



SASKATCHEWAN WRITERS' GUILD

2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



On the Cover clockwise from top:

Regina and area presenters of *spring* launch
 Carla Harris and Carol Rose GoldenEagle
 Arthur Slade and Guy Vanderhaeghe
 dee Hobsbawn-Smith and J.B. MacKinnon
Centre:
 Rhonda Donais and Kaleigh Aramenko



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The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (SWG) 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. The SWG serves a membership spanning the entire province of Saskatchewan in Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 which encompasses the unceded territories of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Anihšīnāpēk (Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, Nakota and Dené Nations and the Homeland of the Métis Nation.

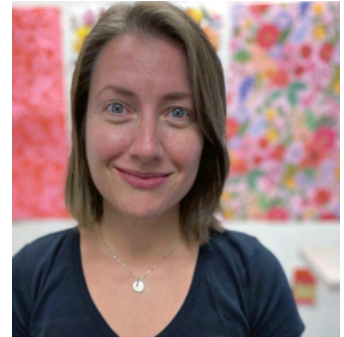
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a difference a year makes! Looking back at my last president's report, which was full of references to Zoom and bubbles, this seems like another world entirely. During 2021-22, we have gathered in person so much more (with appropriate precautions), sharing work and art and experiences face to face. Remember when that all seemed unfathomable? Since last year, though, some things have not changed—namely, the commitment of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild staff and volunteers in helping this organization thrive.

In the past year, we have maintained the excellent events and programming that the Guild members have come to expect. Our membership has grown and our finances have remained strong. There has also been new business: The SWG opened a Saskatoon office in the Sask Lotteries building, with the goal of providing more programs and support for our more northern members. We launched the Guild Prize, a brand new semiannual writing contest exclusively for SWG members. And, along with the Saskatchewan Library Association and SaskBooks, we are committed to supporting the Saskatchewan Book Awards through its organizational changes.

As a board of directors, a major part of the past year has been to begin a review of our conflict of interest policy. As a non-profit organization, the SWG relies on volunteers to provide governance and oversight through the board, which is elected each fall during the annual general meeting. Currently, board members are ineligible for many benefits of general membership, including being allowed to apply for prizes, mentorships and manuscript evaluations, perform readings or lead workshops, or be published in *Grain*. Arguably most of our members are writers, and we want to limit barriers to board participation wherever possible. The governance committee has consulted other non-profit arts organizations, as well as having surveyed our membership, to inform our ongoing work around this policy. Our hope is that a renewed conflict of interest policy will result in more interest from members wanting to serve on the board.

Thank you to this group of volunteers—David Schleich, Margot Johnson, Heather Winter, Andrew Christoffel, Andrea Martineau and Monica Johnson—for their time and dedication. A special thank you to Jack Walton for his years as president and, more recently, past-president. A wealth of knowledge, Jack



will be leaving the board (reluctantly, I'm sure!) as I step down from my two-year role as president. Thank you to all of our members for allowing us to serve you.

The SWG is as strong as it is because of an enthusiastic staff, diligent board and wonderful executive director, Tracy Hamon. As members of this longstanding treasure of an organization, we are lucky to have all of these people in our court.

Sincerely,
Ashley Martin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"When things come to the worst, they generally mend."

Susanna Moodie



"...despite the continued uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic, high gas prices, global anxiety, and the general flummoxed state of all things travel-like, the SWG had a really good year."

The past fiscal year flew by like a bat in search of an evening meal. There was the determined dip and dart in the dark—the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (SWG) moving in and out of person for programming and services for most of the fiscal year until we finally flew into the full belly of in-person events.

In 2021-2022, the SWG began hovering upside down in a cave-like world, stretching our wings in and out. As the door opened and closed, we were able to see some light again. Having groomed ourselves on hybrid programs for more than a year, in spring of 2022 we opened up our program gates and began sharing words and events in public. And yet, despite the continued uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic, high gas prices, global anxiety, and the general flummoxed state of all things travel-like, the SWG had a really good year.

How did we manage that you ask? Well, let me say with boundless appreciation, we are always grateful for our SWG Board Members. These special SWG members volunteered so much of their time and energy to the SWG, meeting in-person finally in the fall, then back online in the winter, but then in-person again in the spring. They gave up weekends and evenings to help grow and provide for our over 600

members. They generously hosted sessions at the conference, brought greetings to online and in-person events. This dedicated board celebrated and promoted the SWG inside and outside of our borders and we are thankful for their guidance, strength and guidance.

Along with our fearless leaders, we have been very fortunate this year with our funding and are appreciative of our Annual Global Funding from SaskLotteries (in partnership with SaskCulture), operating funds from the City of Regina and Canada Council, and the smaller grants for programming from the City of Saskatoon and Community Initiatives. Canada Council also generously provided us with reopening funding for in-person programming and we applied and received the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy. Our funders help us help our members and we are grateful for their support!

The old adage is that you can do more with more is true—with a bit more funding, we were able to do more programming and services for our members! In programming, we continued our virtual model for workshops, lectures, readings, Virtual Writer-in-Residence, and talks. Intermittently,

we began meeting in person, first with the Kloppenburg Award Reception/Announcement and the SWG Fall Conference/AGM in Saskatoon, then not again until our spring programming: *spring* magazine launches, workshops, Apprentice Reading, and City of Regina Writing Award reception. Of course, the credit for programming falls onto the highly creative (and gifted) team of Yolanda Hansen, Cat Abenstein, Tea Gerbeza, Debbie Sunchild-Petersen, and our intern Tanisha Khan. There are so many adjectives and adverbs that I could use, but I cannot do them enough justice other than to say they are an outstanding crew and I am delighted to have them on my team.

