



The League of Canadian Poets

Annual Report

03/04



Canada



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Matt Robinson

President's Message

MATT ROBINSON

Wow. Has it really been a year?

I can honestly say (or 'admit', perhaps) that when I agreed to stand as a candidate for President of the League of Canadian Poets last year at that wonderfully invigorating AGM in Ottawa, that I had little to no idea what I was really getting myself into. However, having worked through the year (and all of its ups and downs) with the help and guidance of Edita, Joanna, Anna, and each and every member of Council, I can now look back with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

We've made what I believe is a great deal of progress as an organization in a number of vitally important areas. We're continuing in a positive direction, a direction I think many of our members support and appreciate.

So: where are we?

Well, the League's financial state has continued to improve, and we're certainly headed in the right direction in that realm.

We've also been moving (perhaps more slowly than some would like, but moving nonetheless) towards the completion of our policies and procedures documents. This is the kind of nuts and bolts activity that will solidify our foundation as an organization and help us build upon what we've already accomplished. Given the importance of this initiative, I'm really hopeful and optimistic that this document (or set of documents) should be ready for member to appraise at the Montreal AGM.

And that, conveniently enough, brings us to this year's upcoming Montreal AGM.

As a result of the combined efforts of the office and a strong and creative organizing contingent in Montreal, this year's events promise to be fantastic! I encourage each and every member to make an effort to come out and enjoy not only the wonderful company of so many of your fellow poets, but also the newly improved aspects of the AGM that we'll be trying this year. Given that communication was identified as a key issue and concern for many members, much of what we've tweaked and re-worked seeks to address that subject. An issues-focussed business meeting should allow for more efficient, pointed, and fruitful discussion around key items that concern us all. The 'break-out sessions' that have been worked into the AGM schedule should also formalize and facilitate even more discussion, debate, and sharing of ideas. Of course, having Anne Carson to present this year's Anne Szumigalski Memorial Lecture, is no small bit of news, either. The panels, as always, seem interesting and will provide a wide range of interesting materials and opportunity for interaction and community debate.

Beyond the AGM in particular, the steps that have been taken towards the creation of an Ad Hoc Diversity Committee were also important ones, and something that we'll hopefully be able to build upon, as an organization, during the AGM and afterwards.

So what's left to do? Well, everything, of course! But specifically, the 'greying of the League', while not fully addressed this past year, is still

something high on my list of priorities. It's my hope, and the hope of council, that this AGM will provide more energy and momentum for tackling this issue. Another important topic is a re-examination of Associate Member status: what we can offer these poets, what they can offer the League, and how we might better meet everyone's

needs. I look forward to hearing people's thoughts in this area as well.

In short, it's been a tremendously busy year, a learning experience, and a year in which I truly believe we've taken some important steps. Let's be sure to continue our walk together in the years to come.



Edita Page,
Executive
Director

Executive Director's Report

EDITA PAGE

We have had the pleasure and honour to serve the League membership and the poetry community during this past year. It has been immensely satisfying to work with the many volunteers on the National Council, committees and projects, and a very special thank you goes to the indefatigable office staff Anna Humphrey, Joanna Poblocka and Jamila Khanon-Allidina who contribute their passion, enthusiasm and unending hard work.

This year we continued to witness significant accomplishments in many programme, project and membership service areas. We have been trying to further the goals defined in our Strategic plan for 2001-2006. With yet two more years to achieve the goals, here is a brief overview of what we've accomplished so far:

Goal 1 – Stabilize and expand funding

The League will eliminate its accumulated debt and find new sources of revenue to enable it to carry out its mandate. In 2003-2004 the League:

- Continued to lobby and work with the government and arts councils for increased operating funding to arts organizations.
- Approached and submitted applications to foundations for increased project funding. Our in-kind donations have increased, and we expect to continue our relationship with foundations.
- Continued to build the Endowment fund which has increased by 30% from \$88,981 to \$116,256.
- Conducted an annual membership drive by inviting lapsed members to rejoin, and actively solicited published poets to join the League. This year, we've got 40 new full members and 12 new associates, as compared to last year, with only 30 new full members, and 19 associates.
- Continued to reduce the accumulated debt with annual operating surpluses. In 2003-2004 year the League posted a modest surplus of \$2,815 and reduced the accumulated debt to \$20,803. Please look at the Financial report for more details.



Anna Humphrey,
Promotion &
Communications
Manager

Goal 2 – Build membership support

The League will continue to identify and serve the professional needs of its members and increase its membership base. It will generate a greater sense of community and involvement. In 2003-2004 the League:

- In order to expand membership to include more diverse communities, two committees have been created to assist with this task:
 - o Subcommittee to the membership committee which will deal with spoken word applications; and
 - o Diversity committee which will be charged with 1) advising council on matters relating to racial and other minorities; and 2) actively seeking new members from the various minority communities.
- Started work on a volunteer recognition programme.
- Created and regularly published in the Newsletter tips for members on accessing reading programmes and other membership services.
- Actively solicited new volunteers.
- Updated and expanded How the League Works publication and created League policies and procedures. Created Human Resources policies and procedures for staff and volunteers.
- Included new members' profiles in the Newsletter.
- Actively solicited supporting members to join the League. Last year, we've increased our

supporting membership by 130% from 6 to 14 members.

- Ran a "A Member a Day Campaign" in order to get feedback from members about League's programmes and services.

Goal 3 – Increase the profile of Canadian poetry

The League will foster and facilitate the publication of poetry, develop an audience for poetry, and continue to increase the promotion and marketing of poetry. In 2003-2004, the League:

- Expanded the Poetry Spoken Here webstore to include over 600 poetry titles (a 200% increase in selection) and increased poetry book sales by 8%.
- In September 2003, we entered into a mutually beneficial partnership with Northwest Passages, a virtual bookstore and information resource for readers, scholars, and students of Canadian literature, who took over fulfillment of our orders, resulting in an effective and cost-efficient web store in the near future.
- The League's website www.poets.ca gets approximately 170,000 hits per month, a 210% increase from last year.
- Expanded the Poetry Spoken Here network of schools, libraries, booksellers, writers' organizations, and venues by 25% to 8900 participants.
- Expanded the educational network: over 80 teachers from across the country are currently signed on to our teacher's listserv,



Joanna
Poblocka,
Programme
Manager

where they receive regular updates about poetry and League happenings, and where they discuss poetry-teaching techniques amongst themselves, which they can then bring back to their classrooms, and to the other teachers in their schools.

