

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Annual Report 2019/2020



CONNECTING...

CONNECTING... communities, writers, words, partners



Mandate

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is a not-for-profit membership driven organization that strives to sustain and enhance an environment in Saskatchewan where writers and all forms of writing flourish; to promote the well-being of all writers; and to advocate on their behalf.

Funders



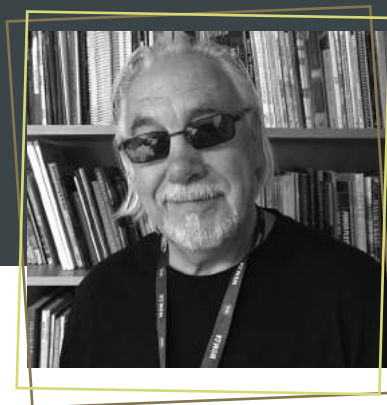
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PHOTO FRONT COVER: JEANETTE LYNES, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN,
INTRODUCES WRITING NORTH PANEL.

President's Report

Jack Walton



The Legal *Year End* of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is set in stone at July 31st. It's been the same date for many years. But this year: a weird one indeed; one could have mistaken March 12th as an end date. On that day the well-worn and effective pattern of operating our beloved Saskatchewan Writers' Guild came to a sudden and jarring stop: an end of a different sort. Sudden indeed! Much like the last-minute cancellation of the Juno Awards in Saskatoon, organizations were stopped in their tracks by the now much feared virus. Meetings, negotiations, readings, training, and traveling were all put on hold. With the screeching sound of braking still in the air, strategic conversations began with senior staff and Board, and the frantic searches for best practices began. Turns out there were few to model. The Guild staff shifted quickly into change mode, and along with the Board, adjusted every facet of operations. It began with the staff moving the work of the Guild to their homes, creating spaces and places within an adjusted home life and universe.

The transition was quick, efficient and respectful. A testament to the strength and stability of the Guild. It's deserving of a big shout out to every staff person at the Guild for reinventing and then re engaging the delivery of programming to

the writing community and beyond.

Despite the distraction and occasional hip-check from the pandemic, the Guild continues to deliver meaningful programming to our members by embracing new technology and good-old fashioned flexibility.

Diverse, accessible and exemplary programming continues to be at the heart and soul of the SWG. Throughout all the changes, this core has remained solid with an increase of online membership participation driving the Guild programs.

On behalf of the membership, a sincere Thank You to the SWG team of Executive Director Tracy Hamon, Program Manager Yolanda Hansen, Financial Manager Jacquie Fry, Publications Coordinator Shirley Fehr, Program Coordinator Cat Abenstein, Indigenous Program Manager Debbie Sunchild-Petersen and our multi-tasking Administrative Assistant Andrea MacLeod. Their commitment to the Guild along with the understanding and support of the membership has been exemplary.

Along with good staff, member engagement and participation is crucial to the ongoing success of the Guild. The strength and long term survival of the Guild depends upon it. By joining committees, volunteering for programs and considering the possibility of becoming a Director on the Board, you can ensure its continuance.

As a Prairie Maritimer I sometimes get tied up in nautical terms and can't resist a sailing analogy. Much like the hectic nature of 'coming about' in a sailboat; that sudden and sometimes frenzied scurry to 'pivot', the SWG crew methodically steadied the ship. In a relatively short period of time, with strategic tacking towards a steady course, the Guild staff and Board emerged in calmer waters. With our heads above water.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for allowing me to serve as your President. While it has been filled with many challenges it has been an honour to work with such a diverse group of individuals who care for the well-being of the Guild and the health of our writing community. Your understanding of and support for the Guild has made the task much easier. Thank you to the volunteer Directors of the Board, all the staff, program volunteers, and the many members who have taken the time to bend my ear in exchange for listening to my rants about governance and process.

It has been an honour.



Executive Director's Report

Tracy Hamon

“What began as a boisterous celebration of our 50th anniversary ended with a squish from a pandemic.”

A famous writer once told me that the prairie poem always contains a horizon. Of course, at the time, they were talking about the word. Now we are mainly talking about metaphor: how far we can see off into the distance from where we are now. It also is appropriate for the SWG in the past six months. What began as the SWG's 2019-2020 fiscal year and a boisterous celebration of our 50th anniversary at the annual Fall Conference ended with a squish from a pandemic.

COVID-19 interrupted our programming and services, but we worked quietly at being as loud as we could in order to continue doing what we do. The SWG Board of Directors remained optimistic and committed to the organization and our operations and we thank them for all their work. The Board helped us stride forward in meeting our strategic goals, despite moving much of our programming/services online. Expanding our diversity along with retaining and increasing membership continued to be at the heart of our flexible programming. While our membership remained around 560 throughout COVID-19, we continued to seek innovative ways to create awareness of the SWG and our many programs and services.

Although we had cancelled/postponed programming and saw the loss of some self-generated revenues, our new three-year Annual Global Funding from SaskCulture and SaskLotteries was successful and our funding remains steady at the previous rate of funding. The City of Regina funding was also steady for the 2020 year, with continued commitment to the City of Regina Writing Award. While we applied anew for a three-year Canada Council operating grant and received a slight increase for the upcoming three years funding, we were also grateful that we received emergency funding of \$21,500 to help offset the loss of programming revenues and keep our staff employed. As we were only able to access one support stream for COVID-19 funding, we opted to accept the support from Canada Council.

In our programs/services, we are fortunate, in one respect, that writers are used to working alone. Once we made it through the first few months of uncertainty, with all of the cancellations and working from home, we started to focus on what we could do moving forward. Some of our programming we did not have to change—our publications, such as *Freelance*, and even our

weekly *Ebriefs* continued to function as usual. *Ebriefs* became our key tool to communicate and provide support links for the members and for revamped programming. In *Grain*, our talented Editor Nicole Haldoupis and her team of associate editors continued to strive to make a diverse magazine and produced a special LGBTQ2S+ issue.

