

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS WRITERS' AND EDITORS' NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2009/2010

Prepared by: Marjorie Ludlow Green – Management Committee Chair
June 20, 2010

Management Committee Members:

Marjorie Ludlow Green – Chair/ PR
Hilda Clark – Vice-Chair
Sharon Lawrence – Secretary
Kay Millard – Treasurer/ Membership/ HCCC Liaison/Events
Pat Brown – Workshops & Events/ Poetry
John Unrau – Poetry
Peggy Kennedy – PR/ Contest

Our Mission Statement:

The Haliburton Highlands Writers' and Editors' Network (HHWEN) is an umbrella organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing, fostering literacy, and providing moral support to writers and editors through education and networking, both independently and in cooperation with existing organization.

The Past Year:

As HHWEN enters its 7th year of operation, I am pleased to report that we have continued to be guided by our Mission Statement. And that, once again, our membership numbers reached almost 60 by mid-year, just as they have for the past several years. As an umbrella organization, we do our best to offer unity and encouragement to the six writing circles that operate autonomously as part of our network. Circles tend to come and go, just as many writers do, but as long as the network remains, we know that the art and skill of writing stands a chance of remaining alive and thriving here in the Highlands of central Ontario.

We can take pride in knowing that our writers have been recognized by local libraries and other organizations, through appearances at Authors' Days in Gooderham and Kinmount, and other local events. Several of our authors held successful book launches this year - including Maria Trautman, Rev. Janet Stobie, Robert K. Smith, Margot Roberts and Sharon Lawrence (R.D. Lawrence re-print).

Looking back on another successful year of HHWEN, we have to say that, as usual, we've been busy - even though not everything we tried worked out well.

In June, and over the summer months of 2009, we carried on with two 'experimental' monthly programs - Drop-in Breakfasts and Short Story Evenings at the Dominion Hotel - two offerings initially greeted with considerable interest from the members. But interest did not guarantee attendance. Although attempted for six months, neither program managed to gather sufficient support to survive. Lessons learned, we move on.

In August, Children's author, Ted Staunton, came north to speak to us at a well-attended Breakfast Meeting. In September, we participated in the First R.D. Lawrence Literary Festival, in which several of our members acted as volunteers for the Sesquicentennial Short Story contest at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and the celebrity panel discussion that followed at the Beaver Theatre. Volunteers had the pleasure of meeting Wayson Choy, Priscila Uppal and Guillermo Verdecchio, and dining with them as well.

Our 'Happy Hallowe'en Breakfast' in October may have suffered from poor attendance, but those who did come thoroughly enjoyed a delightful appearance by 'Ivanka', the ancient gypsy fortune-teller of Minden, in addition to ghostly readings by several of our members. '4th Books Alive' also took place in October. Our annual opportunity for local authors to present their books, through readings and sales to the public, could also be better attended. This event may be small, but each year, it's a gem!

'A Writer's Christmas', our annual excuse for a party, was as successful as always, as once again, we filled the Pepper Mill Restaurant with laughter, readings and song. In February, we presented a very successful panel discussion on the 'Various Modes of Publishing', drawing on the varied experiences of five of our own successful members.

In March, John Unrau conducted an enjoyable Poetry Workshop, in advance of 'Love Letter to the Milky Way', a well-attended presentation by U.S. poet, Drew Dellinger, which we sponsored in conjunction with the Gaia Centre and R.D. Lawrence Place. This was followed, in March and April, by our Second Annual Poet Tree Project, a contest celebrating Poetry Month and presented in co-operation with RDLP.

Recognizing that considerable interest was becoming evident locally in poetry, we felt encouraged to try another 'experimental' program - one that we've been talking about for years. This month, at the tail end of our year, we finally introduced 'Poets in the Pub', preceding it with the word 'Live', so as not to be confused with the 'Deads'. You'll be hearing more about this later.

Honouring our commitment to work 'in cooperation with existing organizations', we hit a new high this year when, in addition to working closely with R.D. Lawrence Place and supporting its projects, we financially assisted the Gaia Centre to bring in Drew Dellinger. We also helped sponsor the Songwriters' program at the Winter Folk Camp, as a Festival Friend. We continue to be members of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands and the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

We are especially proud of our decision, earlier this year, to enter into a three-way arrangement, along with R.D.Lawrence Place, and the Haliburton County Public Library, to hire, and pay for, a professional Writer-in-Residence - Laura Redman.

While Laura will be the third person to assume the position of W-I-R at RDLP, she will, in fact, be the first to be paid for those duties. Pauline Johnson, Michael Fay and Stacy Kirkbride - all of whom were members of HHWEN, worked previously as volunteers - a situation we did not feel was fair to any of those writers.

Through this year's three-way arrangement, Laura will report directly to the Co-ordinator of RDLP and receive \$1,000 for a year of her services, however, \$500 will be paid by HHWEN and \$500 will be paid by RDLP. As its share, the Library will provide whatever space is required by the W-I-R, in the various library branches throughout the County of Haliburton.

What makes this arrangement so exciting and special for us is not simply that the Writer will be paid, but that, hopefully, we have finally found a way of reaching those unknown writers on the far side of the County - opening the door for writing workshops and other events in Haliburton East - for the first time in our history.

This year hasn't been an easy one for this Management Committee, but maybe it's been one of the most fruitful. I hope you will all join me in thanking Kay Millard, Pat Brown, Sharon Lawrence, Hilda Clark, John Unrau and Peggy Kennedy for all they have done in the past year for HHWEN. Without members like these, this organization would cease to exist. Thanks to Ila Kellett, our wonderful Bookkeeper of many years - a volunteer of the highest order, who isn't even a writer, let alone a member of HHWEN. Thanks also to Margot Roberts, for photographing events when available, and Trudy Pogue, our Webmaster who keeps those lines of communication open and reliable, and has done for years.

And thank you for being a friend, and a member, and supporting all our efforts. Here's wishing success for all of us - and another great year for HHWEN.

HHWEN Treasurer's report for AGM June 25, 2010

See Financial Report from Ila Kellett (hard copy only.)

Our **Yearly Expenses** include:

1. HHWEN Web Site / maintenance Fee. www.haliburtonwriters.ca
2. Arts Council Membership Fee.
3. Office and mailing expenses
4. Admin fees for Haliburton County Community Co-op (8% of revenue.)
5. Advertising (signs decals, Ads.)
6. Speaker's and contest costs for different projects.

Revenue comes from:

Workshop fees, and membership registration. We have not requested a grant in the last few years.

Complete financial report is available through me, Kay Millard, to members, and in hard copy only.

HHWEN Membership Report - We have 44 members so far this year. Last year we had 57 by the end of the year. You might be interested that 24 are local .

Haliburton Community County Co-operative Liason report

I have reported before about the advantage of being a member of this group.

Under their umbrella we are able to apply for non-profit grants.

It also enables us to have insurance coverage for our events and Directors. Many venues now require this coverage. Our cost is an admin. fee of 8% of our revenue, (not including the HST we collect).

Videos taken at 'A Writer's Christmas' and Book Launch of Janet Stobie paid for by HCCC will be available on line as a link on our website. We are considered "a Part "of the HCCC Co-op.

There are many parts to the HCCC Co-op. Included with HHWEN are the following:

- **Highlands Community Playback Theatre**
- **Friends of the Rail Trail**
- **U-Links Centre for Community Based Research**
- **Playwrights Minden**
- **Highlands Media Arts**
- **Those Other Movies**
- **Haliburton County Folk Society**
- **Dusk Dances**

Respectfully, K Millard

Treasurer/Membership/ Liaison with Haliburton County Community Co-op.

705-286-6636