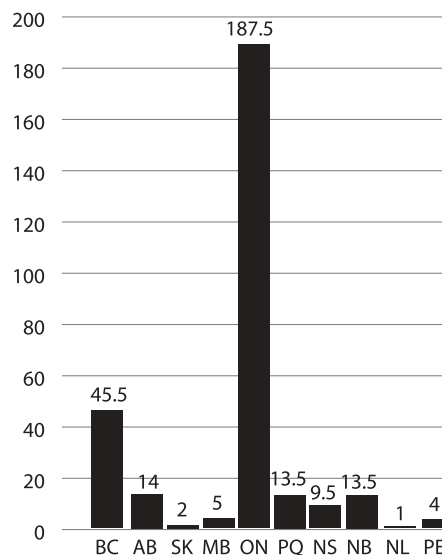
- Expanded the www.youngpoets.ca with new content and increased teachers' and students' participation. Since the launch of the youth message board in February 2004, 88 students have registered, and 430 messages have been posted.
- Increase in the entries to this year's Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth - approximately 1000 entries in the English category, and 500 in the French category. 20 students participated in a special Young Poets' Week poetry evaluation offered by the League: students were matched with a published poet who did a critique of their poetry, offering constructive criticism.
- Raised the profile of poetry by increasing the quantity and quality of National Poetry Month events by 47%.
- Formed a National Poetry Month committee representing the publishing industry and media.
- In partnership with libraries, booksellers, teachers distributed 15,000 copies of the National Poetry Month poster.
- Secured WEBCOM as a sponsor to print the National Poetry Month poster.
- Increased media coverage of NPM events by 200%.
- Represented Canadian poetry at Lahti International Writers Reunion (Finland).

Goal 4 – Build a stronger organization

The League will continue to improve its internal administration and the policies/procedures that guide National Council. In 2003-2004 the League:

- Finalized the League policies and procedures.
- Focused on HR policies and training for staff and Council.
- Reviewed roles and mandate for regional reps and committee chairs.
- Revised orientation materials for Council.

Reading Programs 2003-04



Regional Reports

Newfoundland and Nova Scotia

LORRI NEILSEN GLENN



Lorri Neilsen
Glenn

The poetry community in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador continues to thrive—award-winning poetry coming out of the region like peepers in spring (for those who aren't familiar with that harbinger, you might use crocuses instead). This year's (W)rites of Spring poetry festival was held Sunday, April 4th at the NL Resource Centre for the Arts, known in St. John's as the LSPU Hall. Readers included Alison Pick, Mary Dalton, Mark Callanan, Carl Leggo, Marian Frances White, Lorri Neilsen Glenn, Sean Lahey, Anna Swanson, Joshua Jamieson and Jacob McArthur-Mooney. Because it's difficult to take in too much poetry in one sitting, the event was organized in sets, with breaks for food and drink and an opportunities to view a display of regional poets' work (chapbooks, books, pamphlets, broadsides. Attendance was excellent; members would like to see this repeated next year.

As the NS/NL rep this last year, I have fielded questions about reading venues, queries and concerns about the readings process, League visibility and access, cost of membership, among other issues, all of which are on Council's regular agenda to discuss. I'm continuing to learn the ropes myself, and so I've appreciated the patience of NS/NL members as I do. I encourage NS/NL members to contact me at any time so that we can continue to find creative ways to support poetry and increase League membership.

New Brunswick / Prince Edward Island Report

JOSEPH SHERMAN

In my estimation, the stronger profile that poetry has in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island just now – aside from the active programming of our literary presses and writers' organizations (and the fact that the League president and past-president reside in Fredericton), as well as World Poetry Day, National Poetry Month and Atlantic Book Week – can be attributed to last year's appointment of a poet as N.B.'s Lieutenant Governor, and to the P.E.I. government's inaugural appointment of a Poet Laureate. Both of these individuals receive regular media attention and thereby advance the cause. Herménégilde Chiasson, by nature a genteelly subversive artist, advances the role of artist with every N.B. function at which he officiates, and Islanders have been flocking (and I do mean flocking) to hear John Smith lecture and perform (and I do mean perform). The most encouraging aspect of all this may be that governments have bought in. Poets have stature and a role to play. Surprise! About the only improvement to this new status quo would be N.B.'s naming its own Poet Laureate, and PEI's appointment of a poet as its Lieutenant Governor. And, it needs to be said, more poets in the schools.

Readings in PEI regularly attract several dozen people, and this has been the case for some years. UPEI's Winter's Tales reading series (Richard Lemm), which brings in writers from across Canada (networking with other regional



Joseph
Sherman

campuses) now has company in The Reading Well, a small Charlottetown bookstore which has been organizing a variety of readings on the initiative of its proprietor. N.B. has, most notably, Saint John's Lorenzo Reading Series (Anne Compton), along with Fredericton's UNB readings (Ross Leckie) and others.

Both the Writers' Federation of New Brunswick and the PEI Writers' Guild, underfunded and understaffed, have been active in organizing workshops and readings, sometimes partnering with other bodies. The idea for the interdisciplinary Writing on the Wall exhibitions, soon to begin a third series at P.E.I.'s Confederation Centre Art Gallery, has been taken up at The Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton, and a show will open this fall featuring four N.B. poets (all League members). A fall 2003 highlight was the WFNB's Alden Nowlan Literary Festival in Fredericton, which honoured Robert Gibbs, a Life Member, and featured a number of superb readings and related events.

The revival of Goose Lane's poetry wing under Ross Leckie (recently publishing member Brent MacLaine's *These Fields Were Rivers*), the publication of first collections by Saturday Morning Chapbooks, and the tiny Acorn Press' commitment to Island poets (John Smith's *Fireflies in the Magnolia Grove*) are welcome manifestations of poetry publishing as viable activity.

Anne Compton's *Opening the Island* won the 2003 Atlantic Poetry Award & was shortlisted for The Margaret & John Savage First Book Award; this information ought to have been included in my last report. Anne, as well as Greg Cook (*One Heart, One Way: Alden Nowlan, a Writer's Life*) were participants at Moncton's 5th Annual Northrop Frye International Literary Festival in April.

While no League member won the CBC Radio Poetry Face-offs hereabouts, members took part: in N.B. Ross Leckie and Liliane Welch; in P.E.I. Hugh MacDonald and Dianne Morrow. The winners, respectively, were Steph Bernston and John MacKenzie.

I like where this is going.

Quebec Report

JENNIFER BOIRE

Well it was my first year as rep for Quebec (and Nunavut). I can't say I've been to Nunavut, but I did get all the Montreal notices, thanks to Stephanie Bolster for sending news about the lively literary scene. The highlight of the fall Poetry season was the Festival Internationale de la Poésie, in Trois-Rivières. Hobnobbing with Spanish, Chilean, Iranian, African, French, Welsh, American and Canadian poets over three days was edifying, and entertaining, if a little smokey. Munira Judith Avinger, T. Anders Carson and I seemed to be the "English Canadian" contingent. Gaston Bellemare, the president of the festival, is being presented an honorary membership in the League at our AGM this June.

Also in the fall, Susan Gillis won the 2003 QSPELL A.M. Klein Award for her second book, *Volta* published by Signature Editions, under hot competition from League member Carolyn Marie Souaid.

National Poetry Month has come and gone, but here are a few highlights. Endre Farkas and Carolyn Souaid organized an exciting project, Cabaret Vehicule and Poetry in Motion, in honour of the Vehicule Poets, seven Montreal poets in the '70s who performed, danced, sculpted and chanted



Jennifer Boire

their poems. The Cabaret was an evening of performance/spoken word pieces performed by Step Dans Fuego, directed by Liz Valdez, at Place des Arts.

