

**THE LIMITLESS SKY CONFERENCE
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**
HOTEL ARTS, 119 – 12 AVENUE SW
CALGARY, ALBERTA
MAY 21-24, 2009

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



THE WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA
& THE WRITERS GUILD OF ALBERTA

The Writers Guild of Alberta is pleased and excited to partner with The Writers' Union of Canada for our 2009 Conference. Join fellow writers from across Alberta and across Canada as we mingle, network, learn, plan, discuss, and party together!

**THURSDAY EVENING: FROM THE MATERIAL TO THE
IMAGINED WORLD**

Explore the intricacies of the writer's journey through narrative and image at the opening night event. The Glenbow Museum's exhibition **Mavericks: An Incorrigible History of Alberta** serves as a backdrop to this historic presentation. **Aritha van Herk**, whose book inspired the permanent exhibit, joins moderator **Melanie Kjørlien** and fellow writers **Bill Wuttunee** and **Fred Stenson** to lead the audience through a tour of Alberta's rich and compelling history, forging links between the oral and written traditions of storytelling, and how they relate to the artifacts on display. Attending this event will be the **Right Honourable Lindsay Blackett**, Alberta's minister of culture and community spirit. This panel and the following reception are sponsored by the **University of Calgary**.

FRIDAY PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

As part of your full weekend registration, attend four of the eight following dynamic panels:

**CUTTING-EDGE CREATIVITY, ELECTRONIC
DISTRACTIONS, AND THE END OF THE BOOK(?)**

Ross Laird and others will discuss how technologies are transforming reading, writing, and all the arts of the book. In a world suffused with online cultures, will books become extinct? Sponsored by the **Banff Centre**.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Moderator **Wayne Grady** and panelists **Susan Ouriou** and **Vanna Tessier** investigate the challenges involved in turning works written in one country into different languages for consumption by readers in other countries.

**RELAX ON APRIL 30: TAX TIPS FOR THE WORKING
ARTIST**

Merilyn Simonds and **Billeh Nickerson** will help you find out how to make your money go further by learning about possible tax deductions. Imagine the tedious and terrifying world of economic accountability working in your favour.

COPYRIGHTS AND WRONGS: PROTECTING TURF

Join authors **Penney Kome**, **Bill Freeman**, **Arthur Kent** and a representative from Access Copyright as they consider how to ensure protection of intellectual property, and the fair compensation for writing when it's distributed over the Internet. Where do we draw the line? Sponsored by **Skyreporter.com**.

TRUTH IN MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

Do traditional "truths" still prevail when non-fiction authors use the techniques of fiction to create scenes and manufacture dialogue? Panelists **Linda Goyette**, **Myrna Kostash** and **Sharon Butala** join moderator **Brian Brennan**.

**HOW CAN SMALL PRESSES SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN
THE NEW PRECARIOUS PUBLISHING ECONOMY?**

What kind of future are Canada's small presses facing when government grants are declining and larger publishers are scooping up the small fry? Can small presses do a better job for a few titles and a few authors than the major publishers can do for their long lists and many authors? Join author **George Melnyk**, editor **John King** and others in the discussion.

THE ETHICS OF STORYTELLING

What are the ethical concerns involved when one tries to give voice to the voiceless? Is the line between helping and exploiting easily crossed? Do you expose everything you hear, or do you make ethical choices about protecting your subject and your source? Freelance journalist **Susan Scott** joins **Rudy Wiebe** and others in the discussion.

HIGH PERFORMANCE STORYTELLING

Sid Marty will be among the panelists advising you how to make author events and traditional book readings more interesting and exciting. Learn what makes a good reading, how to improve your communication skills and how to present your work with a dynamic voice.

*Thank you to additional workshop sponsors **Mount Royal College Department of Communications, Douglas & McIntyre and John Bishop Ballem.***

FRIDAY EVENING: MARGARET LAURENCE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Hear biographer **Elsbeth Cameron** deliver this year's Margaret Laurence Memorial Lecture on The Writer's Life. Lecture and reception sponsored by **The Writers' Trust of Canada.**

SATURDAY MORNING: WRITERS GUILD OF ALBERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All WGA members are welcome to take part in the annual general meeting. Meet the Board of Directors, hear what the WGA has accomplished in the last year, elect new Board members, and have a say in what the WGA is planning for the future. Stay afterwards for lunch and meet fellow writers from across Alberta, and share your work at an open mic.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: SPEED NETWORKING