Before COVID-19, we had just had a successful launch of a Virtual Writer-in-Residence (VWIR) program. Programs like the VWIR were the models for us moving programming online yet making much of our programming available online required us to think anew about what we do and how it could be organized. We researched the best technology, along with educating ourselves on using the required software. We opted to keep registrations for programs, such as workshops, lower and, of course, we helped those participating by offering instruction about the technology. The reading series' Reading by the River and Words in the Park combined this year into one series: Book Bytes. This program, which was held Wednesdays at noon on Facebook and Zoom, used a combination of pre-recorded video or live video, providing ease of access for our members.

Of course, the kudos for our programming/services go to the creative and dynamic thinkers and doers: the staff of the SWG. They not only made sure that the programs continued, but that the SWG could offer superior service to our members. The clever programming team of Yolanda Hansen, Cat Abenstein along with new Indigenous Program Manager Debbie Sunchild-Petersen (who we hired right before the pandemic started) honed their online skills and demonstrated that the SWG can meet and rise to any occasion. Their imagination and hard work helped to reshape the final months of our 2019-2020 programming year.

Our new Publications Coordinator Shirley Fehr started her time at the SWG last September. With her enormous design talent in creating and producing all of the publications and revamping our print material, she quickly became an essential team member. Andrea MacLeod invigorated our memberships and energetically managed the office this past year, and during the early months of the pandemic, she was the brave, lone soul in the office! We couldn't manage without our Accountant Jacqueline Fry—she makes numbers look like words that form the perfect poem. Thank you also to our

interns Kennedy Dragt and Kayla Weber for their enthusiasm and support!

We survived an unexpected and strange end to our fiscal year while creating some new programs. Our horizon is bounding and rebounding, seeking diversity and equity within our programming and services while maintaining and connecting with members. The boundary that connects us all: the SWG at 51.

CONNECTING... communities

FROM CAMPUSES TO PARKS, LIBRARIES TO PUBS, THE SASKATCHEWAN WRITERS' GUILD WAS PRESENT
— IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY — THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

NaNoWriMo Regina Region

In November, the SWG celebrated National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) by partnering with the NaNoWriMo Regina Region and the Regina Public Library (RPL). Participants were challenged to write 50,000 words over the course of the month. Frequent Write-Ins were hosted by the SWG and the RPL. Dave Margoshes led participants in a workshop on novel writing on November 5, which was also streamed to Facebook Live.

Bushwakker Brew Pub Writer's Corner

The Bushwakker Writer's Corner is a space dedicated to celebrating the recent works of Saskatchewan published authors. The fourth annual Bushwakker Writer's Corner Reading, organized by the SWG and Bushwakker on November 9, featured six Regina and area authors: Carol Rose GoldenEagle, Raye Hendrickson, Mark Cote, Gillian Harding-Russell, Shane Arbuthnott and Randy Lundy. Bushwakker created a special chocolate dessert for the event.

UR Pride Coming Out Monologues

The *Coming Out Monologues* is a creative writing and performance workshop series by and for queer and trans people in partnership with the UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity. A public performance of the written work is held during the Regina Pride Festival in June. Raye Hendrickson, Carla Harris, Aspen Huggins, and Kris Alvarez were contracted as facilitators but the series was postponed until it can be safely offered in person.

Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan Stories Under a Living Sky

In June, the SWG partnered with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) to host *Stories Under a Living Sky: From Many Stories Strength*, a live reading and performance by artists representing diverse cultural backgrounds in Regina and Saskatoon. Other event partners include Regina Farmers Market and Tonight it's Poetry. These events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Global Gathering Place Weaving Words

In partnership with The Global Gathering Place (GGP), the SWG offered newcomers to Canada in Saskatoon two creative writing opportunities to develop their storytelling and writing skills. Danica Lorier facilitated a 15-hour workshop series in November, in which 15 participants explored memory and imagination through creative writing. This group published their work in a chapbook designed by the Global Gathering Place and read their work in a final performance. A standalone workshop with Danica Lorier in March was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Cathedral Village Arts Festival

The SWG was pleased to be a part of the Cathedral Village Arts Festival (CVAF)'s online festival that saw artists and organizations adapt their offerings in a time of COVID-19. The SWG hosted a virtual *Windscript* launch with feature poet Trinity Squirrel and the magazine's award winners, and co-organized a webinar with the Vertigo Series entitled *Language, Lines, and Leaping: the art and craft in short forms (poetry and prose)*, facilitated by Dr. Micheline Maylor. Both events were offered in May through Zoom and Facebook Live.



DR. MICHELINE MAYLOR



BOOK BYTES PARTICIPANTS



RANDY LUNDY

Regina Public Library Writes of Spring

In partnership with the Regina Public Library for *Writes of Spring*, a month-long celebration of writers and readers, the SWG planned to offer three genre-specific writing workshops, and the Regina Publishing Symposium with SaskBooks at the George Bothwell Library. Due to COVID-19, these events were cancelled while some workshops were rescheduled.

Workshops included:

Tanya Reimer - *Step into Fantasy Writing*

Karyn Good - *Making Your Characters Suffer by Creating Conflict and Tension*

Jason McIntyre - *Bated Breath: A Suspense and Thriller Fiction workshop*

Regina Publishing Symposium-Book Basics included:

Suzy Krause - *Editor and Agent Insights (and how to write a query letter)*

Debra Bell (Radiant Press) - *Submission Based Publishing*

Edward Willett - *Self-publishing: Brave New World*

Heather Nickel (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing) - *Hybrid Publishing – the Best of Both Worlds?*

David Gane - *Marketing and Promotion: Writing is only half the battle*

SaskBooks Saskatoon Publishing Symposium

The SWG and SaskBooks offered writers and publishers a chance to learn more about publishing at Saskatoon's Publishing Symposium at the Cliff Wright Branch library in January. The symposium included a presentation on the basics of publishing by Jillian Bell of SaskBooks and a panel discussion featuring Saskatchewan publishers Serimuse Books, JackPine Press, and McKenzie Carver & Associates. Due to the popularity of the event, a second similar event was offered online in April.