As well, from April 22nd to May 22nd, the work of ten Anglophone poets Stephanie Bolster, Endre Farkas, Artie Gold, Tom Konyves, Claudia Lapp, Stephen Morrissey, Ken Norris, Carolyn Marie Souaid, Ruth Taylor, and Mohamud Siad Togane, and ten francophone poets Martine Audet, Claude Beausoleil, Jacques Brault, Nicole Brossard, Denise Desautels, Jean-Paul Daoust, Hélène Dorion, Madeleine Gagnon, Émile Martel, and Élise Turcotte will appear on 1600 buses criss-crossing the island of Montreal.

Our (W)rites of Spring event was held downtown at the Bar St-Sulpice on April 28 with readings by Peter Richardson, Charlotte Hussy, Maxianne Berger, and Fortner Anderson. Montreal members also organized National Poetry Month readings in NDG, Pointe-Claire and Beaconsfield in a community center, a library and an art gallery (see listings for details). Other popular reading series held this year: the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer (between Pine and Prince Arthur) ilona.martonfi@sympatico.ca. Also, at the Cafe Silencio, 3645 Notre Dame West (www.cafesilencio.com). A lively spoken word event Words & Music, happens every third Sunday night at the Casa del Populo, 4873 St-Laurent blvd. The Quebec Writers Federation held a networking event there in March with a great turnout.

Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival ended on Sunday April 4 at the Hyatt Regency. I highly recommend this exciting trilingual festival. I sat in on two 'spectacle litteraires' and several panels as a volunteer, a great way to cover the

festival. Even better, ask your publisher to arrange your next book launch there (info@blue-met-bleu.com). Roughly 11,000 people attended over 120 events. Some poets in attendance: Eric Ormsby, Carmine Starnino, Elise Turcotte, A. F. Moritz, Naila Belvette, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Andre Roy, George Bowering, Robyn Sarah, Endre Farkas, Ian Ferrier, Jon Paul Fiorentino, Catherine Kidd. Haitian poetry was also featured. A poetry workshop with Irish poet Paul Muldoon attracted over 30 people.

Book Capital 2005: Montreal has always been an exciting place for readers, writers and publishers of both official languages. Next year, the city will be getting some global recognition, as UNESCO has chosen Montreal over Barcelona, Spain, and Turin, Italy, as World Book Capital 2005. The Montreal bid was singled out by the UNESCO committee for the "excellence of the programme submitted creating a strong synergy among all sectors of book industry and including a number of aspects of book promotion and reading." (Vehicule Press newsletter). Another good reason to launch your book in Montreal next year!

Last but not least, Montreal is proud to host the Annual General Meeting this year, as well as the annual National Poetry Awards ceremony at the Lion d'Or, 1676 Ontario Street East, Saturday, June 5. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with the Anne Szumigalski Memorial Lecture delivered by Anne Carson, followed by a reception, and a Dinner Dance Banquet. The evening also includes the presentation of the Poetry Awards, Nigerian performance artist Beautiful Nubia, and dancing with Vintage Wine.



Susan
McMaster

Ontario Report

SUSAN MCMASTER

Ontario had fun with the National Poetry Month theme “poetry in unusual places”. On April 18, the Ottawa Folklore Centre played host to lyrical poets presenting musical lines, including Ontario members Deanna Young, Colin Morton, E. Russell Smith, Ronnie R. Brown, and myself, plus 2003 CBC poetry winner Rob Winger, poet, J.C. Sulzcenko, and a surprise drop-in who overrode my protests. About 25 folklorists enjoyed the event.

And the Ontario (W)RITES OF SPRING erupted into bloom at Ottawa’s Bayou Blues and Jazz Club on April 26, on the theme, of course, of love! About 70 participants and audience celebrated with spicy words and sensuous music, hosted by jazz aficionado Gaby Warren. League readers were Heather Spears (a last-minute and welcome addition, on a book-launch tour), Nadine McInnis, Segun Akinlolu, Sylvia Adams, Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Terry Ann Carter, Armand Ruffo, Susan McMaster, Bart Gerald, Ronnie R. Brown, Mary Ellen Csamer (Kingston), Evelyn Voigt, Anne Le Dressay, and Colin Morton. They were joined by Monty Reid, Rob Winger, and Deanna Young – whose poems I read because of the birth of baby Will, named after Shakespeare (also born on April 23). Musical backup was provided by Geode and friends. Gaby joined in with a “turning 40” poem – and Robert Fulford’s scathing criticism of it – to the wail of blues. Fun and funds for the League – and reported by Ottawa Citizen columnist Charlie Gordon, along with much other media coverage arranged by Ronnie.

A Poetry Month finale was the April 28th Ottawa launch at Mother Tongue Books of After the Eclipse, Meckler & Deahl’s anthology of Poetry Forever contest winners, with Joshua Auerbach (Montreal), Ronnie R. Brown, Jeff Seffinga (Hamilton), David W. Henderson, Joy Hewitt Mann, and Margaret Malloch Zielinski, and featuring poems by the late Marty Flomen, Milton Acorn, and Herb Barrett. Thirty plus attended.

The NPM events were well covered in general, including a spirited apologia for poetry in The Citizen by David O’Meara, 2004 Lampman Award Winner. And SAW Gallery has launched a new series of arts awards, including the Golden Cherry Best Poet Award.

The CBC radio series WORDBEAT, hosted by Lillian Allen, featured several Ontario artists, including Penn Kemp, myself, and Jill Battson, and was extended for several weeks because of audience response. May it return!

The Durham Art Gallery launches its first “Words Aloud Spoken Word Festival” from 25–27 June 2004.

PEN invited the League to the “Building a Writers in Exile Network” conference held in Ottawa this March, and Mary Ellen Csamer attended for us. She especially enjoyed the “Imagining Exile” reading featuring George Seremba, Reza Baraheni, Maggie Helwig, Monique Proulx, Alan Cumyn and others.

In general, diversity events have flourished this year, recently with performance readings for Black History Month at the National Library and National Arts Centre, bringing League poets George Elliott Clarke, Lillian Allen, and such others as hip-hop performer Anthony Bansfield to entertain substantial audiences.

The Small Press Book Fair run by rob mclennan is in its 10th year; the spring edition is on 12 June in Ottawa and was on 15 May in Toronto. It's an important outlet for the special editions put out by poetry publishers.

The International Writers Festival in Ottawa has now split into two parts – a 5-day session in May emphasizing European literature, and a more general session in September.

Savage proposed cuts in Ottawa city funding, which would have closed 3–6 libraries, eliminated all arts grants and festival funding, city arts jobs, wading pools, etc., were defeated by a concentrated effort from the community, and most funding restored, including libraries and writing grants.

Finally, Ottawa Independent Writers has been around for years (one of the founders was past-League president Blaine Marchand), but has recently renewed itself. Check out oiw.ca.

I've run out of room long before running out of items. Ontario is full of good poets doing active, engaged work – check out members' news. I'm proud to have been your representative this year!

Toronto

STEVEN MCCABE

Like Goldilocks discovering the three bowls of porridge, one is always surprised by the variety of poetic 'food' available in Toronto. And in the same way that 'Goldilocks' was originally 'silverhair' (and the tale was terrifying as opposed to heart-warming) one discovers original and authentic voices sounding above the clatter of beer mugs, or streetcar rumblings, or one's own thoughts.

