

Crime Time

The newsletter for the members of Crime Writers of Canada

Volume 96 ← September-October 2020

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Crime Time

Editor: Alison Bruce

info@crimewriterscanada.com

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Crime Writers of Canada (CWC) is a national non-profit organization for Canadian mystery and crime writers, associated professionals, and others with a serious interest in Canadian crime writing. Our mission is to promote Canadian crime writing and to raise the profile of Canadian crime writers with readers, reviewers, librarians, booksellers, and media.

From the editor . . .

Not many of us will forget the year 2020. It's been a rough time but not an entirely bad one. We've had a chance to binge watch our favourite crime shows, make a dent in our stacks of to-be-read books, and learned to master Zoom. We've also taken a close look at how we do things in light of systemic racism. Where has that led us? Read the Message from the Chair on the next page to get some insight.

CWC can't do much about the pandemic, although we have plenty of members doing their bit as essential workers. We can make things easier for our members. Check out the COVID pricing for members entering the CWC Awards of Excellence on page 4.

Because CWC relies on membership fees, we can't discount those. Instead, we're looking for ways of showing our appreciation to members who have kept things running over the years. We especially appreciate those of you who always pay your annual fees on time.

Yes, it's almost that time of year again. Membership renewals start October first. All memberships go from the first of January to the thirty-first of December, regardless of your anniversary date. Read all about it on page 3.

One last thing. Did you notice the header? Starting this month, Crime Time is going bimonthly. This will give me more time to gather meaningful content for the newsletter, and more time to do other things for our members. Crime Beat, our public newsletter, will continue to go out monthly with news, events and new releases.

Stay safe,

Alisan



A warm welcome to our newest members:

- Raymond Cushing
- Merrilee Evans
- CB Forrest
- Roy French
- Victoria Hamilton
- Doug Heckbert
- Patricia Lee
- Tony Ollivier
- Jon Redfern
- Alison Scarrow
- Oliver Dean Spencer
- Margot Trevelyan
- Anik Vanasse

May your crimes always pay!



Sincere thanks to our Contributing Angel

Thom Bennett

Message from the Chair

Where has the summer gone? It seems like only yesterday that I was making the eight-hour drive to our camp on Lake Superior, but unlike previous years, when I'd alternate my time between Southern and Northern Ontario, this year the plan was to stay from mid-May to mid-October.

That wasn't my intention pre-COVID but, like many authors, I've had multiple events and two conferences cancelled. And while CWC has been able to offer members partially funded opportunities to promote their work at a virtual *Word on the Street Toronto* or *Word Vancouver*, the future of other popular events, such as the *Ontario Library Association Super Conference*, remains uncertain. (Rest assured we are working with the organizers of OLAS to ensure that CWC plays a part in whatever format the conference takes.)

Releasing a novel in 2020 has also been challenging. Publication dates have been pushed back, print runs delayed, book launches cancelled, the list goes on. But there is some good news in all of this: CWC is offering COVID-discounted member pricing for our Awards of Excellence (formerly the Arthur Ellis Awards). This offer is exclusive to CWC members in good standing, and is valid for all categories, including Best Unpublished Crime Manuscript. You can read more about the Awards criteria and pricing in this issue.

Member discounted pricing and a new name isn't the only thing new about the CWC awards. For the first time, CWC has moved away from a Jury Chair format (where one individual selects all the judges) to a Jury Selection Committee of six PAMs from across Canada. The Chair of that committee, Hyacinthe Miller, has prepared a report on their progress, and the process, to date. My sincere thanks to Hyacinthe, David Albertyn, Jane Burfield, Yutaka Dirks, Debra Purdy Kong, and Garry Ryan for volunteering to champion this new initiative.

Our logo is also getting a new look, following the retirement of our hanged man. At the time of this writing, Alison Bruce had received 36 suggestions for a replacement. The Awards Committee, Marketing Committee, and the Board will be reviewing all carefully before determining our next steps. Stay tuned for updates.

Until next time,

fledy

Renewal Time

CWC membership is for the calendar year: 1st January to 31st December. If you didn't pay for two years when you renewed, your membership is due at the end of the year. But who wants to leave it to the holiday season to take care of business? That's why we start membership renewals in October. If you know someone who is thinking of joining CWC, the first of October is the best time now. They will also be paying for 2021 and will get the rest of 2020 free.

