

HEATHER RAMSAY

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EDUCATION

- 2017. M.F.A. Creative Writing (Fiction), University of British Columbia.
Susan Musgrave (supervisor), Kevin Chong, Maureen Medved (thesis committee)
- 2011. Wired Writing Program, Banff Centre for the Arts (Jacqueline Baker)
- 2007. Writing with Style, Banff Centre for the Arts, (Audrey Thomas)
- 2005. Humber College Writers Correspondence Program, (Paul Quarrington)
- 1992. B.A. in Communications, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- 2018 Open Season Non-fiction Award, Malahat Review (finalist)
- 2017 Penguin Random House/Hazlitt Award in Creative Writing
- 2016 Woodward Award, GSI Award
- 2010/07 Gwaii Trust Arts Grant
- 2005 Fraser Ellis Award
- 2003 Ma Murray Community Newspaper award

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My work focuses on explorations of history, place and belonging. I'm interested in both oral and written traditions and their relation to new media. My goal is to engage communities in local stories with local storytellers and expertise.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Gyaagang.ngaay: The Monumental Poles of Skidegate

Haida Gwaii Museum Press, 2012. A look at the continuum of monumental carving on Haida Gwaii with a focus on the poles in the community of Skidegate.

Gina 'Waadluxan Tluu: The Everything Canoe

Haida Gwaii Museum Press, 2010. *The Everything Canoe* offers insights from carvers, elders, artists and voices from the past on the great cedar canoes. From how supernaturals first gave the technology to the Haida, to how carvers find a tree that will eventually become an ocean-going vessel, the book describes how the canoe has influenced everything from food gathering and trade to the Haida language. Written and edited with Kwiaawah Jones.

Living Works Legacy

Living Works Education, Inc. 2013. This book, co-written with Richard Ramsay, explores the 30-year history of a suicide intervention training program developed by four volunteers in Calgary, Alberta. The program has reached over 1,000,000 people and in 2009 it was named one of Canada's Culture of Peace Gifts by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Writing About Your Place

June and Sept. 2018

Two day workshops about breathing life into writing about place held in Wells and Smithers, BC.

My Chilliwack: What it's like living here

March 2018

Developed and delivered full day writing workshop at the Chilliwack Museum.

Writing on the Edge

August 2017

Developed and delivered a one-hour creative writing workshop for the Edge of the World Music Festival and Skidegate Adult Day Program.

Teaching Assistant

Sept. to April 2017

Creative Writing for New Media 213, University of British Columbia

Developed and delivered lectures and assisted with marking, class logistics and administration.

Creative Writing Instructor

Jan. to April 2017

University Hill High School, Gr. 11

Designed and delivered creative writing lectures and facilitated peer workshops.

Mentor

2011

Queen Charlotte Secondary School

Mentored Gr. 12 student on writing and interviewing techniques for publication.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Promotions and Non-Personal Media Officer

Fort Langley National Historic Site

Jan. 2015 – Mar. 2016

Managed promotion campaigns via website, social media, print, television, radio and community outreach. Raised attendance by 14% at special events and programs in 2015. Engaged and collaborated with destination tourism marketing organizations, First Nations and other partners. Wrote, designed and distributed brochures and posters. Led the research, wrote and managed the creation of exhibits, interpretive signs, banners and other non-personal media products. Participated in a team-based management committee.

Public Relations and Communications Officer

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation

Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site

Nov. 2011 – Jan. 2015

Created and evaluated strategic communications campaigns that garnered unprecedented international, national, local, and regional media attention. Wrote and managed budgets for web, social media, photography, videography and publications. Recruited media and coordinated trips into remote areas. Trained and supervised summer students. Collaborated in a team environment.

Newsletter Editor

Various locations, 2010-2011

Researched and wrote stories, as well as managed the publication of stories for two community groups, Community Futures and Gwaii Trust.

Staff Reporter

Various Locations 1992 - 2011

Developed story ideas, made connections and wrote award-winning copy for the *Interior News* in Smithers, *The Yukon News* in Whitehorse and *The Observer* on Haida Gwaii.

Intern program manager

The GAIA Project, Smithers, BC 1998-2001

Implemented an international work experience program that placed youth with 10 overseas organizations. Developed and delivered training for youth interns. Managed the budget, fundraising, reporting, strategic planning, publicity, recruitment, training and travel. Created and publicized programs to inform Canadians of this other international work. Networked and liaised with a variety of organizations in Canada, Southeast Asia, South and Central America.

