



Mystery Press

Mystery Writers Ink

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President's Message:

Welcome to Mystery Writers Ink!

The mission of Ink is to provide you, the mystery writer, with the opportunity to participate in a vibrant writers' community, and to learn more about topics that interest you—such as crime and the investigation of crime, and the craft and business of writing.

Our meetings begin with a short business segment, when we'll keep you informed about events and developments that are relevant to you as a mystery writer. Then: coffee break! Members network with one another, or meet a resource person at Question Corner.

Finally, we have an educational component. Members have learned about research topics, such as crime scene investigation, forensic science, handguns, and art fraud; craft topics, such as structure and character development; and business topics, such as manuscript submission and writing as a home business.

Our speakers have been very generous about responding to questions from members long after their Ink presentations. Our "gun expert" is still fielding questions about which weapon is the right choice for a particular story.

If you are new to Mystery Writers Ink, here are twelve ways for you to get involved:

1. Join Ink as a full or associate member.
2. Suggest an idea for a speaker, or a topic.
3. Network with other members over coffee.
4. Read our newsletter, Mystery Press.
5. Check out our website, www.mysterywritersink.com.
6. Submit an article to Mystery Press.
7. Suggest additions to the website.
8. Learn something new at the Question Corner.
9. Offer to be a resource person for Question Corner.
10. Read from your work at one of our regular meetings, or at the June meeting, which features the AGM.
11. Volunteer to join a committee, or serve on the board.
12. Volunteer for our booth at Word on the Street.

With your participation, this will be a great year for Mystery Writers Ink.

Anne Jayne, president

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LUG YOUR MUG!!



Bottomless Tea or Coffee
At meetings – 25 cents

Word on the Street takes place this year at Eau Claire Festival Market, on Sunday, September 26, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Mystery Writers Ink will be there, sharing a booth with Crime Writers of Canada.

We need some volunteers:

- *Volunteers to design and create a display for our booth.
- *Volunteers to staff the booth, from set-up time (around 10 a.m.) until the display is taken down (around 6 p.m.)

People who staff the booth don't have to know all there is to know about mysteries. Before WOTS, we'll brief everyone who will be working at the booth with the information we think you'll need in order to answer the questions. We will have brochures available to give to anyone who is interested in Ink. If you would like to help create the display, or if you are willing to staff the booth for a shift of two or three hours, please contact Anne at jayne@nucleus.com or by phone at 283-2085.

Tens of thousands of people make their way to WOTS each year, to enjoy a day filled with readings by authors, storytelling, shopping for books, and other family activities. If you've never been to this event there is a website with all the details.

<http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca/calgary.php>

Brenda
Ink Database Manager

**"All things considered,
I'd rather be in Philadelphia"**

What would you put on your gravestone if you had the opportunity to write your own epitaph? Send us the words you'd like to see on your tombstone. The top entries will be published in the Brindle & Glass magazine; two runners-up will receive signed copies of *The Final Word: The Book of Canadian Epitaphs*, by Nancy Millar, and the winner will receive a complete library of Brindle & Glass titles including all five of our Fall 2004 releases! Send entries to info@brindleandglass.com. Deadline for entries is September 30.

<http://www.brindleandglass.com/finalword.htm>

Brag Book

Ink Program Director, **Lorna Nicholson**, has good news from this summer:

Her first Young Adult novel '*Interference*,' a moving tale of hockey and determination, hit the shelves during the Stanley Cup Playoffs. It may be ordered at Chapters /Indigo or found at independent bookstores, or purchased direct from the author.

"*See Fox Run*", Lorna's suspense novel, will be officially launched **Thursday, September 30th at McNally Robinson** here in Calgary. A live drummer will accompany the reading. Plus, there will be loads of draw prizes. Feel free to tell anyone you know who likes suspense novels about this event. Lorna would love to have you be a part of this special evening.

Longtime member **Eileen Coughlin** has signed a contract with **Sumach Press** for her second novel, "*Grizzly Lies*".

The short story, '*Bested*', by Ink Librarian **Susan Calder Arnold** was shortlisted in the **2004 Great Canadian Story Contest**. '*Bested*', a heart-tugging story of widowhood and hope, can be found in the magazine racks in Chapters/Indigo, in the **Summer edition of Canadian Storyteller**.

Welcome to the INK Library

Last fall, when I joined INK, I was eager to get my hands on the library books, especially those relating to mystery writing and crime. Now, as the new INK librarian, I have the 23 books on my spare room shelf. A quick survey divides them into three categories: Fiction Writing, Mystery/Crime Writing and "Other".

