



No. 28: Fall 2022

Upcoming Meetings

September 19 AGM
7-8pm
In-person!

We are returning to our old home at NV City Library
120 14th St W
3rd floor

Election of new board, membership renewal, social and book swap

October 17
7-8:30pm
Guest Speaker
Rosie Daykin

November 21
NSWA Social

NSWA website:
www.nswriters.org

Check our website for updates and past newsletters

The North Shore Writers' Association thanks the North Vancouver City Library for their generous support of NSWA events and local writers and readers.

North Vancouver City Library



Write On!

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

President's Message

Janine Cross

I am so pleased to announce that for our Annual General Meeting September 19, we'll once again be back at the North Vancouver City Library!

We are very thankful that the West Vancouver Library generously hosted us in the Welsh Hall West for our meetings while the North Vancouver City Library underwent renovations.

At our AGM on the 19th, after we've voted in a new slate of board members (see page 14), we're going to hold a Mix n' Mingle and Book Swap. I've attended book swaps before and I always arrive with armfuls of books, intent on reducing the load on my groaning shelves at home, but always come away with an armful of great finds. I look forward to seeing what everyone brings.

I'm very excited at the slate of new candidates running for board positions this year. An organization grows and progresses with new ideas and energy. I'm eagerly anticipating the line-up of guest speakers that will be organized by Lisa Bagshaw (nominee for Speaker Coordinator), and I'm excited by the enthusiasm and interest of Frances Peck (nominee for Membership Coordinator), and Bill Koch and Melanie Hess (nominees for Directors-at-Large).

It would be completely remiss of me not to recognize the many years of dedicated work put in by outgoing Membership Coordinator Carl Hunter, who has kept us all linked together and informed with his email updates

and timely dissemination of our quarterly newsletters.

Speaking of our newsletter, I must thank Wiley Ho, our incredible newsletter editor, for countless seasons of high-quality newsletters showcasing our members' works and providing a fount of information, not just about our organization and upcoming events, but also literary events and opportunities in our community. Both Carl and Wiley have been pillars on the board, and it's been an absolute pleasure working with them.

The NSWA is a great literary organization that provides camaraderie, craft-learning, and publicity possibilities for members. Stay tuned for the return of the successful *Writing with Writers* series, a partnership between the NSWA and NVCL where NSWA members promote their recently released works and offer free writing workshops to members and the public alike. Frances Peck kicks off the season on September 21st with "Sentences with Style" (see page 12).

Our successful on-line Saturday Morning Write-ins will continue for the 2022-23 season, and Dare to be Heard will be starting up again, online for October and November, and possibly in-person in 2023.

Finally, as outgoing president, I must add that it's been a joy and a privilege getting to know everyone while sharing a passion for all things literary. The connections I've made and opportunities the NSWA has given me have been absolutely invaluable. Thank you, one and all.

A Message from the Editor



Photo by [Johannes Plenio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The end of summer prompts me to reflect on the passing season with a wistful eye, as I recall the sunny adventures and gatherings with friends and family. This year, I have another great experience to reflect on, that of having been the NSWA Newsletter Editor for the past five years.

After 21 newsletters, it is time to pass the torch to a new editor. This newsletter will be my final edition as editor.

As I look through our past issues, I have the pleasure of revisiting some stellar writing and achievements from our talented membership. It has also been fun to review past guest speakers, writing workshops and local festivals. I have enjoyed gathering and sharing your news, book launches and contest wins. I am especially proud of the fact that the NSWA persevered through the past two-plus years, met online to write and connect, and answered my calls for submissions. Thank you for your excellent contributions.

The NSWA now seeks our next newsletter editor. If you enjoy reading poetry and prose, liaising with members to showcase their work, and have a good editorial eye, this job could be for you! See page 15 for details. I encourage anyone interested in continuing this newsletter to email editor@nswriters.org.

It has been a pleasure to serve as NSWA's Newsletter Editor.

As ever, write on!
Wiley

Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho
Outgoing Editor

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Newsletter Submission Guidelines

1. Submissions from NSWA members only.
2. Share your latest writing news (e.g., recent publications, book launches, author readings).
3. Poetry, short fiction or nonfiction up to 600 words. No op/ed articles.
4. Email your submission to editor@nswriters.org.
5. Contributors are responsible for the accuracy, originality, and reliability of their content. Please check spelling, grammar and punctuation prior to submission. Word attachments preferred over email text. Accompanying photos belonging to the writer or open-source welcome.
6. Writing that appears in the NSWA newsletter is eligible for submission to the NSWA writing contest.
7. Publication in the *WRITE ON!* newsletter is at the discretion of the Editor, in consultation with the Board of Directors.