Early Bird



Every year we gather the names of the members who renew before 31st December and enter them into a draw for a free year. This year we're giving away two free years, one for a winning PAM, and one for a winning AM.

We want to make this easy, so we'll be sending out a reminder about the Early Bird draw with the links to the online membership form in the first week of October. You don't have to wait for the links, however. Just go to our online forms: www.crimewriterscanada.com/aboutus/joinus/online-forms-2 at the end of September. The 2021 renewal forms will be live by then.

Time is of the Essence

We have always given our members a grace period at the beginning of the year. As mentioned, who wants to take care of business over the holidays. However, don't take too much time because the membership fees go up 15 January.



In a Nutshell

Renew for the regular annual fee starting 1 October.

PAM: \$130 one year; \$260 two years AM: \$88 one year; \$176 two years

Renew before 13 December and get a chance to win a year extension to your membership.



Renew after 15 January

PAM: \$140 for one year; two year rate \$270 (140+130) AM: \$95 for one year; two year rate \$183 (95+88)

(Please note: new memberships go on sale in July; late renewals do not.)

For those of you who prefer not to use online forms, we've got you covered. We have a printable form that you can fill out and mail in with your cheque. Don't forget the form. It confirms your current email and your choice whether to share your email in the Members Only Section. Other contact information need only be filled out if it has changed since last year.

CWC Awards of Excellence

COVID Discount Pricing for CWC Members

We love membership perks! And let's face it, anything that takes a bit of the sting out of the rising prices is welcome. That's why the Board voted to offer deep discounts to members entering the CWC Awards of Excellence.

Member Pricing:

- \$25 per title for novels (\$45 nonmembers)
- \$15 per title for the novella category (\$30 nonmembers)
- \$10 per title for short stories (\$20 nonmembers)
- \$25 for a collection with 3 short stories that are being entered or \$25 per 3 short stories if an anthology with multiple authors. (\$50 nonmembers)
- \$25 per title for all other books (French, Nonfiction, Juvenile) (\$45 nonmembers)
- \$15 per entry for the unpublished manuscript category (\$30 nonmembers)

To receive the CWC member pricing:

- Your 2020 membership must be in good standing (contact Alison if you're not sure at ed@crimewriterscanada.com)
- Indicate on the form that you are a CWC member

Check out the website for Submission Rules, Judging Guidelines and links to the online forms.

Deadlines:

Unpublished submissions must be received by October 15.

Published submissions must be postmarked or courier dated by December 15.

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

- William Shakespeare

Awards are presented annually in the following categories (pending sufficient numbers.)

- Best Crime Novel sponsored by Rakuten Kobo, with a \$1000 prize (Min. 50,000 words)
- Best Crime First Novel sponsored by Writers First, with a \$500 prize (Min. 50,000 words AND author's 1st novel in any genre)
- The Howard Engel Award for Best Crime Novel Set in Canada with a \$500 prize. (Min. 35,000 words)
- Best Crime Novella sponsored by Mystery Weekly with a \$200 prize (8,001 - 49,999 words)
- Best Crime Short Story sponsored by Mystery Weekly with a \$300 prize (Max. 8,000 words)
- Best French Crime Book (Fiction and Nonfiction)
- Best Juvenile or YA Crime Book (Fiction and Nonfiction) sponsored by Shaftesbury with a \$500 prize
- Best Nonfiction Crime Book
- The Award for Best Unpublished Manuscript with a \$500 prize sponsored by ECW Press

The Awards are open to permanent residents of Canada, or Canadian citizens living abroad.

Meet the Board

Starting next issue, we're switching things up with Meet the Members.

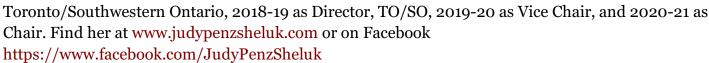
Look for a call-out next month.

Judy Penz Sheluk, Chair

A former journalist and magazine editor, Judy Penz Sheluk is the author of two mystery series: the Glass Dolphin Mysteries and the Marketville Mysteries. Her short crime fiction appears in several collections, including **The Best Laid Plans and Heartbreaks & Half-truths**, which she also edited.

