

# Malahat *lite*

## Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

Vol. 5, No. 4, Winter 2008

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### 1. Issue 165, Winter 2008

#### **The Green Imagination**

**In the mail and on newsstands now!**

This winter, *The Malahat Review* presents “The Green Imagination,” an issue devoted to environmental literature. It features writers such as Tim Lilburn, Don McKay, Philip Kevin Paul, John Steffler, and Jan Zwicky (to name a few).

Be sure to pick up a copy from a bookstore near you, or order one from our website: [www.malahatreview.ca](http://www.malahatreview.ca)

You can also buy a copy (at a discount) in person at our launch party on January 15<sup>th</sup> at Metro Studio (see next page for more details).

And now, a sneak peak for our Malahat *lite* subscribers:

#### POETRY

“When the Stones Cleared Their Throats to Sing”

by Philip Kevin Paul

“*Okay, stones, / tell me about the journey, / about what you lost / to turn so round / you look soft. / And kingfisher, raven, juniper: / None of you interrupt.*”

“these are the trials of water”

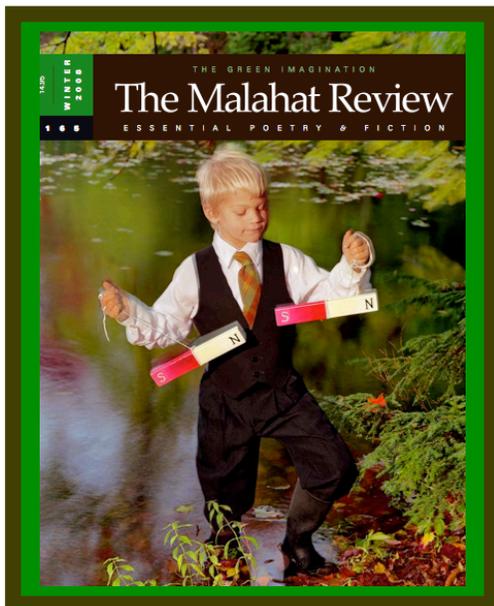
by Arleen Paré

“that it seeps: unwanted, oozes black from the faulted floors of basements, cracks and caves and broken seams. seeps from welts and sores, a sign of something wrong; seeps, and puddles fingers in the grave.

“Wal-Mart, circa 2097”

by Degan Davis

“Each dollar followed / by another dollar / followed by another and / now I sit, watching / TV sets set. Heeding the advice / of starlings—roosting / in the tawny fluff of mattresses—”



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## ESSAYS

### “Green Thoughts in Green Shades”

by Timothy Brownlow

“There is a gardening adage: sow, water, weed, wait. Is this not what the creative writer does? ... In both arts, there is a time to act, a time to rest, a time to trust, and a time to frantically catch the runaway growth. What does the writer learn from the gardener?”

### “Good as Green”

by Peter Sanger

“Green, by this perception, is not translucent objectivity. It is no haven of rest or chromed artifact. It is a conversation, joyous, deft, supple, exigent, humbling, frightening, among many voices, human and non-human. It is not a monologue. ... Green is cultural and natural. It is one of the many versions of Eden. It was given. It was lost. It is remembered. It is anticipated as apocalyptic renewal.”

## INTERVIEWS with Jay Ruzesky

### “O, The Whole Shebang: An Epistolary Interview with Don McKay”

Don McKay:

“you began by asking why we should bother writing poems about nature when none are required for its aesthetic impact to be felt. I think this is like asking why silence would not be a more appropriate response than language, in any form. ... it is a pure animal pleasure to *say* something in response to a presence. If we say it in poetic, rather than analytic or possessive modes of language, we’re more likely to be honouring that presence. To be envisaging rather than routinely naming.”

### “The Horse Hitting its Stride: An Interview with Tim Lilburn”

Tim Lilburn:

“it’s not only artists that pay attention. It happens all the time. Because everything is constantly, endlessly seductive and calling. It’s everywhere, beauty is everywhere and so you’re hooked, you’re caught by it, and as soon as you’re caught by it, you’re disarmed, and as soon as you’re disarmed, you’re travelling out of this monadic, granular self and moving into a bigger self. It’s counterintuitive. You come home by going out. Who would have thought that?”

