

october 2011

WEST COAST EDITOR

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

f which Sir Walter found himself obliged
to her soon afterwards. Elizabeth had
purpose of deeper efficacy. She felt herself
unfortunate, as did her father; and the
of them able to devise any means of lessening
pains without compromising their dignity
ing their comforts in a way not to be borne
s only a small part of his estate that Sir
d dispose of; but had every acre been alien
d have made no difference. He had con
to me as far as he had the power, but
ever descend to sell. No; he would
ee his name so far. The Killynack estate
transmitted whole and entire, as he had

WHAT'S UP
WITH THIS COVER?
SEE PAGE 3.

WEST COAST EDITOR

October 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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Secret lives of editors

Deep into preparations for this, the second issue of “Secret Lives of Editors,” we happened across a quotation from 1940s song-and-dance-man Danny Kaye:

“Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.”†

Great advice. And the more we thought about it, the more we recognized it as advice editors already live their lives by. Editors are, by nature and training, eager to learn more, to try more, to experience more.

So in the spirit of Danny Kaye himself, we have chosen to feature two editors who exemplify this advice: David Harrison and Lib Alcock. In addition to living the life of mild-mannered editor, David and Lib live a variety of lives as, respectively, athlete, musician, and volunteer and humour-writer and cartoonist. To read more about “The many (not so secret) lives of David,” go to pages 8–12; to read more about Lib—and to see her cartoon self-portrait—go to pages 14–16 (“Real life: editor. Secret life: writer and cartoonist”).

Enjoy.

West coast editor

P.S. Would you like to be featured in a future “Secret Lives of Editors” issue? Contact us at westcoasteditors@editors.ca.

† Source: Danny Kaye, as quoted at www.quoteagarden.com/life.html, accessed September 16, 2011

WHOOOPS!

Noticed an error in a street sign, a restaurant sign, or in an ad? Send us the photo by December 9. You could win a 6-oz. *WCE* latte mug.

Contributors

Lib Alcock (“Secret life: writer and cartoonist,” pages 14–16) is not only imaginative but meticulous and tech-savvy as well. She’s an Adobe Creative Suite expert who designs various magazines, periodicals, and small websites. Lib holds a desktop publishing certificate from BCIT and in 2012 will complete requirements for an editing certificate from SFU.

Possessing the editing gene,

Carol Tulpar (“The many (not so secret) lives of David,” pages 8–12) is frequently distracted by linguistic errors that she itches to correct. One of the factors that makes her job as an ESL instructor so rewarding is the strange and diverting pictures her students inadvertently create in their attempts to express themselves. Currently, Carol is reading *The Gathering* by Irish writer Anne Enright.

[What’s up with this month’s cover?]

The cover of this month’s issue is based on a 1908 J.M. Dent & Company edition of *Persuasion*, by Jane Austen. The secret message, picked out from Chapter 1 is the theme of this month’s issue, “Secret Lives.”

We chose to feature Austen’s work because of her connection to our theme: her novels were originally published anonymously, under the pseudonym “A Lady.”

Source: www.jasna.org/bookrev/br162p22.html, accessed September 23, 2011

Contents

- 04 *Curios*: Bad writing takes the prize
- 06 *Curios*: Who’s who?
- 07 Word art for editors
- 08 The many (not so secret) lives of David, by Carol Tulpar
- 13 Who’s who?: answers and sources
- 14 Lib Alcock: Secret life: writer and cartoonist, a *WCE* interview
- 17 *Letters*: Scholarship recipient sends thanks; “What’s a meta for?”
- 18 *Etcetera*
 - October 18–23, 2011: Vancouver International Writers Festival
 - October 19, 2011: The relationship between authors, editors, and publishers
 - October 21–23, 2011: Surrey International Writers’ Conference
 - November 16, 2011: EAC-BC New Members Welcome session
 - November 16, 2011: Doing business with the government

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“Read widely and with discrimination.
Bad writing is contagious.”† —P.D. JAMES

curios

Bad writing takes the prize

Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest 2011 results

Adventure, Crime, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Purple Prose, Romance, Science Fiction, Vile Puns, and Western: these were the entry categories for the 2011 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, a literary competition sponsored by the English department at San José State University. Since 1982, San José State’s English department has sponsored the contest, one that challenges writers to compose an opening sentence to the “worst of all possible novels.”††

This year, the winning sentence distinguished itself by containing only 26 words (see page 5), making it “the shortest grand prize winner in Contest history, proving that bad writing need not be prolix, or even very wordy.”†† Unlike the sentences of the great man himself.

Vancouverite Basil McDonnell received a dishonourable mention for his entry in the Crime category (see page 5). If you aspire to receiving a dishonourable mention of your own, go to www.bulwer-lytton.com for contest details. Contest deadline is April 15, 2012.

† Source: P.D. James, as quoted in “Novel Writing 101,”

The Globe and Mail, February 27, 2010

†† Source: www.bulwer-lytton.com, accessed September 16, 2011

††† Note: While the Bulwer Lyttons do not hyphenate their surname, the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest does.

The man

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,††† author of the infamous opening sentence: “It was a dark and stormy night.”

