

# West Coast Editor

January 2007

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

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*No passion in the world is equal to  
the passion to alter someone else's draft.*

H. G. Wells

## West Coast Editor

January 2007

### Publisher

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## ■ January Meeting

**Carrie Gillon** will talk about the definite article. We all use this little word countless times in a day, generally without much thought. But, the meaning of the definite article, “the,” is controversial. For some, “the” is a marker of familiarity: the speaker can only use “the” when the hearer is already aware of the referent. For others, “the” is a marker of uniqueness: the speaker can only use “the” when the referent is unique in the context. Ms. Gillon, a linguist, takes a comparative look at English and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Salish) and finds evidence for the latter in the analysis of English.

There are many articles in Skwxwú7mesh; however, none of them behaves like “the.” They can be used in both familiar and novel contexts and for non-unique referents. The context of use, however, does have a bearing on the interpretation of the articles, and Carrie claims that this is what English and Skwxwú7mesh articles have in common.

Carrie Gillon received her BA from UBC, her MA from the University of Toronto, and most recently, her PhD from UBC in November 2006.

Carrie’s research has concentrated on the Squamish language. Her dissertation is entitled: *The Semantics of Determiners: Domain Restriction in Skwxwú7mesh*. (Skwxwú7mesh is the Squamish name for Squamish.) She has also conducted research on Inuktitut, Navajo, and Saanich Salish.

EAC members attend meetings for free. Non-member admission is \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students with valid ID). Everyone is invited to stay for the networking social following the program. Light refreshments will be served.

We meet on the 4th floor of the YWCA Health & Wellness Centre, located on the west side of Hornby Street between Dunsmuir and Pender, one block northeast of the Burrard Sky Train Station. Parking for the evening is available across the street for \$4.00 after 6:00 pm. (Hornby Street runs one way north.) On-street parking is also usually available, although it is metered until 8:00 pm.

For further information, please contact our Programs Chair, Shelly Windover, at

[bcprograms@editors.ca](mailto:bcprograms@editors.ca)

## ■ Errata

There were two errors in the acknowledgment column of the November issue. Contributors should have listed Jeanne Ainslie and Greg Felton. Proofreaders should have listed Hsin Chen and Daphne Sams.

## ■ Editor's Message

“Silence implies consent.”

Positive feedback is even better. There have been a number of comments from people who say they are satisfied with the layout of the Newsletter. In particular, Duart Snow writes, “I work with a lot of that “esoteric professional software” you refer to in the current newsletter, and I don't think you need it: fiddly, fiddly, fiddly. This layout looks clean and nifty, and I think you should stick with it.”

We did end up producing a print version of the November Newsletter and will be producing one for January.

The Newsletter is still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in editing or proofreading articles, please contact Hugh Macdonald at [westcoasteditor@editors.ca](mailto:westcoasteditor@editors.ca) .

We are also interested in receiving short articles of about 500 words.

## ■ Expunge this Expression

Once again no one has sent in an expression deserving expungement. Here is my suggestion.

There was a time when “awesome” was used to describe phenomena which inspired fear and wonder. Now it is used to describe mediocre pizza. It is probably too late to restore the word to its former status, even the *Tenth Edition of the Oxford Concise Dictionary* has provided the alternative definition of “excellent.” Perhaps we should jettison it entirely.

## ■ Linguistic Atrocity

Here are some links for those of us who fancy ourselves connoisseurs of bad English.

<http://www.homestead.com/flowstate/psychobabble.html>

<http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/generator.htm>

[http://www.plainenglishfoundation.com/documents/P/EFXmascard\\_000.pdf](http://www.plainenglishfoundation.com/documents/P/EFXmascard_000.pdf)

## ■ Meet the Support Staff

Without Jean Lawrence and Derek Miller, we would be a lot worse off. A large part of why we do so well is because of their consummate skills and unwavering dedication.

