



# Writer's Connection

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MAY/JUNE 2003

## Quinte Writer's Guild Newsletter

Editor: M. E. Wood

imagery@sympatico.ca

962-3899

### REMINDERS

- Summer meetings are pot-luck and hosted away from the Wharf Street Club. July's Meeting will be at **6 PM July 8th** at Ruth's 180 Burnham St Bring a dish and a friend.
- Call Pam for details, 966-1755.
- Upcoming meetings: June 3, July 8 (July 1 is a holiday), August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2.
- Monthly Dues are \$3.

### Board & Executive

#### President:

Pamela Stork  
pstork@hotmail.com

#### Vice President:

Ruth Howard

#### Treasurer:

Maureen Wood  
imagery@sympatico.ca

#### Recording Secretary:

Angela McPherson  
somehulaba-

#### House Manager:

Susan Brannigan-Rampp  
ramp@sympatico.ca

Hello Guild Members!

It's hard to believe that summer is already here. It's even harder to stay inside and write when there is so much to see and do outside. It is not a bad thing to step away from your writing for a short time. Don't feel guilty. Let the summer months be a time for your wonderful ideas to percolate. Keep a notebook handy to jot fragments to act as a refresher for when those cool fall days come around and you're able to sit back in the seat again.

Have a great summer.

Maureen

## From Our President!

THE JOKE'S ON ME!

Most of you will remember the survey we conducted in 2002 in order to get a better feel for the wishes of our members. In response to the question "Would you be willing to help organize special events, workshops, miscellaneous projects etc?" an overwhelming 80% of you responded with a hearty "YES". I reported this in a rather facetious manner (Oh, yeah, **sure** they will!) when I distributed the results. Well, the joke's on me!

The very fact that you are reading this newsletter is indicative of the groundswell of active participation by members over the year since those results were tabulated. Look at your accomplishments, gang! We have new and willing members on the executive, this newsletter, the Yahoo message group and its contributors, the website, the events at the library...and new members who have joined because they are attracted by vibrant people who are willing to work the make the Quinte Writers' Guild better all the time.

My thanks to those of you who have worked to make this happen and my encouragement to *all* of you to try giving whatever little time you can afford. Just ask around and you'll hear that the more you put into it the more you get out of it...and it's fun!!!

Pam

**WHERE WE WRITERS MEET:  
WHARF STREET DEBATING CLUB  
34 S. FRONT ST.**

## Procrastination-By Angela McPherson (QWG Member)

It's a beautiful spring day outside, puffs of wind breathing life into the curtains, birds warbling songs from the uppermost maple branches. Today was custom made for kites on the clouds, for kids rolling down hills. I have sidewalks to sweep and windows to clean. My garden needs my attention daily at this time of year. Tomorrow I will sit down and write an article for the newsletter; today is just too beautiful to spend inside at a computer desk.

It's raining today, fat violent drops pelting my clean windows. The sky is grey and ominous. Everyone is in a terrible, no good, horrible mood. We are all stuck here looking at each other with long faces and headaches. The fridge has things living in it that need to be exterminated. The laundry is mountainous. I escape to a blanket tent and read the afternoon away. Tomorrow I will sit down and write an article for the newsletter; today is just too uninspiring to spend at a computer desk.

In this manner, I could wait decades for the right winter fireside, impoverished garret moment to write any-

thing. Perfect atmospheric conditions do not a writer make. Good writers write. Great writers write daily. The ideas and people living in our creative spaces need room, and the only way to make room is to move them out to the inviting acreage of the printed page. Often I have heard a writer comment that they were glad to "get rid of" a character or a project because they have become too real and burdensome to carry around all of the time. These creations manifest themselves, reoccurring in dreams and everyday thoughts, nagging at us until they are realised in expression.

Procrastination does have its moments. The adrenaline powered all-nighter history essay. Dentist appointments. Diets. Procrastination, however, is an unwelcome distractive device to the writer. Unsettling, uncomfortable times produce the most socially pivotal works. I suggest that the next time you are too tired or not in the mood to write, you bravely approach the blank page and see what happens. It's freezing in here and I'm hungry, but I have an article to write.

