

**EDITORS'**

ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES

**RÉVISEURS**

Prairie Provinces Branch

P.O. Box 12082

Edmonton, AB

T5J 3L2

Phone: 1-780-988-4753

1-888-622-3505

Fax:

403-284-3244 (Calgary)

780-455-9823 (Edmonton)

## What's Inside...

Son of Strunkenwhite.....	1-2
National executive report.....	3-4
Member profiles.....	4-6
Member news.....	6-8
PPB-EAC calendar .....	9-10
Editing courses.....	11

Editor: Anita Jenkins

Layout: Judy Dunlop

Proofreader: Philippa Fairbairn

Contributors:

Lori Burwash, Philippa

Fairbairn, Nordahl Flakstad,

Anita Jenkins, Perry Millar,

George Stacey, Allison

Strilchuk, Karen Virag

Contributions are welcome.

Next deadline:

February 15, 2002

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

[www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca)

## Son of Strunkenwhite

By George Stacey

*The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr., with revisions, an introduction and a chapter on writing by E.B. White. 4th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

"The revisions to the Fourth Edition," say the publishers in reverent caps on their Web page, [www.strunkandwhite.com/book.html](http://www.strunkandwhite.com/book.html), "are minimal." Comparison with the third edition, however, shows that a good deal of change has taken place.

Structural change, for instance, is immediately visible. A foreword by Roger Angell, stepson of E.B. White and a sportswriter who is a New Yorker fixture himself, and an otiose afterword by CBS broadcaster Charles Osgood have been added. More helpful—now that English grammar is so little known—are the glossary of grammatical terms and the short but excellent index, both new to the book with this edition. But very little alteration has been made to the order or the titles of the book's five main sections or to their constituent articles, variously called "rules," "principles" and "reminders."

Most of the revisions occur at the text level and amount to a straightforward updating of the illustrative examples. The titles in the list of reference books at the beginning of Part IV, "Words and Expressions Commonly Misused," are all new. A reference to yesterday's celebrity Nelson Rockefeller has been excised. And the use of a computer as a writing instrument, unmentioned in previous editions, now commands noticeable space in the section "An Approach to Style." And so on.

Usage is the area where most of *ES*'s other modifications occur. Many changes have been made, but more could have been made that weren't. "Transpire," *ES* still insists, is "not to be used in the sense of 'happen,' 'come to pass.'" But precisely that meaning is now acceptable to the Canadian Oxford Dictionary and probably most modern American dictionaries. The retention of injunctions of this sort causes the fourth edition to exude an aroma of quaintness. To be fair, though, the book is a prescriptive style guide, not a guide to actual usage—American or other.

## Son of Strunkenwhite, cont.

On the other hand, almost every page of the fourth edition contains at least one example of anti-sexist editing. Under “Like,” one of the “Words and Expressions Commonly Misused,” the example “Chloe smells good, as a pretty girl should,” used in previous editions, has been changed to “Chloe smells good, as a baby should.” The entry headed “They” in earlier editions has become “They, He or She.” This revised section now explicates the strategies for avoiding exclusive use of the male gender in personal pronouns and provides copious examples.

The result is that the book’s flavour has changed: Strunk’s terse, opinionated persona and White’s benign, wise one have both been muted in the blander mix produced by new editing. But it had to happen sometime.

Of course the “little book” has never been meant for editors. But in spite of its American-ness and its gussied-up quaintness, it’s still the handiest, the pithiest and maybe even the best brief style guide for the nonspecialist writer. It’s good to see the tradition go on.

*Former librarian and records manager George Stacey, who lives in Calgary, has occasionally worked as a copy editor and book indexer since 1992. He spends his leisure time lamenting the decline of English and composing bogus Shakespearean speech using magnetic words on refrigerator doors.*

## Freedom to Read Week, February 24–March 2, 2002

In 2001, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission fined Saskatoon’s *StarPhoenix* and an advertiser for running an anti-gay ad that quoted four passages from the Bible. In Surrey B.C., one party disputing a partial ban on the use in schools of children’s books that feature same-sex parents appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

To learn more about Freedom to Read Week, visit [www.freedomtoread.ca](http://www.freedomtoread.ca). The site provides information, not only about Canadian censorship, but about local events such as readings, debates and contests. Events are fun and inexpensive.

