

january 2011

# WEST COAST EDITOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE BC BRANCH OF THE EDITORS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



**DRIVE-BY  
EDITING**

EAC-BC is a proud supporter of the serial comma

# WEST COAST EDITOR

January 2011

*West Coast Editor* is the newsletter of the Editors' Association of Canada, BC Branch. It is published eight times a year. Views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of EAC or EAC-BC. Send questions or comments to westcoasteditor@editors.ca.

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## Drive-by fixation

Welcome to *West Coast Editor's* 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Drive-by Editing issue. This year, we're pleased to feature 13 photos from a variety of locations: Hanceville, Kamloops, Khartoum Lake, New Westminster, North Vancouver, and Vancouver, BC, and even one from Windsor, Nova Scotia. Thanks to everyone who sent us your photos. We're thrilled to know that *West Coast Editor's* fixation with looking for grammatical and typographical mistakes in public signage is a condition shared by many!

We're also pleased to announce the winners of the Drive-by editing contest that closed on November 1, 2010: Christine Dudgeon, Shari Yore, and Margot Senchyna. Each can choose an "I love serial commas" or a "Serial commas are silly" coffee mug as her prize (see below).

*West coast editor*



## EDITORIAL AND DESIGN STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

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## Contributors

**Christine Dudgeon** (“Drive-by Editing,” page 18) is an indexer and a proofreader. In her spare time she explores the Powell River region by hiking the trails and indulging in her new obsession: geocaching (a kind of treasure hunt with a GPS device).

**Cheryl Hannah** (“Drive-by Editing,” pages 11–13, 15–17, 21) is an editor and communications consultant who is fixated with looking for typos and grammatical mishaps

in signs: road signs, shop signs, residential signs, any signs. She makes shameless use of her role with *West Coast Editor* to legitimize her fixation.

**Jessica Klassen** (“Editors’ show and tell” event review, page 23) is a New Westminster-based editor with an appetite for editing fiction. She can simultaneously power through a manuscript while snuggling her cat, and she enjoys eavesdropping on SkyTrain conversations.

**Frances Peck** (“Drive-by Editing,” page 14), a partner with West Coast Editorial Associates, has been an editor and writer for over 20 years. She teaches editing at Douglas College and Simon Fraser University and gives workshops across Canada. Her recent projects include *Peck’s English Pointers*, an e-book of her columns for the journal *Language Update*.

**Margot Senchyna** (“Drive-by Editing,” page 19) is a Vancouver-based freelance editor and artist with a background in cultural preservation. When not working with words, she can be found working with digital or acrylic paints in her home studio. She currently volunteers on the branch executive and maintains the EAC-BC web pages.

**Shari Yore** (“Drive-by Editing,” page 9) is a Victoria-based editor who specializes in editing academic articles and herding academic cats through the APA maze. She also coordinates the production of books (which involves keeping 1 author and 1 publishing company happy) and journal special issues (which involves keeping 10–15 authors, 2–3 co-editors, and 1 publishing company happy). To subsidize her travel habit, Shari conducts occasional academic writing workshops in places such as Taiwan, Australia, and South Africa.

“I feel as if there were an awful lot to say, but there’s so little time and so much talking.”

Source: *The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers*, Barbara Reynolds, ed., 1995

## Letters

### The value of editors: 30 percent

I wonder if you have seen this blog post: “A Fourth of July lesson in the value of editors.” It presents a compelling case for the value of editors.

Here’s an excerpt:

Because editors are often seen as unnecessary, we at IBM conducted a study to demonstrate their value for some of our marketing pages. We took a sample of unedited pages with high traffic from across our various business units and ran them through ... the editing lead for the group that creates a lot of our marketing content. We then ran an A/B test, where we served the unedited versions to a random sample of users and the edited versions to the rest of the users. We then measured engagement ... on those pages over the course of a month.

The results were astonishing. The mean difference in engagement was [an improvement of] 30 percent across the set of pages. And the standard deviation was one percent.

Here’s the link: <http://writingfordigital.com/2010/07/04/a-fourth-of-july-lesson-in-the-value-of-editors>.

Gary Lund,  
Vancouver

### Complete the proverb

Recently, we received a chain email purporting to bear editor-friendly trivia. On a whim, we decided to bite. We clicked. It opened. To our surprise, it *did* contain some mildly amusing wordplay.

