

West Coast Editor

SEPTEMBER 2005

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

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ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES
RÉVISEURS

■ West Coast Events

THE 11th ANNUAL WORD ON THE STREET
National Book and Magazine Festival
September 25, 2005
11 am to 6 pm
Vancouver Library Square and CBC Plaza
www.thewordonthestreet.ca

THE 18th VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL WRITERS & READERS FESTIVAL
October 18–23, 2005
www.writersfest.bc.ca

2005 SURREY INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE
October 21–23, 2005
www.siw.ca

■ EAC-BC Volunteer Opportunities

If you've ever considered volunteering with EAC, now is the perfect time to get involved. We're looking forward to an exciting year at both the branch and national levels. No matter how much or how little time you can commit, no matter where you live in the province, we have opportunities to suit almost any interest, and we welcome your ideas and your energy.

The 2006 EAC/ACR national conference will be held June 9–11 at SFU Harbour Centre in downtown Vancouver. The theme is "Cultivating Diversity," and the keynote speaker is Wayson Choy. The last national conference the BC branch hosted was the successful "Editing on the Edge" in 2000.

The conference committee is co-chaired by Jean Lawrence (branch coordinator) and Lesley Cameron (past newsletter co-chair). The conference committee, which is separate from the branch executive, includes the following teams:

- Venue/Hospitality
- Sponsorship/Fundraising
- Promo/PR/Website
- Programs

We'll need volunteers to help promote the conference at literary events in the Lower Mainland and across the province. During the conference we'll need people to assist with registration, information, and room management. No matter where you live, you can join one of the teams and contribute through email and in your community.

While the BC branch executive is complete, several committee positions at the national level remain open in areas such as: francophone affairs, membership, member communications, online job tools, professional standards, training and development, and publications. These committees meet mainly by email and are a wonderful opportunity for members outside the Lower Mainland to contribute to the association's growth and improvement under the energetic leadership of our new national president, Maureen Nicholson.

Contact Daphne Sams, Conference 2006 Volunteer Coordinator/BC Branch Representative, at jordsams@shaw.ca.

West Coast Editor

September 2005

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Douglas College

■ EAC-BC's new Chair Kelly Parry brings enthusiasm and diversity

Kelly Parry is thrilled to be elected this year's chair of the BC branch of the Editors' Association of Canada, following a year as newsletter co-chair.

Kelly is a multifaceted writer, designer, and editor. Adding to her background of fine arts, graphic design, and print production, she is also a graduate of the Douglas College Print Futures: Professional Writing program.

"From crayons to keyboard, my working life has been a slow evolution, always seeking a better way to communicate. After years of trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up, I've finally found it: writer, editor, and designer," says Kelly.

Once hesitant to call herself a professional editor, Kelly now sees that everything in writing and design is some form of editing. "Except for the ideas coming directly from my brain to the paper, everything that follows is editing," she says.

Kelly recently completed a major



project for Kwantlen University College that involved a complete redesign of its almost-400-page print calendar, and a substantive edit of the calendar's online version.

In August 2005, Kelly returned to Douglas College as a Publication and Documentation Specialist. In addition to her continued development of technical writing and editing, she'll also be training others on software applications such as Microsoft Word and Adobe InDesign.

Kelly looks forward to serving EAC-BC members and helping prepare for the 2006 national conference, Cultivating Diversity (for which, incidentally, she designed the logo).

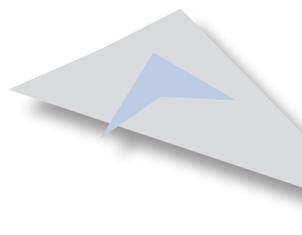
Kelly Parry's design ■ 2006 EAC/ACR National Conference, Cultivating Diversity

Watch us grow at
www.editors.ca/cultivate

2006 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
 EDITORS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

June 9-11
Vancouver, BC
 SFU HARBOUR CENTRE

Wayson Choy
 KEYNOTE SPEAKER



2005–2006

Ashley Mikulik

■ Programs

Ashley boasts that she can manage projects through the entire publishing cycle. While she loves writing, her ultimate passion is proofreading because she spots the extra spaces between words that others miss. Ashley graduated from the Print Futures: Professional Writing program in April 2005, and shortly after was hired as the editor of INSIDEOUT Publications, which produces two locally focused home-design magazines. When she isn't working, Ashley is making crafts or planning her upcoming spring wedding.

