

West Coast EDITOR

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

SEPTEMBER 2003

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EDITORS'

ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES

RÉVISEURS

BC BRANCH

Words Bridging Communities EAC/ACR National Conference 2003: June 13–15

The conference theme was described this way: “Early settlers built bridges to join communities, just as editors craft words to join authors with their readers, businesses with their clients, and governments with their constituents.” Many bridges, along with cool green parks and lovely waterways, made Ottawa the perfect host for Conference 2003.

The conference started with a dinner on Thursday evening in the historic ByWard Market area, steps away from the centre of Ottawa. About 30 people attended the *prix fixe* dinner at the bustling Empire Grill, an excellent introduction to other conference attendees and a great way to kick off the weekend.

On Friday afternoon, the elegant Chateau Laurier was the location for the pre-conference seminar, “Grammar and Usage Myths,” led by Frances Peck, who divides her time between writing, freelance editing, and teaching professional editors. What a great seminar—useful information, an excellent list of resources, and much laughter over serial commas, split infinitives, and various punctuation and word “myths.” (Try the warm-up quiz on page 3 to see how you do.) Frances told me that her non-editor friends cannot fathom how her seminars (including “The Art of the Comma”) could possibly keep an audience enthralled and, indeed, wanting more! But we understand, don’t we?

Later on Friday afternoon, we braved the wet and windy weather to register at the main conference venue, Montpetit Hall, located in the centre of the charming University of Ottawa campus. Upon registering, we received an attractive cream and black tote bag with coupons from local merchants, handy maps, a detailed conference program, and a note from the Mayor that officially proclaimed Friday as Red Pencil Day in the City of Ottawa!

Although the wet weather was less than welcoming, that certainly wasn’t the case at that evening’s opening reception at the National Arts Centre, where all attendees received a warm welcome. I got to “meet and greet” with other conference attendees, including Victoria’s Faith Gildenhuis and several other BC Branch members.

On Saturday morning, after enjoying some coffee and pastries at Montpetit Hall, I joined the standing-room-only crowd at author Charlotte Gray’s keynote address, “The Art of Biography.” Gray reviewed the elements of a well-crafted biography, discussed her approach to writing, and spoke about her books, including her latest, *Flint and Feather: The Life and Times of E. Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake*. I was impressed by the simultaneous translation, and by the fact that almost all of the seminars and handout materials were available in French and English. Ottawa is definitely a bilingual city.

Saturday morning’s second session, “Looking Creative: Working with Design Elements” was also very popular. Robert Chitty, Mary Dila, and Peter Moskos of **gordongroup** reviewed fundamental design principles, an overview of the design process, and critical questions for a design briefing. (With thanks to Peter, their presentation is available for review at <www.gordongroup.com/eac>. Check it out—you’re sure to enjoy **gordongroup**’s unique text “greeking”!)

At lunchtime, conference attendees trooped downstairs to the cafeteria, where we were met by a box lunch—sandwich, apple, cookie, and grape juice—which helped to add to the back-to-school feeling generated by being on campus.

One of the first concurrent afternoon sessions, “Checklist for Success—10 Things You Need to Do to Earn a Great Living as a Freelance Writer,” presented by Ron Jette, provided some food for thought, including Ron’s assertion that,

with the right mix of determination and practical knowledge, anyone can earn a six-figure income as a freelance writer. No surprise that the “10 Things” are equally applicable to freelance writers and freelance editors.

The next session I attended was “Finding and Using Archival Images,” presented by Andrew Rodger, Archivist at the Library and Archives of Canada. Andrew covered what materials are included in archives and how they are arranged, how archives and libraries differ, and what services are provided by archives. I was intrigued by the vast amount of information available online—be sure to check out their site at www.archives.ca.

That evening, after the AGM, the reception and banquet provided excellent refreshment, food, and ambience, along with the opportunity to meet more attendees, and exchange cards and comments about the seminars we had attended. The banquet culminated with the presentation of the Tom Fairley Award, which was shared this year by two recipients, Susan Goldberg and David Peebles, both of Toronto. Susan, who received the Award for her editing of *Misinformed Consent: Thirteen Women Share Their Stories about Unnecessary Hysterectomy*, a compilation of true accounts of forced hysterectomies, had the challenge of recreating the “voice” in these stories. This involved the sensitive task of finding the women, many years after their ordeals, and re-interviewing them. Co-winner David Peebles received the Award for his work on a mathematics textbook, *Mathematics of Data Management*. In his acceptance speech, David was able to make math, a seemingly dry topic, both funny and intriguing.

The next day, we were back to Montpetit Hall for Sunday morning’s “Would You Do That? Ethics and Editing” session, which provided some thought-provoking dilemmas presented by panellists Faith Gildenhuys, Greg

Ioannou, Maureen Nicholson, Frances Peck, and Rosemary Shipton.

