

# STRATHCONA WRITERS' MUSE

At The Bus Depot  
By Karen Probert

Cecily shivered. *Where can I get out of this wind?* She scanned the buildings near where she'd gotten off the bus. The only one with lights on was the bus depot. The bus had been very late because of the icy roads. Cecily was the only person to get off here before the bus left for another city.

*The youth hostel will have closed at midnight. It's almost 1:30 in the morning. Cecily lifted her backpack up onto her shoulders. I'll go into the bus depot to use the washroom. That's my first priority!*

The warmth of the depot hit her instantly. Then the smells of old cooking grease, stale clothing, unwashed dreadlocks and urine. All the benches seemed to be inhabited by snorers.

A clean face and hands gave Cecily a new determination. *I'll buy a muffin and some hot chocolate at the open cafeteria and then decide what to do.*

The lemon poppy seed muffin was both sweet and tangy. The hot chocolate was rich and warming with a layer of whipped cream on top. As Cecily sat at the counter she asked the server what was close by.

"Not safe for a young girl like you in this part of town," stated Marge. "Better to stay here until daylight."

From her left a voice said, "Cecily Rankin? Are you Cecily Rankin?"

Cecily was jolted out of her reverie. She stuttered, "Yes, I'm Cecily. Who are you?"

"I'm Carla Foster from the hostel. We've met every bus from the west. Didn't know which one you were on. Glad to finally meet you."

"Not nearly as glad as I am to meet you. Wasn't sure what to do. I assume the hostel is closed for the night."

"It is, but I have keys. You will too after orientation. All staff get keys. We take care of our own like family. Two people are on night duty so one of us came over here when we saw a bus leaving again. Come on, we'll walk over. Do you have any other luggage?"

"No. My whole life fits in this backpack right now."

Cecily smiled at Carla's bright blue eyes and freckled face. *I hope we'll be working together.*

"I'm ready, let's go. And thank you again for meeting me."

"No worries. You'll fit right in. Come on."



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Beth Rowe



Make sure you send a special Valentine greeting to those you love. It is always great to make February fun.



BOOKMARK

### Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Arts Expo**

**Hosted by the Arts & Culture  
Council of Strathcona County  
(ACCSC)**

**Festival Place ~ Noon – 9:00 pm**

**Marty Chan**

**Writer-In-Residence**

**Attending Writers Circle March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**“Off the Page”**

**@ Common Ground**

**Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

**and Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**WFSC 2016 Conference**

**BACK TO BASICS**

**Full Day Writing Workshops**

**Members \$80**

**Non-Members \$120**

**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**MARK THE DATE!**

**Details and sign up on the web site  
starting February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**2016 Words in the Park**

**MARK THE DATE!**

**Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**In conjunction with Alberta  
Culture Days with ACCSC**

### Month of February – Quote

“You could not step twice into the same river; for  
other waters are ever flowing on to you.”

~ Heraclitus

### **Forever Bound**

**By Mike Deregowski**

I wander this life forever bound  
to watch my entire world go 'round  
In loneliness deep, I get no sleep  
My thoughts and feelings still do creep

The darkness engulfs and the fires burn  
Making my life take its turn  
Through the fields of dread, beyond my bed  
Motivation and passion, forever dead

I sneak out slowly, ever cautious  
Stomach churning, making me nauseous  
Through heaven and hell, I make no sound  
I will never again be forever bound

### **Colourful Kisses** **by Lisa Rigney**

On Monday it's time for a purple Kiss  
on my skin it feels like a touch of bliss.

Tuesday changes the colour to Pink  
and I close my eyes trying not to blink

Wednesday brings a kiss that is red  
you place it on my lips as you lay in your bed.

Thursday it is a kiss oh so blue  
and your love for me is pure and true.

Yellow, the colour of the sun,  
gently caresses me on Friday  
It touches my heart like a beautiful light ray.

The weekend combines all the colours of a kiss  
in case one colour of another might miss.  
Sometimes you ask what colour to choose  
these magical moments I hope never to lose.