Our publications continue to thrive. Thanks to Mari-Lou Rowley and associates Brenda Schmidt and Kate O’Gorman for navigating *Grain* into the beginnings of its celebratory year. Subscriptions are on the rise and submissions are like bats eating their body weight in insects each month. The SWG featured a special pandemic issue of *spring* magazine, and the youth writing in *Windscrip*t dazzled us again—our thanks to expert editors Edward Willett, gillian harding-russell, Elena Bentley, and P.J. Worrell for their skills to help produce

these remarkable publications. Once again, thank you to the talented Shirley Fehr for her illustrious design work and insight into the layout and production of the SWG’s publications and for her amazing editorship of *Freelance* and *Ebriefs*.

Thank you to our administrative guru Andrea MacLeod for keeping the office on track and smoothly operational. From memberships, to mail, to overseeing the website, she provides industrious and dependable support for all of the SWG office. And last but never least, thanks again to our meticulous Financial Manager Jacqueline Fry for fearlessly wrestling all things numbered and making sure we are able to fly out of the cave.

Lastly, thank you—our members. Despite the cold hibernation of Covid that poses the risk of writers being endangered, or not having enough to eat (1200 mosquitoes a night is a lot for a little bat), you have joined us, or stuck with us. To all in the SWG, you have made us a lively, large and growing community and that is worth celebrating!

Tracy Hamon
Executive Director

Our membership is growing and we are everywhere.

636 Members!

(as of July 31, 2022)



***Plus, an additional 208 members are located in other communities throughout Saskatchewan, Canada and the US.**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Manuscript Evaluation Service

This program assists writers at all levels of development with professional evaluations of completed manuscripts. Twenty-five writers submitted manuscripts to the program in the genres of fiction (including children's fiction), nonfiction and poetry.

Virtual Writer-in-Residence

Leslie Vryenhoek (Sept-Nov 2021) and **Gail Bowen** (Feb-Apr 2022) were the SWG's Virtual Writers-in-Residence for 2021-22. This program gives SWG members living outside Regina and Saskatoon access to a professional Writer-in-Residence through Zoom. Leslie and Gail worked with 35 SWG members.



Mentorship Program

Four pairs of apprentices and mentors were matched in the 2022 Mentorship Program to work together between January and May.

Participants included:

- **Robert Benz** (Saskatoon), mentored by **Barbara Klar** (Eastend)
- **C.L. Lee** (Regina), mentored by **Marie Powell** (Regina)
- **Amanda Marcotte** (White City), mentored by **Clarissa Harwood** (London)
- **Alexander Slusar** (Saskatoon), mentored by **Jill Robinson** (Galiano Island)

The Apprentice Reading was hosted May 6 at the Artesian in Regina, by former apprentice **Troni Grande**. All of the Mentorship and Indigenous Mentorship apprentices shared excerpts from their writing completed during the program.

Clockwise from top:
Leslie Vryenhoek
Gail Bowen
Bob Currie
Curtis Peeteetuce

First Draft: Conversations on Writing

This is an online talk series that dives into themes that affect our writing lives. Events occurred on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

Presenters included:

- **Shannon McConnell** - *Shifting Expectations: The Beauty of the Unforeseen* (interviewed by **Tea Gerbeza**)
- **Khodi Dill** - *Writing for your Life* (interviewed by **Andre Fenton**)
- **Bob Currie** - *Reflections on Writing and Revision* (interviewed by **Dave Margoshes**)
- **Alice Kuipers** - *When Confidence Hides* (interviewed by **Khodi Dill**)
- **Curtis Peeteetuce** - *Language, Time & Space: Writing the Other-Worldly* (interviewed by **Ayesha Mohsin**)
- **Anne Lazaruko** - *The Joy Imperative: What does it mean to find joy in our writing?* (interviewed by **Leona Theis**)
- **Anthony Bidulka** - *Presenting the Under-represented* (interviewed by **Gail Bowen**)

Workshops

The SWG continues to focus on diversity and inclusivity by offering professional development workshops on a wide range of writing topics and genres, with diverse facilitators in-person and online. Workshop partners included the Vertigo Series, the Cathedral Village Arts Festival, the Regina and Saskatoon Public Libraries and the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

2021-22 workshops offered:

- **Krystal Kavita Jagoo** - *Writing for Social Change*
- **Briana Brownell** - *Technology for Writers*
- **Helen Power** - *How to Get Away with Murder (in your novel)*
- **Kate Finegan** - *Make It New: Generative Revision*
- **Joanne Gerber** - *Getting that Grant! Workshop for Writers*
- **Judy McCrosky** - *How to Critique*
- **Mark Allard-Will** - *Graphic Novels from Script to Panel*
- **Alice Kuipers** - *Make Anything and Everything You Write Better*
- **Tracy Cooper-Posey** - *After the Happy Ever After*
- **Bruce Rice** - *Beyond Description: Writing From Art Through Heart and Eye*
- **Raye Hendrickson** - *Write Your Life*
- **Ken Wilson** - *Walking and Writing: Experiencing the World*

Retreats

The SWG hosted two facilitated retreats this year. A Fall Facilitated Retreat was held from November 11-14 at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, in which Writer-in-Residence **Katherine Lawrence** worked with ten emerging writers. A Spring Facilitated Retreat was hosted April 28-May 1 at Queen's House Retreat Centre in Saskatoon with Writer-in-Residence **Yvonne Blomer**, who worked with eight retreatants.

