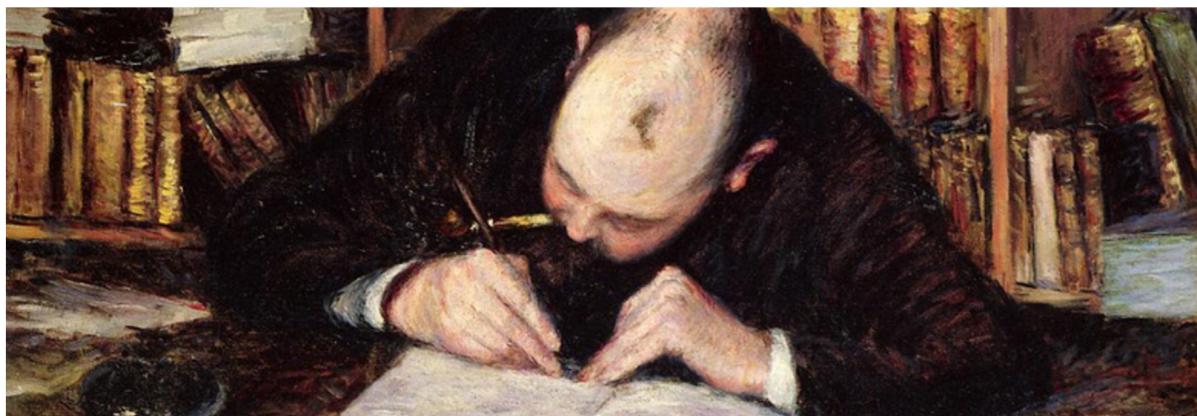


# Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild *Newsletter*



February 2025



“So the writer who breeds more words than he needs, is making a chore for the reader who reads.”

- Dr. Seuss

Welcome to our February Newsletter!

In this issue, we introduce the new executive for 2025 and outline their plans for the year ahead. We also highlight a series of free lectures by author Brandon Sanderson, present the first of Anita Joldersma's two articles on the second anthology "Ascending", and reprint the Submission Guidelines for the anthology short stories (Hint: These points are what the editors and judges will be looking for!).

Remember, if you would like to contribute to our newsletter, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please email Linda at: [lindalambert33@gmail.com](mailto:lindalambert33@gmail.com)

Happy writing!

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

**Schedule**  
February 2025

**Sanderson  
Writing  
Lectures**  
Writing  
Assistance

**Guild  
Anthologies:  
Retrospective**  
Anita  
Joldersma

**Anthology  
Guidelines**  
Anthology  
Team

**HMWG  
Executives**  
Guild News

Schedule: February 2025		
February 5	Garvin Nunes	Writing Workshop (Prompts)
February 19	TBD	TBD

## Sanderson Writing Lectures

Brandon Sanderson, the acclaimed American high fantasy and science fiction author, is launching a new series of writing lectures over the next few weeks. On Saturday, 18 January 2025, Sanderson began the series by uploading his first video, titled 'The Philosophy of Professional Writing'. He will upload new lectures, each approximately an hour long, on Saturdays until the course concludes. The series was recorded at Brigham Young University (BYU).

Sanderson, who holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in creative writing from BYU, has been teaching English 318R — a competitive writing workshop — since 2004. It is the only course he teaches due to his demanding writing schedule.

Admission to the course is highly selective. Prospective students must submit the first chapter of a novel they are working on, along with personal information. From the pool of applicants, 65 submissions are randomly selected for initial review. These chapters are then evaluated, and from this review process, 15 students are admitted to the course. While those not selected cannot officially enrol, they are permitted to audit the class, although they will not receive academic credit.

Sanderson has previously made his lectures publicly available, most notably in 2016 (12 hour-long videos) and in 2020 (13 hour-long videos). Now, in 2025, he is offering an updated and improved version of the course, available for free on YouTube.

If you're looking to improve your writing, these lectures are well worth checking out!



## A Look Back at Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild: Publication #2 "Ascending", by Anita Joldersma

Once our first anthology was published, the Guild began concentrating on a second volume. Some of our writers' thought that a higher maximum word count was needed for them to be able to create their short stories so the limit was increased to 5,000 words.

