguished Writers' Program.

Ian Williams is the author of *Personals*, shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award; *Not Anyone's Anything*, winner of the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for the best first collection of short fiction in Canada; and *You Know Who You Are*, a finalist for the ReLit Prize for poetry.



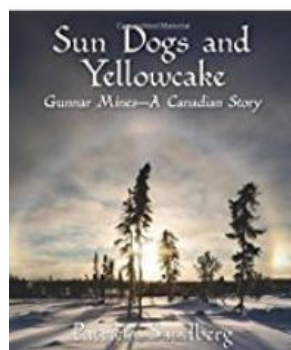
**Monday
May 28
General Meeting**



Followed by guest speaker and short story and non-fiction writer, Patricia Sandberg

As a baby Patricia lived in a tent-house, and grew up at a uranium mine. She is a former securities and mining lawyer, and passionate about the environment. She loves to write short stories and is presently working on a novel.

Her first book is the award-winning *Sun Dogs and Yellowcake*. Critical acclaim:
* 2017 International Book Awards - Winner of the "History: General" Category
* IPPY Independent Publisher Award: CANADA-WEST – Best Regional Non-Fiction – Bronze
* Whistler Independent Book Awards 2017 - Finalist in Non-Fiction category
* Canadian Authors - Shortlisted for Fred Kerner Award



**Monday
June 18
Birthday and Year-end Party**



Celebrate NSWA's 25th birthday with live jazz, food and wine!

Venue: Silk Purse
Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Tickets: \$10

Address: 1570 Argyle Ave
West Vancouver

Instead of a potluck this year, light refreshments will be provided, alongside a cash wine bar. The TTK Jazz Trio will liven the evening with some cool jazz.

Come and enjoy a fun evening with your fellow writers!



NSWA General Meetings 7:00 - 8:45 pm
The Program Room, North Vancouver City Library
Members: free Non-members: donation requested



It's that time again! The annual North Shore Writers Festival is back, and as usual, there is a line-up of presenters that is sure to make for a wonderful day. Once again, the NSWA is back to open the Saturday programme with a panel presentation, and many of our members are showcasing their writing in the Local Authors Book Fair. Have a look at the events below, and for a complete schedule of festival events, visit <https://northshorewritersfestival.com/schedule/>

Literary Quiz Evening, with host Grant Lawrence

Friday, April 20, 7:30 to 9:30, Main Hall

Put together a team and test your literary knowledge! Register your team at nswftrivia@gmail.com. Doors open at 7pm. There will be a cash bar for those attendees 19 years and over.

North Shore Writers' Association Panel Presentation: Writing Canadian Stories

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Welsh Hall

Stories about Canada are big these days. Canadians want to read about their own country, and the rich diversity within it. Others are keen to learn about, and be entertained by, our wilderness, our cities, and our fascinating history. Come and join Sonia Garrett, Bernice Lever and Sanford Osler, three of our members who have had success writing stories about Canada for both Canadian audiences and others around the world. They'll be discussing how to research, write, and market your Canadian story, whether it is a novel, a memoir, or non-fiction. Bring your friends as well! This presentation is a must for readers who want to know more about the writing process, and for writers who have a book, story or poem just waiting to be sent into the world.

The Writers Café

1:00 to 2:30 p.m., West Wing

This is your opportunity to sit down with Sanford, Bernice and Sonia over lunch and talk about all things related to the world of writing and publishing. Come and chat with our panelists from the NSWA's morning presentation, and learn more about how they took their work from the very first page to the finished, published book. Lunch will be provided; bring your questions and comments, and prepare to relax and enjoy the break between events!

Local Authors Book Fair and Marketplace

12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., Library Lounge

Come and visit with our local authors and our new marketplace presenters. This is a great place for established and aspiring authors to network with other writers and the reading public.

Plan to stay right to the end - join the presenters, attendees, festival organizers and volunteers for refreshments at the Writers & Readers Reception with host JJ Lee. Featuring music, door prizes and the announcement of the winner of the North Shore Writers' Association's writing contest. Reception to be hosted by CBC Radio personality and writer JJ Lee.

See you there!