Disclaimer: Any views contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the NSWA.

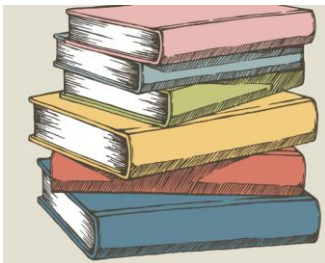
Upcoming Meetings This Fall

September 19 **AGM, Election and Social**



Let's kick off the new NSW season in person with our AGM, social and book swap. Come out and meet your new board of directors for the coming year, catch up with fellow writers, and swap some books! Drop off a book you think others would enjoy and pick up a new one that intrigues you.

This first meeting will be a fun gathering with light refreshments offered!



October 17 **Guest Speaker** **Rosie Daykin**



Wife, mother, bakery owner of [Butter Baked Goods](https://butter-baked-goods.com), bestselling cookbook author, interior designer, oatmeal addict and lover of all things striped.

Rosie Daykin would rather call you on your landline than your cell phone. Though she may be a little old-fashioned in the technology department, she is anything but when it comes to design, food, fashion and travel. As the owner of the highly successful [Butter Baked Goods & Café](https://butter-baked-goods.com), best-selling author, published interior designer and entertaining expert, Rosie Daykin is the ideal source for anyone passionate about beauty through food, travel and design.

Rosie's work has been featured in *Canadian House and Home*, *Style at Home*, *Australian Vogue*

Living, *Sunset Magazine*, *Martha Stewart Weddings*, *O Magazine* and more. She has made appearances on a variety of television shows, including *CTV Morning Live*, *The Rush*, *The Steven & Chris Show* and *The Social*.

Website: <https://butter-baked-goods.myshopify.com/>

November 21 **Save the date for** **NSWA's November Social**



NSWA's annual tradition – our winter holiday social in lieu of a general meeting.

NSWA's fantastic ad hoc social events coordinators Barbara Reardon and Christine Cowan will organize a fun-filled evening of mingling and lively chatter. Save the date. Venue and details to follow.

It's membership renewal time!

This is a general reminder that NSWA membership runs from September 1st through August 31st.

The 2022-23 year has begun. Membership fees are now due. For just \$40, continue to be part of a caring and vibrant community of writers supporting other writers, and participate in various member-only events, including our guest speaker series, Dare to be Heard and Saturday Morning Write-ins. As well, members enjoy a discount to enter NSWA's annual writing contest.

The NSWA is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization. Based on anticipated revenue and expenses set out in the 2022-23 Budget, the membership fee for September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023 is set at **\$40.00**.



Payment options:

1. Online by **Interac e-transfer** to **nswamembership@gmail.com**. Auto deposit has been set up to obviate the need for a security question and you should receive a virtual receipt confirming date, amount and completion. *This is the preferred payment method.*
2. In person at the AGM or subsequent meeting. Bring cheque or cash.
Please note that our PO Box is no longer in service, so the mail-in option is no longer available.

Should you have any questions about your membership status, please email Membership Coordinator: Carl Hunter at carlhunter@telus.net, cc Frances Peck at fpeck@shaw.ca.

If you have already paid your membership fee for the 2022-23 season, thank you!

Saturday Morning Write-ins!

on the second Saturday of each month



NSWA's popular Saturday morning write-ins restart in October.
Connect with your writing community!

Writing doesn't always need to be a lonely activity. Why not write with other writers? Working together gives us energy and discipline that we can't get toiling at our desks alone. Grab a coffee and write together via Zoom.

NSWA members have discovered the joy of writing together. On the second Saturday morning of each month, a group of us meet on Zoom and write. It's informal and supportive. Members take turns hosting.

We start by saying hello to one another, complete a short warm-up exercise and then get down to working on our individual projects. There's a 5–10-minute break halfway through and a wrap-up at the end. Sharing of work is optional. You'd be surprised at how much writing you can do in a couple of hours.

