

a little haiku : rage

volume 9

Seasonal newsletter for Haiku Canada's BC and Territories region

Le Bulletin d'information saisonnier pour Haiku Canada
section des Territoires et de la Colombie-britannique



Editorial

Good day to you all, Bonjour à tous et à toutes!

When we are at the darkest of times, it is good to remember the words of the Great Dumbeldore who once said "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light"... (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban)

... therefore light will come this time through a special interview: our first duo! I am very grateful to Beth and Greg Skala who accepted to answer the Proust inspired questionnaire and allow me the pleasure to present their answers together. Thank you for your generosity and your time. What a gift of light, you two are!

As always, I couldn't offer you this newsletter without the invaluable help of Ruth Powell, proofreader extraordinaire. It is our pleasure to offer you this winter edition and we hope that you will like it!

This newsletter is an invitation to build literary friendships and foster collaboration within the haiku community of BC and the Territories... and beyond!

Happy reading! Bonne lecture!
Happy winter solstice ! Bon solstice d'hiver!

in the issue dans ce numéro

- [interview / entrevue with Greg and Beth Skala](#)
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- [present moment... and beyond](#)
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REMEMBER to click on any underlined text to directly access information as all underlined text is an active link!

Cliquez sur les sections de texte surligné car les liens sont activés! Ils vous mèneront aux sites internet pour plus de détails!



Sandra St-Laurent
regional coordinator/coordonnatrice régionale
bc-territories@haikucanada.org

Freely adapted from the thirty-five questions Proust originally answered in 1890.

1. What is your idea of a perfect haiku?

Beth-A perfect haiku reveals new layers of meaning every time I read it.

I especially like it when time has passed and I realize a new interpretation I hadn't thought of before.

Greg- *It is one that surprises me with a brief impression which I then ponder at length.*

Beth +
Greg
Skala



2. What do you most value in writing?

B- When I read other authors, I most value their ability to give me new perspectives on life. I hope I can do the same for others.

G- *When I get so "lost" in something I am writing (or reading) that I lose track of time.*

3. What do you most value in a poet?

B- Humour. We remember works that make us laugh, and that laughter can gently lead us to more serious revelations.

G- *An Olympic dive is appreciated for its degree of difficulty plus its style; writing has idea content plus style, and I revel in the style component of the writing that we call poetry.*



4. What is currently your favorite short form?

B- I am definitely a fan of three lines and including them with my photography as haiga is an interesting exercise. Haibun fascinate me as they show the broader range of a poet's skills. I like to write tanka because there is craft in pivot lines and shifting the meaning or mood with the last two lines. My main source of inspiration is usually my own experience. However, in 2023 I experimented with writing haiku in reaction to news stories. It was a fun exercise, though only a few can be taken out of context and retain meaning.

“ *The foibles of people engage me more
in my poems than the natural world* ”

Beth Skala



baking day
grandma kneads and shapes
another story

Beth Skala

Honourable Mention

Morioka International Haiku Contest

November 2020

G- *Three-line haiku, haibun, and haiga are my favourite forms—the first of them because it represents one connection I like to maintain with Japanese tradition and the other two forms because they pair well with other things I also like; namely, pictures and vignettes. Just a few days ago, it occurred to me to construct some haibun by combining newly written haiku with vignettes I had written quite long ago for a different purpose. This was a new process for me, and I was pleased with how it added fresh resonances to the older material.*

“ *Expanding the settings for my haiku
beyond my former focus on ideas,
images, and seasonal inputs relating
to my own time and place.* ”



Greg Skala

Beth

Greg

5. Could you share how you discovered poetry?

My first introduction to poetry was likely in schoolbook anthologies. I remember writing a poem for my mother when I was in Gr.2, so I already grasped the concept by then. My introduction to haiku had to have been in English classes or in novels I read in high school. However, when I reached university I majored in Far Eastern studies and haiku was an important topic in my Japanese Literature courses. I still have my copy of *An Introduction to Haiku* by H.G. Henderson, which I purchased in 1966.

My mother read a lot of poetry to me, which I remember dating back at least as far as when I was four years old. I probably started to write poetry of my own that early as well, though the first poem of my own I could locate seems to date from about age eleven. I learned of haiku from a magazine or brochure at about age fourteen. For the next several decades, I held onto the mindset that my own haiku ought to retain a 5-7-5 syllable pattern.