Festival Panelists

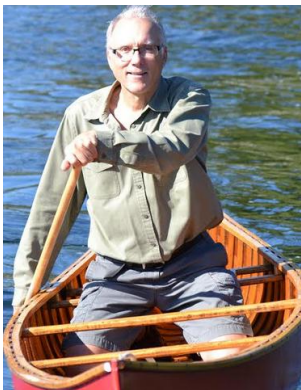


Bernice Lever is a professional editor, educator, poet and activist. She has read her work on 5 continents, published 10 books of poetry, the most recent being “*Small Acts*”, and is now working on book #11. Bernice is an active member of local and national writing organizations, as she gets inspiration and friendship from worldwide writers, and is a determined Peace Poet. .

www.colourofwords.com



Sonia Garrett is a mom, Montessori teacher, storyteller, and writer. She lives in the gentle chaos of books, film and outdoor paraphernalia, cooking ingredients and gardening equipment in her adopted home of Deep Cove. Her debut middle-grade reader, “*Maddie Makes a Movie*” is released this year. It is a must for young readers with big ideas. www.soniagarrett.ca



Sanford Osler is a historian, avid outdoorsman and past Chair of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives. His lifelong interest in the canoe culminated in his book “*Canoe Crossings: Understand the Craft that Helped Shape British Columbia*”. With warmth and wit, he writes about the length, width and depth of the relationship people in British Columbia have had with various types of paddlecraft. www.sanfordosler.ca

NVCL/NSWA *Writing with Writers* Workshop

North Vancouver City Library
Wednesday, May 30, 2018
7:00 – 8:30pm

Writing Unforgettable Suspense: Plot or Characterization?

Presented by Karen Dodd



Do you know if you're writing mystery, suspense, or thriller? Does it matter? If you're confounded or confused about your genre, you're not alone.

In this hands-on workshop, twice-published author Karen Dodd will show you how to write an unforgettable story, regardless of genre, by creating characters with depth.

It's often been said there are no new stories out there. That every novel is just an old story in a new package. True? Not if your characters are unique. It's dynamic and evolving characters that create tension. That's what makes your story "un-put-downable." This is particularly relevant if you're writing a series; strong characters will live in your readers' heads long after they've finished your book.

Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and get a little "messy" as Karen destroys a few myths and guides you through techniques and exercises to craft your own three-dimensional, well-developed characters.

Rippling Sonnets:

Open Mic Poetry Reading



Lynn Valley Library

Wednesdays: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9
6:30pm—8:30pm

Register online or at 604-984-0286, ext. 8144.

You are invited to join us for an exciting evening of Open Mic Poetry Reading!

Learn how to write a Haiku, engage with an audience and get friendly feedback on your work. Raffle and refreshments will be provided! Open to both established and emerging writers. ALL AGE GROUPS WELCOME. Hosted by: Una Bruhns & Deborah L Kelly. *Drop-ins welcome.*

Creative Quills in Verse: A Workshop in Creative Writing

Lynn Valley Library

Wednesdays: January 31, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 30
1:30pm—3:30pm



“Stories are the result of what happens in a writing workshop environment, learning to discover one’s inner voice.” Attend this FREE creative writing workshop!

Join Una Bruhns and Deborah Kelly in a creative writing adventure. Encourage your creativity through prompts, stories, vignettes, poems, musings and haiku. Slices of lives and experiences by topic and tone in everyday living. *All levels welcome.*



Dare to be Heard

If you're a writer and want to read your work to a non-critical audience, why not come out to the next Dare to be Heard Literary Evening at North Vancouver City Library, **April 9, 2018**. Dare welcomes all different genre writers at all stages of the journey and interested listeners, too. We meet in the 2nd Floor Boardroom at North Vancouver City Library on the first Monday of most months.

Dare has been such a success that we've moved the start time from 7:00 to 6:30 p.m. If this early start is impossible for you, please email Mark Turriss, at mark.turriss@gmail.com and he will make sure you have a spot on the readers' list.

See you there!

Upcoming sessions: April 9, May 7 and June 4
Venue: The 2nd Floor Boardroom, North Vancouver City Library
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Publishing Corner



So, you've finally polished up that book, had it edited, critiqued, and proof-read until you're absolutely *sure* it's ready for the marketplace. And you don't want to do all the work involved with self-publishing – marketing just isn't your strong suit, so you'd rather someone else do that, or at least guide you through your part while they do the heavy lifting.

Sounds like you're looking for a publisher. Why not try a made-in-B.C. solution? Here's a very small sampling of B.C. publishers who just might offer the solution you're looking for:

New Star Books

New Star publishes books about politics, social issues, poetry, fiction, local history and culture. They're located at 18th and Commercial in East Vancouver, and publish between six to ten new titles per year. For more information on what they're looking for and how to submit, see their website at <http://www.newstarbooks.com/contact.php>

Rocky Mountain Books

True to their name, Rocky Mountain publishes books on mountain history, adventure travel, outdoor culture, environmental consciousness, contemporary photography and children's books, putting out 20 to 30 titles per year. If you think you have created something they would be interested in, have a look at their website, <http://www.rmbooks.com/> for more information.

Douglas & McIntyre (2013) Ltd.