### **Branch Coordinator, *Jean Lawrence***

Jean did not submit a bio. She claims it “won't be easy” to come up with something interesting. Nevertheless, our BC Branch owes a very strong vote of thanks to Jean for her wisdom, tremendous organizational skills, untiring hard work, and very good humour.

Jean, we all think you are just great.

### **Webmaster, *Derek Miller***

Derek K. Miller is EAC-BC's webmaster and has worked as a writer and editor for nearly 20 years, specializing in technical and scientific subjects. He has been online since 1983, and also makes part of his living as a drummer and podsafe recording artist. He lives in Burnaby, British Columbia. He joined EAC in 2002, served one term as Programs Coordinator in 2003, and has been webmaster for the BC Branch ever since.

Derek has a marine biology degree and a writing

diploma from the University of British Columbia. He has worked at B.C.'s two leading universities, as a park naturalist, in magazine advertising, and for various computer hardware and software developers. His writing has appeared in *Macworld*, *Vancouver magazine*, *TidBITS*, *LINK magazine*, and the *Vancouver Sun*, among other publications.

Derek has maintained his blog at [penmachine.com](http://penmachine.com) since 2000. He also works for Navarik, a company that makes web-based software for the marine shipping industry, and he co-hosts the *Inside Home Recording* podcast.

## ■ Jeanne Ainslie

### English Grammar Workshop

On November 4<sup>th</sup> last year, I went to Frances Peck's English Grammar Workshop at SFU and was impressed by her knowledge and enthusiasm.

After a review of terminology (subjects, predicates, phrases, clauses, objects, complements, and other sentence parts), we discussed subject-verb agreement—the trickiest cases and how to solve and explain them.

We began with “who” and “whom,” which follow the easy rule of “subjects take the subjective case and objects take the objective case.” Next, we reviewed the relative pronouns: who, which, and that. The rule: identify the antecedent of these pronouns to determine whether they take the singular or plural verb form. For example, “Dr. Duff is one of those family physicians who make house calls,” as opposed to, “Dr. Duff is the only one of the physicians in our town who still makes house calls.” Finally, we were reminded that gerunds take the possessive case.

Frances also addressed the issue of how rules bend and times change, using an example from Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, which insists that “however” should not begin a sentence when its

meaning is “nevertheless”. However, we now habitually ignore that rule. Language is fluid. Language dresses for the occasion—spoken, written, or academic.

We learned about common modifier problems, the most elusive misplaced modifiers, and dangling modifiers. For example, “We felt bad” and “We felt badly” mean two *very* different things. Similarly, “He talked for a long time about the painting in the car” is not the same as “He talked for a long time in the car about the painting.”

At the end of each section, Frances gave us self-tests to make sure we were learning the material. This was a great workshop—informative, entertaining, and essential. I recommend it to anyone who thinks he or she needs a refresher.

## ■ Greg Felton

### The Orange—How Sweet It Isn't

When I studied Spanish an ice age ago, I could not understand why the word for orange was *naranja*, when cognate Romance languages French and Italian have *orange* and *aranciata*, respectively. Even German has *Orange*. Where did the Spanish “n” come from, I wondered. Turns out, I was wondering about the wrong word, because the “n” justifies the means of investigating the answer.

“Orange” is one of those subtle mispronunciations that gave rise to a misspelling that in turn became the new standard. By rights, we ought to spell the word “norange,” since the word comes from the *naranj* [j=dzh], the Sanskrit-Persian-Arabic genealogy that *naranja* [j=h] reflects.

In the 11th century, the Persian *naranj* tree was introduced into southern Europe where it proliferated agriculturally and mutated linguistically. In French, for example, it would have entered the language as something like *une nerange* or *une norange*, but here

and elsewhere the “n” sound of the *naranj* variant migrated to the indefinite article, leaving only the vowel, e.g.: *une narange* became *une orenge* (12 c. Fr.). Therefore we should properly speak of “a norange,” not “an orange.” (A similar fate happened to “a napron” which became “an apron.”)

