

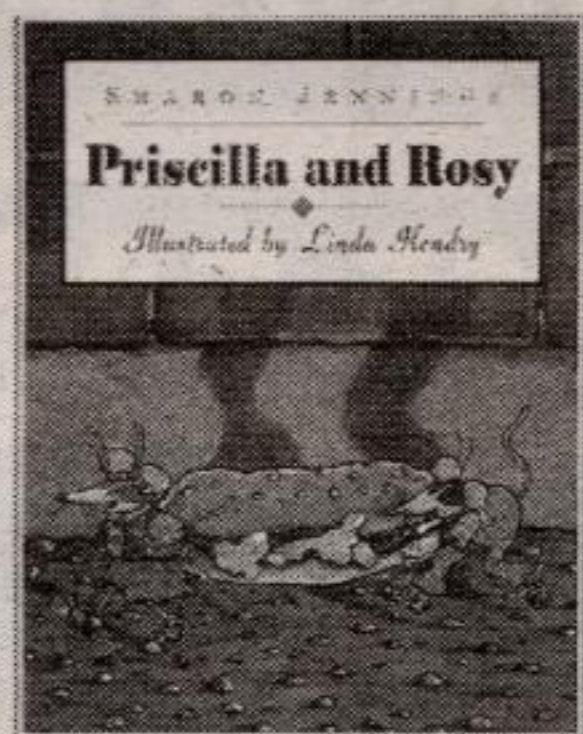


Quaile Reviews

by Deborah Quaile

## A tale of two (friendly) rats

Priscilla and Rosy are rats - friends who live across the gutter from each other. That description in itself would make many an adult shudder at the imagery conjured up, but with the remarkable illustrations by Eden Mills' illustrator Linda Hendry, the two creatures become totally endearing.



The reader could pick up the book and adapt the fanciful ideas she's used to furnish a dollhouse.

"I think this is my favourite book that I've done so far," Ms.

Hendry comments. "I really like the way the illustrations turned out with the coloured paper, and the feeling that they give the readers."

Sharon Jennings is the author of the light,

Ms. Hendry has created the pictures on pastel paper with coloured pencil, a unique idea because the texture and tone of the paper adds considerable interest to each illustration. There's a vividness and depth that will enchant children, and attention to detail that keeps them engrossed with each page.

That meticulous detail she achieves is evident everywhere, from the gloss on tiny pebbles in the street, to the crocheted afghan in Rosy's room. Especially amusing is the rather groovy lady ticket-taker at the movie theatre, with her string of beads, cats eye glasses and angora-type sleeve cuffs.

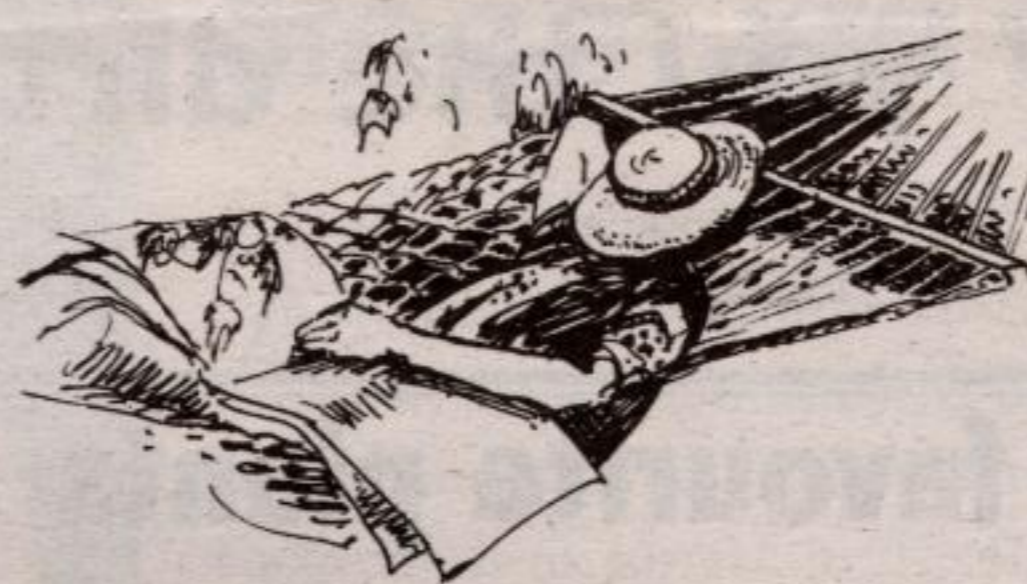
Ms. Hendry's expertise at children's (and grownups) crafts creeps into the work (she has done craft books as well). She illustrated the book with furnishings, pictures and housewares supposedly crafted by the rats from an array of bits and pieces.