One of Canada's pre-eminent independent publishers, D&M publishes fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks and art books. Their publications have included Giller Prize winners and best-selling non-fiction books. For more information about the history of this publisher and to find out how to contact them, log onto their site, <http://www.douglas-mcintyre.com/about>

To find more B.C. Publishers, go to <http://books.bc.ca/who-we-are/member-directory/>, the official member directory of the Association of B.C. Publishers. Remember, do your research before you submit, and make sure you hone your book to perfection before you send it out. Then let the rest of us know when you're successful!

B R A V O !

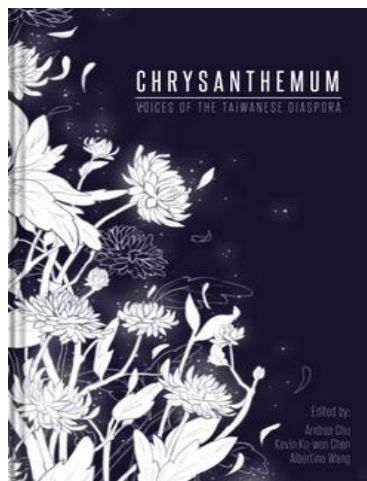


Sonia Garrett is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of **Maddie Makes a Movie** on Friday May 4, 2018, at Capilano Library – Potlatch Room (5:30 – 7:00pm). This is Sonia’s hilarious, and heart warming debut. Target audience: age 7 – 11

*"Maddie...is a heart stealer. Readers will love her enthusiasm and commitment to her big ideas."
-Eileen Cook, author of "With Malice"*

Brava to **Joyce Goodwin** for being one of two featured poets at the March 14th "Rippling Sonnets" in the Lynn Valley library. This lovely monthly gathering of poets is organized and presented by our own Una Bruhns and Deborah Kelly.





Kudos to **Wiley Ho** for her short story *Call Waiting* in the **Chrysanthemum** anthology, a collection of poetry, prose and artwork by creators from the North American Taiwanese diaspora.

Bravas to **Bernice Lever** for her numerous achievements. The following is a journal of her writing news and publications from October 2017 to April 2018:

Last Oct. 28, I read poems for the Bellingham, WA, World Peace Poets which will be produced as their annual Peace Poems book — the 5th one to include myself.

Late fall, I had 2 poems in “**World Poetry Almanac**” — **2017**, with 100 poets from 70 countries, Editor-in- Chief, Hadaa Sendoo of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. All were translated to English.

Nov. 12, 2017, I was given a “Nehru Humanitarian Award” by The Goel Family Charitable Foundation of Vancouver as a member of the Writers International Network of Vancouver, which hosts poetry events for writers and musicians.

Dec. 2017, I had a Judge’s choice poem in **The Ultra Short Verse** - 2017 chapbook of The Ontario Poetry Society . Mine was a Haiku, “Solace”.

Dec. 2017, my personal essay, “Canada, My Second Mother” was included in “**CANADA 150, Far & Wide**”, a multicultural and multi-genre writing with 150 international writers and artists, editor Sophia Zhang of Richmond, BC.

Feb. 14, I & Jude Neale, & Carla Evans read at “Rippling Sonnets” at Lynne Valley Library, North Vancouver, for a new monthly series.

Feb.18, I completed my 3 years as V.P. of the Vancouver Tagore Society, and I was honoured by the Board with a Life Member status.

March 15, 2018 — I am interviewed & share poems on **World Poetry Cafe**, Vancouver Coop Radio, {100.5 FM} at 1:00—2:00 pm by president Ariadne Sawyer. Then each show is accessible on their website for **6 months** so their international fans can hear each show. <http://worldpoetry.ca/?p=12820>

March 15, 7 pm, I & others read poems written as reactions to the current show of Ava Lee Millman Fisher in the Zack’s Gallery at Oak and 42nd. in Vancouver. This is in a series by the Pandora’s Collective, led by president Bonny Nish.

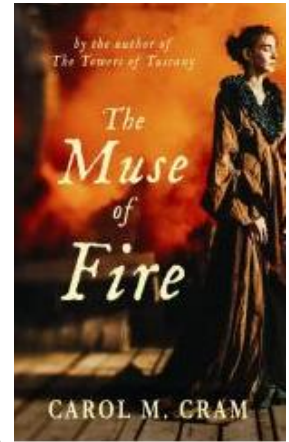
March 23, I am the 1:30 pm poet reader at New Horizons Activity Centre in downtown Victoria, with Emcee Shelia Martindale. Both readings have LCP’s support.

March, 23, I am the poet reader at “Poetry Planet Earth” in Victoria, BC with Emcee Daniel Scott. This is a 7:30 pm reading at Hillside Coffee and Tea shop near U. Vic.