### **Winter's Day**

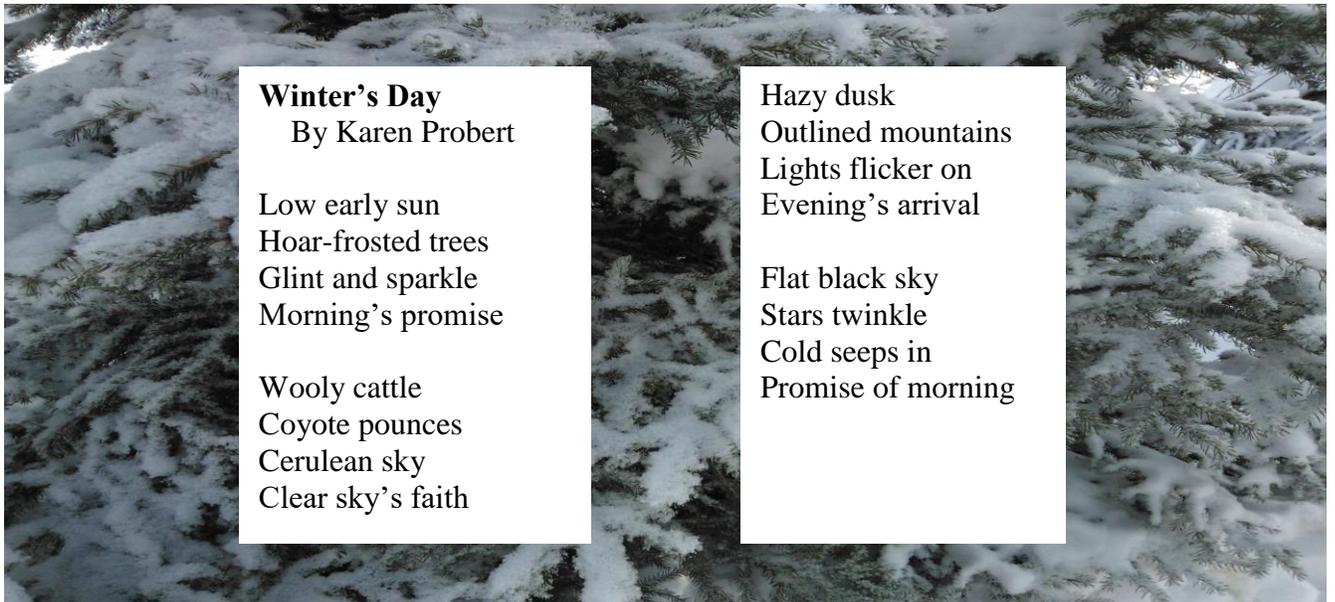
**By Karen Probert**

Low early sun  
Hoar-frosted trees  
Glint and sparkle  
Morning's promise

Wooly cattle  
Coyote pounces  
Cerulean sky  
Clear sky's faith

Hazy dusk  
Outlined mountains  
Lights flicker on  
Evening's arrival

Flat black sky  
Stars twinkle  
Cold seeps in  
Promise of morning



### Sponsor

Our mandate is to support writers - any age, any stage of their writing career. You can help us by being a WFSC sponsor. Money raised by our non-profit organization is channeled back into the community, not only for the benefit of our own members, but for the benefit of all those who love the written word.

Donate



On the home page of our web site [www.wfscsherwoodpark.com](http://www.wfscsherwoodpark.com) you will find a “Donate” button. If you know of anyone who is interested in sponsoring the group to help facilitate our mandate to “*support writers... any age, any stage of their writing career*” – please suggest and provide this information to them. Fundraising is a big part of our annual income, and as a society, we give back to the community to promote the literary arts.

Need a boost to your writing inspiration?

Need to shake up the creativity and focus?

Need to take a break from your current work in progress?

Make sure you check out the web site for:

Weekly writing prompts:

<http://wfscsherwoodpark.com/event/your-writing-prompt-1>

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 = 5 great ways to increase your writing creativity. Great things come from small ideas.

## SHARE YOUR WORDS & ENJOY YOUR NEWSLETTER

### Writers Foundation of Strathcona County

2015 – 2016 Board Members and contact information:

Joe McKnight	President	<a href="mailto:jmcknight2@hotmail.com">jmcknight2@hotmail.com</a>	
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Mike Deregowski	Director		

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