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.”††

The sentence

“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)

“Who shall say I am not the happy genius of my household?”[†] —WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS



Overall: winner

SUE FONDRIE, OSHKOSH, WI

“Cheryl’s mind turned like the vanes of a wind-powered turbine, chopping her sparrow-like thoughts into bloody pieces that fell onto a growing pile of forgotten memories.”^{††}

Overall: runner-up

RODNEY REED, OOLTEWAH, TN

“As I stood among the ransacked ruin that had been my home, surveying the aftermath of the senseless horrors and atrocities that had been perpetrated on my family and everything I hold dear, I swore to myself that no matter where I had to go, no matter what I had to do or endure, I would find the man who did this ... and when I did, when I did, oh, there would be words.”^{††}

Purple Prose: winner

MIKE PEDERSEN, NORTH BERWICK, ME

“As his small boat scudded before a brisk breeze under a sapphire sky dappled with cerulean clouds with indigo bases, through cobalt seas that deepened to navy nearer the boat and faded to azure at the horizon, Ian was at a loss as to why he felt blue.”^{††}

Romance: dishonourable mention

LISA KLUBER, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“They called her The Cat, because she made love the way she fought, rolling rapidly across the floor in a big, blurry ball of shrieking hair, fury, and dander, which usually solicited a ‘Shut up!’ and flung shoe from one of the neighbors [*sic*], and left her exhilarated lover with serious patchy bald spots and the occasional nicked ear.”^{††}

Western: winner

GRAHAM THOMAS, ST. ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE, UK

“The laser-blue eyes of the lone horseman tracked the slowly lengthening lariat of a Laredo dawn as it snaked its way through Dead Man’s Pass into the valley below and snared the still sleeping town’s tiny church steeple in a noose of light with the oh-so-familiar glow of a Dodge City virgin’s last maiden blush.”^{††}

Western: runner-up

LISA KLUBER, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“Sunburned and lost, Jake tightened the noose around Randy’s diaper-white neck and growled, ‘Any last words, varmint?’ to which Randy replied, ‘Don’t be afraid to go out on a limb, Jake—that’s where all the fruit is!’ which marked the first and last time Jake and the boys hired a life coach to lead one of their cattle drives.”^{††}

Crime: dishonourable mention

BASIL MCDONNELL, VANCOUVER, BC

“The victim was a short man, with a face full of contradictions: amalgam, composite, dental porcelain, with both precious and non-precious metals all competing for space in a mouth that was open, bloody, terrifying, gaping, exposing a clean set of asymptomatic impacted wisdom teeth, but clearly the object of some very comprehensive dental care, thought Dirk Graply, world-famous womanizer, tough guy, detective, and former dentist.”^{††}

[†] Source: William Carlos Williams, as quoted at <http://thinkexist.com/quotes>, accessed August 5, 2011

^{††} Note: All seven Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest 2011 opening sentences are from www.bulwer-lytton.com/2011.htm, accessed September 16, 2011

“There are no extra pieces in the universe. Everyone is here because he or she has a place to fill and every piece must fit itself into the big jigsaw puzzle.”† —DEEPAK CHOPRA



Who’s who?

A “*secret lives of authors*” quiz

Below is a list of 28 authors who have led secret literary lives, publishing some or all of their work under one or more pseudonyms. Match each author (from the list on the right) with a pseudonym (from the list on the left). Answers and sources are on page 13.

Pseudonym

Real name

Select from the list on the right

Richard Bachman	.....
Acton Bell	.....
Currer Bell	.....
Ellis Bell	.....
Boz	.....
Lewis Carroll	.....
Isak Dinesen	.....
Elia	.....
George Eliot	.....
A.A. Fair	.....
C.S. Forester	.....
Zane Grey	.....
O. Henry	.....
James Herriot	.....
John Le Carré	.....
Pablo Neruda	.....
Flann O’Brien	.....
George Orwell	.....
Anne Perry	.....
Anne Rice	.....
George Sand	.....
Lemony Snicket	.....
Tom Stoppard	.....
Mark Twain	.....
Barbara Vine	.....
Voltaire	.....
Ogdred Weary	.....
Mary Westmacott	.....

