

## **Saskatoon Writers' Coop Programming Report to the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM, March 26, 2009**

Your Coop board has worked very hard to bring our members a variety of programs in the year-less-a-day since our last AGM. Classes and workshops have taken place regularly, and with excellent participation. Our open mikes achieved a regular monthly schedule in collaboration with the Frances Morrison Library, with one successful venture to North Battleford as well. And we had a midwinter party that was just plain fun.

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

- two classes, one continuing the poetry theme of the previous year, and one focusing on prose writing
- one full-day workshop and three open mikes (one with a social) last spring
- two half-day workshops, one group discussion, and one evening presentation this season
- eight open mike events so far this season, with one more on April 9
- one midwinter party
- one AGM, social and chapbook launch

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 335 people (last year's number was 180), not counting instructors. Of these, 161 have been active participants (last year's number was 124). While this year's number well exceeds the size of the entire Coop membership, we know there have been more than a few repeat participants (17 members, in fact, took part in four or more activities), and that not everyone who took part is a Coop member (at least 40). Overall, 86 Coop members, or about 60%, took part in at least one activity (up from 52% last year). 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 (though Jo Oliver's name does pop up quite often). So, thanks, everyone.

And a special thank-you to our dedicated instructors and presenters—Bob Calder, Art Norris, Jeff Smith, Candace Savage, Wes Funk, Bernice Friesen, John Barton—with a special note of appreciation to Barbara Klar, who bailed our fall class out at the last minute.

Thanks as well to all who have volunteered on the Coop's behalf this year, with a special thanks to Beth Matheson, who mails each month's Coop Scoop to members without email. And thanks to our helpful friends at the Saskatoon Public Library, the North Battleford Public Library, The Refinery, and Tastebuds Café (item added).

And last but not least, thanks to our members and friends, who give our programs such good and enthusiastic support.

The Coop Board

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>NUMBERS</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Mar. 27, 2008	AGM, program and social	41 present	At The Refinery Guest speaker Bob Calder MC Amy Jo Ehman
Mar. 30, 2008	Open mike (poetry theme)	8 present, 5 readers	At Jo Oliver's salon MC Jo Oliver
Apr. 24, 2008	Open mike	16 present, 9 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Apr. 26, 2008 (rescheduled)	One-day workshop: <i>From Stage to Page</i>	9 participants	At the U of S Instructor Art Norris
May 22, 2008	Open mike and season-end party	21 present, 8 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Sept. 11, 2008	Open mike	31 present, 10 readers	At the library MC Edda Ryan
Oct. 9, 2008	Open mike	21 present, 7 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Oct. 25, 2008	Half-day workshop: <i>Writers' Toolkit</i>	5 participants	At the U of S Facilitator Jeff Smith
Nov. 3 to Dec. 8, 2008	Fall class: poetry, <i>Revision Sessions</i>	19 participants	At. St. James Instructor Barbara Klar
Nov. 13, 2008	Open mike and discussion on writers' groups	21 present, 7 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Dec. 11, 2008	Open mike	20 present, 7 readers	At. the library MC Jo Oliver
Jan. 8, 2009	Open mike	39 present, 11 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Jan. 24, 2009	Half-day workshop: <i>The Passionate "I"</i>	17 registered, 14 participants	At St. James Instructor Candace Savage
Feb. 12, 2009	Open mike and self-publishing presentation	20 present, 7 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver Presenter Wes Funk
Feb. 16 to Apr. 6, 2009	Winter class: prose, <i>Fiction Freefall</i>	15 participants	At St. James Instructor Bernice Friesen
Feb. 19, 2009	Winter party: <i>Duelling poets</i>	30 present, 14 readers	At The Refinery MC John Barton
Mar. 12, 2009	Open mike	12 present, 5 readers	At the library MC Jim Weseen
Mar. 12, 2009	Open mike	31 present, 9 readers	At North Battleford MC Lloyd Deshaye
Mar. 26, 2009	AGM and social; Sisters' Ink launch		At St. James Guests Sisters' Ink MC Jim Weseen