March 24, I and other Peace Poets will read for the UNESCO annual “World Poetry Day”, at the Moberly Community Centre in S. Vancouver, and hosted by Ashok Bhargava, president of Writers International Network.

April 14, at 10 - 11:3 am, I and 2 others are the opening Panel of the annual North Shore Writers’ “Spring Festival-2018”, held at West Vancouver Library on Marine Drive. This free event continues with a community lunch and other events until the 5pm announcement of annual contest winners!

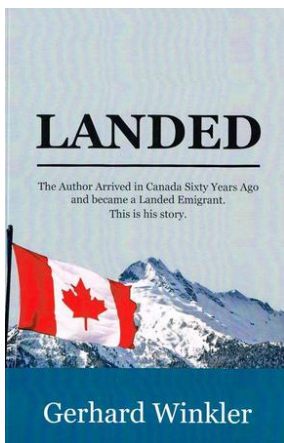
Latest, “World Poetry Almanac-2018” has accepted 3 new poems from me!



Congratulations to **Carol Cram** for the publication of **The Muse of Fire**.

The Muse of Fire completes Carol's themed trilogy about historical women in the arts along with **The Towers of Tuscany** and **A Woman of Note**. It tells the story of an actress in early 19th Century London.

Download the ebook from Amazon where it's published by Kindle Press. For the paperback version, order directly from Amazon, a bookstore, or library (ISBN: 978-0-9810241-4-1). Or, attend one of the many launches of the novel this spring. www.carolcram.com



Bravo to **Gerhard Winkler** for his latest book **Landed**.

Gerhard became a landed immigrant 60 years ago and this book follows his many good and bad experiences. So much is written about the newcomers to our country in the here and now, Gerhard thought it important to show how Canada dealt with similar situations sixty years ago and how a typical immigrant melted into a new life.



Bravo to all you brave wordsmiths out there – both sung and unsung – who continue to plug away at the craft of writing. May your muse visit you often, to gladden and madden your pen!

Don't forget to forward your writing news to editornswa@gmail.com.

An Interview with NSWA's youngest author Arshia Sorourian



The editor was delighted to catch up with NSWA's youngest member, Arshia Sorourian. At ten years of age, he is also NSWA's youngest published writer.

This interview was conducted 21st century style – by e-mail.

Q: Tell us how you started writing (who or what inspired you)?

A: *I was really excited for writing my own book because I love books, and the idea of writing my own book just blew my mind. So, I did it.*

Q: What is your favourite book or series and why?

A: *I don't really have a favourite book, I like all books but I do have a liking for Harry Potter because of the immersive story and the details.*

Q: Which book do you wish you'd written?

A: *I really wish I had written "Think and Grow Rich" by Napoleon Hill.*

Q: What is your favourite time to write?

A: *My favourite time to write is usually at 7 at a desk. I also type my books so I don't have to convert the written version to a typed one. I usually write for half an hour to an hour.*

Q: What is your current writing project?

A: *My current project is a Parenting 101 book. I will write the book from the perspective of a parent and, just like my other book, it will be a quote book.*



Photo Gallery of Recent Events



Guest speaker Iona Wishaw (January 15, 2018)

Photo: Una Bruhns



“Rippling Sonnets” at Lynn Valley Library (March 14, 2018)

From L to R: Una Bruhns, Joyce Goodwin, Herb Bryce, Cynthia Sharp, Deborah Kelley

Photo: Jurgen Bruhns

100 WORD CHALLENGE

The challenge was to produce a story or poem, in **100 words or less**,
on the theme of **Hope Springs Eternal**
Here are your creations (photos: Pixabay)



Irene Nevill

“Hope springs eternal.” This expression, coined by Alexander Pope in his poem, *An Essay on Man* (1732), has since become a proverb. Think about it: hope is what keeps us going, no matter what the odds. We have dreams, ambitions, goals. Eddie the Eagle, for example, succeeded in becoming an Olympian. What about the perennial dieter, who dreams of becoming healthier and happier? Or the refugee who dreams of a new life far away from his war-torn native land. Or the snowdrops that pop up in the garden after a long, hard winter to herald the arrival of spring?

Karen Bower

Dateline Wednesday: “HOPE DYING!” the headline read.

Water levels at the internationally famous spa are declining rapidly. No reason for the precipitous drop is known. Local residents are worried about the impact on livelihoods. A geologist is to investigate.

Dateline Monday: “Update on Dying Springs”

Mayor Malcolm Jones reported Geologist Simon Roxx stated, “The answer is surprisingly simple. A bottled water firm has been syphoning water unlawfully.”

