



the Stroll Scroll

Stroll of Poets Society
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Edmonton, AB T5K 2R8
Website:
www.strollofpoets.com

February 2003

The Stroll of Poets Society semi-regular newsletter

President's Message

Unique describes the over-all production of this years 12 Days of Poetry where life experiences were turned to art through the wide range of poetic voices. We were entertained, we laughed, we were blurry eyed, we received a few surprises, and we were inspired. The venues were welcoming and full of energy. It was good to visit with those of you who were taking in the readings too.

Although the competition aspect is not favored by some of the membership – if viewed as all in fun – it truly is enjoyable and (let us not take ourselves or life too seriously) - let us be proud of our membership - each of us contributes in a unique way – each of us is a winner – each of us is part of the body of the Stroll – we are the heart beat keeping it alive, exciting, and strong. The whole 12 days of poetry series is a joyful event celebrating poetry and promoting it within the community.

Our Robbie Burns addition with piper and haggis was so successful that we recommend that it continue to be part of future 12 days celebrations. It added to the 12 days of poetry by giving a cultural twist on the event and a wider audience for the Burns experience.

Our celebration of poetry continues with our special guest poet Gary Geddes on February 22 at the City Arts Center. Following Geddes, will be the Banned Book Café – Feb 24 with the Poet Thugs and readers from throughout the literary community. Next will be readings by Stroll members throughout our February and March Spring Series. And don't miss our AGM! All details in newsletter.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your president this past year. It has been a pleasure to get to know you better and bond with you – it has been rewarding to encourage you and promote your poetry. I am humbled by the hours of work the board has put in – they are the backbone of this organization and have made my position as president manageable and rewarding. You have all made this year a success by staying true to our motto:

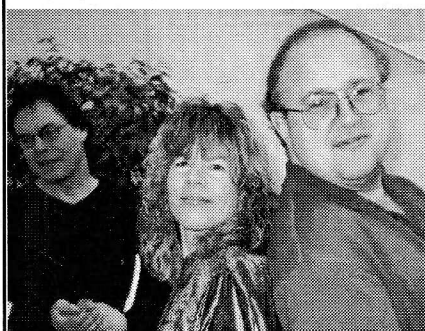
May the Stroll Stand Strong!

I value your encouragement and positive feedback -

Best always in poetship – sandra-pres
s_mooney_ellerbeck@hotmail.com

Anthology Launch – Success

Thanks to Doug Elves,
Anthology Editor -
for putting together a top notch
Anthology and organizing a
successful launch. Thanks to
all who helped and read at the
event.

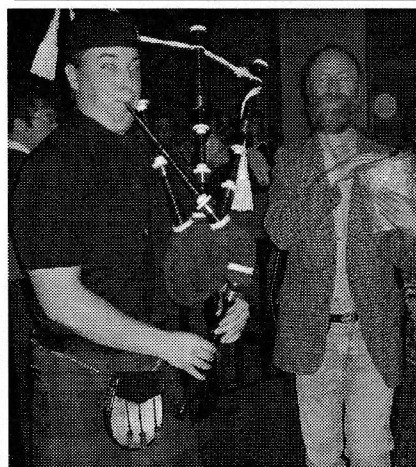


Stroll Pres,
& Jocko
survey the
scene at
the launch -
Cliff
Therou
looks
on.

Above photos courtesy of Jean Carmichael-MacKenzie

Thanks to all of you who made the 12th night a sold-out event - on behalf of the board – we apologize again for those who we could not accommodate – we missed you!

12 Days of Poetry Success



Ivan
Sundal -
12 Days
Co-
ordinator
Thanks
Ivan
for your
great
work
and
enthusi-
asm!

Justin McMurdo playing the pipes

12 Days of Poetry Festival Tapestry 2003

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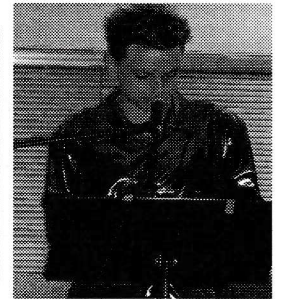
11th day host: Faith Fernald – Whitemud Crossing



2nd night host: Marilyn Hooper chats it up with Michael Phair



4th night host: David Huggett with Paul McLaughlin – turn around Paul and smile for the camera!



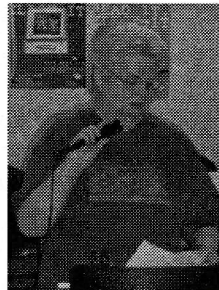
4th night reader: Michael Appleby above and next to Paul.