On the other hand, we probably shouldn’t speak of “orange” at all, since the fruit we associate with that name is not related to *naranj*, which is small and bitter. In the 15th century a sweet orange from northern India made its way to Europe courtesy of Portuguese traders, and it quickly displaced the bitter *naranj*. Greek retains the distinction between bitter orange (*nerantzi*) and the sweet orange (*portokali* “Portuguese.”) as does Arabic, *naranj/ burtuqaal*.

The *portokali*, not the *naranj*, made its way to this side of the Atlantic on Christopher Columbus’s second voyage (1493-1496). Two decades later, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon introduced lemons and the *portokali* to Florida, but the proper terminology didn’t survive the trip.

## ■ Hugh Macdonald

### Perils of Attribution

I needed an entertaining quotation for the front of January’s newsletter, and, after finding nothing to strike my fancy in *Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations* or *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, I resorted to the Internet and keyed the phrase, “quotations about editors.” I found what I wanted on my first search result: a site called The Write Quotes, <http://www.angelfire.com/al/thewritesite/quotes.html#Edit>, which attributed the quotation to William Shakespeare. That did not sound right—too modern for the Bard; so I tried the next search result, <http://www.crayne.com/download/wri-quot.txt>, a no-name site which attributed the quote to Shakespeare and H. G. Wells.

This wasn’t getting me very far, so I gave the entire quotation to Google and came up with 271,00 search results. I had a quick look at the first 20 sites, of which 14 acknowledged Wells and four made no attribution. Of the other two, one was the no-name site I had already found and the other was a BBC website where Jez Sallis writes about Dr. Richard Toye of the University of Cambridge who has documented Winston Churchill’s borrowings from H. G. Wells, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/cambridgeshire/content/articles/2006/11/27/churchill\\_hgwells\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cambridgeshire/content/articles/2006/11/27/churchill_hgwells_feature.shtml). Yet, at the end of the article, Sallis seems to attribute the quote in such an ambiguous way that the reader has trouble knowing if he means acknowledge to H. G. Wells or Winston Churchill as the author.

Moral of the story? You cannot be too careful, and, even then, there is doubt.

## ■ Wendy Harris & Ricki Ewings

### Spring Workshop Schedule

#### February 24

#### *Screenplay Editing: Making Movie Magic*

presented by **Scott Swanson**

Saturday, February 24

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

SFU Harbour Centre

Members \$90 / Non-members \$145

What’s the difference between editing a manuscript and editing a screenplay? Find out as Scott Swanson presents a dynamic, interactive workshop that hones in on key screenplay elements, and the problems to keep a sharp eye out for. During this hands-on seminar, Scott will explore the essential structure of a screenplay and the unique characteristics that set this genre apart from the others.

While there will be plenty of fun and games in this

all-day workshop, it comes with pre-assigned homework—watching a selection of three to five movies! Two weeks prior to the workshop, Scott will send out the list of selected movies to all registrants. Your mission is to sit down, relax, and enjoy the flicks while taking note of what he wants you to discover.

It's a tough task, but someone has to do it!

***Scott Swanson** is a working professional with a wealth of varied industry experience. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from UBC, is a member of Equity and ACTRA, was first published in 1965 and has continued to write and edit since that time. Scott continues to teach as well as perform on stage, radio, commercials, film and television. Over the past 30-plus years Scott has been involved in over 150 stage productions, co-hosted a television magazine show, worked extensively in industrial films, has had principal speaking roles in over 70 feature films, MOWs, and television series, including a regular role on the CBC Television drama series "Northwood" for its entire run. Scott is a founding member of both the Green Thumb Theatre for Young People and the Kitsilano Theatre Company.*

### **March 31**

#### ***Starting & Sustaining Your Editing Career***

presented by **Maureen Nicholson**

Saturday, March 31

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

SFU Harbour Centre

Members \$90 / Non-members \$145

Are you interested in the field of editing but not sure how to get started? Join EAC/BC for this workshop and let Maureen Nicholson show you the ropes. A seasoned professional with a wide variety of editing experience, Maureen will offer helpful tips for aspiring editors who want to make a living working

with words.

