

Malahat *lite*

Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

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1. Issue 167, Summer 2009 In the mail and on newsstands now!

This issue features the winners of our 2009 Long Poem Prize, two delightfully different works by **Marion Quednau** and **matt robinson**, as selected by judges Katia Grubisic, Kathy Mac, and Steve Noyes. Quednau's "Paradise, Later Years" weaves a spellbinding meditation on mankind's complex relationships with animals, domestic and wild. In an engaging, almost conversational tone and with the author's personal menagerie of animal friends sparking observations and memories, this poem balances moral philosophy with deft craftsmanship and gentle humour.

In "Against the Hard Angle," **matt robinson**'s lines are sculpted and spare as he carves away at the dichotomies of modern life, seeking—and finding—form within the chaos. The poem lights up images like a pinball machine; we're bounced from point to point in a studied, inventive ride. **robinson** takes imaginative chances that pay off for the reader.

Poetry lovers have even more to celebrate with this issue. Other contributors include: **Mark Abley**, **Lynne Burnett**, **Barry Butson**, **Sara Cassidy**, **Anne Compton**, **Matthew Godden**, **Ruth Johnston**, **Susanne Kort**, **Katherine Leyton**, **P. K. Page**, and **Patrick Walsh**.

Fiction aficionados are also in for a treat. **Randy DeVita**'s "Bites" is a Carver-esque tale of suburban angst, wherein a tired, working class husband comes home one night to find his wife demanding that he immediately deal with neighbours whose child has bitten their son. **Stephen Henighan**'s "Who Killed Martin Coombs?" begins with the lines, "A man with a gun. In a West Kingston bar." But is it really as simple as that? Set in Jamaica and England with Canadian connections, this story of family ties, ambitions, and misplaced grief features memorable characters whose fates may be predetermined.

The issue also offers two creative non-fiction works. In "The Alchemist," **Elizabeth Haynes** gives a wry account of being a single female traveller who finds herself alone with a male guide in an awkward (and potentially dangerous) situation. **Jane Finlayson** examines the ramifications of separation and absence after the death of her father, in "Remains." Memory and loss mingle, but a new perspective emerges from the darkness.

And of course there are insightful book reviews of recent Canadian poetry, fiction, and non-fiction titles.

2. 2009 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction Winner

Congratulations to third-year UVic student **Eliza Robertson** (Victoria, BC) on winning the 2009 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction for her entry, "Ship's Log." The Far Horizons Award celebrates the achievement of emerging writers who have yet to publish their fiction in book form.



Robertson's short story will be published in the *Malahat's* Fall 2009 issue (#168), due out in late September. Final judge **Anne Simpson** (Antigonish, NS) chose her story from over 110 entries. Of "Ship's Log," Simpson said: "Based on the premise of a child digging a hole to China, "Ship's Log" sets an imaginative vision against an ordinary, though complex, world. In evocative language that resonates with details, the writer develops a story of breadth and depth, one that reverberates beyond its pages."

Eliza Robertson is a third year Creative Writing and Political Science student at the University of Victoria. She has lived in Victoria for most of her life, but this summer finds her on the other side of the world - East Africa as it happens, not China - where she will volunteer with the Arusha Centre for Women and Children Development. When she is not reading, writing and traipsing through Africa, she likes to dance - primarily jazz, ballet and tap. "Ship's Log" will mark her first publication.

The finalists this year were: Taylor Armstrong, "J. Allan"; Emi Benn, "Fitzwilliam's"; Lauren Carter, "The Strange Songs of Foreign Birds"; Sara Cassidy, "The Whole Point"; Keri-Lyn Durant, "The Paperboy"; Derek Hayes, "Distracted"; Jared Hazzard, "The Battle at Bear Creek"; dee Hobsbawn-Smith, "The Quinzie"; Shane Neilson, "Sitting"; Daniel Luc Poirier, "This Cold Part of the World"; Anna Smith, "The Score Diary of Billy Bishop"; Rosemary Westwood, "The Boy as Rare as a Stone Baby"; and Clea Young, "Kentucky Gallop."

3. New *Malahat* Contest

We are pleased to announce *The Malahat Review* 2010 **Open Season Awards**, a new, multi-genre contest for poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction.

\$1000 First prize will be awarded in each category

Deadline: **November 1, 2009**

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

Submit: Poetry: up to three poems per entry; maximum length 100 lines each.
Short fiction and creative non-fiction: one story or article per entry, maximum length of 2500 words.

For complete guidelines: http://www.malahatreview.ca/open_season/info.html

4. 2009 Creative Non-fiction Prize Judge Announced

Our 2009 Creative Non-fiction Prize will be judged by **John Threlfall**.



As a specialist in media and popular culture, John Threlfall has lectured on such diverse topics as the history of the disc jockey and the representation of witchcraft in popular culture, and has been an instructor with both the University of Victoria's Dept of Writing and the Victoria School of Writing—all of which dovetails quite nicely with his academic background as a historian and his day job as the Editor in Chief of *Monday Magazine*, an alternative weekly newspaper based in Victoria, B.C.

