

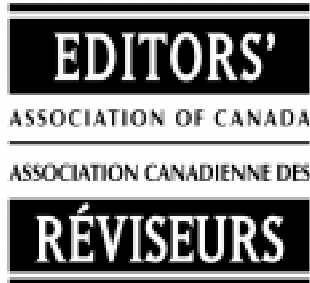
# West Coast EDITOR

A MONTHLY FORUM FOR EAC  
MEMBERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA  
TO EXCHANGE IDEAS,  
DEVELOP SKILLS AND  
SHARE NEWS ABOUT EDITING

OCTOBER 2000

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BC Branch

## Some highlights of the summer national executive meeting

RICK ROGERS

During the summer I had the interesting experience of representing our branch at the national executive meeting held over the weekend of August 19-20 in Ottawa.

Thirteen executive members (or representatives) attended the meeting, the second under the gavel of newly elected chair Sue Bridges. Generally speaking, it went very smoothly. The agenda was well thought out and Sue kept discussions on topic most of the time.

Discussion highlights included ways to increase volunteer participation in branch activities. Interestingly, the national capital region branch chair, Jennifer Latham, reported that volunteerism in that branch has come to be viewed as a privilege, resulting in a pool of 50 or 60 willing bodies. As a result, NCR has developed some innovative ways of marketing EAC and its services, leading to more business for its members in general.

Another issue discussed was corporate, or customized editing seminars. The national office conducted seven of these seminars last year in response to specific requests. Twenty are scheduled for this year. In the discussion two points of view manifested. Such seminars are beneficial because they raise corporate awareness of EAC member services; on the other hand, organizations and individual editors might find themselves in positions of conflict of interest (which is why NCR has opted out of such a program). For now, the seminars will continue with an effort to monitor results.

The social highlight of the weekend was NCR member Lesley Strutt's hosting (with hubby George) of a potluck supper on the Saturday evening. The event was a heavily attended orgy of networking with ample, good food and wine leading to much lively conversation.

If you're interested in a report on the wide range of topics covered during the two days of talks, email me at <rlrogers@pacificcoast.net> to request a copy.

## Newsletter now archived

Archived issues of *West Coast Editor* are now available for download from the BC page at <[www.editors.ca/bc/bc.htm](http://www.editors.ca/bc/bc.htm)>. Articles of interest include a discussion of local editing rates (January 2000), organizing a substantive edit (May 2000), and improving your on-screen editing (December 1999), among others. Check it out.



## Call national toll-free

Be sure to use the toll-free number next time you want to reach the national office of the Editors' Association of Canada: **1-866-CAN-EDIT or 1-866-226-3348**.



Cheryl Andrews

Past and present executive: **bottom row** Winnifred Assmann, Sharon Boglari, Filipe Figueira, **middle row** Ann Paulsen, Ann-Marie Metten, Jacqueline Wood, Penny Gray-Allen, Rick Rogers, Cheryl Andrews, **back row** Cathy Brannen, Sheilagh Simpson, Jay Draper, Karen Aplin-Payton, Anna Louise Pentland, Naomi Pauls

## Fall workshops for editors and writers

### Getting Government Work

Saturday, October 28, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Room 1325

**Members \$55/Non-Members \$65 + GST**

This workshop is aimed at writers and editors who have several years' experience and want to learn more about the public sector's methods of contracting for services. Specifically, it will address how to respond to a government Request for Proposal (RFP).

The presenter is *Shawn Stewart*, manager of procurement services for the Delta School District. She has been a purchasing professional for 20 years working for the Purchasing Commission of BC, and also for the Federal departments of Fisheries and Oceans and Public Works and Government Services.

### Keeping Projects On Track

Saturday, November 18, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Room 1325

**Members \$45/Non-Members \$55 + GST**

Editors are often called upon to coordinate the production of print materials. Whether you're overseeing the publication of a simple brochure or a full-length book, you need to manage many tasks, people, and deadlines.

This workshop offers tried-and-true solutions for project management, with an emphasis on scheduling. It will appeal to both in-house and freelance editors who need advice on juggling projects, establishing timetables, managing contractors, and meeting deadlines.

*Terri Wershler* is a veteran of the book business. You name it, she's done it, from writing to editing to bookselling to managing her own publishing company (Brighthouse Press, sold to Douglas & McIntyre in 1991).

### Building a Reference Library

Saturday, November 25, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Room 2945

**Members \$45/Non-Members \$55 + GST**

Just starting out? This workshop for new editors provides an overview of key resources for different kinds of editing work.

Get up-to-date intelligence on the most useful references from a busy editor who relies on finding answers quickly. And bring your own reference questions.

*Maureen Nicholson* operates Keyline Consulting Associates, which provides editorial and project management services for book publishers, educational institutions, and corporate clients. She is also the national professional development chair for the Editors' Association of Canada.

### Tax Planning for Freelancers

Saturday, December 2, 10 AM to 4 PM, Room 1325

**Members \$95/Non-Members \$115 + GST**

Whether you're a novice or a veteran freelancer, when you're in business for yourself, there is much to learn. Here's a chance to get professional tips on tax planning, including claiming expenses, making deductions, paying taxes, and keeping track of it all. Prepare yourself for tax time by getting the answers you need in advance. This workshop will help you to get your records in order for 2000 and allow you to implement new ideas for 2001.

