

Malahat *lite*

Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

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Contents

- 1 Issue 166, Spring 2009
- 2 Save Canadian Literary, Scholarly, and Art Magazines
- 3 *Malahat* Contest Winners
- 4 Victoria Magazine Cabaret April 20
- 5 Congratulations to Anne Sanow, Emily McGiffin, and Sarah L. Taggart
- 6 Upcoming Contests
- 7 Coming up in Summer 2009

1. Issue 166, Spring 2009 In the mail and on newsstands now!

It is Spring, and what would one expect other than an issue of *The Malahat Review* filled with tales of love, of one sort or another.

We begin with **Ben Lof's** "When in the Field with Her at His Back," a story of past love and longing, and the danger it holds.

There was a sleight of hand, in a backroom somewhere: even the most natural, easiest bonds of intimacy would dissolve when one wasn't looking, and there would be no proof, ever, that they truly existed in the first place. It was stupid, dangerous, to go looking for them.

Graham Arnold's story, "Goro" conveys the confused world of Goro, a mentally challenged Japanese boy, amid the Sarin gas attacks on the Tokyo subway system.

Goro hears sirens in the distance. Beee baan beee baan. In his mind he mimics the noise, matching it pitch for pitch, but then realizes his mind is really his voice and he's imitating the sound out loud. Nobody looks at him though. People stand around like there's a party.

"Buyers' Market," by **Peter Gilmour** is the tale of a marriage ruined by indiscretions. It is told by the husband, who is trying to sell the family home where his wife has committed suicide.

Probably you'd pace about, from room to room in the benighted house, gradually coming to think that it was not what it seemed, that we had changed it, she and I, by the nature of our life together, by our rows and savage silences, that it was irredeemably stained, a dreadful place which would carry our traces until the crack of doom and from which, in later years, some spiritual archaeologist might reconstruct our wretchedness, our disorder, our badness.

In her essay, "On Atrocity and Grace: A Contrapuntal Vision," **Lindsay Cuff** questions how to forgive her uncle's horrific acts and accept him as a member of her family.

Neitzche thought it was a matter of forgetting. He said the past "returns as a ghost and disturbs the peace of a later moment." We must actively and willfully forget certain aspects of the past if we want to live with any sort of happiness.



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2. Save Canadian Literary, Scholarly, and Arts Magazines!

Canadian literary, scholarly, and arts magazines publishing in either English and French are in danger of losing a key federal funding source.

On February 17, 2009, Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore announced in a speech he made in Montreal (<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pch/minstr/moore/disc-spch/20090217-eng.cfm>) that the Canada Magazine Fund and Publishing Assistance Program will be merged to create the Canada Periodical Fund. Initiatives from this new body will come on stream in 2010.

Departing from his prepared remarks, James Moore indicated that eligibility for funding could potentially be restricted to those magazines with an annual circulation above 5000. With notable exceptions, the circulation of virtually every Canadian literary and arts magazine, large and small, is below 5000.

We have to make sure this possibility does not become an actuality, for if it does, as of April 1, 2010, these important and praiseworthy magazines will no longer qualify for funding that they have been receiving for years from the CMF and PAP despite the excellent work that they undertake for the readers and writers across Canada (and around the world)!

Please join The Coalition to Keep Canadian Heritage Support for Literary and Arts Magazines on facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=53103444468>



3. Malahat Contest Winners

The 2009 Jack Hodgins Founders' Award

We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Jack Hodgins Founders' Award for Fiction is **Sarah L. Taggart** of Vancouver, for her short story "Deaf," which appeared in the Summer 2008 issue (#163). Taggart's story was chosen for this prestigious award by Steven Heighton.



Established in honour of the celebrated Victoria novelist's contribution to Canadian letters and to the University of Victoria, the Jack Hodgins Founders' Award for Fiction recognizes the excellence of *The Malahat Review's* contributors by awarding a prize of \$1000 to the

author of the best short story or novella to have appeared in the magazine's quarterly issues during the previous calendar year.

Of Taggart's story, judge Steven Heighton says "Blindness has been used so often as a moral metaphor in fiction that we forget that deafness is more to the point—words, spoken or written, are the distinctive currency of human exchange, and our failure to hear the words of others finally leads to more carnage than our failure to see. In Sarah L. Taggart's story, deafness works as a metaphor of familial malfunction partly because of how well Taggart particularizes it through concrete detail nailed down in clear language (see the muting, anesthetic mask that "descends over [the child's] face like a black toilet plunger").

Sarah L. Taggart graduated from the University of Victoria's creative writing program in 2007. She is now a Master of Publishing candidate at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Steven Heighton is the author of the novel *Afterlands*. He has won several awards and has been nominated for the Governor General's Award and the Trillium Award. This winter he is the writer-in-residence at the University of Ottawa.

