



the Stroll Scroll

April 2002

The Stroll of Poets Society semi-regular newsletter

A passionate Annual General Meeting

By Thomas Trofimuk

Here are my thoughts on the Annual General Meeting that was held March 23, 2002, at City Hall. Mostly, in the days following the meeting I thought about democracy.

Democracy is the shining, best attribute of the Stroll.

Visiting poets from Los Angeles and Toronto rave about the democracy that exists in this organization. I thought about the democracy of Stroll Day, which puts veteran poets with first-time readers, the democracy of the Stroll anthology, which says that if you read and hand in a poem you get published, and the democracy of any number of open-stage readings and events throughout the year at which members can share their hearts and minds in the form of poetry. As members, we vote. We have a say. We do not bully each other. We do not play dirty politics. We honour each unique voice. I want to applaud that democracy and hold it up as something that must be cherished and respected. And on a more cautionary note, it must be protected.

The Stroll remains one of the most inclusive organizations I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. It accepts poets and poetry in all forms, no matter how staid or bizarre. The Stroll has never censored. I know this inclusiveness will continue. I have every confidence as a member and past board member that the new board will continue to be inclusive and accepting. The new board is a beautiful mix of old and new. A few founding members are at the helm still – that's a pretty good sign for an organization that's 12 years old.

This is a very fine new board of directors. I believe we've left them in good shape. There's money in the bank, membership numbers are at record highs, and the Stroll has a new p.a. system that is a legacy for the future, so our

membership will sound better than ever. Our public face has grown by leaps and bounds. More people than ever know about the Stroll of Poets. That awareness can only grow.

I look forward to a brilliant new year of taking poetry to the people. I can hardly wait to see what the new board is going to do!!! Go get 'em!!!



"sheri-d" was in the house!

sheri-d wilson and "The Dirty Boys" band member, guitarist Randy Edwards at the Rhymes with Orange Hall Party, March 28. The night was a fundraiser for the Youthwrite summer writing camps and the kick-off for April's Poetree month festivities. (Full schedule INSIDE!)

your new board

President: Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck
Doug Elves, Ivan Sundal, Tom Emmens,
Ben Murray, Pierrette Requier, Ken Sutton,
John Chalmers

President's message

Have you ever been within a *dream come true*? I'm sure you have because you are poets and poets are always within dreams. "a posse ad esse" is Latin for: from possibility to actuality. As your new president I would like to use this philosophy as our motto. Think of it as written on an old stone wall of a campus administration building, only it is written upon the hearts of each of us as we work together to bring dreams to reality within the Stroll.

Being your president is an honour and a dream come true for me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support. Thank you also to my mentors, you know who you are. I thank each of you, for each of you has offered unique seeds to the Stroll, which have helped maintain its roots, and continued to nurture it. I also thank all who have come and gone through the years who have offered their gifts, work, commitment, and dedication within certain times of their lives. And I thank those of you who are stepping forward now to be part of the team.

As president I am only one—as a board and membership team we can make a difference. We need to keep focused on our mission and mandate: The Stroll of Poets Society is to promote the acceptance of poetry through vehicles such as poetry festivals, public readings, workshops, publishing and associated events. And I would like to stress that we continue to strive to bring quality poetry to the community.

Although each of us are unique poets, the Stroll is not only to spotlight our uniqueness, but to weave each of us into the common poetic thread as we continue to develop a connection as a group. I would like to see the communication within the Stroll deepen with a spirit of community and fellowship - working towards having each stroll member feel that they belong.

As a board, I stress this quote by Arland Gilbert: "When we accept tough jobs as a challenge and wade into them with joy and enthusiasm, miracles can happen." I endorse the team spirit where each board director works equally—no one gets burned out or has to do more than one's share. I also stress this motto for the board: "frustra labor at qui omnibus" – *You can't please the entire world.*

I am dedicated and committed to secure the Stroll's traditional roots and nurture new and exciting opportunities. I would like to investigate the possibility of

furthering public interest in poetry and see it become an actuality. Too often, our audiences consist of poets and their spouses, partners, friends, or work associates. This support is wonderful, however we need to search out new ways to attract the general public interest and support. We have the abilities to create a public poetry industry.

