

## **Saskatoon Writers' Coop Programming Report to the Sixth AGM, March 27, 2008**

Your Coop board has worked very hard to bring our members a variety of programs in the year-and-a-week since our last AGM. In the process, we have tried to make the program structure somewhat more fluid than in previous years. The length of a full class has been shortened from sixteen to twelve hours, and class organization made more flexible. Our fall class, for example, met in four three-hour sessions, two in early September and two in late October (in retrospect, we realize the time gap was probably too big, but it was the best we could manage while accommodating busy schedules.) Workshops ranged from a series of three separate evening events, to a full day in length. Our open mikes tried for a more regular schedule, while at the same time testing a number of different locales around the city.

Last year, the Coop's Fifth Birthday gave us an excuse to party, and social events popped up quite often. This year, partying has been downplayed in favour of a more varied programming schedule. Really, tonight's social is our first party event since our summer party last May. To a significant extent, though, our open mike events have tried to provide an opportunity for social interaction, so don't think we've forgotten that our members like to have fun as well as learn. Plus there are always the informal every-Tuesday-afternoon "Chicken Scratch" coffee sessions at the Roastery on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, presided over by board member Jeff Smith.

Here's what the formal programming has looked like since the last AGM:

- two classes, both with a poetry theme
- four workshops so far, plus one more still to come on April 26
- eight open mike events so far (including last year's summer party) with one more on March 30, and probably at least one more after that
- one AGM and social

Details are presented in the table on the next page. As you can see if you add up the figures, the Coop's programs so far this programming year (not including tonight) have involved over 180 people, not counting instructors. Of these, 124 have been active participants. While this latter number is pretty close to the size of the entire Coop membership, we know there have been more than a few repeat participants, and that not everyone who took part is a Coop member. Nevertheless it seems clear that the Coop's programming is meeting our members' needs to a fairly large extent, though we'd still like to do better.

It's impossible to single out any one or two board members for special recognition on the programming side, as this has been a truly collaborative effort. So, thanks, everyone. And again, thanks to our members and friends, who give our programs such good and enthusiastic support.

The Coop Board  
March 27, 2008

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>NUMBERS</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Mar. 25, 2007	Open mike	20 present, 9 readers	At Mystic Java MC Karen Millard
Apr. 29, 2007	Open mike	12 present, 6 readers	At Mystic Java MC Jim Weseen
May 30, 2007	Summer party/travel themed open mike	30 present, 10 readers	At St. James. Guest Shelley Leedahl. MC Don Reimer
Sep. 10, 11, Oct. 29, 30	Fall class: poetry, <i>Bare/Bear Bones</i>	9 participants	At. St. James. Instructor Louise Halfe
Sep. 13, 2007	Open mike	12 present, 8 readers	At St. James MC Edda Ryan
Oct. 25, 2007	Open mike	6 present, 6 readers	At. St. Thomas More MC Jo Oliver
Oct. 27, 2007	One-day workshop: <i>The Writer's Toolkit</i>	12 participants	At SIAST Instructor Jeff Smith
Nov. 23, 2007	Open mike	19 present, 8 readers	At The Mendel MC Edda Ryan
Jan. 24, 2008	Open mike	14 present, 9 readers	At Jo Oliver's salon MC Jo Oliver
Feb. 11 to Mar. 17, 2008	Winter class: poetry, <i>Obsession Sessions</i>	17 participants	At St. James Instructor Jennifer Still
Feb. 6, 2008	Evening workshop: story structure	12 participants	At the Marr Residence Instructor R.P. MacIntyre
Feb. 21, 2008	Open mike	6 present, 4 readers	At St. Thomas More MC Jo Oliver
Feb. 27, 2008	Evening workshop: character devel.	9 participants	At the Marr Residence Instructor Alice Kuipers
Mar. 4, 2008	Evening workshop: playwriting	5 participants	At the Marr Residence Instructor Jennifer Webber
Mar. 27, 2008	AGM and social		At the Refinery Guest speaker Bob Calder MC Amy Jo Ehman
Mar. 30, 2008	Open mike (poetry theme)		At Jo Oliver's salon MC Jo Oliver
Apr. 26, 2008 (rescheduled)	One-day workshop: <i>From Stage to Page</i>		At the U of S Instructor Art Norris