

Visit our Book Week Web site at [www.book-week.ca] to obtain information about TD Canadian Children's Book Week tours each November. Find out how to arrange for an author, illustrator or storyteller to visit your school. Travel costs are covered by the Canada Council and the usual reading fees are reduced. A directory in our annual Book Week kit offers a list of authors, illustrators and storytellers available year-round across Canada for school visits and workshops. Book Week Theme Guides offer you valuable lists of books about families and friends, adventure, mystery, sports, multiculturalism, all with activities for your students.

An important component of TD Canadian Children's Book Week is the annual Grade One Book Giveaway Program, which provides every Grade One child across Canada with a free book to take home. This year's title is *The Girl Who Hated Books*, written by Manjusha Pawagi, illustrated by Leanne Franson and published by Second Story Press.

The Centre's selection guide *Our Choice* can assist those selecting the best from the 500 Canadian titles (books, magazines, CDs and videos) published each year by providing reading level (by grade) and interest levels (by age). The latest issue divides fiction into Junior and Senior levels and non-fiction into finer categories than ever before. In partnership with the Library and Archives of Canada, *Our Choice* annotations are now being added to the new children's literature database PIKA: www.nlc-bnc.ca/pika. *Our Choice* Starred Selection lists are provided to TVO's *Imprint* Web site and to CanWest Global - Raise-a-Reader National Children's Book Club. The magazine, *Canadian Children's Book News*, with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, is now a quarterly, in colour and for sale not only to our membership, but in bookstores. Reviews from *Canadian Children's Book News* reviews will be appearing in the Children's Literature Comprehensive Database. I found the CCBC's Storymakers books: *Writing Children's Books* and *Illustrating Children's Books*, with their profiles and bibliographies, invaluable in my school library to

help me and the students become the 'instant experts' on a particular author or illustrator.

TL: Have there been any outstanding moments for you in your career?

BH: Absolutely!

- Reading Timothy Findlay's *The Wars* in manuscript as the 'second reader' in the Editorial Department at Clarke Irwin.
- Being asked to read *The Name of the Tree* (a Bantu folktale by Celia Lottridge and Ian Wallace) one more time by one of the girls in the graduating class.
- The excitement of author visits (I treasure a photo of my daughter with Martyn Godfrey).
- Hosting Toronto Children's Literature Roundtables at the CCBC and watching my son Jon discuss the fine points of illustration with Ian Wallace.
- Watching Michael Martchenko dance with Marie-Louise Gay at an IBBY-Canada fundraiser.
- Planning the first Canadian Children's book camp in Toronto this past summer. It brought together authors, illustrators, and 100 young writers (ages 9-13) for a week-long day camp at Centennial College.

TL: Would you share your favourite reads or viewing habits?

BH: I enjoy:

- Reading young adult novels and stories by authors like Martha Brooks and Budge Wilson or books for older readers by Carol Shields and Alistair Macleod.
- Wandering around the Swansea area of Toronto and picking out streets in the neighbourhood that Bernice Thurman Hunter used as her setting for the *Booky* trilogy.
- Preparing for a visit to Newfoundland and the Eastern Horizons conference by reading Janet McNaughton, Joan Clark and Kevin Major's books set in St. John's.
- Reconnecting with books such as *A Prairie Boy's Winter* after living on the Prairies.

I'm so caught up in reading that I hardly watch TV at all. I also love the excitement of live theatre and take in the whole season at CanStage.

TL: Thank you for your time, Brenda! ■