simple tale about friendship, and how it must endure even the bad times. Priscilla makes plans with her friend Rosy to meet over a puzzle, but when Priscilla gets a better offer to go on a friend's boat, she's ready to leave Rosy for another day. Guilt raises her ire, and then she must contend with the fact that Rosy becomes ill, and is home alone. What should a best friend do?

Ms. Jennings handles the dilemma with tact, bringing Priscilla to the realization that a friend in need is the only real problem of the day, and Ms. Hendry gives the conclusion her own warm-hearted touch.

Priscilla and Rosy  
Written by Sharon Jennings,  
Illustrated by Linda Hendry  
Markham: Fitzhenry &  
Whiteside, 2001  
ISBN 1-55041-676-6  
HC, \$18.95

Idle



Pursuits

## Writing for kids, art and great music At The Eden Mills Writers' Festival

by Deborah Quaile

Sunday, September 9 is the 13th Annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival, from noon to 6 p.m., rain or shine (if rainy, the readings and displays take place at Camp Edgewood on the south side of the village). There are, of course, some great adult writers, but the festival is also an excellent venue for children's authors and illustrators - a vital part of the industry and certainly of interest to any reading-minded families.

"The children's venue rounds out the festival to include all members of the family," says Linda Hendry, children's author and illustrator. "Lots of adults even come without kids and hang around - there's always good music, performers, drawing ... it's quite a lot of fun."

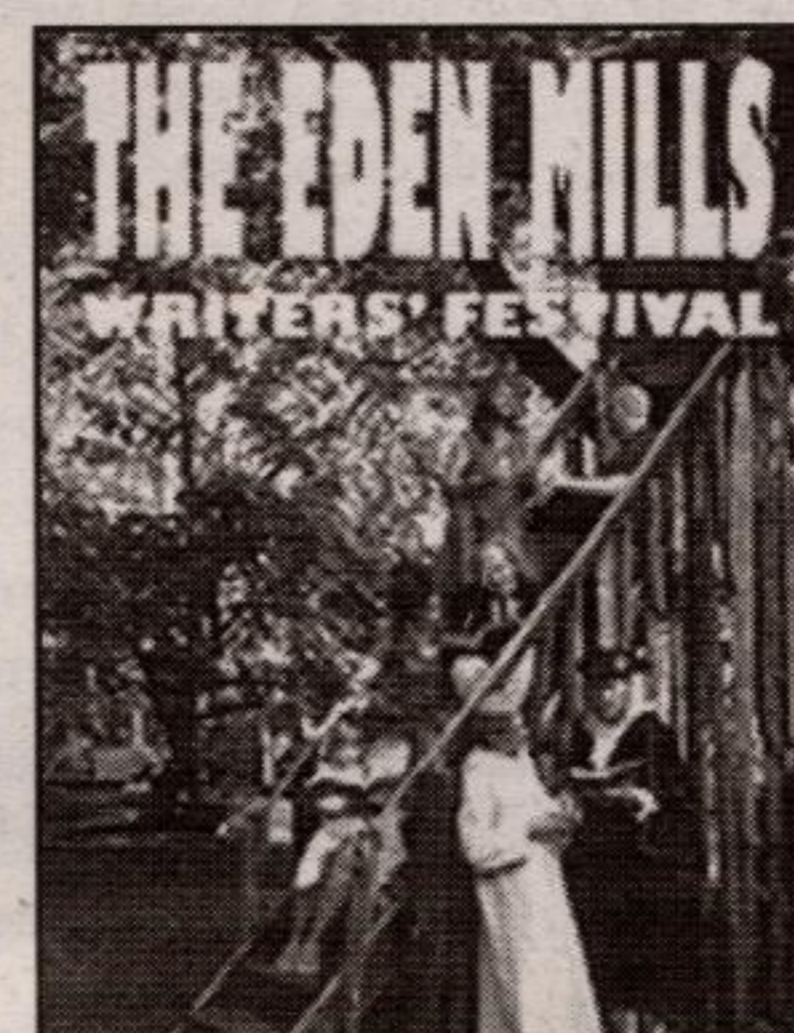
This year, Dennis Lee is a special highlight for kids. His poetry for children and adults has been acclaimed around the world. Mr. Lee is currently the designated poet laureate of the City of Toronto, and his most recent work is *Bubblegum Delicious*.