I have selected three examples of that I was fortunate enough to have witnessed:

On Leap Year day at Pteros Gallery in Toronto, Nancy Bullis (co-host of CIUT's radio poetry program HOWL and author of *The Eel Ladder*; watershedBooks) dazzled with her unique voice, humour, emotional layering, and musical presentation of engaging material. It's just exciting to be 'carried away' while listening to a performer whose content is as interesting as her delivery.

Choosing poetry over a Maple Leafs playoff game was a tough choice but a wise one: at a charming little bistro called 'Olivia's Place' LyricalMyrical Press launched a beautiful chapbook *The Snake Eaters* by Ludwig Zeller and translated from the Spanish by A.F. Moritz. Both author and translator read selections in tandem. Zeller's intricate sounds contrasting with Al Moritz's voice from a jungle, explaining the jungle, adding to the richness of the jungle. A night of vivid imagery and snakes welcomed into the head.

And yet another hockey playoff conflict: this time involving a Wolsak and Wynn launch for Jim Slominski's *Forever the Last Time*. Jim Slominski reading deeply from his heart and the heart of reality about personal experience with a hard subject. And the way he stays within time to generate timeless images.

Three examples of discovery/ like the bears interrogating Silverhair/ one stumble's into another's 'house' and stays to listen.

Poetry is alive and well.



Steven
McCabe



Paul Wilson

Saskatchewan Report

PAUL WILSON

The 2003-04 year in Saskatchewan poetry has been one of celebration and challenge. While we have seen many books published by Saskatchewan poets we have also faced the prospects in Regina of Library closures and the suspension of the Writer-in-Residence program.

The Saskatchewan Festival of Words in Moose Jaw in July gave a huge boost to our poetic sensibilities with a program that featured many wonderful poets. Special attention was given to poets filling Poet Laureate positions across the country. George Bowering (Canada), Dennis Lee (Toronto), Sue MacLeod (Halifax) and Glen Sorestad (Saskatchewan) read from their work and participated in a panel discussion of the merits of Poet Laureate programs. Over a dozen more Canadian poets participated in the Festival: Elizabeth Brewster, Robert Bringham, Herménégilde Chiasson, Lorna Crozier, Robert Currie, Sue Goyette, Louise Halfe, Phil Hall, Tonya Gunvaldson Klaassen, Shelly Leedahl, Dave Margoshes, Michael Redhill, and Tom Wayman. The festival offered three wonderful three days for poetry lovers! Regina poet and poetry promoter Neal McLeod hosted an exciting open mike coffeehouse that featured strong spoken-word performances. The festival also featured tributes to the late Peter Gzowski who was a great promoter of poetry, and Regina poet Paul Wilson for his many years of work with Saskatchewan writers.

The "high" created in the poetry community by the Festival of Words didn't last to the first snowfall. In October the community learned that the Regina Public Library Board had decided to shut down

three branch libraries, the renowned Dunlop Art Gallery and the Prairie History Room. Dave Margoshes (LCP -VP) and I responded immediately by writing letters to the RPL Board and the Mayor stating our concern that these cuts were made without consultation with the wider community and without adequate explanation. The RPL has always been a supporter of poetry, hosting readings and appointing poets from time to time to the Writer-In-Residence position. The writing community received another blow when we learned just before Christmas that the RPL was suspending, for the time being, the Writer-In-Residence Program. It is heartening to see that strong community opposition has risen in response to the cuts. In March I attended a rally where a petition with over 26,000 names was delivered to the city clerks office. It is unclear what the outcome of this ongoing crisis in our Regina Library System (once one of the best in Canada) will be.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards, which took place in early December, featured a strong representation from Saskatchewan Poets. Tim Lilburn, (*Kill-site*) Saskatchewan's Governor General's Award winner, was nominated for three awards, including poetry. Other nominees in the poetry category were: Hillary Clark (*Dwelling of Weather*), John Livingston Clark (*Body & Soul*), Allan Safarik (*Bird Writers Handbook*), and Lynda Monahan (*What My Body Knows*). The recipient of the 2003 Anne Szumigalski Award for poetry was Elizabeth Brewster for her book *Jacob's Dream*. Bruce Rice won The City of Regina Book Award for his book *The Illustrated Statue of Liberty*.

As I write this report spring is slowly being felt here on the prairies. In Regina Luther College and The Saskatchewan Writers Guild is planning an event titled "Talking Fresh 2" April 2 & 3 which will focus

on poetry and humour. Featured in readings and workshops are David Carpenter, Jeanette Lynes, Sheri-D Wilson and special guest Glen Sorestad, Poet Laureate of Saskatchewan.

The W/rites of Spring this year will take place at Amigos (806 Dufferin St.) in Saskatoon on April 14th and will feature readings by Steven Michael Berzensky, Louise Bernice Halfe, Doris Hillis, Barbara Klar, Katherine Lawrence and other Saskatchewan poets.

I will be stepping down from my position as Saskatchewan Representative this year and I want to thank all the National Council members and the hard working LCP staff it's been my fortune to work with for their dedication and commitment to poetry.

Alberta Report

JANNIE EDWARDS

The Edmonton (W)rites of Spring celebration was held April 22, at La Tapa restaurant, where we commandeered the entire upstairs dining room, an ideal venue for poets where they do not have to compete with noisy cappuccino machines and door openings. Featured readers were League members Adam Dickinson (*Cartography, Or Walking*) from Edmonton and Ian Adam (*The Nomadic Marchesa*), formerly of Calgary, soon to be from Victoria. Both readers are full members of the League and both graciously offered to commit their reading fees to the League, raising \$500. A duo of classical guitar and flute provided ambiance, and a Free to a Good Home book table for gently used books and lit journals as featured. Donations of gift certificates for writing courses from the

University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan College and donations of books from members and the UofA Press were raffled off and enough money was made from the raffle to cover expenses for the evening. The evening also featured an open mic, with the guidelines of one poem/one page rule to keep things moving. About ten readers read at the open mic. Also featured was a poetry renga contest, in which teams of four completed poems of which the first two lines (from poet Sue Sinclair) and the last two lines (from poet Rachel Rose) were supplied. Each member of the team had to contribute two lines to the composite poem.

Poetry news from around the province: Calgary's Frontenac House press scored a hit with the nomination of Red Deer poet Leslie Greentree's *go go dancing for Elvis* for the Griffin Prize. The 2004 writer in residence at Grant MacEwan College is G.G. award winning poet E.D. Blodgett (*Ark of the Koans*). At the beginning of April, new League member Ruth Mandel (*How to Tell Your Children About the Holocaust*) came to Edmonton to work with my English classes at Grant MacEwan College, an intensive and productive visit. Adam Dickinson continues to coordinate the highly successful Olive Reading Series at Martini's Bar and Grill. Among the poets visiting this winter were Louis Cabri and David O'Meara.

