

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS WRITERS' AND EDITORS' NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2010/2011

Prepared by: Marjorie Ludlow Green – Management Committee Chair
June 21,2011

Management Committee Members:

Marjorie Ludlow Green – Chair/ PR

John Unrau – Vice-Chair/Poetry

Claire Sylvan – Secretary

Kay Millard – Treasurer/ Membership/ HCCC Liaison/Events

Pat Brown – Workshops & Events/ Poetry/ Contest

Peggy Kennedy – PR/ Contest

Margot Roberts - Photographer

Bonita O'Neill

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 organizations.

The Past Year:

As HHWEN enters its 8th year of operation, we have remained faithful to our Mission Statement. Again this year, 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 individual artists and various writing circles that operate autonomously as part of our network. Writing is such a solo sport that we, as individual artists, can draw strength from knowing that we are not alone. We have this wonderful network of friends willing to speak for us, to ensure that the art and skill of writing remains strong and alive, even here in the Highlands of central Ontario.

As we continue in our efforts to build a sizeable literary audience in this County, we can take pride in knowing that several of our local writers have achieved recognition by our libraries and other local organizations. We had no shortage of successful book launches by our members this year. Congratulations to Sneha Chakraburttty, Lea Harper, Arlene Johnston, Brenda Peddigrew and Neil Campbell. If I missed anyone, please let me know.

For Sneh, this was an opportunity to display her many books. Lea impressed us with a stunning exhibition at Haliburton's Rails End Gallery in which her poems were combined with the art of Shelley Beach. Arlene's launch was hosted in Carnarvon, by local publisher (and HHWEN member) Lynn Simpson, whose small publishing house, Pine Lake Books, continues to grow. Brenda filled the Common Room at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre when she surprised us with not one but two launches this year – one poetry; the other, her first book of prose. And who will ever forget the evening Neil Campbell packed that same large room when he and The Brown Dog Jiggs introduced 'Cell Phones and Sap Buckets' to the world.

I find it hard to believe all that we have accomplished in the past year. In December, we said farewell to one excellent Writer-in-Residence – Laura Redman – and welcomed another – Ron Evans. So the series of writing workshops for children that Laura initiated for us can continue at the various local libraries with Ron. We also have to congratulate Laura as she enters into her new position in charge of Children's Programming with the Haliburton Library System. Our successful three-way Writer-in-Residence arrangement with R. D. Lawrence Place and our County libraries remains in action for another year.

We've had several excellent workshops this year at RDLP, including one on Creativity, with Martin Avery; bringing history to the stage, with Michael Fay; talking to the press, with Laura Redman; and an opportunity to learn about the New Media with Ron Evans. Our Poetry Director, John Unrau, assisted by Pat Brown, has now given us two wonderful poetry workshops. In co-operation with RDLP, we sponsored another Annual Poet Tree Project, and this was the year we saw one of our long-held dreams come true, when Pat Brown engineered the start-up of Live Poets in the Pub. And what a delight it has been.

While on the subject of poetry, we also must acknowledge the work of our member Michael Fay, who continues year after year to devote his time and energy to the literary community. While not a poet himself, Michael brings the incredible Dead Poets Society to life on the Dominion Hotel stage twice a year. Although not under HHWEN's umbrella, those classic evenings do allow several of our members an opportunity to perform as Deads – and the place is always packed. Who knew that the Haliburton Highlands would be a hotbed of poetry?

We must also thank another member, the multi-talented Shawn Chamberlin – a gifted writer, poet, songwriter, musician and artist - whose Dominion Hotel has become a home for both Live and Dead poets. How fortunate we are to have such a generous host in our midst.

We can't say we haven't been visible in our community. This year, we co-sponsored another Literary Festival at RDLP, and for the second year in a row, we helped sponsor the Songwriters' program at the Winter Folk Camp as a Festival Friend. We held a Meet the Author session with Robert Rotenberg at McKeck's in Haliburton; member Reg Holloway presented the Story of the Camera in an exhibit at the Minden Museum, we exhibited our local authors' books at the 2nd Annual Haliburton County Volunteer Fair, and we welcomed the Christmas season with yet another great celebration of "A Writer's Christmas." If you didn't manage to make it to this year's annual party, you can see some of what you missed on our website – www.haliburtonwriters.ca . Thanks to Highland Media Arts and our wonderful webmaster, Trudy Pogue, we now have a video of ourselves on both our website and on YouTube.

We continue to be a proud member of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands and the Haliburton County Community Co-operative. But we could not have accomplished all that we have without our dedicated Management Committee. I hope you will all join me in thanking Kay Millard, John Unrau, Pat Brown, Claire Sylvan and Peggy Kennedy for all they have done this past year. Thanks to Ila Kellett, our wonderful Bookkeeper of many years, to Margot Roberts, for offering to photograph events when available, and to Sheryl Loucks, our always supportive member at R.D. Lawrence Place.

And finally, thanks to our members, whose friendship and support have continued faithfully through the years. Here's wishing success for all of us - and another great year ahead for HHWEN.

2011 June 25 — HHWEN AGM Report Treasurer's, Membership, and Liaison for HCCC

Our complete financial report (from Ila Kellett) is available in hard copy only, to members of HHWEN, upon request from our Treasurer.

Our yearly expenses included:

- Web Site maintenance fee www.haliburtonwriters.ca
- Arts Council membership
- Office expenses
- HCCC admin fees 8%, and HST expense
- Advertising, Contests, and Speakers' expenses.

Revenue:

- Workshop fees
- Membership fee

- **Grant funding - none in past year but partnership with Arts Council this coming July for Score: Marathon Poetry and Song writing.**
- **Donations**

HHWEN Membership Report: We had 60 members. Some joined, with memberships pro-rated, throughout the year.

HCCC Liaison Executive volunteers are: Jim Blake, Carolynn Coburn, Barrie Martin.

As part of the Co-op, we are able to apply for non-profit grants. It also enables us to have insurance coverage for our events and Directors. Recently, we were able to add a link to our website of a video taken at our HHWEN Writer's Christmas.

Other parts /projects and their Liaisons of the HCCC (11 in all) include: Highlands Community Playback Theatre, Friends of the Rail Trail, U-Links, Playwrights Minden, Highlands Media Arts, Those Other Movies, Haliburton County Folk Society, Dusk Dances, Pritchard House Preservation Society and Haliburton Community in Action.

**Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Millard
Treasurer/Membership/Liaison with Haliburton County Community
Co-operative.**