6. Writing routine?

I have no schedule, but I do write every day in autumn and winter. Once the garden is put to bed, I stay indoors more and have more time to write.

I aim to do some writing daily. When I am true to that plan, it often happens in the early morning, late morning, or early afternoon.

7. When it comes to writing, how do you deal with selection/rejection?

Having been a contest judge and an editor of several newsletters, I know that perfectly good work cannot always be included. I am more surprised when my writing is selected than when it isn't.

I am tickled pink when something I've written is selected. I don't feel much concern when something is rejected because I'm not making my living at my writing hobby.

Pearls
of wisdom


Don't Ever Let Nobody
Drag Your Spirit Down



Greg Skala

(from the title of a blues song).





dishes left
too many days
geckos in my sink

Greg Skala

Commendation
Devidé Haiku Award (2016)
IAFOR VDHA Haiku Anthology

patchwork quilt
such dark colours
comforter or shroud?

Greg Skala

First published in
Gift of silence: a Haiku Tribute to Leonard Cohen
Éditions des petits nuages, Ottawa, Ontario (2018)





Photo Beth Skala

8. Favorite ginkgo walk?

B- Our garden inspires most of my nature poems.

G- *The circuit around Buttertubs Marsh in Nanaimo, BC.*

9. Which writer (dead or alive) would you like to invite for a ginkgo walk?

B- Issa. What an eye for nature!

G- *Jalaluddin Rumi.*

10. You are part of a volunteer group that reads to rescue dogs in your local animal shelter, what title(s) do you read to them?

B- I would read *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. I didn't like it much myself, but I think dogs would adore it.

G- *The Voice of Bugle Ann* by MacKinlay Kantor, and *Tekka: The Wonder Dog* by Wendi Ferrero

11. Which talent would you most like to have?

B- The ability to pause and reconsider before putting my foot in my mouth.

G- *A greater vocal range when I sing.*

12. If you were to be an element of nature, what would it be?

B- A cloud. Shape-shifting would be such fun and I would be able to see so far!

G- *A rainbow.*



13. What is your greatest extravagance?

B- A cup of vegan cocoa every day. May not be extravagant in terms of money, but a little extravagance in calories.

G- *Costly acquisition of a great many educational DVD courses, though the reward is that Beth and I enjoy studying most of them together.*

14. When not writing you are. . .

B- I am quilting, sewing, taking photos, researching family history, reading, or gardening. That's the fun stuff. We won't mention household chores.

G-*Reading, studying my DVD courses, listening to music, making music, exercising, or playing chess.*



15. What do you consider your greatest achievement?

B- Raising three children has to be at the top. I am also very proud of my work as a newsletter editor, La Leche League leader, Girl Guide leader, and a Feng Shui consultant and teacher. All of those endeavours changed peoples' lives.

G- *Teaching school for 36 years, the last 25 of which were with Kindergartners.*

16. When and where were you happiest?

👉 *The only acceptable answer is here and now* 👉

... but I did love camping with my girlfriends when I was a teen. I was a driven student and it was so good to get out from under the pressure at school (Beth).

G- *In Chicago in late 1969 when Beth and I began planning to get married.*



17. Do you work collaboratively with your spouse (as a poet)?

B- No, we don't collaborate on our writing. We have very, very different writing styles. He uses a lot of words and I am a minimalist. We do, however, work on shared projects through Pens Ultimate Nanaimo. And when he published a book of poetry, he asked me to create the cover.

G- *We work together on group projects as co-participants in the writers' group Pens Ultimate Nanaimo. I, my wife, and all the group's other members participate in a similar fashion: submitting for group feedback whatever writing on which we've been working, plus taking equal turns at facilitation and other tasks.*

👉 Our latest Pens Ultimate Nanaimo production is a book of 100-word drabbles called *alternating currents*. As a group we chose twelve prompts, six pictures and six words, then each author wrote to those prompts. The finished product is quite interesting as it gives four different interpretations of each subject. 🍷

Greg Skala



Photo Beth Skala

Pearls of wisdom

Speak your truth,
but remember to be kind.

