



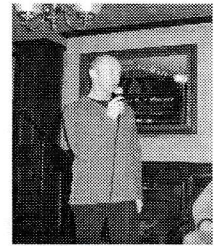
STROLL SCROLL FEBRUARY/04 EDITION

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The 12 days of Poetry— what a blast! I went to every event, not out of a sense of duty, but for the incredible range of poetry and presentation styles provoking my emotions. Inspiring, humbling, exhilaration, surprising are only a few words to describe my feelings on the quiet drives home to Sherwood Park. The fact we had filled or overfilled venues each time, and the very positive feedback from venue owners and audiences added to the excitement. More on the 12 Days in the Newsletter

In case you wonder the poetry the poetry season is not over by any means a Spring Series of readings is in the planning stages

What is the Stroll of Poets to you? Are you satisfied with the programs and the way they run? Do you have ideas how the value to members and community can be enhanced, and want to see them implemented? Do you have expertise from which our organization would benefit? How would you feel if the Stroll ceased to exist ?



JOHN L

By now you have guessed it, I am leading up to the 2004 Annual General Meeting. Organizations depending on volunteers for their existence are fragile, their strengths defined by the commitment of their members. Give serious thought to help direct the destination of the Stroll. Resolve to attend the A.G.M and step forward, if you care.

My year on the board has been an experience of learning, camaraderie, inspiration, an opportunity to work with a group of first class people dedicated to the cause. Had I not served I would have been much poorer for it.

**THANK YOU ALL
OZZIE MEYER**



JOCKO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2004 AGM takes place March 20

- Stanley Milner Library, Floor 6, Room 7
- Doors open 1.00 p.m
- Business Meeting 1.30pm—3.00 p.m
- Closing 4.30

ALSO: ANTHOLOGY PICK...MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL...MIXER (MORE ON PG 3)

We'll take the high Road

Well, the kilt is put away but the accent is still lingering a bit! That aside, the amazing poetry of this year's readings is still reverberating inside my head. The 12 Days of Poetry Festival 2004 has come and gone, yet, inherent to the sharing of the written and spoken work from this season's fabulous forty-four – I find new seeds taking root in that wonderfully strange, yet fertile soil that is my brain. Yes, this year's 12 Days readings have taken a deeper root, I believe, on the bedrock underneath Edmonton and surrounding area. New life and a flourishing vibrancy have pre-empted the arrival of an early spring and given new colors to the frosty cityscape. My mind is a flutter on the warming winds of words, spoken so passionately by so many diverse and gifted poets. The Stroll is in fact a bouquet for the body, mind and soul, as colourful as the wild flora of any blazing highland scene. The fragrance of verse permeates the air over Edmonton and is drawing more and more writers out of poetic hibernation toward the sunnier days of spring! Inspiration is afoot amidst the glory of poetic creation — and I write and I write and I write... on fire with ideas stemming from the cultivating and nurturing derived from the 12 Days of Poetry.

Ok...enough musing for now! As coordinator of the festival I can honestly say that it was a pleasure to work with so many talented and dedicated people! It never ceased to amaze me what we can accomplish when we work toward a common goal or dream (**oh, oh...sounds like more musing**). This year saw some of the largest crowds come out to hear and cheer, to be moved, to laugh, to cry, and to share in our humanitas. In fact, over 1000 people came out over the 12 events to hear some of the freshest verse on the planet! The quality of the poetry was absolutely commendable, so hats off to all forty-four who were selected, especially the eleven finalists. I would also like to impart perhaps a more important 'congratulations' to all the poets who contributed to the anthology. There would be no 12 Days without the interest, enthusiasm, and of course poems of our membership! So, find some of that lingering linguistic inspiration and keep on writing!

This year saw a good mix of venues including: O'Byrnes Irish Pub, Steeps, Martini's Bar and Grill, as well as the wonderful facilities of the Stanley Milner and WhiteMud Crossing Libraries. I would also like to thank those poets for expressing positive feedback on venue choices. Hearing your voice is important to the growth of the Stroll... so don't be afraid to call or write the board to make a suggestion...or if you are so inclined serve on the board for a year!

