

Haiku Canada Weekend 2015 – May 15-17 – Victoria, BC

For individuals who were not able to attend the Haiku Canada Weekend in Victoria on May 15-17, here are some glimpses.

Thank you to co-coordinators Terry Ann Carter and Carole MacRury for organizing a delicious conference that welcomed so many people to the city of Victoria on the Victoria Day Weekend! Thanks also to the members of Haiku Arbutus who helped in so many ways: registration, conference brochures, billeting, and pickup at the airport.

Appreciation is due to everyone who contributed to and supported the Silent Auction: over \$800 was raised. Awesome! Special thanks to Sidney Bending who canvassed for items from many local Victoria merchants.

There were 63 registrants for the conference, and 81 in attendance for the keynote address by Gabriel Rosenstock on Saturday afternoon. We were graced by ikebana, some amazing presentations (including musical numbers), and also time for making and renewing friendships. One newcomer poet said: "I have never been to such an open-hearted conference before."

Mark your calendars now for 2016: Kathy Munro will be welcoming haijin to Whitehorse in the Yukon May 21-23.

Friday, May 15, 2015

Carole and Terry Ann welcomed poets to the New Horizons Centre in the James Bay area of Victoria. This was a wonderful venue for our meeting, as it allowed us to have a book room & a room for the silent auction.

HC Members' Anthology

Launch of the 2015 Haiku Canada anthology *comparing tattoos* (Mike Montreuil and Cathy Drinkwater Better, editors). Luminita Suse presented the anthology on behalf of the editors. Copies were distributed to HC members who read their poem from the chapbook, a traditional opening to each conference. Thanks to Mike & Cathy for a job well done. They will be passing the baton to new editors for the 2016 anthology.

Twin Cities: Victoria & Morioka

Victoria's Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer read her poetry inspired by her years living in Japan.

A Hundred Umbrellas

This chapbook by members of the new Haiku Arbutus (Victoria) group and their friends was dedicated to Dr. Inazo Nitobe, and published by Leaf Press. In 2015, Victoria will celebrate a 30-year relationship with its twin city Morioka, Japan (the birthplace of Dr. Nitobe).

Into the Forest: Through the Eyes of Emily Carr

Jacqueline Pearce has written 2 books for youth about Emily Carr, and her presentation allowed us a personal glimpse of this amazing artist. Jacquie grew up on Vancouver Island, and could speak to the influence of wild west-coast forests in Emily's work. This well prepared participants for Saturday's gingko walk to the historic Emily Carr House just a block away from the community centre.

Two Islands: Haiku and All That Jazz

Johnny Baranski sang a few jazz tunes and read his haiku with accompaniment from Marco Fraticelli on the piano. Their performance was amazing, especially given that they had only been able to practice by Skype (Marco lives in Montreal, and Johnny in Vancouver, Washington).

Late Night Renku Party

Coordinated by Marshall Hryciuk & Karen Sohne. Marshall fielded over 250 haiku for the 18 links written on the first evening of the conference.

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Anonymous Workshop

The workshop was facilitated by Terry Ann Carter & Marco Fraticelli. It was so successful, that a second workshop was added. Poets came back early from their lunch break to learn more about the craft of poetry.

Haiku: The Art of Emptiness

The conference's keynote address was given by Gabriel Rosenstock from Ireland, and included excerpts from the DVD, *The Light Within* [a multimedia project featuring Gabriel's haiku in Irish and English, along with nature photography by American master photographer Ron Rosenstock and a soundscape created by the South African composer Eugene Skeef]. The presentation was filled with ideas that sparked and poems that moved the audience. Gabriel has kindly made the transcript of his address available to Haiku Canada members, and it is attached in PDF format. Gabriel attended Haiku Canada 2015 courtesy of Cultúr Éireann/Culture Ireland.

As well, thanks to a lucky bit of serendipity, those of you who were not able to attend the meeting can hear and watch Gabriel's two presentations. They are now posted on Vimeo and here are the links.