Beth Skala

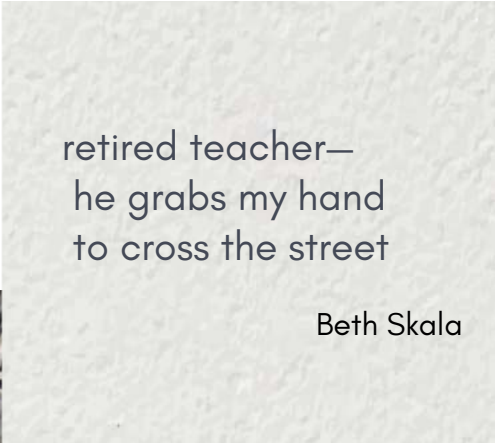
18. How does living with another poet influence your own poetry?

B- Greg and I often read our drafts to each other. I find this incredibly helpful as he is perceptive and sees into my blind spots. As for writing poems to each other, I have written some poems about him and our relationship over the years.

19. What writing project are you currently working on?

B- My next project is to write the history of the house where my mother was born and to share my research with my extended family.

G- A book of inspirational stories based largely on incidents I've experienced.



retired teacher—
he grabs my hand
to cross the street

Beth Skala



Photos of Tofino: Beth Skala

20. A fantastic grant allows you to choose a writing retreat destination, where would you go?

B- I would go to one of those Northern Lights hotels in Finland. So cosy, so inspiring.

G- *To Tofino, BC, where I've frequently gone for two-three day stays; but the fantastic grant might allow me to stay for a full year.*

21. What is your favorite poetic place, as a couple? And why?

B- Tofino. When we go there we have no responsibilities and spend hours walking along the beach, just soaking up the fresh air and talking, talking, talking. Our experiences there inform many of my poems.

G- *Our backyard. Beth and I replaced the grass lawns with low-growing ground cover, raised vegetable beds, shrubbery, flowering plants, and a labyrinth path that Beth designed. Walking the labyrinth is a special place of meditation and poetry planning for me.*

22. What do you most admire in your spouse as a poet?

B- I most admire Greg's innovation. He tackles subjects in his poems that I would never consider writing about and he is always trying new techniques.

G- *Beth's poetry has grace and fluidity. I enjoy writing in varied genres, and I am generally proud of my own poems. Let us say, though, that my poetry tends to march along smartly—Beth's poetry dances!*

“ *My wife Beth is an exceptionally gifted poet and always an inspiration to me! We share poems with each other more so than actually writing them to each other.* ”

Greg Skala

we speak
of cherry blossoms—
a safe topic

Beth Skala
Winner (BC Category), 2011
Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival
Haiku invitational



23. What is your greatest fear as a writer or poet?

B- As I am aging, my greatest fear is that I will lose the words when I sit down to write.

I regret not starting to write sooner. It was not until retirement in 2008 that I really devoted time to creative writing. Since 2011, I have published four chapbooks (two of poetry and two of family history) and three full books: *unSUPERVISED: growing up in the 1950s* (written in a haibun format); *My Mary Bennet: Poems, Letters, & Miscellanea*; and *When Stones Choose You: Using Crystals in Feng Shui*.

G- Later regretting something I wrote.



a girl hems
her mother's pants—
now they are even

Beth Skala
The Helping Hand Haiku Anthology
Robert Epstein (ed.),
Middle Island Press, 2020

24. Where can we learn more about you or about your projects?



To learn more about Beth's poetry...

B- You will have to email me. (Please do!)

I don't do social media and I keep a low online profile, but I love to chat and exchange ideas via email.

You can email Beth at bskala@shaw.ca

Photo Beth Skala

To learn more about Greg's poetry...