Mayor Jones is reported to have exclaimed, “Hope springs, ETERNAL!”

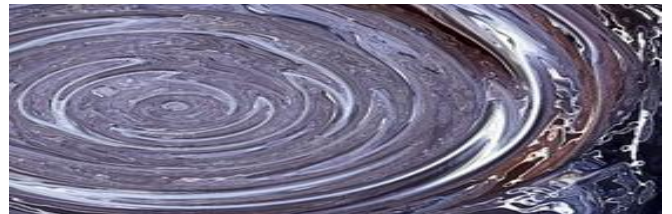
Cam MacDonald

Eternal hope, it springs (I think),
When water clogs the kitchen sink,
And sits there looking foul and brown,
With not a sign of draining down.

A plunger here, some Drano there,
The water sloshes everywhere,
But still won't go on down the drain,
More plunger then! Again! Again!

But then it moves, you hear the sound,
Of water swirling round and round,
A vortex forms, a sucking hiss,
It flows into the dark abyss.

Don't lose faith, when all seems lost,
When your life is tempest-tossed,
Hope eternal is the thing,
And from the human breast it springs.



Vacation

Gerhard Winkler

“You need a vacation.” Our doctor looked at us seriously.

“We do that every weekend going camping,” I said.

“You must recharge your batteries without the children.”

“What do you mean?” my wife asked.

“Simple,” he continued. “You find somebody to look after your kids for three days. Then you book a midweek special at the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel. It's located a few miles before Hope, going east on Hwy 7. Enjoy the hot pools, sauna, a massage, and each other. This experience will provide you with eternal energy for several months until you need it again.”



Trish Gauntlett

In the dripping cave the ancient hand-prints are smudged against the wall. 40,000 years have passed since the people who lived here blew ochre and winter berries mixed with melt water across their hands and left their marks. "We are here. We will always be here." Yet they are gone forever, these Neanderthals. Now we are here, humans, leaving our hand-prints across the earth. Will we live or die, save our planet, destroy it or be destroyed by it? The odds are against us but we are survivors, fighters, thinkers. We are here. Hope springs eternal.

Rod Baker

Three Afghani women came into the counselling office. I dialled the interpreter's number.

"I'm Christina, I'll be your Dari interpreter."

"Thanks. Please ask them to tell me their story."

"I was 17 when the Taliban came to our house. One of them took me for his wife. Later, he shot me in the face."

"I'm a widow. I had hopes for my children. One daughter is fine, one disfigured, and my sons missing."

"I'm Samina. I'm 18." She smiled. "We've been in Canada four days. I believe in myself. I'm going to be a doctor — a surgeon."

Hope Springs Eternal

Jannette Edmonds

Hope springs eternal
From the tiniest kernel,
From the wispiest promise
There, like a hummingbird, fluttering.

Hope springs eternal
Despite economic downturns
And disastrous leaders
Dragging us all into the abyss.

Eternal springs hope
Like an Oprah in the ghetto,
Marching out in military boots
Made of words and wisdom.

Eternal springs hope,
Like a sweet sunny day
After fires and malicious mudslides,
Lost property and lost lives.

Springs eternal hope,
Burns eternal flame,
Flows eternal peace,
Embraces eternal love.

And one hundred words is not enough
To rise to the challenge of eternal hope, springing.

Hope Springs Eternal

Martha Warren

She cuts the carrot into ribbons, while keeping
An eye out the window on the children
Playing in the garden.
He says he will be home in fifteen minutes, which means
four hours.
She is a small hurricane sweeping the day's disorder
Into neat little piles
Of stacked magazines and toys in their baskets,
Hoping when he comes home, he will want to keep
coming home.

A Hot and Cool Pit Stop

Cinda Morales

What springs to mind when I recall Hope, BC?
An August road trip.
A chainsaw-carved grizzly bear greets us.
The Fraser River mumbles by, on its own business.
The sun tries to melt us.
The grass already smells toasted.
So we head into the diner, order strawberry shakes.
Sweet milk alternates with hard ice cream chunks.
Brain freeze!
What a holiday.
Shall we turn back home, seek eternal contentment?
Nah! The Coquihalla is calling us.
Next stop: Kamloops!

Rose Dudley

“I sentence you to a six-month gaol term,” declared the judge. “Do you have anything to say for yourself?”

“Well, if you had lost all your worldly goods in a fire and had no insurance, had been laid off from your job, were homeless and hungry and were in trouble with the law for stealing food and, to cap it off, had just been diagnosed with a terminal illness by a doctor whose encouraging words were:

“Well, young man, think on the words of Alexander Pope—*Hope springs eternal*—wouldn’t you have clobbered him one?”