We'll explore the differences between freelance and in-house editing, review professional development opportunities and key editing resources, discuss strategies for finding work and promoting yourself effectively, and outline the fundamentals of how to make editing a profitable and enjoyable venture. You'll come away with plenty of ideas and resources.

***Maureen Nicholson** holds a BA (English and psychology) and MA (rhetoric and composition) from Simon Fraser University and is a writer, editor, and teacher. She has worked in most publication formats, from literary magazines and trade books, to promotional materials and distributed-learning courses, to multimedia and Web sites.*

*Apart from being the National President of the Editors' Association of Canada, Maureen coordinates Print Futures: Professional Writing at Douglas College and operates Keyline Consulting Associates, a writing and editorial services company for trade publishers, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations.*

### **April 21**

#### ***Usage Woes and Myths***

presented by **Frances Peck**

Saturday, April 21

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

SFU Harbour Centre

Members \$90 / Non-members \$145

At present we don't have a bio and blurb for Frances and her work. However, you can get some idea of what to expect by reading Jeanne Ainslie's article in this newsletter.

We will have something much more complete in February's issue.

## May 12

### **Speech Writing**

presented by **Colin Moorhouse**

Saturday, May 12

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

SFU Harbour Centre

Members \$90 / Non-members \$145

We also don't have a bio and blurb yet for Colin. I (dropping the editorial we, here) have taken his speech writing course and recommend it very highly. Colin is an excellent presenter with a wealth of experience.

See February's issue for more information.

## **Daphne Sams**

### **Notes from the Chair**

#### ***Welcome to 2007!***

I hope everyone had a restful and joyous holiday, has recovered from our 14 (!) storms, and is looking forward to a busy and productive new year. I'd especially like to welcome new (or newish) members Myriam Beauge, Carrie Gillon, Lily Gontard, Lynne Graham, Carly Haddon, Amanda Hallman, Jane Hamilton, Helen Kline, Katie Rodgers, Charlotte Stenburg, and Bevan Thomas. I'm very happy to have met some of you, and hope that those who live at a distance either find an opportunity to visit Vancouver or get in touch with me or our very outgoing outreach chair, Graham Hayman (emails listed on the back page). And be sure to check out monthly presentations on the website.

#### **Out with the Old . . .**

#### ***December Social:***

Many thanks to our wonderful social chair, Paulette MacQuarrie, for organizing another fabulous holiday bash to celebrate the best of 2006 and welcome in the new year. This year's party at the Water St. Café was one of the best ever, with about 25 revellers, including the usual suspects, several new members, and old friends we don't get to see very often. The food and service were every bit as good as we've come to expect, and Paulette outdid herself with seasonal party favours for everyone and luxurious Christmas crackers, containing surprisingly useful prizes, not-totally-ugly paper hats, and silly jokes. Graham took care of the last by pitting the tables against each other in a contest to improve the jokes by making them relate to editing. Hilarity ensued. To those who couldn't make it: We missed you, and you missed a fine old time. I hope to see you all same time, same place, next December—and much sooner, of course, at meetings, workshops, and other cool events.

#### ***Book table:***

As mentioned in a previous issue, the book table is no more, to be replaced by an information table hosted by Jeanne Ainslie. We discovered that many of our books were either out of date or available elsewhere at prices far lower than we can offer. Unsold stock of things like the latest Chicago (which we can't sell for less than \$75) and CP's *Stylebook* and *Caps and Spelling* (updated bewilderingly frequently and available through their website) will be returned. At the branch level, we will endeavour to provide a list of recommended references and where to find them. We are not the first branch to discontinue the book service, so the National Executive Council is working toward creating a books page on the website with click-through purchasing for both EAC publications and popular reference materials.