On the National Council, I've participated in a number of teleconferences that have produced some productive results: the formation of the diversity committee; discussions about how to make the AGM less canned and more interactive; planning for National Poetry month. It has been a pleasure to work with National



Jannie
Edwards

Council these past two years. Thank you to the League for the opportunity.

I end my two-year stint as regional rep for Alberta with a sense of regret. I have a much more informed sense of the good work the League does to promote national awareness of poetry and poets. On a personal level, I have made many contacts and new friends in the League. I look forward to meeting old and new friends at the AGM in Montreal.

British Columbia report

WENDY MORTON

On April 3, our Victoria W(rites) of Spring, "Poetica Erotica" brought about 100 poetry lovers and poets to the Fran Willis Gallery in Victoria. It is a wonderful space for a reading, with the fine paintings of James Gordaneer on the walls. I brought a bouquet from my garden of daffodils, honesty, grape hyacinths, primula and the top of one of my kale plants that had gone to flower. We had a great line up of poets: John Barton, Yvonne Blomer, Brian Brett, Lorna Crozier, Sean Horlor, Patrick Lane, Jody Lesiuk, Tanis MacDonald, Isa Milman, Susan Musgrave, Barbara Pelman, Jay Ruzesky, Melanie Siebert, Susan Stenson, Sean Virgo and Michelle Wright all read one poem. And oh, the poems: lovely erotic subjects like snails, whales, utensil drawers, long marriages. Billeh Nickerson was the host, as he was last year, and we have decided that he is a Canadian National Treasure of a host. We all drank the Dasani water donated by Coca Cola, and ate Roger's Chocolates, also donated. Fran Willis donated the gallery space, and I said that I'd trade her my poem writing services at an art gallery opening in the

future. We made \$420 which is now in the League's coffers.

Susan Stenson, who has just won the Rona Murray poetry prize, is nominated for the position of BC/Yukon rep. She is a teacher at Claremont Secondary School and for years has brought her love of poetry to her students. Not only is she a fine poet, but a great whistler, a talent she employs often at poetry readings.

At Mocambopo, the poetry venue I host in Victoria, Ekstasis Editions presented the first Mocambo Prize of \$300 for the best poem by an emerging poet. Tanis MacDonald was the judge, and the prize went to Arley McNeney, who is a student at the University of Victoria and a wheel chair basketball champion. She has never taken a formal poetry course, however her poem included, as Tanis told us at the presentation, "strong imagery, attention to diction, playful or profound line breaks, attention to assonance, consonance, alliteration, use of form, a fresh voice, wit, style tone, commitment and complexity".

As for my two years as BC/Yukon rep, the best part of all was getting to know a number of terrific poets from all over Canada. I got to see Toronto and Ottawa for the first time, and soon I'll experience my first visit to Montreal. I have enjoyed working with Anna and Joanna and Edita, whose dedication and energy keep the League running well.

My dreams for poetry: to have poets in every city in Canada reading poems to strangers in "random acts of poetry". Who knows what's next?



Wendy Morton

Committee Reports

Education

TERRY ANNE CARTER



Terry Anne
Carter

The Education Committee members are: Mary Lou Soutar-Hynes, Deanna Young, Bryan Smith, and Carolyn Marie Souaid

Young poets and highly revered poets are celebrating National Poetry Month with readings and spoken word performances in high school cafeterias, libraries, subway stations, and hair salons. Blues and jazz clubs are filling with music and poetry and (W)rites of Spring festivals are happening. Each year the success of April's promotion of poetry is climbing.

This year the Education Committee has taken on two initiatives, both in exploration periods at present. A connection with the Department of Canadian Heritage and the National Film Board to promote Poets-In-The School programs in a video presentation needs further research. Some interesting ideas have been put forward to feature several poets interacting with students in classroom/library readings and workshops. The idea for the film, which would be presented on World Poetry Day, March 21, designated by the United Nations as a world-wide celebration of poetry, would further the profile of poets in the community.

The second initiative includes the continuing work on "A Poetry Tool Kit", a hands on, hard copy package to be presented to schools and libraries when poets give their readings. The Poetry Tool Kit will enhance the work compiled in Poets In The Classroom (Betsy Struthers and Sarah Klassen) which features articles by

prominent Canadian poets on getting motivated, working with themes, developing ideas into finished poems and selected bibliographies - and will include lists of local poets available for readings/presentations, services of the League re:contests, e-zines, and publications.

The Library of Parliament is inviting members of the public to visit the Parliamentary Poet laureate's Web site, created by George Bowering, Canada's first Parliamentary Poet Laureate. Each week, a new poem will be published on the "poem of the week" site. Poems come from poets all over the country and will be published in the original language of the composition.

Readers are encouraged to send in their comments concerning poems. After a week, the poems will be placed in the Poems Archive with biographical notes on the poets and links to their published works. Teachers and students can then create their own anthologies for use in the classroom.

The Education Committee is presently compiling information and activities concerning education and activities in each province. Carolyn has offered information regarding Quebec Writers' Federation, the Blue Metropolis Student Literary Program, and Quebec's Writers -in-the-school program and Mary Lou is involved in Ministry initiatives concerning new textbooks for Ontario senior English classrooms.

Information concerning activities of the League has been published in TEACH: Education for Today and Tomorrow; Professionally Speaking, the Magazine of the Ontario College of Teachers; the Education Association Directory; and Education Canada.



Norman G.
Kester

Freedom of Expression

NORMAN G. KESTER

The 20th anniversary and celebration of Freedom to Read Week in Canada was the highlight of the Freedom of Expression Committee's work in 2004. Major fundraising drives, readings and activities were planned nationally in February to make the year a superb success. Our online presence was greatly enhanced with the launch of a new website. Members can click to www.freedomtoread.ca to examine its significant impact to make freedom to read accessible to all Canadians, especially with the release of books campaign to highlight challenged books in Canada. An anniversary kit was compiled and edited and it began with George Bowering's inspiring poem Pages Move that commented on the need for a writer's freedom to exist. The kit also covered such national issues as how cuts to school library funding threaten intellectual freedom, PEN Canada's support of exiled writers work and how Bill C-20 undermines "free expression rights of creators of fiction" especially with the elimination of artistic merit as a legal defence.

Now that the bill is passed into law, it seriously jeopardizes the freedom of artists and writers as it will mean arbitrary persecution and literary censorship. Poets need to be greatly concerned with how this may impact our writing, advocacy and freedom to express ourselves at a time when restrictions have been put in place nationally and world-wide. With the rise in hate crimes against those of Jewish descent, and the recent torching of Montreal's United Torah library at an elementary school, the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council asked booksellers

and publishers to send books and magazines to replace vandalized materials. Finally the ensuing war in Iraq gives us great cause to employ our skills as advocates of peace, social justice and humanity.

Book and Periodical Council

SHARON SINGER

This has been a year of research and fact-finding for the Book and Periodical Council in order to set new priorities and new objectives. All member organizations were polled on the most important issues facing their members and the book industry as a whole. In addition, each BPC meeting now includes reports from each organization about its key projects, initiatives and upcoming events to keep other members in the loop. The result of these investigations will be a new BPC creation – a centralized industry information resource for the book industry, which does not now exist.