Here’s the gist. A school teacher—the email didn’t specify who she was, where she taught, or when this happened—gave each of her grade 1 students the first half of a proverb; she then asked them to complete it.

Here are 13 of our favourites:

Strike while the ...	bug is close.
A miss is as good as a ...	Mr.
You can’t teach an old dog new ...	Math.
An idle mind is ...	the best way to relax.
Where there’s smoke there’s ...	pollution.
A penny saved is ...	not much.
Children should be seen and not ...	spanked or grounded.
If at first you don’t succeed ...	get new batteries.
When the blind lead the blind ...	get out of the way.
Don’t change horses ...	until they stop running.
Two’s company, three’s ...	the Musketeers.
Don’t bite the hand that ...	looks dirty.
The pen is mightier than the ...	pigs.

—West Coast Editor

# poetic fibs

## a contest

### Tell us a fib

While doing research for the two “Damn you, English Language!” issues, *WCE* staffers stumbled upon a new form of poetry born of the Internet: the fib.

### What’s a fib?

A fib, explains Ben Macintyre in *The Last Word*, “is a six-line, twenty-syllable poem in which the number of syllables in each line is the sum of the syllables in the two preceding lines. This corresponds to the Fibonacci sequence, one of the most elegant patterns in mathematics, in which each successive number is the sum of the two previous numbers: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 . . .” (Technically, a fib can continue indefinitely, although Macintyre calculates that by the time you’d reached the 20<sup>th</sup> line, you’d have to compose a line containing 6,765 syllables.)

Macintyre variously refers to fibs as the “ultimate form of geek poetry,” “an enjoyable parlour game, a way to force words into a pattern,” and as “a cross between a haiku and an equation, at once free and regulated.” Bottom line? They’re fun to write.

### Here’s a fib

Here’s an example, composed by Cheryl Hannah during a recent

family ski vacation (full disclosure: she was collapsed on a couch at the time, nursing her bruises):

Snow  
Snakes  
Lurking  
Beneath me.  
Quiet. Coiled. Ready.  
Oh! No! They’ve got me by my skis!

### Entry deadline

Please send a maximum of 3 original fibs to [westcoasteditor@editors.ca](mailto:westcoasteditor@editors.ca) by March 16, 2011. Poems will be reviewed by a panel of senior EAC-BC editors. Three winners will be chosen: the “geekiest fib,” the “fib with the best consonance,” and the “fib with the best alliteration.” Additionally, all entries will be published in the June 2011 “Secret Lives of Editors” issue. (N.B. Only fibs written by EAC-BC members will be published.)

### Prizes

Winners can choose between a *West Coast Editor*, *I love serial commas*, or *Serial commas are silly* limited edition coffee mug.

“I admit a liking for novels where something happens.”

Source: *A Book-Lover's Holiday in the Open*, Theodore Roosevelt, 1916, *Buried in Books*, Julie Rugg, 2010

## Canadian men excel at romance

Romance, Adventure, Children's Literature, Detective, Fantasy Fiction, Historical Fiction, Purple Prose, Science Fiction, Vile Puns, and Western: these are the entry categories for a literary competition sponsored by the English department at San José State University. Since 1982, its English department has sponsored the **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest**, a contest that challenges writers to compose an opening sentence to the “worst of all possible novels.”<sup>†</sup> This year, both the winner and runner-up in the Romance category were Canadians: Ontarian Paul Chafe and Nova Scotian Jonathan Blay. (See page 7 for their winning entries.)



The contest is the brainchild of Professor Scott Rice, who, when a graduate student, was asked to write a paper on a minor Victorian novelist. He chose Lord Edward Bulwer Lytton<sup>††</sup>, author of (arguably) the English language's most infamous opening sentence: “It was a dark and stormy night.”

Here's the sentence in full:

It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents—except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness. (*Paul Clifford*, Edward Bulwer Lytton, 1830)

Years later, after being “conscripted numerous times to be a judge in writing contests that were, in effect, bad writing contests but with prolix, overlong, and generally lengthy submissions, [Professor Rice] struck upon the idea of holding a competition that would be honest and—best of all—invite brief entries.”<sup>††</sup>

Want to try your hand at crafting a Bulwer-Lyttonesque sentence? Go to [www.bulwer-lytton.com](http://www.bulwer-lytton.com) for complete contest details. The official submission deadline is April 15, 2011.

