

Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild *Newsletter*



March 2025



“There is something delicious about writing the first words of a story. You never know quite where they’ll take you.”

- Beatrix Potter

Welcome to our March Newsletter!

In this issue, the Anthology Team has some suggestions if you’re still not sure about submitting a story, Anita Joldersma continues her series on previous anthologies, and some of our writing group leaders are sharing their latest endeavours.

In addition, if you missed our meeting on March 5th, you can watch the recorded Zoom video of Michael Williams’ presentation on the Guild’s Facebook page.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter or if you have any comments or suggestions, please email Linda at: lindalambert33@gmail.com

Happy Writing!

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Schedule

March 2025

Submission Call

Anthology
Team

Guild Anthologies: Retrospective

Anita
Joldersma

Group Check-Ins

- Group 2
- Group 3
- Group 5

Haikus

Group 5

Schedule: March 2025		
March 5	Michael Williams	5 Fears That Keep You From Writing, And What To Do About Them
March 19	Anthology Team	Questions & Answers

Neighbours: Anthology Book VII

It's not too late to submit a story for the anthology. Remember that all stories need to touch on a theme of 'Neighbours'. Neighbours can mean many different things.

Here are some suggestions to get those creative juices flowing:

Neighbours can be people that are close together, either in school, on a bus, or in a theatre. They can be people living in a nearby house, city, or country. They could act kindly, as a neighbour should, or have a mysterious dark side!

The Anthology Team is here to help with edits, feedback, and inspiration, alongside our fellow guild members.

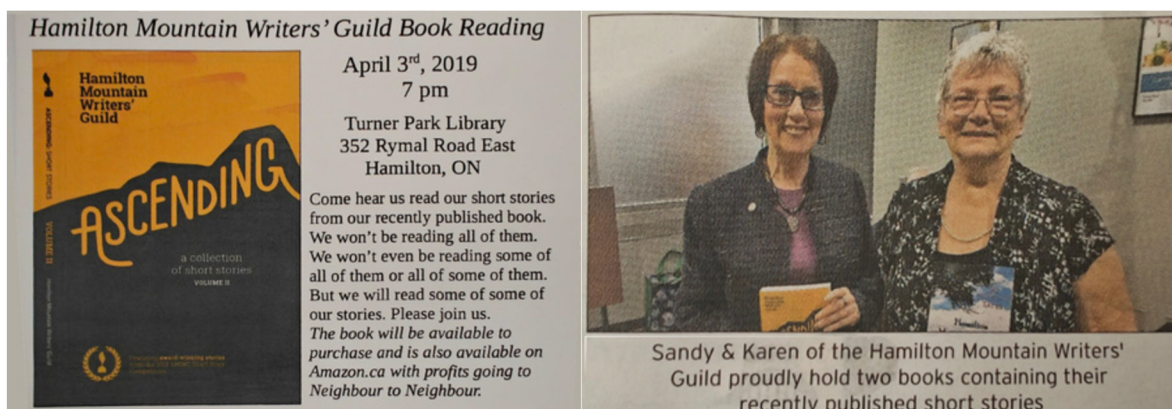
Submissions close on **March 31, 2025**, at midnight.

The Anthology Team can be reached at: anthologyhmg@gmail.com



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

Once Volume 2 was published, the Guild searched for ways to promote our book. We decided to host an evening of reading excerpts from our stories. We made plans with the library well in advance, to give them time to promote our event. There were lots of considerations. What size was the room? Was there parking available? We booked the room and made promotional cards to advertise the evening.



It was an interesting learning experience. It made us mindful that, when we were writing, we should consider which of our words would explain enough of the story. Is it entertaining to the listener? Do we have a beginning, middle, and end? How long to speak? Too short and you might not be able to capture the attention of the audience. Too long and you risk losing their attention. The nerves that can happen when public speaking can affect writers too. We were asked to time ourselves and we practiced, which was helpful. It might be good during our Guild meetings to spend some time focusing on how to read our own work.

We were grateful that Karen Wood had a friend who was willing to video-record our readings. He did a wonderful job. So now, parts of our stories are up on YouTube ready to delight our viewers. You can find the video clips of Christine, James, Sandy, D.E., Neil, Anita, and Karen reading their excerpts on YouTube.

www.youtube.com/@hamiltonmountainwritersgui8331

Our HMWG's YouTube channel is, so far, rather underused. It would take a volunteer to manage the channel. And it would be great if we could create content once more. If you can help, please contact Anita at: anitajoldersma@gmail.com

Coming in the April Newsletter: Volume III "Arising"

Writing Group 2

What's happening with Writing Group 2?