1. Ducks in Search of the Moon. (19 minutes)
Presentation to Haiku Arbutus (Thursday, May 14/15).
<https://vimeo.com/128382974>

2. Haiku – The Art Of Emptiness. (43 minutes)
Keynote address at the Haiku Canada Weekend (Saturday, May 16/15).
<https://vimeo.com/128412023>

Poetry That Heals: A Journey from One Island to Another

Nanaimo's Poet Laureate, Naomi Beth Wakan, walked us through the steps she took on her own healing journey: from haiku to tanka to response tanka and then to renku. Her book, *Poetry That Heals*, was

published by Pacific-Rim Publishers in 2014. This was a participatory workshop: after we had written our haiku, we passed it to the person to our left who then added 2 more lines to make the poem a tanka. Then we were invited to pass our books to the left one more time so that a different person could write a response tanka. Surprising in such a short workshop, there was even time for the poems to be read out loud. During one of the readings, Naomi exclaimed “I’m so happy – this is better than breakfast!” The workshop invited participants to be willing to share their poem with others, and to be willing to respond to another’s words as well. Led by our incredible guide Naomi, it seemed that connections were made in all kinds of ways. Naomi’s book is available at: http://www.naomiwakan.com/nw_adult_titles.html

No Haiku is an Island

From her friendship of 20 years with haiku poet Elizabeth Searle Lamb (1917-2005), Miriam Sagan edited Elizabeth’s collected poetry, *Across the Windharp: Collected and New Haiku* (La Alameda Press, 1999). More recently, Miriam wrote response haiku to Elizabeth’s poems and these “conversations” appear in a new book, *dream that is not a dream, a conversation in haiku* (Red Moon Press, 2015) – from which Miriam read and told stories. Elizabeth was a well-known haiku poet, and this presentation gave us glimpses of her through the eyes of her friend Miriam. The book *dream that is not a dream* is available from Red Moon Press: http://www.redmoonpress.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=191

Little Alphabets for Little Poems: An Activity Workshop

Shirley Johnson is a Victoria calligrapher. She introduced 2 alphabets (funky + art deco), and invited participants to calligraphy their haiku onto the bookmarks she provided. So taken were poets with this invitation that several of the poems submitted from the ginkgo walk were in calligraphy! Shirley’s handiwork was also evident in the beautiful name tag / booklet that each registrant received at the conference.

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Haiku Canada Annual General Meeting

The financial report and minutes will be sent in a separate email.

Haiku Canada North of Sixty

Kathy Munro, the coordinator for next year’s conference, gave an introduction to Whitehorse and the Yukon Territory through her poetry and photographs. She also schlepped several Tourism Yukon banners to the conference, and provided brochures to all participants. The haiku she provided on the freebie table was written on an Air North decal: stolen hotel pens travel writing (kjmunro, *Modern Haiku* 44.2)

Thousand Islands: Publishing haiku using new technology, from Twitter haiku to iPad haiga

Jessica Tremblay is the author of Old Pond Comics (www.oldpondcomics.com). Her presentation was impressive in showing the different technologies and examples of how they can be used to showcase your haiku. No doubt, her enthusiasm inspired many to give it a try. One of the audience’s favourites was a youtube by David Lanoue called “Climb Mount Fuji.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GBgfusPG4I>

Painting Sunlight: A Trilingual Canadian Haiku Anthology

Launch of the Spring 2015 issue of the Wah Journal that features haiku by HC members in English with translations into Hindi and Punjabi. This issue includes an introduction by Claudia Coutu Radmore. Thanks to Amarjit Tiwana for sending copies to the HC Weekend. His donation of this Wah issue benefits three haiku groups: two in BC, and one in Portland, Oregon

From One Island of Words: Writing haibun with literary roots

Claudia Coutu Radmore has enjoyed writing Japanese-form poetry since the late 1990s. Her most recent chapbook, *three sets of little literary haibun* (catkin press, 2015), explores writing haibun inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, and poems from *The Terracotta Soldiers* by Gary Geddes, and *Ocean* by Sue Goyette. Claudia led a workshop, inviting us to write a haibun from a West Coast story that she provided to us. Chapbooks are available by contacting Claudia at: claudiaradmore@gmail.com

The Moon Over Tagoto: Selected Haiku of Buson

Gabriel Rosenstock launched his new book (Beehive Publishers, 2015) that features the haiku of Buson in new English and Irish versions (Gabriel) and a Scots version (John McDonald). Gabriel's website: <http://roghaghgabriel.blogspot.ca/p/about-gabriel-rosenstock.html>

Reading by Miriam Sagan

Miriam Sagan is a poet and writer, who founded and now runs the creative writing program at Santa Fe Community College. She shared her poetry, including several selected from her book *Love & Death: Greatest Hits* (with Renée Gregorio & Joan Logghe, Tres Chicas Books, 2011). Miriam's website: <https://miriamswell.wordpress.com/about/>

On the Road to Naropa: My Love Affair with Jack Kerouac: A Haibun Memoir

Terry Ann Carter launched her new book (Inkling Press, 2015), a collection filled with poignancy and resonance as she tells of her life through haibun (a form that combines prose and haiku). Books are available from Inkling Press: www.inklingpress.com

Music

Memorial music was provided by James Rodriguez on Native American flute. Due to a glitch in logistics, James was accompanied by music and prayers over a PA system from the church group that was meeting in another part of the community centre. This was resolved before the end of the renku reading.