Buy a Freedom to Read kit for \$15 (tax and shipping charges included). Each kit consists of a 62-page booklet and a full-colour poster. E-mail orders to Anne McClelland at [bkper@interlog.com](mailto:bkper@interlog.com).

## EAC Prairie Provinces Branch Contact List of Volunteers

### 2001–2002 Executive

Chair	Vacant
National Representative	Dianne Smyth 780-488-1916 <a href="mailto:smythd@telusplanet.net">smythd@telusplanet.net</a>
Vice-Chair	Lynn Bryan 780-437-4885 <a href="mailto:lynnbryan@powersurfr.com">lynnbryan@powersurfr.com</a>
Past Chair	Karen Virag 780-447-9491 <a href="mailto:kvirag@teachers.ab.ca">kvirag@teachers.ab.ca</a>
Treasurer	Marie Lesoway 780-465-3460 <a href="mailto:lesoway@home.com">lesoway@home.com</a>
Secretary	Astrid Blodgett 780-437-3311 <a href="mailto:astrid.blodgett@ualberta.ca">astrid.blodgett@ualberta.ca</a>
Public Relations and Industry Liaison (PRIL)	Karys Van de Pitte 780-455-3047 <a href="mailto:karys@telusplanet.net">karys@telusplanet.net</a>
Program, Calgary Area	Lori Burwash 403-282-3641 <a href="mailto:loriburwash@cadvision.com">loriburwash@cadvision.com</a>
	Allison Strilchuk 403-802-2573 <a href="mailto:AllisonStrilchuk@smarttech.com">AllisonStrilchuk@smarttech.com</a>

-Cont. on page 3

*Latest Edition* is published by the Prairie Provinces Branch of the Editors’ Association of Canada. Articles, news items and comments are welcome.

Please contact the editor, Anita Jenkins.  
Phone 780-474-6656, e-mail  
[ajenkins@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:ajenkins@compusmart.ab.ca).

# National Executive Report

## That strange meteorological phenomenon known as the national EAC/ACR executive

By Karen Virag

The national EAC/ACR executive is a bit like the fog. You may never really notice us, but we are around. And though the national office may seem far away, many of the decisions made by the national executive affect you as a branch member. Here are a few highlights of the goings-on in the brain centre of EAC.

### Restructuring the national executive

Since restructuring was such a controversial topic last year, it was felt that we needed better and more inclusive ways to communicate the plan to members. Hence, a member communications committee was struck this past summer. The committee has made some recommendations to the national executive on conveying information and gathering member feedback. The restructuring committee has spent much time considering the communications proposals and expects to present the restructuring proposal to the membership again before the end of the year, with a view to holding a referendum in the spring.

### Certification

Much is happening on the certification front. Several years ago the membership passed a motion to begin a process for certification of editors by examination, along the lines that other professionals, like accountants, undergo. A committee was formed and has made excellent progress. Various teams have come together to write the pilot test for the four-part examination, and the plan is to pilot it sometime next year.

Having observed the entire process from the sidelines, I am amazed at how much is required to put this program into place. Tasks include planning, deciding on formats, writing, marketing, piloting, devising a testing schedule and engaging invigilators. And this is just the obvious stuff. Certification committee co-chairs Peter Moskos and Jonathan Paterson, as well as the many committee members and volunteers, are to be commended for their work on this project. Nay, to be bowed down before.

### The Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence

For the first time ever, a cash prize of \$2000 will be attached to the Tom Fairley Award. Another first this year is that the award is no longer restricted to freelancers; in-house editors are also welcome to

## EAC Prairie Provinces Branch Contact List of Volunteers

Program, Saskatchewan Area    Perry Millar  
306-652-0763  
Perry.Millar@usask.ca

Members at Large                    Carol Berger  
780-465-3441  
caberger@netcom.ca

Mary-Jane Laviolette  
780-482-1269  
mjl@interbaun.ca

### OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Hotline Coordinator                Karen Virag  
780-447-9491  
kvirag@teachers.ab.ca