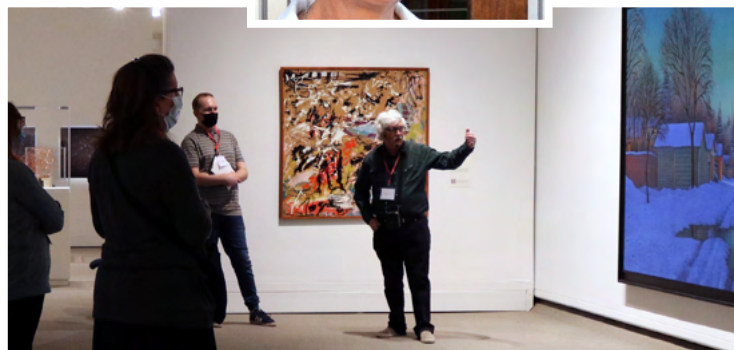
Two Writers' Retreats were hosted successfully at St. Peter's Abbey: the Winter Writers' Retreat (Feb 4-25) welcomed 11 retreatants and the Summer Writers' Retreat was hosted July 8-29 with 13 writers. **Judy McCrosky** continues to serve as our on-site retreat coordinator.

Clockwise from top:
Kate Finegan
Briana Brownell
Katherine Lawrence
Krystal Kavita Jagoo

Bottom: Bruce Rice
at MacKenzie Art
Gallery

Writers' Groups

In 2021-22, the SWG funded 14 writers' groups, who rose to the challenge of meeting and retreating, developing their craft of writing and critiquing each others' work.



INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

Indigenous Storytelling Month

The SWG's Indigenous Storytelling Series was a series of virtual weekly events with host **Janelle "ecoaborijanelle" Pewapsconias** featuring the following writers and storytellers:

- **Melissa Worme** - *From Quills to Beadwork*
- **Julianna McLean** - *Indigenous Erotica in Literature for Healing*
- **Randy Lundy** - *Poetry Reading & Discussion*
- **Lyndon Tootoosis** - *Stories Through Stone*

These events were funded by the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples.

Indigenous Mentorship Program

Two pairs of apprentices and mentors were matched in the 2022 Indigenous Mentorship Program to work together between January and May. This year's participants included:

- **Kaleigh River Aramenko** (Ile a la Crosse), mentored by **Nathan Adler** (Vancouver)
- **Rhonda Donais** (Regina), mentored by **Barb Frazer** (Moose Jaw)

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Jingle Dress Dance: Origin Story and Healing Medicine - June 2, 2022

Our presenting artist **Julianna McLean** from James Smith Cree Nation, is a writer of short stories and poetry that focus on her grandparents, mothers and residential/day school experiences. The event was hosted by **Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane**.

Tânsi Talks

Tânsi means welcome/hello in Cree and we welcomed writers from all over Canada and the US to our online noon-hour conversations with Indigenous writers about writing and storytelling:

- **Randy Morin** with **Randy Lundy**
- **Maria Campbell** with **Karen Schmon**
- **Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane** with **Melissa Worme**
- **Nathan Adler** with **Tonia Laird**

Truth & Reconciliation Day

Truth & Reconciliation – An Indigenous Viewpoint - September 30, 2021

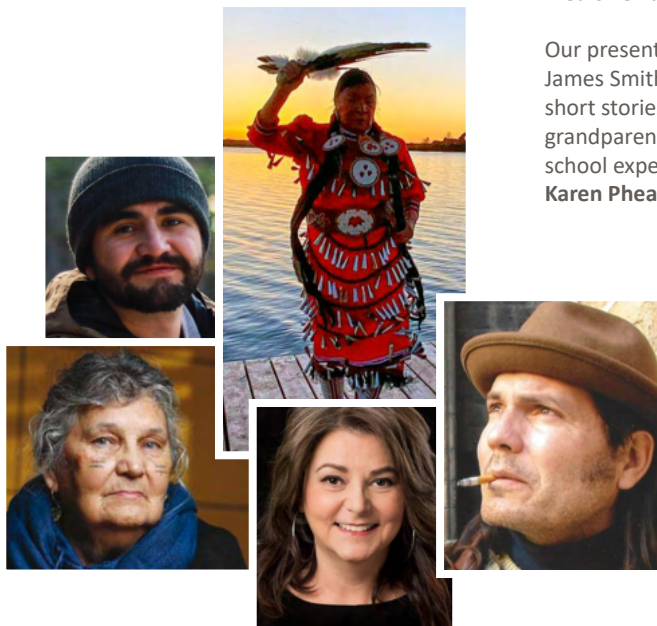
Sandi Boucher, presenter, hails from Seine River First Nation in northern Ontario, Canada. She has published books, Video Courses & Webinars. Books published are *Honorary Indian*, *Her Mother's Daughter* and *The Path*. This event was hosted by **Tala Tootoosis**.