Pandemic Poetry

For poetry month in April, and in recognition of the cancelled events due to COVID-19, UR Pride, the Creative City Centre (for their program, Regina Word Up), the SWG, and the Saskatoon Indigenous Poets Society teamed up to bring a month of live Saskatchewan poetry readings over Instagram Live and Zoom. The performing spoken word poets included Ryan Bradshaw, Elise Pallagi, Lo Aquila, Ky Mason, Peace Akintade, Tai Reign, Liberty Skye, Devon Dozlaw, Axis, Tala Tootoosis, Loudvoice, and Poetik.

Book Bytes

Book Bytes was developed to provide a digital alternative to our regular summer reading series. Book Bytes brings audiences readings by an eclectic mix of Saskatchewan authors and storytellers over the lunch hour in the summer. The authors come from a variety of genres including poetry, children's literature, nonfiction and fiction genres and grapple with a variety of topics both humorous and serious, poignant and inspiring. July readers and hosts included Marion Mutala, Anne Lazurko, Bruce Rice, Dianne Young, Courtney Bates-Hardy, Ellen Sagh, Sarah Ens, Maureen Ulrich, Danica Lorer, Taidgh Lynch, and Kristine Scarrow.



RAYE HENDRICKSON



DANICA LORER



ED WILLETT

Regina Open Door Society Opening Doors Through Stories

A group of newcomers to Canada met every Saturday in November at the Regina Open Door Society (RODS) to work with author Gail Bowen to develop creative writing and expand their English literacy skills. *Opening Doors Through Stories: Becoming* is a collection of stories and poems reflective of participants' personal experiences and perspectives and is a testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. It also includes stories from newcomer youth developed during the May and June workshops.

The chapbook will launch in 2020/21. Chapbook contributors are Alberto Ortiz, Angad Patole, Bhoomika Dongol, Mehwishan Joohi, Olenka Santoyo Sokolowski, Rohit Kumar, Shuchen Hu, Raj Metker, Ohm Tushar Raval, Esther Chimdia Etonyeaku, and Erika-Nestory Mhbozya.

Words in the Park (2019)

Our Regina summer reading series in Victoria Park entered its tenth season. Thanks to the City of Regina for funding, Regina Downtown Business Improvement District for their support and the Regina Public Library for providing an alternate location in case of bad weather. The 2019 program also partnered with Creative City Centre's Regina Word Up and Regina Word Up Youth poetry slam team and the Saskatchewan Book Awards. Authors, poets and storytellers who performed in August 2019 included Ed Willett, Chelsea Coupal, and Mark Cote, and was hosted by Donna Woloshyn. Words in the Park 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Author Readings Program

This well-established SWG program saw 106 schools, libraries, and community groups host readings by 46 Saskatchewan authors. In this fiscal year, there have been 144 scheduled readings with nearly 8,000 attendees. We closed the program at the end of March due to COVID-19. Of the 144 scheduled events, 25 were cancelled. Authors who experienced a cancelled event were offered payment of their reading fees.

Rural Workshops

In 2019-2020, rural workshops and readings were hosted in Meadow Lake Library with author Lynda Monahan and online on behalf of the Wheatland Regional Library with author Cassie Stocks. A workshop and reading scheduled at the Frontier Chinook Library with Peggy Worrell was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Readings by the River (2019)

The SWG partnered with Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan (SotS) to host our Saskatoon summer reading series Readings by the River for its fifth season. This series runs in the community tent during the SotS Happy Hour, prior to the Shakespeare play for the evening. Authors, poets and storytellers who performed in August 2019 included: Kevin Wesaquate (Poetik), Danica Lorér, Peace Akintade, James Trettwer, Ryan Weild, Gillian Harding-Russell and was hosted by Darla Tenold.

Readings by the River 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.



GAIL BOWEN WITH RODS PARTICIPANTS



IRYN TUSHABE



JILLIAN BELL AND KARIN MELBERG SCHWEIR

Sponsored Writing Events

- Centre for the Study of Script Development, Department of Theatre (U of R), Department of English (U of R) – Playwright Reading Series
- Contemplative Arts Festival of Saskatoon
- Heritage Community Association – readings at Harvest Moon Festival
- Indigenous Poets Society – a spoken word panel discussion and workshop at the Ånskohk Festival
- Saskatchewan Festival of Words – LitCon and the SK Festival of Words
- Saskatchewan Library Association – One Book One Province tour
- Saskatoon Writers' Collective – professional development workshop and to support Writerlicious.
- SAWCI – Ånskohk Festival

Booths and Trade Fairs

- Cathedral Village Arts Festival Street Fair – cancelled due to COVID-19
- Prairie Central District for Sport, Culture and Recreation's Artisan Happy Hour
- Prince Albert Arts Board's Parts for the Arts
- SaskCulture's ECO Meeting about moving to online programming
- University of Regina Career Fair
- Wascana Writers' Group meeting
- Word on the Street – cancelled due to COVID-19

Awards

City of Regina Writing Award

Judges Jordan Abel and J. Jill Robinson selected Iryn Tushabe as the winner of the 2020 City of Regina Writing Award for her submission *Everything is Fine Here*. Runners-up are Donna Gartshore and Bernadette Wagner. The City of Regina Writing Award 2020 Reception will be held in November. The SWG is grateful to the City of Regina for their continued sponsorship of this \$4,500 award and reception.

