

The Stroll Scroll

President's Message

This issue of the Stroll Scroll contains your notice of the General meeting. This means that the 4th year of the Stroll of Poets Society is coming to an end.

The society has been particularly active this year, giving all of us more opportunities than ever to perform our poems: Poetry LIVE!, the Fringe, the Stroll, the 12 Days, Poetry Night in Canada (kicking off this week, see later in the newsletter), the Anthology, the Calendar, Outreach and the Alberta Book Fair. The activities of the society have expanded significantly this year, despite increased funding pressure. This is due mainly to the hard work of a growing number of volunteers.

These volunteers include the members of the Board of Directors. On behalf of the membership, and on behalf of myself, I would like to thank the current board for their hard work and commitment, and congratulate them for a job well done: Doug Elves (Treasurer), Anna Mioduchowska (Secretary), Katherine McKee (Anthology Editor), Ivan Sundal, Ken Wilson, Jacques Benoit, Annette Cannell, Andrew Thompson, Ruth Donovan and Tracy Murray.

The board members usually get first crack at the work, by virtue of being on hand when it's parceled out, however, with so many events and projects there's more than enough to go around,

and many members have stepped in to pick up the slack. Many thanks to Paul Pearson, who coordinated both the Fringe event and the 12 Days; William Nichols and the rest of the fundraising committee, who conceived of and implemented the calendar project - which did make a profit. Thanks also to the many volunteers who stuffed envelopes, took tickets, distributed promotional material, read their poems, and came out to listen.

I urge all members to think about standing for the board this year. The board meets once a month for between 1 and 4 hours to discuss and plan:

- how to maintain and make the most of our infrastructure
- events like the Stroll, 12 Days, etc.
- publications like the Anthology and calendar
- Fundraising and grant applications
- Long-term vision for the society

Beyond the meetings, there's the

work itself. My experience has been that no-one has to do more than they want to - all the board members, plus a growing number of committed volunteers are willing to do a share of the work, and to help where needed.

If you'd like to know more, give me (Candace) a call at 469-8464.

I also would like to urge people to attend the general meeting. This is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other poets, and especially, to elect officers and board members, and to help shape the direction the society is going to take for the next year. Not only that, there's coffee and doughnuts and stuff.

New Address

The Stroll of Poets Society has a new mailing address:

Stroll of Poets Society
PO Box 35082
Oliver Postal Outlet
11229 - Jasper Avenue
T5K 2R8

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Annual General Meeting

The Stroll of Poets Society
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
will be held :

Saturday, March 11, 1995

at 2-4 pm

First Baptist Church

10031 - 109 Street

If any member has an item for the agenda, please contact Candace at 469-8464.

There are two motions that the board wishes to bring to the membership for a general vote:

- 1a. That a fourth table officer, Membership Secretary be created, to be responsible for collecting and maintaining the records of our membership, including (but not limited to) names, addresses and phone numbers, registration status, volunteer activities, etc.
- b. That the position of "Secretary" be changed to "Recording Secretary" to be responsible for recording, distributing and maintaining records of the AGM and board meetings.
2. That there be a restructuring of the Anthology production and distribution process such that:
 - a. on the day of Stroll performers submit their poems for the anthology;
 - b. immediately after the Stroll the contributors poems be photocopied and distributed to the 12 Days jury;

- c. we release the anthology for the 12 Days and Christmas Market
- d. contributors pick up their; complimentary copy during any of the 12 Days events;
- e. we publish 400 copies instead of 500.

The first motion is generated simply by the amount of work required for the secretary position; the division of labour a natural one. The board tried out this arrangement informally this year, with Anna Mioduchowska as recording secretary and Ivan Sundal as membership secretary. It worked well.

The second motion requires a little more elaboration. The anthology is intended as a document of the Stroll. Yet this year, 12% of the poems are by people who did not perform in the Stroll. Some of these poets were chosen for the 12 Days, or by Anna Beaumont for her 12th Day performance. The board has been hearing that members who *did* show up and perform in the Stroll feel this is unfair. Collecting poems at the Stroll would ensure the anthology is genuinely a document of the Stroll.

