



ONTARIO
WRITERS'
CONFERENCE

word by word.

April 2010

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Dear Kevin,

Welcome to another issue of our **Ontario Writers' Conference** news. We're excited about the approach of this year's conference! We just have a few things for you to consider as the planning stages wind down with the conference only 1 month away.

Terry Fallis's Shameless Self-Promotion has proved most popular and is full. Both Gywnn Scheltema's Editing Primer and Susanna Kearsley's Success in Popular Fiction have a few spots left. Blue Pencil mentors Carolyn Forde, Dorothea Helms, Susan Lynn Reynolds, Catherine Bush and the inimitable Robert J. Sawyer are at capacity. Please check our website, www.thewritersconference.com for other options.

If I could give you a healthy dose of the excitement building as we do our walk-throughs of the stylish Deer Creek Golf Club facility, select your delectable snacks and meals, plan with facilitators and speakers on how best to inform and teach you, gather wonderful raffle prizes and dry clean our duds for the occasion, I surely would! If you haven't registered yet, then put that on your to-do list so you don't miss out on the writerly event of the year. Come join us!

Barbara Hunt

President/Chair 2010

Ontario Writers' Conference

OCALA WINERY EVENING

Ryerson University

Our Bookseller

Blue Heron Books Uxbridge,
ON

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Guests of the Hilton Garden Hotel in Ajax, Ontario, will be invited to a special Friday evening event at the beautiful Ocala Winery hosted by Durham Tourism. This meet and greet event is free of charge. Registrants will meet in the hotel lobby at 6:30 pm and catch a ride for Ocala at 7:00 pm. Transportation is provided at no charge.

It's not too late to catch that ride. Contact information for Hilton Garden Hotel - 905-686-9468 - Address: 500 Beck Crescent - Ajax, Ontario, to book your stay.

Picture yourself sipping Durham's finest fruit wines, nibbling on tasty appetizers made from home-grown local ingredients, bathed in the lilting notes of a steel drum. Your host Irwin Smith escorts you on a vine-to-vintage tour of the winery and invites you to sample his delicious Chardonnays and Merlots. Afterwards, more time to mix and mingle, engaging in stimulating conversation with writers, local politicians and other guests, and visiting displays of local merchants' wares.

If you are staying at the Hilton Garden Inn and would like to participate in the Ocala Winery Tour, please contact Shirley Neal at sneal@thewritersconference.com

FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS - May 1st

Our Festival of Authors event will feature some wonderful author and poet readings. Catherine Bush, author of *Minus Time*, *The Rules of Engagement* and *Claire's Head* will be reading from her yet unreleased fourth novel. Poet Barry Dempster will share some of his poetry from his impressive body of work, which includes; *The Burning Alphabet*, *Love Outlandish* and *Ivan's Birches*. The always evocative Dwayne Morgan will regale you with his mesmerizing spoken word artistry. Recipient of the African Canadian Achievement Award, Dwayne's books include; *The Making of a Man*, *The Man Behind the Mic*, *Long Overdue* and *The Revolution Starts Within*. Our keynote dinner speaker, Catherine Gildiner, will also be reading at the festival. Catherine is the author of *Too Close to the Falls*, a best-selling memoir, and the novel *Seduction*.

Our Festival of Authors event will also give conference participants an opportunity to rub shoulders with Canadian authors, editors, agents and publishers. But it doesn't stop there. We will have draws for some wonderful items, including exclusive jewelry, writing courses, spa goodies and more! We will also be unveiling the recipient of our inaugural Cornerstone Award, for an individual outside the writing field who shows exemplary support of writers. Plan to stay for this not-to-be-missed event. Partake of the ice cream treats offered up by Chapmans, while enjoying the other tantalizing refreshments and browsing our fabulous marketplace.

Feel free to invite your friends to the Festival of Authors. It is open to the public at the low rate of \$10 (\$5 for WCDR Members) and included in your registration fees, if you're a delegate.

VENDOR TABLES: If you, or someone you know, is interested in renting a vendor table at our Festival of Authors Saturday evening event, please contact Lana Cutrara at lcutrara@thewritersconference.com

PUBLISHING PANEL

Moderated by the knowledgeable Cynthia MacDonald, Toronto-based journalist and literary critic, regular fiction reviewer for the Globe and Mail and former co-host of TVO's Imprint, the publishing panel will be your opportunity to ask industry professionals all your questions.

This full-participant session offers the audience a chance to dig deep into the darkest recesses of publishing - editing, agenting and publishing in general.

Agent Hilary McMahon is vice-president of Canada's largest literary agency, Westwood Creative Artists. She represents more than 75 fiction and non-fiction writers, including Giller and Man Booker nominees.

Terry Fallis's *The Best Laid Plans* won the Stephen Leacock Medal 2008 for Humour in 2008, the first self-published novel ever honoured with this venerable literary award. Within a week, Fallis signed a publishing deal with McClelland & Stewart.

Mike O'Connor is the founder and publisher of London-based publishing house, Insomniac Press. He has been the president of the Organization of Book Publishers of Ontario. He has sat on the boards of directors for many industry organizations, including Access Copyright and the Canadian Copyright Institute. He'll have much to add to the conversation.

Barry Dempster is the author of fourteen books, including a novel, a children's book, two volumes of short stories and ten collections of poetry. He's also an acquisitions editor for Brick Books.

Barbara Berson (BA, MA), for the past twenty-five years, has been an editor in the book publishing industry, first in her native New York City and then in Toronto. Most recently was senior editor at Penguin Canada, where she worked with both established and emerging authors of literary fiction, non-fiction and young adult books. Her authors have been the recipients of numerous prizes, including the Giller Prize and the Governor-General's Literary Award, and she originated the *Our Canadian Girl* series of historical fiction for children. Today, she is an independent editor, literary consultant to writers and publishers, and instructor at Ryerson University.

Katherine Ashenburg is the prize-winning author of three non-fiction books and hundreds of articles on subjects that range from travel to mourning customs to architecture. She has experience at the CBC as a radio producer; at the Toronto newspaper The Globe and Mail as the arts and books editor; and most recently as a freelance writer, lecturer and teacher.

Tom Douglas is a freelance writer, copy editor and author, and has had four books with a military theme published.

You don't want to miss this. Register now and bring your questions and notes with you. Ready, set, fire!

HURRY, HURRY...although the registration deadline has passed, there's still an opportunity to squeeze in. This is your last chance to take part in the writing event of the year!