Judy first joined Crime Writers of Canada in 2013 as an Associate Member and aspiring author. Her first novel was published in July 2015.

Judy has served on the Board since 2017-18 as Regional Representative,





Lynn McPherson, Vice-chair (and Tor/SO)

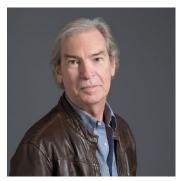
Lynn McPherson has worked for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, ran a small business, and taught English across the globe. She has travelled the world solo, where her daring spirit has led her to jump out of aeroplanes, dive with sharks, and learn she would never master a surfboard. Lynn serves as the Vice Chair on the Crime Writers of Canada Board of Directors, and is the author of the published novels in the Izzy Walsh Mystery Series. Her latest book, **The Girls Dressed For Murder** came out in August 2019.



http://lynnmcpherson.net https://twitter.com/CozyMysteryLynn

Bill Prentice, Treasurer

Bill Prentice is a Toronto-based crime fiction author and freelance writer specializing in international trade and investment marketing, economic development and public policy. In 2015, his **Afghan Silk** was a finalist for the CWC's Unhanged Arthur award. Four years later, his **Why Was Rachel Murdered?** was shortlisted for CWC's Best First Crime Novel award. In it, former-RCMP financial crimes investigator Neil Walker followed a trial of corruption from Ottawa to the back roads of Haiti. The next in the series, this one exploring the international art market, is scheduled for release in 2021. For more information, visit www.billprentice.com



Winona Kent, BC/YK/NWT

Winona was born in London, England and grew up in Regina. She has a BA in English from the University of Regina and an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC. She also has diploma in TV and Screenwriting from Vancouver Film School.

She's the author of eight novels, including **Lost Time** (the most recent in her Jason Davey Mystery series).

Winona has been a temporary secretary, a travel agent and the Managing Editor of a literary magazine. She recently retired from her full-time job and lives in New Westminster, BC, where she's now happily embracing life as a full-time writer.



David Poulsend, Prairies

I'm in my second tour of duty with the CWC Board of Directors and am very much looking forward to seeing some of the exciting initiatives that are being discussed come to fruition. Though I have written 27 books in all, the (adult) crime writing phase of my writing career is a recent development with **Serpents Rising** appearing in 2015. It earned me a four book deal with Dundurn Press. That's where we're at now with **Dead Air**, **Last Song Sung and None So Deadly** rounding out the Cullen and Cobb Mysteries to date. I really believe in the CWC and its stated goal of promoting Canadian crime



writers throughout this country and beyond and am excited to be part of the effort to make that happen.

Peter Kingsmill, Prairies

Peter Kingsmill is the author of the Awan Lake series of mysteries set in lake country in Ontario. Peter is a recipient of the Governor General's Conservation Award (Canada) and the founder of the Redberry Lake (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve in Saskatchewan. He recently retired from many years as a riverboat captain and owner of a small-waters marine services business. He is passionate about Canada's rural spaces and has served two terms as Mayor in his home community of Hafford. Peter joined Crime Writers of Canada as a Professional Author Member in 2018.



author@peterkingsmill.ca www.peterkingsmill.ca

Hyacinthe Miller, Tor/SO

I cut my literary teeth editing textbooks, crafting government policy and writing operational audit reports. A former adjudicator with the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, I work as an organizational development consultant when I'm not writing short stories, magazine and newspaper articles, contemporary women's fiction and non-fiction. I'm a founding member and Past President of the Writers Community of York Region.

Contact me anytime with articles/tips/websites that may be of interest to the broader membership, as well as your comments, recommendations and suggestions.

www.hyacinthemillerbooks.com



Brenda Chapman, Ott/EO

Brenda Chapman has over twenty published novels, including the Stonechild and Rouleau police procedural series, the Anna Sweet mystery novellas for adult literacy, and the Jennifer Bannon mysteries for middle grades. Her work has been shortlisted for several awards including four Arthur Ellis awards.

Brenda studied English literature at Lakehead and Carleton universities and earned a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. She taught for fifteen years in the field of special education followed by a Communications career in the federal government. She currently writes full-time and lives in Ottawa.

www.brendachapman.ca https://brendachapman.ca/blog



Del Chatterson, QC/Atlantic

Del launched his Series of Dale Hunter crime thriller novels with **No Easy Money** in September 2018. **Simply the Best** and **Merger Maniac** were released 2019. Early reviews have been outstanding and more novels in the series are planned for 2020.