The Stroll image is within our hands—it rests within our hearts and activates our dreams—let's strive to keep our respect—continue to be looked upon as a reputable organization and generate positive poetic affluence.

Think of the Stroll as:

- S uccess
- T ogether
- R ewards
- O verall
- L iterary
- L ongetivity

Thanks to past prez Mark Kozub, past, past prez Nancy McKenzie and past directors: John Chalmers, Phil Jagger, Helen Lavender, Gordon McRae, Cindy-Lou Prokopy, Christina Tower, and Thomas Trofimuk. Congratulations to new directors: John Chalmers, Doug Elves, Tom Emmens, Ben Murray, Pierrette Requier, Ivan Sundal, Ken Sutton.

Thank you to Trevor Dekort for becoming the e-mail king, and Ken Sutton for Marketing & Sales, and Thomas Trofimuk for becoming newsletter editor.

Thank you to Gordon McRae for all his hard work—we will miss his presence.

Thank you to Rusti Leahy for past e-mail and Kathie Sutherland for newsletter editor, and Jo-Ann Godfrey for Marketing & Sales.

Thanks also to all those who supported the Youthwrite fundraiser at the Orange Hall. Thanks to you all for your encouragement and feedback over the past days—I continue to welcome your suggestions—enjoy the Poetree reading series and may the Stroll stand strong.

Sandra Mooney Ellerbeck
President, Stroll of Poets Society
s_mooney_ellerbeck@hotmail.com



editor's note

This is a new format and design for the newsletter. I can't remember who said it, but the saying goes: "if you want to make enemies, try and change something." For comments, suggestions and submissions, or story ideas, please contact Stroll Scroll editor, Thomas Trofimuk: trofs@shaw.ca And let your new board know what you think as well. namaste tt

"The constant assertion of belief is an indication of fear."
--J. Krishnamurti

ode to our founders

“Search and you will find that at the base and birth of every great organization was an enthusiast, a person consumed with earnestness of purpose, with confidence in their power, with faith in the worthwhileness of their endeavors.”

– B.C. Forbes

Poetree



Thursday, March 28th

7:00 p.m., CBC Radio's

Poetry Face-Off Challenge

A poetry showdown featuring Edmonton poets Jocko, Tim Bowling, Marilyn Dumont, Mark Kozub and Shirley Serviss. Location: O'Byrnes, 10616 - Whyte Ave.

8:30 p.m.

Rhymes With Orange Hall

A poetry open stage with The Raving Poets Band and headliner **sheri-d wilson**. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. Proceeds go to the Writers Guild of Alberta's *Youthwrite* program, which supports Alberta's young writers.

Location: Orange Hall, 10335 - 84th Avenue.

An age 18 + event.

Tuesdays:

April 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th

8:00 p.m. The Beat Goes On!

a poetry open stage.

Location: Backroom Vodka Bar, 10324 - 82nd Avenue. No cover charge. 18 +

Friday, April 12th

8:00 p.m.

Fetish Poetry. Edgy X-rated, bisexual, gay, and more-bent-than-straight verse. No cover charge.

Location: Naked Cyber Cafe, 10354 - Jasper Ave. 18 +

Tuesday, April 16th

7:00 p.m. **Thomas Trofimuk Book**

Launch for *The 52nd Poem: A Novel*

Location: Backroom Vodka Bar, 10324 - 82nd Avenue. **Invitation only.**

Tuesday, April 23rd

Noon. Write in the line of Fire

an exploration of poetry and social justice, hosted by Anna Marie Sewell and Leo Campos. No cover charge. Location: Expressionz Cafe, 9142 - 118 Ave.

A Spring Reading Series Celebrating National Poetry Month

April 2002

Co-sponsored by

the

Stroll of Poets

Society

and

Edmonton Public

Library

Saturday, April 6th

2:00 p.m.

Showdown at the Poetry Corral: Battle of Alberta

Three Edmonton poets VS three Calgary poets. No cover charge.

Location: Library Theatre, Stanley A. Milner Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square. **All ages.**

Every Monday and Wednesday April 3rd - 24th

7:00 p.m.

THE STROLL CONTINUES!

Stroll of Poets Society members bring their words to the library. A different theme each night. A half-hour open stage to close each night. No cover charge. Location: front gallery in the Stanley A. Milner Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square.