*Brian Galloway*, CGA, CFP, is a founding partner of the Vancouver accounting firm Galloway Botteselle & Company. He has 24 years of accounting experience. Brian is also a seminar presenter for medical and dental groups and a course presenter for the Certified General Accountants Association of BC.

*Brian R. Blamey*, BA, CGA, has been an accountant for more than 15 years and has also been a partner of Galloway Botteselle & Company since 1996. Brian has extensive experience assisting clients with their computer and technology requirements.

### Workshop registration

Registrations must be received at least one week before the workshop. You will be notified of workshop cancellations, and money will be refunded or other arrangements made. For cancellations one week before the workshop, all but \$10 of the fee will be refunded. No refund will be issued for registrants who cancel with less than one week's notice. Last-minute registration can sometimes be accepted at the door. Call 604-681-7184 or check the website at <[www.editors.ca/bc/](http://www.editors.ca/bc/)>.

Confirmations will be sent via email when possible. Receipts will be available at the workshop. If you have any further questions, please leave a message at 604-681-7184.

### Location of workshops

All EAC workshops in Vancouver are held at Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street.

### Accommodation information

If you're coming in from out of town, we recommend either of the following two facilities for affordable overnight accommodation (both are within walking distance of SFU at Harbour Centre).

#### Victorian Hotel

514 Homer Street

1-877-681-6369

Single occupancy rates, including breakfast: \$89 or \$59 (hall bath) + 17% tax

Email: <[victorianhotel@hotmail.com](mailto:victorianhotel@hotmail.com)>

Web: <[victorian-hotel.com](http://victorian-hotel.com)>

#### ywca Hotel/Residence

733 Beatty Street

1-800-663-1424

Single occupancy rates: \$57 (semi-private bath) or \$47 (hall bath) + 10% tax

Email: <[hotel@ywcavan.org](mailto:hotel@ywcavan.org)>

Web: <[www.ywcahotel.com](http://www.ywcahotel.com)>

Billeting with an EAC member can be a great way to expand your editing contacts. To make billeting arrangements, email your request to <[bc@editors.ca](mailto:bc@editors.ca)>.

## How one editor left the big city behind

MAXINE GLOVER

In September 1994, my husband and I decided to find a slower, less stressful pace of life. We lived in Richmond and I was spending almost three hours every day commuting to and from my corporate communications job in Vancouver. Impulsively, we put our house on the market. It sold within seven days and by January 1995, we were living in Logan Lake.

When we moved, we had no job prospects. We didn't care—we just wanted out. We had enough savings to get by for a year or two, if necessary, until we figured out what we were going to do. However, within two weeks of moving, my former employer called to ask if I would work on a project. I was busy from that time until I retired in June this year.

What does this mean for you? If you dream of leaving the pressures of city life, the pollution and noise of high-density living, are straining under a big mortgage, or if you fear for your children's safety, then my lifestyle change may show you the way to realize your dream.

Following are the requirements of a successful home-based long-distance editor:

- **The technology to do the work.** Even small towns like Logan Lake have Internet access, daily courier deliveries, phones, and faxes.
- **The skills to use the technology.** When I first came to Logan Lake, I had to spend about six months upgrading my computer skills.

- **A client base.** If you have solid working relationships with long-time clients, a move to telecommuting can be painless for both of you. You will find that in-person meetings are less necessary because you know each other well. Email and fax communications are sufficient.

While a client base will make the transition to telecommuting easier, you can still make the move, as I did, without any known clients. Other resources are available to you. You may qualify for government programs available to people who move and set up their own business. For example, I qualified for a self-employment program, through EI (then called UI) while setting up my business.

I also found that many opportunities are open to writers and editors in small and mid-size communities. Businesses and other organizations often need someone with professional writing and editing skills. (I got many calls from my Yellow Pages listing—something I hadn't anticipated.)

Assuming that the prospect of small town living is appealing, let's talk a bit about housing. Logan Lake, for example, has real estate that even editors can afford. Our three-bedroom (1,937 sq. ft.) house is for sale for \$99,000. There are two-bedroom and two-bathroom condominiums listed for around \$50,000—petty cash by big city standards. Is your dream starting to seem a possibility?

*Logan Lake is 35 minutes east of Kamloops and four hours to downtown Vancouver.*

## BC publishers show fastest growth in country

The latest Statistics Canada numbers indicate extraordinary growth in the provincial publishing industry. BC publishers showed the highest percentage increase in total revenue at 43%, followed by the Prairies at 38%, Ontario at 8.8%, and the Atlantic region by 5%.

In 1998–99, BC publishers produced 882 titles. This increased sales in Canada by 40% from 1996–97 to 1998–99 and by 118.5% from 92–93 to a total of \$61,746 million.

Export sales grew by a whopping 375% between 1992–93 and 1998–99 and by 37% from 1996–97 to a total of \$9,991 million.