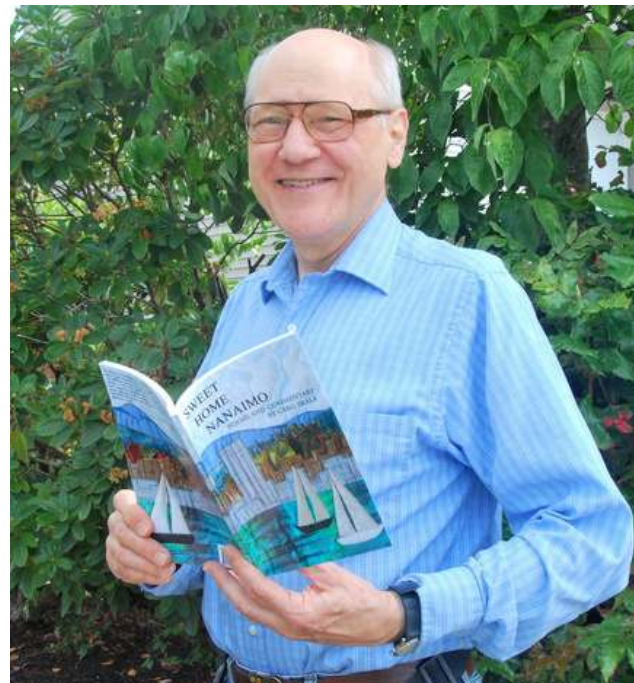
My haiku regularly appear in the annual Haiku Canada Members' Anthologies.

My article entitled "Bilingual Haiku—A Delightful Challenge" is posted on the blog of Chris Faiers (an early founder of Haiku Canada) can be found [HERE](#).

The single published book featuring just Greg's poetry, *Sweet Home Nanaimo* is available from the bookstore Chapters, 6670 Mary Ellen Dr., Nanaimo, BC, V9V 1T7.



Photo: Josef Jacobson/The News Bulletin



haiku o haïku



biting cold
the frosted trees
hold their silence

Ruth Powell
Prince George (BC)

lie
in low-angled sunlight
waiting for a cure

Louise Carson
Saint-Lazare (Québec)



Next haiku challenge on **BOOKS/READING**
Deadline: March 1

Prochain défi haïku sur le thème **LIVRES/LIRE**
Date limite: avant le 1er mars

submit online by email or QR code
bc-territories@haikucanada.org

frozen weathervane
the copper goose
points south

*Karin Hedetniemi
Victoria (BC)*

after the election
sunrise over a broken world
blood red branches weep

*Cheryl Ashley
Nanaimo (BC)*





wild horses
growing winter coats
on our legs

*Jan Stretch
Victoria (BC)*



mountain slope
warm in sun cold on snow
their devoted dog

*Mary L. Leopkey
Texada Island (BC)*

love

tree shivers
snowflakes on my tongue
... six again

*Jan Stretch
Victoria (BC)*



under a cold and frosty twilight
swans glide on the pond
pecking at glittering stars

*Kamal Parmar
Nanaimo (BC)*



vieux pin foudroyé —
le feu épuisé
de nos baisers

Cristiane Ourliac
(France)

kindling the first of many fires burnt out

Louise Carson
Saint-Lazare (Québec)



photos of the disaster
cold on my skin



premiers froids
les appétits se bousculent
dans les allées du marché

*Jean-Hughes Chevy
(France)*

- 28°
I give up skiing
for chocolate

- 28°
J'abandonne le ski
pour le chocolat

*Valérie Rivoallon
(France)*



HALL OF FAME MUR DE LA RENOMMÉE



Karin Hedetniemi

Is still in disbelief as her haiku earned the top award for British Columbia, at the 2024 Haiku Invitational of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival! AND her second poem also earned an honourable mention!

From our region- Winners of the 2024 Haiku Invitational of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival
Judged by Michael Dylan Welch, Antoinette Cheung, and Garry Gay
To read their poems, click [here](#).



CATEGORY: VANCOUVER

TOP WINNER: Rachel Enomoto, Burnaby, British Columbia

SAKURA AWARDS: Lesley Donaldson, Barb Little, David Randen, Ann Harreby, Jacque Pearce.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS: Lesley Donaldson, C. Jean Downer (2 times), Barb Little, Johnny Lo, Lindz Marsh, Jacque Pearce, Jennifer Pownall, Millicent Sharman, Monica Wang.

CATEGORY: BRITISH COLUMBIA

TOP WINNER: Karin Hedetniemi. Victoria, British Columbia

SAKURA AWARDS: cheryl ashley, elehna de sousa, George Dueck, Julie Emerson, Ulrike Narwani, Ceó Ruaírc.