All ages.

Saturday, April 20th

7:30 p.m.

The Many Faces of God

A spiritually intense poetry reading featuring a variety of Stroll readers and Alice Major reading from her book *Some Bones and a Story*. No cover charge.

Location: Backroom Vodka Bar, 10324 - 82nd Avenue. No cover charge. 18 +

Friday, April 26th

8:00 p.m.

Poetry of Victory & DaFeets

See dancers interpreting the original works of cutting edge Edmonton poets. Hear "street poetry"! Hear the winners from the competitive "Raving Poets" series (Summer 2001) perform with the band for a live CD recording entitled *Backroom Beat!* Charge: a suggested \$5.00 donation to the Bissell Centre's *Songs of the Street* project. Location: Library Theatre, Stanley A. Milner Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square.



Membership and Stroll registration

name:

address:

postal code:

phone (hm):

phone (wk):

e-mail:

| yes | no |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Would you like to perform
in the Stroll, the first Sunday
in October, 2002

DEADLINE: July 31

☐

Would you like your name
and number and e-mail
address to be included in
the Stroll directory?

☐

Would you like to
volunteer?

☐

Membership Fees

Annual Membership Fee: \$10.

Membership Fee

Donation (thank you)

TOTAL

Please clip this panel.
Make cheque out to:
Stroll of Poets Society

Send to:
Stroll of Poets Society
Box 35082, Oliver P.O.
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2R8

www.strollpoets.com



Members as of April 1, 2002

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bert Almon | Rusti Lehay |
| Lance Beswick | Nancy Mackenzie |
| Carole-Ann Brown | Geraldine Matus |
| Don Butler | Naomi McIlwraith |
| Leo Campos | Florence McKie |
| Harold Cashman | Paul McLaughlin |
| John Chalmers | Ching Mendoza |
| Sylvia Chetner | Oswald Meyer |
| Tim Cusack | Angela Penn |
| Christopher Ducharme | Cindy-Lou Prokopy |
| Tom Emmens | Pierrette Requier |
| Kathy Fisher | Joe Rizzuto |
| Faye Francis | Madella Runka |
| Ruth Galloway | Peter Ryan |
| Myrna Garanis | Tim Scheybeler |
| Brian Genereux | Audrey Shield |
| Tavia Grabas | Paula Stephenson |
| Marilyn Hooper | Ivan Sundal |
| Jocko | Andrew Thomson |
| Tania Kajner | Laurel Tokuda |
| Michael Kennedy | Thomas Trofimuk |
| Ken Kopiaik | Christina Tyschuk |
| Helen Lavender | |

* New members in **BOLD**

Red Deer Word Festival calls for submissions

This event offers an opportunity for writers to converge and share their work. Participants will have the opportunity to read 10 minutes of material at one of the designated venues. A selection of each participant's writing will be included in an anthology, available for purchase on the day of the event. Please submit 3 to 5 pieces of poetry, fiction, or drama, to a maximum of 10 minutes worth of reading time, including bio. Include contact information (phone number, address, email) and a brief bio in a cover letter. All copy must be typewritten. Submitted material will not be returned. Participants will be contacted in May regarding time and location of reading venues.

Event Date:

Saturday, June 1st

Submission Deadline:

Saturday, April 13

Submit to:

Crossing Place
5527 49A Ave
Red Deer, AB
T4N 3X6

or

crossingplace@hotmail.com

For further information contact:

crossingplace@hotmail.com

Alice reads down under

Alice Major left for Australia March 9th. She was scheduled to be gone for a month. Before she left Alice said it was mostly vacation, but she had a couple of readings planned—one at the Varuna Writers Centre in the Blue Mountains, and one at the New South Wales Writers Centre's Autumn Festival.

Teachers groove to Raving Poets and Stroll readers

The Raving Poets Band and guests performed at the Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention on Friday, March 1. Stroll members John Chalmers, Kathy Fisher, Mark Kozub and Thomas Trofimuk did a 90-minute session from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the 260-seat Zeidler Theatre at the Citadel. They were accompanied by the Raving Poets Band — Mark and Thomas plus Randy Edwards and Mike Kozub.

Ingamald launched in style!