<sup>†</sup> [www.bulwer-lytton.com](http://www.bulwer-lytton.com), accessed September 7, 2010

<sup>††</sup> While the Bulwer Lyttons do not hyphenate their surname, the **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest** does.

“In a library it’s hard to avoid reading.”

—From a student essay

Source: *The Miracle of Language*, Richard Lederer, 1991

### *Romance* category: winner

“‘Trent, I love you,’ Fiona murmured, and her nostrils flared at the faint trace of her lover’s masculine scent, sending her heart racing and her mind dreaming of the life they would live together, alternating sumptuous world cruises with long, romantic interludes in the mansion on his private island, alone together except for the maids, the cook, the butler, and Dirk and Rafael, the hard-bodied pool boys.”

*Paul Chafe,  
Toronto, Ontario*

### *Romance* category: runner-up

“She purred sensually, oozing allure that was resisted only by his realization as an entomologist that the protein dust on the couch from the filing of her crimson nails was now being devoured by dust mites in a clicking, ferocious, ecstatic frenzy.”

*Jonathan Blay,  
Bedford, Nova Scotia*

See page 8 for more **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest** winning entries. Also on page 8: sourcing information for all the **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest** winners showcased in this issue as well as sourcing information for “Lytton: the man and his town.”



### **Lytton: the man and his town**

The tiny town of Lytton (self-proclaimed rafting capital of BC) was named after the notorious Lord Edward Bulwer Lytton himself.

In August 2008, Lytton hosted the “Proff [*sic*] vs. Toff” debate. The debate pitted the author’s great-great-great grandson the Honourable Henry Lytton Cobbold against Professor Rice. The debate marked Lytton’s 150-year anniversary. To promote it, Lytton’s mayor wrote letters to the media declaring that the town of Lytton was fed up: “For years, Professor Rice has been making sport of Lord Edward George Bulwer Lytton, with his **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest**. Lord Lytton was both a statesman and an author. As colonial secretary, he helped create the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858.”<sup>1</sup>

#### **PROFESSOR SCOTT’S PRE-DEBATE OFFENSIVE:**

“The evil that men do lives after them, in Lytton’s case in 27 novels whose perfervid turgidity I intend to expose, denude, and generally make visible.”<sup>2</sup>

#### **HENRY LYTTON COBBOLD’S PRE-DEBATE**

**COUNTER OFFENSIVES:** “I very strongly feel that to be the first person to come up with a cliché is genius ... the words are clichéd but if you’re the first to pen them then surely that’s ... something to be proud of”<sup>3</sup> and “the town of Lytton is going to be more inclined to support me [than Scott]; Bulwer Lytton made them quite happy—it’s partly because of him that they didn’t end up being part of America.”<sup>4</sup>

And the winner? Henry Lytton Cobbold, who was able to convince the audience that “his ancestor’s purple prose pen was mightier than the Proff’s [*sic*] sword of scorn.”<sup>5</sup>

“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

Source: Bulwer-Lytton, *Richelieu*, 1838, *The International Thesaurus of Quotations*, compiled by Eugene Ehrlich and Marshall DeBruhl, 1996



**Detective category: winner**

“She walked into my office wearing a body that would make a man write bad checks, but in this paperless age you would first have to obtain her ABA Routing Transit Number and Account Number and then disable your own Overdraft Protection in order to do so.”

*Steve Lynch,  
San Marcos, California*

**Detective category: runner-up**

“As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, ‘Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand afoot ahead.’”

*Dennis Pearce,  
Lexington, Kentucky*

**Overall: winner**

“For the first month of Ricardo and Felicity’s affair, they greeted one another at every stolen rendezvous with a kiss—a lengthy, ravenous kiss, Ricardo lapping and sucking at Felicity’s mouth as if she were a giant cage-mounted water bottle and he were the world’s thirstiest gerbil.”

*Molly Ringle,  
Seattle, Washington*

**Overall: runner-up**

“Through the verdant plains of North Umbria walked Waylon Oggleshorpe and, as he walked, the clouds whispered his name, the birds of the air sang his praises, and the beasts of the fields from smallest to greatest said, ‘There goes the most noble among men’—in other words, a typical stroll for a schizophrenic ventriloquist with delusions of grandeur.”

