



BIO & LITERARY CV of Ruth E. Walker

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Ruth E. Walker is a writer, poet, playwright, and editor. The first work she ever submitted won *Canadian Living* magazine's 1996 short story contest. With that amazing jump-start, she launched her professional writing and editing career. She has won prizes for her fiction, poetry, and non-fiction; led numerous writing workshops and retreats; co-founded/edited/published the first literary journal in Durham Region, *LICHEN Arts & Letters Preview*; and graduated with honours from Trent University with a BA in English literature.

As well as being a writer and editor for the provincial government, she is a long-time member and past president of the 300+ member networking organization The Writers' Community of Durham Region; is a former board member and avid volunteer for Driftwood Theatre Group, a travelling outdoor Shakespearean theatre troupe; and is an artist in residence with the Durham District School Board. In 2008, she launched Writescape, offering creative writing workshops and writing retreats in partnership with writer/editor Gwynn Scheltema. Married and the mother of four, Ruth lives and writes in Whitby, Ontario.

Quotes about Ruth's writing:

"Ruth Walker reveals the inner lives of her characters with a quiet and purposeful grace. An impressive debut."

—Rabindranath Maharaj, author of *The Perfect Pledge* and *The Amazing Absorbing Boy*, on LIVING UNDERGROUND

"The allusive quality of a Faulkner short story."

—Andrew Pyper, author of *The Guardians* and *Lost Girls*

"An extraordinarily tight little historical gem...hard to put down, impossible to shake from the mind."

—Dr. Judith Robertson, judge for Larry Turner Award, University of Ottawa

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 2011** **Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs:** Member of a national network of creative writing instructors & programs - <http://ccwwp.ca>
- Amherst Writers & Artists, Roches Point, ON:** five-day intensive writers' retreat with AWA founder Pat Schneider
- 2010** **Sage Hill Writing Experience, Saskatchewan** nine-day writing workshop with novelist Catherine Bush
- 2008** **BA English, Trent University, Oshawa Campus, Ontario**
Major focus on English literature; minor focus on cultural studies
Graduated with honours: Dean's Honour Roll, Principal's Honour Roll
(degree completed part time through continuing ed over several years)
- 2002** **Humber School for Writers** certificate in Creative Writing mentored by M.G. Vassanji

1996 to present

The Writers' Union of Canada various seminars (Toronto, ON)
Book Publishers Professional Association various seminars
The Writers' Community of Durham Region monthly meetings
feature industry professionals in 45-minute talks, readings, etc. --
www.wcdr.org
Writing critique groups; since 2004 with **Critical Ms**, an intense
manuscript critique group of published fiction and non-fiction writers

SELECTED PUBLISHING CREDITS AND AWARDS:

POETRY and FICTION

- *Living Underground*, a novel, September 2012, Seraphim Editions
- *Being Unquiet* and *Tuesday's Child* anthologies, 2011, Piquant Press, 6 poems
- Montreal International Poetry Prize, 2011, online Longlist Anthology, "Gilt"
- Great Canadian Haiku Contest anthology, July 2011, "Haiku for Canada"
- *Wild Words*, prose anthology 2011, Piquant Press, co-editor
- Writer's Digest Online, May 2011, Honourable Mention in Robert Lee Brewer's challenge: "Spring Thaw 2011"
- *Utne Reader*, US, January 2011 Library Crawl, reprint "Death in the Family"
- *Geist*, fall/winter 2010, postcard story "Death in the Family"
- *Jones Av.*, summer 2010, poem "And a Star to Steer Her By"
- *Wicked Words*, prose anthology 2010, Piquant Press, editor
- *Chapman*, Winter 2010, Edinburgh, UK, poetry: "January Nights on Hudson Bay"; "Seven Tears in the Sea"; "Sea Shanties"
- *Prairie Fire*, Summer 2008 "The Doctor Drowns in Bertiooga Brazil, 1979" (3rd place in Banff Centre/Bliss Carman Poetry Award)
- *The Book of Thighs*, Spring 2008, "Thighs: A Threesome in Pairs", Jim Lanthier, ed.
- *Nothing But Red*, anthology, Spring 2008, "Rain in April", Skyla Dawn Cameron, ed. (fundraiser for Equality Now, inspired by the stoning death of Du'a Khalil Aswad)
- *LICHEN Arts & Letters Preview*, Spring 2008, short story "Opening Night"
- *The Wisdom of Old Souls*, 2008, Hidden Brook Press "Gram on the Danforth: 1918"
- *Contemporary Verse 2*, Winter 2006, "Bridge Over the Rouge River"
- *The Science Creative Quarterly*, 2006, "Lucy's Bones from Afar"
- *Cadenza*, Boston Lincolnshire, UK, 2005, short story "Advertising Gods"
- *Rain Dog*, Manchester, UK, 2003, poem, "Mothers Song"
- *Canadian Living*, 1996, short story "Traditions"

NON-FICTION

- *Inspiration Station* (2010, Piquant Press) co-author with Gwynn Scheltema of anywhere/anytime retreat companion book
- *Canadian Architecture and Design* magazine, premier issue Summer 2008 "A Midsummer's Dream: At Home on Rustico Bay", Mike Dunphy publisher
- *Canadian Architecture and Design* magazine, Fall 2008 "Muskoka's Ultimate Playgrounds: Outdoor Pleasures on a Grand Scale", Mike Dunphy publisher
- Various articles: *Whitby This Week*, *At Home in Durham*, *Toronto Sun*, etc.