Creative Writing Workshops

The SWG partnered with the Saskatoon Public Library for two Creative Writing Workshops:

- **Cooper Skjeie** - *To Write With Autumn*
- **Jenn Gardiner** - *Spiritual Writing to Heal Wounds*

Clockwise from top:
Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane
Randy Lundy
Sandi Boucher
Maria Campbell
Cooper Skjeie



WRITING FESTIVALS

Writing North 2022

From January 27-29, the SWG and the University of Saskatchewan's MFA Program hosted *Writing North 12: Tenacity*.

348 people attended the events live while 807 viewed the recorded events after.

The program included:

- **Helen Humphrey** - Keynote lecture and conversation with **Anne Lazurko**
- Interactive workshops with **Sharon Bala** (fiction), **Di Brandt** (poetry), **Helen Knott** (nonfiction) and **Michael Prior** (poetry).
- Recorded interviews and readings featuring interviewers **Sarah Ens** (Di Brandt), **Iryn Tushabe** (Sharon Bala), **Mika Lafond** (Helen Knott) and **Cassidy McFadzean** (Michael Prior).

Talking Fresh 2022

Our Talking Fresh 2022 festival was held virtually March 2-4 and in-person on March 4 with the theme of *Weathering Heights: Creativity and Climate Change*.

171 people attended the events live while 208 viewed the recorded events after.

The program included:

- Climate Conversations with playwrights **Alanna Mitchell** and **Mary Blackstone**, Indigenous writers **Barb Frazer** and **Lori Deets**, and poets **Madhur Anand** and **Warsha Mushtaq**
- A Canadian Cli-Fi panel with **Premee Mohamed**, **Doreen Vanderstoop** and host **Waubgeshig Rice**
- Interactive writing workshops with **Premee Mohamed** (sci-fi), **J.B. MacKinnon** (nonfiction) and **Barbara Klar** (poetry)
- A local food evening at MELD Kitchen, featuring a 3-course meal sourced from local ingredients, and a live conversation between nonfiction writers **J. B. MacKinnon** and **dee Hobsbawn-Smith**.



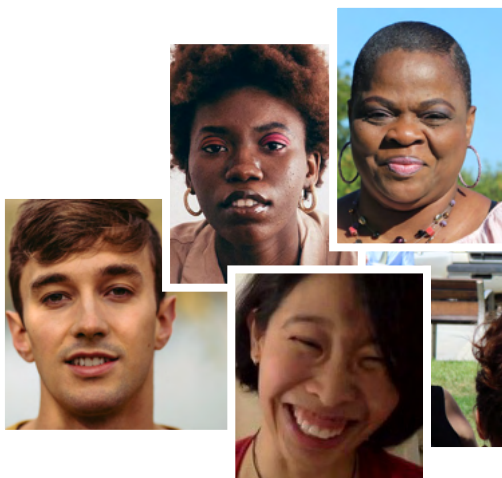
Talking Fresh attendees of the J.B. MacKinnon and dee Hobsbawn-Smith talk were treated to a 3-course meal at MELD Kitchen in Regina.

READING PROGRAMS

Forging Futures: A Black History Month and Black Futures Month Reading

Every February, people in Canada are invited to participate in *Black History Month/Black Futures Month* festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.

Forging Futures: A Black History Month and Black Futures Month Reading is an event where we celebrate and amplify the talent of Black writers in Saskatchewan and Canada, and demonstrate wholeheartedly that #black-writersmatter then, now, and into the future. This event featured **Michael Afenfia, Jennifer S. Wallace, Oluneye Oluwole, Franchesco Ashley**, and was hosted by **Peace Akintade**.



Book Bytes - Summer Reading Series

Book Bytes is our online summer reading series that brings audiences readings by an eclectic mix of Saskatchewan authors and storytellers over the lunch hour.

August 2021 readers and hosts included:

- Play/Scriptwriting - **Brad McDougall, Mitchell Larsen, Vanessa Provost**, with host **P. J. Worrell**
- Children's/YA Fiction - **Dianne Young, Marie Powell, Melanie McFarlane** with host **Lois A. Unger**

July 2022 readers and hosts included:

- Children's Lit - **Helen Chang, Danica Lorer, Alison Lohans** with host **Nikki Kennedy**
- Fiction - **Josiah Nelson, Tomi Oyegoke, Annabel Townsend** and host **Rachel Walliser**



Words in the Park

Words in the Park returned to Regina's Victoria Park for two events in July 2022 after a two-year hiatus.

Our readers and hosts included:

- **Jesse Archibald-Barber, Tara Gereaux**, with host **Bevann Fox**
- **Hannah Senicar, Harlee Kelly, Joel Zimmerly**, with host **Melanie Schnell**

Clockwise from top:
 Oluneye Oluwole
 Harlee Kelly
 Helen Chang
 Mitchell Larsen
 Peace Akintade

Penned Up!

We know how hard it can be to make time to write, so we wanted to provide a small solution for our membership by introducing *Penned Up!*

Our objectives for this program are to provide a two-hour period and space for folks to drop in and write. We also want these *Penned Up!* sessions to be opportunities for members to build community, gather together in a shared space, meet writing goals, commit to writing, and to protect creative time by coming to write.

We host virtual Zoom drop-ins on a monthly schedule between September and May. Over 50 people participated in more than three events.