While we're in transition, we do still have a couple of used copies of Dianna Hacker's highly recommended (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2001) *A Canadian Writer's Reference*.

Participants in Frances Peck's November grammar workshop get first crack and can contact me directly at [daphnesams@editors.ca](mailto:daphnesams@editors.ca). *Editing Canadian English* (of which we sold out ) has been reprinted and is available at the SFU Bookstore at Harbour Centre, as is *Meeting Editorial Standards* (also available through the national website: [www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca)).

### ***Certification:***

The first rounds of the first two certification tests (Elementary Knowledge of the Publishing Process [KP, mandatory for any qualification] and Proofreading [PR]) were administered here and in other branch cities in November. Congratulations and kudos to the test-takers for their courage in sitting what were advertised as very challenging tests. The tests themselves and the testing process have been many years in development, and the first candidates should be getting their results soon. The certification committee is looking forward to their feedback to help fine-tune the tests and procedures.

The next test, Copy Editing, is scheduled to roll out around the same time next fall, with Substantive Editing to follow the year after. To obtain the qualification of CPE (Certified Professional Editor), you need to pass all four tests. To be qualified in any of Proofreading, Copy Editing, or Substantive Editing, you need only pass the test in that subject and KP. It is recommended for any test that candidates have five years of editing experience, and that they are familiar with EAC's *Professional Editorial Standards*, *Meeting Editorial Standards*, and the appropriate Study Guide.

### **And in with the New . . .**

#### ***Elections for Next Year's Executive***

Although elections for next year's executive don't happen until the May meeting, it's not too soon to begin thinking about volunteering for the branch. Some portfolios (treasurer and social, possibly others) will be vacant, and some (professional development,

public relations, newsletter) will be looking for new committee members. There are a number of opportunities at both branch and national levels to develop your skills, have a voice in your association, and connect and have fun with your peers. If you've ever thought "they" should do something differently or better, we need and welcome your ideas and participation.

#### ***March National Executive Council Meeting and Social***

The national executive council meets four times a year in various Canadian cities, and will be here the first weekend in March. This is a great opportunity to meet the people who set policy, to get a sense of how the association works, to have yourself heard, to find out about committee and executive positions you might like, and to have a very nice evening out with a bunch of fun people. Venue is not certain yet (probably our favourite Water St. Café), but mark your calendars for Saturday, March 3 at 6:00 pm.

## **■ Contests and Competitions**

Fernanda Viveiros has graciously given us permission to pass on information from Federation Vox (the Electronic Bulletin of the Federation of BC Writers) which may be of interest to our BC EAC members.

#### ***Memorial University Author Residency***

The Department of English at Memorial University in St. John's invites applications for an Author Residency for Fall Semester 2007 or Winter Semester 2008, subject to the availability of matching funding from the Canada Council and Memorial University. The position is intended to honour new and established writers who have published their work professionally. Previous Writers-in-Residence at Memorial have included Kevin Major, Jane Urquhart, Wayne Johnston, Marilyn Bowering, Guillermo Verdecchia, Kenneth J. Harvey, Patricia Young,

Gregory Scofield, Lisa Moore, and Don McKay. In the course of the residency, the author continues his or her writing projects while making time available to students and writers within the University and in the community at large. We strongly encourage applications that propose innovative ways of bringing Canadian writing to communities both inside and outside of St. John's. Authors wishing to be considered for the position are asked to provide a letter of application and a curriculum vitae no later than Friday, January 22, 2007.

