



The Stroll Scroll

November 1996

Some good and not-so-good news

By Jocelyne Verret
President

The good news first: Our October 6 Stroll was a huge success. Merle Collins energized us and stirred us on to great readings. I extend my thanks to everyone who read and attended. I also wish to congratulate **Marilyn Hooper**, our Stroll coordinator *extraordinaire*. So come one, come all to our December 1 anthology launch and pick up your copy at that time. The launch will be held at Edmonton City Hall from 2 to 3:30 pm, and an emergency general meeting of the Stroll will then be held from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. More about this later . . .

Canadian Authors' Association Invites Us Over

The Canadian Author's Association, Alberta Branch, is having a get-together for

writers on November 29 at 8 pm, University of Alberta, Education Building, 10th Floor Lounge. Take the elevator to the 9th Floor, then walk up to the 10th. I will be out of town on that day, but I encourage all of you who will be in town and free to attend to do so and represent the Stroll.

Another Major Announcement

Alice Major was recently named a runner-up in the international poetry competition sponsored by *Stand Magazine* (a British literary journal). She was invited to read at the prize-giving ceremony at the University of Leeds on November 7. She has also been a finalist in several other poetry competitions this year — including *Room of One's Own*, the Hawthorne Chapbook contest, and the Orillia poetry competition.

Albert Millaire in Town

L'UniTheatre, which so graciously let us use its space free of charge for last spring's writing workshop, is bringing in world renown actor Albert Millaire. Please see insert.

I thank **Ivan Sundal** for putting the "not-so-good news" together so succinctly and clearly for us:

The Not-So-Good News

The problem: Word on the Street, a registered Ontario corporation based in Toronto, operating primarily on federal funds, may grant a franchise to an Edmonton group to put on a literary festival in Old Strathcona one week before the Stroll's traditional, established literary festival in Old Strathcona.

The Stroll of Poets Society facilitates about 500 individual performances in about 25

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venues on about 35 dates during our calendar of events. Our events — the Stroll of Poets festival in the beginning of October, the launch of our anthology in the beginning of December, the 12 Days of Poetry reading series in January, and our reading series in late winter and spring — are linked by structure and by timing. The Stroll of Poets festival, traditionally held on the first Sunday of October, is the keystone event on our calendar: it sets everything in our society in motion. It serves our membership of 160 very well. The complexity and disruption of moving the Stroll to the spring, which we may have to do if other options fail us, would be similar to that experienced by a large well-settled family that is forced to move to a different city.

Our Options

- Hold the seventh annual Stroll on our traditional, established date and hope that our audience won't mind giving a second weekend in a row of their time to literary festivals.
- Hold the Stroll on the same day as WOTS and hope that the Edmonton WOTS board will either join us in a 50/50 venture, or will at least be sensitive enough to

our legitimacy and our needs to grant us sufficient control over scheduled WOTS readings to ensure that we can put on a genuine Stroll.

- Move the Stroll to the spring.

We are very sceptical of option number one; and we have not, so far, been given any indication that number two can come to be — though we are not giving up hope on it yet. Not all the facts are in, so the Stroll society is not yet in a position to make an informed decision. We don't know if Toronto will grant Edmonton a WOTS franchise; we don't know if Toronto will recognize and respond to the Stroll's legitimacy and our need for more room on the calendar; and we don't know what the Edmonton WOTS board will be like. This puts us in a difficult position because the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA), which is willing to allow us to apply beyond the deadline for spring funding, needs our application in very short order.

Our position is this. We are not moving to the spring unless we are forced to. Since our festival is the established one, we don't feel

obliged to step aside for a new one. Furthermore, we strenuously object to any attempts to push us off the calendar.

The Stroll board is calling an emergency general meeting of the society to ask the membership to endorse the board's authority to make the decision when all the facts are in.

Although the Stroll society is healthy and growing, it is in serious danger. If our keystone festival is a failure in 1997, that could well mean that our whole structure will collapse. We hope that all parties concerned will give serious consideration to the ethics involved. We urge everyone to think about what is truly valuable. We submit that the Stroll is truly valuable in the literary and greater community of Edmonton.

*Ivan Sundal
Stroll of Poets board member
and representative at the
November 14 WOTS meeting
in Edmonton*

P.S. I have just come from the WOTS meeting, and it now appears that option number two is a possibility. I will elaborate at the Stroll general meeting. *I.S. Nov. 14, 1996*

Stroll of Poets Anthology Launch & Emergency General Meeting

Sunday, December 1, 1996 @ 2 pm
Edmonton City Hall



There will be short readings by five poets — the editor's choice — followed by refreshments and socializing. The anthology includes poems and bios from 111 poets who performed in the 6th Annual Stroll of Poets Festival. Everyone is welcome.