And last but not least, you’ll be able to read:

## WINNER OF THE 2008 CREATIVE NON-FICTION PRIZE

### “Bad Day”

by Joel Yanofsky

## 2. The Green Imagination launch party

**The Malahat Review**

This winter, *The Malahat Review* showcases contemporary literary writing on environmental themes

Join us in celebration of  
*The Green Imagination*

**January 15, 2009**  
Thursday, 7 – 9 p.m.  
**Metro Studio**, corner of Quadra and Johnson  
Free Admission (and eco-friendly food and drinks)

Enjoy readings and a discussion on the role of environmental literature by several of this issue's contributors:

John Barton		Carol Matthews
Nicholas Bradley		Arleen Paré
Timothy Brownlow		Jay Ruzesky
John Harley		Melanie Siebert
Cynthia Woodman		Derk Wynand
Kerkham		Patricia Young
Tim Lilburn		Jan Zwicky

*The Malahat Review*, #165, "The Green Imagination" will be in bookstores and on newsstands January, 2009. Enquiries: malahat@uvic.ca

You are all invited to join us in celebration of our winter issue, “The Green Imagination.”

**Thursday**

**January 15, 2009**

**7-9 p.m.**

**Metro Studio, corner of Quadra and Johnson**  
**Admission is free, but come early to guarantee a seat**

The evening will include readings by many of this issue’s contributors, followed by a discussion on the role of environmental literature. We will also pay tribute to former Malahat editor, Constance Rooke, who recently passed away.

All this and free eco-friendly coffee, tea, chocolate, and cake! Copies of this issue will be for sale at a discounted price as well.

### 3. Upcoming Contests

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#### 2009 Long Poem Prize

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Enter a single poem or cycle of poems, minimum 10 pages, maximum 20 pages long. Two awards of \$500 CAD plus \$40 per page upon publication.

**Deadline:**

Feb 1, 2009 (postmarked)

**Entry fees:**

\$35 CAN for Canadian residents

\$40 US for American entries

\$45 US for entries from elsewhere

For complete guidelines:

[http://www.malahatreview.ca/long\\_poem\\_prize/info.html](http://www.malahatreview.ca/long_poem_prize/info.html)

#### 2009 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction

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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](http://www.malahatreview.ca/far_horizons_fiction/info.html)

#### 2009 Creative Non-Fiction Award

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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\\_non-fiction\\_prize/info.html](http://www.malahatreview.ca/creative_non-fiction_prize/info.html)

### 4. 2008 Creative Non-Fiction Award Runners Up

In the last issue of *Malahat lite*, we announced Joel Yanofsky's win of our 2008 Creative Non-Fiction Award; but we failed to mention our two runners up.

Judge Brian Payton singled out "Ice From a Glacier" by Leslie Hall Pinder and "Memoir of an Apology: A Trip Down the Highway of an Atom" by Julie Salverson and Peter van Wyck for special mention.

### 5. Congratulations to Don McKay

Former Malahat advisory board member and Malahat author Don McKay has been appointed a member of the Order of Canada! He was recognized "for his contributions to Canadian literature as a nature poet and mentor of many emerging writers from coast to coast."

Read Don McKay's poem, "Song for the Song of the Sandhill Crane," and Jay Ruzesky's interview, "O, The Whole Shebang: An Epistolary Interview with Don McKay" in issue 165, "The Green Imagination."

## 6. Coming up in Spring 2009

In issue 166, Spring 2009, you can look forward to:

Creative Non-Fiction

“On Atrocity and Grace: A Contrapuntal Vision,”  
by Lindsay Cuff.

“What I want to know is this: how can I remember atrocity while still finding room for grace? How do I move from one and into the other—knowing what has happened but allowing room for some sort of compassion, even beauty?”

Poetry

“Woman of the House”  
by Dave Margoshes

“A woman kept in a house is like a cuckoo kept  
in a clock. Milk runs in her breasts like electricity,  
the ringing of a phone. There is a knock at the door,  
the step of a postman, the refrigerator’s harmony  
with the moon.”

“Artist’s Model”  
by Miranda Pearson

“  
... She recalls  
the teens at the lake, the one who, moved by the sacred water  
pulled off his clothes and swam naked,  
  
his friends hysterically taking photos as he emerged  
so they could post them on My Space.”

“If Thunder is Anything”  
by Laisha Rosnau

“Clouds refuse to give over the lake  
so we’ll swim under the threat of lightning.  
Crescents of dirt under fingernails  
seem permanent, as if I’d been mining  
some deep mineral. If you must  
  
compare my body to something  
make it a comma ...”

And reviews of *Loving the Difficult*, by Jane Rule; *Dance Hall Road* by Marion Douglas, works of poetry by Mitchell Parry, Adam Sol, and Barbara Klar, and more.