Gail Sobat's first book, *Igamald* was launched in style on January 3rd, 2002. Over 200 people drank, ate, and celebrated the publication of *Ingamald*, published by Spotted Cow Press.

Shirley Serviss to read at Sask. Festival of the Words

Shirley A. Serviss has been asked to present her poetry at the Saskatchewan Festival of the Words in Moose Jaw, July 25-28. She will be reading from her most recent collection, *Reading Between the Lines*.

Stroll's new p.a. showcased at Poetree kick-off!

The Stroll's new p.a. system made a stellar debut at the Rhymes with Orange Hall Party (a fundraiser for Youthwrite). sheri-d wilson performed an incredible set with the "dirty boys" band. And there were about a dozen open stage readers during the course of the evening. The sound was great and it was a "Whyte" Christmas scene outside as folks were leaving.

John Zapantis' anthology biography should have read:

"On Sept. 11, 2001, America was shaken by the giant hand of international terrorism. Four Boeing airliners were hijacked and flown to four questionable destinations in the Eastern U.S. Two of those four Boeing airliners were flown into the twin tower World Trade Centre in New York City. Another Boeing airliner was forced into the Pentagon. The fourth Boeing jet was overtaken by passengers after a scuffle with terrorists broke out and crashed into a rural field in Pennsylvania, intended target the White House. God bless those victims whose lives ended so tragically."

Bistro Trio holds poetic court

The *Bistro Trio*, comprised of Lou Munan, the middle poet (Paul McLaughlin), and Adriana Davies, have taken on the role of strolling troubadors in the courts of love. The group, who came together after a Raving Poets reading at the Backroom Vodka Bar, decided to begin reading to each other and several "groupies", and then to branch out into public readings.

With several life-times of experience among them, they focused on a theme they knew best, "love," and have designed several programs around it. The "Love at Timothy's" reading in December chose from their own work and included, good love, bad love and abysmal love.

Building on this success, they convinced restaurateurs Ralph and Bonnie Maio of Il Forno to let them do St. Valentine's day readings. This sold out the restaurant twice - at an early evening seating at 5 and a later evening one at 8 pm. The poets read mostly other love poets (sentimental, funny, lusty, etc.) but also a few of their own works. The "appetizer" was one poem each which left the audience hungry for more.

Then, they roved from table to table letting the diners choose a theme and then obliging with a personal reading. Occasionally, Paul didn't stop there but actually began to pick food off their plates (which didn't go over too well). Finally, a group reading was done which brought the house down. One love-struck couple actually insisted on giving them a five dollar tip! Who says poetry doesn't pay.

The Bistro Trio is available to do anything in mild good taste that advances the cause of poetry and the Stroll of Poets!



"Peace Talks" Tops!

According to the Edmonton Journal Entertainment Section, Saturday, Feb. 16th, "Peace Talks"—featuring oodles of great Edmonton poets and the Raving Poets Band, recorded live at the Backroom Vodka Bar was number ONE on the CJSR FM charts. Now that may not be love but it ain't bad!

Stroll well represented in CBC's cross-country poetry challenge

Shirley Serviss took top Edmonton honours in CBC Radio's Nationwide Poetry Face-off Challenge. The final Poetry Face-Off challenge will be broadcast nationally on Wednesday, April 10th, on Richardson's Roundup (out of Vancouver), featuring a one-hour special final round with the winner's from all nine regions. Also competing from Edmonton were Jocko Benoit, Tim Bowling, Marilyn Dumont, and Mark Kozub.

Edmonton's *Middle Poet* reads in Chicago

By Paul McLaughlin

Dateline: March 17, 2002, on Northwest Airlines Flight 1019 5 miles straight up from Fargo, ND

One of the benefits/banes of my day job is that I get/have to travel a lot. When I go to large cities in the US, I look on the Internet for open mic poetry events. I'm always surprised at how many there are. I phone a couple of venues to get some sense of what they're about—if the ambience is teenage angst to a hip-hop beat, I take a pass because my poetry just won't fit. Then I pick one and show up.

I know I'm in the right place as soon as I see someone huddled over a file folder full of poems. I seek out the person in charge and introduce myself. Being from afar makes me a special guest and I have always been treated extremely well.

