

CURRICULUM VITAE

(abridged)

JAN DEGRASS

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PUBLISHING CREDITS:

2001-present Arts & Entertainment columnist for the *Coast Reporter*, Sechelt. B.C.

-Weekly feature articles plus events column.

-Also contribute travel and community articles to the newspaper.

2000-present Press release writer for various community organizations and businesses.

2007-present Arts feature contributor for *Coast Life* magazine.

1995-2001 Journalist, copywriter, columnist for the *Coast Independent* newspaper, Gibsons, B.C.

1983-present Freelance articles for numerous publications. A short list follows:

MAGAZINES: *Chatelaine, Canadian Living, Sunshine Coast Visitors' Guide, Room of One's Own, Wine Tidings, Enterprise.*

NEWSPAPERS: *Vancouver Sun, The Province, Globe and Mail (travel), North Shore News, Coast Reporter, Coast Independent, The Leader.*

1983-1990 Freelance article writer and staff writer (1984-1987) for Publications Department, B. C. Central Credit Union. Wrote feature articles for flagship magazine *Enterprise*. Also produced newsletters, annual reports, directory.

BOOKS: *Take Potluck! 101 Tasty, Simple Dishes for Your Potluck Party.* Self published. 2000. See www.potluckcookbook.com

Safe Haven-50 Years of Service - Gulf & Fraser Fishermen's Credit Union. 1988. History book commissioned by the credit union.

ANTHOLOGIES:

"Opening the Egg," *The Fed Anthology: Fiction & Poetry from the Federation of BC Writers*, ed. Susan Musgrave. 2003.

"Side Trip to the Hospital," *I Really Should Have Stayed Home*, ed. Roger Rapoport. 2001.

AWARDS:

- 2009 Semi Finalist: John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award national competition for fiction for a short story "Fool's Gold."
- 2008 Third place: national winner in the Better Newspapers Competition sponsored by the Canadian Community Newspapers Association for the category of Best Coverage of the Arts.
- 2004 B.C. Association of Travel Writers' award for a non fiction story about an arts retreat on the B.C. coast.
- 1998 Honourable Mention: Cecilia Lamont Award, White Rock, B.C. for short story "Cultural Modification."
- 1996 Second Place: "Loving in Leningrad" for the Periodical Writers' Association of Canada national competition.
- 1996 Short listed in the CBC's annual competition for a creative non fiction story, "Not Going to Sedona."
- 1994 Second place: "The Elusive Moose" for a B.C. publication, *Travel Tab*.
- 1988 First Place: National award for a business article that contributed to Canadian co-operative literature, "Influence, Not Power—Women Working Co-operatively."

EDITING:

- Editing background includes:
- Assistant editor position on the credit union publication *Enterprise*
- Studying Basic Editing and Substantive Editing at the Simon Fraser University Writing & Publishing Program
- Offering editing, coaching and manuscript critique for many writing clients
- Judging numerous local writing competitions--for the Sunshine Coast Writers' Forge and the Sechelt Library
- Learning editing principles through writing critique group sessions with Sechelt author and mentor Betty Keller

1999-present One-on-one manuscript editing with various clients.

- Provided long term editing assistance and advice (fiction and non-fiction) for nine writers (names and references available).
- Provided short term help and manuscript critique for seven writers (names and references available.)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- 2001-2006 Co-ordinated (with Carol Upton) a series of writing workshops delivered as the Sunshine Coast School of Writing.
- 2001-2004 Instructor for "Start Writing Now" class with the Community Schools program in Gibsons (with Carol Upton).
- 2003-2004 Sole instructor on "Facing Page One"--six-week and weekend workshops.
- 2002/2003 Creative writing instructor – Malibu Arts Retreat, Princess Louisa Inlet, B.C. A project of the Coast Cultural Alliance.
- 1995-present: Lead a monthly writing critique group in Gibsons, B.C. Encourage, facilitate, and present constructive criticism of participants' work.
- 1999/2000 Taught a bi-weekly writing critique group in my home.

- Trained in Adult Education through the Vancouver School Board. Taught "Creative Meatless Cooking" classes for many years at various night schools in Vancouver.

PRESENTATIONS:

- 2008 Keynote speaker for Gibsons Public Art Gallery's anniversary on the subject of "Stories about the Arts That You Won't Read in the Newspaper."
- 1999 Presentations for working artists and "Writing Effective Press Releases" for Coast Cultural Alliance arts training program.
- 1997 Seminar at Sunshine Coast Arts Centre: "Don't Quit Your Day Job" about the life of a freelance writer.
- 1992 Presentation to the Business & Professional Women's Club, "Writing for Your Readers, Writing for You."