Next 100 Word Challenge Theme:
outside the window

You may choose to include or exclude the specific words!

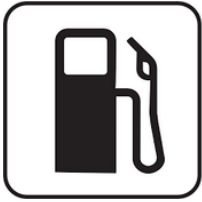
Submit your 100-word masterpiece to
editornswa@gmail.com

100-Word Challenge Tips

- Strictly 100 words or less (excluding title, if any).
- Use the word count facility in WORD; it keeps track of the number of words used.
- Hyphenated words and words including an apostrophe are counted as single words.
- Fiction, non-fiction, poetry acceptable.
- If the challenge theme inspires a longer piece, please feel free to submit it for consideration for the newsletter (with an “inspired by...” note).
- Exercise your precision and concision.
- Have fun!



POETRY, PLEASE!



ARS POETICA
Stuart Cameron

His trusty roadster was now low on gas --
but nowhere near a filling station.
The dial seen squarely on the empty mark,
which means some gas in reserve...
but not too much --

Finally, he remembered a service station
in another part of town; bottom of a long
hillside route and likely open till late selling
convenience stuff.

It's summer, so still light out -- with nice folks
enjoying tennis, the beach, eating in the garden
and such like. Only good things happening for
everyone...

Taking a direction to avoid the traffic seemed
his best idea and the hill would mean easing
his foot off the gas-pedal.

But the dial remained firmly unchanged and how
much fuel left was becoming a big unknown.
Definitely he didn't want to pull-off the road to
stop, not tonight.

N.B. (from the poet)

Poetry is about getting things right, many things right together at the same time (not unlike Zen art). When our world is far from perfect and on-balance, will lead us into misfortune or disappointment, mistakes and wrong directions. Poems will bring our ducks back into row; will order things in an inspired way, for writer and reader. For a brief moment we fly above our circumstance, free from our earthly clay and glimpse another realm made from our collective imagination...

Because he often ran-out of fuel with his first
vehicle, many years ago and had to carry a jerry
-can in the trunk and hope to have enough cash
to pay for a gallon or two.

It was still sunny and warm, non threatening...
Everything else was good that Sunday evening
and he enjoyed the tennis, tea-an-chat with his
pals -- the very best of all possible worlds.

But it was a long hill down to the bottom and to
reach there was an onramp going up a little! He
started to press his foot on the pedal to hear the
revs strain and increase -- still the dial didn't shift.

Halfway down the hill, his foot was on the brakes
mostly, with the road-end coming into sight. Yet
he tried to be courteous to other drivers and delay
driving straight across intersections.

At long last, he pulled into the station fore-court
and slid alongside a row of pumps. He turned the
ignition off and clicked a small lever to open the
fuel-cap at rear of the auto --

It was a small triumph for one man, unknown and
unheeded, confirmed and validated...

A Squirrel's POV

Alexander Hamilton-Brown

I'm sitting on a branch and see Buddy the dog
jumping around the big smelly thing
that coughs and stops right under my tree.
The man comes out, blowing mist from his face,
grumbling at a little flat box in his paw.
I scurry down to search for seeds,
and there is Buddy wondering along,
acting like he's sniffing for a place to go.
It's a game we both know how to play:
he rushes at me, and quick as a tail-flick
I leap to my tree, just out of reach.

But one time it was different:
when I jumped to the tree, the bark was loose,
and down I dropped to waiting jaws.
Buddy gripped tight, but did not bite;
then all-of-a-sudden there's a roar from the man
commanding the dog to let go of his grip.
To my squirrely surprise, he let go of his prize.
So I raced up my tree and turned round to see
the man was shaking his paw at the dog.
Buddy and I will play again,
but next time I jump, I must recall,
a bark is as bad as a bite – if I fall.



(Photos: Pixabay)



Wolf

Alexander Hamilton-Brown

In the morning mist, I raise my head
howling for the wind to carry my voice
to all of humankind.
Once we shared the same pathways
and drank from the same streams.

We knew each other's strengths,
there was no breach of trust.
But when the bounty killings came
and the scent of blood was in the air
it almost brought an end to us.

Now that human beings
are being human to the wolf
their conscience-driven shepherds
guide us back to where our kindred
and our bloodlines used to run.

I howl for the wind to take my voice
to speak for all vanishing species
– whose cries are being ignored –
whose voices are secretly silenced
at the point of a Damocles sword.

And So She Stayed

Joyce Goodwin

She never told anyone,
kept it secret, ashamed
but people knew,
didn't want to become involved
didn't interfere, averted their eyes.

And so she stayed.

She talked to the walls feeling deranged at times
those silent witnesses absorbed her pain
heard her bruised cries
those walls bore witness to drunken rants
begged forgiveness,
expressions of love.