On a recent trip, I read at a restaurant on the north side of Chicago called Joy Blue, a dark 3-room bar that was surprisingly like the Backroom Vodka bar. Even the bathrooms—well, no need to go there.

The event was called "Yammer" and it has been hosted for 5 and a half years by a fireplug bundle of energy name of Lisa Hemminger. The rules, Lisa explained, are simple: no lists, get up and read when you're ready, read as long as you want and sit down if you start to piss off the audience—you'll know, she said.

Lisa has a huge personality and she puts all of it into MCing the event. She's an endless kibitzer and is obviously loved by the gathered crowd of maybe 20 poets. She started off with one of her own poems, loudly recited with huge arm-sweeping gusto, then cajoled others up to the stage to read. The readers were mostly young poets feeling their way through life and relationships with poetry, and Lisa was unfailingly supportive. Some recited from memory, some read from scraps of paper and those ubiquitous journals poets carry. Some read well. Some read badly. Some sang a capella because they didn't have the advantage of a band, like we do.

Finally, Lisa said, "C'mon, Canada. You ready to read?" and I ambled up to the stage. Now, to understand what happened next, you need to know that this event took place shortly after Rosie O'Donnell came out. Lisa is out of the closet herself and she had some rather acidic comments about the fact that Rosie waited until her show was dying before admitting in public what many already knew. I gathered from various comments that there were numerous sexual preferences represented in the crowd around me—in fact, I was unquestionably in the minority.

After mentioning that I wouldn't mention the Canadian hockey gold medals, I said that because I was so far from home and no one knew my name, I felt safe with this crowd and was going to come out to them. "You have standing before you," I said, "a heterosexual white male, 55 years old, 4 kids, happily married for 35 years, and" (here I whispered) "I write

The Stroll Continues schedule

Every Monday and Wednesday
April 3rd – 24th, 7 p.m.
front gallery, Stanley A. Milner Library

Wednesday, April 3rd: *April Fool*

Readers: Anna Mioduchowska, Richard Davies, Mark Kozub, Rebecca Schellenberg

Monday, April 8th: *Dealing With Breakups*

Readers: Ben Murray, Christina Tower, Katie Oppen, Thomas Trofimuk

Wednesday, April 10th: *Love Alberta-style*

Readers: Diane Buchanan, Adriana Davies, Fabian Jennings, and one poet TBA

Monday, April 15th: *War & Peace*

Readers: Sandra Mooney Ellerback, Cliff Therou, Michelle Earl, Paul McLaughlin, Gary Lee

Wednesday, April 17th: *Dealing With Death*

Readers: Rusti Lehay, Nancy McKenzie, Pierette Requier, Mary T. MacDonald

Monday, April 22nd: *Youthwrite Night*

Readers: Four young readers from Youthwrite

Wednesday, April 24th: *Healing*

Readers: Shirley Serviss, Marcia O'Connor, Ryan Baier, Oswald Meyer

Subject to last minute changes

CBC's Alberta Anthology

The deadline for submitting for CBC's Alberta Anthology is April 15, 2002. For contest rules and formats please go to the CBC web site: <http://calgary.cbc.ca/anthology/>

ADDRESS: Submissions should be sent to:
"Alberta Anthology Writing Contest"
CBC RADIO CALGARY P.O. BOX 2640
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2P 2M7

poetry." The place convulsed.

I then read one of my edgiest poems, one which happens to be written in a female voice. It blew them away. A young poetess came over and told me my poem made her feel vindicated for writing poems in a man's voice—what a cool effect to have on someone!

The evening closed with "the song", buoyantly led by Lisa and exuberantly joined in by the audience—Emily Dickenson's *Because I could not stop for death* to the tune of The Yellow Rose of Texas. I nearly died laughing.

I would encourage every stroller who has a chance to do this to try it. It's free, it's safe (if you screw up, no one knows who you are anyway) and it's fun.

And it allows you to start conversations with, "The time I read my poetry in Chicago ..."



a letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

I'd like to offer my personal thanks to the outgoing members of the Stroll Board of Directors and the members who worked with you.

I appreciate the tremendous effort you put into attracting both a diverse membership and audience through your programming and publicity efforts. In this regard, I particularly applaud the reading opportunities for new Canadians and the Backroom Vodka Bar performances. Even at our traditional reading series (The Stroll and the Twelve Days) it was great to see unfamiliar faces in the audience and to feel we were reaching beyond the usual poetry community.

