

June 2011

WEST COAST EDITOR

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



EAC-BC
ELECTIONS
ON JUNE 29

**Stand out from the crowd.
Become a volunteer.**

WEST COAST EDITOR

June 2011

West Coast Editor is the newsletter of the Editors' Association of Canada, BC branch (EAC-BC). It is published eight times a year. Views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of EAC or EAC-BC; quotations reflect the grammar, style, and punctuation of source material. Send comments to westcoasteditor@editors.ca.

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We're volunteer-minded

“You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.”†

British Columbians are volunteer-minded. We volunteer our time and money to charities; we volunteer at our children's schools; we volunteer at sporting events, at recreational events, and at arts events. However, according to the *2008 BC State of Volunteering Report*, “the way people want to be engaged is changing”:

The next generation of volunteers want to lead projects, develop strategies and solve complex problems. They are young professionals looking to balance their lives with meaningful work. They are baby boomers looking for the next challenge ... They seek project-based, time-specific opportunities.††

We agree. And that's the type of volunteer that EAC-BC is looking for. You want to make a difference? You can take on only time-specific, event-based projects? You're looking for your next challenge? EAC-BC has a role for you. Take a moment to browse the listings on pages 7–17. Then come to the June 29 elections (and book swap) at the YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty Street. We'd love to have you on the EAC-BC team.

West coast editor

JUNE 29 ELECTIONS

The EAC-BC elections
will take place at the
YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty
Street (1½ blocks south
of the Stadium
SkyTrain Station).

† *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* Dr. Seuss, 1990

†† Source: *2008 BC State of Volunteering Report*, Volunteer BC, June 2009, www.bcstateofvolunteering.org, accessed May 12, 2011.

Contributors

Lib Alcock (“Editing in the age of e-everything” photographs, page 18) is imaginative, meticulous, and tech savvy. She describes herself as the female equivalent of Mike Holmes in the publishing realm: a unique blend of designer and editor (and photographer) who always strives to “do it right,” and cheerfully too.

Matilda Dray (“Editing in the age of e-everything” photographs, page 18) is an Aussie living in Vancouver and working as a communications coordinator for the BC Medical Association. In her free time she can be found engaged in some kind of energetic activity, snapping away with her camera, or sadly checking the weather forecast for the tenth time that day in the hopes of a miraculous prediction of sun.

Jessica Klassen (“Returning chair reveals: ‘I had no idea what I was getting myself into!’” page 13) 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.

[Answers to page 4 quiz]

1. a: slightly above the national average (47%; the national average is 46%) **2. c:** 172 hours (national average is 166 hours) **3. a:** 92% of Canadians who volunteer do so to make a difference in the community (77% volunteer to put skills and experience to work; 47% volunteer to improve opportunities to network; 22% volunteer as a way to improve job opportunities)

Source: *2008 BC State of Volunteering Report*, Volunteer BC, June 2009, www.bcstateofvolunteering.org, accessed May 12, 2011.

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 - August 4, 2011: Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

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Christine Konrad; Scott Robinson; Margot Senchyna

FRONT COVER: Cheryl Hannah

“Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”[†]

—anon.

Test your “Volunteer IQ”

British Columbians are generous, volunteer-minded people. But how do we stack up against other Canadians? Are we more altruistic? Or less? Take a few moments to test your “Volunteer IQ.” (Answers on page 3.)

1. The “formal volunteering rate”^{††} in Canada is approximately 46%. How does the formal volunteering rate in BC compare to the national average?
 - a. slightly above the national average
 - b. slightly below the national average
 - c. same as the national average
2. BC “leads the country with the highest number of volunteer hours given annually.”^{†††} On average, how many hours of volunteer work does each British Columbian contribute?
 - a. 53 hours
 - b. 96 hours
 - c. 172 hours
3. What is the primary reason that Canadians volunteer their time and talents?
 - a. to make a difference in the community
 - b. to put their skills and experience to work
 - c. to network
 - d. to improve their job opportunities



curios

[†] <http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/volunteering>, accessed May 16, 2011

^{††} Volunteer BC defines formal volunteering as “volunteering through an organization.” This is different from “informal volunteering,” which is the term Volunteer BC uses to define activities “such as helping a neighbour shovel snow or giving free childcare for a relative.”