While Ashley loves writing, her ultimate passion is proofreading because she spots the extra spaces between words that others miss

Dania Sheldon

■ Professional Development

Granted her doctorate in English Literature from the University of Oxford, Dania has, nevertheless, clung tenaciously to her enduring interests in the biological and medical sciences. Dania is currently working as a writer and editor for the provincial government of British Columbia. She is also a freelance editor and indexer working on an eclectic mix of manuscripts, including American literature, comparative literature, political science, history, short fiction, memoirs, psychiatry, martial arts, ESL education, and wilderness travel guides.

Daphne Sams

■ Book Sales &

Branch National Representative

Daphne is a freelance editor and indexer with too many books, too few cats, and a talent for solving cryptic crosswords. Her background includes theatre, anthropology, government, hospitality, silk-screening, counselling, and teaching. She's been told her "problem" is that she has too many funny stories. She thinks that's impossible. Addicted to travel and change, Daphne is eager to journey to EAC/ACR national meetings.

Graham Hayman

■ Outreach Coordinator

Graham is a new editor, and new Canadian, from South Africa, where he taught TV production and broadcasting systems in the country's first journalism school. He also independently produced several documentaries and, prior to that, was a TV producer with South Africa's national broadcaster. As owner of Allograph, a communications and content-development company, he has edited two books and is working on two more. He has written marketing copy and magazine features, and distributes feature and documentary films on Africa. Graham's interests are yoga, photography, fundraising, Sunday drumming, and the comic-strip-nature of life in BC.

Karen Reppin

■ Secretary

Karen comes to editing through her experience as an English-language teacher. While working toward her Editing Certificate from SFU, she has copy edited several short stories, and currently volunteers with the Canadian Cancer Society as editor of the newsletter *Volunteer Voice*.

Krista Zundel

■ Public Relations

Krista is undertaking her second year as public relations chair. She holds a diploma in professional writing from Douglas College. Krista currently has a full-time position in marketing in the wine industry, and is also writing a technical manual for financial software.

EAC-BC Executive

Lynn Smith

■ Past Chair

Having spent two busy years doing double duty as both chair and BC branch representative, Lynn is looking forward to a quieter year as past chair. Lynn is an in-house editor with the publications division of The Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, where her love of editing and her previous experience as a legal assistant are put to good use.

Mark Varley

■ Treasurer

Mark operates The Axios Consulting Group, providing project management, financial-consulting services, business plans, and training to technology and financial-services firms.

Mark holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from UBC. He is a journeyman member of the Quality Control Council of Canada and serves as a director for private, public, and non-profit organizations. Mark is also a faculty member with the Occupational Health and Safety Program at BCIT.

Paulette MacQuarrie

■ Social Coordinator

After a year's hiatus, Paulette is returning as social coordinator. Her love of reading, grammar, and spelling led Paulette, in 1987, to a career as a freelance writer and editor. Most of her time is given to writing and editing newsletters and promotional material for corporations and professional associations. She also works with a small, local commercial-publications company, developing format and policy for niche-market publications.

Rhylin Bailie

■ Hotline

Rhylin is returning as our hotline coordinator for the third year. She is a freelance editor and mother of two, who also runs the treasury department of a large gold-mining company, but edits in her "spare time" because it keeps her sane. She started freelance editing nearly four years ago, and works on everything from short stories to medical textbooks. Her two little boys keep her busy and also inspire her to write children's stories. (Anybody know a good publisher?)

Shelly Windover

■ Membership

Shelly left a career in the hotel industry several years ago to raise her two children. Having often been accused of being a "word nerd," it seemed fitting that she should pursue an Editing Certificate from SFU. (It's a work in progress.) In addition to working as a freelance copy editor under the auspices of Blonde Dog Media, Shelly can be found hiking the North Shore trails with her blonde dog, Ollie.