*Tom Wallace,  
Columbia, South Carolina*

**Sources: page 7**

1. “‘Literary Tragedy’ of Bulwer-Lytton’s *Dark and Stormy Night* under Debate,” Alison Flood, *The Guardian*, August 19, 2008, [www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2008/aug/19/2](http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2008/aug/19/2), accessed November 28, 2010

2. “‘Literary Tragedy’ of Bulwer-Lytton’s *Dark and Stormy Night* under Debate,” Alison Flood, *The Guardian*, August 19, 2008, [www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2008/aug/19/2](http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2008/aug/19/2), accessed November 28, 2010

3. “Toff and Prof to Duke it out in Literary Slugfest over ‘Dark and Stormy Night’ Author,” Jeremy Hainsworth, *Breitbart*, August 16, 2008, [www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=cp\\_g87bodjpi13&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=cp_g87bodjpi13&show_article=1), accessed November 28, 2010

4. “‘Literary Tragedy’ of Bulwer-Lytton’s *Dark and Stormy Night* under Debate,” Alison Flood, *The Guardian*, August 19, 2008, [www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2008/aug/19/2](http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2008/aug/19/2), accessed November 18, 2010

5. “2020 Vision: A Proposal to Reinvent the Gold Rush Trails as the New Pathway to Gold,” New Pathways to Gold Society, May 2009, [www.cariboord.bc.ca/crddirectors/2009%20agendas/June/June%2019,%202009/June19\\_2020Vision\\_NPTGS.pdf](http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/crddirectors/2009%20agendas/June/June%2019,%202009/June19_2020Vision_NPTGS.pdf), accessed September 20, 2010

**Sources: page 7, 8**

All six **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest** opening sentences from [www.bulwer-lytton.com/2010.htm](http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/2010.htm), accessed November 28, 2010

You've never experienced milk chocolate like this.

And it's not just the creamy, rich taste. Everything about Nestlé Noir Supérieur is exceptional. There has never been premium milk chocolate like this. From its sensual curved shape to its ridges designed for superior in-mouth melting – this milk chocolate is in a class of its own. You don't just eat this chocolate. You experience it.



Good Food, Good Life

CATEGORY

Grammar (word usage)

Punctuation (type of dash)

LOCATION

Canadian national lifestyle magazine

PHOTOGRAPHER

Shari Yore

DATE

August 2010



CATEGORY

Grammar (word usage)

LOCATION

Windsor, NS

PHOTOGRAPHER

James Hannah

DATE

August 2010



**CATEGORY**  
Grammar (word usage)

**LOCATION**  
New Westminster, BC

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Cheryl Hannah

**DATE**  
August 2010

# There's lots to celebrate when your a Canadian

Aggressive protesters Yes, we have work to do  
on the streets of Toronto but we also have a lot to

## CATEGORY

Grammar (word usage)