Barbara Greenwood is author of 15 children's books of historical themes. Her newest book is *Gold Rush Fever*, just released from Kids Can Press.

Deb Loughead has three current children's books, with *A Pocketful of Rocks* expected from Hodgepog this autumn.

Adwoa Badoe moved to Guelph from Ghana, West Africa in 1992. A M.D. in Ghana, she began writing stories she thought up for her son. This fall, Groundwood schedules a collection of Anansi stories for publication.

Natale Ghent is a freelance writer who obtained her degree in



English Literature from the University of Guelph, and she currently lives in Guelph with her daughter, Wesley. *Piper* is her first published book.

Linda Hendry is an author/illustrator who lives and works in Eden Mills, with 32 books to her credit. Just off the press is a new piece she has illustrated, *Priscilla and Rosy*. Look for this month's review in *The Compass*.

Sheree Fitch is a writer and educator from Halifax with 14 published books. She will be introducing *No Two Snowflakes*, published by Orca and featuring illustrations by Eden Mills' illustrator Janet Wilson.

Kenneth Oppel has published 17 books in Canada, the US, the UK and Europe, and has won several awards.

Margaret Carney writes about nature and is published by Kids Can Press. Her works include *At Grandpa's Sugar Bush* and *The Biggest Fish in the Lake* (also illustrated by local illustrator Janet Wilson and previously reviewed in *The Compass*).

Of course, no children's venue would be complete without Sonja Dunn, AKA the Queen of Chants, a children's poet and performer who also writes for mainstream

adult audiences. You'll recognize Ms. Dunn by her marvelous story skirt and hat, and the wit and charm that children love.

If a child you know entered the "Imagination Matters" poetry contest for children this year, you will especially want to be there - a famous author will read the winning entry.

As you stroll through the streets enjoying authors, listening to music, and sampling some exquisite foods, don't forget to drop in to Art in Eden. Visual arts have had only an occasional presence at previous writer's festivals, but this year 14 village-based artists will exhibit works in oils, watercolours, acrylics, ceramic, metal, stone and wood. The cooperative has a goal of promoting visual arts in the area. Their first exhibit in June of this year was so successful that they decided to broaden their base and include Art in Eden with the festival.

The actual exhibit will run for 10 days, from September 8 to 18. Come and visit artists Marilyn Campbell, John Crompton, Elisabeth Cunningham, Peter Grimaldi, Linda Hendry, Wyn Jones, Lee Laing, Diane Mellor, Gloria Nye, Charlotte Reinhold, Anna Simon, Candace Slack and Janet Wilson at Eden Place, 103 York Street in the heart of Eden Mills. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. (closed Mondays).

Advance tickets for the Eden Mills Writers' Festival are available at The Bookshelf Café, Sunrise Books and Macondo in Guelph, as well as many other non-chain bookstores around southern Ontario. Check the website if you need more information: [www.sentex.net/~pqj/eden](http://www.sentex.net/~pqj/eden). General admission is \$8; students and children are \$5.

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