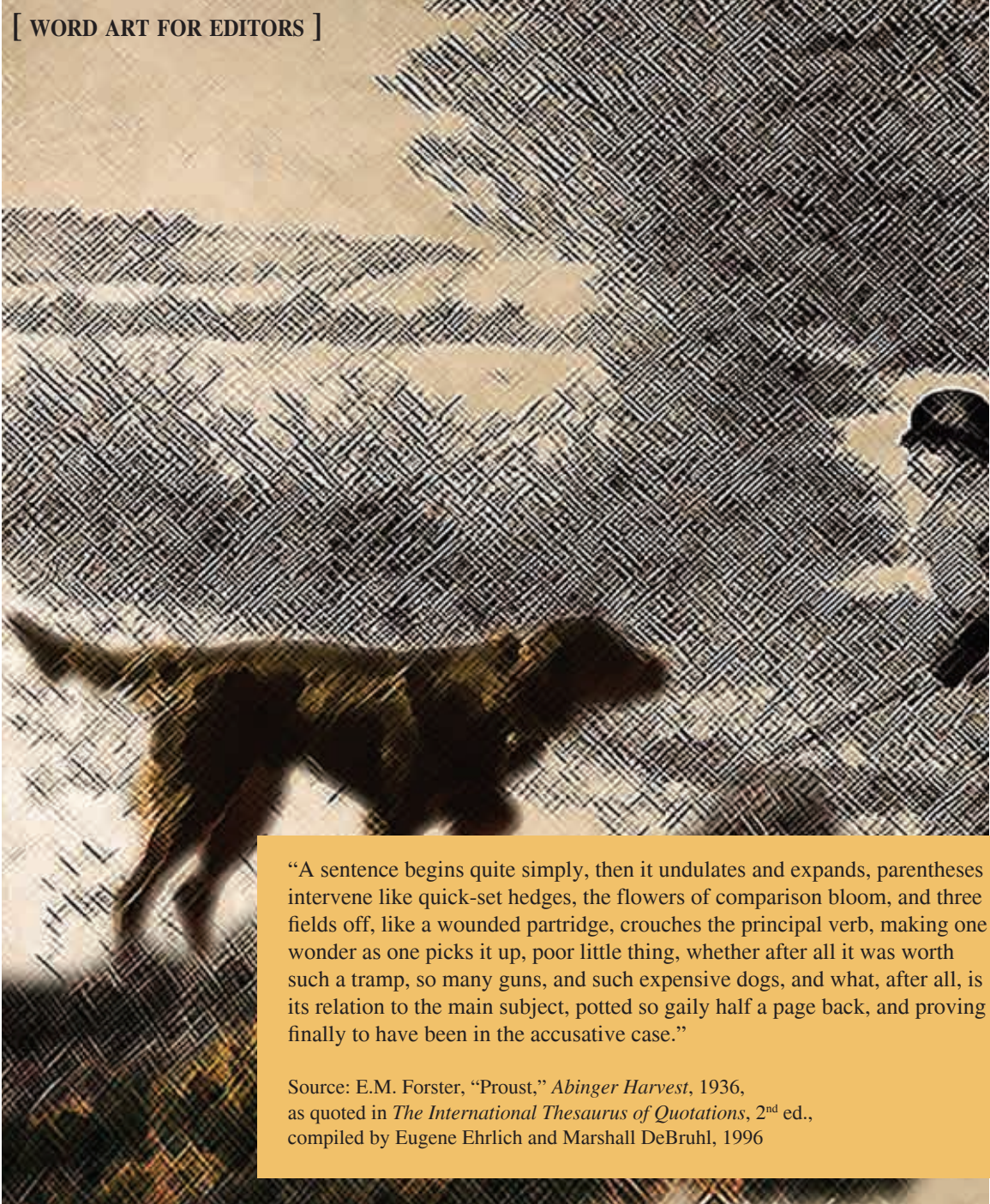
List of real names

Match each name to its pseudonym

- François-Marie Arouet
- Eric Arthur Blair
- Karen Blixen
- Anne Brontë
- Charlotte Brontë
- Emily Brontë
- Agatha Christie
- Samuel Langhorne Clemens
- David John Moore Cornwell
- Charles Dickens
- Charles Lutwidge Dodgson
- Amandine-Aurore Lucille Dupin
- Mary Ann Evans
- Erle Stanley Gardner
- Edward Gorey
- Pearl Zane Gray
- Daniel Handler
- Juliet Marion Hulme
- Stephen King
- Charles Lamb
- Howard Allen O’Brien
- Brian O’Nolan
- William Sidney Porter
- Ruth Rendell
- Neftalí Ricardo Reyes Basoalto
- Cecil Lewis Troughton Smith
- Tomáš Straußler
- James Alfred Wight

