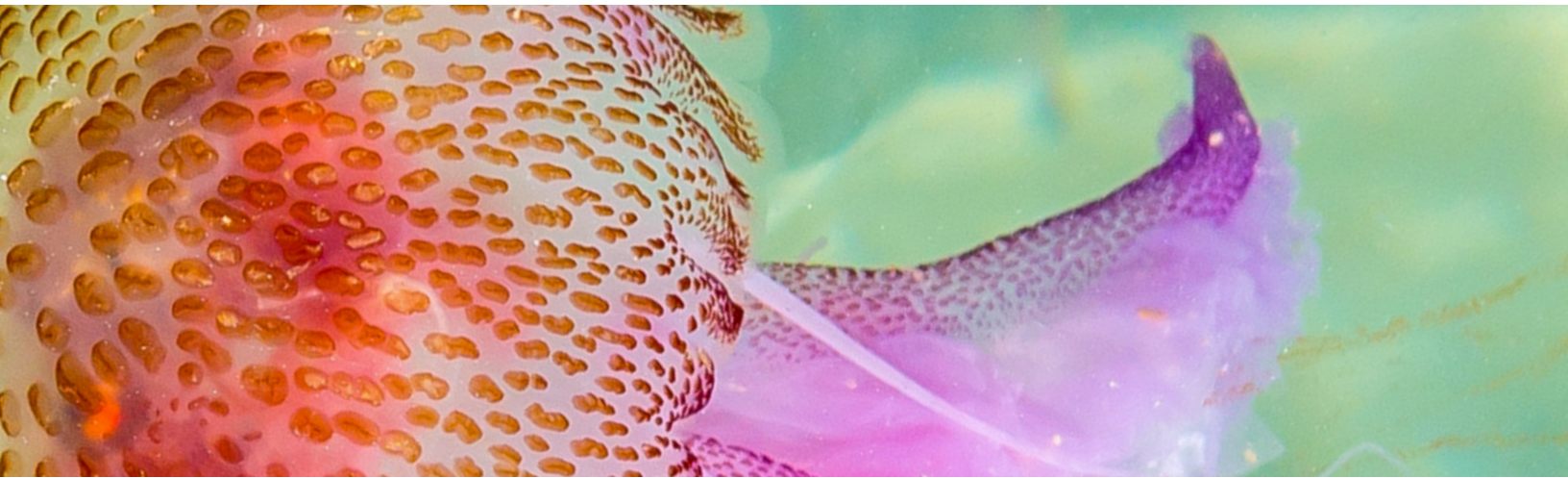


JUNE 2023 JUIN

a little haiku•rage

Seasonal newsletter for Haiku Canada's BC and Territories region

Le Bulletin d'information saisonnier pour Haiku Canada
section des Territoires et de la Colombie-britannique



Editorial

Again, thank you so much everyone for contributing to this third edition of the regional newsletter ! What a surprise! We even found a proofreader in Ruth Powell (Victory!). I am very grateful and happy to welcome her to "our" team!

For those who took the writing challenge on "Geosmin" (the earthy smell of Spring) you will find that some of you might have been exploring the same area or had taken a ginkgo walk at a similar time, therefore noticing the same smells! How interesting is that! Our next challenge will be for the Fall issue. Suiting for this more melancholic season, it will be around the notion of hiraeth, a welsh word for nostalgia of a home that you cannot return to (or never was).

It can lead to many interpretations (our youth, a relationship, a place important to your family that you never visited, etc.). I look forward to read your take on it! For this summer issue, we are travelling to Victoria, on Vancouver Island to meet Sidney Bending who shared the importance of friendship and collaboration in writing. We are very fortunate that she agreed to share her wisdom and poems. Check it out!

Also, I was so busy meeting wonderful poets while in Montreal (Haiku Canada Week end) that I forgot to take pictures but a Youtube Channel for Haiku Canada was created and recordings of some events should be added soon. As we are approaching the Summer Solstice and National Indigenous People Day on June 21, I am inviting you to visit the Haiku Canada You Tube channel to watch the *reclaiming the landscape/ reconquérir le paysage* short video created as a post-conference (HCW 2022) project. I hope it will inspire many of you to research names in First Nations' Languages for your area and use them in your future poetry! Again, this newsletter is an invitation to build literary friendships and foster collaboration. I hope you will enjoy it!

in the issue dans ce numéro

- interview / entrevue with Sidney Bending
- haiku challenge / défi haiku
- Let's celebrate!
- at your calendar / à votre calendrier
- present moment... and beyond
- coming up / à l'affiche

Freely adapted from the thirty-five questions Proust originally answered in 1890.



