



STRATHCONA WRITERS' MUSE

Polly's Hammock **by Mandy Eve-Barnett**

The hammock swung gently as Polly read her book. With summer break almost over she was taking advantage of her parents' lake cabin. The forecast was for another beautiful hot day so she had risen early to eat breakfast and make a pitcher of iced tea. With the pitcher standing in the cooler beside her and another novel nestled by her thigh, Polly settled for the morning. Before her, a view of the lake glistening in the early morning light added to her peaceful mood.

Totally absorbed in her novel's city-based thriller, Polly tuned out of her immediate surroundings. The occasional call of a loon or duck only just registered as did the sound of a car engine. As the novel's inspector relayed the gruesome details of the victim's demise, Polly missed the clunk of a car door shutting. Polly turned the page, anxious to read the next paragraph as a dark shadow elongated across the grass beneath her. Just as the shadow touched the edge of the cooler, it stopped abruptly. A figure took three steps backwards and hid behind a nearby tree.

Polly laid the book on her lap. She licked her lips. She hadn't realized how long she had been reading and she was thirsty. The sun was high in the sky now. Reaching down, she flipped open the cooler and reached for the pitcher. As she filled the glass, the tinkle of ice cubes was accompanied by the sound of a twig breaking behind her. Polly froze in mid action suddenly alarmed. *Was she alone? Had she been so focused on the story she missed someone arriving?* Trying to behave casually, Polly placed her glass on the top of the cooler and stretched, although her heart was dancing a jig in her chest and a trickle of sweat ran down from her hairline. *Should I run? Which direction?* She admonished herself for leaving her cell phone on the bedside table. Easing herself out of the hammock, Polly picked up her glass and walked to the lakeshore. *I can break the glass on a rock and use it as a weapon.*

With careful steps on the pebble shore ensuring she didn't fall, Polly turned toward the neighbor's cabin, hoping someone was home.

"Where you going?"

Polly halted at the familiar voice, breathing a huge sigh of relief at her brother's dulcet tone.

"David, you scared the hell out of me. I thought I was being stalked by a maniac."

"You've got an overly active imagination, Polly, and by the looks of it your reading matter encourages it."

David held her novels, turning them over in his hands, smiling broadly. Walking toward her elder brother, Polly smiled back relieved she was not about to be a victim in the next day's newspaper.



Upcoming Dates

Submission Deadline – October 25th

Writing Circle – November 1st

SGC readings – October 22nd





EDITOR'S NOTE

Beth Rowe

Three great poets awed us with their readings on the 24th. Social Grounds Coffee House is a great place to meet, having all kinds of drinks and goodies to eat. We will be having readings there each month to promote our local authors. You can also see some terrific art work there. The wall had changed to show some incredible woodwork behind our poets. October will be devoted to young children's books. Hope to see you there.



*You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.
~Beverly Sills*

Bridge

There is a bridge, so long and wide.

closing a gap, to another cliff side

New possibilities and opportunities galore,

creating excitement and wanting more.

Some left behind burnt, some completely in ashes,

as feelings flee and patience crashes.

Love's passion, drained from the veins,

washed away with the night time rains.

The bridge leads to a new path;

perhaps, even to make amends.

Challenging very notion of the setting trends.

A deep chasm underneath,

very frightening, indeed!

New hope awaits at the end

waiting to be freed.

~Mike Deregowski

Tuned in but really tuned out.

By Lisa Rigney

Tuned in but really tuned out
Fingers typing have replaced words from the mouth.

Device, device, device.

Not an old style game with a physical dice!

People go nowhere without their phone,
Like an extension of the hand – a new bone.

Always contactable every second of the day

It is so hard to truly get away.

Constantly checking to see if you've any notifications,

Out of service is a small precious vacation.

Heads cast down seeking Pokémon.

How is this deemed fun?

People cannot spell properly anymore

As learning this skill is such a chore.

Instead they rely on predictive text,

This tool leaves me feeling vexed.

We live in an instantaneous society

Where waiting will not be tolerated – It just can't be.

We don't use our long term memory anymore

When a quick search on google can settle a score.

Relationships created online

Some work out, some not so fine.

People now hide behind a computer screen,

Happy with anonymity it seems.

Groups established on Facebook for a good reason

But sometimes it turns ugly

– Unkindness, bullying and down-right teasing.

Have we lost the human touch?

Eye contact, struck up conversations, I think we have,

I miss it so much.

I really hope we don't abuse technology anymore

Otherwise it's not just our hands that will be sore.

Let's leave the phones down just for a while

And look around us – we just might smile.



Be a part of the direction of this amazing group!

Join us for a review and discussion of writing business as the Writers Foundation of Strathcona County hosts its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, October 18th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. As part of the requirements as a non-profit society, the AGM provides members an opportunity to hear a review of the past year, see what's coming up, participate in elections for board positions, and get involved with committees and projects.

WFSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Writers Foundation of Strathcona County encourages you to attend this year's *Annual General Meeting* as we plan our 12th year in 2017! With celebrations for Canada 150, we want to make our events even more exciting next year. We welcome new ideas and board members who want to be involved in planning and implementing the WFSC activities. Elections will be held for the position of President, Secretary, and general directors this year.

Members must be in good standing in order to have a vote. Anyone is welcome to attend and buy a \$20 membership at the door prior to the start of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing our members!

Tuesday October 18th

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

County Hall

Meeting Room #2

Writers Foundation of Strathcona County

2015 – 2016 Board Members and contact information:

Joe McKnight	President	jmcknight2@hotmail.com	
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