3rd night host: John Chalmers in Scottish form



4th night reader: Julie Robinson



< 11th day reader: Anne Marshall – addressing breast-poems to fellow 11th day reader: Ken Wilson



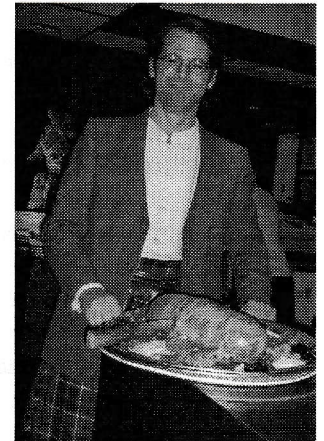
Ivan and Anna Marie Sewell (Host) and Writer's Guild Pres – Christine, with the door prize goods!



Audrey Shield – tadpoling on the dance floor – Dancing to Hot Cottage



Justin, Piping in the Haggis - with Stroll Pres and Doug Barrett aka Robbie Burns



Doug Barrett – after knifing the haggis

Photos by: Tom Emmens & John Chalmers

Thanks James Thurgood for coming from way up north to read at the launch and hang out at the 12 days!

Thank you 12 Day Readers and the following Finalists:

Mary T. McDonald, Shirley A. Serviss, Pierrette Requier, Nancy MacKenzie and William Nichols (tie), Thomas Trofimuk, Joyce Pinckney, Audrey Shield, Audrey Whitson, Andy Michaelson, Ben Murray, Ken Wilson.

Congrats! CBC Face-Off Poets:

Nancy MacKenzie, Mary T McDonald, Ben Murray, Thomas Trofimuk, Audrey Shield

Thank you – 12 Day Finalists CBC Promo

Michael Appleby
Linda Jennings
Anna Mioduchowska
Pierrette Requier
Ken Wilson

Thank you Venues:

La Boheme, City Arts Center, Whitemud Crossing Library, Strathcona Legion

Thank you 12 Day Hosts:

Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck, Marilyn Hooper, John Chalmers, David Huggett, Kathie Sutherland, Myrna Garanis, Helen Lavender, Rusti Lehay, Jocko, Pritam Atwal, Faith Fernald and 12th Night Hosts: Anna Marie Sewell & CBC's Edmonton A.M. Ron Wilson

Thank you Sponsors

CBC, Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Public Library, Greenwoods, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Vue Weekly, Writers Guild Of Alberta

Thanks Calgary Poets: Tanya Dion for reading and Scott Alderson for coming along.

12 Day of Poetry Volunteers Thank You so much: Diane Buchanan, John Chalmers, Katherine Charr, Faith Fernald, Myrna Garanis, Fabian Jennings, Helen Laverder, Andy Michaelson, Anna Mioduchowska, Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck, Ben Murray, Katie Oppen, Pierrette Requier, Shirley A. Serviss who all helped manage the City Art Center during readings. Also thank you to: Audrey Whitson, 12 Days Juror Coordinator - Rusti Lehay for ticket design - David Huggett for helping arrange Edmonton Public Library sponsorship. Thank you also to our Jurors who volunteered time to choose their favourite poems: Liane Faulder, Edmonton Journal, entertainment editor - J. Frank Henderson, theologian - Lark Clark, CKUA radio - Portia Clark, CBC radio - Walter Kaasa, director of Kaasa Theatre/School of Speech - Sharney Peters, events reporter, A Channel - Mary Richard, teacher - Paul Matwychuk, VUE Weekly, managing editor - Merna Summers, fiction writer.

More Thanks

ANTHOLOGY SALES: Thank you Paul McLaughlin for selling our anthologies to local bookstores and to bookstores in Calgary! Greenwoods south has sold out! - Buy from the 124 St. store.

PROMOTIONS - Thank you to all the media who covered the series - it was great! - And a big thank you to CBC Program Marketing Coordinator Debbie Boodram, and to all those at CBC who worked on the promotions.

Writer Circle

Contact Jennie Frost mjfrost@accessweb.com

Best 12 Days Quote

Before reading at the 12th Night, finalist, Ken Wilson said:
"The Stroll is my other family."

Great reading Ken - and great to have you back from China!

"... there are no new photos and few new stories, only unusual re-combinations of things that have been told before. But what is new, and fresh and original is the author's lens through which these situations are viewed. Our gift, and consequently our responsibility as writers, is to view life situations in our naturally unique way and report the truth about their meanings and values to the reading public so they can have fresh insight into the human condition. We are each unique in the universe and, therefore, so are the stories we tell." - Elizabeth Engstrom

Join us for our annual general meeting on March 22 in the City Hall - Heritage Room

- ⇒ **Business meeting 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**
- ⇒ **Door Prizes & Donuts**
- ⇒ **Book Give-A-Ways**
- ⇒ **Membership renewal and sign-up**
- ⇒ **Anthology pick-up**

SPECIAL ADDITION:

Bring a favourite poem - there will be a draw for RANDOM READINGS after the business meeting.

