



Progress Report 3  
May 2014

**Bloody Words XIII presents...**



**DANSE MACABRE:  
HISTORICAL MYSTERIES  
& THE DANCE OF DEATH**

June 6 - 8, 2014  
Toronto, ON

Guest of Honour: Vicki Delany  
International Guest of Honour: Michael Jecks  
M.C.: Melodie Campbell

## Read all about it!

- Oyez, oyez! (call-out to authors who haven't registered and want to be on a panel)
- BSP can't get easier than this...** (call for author bios and pix for the program book)
- ...Or this (sending promotional material for the Bloody Words book bags)
- Room at the inn...but not for much longer** (booking a room at the Hyatt ASAP)
- What's a mystery without a cat(walk)? (participating in our Friday night special event)
- Bloody Idol** (hear what a panel of publishing experts think of your ms's first page)
- Bring money...lots of it (our dealers room)
- See **Bloody Words run** (becoming an at-con volunteer)
- A taste of programming (online schedule info, and some of the planned programming)
- Other criminous misdeeds** (mystery-related events around the time of Bloody Words)
- Envoi (and reminder about dressing in costume for the banquet)

## Oyez, oyez!

If you're an author and want to be on a panel but you haven't registered yet, time, as they say, is of the essence. As you will read below, we've already decided on many of our panel topics and have assigned many of our registered authors. If you register in the next week, however, we can most likely (no promises, though) get you onto a panel. Visit <http://2014.bloodywords.com/register/> to register.

To everyone – readers, authors, and others – keep those registrations coming in. We have lots for you to see and hear at BW, and remember that, without readers, a book is just a heap of paper or electrons.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The deadline for mail-in registrations paid by cheque is May 30 to give us time to deposit the cheque. The deadline for online registrations paid by either Paypal or Interac e-transfer is June 3. You can register after June 3 – you can even register at the door – but unfortunately, we can't guarantee that there will be a dinner for you but we do charge the full registration fee.

## BSP can't get easier than this...

Authors, have you sent us your bio and a hi-res pic for the program book yet? If not, time's a-wastin'. Your bio should be 40 to 50 words *maximum*, and your pic should be at least 600 x 600 ppi. (If you are using a Mac, drag the icon into your message; please don't use Insert because the pic will embed itself in the message, which makes more work for me to retrieve it.) If you were at BW in 2012, we can use your bio and pic from the 2012 program book. Just let me know. Send your stuff to [publications@bloodywords.com](mailto:publications@bloodywords.com).

## ...Or this

Another way to reach your readers is through bookmarks, pens, little notepads, magnets, stuffed animals, etc., so send us 300 pieces of your promotional item to insert in our book bags. Do not send any sheets of regular paper because we'll probably consider those ads and won't put them in the bags (but you can take out an ad in the program book <http://2014.bloodywords.com/advertising>; deadline for booking an ad is May 5 and for getting the camera-ready artwork to us is May 9).

Send your bumpf to *Karin Hill, 64 Shaver Ave. S., Toronto ON, M9B 3T5*. The deadline for receipt of the stuff is May 23.

**TWO CAVEATS:** (1) Make sure that the package doesn't require a signature, and (2) if you're sending stuff from the US, put "\$0 (promotional items)" on the customs declaration and don't send the package by UPS.

## Room at the inn...but not for much longer

Our discounted-price room block officially goes away on May 6 and even now, all the rooms allocated for Saturday are gone. We're currently working with the hotel to see if we can get rooms added to the block at the \$199 price (includes complimentary Wifi), but once again, you'd best book your room ASAP. If you can't get a room at the Bloody Words price, email me at [chair@bloodywords.com](mailto:chair@bloodywords.com) and I'll see what I can do for you.

Meanwhile, if you want to share a room, let us know and we'll put you in touch with other people who want to share.

## What's a mystery without a cat(walk)?

Authors, if you have a book that was/will be published *between December 2013 and the beginning of June 2014*, we're inviting you to sashay down the catwalk as part of Books with Legs, our fashionable book launch/Friday night special event. Send a brief description of your book and a hi-res image of the cover to [carsoles@rogers.com](mailto:carsoles@rogers.com). Deadline is May 9.

## Bloody Idol

Conventional publishing wisdom says that if you don't grab an agent or publisher with your first paragraph, don't quit your day job: Your manuscript won't sell. But is it true? *Bring the first page, double-spaced, of your manuscript to Bloody Words and drop it in a box at the registration desk (don't put your name on the page)*. A reader will read your page aloud until a majority of our panel of judges 'buzz' the story to a stop. They then discuss why they stopped it and what didn't – and did – work. A great exercise in story openings that will provide immediate valuable feedback to all the writers in the audience.