If you submitted a poem to the anthology, you may pick up your complimentary copy at the launch. If you can't make it to the launch, and if you would like us to mail your copy to you, please send the Stroll of Poets Society \$2.75 to cover postage and a book-mailing envelope.

Watch for the results of the 12 Days selection contest and a schedule for the 12 Days of Poetry reading series at the launch.

For more information, call Ivan Sundal at 488-9647.

Writers' Circle
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Nov. 19 & 21
Dec. 17 & 19

For information about Tuesday's group, call Toni at 426-6320.

For information about Thursday's group, call Sandra at 459-4669.

Design-It-Yourself Reading Series

By William Nichols

This year, we are going to try a "design-it-yourself" reading series. The series will be on Tuesday nights at a coffee house to be chosen later. Poets will suggest themes by the launch date of December 1. We publish the list in the newsletter, then poets submit their own names for first, second and third preference theme night. If we have more poets than spaces, first come, first served.

Here is an example: April 29 is one of our Tuesdays — it's leap day, too good a theme to pass up — so if you want to read some poems about things that don't come around too often, leaps of some sort . . . , then suggest yourself for April 29.

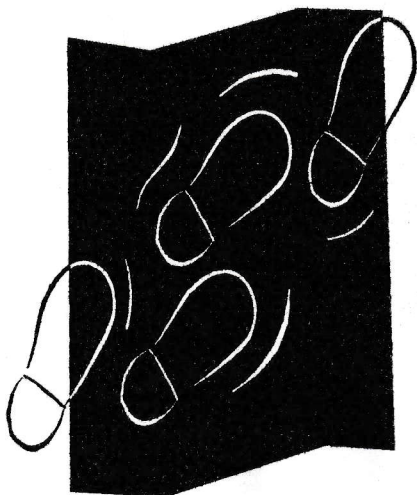
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April Fools Day is also a Tuesday and we shouldn't pass up that theme. But, what should the themes be for the other Tuesday nights? You tell us. Bring your ideas to the anthology launch or call William at 483-2032.

Here's the drill:

- Bring your theme to the launch, or write or phone it in.
- When the theme list is published in the next newsletter, nominate yourself for your first, second and third choice.
- Dig up or write some poems that have some connection with the theme (let your imagination be your guide).
- A schedule will be ready by the 12th Day.

There should be spots for everyone who wants to read. If some themes are oversubscribed, we'll work something out.



POETRY AT THE LIBRARY:

The Edmonton Public Library maintains a strong collection of current and classic, Canadian, and world poetry. Check for the title nearest you!

Fiddlehead Gold: Fifty years of the Fiddlehead Magazine.
Fredericton, Goose Lane, 1995. 819.108 Fid (The Stanley A. Milner Library subscribes to Fiddlehead magazine as well.)

Lee, John B. *The Beatles Landed Laughing in New York.*
Windsor, Black Moss, 1995. 819.1154 Lee

A Walk by the Seine: Canadian Poets on Paris. Edited by Cary Fagan.
Windsor, Black Moss, 1995. 819.1154 Wal

Lights, camera, poetry! American movie poems: the first hundred years.
San Diego, Harcourt Brace, 1996. 811.50803 LIB

Samuel Taylor. *Selected poems.*
HarperCollins, 1996. 821.7 Col

Tsimmu. *Learning from Eagle, living with Coyote.*
New York: Orion, 1993. 398.2 TSI

On entering the sea: the erotic and other poetry of Nizar Qabbani.
New York: Interlink Books, 1996. 892.716 QAB

Poetry of the Second World War: an international anthology.
London: Chatto & Windus, 1995. 808.81935 Poe

Heaney, Seamus. *The redress of poetry.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995. (Criticism) 821.009 Hea

The Columbia Anthology of British Poetry.
Columbia University Press, 1995. 821.008 Col

Pierce, David. *Yeats's worlds: Ireland, England and the poetic imagination.*
Yale University Press, 1995. 928.2 Yea Pie

Bringhurst, Robert. *The Calling: selected poems, 1970-1995.*
McClelland & Stewart, 1995. 819.1154 Bri

Bullseye: stories and poems by outstanding high school students.
Hanging Loose Press, 1995.

Higginson, William J. *The haiku seasons: poetry of the natural world.*
Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1996.

Contributed by Myrna Garanis, Canadiana Librarian, Stanley A. Milner Library, October 1996