John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award in Fiction

The John V. Hicks Award Luncheon, held in Regina during the SWG Fall Conference, celebrated three prizes for fiction in 2019. The first-place winner was Karin Melberg Schweir for *Violent*, second place was Tim Blackett for *Grandview Drive* and third place was Beth Goobie for *The Good Intentions Emporium*. Winners were awarded \$1,000, \$650, and \$350 respectively. Selections were made by jurors Elisabeth de Mariafi and Rabindranath Maharaj.

The Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence

Arthur Slade was the winner of the 2019 Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence. The luncheon reception announcing his award was held September 10 at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. Approximately 120 people enjoyed a lunch and listened to Arthur accept the award and read from his work. The SWG is deeply appreciative of Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg's continued support for this award.

Gary Hyland Volunteer Award

The 2019 Hyland Volunteer Award was awarded to Danica Lorer at the Fall Conference for her long-standing and various contributions to the SWG and the Saskatchewan writing and arts community.

CONNECTING... writers

OUR FESTIVALS AND PROGRAMS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO
SUPPORT WRITERS, BE INSPIRED AND STRENGTHEN
OUR WRITING COMMUNITY.

Writing North 2020

On January 24 and 25, the SWG and the University of Saskatchewan's MFA Program hosted *Writing North: Turn West* at St. Andrew's College. The event began on Friday afternoon with a lively panel discussion featuring Louise Halfe, Tim Lilburn, Casey Plett, Candace Savage and Paul Seesequasis, hosted by Dave Carpenter. A tenth anniversary cake and readings by each presenter were shared Friday evening. Each presenters' Saturday session explored the craft of writing from the perspective of the genres of fiction, poetry and nonfiction.

Talking Fresh 2020

Courage: Our Words was the theme of Talking Fresh on March 6 and 7, hosted at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina. Writers Rita Bouvier, Don Gillmor, Larissa Lai and Mohammad Yaghoubi discussed their work and courage in a panel hosted by Saima Desai on Friday. The evening also featured a reception and author readings. On Saturday, all authors conducted workshop-style sessions on the craft of writing in their genres. The festival is free, open to the public and attracts writers from all over southern Saskatchewan.

Mentorship Program

Four pairs of apprentices and mentors were matched in the 2020 Mentorship Program to work together between January and May. This year's participants included:

Tricia Friesen Reed, mentored by Trevor Herriot;

Colleen Gerwing, mentored by J. Jill Robinson;

Taidgh Lynch, mentored by Neil Aitken; and

Sarah Saganski, mentored by Ven Begamudré.

Due to COVID-19, the mentorship program wrapped up with a Zoom meeting and the apprentices shared readings of their final works in videos posted on the SWG website.

Writers' Groups

In 2019-2020, the SWG provided funding for 18 writers' groups for ongoing professional development of their members. Activities undertaken by these groups included professional development workshops, writing retreats, assisting member meetings and peer critiques of members' writing. Many groups were forced to change plans in March due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person events and we were happy to help them explore other options like manuscript critiquing, online workshops or online group meetings.

Virtual Writer-in-Residence

The Virtual Writer-in-Residence program, piloted February to April 2020, provides rural and isolated SWG members access to the online services of a professional Writer in Residence. Arthur Slade was our first Virtual Writer-in-Residence, and worked with 16 SWG members from around the province. Many of these writers accessed the program multiple times during Arthur's three-month term. Due to overwhelming support, this program will be a regular program of the SWG via Zoom.



TALKING FRESH PANEL



LOUISE HALFE



ARTHUR SLADE

Write After Lunch

The Write After Lunch program presented Saskatchewan authors' talks on writing at the Ken Mitchell Library on the first Tuesday of each month and online via Facebook Live. Presenters included Trevor Herriot, Dave Margoshes, Dave Carpenter and Joely BigEagle-Kequatooway.

Manuscript Evaluation Service

This program assists writers at all levels of development with professional evaluations of completed manuscripts. Twenty-one writers submitted manuscripts to the program in the genres of fiction (including children's fiction), nonfiction and poetry. The service was so popular that its annual budget was spent within seven months.

Isolation Conversation Panel Discussion

On May 5, a group of Saskatchewan writers gathered online to discuss how their lives have changed in response to COVID-19 restrictions. Gail Bowen, D.M. Ditson, Harold Johnson and Kristine Scarrow discussed with moderator Anne Lazurko the various impacts of the pandemic on their writing, schedules and communities. The panel, which was available free to viewers through Zoom and live streamed on Facebook, had over 1100 views on Facebook.





ECOABORIJANELLE



NEIL AITKEN



MARIE POWELL

Retreats

The SWG hosted a Facilitated Retreat from November 8-11 and the SWG Writers/Artist Retreats in February at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. Writer-in-Residence Micheline Maylor worked with eight emerging writers at the November Facilitated Retreat. Twenty-two writers enjoyed the Winter Retreat between February 7-28, with on-site Retreat Coordinator Judy McCrosky.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Spring Facilitated Retreat (April 16-19) and the Summer Writers/Artist Retreat in July were cancelled.

Professional Development Workshops

2019-2020 was a very busy programming year with diverse workshops offered, including a number of virtual offerings as the SWG shifted its programming online during COVID-19 restrictions starting in March.

We continue to focus on diversity and inclusivity by offering workshops on a wide range of writing topics and genres, with diverse facilitators and in multiple formats and locations. Workshop partners included the Vertigo Series, the Regina Public Library, SaskBooks, the Saskatoon Public Library, SAWCI, Chokecherry Studios, and the Indigenous Poets Society.