Del is also working on a short story collection and 2020 Editions of his two previously published business books, **Don't Do It the Hard Way**, and **The Complete Do-It-Yourself Guide to Business Plans**, were released in March.

Del is a strategic advisor and consultant for entrepreneurs and has written extensively on business topics for decades. Originally from the Rocky

Mountains of British Columbia, he has lived and worked for most of the past forty years in the fascinating, multicultural, bilingual, French-Canadian city of Montreal, Quebec.

Website: https://delvinchatterson.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DelvinRChatterson



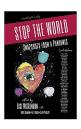
Kudos & Contracts



Harlequin Worldwide Mysteries has just acquired the North American mass market paperback rights for five books in Judy Penz Sheluk's Glass Dolphin and Marketville mystery series. Date of publication TBD. Kudos as well to Judy as *Heartbreaks & Half-truths: 22 Stories of Mystery & Suspense* and *A Fool's Journey: A Marketville Mystery #3*, were both long listed for the 2020 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Readers' Choice Award.



Vicki Delany has signed a contract with Penguin Random House for a new cozy series set at a Catskills resort in 1953. The first book is titled *Deadly Summer Nights* and will be released summer 2021. In addition, Vicki has a contract with Crooked Lane Books for books 9 and 10 in the Lighthouse Library Series written under the pen name Eva Gates.



Kudos to Merrilee Robson who has a piece of flash fiction, "Break His Bone," in *Stop the World: Snapshots from the Pandemic*, a charity anthology including stories, poems and essays from 40 writers around the world. Merrilee also has signed contracts for short stories in six other anthologies coming out before the end of the year.

Don't Miss an Opportunity

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK

Don't get left out of Cool Canadian Crime or miss the chance to have your new release on the New Releases banner or promoted on social media. All you need to do is use the online Book Submission Form. Log into the Members Only Section and go to:

www.crimewriterscanada.com/members-only/submit-book-to-ccc

You can also submit your older books for the Member Books Catalogue using the form.

READ YOUR MAIL

We send out instructions on how to add your books and events every month. Some special events and promotional opportunities only go out via bulk email. You can miss out if you don't read your CWC mail.

SAVE THESE ADDRESSES

Internet service providers are putting up walls to protect their users from spam. Sometimes CWC gets shut out. Make sure info@crimewriterscanada.com and ed@crimewriterscanada.com are in your contacts and, if possible, White List *@crimewriterscanada.com on your server controls.

Regional Reports

BC/YK/NW

CWC sponsored Eileen Cook's workshop at WORD Vancouver 2020. *Build Better Characters, From Heroes To Villains*. Using psychological theories, this workshop explored how to use human behaviour to create three-dimensional characters that jump off the page.

Mrs. Claus and the Santaland Slayings (published by Kensington), the first in a new series written by Elizabeth Bass under the pen name Liz Ireland, releases on September 29.

Judy Toews' new novel *Lucky Jack Road* (A Stella Mosconi Mystery) launched on September 16 with a rolling meet-the-author/ book signing event.

Winona Kent's new novel Lost Time (A Jason Davey Mystery) launched at the beginning of September. Winona is undertaking a month-long "blog tour" featuring interviews, reviews and giveaways with Silver Dagger Book Tours.

Merrilee Robson has a piece of flash fiction, "Break His Bone," in **Stop the World: Snapshots from the Pandemic**. (*ED: see Kudos*.)

Winona Kent, RR

bc-yk-nwt@crimewriterscanada.com

Prairies

As fall approaches all too rapidly, (actually I (David) am okay with fall but dread the season-not-to-be-named that comes immediately after) we celebrate another excellent edition of *When Words Collide* in Calgary. Several crime writing panels (organized by longtime CWC member, the inimitable Jayne Barnard were part of the roster of activities and presentations and were well-received by the online audience.

More and more activities—most virtual in nature—are happening. The Calgary Crime Writers with former CWC Prairie Regional Rep, Dwayne Clayden at the helm, gathered for a "Human Trafficking Panel with Pamela Workman and Talena Winters" on September 8. Dwayne is doing a tremendous job of putting together informative events for that group.