## Bring money...lots of it

We have some old friends – and new ones – in our dealers room this year:

- Scene of the Crime Books
- Sellers & Newell Second-Hand Books
- One More Story Games (online computer game developer)
- Galaxy Teas
- Jewel Ladies
- Serenade Jewels
- Crime Writers of Canada
- Horror Writers Association
- Sisters in Crime Toronto
- Humber School for Writers
- Bouchercon 2017
- And we're keeping our fingers crossed for a chocolatier.

## See Bloody Words run

Better yet, help Bloody Words run – become an on-site volunteer. We need people for the registration desk on Friday and Saturday. Plus we need timekeepers for the agent/editor pitches and for the programming sessions. If you didn't check the volunteer box on the registration form or otherwise volunteer, email [volunteers@bloodywords.com](mailto:volunteers@bloodywords.com) to offer your services.

After the programming schedule goes up on our Website in mid-May, you can decide what you want to do and when you're free.

## A taste of programming

The programming schedule will go online on the BW Website around the middle of May after we juggle with all the bits and pieces. If you are an author, your moderator will get in touch with you around the same time.

Here's some of the programming events we've almost finalized; the titles might be changed in the final schedule.

### Mystery Cafe

- *The Sage, the saint, and the sleuth* (ancient philosophy and “modern” sleuths)
- *EVEning the odds* (women sleuths as portrayed in historical and contemporary mysteries)
- *Law & order with swords & guns* (a cop is a cop, whether wearing a tunic and wielding a sword or wearing a uniform and packing a gun)

### Track 2: The books we know and love

- *That's not sick; that's funny* (humour panel)
- *Old sins cast long shadows* (past misdeeds and present crimes)
- *The evil that men do* (how authors deal with social evils that no one wants to hear about)
- *Romancing the reader* (romantic suspense)
- *Reinventing history* (how much can you tinker with history)
- *Are short stories the new black?* (the place of short stories post-Alice Munroe)
- First novel panel

### Track 1: Just the facts, ma'am

- *Bloody Idol* (a panel of experts evaluates manuscript first pages; audience participation)
- *Death and taxes and contracts, oh my!* (the business side of being an author)
- *I am Author, hear me roar* (author how-to covering public readings, interviews, and more)
- *CSI Toronto: Blood and guts* (what it's really like being a cop)
- *From rocks to Glocks* (weapons through the ages)
- *Blood, blood, glorious blood* (forensic hematology with a nod to Sherlock Holmes)
- Agents and editors panel

### Sunday morning workshops

- *Reality check* (from names to cussing, from technology to beliefs: accuracy in writing)(Sun)
- *Point of view and plotting* (two things you'd better get right in your book)(Sun)
- We're also working on a costumes through time presentation.

## Other criminous misdeeds...

### Crime Writers of Canada: Arthur Ellis Awards gala banquet

Celebrate the crème de la crème of Canadian crime writing at the Arthur Ellis awards gala banquet on Thursday, June 5, at the Arts & Letters Club, 14 Elm Street (just north of Dundas and west off Yonge). Reception at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$70 and can be ordered from Melodie Campbell [info@crimewriterscanada.com](mailto:info@crimewriterscanada.com). Deadline for ordering is May 27, but tickets are going very fast this year so you'd better decide soon.

### Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. (just north of Bloor St.): Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

The Toronto Reference Library has one of the world's foremost collections of library materials devoted to the life and work of Arthur Conan Doyle, with much of the collection being devoted to his most famous character, Sherlock Holmes. The collection is accessed through the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre on the 5th floor of the library; just look for the Victorian sitting room inside a spaceship inside a fishbowl.

The ACD Collection is housed in a room that aims for an old-fashioned ambiance, where people can browse the open shelves in a manner unusual in a special collection, but suited to a celebration of popular literature.

Library hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday (until the end of June) 1:30 - 5 p.m.

## **Envoi**

Five weeks and counting till the conference. I'm looking forward to see you all there and especially in seeing you costumed as your favourite character for the Saturday night banquet. (Yes, you can come to the dinner without dressing in costume, but perhaps you could find a hat.)

Attendees are welcome to bring a guest to the banquet. Individual banquet tickets are \$95 and can be ordered through [reg@bloodywords.com](mailto:reg@bloodywords.com).