This was followed by one of my favourite seminars, “Art and Words—Editing at the National Gallery of Canada.” Susan McMaster, editor-in-chief, presented a very colourful portrait of her work at the Gallery. Many Gallery catalogues and books were available for viewing, and copies of *Vernissage*, the Gallery’s magazine, were handed out. Susan says that when she is asked, “You’re an editor at an art gallery? But what on earth do you do?” she responds, “I do the best job in the world,” and her presentation certainly proved that. By the time she was done, I think we all wanted to work at the National Gallery!

Since I couldn’t be everywhere at once (although I tried), I did miss other seminars that were, by all accounts, excellent. Some of the sessions I heard mentioned were “Editing from the Right Side of the Brain,” “A Walk through the Copyright Labyrinth,” and “Adaptations—from the Real Classroom to the Virtual World.”

The final plenary session, early Sunday afternoon, was “Yes, I Can Do That! Or, How to Edit your Career,” presented by panellists Louise Brunette, James Harbeck, Rosemary Shipton, and Mary Beth Wolicky, with Jennifer Latham as moderator. The panellists shared what edits they had made to their own careers, providing attendees with a fascinating view of the many different paths taken, and hints on how we could find and jump into our own exciting opportunities.

West Coast Editor is the newsletter of the BC branch of the Editors’ Association of Canada/ Association canadienne des réviseurs. Views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of EAC/ACR as a whole.

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Although that session officially closed the conference, for several of us, the conference was not complete until that afternoon’s walking tour of Ottawa with Hagit Haday, an architectural historian who specializes in Canadian heritage conservation. From the first eight locks of the Rideau Canal below Parliament Hill, to the bluffs overlooking the striking Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, to the historic Bytown area, and back to the centre of Ottawa, we saw it all. A fitting end to a full and invigorating weekend!

Did you know that Conference 2004 is scheduled for Calgary? I encourage everyone to attend and, with fellow editors from across Canada, to build some bridges of your own! ◀

Sharon McInnis is an active EAC-BC member (sharon@proofingqueen.com).



Meet the 2003/04 Executive

Here’s some background on your new executive. Due to space restrictions, we’ll provide bio information on the rest of the executive members in October’s newsletter.

Artemis Calogeros, our new Professional Development Co-chair, works as a technical writer for Electronic Arts, the world’s leading interactive entertainment software company. Her most recent editing work was on the premiere issue of an online biotechnology journal which will debut this fall as part of UBC’s new Bioteach resource website, www.bioteach.ubc.ca. Artemis has a Master of Science degree and post-baccalaureate Diploma in Computer Science.

Christine Kondo, our returning Treasurer, is a freelance editor and indexer specializing in nonfiction books. She has more than eight years’ experience in the editing profession, including working at *Pacific Yachting* magazine, *WHERE Victoria* magazine, and the *Globe and Mail*.

Grammar and Usage Myths – True or False?

1. T___ F___ It has always been grammatically correct to start a sentence with *because*.
2. T___ F___ It's incorrect to start a sentence with *and* or *but*.
3. T___ F___ It's a mistake to end a sentence with a preposition.
4. T___ F___ *As* is preferable to *like* in formal writing.
5. T___ F___ A vertical list (or bulleted list) does not have to be introduced with a colon.
6. T___ F___ Use single quotation marks to set off unfamiliar or ironic terms.
7. T___ F___ *Though* is an acceptable but informal variation of *although*.
8. T___ F___ Always change *till* to *until*.
9. T___ F___ Always use *between* with two entities and *among* with three or more.
10. T___ F___ *The reason why...* is an acceptable construction.

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(Answers on page 4)

BOOK
CORNER

We now have *The Chicago Manual of Style* (15th edition) in stock! Members can purchase a copy for a mere \$75.00 (including GST). The price for non-members is \$85.00. Interested? Contact our Book Sales Coordinator, Michelle Juurlink at <mjuurlink@shaw.ca>, come to a meeting, or pick one up at the next workshop.

Book Table Titles

Editing Canadian English

2nd ed., 2000 EAC/ACR

Price: \$24.00*/\$32.00

A Canadian Writer's Reference

Updated 2nd ed., 2001

Diana Hacker

Price: \$29.00*/\$32.00

Meeting Editorial Standards

Revised ed., 2000 EAC/ACR

Price: \$75.00*/\$80.00

Canadian Press Stylebook

12th ed., 2002

Price: \$31.00*/\$34.00

CP Caps & Spelling

15th ed., 2000

Price: \$21.00*/\$24.00

* Member's price

Curtis Foreman is starting his second year as Public Relations Co-chair. Between shifts as a technical writer at Future Shop, he edits travel books, writes the occasional article, volunteers too much, and sometimes disappears into the wilderness with a big backpack.

Derek K. Miller, EAC-BC's new Programs Chair, ensures that we have a meeting place, topic, and presenter each month. Derek has been a writer and editor for nearly 20 years, but his wife has a real job, so he's home as the monkey bars for two preschool-age daughters, with occasional breaks for technical writing and editing—plus a surprisingly lucrative sideline in a rock band, where he plays drums and pretends to be British. His nonfiction writing diploma from UBC is rather more useful these days than his marine biology degree. Derek is 34, joined EAC-BC in early 2002, and maintains a disturbingly extensive website at <www.penmachine.com>.