FESTIVAL, READINGS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

YYC-Pop Portraits of People, Calgary	April 2020
Listen, Write, Now (organizer/reader), Chilliwack	Feb 2018 - Jan 2019
Locution, Cottage Bistro, Vancouver	March and Oct 2017
Summer residency, U.B.C., Vancouver,	July 2016
With Susan Musgrave, Masset	February 2012
Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff, Alberta	October 2010
Artists of the New Moon, (organizer) Queen Charlotte, BC	July 2009
TEXTured, (organizer/reader) Skidegate	March 2008/9/10
Divas Night Out, Queen Charlotte, BC	November 2007
Listen Write Now (organizer/reader) Queen Charlotte, BC	November 2007
Writing with Style, Banff Centre	September 2007
Queen Charlotte Islands Arts Council AGM	October 2005
Midsummer Festival, Smithers, BC	June 2000/1
Creekstones Book Launch, Smithers Art Gallery	2000
Mocambo Café in Victoria	2000

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 *The Malahat Review*: “The Invitation” (Summer)
Raspberry Magazine: “Sumas: The once and forgotten lake” (Fall)
- 2018 *carteblanche*: “Easy” (Fall)
The Malahat Review: “The Invitation” (Summer)
The Antigoniash Review: “Progress”
- 2017 *Numero Cinq*: “What it’s like living here” (July)
Raspberry Magazine: “Welcome to where you live” (June)
Montecristo Magazine: “The Tireless Runner” (April)
The Tyee: “Art and Decolonization: This is My Activism” (Jan. 30)
- 2016 *Prism International* “Now that You Know” (December)
The Tyee: “Now that You Know You Can’t Turn a Blind Eye” (Dec. 19)
The Tyee: “Hours left to Reverse attack on Fisheries Act (Nov. 24)
Maisonneuve: “The Coming Flood” (September)
Canada’s History: “Following in footsteps of fur traders” (August)
BC Business: “Here Comes the Rain” (July/August)
- 2014 *BirdWatch Canada & BC Nature* Magazines: “Making Islands Rat-free for Seabirds.” (Spring editions.)
Explore BC blog: “Spring in Gwaii Haanas” (April)
- 2013 *Living Works Legacy*, Living Works Education Inc. (June)
- 2012 *Gyaagang.ngaay: The Monumental Poles of Skidegate*, Haida Gwaii Museum Press
- 2011 *Canadian Geographic*: “How to Speak with Ravens” (December)
The Tyee: “A Hog of One’s Own” (December 27)
The Tyee: Bless our Little Pigdom (December 26)
The Tyee: “That Which Makes Us Haida” (November 3)
The Tyee: “Why Shave Your Nether Regions?” (August 17)
The Tyee: “The Everything Canoe” (July 4)
The Tyee: “Getting the Kids on the Land” (May 20)
The Tyee: “Totem Poles: Myth and Fact” (March 31)
- 2010 *The Tyee*: “Beyond Eden: A Musical Set on Haida Gwaii” (Jan. 15)
Gina ’Waadluxan Thuu: The Everything Canoe: Haida Gwaii Museum Press.
Vancouver Review: “The Pigdom” (Winter)
Room: “Dropped in the Desert” (July)
Canada’s History Magazine: “Cowboy School” (June)
- 2009 *Galleries West*: “BC Arts: A Cultural Cash Crunch” (December)
The Tyee: “The Haida Challenge: An Unofficial Account” (Oct. 26)

- The Tyee*: “Did you want your Milk Raw?” (September 11)
British Columbia Magazine: “Northern Groove” (June)
Heritage Walking Tour of Queen Charlotte: a booklet written by me and published by the Queen Charlotte Islands Visitor Centre.
- 2008 *The Tyee*: “Life without Ferries” (January 13)
BC Business: “Hey Big Spender” (December)
The Tyee: “Never Shoot a Stampede Queen” (December 22)
The Tyee: “First Nations Wary of Harper Majority” (Oct. 14)
The Tyee: “Is there a First Nations Vote?” (Oct. 9)
Galleries West: “Win, Place or Show” (August)
The Tyee: “Defusing Family Violence” (June 2008)
The Tyee: “Oil: A Slippery Concern for BC’s North Coast” (Mar 24)
Soar Magazine: “Hungry on Haida Gwaii” (January)
- 2007 *The Tyee*: “Turning the Corner on Suicide” (December 5)
The Tyee: “Exhibiting Conflicts” (Sept. 12)
Galleries West: “Meddling in the Museum” (August)
Soar Magazine: “Hungry on Haida Gwaii”
The Vancouver Sun: “A Day on Haida Gwaii”
The Tyee: “BC’s Risky Backroads” (July 4)
The Tyee: “Carbon Sinks on Haida Gwaii” (June 8)
The Tyee: “The Great Abalone Theft” (May 9)
The Tyee: “All Aboard the Vomit Comit” (April 13)
Galleries West: “Critical Space” (April)
The Tyee: “My Knotty Problem with Wood” (January 16)
- 2006 *The Tyee*: “Real Estate Boom Rolls North” (October 5)
BC Bookworld: “Do Glaciers Listen?” (April)
The Tyee: “Are Scallops Uslurping the Oyster?” (March 15)
The Tyee: “Can’t Slaughter Like You Used To” (Feb. 8)
- 2004 *SubTerrain*: “Not to be Missed” (March)
- 2002 *Pagitica in Toronto*: “Doing Nothing in Chiapas” (Vol. 2, No. 2)
- 2000 *Creekstones: Words and Images* (an anthology). “Doing Nothing in Chiapas” Creekstone Press, Smithers BC.