It is a great experience seeing the multi faceted aspects of the Stroll of Poets and a lot of fun to work with poets passionate about their craft (yikes, ...more musing). Our sponsors: Vue magazine, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Edmonton Arts Council, and Edmonton Public Libraries also deserve a great deal of thanks! We are grateful for their continuing support. Also there are countless individuals and groups who helped out both on stage and behind the scenes with the many subtleties and taskings involved in planning this year's event! I'd like to thank the hosts for giving a flavour to each night; Ken Wilson for his coordinating the jurors; Siegrun Meyer for contacting the readers; Greenwood Books and Volume II for being ticket locations

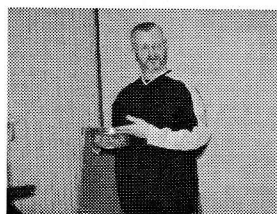
HIGH ROAD (CONT PG :1)

The media members who supported us (especially Gilbert Bouchard); the Stroll Board members and special thanks to my cohorts a.k.a the 12 Days Planning Committee: Ivan Sundal, Andy Michaelson, and Pierrette Requier. Without the time and talent of these great folks I would still be putting up posters on Whyte Avenue...they were truly a blessing to work with and deserve a special thanks.

As I said there were many many others who helped out in ways big and small (so thank you all)! It takes a team effort and that's why my biggest praise goes out to all who came to hear the poetry! It was you who make this such a fun event! Keep up the tremendous level of support... for it is you who make us vibrant, dynamic, and strong. As an aside we gained over ten new members during the 12 Days this year

Well that's all for now... think I'll head off to watch Braveheart and get to work on some new poems for the Spring Series (Spring Highland Fling ???). Either way spring and the AGM are coming and with them new life and ideas!

So lets build upon the success of the 12 Days and keep to the high road !



Tim Cussack

a.k.a Jack O' Byte

(or was it Tim O' Shanter?)

Cheers

THE STROLL CREW :

OSWALD MEYER : PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT VACANT
TREVOR DEKORT: TREASURER
TDL TURNER : SECRETARY
IVAN SUNDAL : PAST PRESIDENT

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ANDY MICHAELSON
DOUG ELVES ...WEB MASTER

OTHERS

DARCIA DAHL ...ANTHOLOGY EDITOR
TIM SCHEYBELER...SCROLL EDITOR



JO ANNE



DAY 11



MICHAEL A

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**T.D.L REMINDS US THAT IT IS RENEWAL
TIME AND THAT THIS CAN BE DONE AT THE
A.G.M**

**STANLEY MILNER LIBRARY
MARCH 20
FLOOR 6 ROOM 7
1.00 - P.M**

CADMON

Stroll of Poets members are cordially invited to attend the World Premier Performance of Gerald St Maur's epic poem **CADMON**, a tale of the turbulent life and times of the first poet to compose in the English language.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
10037 — 84 th Avenue
Wed 11th February , at 7.30 PM
ADMISSION FREE, PARKING LIMITED

CADMON's Hymn is an epiphany and is generally considered to be the first poem in English at a time (the 7th Century A.D) when Christianity in the Kingdom of Northumbria was in a very precarious state. St Maur's poem describes the events and circumstances which led to the creation of **CADMON**'s hymn



Jennie Frost



Andy Michaelson



Mechelle Flynn



**Ivan & Pierrette
fooling around**

SERVING ON THE BOARD

The current board invites members who seriously consider serving on the board during the next term to attend a mini- retreat where Stroll operations and current issues and questions are answered.

Thursday... February 24
7.00 p.m to 9.00 p.m
Idylwylde Library

PLAN TO ATTEND ? PLEASE CONTACT ANY
BOARD MEMBER SO THAT WE KNOW WHAT ATTENDANCE TO EXPECT