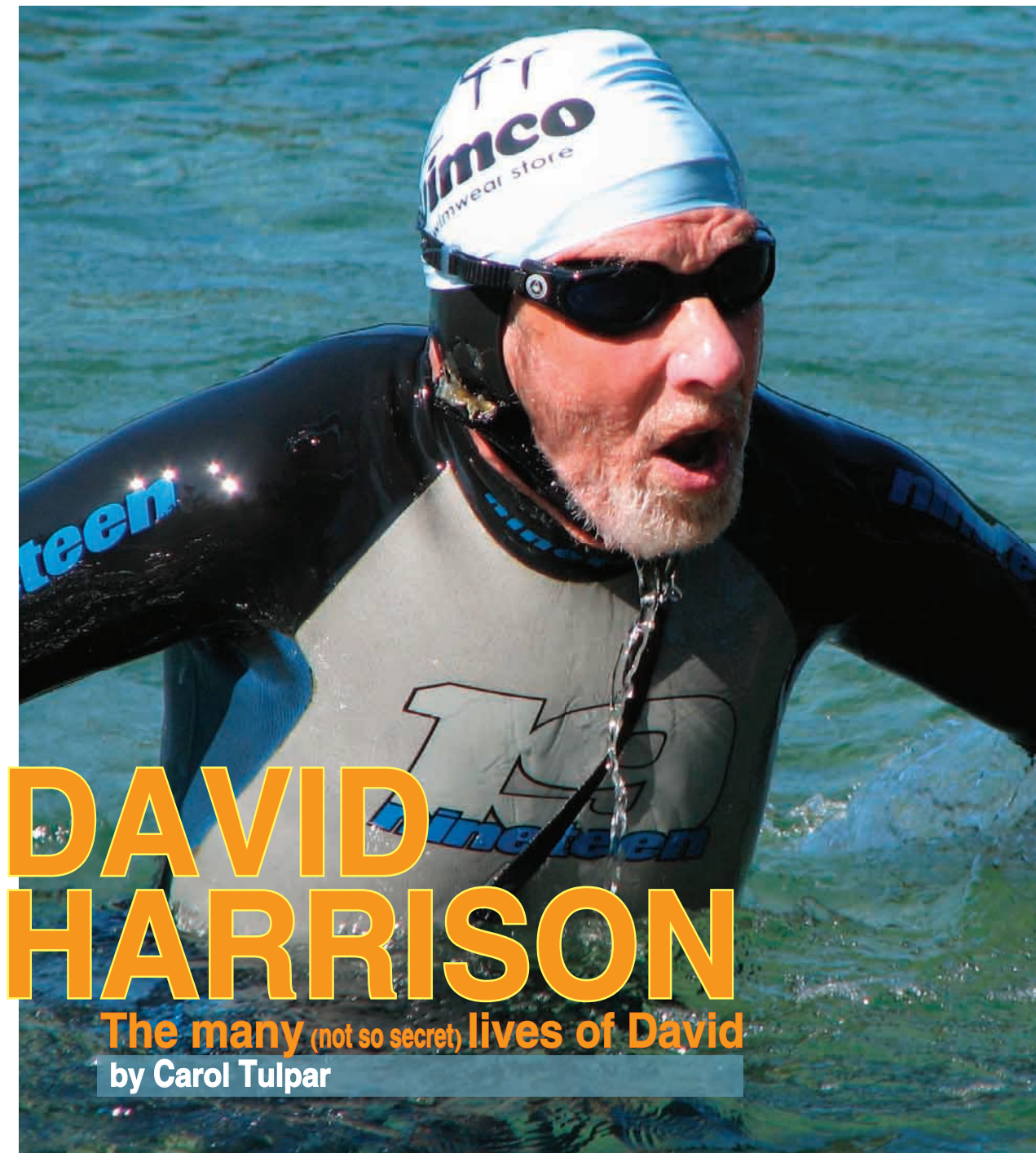
† Source: Deepak Chopra, as quoted at http://thinkexist.com/quotes/Deepak_Chopra, accessed August 11, 2011

[WORD ART FOR EDITORS]



“A sentence begins quite simply, then it undulates and expands, parentheses intervene like quick-set hedges, the flowers of comparison bloom, and three fields off, like a wounded partridge, crouches the principal verb, making one wonder as one picks it up, poor little thing, whether after all it was worth such a tramp, so many guns, and such expensive dogs, and what, after all, is its relation to the main subject, potted so gaily half a page back, and proving finally to have been in the accusative case.”

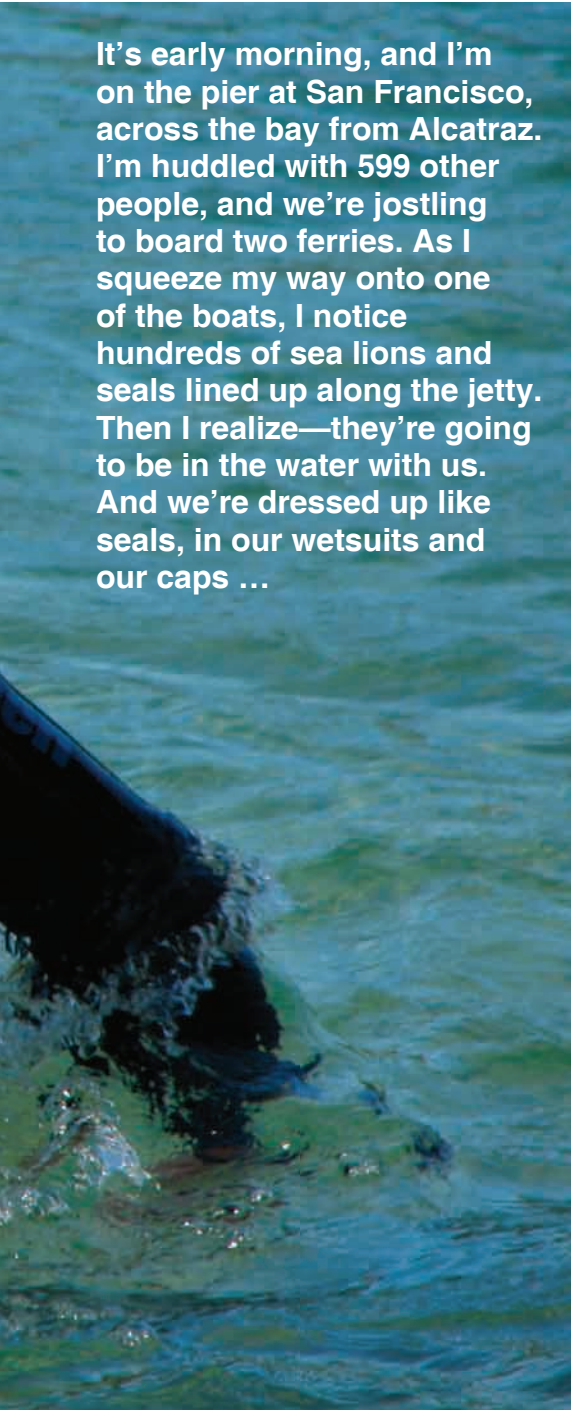
Source: E.M. Forster, “Proust,” *Abinger Harvest*, 1936,
as quoted in *The International Thesaurus of Quotations*, 2nd ed.,
compiled by Eugene Ehrlich and Marshall DeBruhl, 1996