The initiatives you undertook to form partnerships with other organizations such as Edmonton Public Library, the CBC, SNAP Gallery and the Writers Guild are also to be commended. I think particularly of the great bus poetry launch last fall and the collaborative relationships poets developed with printmakers.

The Stroll received unprecedented positive media attention which is valuable both for the profile of the organization (in terms of attracting membership and audience) and for the cause (bringing poetry back to the people).

I hope that the energy and excitement you have generated will not be lost as a new board determines the direction of the organization. I believe the Stroll can encompass a variety of poetic voices and forms of poetic expression and all are valuable.

Sincerely,
Shirley Serviss



The Beat Goes On!

The Beat Goes On at the Backroom Vodka Bar! "The Beat Goes On" is a swingin' poetry Open Stage with the Raving Poets Band. Hosted by The Alberta Beatnik. No cover charge. Show up early to get on the sign-up sheet. What people are saying about *The Beat Goes On*: "I've been to poetry readings across the country—including Toronto—and this was the best, most positive scene I've ever been in, ever. The quality of readers was very consistent and the VARIETY, blew me away. Mainly, it was the sense of positivity and fellowship that impressed me. Other scenes seem more 'inclusive, snobby'. Not this one." —a poet from Fort McMurray

Every Tuesday night @ 8 p.m. (starting March 5th, 2002) at the Backroom Vodka Bar, 10324 - 82 Ave., upstairs. For details, email Mark at abeatnik@telusplanet.net

Poetry Party set for May 25th at the Library

Check off Saturday, May 25th on your calendars! This is a chance for all Stroll members to mingle with each other, the public, media, our sponsors, and venue representatives in an informal setting. Strictly for fun, the showcase of the Stroll's diversity will take place in the Centennial Room of the Stanley Milner Library from 1 - 4 p.m. Watch your e-mails and the Stroll Website for more details.

Our new Website address is:
www.strollpoets.com

"The trouble with politics in poetry is that there is so little at stake."

--David Huggett at the Orange Hall, March 28

A report on the AGM is not really the job of a board member like myself. Rather, it is more appropriate that the President be the spokesperson for the Board in reporting meetings. But I would like to say how glad I am that Stroll members have elected Sandra as President. As of my writing this note, she has been President for only three days; but she has already shown herself to be diplomatic, cool-headed, fair, and interested in supporting all individuals and cliques rather than any particular minority. She also respects the work which has gone into the eleven-year-old Stroll of Poets Society, yet is not afraid of innovation. She has good instincts in regard to due and democratic process. Democratic process is, after all, the most important asset for an organization. In the case of the Stroll, it gives all members the confidence that they will have their say and that they will receive a fair chance at being selected for plum readings; and it gives funding agencies the confidence so that financial support will continue. Thanks
Doug Elves

Poem becomes an award-winning spoken-word video for Bravo!

Good news for another Stroll member and the power of poetry. The video production of Terence Harding's poem *"I'd Like to Die Just Like This"* was recently given the best video award at the 2001 Advertising Club of Edmonton (ACE) Awards.

The poem is an evocative, heart-wrenching memoir of Paris throughout a man's life – Paris as a lovely paradise.

The video of Harding's poem was produced by Michael Hamm of Frame 30 Productions Ltd. as part of its *100% Maple Verse* series and was sold to Bravo Fact. As you may recall, Michael Hamm and Frame 30 were responsible for *The Backroom Beat* that was also sold to Bravo! and which featured a number of Stroll members.

Coordinators wanted!

Eight things you will gain by being either Stroll Coordinator or 12 Days Coordinator:

1. You will get to use your leadership skills: *"He is conscious of touching the highest pinnacle of fulfillment ...when he is consumed in the service of an idea, in the conquest of the goal pursued."*

– R. Briffault

2. You will have support from the board.
3. You will receive an honorarium (depending on funds available).
4. You will have a special and important addition for your resume.
5. You will meet new and exciting people.
6. You will learn to follow close deadlines, a discipline you can use in your writing life.
7. You will gain a new experience in life.