Praxis & Practicalities: What Every Writer Needs to Know - Marie Powell and Courtney Bates-Hardy

Hidden Histories & Untold Stories - Valerie Korinek

Bated Breath: A Suspense, Thriller & Horror Fiction Workshop - Jason McIntyre

NaNoWriMo Workshops *In it for the Long Haul* - Dave Margoshes

You CAN Get There From Here - Marie Powell

The Fire In the Mind - Neil Aitken

Short Stories: The Perfect Bite - Lisa Bird-Wilson

What's in a Lifetime (4 week online workshop) - Bernadette Wagner

Decolonial Love Poems for the Land - Janelle Pewapsconias

Being Fearless - Carol Rose GoldenEagle

Journey into the Interior - Neil Aitken

Language, Lines & Leaping: the art and craft in short forms (poetry and prose) - Micheline Maylor

Writing for Children & Young Adults - Alice Kuipers

Adventures in Space & Time (3 week online workshop) - Edward Willett



PAUL SEESEQUASIS



CAROL ROSE GOLDENEAGLE



LEAH MARIE DORION

National Indigenous History Month

In celebration of National Indigenous History Month in June, artist/writer/musician and historian John McDonald from Prince Albert produced a video *Intriguing Connections*. This video showcases his passion and talent along with his knowledge of First Nations and Métis history through the intersections of Louis Riel's history with his own family's story. His documentary is available on our social media for viewing.

Workshop Facilitators

In addition to our Indigenous programs, we make every effort to ensure that Indigenous writers are involved in all of our programs as participants, facilitators and more. In 2019-2020, we were pleased to work with workshop facilitators like Janelle Pewapsconias, Lisa Bird-Wilson and Carol Rose GoldenEagle, jury members Jordan Abel (City of Regina Writing Award), festival presenters like Louise Halfe, Paul Seesequasis, and Rita Bouvier, conference facilitators and speakers like Wayne Arthurson, Janice Acoose, and Jesse Archibald-Barber and a Write after Lunch presentation by Joely BigEagle-Kequatooway.

Storytelling Month

With generous funding from Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples, the SWG hosted Indigenous Storytellers' month events in February.

In Saskatoon, Carol Rose GoldenEagle shared stories and songs with the students of Lester B. Pearson School, and Wilfred Burton told stories about his family and Métis community to students at the Gordon Oakes Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. In Regina, elementary students at Albert Community School heard from storyteller Rhonda Donais and university students learned from playwright and storyteller Skyler Anderson at the University of Regina's ta-tawaw Student Centre. Writer and artist Leah Dorion read from her book at the Mann Art Gallery in Prince Albert.

Indigenous Programs

In 2020, the SWG and the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers' Circle Inc. hired Debbie Sunchild-Petersen as the new Indigenous Program Manager. Debbie is responsible for organizing events and programs for emerging and established Indigenous writers and audiences. The SWG works with the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers Circle Inc. (SAWCI) and the Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival and encourages membership in both organizations.





BRUCE RICE, POET LAUREATE



ALASDAIR REES, YOUTH POET LAUREATE



Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate of Saskatchewan

Bruce Rice (Poet Laureate) and Alasdair Rees (Youth Poet Laureate) continued their terms in 2019-2020 and engaged the people of Saskatchewan through diverse and exciting poetry and writing initiatives.

Bruce Rice

Bruce Rice was busy with events and initiatives around Saskatchewan, including a joint reading with Naomi Foyle in Regina, a two-day visit to La Ronge in September to work with Churchill High School students, the Wild Rice Writers' Group and a reading at the Alex Robertson Library, as well as events in Saskatoon, Manitou Beach and Greenwater Provincial Park.

Due to COVID-19, events scheduled after March were cancelled, including the Poetry Soiree with readings by Bruce, Anne Campbell, Janelle Pewapsconias and Alasdair Rees, but Bruce met online with the Sans Nom Poetry Group in Prince Albert.

For National Poetry Month in April, Bruce continued growing *The Poet and the Poem SK* online archives with interviews and readings by Gerry Hill, Rita Bouvier and Anne Campbell.

Alasdair Rees

As the first Youth Poet Laureate (YPL), Alasdair Rees organized and co-hosted *Songs for the living skies* at the Remail Modern on September 6, featuring work by Janelle Pewapsconias, Peace Akintade, Alex Scott, Bethani Jade, Ashley Obscura and himself. He shared poetry readings on the YPL Facebook page for National Poetry Month in April and a welcome message in the 2020 *Windscrip* magazine.

Throughout his term, his work with other organizations and events, like GreatFull goods + practice centre, the Remail's annual art party LUGO and francophonie month events by l'Association communautaire fransaskoise, helped to promote Saskatchewan poetry and the literary community.



GLEN SORESTAD, LYN GOLDMAN, JEAN FREEMAN AND ROBERT CURRIE



KEN MITCHELL (FOREGROUND) AND JACK WALTON

Fall Conference - The Guilded Guild: 50 Years and Counting

The SWG celebrated its 50th anniversary with its annual Fall Conference on October 18-20 at the Regina Atlas Hotel.

Mark Abley presented the Caroline Heath Lecture *The Warmth of the Sun Swooping*, reflecting on Caroline Heath's poetry and on the literary landscape of Canada since the SWG was formed in 1969.

Wayne Arthurson presented a lunch and lecture *Write What You Care About*, reflecting on his literary career and the myth that writers should write what they know about.

Special 50th anniversary celebration events included the launch of a special edition beer "The Unreliable Narrator" brewed by Bushwacker's Brew Pub with a tapping of the firkin by President Jillian Bell. A panel "Turning Paper into Gold" with lifetime SWG members was hosted by Daniel Scott Tysdal, and

featured Robert Currie, Jean Freeman, Lyn Goldman and Glen Sorestad, who reminisced about the SWG's early days and spoke to its effect on writers.

Sunday morning's Presidents' Breakfast offered a chance for Robert Calder, Judy McCrosky and Bruce Rice to discuss their time as previous SWG Board Presidents.