Program Assistant,  
Edmonton Area                      Vacant

PRIL Assistant                      Keri Kent  
780-433-6527  
myth\_inc@telusplanet.net

Membership Database              Chris Manderson  
403-283-8447  
cmanders@cadvision.com

Corporate Database                Vacant

Librarian                              Judith Johnson  
780-497-5285  
johnsonj@adm.gmcc.ab.ca

Newsletter Editor                  Anita Jenkins  
780-474-6656  
ajenkins@compusmart.ab.ca

Newsletter Production  
and Distribution                      Judy Dunlop  
780-444-3787  
judy@dunlopinfo.ca

To obtain a listing of all branch members,  
e-mail Chris Manderson,  
membership database coordinator,  
at cmanders@cadvision.com.

## Executive Report, cont.

enter. The deadline for receipt of applications is February 11, 2002. For more information on the award and how to apply, refer to the EAC Web site at [www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca).

### The November national executive meeting

The growth of EAC has been quite remarkable in the relatively short time that it has existed (since 1979). We now have close to 1400 members nationwide and a budget of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Traditionally, November is budget month, and this year was no exception. The executive considered and approved a budget proposed by Prairie Provinces Branch member Jon Brehaut, our national treasurer, who is not only a good editor but a whiz with numbers. Perhaps I shouldn't repeat this—it's only a rumour, after all—but I heard that he even fills out his own income tax forms. Kudos and thanks go to Jon for his hard work on behalf of the association.

So, there you have it. If you have questions or concerns, particularly about restructuring, please contact me at the numbers or e-mail address listed in this newsletter.

Regards to all.

*In addition to all the work she does locally, Karen Virag is serving as the national vice-president of EAC.*

## Profiles

### Daneda Russ helps an Alberta magazine to thrive

By Nordahl Flakstad

January 1997 was perhaps the worst and the best of times for Daneda Russ to join *Alberta Venture* as associate editor. The colourful, if safe, glossy quarterly tabloid promoting Alberta's economy was facing a major makeover after privatization by the government.

Under new publisher/editor Ruth Kelly, *Alberta*

*Venture* became a private-sector, 10-times-a-year magazine—in business to tell the story of Alberta business. Today, with a contemporary layout and readable stories, it reaches more than 200,000 readers. A sophisticated read and no mere provincial rag, *Alberta Venture* needn't take cover behind competing national or U.S. titles on magazine racks.

Daneda, who had received an Honours B.A. in English from McGill six months earlier, became the magazine's first employee. When she completed high school in Spruce Grove, Alberta, she was accepted by Carleton University's journalism program. However, Montreal won out over Ottawa, and, says Daneda, "There was no question I was coming back to Alberta once I had completed my studies."

There was an internship at *New Trail*, the University of Alberta's alumni magazine, and she had taken a U of A editing course. Helpful experience, but hardly complete preparation for what awaited her at *Alberta Venture* three months prior to re-launch. Besides lining up the first issue under new management, Daneda helped set the publication's tone and thrust.

For Ruth Kelly, the last five years have validated Daneda's hiring—a choice grounded as much on her character as on her editing skills at the time. Daneda's strengths in dealing with details of structure, content and personnel complement what Ruth terms her own "broad-brush" contributions. "She was fundamental to our development and growth. We wouldn't be here without her."

While copy editing and proofing come with the territory, *Alberta Venture's* managing editor (Daneda's title since March 2000) admits that editing's blue-pencil side is not what she finds most satisfying.

"I enjoy the substantive part of editing—the interplay of ideas and the collaboration with other players—the stuff that goes beyond ensuring complete sentences and correcting spelling errors."

Daneda works with about 50 contributors from across Alberta—perhaps 15 on a typical edition.

"The most satisfying aspect of the work I do comes at the moment I see a manuscript for the first time and realize that the intellectual collaboration preceding it has produced something interesting and meaningful."

## Profiles, cont.

Planning 12 editions of a magazine (including two specials) is time-consuming. This past year, Daneda's schedule also included planning her August wedding. Now, Daneda and a friend are training for their first marathon. In spite of the events of September 11, they plan to try to go the distance at the New York City Marathon next November.