Poetry & A Pint

The Poet Laureate's Poetry & A Pint at Bushwakker's Brew Pub was back May 21 after a two-year hiatus. Saskatchewan's Poet Laureate **Carol Rose GoldenEagle** read and hosted readings by fellow Regina and area poets **Courtney Bates-Hardy**, **George Grassick**, **gillian harding-russell**, **Erik Mehlsen**, and **Bruce Rice**.

Author Readings Program

This well-established SWG program was another big success! We continued to be flexible with our readings due to the realities of living with Covid and approved online readings in addition to in-person readings.

Eighty-one different schools, libraries, and community groups hosted readings by 49 Saskatchewan authors. In this fiscal year, there have been 115 approved readings—87 readings were in-person and 28 were online with 23,329 attendees!

One online reading had over 16,000 views from children, youth, and adults from around Saskatchewan! It was put on by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network and featured SWG member **Miriam Körner** and **Bernice Johnson-Laxdal** for their book, *When the Trees Crackle with Cold*. Thank you to the tireless efforts of organizers who connect audiences and authors across Saskatchewan.

Well-Versed: A Lecture Series

The SWG hosted two virtual lectures this year featuring well-established Canadian writers. Writers and audience members from all over Canada attended these events, which were recorded and available on the SWG's YouTube channel.

- **Lawrence Hill** presented *Sure, craft is vital, but how about some soul on the page?* and chatted with host **Theresa Slind**.

- **Jane Munro** spoke about *Architecture for the Imagination*, followed by a conversation with host **Katherine Lawrence**.

Clockwise from top:
Jane Munro
Lawrence Hill
Miriam Körner
George Grassick



SWG IN THE COMMUNITY

Saskatoon Open Door Society This is my Journey: Newcomer Stories

In partnership with the Saskatoon Open Door Society, the SWG offered newcomers to Canada in Saskatoon one creative writing opportunity to share their stories and experiences through the art of creative writing.

Danica Lorer facilitated this online workshop series: a three-hour series in October and November with seven participants.

Participants used different storytelling methods to generate stories inspired by their experiences.



Opening
Doors
Through
Stories: Discovery
WRITING FROM NEWCOMERS TO REGINA



Regina Open Door Society Opening Doors Through Stories

A group of newcomers to Canada met every Saturday in November online through the Regina Open Door Society (RODS) to work with author **Iryn Tushabe** to develop creative writing and expand their English literacy skills.

Opening Doors Through Stories: Discovery, the fourth chapbook in the *Opening Doors Through Stories* series, 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.

The *Opening Doors Through Stories: Discovery* launch was held online in June and was hosted by facilitator and editor, Iryn Tushabe.

2021-2022 Chapbook contributors are: Abdul Salam Abo Alshamat, Mohammad Nure Alam, Bhoomika Dongel, Khaldoun Abou Alshamat, Maricar Benedicto, Shama Mahajan, and Shuchen Hu.



Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan Stories Under a Living Sky

The SWG partnered with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) to host *Stories Under a Living Sky: From Many Stories Strength*, a live online performance and conversation by artists representing diverse cultural backgrounds in Saskatchewan on June 27.

Writers **Elena Bentley**, **Khodi Dill**, **Carol Rose GoldenEagle**, **Warsha Mushtaq** and host **Neil Aitken** connected over personal and collective stories in this intimate event.

Cathedral Village Arts Festival

The SWG hosted a virtual *Windscrip*t launch with readings by the magazine contributors, hosted by Managing and Poetry Editor **Elena Bentley** and Prose Editor **P.J. Worrell**, and co-organized a workshop with The Vertigo Series *Write Your Life* facilitated by **Raye Hendrickson**.

Clockwise from top:
Neil Aitken
Raye Hendrickson
Khodi Dill

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 offered three genre-specific online writing workshops:

- **Mark Allard-Will:** *Graphic Novels from Script to Panel*
- **Alice Kuipers:** *Make Anything and Everything You Write Better*
- **Tracy Cooper-Posey:** *After the Happy Ever After*

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 Lorer facilitated two workshop series: a 12-hour series in October and November with nine participants, and a ten-hour in-person series in February and March with ten participants.

Both groups explored memory and imagination through creative writing, published their work in a chapbook designed by the Global Gathering Place and read their work in a final performance.

SWG Sponsored Events

The SWG sponsored the following writing events across the province:

- A screenwriting workshop by Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association (SMPIA)
- Saskatchewan Festival of Words' writing workshops with **Daniel Scott Tysdal**, **Michelle Good** and **Warsha Mushtaq**
- Saskatchewan Library Association – *One Book One Province* with **Habeeb Salloum** for *Arab Cooking on a Prairie Homestead: Recipes and Recollections from a Syrian Pioneer* (performed by contemporary writers)
- Playwright Reading Series at the University of Regina
- Harvest Moon Festival organized by Heritage Community Association in Regina
- Opening reception of the 2021 Ânskohk Festival organized by Saskatchewan Ânskohk Writers Circle Inc (SAWCI)
- Prince Albert YWCA's Rendalyn Home and Harmony Home for creative workshops



Clockwise from top:
Mark Allard-Will
Tracy Cooper-Posey
Danica Lorer
Alice Kuipers

AWARDS

City of Regina Writing Award

The 2022 City of Regina Writing Awards on May 18 celebrated winner **Ken Wilson** for his submission *Walking the Bypass: A Meditation on Place* and runners up **Marie Powell** and **Hannah Senicar**. Judges were Eddy Boudel Tan and Jane Munro.