^{†††} *2008 BC State of Volunteering Report*, Volunteer BC, June 2009, www.bcstateofvolunteering.org, accessed May 12, 2011.

Why volunteer?

Three EAC-BC members talk about why they volunteer: branch secretary David Harrison; hotline chair and professional development co-chair Tina Robinson; and webmaster Margot Senchyna.



01

“Volunteering for the Editors’ Association of Canada, BC branch, has been a tremendous experience.

Not only have I met some wonderful people, but I have learned new skills, found inspiration in my career, and challenged my boundaries. All this while helping a mostly volunteer organization achieve its goals. What could be better?”

—MARGOT SENCHYNA

“I volunteer with the EAC-BC branch as the hotline chair for the same reasons I am a member of the EAC—it is an opportunity to connect to a community of editors and be engaged in events in my field.”

—TINA ROBINSON

“It’s about self-interest really. I like to think I do professional-level work. That statement only makes sense if there’s a profession to belong to—and one that sets standards. So we all need to help EAC along in this direction. Now or never.” —DAVID HARRISON

01 Margot Senchyna, BC branch webmaster. Photo courtesy Margot Senchyna. 02 Tina Robinson, BC branch hotline chair and professional development co-chair. Photo by Scott Robinson. 03 David Harrison, BC branch secretary. Photo courtesy David Harrison.