The 2009 P. K. Page Founders' Award

We are pleased that the winner of this year's P. K. Page Founders' Award for Poetry is **Shane Rhodes** of Ottawa for his poem, "For Donnie Peters (1964-1999)," which appeared in the Summer 2008 issue (#163). Shane Rhodes' poem was selected for this prestigious award by Harold Rhenisch.



The P. K. Page Founders' Award for Poetry recognizes the excellence of *The Malahat Review's* contributors by awarding a prize of \$1000 to the author of the best poem to have

appeared in the magazine's quarterly issues during the previous calendar year.

Of Shane Rhodes' poem, Rhenisch says, "this poem plays its complex, shifting rhythms with verve. It is constantly inventive in its language and mercurial in its changes of voice. The result is a poem that seamlessly merges understatement with overstatement to portray a grief that eschews sentimentality for a hard but relentlessly subtle irony. In it, the tango tradition of Astor Piazzola is welded to the elegiac tradition, while meeting Lorca's Duende face to face, on equal terms. It is movingly conceived, splendidly choreographed, and impeccably delivered. Bravo."

Shane Rhodes' most recent book of poetry, *The Bindery*, was published by NeWest Press in Spring 2007 and won the Lampman-Scott Award for poetry. He has donated \$250 of his P. K. Page Founders' award money to AIDS Calgary's Positive Living Lunch program.

Harold Rhenisch is the winner of the CBC Literary Prize, *The Malahat Review's* Long Poem Prize, and many others. His most recent book of poems is *Return to Open Water: Poems Selected and New 1989-2007* (Ronsdale, 2007).

The 2009 Long Poem Prize Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2009 Long Poem Prize. “**against the hard angle**” by **matt robinson** and “**Paradise, Later Years**” by **Marion Quednau** were chosen by this year’s judges: Steve Noyes, Katia Grubisic, and Kathy Mac.

Of matt robinson’s “against the hard angle,” the judges said:

[it] is a lean sweep of blues variations. Knotty and slow, with a latent violence that is continuously courted and undermined, “angle” is a phenomonological trance of a poem. The reader lunges along with matt robinson’s taut, exploratory rhythms, his tantalizing speed, with his painstaking attention to line and phrasing. In language that is dynamic, palpable, and almost dangerous, “angle” recalibrates our being in the world “and topples // stacks of whatever might not be nailed tightly down.”



matt robinson’s most recent collection is *no cage contains a stare that well* (ECW, 2005), a full-length volume of hockey poems. He lives in Halifax, NS.

Of Marion Quednau’s “Paradise, Later Years,” the judges said:

The ambitious and wide-ranging “Paradise, Later Years” propels itself on the voice of the I, subtle and strong. Marion Quednau’s take on contemporary Edenic husbandry, her offbeat poetic momentum, and these long, gorgeous lines packed with euphonious sound and sense make this re-lapse smart, compassionate, and elegant, inviting the readers to canter soundlessly alongside as “the animals’ unslippered feet / dream in slant jigs of slim escapes.”



Marion Quednau’s poetry has been featured in various anthologies. Her second novel, *Broken Entries* (Tomas Allen) is due in 2009.

The winning poems will be published in our Summer issue (#167) in July 2009.

The finalists for this year’s contest, chosen from over 175 entries, include: Stewart Cole, Laurie Graham, Cornelia Hoogland, Anita Lahey, Carolyn R. Miller, Pamela Porter, Matt Rader, Kyeren Regehr, Sheryda Warrenner, Gillian Wigmore, and Patricia Young.

4. Victoria Magazine Cabaret

Please join us for the Victoria Magazine Cabaret, as part of the BC Book & Magazine Week celebrations.

Monday, April 20th

7:00 p.m.

Cornerstone Café, 1240 Gladstone Ave.
(corner of Fernwood and Gladstone)

Admission is Free!

More info:

www.bcbookandmagazineweek.com



The evening will be hosted by Lynne van Luven, and will feature readings by:

M. A. C. Farrant
Michael Kenyon
Arleen Paré
Madeline Sonik
Yasuko Thanh

We will also have a petition available to sign, opposing the proposed Canadian Heritage funding cuts to literary, scholarly, and arts magazines.

5. Congratulations to *Malahat* authors Anne Sanow, Emily McGiffin, and Sarah L. Taggart

This January, **Anne Sanow** was named the winner of the **2009 Drue Heinz Literature Prize** for her short story collection, *Slow Stately Dance in Triple Time*.

Her story “Rub al-Khali,” which was published in issue #157, Winter 2006, is included in the collection.