Group 2 is a large but intimate group that can usually count on eight or nine members attending monthly meetings at the Turner Park Library. We are a productive group who share stories, laughter, and updates on our progress with our various projects. This year, nearly all the members are planning contributions to the upcoming anthology.

Did I mention we laugh a lot? Sometimes, we can get a little carried away, resulting in the library staff reminding us that we are meant to not have so much fun. But seriously, we are an eclectic group with various interests and projects on the go.

Viga publishes regularly to Reedsy.com, an online platform for writers and readers and is recommended to anyone desiring feedback on their writing. Check out her work at:
<https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/author/viga-boland/>

Many know Anita as our intrepid streetwalker who has walked many a mile throughout our area, but she is also an intrepid writer who has documented her experiences both at home and on the road. She also accompanies Michael to the Wellington Retirement Home each month to share stories with the residents. Look for her new story in the upcoming anthology.

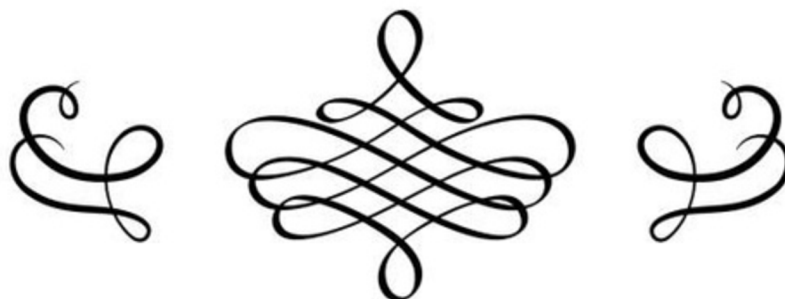
Nick is a relatively new member but he brings a unique perspective through his stories about his experiences and adventures in the far north. They are authentic and captivating and we look forward to him sharing them with our community.

Linda you will recognize as our stalwart editor of the Guild newsletter who would welcome your input into its production. She is also on the Anthology Book VII team and a member of the longstanding Tower Poetry Society.

Elizabeth has been on the scene for a while but recently formalized her membership with the Guild and we welcome her to our meetings. Her interests are eclectic and she always has an imagination full of story ideas.

Lois's writing has blossomed recently thanks to some mentoring she's been receiving through the Guild. Are we about to witness the birth of a star? While her talent knows no bounds, she is firmly rooted on earth and you can look forward to one of her stories in the upcoming anthology.

Arlene has been working on a work of family history recently and has been invited to share some of her work by the Writer-in-Residence at McMaster University Anna Chatterton. The event will take place in April. See details below.



Finally, Group 2 facilitator Michael has been busy leading creative writing classes as Writer-in-Residence at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Museum in St. George. This year, he's been focusing on memoir writing and will soon have an online course too. Meanwhile, he's offering storytelling and a weekly writing class at the Wellington Retirement Home and a storytelling circle at the Bob Kemp Hospice. He'll also be giving a talk at an upcoming Guild meeting on Wednesday, March 5th at the Terryberry Library.

We have at least four or five more members, who were absent from the last meeting, but I'm sure there will be an opportunity to feature them in a future newsletter.

Group 2 meets on the last Wednesday of the month at the Turner Park Library, from 1:30 - 3pm.

Michael Williams
Group 2 Facilitator
iamthestoryteller@gmail.com



Join us for the Writer in Residence Finale Celebration with Anna Chatterton

April 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Register soon because space is limited.

We hope you're able to join us!

Shawn & Ed Brewing Co.

Writing Group 3

Update: We changed our meeting date back in October to every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and that's on Zoom.

Ron, ever productive, finished his anthology submission back in December. Look for "Does What Goes Around Come Around Again?" in the next book.

Janine has been busy with life but just got a rough draft of her anthology submission done and submitted to the team for review.

Our new team member Fiyah has been working on his novel and some poetry and accepting feedback from the team.

Long-standing member Sam recently published his book on the history of his village in Trinidad & Tobago and is now working on marketing it for sale. He is hoping to find time to complete a story for the anthology in the coming weeks.

Mike's anthology story is making the rounds with the team in an effort to polish it up enough for publishing.