PLAYS

- *The House of Mrs. Glass*, a two-act play, Fall 2012 workshop reading by Georgetown Community Theatre
- 2-minute skit for the Ontario Writers' Conference, April 30, 2011
- *The House of Mrs. Glass*, a two-act play, 2008 workshop production by StoneCircle Theatre
- *Shadows of Whitby Psych*, play staged by StoneCircle Theatre, Ajax, 2006
- Two one-act plays, staged by Whitby Courthouse Theatre, 2005

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- One complete novel ms and one in progress; one poetry collection ms in progress

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

2012 **Co-presenter for May Canadian Creative Writers & Writing Programs national conference**: presenting paper *Creative Writing Workshops in the Workplace: Cutting-Edge Employee Engagement or Complete Nonsense?*

2012 **May, Ontario Writers' Conference, Blue Pencil Editor** (also 2011, 2010, 2008)

2011 October, **Longlist, Montreal International Poetry Prize** for "Gilt"

2011 **Great Canadian Haiku Contest**, Home County Folk Festival, London, ON "Haiku for Canada" chosen for song workshop treatment and anthology

2011 **Haliburton Forest Festival**, stage performance of "Water Dreams" with TorQ Percussion quartet

2011 **Writer's Digest**, 5th in Poetic Asides contest for 10-line poem "Spring Thaw 2011"

2011 **WCDR Scholarship**, The Writers' Community of Durham Region writers' grant

2010 **Writers' Reserve Grant**, Ontario Arts Council literary grant

2010 **Honourable Mention**, *Geist* magazine's Literal Literary Postcard Story competition

2009 **Nomination** for a Canadian Magazine Award for poetry

2008 **Playwright in development** for StoneCircle Theatre, Ajax

2008 **Banff Centre/Bliss Carman Poetry award** third place

2007 to present **Artist in Residence in Education, Durham District School Board** for an Ontario Arts Council pilot project bringing artists of various disciplines into schools

2007 two entries tied for second place in **The Writers' Circle of Durham Region Short Story Contest**

2003 second place **Larry Turner Award for Non-fiction**

2001 first place **Ghost Story Contest, Trent University Writers and Readers Fair**

1999 semi-finalist **Chapters-Robertson Davies Competition** for early version of *Living Underground* manuscript

1998 & 2005 first place **Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest**

1996 first place **Canadian Living short story contest**

Appearances on local television (Rogers Talk Local, CHEX-12 Daytime) and community radio including CFRO 102.7FM in Vancouver BC.

READINGS:

- Living Culture series at Cocoa & Joe, Oshawa
- Hot-Sauced Words at the Black Swan Tavern, Toronto
- Hot-Sauced Words on Campus in Oshawa

- the Art Bar Series
- Renaissance Poetry Conspiracy
- LitLIVE in Hamilton
- Oshawa Public Library
- Whitby Public Library
- Whitby Station Art Gallery
- Haliburton Highlands Writers and Editors Network, Minden, Ontario
- Haliburton Forest Festival, Bone Lake Amphitheatre, Ontario

WRITING-RELATED EMPLOYMENT:

2008 to present

Writescape

Partner in a successful business providing creative writing workshop/retreat services in southern Ontario for Canadian and U.S. clients

2000 to present

Ministries of Education and Training, Colleges and Universities

Senior Writer/Editor, part time, Strategic Communications Unit, Communications Branch

1998 to present

Walkwrite Writing Services

Freelance writer and editor for Canadian and U.S. clients

VOLUNTEER IN THE ARTS AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY:

2010 to present

Communications Committee of the **Haliburton Highlands Land Trust**

2008 to 2011

Board member for **Driftwood Theatre Group**, outdoor summer Shakespeare company

2000/05

Co-founded with author **Susanna Kearsley** and the **Whitby Public Library** an authors' 3-day reading series: **Words in Whitby**. Over the five years, guest authors included Wayson Choy, Orm Mitchell, Robert J. Sawyer, Charlotte Grey, Pierre Berton, Kelley Armstrong, David Adams Richards, Joan Barfoot, Ted Barris and Linwood Barclay, among many others.

1996/2000

2009/10

Board member and past president of **The Writers' Community of Durham Region** a 350+ member networking organization for writers in southern Ontario

1999/2007

Founding editor and publisher for **LICHEN Arts & Letters Preview** Durham Region's first literary journal; achieved national distribution with international subscribers