## LOCATION

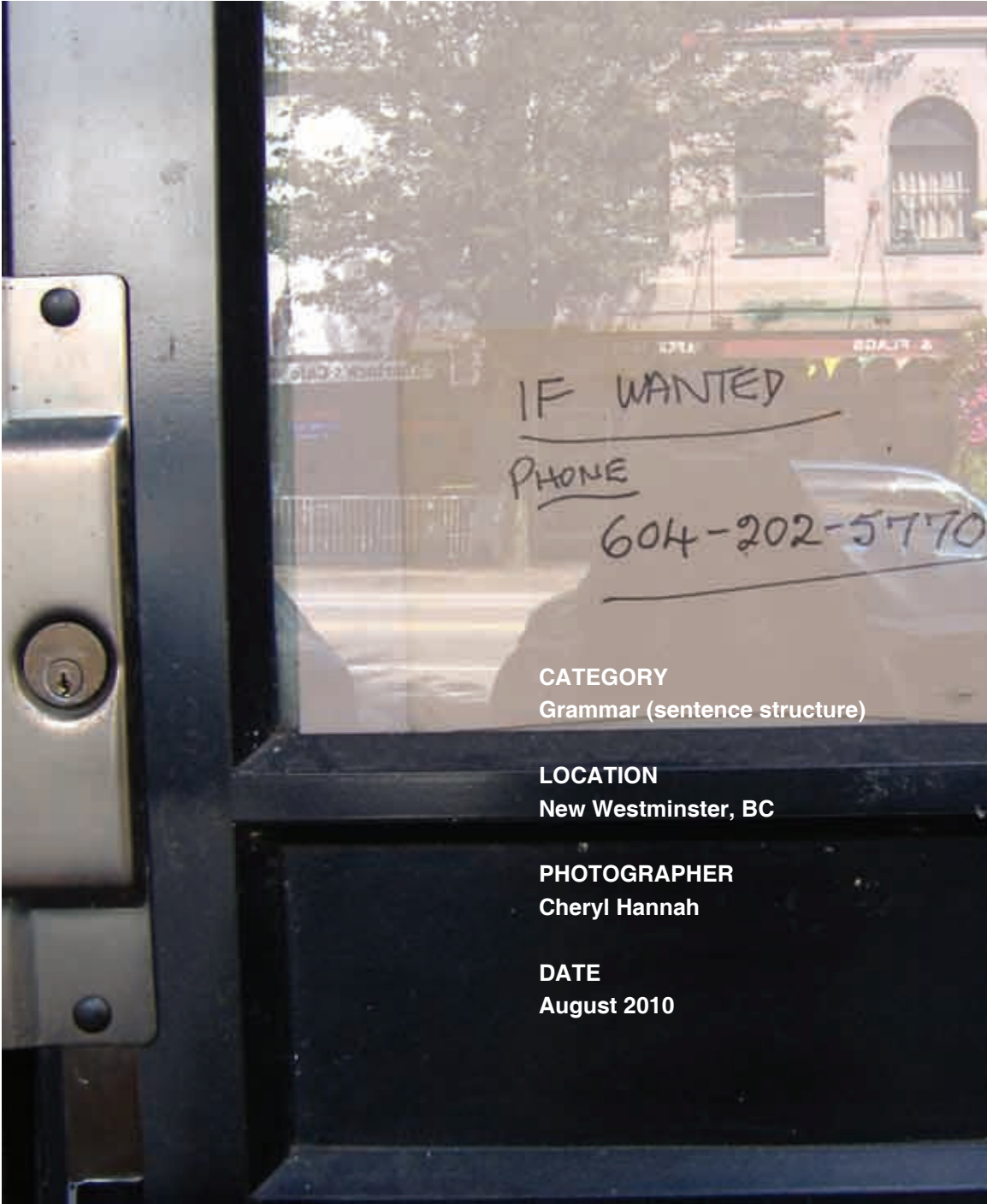
BC local newspaper

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Cheryl Hannah

## DATE

July 2010



**CATEGORY**  
Grammar (sentence structure)

**LOCATION**  
New Westminster, BC

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Cheryl Hannah

**DATE**  
August 2010



CATEGORY

Punctuation (missing)

LOCATION

North Vancouver, BC

PHOTOGRAPHER

Frances Peck

DATE

August 2010

**CATEGORY**

Punctuation (greengrocer's apostrophe)