The second point is one of logistics. As an organization, we are trying to more with less. Collecting poems for the anthology currently begins at the general meeting, and usually continues well passed the June 1st deadline. It's a task that eats up a lot of time that could be used to plan or put on other events. Collecting poems on Stroll day would make this a one day job. In addition, coordinating the Stroll itself would be significantly simplified, allowing us to put on a better event with many fewer headaches.

The third point is one of philosophy. The purpose and mandate of the Stroll of Poets Festival is to provide a platform for *performance* of poetry. Yet the anthology receives more emphasis every year. There are those that argue that this detracts from the performance aspect of the Festival.

Finally, something about the number of copies. Simply, we want to publish the right number - enough to few, but not so few we don't have enough. The 500 we currently publish leaves us with too many left over.

You should also know that that the board is divided about the anthology issue. Please think about both sides and bring your ideas to the AGM, where it will be put to a vote.

If you would like to know more about either of these motions, contact Ivan Sundal at 421-0227.

New Registration Forms

You will note that the registration forms for Stroll membership are a little different this year. There are two new boxes. Both boxes allow you make a donation to the Stroll of Poets Society: one box is for a cash donation, the other for a donation of at least equal value to us - your time.

I've outlined before the cash value of what your \$5 "buys" you: a \$10 honorarium, a \$10 Anthology, opportunities to perform your poems, a \$25 honorarium if you read at the 12 Days, your newsletter. Your \$5 barely pays for the postage on the (continued on p3, see *donations*)

Donations

(cont. from p2)

newsletter. We do NOT want to raise the membership fee - anyone should be able to afford to join the society.

Instead, we are asking all members to consider *voluntarily* doubling their membership fee, by checking the cash donation box and slipping another \$5 in the envelope. (Naturally, if you want to donate *more* than \$5 please do so in any amount you feel appropriate.)

Being a poet isn't the most lucrative profession in the world. If you'd like to give a little more but can't afford to, or if you'd simply rather join the fun and volunteer, check that second box. Next year's volunteers will have more opportunities than ever to take leadership roles (if they wish) and help out in increasing numbers of events. We need all the help we can get, and you get the benefit of meeting more of your kindred poets.

Calls for Submissions

Madame Bull's Tavern

Madame Bull's Tavern is a literary magazine and review to be published four times per year and distributed across Canada, the US and worldwide. For our premiere issue, we are looking for:

Fiction	up to 5000 words
Poems	up to 8 pages
Creative Non-Fiction	up to 5000 words
Cartoons	single panel
Artwork	Black and white

Standard and experimental forms in *all genres* are welcome.

We are looking for work that explores public or "outer" life in a way that exposes and possibly subverts stereotypes, propaganda and the status quo. Some subjects of interest include the media, the arts, politics, economics, popular culture, culture and cultural institutions, social movements, advertising, etc. Humour and satire encouraged. In keeping with our title, we are also looking for good spy stories. *No pure introspection, unclosed parentheses or small "i" used without a good reason.*

The deadline for the first issue is:

APRIL 20, 1995

Please send typed, double-spaced, previously unpublished material, a short bio and SASE to:

Madame Bull's Tavern
PO Box 60369
U of A Postal Outlet
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada
T6G 2S9

or submit by e-mail via internet to:

catsi@ccinet.ab.ca

(type Madame Bull's Tavern" in the subject line; do NOT uuencode submissions)

Subscriptions cost \$24 for 1 year, plus applicable taxes and postage. Direct inquiries to either of the above addresses.

Rowan Books

Rowan Books is seeking submissions for a Christmas anthology with a difference.

Working title:

Not in Stock: Unexpected Christmas Readings,

Release date:

Christmas, 1995

Submit:

- poems, personal essays, short stories, etc., not more than 3000 words
- photographs or line drawings also acceptable.