For Volume One, Barry handled all of the editing and publication work, but for Volume Two, a few more Guild members became involved. Meetings were held to investigate incorporating the group as a Not-for-Profit organization. It was at these meetings that the name was changed from the Hamilton Mountain Writers' Club to the Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild. Another meeting was dedicated to designing the next book cover. The colours black and gold were chosen as a nod to our Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The title 'Ascending' was a nod to improving our writing skills.

Mountain News reporter Mark Newman once again wrote an article about the Guild.



Neil Chopp (left) captured first prize in the Hamilton Mountain Writers Club's second short story writing contest. James Ruth won second place with honourable mentions going to Sandra S. McDonald and Leah Vrakela.

## HAMILTON MOUNTAIN WRITER'S CLUB SHORT STORY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**MARK NEWMAN**  
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hamiltonnews.com

The Hamilton Mountain Writers Club recently announced the winners of its second writing contest

that wrapped up in June.

Neil Chopp captured first prize, while James Ruth placed second, with honourable mentions going to Sandra S. McDonald and Leah Vrakela.

The contest featured

5,000-word short stories and all of the 25 submissions will be turned into a softcover on-demand book by Amazon with the proceeds from the sales going to Neighbour to Neighbour Centre.

Twenty people submitted pieces, and with the increased word count limit, the book became thicker and setting a price became an interesting conversation. The Amazon price chosen was \$19.63 plus taxes and shipping. Pricing became even more complex when considering book fair sales. If the Guild purchased copies from Amazon to resell at fairs for \$20, we would lose money. If we bought author's copies (at a lower price but at a higher shipping cost) then Neighbour to Neighbour would not receive the royalty. Since all book profits were being donated to Neighbour to Neighbour, a higher price meant a greater donation at the risk of discouraging potential buyers. It was not always easy to agree.

For Volume Two, Barry organized another contest. We did not have cash prizes this time, but it didn't affect the thrill for the winners to have their stories recognized.

Next Month: Promoting Volume Two

Visit hamiltonnews.com for more coverage

# Mountain writers' club eyes new status

**Group looking to become a nonprofit organization**

**MARK NEWMAN**  
mnewman@hamiltonnews.com

In their just over two years of existence, the Hamilton Mountain Writing Club has published one book, is about to publish another and is moving toward becoming a nonprofit organization.

Retired business professor Barry Gottlieb, founder of the group, said they are working on getting all the paperwork done to acquire the designation.

"It's moving fast," said Gottlieb, who noted the move was urged by some club members who are working for or have worked with nonprofit organizations.

"It will prove to Hamiltonians that we are not just some run-of-the-mill writers' club, that we take it very seriously."

Nonprofit designation will also enable the club to apply for grants and fund

**Professor Barry Gottlieb (centre, seated) gets short stories from Hamilton Mountain Writing Club members (left) Sandra McDonald, Daryle Lefler, Anita Joldersma, Ron Wallace, Susan Pearson and Karen Wood.**

ing for various projects.

The 38-member club - up from 32 last December - recently completed its second short story writing competition.

Each of the 5,000-word

stories will be reviewed by a group of judges - including two from Hamilton Community News - and the winners will be announced by the end of July.

Gottlieb noted the writ-

ers have come up with some interesting papers on a variety of topics, adding all the stories will be checked for profanity and racy content.

"There's no graphic lan-

guage at all," he said. "None of it is allowed."

Gottlieb said just as they did with their first competition last year, the 25 short stories that were entered will be turned into

*"It will prove to Hamiltonians that we are not just some run-of-the-mill writers' club, that we take it very seriously."*

— Barry Gottlieb

a soft cover on-demand book by Amazon with the proceeds from the sales going to Neighbour to Neighbour Centre.

Each of the writers has kicked in \$30 to help fund the cost of publication.

Gottlieb said the club continues to meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Terryberry library.

The club works in groups where members help each other with their writing projects and they often get tips and ideas from published authors who are invited to speak to them.