The Two-day Conference Program

Bookbinding 101 and Not Your Average Journal: Australian Piano Hinge with Kathy Hamre and Robin Canham

Industry sessions with:

Coteau Books, Canada Council for the Arts, Saskatchewan Arts Board, the League of Canadian Poets and the Writers Union of Canada

Interactive Writing Workshops:

A Treed Workshop, off site in Wascana Park with Ariel Gordon

Risks and Truths with Mark Abley

The Novel: Where Poetry Meets Information with Jeanette Lynes
Finding Voice with Wayne Arthurson

Make Them Wonder: Sparking Curiosity, Surprise and Awe in our Readers with Daniel Scott Tysdal

Panel Presentations:

What We Would Rather Forget with Trevor Herriot, Alexandra Popoff and Janice Acoose-Miswonigeesikokwe

The Nourishment of Nature with Ariel Gordon, Bruce Rice and Brenda Schmidt

From Pen to Page: A Poetry Panel Discussion with Raye Hendrickson, Paula Jane Remlinger and Chelsea Coupal

Sessions:

Measure Twice, Cut Once with Gail Bowen

The Art of Romance Writing with Annette Bower

Indigenous Theatre and Performance on Turtle Island with Jesse Archibald-Barber

Spoken Word feature with Tai Reign, Daniella Mercedes, Austin Ahenakew and Alasdair Rees

Open Mic with Gerry Hill: *The Sword in the Stone*

Annual General Meeting

CONNECTING... words

SWG PUBLICATIONS PROMOTE WRITERS

AND STORY TELLERS OF ALL GENRES

Grain

Grain, the journal of eclectic writing, is a literary quarterly in print thanks to funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and the continued support of operational funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries through SaskCulture. It has continued to publish engaging, diverse, and challenging work by writers and visual artists on a provincial, national, and international level.

Volume 47 consisted of four issues—three regular issues and one special issue dedicated to the work of queer writers. The volume saw 113 writers published in our four regular issues, for a total of 141 published pieces, plus six Short *Grain* Contest-winning pieces. This volume also featured the work of four visual artists—Montreal-based artist Sam Montalbetti, Toronto-based artist Laura Dawe, Saskatoon-based artist Yonina Rollack, and our Queer Writers issue artist Adrian Stimson from the Siksika Nation.

Grain's editorial team for volume 47 consisted of Editor Nicole Haldoupis, Fiction and Nonfiction Editor Lisa Bird-Wilson, and Poetry Editor Alasdair Rees. Shirley Fehr, the SWG Publications Coordinator, carried out layout and typesetting as *Grain's* Designer through volume 47, and Leah MacLean-Evans continued as *Grain's* Proofreader. *Grain* switched printers this year to Saskatoon-based, Houghton Boston.

General submissions rose again this year to 2391 (1067 fiction, 947 poetry, 258 nonfiction, and 119 surprise us) up from last year's 2119 (691 fiction, 1179 poetry, and 249 nonfiction). We received 379 submissions specifically for our Queer Writers issue (146 fiction, 175 poetry, and 58 nonfiction).

Grain subscriptions went down slightly this year, to 312 from last year's 348 (94% Canadian—17% being from Saskatchewan—and 6% international, from Brazil, Denmark, UK, Norway, and USA). There were 126 individual issues sold for the year, down from last year's 136.

Short Grain Contest

Our 32nd annual Short *Grain* Contest judges were Casey Plett (fiction) and Sylvia Legris (poetry)—we had advertised the contest with Arielle Twist as the Poetry Judge, but she was not able to complete the judging. Fiction submissions went up this year—110, up from last year's 102. For poetry, we received 145, down from last year's 221. International submissions included five US entries, one from Brazil, one from Norway, and one from the UK.

Thank you to the judges for their work and consideration of each entry, and to Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg for their continued support as benefactors of the Short *Grain* Contest. Their generosity has kept this contest going for over thirty years.

Nicole Haldoupis
Editor



FALL 2019 VOL. 47.1



WINTER 2020 VOL. 47.2



SPRING 2020 VOL. 47.3



SUMMER 2020 VOL. 47.4

Short Grain Winners

Fiction

1st: "Heat" by Ryanne Kap (Strathory, ON)

2nd: "Lucky Baboon" by Iryn Tushabe (Regina, SK)

3rd: "Success" by Alexis Pooley (London, ON)

Honourable Mentions (Fiction)

"Florence" by Hilary Ball (Montreal, QC)

"Whippit" by Carmella Gray-Cosgrove (St. John's, NL)

Poetry

1st: "Asch's Line Study in the Current Anthropocene" by Paola Ferrante (Toronto, ON)

2nd: "Common Law" by Katie Jordan (Toronto, ON)

3rd: "the decapoda and the molting moon" by Cooper Skjeie (Saskatoon, SK)

Honourable Mentions

"Geothermal" by Pippa Bowley (Nelson, BC)

"The Semblance of an Unfair Fight" by Jonathan Greenhouse (Jersey City, NJ)

SWG PUBLIC

Freelance

Freelance is the SWG's member magazine provided free to all members in good standing. *Freelance* aims to create a discourse with our membership and inspire them on their writing journey. Focusing on the craft and business of writing, *Freelance* featured contributions by 24 members (many who contributed to multiple issues) and featured the artwork of four artists with roots in Saskatchewan.

spring

spring is a biannual publication that showcases emerging Saskatchewan writers. The next issue of *spring* will be printed in 2021.

Ebriefs

Ebriefs is the weekly email bulletin available to members who subscribe. In addition to providing information on SWG events and announcements, *Ebriefs* helps to build a sense of community by including calls of interest, member news and professional development opportunities throughout Canada and the world. In 2019/2020 the SWG distributed an issue of *Ebriefs* every week including a special issue in March outlining the SWG's situation around COVID-19.