DAVID HARRISON

The many (not so secret) lives of David

by Carol Tulpar



It's early morning, and I'm on the pier at San Francisco, across the bay from Alcatraz. I'm huddled with 599 other people, and we're jostling to board two ferries. As I squeeze my way onto one of the boats, I notice hundreds of sea lions and seals lined up along the jetty. Then I realize—they're going to be in the water with us. And we're dressed up like seals, in our wetsuits and our caps ...

The two ferries leave the dock, bound for the back of Alcatraz Island. As soon as we arrive, the ferry doors open, and the crew tells us to jump. Fifteen feet down. Feet first. It's kind of like bailing out of a plane without a parachute. As soon as we land, the crew on my boat warns, we must quickly swim away to make room for the 299 people who will be coming behind us ...

And so I jump.

When I surface, I see a line of kayakers, there to guide us back to the mainland. I'm relieved to see them because it's grey, and it's foggy, and there's a really strong current. (On the ride over, there had been talk about how we were going to navigate our way from Alcatraz to San Francisco because there are no lines to follow like there are on the bottom of an indoor pool. There had also been talk of sharks in the water—which most people said wasn't true, but you never know—and the day before, somebody got caught in a current and was swept down below the Golden Gate Bridge.) I line myself up with the kayakers and aim for one of the tall buildings across the bay. And then I just go for it. And I swim, and I swim, and I swim, and I swim. And I really don't notice how cold I am.

Finally, I arrive at Golden Gate Beach Park. Then I strip off my wetsuit and start running. For about 2½ miles. (The organizers put the running stage before the biking stage because in past triathlons people used to get on their bikes only to fall off because they were so cold.) Then I cycle for 13 miles. Then I run for another 7½ miles. Then I'm done. From what I can remember, I finished the race in just over 3 hours. I came first in my 65+ age group—but the thing is, the older you get, the fewer people there are left to compete against! A fact of life. Masters athletes look forward to their next birthday when it pushes them up into the next age group—it's like, "Heh—I'm the young guy in the 75–79 group. This is my year!"

—DAVID HARRISON, TALKING ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE IN
THE 2005 ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ TRIATHLON

[SECRET LIVES: DAVID HARRISON]

David has lived many lives although he's not sure how secret they have been. Canada is his adopted home, chosen after living and working in many countries. He was born in Lancashire and graduated from Cambridge with a degree in economics. A dynamo, David loves sport and music. He belongs to The Eh Team, a team of senior dragon boaters (average age, 65+) who race against teams half their age in regattas at False Creek, in Victoria, and in the Okanagan.

David uses sport, music, and volunteer work to balance the isolation that comes with an editor's life. "Editing is a solitary task," he says, "and it's pretty essential to break away from the desk and do real things with real people."

Secret life #1: sport

It was while finishing his PhD at the University of Arizona that David rediscovered the joy of exercise as a de-stressor and began to consciously use sport to balance his intellectual work. Though as a boy in England he had played rugby, beach hockey, and had run cross-country, his first careers in journalism and aviation (flying helicopters) were sedentary. This all changed when he got into, first, masters running in his 40s and then triathlon (swim–bike–run) in his 50s. He loved this, started a triathlon club in Vancouver, and did over 95 triathlons in the next 20 years, competing for Canada six times.

A few years ago ("Nothing to do with age!"), David switched to "a different set of secret lives."

Now his "triathlon" is open-water-swim racing, dragon boating with The Eh Team, and year-round weekly hikes up Grouse Mountain (or in winter, the new 4.5-K snowshoe hike up to Dam Mountain).

Secret life #2: music

David also loves music. He sings bass in his church choir and is in "Summer Chor," a local 100-voice choir. This year he joined a handbell chorus, surprised to find himself the only man among a dozen bell ringers: "They were glad to have someone to handle the big bells!" he says.

Secret life #3: volunteerism

Volunteering is yet another way David adds balance to his life, and this will be his second year as EAC-BC branch secretary.

In addition to volunteering for EAC-BC, each week David puts in four hours reading student textbooks for the Talking Books program (for blind and visually impaired people) at UBC's Crane Library. He also does a community radio news broadcast for the blind, with Accessible Media, downtown. David was also part of a group that organized major swim races in English Bay this past summer and has just started writing a parish history for the centennial of St. Helen's Anglican Church in Point Grey.