The stories in *Slow Stately Dance* are set in Saudi Arabia and linked by various characters over a 50-year span, from the end of World War II, to the mid-1990s.

This month, 28-year-old **Emily McGiffin**, of Smithers, B. C. was named the winner of the **2009 RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers**.

Her submission, “**Wokkpash and Other Poems**,” was chosen among 135 others by judges Don Domanski, Jeanette Lynes, and Anne Simpson.

Her poetry has only appeared previously in *The Malahat Review* (“Black at the Edges,” in issue #142, Spring 2003).

Sarah L. Taggart’s story “Deaf,” the winner of our 2009 Jack Hodgins Founders’ award, has been selected to appear in *The Journey Prize Stories 21*. The anthology will be in stores in October 2009, and the winner of the Journey Prize will be announced at the Writers’ Trust of Canada’s annual awards event in November, 2009.

6. Upcoming Contests

2009 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction

Enter one short story, 3500 words or less. Note that entrants must not be published in book form. One award of \$500 CAD plus \$40 per page upon publication.

Deadline:

May 1, 2009 (postmarked)

Entry fees:

\$25 CAN for Canadian Residents
\$30 US for American entries
\$35 US for entries from elsewhere

For complete guidelines:

http://www.malahatreview.ca/far_horizons_fiction/info.html

2009 Creative Non-Fiction Award

Enter a work of Creative Non-Fiction (personal essay, memoir, cultural criticism, nature writing, literary journalism) between 2000-3000 words. One award of \$500 CAD plus \$40 per page upon publication.

Deadline:

August 1, 2009 (postmarked)

Entry fee:

\$35 CAN for Canadian residents
\$40 US for American entries
\$45 US for entries from elsewhere

For complete guidelines:

http://www.malahatreview.ca/creative_nonfiction_prize/info.html

2010 Novella Prize

Enter a single work of fiction, with a minimum length of 10,000 words and a maximum length of 20,000 words. No restrictions as to genre, subject matter, or aesthetic approach apply.

Deadline:

February 1, 2010

Entry fee:

\$35 CAN for Canadian residents
\$40 US for American entries
\$45 US for entries from elsewhere

For complete guidelines:

http://www.malahatreview.ca/novella_contest/info.html

**The Malahat Review
Novella Prize 2010**

Aim High!

Canada's premier literary magazine invites entries from everywhere to Canada's only novella contest. Submit a single work of fiction in any genre or on any subject of between 10,000 and 20,000 words in length.

Prize: \$500
(plus \$40 per page upon publication)

Entry fee: \$35 CAD
for Canadians (and residents of Canada)
\$40 US
for American entrants
\$45 US
for entrants from elsewhere

All fees include a complimentary subscription

Deadline: February 1, 2010
(postmark date)

For complete guidelines go to:
malahatreview.ca
Inquiries: malahat@uvic.ca

Follow in the footsteps of Andrew Tibbets and Elisabeth Harvor...

The Malahat Review
Defining excellent writing since 1967

Send your most winning entry to:
**The Malahat Review
Novella Prize**
University of Victoria
Box 1700, Station CSC
Victoria, B.C., Canada
V8W 2Y2

7. Coming up in Summer 2009

In issue 167, Summer 2009, you can look forward to:

Our 2009 Long Poem Prize Winners

“against the hard angle”
by matt robinson

*whether to simply make our way
over to the door and be done
with it. to spread our arms; to brace*

*our shoulders against the hard angle
of the frame. to just make do*

right there, standing at the threshold of:

“Paradise, Later Years”
by Marion Quednau

*and the whole lot fix their eyes
on the particular way I lift my buttered pumpernickel toast,
whether I am feeling in good spirits, or not;
we have rules, of course,
I am the shilly-shallying boss
and they win only fallen morsels or mouldy bits of cheese,
according to age or appetite;
and bear me little grudge
for rearing up out of bed and living in people years,
a seemingly grand stretch of time*

Fiction

“Bites”
by Randy DeVita

The boy lay supine, his small chest quietly rising and falling under the blanket. He was asleep. Hamilton leaned close, where he caught the scent of shampoo and milk, and a premature sense of loss gripped him as he apprehended, with the irrational force of a vision, that his son would die. Yet here was Andy, breathing steady and regular as a clock.

Reviews

of poetry titles by Sue Sinclair, David O’Meara, Daphne Marlatt, Don McKay, Barbara Colebrook Peace, and Tanis MacDonald.

also reviews of recent fiction by Donna Morrissey, Barbara Romanik, Harold Hoefle, Betsy Trumpeter, and Ivan E. Coyote; and of non-fiction, *Nobody’s Father* by Lynne Van Luven and Bruce Gillespie (Eds.).