FALL 2019 VOL. 49.4



WINTER 2020 VOL. 50.1



SPRING 2020 VOL. 50.2



SUMMER 2020 VOL. 50.3

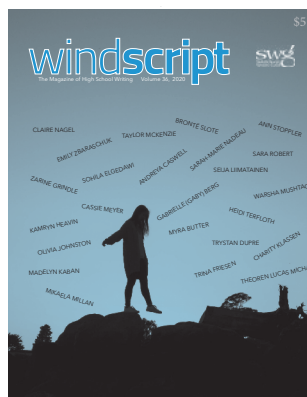
CATIONS

Windscrip

Windscrip features the best in Saskatchewan high school writing.

A great crowd online on Zoom and Facebook Live celebrated the launch of *Windscrip* Vol. 36 at the all-digital Cathedral Village Arts Festival. Editor and launch host Tara Gereaux provided opening remarks and introductions for all readers while past-contributor and 2019 Jerrett Enns Poetry award winner, Trinity Squirrel, performed as featured poet. Award winners and honourable mentions read their work at the online launch.

The following youth were selected as magazine contributors: Andrey Caswell, Ann Stoppler, Brontë Slote, Cassie Meyer, Charity Klassen, Claire Nagel, Emily Zbaraschuk, Gabrielle (Gaby) Berg, Heidi Terfloeth, Kamryn Heavin, Madelyn Kaban, Mikaela Millan, Myra Butte, Olivia Johnston, Sara Robert, Sarah-Marie Nadeau, Seija Liimatainen, Sohila Elgedawi, Taylor McKenzie, Theoren Lucas Michael, Trina Friesen, Trystan Dupre, Warsha Mushtaq, and Zarine Grindle.



2020 VOL. 36



WINDSCRIPT LAUNCH ONLINE

Windscrip Award Winners

Jerrett Enns Award for Poetry Winner
Sohila Elgedawi - "Adolescence"

Honourable Mention
Warsha Mushtaq - "Karachi Bazaar"

Jerrett Enns Award for Prose Winner
Sarah-Marie Nadeau - "New York Subway"

Honourable Mention
Kamryn Heavin - "Cutting Remorse"

Curie-Hyland Prize for Poetry Winner
Emily Zbaraschuk - "There will be Days"

Honourable Mention
Brontë Slote - "You are Ours"

Audit Committee Report

2019-2020

The annual audit was conducted by MWC Chartered Professional Accountants LLP and was presented to the Audit Committee on September 16, 2020. The auditors state the Guild's financial practices are sound and in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. An audit entry was made to adjust for website costs as the website work was not completed in this fiscal period.

Some items of note:

- Current Cash is reduced from 2019 due to funds moved to short term investment.
- Short Term Investment interest rates for 2019 were 2.15%. Note: Financial institutions interest rates drop to .25% to .84% for the next investment period.
- A portion of the Canada Council Grant for 2020-21 funding was sent early to recipients in the event that funds were needed because of COVID-19 cancellations and shut downs. SWG's 2019-2020 funding was already in place to cover costs so these funds have been deferred to 2020. Canada Council also awarded a one-time emergency fund which can be used for operational or programming expenses; this was also deferred.
- Year over year Revenues and Expenses are both down.
 - In the previous fiscal year special grants were received for the 50th anniversary celebrations. Also programs were cancelled due to the pandemic.
 - There were few presenter payments for cancelled programs after April/early May and no travel or accommodation costs for online programs. Also, there were less expenses for travel and meeting costs by staff and board members as most meetings were held via Zoom.
- Membership registrations and renewals have held steady and are on par with past years.

SaskCulture encourages non-profit organizations to build a six-month reserve of expenses. This fiscal year SWG has a net surplus of \$48,939 increasing the reserve fund to \$341,630. The SWG is fortunate to have committed and knowledgeable staff who are keeping the organization's finances stable during a time of economic uncertainty.

Jeanette Montgomery
Audit Committee Chair



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise of the summary statement of financial position as of July 31, 2020, the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets and summary schedules of grain and retreat operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc. for the year ended July 31, 2020. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 26, 2020.

Which are prepared in our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the related auditor's report, is not a substitute for reading the complete audited financial statements, including notes and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated September 26, 2020. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was on the completeness of memberships, donation and sponsorship revenues.

Management's Responsibility for the Summarized Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarized financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Chartered Professional Accountants LLP

REGINA, Saskatchewan
September 26, 2020

Summary Statement of Financial Position

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

These statements are derived from the audited financial statements which are available upon request from the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summary Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets			
Year Ended July 31	2020		2019
REVENUES			
Grant	\$	770,062	\$ 801,056
Self-generated		70,857	68,696
Donations and sponsorships		24,358	23,981
Grain <i>(Schedule 1)</i>		55,253	64,001
Retreat <i>(Schedule 2)</i>		13,194	22,857
Fundraising		3,809	
		937,533	980,591
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees		140,905	155,252
Program delivery		74,210	93,901
Grain <i>(Schedule 1)</i>		91,797	109,775
Retreat <i>(Schedule 2)</i>		31,735	48,566
Operational and amortization expenses		151,834	169,065
Salaries and benefits		376,438	341,686
Fundraising		1,675	
Donation to SWG Foundation Inc.		20,000	20,000
		888,594	938,245
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$	48,939	\$ 42,346
Net assets - beginning of year		292,691	250,345
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$	341,630	\$ 292,691

These statements are derived from the audited financial statements which are available upon request from the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summary Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Grain Operations		<i>(Schedule 1)</i>	
Year Ended July 31	2020	2019	
REVENUES			
Grant	\$ 36,300	\$ 45,3	
Donations and sponsorships	2,900	2,8	
Publications revenue	16,053	15,8	
	55,253	64,0	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	59,192	75,2	
Publishing and distribution	18,004	21,3	
Office, meetings and travel	2,016	1,8	
Salaries and benefits	12,585	11,3	
	91,797	109,7	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM GRAIN OPERATIONS	\$ (36,544)	\$ (45,7)	