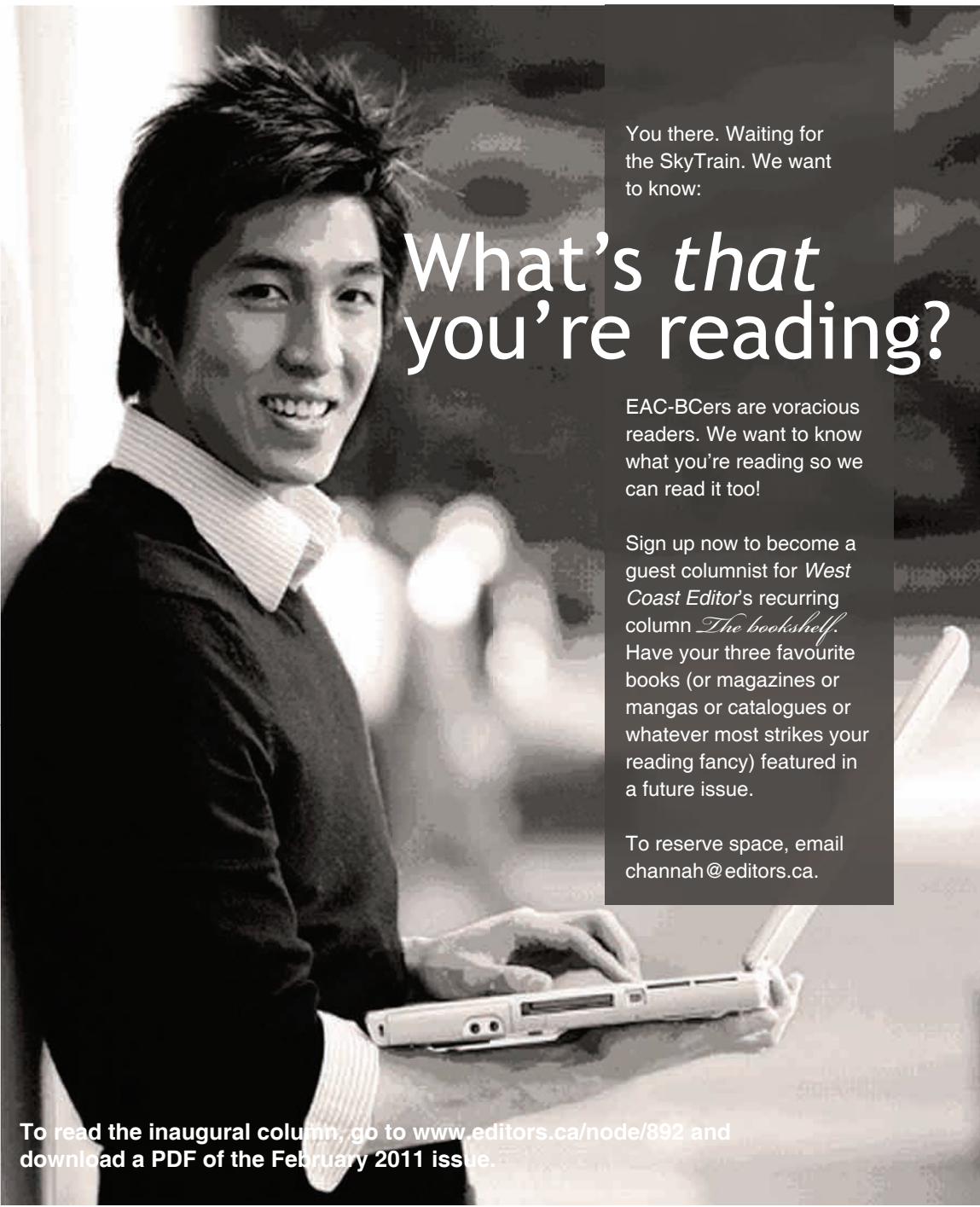


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Photo from MS Word clipart, 2002



You there. Waiting for the SkyTrain. We want to know:

What's *that* you're reading?

EAC-BCers are voracious readers. We want to know what you're reading so we can read it too!

Sign up now to become a guest columnist for *West Coast Editor's* recurring column *The bookshelf*. Have your three favourite books (or magazines or mangas or catalogues or whatever most strikes your reading fancy) featured in a future issue.

To reserve space, email channah@editors.ca.

To read the inaugural column, go to www.editors.ca/node/892 and download a PDF of the February 2011 issue.

BC BRANCH CHAIR

Position overview

The EAC-BC branch chair oversees and coordinates the business and activities of the branch, chairs monthly meetings of branch executive, acts as branch spokesperson, and ensures that branch web pages are up to date. The branch chair also oversees and supports all EAC-BC branch executives in their various portfolios, introduces new initiatives, and strikes new committees as necessary.

The branch chair must be a voting member. Since the branch chair is required to attend monthly meetings in downtown Vancouver, this position is best suited for someone who lives near Vancouver or who doesn't mind commuting.



Time commitment

6–8 hours per month.

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in becoming BC branch chair, contact Hugh Macdonald at bcchair@editors.ca or at 604-868-5989, Monday through Thursday, before 10:30 am or after 7:30 pm.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

BC BRANCH TREASURER

Position overview

The BC branch treasurer maintains EAC-BC's financial records and tracks all financial transactions. The treasurer drafts EAC-BC's annual budget and provides monthly, semi-annual, and year-end income and expenses statements for EAC-BC executive as well as a yearly report for EAC national. The treasurer is also responsible for providing a year-end income and expense statement for membership at the AGM.

The treasurer must be a voting member. Since the treasurer is required to attend monthly meetings in downtown Vancouver, this position is best suited for someone who lives near Vancouver or who doesn't mind commuting.



Time commitment

2–3 hours per month.

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in becoming BC branch treasurer, contact Barbara Dominik at bctreasurer@editors.ca.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Committee overview

The Professional Development Committee plans and coordinates educational seminars and other professional development initiatives. In recent years, this has meant organizing, running, and helping to publicize two or three half- or full-day seminars in the fall and four half- or full-day seminars in the spring. The committee is responsible for writing seminar summaries for publication in *West Coast Editor* and ensuring the “Editors’ Seminars” section of the EAC-BC web page is up to date and accurate.

Any member in good standing is eligible to join this committee. Since committee co-chairs are required to attend monthly meetings in downtown Vancouver, these positions are best suited for people who live near Vancouver or who don’t mind commuting.

Returning volunteers

Tina Robinson; Michele Satanove.

Time commitment

The Professional Development Committee is looking for 1 co-chair and 2 committee members.

Committee co-chair time commitment: 4–6 hours per month. **Committee member time commitment:** varies (committee members can volunteer on an event-by-event basis).

I’m interested. Now what?

If you’re interested in joining this committee, contact Tina Robinson at bcworkshops@editors.ca.

Then come to EAC-BC’s 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Committee overview

The Programs Committee plans and coordinates the programs for EAC-BC's monthly meetings. Committee members are responsible for booking rooms for the monthly meetings, planning program topics, recruiting guest speakers, composing program blurbs and post-program write-ups for *West Coast Editor*, obtaining gift certificates for guest speakers, and introducing guest speakers at monthly meetings. They are also responsible for recording speaker presentations and delivering the recordings to the webmaster for uploading to the EAC-BC web page.