Wendy Harris

■ Professional Development

Wendy is looking forward to her second year of organizing informative, fun, and well-attended workshops. A graduate of the Print Futures: Professional Writing program, Wendy is continuing her education in Canadian art, culture and film, anthropology, intercultural communication, and literature. A seasoned veteran of essay writing, Wendy enjoys editing academic, fiction, and non-fiction material, as well as writing for non-profit organizations.

As mother to three sons and keeper of their pets, if she cannot be found inside her home hunting for escaped hamsters or searching for stray jockstraps, you'll find Wendy tending to the dandelion crop in the backyard.

Writers and editors are like judges and senators—we have a late expiry date

2005–2006 EAC-BC Executive

Theresa Laviolette

■ Newsletter Co-editor

Theresa is embarking on her second year of hounding people for copy for the *West Coast Editor*. Yet another graduate of the Print Futures: Professional Writing program, she enjoys writing articles on pet care and animal welfare, and editing just about anything that crosses her path.

Theresa's somewhat rural home includes three "in your face" dogs and two indifferent cats.

Millie Strom

■ Newsletter Co-editor

Millie studied photography at the Vancouver School of Art. In the early 80s, she moved to Los Angeles, where by day, she worked as a typesetter and by night, she photographed blues artists.

Millie will complete her professional-writing diploma at Douglas College by age 55, a time when many people prepare to retire. The delayed start doesn't bother Millie: "Writers and editors are like judges and senators—we have a late expiry date."

BC Branch Support

Jean Lawrence

■ Office Coordinator

For the past five years, Jean has served as EAC-BC branch coordinator, assisting the elected executive to deliver the many wonderful benefits of membership, including monthly meeting programs, professional-development workshops, hotline job postings, and the *West Coast Editor*. She is particularly proud of the innovations the BC branch has launched, such as MP3 downloads of meeting programs and online registration for events and workshops (for which credit is due to others, she adds).

Along with Lesley Cameron, Jean is also co-chair of the next EAC/ACR national conference, to be held in Vancouver in June 2006. They are thrilled to be working with a great bunch of volunteers to bring you a conference that will showcase BC expertise in editing and publishing, and offer new opportunities to learn and network.

With so much going on, Jean sometimes feels like the cowpokes in the famous cat-herding video (www.amcg ltd.com/archives/004683.html). However, she also occasionally finds time to edit and index in her preferred areas of law, health sciences, government, and academics.

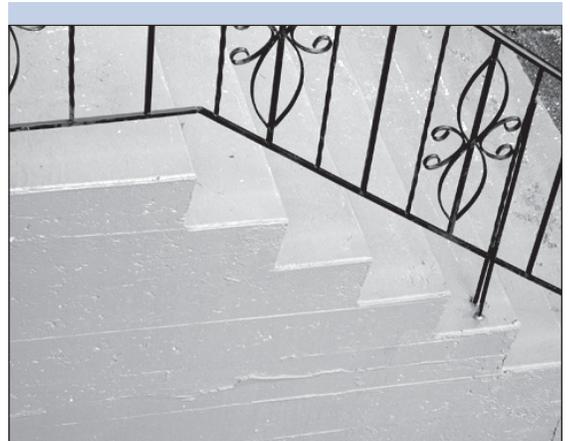
Jean sometimes feels like the cowpokes in the famous cat-herding video

Derek K. Miller

■ Webmaster

Formerly programs chair for 2003–2004, Derek has also hosted a number of EAC-BC's Microsoft Word workshops, and currently maintains the EAC-BC website. He doesn't make much use of his marine biology degree, but his UBC writing diploma comes in handy in his current job as Communications Manager for Navarik Corp. in Vancouver. Derek has also been a professional drummer for 16 years, and maintains a disturbingly extensive personal website at www.penmachine.com.

"Skewed Steps" from
Derek Miller's photo collection



Jeanette Hodge Abbink on creating a visual language

■ EVENT REVIEW

by MILLIE STROM

At the 2005 Western Magazine Awards in Vancouver, creative director Jeanette Hodge Abbink showcased her *Dwell* portfolio and branding work for the fashion company Esprit. In her seminar, “The Master Eye: Creating a visual language for magazines,” Jeanette discussed the development of the logo, art, typography, and layout structure of *Dwell*, the elegant and stylish shelter magazine based in San Francisco.