Deadline for submission:

APRIL 1, 1995

Send submissions to:

Unexpected Christmas Stories
c/o St. Stephen's College
8810 - 112 Street
Edmonton, AB
T6G 2J6

Calling All Fools

The Stroll of Poets Society needs five fools for the Alberta Book Fair's Literary Cabaret. Each fool will receive a \$25 honorarium and a free cabaret ticket.

Date: April 1st, 1995

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: Grant MacEwan
Community College,
downtown Campus,
Multi-purpose Room

During the main-stage intermission, the fools will circulate among the cabaret tables, sort of like buskers, and titillate, muddle, or enlighten the minds of the court. The fools will wear performer badges and will be introduced by the cabaret MC, Alex Mair.

If you have some short funny poems, songs, parables or riddles (with or without deep political or metaphysical significance), and if you ain't no fool (i.e., you want the \$25 honorarium and a free ticket) call Ivan Sundal, Fool Coordinator (*it figures*), at 421-0227.

Events

The Alberta Book Fair

The Alberta Book Fair is an annual celebration (among other things) of writing and publishing in Alberta.

This year's event runs from:

March 31 - April 2, 1995

at

**Grant MacEwan Community
College
Downtown Campus
Multi-purpose Room**

Friday Night

Opening Night, featuring readings by Rudy Wiebe (1994 Governor General's Award for Fiction) and Bill Richardson.

Saturday

The Canadian Author's Association will hold writing workshops at the downtown public library:

- Sheldon Oberman and Cora Taylor, on writing for a younger audience
- Janice Mant, on mystery writing
- Alex Mair, on humour
- Mary Dawe, on publishing your work

The April Fools Literary Cabaret at Grant MacEwan Community College will feature:

- Main Stage Performances: Alice Major and Janice Mant as dueling presidents (Writer's Guild and Canadian Author's Association), Cora Taylor, Fred Stenson, Nancy Gibson, Shirley Serviss, and Sheldon Oberman
- Strolling Fools (Stroll of Poets Society)
- Bill Damur, flute
- Robert Woodbury, illustrator

- Games: word bingo and writer's digest

- snacks and drinks

Sunday

Book displays, story telling, puppet shows, and much more.

Special Guest: Sheldon Oberman, recipient of the 1994 National Jewish Book Award (children's picture book) for his work, *The Always Prayer Shawl*.

For more details about the Book Fair, call Francine at Wordworks, 424-7764.

Poetry Night in Canada - the event that Pocklington couldn't stop!

Hockey this year just doesn't cut it. First an interminable strike, then a pseudo-season with the sole purpose of squeezing as much money out of the sponsors and networks as possible.

For those looking for an alternative, the Stroll of Poets Society is going into the corners with Poetry Night in Canada.

The draft was held about three weeks ago and the poets are ready to hit the ice. The season opens at Café Soleil, 10360 Whyte Avenue on:

**Wednesday, February 15
7:30 pm**

with poets

Gina Varty

Candace Bamber

Geraldine Matus

Rebecca Luce-Kapler

Although the season opener is a Wednesday, "games" will normally be held every Tuesday night until June 13. Full season

schedules and poets' rosters will be available at Café Soleil on February 15.

There will be an open stage after each reading.

Admission is free, but please observe a reasonable minimum charge. For more information, call Jocko at 439-6816

(and if that isn't enough...)

Poetry Night in Canada - Sudden Death Play-offs

For those who simply cannot have a season without a play-off, picture this:

Two poets

each reads one poem

the one left standing goes on to the next round

the other hits the showers

The last poet alive wins.

For a meager entry fee of only \$5, this could be you on June 20 at Café Soleil at the Poetry Night in Canada Sudden Death Play-off.

Audience admission free - All proceeds to the Stroll of Poets Society. For more info - Call Jocko at 439-6816.

Anything Else?

I intend to start printing short poems in the newsletter. Please submit attn: Newsletter Poems at the Stroll's new address. If you have any news, know of calls for submissions, or have something you want to say to the membership, the newsletter has room for it. For more information, call Candace at 469-8464