That decision doesn't surprise Ruth Kelly, who terms her colleague "a long-haul type of person, not a sprinter. If she decides to achieve it, she will achieve it."

*Nordahl Flakstad, an Edmonton EAC member, has worked extensively as a reporter and editor with daily newspapers. He has been a freelance writer and communications consultant for the past year. From 1991 to 2000, he was an in-house editor with the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.*

### Jean Bauer: a truly modern editor

By Anita Jenkins

Jean Bauer didn't grow up saying, "I want to be an editor." Nonetheless, all roads have somehow led to editing, and Jean is thrilled. "It's what I was put on earth to do," she says. "I love jumping in with two feet."

Jean recently started a new job at Computer Sciences Corporation in Calgary as a technical editor. For just over a year before that, she was the lone editor on staff at Alterna Technologies Group in Calgary. At Alterna, a "dot.com company," it was quite normal to be handed a large manual or proposal with a request to get it done in half a day," Jean says.

Jean takes a philosophical, roll-with-it approach to the vicissitudes of the job. Perhaps this is because of her previous work experience. She followed her fiancé (now her husband) from Edmonton to Hong Kong in 1994, and, through a friend, found work there as an editor for *Telecom Sources* magazine. She later acquired several other positions with accounting, legal and financial publications (one client was Credit Suisse First Boston).

In 1999, Jean and her husband moved to Calgary, where she continued to work as a freelance editor for some of her former clients back in Hong Kong. "By taking advantage of our time differences," she says, "we improved publication turnaround. Editing was done on a 24-hour basis."

Jean sees a lot of value in belonging to professional associations. In addition to EAC, she belongs to the Hong Kong Women in Publishing Society, the Society for Technical Communications and the Calgary Association for Freelance Editors.

### Busy music teacher Tim Eckert edits part-time

By Anita Jenkins

Edmonton piano teacher Tim Eckert has made editing his second career. He finds that his editing projects nicely fill the gaps created by school vacation periods, when music lessons are not normally scheduled.

Although music has always been a big part of Tim's life, his B.A. from the University of Alberta is in political science (music was his minor). The poli sci background led to an assignment with the International Centre at the U of A and later with a local group that studied refugee issues. Tim also did volunteer work in West Africa, and at a paralegal firm in Florida that published a lot of reports. In the process of helping with these reports, Tim became aware of his aptitude for words.

"Editing is like solving a puzzle," Tim says. "I like being able to help make the message clearer." His current editing clients include Museums Alberta, an association of all the museums in the province, and MHA Institute, a small Calgary training company.

Having taught piano for the past 12 years, Tim currently has 35 students, which is a very full teaching load. "I keep getting students sent to me," he says, "since I'm one of only seven Suzuki piano teachers in the city." For the past four years, Tim has also been teaching group piano classes (six kids on three pianos) at the Suzuki Charter School.

Tim is a member of the Edmonton Suzuki Piano School and the Suzuki Association of the Americas,

## Profiles, cont.

as well as EAC, which he fondly refers to as “EEK.” He says he learned this pronunciation from his chum Harlan James, former treasurer of the Prairie Provinces Branch.

In his extremely limited leisure time, Tim plays the piano for pleasure and regularly attends Edmonton Symphony concerts, as well as jazz concerts at the Yardbird Suite.

## Member news

The latest book by **Candas Jane Dorsey**, *A Paradigm of Earth* (Tor/HB Fenn) is reviewed in the October 2001 issue of *Quill and Quire*. An excerpt: “What does persuade is the lives of Dorsey’s extraordinary characters, from the homophobic CSIS agent masquerading as a lesbian to the innocent and occasionally frightening alien Blue. Just when you think you’ve neatly mapped out the good guys from the bad, the terrain shifts again, just a little. Life is like that.”

