

The New Quarterly celebrates 100 issues

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Twenty-five years after founding editor Harold Horwood published the first issue of Canadian literary magazine *The New Quarterly* (*TNQ*), the St. Jerome's University-based magazine will publish their 100th issue late this fall season.

A special project started in 1981 by Harold Horwood, a writer-in-residence at the University of Waterloo (UW) at the time, the publication called upon Canadian authors Farley Mowat and Edna Staebler for initial financial support and received \$1,000 from each writer. The magazine, which became a not-for-profit publication in 2003, produces four issues per year with the help of a dedicated group of volunteer proofreaders, editors and board of directors, all of whom are led by editor-in-chief Kim Jernigan and managing editor Rosalynn Tyo.

Jernigan has been with the publication since its second issue in the winter of 1982, when she volunteered to proofread while completing her master's degree in English at UW. After Horwood left the magazine a few issues later, Jernigan took over as editor.

Tyo began her tenure at the magazine as a co-op student for two consecutive summers. She later was hired as managing editor and has held this position for just over two years.

Through a combination of an open submission process and solicitation of favourite authors to write on specific themes, *TNQ* has received a strong reputation within the Canadian literary scene. "Every issue is part submission and part Kim," explained Tyo. For each issue the magazine receives a few hundred submissions of both fiction and poetry that the editorial staff collectively reads every three months.

After reading through the submissions, "if we have something truly helpful to pass on or something very encouraging, we will send comments [to the author]," said Tyo. "That's why we get so many submissions — we have more submitters than subscribers" but I think that if we help them get better, then they will submit better pieces in the future."

Tyo further explained that because the magazine receives so many submissions, a piece submitted this week will most likely not be published until the spring 2007 issue. "It can take even up to a year [for a piece to be published]," Tyo said. "It's just governed by space."

Although *TNQ*'s 100th issue has yet to be printed, Tyo is already hard at work on the magazine's winter publication, which will be a twinned issue with *Alternatives*, an environmental journal also based out of UW. *Alternatives'* issue, titled "Creative Communities," will hit newsstands in December 2006, while *TNQ*'s issue, called "Artists as Activists" will not be available until January 2007.

Tyo also provided a sneak preview into what features will lay between the covers of *TNQ*'s highly anticipated 25th anniversary issue.

The editorial team's original idea was to feature the public's 25 most loved Canadian writers. Readers, editors, friends and family were invited to select their top five living Canadian authors, from which the editors would compile the list. "However, the public could not agree, and so we ended up with 56 authors instead," explained Tyo.

These 56 writers were sent virtual interviews to answer for inclusion in the issue, but many authors went above and beyond this request and also sent the publication various memorabilia, such as old manuscripts, childhood photos and new pieces of poetry or fiction.

The 100th issue will also include a feature on local artist Isabella Stefanescu, with a full-colour replication of specific pages from her personal notebooks. Additionally there will be a feature on occasional verse, which is poetry that is written for a specific occasion.

This special issue will also be in full colour and is larger than regular issues of the publication; the 100th issue weighs in around 240 pages.

When asked about the main ways *TNQ* has changed in its 100 issues, long-time member of the publication, editor-in-chief Jernigan, articulated her thoughts: "I think we've become more ourselves and less concerned with what other magazines think. We take more chances now and we try new things, both of which only come with confidence and connections."

Jernigan also expressed her hopes that within the next 100 issues, the magazine will become "more financially viable and be able to employ more paid staff." Currently the only paid employee is Tyo, who is receiving a three-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Tyo is quick to note that while the magazine is not the oldest literary magazine in Canada, it is definitely one of the veterans, which is a hard status to achieve as many magazines of this genre flounder after a few years. Along with the support of many dedicated volunteers, including a recently founded board of directors, Tyo cites two key factors in how *TNQ* has remained a successful publication for so many years: St. Jerome's University in conjunction with UW, and Kim Jernigan.

Approximately five years ago, when the publication was undergoing a financial crisis and lost its office space at UW's writing centre in the PAS building, St. Jerome's University offered *TNQ* free office space.

"The free space from St. Jerome's is a huge help, as it helps us keep our overhead down," explained Tyo.

"The other largest factor is Kim. She is just really committed to Canadian literature," Tyo said.