Join us on October 8th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Host: Doug MacLeod

Zoom link (copy and paste into your web browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87105551221?pwd=WjM2UVA3V0ZFZ1RNNnovbXFVK01Sdz09>

Passcode: NSWA

(same link each month)

Mark your calendars:

Oct 8, Nov 12, break in Dec

Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, May 13

Dare To Be Heard

Returns in October on the *First Monday* of each month!



If you're a writer and want to read your work to a non-critical audience, why not attend the next Dare to be Heard Literary Evening? Reading our writing out loud is very helpful for improving our work.

Dare welcomes all different genre writers at all stages of the writing journey and interested listeners, too. Dare provides an excellent and gentle space for writers to share poetry or prose – and support!

Dare to share! Hear you there!

Mark your calendars:

Oct 3, Nov 7, break in Dec, Jan 2, Feb 6, March 6, April 3, May 1

Start time: 7:00 pm

Zoom link (copy and paste into your web browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84717256427?pwd=MTFtV3pTUkxVV01RMDhrL2FVSEJhZz09>

Passcode: NSWA

(same code each month)

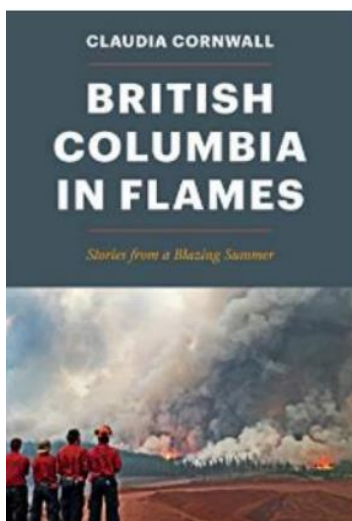
A word from Dare's Host Rosemary Gretton:

If you're new to the NSWA or Dare to be Heard, welcome! Depending on how many participants there are, writers typically read from their work for 5-10 minutes. If you'd like particular feedback on your writing, just let us know. Meetings generally last about an hour, and it's a good opportunity to share your writing in a supportive environment. You are also welcome to just come and listen. We plan to hold meetings via Zoom for the fall of 2022, with the possibility of moving back to in-person meetings in 2023. Stay tuned.

Rosemary

B R A V O !

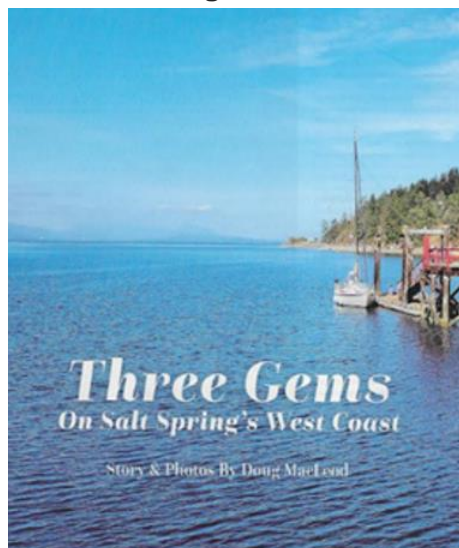
Brava to **Claudia Cornwall** whose non-fiction book **British Columbia in Flames** was nominated for the 2022 Jeanne Clarke Award for local and regional history.



For a review of the book and other finalists on BC BookLook, go to:

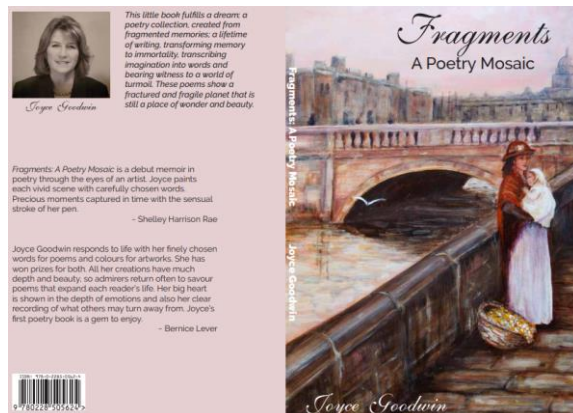
<https://bcbooklook.com/proverbs-wins-history-award/>

Hats off to **Doug MacLeod** for another ravishing



article in **Pacific Yachting** magazine! "Three Gems on Salt Spring's West Coast" appears in the August 2022 edition. Smooth sailing, Doug!