To accommodate a longer word count, *Dwell* editors wanted Jeanette to open up the columns. But she didn’t give an inch. “It would be like asking an editor to allow a change in verb tense in the middle of a sentence,” said Jeanette. In the end, the editors agreed with the bold design.

For the photo spreads, Jeanette took the unusual step of hiring portrait photographers and photojournalists—not architectural photographers—to show

the homes as living places with warmth.

After helping establish the magazine and working on it for five years, Abbink needed something new. She gave up the position and headed for New York.

Talk about networking kismet. On the streets of Manhattan, Jeanette bumped into an acquaintance who worked at the *New York Times* magazine and learned the magazine division was looking for a new creative director. Jeanette contacted the editor, who gave her a week to prepare a layout and, after the interview, she was offered a position. Jeanette is developing the “look and feel” of a new magazine for a spring 2006 launch.

The Western Magazine Awards featured a gala dinner, workshops and seminars, and a silent auction. And complimentary magazines were available.

■ See www.westernmagazineawards.com for information.



Jeanette Hodge Abbink

Gee, English pronunciation rules are antiquated

■ LANGUAGE

by GREG FELTON

At some point, every schoolchild will be taught the dubious “g” rule—the consonant is pronounced “hard” [g], unless it precedes “e” or “i,” in which case it’s pronounced “soft” [j].

Get me a dictionary and I’ll show you this rule doesn’t hold water. Notice the first word in the last sentence? It’s not pronounced like an aircraft (jet,) yet according to the rule it should be.

Seems the proper thing to do would be to abandon orthographic obfuscation in favour of teaching children to distinguish between a Germanic “g” and a French “g.” Not only would this be pedagogically superior, it would give them a sounder understanding of their own language.

What made me think of this was the headline to Vaughn Palmer’s April 5, 2005, column in *The Vancouver Sun*: “Wally’s nominating meeting gave Campbell only a mild singeing.”

When a gerund is formed from a verb ending in “e,” the letter is dropped before the “ing” suffix is added. Therefore, the gerund of “singe” should be “singing” [sin-jing]. The “softness” of the “g” remains

because “e” and “i” are both front vowels.

“Singing,” though, is the gerund of “sing”—from the German *singen*—and the “g” isn’t soft, despite the front vowel. Meanwhile, “binging,” “hinging,” “impinging,” “twinging,” and “whinging” all have the soft “g.”

The source of the difficulty is the letter itself. In Old English, “g” was written as “**3**” (yogh) and pronounced [g], [y], or [gh], depending on the circumstances. (Note: The yogh, which resembles a squared, printed “**3**,” is not “z,” though confusions would occur.)

“Singe” comes from the Old English *sen3an*, where “**3**” was pronounced [gh] because it was in medial position and came before a back vowel. In 1066, the invading French brought to England the Latin “g,” and so in Middle English, the [g] form of “**3**” fell into disuse. English also incorporated an entire French vocabulary, including the soft “g” before “i” and “e.”

The upshot is that “singe” is a Germanic word with a French “g” and “sing” and “get” are Germanic words with a German “g.” That wasn’t too hard, was it?



yogh

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EAC-ACR 2006 CONFERENCE

June 9–11, 2006
SFU HARBOUR CENTRE
www.editors.ca/conference2006

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NEXT EAC-BC MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2005, 7:30 pm

SHOW-AND-TELL TIME

Members are encouraged to reserve a table to show work samples for an informal meet-and-greet and networking evening. Also, the EAC-BC 2005–2006 executive will be introduced. For a table, contact Ashley at bcprograms@editors.ca.

YWCA HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE

Welch Room, 4th floor

535 Hornby Street, Vancouver

From Burrard SkyTrain: Turn left onto

Burrard, right at Dunsmuir, and left at Hornby.

EAC/ACR members attend monthly meetings at no charge. Please note that non-members pay \$10 (\$5 for students with valid ID). Light refreshments are available. Please check the EAC/ACR website for details at www.editors.ca/bc.