The SWG is grateful to the City of Regina for their continued sponsorship of this \$4,500 award and reception.



(l-r): Hannah Senicar, Marie Powell, Ken Wilson

The 2021 Kloppenburg Award For Literary Excellence

Bill Waiser was the winner of the 2021 Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence.

The announcement took place at an in-person lunch at the Saskatoon Golf & Country Club on Sept 13 with the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Russ Mirasty, Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg and other invited guests in attendance. A video featuring Bill Waiser reading from his books and speaking about his writing career, produced by Shoot with Scrapes Videography, is available to view on the SWG YouTube Channel.

The SWG is deeply appreciative of Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg's continued support for this award.



(l-r): Henry Kloppenburg, Bill Waiser, Cheryl Kloppenburg

John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award in Poetry

Jurors Ali Blythe and Sally Ito awarded first-place to **Barbara Klar** (*centre*) for *The Fox House*, second place to **Rita Bouvier** (*left*) for *a beautiful rebellion* and third place to **Bernadette Wagner** (*right*) for *Situate Uranium*. Winners received \$1,000, \$650, and \$350 respectively and were honoured at the SWG Conference.



Hyland Volunteer Award

The 2021 Hyland Volunteer Award was awarded to **Rita Bouvier** (*left*) and **Bruce Rice** (*right*) at the AGM for their long-standing and various contributions to the SWG and the Saskatchewan and national writing community.



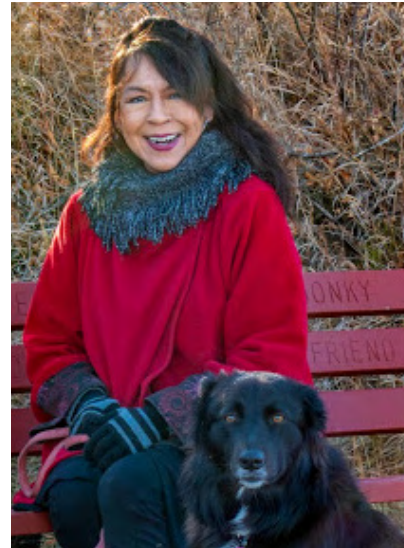
POETS LAUREATE

Carol Rose GoldenEagle Saskatchewan Poet Laureate

As Poet Laureate, Carol had a busy year meeting virtually with classes and writing groups, and reading or performing at in-person events. Some events included lectures or readings organized by libraries, Heritage Regina, Buffalo People Arts Institute, Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre, Bushwackers Brew Pub, as well as visits to schools including: Cornwall Alternative School, Lumsden Elementary School and MJ Coldwell School.

In addition to reading or hosting SWG events including our Caroline Heath Memorial Lecture, Stories Under a Living Sky, and Poetry Soiree at Government House, Carol was involved in an “artist takeover” of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance’s social media in February.

Carol will also be Poet Laureate for the term Aug 2022 – July 2023.



Warsha Mushtaq Saskatchewan Youth Poet Laureate

As Youth Poet Laureate, Warsha was involved in SWG events including the 2021 Hicks Awards ceremony, Talking Fresh, and Stories Under a Living Sky, as well as the Festival of Words.



CONFERENCE & AGM

The SWG Fall Conference with the theme *Resonance* was held virtually and in-person at the Saskatoon Delta Downtown Hotel October 18-23, 2021 ending with the Annual General Meeting.

Small Talk Series

An online workshop series about the craft of writing in various genres. Presenters also provided writing exercises for participants to complete on their own.

(clockwise from top)

- **Jenn Ashton** - *The Short, Short Story: Encapsulating Perfection in Flash and MicroFlash Formats*
- **Dani Spinosa** - *Digital Poems, Digital Pictures*
- **Daniel Coleman** - *Place-Based Nonfiction*
- **SJ Sindu** - *Manipulating Time in Prose*
- **Charlie Petch** - *Strength in Words*



Interactive Poetry Workshop with **Leah Horlick (l)** and Interactive Nonfiction Workshop with **Sharon Butala (r)**



Caroline Heath
Memorial Lecture:
Political Art is Art -
with **Billy-Ray Belcourt**

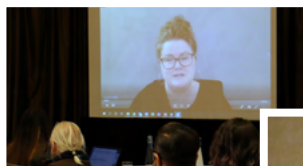


An Art-ful Conversation with Guy - a lunch conversation between **Arthur Slade (l)** and **Guy Vanderhaeghe (r)**

Launch of *apart: a year of pandemic poetry and prose* featuring Saskatoon and area contributors.

(clockwise from top)

- **Elena Bentley** - Reading from 'Out with the Laundry'
- **dee Hobsbawn-Smith** - Reading from 'Diners in a Dangerous Time'
- **Courtney Bates-Hardy** and **Dave Margoshes**, editors
- **Lloyd Ratzlaff** - Reading from 'Pedalogue for a Wonky Year'



PUBLICATIONS

Grain

Now in its 50th year, *Grain, the journal of eclectic writing*, has undertaken many new initiatives in addition to publishing exciting and diverse work by regional, national and international writers. Fiftieth-anniversary planning is well underway, and the magazine continues to grow in reach and content.