1. What is your idea of perfect haiku?

One that stays with me all day and I want to rush to share it.

Sidney Bending

2. What is the quality you most like in a poet?

Humour, clever twist of phrase, wordplay.

3. Which writers or poets do you most admire?

Issa for his gentle reverence for all animals.

4. Which writer (dead or alive) would you like to invite for a ginko walk?

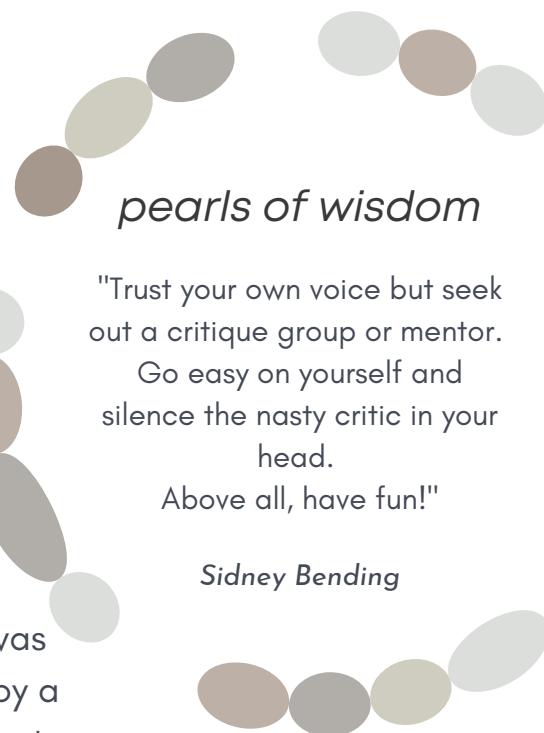
Carlos Colon, my haiku mentor from Haiku Society of America. We communicated for 3 years by email. He was funny, friendly, encouraging, and insightful. (RIP)

5. What is currently your favorite short form?

monoku, 3 lines, 2 lines, visual haiku, haiga, etc. and why? I was trained and worked as a graphic artist in the 70's. Really enjoy a visual haiku, a concrete poem. The words and the image have to work so well together. It can take lots of planning and trying different designs to get one to be effective.

6. What do you particularly like about your region?

I live in Victoria on Vancouver Island, surrounded by mountains, old growth forests, beaches. With the mild winter weather, I can walk by the water every day.



pearls of wisdom

"Trust your own voice but seek out a critique group or mentor.

Go easy on yourself and silence the nasty critic in your head.

Above all, have fun!"

Sidney Bending

7. Favorite ginko walk?

All year long, I go for a walk at Butchart Gardens almost every week. Have a favourite spot in their Japanese Garden where I sit to meditate and write haiku.

8. You find a treasure while hiking. What is it?

At low tide, the beach in front of my hotel at Parksville, went on and on and on. I found a fist-sized stone of petrified wood almost completely hidden by sand. Smooth on one side and all gnarly on the other.

9. Morning writer? Night owl or all-hours writer?

Although I am a night owl, I can't write or edit too close to bedtime. My mind keeps churning out ideas and better words and phrases and I can't go to sleep. Often, I grab a coconut milk mocha and head down to the water to write in the afternoon.

10. What do you most value in writing ?

Collaboration. For many years Margaret Rutley and I collaborated with each other and also we wrote rengay with Nika (Jim Force). Margaret and I wrote several rengay with Michael Dylan Welch. Just recently, Terry Ann Carter and I have written a few rengay.

“ I love the process of discussion and compromise, fun and friendship ”

11. When and where were you happiest?

With my haiku history, my favourite time was the past 20 years collaborating with Margaret Rutley, my best friend (RIP 2022). There were rengay, sequences, haibun, and individual haiku/senryu. We laughed through it all, inspired each other, and celebrated every publication by going out to dinner.

Whether Forecast

haiku & related poems



Margaret Rutley & Sidney Bending

12. Favourite season or kigo?

Autumn has always been my favourite...the intense colours, the cool air, the Harvest Moon.

13. Which words or phrases do you most overuse? moon.**14. What is the trait you most dislike in poets?**

Thinking there is only one way to write or revise a poem. Their way.

15. When it comes to writing, how do you deal with selection/rejection ?

I am delighted with every published poem or contest placer. I rush out and buy myself a "congrats" balloon from the dollar store and keep it flying high in my living room where I am likely to write in the bent wood rocker at home. I celebrate each success with dinner out with friends. The rejections are disappointing. But I allow myself to feel bad for a short time only, and turn around and fire away to another publication.