When the successful candidate is selected, joint application for funding will be made to the Author Residency programme of the Canada Council. Remuneration for the position, if approved, will be \$12,000 (plus return air fare). Written or electronic applications should be addressed to:

Professor Robert Hollett, Head  
Department of English Language and Literature  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1C 5S7 Email: rhollett@mun.ca

### ***City of Vancouver Poet Laureate***

Vancouver City Council has approved the creation of a Poet Laureate position for the City of Vancouver. The Poet Laureate will be an honorary two-year position. During that term, the Poet Laureate will act as a champion for poetry, language and the arts, and create a unique artistic legacy through public readings and civic interactions. The Poet Laureate will also be expected to attend a variety of civic functions, participate in public poetry events and carry through one or more special civic projects. The general mandate is to raise the status of poetry in the everyday consciousness of Vancouverites. Each Poet Laureate will be free to pursue an individual agenda in addition to their civic duties. The Poet Laureate will be selected for a period of two years commencing in April 2007. An annual stipend of \$5,000 will be provided.

Nominations/applications are invited from published poets who are currently resident in the City of Vancouver, and who have either an established body of work or been recognized for notable contributions early in their career. Deadline for expressions of interest - January 27, 2007

For more information please contact:

Lesli Boldt  
Manager Marketing and Communications  
Vancouver Public Library  
604 331-3895 e-mail: leslibol@vpl.ca  
[https://webmail.shaw.ca/java\\_script:main.compose\('new', 't=leslibol@vpl.ca'\)](https://webmail.shaw.ca/java_script:main.compose('new', 't=leslibol@vpl.ca'))

### ***Words on the Move 2007***

Deadline: January 29, 2007

For the fourth consecutive year, members of the public are invited to try their hand at literary translation by translating one of two poems into the language of their choice. These superb poems on the theme "Trees, their lifespan and significance" are by Lenore Langs and Zachary Richard respectively. This theme explores our planet Earth in peril, along with the cultural symbolism of certain species of trees. The poems are posted on the Literary Translators' Association of Canada website: <http://www.attlcltac.org/mots07.htm>. Your translation will be published on the LTAC website and you will be invited to take part in a public reading in Montreal on February 7. Send your translation and contact information to Rachelle Renaud [rarenaud@total.net](mailto:rarenaud@total.net) [https://webmail.shaw.ca/java\\_script:main.compose\('new', 't=rarenaud@total.net'\)](https://webmail.shaw.ca/java_script:main.compose('new', 't=rarenaud@total.net')).

Please note: Do not send your translation as an attachment, but in the body of the message.

### ***BookLand Press***

BookLand Press, based in Toronto, seeks submissions

of the following manuscripts: Fiction Novels and Biographies of Canadian Athletes. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced. Each submission must be accompanied by a cover letter, a resume, and a synopsis of the story.

Please provide your name, address, and telephone number on the title page, as well as the word count of your work. Print your name on every page of the manuscript. Please send complete manuscripts, or, if this is not possible, a minimum of 4 chapters.

Complete submission guidelines are posted on <http://www.booklandpress.com/4.html>

### ***PRISM international's 20th Annual Short fiction Contest***

Deadline: January 31, 2007

[www.prism.arts.ubc.ca](http://www.prism.arts.ubc.ca)

The winning entry will be published in the 2007 Summer Issue of PRISM international and receive an additional payment of \$20 per printed page (in Canadian dollars or the U.S. equivalent). Grand prize - \$2,000. Runner's-up prizes - \$200 each. The entry fee is \$27 for one story, plus \$7 for each additional story. Winners will be notified in June 2007, and winning stories will be published in the 2007 Summer Fiction Contest Issue. For details, check guidelines and submission requirements posted on the Prism website.

### ***19th Annual Short Grain Contest***

Deadline: February 28, 2007

[www.grainmagazine.ca/contest.htm](http://www.grainmagazine.ca/contest.htm)

[<http://www.grainmagazine.ca/contest.htm>](http://www.grainmagazine.ca/contest.htm)

Grain Magazine offers \$6,000 in cash prizes. Categories include Dramatic Monologue (a self-contained speech given by a single character in 500 words or less), Postcard Story (a work of narrative

fiction in 500 words or less), Prose Poem (a lyric poem written as a prose paragraph in 500 words or less), and Long Grain of Truth (a creative work of nonfiction of 5,000 words or less on any subject). Each entrant receives a one-year (four issues) subscription to Grain Magazine. All contest winners will also have their winning piece published in the autumn 2007 issue of the magazine. The basic fee for Canadian entrants is \$30 for a maximum of two entries in any one or two categories. For an additional \$8 you may enter up to three more pieces in any categories. For details, check out the website.