For more information contact:

s_mooney_ellerbeck@hotmail.com

Volunteer Spotlight

As a member of the Stroll each of you are unique. You each have a unique poetic voice. Along with the muse you carry other gifts. Take this opportunity to share your gifts and volunteer for the Stroll.

Each upcoming newsletter will spotlight a volunteer—our volunteers are like award winning poems.

Over the years several members have opened the door to fun and fulfillment through volunteering within the Stroll. Take this opportunity and be part of the action!

"You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."

--Henry Drummond

For more information contact:

s_mooney_ellerbeck@hotmail.com

Stroll Webmaster steps down

Gordon McRae said a quiet goodbye and stepped aside as both Treasurer and Webmaster for the Stroll. He resigned from the Board at the AGM and two days later handed over the reigns of the Stroll's Website to the new board. We'll miss you Gordon! Great, great job over the past years! Thank you.

Friends of U of A Hospital needs literary volunteers

The Friends of University Hospitals is looking for Literary Volunteers to join our *Artists on the Ward* Program.

Work one-on-one at the bedside to guide patients in their own writing, translate life experiences into poems/stories, read literature and/or provide companionship.

A commitment of two to three hours a week for a minimum of six months is required. Parking is provided.

For more information, please call:

Nola @ (780) 407-8428.

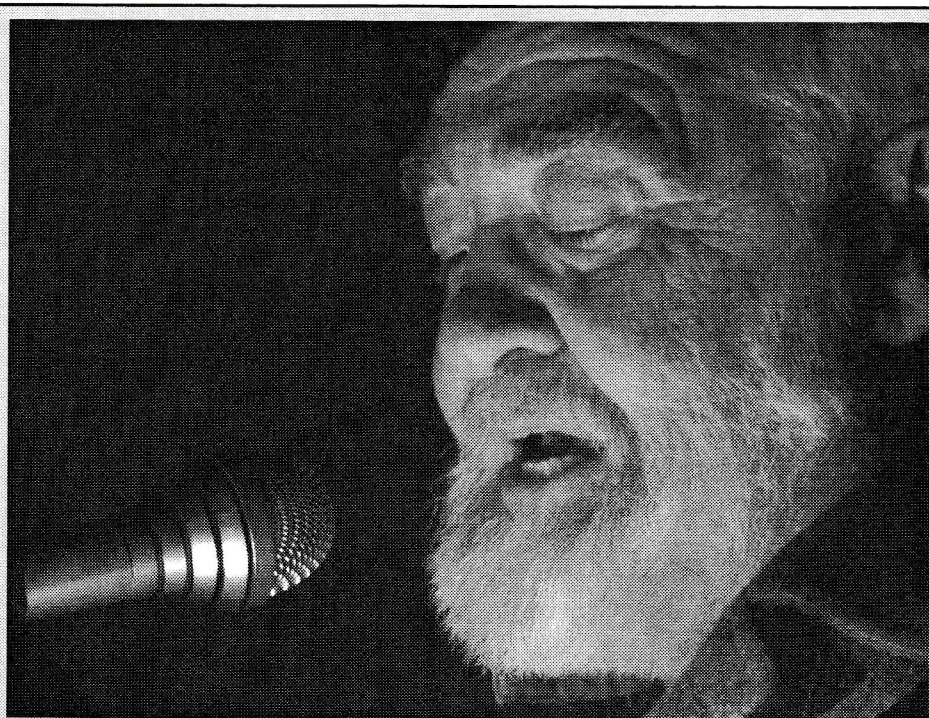


Photo by Robert Stosky rstosky@telusplanet.net

Dean McKenzie performs at Peace Talks

Stroll member Dean McKenzie, alias *Daddio of Spiritus*, alias *the Jazz poet*, performed during Peace Talks at the Backroom. Each night of the Peace Talks series was recorded and pressed onto a CD which was then showcased every Wednesday morning, on CJSR FM's Master Crocodile show. That airplay, plus more, caused the Peace Talks CDs to climb up the CJSR's charts.

The Queen is dead, long live the King

Rusti Leahy retired from being the Stroll's e-news Queen and Trevor N. Dekort has become the new distributor of all the news poetic! Goodbye Rusti, well done. Hello e-King Trevor! *Welcome aboard!*