BOOKNET, the not-for-profit agency set up in 2002 to "oversee the adoption of technologies and best business practices" for booksellers, publishers, distributors and wholesalers, is in full gear. They even have a newsletter you can sign up for at www.BookNetCanada.com. President of BookNet, Michael Tamblyn, spoke at the BPC's fall meeting and outlined BookNet's three top projects for this year: Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), bibliographic data, and point of sale data analysis.

The bad news is that BookNet predicts that three years from now, if bookstores and publishers are not either sending or receiving documents through EDI they will be out of business. The good news is that the cost of doing business via EDI will go



Sharon Singer



Anne Burke

down substantially for both large and small users. Independent bookstores and small poetry publishers are hoping that this is true.

Authors and small publishers also have to be concerned about point of sale data finding its way into the media. If trade magazines start publishing the number of copies a particular title has sold, this information could be picked up by daily newspapers and television. This is good for a best-selling poetry book, of which I can recall one, in the past several years, BUT if people start buying books based on huge sales, in the same way they decide which film to go see based on huge grosses, Canadian and independent books could suffer, particularly poetry books.

There's a new book superhero on the scene and he's called BIG. Actually the Book Industry Group (BIG) is an emergency initiative of the Writer's Union to help support and enhance our fragile Canadian book industry. This organization will probably come under the umbrella of the BPC at a later date. Stay tuned.

It's the 25th anniversary of the Book Publishing Industry Development Program and this year's BOOK SUMMIT will celebrate 25 years of Canadian Writing at BOOKEXPO on June 11, 2004. The BPC and Canadian Heritage will host a panel discussion moderated by Rex Murphy, examining the "growth of Canadian literature and book publishing, the role they have played in shaping Canada's identity and the challenges that lie ahead to maintain their pre-eminent status and to strengthen the connections between writer and reader."

Feminist Caucus

ANNE BURKE

This year, as always, has been a busy one. Katerina Fretwell edited The Feminist Letters Page of the League newsletter, collected forty poems from the Open Readings, and has a new book from Pendas Poets Series. I was contacted by a researcher on the FCC. Bernadette Wagner, who chaired and coordinated the 2003 panel on "Mothers and Daughters" has edited a chapbook of the proceedings, which will be available at the 2004 AGM. Besides Bernadette, the contributors were: Mary Ellen Csamer and Lorri Neilsen Glenn.

The confirmed contributors to the 2004 Panel are: Carolyn Zonailo, Terry Ann Carter, Penn Kemp, and myself. Penn will be presenting a piece about "Love in Middle Age": caustic, comic, and controversial, if no longer needing to be contraceptive. "The subject of hot flushes never arises/in our conversation. Are we ashamed/to admit the extraordinary, the poet/as heating system gone berserk in/the everyday climacteric, proclamation/of sweat the race is conditioned to?" Men o pause, Women Speak!

Cathy Ford is coordinator of the 2004 Panel at the League of Canadian Poets AGM. Her guidelines were succinct: from Call For Papers-Feminist Caucus AGM Panel 2004: "Poetics/Feminist/Erotics/ Eroticism". Proposal papers of 300 words were invited, exploring poetics/feminist/erotics/eroticism at this place in time, in your own poetry, in intent, in language exploration and choice, advancing the language of love to the erotic in poetry. Contributors were asked: How does the erotic in your poetry affect



Dave
Margoshes

voice, style, performance, publication. How has eroticism in your work touched feminist identification? When has poetry lead you into eroticism as subject. What language edges has your work challenged, who has embraced the biographical or the narrative as erotica. And so...

At this time in Canada, there are 63 women Members of Parliament representing 21 percent of the 301-seat House of Commons. According to CanWest News Service, the House of Commons' reputation as a "men's club" promises to remain intact after the next federal election. The Liberal Party's Record so far is worse than the Bloc Quebecois (26 percent) and the New Democratic Party (27 percent). The new Conservative Party has 10 percent. Women have secured only 22 percent of the nominations (with more than two-thirds of the candidates nominated for a possible spring election), the same as the 2000 election. A mayor running for the Liberals said this is not good enough. The Chairwoman of a non-profit, multipartisan group advocating the election of more women, says the group's hope of electing 104 in 2004 had been hampered by decades of systemic discrimination against women within the political system. Women have also been discouraged. Potential women candidates have been turned off by the media's treatment of Conservative leadership contender, Belinda Stronach as a "sexual object."

Membership

DAVE MARGOSHES

The membership committee has had a busy year.

We've had a bumper crop of new members: as of the end of March, 40 new full members and 12 new associates, for 52 in all in just 10 months, with 10 rejected. Last year, in the full 12-month period, there were only 30 new full members, and 19 associates, for 49 in all, with 9 rejections.

Even as I write this, there's a pile of half a dozen recently arrived books sitting by my reading chair, so those numbers will have swollen by AGM time.

The league now has two membership committees: the "regular" (or print) committee, made up of me, Miranda Pearson and Marilyn Gear Pilling; and the performance poetry (or spoken word) subcommittee, made up of me, Andrea Thompson and Steven Ross Smith. The PP subcommittee was formed last fall in an attempt to make the application process more inviting and fair to performance poets (there'll be some discussion of this, and a vote to formalize the change, at the AGM). We haven't exactly been worked off our feet, though: only two of the new full members have come into the league through that door so far, with one rejection.

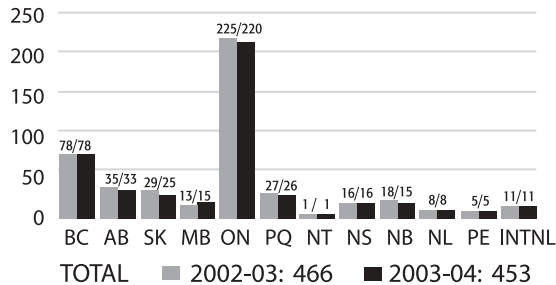
Not all the rejected applicants, regardless of which committee they go before, take the bad news graciously. There is an appeal process (and there was one successful appeal this year) but some poets with hurt feelings prefer to snipe from the sidelines. I've been having an unpleasant email exchange with one such applicant lately, but that sort of thing has been very rare.



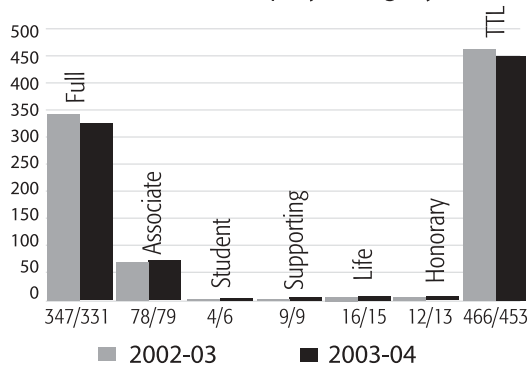
Douglas
Burnet Smith

For the most part, the membership committees' work is a pleasure – we get to read a lot of new poetry. Most applicants are eager and enthusiastic about the league and, when they're successful, they're often thrilled – or so their emails to me suggest. Some of us older-timers get blasé, even cynical about the league, so it's constantly refreshing to me to encounter this enthusiasm and excitement about our organization.