Michael J. Wagstaffe
Group 3 Team Leader
wagstaffedesign.wixsite.com/home

Writing Group 5

Small Writing Group 5, better known as Tuesday Night Writers Group, meets every other Tuesday at 7 PM via Skype to critique submissions and discuss writing topics. Submissions are distributed on Word by email one week before the meeting. Submissions are limited to 2500 words, and we have a limit of 4 submissions per meeting. We use a rotating chair to host each meeting on a volunteer basis. Once the submissions are in, the chair for that meeting produces an agenda and sends that to the members.

During the meeting, the chair picks the order of critiquers and each member explains their comments. There may be additional discussion about the submission.

Often, we do additional "assignments" for each meeting, such as dialogue only, descriptive, different POVs narrative only, reverse poems, haikus, etc. We also do longer assignments, usually around 2500 words outside our regular genres, such as Westerns, Hard Boiled Detective, Regency Romance, Movie Scripts, etc.

We have been busy the last several months finishing up our Horror stories. We've produced some interesting characters and premises for Horror topics. Following the theme of Horror, we did some Horror Haikus as well as a description of a beast you may find in a Horror story.

Normally our meetings go something like this: Guild Announcements, Team Announcements, Critiques of Submissions, Review of Small Assignments, New Assignments, General discussions, Next Chair.

Our website is tnwg.ca which is an ongoing project.



We also have published our own anthology, The Stories We Tell, available on Amazon:
<https://shorturl.at/3rXur>

We are working on editing Alex's submission to the Guild's Anthology.

Bob Nothnagel
Group 5 Team Leader
bob.nothnagel@gmail.com

Some of our Horror Haikus:

Bob Nothnagel

Noise in the attic.
My flashlight does not work now.
Let's go anyway.

I bought a new house.
It's creepy and has no lights.
What could go wrong now?

I write a Haiku.
You have chopped my finger off.
I write it in blood.

Time to milk the cows.
They trample us to our death
An udder horror.

Was yesterday now?
Or is tomorrow, today?
I'm losing my mind.

Run from the monster
Oh look, ahead is a car.
Why won't it start now?

A nice bowl of eyes.
Grapes, grapes, the musical fruit.
You sound like a train.

Exploring downstairs.
Why do I go all alone.
Because I must die.

Voices in my head.
I toss and turn all night long.
Where did my wife go?

The maze is complex.
Saws and drills are abundant.
Which part gets hacked first?

I see you mirror.
My reflection is not right.
Why do you haunt me?

Haikus are supposed to have a seasonal element to them, so here goes.

Pumpkins are massing.
Chewing, grinding, they kill us.
Rock stars save the day.

Santa in my house.
He slashes us to our death.
His presents are blood.

Plant corn in the spring.
And it will grow very tall.
The children will come.

Summer brings killers.
The heat always drives them mad.
We will lie in blood.



Cheyenne Bholla

Driving down the road
There's a figure in the dark
Beside me it comes

Looking at my watch
Time ticks away on the clock
Deadline looms above

Standing in the crowd
Searching faces passing by
All their eyes are black

Hair is disheveled
His face is frozen in time
I killed my best friend

Eyes poke from the walls
The door gets further away
The house eats me whole

A flash, boom and crash
Dark figures come from the wreck
This is the world's end

The sound of dripping
Echoes in the hollow cave
I'm not alone here

Red eyes open wide
The cold presence makes me shake
The demon loves fear

Sarah Mae Conrad

Don't open your eyes
There's nothing to see down here
Through the cold, wet dirt

Fear, the feral beast
It peels back your fragile skin
Gnawing on your bones

Sorry for your death
There wasn't any reason
I just don't like you

He is hunting me
Not if but when I am found
The end will be quick

My first taste of death
Fog chases blood from my veins
As it coats my teeth

Beneath my tremor
Nails creak, boards rattle and snap
Please don't let me fall

She took one wrong step
There is only darkness now
A bottomless crypt

One hour on the clock
This rhythm doesn't soothe me
I know how it ends

Howling and laughter
Crunching leaves and cracking bones
Sounds like October

Layers of old skin
Dust on dust on dust on dust
Cobwebs in my throat

Alex Stepaniuk

Peaches fall from trees
Normally a sign of spring
But why do they scream?

Falling tears for friends
Their long-held breath; endless sleep
Until one wakes up

My wife giving birth
My child taking their first breath
My knife cuts it short

I did love my cat
Maybe that's why it won't die
I must keep trying

I write this haiku
Else I know that Bob will come
I am never safe



Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:	hamiltonmountainwritersguild.com