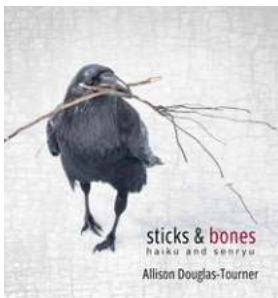
HONOURABLE MENTIONS: Naomi Beth Wakan, Marcia Burton, elehna de sousa, Julie Emerson, Karin Hedetniemi, Ulrike Narwani, Sally Quon, Michele Rule (2 times).

CATEGORY: CANADA

SAKURA AWARD: Lillilan Nakamura Maguire, kjmunro. Both from the Yukon.

CATEGORY : YOUTH

HONOURABLE MENTIONS (age): Nathan Lin (17), Jody Long (10), Devon Martin (11), Catherine (9).



Allison Douglas-Tourner

NEW BOOK! "Sticks and Bones" is a collection of haiku and senryu written by Vancouver Island poet, Allison Douglas-Tourner. Ravens, cats, dogs, owls, people and other enchanting creatures. Inspired by island life past and present. A perfect little gift book for anyone who loves haiku, nature, or just a quiet moment to themselves. *Her book can be purchased [here](#).*



The Touchstone Award for Individual Poems.

TIME TO VOTE ! You have until December 31 to nominate your favorite poems!

It's time to shine a light on your fellow poets!

Click [here](#) for more details or visit The Haiku Foundation website



December
décembre

January
janvier

February
février

some calls

for submissions and contests

Contest / Concours

- **The Third Annual Rachel Sutcliffe Memorial Haiku-Art Contest**, Dec.1-15

Journals and other publications

- **Acorn Haiku**, Submit in January and February 2025
- **Akitsu-Quarterly**, Opens Jan.1
- **First Frost**, open in January 2025
- **Haiku Canada Review**, Dec.31 (english)
- **Haiku Canada Review (French)** thème douleur et/ou peine
envoyer 3 poèmes avant le 20 décembre à haikufrancais@haikucanada.org
- **Haiku Canada Member's Anthology**, 2025, Dec.1-Jan.31
- **Heron Nest**, Dec.15
- **Failed haiku**, Starts Jan.10
- **l'ours dansant** no.47 les fêtes (avant le 10 janvier 2025)
- **Mamba Journal**, closes Jan.15
- **Presence**, Dec.15-Jan.31
- **Prune Juice** (Antoinette Cheung and P.H.Fischer local editors!), Feb. 1-28
- **Wales Haiku Journal**, Dec1-31

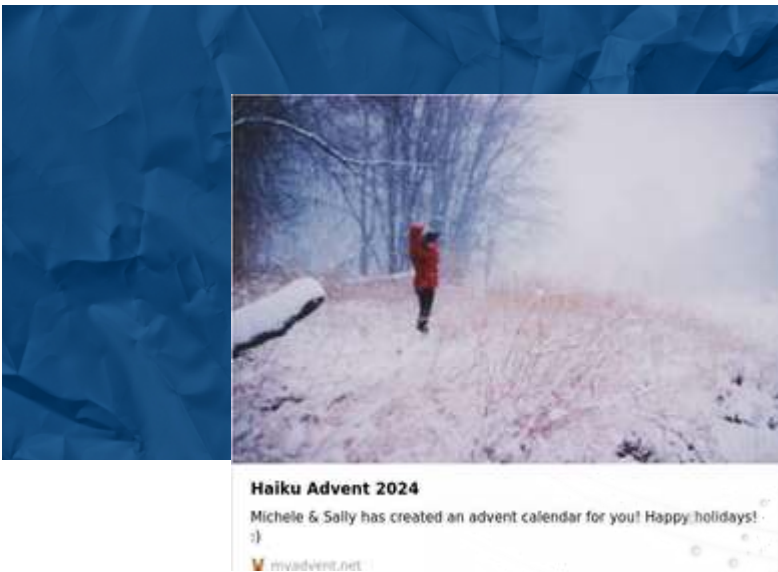
Ongoing on selected themes/ appels en continu

- **Asahi Haikuist Network**, David McMurray curator
- **Cold Moon JournalGONG** (en français)
- **Haiku in Action**- Nick Virgilio Haiku Association
- **Hedgerow: a journal of small poems**
- **Poetry Pea**
- **The Haiku Foundation- Haiku Dialogue** (kjmunro local editor!)
- **The Solitary Daisy** (Michele Rule and Sally Quon local editors!)
- **Tricycle monthly haiku challenge**

REMINDER- click on any underlined section to access the submission detail on their websites! visit the official websites as information may change.