Membership by Province



Membership by Category



Public Lending Right

DOUGLAS BURNET SMITH

You will remember from my last two reports in the Newsletter, that the Public Lending Right Commission continues to struggle with program growth and diminishing budgets. To partly remedy this situation, we have recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Canada Council which stipulates that funding for the Commission shall now be earmarked as Commission funds coming through Heritage. This is a significant improvement on the former arrangement, since the Commission's budget had been technically subject to the discretion of the Council, dependent upon the amount it received from government. Moreover, this MOU dictates that Commission funding shall not drop below the present amount of \$ 8,657,126. This, too, is good news.

But that does not alleviate the "problem" of program growth. As you are all too well aware, the hit rate has been dropping severely these past few years, so in order to deal with the decreasing hit rate, the Commission (as I described in my last report) has devised a Sliding Scale Plan that will alter how payments are made to authors. This plan was unanimously approved by the League's National Council in principle in a teleconference call in February, and you should have received in your AGM package both a narrative and a statistical chart which outline the plan. I will be providing an overview of this plan for you approval in Montréal, so I hope to take the time to study that information.

Of behalf of the Public Lending Right Commission, best wishes with all of your writing activities.

Financial Report 2003-2004

Results for 2003/04

We finished 2003-2004 fiscal year with good results: we managed to post another, albeit modest surplus of \$2,815, gradually reducing our accumulated debt to \$20,803, which is 5.3% of our total revenue. We are in a relatively good financial shape, and within the next two years, should retire the debt and start building some equity.

It might take us a few years to rebuild our equity. In 1997 our equity of \$18,252 was wiped out by the cancellation of the Canada Council operating grant (please see the chart illustrating the League's budget history). In order to make the League's finances more stable, we started building an Endowment Fund, which is administered by the Ontario Arts Council Foundation. Our fundraising efforts this year brought us \$34,141 in revenue, thus increasing the Endowment Fund from \$88,891 to \$116,256.

We incurred a one-time expense of moving the League office, thus increasing the operating costs by 12% from \$122,089 in 2002-03 to \$137,276 in 2003/04. However, at the same time the earned revenue increased by 13% from \$128,177 in 2002-03 to \$145,287 in 2003/04.

The government revenue decreased by 2.3% from \$250,904 in 2002/03 to \$245,157 in 2003/04.

The programmes and projects' grants were expended as required by the granting agencies, and the unspent portions have been deferred to the 2004/05 fiscal year (please see the notes to the financial statements).

Projections for 2004/05

We expect the government revenue to increase back to 2002/03 levels, by 3.2%. As of May 15, 2004 most of the grants have been either approved or received. So far, for 2004/05 we are seeing some good increases and hopefully some temporary stability in government funding:

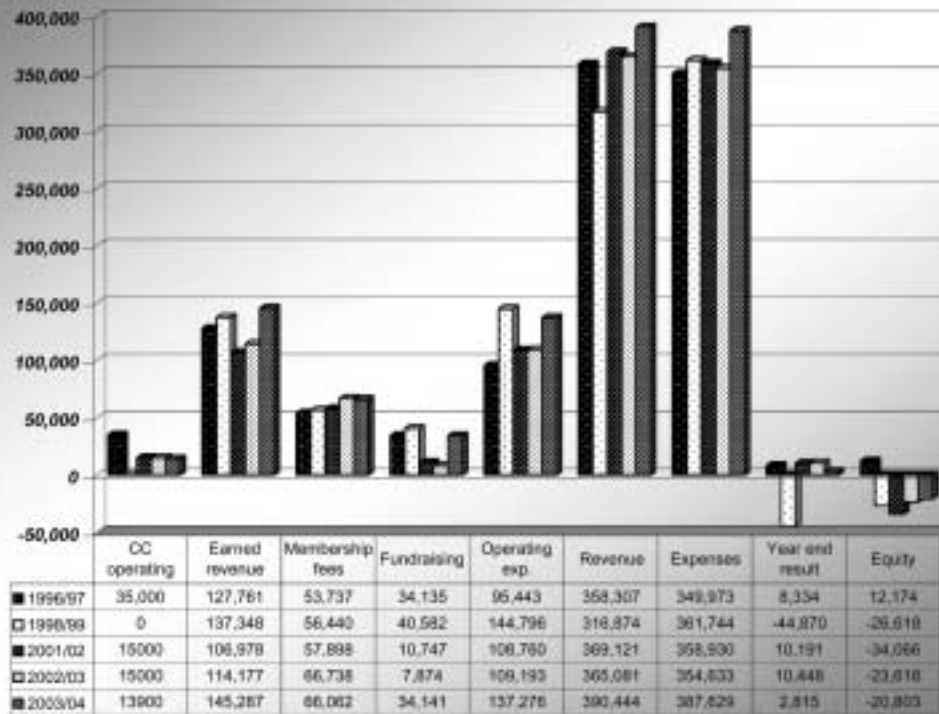
- 2004/05 is the first year of the three-year operating funding from the Canada Council.
- Funding for the Poets in Schools programme has been increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000.
- Toronto Arts Council and Ontario Ministry of Culture may reward the League with larger operating grants.

We plan to increase the earned revenue by 5.7%, primarily by focusing on implementing our fundraising plan.

The operating expenses are expected to increase by 14.5%, the result of having three full time and one part time staff, which is needed to run the office and efficiently deliver the multitude of programmes and services.

We plan to further reduce our accumulated debt to at least \$15,000 by posting another operating surplus.

Budget History 1996-2004



Robert B. Shortly, B. COMM., M.B.A., C.A.
Chartered Accountant

336 Keewatin Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4P 2A5
(416) 487-8296 (Fax/Phone)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the League of Canadian Poets

I have audited the balance sheet of the League of Canadian Poets as at March 31, 2004 and the statements of income and expenses and deficiency in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

As is common in organizations of this type, revenues, by their nature, are not susceptible to complete verification by audit procedures. Accordingly, my examination of revenue was confined to tests of deposits and vouchers of recorded receipts in authorized depositories.

In my opinion, except for the effects of adjustments, if any, had revenues been susceptible to complete audit verification, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the company as at March 31, 2004 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accepted accounting principles.