Congratulations to **Joyce Goodwin** for the publication of her first poetry collection **Fragments: A Poetry Mosaic** in 2021. A book launch will be held on November 6th at the University Women's Club at Hycroft (for details, go to www.uwcvancover.ca) A reading of Joyce's poetry can be heard on *Eh Poetry Podcast* (Spotify) on September 6th.



In 2021, Joyce was honoured when her poem "Charlie Hebdo" was one of fifty-plus poems compiled by George Elliott Clarke, the 7th Parliamentary Canadian Poet Laureate (2016-2017) for inclusion in a Canadian poetry anthology **Love Lies Bleeding**, published by Beret Days Press for The Ontario Poetry Society. Several hundred poems were submitted for this contest and Clarke had this to say about successful entries:

1. *Present-tense verbs (even better if they derive from nouns);* 2. *"concrete" nouns, not abstractions;* 3. *no clichés (or to find them altered);* 4. *an identifiable speaker;* 5. *succinct narrative and /or clear description;* 6. *tension (emotion);* and 7. *strong finishes.*



Bravo to **Rod Baker** for being a finalist for the 2021 Hearten Chanticleer International Book Awards (the CIBAs), for his uplifting and inspiring non-fiction book **Unexpected Treasures, Running a Mental Health Nonprofit**

rodbakerbooks.com

Congratulations to **Alex Hamilton-Brown** for the release this year of his historical romance novel

The Maverick King – Edward II.

After losing the crucial battle of Bannockburn, Edward II of England is on the run.

Disguised as a priest, and with an enormous ransom on his head, he escapes into the Scottish

Highlands. There, he meets Meg, a bewitching young Scottish woman, who joins him and becomes the love of his life. Pursued by the freedom fighters of the Black Douglas, they flee across Scotland.

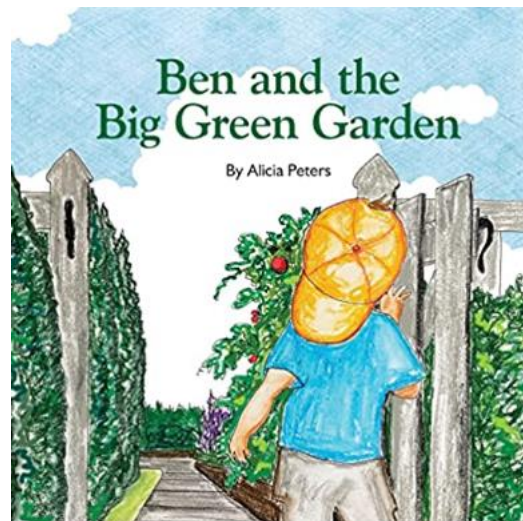
Available at:

[The Maverick King - Edward II: Hamilton-Brown, Alexander: 9780995209831: Books - Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca/dp/9780995209831)



Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho is pleased that her short story **“The House”** has been accepted for publication in *PRISM international* for the 61.1 themed SPIRIT issue, which will be published in late fall of 2022.

Congratulations to **Alicia Peters** for the release of her debut book ***Ben and the Big Green Garden***. Embrace the wonder, mystery and delight of seeing the world through a child's eyes. This picture book is beautifully illustrated by Canadian artist **Louise Carota**, and will be enjoyed by imaginative children of all ages!



Available at:

<http://www.amazon.ca/dp/1778182909> and North Shore public libraries.

Follow Alicia on Instagram @aliciaauthor or on LinkedIn Alicia Peters

Kudos to **Joan Boxall** for her poem **“Heh Leaf”** which was featured by the League of Canadian Poets in Poetry Pause for poem of the day. The poem is printed in full on page 11.

poetry pause



***A collective BRAVO to all you wordsmiths out there - sung and unsung.
Write on!***

100 WORD CHALLENGE

on the theme **contents under pressure**

Social Me

Shannon Hare

'Have you checked your label lately?' my husband asked.

'You mean on Facebook?'

'Yes.'

'No, why?'

I scrolled to the page on my watch reader.

'They added a line to your descriptor.'

Oxygen, Carbon, Hydrogen. It looked the same to me.

Forty-six years old. Human.

I scanned the smaller text.

Introvert. Advocate.

Nothing new there.

'Here.' He pointed to an addition under my personality labels.

There it was:

Contents under pressure

'What?! How dare they add that!'

'You *are* stressed,' my husband reasoned.