Total revenue grew by 138% between 1992–93 and 1998–99 and by 42.6% between 1996–97 and 1998–99 to \$78,825 million.

The bad news, however, is that BC shows the lowest percentage of profitable publishers in the country at 47.9%, well below the national average of 56.4%. Imagine what we could do if our provincial government invested in our industry as they do in other jurisdictions.

***An editor should tell the author his writing is better than it is. Not a lot better, a little better.***

— T.S. Eliot

## Next EAC meetings

EAC meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of every month:

- **October 18**—Sylvia Wilson will talk about smoothing the editor/client relationship.
- **November 15**—Carolyn Swayze will discuss the roles of author, editor, and agent.

All meetings are held at the YWCA Hotel—Royal Bank Room, 733 Beatty Street (between Robson and Georgia), Vancouver  
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

The revised edition of *Meeting Editorial Standards* is now available from Captus Press at: <http://www.editors.ca/pubs.mes.htm> and is also for sale through the branch.

## You need an editor when ...

### Or 21 reasons why spell-check is not enough

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The farm was used to produce produce.
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- We must polish the Polish furniture.
- He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- I did not object to the object.
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- They were too close to the door to close it.
- The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- After a number of injections my jaw got number.
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

From Internet site: <[www.crh.noaa.gov/library/Grammar](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/library/Grammar)> by Bethany Largent, Sikeston, MO

## Footnotes

### Web design workshop

Name: Web Design 2000

Date: October 27 and 28

Place: Empire Landmark Hotel, Vancouver, BC

Presented by: Rockhurst College Continuing Education Centre of Mississauga, Ontario. Enrol online at <[www.natsem.com](http://www.natsem.com)> or call toll-free 1-800-682-5078.

The following post-conference workshops are also available:

- HTML, DHTML: Basics and Beyond
- Understanding and Using JavaScript

### Upcoming workshop

Back by popular demand—*Eight Step Editing* with Jim Taylor—coming spring 2001.

### Save on editing books

The following reference books are now available from EAC-BC at reduced rates. You can pick them up at any of the workshops or at our regular monthly meetings.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th ed. Every editor's bible on matters of bookmaking, style, production, and printing.  
\$60 + \$4.20 GST = \$64.20 (members and non-members)

*Editing Canadian English*, 2nd ed. The authoritative Canadian style guide, revised, updated, and redesigned. Written by and prepared for the Editors' Association of Canada.  
\$22.43 + \$1.57 GST = \$24 (members)  
\$29.99 + \$2.10 GST = \$32.09 (non-members)

*Meeting Editorial Standards*, rev. ed., 2 vols.

The new revised edition of EAC's comprehensive self-help learning resource, published by Captus Press. For more info, go to <<http://www.editors.ca/pubs/mes.htm>>.  
\$66 + \$4.62 GST = \$70.62 (members and non-members)

## WEST COAST EDITOR

*West Coast Editor* is the newsletter of the British Columbia branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. Views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of EAC/ACR as a whole.  
Mailing address | **Box 1688, Bentall Centre Post Office, Vancouver BC V6C 2P7**

Phone | **604-681-7184**

Email | <[bc@editors.ca](mailto:bc@editors.ca)>

Web site | <[www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca)>

Editor | **Cathy Brannen**

Please email articles to <[cbran@telus.net](mailto:cbran@telus.net)>

Original design | **Sharon Boglari**

Layout | **Cathy Brannen**

Proofreaders | **Suzanne Bastedo**

**Donna Buchan**

**Anne Maclean**

Book sales coordinator | **Jean Lawrence**

Next deadline | **October 15, 2000**

## 2000/2001 EAC-BC EXECUTIVE

### Chair

**Ann-Marie Metten** 604-263-6586  
[ametten@telus.net](mailto:ametten@telus.net)

### Past Chair

**Filipe Figueira** 604-733-4371  
[flyingfigs@home.com](mailto:flyingfigs@home.com)

### Secretary/Social/Outreach

**Jacqueline Wood** 604-739-3900  
[jacquelinewood@home.com](mailto:jacquelinewood@home.com)

### Treasurer

**Penny Gray-Allen** 604-926-5455  
[grayalla@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:grayalla@interchange.ubc.ca)

### Membership

**Cheryl Andrews** 604-980-5394  
[derekand@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:derekand@interchange.ubc.ca)

### Programs

**Rick Rogers** 604-940-6323  
[rlrogers@pacificcoast.net](mailto:rlrogers@pacificcoast.net)

### Professional Development

**Naomi Pauls** 604-733-9667  
[npauls@sfu.ca](mailto:npauls@sfu.ca)

### Communications/Hotline

**Karen Aplin-Payton** 604-267-9725  
[aplin@imag.net](mailto:aplin@imag.net)

### Public Relations/Industry Liaison

**Sheilagh Simpson** 604-929-7772  
[sheilagh@attglobal.net](mailto:sheilagh@attglobal.net)

### Newsletter

**Cathy Brannen** 604-942-8323  
[cbran@telus.net](mailto:cbran@telus.net)