

Greetings from the Far North

June 23 in Whitehorse and our great northern tour is going well. We've put 3,504 km on already. My biggest challenge is the lack of good internet connections and for the most part, forget Wi-Fi. Many areas are without cell phone service. This really is the land of vast expanses of nothing but beautiful panoramas, glaciers, animals and quiet.

I am being interviewed by CBC North on June 24. When it's in their archives I'll let you know. The same night, Whitehorse has a very popular open-mike at a café so I'm going to that as well. The next day we'll be at Toastmasters at noon then selling at the farmers' market. We leave for Dawson City June 26, and will be celebrating July 4 in Chicken, Alaska. The sign on Boo the Menopausal Van is paying off. We've had people stop, ask about the name, then buy the book. She puts a smile on people's faces.

Many new and exciting movements have been afoot since that spring day when Sylvia and Anthony said they'd be our patrons and suggested we change our name to Powell River Writers' Conference.

Join me in welcoming the amazing executive team now working for you:

I remain president and my husband Dave remains treasurer. Gwen Enquist stayed on as secretary. Already displaying outstanding leadership ability is Vice-President, Gary Grieco. Donna Kolezar, our publicist, has a ton of exciting ideas, including a new contest, "So You Think You Can Write." Eva van Loon completes the team as our Member-at-Large, bringing with her years of organizing events; she also heads the Powell River Poets' Guild. Donna teamed up with Jennifer Salisbury to help with membership and organize the summer social. Gwen teamed up with Jena Lohrbach to put out this newsletter.

Gary is talking to Linda Wegner, who is organizing potential tourism writers. Further information on these plans will come to light over the summer.

This newsletter contains details regarding the first ever summer social, scheduled for July 11. It will be a wonderful opportunity for writers to get together outside the usual workshop setting. Bring a friend, and increase our membership. Our goal is 50 members by fall. It not only shows our patrons we are serious about building, but it also gives us more clout when we apply for grants.

When I can get decent internet, I will post more news. Now that we are using a blog, it will be much easier to keep it up to date with no cost.

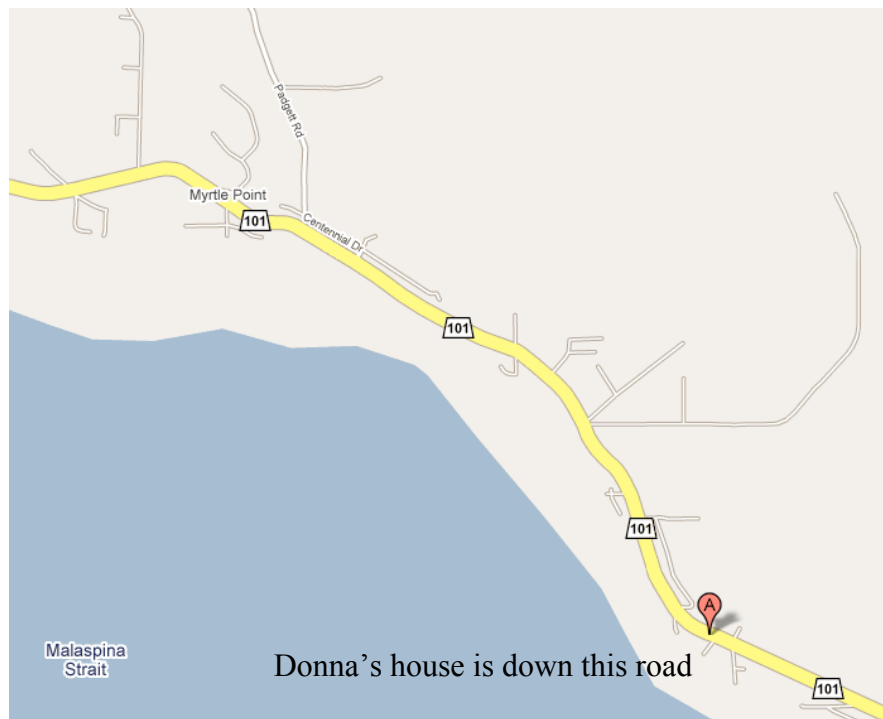
Whatever it is you write, do it with passion and belief that you have something important to say to the world. Never, never give up on your dreams nor listen to the nay-sayers. Because I never gave up I am sending this from the Great Far North as Dave, Boo and I live our dreams!

Barb Rees
President, Powell River Writers' Conference



Donna Koleszar is hosting a barbeque for Powell River Writers' Conference members at her house on July 11 at 4:00 PM. Attendees should bring either an appetizer or salad and beverages and lawnchairs; our hostess will provide hotdogs and hamburgers. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Donna at 604.487.9591 or donna@marinetraders.com.

Directions to Donna's place are as follows: South on Hwy 101 past Maris Rd., then past Myrtle Point Golf Course, past Cairns Rd., and straight until you come to a turnout on the right with several green mail boxes. Pass the driveway with the loon at the top; the next driveway is Donna's, called Anchor Way. Go down the hill to the beach; Donna's house is the brown one on the left. She will place some balloons at the top of the drive.



Eva van Loon, Powell River Writer's Conference Member-at-Large, is recipient of another accolade. Her play "Just Shoot Me" has been awarded first place in the 24-Hour Playwriting Competition sponsored by Nakai Players of Whitehorse, Yukon. Van Loon's award-winning play will be performed by this troupe. The play will also be workshopped this summer or fall with Vancouver Island University theatre students, and then performed in Nanaimo in late November, and (hopefully) in Powell River in early December.

“Just Shoot Me” brings the audience face to face with mortality choices as they watch a family cope with three ancestral ghosts and old-lady Minnie’s last Christmas wish: euthanasia.



Finally, in keeping with our desire to celebrate and encourage young writers, we would like to bring to your attention the Lisa Rector Young Writers Scholarship for writers ages 12-18. The winner will receive a full scholarship to the Surrey International Writers’ Conference this October. Entry deadline is July 30. Details can be found at

<http://www.thirdraftnyc.com/youngwritersscholarship.shtml>.

(This contest was brought to our attention by previous presenter Julie Ferguson.)