Renku Reading

Marshall Hryciuk & Karen Sohne read the weekend's renku. Of note, Marshall has led over 40 renku sessions internationally since 1992, and 15 of them appear in his most recent publication, *petals in the dark* (catkin press, 2015). Books are available by contacting Claudia at: claudiaradmore@gmail.com

Tribute to Sandra Fuhringer

DeVar Dahl gave a moving tribute to Sandra Fuhringer, Past President of Haiku Canada (1982-85), who died in January 2015. Her work was made available to conference participants through a reprint of her chapbook, *The Tree It Was* (King's Road Press, 2002), kindly provided by Marco Fraticelli.

Ginkgo Walk Contest

First: Sean Carlton; Second: Philomene Kocher; Third: Deb Koen; HMs: Kathy Munro and Marianne Paul. Watch for their poems in the Haiku Canada Review.

Betty Drevniok Award

The winners and their poems were announced by this year's judge Carole MacRury. Due to an oversight in the printing, the correct version is available in PDF format on the Haiku Canada website. First & Third Prizes: Carl Seguiban, Burnaby, BC; and Second Prize: elehna de sousa, Salt Spring Island, BC. The winning haiku with the 8 Honourable Mention poems will be available through the annual broadsheet mailed to HC members.

Le Prix Jocelyne Villeneuve

Les gagnants et leurs poèmes ont été annoncés par Janick Belleau et Claude Rodrigue. 1er prix: Ginette Poirier (Canada); 2e prix: Minh-Triêt Pham (France); 3e prix: Louise Vachon (Canada). Le dépliant avec les haïkus gagnants et les mentions honorable seront envoyés aux membres HC.

Thank you to co-coordinators

On behalf of HC, Marco Fraticelli, Claudia Coutu Radmore, and Philomene Kocher presented gifts to Terry Ann Carter and Carole MacRury for their many hours dedicated to organizing and shepherding us through the conference.

Announcement: 2016 HC Conference

Terry Ann Carter announced that Kathy Munro will be welcoming haikin to Whitehorse in the Yukon for the 2016 conference. Kathy has begun arranging coverage by CBC Radio leading up to the conference. She will also be providing details about airline and hotel discounts available to HC members.

With Marco Fraticelli on the piano, the audience sang "Whitehorse City" (to the tune of "Kansas City"). Here's verse 3. See you in Whitehorse !

Well I might take a train, I might take a plane
But if I have to walk, I'm gonna get there just the same
Yeah, Whitehorse City, Whitehorse City here I come
They got some crazy haiku poets there
And I wanna meet me some.

Resources

The week before the conference, Terry Ann Carter was invited to be part of a project by Kitty Lewis for Brick Books. Her essay about the history of haiku in Canada appeared on May 14, 2015, and can be accessed through the link below. She apologizes for any omissions, as the deadline was incredibly short. She expects that there will be a revision at a later time. A revised essay will appear on the Haiku Canada website in the near future.

Week 20 – A History of Haiku in Canada (in Two Parts) by Terry Ann Carter

<http://www.brickbooks.ca/a-history-of-haiku-in-canada-in-two-parts-by-terry-ann-carter/>

Books

comparing tattoos. Haiku Canada Members' Anthology 2015.

Discovering Emily (Orca, 2004) & *Emily's Dream* (Orca, 2005). By Jacqueline Pearce.

dream that is not a dream, a conversation in haiku. By Elizabeth Searle Lamb and Miriam Sagan (Red Moon Press, 2015).

Painting Sunlight: A Trilingual Canadian Haiku Anthology (Spring 2015 issue of Wah Journal). [Features poetry by many Haiku Canada members in English, Hindi, and Punjabi.]

petals in the dark: 15 renku led and edited by Marshall Hryciuk (catkin press, 2015).

Poetry That Heals. By Naomi Beth Wakan (Pacific-Rim Publishers, 2014).

On the Road to Naropa: My Love Affair with Jack Kerouac: A Haibun Memoir. By Terry Ann Carter (Inkling Press, 2015).

The Moon Over Tagoto: Selected Haiku of Buson. By Gabriel Rosenstock [English and Irish versions] and John McDonald [Scots version] (Beehive Publishers, 2015).

three sets of little literary haibun. By Claudia Coutu Radmore (catkin press, 2015).

These notes were compiled by Philomene Kocher
with assistance from Terry Ann Carter & Claudia Coutu Radmore.