

Biography

I grew up in a family of seven children in the small town of Rossland in the BC interior, surrounded by the natural beauty which has always inspired me. I started writing when I was ten years old, to entertain myself while in hospital for two months recovering from ruptured appendix. Visualizing the mountain paths where I loved to hike helped pull me back from near-death.

We were a family of readers, our mother reading to us every day. Growing up in a large family was a lot of fun and a great privilege. One never had as much stuff as other kids, sometimes one got trampled, but one owned a wealth of human experience. The day-in-day-out observation of the same people year after year was valuable data for a writer. However, with five smart older brothers and a brilliant older sister, I learned to keep quiet unless I knew what I was talking about. Writing allowed me to take my time figuring out what I wanted to say and how to say it. By the time I was in my teens, I was a serious poet. Writing was my private space which I kept to myself. Consequently most of my writing from those years and throughout my adult life has been read by no one but myself. I envy those who are performers and garner public recognition for their creativity.

I excelled in my English classes in school and was awarded for being “head and shoulders above my classmates” in my writing skills. I won first prize in a J.M. Dent short story contest, senior division, when I was in grade ten. (I regret now that I was too shy to let my English teacher read my story.)

I graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA in English when I was twenty-one, and wrote a novel over the next three years. That novel lies in my private archives with most of my poetry and several short stories. Some of my poetry has been published in anthologies: “Journey to the Interior”, (ISBN 0-9692763-0-3) printed in Canada by Rocky Mountain Printers, Kimberly BC; “Bread and Bones, an anthology of Prose and Verse”, (ISBN 0-9682268-0-9) printed by Chthonic Press, Nelson BC; and Horsefly Literary Magazine, published in Nelson BC.

I have always felt it important to live life to the fullest so that I have something worth writing about. I have enjoyed working with children for many years in many different capacities and have always had a garden and pursued

outdoor sports. I felt inspired to write “Bucket Walkers” by the joy, mayhem, laughter and ingenuity of growing up in the country and the importance of family values in giving youth an inkling of what life was like for the “old folks” before their young lay slumped in plush bunting bags. Although the setting and times are hinged on reality, the events and characters of “Bucket Walkers” are totally imaginary.

“What made me finally publish?” you might wonder. Well, after ten year's effort on this book I pretty much had to wrap it up or likely have it posthumously discarded with other boxes of flotsam and jetsam.

I live in the rural West Kootenays with my husband of over fifty years. We enjoy our two daughters and one granddaughter, extended family, gardening, traveling, outdoor sports, and participating in a vibrant community life.