**Bernadette Gasslein** is the editor of *Celebrate!*, a 64-page magazine published six times a year by Novalis, Canada’s largest Roman Catholic publishing company, based in Ottawa. Bernadette reports that *Celebrate!* received the following awards in late spring 2001 from the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada:

- General excellence, professional and special interest magazines: honourable mention
- Best article, professional and special interest: honourable mention for “Two planks and the passion,” by Kevin Burns of Ottawa, and “Letting Christ’s victory prevail” by Joan Halmo of Saskatoon

From the Canadian Church Press Association, the magazine received honourable mention in the Theological Reflection-Inspirational category for “Advent: An alluring, wild, pregnant season” by Margaret Bick of Toronto.

Bernadette, who did graduate studies in theology in Paris, has also developed and edited a series of 17 books designed to help lay people work in more specialized areas of liturgy. All of the authors are Canadian; Bernadette was one of them.

**Perry Millar** is now managing editor of University Extension Press, University of Saskatchewan. She proudly reports that two books from her shop have been short-listed in three categories for the Saskatchewan Book Awards. They are:

- Peter M. Jonker and J. Stan Rowe, *The Sand Dunes of Lake Athabasca*
- Al Scholz, *Don’t Turn Out the Lights: Entrepreneurship in Rural Saskatchewan*

**Lauri Seidlitz**, managing editor of the Banff Centre Press, is now seeking literary non-fiction about the position of the arts and culture in Canadian life. This is the first step in a campaign to refine the publishing mandate of the press and enhance its profile. Source: *Quill and Quire*, October 2001.

Two of the books edited by **Dianne Smyth** have not only made the Edmonton best-seller list but have also stayed there for several weeks. The books are:

- *Lifelines: Culture, Spirituality and Family Violence* (University of Alberta Press, 1999)
- *A Passion for Music: A Biography of Richard S. Eaton* by Margaret C. Matheson (Spotted Cow Press, 2001)

## Networking in Canmore

When **Peggy Lipinski** moved back to Canada from South Africa last summer, she thought it would be great to set up shop in the lovely Rocky Mountain town of Canmore. Clever editor that she is, Peggy did some research first. She looked up the phone number for **Tricia Armstrong**, the only EAC member with a Canmore address, and gave her a call. Tricia enthusiastically shared all sorts of information about

## Member news, cont.

freelance opportunities, the feasibility of being based in Canmore and the town itself (accommodation, prices, people, lifestyle). “Tricia’s input had a lot to do with my decision to move there,” Peggy says.

When Peggy arrived in town, Tricia took her on a walking tour that included the best places to shop, the nature trails and the shortcut through the woods from Peggy’s condo to the Recreation Centre. A while later, when Peggy’s office equipment arrived, Tricia brought over a work crew (daughter Lisa and son Gaelen) to rearrange almost all of the furniture in Peggy’s new digs and set up the office. (The desk arrived in a large, flat box and had to be assembled.) And no money changed hands. Take a bow, Tricia.

Two of Tricia’s professional pursuits are listed below. Peggy is thriving too, having signed a major contract with Juriliber, a legal publishing firm in Edmonton.

### Done any good editing lately?

Here is a sampling of local EAC/ACR members’ current and recent editing projects. To have your activities listed in the next newsletter, contact the editor at [ajenkins@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:ajenkins@compusmart.ab.ca).

**Tricia Armstrong**, Canmore. Editor. *In the Path of Great Bear*, McTavish & Nunn, 2001. Also, author of *Information Transformation*, Stenhouse, 2000.

**Jean Bauer**, Calgary. Editor. Alterna Technologies Group Inc. Online user guides and other publications.

**Elizabeth Bell**, Calgary. Indexer. *Polo, The Galloping Game* by Tony Rees. Western Heritage Centre Society, 2000.

**Janice Dewar**, Edmonton. Editor. Faculty of Nursing. University of Alberta publications, including *Faculty Focus* newsletter.

**Judy Dunlop**, Edmonton. Indexer. *CTV: The Network that Means Business* by Michael Nolan, University of Alberta Press, 2001.

**Cheri Frazer**, Winnipeg. Editor. EISI (software

company). Business plan and marketing reports.

**Brian Hitchon**, Edmonton. Senior author and publisher. *Introduction to Ground Water Geochemistry*, Geoscience Publishing, 1999.

**Maureen Hutchison**, St. Albert. Editing and production. MBA courses for Athabasca University’s Centre for Innovative Management.

