



BIO & LITERARY CV of Ruth E. Walker

17 Langmaid Court, Whitby, ON L1N 6M7

Telephone: (905) 728-7823

Email: walkwrite@sympatico.ca

Website: ruthewalker.ca

Twitter: @imruthwalker

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 jumpstart, 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 member of The Writers' Union of Canada, the Canadian Authors Association and 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 in 2008, launched Writescape Writing Retreats in partnership with writer/editor Gwynn Scheltema.

Her novel, *Living Underground*, was published by Seraphim Editions in 2012 and is in its second printing. Married and the mother of four, Ruth lives and writes in Whitby, Ontario.

Quotes about Ruth's work:

"The allusive quality of a Faulkner short story. A clear winner."

—Novelists Andrew Pyper & Gregory Ward, judges, Trent Story Competition

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

—Dr. Judith Robertson, judge, Larry Turner Award

"You were my channel changer!"

—Student, Durham Alternative Secondary School

About *LIVING UNDERGROUND*, Ruth's debut novel:

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

—Rabindranath Maharaj, author of *The Amazing Absorbing Boy*

"*Living Underground* is an astonishing book that addresses – as no other that I've read lately – the complexity of love and memory and desire."

—Barbara Lambert, author of *The Whirling Girl*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

2008 - 2014 Ontario Writers' Conference: serve as Blue Pencil Editor for developing writers and participate in various workshops, panels and keynotes as a conference attendee - www.ontarioconference.com

2012 The Writers' Union of Canada membership in national organization of professional writers of books with 1900 members - www.writersunion.ca

- 2011** **Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs:** membership 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 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

- *Word Weaver*, Dec. 2013, poem "One Skin Glorious"
- *Living Underground*, fall 2012, a novel from Seraphim Editions
- *Being Unquiet* and *Tuesday's Child*, Dec 2011 anthologies from Piquant Press, 6 poems in total from two writing workshops/retreats
- Montreal International Poetry Prize, Oct 2011, online Longlist Anthology "Gilt"
- Great Canadian Haiku Contest anthology, July 2011, "Haiku for Canada"
- *Wild Words*, prose anthology 2011, Piquant Press, Port Perry, co-editor
- Writer's Digest Online, May 2011, HM 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, Port Perry, 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*, 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

- "Everyone has a Write to be Creative: Creative Writing Workshops in the Workplace" essay co-author with Gwynn Scheltema, 2013 *Writing Spiral*, edited by Jessica Outram
- *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 AND SCREENPLAYS

- 3 screenplays for Human Resources, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, on the topic of "conflict of interest", produced December 2012
- 2-minute skit for the Ontario Writers' Conference, April 2011
- A two-act play, *The House of Mrs. Glass*, workshop production by StoneCircle Theatre, 2008
- *Shadows of Whitby Psych* play staged by StoneCircle Theatre, Ajax, 2006
- Three one-act plays were staged by Whitby Courthouse Theatre, 2005

WORKS IN PROGRESS

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

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

2012/14 **Book Tour**: Appearing at author events, book clubs, radio stations and bookstores in the U.S. in Detroit, Michigan and Stafford, Virginia and in Canada in Whitby, Pickering, Courtice, Uxbridge, Stouffville, Haliburton, Cobourg, Peterborough, Ottawa, Bowmanville, Newmarket, Toronto, Hamilton and London, as well as teleconference for an international book club.

2013 **Canadian Authors Association** national conference, led writing circle/workshop

2013 **Canadian Authors Association**, top ten "Living Underground" for fiction prize

2013 **Ontario Writers' Conference**, **Blue Pencil Editor** (also 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008)

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

2012 **Canadian Authors' Association** national conference, 1/2 day writing workshop

2012 **Ontario Government Innovation Day** mini-workshop on creativity/innovation

2011 **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 place** in Poetic Asides 10-line poem contest 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 **nominated** 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 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**

INTERVIEWS on local television (Rogers Talk Local, CHEX-12 Daytime) and community radio including CFRO 102.7FM in Vancouver BC, "Art Waves" on Mohawk College Radio and "Shelf Life" on WhiStle Radio in Stouffville, and CANOE-FM 100.9, Haliburton.

READINGS:

- Junction Reads in Toronto
- November Noir author program at Whitby Public Library
- Guest author at Spirit of the Hills network, Northumberland County
- Guest author at various book clubs in Ontario, Detroit (MICH) Stafford (VA) & internationally via teleconference
- Book launch events in Hamilton, Toronto and Uxbridge Ontario
- Living Culture series at Cocoa & Joe, Oshawa
- Hot-Sauced Words at the Black Swan Tavern, Toronto
- Hot-Sauced Words on Campus in UOIT/Durham College, Oshawa
- The Art Bar reading series
- Renaissance Poetry Conspiracy
- LitLiVe in Hamilton
- Oshawa 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

2007 to 2012 **Artist in Residence in Education, Durham District School Board** for an Ontario Arts Council pilot project bringing artists of various disciplines into schools, working primarily with at-risk youth in alternative high school with arts-infused curriculum for diverse classes (e.g. math, workplace English)

2003 to 2007 **Oshawa Senior Citizen's Centre**, facilitating an ongoing creative writing workshop for older adults, developing and delivering weekly programming

2003 & 2004 **Centauri Arts Camp for adults** week-long arts retreat in Pontypool ON

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; continue to volunteer at various fundraisers

2000 to 2005 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