16. What is your greatest fear as a writer or poet?

The first time I read a (lyric) poem in front of a large audience (125), I was viciously heckled for 5 minutes by an unstable person. It scared me off of reading my poems for over a year.

17. What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I recently found out that my poem was longlisted for the Haiku Foundation Distinguished Individual Poem Award for 2022. They chose 53 out of over 1300 from all over the world. Brag, brag, brag. I didn't make it to the final selection but was thrilled to make it that far.

as if damp
were a colour . . .
deep woods

Sidney Bending

**18. Describe your favourite/usual bookmark**

I use everything from a feather to a smoothed out piece of gold foil from a candy bar. Even another book. I have fancy bookmarks but don't seem to use them. My favourite thing to use is a handmade card from my best friend on our first ever anniversary of our friendship. We celebrated friendship day (her idea) every year for almost a quarter of a century.

19. Which talent would you most like to have?

I would love to learn Photoshop and be imaginative, creative and innovative in my designs and haiga.

20. A fantastic grant allows you to choose your next writing retreat destination , where would you go?

Japan. Particularly Kyoto and Mount Fuji. I have been to Tokyo for a week but would love to see more of the countryside.

21. When not writing you are... (fill in)

Sketching, painting, taking photographs, inventing my own recipes for slow cooker healthy meals, watching old black and white movies.

22. What project are you currently working on (or looking forward to starting)?

I have been gathering a collection of fifty 2- and 3-line poems (not necessarily haiku or senryu) with lots of fun humour. Some are written by myself, some by Margaret Rutley and some are collaborative.

beach volleyball
the grey-haired guy
still has some bounce

Sidney Bending
Frogpond Volume 36:3 Autumn 2013

The Story behind it



For 9 years I visited my mother in an extended care hospital almost everyday. After, I would walk down Willows Beach.

Definition:

earthy smell of Spring.

odeur terreuse du printemps.

Geosmin

In the last months you were invited to explore the world through Spring's smells, odors, fragrances and other whiffs. Here is what you noticed and shared with us for this haiku challenge.

Au cours des derniers mois, vous avez reçu une invitation à explorer le monde à travers les odeurs printanières, fragrances, parfums et autres senteurs. Voici ce que vous avez remarqué et partagé avec nous pour le défi de haïku.