### ***Writers' Union Postcard Story Competition***

Deadline: February 14, 2007

<http://www.writersunion.ca/psc.html>

[What](http://www.writersunion.ca/psc.html) What is a Postcard Story? Are you up for the challenge? The challenge is to create a dramatic, short, snappy piece in only 250 words. You can use humour, poetry, dialogue—anything goes!

Open to all writers—Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Winning entry will be published in postcard format. \$5 entry fee. Blind judging in effect. \$500 prize. For full details, see website.

### ***5th Annual CanWrite! Conference Story Contest***

Deadline: February 28, 2007

[www.canauthors.org/cwcontest.html](http://www.canauthors.org/cwcontest.html)

[<http://www.canauthors.org/cwcontest.html>](http://www.canauthors.org/cwcontest.html)

Contest is open to all ages and all Canadian and U.S. residents. Short stories must be fiction, unpublished, and no longer than 1,500 words in length. Fee: \$15 Cdn. per story. The top ten selections will be published in an anthology that will be launched at the 86th CAA Annual Conference in Ottawa on July 5-8, 2007. The top three winners will also receive \$500,

\$200 and \$100 respectively plus a free conference registration with no cash value. See our website for complete contest rules and details. Please make all cheques or money orders out to “Canadian Authors Association” and mail your entry to “CanWrite! Conference Story Contest” c/o Evan Kenney, 32 Green Meadow Crescent, Welland, ON L3C 6X3.

### ***Writers’ Union Writing for Children Competition***

Deadline: April 24, 2007

<http://www.writersunion.ca/wfcc.html>

Canadian citizens or landed immigrants eligible. All writers who have not been published in book format, in any genre, and who do not have a contract with a book publisher are encouraged to enter any writing for children, up to 1500 words, English language only. Prize: \$1500. Entries of the winner and finalists will be submitted to three publishers of children’s books. \$15 entry fee. Full submission guidelines on website.

## Trivia

### **Words**

absquatulate: defined by the *Concise Oxford Dictionary, Tenth Edition* as “to leave abruptly”—difficult, but not impossible, to incorporate into a poem

bibliopole: defined by the *Concise Oxford Dictionary, Tenth Edition* “as a dealer in books”

euouae: the longest, vowels only, word in English—a mnemonic indicating the sequence of tones from a passage in the hymn, *Gloria Patri*

floccinaucinihilipilification: the longest word in English, not containing an “e”—defined by the *Concise Oxford Dictionary, Tenth Edition* as, “the action or habit of estimating something as worthless”

set: The 1971 edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* devoted 26 pages to this word. The definitions are too numerous to quote here.

therein: a seven-letter word containing thirteen words, spelled using consecutive letters—the, there, therein, he, her, here, herein, re, rein, er, ere, I , and in.

### **Gaffes**

From <http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/j-triv.html> , Tonto’s name for the Lone Ranger, Kemo Sabe, means “soggy shrub” in Navajo.

In a previous professional incarnation, the editor of this newsletter once wrote, “Your contributions will be infested by the Montreal Trust Company.” Fortunately, the error was discovered before the document was distributed.

The *Constitution of the State of Michigan 1908* contained the following: “Sec. 8. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime shall ever be tolerated in this state.” This blunder wasn’t corrected until the *Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963* amended the passage to: “Section 9. - Slavery and involuntary servitude. Neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude unless for the punishment of crime, shall ever be tolerated in this state.”

**EAC-BC**

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