'None of their business!' I fumed. 'We should have deleted these accounts when it was still possible.'

contents UNDER pressure

Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho

Whoever thinks life is easy must be a pup or hermit

For the moment we exit the womb, no one is safe

From assault by environment and shame,

natural or manmade,

increasingly manmade.

Thankfully,

we have love, if we are lucky,

and we might turn off the vicious news cycle,

and turn to one another with compassion and with care.

Karen Bower

Contents Under Pressure #1

Ukraine: waiting for bombs to drop;
missiles to land; nuclear plant to
explode; HELP to arrive. Tick tock.

Contents Under Pressure #2

Oligarchs, sycophants eye a smirking
Putin, seated twenty feet across the
room, holding all the cards. Tick tock.

Contents Under Pressure #3

Opponents hold collective breaths. Will
Zelensky stare down the Russian
juggernaut, rebuild his country? Tick
tock.

Contents Under Pressure #3.1?

Putin on trial at the International
Criminal Court for his War Crimes!

Tick tock. Tick tock. Tick tock.

Poetry

Ukrainian Love Song

Melanie Hess

papa hoists the baby onto dislocated shoulders
his satchel holds our history
but not his watch
superstition says a watch is an invitation to a funeral

mama attaches a safety pin to our clothes for protection
her needle and thread
embroiders determination on our faces
and mends our ransacked hearts

I swallow snowflakes from my matted hair
and dream of glistening sweet potatoes

we wade through blackberry blood
past Petrykivka painted rubble
and woods where we gathered magic eggs
toward a promise of fair weather
and a place where the rabid fox resides only in fairy tales

from our throats will burst sunflowers



(Photo by [Max Kukurudziak](#) on [Unsplash](#))

'Heh Leaf!'

Joan Boxall

(Inspired by Johnny Mercer's lyrics/song 'Autumn Leaves' © 1947)

Heh Leaf! Fall out with me
in one fell swoop—
let this be your downfall.

Fall in line
Fall apart, f(or) all I care.
Fall into, fall off of, fall on hard lines (in your case, veins)

Fall out of something (with someone/something)
Fall prey, fall flat.
It's as easy as falling

between the (wise)cracks.
Fall over laughing on your midrib—
divided (we fall).

And that leaves us, Leaf,
as the 'fallen ones'—
September through November.



Photo by Chris Lawton on Unsplash

For an in-depth and interesting exploration of the song, its musical origins and influences, and the etymology of the word “fall,” check out Joan’s blog at www.joanboxall.com

Joan Boxall is author of articles in *Inspired 55+ Lifestyle Magazine* <https://www.seniorlivingmag.com/joan-boxall/> as well as the critically acclaimed memoir *DrawBridge, Drawing Alongside My Brother's Schizophrenia*, published in 2019 by Caitlin Press <https://caitlin-press.com/our-books/drawbridge/>



Writing with Writers: "Sentences with Style" with Frances Peck



This is an in-person event

Date	September 21, 2022
Time	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Location	Third floor program room

Event type: [Authors](#), [Lifelong learning](#)

On Wednesday, September 21, 7:00–8:30 pm, author, Certified Professional Editor (Hon.) and NSWA member Frances Peck leads a free workshop on how to shape sentences to get the most from them. "Sentences with Style" is part of the North Vancouver City Library's Writing with Writers series.

For details and registration, please visit [the library's website](#) at <https://www.nvcl.ca/events/writing-writers-sentences-style-frances-peck>. Register early, as space is limited.



Author Events

Vancouver Public Library (Central Branch) is running a monthly [Writers Showcase series](#) until the end of 2022, and there are still openings for October, November and December. Writers are chosen on a first come, first served basis. It doesn't matter when, how or whether you've been published—if you apply before the slots are filled, they will schedule you.

<https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6298f966934f852f00107603>

Bonus: bring your book(s) to sell at the event.

A Desire to Write Leads to Growth Within and Without

by April Bosshard, Story Coach



If you've chosen a path of creativity, you've also chosen a path of growth. Somewhere along the way you tapped into a deep desire to *make something*. Perhaps you felt a call or were inspired by particular stories when you were young, or you longed to contribute something meaningful to the world. This deep desire lives within you. And acting on it causes you to grow.

As writers, our desire to *create* something new propels us out of our comfort zones and into uncharted territory. The word desire can be traced to the Latin *desidere*, meaning "from the stars," which conjures an image of searching for something beyond what is known, of being called by something greater than ourselves, and also of an inner longing to be guided by some kind of heavenly compass.