RAPPEL- Cliquez sur les sections surlignées pour savoir comment soumettre un haïku sur leur site!
Consulter les sites internet officiels car l'information pourrait changer.





Haiku Advent Calendar Calendrier de l'avent (haïku)

Sally and Michele from [The Solitary Daisy](#) (BC) have a surprise for you!

A special Haiku Advent Calendar! Fun fun fun!



Click on the image
to access



Coordinating Members

- Pam Harry
- Charlotte Hrenchuk
- Sandra St-Laurent
- Lillian Nakamura Maguire

In collaboration with solstice haiku (Whitehorse, Yukon)

Purpose

- to showcase the North as lived and perceived by northern haiku poets in all seasons
- to encourage northern poets to write, submit and publish haiku, thereby increasing the profile of northern haiku writers
- to connect with other northern haiku poets nationally and potentially internationally
- to have fun - creatively and collectively

Phase 1: Selected poems will be included in a Canadian anthology (print)

Phase 2: Open to circumpolar poets and will involve a digital or performance creation

Submissions

Open to poets residing in Canada north of 60 (Yukon, NWT, Nunavut) and Nunavik

What to send? Up to five haiku or senryu, two haibun, three tanka or two haiga per season.

For each season we would consider published and unpublished works in English or another language with the author providing a translation in English. If already published, please send complete information for credit.

Links to online submission forms below.

Deadline:

Poems on AUTUMN and WINTER : March 15, 2025

Poems on SPRING and SUMMER: August 31, 2025

Interested in helping out?

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Northern Haiku Collective (NHC), providing input into the project, submitting writing and receiving updates. Contact: northernhaikucollective@gmail.com

Click on links to submit

[Autumn poems](#) [Winter poems](#) [Spring poems](#) [Summer poems](#)

local meetings

Haiku Arbutus

Victoria, BC, since 2014;
meets quarterly;
facilitated by Terry Ann Carter.
Contact terryanncarter3@gmail.com

Vancouver Haiku Group

Vancouver, BC, since 2010;
meets monthly.
Visit the Vancouver Haiku Group Facebook page or
vancouverhaikugroup@gmail.com

Solstice Haiku

Whitehorse, YT, since 2014;
meets monthly to share and discuss haiku;
facilitated by Katherine Munro (kjmunro).
Contact kjm.1560@gmail.com

Haiku Canada Corner



You have until January 31 to send your haiku for the Haiku Canada Members' Anthology

Vous avez jusqu'au 31 janvier pour faire parvenir vos haïkus pour l'anthologie des membres de Haiku Canada

Paix santé et sérénité pour l'année 2025!
Peace, health and serenity for 2025!

- **Next Issue *Spring 2025***
- **Prochain numéro *printemps 2025***

The next issue will cover the months of March, April, May 2025
La prochaine édition couvrira les mois de mars, avril et mai 2025

Sandra St-Laurent
regional coordinator
coordonnatrice régionale

bc-territories@haikucanada.org



Building the Haiku Canada Collection

archives@haikucanada.org

Publishing a haiku-related book?

Donate one copy to the Haiku Canada Collection as part of your distribution plan. Downsizing? Preparing for end of life? You can help build the Haiku Canada Collection . . .

The Haiku Canada Collection, established in 2017, is located in British Columbia at the University of Victoria Library, within Special Collections and University Archives.

Already donated, or intending to donate, your haiku materials to another archive? Let us know, so that site and your resources can be incorporated into the information base of the Haiku Canada archives.

Archives Committee members:

Katherine Munro (Yukon)
Vicki McCullough (BC)

We would like to acknowledge that Haiku:rage was designed within the Traditional Territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'an Council (Yukon Territory). Nous reconnaissons que Haiku:rage a été réalisée sur le territoire ancestral des Premières Nations de Kwanlin Dün et du Conseil de bande Ta'an Kwäch'an (Yukon).

Haiku: rage –Regional Newsletter for Haiku Canada BC and Territories WINTER 2025 no.9

Design and Publishing: Sandra St-Laurent
Revision: Ruth Powell

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