sifting last year's
compost - a whiff of orange peel
and earthworm

Michele Rule

seed packet
my hoe digs under the
bouquet of manure

Michele Rule

setting out cabbage seedlings
the aroma
of fresh-dug earth

Sheila Weaver

drop in at the nursery
the aromatic pull
of potting soil

Michele Rule



my nostrils receive a scent of Heaven the breeze

Joan Marie Roberts

lingering
in still air –
scent of lilac

Sally Quon

first laundry on the line –
the fragrance of lilacs and roses

elehna de sousa

evening breeze
gentle and perfumed
lilacs

Joan Marie Roberts

the park shut down
no boundaries
for cottonwood perfume

Sheila Weaver



slag pile
burning on the hillside-
the smell of applewood

Sally Quon

strolling through
sun dappled woods . . .
the pungent smell of skunk cabbage

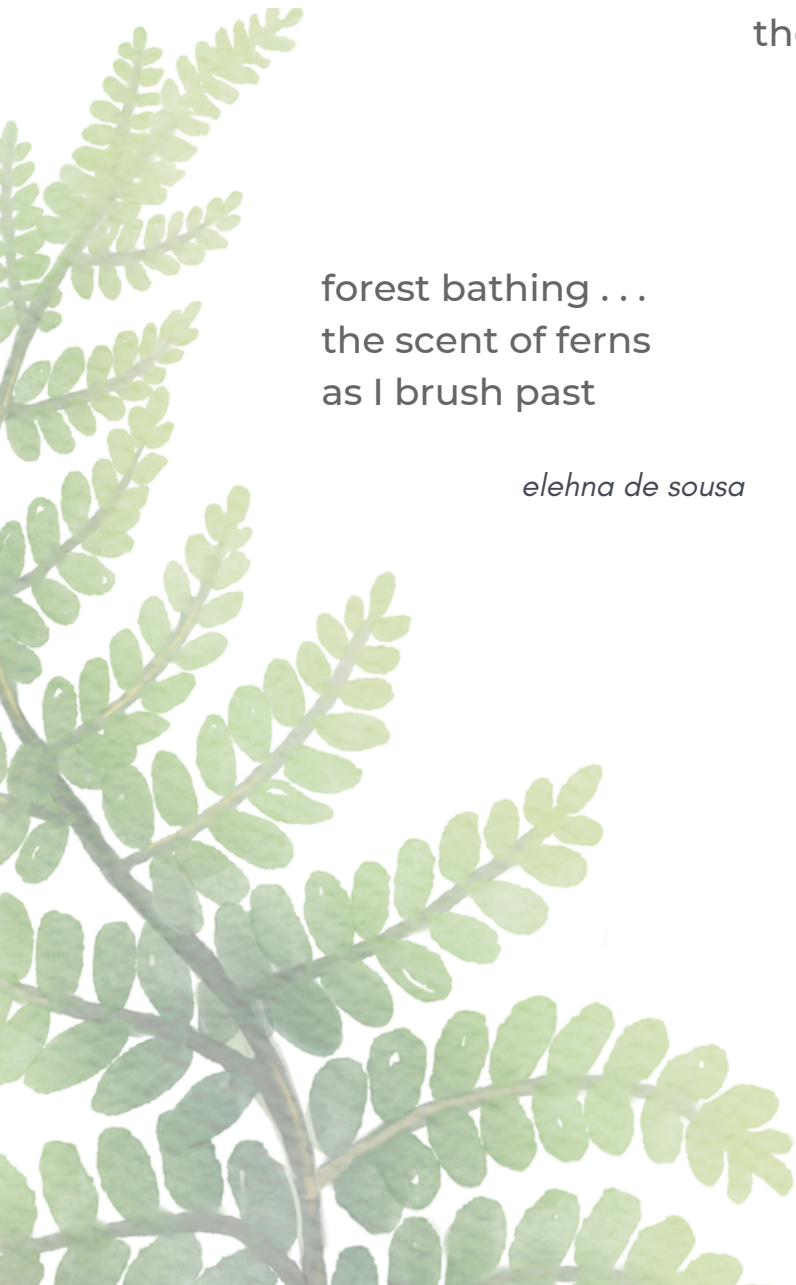
elehna de sousa

forest bathing . . .
the scent of ferns
as I brush past

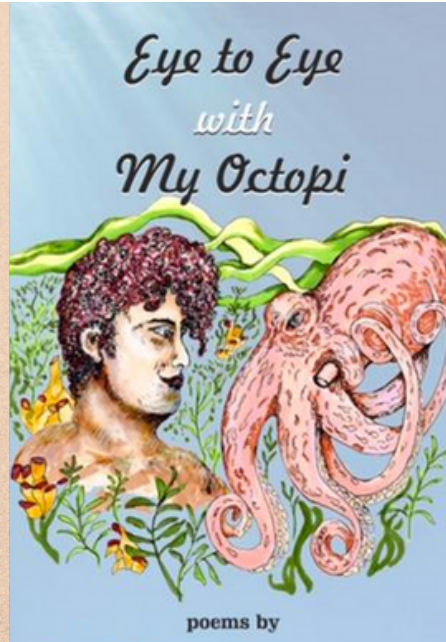
elehna de sousa

clover and chamomile
what the easter bunny
smells like

Sally Quon



new book
from
local
poet



Richard Stevenson

Eye to Eye with My Octopi
(Cyberwit, India 2022)

These poems present quite impressive imaginative leap that will certainly appeal to all readers. They show the riches and vigor of conversational style and everyday vocabulary. Due to melody of diction in these poems, the sound of the words and phrases lingers in the mind for a long time. Contains scifaiku and tanka. For kids 9-12 and their fun-loving parents. 128 pages, 15\$

Source. cyberwit.net/publications/2000

hall of fame mur de la renommée

Congratulations to these distinguished poets who live in the BC and the Territories region!

Karin Hedetniemi (Victoria, BC)

- won an Award for Excellence in the 12th Setouchi-Matsuyama Photo-Haiku Contest:
- Results: https://matsuyamahaiiku.jp/contest/result2022_12th/eng_theme02.php
- Judge David McMurray's commentary: <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14883204>

Ruth Powell

- Have a haiku included in the following anthology: *skipping stones: The Red Moon Anthology of English-Language Haiku*, the best haiku and haiku-related writing of the year, published 2023. Details can be found at Red Moon Press site www.redmoonpress.com

Aaron Barry

- Honourable mention in the Merit Books Awards for 2023, Haiku Society of America for his book *Eggplants & Teardrops: A Haiku Collection*, Independently Published, 2022

Antoinette Cheung (Vancouver, BC)

- won an Honourable mention- Betty Drevniok Award 2023 (Haiku Canada)
To read her haiku: <http://www.haikucanada.org/contests/drevniok/BettyDrevniokAward2023.pdf>



some calls for submissions and contests

JUIN • JUNE 2023

The 2nd Trailblazer Award

June 1-30 trailblazercontest.weebly.com

Journals and other publications

- Drifting sands haibun, June 1-30 drifting-sands-haibun.org
- The Heron's Nest, June 15 theheronsnest.com
- Failed haiku, June 10-25 failedhaiku.com
- L'ours dansant no.32 thème libre, 10 juin www.100pour100haiku.fr
- Prune juice, June 1-30 prunejuicesenryu.com
- Haiku Zoo Journal, Un 30 (under 20 yrs old), www.haikuzoojournal.wordpress.com



Please visit the official websites
as information may change.
Veuillez consulter les sites
internet officiels car
l'information pourrait changer.