**Nancy Mackenzie**, Edmonton. Developmental editor. *Literature and Media 9 and 10* (teacher’s guides), Nelson Thomson Learning Inc., 2000.

**Perry Millar**, Saskatoon. Editor. University Extension Press catalogue (its first), University of Saskatchewan. 2001.

**Patsy Price**, Calgary. Editor and designer. Northern Lights brochures, ads, flyers, business cards and Web site: [www.northlites.com](http://www.northlites.com).

**Linda Reynolds**, Calgary. Editor and project manager. *Money Magic: Crazy Coin Tricks and Their Science Secrets* and *No Batteries Required: Simple Science Magic for Grandparents and Kids*, Bare Bones Publishing, 2001.

**Stephen Roney**, Athabasca. Editor. Multimedia course materials, Athabasca University.

**Christine Lyseng Savage**, Edmonton. Copy editor. *Investigating Geography 7* (textbook), Arnold Publishing, 2001.

**Brenda Walker**, Calgary. Editor and writer. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology cookbook, department calendar, course materials. Also teaching a course called Writing for the Web.

### Getting connected

Want to become more involved in your professional association? Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ Arrange to visit the branch library in Judith Johnson’s office at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton
- ◆ Ask Chris Manderson to send you a copy of the branch membership list.
- ◆ Offer to write an article for *Latest Edition* or submit a note about your most recent achievement.
- ◆ Offer to serve on the branch executive in 2002.

## Member news, cont.

### Directory reveals local interest in animals

In the current EAC/ACR directory, 10 of the 28 entries by Prairie Provinces Branch members mention an interest in animals. Horses are Nancy Mackenzie's choice. And Holly Spicer's (she has a B.Sc. in Agriculture and an M.Sc. in Animal Production). Holly's also interested in animal rights and welfare, as are T'Lara Joy Freedom, Elizabeth Gredley, Shelly Svidal and Karys Van de Pitte. T/Ed Dyck's specialty is dogs; Dennis Rusinak likes cats. T'Lara Joy does not discriminate: horses, dogs and cats are all fine with her. Natalie King and Christine Savage list the generic "Animals" as a subject area they're willing to tackle. Perhaps Elizabeth is the most committed of all, since the name of her business is animalINK.

### Statistics

The number of Prairie Provinces branch members (approximately 135 in total) who:

- are listed in the 2001–02 EAC/ACR *Directory of Editors*:  
28
- hold a voting membership in EAC/ACR (as of November 1, 2001):  
46
- asked to receive the October issue of *Latest Edition* by mail (instead of pdf):  
11

### Welcome to New Members

#### Calgary and area

Christa Bedry, Cochrane  
Michael Hrytsak, Calgary  
Jennifer Nault, Calgary  
Vicki Perkins, Calgary  
Melanie Simpson, Calgary

#### Edmonton

Mary Anne Gorman  
Leigh Patterson  
Marguerite Watson

#### Saskatoon

Jane Billingham  
Morna Greuel

#### Winnipeg

Stuart Slayen

### National conference

May 24–26, 2002

Montréal, Quebec

Start planning now to attend the 2002 EAC/ACR annual conference at the Hôtel de l'Institut. Because May 27 is the Memorial Day holiday in the United States, several downtown hotels are already fully booked. If you plan to attend, you may want to book your accommodation right away. Conference rates are available at the Hôtel and at Residences universitaires UQAM. For more information about the hotel, visit their Web site:  
[www.hotel.ithq.qc.ca/f15.html](http://www.hotel.ithq.qc.ca/f15.html)

If you'd like to know more about why you should go, contact one of the "veterans" who have attended past conferences: Judy Dunlop, Anita Jenkins, Dianne Smyth and Karen Virag, to name a few. (See sidebars on pages 2 and 3 for contact information.)

## EAC-PPB calendar

### Calgary

#### Monday, January 28, 7:00 pm

Panel Discussion: The Publishing Process  
MacDougall Centre, Media Room, 455 - 6 Street SW  
Street parking is free after 6:00; \$5 drop-in fee for non-members. Get the lowdown on publishing in today's world. Our expert panel members will talk about editing, design, production and printing.