Any member in good standing is eligible to join this committee. Although most committee work can be done by email, at least one co-chair must attend monthly meetings in downtown Vancouver. Therefore, these positions are best suited for people who live near Vancouver or who don't mind commuting.



Time commitment

The Programs Committee is looking for 2 co-chairs and 2 committee members. **Committee co-chair time commitment:** 3–5 hours per month. **Committee member time commitment:** varies (committee members can volunteer on an event-by-event basis).

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in joining this committee, contact Michele Satanove and Margot Senchyna at bcprograms@editors.ca.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee overview

The Member Services Committee encourages membership in EAC and strives to improve the membership experience of prospective members, new members, current members, and lapsed members. Committee members welcome members and guests at EAC-BC monthly meetings, answer telephone and email queries, assist the Public Relations Committee at Word on the Street and at other public events, and work with the Professional Development Committee on seminars held outside the Lower Mainland.

Any member in good standing is eligible to join this committee. Since the duties of committee members require them to attend monthly meetings in downtown Vancouver, these positions are best suited for people who live near Vancouver or who don't mind commuting.



Time commitment

The Member Services Committee is looking for 1 chair and 2 committee members. **Committee chair time commitment:** 4 hours per month. **Committee member time commitment:** 1–2 hours per month.

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in joining this committee, contact Marlene MacIsaac at bcmemberservices@editors.ca.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE



Committee overview

The Public Relations Committee publicizes EAC-BC by attending events organized by EAC and other like-minded literary groups. (Events include: Word on the Street; the Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival; the Surrey International Writers' Conference; the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts; and post-secondary school job fairs.)

Members of the Public Relations Committee also:

- create write-ups of literary events, EAC-BC seminars, and EAC-BC speaker sessions for *West Coast Editor*,
- keep EAC-BC's Facebook and Twitter pages up to date,
- help as needed with organizing EAC-BC events.

Any member in good standing is eligible to join this committee, and no previous PR experience is necessary. Since the duties of committee members can be done via email, these positions are perfect for people who live outside the Vancouver area.

Time commitment

The Public Relations Committee is looking for 2 committee members.

Time commitment: 2–4 hours per month (there are also many opportunities to volunteer on an event-by-event basis).

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in joining this committee, contact Jessica Klassen at bcpr@editors.ca.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

Returning chair reveals: “I had no idea what I was getting myself into!”

PR chair Jessica Klassen talks about her plans for making EAC-BC more visible and exciting.



When I joined this committee last year, I had no idea what I was getting myself into!

But luckily for me, almost all of the work has consisted of emailing, and almost all of said emailing has been template-derived. This has left me time to dream up ways to get people as involved and excited as I am. I don't know about you, but I think there's a lot of room for EAC-BC to grow, and I want to see it blossom.

Two volunteers

I'm looking for two volunteers who share my interest in making the branch more visible and exciting. I'm hoping that one of these volunteers will be someone who loves to facebook and tweet and wants to have fun making our web pages livelier. With three of us, we can arrange for an EAC-BC presence at triple the number of events and expand EAC-BC's presence at events to include those on the Island and in the Interior.

Blue Pencil event

I'm currently in the midst of organizing a Blue Pencil event, which I hope to make annual or even semi-annual. Writers will submit a sample of their work to be evaluated by EAC-BC volunteers. Then, the two parties will meet for a free consultation at the event, leading to improved writing and new clients for members who participate. Stay tuned to the *WCE* and EAC-BC email for details!

Not so wild about Harry

Something you may not know about me: I adore the *Harry Potter* series. I read it at least once a year (usually around Christmas). And, if I were Hermione Granger, I would have chosen Ron over Harry, too.

—JESSICA KLASSEN

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Committee overview

The Social Committee is responsible for catering at monthly executive and general meetings and for maintaining a supply of coffee, tea, cups, napkins, and plates. The committee is also responsible for organizing and hosting a members-only dinner party in December.

Any member in good standing is eligible to join this committee. Since the duties of committee members require them to attend monthly meetings in downtown Vancouver, these positions are best suited for people who live near Vancouver or who don't mind commuting.