JUILLET • JULY 2023

Journals and other publications

- Frogpond, July 1-31 <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/frogpond/Frogpond-Submission-Guidelines.pdf>
- Modern Haiku, July 15 <https://www.modernhaiku.org/submissions.html>
- Wales Haiku Journal, July 30 www.waleshaikujournal.com
- First frost, July 1-31 firstfrostpoetry.com
- Acorn, July 1- August 31 acornhaiku.com
- L'ours dansant no.33 thème: senryu - 10 juillet 100pour100haiku.fr

AOÛT • AUGUST 2023

Appel de textes pour ouvrage collectif pour les Éditions Pippa (Paris)

Thème: Boire et manger

date limite: 15 septembre

association-francophone-de-haiku.com

Concours Haiku Canada Review- section française

Thème: fenêtre, portes

Date limite: 20 août 2023

association-francophone-de-haiku.com

Journals and other publications

- Presence, August 15-September 30 haikupresence.org
- Acorn, July 1- August 31 acornhaiku.com



Haiku Arbutus

Victoria, BC, since 2014;
meets quarterly;
facilitated by Terry Ann Carter.
Contact Dan Curtis at dancurtis8@gmail.com

Solstice Haiku

Whitehorse, YT, since 2014;
meets monthly to share and discuss haiku;
facilitated by Katherine Munro (kjmunro).
Contact kjm.1560@gmail.com

Vancouver Haiku Group

Vancouver, BC, since 2010;
meets monthly.
Visit the Vancouver Haiku Group Facebook page
or vancouverhaikugroup@gmail.com



Haiku Canada corner

Haiku Canada now has a Youtube Channel / Haiku Canada a maintenant une chaîne Youtube
Videos from the Haiku Canada Week end in Montreal should be added soon!
Les vidéos du rendez-vous annuel de Haiku Canada 2023- Montréal y seront sous peu!

www.youtube.com/@HaikuCanada

Haiku Canada week end 2024: Nova Scotia!
Haiku Canada rendez-vous annuel 2024: Nouvelle-Écosse!



Building the Haiku Canada Collection

archives@haikucanada.org

Publishing a haiku-related book?

Donate one copy to the Haiku Canada Collection as part of your distribution plan.

Downsizing? Preparing for end of life?

You can help build the Haiku Canada Collection . . .

The Haiku Canada Collection, established in 2017, is located in British Columbia at the University of Victoria Library, within Special Collections and University Archives.

Already donated, or intending to donate, your haiku materials to another archive?

Let us know, so that site and your resources can be incorporated into the information base of the Haiku Canada archives.

Archives Committee members:

Katherine Munro (Yukon)

Vicki McCullough (BC)

Next Issue Fall / Automne 2023

The next issue will cover the months of
September, October and **December 2023**.

We want to know about

- your special projects and meetings in your area
- book launches and readings
- awards and achievements
- looking for a rengay partner? Let us know we'll post it!

Let's build this community!

Please send me your info for the next issue **before August 15, 2023**.

If you are interested in answering the not-so-dreadful Proust-inspired questionnaire, please contact me as we will feature one poet in every issue. Thank you to Sidney Bending for sharing precious moments and tips with us! Priority will be for promoting local poets from the BC and the Territories.

Enjoy your summer!

I wish you plenty of inspiring ginko walks, meetings with friends and families!
Hoping to feature your success and inspiration soon!

Next Haiku Challenge

Hiraeth

(n. a homesickness for a home to which you cannot return, a home which maybe never was; the nostalgia, the yearning, the grief for the lost places of your past. Hiraeth (Welsh pronunciation: [hɪrɨθ, hiːrɨθ]) is a Welsh word that has no direct English translation.

The University of Wales, Lampeter, likens it to a homesickness tinged with grief and sadness over the lost or departed, especially in the context of Wales and Welsh culture. In reference to a Wales that never was or a longing to be reunited with Welsh culture.

How to pronounce it? <https://www.facebook.com//videos/the-meaning-of-hiraeth/1038611542866932/>



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