Professional life: from student journalist to professional editor

Like many editors, David found his way into the profession more by accident than design. However, he has always had an affinity for words and credits his essay-writing skills ("Definitely not my sporting ability") for getting him into Cambridge.

He gravitated from student journalism at Cambridge, where he edited *Varsity*, the student newspaper (one of the original models for *The Ubysey*); to a PR job in the City of London; then to freelance aviation writing (while piloting helicopters full-time in Latin America and the



01. David, on air at the Accessible Media broadcast studio in downtown Vancouver. 02. David readies the handbells for action at the Kerrisdale Community Centre. 03. David poses with a member of the Grouse Snowshoe Grind ski patrol at the summit. Photos courtesy of David Harrison.

01



02



03

[SECRET LIVES: DAVID HARRISON]

Canadian Arctic); and then to teaching and course design in the BC community college system.

While at Malaspina College—now Vancouver Island University (VIU)—in the early 1970s, he helped found a student newspaper modelled on the Cambridge *Varsity*. That paper, *The Navigator*, is still in business at VIU and going into its 43rd year.

THE MAKING OF AN EDITOR: PILOT TRAINING WITH NATO

When David graduated from Cambridge in 1955, it was the middle of the Cold War and Britain still had the draft: “That meant two years’ military service for everyone, regardless—though there was one other option: to go down into the coal mines. I was lucky. I got accepted for pilot training with NATO and trained on Harvards at RCAF Penhold, Alberta, and jets at RCAF Gimli, Manitoba.”

David came to Vancouver on leave in the late 1950s, and though it took another five years and several helicopter jobs in Panama, Costa Rica, Quebec, and New Zealand to get back, he arrived with his wife, Ruth, (and baby girl on the way) in 1962. He’s never looked back, and he and his wife now have two daughters and five granddaughters.

David worked full-time in educational program and course development for the last 20 years of his main career with the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada (CGA). He started work for the CGA in 1984 (when it was pioneering computer-integrated professional education) as its education director. In his office on Georgia Street, David worked with academics from 30 universities across Canada to develop high-level courses for accountants—a program that now leads to an online university degree as well.

After retiring from full-time work, David used that experience, and a number of new contacts in business and academia, to reinvent himself as an independent contractor (earning “Enough to fund our yearly trip to Europe!”). His projects and clients (when he’s not up Grouse Mountain or at large in the waters of English Bay) include developing online courses for SFU and the travel industry; putting the finishing touches on scholarly articles for academics in Scandinavia, Italy, and Germany; and editing full-length books for Canadian authors in geography, history, and science fiction.

He hasn’t yet felt the need for a website or a social media presence but is a big fan of the EAC network and the Online Directory of Editors. “I guess,” he says, “I’m lucky that interesting jobs and people keep finding me and giving me work.” Ω

Richard BACHMAN is Stephen King.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_King, accessed September 16, 2011

Acton BELL is Anne Brontë.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Currer BELL is Charlotte Brontë.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Ellis BELL is Emily Brontë.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

BOZ is Charles Dickens.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Lewis CARROLL is Charles Lutwidge Dodgson.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Isak DINESEN is Karen Blixen.
Source: *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, John Bartlett, 14th ed., 1968

ELIA is Charles Lamb.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

George ELIOT is Mary Ann Evans.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

A.A. FAIR is Erle Stanley Gardner.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erle_Stanley_Gardner, accessed September 16, 2011

C.S. FORESTER is Cecil Lewis Troughton Smith.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Zane GREY is Pearl Zane Gray.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearl_Zane_Grey, accessed September 16, 2011

O. HENRY is William Sidney Porter.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

James HERRIOT is James Alfred Wight.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

John Le CARRÉ is David John Moore Cornwell.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Pablo NERUDA is Nefalí Ricardo Reyes Basoalto.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Flann O'BRIEN is Brian O'Nolan. O'Nolan also writes as Myles na gCopaleen.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_O'Nolan, accessed September 16, 2011.

George ORWELL is Eric Arthur Blair.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Anne PERRY is Juliet Marion Hulme.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Perry, accessed September 16, 2011.

Anne RICE is Howard Allen O'Brien.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_allen_obrien, accessed September 16, 2011

George SAND is Amandine-Aurore Lucille Dupin.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Lemony SNICKET is Daniel Handler.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Handler, accessed September 16, 2011

Tom STOPPARD is Tomáš Straußler.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Mark TWAIN is Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Barbara VINE is Ruth Rendell.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

VOLTAIRE is François-Marie Arouet.
Source: *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2004

Ogdred WEARY is Edward Gorey. Gorey used dozens of pseudonyms, including Madame Groeda Weyrd.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Gorey, accessed September 16, 2011

Mary WESTMACOTT is Agatha Christie.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie, accessed July 6, 2011



Cartoon by Lib Alcock

LIB ALCOCK

Real life: editor

Secret life: writer and cartoonist

WCE: What compels you to draw?