Time commitment

The Social Committee is looking for 2 co-chairs. **Time commitment:** 2–3 hours per month.

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in joining this committee, contact Hugh Macdonald at bcchair@editors.ca or at 604-868-5989, Monday through Thursday, before 10:30 am or after 7:30 pm.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

a.k.a.
WEST COAST EDITOR

Committee overview

The Newsletter Committee is responsible for producing EAC-BC's newsletter, *West Coast Editor (WCE)*. The committee is responsible for the entire editing and production process, from gathering and editing content to setting up production schedules and typesetting. The newsletter committee is also responsible for maintaining the *WCE* style guide, printing copies of the newsletter for display at branch meetings and public events, and sending a PDF of the current issue to the branch coordinator for electronic distribution. **2011–2012 project:** create an online presence for the newsletter.

Any member in good standing is eligible to join this committee. Since the work of committee members can be done via email, these positions are perfect for people who live outside the Vancouver area.

Returning volunteers

Kathleen Bolton; Christine Dudgeon; Kelly Eng; Dianne Fowlie; Jennifer Getsinger; Cheryl Hannah; Jessica Klassen; Hugh Macdonald; Eva van Emden.



Time commitment

The Newsletter Committee is looking for 2 more committee members.

Time commitment: varies (committee members can choose to copy edit, proofread, conduct interviews, or write articles for select issues of *West Coast Editor*).

I'm interested. Now what?

If you're interested in joining this committee, contact Cheryl Hannah at westcoasteditor@editors.ca.

Then come to EAC-BC's 2011–2012 elections on June 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. Please note: elections will be held at the 733 Beatty Street YWCA Hotel.

They're coming back! But why?

Long hours. No pay. Learn why newsletter volunteers keep coming back for more ...



01 Jennifer Getsinger, *WCE* contributing editor, copy editor, and proofreader. Photo courtesy J.S. Getsinger.

02 Jessica Klassen, *WCE* copy editor, proofreader, and Twitterer-in-chief at the May 27 2011 EAC National Conference Welcome Reception. Photo by Lib Alcock. **03** Christine Dudgeon, *WCE* contributing editor and proofreader. Photo by Bruce Jacobson.
Not pictured: Hugh Macdonald.



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“Copy editing is my favourite computer game. I get to hunt and kill semicolons, replace hyphens with N-dashes, and feel orthographically superlative and grammatically correct when I catch other editors’ mistakes. Yes, I’d rather get paid for it—hire me!”

—JENNIFER GETSINGER

“Volunteering as a *WCE* staffer gave me experience copy editing when I was just starting out as an editor, not to mention insight into the kooky minds of the people who run our publication.”

—JESSICA KLASSEN

“Trying to catch a proofreading error is almost impossible with Cheryl. It’s like a treasure hunt. And if I do find one, I have to nicely tell her about it without sounding like I’m doing a happy dance.” —CHRISTINE DUDGEON

“After reluctantly coming back from a two-month house swap in Paris, I’m ready for another season of *WCE*. Vancouver weather is chilly and I miss the French bakeries, but having my cat back makes up for it.”

—EVA VAN EMDEN

“Tempus fugit ... I can’t believe I began copy editing and proofreading *West Coast Editor* in 2008 and *Active Voice* in 2009. Fun, fun, fun! (What’s one more deadline, after all?)” —DIANNE FOWLIE

“I like the challenge of trying to reflect the interests and concerns of EAC-BCers in a few pages. I’m returning for another year because I want to get this publication online!”

—CHERYL HANNAH

“As a work-at-home mum of three, sometimes there is nothing I relish more than locking myself in my office for a bit to proofread or copy edit nearly perfect work. It is my little slice of heaven. ‘Not now, mummy’s working!’”

—KELLY ENG

“I have been copy editing and proofreading for *West Coast Editor* since shortly after I graduated from Douglas College’s Print Futures program back in 1997. I am happy for the opportunity to contribute to EAC-BC in this way.” —KATHLEEN BOLTON



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01 Eva van Emden, *WCE* copy editor and proofreader. Photo by Marc d’Entremont.