And so she stayed.

Passing years stole her prime
as she bore him child after child
yet she could never please him;
but the children needed her.

So she stayed.

When the children were reared
she closed her door for the last time
so she left still wondering
what had she done wrong.



A Special Appeal for Help for Moira Leona (Thompson) and her daughter Johanna

Many of you know Moira our former President and Newsletter Editor. On October 10, 2015 her daughter Johannah Jorgensen suffered a severe medical trauma that in spite of many months in hospital in Denmark has left her with severe challenges and she is now in a long term care facility in North Vancouver. While in hospital in Denmark Hannah was receiving therapies that greatly helped her. The family was finally able to bring her home and they know that therapy will add to her quality of life but need help to fund the services not available through the BC Medical Services Plan.

The family has decided to work through GoFundMe to raise \$15,000 needed for therapy. Moira gave us permission to share this appeal. For further information about Johannah Jorgensen and her current needs, please go to www.gofundme/johannajorgensen.

A NAVAL ENGAGEMENT (1981)

(Non-Fiction) by Patrick Hill

My good ship *SKY ONE HUNDRED* was heading west along the Trincomali Channel in the Gulf Islands, in the groove on a starboard tack, with spinnaker royal flying, surging before a gentle to moderate breeze, or as Sir Francis Beaufort would describe “*that in which a well-conditioned man-of-war with all sails set and clean full, would go in smooth waters at some 3-4 knots*”.

My crew was content and relaxed but ever vigilant for the enemy as is the custom on any of my ships. I was well pleased and just turning in below when..... There she was..... By Thunder and lower the Queen’s stays, a Spanish man-of-war, literally skulking along the side of the channel, on starboard tack, also with spinnaker royal flying! Now, what’s this? Some new go-fast device on the sail or is it some religious symbol? Giving my telescope a final clean with Windex (shines brighta, better sighta), I see it is some sort of bear (*Capitan Pedro Padwick had a “Winnie the Pooh” bear displayed on his spinnaker*).

“*If it’s meant to be any of these things, it’s the Poohs!*” whinnied one of my crew with a snigger. “*This must indicate some royal personage on board, my lads,*” I said, “*perhaps some spoils, perhaps gold, perhaps women!*” Their eyes lit up with lust and hope. With our inflation-ridden times, it would be good for them to take home something extra to their loved ones.

With the anticipation of combat, I took a quick squat on the poop deck while reflecting that this high structure was probably the greatest concept the Crusaders had reported from the Middle East Holy Wars. Perhaps the expression “*showing a clean pair of heels*” also originated there too.

Back on the gun decks my crew had hastily primed our newly designed ‘water’ cannons using special Whale pumps and eased our gun ports. The sails were trimmed as we bore down on her port quarter. From half a cable off we could see her name - *JUSTA* – a royal name indeed! “*Justa give us a moment me darlins,*” said my mate with a chuckle and the crew roared (*JUSTA was also a Fraser 42*)

Still no activity on *JUSTA*. Perhaps they think we are Spanish because of the similar design rigs (one of our leading designers defected in the Hundred Years War and modified all their square rigs to fore and aft). Yes, that’s it! They were waving – at least those who could were waving.

Seeing no trap, I ordered for close quarters and we surged alongside, dropped our gun ports and fired our ‘water’ balloons at their crew. Well, by Drake’s balls! You have never seen such a reaction. Give them credit – those Spaniards can move. In no time they were replying with – but what are these white objects? Bloody eggs!! Codspiece! We always knew they were more chicken than man but this was ridiculous. It was time for us to away – had not my old tutor, Admiral Lord Collingwood, said “*Shoot when you see the whites of their eyes, retreat when you see the whites of their eggs.*”

So as we pulled away, we had one more try at them by very skillfully locking our backstay onto the end of their boom to try and de-mast them or at lease grind our poop deck into their hull and spring a few planks. This was the first time this maneuver had been attempted since conceived a moment earlier and it certainly had great potential. The scene was intensely wild for some moments as it became a ‘*men, women and children first*’ operation while our boat was heeled over in the wind as it was being dragged sideways by *JUSTA*.

Through the tumultuous roar of flogging canvas and ropes, I was astounded to hear some phrases, both in Spanish and English that I had not, despite being much traveled, heard before and verily hoped not to hear again. As we bore away, I realized it was back to the drawing boards and mentally classed it as a Pyrrhic victory.