Volume 49 consisted of four regular issues, publishing 102 writers for a total of 112 pieces, plus six short *Grain* winners. *Grain* had an average of 420 subscribers per issue, up slightly from last year, while single issue sales of 99 were down from 146 last year, partly due to distributor problems. General submissions also rose to 3046 from 2950 (1409 poetry, 1289 fiction, 349 non-fiction), with 388 from Saskatchewan. Volume 49 featured the work of visual artists Meryl McMaster (49.1), Eric Louie (49.2), Barbara Cole (49.3), and Anne Brochu Lambert (49.4).

Grain's editorial team includes Brenda Schmidt (poetry) and Kate O'Gorman (prose). We welcome incoming proof-reader Delane Just, and thank outgoing

proofreader Lean MacLean-Evans for her work over the years.

Judges for our 34th annual Short *Grain* contest were Sheri Benning (poetry) and Sean Michaels (fiction). Ninety-eight people submitted 145 fiction pieces and 110 people submitted 208 poetry pieces.

Grain's website is undergoing a redesign to support better technology and to herald our 50th year. Interviews with the visual artists of each issue are now posted on the website. Additionally, *Grain* has established a monthly social media strategy, including weekly features and content excerpts. Thanks to the SWG team, Tea Gerbeza, Andrea MacLeod, and Shirley Fehr for their help with these initiatives.

We are grateful to Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg for their ongoing support of the Short *Grain* Contest and for funding the new *Hybrid Grain* Contest, which opened in August 2022.

Grain also thanks the Canada Council for the Arts and Saskatchewan Lotteries through SaskCulture for their continued support.

Mari-Lou Rowley
Editor, *Grain*



FALL 2021 VOL. 49.1



SPRING 2022 VOL. 49.3



WINTER 2022 VOL. 49.2



SUMMER 2022 VOL. 49.4

Windscrip

Windscrip features the best in Saskatchewan high school writing. A great crowd online on Zoom celebrated the launch of *Windscrip* Vol. 38 at the Cathedral Village Arts Festival. Managing and Poetry Editor **Elena Bentley** and Prose Editor **P.J. Worrell** hosted the event.



Contributors included:

Maia Battersby, Emma Benoit, Maggie Beth Bieber, Momin Bilal, Sanjana Brijlall, Harlee Brinkman, Poppy Brown, Kiran Butter, Madeline Clincke, Lilah Flieg-Bacheschi, Abigail Friesen, Silvana Gebremeskel, Farheen Karim, Daylon Lloyd LaFreniere, Addisen Laird, Seija Liimatainen, Penny Lounsbury, Keira Miller, Megan Mineau, Shanzay Nawaz, Nesochi Okezie-Enyioma, Taqdees Thajudeen, Allison Wawryk, Hayden Webb, Myles West.

Windscrip award winners and honourable mentions:

Jerrett Ens Award for Poetry

Winner: *The Butterfly* by Abigail Friesen

Honourable Mention: *The Vandalism of My Fruitful Childhood* by Farheen Karim

Jerrett Ens Award for Prose

Winner: *It All Comes Down to Courage* by Silvana Gebremeskel

Honourable Mention: *Mirrors* by Sanjana Brijlall

Currie-Hyland Award for Poetry

Winner: *The Final Interlude* by Megan Mineau

Honourable Mention: *In the Meadow* by Lilah Flieg-Bacheschi

eBriefs

A weekly members email newsletter, *eBriefs* provides information on SWG events and announcements, member news and industry and professional development opportunities. In 2021/2022, the SWG distributed 52 eBriefs to an average of 559 people with readers throughout Canada, and internationally.

spring

spring is a biannual publication that showcases emerging Saskatchewan writers. Managing and Prose Editor **Edward Willett** and Poetry Editor **gillian harding-russell** worked with over 153 submissions to select 30 final works of fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry by 25 emerging writers. Contributors were able to read their work at the Regina *spring* launch on June 8 at the Artesian or the Saskatoon *spring* launch on June 17 at the Delta Downtown Hotel.



Contributors included:

Leah Callen, Helen Chang, Jan E. Coffey, smee, Bhoomika Dongol, Fran E. Eldridge, Troni Y. Grande, George Grassick, Dylan Kent, Mic LaFreniere, Caitlin McCullam-Arnal, Rhea McFarlane, Linda Meyer, Warsha Mushtaq, Josiah Nelson, Gayle Nemeth, Mareike Neuhaus, Karen Nye, Gina Rozon, Camille St. Amand, Colleen Steele, Shayna Stock, H. Morgan Traquair, Maria Vanderbie, Lori Ulrich.

Freelance

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 the writing of 27 contributors and the artwork of four Saskatchewan artists from August 2021-July 2022. *Freelance* is mailed and emailed to members based on their preference.



AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

2021-22

The audit committee now meets online quarterly with the ED and finance manager to review quarterly financial results. Meeting minutes are maintained and submitted to the board.

Both the ED and finance manager are attentive to internal controls around financial reporting and closely monitor finances and budget. SWG is fortunate to have knowledgeable and dedicated staff. The audit partner met with the committee, ED, and finance manager to review draft audited financial statements to July 31, 2022. There were no significant audit findings.

The auditor was pleased to note that project accounting plus a deferred revenue tracking spreadsheet have been implemented. She was highly complimentary of purchase controls. She was also complimentary about presentation of financial statements to the board at regular meetings.