But even if our desires to create are signs from the stars, our human-selves are still firmly rooted to this earth. So we will be stretched. And in stretching we will grow.

The gap that exists between where we are and what we're reaching opens a path that must be navigated with heart, soul, and will. Obstacles and setbacks will be encountered. Unexpected allies and opportunities will be discovered. The path from here to there is a journey of growth.

This is true in life and it's true in stories. When writing about story characters, we can imagine them on similar journeys from their comfort zones to their desired goals. Attempts to reach their desires, whatever forms they might take, will nudge them out of a status quo and propel them on inner and outer journeys. They will be changed in the process. This sort of change—this growth—lies at the heart of storytelling. It also lies at the heart of the writing process. Desire is simply the guiding star.

If you're ready to turn your writing desires in to action this fall, I invite you to sign up for The Drafting Circle, a 3-month program designed to help you get your novel memoir, or screenplay "on the page." Weekly calls, a customized writing plan, and help along the way supports the completion of a first draft by the end of this year.



with April Bosshard

Starting in September 2022

[The Drafting Circle](#)

Fall 2022

Mondays 10 to 11:30 ~ Sept 19 to Dec 12

Space for 8 writers ~ US\$475

Ongoing Online Writing Events

[Writing Together Sessions](#)

~ Wednesdays 10 to 1 Pacific ~

[Monthly One Day Writing Retreats](#)

~ Saturdays 9:30 to 3:30 ~

Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19



Email April: deepstorydesign@gmail.com

www.deepstorydesign.com

Slate for Board of Directors 2022 – 2023

Election at AGM on September 19, 2022
No RSVP required – see you there!

President (and Director)
vacant

Vice-President (and Director)
Doug MacLeod

Secretary (and Director)
Christine Cowan

Treasurer (and Director)
Steve Rayner

Memberships and Member Relations
Frances Peck

Library Liaison
Alicia Peters

Speaker Coordinator
Lisa Bagshaw

Dare to be Heard Host
Rosemary Gretton

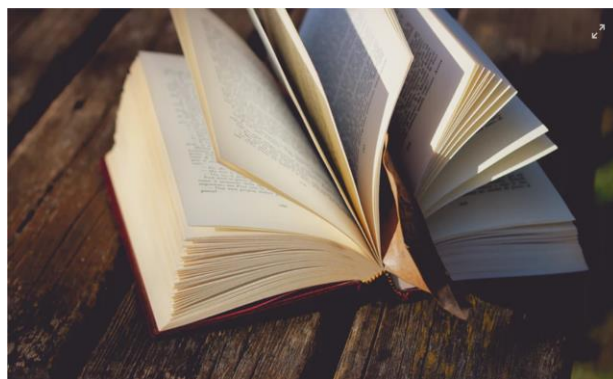
Newsletter Editor and Archivist
vacant

Webmaster
Kelly Hoskins

Writing Contest Coordinator
Barbara Reardon

Directors-at-Large
Melanie Hess and Bill Koch

***Warmest thanks to NSWA volunteers
for all the dedication and heart work
to make our organization hum.***



(photo: Ergita Sela, Unsplash)

*“If other people are to care about
your life, art must intervene.”*

– Hilary Mantel

Events Calendar

Sep 19, 7pm In-person AGM, election, social

Oct 3, 7pm Dare to be Heard (online)

Oct 8, 10am Saturday Morning Write-in
(online)

Oct 17, 7pm In-person meeting with guest
speaker Rosie Daykin

Nov 7, 7pm Dare to be Heard (online)

Nov 12, 10am Saturday Morning Write-in
(online)

Nov 21, 7pm NSWA social

December Winter break

Jan 2, 7pm Dare to be Heard

Jan 14, 10am Saturday morning Write-in

Jan 16, 7pm Meeting and guest speaker

Newsletter Editor Wanted!

The NSWA is looking for our next Newsletter Editor.

If you have a keen editorial eye and good word processing skills, enjoy reading widely and sharing writerly resources, consider this rewarding role. The Newsletter Editor is part of the board of directors, NSWA's small and mighty team of volunteers.

The role:

Produce *Write On!* newsletter on a quarterly basis (Fall, Winter, Spring and the Winning Edition). Our newsletter features member writing and writerly news, and is a great resource for upcoming events, speakers, workshops, book launches, festivals, etc.