Signed:

Captain Scurge Hill on the 10th day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-One

EXECUTIVE 2017 – 2018

President (and Director)

Not currently filled

Vice-President (and Director)

Rod Baker

Secretary (and Director)

Not currently filled

Treasurer/Member Relations (and Director)

Doug MacLeod

Library Liaison

Sonia Garrett

Newsletter Editor/Archivist

Wiley Ho

Speaker Coordinator

Una Bruhns

Writing Contest Coordinator (and Director)

Doug MacLeod

Dare to be Heard Host

Mark Turris

Member-at-Large

Joanna Gould

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT 2017 – 2018

Promotion & Webmaster

Kelly Hoskins

Library Bookings, Harmony Arts Liaison

Carl Hunter

North Shore Writers Festival Liaison

Cathy Scrimshaw

***Many thanks to all our volunteers for their
dedication and hard work!***

Calendar of Events

<i>April 9</i>	<i>Dare to be Heard</i>
<i>April 11</i>	<i>Rippling Sonnets</i>
<i>April 16</i>	<i>NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker Ian Williams</i>
<i>April 25</i>	<i>Creative Quills in Verse</i>
<hr/>	
<i>May 7</i>	<i>Dare to be Heard</i>
<i>May 9</i>	<i>Rippling Sonnets</i>
<i>May 28</i>	<i>NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker Patricia Sandberg</i>
<i>May 30</i>	<i>Creative Quills in Verse</i>
	<i>Writing with Writers Workshop: Writing Unforgettable Suspense with Karen Dodd</i>
<hr/>	
<i>June 4</i>	<i>Dare to be Heard</i>
<i>June 18</i>	<i>NSWA 25th Birthday and Year-End Bash at Silk Purse</i>

Return after summer break

<i>Sept 17</i>	<i>NSWA AGM</i>
<i>Oct 15</i>	<i>General Meeting with guest speaker TBD</i>
<i>Nov</i>	<i>Christmas in November social, date and details TBD</i>

The Last Page

Cathy L. Scrimshaw

It's Festival Time!

This year it's in the West Van Library – and once again the NSWA will be there with a morning panel presentation. Our topic for 2018 is writing Canadian stories (see page 4), and our panelists have all been successful doing just that. My own novel is set on the B.C. coast, so I clearly think setting stories in our home country is a good thing to do.

I've heard some people say you can sell your stories more easily, and to a larger audience, if you set them outside of Canada. Well, I'll let our panelists address that issue. For me, the west coast, as a setting, is just brimming over with possible plot ideas, everywhere you look.

Take this morning, the second day of spring. It was a gorgeous morning. This was B.C. at its best if you like outdoor activities, which we do. So my husband, our dog and I set out for an early morning hike. We'd expected to have the trails to ourselves, but we forgot this is spring break. We ran into several different groups while we were out. Women with babies strapped into chest harnesses and large dogs bristling protectively by their sides. High school students leading young children on bike rides through the woods. A group of grey-haired hikers, with their walking sticks and poles, all

weighed down with heavy packs (where were they going? Were they planning to encounter an emergency?) We saw all kinds of other people, on their own, jogging or walking with dogs. The trails were full of life.

This sent my fiction writer's imagination into overdrive. *What if*, I thought, *what if*. . .

The women with babies are really magical creatures—witches and sisters—with babies whose future will decide the fate of the world. They are cousins who are identical to each other, from the outside, at least. Inside, the babies are completely different. One is the personification of evil, the other pure and good. One day they will battle for control of the world. But which one is which? Who will prevail? What part will the mothers play as the war wages on?

What if one of the children in the cycling group suddenly spies a small craft spiraling out of control, then crashing near them. What if the group pulls from the fiery wreckage an alien, who is here to retrieve a life-saving vial of water, from a specific North Shore creek at a specific time, which will save her dying planet when she takes it home. The children must then decide—do they protect their new friend from adult authorities while helping her accomplish her task, or allow scientists to capture the alien for study, which will mean the death of her race.



What about the elderly hikers? What was in those packs? What if they were on a long trek, on their way to unearth a treasure, stolen and buried long ago, by a friend now gone, who made a deathbed confession. They want to retrieve it, donate it to charity, to put it to good use while they still can. Then, deep in Lynn Canyon, far from help, it all begins to go terribly wrong . . .

One of those solo walkers seemed awfully preoccupied, almost surly when we offered a cheery “good morning!” He looked away and hurried on. What if he was on the run? If he was in my novel, he'd be beating a hasty departure from the spot where he'd just pushed his business partner, or his lover, or a friend who had willed him some money, over a cliff and into brush so thick the body would never be discovered, or at least not for many years. And then . . .

So there you have it – all of those stories benefit from being set in the west coast wilderness. Just think of the possibilities rampant in our city settings! Now come listen to our panelists, and the other presenters at the festival, and see how you can turn your ideas—no matter how wild they seem—into published stories.

See you there!