New Stroll Gen-X Members - let your voices be heard - join the Stroll board team - be part of the body to bring the best of poetry to the community - for more information contact:
s_mooney_ellerbeck@hotmail.com

SPRING SERIES - Check-out the inside Poster for all details - Don't Miss Special Guest Poet GARY GEDDES and all other exciting events in celebration of POETRY!

Member News

Congratulations to all of you who have had poems published in the last couple of months and best of everything to all of you who continue to brave the markets.

THE STROLL TEAM

Working to bring you
the best of poetry

Stroll Coordinator: Marilyn Hooper
12 Days Coordinator: Ivan Sundal
12 Days Juror Coordinator: Audrey Whitson
Anthology Editor: Doug Elves
E-mail Coordinator: Trevor DeKort
Anthology Sales: Paul McLaughlin
Newsletter Editor: Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck
Stroll of Poets Board of Directors:
President: Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck
Past President: Mark Kozub
Treasurer/Webmaster/Membership Secretary: Doug Elves
Secretary/Recording: Ben Murray
Volunteer Coordinator: Ivan Sundal
Workshop Coordinator: John Chalmers
Members at Large:
Tom Emmens: Spring Reading Series
Pierrette Requier: Support

We use a variety of lenses to perceive the world. This was especially obvious to me when hosting the fifth night of the 12 Days of Poetry. I received a parcel of unexpected perceptive pleasures as payment for my volunteer work. All four readers caught me with a phrase or an idea and made me look up and draw a sharp breath at the imaginative ways ideas can be expressed in the veiled language of poetry. As a watcher in the wings, I became aware of a unique dialogue between the poets and the audience. Here were lyricists who confidently experimented with the funny, the touching, and the poignant and who set out the physical, emotional and spiritual facts of life which happen all around us every day.

The first reader of the evening, Trevor Dekort brought "fresh" meaning to the use of contrast in poetry - *"in the middle of a large field/buildings distant as deep thoughts/summer sun drying out dew/alone on the grass enjoying the smells/of spring/letting one go/so loud it startles a nearby gopher.* Humour was a delightful way to begin a great evening.

First time 12 Nights performer, Carlean Fisher, read *If You Want Me.* Close your eyes after reading the following lines, and then think in terms of aching passion. *If you want me you must speak to me of beauty/my body, my words/my eyes, my soul/and If you want me, come to me/when you truly want me/when knowing me is your everything.*

They say that the pen is mightier than the sword, and in the case of oral poetic presentation, sharp points can cut into the heart and expose soul values. At the Fifth Night, Thomas Trofimuk had me teetering on a blade of understanding. Then he punctured the membrane of our common heart. I was touched and reacted physically with a twisting in the gut with these lines from *The Black Dog*: *I side-look this drama/as if the scene is a sleek hooker/stuffed into latex/and to see any more, to linger there awhile/ will cause an unwanted invitation/ - and the ending lines - there was this desolate woman/kneeling, with her hand on a quiet black dog/Put a hand on me 'cause that's how I feel/ Fascination and pulling away.* We are all drawn to that struggle.

I could practically smell the words from Taras Toroshenko's poem *Cherry Blossom* - *the scent is so strong/of the delicate petal/sunshine is a gaze of her inner depth/.* Words with a certain poetic pungency, I would say.

My thanks to the poets of the Fifth Night for the gift of sharing their awareness. Putting life into words on a page and then speaking them into the air is grand entertainment and I was pleased to be a part of it .

Spring Workshops – City Arts Center – \$25.00 each To Register Call: 496-6955

1. **From the Stone to the Jewel** - *Bert Almon* - Instruction emphasis on editing, refining and improving the written word. An opportunity to workshop your poems with a master in the art of poetry. Please bring one of your poems with you. Saturday March 1 10 - 12
2. **Wind Eye – Windows into Writing** - *Pierrette Requier* - The Wind Eye Writing Circle creates a context and process within which participants playfully find the author within, the one who speaks with the voice of the true self. Saturday April 26 10 - 12

Are you connected yet?

Most Stroll members have e-mail, but those who don't are missing the frequent e-mail announcements about upcoming events and news in literary circles. If you have recently connected, be sure to let Doug Elves know your e-mail address, and give your address to our e-mail editor, Trevor Dekort at tevor@dekort.ca so he can add you to our distribution list. Likewise, if you are connected to the Internet, visit our Stroll web site at www.strollofpoets.com.

"When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses, for art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstone of our judgement." - J.F. Kennedy