02 Dianne Fowlie, *WCE* copy editor and proofreader. Photo courtesy Dianne Fowlie.

03 Cheryl Hannah, *WCE* co-chair, editor, house writer, and designer. Photo courtesy Cheryl Hannah.

04 Kelly Eng, *WCE* copy editor and proofreader. Photo by janephoto.ca.

05 Kathleen Bolton, *WCE* copy editor and proofreader. Photo by Christine Konrad.

EDITING IN THE AGE OF e-EVERYTHING

The 2011 EAC National Conference was a success. With two keynote speakers, more than 50 sessions, and a red-carpet-themed Welcome Reception, a good (and educational) time was had by all. In keeping with the spirit of the theme, communications coordinators Marlene Dong and Wael Elazab seemed to be everywhere, smart-phones in hand, live-tweeting the event.

The only sad note? The absence of long-time EAC-BC member, writer, and blogger Derek K. Miller, who passed away on May 3, 2011, of complications from stage 4 metastatic colorectal cancer. He was only 41. Former BC branch chair Lynn Smith shared her memories of Derek to those gathered for the AGM. Derek is survived by his wife and two daughters and his parents. Read more about Derek and the Miller Family Trust at www.penmachine.com.



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01 Chris Ward; Brian Scrivener; Naomi Cloutier; Dawn-Louise McLeod; Wayne Egers. **02** Arlene Prunkl. **03** The conference committee: Marlene Dong; Juliann Krushen; Wael Elazab; Holly Yoos; Naomi Pauls; Helena Aalto; Chantal Moore; Margot Senchyna; Theresa Best. **04** Marlene Dong; Wael Elazab. **05** Sandra Otto (and her pencil-bedecked fascinator). **06** Brenda Martin. **07** Sue McManus. **Photos 1, 5–7 by Matilda Dray. Photos 2–4 by Lib Alcock. See all 91 photos at www.flickr.com/photos/conference_2011_welcome_reception.**

etcetera

UPCOMING EVENTS EAC-BC BOOK SWAP AND 2011–2012 ELECTIONS

June 29, 2011

Free books, light refreshments, and a bit of networking. Mark your calendars now for EAC-BC's book swap and 2011–2012 elections.

Please note: this event will take place at the YWCA Hotel at 733 Beatty Street, not at the YWCA on Hornby.

Time: 7:00 pm

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

Place: YWCA Hotel
733 Beatty Street
Vancouver

The YWCA Hotel is located between Georgia Street and Robson Street on the west side of Beatty Street, 1½ blocks south of the Stadium SkyTrain Station.

Street parking is available. (The hotel's underground parking lot is accessible to hotel guests only.)

Information: www.editors.ca/node/904 or bcprograms@editors.ca

WRITE ON BOWEN 2011

July 8–10, 2011

Have you always harboured a secret desire to pen the great Canadian novel? Or romance? Or thriller? If so, Write on Bowen might be for you: it offers a full weekend of writing workshops, panel presentations, and guest speakers. This year, award-winning writers Timothy Taylor and Annabel Lyon are among those scheduled to speak.

Place: Artisan Square,
Bowen Island, BC

Information: www.biac.ca/writersfestival/

SUNSHINE COAST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN ARTS

August 4–7, 2011

Spend a few days in Sechelt, communing with fellow fans of the written word. This year, the lineup of authors includes Sylvia Tyson, Johanna Skibsrud, Anna Porter, Margaret Trudeau, Timothy Taylor, Alexander MacLeod, and Giles Blunt.

Place: Rockwood Centre
Sechelt, BC

Information: www.writersfestival.ca/festivalevents.htm

NEW MEMBERS

Vicky Anderson, Sooke
Nancy Blair, Vancouver
Laura Brandes, Esquimalt
Wayne Egers, Kamloops
Michael Ferreira, Burnaby
Richard Finnigan, Christina Lake
Robin Fowler, Vancouver
Claire Haddock, Langley
Mona Hall, Kamloops
Joan Higgs, Roberts Creek
Nita Joy, Vancouver
Talia LeDuc, White Rock
Tara Lyon, Vancouver
Lisa Mawle, Gibsons
Lyne Mondor, Burnaby
Cynthia Nugent, Vancouver
Catherine Plear, Vancouver
Megan Radford, Victoria
Deirdre Salisbury, Vancouver
Beverley Stewart, Salt Spring Island
Sharon Stoose, Victoria
Philip Trueman, Squamish
Christophe Van Cauwenbergh,
North Vancouver
Kayleigh von Wittgenstein, Victoria
Christopher Ward, Kamloops