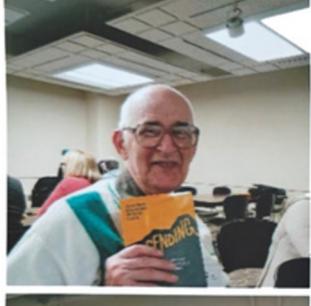
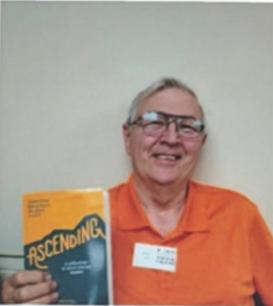
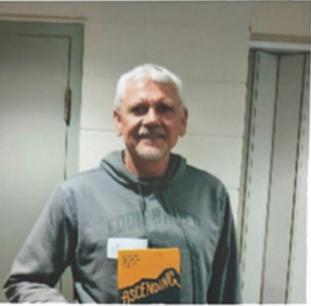
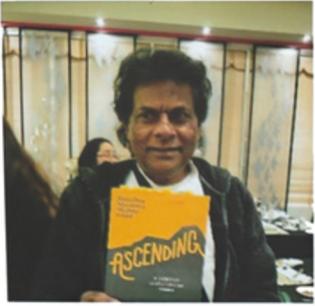
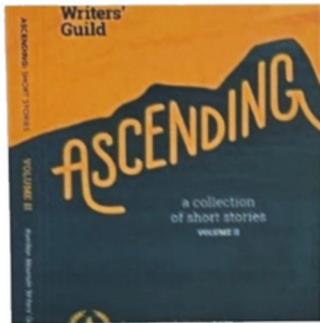
Gottlieb said they welcome new members.

There is no cost to join.



Mark Newman/Metroland





**Hamilton  
Mountain  
Writers'  
Guild**



## 2024-2025 HMWG Anthology Submission Guidelines

### Eligibility

- All entrants must be active full members of the Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild

### Submission Guidelines

- Our short story theme is **NEIGHBOURS**. Submissions can be any genre as long as they touch on this concept in some way, implicitly or explicitly.
- Submissions must be original, previously unpublished pieces
- Submissions must be either short stories or pieces of narrative poetry, up to 2500 words in length
- The guild requires first publication rights for pieces which are accepted into the anthology and retain collective copyright. Individual copyright returns to the author after a month.
- **Submissions are to be sent to [anthologyhmgwg@gmail.com](mailto:anthologyhmgwg@gmail.com)**

### Submission Restrictions:

*HMWG anthologies represent guild values. The HMWG Anthology Publishing Team reserves the right to disqualify any entry found to be unsuitable. The following content is expressly prohibited:*

- Content glorifying or advocating for unlawful activity, such as illegal drug/weapon manufacturing or use, terrorism, assault, or other criminal actions
- Offensive content, including but not limited to anything promoting hate crimes or discrimination against any group, such as by their race, colour, nationality, culture, religion, disability, sex, gender, or age
- Illegal or infringing content, including anything which breaks copyright, trademark, or privacy laws, such as plagiarized material.
- Special characters or symbols, including legal symbols (for example, ©).
- Depictions of intense, disturbing violence
- Pornographic content, including sexually explicit material
- Self-promotional material
- AI-generated content

### Format Guidelines

*Please note that judges will be receiving only your submission, and no additional information (such as author details, etc). This is to ensure a blind, unbiased judging process.*

- **If you are opting out of the contest, clearly state so in your submission email**
- Submissions should be double-spaced, up to size 12 Times New Roman (or similar font) and saved in either .doc, .dox, or .pdf file formats
- Only English-language submissions will be accepted
- Your manuscript should contain only the title of your piece. Do not include any personal details on or in the submitted file
- Ensure that your name, address, and phone number are in the body of your email

**Submissions open January 1st, and close April 1st.**

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## Hamilton Mountain Writer's Guild: Executive 2025

The Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild is proud to announce the Executive for 2025:

Garvin Nunes – Chair  
Michael Wagstaff – Treasurer  
Wendy Sammut – Secretary  
Anita Joldersma – Member-at-Large  
Christine Carleton – Member-at-Large

The Executive is looking forward to a great year. Among other endeavours, they will be focusing on growing the membership of the guild. With that in mind, they are putting together a Marketing Team and are looking for volunteers to actively help find new opportunities. If you can help in any way, please contact Garvin at: [graccus@gmail.com](mailto:graccus@gmail.com)



## Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:	<a href="http://hamiltonmountainwritersguild.com">hamiltonmountainwritersguild.com</a>