



BOOK RELEASE

Language Arts
ISBN-13 978-0-86492-547-3
\$16.95 CDN / \$12.95 US / 8.5 x 6 / 128 pp / pb
Pub Date: September 25, 2009

Breaking the Word Barrier: Stories of Adults Learning to Read **Edited by Marilyn Lerch and Angela Ranson**

In this compelling collection of first-person stories, adults who have made outstanding achievements in adult literacy are paired with writers to tell of their transition to reading. The narratives revolve around such poignant anecdotes as a single father learning to read so he can write a birthday message to his child, a mother reading to her children for the first time, and a youth inspired to continue his education by a mother who returned to school late in life.

The narratives also explore the impediments to literacy, from class and economics to the public education system and numerous hidden societal factors. Both inspiring and shocking, these accounts tell the story of the struggles of those left behind and their efforts to overcome numerous obstacles on the way to becoming literate in a culture that values only those who are.

These are people who have had the courage to overcome the barrier of words to break into a broader sense of themselves, to feel more empowered in the world. Courageous too is the very sharing of these stories, in which private moments are opened wide with the hope that others will take the same steps. Whether confronting a Canadian Tire store manager to ensure Christmas for a child, undiagnosed dyslexia, written tests for the military, or certification exams, these people are heroes.

The introduction is written by New Brunswick's Lieutenant Governor, Herménégilde Chiasson. Greg Cook, a Maritime biographer and poet, has written the afterword.

THE EDITORS

Marilyn Lerch grew up in industrial northwestern Indiana. Her poetry has appeared in journals in Canada and the US, and in three book-length volumes *Lambs & Llamas*, *Ewes & Me*; *Moon Loves Its Light*, and *Witness and Resist*. She is the president of the Writers' Federation of New Brunswick.

Angela Ranson of Moncton, New Brunswick, has taught high-school English and History in New Brunswick and also teaches creative writing for adults. She played a major role in bringing to fruition this ambitious pairing of writers and readers.

— more —

CONTRIBUTORS AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Afiena Kamminga, Sackville
Allan Sutherland, Miramichi
Beth Powning, Markhamville
Bev (Krista) Arbeau, Fredericton
Carol Knepper, Quispamsis
Cathy Simons, Dorchester
Dawn Watson, New Maryland
Dennis MacLeod, Peticodiac
Elaine Malley, Miramichi
Evelyn Butcher, Miramichi
James Mitton, Pansec Junction
Janet Hammock, Sackville
Jason Davis, Saint John
Joseph Wheaton, Upper Sackville
Judy Bowman, Miramichi
June Horsman, Moncton
Karen Lindsay, Moncton
Kathie Goggin, Fredericton
Laura Wells, Miramichi
Laurie Glenn Norris, Fredericton
Linda Hebert, Saint John
Marilyn Lerch, Sackville
Maurice Chamberlain, Bathurst
Myrtle Kennedy, Fredericton
Noeline Bridge, Moncton
Patricia Harding, Miramichi
Peter Sawyer, Moncton
Ralph Stevens, Moncton
Raymond Duguay, Stanley
Richard Doiron, Moncton
Richard Toth, Bathurst
Roger Fournier, Moncton
Teena Adams, Dorchester
Wendy Kitts, Moncton

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE CONTRIBUTORS OR TO ARRANGE FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:

MARILYN LERCH at mлерch@nbnet.nb.ca or call (506) 536-4245.

FOR REVIEW COPIES OR PUBLICATION EXCERPTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

SUSAN BAKER at sbaker@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377.

High-res book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.