Summary Statement of Retreat Operations		<i>(Schedule 2)</i>	
Year Ended July 31	2020	2019	
REVENUES			
Donations and sponsorships	-	9	
Workshop and participant fees	13,194	21,8	
	13,194	22,8	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	3,000	2,0	
Program delivery	25,834	43,6	
Office, meetings and travel	102	2	
Salaries and benefits	2,799	2,6	
	31,735	48,5	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM RETREAT OPERATIONS	\$ (18,541)	\$ (25,7)	

These schedules report the revenues and expenses of the Grain and Retreat operations. Any shortfall is covered by general operational funds

These statements are derived from the audited financial statements which are available upon request from the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

CONNECTING... partners

VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS ARE
ALL INTEGRAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Recognizing our volunteers

The SWG relies heavily on our volunteers and donors, and to say thank you, we hosted a Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Reception in Saskatoon on December 15 at Lucky Bastard Distillery. Thirty volunteers and donors enjoyed appetizers, drinks and a tour of the distillery. A similar event for Regina volunteers and donors was planned for Spring 2020 but cancelled due to COVID-19; a thank you package of SWG swag was mailed instead.

Board of Directors (August 2019-August 2020)

Jack Walton, President
Jillian Bell, President¹

Jillian Bell, Past-President²

Members-at-Large
Terri Bosner
Bob Friedrich
Jason Heit
Ashley Martin²
Melanie McFarlane¹
Jeanette Montgomery
Amanda Roslinsky
David J. Schleich²

¹ Term ended October 2019

² Term began October 2019

Board Committees & Liaisons

Audit Committee
Jillian Bell
Ilonka Halsband
Ashley Martin
Jeanette Montgomery (Chair)
Paula Jane Remlinger
Jack Walton

HR Committee

Jillian Bell
Heather Getz
Amanda Roslinsky
Jan Seibel
Jack Walton

Policy Committee

Jason Heit
Ashley Martin
Melanie McFarlane
Jack Walton

Nominations Committee

Jillian Bell
Jack Walton

SWG Foundation Committee

Jillian Bell
Jason Heit
Melanie McFarlane
David Schleich
Jack Walton

50th Anniversary Committee

Terri Bosner
Bob Freidrich
Joely BigEagle-Kequatooway
Marion Mutala
Amanda Roslinsky

Bernadette Wagner
Jack Walton

Grain Advisory Committee

John Barton
Courtney Bates-Hardy
Jillian Bell
Kathleen Wall
Jack Walton

Programming Volunteers

Writing North Committee

Sheri Benning
Jeanette Lynes

Fall Conference

Jillian Bell
Bob Friedrich
Jen Fry
gillian harding-russell
Gerry Hill
Judy McCrosky
Melanie McFarlane
Jeanette Montgomery
Amanda Roslinsky
Angela O'Byrne
Patrick O'Byrne
Daylene Sliz
Carle Steel
James Trettwer
Bernadette Wagner
Jack Walton

Kloppenburg Award Luncheon

Jillian Bell
Danica Lorer

Library Inventory

Ashley Maxie

Readings by the River

Darla Tenold

Talking Fresh

Amy Bedel
Mary Blackstone
Gerry Hill
Andrea Martineau
Donald McLean
Valerie Phillips
Carle Steel
Iryn Tushabe

Words in the Park

Donna Woloshyn

Writing North

Jon Aylward
Amy Bedel
Elena Bentley
Amanda Dawson
Richelle Gaudet
Nicole Haldoupis
Susie Hammond
Erin Heibert
Zach Keesey
Tonia Laird
Taidgh Lynch
Jeanette Montgomery
Kate O'Gorman
Darla Tenold

Thank you to all our donors

Grain Magazine

Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg
Glen Sorestad
Joshua Wales

Kloppenburg Award

Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg
John M. Klebuc
Gordon L. Lowe
Dave Paslawski
Garth and Rita Wall
Jacob R. Watters
Elizabeth Williamson

Regina Programs

Trina Markusson
Leah Marie Dorion
Amy Jo Ehman
Glenda Goertzen
Susan Harris
Gordon Hunter

Andrew Suknaski Writers'

Assistance Fund
Glen Sorestad

General Donations

Doreen Bleich
Rita Bouvier
Robert Currie
Felicia Daunt

Jeanette Dean
Jean Fahlman
Jean Freeman
Lyn Goldman
Gillian Harding-Russell
Mary Harelkin Bishop
Dee Hobsbawn-Smith
Gordon Hunter
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Elizabeth Kuzma
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James McLean
Karin Melberg Schwier
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Judith Silverthorne
Marie Elyse St. George
Murray Walter
Wascana Writers' Group
Jayne Whyte

2019-2020 SWG Staff

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Program Manager

Yolanda Hansen

Indigenous Programs Manager

Debbie Sunchild-Peterson

Financial Manager

Jacqueline Fry

Administrative Assistant

Andrea MacLeod

Program Coordinator

Cat Abenstein

Publications Coordinator

Shirley Fehr

Grain Editor

Nicole Haldoupis

Grain Fiction and Nonfiction Editor

Terry Jordan / Lisa Bird Wilson

Grain Poetry Editor

dee Hobsbawn Smith / Alasdair Rees

2019-2020 Board of Directors

(October 2019-present)

President

Jack Walton

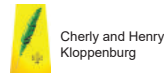
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Jillian Bell

Members at Large

Terri Bosner
Bob Friedrich
Jason Heit
Ashley Martin
Jeanette Montgomery
Amanda Roslinsky
David J. Schleich

SWG Major Funders



SWG Partners & Sponsors



Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

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