LA: I write and draw mostly to entertain and to express my quirky sense of humour to the world. I do this via my cartoon blog, *My Sketchy Life*: <http://libsdailydoodle.blogspot.com>. I'm not very confident when I share my ideas through conversation; I'm often misunderstood that way. My ideas are better understood when I write or draw them.

Humour writing is an art form, and I admire those who do it well. Humour writing is also risky; but pairing concise language and simple imagery to express a specific viewpoint is a satisfying challenge to me.

WCE: Have drawing and writing been lifelong passions?

LA: I am a writer first and an artist second; drawings enhance the writing. I wasn't much of an artist when I was young. When I do draw, I sway toward imperfection because I know I haven't got the talent (or patience) to illustrate something to perfection. Art was always fun to create, and it came easily, but I never really took it seriously outside of school. Writing is something I've always been passionate about; it's always been my creative release. I was a faithful diary writer during my adolescent years.

WCE: Where does your inspiration come from?

LA: Humour was always a positive force in our family. One of my uncles is a fantastic cartoonist. When I was a child, whenever something silly or

embarrassing happened to a member of the family, and my uncle found out, he would draw a cartoon about it.

So I always admired his cartooning savvy but never attempted it myself. But then a couple of years ago, I was inspired to try when I discovered a book called *The New Comedy Writing Step by Step*, by Gene Perret. This book has some terrific comedy writing exercises. One exercise pairs gag-line writing with basic cartooning, using household items for inspiration. I was hooked and kept at it.

WCE: What was the thought-process that went into creating your cartoon self-portrait?

LA: As an editor, I'm happy to produce books even when the process feels like walking a tightrope, balancing between tasks of designing, proofreading, and printing. There's always the possibility I could fall, hence the dog's concern. As for the grumpy cat, he's there to add comic edginess.

WCE: What was your favourite childhood book?

LA: Both *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*, by Lewis Carroll (published by Random House New York), were my favourite books. I can vividly recall the two-book set. It was housed in a plain, brown cardboard sleeve and sat on my dresser, next to my bed, in our house in Burnaby. On the book's cardboard sleeve was an illustration of Alice, the Rabbit, and the Mad Hatter, seated at a long dining table during the mad tea party. Both books had a

"I am a writer first and an artist second; drawings enhance the writing."
—LIB ALCOCK

[SECRET LIVES: LIB ALCOCK]



Editor Lib Alcock is also a writer and cartoonist.
Photo by C. Alcock.

striped book cover; one book spine was red, the other blue.

I would sit on my bed and re-read those books for hours, and I would stare intently at John Tenniel's illustrations as dialogue between the characters replayed in my head. The situations Alice encountered haunted my imagination. I loved the fact that Alice was independent, unflappable, and open-minded. The unpredictability of *Wonderland* was fascinating. I loved how Alice's staunch British civil beliefs were challenged by the charming, offbeat characters.

Through reading about Alice's experiences in *Wonderland*, I learned it was okay to venture outside your

comfort zone, to look beyond your own perspective, and to ask questions.

WCE: What are you currently reading?

LA: I usually read "how-to" computer software manuals to keep my digital design skills current. I just finished reading *E-PUB Straight to the Point*, by Elizabeth Castro. Right now, I'm fascinated by e-book production from a technical standpoint. I'm excited about how book publishing is evolving and how popular e-readers have become. Since discovering it's possible to create e-reader book files using Adobe InDesign—the software I've been using for years to produce print books—I'm intrigued to learn more. Ω

"Through reading about Alice's experiences in *Wonderland*, I learned it was okay to venture outside your comfort zone."

—LIB ALCOCK

“Cut out the metaphors and similes. In my first book I promised myself I wouldn’t use any, and I slipped up during a sunset in Chapter 11. I still blush when I come across it.”† —ESTHER FREUD

Scholarship recipient sends thanks

Thank you very much for the generous bursary. After completing a degree in sociology, and working for a few years after that, I decided to return to school.

Nearing the end of my time in Langara’s Publishing Program, I finally feel that I am heading in the right direction. The bursary you provided will help with expenses while I do an editorial internship at *Western Living Magazine*.

Thank you again! It is very much appreciated.

Alexa Love,
Vancouver

Alexa Love was one of two BC students selected in 2011 to receive a \$250 EAC-BC scholarship. —Ed.



Langara College instructor Claude Painter (l) presents a \$250 EAC-BC scholarship to publishing student Alexa Love (r). Photo courtesy of Langara College.

“What’s a meta for?”

While cleaning my office recently, I came across a list of overwrought metaphors and similes created by schoolchildren. They were published in an old issue of *Towing and Recovery Footnotes* (“What’s a Meta For?” December 2008). I thought EAC-BCers might find them amusing.

Here are some of my favourites:

“He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant, and she was the East River.”

“She grew on him like she was a colony of *E. coli* and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.”

“He was as lame as a duck, not the metaphorical lame duck either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.”

“Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling [*sic*] at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.”

“Shots rang out, as shots are known to do.”

“The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.”

“The little boat gently drifted across the pond, exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn’t.”

Gary Lund,
Vancouver

† Esther Freud, as quoted in “Novel Writing 101,” *The Globe and Mail*, February 27, 2010

etcetera

The 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 \$8.00 after 6:00 pm. Street parking is also available.