In addition, John has been a freelance magazine writer for more than 15 years, spent five as an "in-house walking encyclopedia of popular culture" for CBC Radio One's *Definitely Not The Opera*, was one of six Canadian Gen-Xers featured in the NFB documentary *Le Temps X*, has been nominated for an Alternative Association of Newsweeklies Award, co-authored the quirky guidebook *Victoria: Secrets of the City* for Arsenal Pulp Press (2000), and tends to pop up in the media when least expected.

Submit your entry to our 2009 Creative Non-fiction contest by **August 1, 2009**.

5. Save Canadian Literary, Arts, and Scholarly Magazines



The fight continues to save small Canadian magazines from funding cuts from the Federal Government. Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore announced on February 17, 2009 that eligibility for funding could be restricted to magazines with an annual circulation above 5000, thus eliminating most literary, arts, and scholarly magazines in Canada.

We've collected 1080 signatures so far in support of our fight, and would like to thank those who collected signatures, and signed the petition. We hope it will have an effect.

The best thing to do now in support of the magazines you love, is to subscribe to as many as you can manage, and to submit your work to their contests, which also boosts circulation numbers.

If you have not already, please join our facebook group:

Coalition to Keep Federal Support of Literary, Scholarly and Arts Magazines
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=53103444468>

6. National Magazine Award Victories

Congratulations to the four *Malahat* authors who won National Magazine Awards this year, along with the three who received honourable mentions. On June 5, 2009, the winners were announced in Toronto:

Fiction

Andrew Tibbets won **GOLD** for “Dead Man’s Wedding” (our 2008 Novella prize winner, issue #163, Summer 2008)

D. W. Wilson won **SILVER** for “The Elasticity of Bone” (issue #162, Spring 2008)

Anne Fleming received an honourable mention for “Puke Diary” (issue #162, Spring 2008)

Poetry

Sina Queyras won **GOLD** for “Her Dreams of the Expressway” (issue #165, *The Green Imagination*, Winter 2008)

Michael Lista received an honourable mention for “Fidelity” (issue #163, Summer 2008)

Peter Richardson received an honourable mention for three poems: “Favour,” “An Equine Accessory Chews Over Options within the Confines of a Two Story Cycle,” and “At Carruthers Point.” (issue #164, Fall 2008)

Creative Non-fiction (Personal Journalism)

Joel Yanofsky won **SILVER** for “Bad Day” (our 2008 Creative Non-Fiction prize winner, issue #165, *The Green Imagination*, Winter 2008)

This year, we were among the top six magazines for number of wins. Congratulations again to our authors!

For more information about the National Magazine Awards, go to:

<http://www.magazine-awards.com/>

7. Western Magazine Award Nominations

More congratulations to three *Malahat* authors who received Western Magazine Award nominations:

Fiction

Chris Kent for “Scurvy” (issue #162, Spring 2008)

Creative Non-fiction

Human Experience

Joel Yanofsky for “Bad Day” (issue #165, *The Green Imagination*, Winter 2008)

Travel and Leisure

Sioux Browning for “Lost Pueblo” (issue #164, Fall 2008)

The Western Magazine Awards were announced on June 19, 2009.

For more information about the Western Magazine Awards, go to:

<http://www.westernmagazineawards.ca/>

8. Donate Books!

We will be holding a book sale this November to raise money for the magazine. Those of you in the Victoria area who have books to donate, please contact us via email (malahat@uvic.ca) and we'll arrange details for pick up or delivery. Stay tuned for further details regarding date, time, and location.

9. Upcoming Contests

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 Open Season Awards

Enter up to three poems (max. 100 lines each), or one work of short fiction or creative non-fiction (max. 2500 words) per entry.

Deadline:

November 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/open_season/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 (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/novella_contest/info.html

10. Coming up in Fall 2009

Our 2009 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction Winner

“Ship’s Log”

by Eliza Robertson

2100

Temperature: warm. Wind: not there. Sky: the colour of Grandad’s toe after he sailed home from Panama last May to fight the German alphabet boats which he never did in the end because they wanted him in the Pacific aboard an “armed merchantman” which is stupid because ships aren’t men and they don’t have arms and we’re fighting the Germans not the Chinamen so why send my Grandad to Hong Kong?

Nan cut me a slice of fruitcake for dinner. She’d misplaced her own appetite again. John Cabot did not discover North America on fruitcake. I found a block of semi-sweet chocolate in the cupboard and ate that instead.

Reviews

Poetry

Margaret Avison, *Listening—Last Poems*

David Helwig, *The Sway of Otherwise*

Anna Marie Sewell, *Fifth World Drum*

Molly Peacock, *the second blush*

Norm Sibum, *The Pangborn Defence*

Fiction

Jon Paul Fiorentino (Evan Munday, Illustrations), *Stripmalling*

Gale Zoe Garnett, *Savage Adoration*

Michael Kenyon, *The Beautiful Children*

Steven Mayoff, *Fatted Calf Blues*

Elaine McCluskey, *Going Fast*

Non-Fiction

Timothy Brownlow, *Hiding Places*

Shawna Lemay, *Calm Things*