Duties include:

1. Produce four newsletters per year (in fall, winter, spring and after the annual writing contest).
2. Write an editor's column for each newsletter.
3. Coordinate with Membership Coordinator for calls for submissions and distribution of newsletters.
4. Participation in monthly board meetings from September to May (break in December).
5. Ensure submission guidelines are in place and reviewed periodically.
6. Archive newsletters and meeting minutes (digital backup on a flash drive plus two boxes of pre-digital paper records).
7. Average time commitment per month: 4-5 hours.

The outgoing newsletter editor would be happy to mentor the next newsletter editor and share templates, tips and tricks.

This role has plenty of scope for creativity and is ably supported by the executive, including proofreading support. It provides an ideal opportunity to take an active part in NSWA's mission of "writers helping writers." It is also a great way to connect with the writing community.

Please email your interest to editor@nswriters.org.

The Last Page

Cathy L. Scrimshaw

September. The beginning of the Autumn season, and my favourite time of year. I love the feel of the cool, crisp air against my cheeks on walks with my dog. The fascinating, changeable cloud formations that gallop across the sky, or linger above and, in my imagination, resemble everything from barnyard animals to strangely compelling faces. I love the lengthening evenings, when curling up in a cozy armchair with a cup of tea or cocoa and a good book makes the shorter days worthwhile. The fall colours that transform local parks into glorious bursts of red, gold and yellow beauty.

I also love it because I think of it as the beginning of a new year, every bit as exciting as January 1 can be.

September marks the end of the summer break. We're now refreshed by those lazy days at the park or the beach. Our creative ideas are rejuvenated by summer reading, sparkling conversation at patio parties, by summer travels to see family and friends and to explore new places. We're fully re-charged, ready to throw ourselves back into our regular pursuits and, always important, to take on new challenges.

At the North Shore Writers' Association, it's time to re-connect with old writing friends and colleagues. To welcome new members. We're lucky that the pandemic restrictions have been relaxed, and we can meet in person again – so much better for socializing and networking. The season promises to be a rewarding one, with lots of opportunities to get more involved with the group.

Maybe even to volunteer.

I'd like to tell you a bit about my own time on the executive. What I gained from my 10+ years of service. The lessons that have proven invaluable to my writing. Perhaps most importantly, the enduring friendships I've made that I hope will last for many more years.

I've held many different positions over the years: President, VP, Editor, Library Liaison, Speaker Co-ordinator, PR, Grant Writer. I've helped out in a few more, and I'm still happy to help where I can. Did I have a favourite? Not really. I enjoyed them all. Each position is important to the success of the group. Each role has its own challenges, its own rewards. Each offers the opportunity to work as part of a team, and to shine as an individual. Here are a few tidbits for you to mull over. . .

I loved being the Editor. Putting together each issue of *WriteOn* was a chance to develop and show off my creativity, editing, and organizational ability. I got help at the beginning, from the outgoing editor; with her assistance, easing into the job was fun and comfortable. Probably the best part was getting to know the members as they submitted their work; before taking on this position, I'd had no idea how many talented people there were in the NSWA.

Library Liaison and Speaker Coordinator involved networking with the wider community, both local and regional. It was wonderful getting to know successfully published writers and the North Shore library staff. I can't say enough good things about both groups. Supportive, inspiring, generous with their time and as helpful as they had the ability to be are some of the thoughts that come to mind as I look back; planning and

putting on events with these people was a joy.

The most visible role, that of President, puts you up front at meetings, and in the role of Chair at executive meetings. It's a role best suited for someone who has spent a few years on the executive already, learning how the NSWA operates, how each of the component parts work, and how they coalesce into a functional and productive organization. Being President provides many opportunities to promote the group as a whole and the writers within it. It was during my tenure that the NSWA became part of the North Shore Writers Festival and the various library literary workshops; helping spearhead those initiatives is something I'm particularly proud of.

Throughout these years I made solid friendships with other writers. We've attended literary events together, traded critiquing comments, met for coffee or lunch, supported each other through the ups and downs of life and of writing. They understand me, at least the creative me, in ways that people outside the literary community can't.

My time on the executive was a wonderful period of discovery and reward. And the experience gained can be put in a CV or a query letter to an editor or agent. It's a sign that you are able to promote yourself and your work as well as write.

So, in addition to seeing old friends and colleagues in the meetings, I look forward to seeing some new faces up front. Most of all, to another successful season with North Shore Writers.

See you there!