The auditor also noted:

- She has worked on the SWG file for many years and is now a partner with the firm.
- Membership revenue can now be verified and this qualification has been removed from the audit report.
- Future donation revenue will be segregated in the GL so donations through the website, which should be verifiable, will be separately reported.
- RBC investment savings has been reclassified from investments to cash.
- All GICs are classed as short-term assets.
- The cash balance is healthy.
- The Grain website has been amortized 50% current year and 50% next year in anticipation that it will be replaced next year.
- There is a note regarding the allocation of wages/benefits to multiple expense lines.
- Net income is positive and on budget.
- Cash flow is positive.
- The only audit adjustments were related to fixed assets and amortization. No change to net income.

Monica Johnson, B.A., CPA, CMA
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, 2022, 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, 2022. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 25, 2022.

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 25, 2022. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was on the completeness of donation, fundraising 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

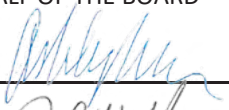

REGINA, Saskatchewan
September 25, 2022

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summary Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As of July 31	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Current assets	\$ 818,155	\$ 755,058
Capital assets and art work	35,648	41,021
Due from related parties	-	3,701
	\$ 853,803	\$ 799,780
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities	\$ 39,801	\$ 44,895
Current deferred revenue	457,083	393,602
Long term deferred revenue	-	7,648
Due to related parties	-	-
Net Assets	356,919	353,635
	\$ 853,803	\$ 799,780

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


 _____ Director

 _____ Director

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	2022		2021
REVENUES			
Grant	\$	797,116	\$ 808,571
Self-generated		76,145	65,944
Donations and sponsorships		39,368	39,070
Grain <i>(Schedule 1)</i>		58,053	61,491
Retreat <i>(Schedule 2)</i>		19,890	10,020
Fundraising		2,748	4,081
Government subsidies		22,967	
		1,016,287	989,177
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees		180,547	203,189
Program delivery		66,853	45,172
Grain <i>(Schedule 1)</i>		103,173	95,384
Retreat <i>(Schedule 2)</i>		42,930	21,301
Operational and amortization expenses		161,915	144,323
Salaries and benefits		448,153	435,592
Fundraising		1,059	2,212
Donation to SWG Foundation Inc.		8,373	30,000
		1,013,003	977,173
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$	3,284	\$ 12,004
Net assets - beginning of year		353,635	341,631
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$	356,919	\$ 353,635

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			(Schedule 1)	
Year Ended July 31		2022		2021
REVENUES				
Grant	\$	37,000	\$	37,000
Donations and sponsorships		2,600		2,500
Publications revenue		18,453		21,991
		58,053		61,491
EXPENSES				
Artists' fees		65,737		62,591
Publishing and distribution		20,231		16,623
Office, meetings and travel		1,713		1,981
Amortization of intangible assets		1,025		-
Salaries and benefits		14,467		14,189
		103,173		95,384
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM GRAIN OPERATIONS	\$	(45,120)	\$	(33,893)

Summary Statement of Retreat Operations			(Schedule 2)	
Year Ended July 31		2022		2021
REVENUES				
Donations and sponsorships		1,700		225
Workshop and participant fees		18,190		9,795
		19,890		10,020
EXPENSES				
Artists' fees		5,000		4,150
Program delivery		34,470		14,045
Office, meetings and travel		417		102
Salaries and benefits		3,043		3,004
		42,930		21,301
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM RETREAT OPERATIONS	\$	(23,040)	\$	(11,281)

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

Board of Directors **(August 2021-August 2022)**

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Past President

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Program Manager

Yolanda Hansen

Indigenous Program Manager

Debbie Sunchild-Peterson

Financial Manager

Jacqueline Fry

Administrative Assistant

Andrea MacLeod

Program Coordinator

Cat Abenstein

Program Assistant

Tea Gerbeza *(began Jan. 2022)*

Publications Coordinator

Shirley Fehr

Intern

Tanisha Khan *(ended Nov. 2021)*

Grain

Editor - Mari-Lou Rowley

Prose Editor - Kate O’Gorman

Poetry Editor - Brenda Schmidt

Thank you to all our donors

Grain Magazine

Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg

Kloppenburg Award

Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg
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Doreen Kerby

Andrew Suknaski Writers' Assistance Fund

Glen Sorestad

SWG Foundation

Bhoomika Dongol
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Patricia Armstrong Fund

Katherine Lawrence

Retreats

Judy McCrosky

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gillian harding-russell
Miriam Körner
Laura Lawrence
Danica Lorer
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In Memory of Dave Glaze

Helen Mourre

Emerging Writers Campaign

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J. S. Bell
Rita Bouvier
Gail Bowen
Moni Brar
Jeanette Dean
Fran Eldridge
Tara Gereaux
Janet Hainstock
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Brenda Schmidt
P.J. Worrell

RiffRaffle Silent Auction

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Patricia Sinclair
Walter Murray

Funds Raised

The SWG raised \$385 in our virtual "RiffRaffle" silent auction held during the Annual Conference and AGM in October 2021.

In November 2021, the SWG raised \$1,025 in our Emerging Writers Campaign.

In May 2022, the SWG hosted a virtual 50/50 lottery which benefited our youth programs like *Windscrip* and our Youth Poet Laureate program. Congratulations to Scott Wilson who received half the pot of \$897.50.

SWG Operational Funders



SWG Partners & Sponsors





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