#### Monday, February 11, 5:30 pm

Pub Night: Writers and Editors, A Love Story  
Molly Malone's, 1153 Kensington Crescent NW

#### Thursday and Friday, March 21-22

Course: Information Architecture and Content Management for the Web  
Instructor: Tammis Everts from Habanero  
Details to be announced.

#### Monday, April 8, 5:30 pm

Pub Night  
Molly Malone's, 1153 Kensington Crescent NW

If you wish to attend any of the Calgary events, or would like more information, e-mail [eac-calgary@cadvision.com](mailto:eac-calgary@cadvision.com).

### Edmonton

#### Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19-20

Course: Information Architecture and Content Management for the Web  
Instructor: Tammis Everts from Habanero  
Details to be announced.

Watch for e-mail announcements of events and/or check the Prairie Provinces Branch section of the EAC/ACR Web site at [www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca).

### Saskatoon

On Monday, November 5, a group of Saskatoon editors elected an executive and made some exciting plans. The group hopes to

- hold one or two professional development seminars in the spring;
- contact editors in Regina about forming a similar group there; and
- sign up as many EAC/ACR members from Saskatchewan as possible, with a view to forming an independent branch.

The executive members are Perry Millar, Chair; Wilf Popoff, Treasurer; Ursula Acton, Secretary; Jane Billinghamurst, Professional Development; and Michelle Boulton, Membership and PR.

"It's a modest beginning," Perry says, "but one that we believe will in time perform an important role in the city. We hope to become better known and be able to attract more editors and bring word of our existence to potential clients."

For more information contact [Perry.Millar@usask.ca](mailto:Perry.Millar@usask.ca).

### WOTS in Calgary

One sunny Sunday in September, tens of thousands of people converged on Eau Claire Market in Calgary for Word on the Street, the national book and magazine fair.

The Prairie Provinces Branch has had a table there since the fair started in Calgary in 1999. It's been a great way to get the word onto the street about EAC, the PPB and the value of editors in general. We meet potential clients and people interested in becoming editors—but mostly people wondering what the heck an editor does.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the table this year—and went home sporting a sunburn as a result: Lori Burwash, Eilish Heibert, Annabelle Moore, Patsy Price, Allison Strilchuk, Kara Turner and Gayl Veinotte.

### Indexing Events, 1

#### See also *A Great Night Out*

By Allison Strilchuk

On September 18 in Calgary, 16 people attended an Indexing Basics seminar conducted by Fena Maucieri.

Fena began by explaining how valuable a well-crafted index can be for improving the usability of a document. Like a reliable road map, an index not only tells readers what they'll encounter, but also explains how to get there.

As for crafting an index, there are numerous methods, strategies and tools. But the true *art* of indexing resides in the orderly mind required to select and refine (and further refine!) index entries. Like any editing project, it's critical to know your audience—their interests and jargon, and the information they're after. Once this is achieved, you can dig in and begin structuring index elements, setting goals, drafting and, of course, editing index entries.

For more information about indexing, visit these Web sites:

The Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada  
[www.indexingsociety.ca](http://www.indexingsociety.ca)

The American Society of Indexers  
[www.asindexing.org](http://www.asindexing.org)

Index-L Discussion Group  
<http://listserv.unc.edu/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=Index-L>  
A to Z: The Newsletter of the STC's Indexing  
Special Interest Group  
[www.stcsig.org/idx/newsltr.html](http://www.stcsig.org/idx/newsltr.html)

### Sir John A. attends Halloween social in Edmonton

By Karen Virag

The Edmonton arm of the Prairie Provinces Branch held its Halloween social under the watchful eyes of Sir John A. and the other Fathers of Confederation. On October 29, approximately 20 members and

spouses and friends met in the aptly named Confederation Lounge in the Hotel Macdonald in downtown Edmonton. The theme of the well-attended evening was "Editing Nightmares: Tales from the Trenches." Judging from the paucity of people with horror stories to tell, it seems that we Edmonton editors are one happy, contented lot. Our clients always pay on time and never refuse to listen to our sage advice. This is good. The plan is working.