Chartered Accountant

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 2004

	2004\$	2003\$
ASSETS		
Current:		
Term deposits (Note 2)	17,000	17,000
GST	4,913	4,434
Accounts receivable	5,177	3,980
Grants receivable	6,301	6,301
Prepays	<u>26,180</u>	<u>4,115</u>
	<u>59,571</u>	<u>35,830</u>
OTHER:		
Endowment Fund (Note 13)	<u>116,256</u>	<u>88,981</u>
	<u>175,827</u>	<u>124,811</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current:		
Bank overdraft (Note 6)	22,187	849
Accounts payable	5,595	0
Unearned grants (Note 12)	8,000	25,043
Prepaid fees	<u>44,592</u>	<u>33,556</u>
	<u>80,374</u>	<u>59,448</u>
Other:		
Endowment Fund (Note 13)	<u>116,256</u>	<u>88,981</u>
NET ASSETS (Deficiency)	(20,803)	(23,618)
	<u>175,827</u>	<u>124,811</u>

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2004

	2004\$	2003\$
REVENUE		
Grants:		
Canada Council - operating	13,900	15,000
Canada Council - Tours	60,000	60,000
HRDC	0	6,923
Ontario Arts Council - Schools (Note 10)	27,793	23,107
- Project	1,150	1,350
Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture		
- Operations	20,000	20,000
Projects		
- Heritage (Note 9)	63,014	57,852
- Canada Council	40,200	47,572
Toronto Arts Council - operations	<u>19,100</u>	<u>19,100</u>
	<u>245,157</u>	<u>250,904</u>
OTHER REVENUE		
Marketing project - sales and fees	5,790	9,678
Awards	1,845	1,679
Schools (Note 10)	11,250	8,617
Copying (Note 7)	0	575
Members fees	66,024	66,738
Fundraising	7,295	7,874
AGM	5,670	6,249
Royalties and subscriptions	5,642	5,508
Living Archives (Note 8)	25	64
Interest	699	583
Ontario Endowment Fund (Note 13)	<u>25,495</u>	<u>6,612</u>
	<u>129,735</u>	<u>114,177</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>374,892</u>	<u>365,081</u>

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31, 2004

	2004\$	2003\$
EXPENSES		
GRANT PROGRAMMES:		
Canada Council Touring	70,818	70,014
Ontario Arts Council – Schools (Note 10)	38,977	30,184
Readings in Public Places (TAC)	<u>9,210</u>	<u>9,516</u>
	<u>119,005</u>	<u>109,714</u>
PROJECTS:		
Marketing Projects	114,114	121,478
World Poetry Day	0	2,680
Annual General Meeting	8,974	7,565
Awards	2,000	2,000
Living Archives (Note 8)	0	3
Fundraising	<u>686</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>125,774</u>	<u>135,726</u>
OPERATIONS:		
Non recoverable GST (Note 11)	4,814	4,151
Depreciation (Note 2)	0	490
Salaries, subcontracts, benefits	64,792	61,416
Rent and utilities (Note 3)	16,510	10,504
National Council & Exec. Committee Travel	9,663	16,689
Office and general (Note 14)	21,829	6,400
Newsletter	5,056	4,909
Professional fees and bookkeeping	2,515	2,588
Bank charges and interest	<u>2,119</u>	<u>2,046</u>
	<u>127,298</u>	<u>109,193</u>
	<u>372,077</u>	<u>354,633</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES	<u>2,815</u>	<u>10,448</u>

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended March 31, 2004

	2004\$	2003\$
OPENING	(23,618)	(34,066)
Current operations (loss) gain	<u>2,815</u>	<u>10,448</u>
CLOSING	<u>(20,803)</u>	<u>(23,618)</u>

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2004

1. Purpose of the Organization

The League was incorporated in the Province of Ontario on June 18, 1976 as a non profit organization to promote the interests of Canadian poets and poetry. It was registered April 1, 1996 as a "National Arts Service Organization" under subsection 149.1(6.4) of the Income Tax Act.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

a) Revenue Recognition

The League follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

b) Capital Assets

During the fiscal year 2003 the last of the capital assets was disposed of as the League leases its main capital assets. (Note 5, Note 7).

c) Investments

The investments are recorded at cost which approximate market value.

3. Rent

On May 28, 2003 the League entered into the following lease for 5 years with an option To review for one additional term of 5 years at a rental to be negotiated.

Year 1	15,207
Year 2	16,588
Year 3	17,342
Year 4	17,342
Year 5	18,096

In addition, any increase over the Base Calendar year 2003 in realty taxes, maintenance, hydro, clearing, and management fees are to be paid by the League.

4. Going Concern

The League relies heavily of government grants for its continued existence. These grants are on an annual basis. Should one or more these grants not be renewed, the continued existence of the League would be in doubt.

5. Computer Leases

The League currently has 2 computer leases

- i) To May 8, 2004 - \$201.34 per month plus taxes
- ii) To Oct. 3, 2004 - \$58.31 per month plus taxes.

6. Bank Overdraft

The League has a line of credit of \$17,000 at prime plus 1%, which is secured by accounts receivable and a hypothecation of the term deposits.

7. Photocopier Lease

The League has a long term lease of a photocopier beginning February 28, 2001 ending November 30, 2006. The base quarterly payments are \$1,752.

In addition the League pays for copy usage. The League no longer recoups part of its cost by charging other organizations for usage.

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2004

8. Living Archives

The League administers the sale of certain publications referred to as Living Archives on behalf of others. In previous years the excess of revenues over expenses was treated as deferral contributions. Beginning in fiscal 1997, the annual revenues and expenses are included as part of the Leagues general operations. Since that date:

Total Revenues collected	\$4,059	
Total Expended	<u>2,661</u>	<u>\$1,398</u>

9. Heritage Grants

i) Marketing Initiatives	\$37,749	
ii) National Poetry Month	<u>25,265</u>	<u>\$63,014</u>

10. OAC Reading Fees

The League operates in partnership with the Ontario Arts Council to fund readings in the schools. The OAC grant received by the League funds one-half the fee paid to the readers and the League funds the other half by charging a fee to the schools. Administratively, the League remits to OAC half to the readers while the schools remit the other half directly to the readers. Beginning in fiscal 1995 the League now includes in its financial statements the reading Fees pertaining to the schools as if the League received the fees from the schools and then paid out the full fee (ie., OAC share plus school share) to the readers.

11. GST

As a National Arts Service Organization, a portion of the GST paid is not recoverable. Furthermore, the determination of GST for organizations which provide both taxable and exempt supplies as the League does is subject to interpretation by Revenue Canada which may differ from that the League.

12. Unearned Grants

	<u>2004\$</u>	<u>2003\$</u>
Ontario Arts Council -Schools	0	2,793
-Projects	0	1,150
Canada Council -National Poetry Month	8,000	7,200
-Operating 2004	<u>0</u>	<u>13,900</u>
	<u>\$8,000</u>	<u>\$25,043</u>

These are funds received in fiscal 2004 for expenditures to be made in fiscal 2005.

13. Endowment Fund

On August 22, 2001, the League entered into an agreement with the Ontario Arts Council Foundation ("Foundation") to establish The League of Canadian Poets Arts Endowment Fund. Under the terms of this agreement, the League contributed \$1 to the Foundation and the Foundation allocated \$49,086 from its Arts Endowment Trust Fund, which together comprise the Leagues Trust Fund. The Foundation shall hold this Trust Fund in perpetuity, invest the Trust Funds, and account for it separately. In the year 2004,

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2004

The fund was increased by \$22,275. The Foundation shall disburse to the League on an annual basis the amounts of net annual income determined in accordance with the Foundation's policy for endowment funds, such income to be used by the League exclusively for its operating purposes.

14. Overhead Allocation

Depending upon the nature of projects the League will allocate a portion of overheads to a given project.

During fiscal 2004, the League incurred one time expenditures pertaining to the relocation of its offices. As well as per note 7, the League no longer receives revenue from copying.

