

THE WEST COAST EDITOR BUGLE.

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

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BC BRANCH CHAIR REVEALS 3-POINT PLAN FOR COMING YEAR.

**A letter from incoming
branch chair Peter Moskos.**

Special to The Bugle.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER MOSKOS.

VANCOUVER, September 13th.— Just a few months ago, BC branch hosted one of the best national conferences that EAC has ever held. Great pre-conference workshops, wonderful speakers, wide-ranging topics, a sparkling reception, and a marvelous banquet. We added another Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence winner from BC (Lucy Kenward, for her work on *Vij's at Home: Relax, Honey*) and had Murchie's host a tea party featuring our own "Editors' Blend Tea." And all of this came about not by luck, but from inspired leadership and countless dedicated and skilful volunteers. We are one of EAC's most dynamic branches, and we have much to be proud of.

All of this makes me pleased to be BC branch's new chair. With such a successful conference behind us, prospects for the coming year are very promising.

**RETURNING EXECUTIVE;
NEW EXECUTIVE.**

To start with, we have an amazing team on our new executive committee.

A number of last year's executive members are returning to continue their outstanding work: Barbara Dominik as treasurer, David Harrison as secretary, Jessica Klassen as public relations chair, Cheryl Hannah and Hugh Macdonald as *West Coast Editor* co-chairs (Hugh is past-president as well), Tina Robinson as hotline chair, and Margot Senchyna as webmaster. And, of course, Miro Kinch is returning as branch coordinator to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Equally exciting is our new blood: Micheline Brodeur is programs chair, Eva van Emden and Tina Robinson are professional development co-chairs, Eve Rickert and Jessica Klassen are social co-chairs, and Carey Ditmars is member services chair.

DETAILS OF THE PLAN: FRESH TOPICS; NEW SEMINAR LOCATIONS; FOCUS ON JOBS.

Also contributing to the coming year is a wealth of new ideas and endeavours. A membership survey conducted earlier this year has given us a real sense of what you, our members, want. Already, we've been talking about fresh topics for monthly programs and professional development seminars. And we intend to start putting on seminars outside of Vancouver so that we are truly serving all of our BC members. Inspired by the conference, we hope to come up with strategies for helping members find work, especially with our federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

But all of this will come to naught without your participation. We need your participation in four ways. **HELP OUT AS A COMMITTEE MEMBER** working on seminars, monthly programs, social life, and public relations. **COME TO OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS**, whether you are a long-time member or a new one, and make a point of getting to know your colleagues. New members need older members' advice, and senior members need to be inspired by the hopes, energy, and passions of those just getting started. **GIVE US YOUR IDEAS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**, and then come out and attend them—or present them. **HELP ORGANIZE THE CHRISTMAS PARTY** and be sure to attend with your spouse or partner. Your executive is ready to go. All we need is your enthusiastic support and participation.

STAY IN THE KNOW: FOLLOW EAC-BC ON TWITTER.

Whether you are sick of the social media hype or are an avid tweeter, follow EAC-BC on Twitter @editorsbc. Learn about upcoming events relevant to BC editors, job postings that don't make it to the EAC-BC Hotline, as well as editing-related articles and news.

HERE'S HOW:

1. Go to www.twitter.com/editorsbc to check out the EAC-BC Twitter stream. (Or check out what fellow EAC-BCers are tweeting about at www.twitter.com/editorsbc/eac-bc-members.)
2. Lurk, listen, and read.
3. Sign up for a Twitter account of your own. (Let us know when you do—@editorsbc—and we will add your account to the EAC-BC member list.)
4. Join the conversation!



September 21 Meeting: Editing Portfolio Showcase.

Ever wonder how other editors present their portfolios? Or what they include? And how they use their portfolios to showcase their editorial skills? Join us for a show-and-tell session with three Vancouver-area editors as they provide insights into their portfolios. We will draw for a door prize at the end of the evening.

Time: 7:30 pm.

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

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

Information: www.editors.ca/node/904.

EAC-BC MEMBERSHIP- SURVEY RESULTS REVEALED.

By Jessica Klassen.

VANCOUVER, September 3rd.— Earlier this year, EAC-BC conducted a membership survey. Below are highlights of the results; percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. See the complete results at www.editors.ca/content/bcs-membership-survey-results.

QUESTION: WHAT TYPE OF EDITING WORK DO YOU DO?

The majority of respondents identified themselves as “freelancers,” either full-time (40%) or part-time (31%). The next largest group of respondents, those who selected “other” (10%), was composed mainly of editing and writing instructors.

In-house editors, either full-time (5%) or part-time (2%), made up the second smallest group of respondents, leaving editing students and those simply interested in editing as the smallest group (3%).

QUESTION: WHICH EAC SERVICES DID YOU USE IN 2010 OR DO YOU INTEND TO USE IN 2011?