We did hear a couple of torturous tales, though. Karys Van de Pitte regaled us with a story of a massive editing project she worked on—an Elizabethan court case, involving lying, scheming, treachery and even a pair of pillories. And I simply had to share my own harrowing tale about a client (see sidebar).

We more or less took over the bar for a few hours. And we all looked quite splendid: Juliet Kershaw wore her ab fab orange boa, and Dianne Smyth was resplendent in a bright red parka. John A. would have been proud.

#### Karen's horrors of editing story

A client, unbeknownst to me (ok, the signs were there all along but I chose to ignore them) was a vampire. I ended up killing him, quite by mistake, when I flung the curtains of the study open and the light of the rising sun shone on him. He began to melt and, as he did, he cursed all editors, calling us nit-picking nabobs of negativity, anal-retentive comma clippers and pedantic, perverted, pontificating punctuators. I defended us bravely, though, shouting back that he was a muddled incoherent cretin, a re-animated corpse who could barely string two sentences together. That he didn't know a misplaced modifier from a silver stake. And just as I said that, he melted away into nothing.

Frankly, he was a bit of a creep and I wasn't really sorry to have melted him, but I was a bit ticked that his cheque bounced. Still I learned an important lesson—never do business with the undead.

# Editing Courses

Compiled by Philippa Fairbairn

## Edmonton

**GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE,  
THE MACEWAN WRITING WORKS**  
Call (780) 497-5346 for information or e-mail  
writingworks@admin.gmcc.ab.ca  
www.artsci.gmcc.ab.ca

**Grammar Essentials**  
12 Tues., Jan. 15–April 2, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm,  
\$188, plus text  
Instructor: Cynthia MacCormac

**Law and Ethics for Writers**  
Sat. Jan. 26, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, \$98  
Instructor: George Takach

**The Basics of Editing**  
2 Sat. Feb. 2 and 9, 10:00 am–4:00 pm, \$118  
Instructor: Leslie Vermeer

**A One-Day Grammar Refresher**  
Friday, Feb. 8, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, \$88  
Instructor: Cynthia MacCormac  
Also offered on Friday, March 29, 9:00 am – 4:00  
pm

**Copy Editing**  
2 Sat., Mar. 2 and 9, 10:00 am–4:00 pm, \$118  
Instructor: Leslie Vermeer

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,  
FACULTY OF EXTENSION**  
For information, call 780-492-3093 or 780-492-  
9448 or e-mail appliedarts@ualberta.ca  
www.extension.ualberta.ca/writing

**Effective Editing: Theory and Practice**  
15 Thurs. starting Jan 10, 6 pm–9 pm, \$375  
Instructor: EAC–PPB member Kathy  
Garnsworthy

## **A Practical Guide to Proofreading**

Sat. Feb 23, 10 am–4 pm, \$120  
Instructor: EAC–PPB member Kathy Garnsworthy

## **Art of Indexing**

4 Sat. Starting March 9 (no class March 30), \$225  
Instructor: EAC–PPB member Judy Dunlop

## **Pen for Hire: The Business of Freelance Editing**

Sat. April 13, 9 am–4 pm, \$145  
Instructor: Andrea Collins

## Calgary

### SAIT

For information, call 403-284-8401  
www.sait.ab.ca/calendars/conedcalendar/  
courses.html

### **Basic Editing**

8 Tues. starting Jan 8, 6:30 pm–9:30 pm, \$225

## Other locations

From time to time, the following institutions offer editing courses:

- Metro Community College  
(Edmonton Public Schools)  
www.metrocommunitycollege.ca
- University of Calgary, Faculty of Continuing  
Education  
www.ucalgary.ca/cdted
- Mount Royal College, Calgary  
www.mtroyal.ab.ca/programs/coned
- University of Winnipeg, Continuing Education  
www.coned.uwinnipeg.ca

### **Did you know?**

Gargoyles served a mundane purpose. Water ran off buildings into a gutter and from there flowed out through the gargoyle's mouth, which was actually a spout. In Latin, "gutter" is a word for throat. "Garg" is a Latin prefix that also means throat (think of the word "gargle"). Old French for throat was "gargouille," from which we get gargoyle. Source: *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*