**LOCATION**

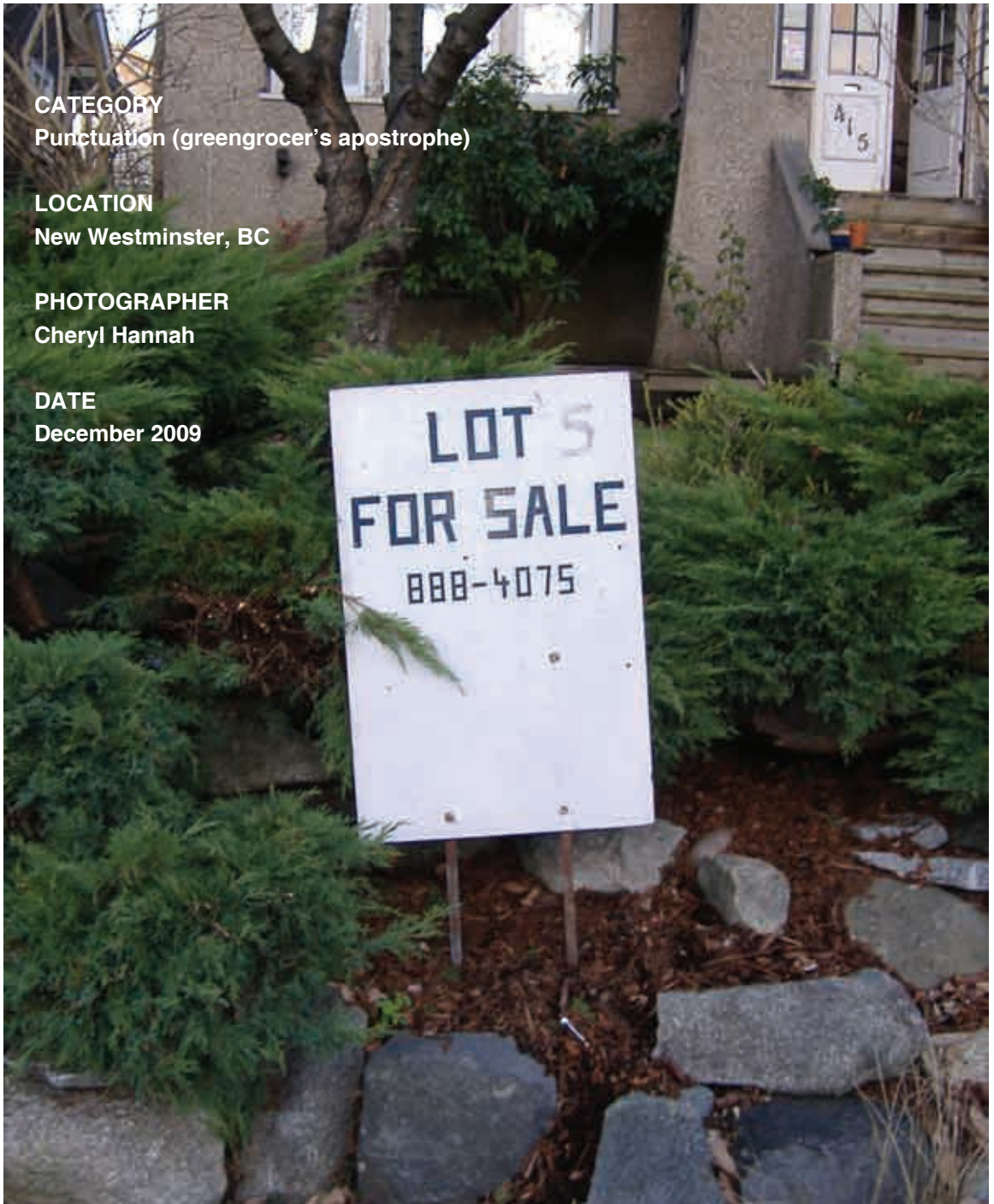
New Westminster, BC

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Cheryl Hannah

**DATE**

December 2009



# Game deals Video Games



## CATEGORIES

Punctuation  
Spelling  
Capitalization

## LOCATION

New Westminster, BC

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Cheryl Hannah

## DATE

August 2010

**OPEN 12-7 EVERY DAY**

From Atari - PS3 we have it all.  
With cool collectibles and awesome prices,  
we are the #1 source for Video Games  
in the Lower Mainland.



CATEGORIES

Punctuation

Spelling

Symbol (reversed)

LOCATION

New Westminster, BC

PHOTOGRAPHER

Cheryl Hannah

DATE

August 2010



## Notice of Proposed Angling Regulation Change

LOIS AND KHARTOUM LAKES  
(MANAGEMENT UNIT 2-12)

LOCATED EAST OF POWELL RIVER, BC

The Ministry of Environment proposes to amend the trout restriction for recreational angling on Lois and Khartoum Lakes with an effective date of **April 1, 2011**. The proposed regulation change will permit retention of up to four *introduced rainbow* trout (adipose fin removed and a healed scare in its place) of any size per day angled by anyone with a valid BC Freshwater Fishing Licence.

Reasons for the change:

- Conservation concern; protection of wild fish stocks.
- Provide and enhance recreational angling opportunity.