Respondents indicated that our local newsletter (*West Coast Editor*: 86%) and national newsletter (*Active Voice*: 76%) were their “most used” EAC services. The Online Directory of Editors (59%), monthly meetings (55%), the annual conference (55%), and the Online Job Hotline (45%) were the next most used. The “least used” EAC service was mediation (0%).

Other results: membership list (31%); @editors.ca email address (10%); National Job Board (28%); Interactive Voice (16%); insurance (5%); email LISTSERV (35%); podcasts of monthly meetings (12%); social events (26%); certification (16%); EAC publications (38%).

QUESTION: PLEASE RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF EAC-BC SOCIAL EVENTS TO YOU.

Only 24% of respondents rated EAC-BC social events as “important” and 7% as “very important.” The majority rated them as “unimportant” (36%) or “not very important” (33%); however, respondent comments indicated that this is likely due to travel and time constraints.

QUESTION: WHAT SOCIAL EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE EAC-BC HOST?

In addition to an annual Christmas Party (33%) and Spring Fling (38%), respondents had suggestions for several new EAC-BC social events. Two of the more popular suggestions: a September event for new members; and finding a way to combine social events with professional development.

Additionally, several respondents indicated that they would like EAC-BC to host social events on Vancouver Island, events that take place at the beginning of the year, and events on weekends.

QUESTION: WHAT AGE RANGE DO YOU FALL IN?

Almost half of respondents were between the ages of 45 and 59 (47%), followed by those between the ages of 30 and 44 (26%) and 60+ (19%). Fewer than 9% of respondents were under the age of 30.

QUESTION: HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN EDITING?

Nearly half of respondents have been editing for 20 or more years (41%). The next largest cohort? Members who have been editing for fewer than 10 years (38%).

QUESTION: WHERE DO YOU RESIDE?

Not surprisingly, more than 60% of respondents indicated that they live within driving distance of our Vancouver-based meetings; 26% of respondents (primarily from Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast) must take a ferry to come to our meetings and professional development seminars.

Festival, Conference, and Seminar Listings for September and October.

WORD ON THE STREET.

It's time again for Canada's annual book and magazine festival, complete with author readings, exhibits, and performances. Drop by the EAC-BC booth. Even better, contact public relations chair Jessica Klassen at bcpr@editors.ca to volunteer to staff our booth (at the Vancouver Public Library) for an hour or two on September 25. Volunteering is a great way to experience the festival, connect with your fellow members, and promote EAC. **When:** September 23–25, 2011.

Time: 11am–5pm. **Cost:** Free. **Location:** Library Square and CBC Plaza, Vancouver. **Information:** www.thewordonthestreet.ca/wots/vancouver.


THE SECRETS OF SYNTAX, PRESENTED BY FRANCES PECK.

We've all flipped a sentence around, or dismantled it and then recombined it, only to discover better clarity, emphasis, or flow. Why does that happen, and how can we become more adept at manipulating word order—or syntax—to improve prose? This seminar looks at syntax from various angles, including how to shape it for different documents and readers. Topics covered include subordination and coordination, periodic versus cumulative sentences, proximity of subject and verb, echo words, and special techniques such as ellipsis and isolation. **About the instructor:** Frances Peck is an editor and writer who has worked with words for more than 20 years. She prepared the Canadian edition of *The St. Martin's Workbook*; co-authored the popular HyperGrammar website; wrote *Peck's English Pointers*; and has a long-standing column in the journal *Language Update*. A partner with West Coast Editorial Associates, Frances teaches editing at Douglas College and Simon Fraser University and leads seminars for editors, writers, and translators across Canada. **When:** October 8, 2011. **Time:** 10:00 am–4:00 pm. **Cost:** \$100 for EAC members who register by September 16, 2011 (after: \$120); \$160 for non-members who register by September 16, 2011 (after: \$180). **Location:** SFU Vancouver, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. **Registration:** www.editors.ca/node/889.

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WRITERS FESTIVAL.

This 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*). **When:** October 18–23, 2011. **Location:** Granville Island, Vancouver. **Information:** www.writersfest.bc.ca.

SURREY INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE.

This conference attracts authors, editors, and agents from across North America. **When:** October 21–23, 2011. **Location:** Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel, 15269–104th Avenue, Surrey. **Information:** www.siwc.ca. 

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS.

West Coast Editor is accepting submissions for the following issues. Contact Cheryl Hannah at westcoasteditor@editors.ca to discuss your ideas. **WINTER 2011: 5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE.** Copy deadline: October 5, 2011. Word Count: 200–400. Theme: gift ideas, written as “gift featurettes.” **JANUARY 2012: DRIVE-BY EDITING.** Photo deadline: November 9, 2011. Theme: mistakes that appear in public signage (grammar mistakes, usage mistakes, typos).