Lesley Cameron is the returning Newsletter Co-chair. She edits and proofreads English nonfiction (books, papers, Web content) and proofreads French material (books, papers, Web content). She has also produced a number of nonfiction indexes and enjoys the creative aspect of indexing. Lesley is the one with the Scottish accent.

Lynn Smith has stepped up to the plate as Chair after a year as our Book Sales Coordinator. She is an in-house copy

editor with the publications division of the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, where she combines her love of editing with her previous experience as a legal assistant. Lynn looks forward to contributing to EAC/ACR both on the local level and as the BC Branch representative on the national executive.

Michael Laycock, our new Membership Chair, joined EAC-BC last October after attending meetings as a guest. Michael began his career as a newspaper reporter and covered everything from a double murder and subsequent trial to a campaign to exterminate gophers on a golf course. He later took up freelance writing and taught computer and Internet courses to seniors. Michael currently works as the editor at Ingenuity Works, a small educational software company: <www.ingenuityworks.com>. Last year, he edited *Liftoff*, a CD-ROM featuring a virtual tour of a space shuttle and a history of space exploration. He is now working on a CD-ROM about endangered animals.

Michelle Juurlink, EAC-BC's new Book Sales Coordinator, is a Print Futures graduate. She is currently working on a contract basis with the RCMP as their Web communications editor, coordinating the development of their new website, writing and editing copy, and helping clients develop Web communication strategies.

Paulette MacQuarrie is the returning Social Chair. She has always had a love of reading, grammar, and spelling, which eventually led her, in 1987, to a career as a freelance writer and editor. She has been published in community papers and currently spends most of her time writing and editing newsletters and promotional material for corporations and professional associations. She also works with a small local commercial publications company, developing format and policy for niche-market publications. In her spare time, Paulette is pursuing a Bachelor's degree part-time by distance education and learning how to write fiction.

Penny Gray-Allan is our new Outreach Chair. She has been an editor and writer for more than 15 years and

WHAT'S ON

Do you want to meet people who share your interest in the world of words? This is your chance! Come get involved and have fun this September as a volunteer at **The Word on the Street**—Vancouver's favourite annual book and magazine fair!

As one of over 100 exhibitors, EAC-BC will have a booth at the event on **Sunday, 28 September**. Come help us spread the word about the great things we editors do! To offer a few hours or find out more, call EAC-BC Public Relations Chair, Curtis Foreman at 604-505-6878 or send an email to wordonthestreet@foreword.ca.

Directory of Editors 2003–2004

The paper version of the *Directory of Editors* will soon be ready for copy editing. Tanis Stoliar, the volunteer coordinator of this project, would greatly appreciate all offers of help to edit this year's entries. The heavy work period would fall in mid- to late September. Needless to say, the more people who sign up, the less work there is for each volunteer. Last year, volunteers each edited between five and seven entries.

A detailed style sheet is supplied and Tanis will be available to answer any questions. This is a wonderful way to contribute to our association.

Contact Tanis as soon as possible at 613-722-9163 or by email at tanis@20q.net.

Executive (continued)

specializes in working with medical and scientific material. She is the managing editor for a dermatology journal called the *Skin Therapy Letter* and for its parent company SkinCareGuide. She also does some freelance work as time permits. She has been a member of EAC/ACR for more than 10 years and served as EAC-BC's treasurer between 1999 and 2001. She is looking forward to working on the Outreach Committee and would like input from members about ways that EAC-BC might improve services to members living outside the Lower Mainland. You can email her at grayallan@look.ca. ◀

Next Meeting 17 SEPTEMBER 2003

@ 7:30 pm

YWCA Health and Wellness
Centre, 535 Hornby Street
Vancouver

Featuring Jim Sutherland, Editor,
Western Living Magazine

EAC-BC welcomes you back from the summer break with our first meeting of the 2003–2004 season. Our guest will be Jim Sutherland, who will be talking about his 15-year career in print publishing, and about the differences between editing for newspapers and monthly magazines.

Jim returned to *Western Living* as its new editor in 2001, after nearly a decade editing other periodicals, including *Vancouver* magazine and the "Mix" section of the *Vancouver Sun*. At *Western Living*, he has engineered a radical reworking of the venerable home, garden, food, and travel publication, which has helped to boost its readership and advertising revenue. Jim has also been an instructor with SFU's Writing and Publishing Program.

For more information and updates about our meetings, phone the EAC-BC information line at 604-681-7184 or visit the website at www.editors.ca/bc/meetings.htm.

Guests and future members pay a \$5 charge to attend meetings. EAC/ACR members attend at no charge. Light refreshments are available.

If you have questions or suggestions about our monthly meetings, please contact Derek Miller, Programs Chair, at dkmiller@penmachine.com.



Grammar and Usage Myths Answers

1. True; 2. False; 3. False; 4. False;
5. True; 6. False (in Canada, the US
and parts of Britain); 7. False; 8. False;
9. False; 10. True.

WEST COAST EDITOR

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