Written input to the Ministry on the proposed change will be received up to Friday, July 31, 2010, and can be provided in one of the following ways:

Email: [LMRWebpg@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:LMRWebpg@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)

Subject line: South Coast Freshwater Angling Regulations

Fax: 604-930-7119

Subject line: South Coast Freshwater Angling Regulations

Ministry of Environment

South Coast

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 10470 – 152<sup>nd</sup> Street

Surrey BC V3R 0Y3

Attention: Fishing Regulations Change Coordinator

### CATEGORIES

Spelling

Grammar (parallelism)

Punctuation

### LOCATION

Khartoum Lake, BC

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Christine Dudgeon

### DATE

May 2010

MAKE HUGS MONEY IN HOME BASE  
BUSINESS, HIGHT- TEC - INDUSTRY.

Call Jeff 604 716 5845

**Acninc.com**

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4 n 4 n 4 n 4 n 4 n 4 n 4 n  
7 l 7 l 7 l 7 l 7 l 7 l 7 l  
1 n 1 n 1 n 1 n 1 n 1 n 1 n

CATEGORIES

Grammar (sentence structure)

Spelling

Punctuation

LOCATION

Vancouver, BC

PHOTOGRAPHER

Margot Senchyna

DATE

October 2010

**CATEGORY**

Spelling

**LOCATION**

Hanceville, BC

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

John Hannah

**DATE**

May 2010



**NO**  
**VEHICULAR**  
**WASHING**

**WATER**



CATEGORY  
Spelling

LOCATION  
Kamloops, BC

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Cheryl Hannah

DATE  
December 2009

# etcetera

## UPCOMING EVENTS EAC-BC SPEAKER SESSION: WHAT ARE YOU WORTH? HOW TO PRICE YOUR EDITING SERVICES

January 19, 2011

Guest speaker: Cerina Wheatland

Putting a dollar value on our editing skills, abilities, and experience can be a daunting task. Join us at our January meeting and learn how to charge for your work. Guest speaker Cerina Wheatland will help us make sense of this puzzle in a practical and entertaining way.

Cerina has worked in project management, research and analysis, strategic business planning, communications, marketing, and sales in both the private and public sectors. Her services include business consulting, editing, and freelance writing.

We will draw for a door prize at the end of the evening. The winner will receive free admission to one EAC-BC seminar.

Time: 7:30 pm

Cost: Free for members; \$10 for non-members; \$5 for students with valid ID

Place: YWCA  
535 Hornby Street  
Welch Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Vancouver

YWCA is located on the west side of Hornby Street, between Dunsmuir and Pender, one block northeast of the Burrard SkyTrain Station. Parking is available across the street for \$5.00 after 6:00 pm. Street parking is also available.

Information: [www.editors.ca/node/904](http://www.editors.ca/node/904) or [bcprograms@editors.ca](mailto:bcprograms@editors.ca)

## EAC-BC SEMINAR: EDITING NARRATIVE February 12, 2011

Instructor: Mary Schendlinger

The ability to edit narrative is one of the most useful skills the editor can acquire. Narrative is the driving force of a story, and it plays a strong supporting role in exposition, argument, and essay. This workshop will offer specific approaches to editing narrative: short and long, fiction and non-fiction, reportage and life writing, prose and graphica (comics).

Participants will learn techniques to evaluate a narrative—the big picture and the small picture—and to work

with the writer as she goes back in to fix it.

Additionally, participants will look at scenes and the other building blocks of narrative; review a checklist of things to try when a novel sags in the middle; find ways to make exposition power the narrative engine instead of clogging it up; talk about the non-linear narrative, the free indirect narrator, the shifting point of view, and other special situations; and finally, “get microscopic,” with a handful of tips on how any writer can deploy craft to achieve art.

Mary Schendlinger has worked as an editor and publisher for 40 years. She is co-founder and senior editor of *Geist*. She teaches the editing seminar and book publishing project in the SFU Master of Publishing Program, short publishing courses for the SFU Writing & Publishing Program, and a course in graphic novel and manga for the UBC Creative Writing Program.

Registration for this seminar closes February 4, 2011, at midnight.

Time: 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Cost: \$100 for EAC members who register by January 28, 2011 (after: \$120); \$160 for non-members who register by January 28, 2011 (after: \$180)

Place: SFU Harbour Centre Campus  
515 W. Hastings Street, Room 2260  
Vancouver

Registration: [www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=1262&EID=8088](http://www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=1262&EID=8088)

## EVENT REVIEW

**EAC-BC SPEAKER SESSION:  
EDITORS' SHOW AND TELL**  
November 17, 2010

Facilitator: Peter Moskos  
Reviewer: Jessica Klassen

Our Editors' Show and Tell night was the first of its kind and a great success. It was an opportunity for members to share the gadgets and resources they can't do without, to learn some new tricks, and to expand their own libraries. The evening's discussion was facilitated by Peter Moskos.