This year *WOTS-Lethbridge*, presented by the Lethbridge Public Library, celebrates its 10th anniversary with an online edition of the festival. As we inch closer to resuming public events, with the public actually present, we will keep you posted as the fall/w----r schedule becomes clear. And any prairie members with news to share, by all means send it along and we'll make sure your voices are heard and your events are promoted.

Peter Kingsmill and David Poulsen, RR prairies@crimewriterscanada.com

Toronto/SO

Lynn McPherson and Hyacinthe Miller are pleased to welcome returning and new members: Jack Batten, Jon Redfern, Patricia Lee, Margot Trevelyan. Several of our members have been taking advantage of the online Eden Mills Writers' Festival events featuring emerging and established Canadian writers. As always, Lynn and Hyacinthe appreciate receiving your news about upcoming events, book launches, contract signings and whatever else merits Kudos or is newsworthy. Congratulations to TO/SO members Gordon K. Jones, Jack Batten, Raymond Cushing, Angela Misri, Ginger Bolton (Janet Bolin), and Judy Penz Sheluk on your Summer/September releases.

Hyacinthe Miller and Lynn McPherson, RR toronto-so@crimewriterscanada.com

Ottawa/EO

This has been a quiet spell for author events in Eastern Ontario with those events that have taken place going virtual. If and when things open up again, authors in my region, please notify me about your news. New releases, book deals, upcoming events, anything you would like to share with fellow CWC members. Also send along photos and a brief recap of events for Crime Time. I'm available to help with promotion.

Notable from this region, Rick Mofina's book *Their Last Secret* (Mira) has been on the Globe and Mail Bestsellers: Canadian Fiction for the past month. Bravo, Rick! Congratulations to Mike Martin for his new release, A Perfect Storm, and Vicki Delany for her new contract with PRH. (*ED: see Kudos*.)

Brenda Chapman

ottawa-eo@crimewriterscanada.com

QC/Atlantic

I'm pleased to be working with the twenty-four talented and hardworking crime writers in Québec and Atlantic Region since introducing myself as the New Regional Rep and Board Member in June. Recent new members include two Montrealers and Anne J. Fotheringham.

Our activities since March have been severely restricted by the pandemic protocols, but some of us have taken advantage of the time in self-isolation to read, research, write and promote our books.

We have been working on persuading new readers, bookstores and libraries to give us some attention, but we are still finding it difficult to compete with the better-known writers and bigger marketing budgets that grab most of the shelf space and the followers on social media. We are working on some guerilla marketing tactics, including clandestine visits to the bookstore to do selfies. We are also working together on joint efforts to share author interviews, reviews and commentary in professional quality videos and podcasts. We'll look forward to sharing them with other CWC members soon.

Del Chatterson

qc-atlantic@crimewriterscanada.com

Industry News

Industry News is taken from media releases sent to CWC that we feel are of interest to our members.

Calls for Submissions

Bony Blithe

The 2021 Bloody Words Light Mystery Award (aka the Bony Blithe Award) is now open to submissions.

Light mysteries include cozies, capers, satires, and humorous books; in short, anything from laugh-out-loud books to gentle humour to good old-fashioned stories with minimal overt violence or gore. We're not looking for books with gravitas that make us think; we're looking for fun-to-read books that entertain us and make us smile. Check past nominees and winners on our Website at http://bonyblithe.com.

The award is open to authors who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Note that your publisher does not have to be Canadian.

- The award is for light mysteries of at least 60,000 words published for the first time (no reprints) between January 1 and December 31, 2020.
- There is no submission fee. The award is \$1000 plus a charming light-hearted trophy.
- We must receive your submission by end of day December 18, 2020. If your book will be published after December 18 but before December 31, you can send us the ARC.
- If your book is available only as an ebook, contact us at bw-award@bloodywords.com to see if we can accept an e-version (depends on our judges) or if we require a print version.

We accept submissions from both publishers and authors.

The shortlist will be announced in mid-April 2021, and the award presented at the Bloody Words mini-con & award gala on Friday, May 28, 2020, in Toronto.

Website: http://bonyblithe.com

Facebook: /bonyblithe Twitter: @bonyblithe

Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers

Deadline Reminder...