## Member News

- Tracy Riden is being published in 'Chicken Soup for the Bride's Soul'!
- Life Memberships were given to: Aureen Richardson, Tonia Demezya and Betty McGreggor for their longstanding support and dedication to the club and executive.
- Paul Corman has a new Website: <http://funink.tripod.com/paulcorman>
- Tuesday May 23, 2003 at the Belleville Club Marilyn Lawrie (Quinte Arts Council) hosted Belleville's first annual Liar's Contest. Chris Malette, Mark Philbin and Bob Clute sat at the judges table armed with their skepticism. Susan Brannigan-Rampp took first prize with a song "My daughter Peed on Santa." Murray Martin took second with a yarn about the 'Coronation Stone,' while Club president Pam Stork took third prize with a tale about her father and tipping cows. It was an enjoyable evening. Congratulations to all the winners!
- Congratulations to Peter Ferri: His short story, "Swallowtail Blue" where the little man who studies butterflies has to deal with his childhood bully was sold as a film script (1/2 hour) and it looks like the producer is interested in his other feature film script "Maia's Garden".

**"VIGOROUS  
WRITING IS  
CONCISE. THIS  
REQUIRES NOT THAT  
THE WRITER MAKE  
ALL HIS SENTENCES  
SHORT, OR THAT HE  
AVOID ALL DETAIL,  
BUT THAT EVERY  
WORD TELL."  
—WILLIAM STRUNK**

## From Our Web Mistress

Be sure to visit the Writer's Guild website (<http://quintewriters.tripod.com/>). Recently, it has undergone a few changes and is getting more and more hits. The Quinte Arts Council has posted a link to our website on their site so we have increased our exposure. Check out the News and Events to read more about the Liar's Contest. Email your comments, suggestions to Tracy Riden (web mistress) [riden.c@sympatico.ca](mailto:riden.c@sympatico.ca).

Don't forget to submit your bio and a brief clip of your work and I will post it to the site. If you would like a Bio Tips sheet to help construction of your bio, please see Tracy or send your request via email. Don't forget the online yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/quintewritersguild>). It's great to see it is being used, join and don't miss out!

Tracy

## Writing Websites

### Pedestal Magazine -

<http://www.thepedestalmagazine.com/submit1.asp>

### The People's Friend -

<http://www.jbwb.co.uk/pfguidelines.htm>

**Wakeup Writing** - <http://www.wakeupwriting.com/>

**Nervy Girl** - [http://www.spiritone.com/~rinehart/nervy/pb\\_queries.html](http://www.spiritone.com/~rinehart/nervy/pb_queries.html)

**FilmMakers.com** - <http://www.filmmakers.com/>

**For Writers** (From Kresley Cole) -

<http://www.kresleycole.com/ForWriters.htm>

## Market of the Month

### GEIST

(from their website: <http://www.geist.com/about/guidelines.html>)

Guidelines: Geist is conceived as a Canadian magazine of ideas and culture. It has a strong literary focus and a sense of humour; the Geist tone is intelligent, plain-talking, inclusive and offbeat. Each issue of the magazine is a strangely convergent collection of fiction, non-fiction, photographs, comix, reviews, little-known facts of interest, a bit of poetry and the legendary Geist crossword puzzle, all of which explore the lines between fiction and non-fiction, and which take a new look at the imaginary country we all inhabit from time to time, which often has something to do with Canada.

Before submitting work, please read an issue of the magazine, and while you're at it, why not read (or reread) George Orwell's pertinent essay "Politics and the English Language"? (Available free online at: [www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/orwell46.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/orwell46.htm))

### We are always on the lookout for:

Notes and dispatches Non-fiction, usually personal narrative, 200 to 1,000 words.

Findings Excerpts from works in progress and published work: short stories, poetry, non-fiction, 300 to 1,500 words. Also drawings and photographs.

Features Longer essays and stories, 2,000 to 5,000 words. We don't publish reviews, except by Geist staff and correspondents in the Endnotes section, but we will always read critical essays dealing with issues of the imagination as reflected, for instance, in the work of one or more authors.

Photographs, drawings, graphics and commix. We always need great visuals. We try for thematic and tonal compatibility but we don't commission or buy illustrations. When submitting artwork, send photocopies only - no originals.

Query first for longer works. Geist almost never commissions writing, but we can give you a general idea of whether we are interested. Please send your manuscript as hard copy in an envelope, not by e-mail or fax. (We'll just return it and ask you to send it again the old-fashioned way.) And please include SASE with Canadian postage or IRC.

Send queries and submissions to:

GEIST

#103-1014 Homer Street

Vancouver, B.C

V6B 2W9 Canada

**"ANYONE CAN  
PRINT A BOOK;  
THE TRICK IS TO  
GET SOMEONE TO  
READ IT."**

**—PETER MAYER,  
PUBLISHER**

## Upcoming Workshops/Speakers

The Quinte Writer's Guild Executive will get together over the summer to plan writing related workshops for the fall.

If you have any ideas please pass them along or bring them up at the meetings.

(Watch this spot for upcoming workshop announcements.)