



Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library

Press Release
Friday, September 23rd 2011

New Writer-in-Residence at the Library!

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library welcomes Monica Graham, as our 2011-2012 Writer in Residence.

October is Canadian Libraries Month, and to help celebrate Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is very pleased to announce our 2011-2012 Writer-in-Residence at the library will be Monica Graham. Monica is an award winning journalist, photographer, an avid historical researcher, a member of the Writers Union of Canada and Writers Federation of Nova Scotia, and the NSWF's Writers in the School program. This fall, Mrs. Graham will be in residence at several of the public libraries in Pictou County, while in January 2012 she will be in residence at the Antigonish Town & County Public Library.

To welcome Monica, and to launch the Writer-in-Residence program, two author readings and Meet & Greet evenings will be held –

- Wednesday October 5th, 7:00 pm at the Antigonish Public Library (283 Main Street, Antigonish)
- Thursday October 6th, 7:00 pm at the New Glasgow Public Library (182 Dalhousie Street, New Glasgow)

All are welcome to drop by and join us. Light refreshments will be served.

Monica has written for the Halifax *Chronicle Herald* since 1996. She has written five history books to date, with a sixth ready for release in the spring of 2012. Her seventh and eighth non-fiction books are in the planning and research stages. Ms. Graham's two latest books published by Nimbus include *Bluenose* (October 2010) and *The Great Maritime Detective: The Exploits and Adventures of the Notorious Peachie Carroll* (May 2009).

This fall, the PARL Writer-in-Residence will be offering the following 4-week evening writing workshops at the Westville, Pictou and River John Libraries:

1. Researching & Writing History (October 11, 6:30 pm – Westville; October 13, 6:30 pm – Pictou, November 15, 6:00 pm – River John)
2. What's your story?... writing memoirs (October 25, 6:30 pm – Westville; October 27, 6:30 pm – Pictou, November 22, 6:00 pm – River John)
3. Tomorrow's History... Journalism (November 1, 6:30 pm – Westville, November 3, 6:30 pm – Pictou, November 29, 6:00 pm – River John)
4. Tell me what you really think... sharing your opinions, effectively. (November 8, 6:30 pm – Westville, November 10, 6:30 pm – Pictou, December 6, 6:00 pm – River John)

For more information about these writing workshops, and to register (as seating is limited) please call, or drop by your local library (Westville (396-5022), Pictou (485-5021), River John (351-2599)), or visit us online at www.parl.ns.ca.

And three "brown bag" lunch hour, drop-in writing workshops at the New Glasgow Library (Community Room)-

- Write On! ... Developing ideas & story outlines (Tuesday, October 18, 12noon – 1:00 pm)
- Write On! ... R U Stuck? (Tuesday, November 22, 12noon – 1:00 pm)
- Write ON! ... Now that you are a writer (Tuesday, December 13, 12noon – 1:00 pm)

Registration is not required for these lunch-hour workshops.

In addition, local writers who would be interested in having their work reviewed, or an individual mentoring session with the Writer-in-Residence at the library are asked to contact Steve MacLean, Outreach Assistant – Pictou County (755-6031/toll-free 1-866-779-7761) or Elizabeth Glinz, Outreach Assistant – Antigonish County (863-4276).

About the Author

Monica Graham is a freelance journalist and photographer. She has written for the Halifax *Chronicle Herald* since 1996. Monica's writing and photos have been published regularly in *The Chronicle Herald* and *The Nova Scotian* (included in the *Sunday Herald*), and less often in *Rural Delivery*, *The Pictou Advocate*, *The Trident*, *Food Safety & Quality*, *Atlantic Beef*, *Atlantic Fisherman*, and other trade journals as well as online. One of her short stories appears in the anthology *Christmas in the Maritimes*.

Monica has written five history books to date, with a sixth ready for release in the spring of 2012. Her seventh and eighth non-fiction books are in the planning and research stages.

She is a member of the *Writers Federation of Nova Scotia* (WFNS), the *Writers Union of Canada* and of the WFNS's *Writers in the Schools* program. As a member of the *Writers in the Schools* programs, Monica has conducted writing workshops in elementary schools. She prefers a "learn to do by doing" approach, using games, images, and hands-on exercises to encourage writing and story-telling, and to persuade participants to clarify their ideas and opinions and then write them down. The workshops also cover the five Ws, the distinction between fiction and non-fiction, and how to "cheat" by using tools like a Thesaurus and a dictionary. Monica has also given story-telling and memoir-writing workshops to adult literacy and seniors' groups. Methods and sessions depend on the ages and abilities of the participants, and may include a reading from her work. Monica has provided one-on-one writing mentoring to children and adults, and has read manuscripts and offered advice when asked to do so by students and budding writers.

In her spare time, Monica co-manages a woodlot. She is an active member of the Pictou Historical Photograph Society (www.pictouphotos.ca), and has given presentations to several Pictou County genealogy and historical societies, local school classes, and library programs on special topics of historical research and local interest. Monica writes liturgy for religious worship, and has served two terms as volunteer board chairwoman for the *Diocesan Times* (Nova Scotia and Prince Edward

Monica lives in Sundridge, Pictou County.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Bluenose*. Nimbus Publishing Ltd., Halifax, NS . (ISBN 978-1-55109-793-0, October 2010)
- *The Great Maritime Detective: The Exploits and Adventures of the Notorious Peachie Carroll*. Nimbus Publishing Ltd., Halifax, NS. (ISBN 978-1-55109-705-3, May 2009)
- *Don't Worry: We'll have Christmas Tomorrow*, a short story, published in anthology *Christmas in the Maritimes*. Nimbus Publishing Ltd., Halifax, NS. (ISBN 1-55109-594-7, 2006)
- *Scotch Willy and Other Nicknames from Pictou County*. Nimbus Publishing Ltd., Halifax, NS. (ISBN 1-55109-567-X, 2006)
- *In the Spirit* columns (approximately 600) published alternate Saturdays on the religion page of The Chronicle Herald, Halifax. (2005 - present)
- *The Historic Town of Pictou*. Nimbus Publishing Ltd., Halifax, NS. (ISBN 1-55109-501-7, 2004)
- *Looking Back: Pictou County*. Vanwell Publishing Ltd., St Catharine's, ON. (ISBN 1-55068-920-7, 2003)
- More than 2,000 full-length freelanced news stories and features were published in *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, NS (does not include news briefs or above-mentioned columns). (1996 – present)
- *History of The Pictou Advocate – 100 Years of Continuous Publication*, The Pictou Advocate (centennial souvenir publication), Pictou, NS. (1993)

AWARDS

2008 – Berton House Retreat, residency program for established writers. (<http://www.berthonhouse.ca/en/alumni.html>)

1995 - Atlantic Community Newspaper Association, for general interest column.

1994 - Canadian Community Newspaper association, for centennial history of The Pictou Advocate

1991 –Canadian Community Newspaper Association, for best Christmas story.

For more information, please contact Trecia Schell or Steven MacLean, Outreach Services & Programming Department, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (755-6031/toll-free 1-866-779-7761), or visit our online PARL Events calendar at www.parl.ns.ca.

Pictou – Antigonish Regional Library
(902) 755-6031 or 1-866-779-7761
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