Conversation ranged over a variety of topics. It started with home-office necessities (stopwatch, footstool, great chair) and moved through how to bill hours (Excel spreadsheets and timeEdition software), various other editing software options, Seasonal Affective Disorder (I learned that I could purchase a SAD lamp at Costco for a very reasonable price), and an editor's bookshelf.

So what resource books can't BC editors do without? Here's a sampling: the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, *The Canadian Press Stylebook*, *The Canadian Press Caps and Spelling*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, one of the *Merriam-Webster* dictionaries, *The Deluxe Transitive Vampire*, the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, various EAC publications, and a thesaurus.

Lastly, here are some of the interesting and useful miscellanea put forward by our members:

- The *OED* can be accessed online at Vancouver Public Library (by card holders) for free: [www.vpl.ca](http://www.vpl.ca).
- OneLook is an online search tool that searches several online dictionaries at once: [www.onelook.com](http://www.onelook.com).
- GeoSearch is an online tool provided by Stats Canada for finding correct place names: <http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/GeoSearch/index.cfm?lang=E>.
- Lake Superior State University has a list of banished words. Offenders are listed for "Misuse, Over-use and General Uselessness": [www.lssu.edu/banished](http://www.lssu.edu/banished).

Thanks to everyone who contributed and made our first Show and Tell a success!

## **NOW YOU KNOW AN EAC-BC SURVEY IS HEADING YOUR WAY**

EAC-BC is looking for information that will help make our monthly meetings and Saturday seminars interesting and relevant for as many members as possible. To this end, programs co-chairs Michele Satanove and Margot Senchyna will be conducting a survey. Keep an eye on your inboxes: you will be receiving a link to our Survey Monkey questionnaire soon.

## **SILVER DRAGEES CONTAIN REAL SILVER**

If you spent your Christmas holidays eating your way through

stacks of gingerbread men decorated with silver dragées, you may be vaguely disturbed to learn that many silver dragées are made with real silver (element 47, Ag). But don't worry, says geologist (and writer, editor, and *WCE* staffer) Jennifer Getsinger. Silver is edible if eaten in very small amounts.

## **NEW EAC-BC MEMBERS**

Molly Armstrong, Port Moody  
Melanie Chernyk, Victoria  
Lisa Collins, Vancouver  
Kyle Crane, Kelowna  
Darlene Denesyk, Vancouver  
Jason Hall, Vancouver  
Noah Moscovitch, Burnaby  
Helen Polychronakos, Vancouver  
Cathi Shaw, Summerland  
Heather Walmsley, Vancouver  
Elizabeth Wilson, Vancouver

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

*West Coast Editor* is accepting submissions. Please contact Cheryl at [westcoasteditor@editors.ca](mailto:westcoasteditor@editors.ca) to discuss your ideas.

April 2011: Market your editing business  
Copy deadline: March 9, 2011  
Theme: Marketing success stories and tips

May 2011: Volunteer with EAC-BC  
Copy deadline: April 6, 2011  
Theme: EAC-BC 2011 elections and volunteer profiles

June 2011: Secret lives of editors  
Copy deadline: May 4, 2011  
Theme: A showcase of the creative (non-editing related) work of BC editors (e.g., poetry, art, creative writing, photography)

# WE WANT YOU!

We are **looking for** a new **social chair**. Becoming social chair is a **great** way to make a valuable contribution to the BC branch without having to commit to a lot of time each month. All members in good standing are eligible.

**RESPONSIBILITIES** are **minimal**: the social chair is responsible for catering at the monthly general meetings and for maintaining a supply of coffee, tea, cups, napkins, and plates. **Something new**: this year, if the social chair feels so inspired, he or she can elect to organize and host a members-and-guests “spring fling” dinner party or reception.

Time commitment: **2–3 hours per month** (this includes the time you will spend listening to the guest speaker!)

Interested? Contact Miro Kinch at [bccoordinator@editors.ca](mailto:bccoordinator@editors.ca).