Information: www.editors.ca/node/904

SURREY INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE

October 21–23, 2011

The Surrey International Writers' Conference attracts authors, editors, and agents from across North America. Drop by the EAC-BC booth at the trade show on Friday, October 21, Saturday, October 22, or Sunday, October 23. Even better, contact public relations chair Jessica Klassen at bepr@editors.ca and volunteer to staff the booth for an hour or two. Volunteering is a great way to connect with other members and promote the editing profession.

Place: Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel
15269-104th Avenue
Surrey

Information: www.siwc.ca

EAC-BC NEW MEMBERS WELCOME SESSION

November 16, 2011

Host: Carey Ditmars, EAC-BC members services chair

New to EAC-BC? Then plan to attend the November 16 New Members Welcome session. It's a great opportunity to learn about the

UPCOMING EVENTS VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WRITERS FESTIVAL

October 18–23, 2011

The Vancouver International Writers Festival always attracts internationally acclaimed and yet-to-be-discovered writers. BC authors scheduled to speak at the festival include Charlotte Gill (*Ladykiller*) and Timothy Taylor (*Stanley Park*, *Story House*, and *The Blue Light Project*).

Place: Granville Island
Vancouver

Information: www.writersfest.bc.ca

EAC-BC SPEAKER SESSION: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUTHORS, EDITORS, AND PUBLISHERS

October 19, 2011

Guest speaker: R. David Stephens

Join us for a presentation by David Stephens, senior editor for Tradewind Books and an associate editor for Granville Island Publishing.

David currently teaches fiction-editing courses at SFU and a "Second Draft" course at UBC.

He has also instructed at Tufts University, the University of San Francisco, and Shoreline Community College.

His children's book *My Animal Friends* was chosen by the BC Ministry of Education to be given to 40,000 pre-school children as part of its "Ready, Set, Learn" program. He has won the Irving Prize for American Wit & Humor [*sic*] from the University of California at Berkeley for his short story *You Can Forget Hemingway*. He is also a published poet, and his plays have received productions at The UBC Summer Theatre Festival, The New Ideas Festival, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, and The Fringe of Toronto Festival.

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–9:00 pm

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

Place: YWCA
535 Hornby Street
Welch Room, 4th floor
Vancouver

association and all it has to offer.
Interested? RSVP to Carey Ditmars
at bcmemberservices@editors.ca.

Time: 7:00–7:30 pm

Cost: Free

Place: YWCA
535 Hornby Street
Welch Room, 4th floor
Vancouver

The 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 \$8.00 after 6:00 pm. Street parking is also available.

Information: www.editors.ca/node/904

EAC-BC SPEAKER SESSION: DOING BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT

November 16, 2011

Guest speaker: Walker Pautz

Did you know there's a market for selling writing and editing services to the federal government? Would you like to find out more?

Walker Pautz, from the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), will describe how you can register to sell your services to the government, how you can navigate government websites to conduct market research, how you can find key marketing contacts, and how you can bid on opportunities.

Time: 7:30 pm–9:00 pm

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

Place: YWCA
535 Hornby Street
Welch Room, 4th floor
Vancouver

The 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 \$8.00 after 6:00 pm. Street parking is also available.

Information: www.editors.ca/node/904

HELP WANTED PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Programs Committee is looking for a co-chair and 2 committee members. Interested? Contact co-chair Micheline Brodeur at bcprograms@editors.ca.

Time commitment (co-chair): 3–5 hours per month. Time commitment (committee member): committee members can volunteer on an event-by-event basis.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee is looking for 2 committee members. Interested? Contact co-chairs Eve Rickert and Jessica Klassen at bcsocial@editors.ca.

Time commitment: committee members can volunteer on an event-by-event basis.

NEW MEMBERS

Stefania Alexandru, Vancouver
Jeff Chan, Vancouver
Tania Cheffins, North Vancouver
Cari Ferguson, Vancouver
Kerry Hall, Vancouver
Andy Holloway, Vancouver
Shelagh Jamieson, Port Coquitlam
Shelby Jurak, Surrey
Kathryn Koep, Nelson
Lorraine Martinuik, Denman Island
Deirdre Maultsaid, Burnaby
Moira McDermott, Vancouver
Julie McManus, Nanaimo
Denise Mok, Richmond
Peg Monro, Vancouver
Joni Savage, Seattle
Nova Sawatzky, Victoria
Mary Schendlinger, Vancouver
Rosemary Sidle, New Westminster
Julie Tessema, North Vancouver
Kelly Thompson, Vancouver
Eva von Buchenroder, Vancouver
Karen von Muehldorfer, Victoria
Heather Watkins, Richmond
Sandra Young, Richmond
Annette Yourk, Quathiaski Cove

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

January 2012: special broadsheet edition (“*The Bugle*”)
Copy deadline: November 9, 2011
Theme: EAC-related news and information

February 2012: Drive-by Editing
Photo deadline: December 9, 2011
Theme: mistakes that appear in public signage (grammar mistakes, usage mistakes, typos)

You there. In the library.
We want to know:

What's *that* you're reading?

EAC-BCers are avid 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.