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

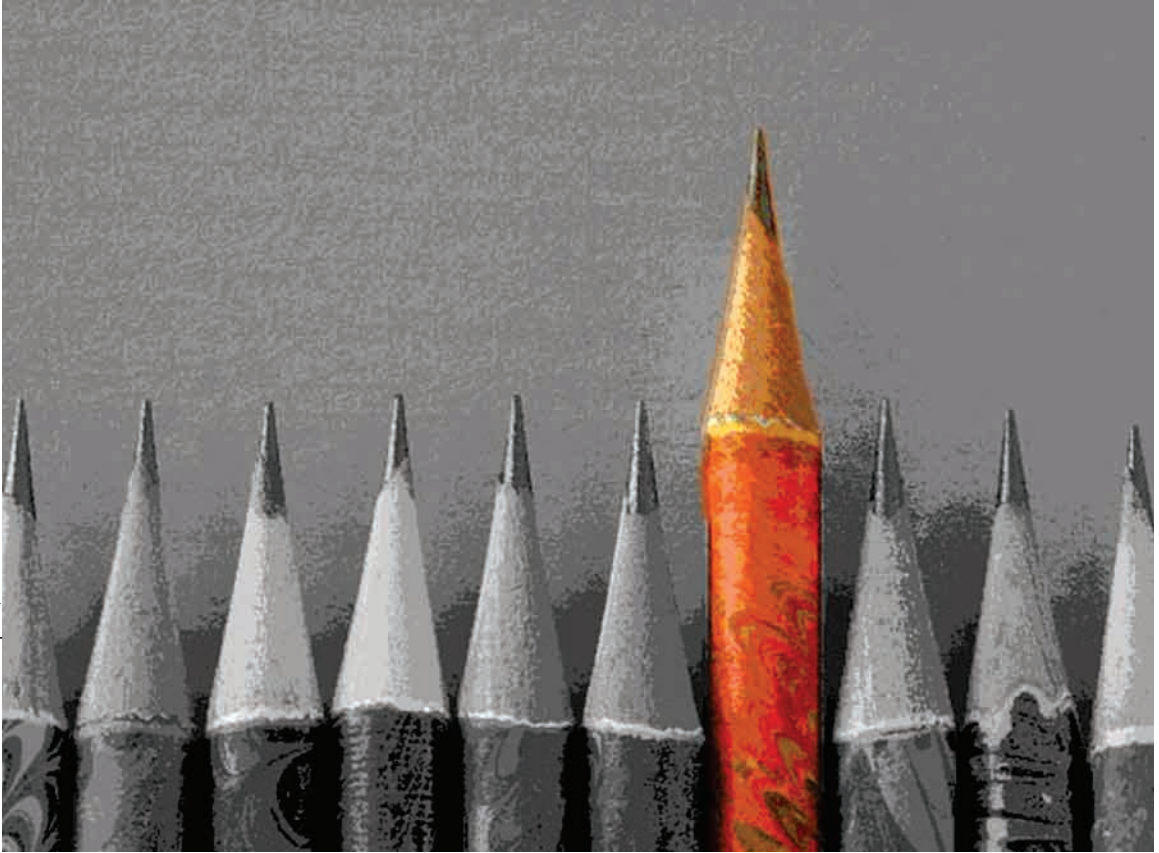
West Coast Editor is accepting submissions for the following issues. Please contact Cheryl at westcoasteditor@editors.ca to discuss your ideas.

September 2011: EAC-BC membership survey: results edition
Copy deadline: July 27, 2011
Theme: results and analysis of EAC-BC's April 2011 membership survey

October 2011: Secret lives of editors
Copy deadline: August 31, 2011
Theme: a showcase of the creative work of BC editors (e.g., poetry, art, creative writing, photography)

Stand **out** from the crowd!

Photo from MS Word clipart, 2002



Become an eac-bc volunteer.

Come to EAC-BC's volunteer election night
at the YWCA Hotel on June 29 at 7:00 pm
or email branch administrator Miro Kinch:
bccordinator@editors.ca

YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty Street
Vancouver