This is your 15 minutes for a one-on-one information interview with an industry professional. Speed networking professionals will include former Fifth House publisher **Charlene Dobmeier**, publicist **Cathy Tippett**, accountants **Bob Pond** and **Derek Smith**, Canada Council Grants Officer **Stephen Williams**, and others. Appointment bookings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the registration desk once you arrive.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: BLUE PENCIL CAFÉ

For WGA members only. Meet one-on-one for 15 minutes with an established writer to get feedback on a short writing sample (max. 2 pages), ask questions about publishing, or chat about the literary life. Appointment bookings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the WGA AGM.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: WGA MEMBER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Learn about the new WGA website and how to update your online membership profile, and learn how to take advantage of the WGA's programs and services.

SATURDAY EVENING: AWARDS GALA, DINNER AND DANCE

Join us at the Gala as we gather to celebrate literature, eat, imbibe and dance! Partake in the award-winning cuisine from the famed chefs of the Hotel Arts. The Writers Guild of Alberta will present the **27th Annual Alberta Literary Awards** and The Writers' Union of Canada will present **The Danuta Gleed Literary Award**. Dance the rest of the night away to the classic rock sounds of the Ron Cassat band. Tickets for the Awards Gala, Dinner and Dance are available for only \$50.

SUNDAY MORNING: FAREWELL

Join old and new friends as we bid farewell – at least until the next conference!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

WGA members

- \$230 (full weekend registration)
- \$180 (full weekend, except Awards Gala)
- \$50 (Awards Gala only)

Non-members

- \$290 (full weekend registration)*
- \$240 (full weekend, except Awards Gala)*
- \$50 (Awards Gala only)

**includes a one-year WGA membership*

Registration forms available at

www.writersguild.ab.ca.

For more information, contact the WGA at (780) 422-8174, 1-800-665-5354 or mail@writersguild.ab.ca.

ACCOMMODATION is available at Calgary's first designer boutique-style hotel, Hotel Arts. Located in the heart of the city's emerging arts and entertainment district and steps away from Calgary's vibrant business centre, the Hotel Arts features original art on every floor, from spectacular sculpture to breathtaking paintings to hand-blown art glass light fixtures. Rest your head on 300 thread-count linens, soak in your en suite spa bath, stay fit in the state-of-the-art fitness facility, and dine poolside on the outdoor patio. To book your luxury room at the substantial savings price of **\$139** per night (single or double occupancy), call **1-800-661-9378** or **403-266-4611** by **April 21, 2009** and ask for The Writers' Union of Canada/Writers Guild of Alberta group rate, group block code 0905THEWRI.

BANFF CENTRE INVITATION

Retreat in the Rockies

The Banff Centre Department of Literary Arts offers a retreat opportunity to attendees of The Writers' Union of Canada and Writers Guild of Alberta Conference and AGM.

Take some time to care for your own writing and hang out in the mountains before or after your time in Calgary. Retreats can be taken prior to May 21, or following May 24.

The Department of Literary Arts and the Registrar's Office will fast-track your application for a self-directed residency in the week preceding or following the AGM and Conference, at artist rates.

Space may be limited, so apply early as applications will be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visit www.banffcentre.ca/programs/program.aspx?id=882&p=apply to apply. For more information, contact Nathalie Durand in the Office of the Registrar or Claudia Hasan-Nielsen, Program Coordinator in the Department of Literary Arts: (403) 762-6100, Nathalie_Durand@banffcentre.ca, Claudia_Hasan@banffcentre.ca.

Make sure you note on your application that you are attending the WGA/TWUC conference.

Hope to see you in Banff.

Steven Ross Smith
Director, Literary Arts

Writers
Guild
of Alberta



The Writers Guild of Alberta and The Writers' Union of Canada thank the following sponsors and funders:



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WRITERS GUILD OF ALBERTA REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment

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- \$230 – full conference registration
- \$180 – full conference registration less Saturday evening Awards Gala
- \$50 – Awards Gala ticket only

Non-members

- \$290 – full conference registration*
- \$240 – full conference registration less Saturday evening Awards Gala*
- \$50 – Awards Gala ticket only

**includes a one-year WGA membership*

Bursaries

- I would like to help another writer attend the conference by making a bursary donation of \$_____.

For information about applying for a bursary, please contact the WGA office.

Method of Payment

- VISA MasterCard Cheque Money Order

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

To Register

Call: (780) 422-8174 or 1-800-665-5354

Fax: (780) 422-2663

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