The first category includes ten books that are relevant to all genres of fiction writing. They cover the specific (plot, viewpoint, scenes, story structure and creating dynamic characters) as well as the broad (Stephen King's excellent book *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*.)

Another nine books deal with writing mystery and crime. They tackle the art of crafting mystery stories (*Sue Grafton's edited Writing Mysteries: A Handbook by the Mystery Writers of America*), crime scene investigation and the nitty gritty of body trauma and forensic medicine.

As for the four "other", these include a folder on *Canadian Military Law* and instructions from a *Policeman's Notebook* (officers are told to describe the interviewee's speech as soft, loud, refined, vulgar, foreign, lisp or rapid). For pleasure, we have a quartet of mystery novellas and for party fun, there is the *Writers' Brainstorming Kit* complete with flash cards.

For a list of INK library books, please check the website www.mysterywritersink.com. I'll bring copies of the list and a few books to each meeting for members to take out. To request a specific book, please contact me by e-mail: susan.calder@shaw.ca or phone: 278-0392 and I'll have it for you at the next meeting. Please keep each book for only one month so that everyone can have a crack at it.

Now I'll go curl up on my spare room chair. What to read first?

Susan Calder Arnold

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### **From your Webmaster: Sherry Wilson McEwen**

"Ink's website was developed in the Spring of 2004 to keep our members informed about mystery writing, events and programs. It includes a members-only section. The Ink website address is [www.mysterywritersink.com](http://www.mysterywritersink.com). To get in touch with the webmaster, please use the Ink email address, [mysterywritersink@hotmail.com](mailto:mysterywritersink@hotmail.com). We plan to add more news and information to the web site in the coming months."

***"When you create, you get a little endorphin buzz. Why do you think Einstein looked like that?"***

--Robin Williams  
(thanks to Suzanne Stengl)

## Announcements

ARWA (the Alberta Romance Writers Association) is hosting a workshop with Leslie Wainger, a well-respected Harlequin editor and author, on Saturday, September 18th. ARWA would like to extend an invitation to INK members who may wish to attend this valuable workshop. For information or to register visit [www.albertaromancewriters.com](http://www.albertaromancewriters.com)

ARWA would like to invite the members of Mystery Ink (free of charge) to our January 2005 workshop, CJ Carmichael's - *The Best Seller Under the Bed*. Watch this space for details.

Mount Royal College offers a new course: *Writing the Romantic Suspense Novel*. Sketch out a character, create conflict and build tension, lay red herrings and unexpected turns. Instructor: Terri Baker. \$210+GST, Monday evenings October 18-November 22. See [www.mtroyal.ca/conted](http://www.mtroyal.ca/conted) for registration details.

**Please welcome this year's Board of Directors:**

- President – Anne Jayne
- Secretary – Suzanne Stengl (interim)
- Treasurer – Margaret Brick
- Membership Chair – Fiona Pinnell
- Public Relations Chair – Donna Tunney

**Working Committee:**

- Program Chair – Lorna Schultz-Nicholson
- Library Chair – Susan Calder-Arnold
- Facilities Management Chair -- vacant
- Newsletter Editor – Jayne Barnard
- Newsletter Distribution – Sharon Wildwind
- Newsletter Co-ordinator – Peter O'Brien
- Database Manager – Brenda Collins
- Webmaster – Sherry Wilson McEwen
- Assistant Webmaster – Sharon Wildwind (tentative)
- Assistant Public Relations Chair – Phil Elder

Between them all, they should be able to answer any questions you may have. Or drop us a line any time at [mysterywritersink@hotmail.com](mailto:mysterywritersink@hotmail.com)

**Meeting Schedule:**

**Third Thursdays, Old Y  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

September 9, 2004

Topic: Enneagram

Presenter: Gayle Laird

October 14, 2004

Topic: POISON!!!

Presenter: TBA

November 11, 2004

Topic: BoucherCon 04

Presenters: various members

December 9, 2004

New Members Night

**From Your Program Chair:**

**Lorna Schultz-Nicholson**

“As Program Chair, I'm the one who helps set the topics for the monthly meetings and contacts our special guests. We want to make sure you're learning something about mystery writing...and having a good time. If you have any topics you're interested in, or know a special guest who would be willing to present at one of our meetings, please say hello at a meeting or contact me at [lornasn@telus.net](mailto:lornasn@telus.net).

## Mystery Writers Ink Society

223 – 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Calgary Alberta T2R 0G9

**Mission Statement:** *Mystery Writers Ink shall support writers of mystery fiction by providing networking opportunities and by educating and informing writers about writing techniques, publishing, and marketing.*