A friendly reminder that the deadline to submit to the William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers is November 1st at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Malice will award one grant to an unpublished writer in the Malice Domestic genre at each year's convention. Founded in 1993, the grant program is designed to foster quality Malice Domestic literature and to assist mystery authors on the road to publication.

Please visit our website for a complete list of submission guidelines: http://malicedomestic.org
Please contact Harriette Sackler with questions regarding the Malice Grant at
MaliceGrants@comcast.net.

Festivals/Conferences/Workshops

Bouchercon 2020

OCTOBER 16 - 17, 2020

Highlights Include:

- Opening Ceremonies
- Guests of Honor Interviews
- Access to Mystery Panels of Your Choice
- General Members Meeting & Voting
- Anthony Awards Ceremony
- Closing Ceremonies

Must Register Online-No Mail-in Registrations

\$55 (Non-Refundable)

If you have any questions regarding access or registration, please contact:

info@bouchercon2020.org

North Grenville Writers Circle

The North Grenville Writers Circle are running virtual workshops on Monday nights from 7-9pm. The free workshop series began on 7 September and will run until 30 November 2020. To join the circle please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/158937931438568

Founder: Pam Welling

Promotional Opportunities

The Fussy Librarian

Back in May, CWC ran a discounted and/or free book promotion offer in conjunction with The Fussy Librarian and Book Adrenaline. The Fussy Librarian is now offering \$10 off for first-time customers in their free ebook newsletter. Details of how it works can be found at https://authors.thefussylibrarian.com/?coupon-code=10OFF.

Still have questions? Email headlibrarian@thefussylibrarian.com

Chat And Spin Radio

An Internet Radio Station based in the UK., we Broadcast to half a million UK & international listeners per week 24/7.

We are on www.chatandspinradio.com

We are looking for Book Authors & Writers to come on the Radio Station by Skype / Facebook. FREE PUBLICITY PROMOTION to get your Books out to our Listeners.

The 10 Minutes Live interviews are on our Evening Shows (UK TIME) 7 nights a week.

Please email IAN JOHNSON on chatandspin@gmail.com for more information and to arrange a live interview.

Writers First

CONTEST Writers First is teaming up with @booksgosocialgroup to offer one lucky follower a Books Go Social Gold Package to help them promote their next project! Make sure you're following @writersfirst and tag a friend in the comments for a chance to win. Contest runs from September 17 to September 23. #WritersLife #Writing #BookPromotion #WritersLift

Your Board

Chair: Judy Penz Sheluk

board-chair@crimewriterscanada.com

Vice-Chair: Lynn McPherson

vice-chair@crimewriterscanada.com

Treasurer: Bill Prentice

treasurer@crimewriterscanada.com

RR BC/YK/NWT: Winona Kent

bc-yk-nwt@crimewriterscanada.com

RR Prairies: Peter Kingsmill and David Poulsen

prairies@crimewriterscanada.com

RR Tor/SO: Hyacinthe Miller and Lynn McPherson

toronto-so@crimewriterscanada.com

RR Ott/EO: Brenda Chapman

ottawa-eo@crimewriterscanada.com

RR QC/Atl: Del Chatterson

qc-atlantic@crimewriterscanada.com

∜•

Your Staff

Alison Bruce, Executive Director ed@crimewriterscanada.com

Ludvica Boota, Assistant ED aed@crimewriterscanada.com and Arthur Ellis Awards Manager arthur_ellis@crimewriterscanada.com

Raimey Gallant, Volunteer Webinar Coordinator webinar@crimewriterscanada.com

CWC Committees

Neither rain nor snow nor global pandemic stay these volunteers in their work for CWC.

Awards

Judy Penz Sheluk (Chair)

Jane Burfield

Melodie Campbell

Raimey Gallant

Peter Kingsmill

Mike Martin

Marian Misters

Kevin Thornton

Jury Selection

Hyacinthe Miller (Chair)

David Albertyn

Jane Burfield

Yutaka Dirks

Debra Purdy Kong

Garry Ryan

Marketing

Melodie Campbell (Chair)

Brenda Chapman

Del Chaterson

Hyacinthe Miller

Judy Penz Sheluk

Kevin Thornton

Membership (NEW)

Kevin Thornton

Winona Kent

David Poulsen

(Wanted: 1 more PAM and 1-2 AMs)

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." – Oscar Wilde