

Mississauga Writers' Group Quarterly E-zine
Summer 2017



Write ON! Mississauga
The Canada Edition



Table of Contents

From the Editor	Elizabeth Banfalvi	p. 3
Canada	Kyle Climans	p. 4
Reminiscence of a Lovely Country	M. C. Williams	p. 6
“Why We Love Canada” EVENTS	Joseph A. Monachino	p. 8
The Most Beautiful Attraction, Niagara Falls	Sajeda Manzoor	p. 9
Canada 150	Vidya Vasant Gopaul	p. 11
Sharing a Discovery	Frances Frommer	p. 14
Canada and Our Survival Needs	Elizabeth Banfalvi	p. 15
The Feeling of Home	Denise Neuhaus	p. 18
Canada Day	Melika Ramkissoon	p. 20
Canada’s 150 Anniversary	Hunyah Irfan	p. 22
We Are the Mississauga Writers’ Group	_____	p. 23

From the Editor

Welcome to our newly named "Write ON! Mississauga" Summer e-zine. Sheila, one of our members, has graciously volunteered to do the layout for our e-zine.

So much has happened since our last edition and so much more is being planned. We have now completed our "Canada, our Home" anthology and it is at the printers and should be ready for our May meeting. We are having such wonderful comments on it already. We are being invited to different events through the libraries and Bread and Honey Festival. Our calendar is filling up. We had our first social meeting, attendance was over 42 that I counted. Our special guest Mayor Crombie attended and got to mingle with our members. Everyone enjoyed themselves, so we definitely will have to plan more. We have invited other writers' groups and will be traveling to other libraries in our "Road Show". We have now been invited to work with youth writers'

groups and more will come with this.

Our Workshops before our meeting becoming very popular - check out the agenda for newly added workshops. Our meeting is always well attended and we are waiting to be given another larger room soon. We have over 120 email addresses that I forward our agenda to. Random Acts of Poetry is becoming so popular and is also growing all the time. The atrium table is attracting a lot of attention. I have added brochures on different topics, inspirational sayings and oracle cards and Susan has been doing the On-The-Spot writing prompts.

So much is coming to us and our group is growing and developing. I have to tell you that the comments from our guests at our social meeting were how amazed they were with our group and how well attended and energetic we all were. I am very proud of our group and I thank you - all of you.

Elizabeth



Kyle Climans is a freelance writer, video editor, aspiring filmmaker and a *Free Lit Magazine* staff writer. He completed dozens of works in various formats, rewritten three independent screenplays and is venturing into the world of film. In University of Ottawa, Kyle completed his Bachelor of Arts in 2013 (majoring in English), and voluntarily wrote several film reviews and articles for the University's student body in both English and French speaking newspapers. He participated in an improvisation group and a 24-Hour Theatre Festival. In Algonquin College, he completed a 1-year postgraduate Scriptwriting program. Kyle joined *Mississauga Writers Group* and as their Social Media Coordinator set up and maintains their Twitter and Facebook pages. In 2016 MWG *Write On! Festival's AA play*, he co-wrote, directed, and co-starred.

Canada

While no place on this planet can be classified as perfect, I would say that there are a lot of things to love about Canada. Having been from one end of the country to the other, I would say that one of this country's great strengths is variety.

Variety is evident in the very landscape of Canada. From the ends of its three coasts, to the deepest parts of the interior, Canada has been blessed with an incredibly diverse amount of flora and fauna.

I have gone up into the Rocky Mountains to walk on one of Alberta's last glaciers. I've swam in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans,

and while I wouldn't consider much difference in the content of said oceans, the coastlines were wildly different. The east coast, regardless of which province you're in, is a picturesque image of a tempered landscape, dotted with beautiful little houses which reflect on the beauty which can be found in human architecture. Meanwhile, the west coast reflects more of the beauty in untampered wilderness. Vancouver Island's giant, old-growth trees are a wonder to behold, reminding us of a world which existed before humankind.

But variety in Canada is not just through its landscape, but through the ideal which it holds up.

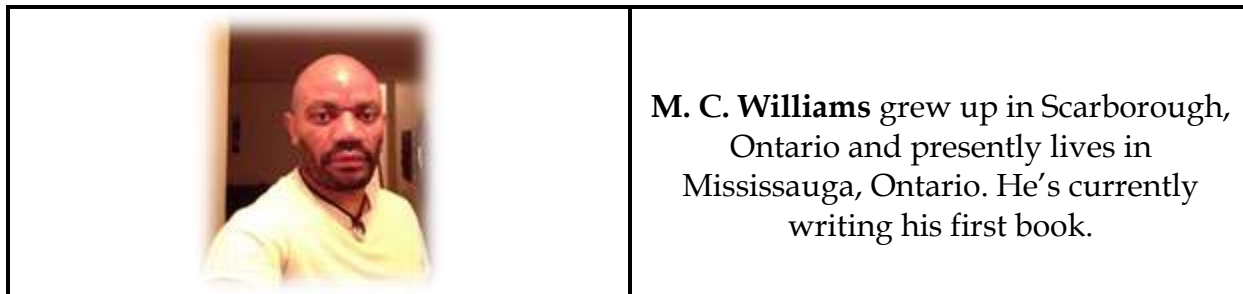
Admittedly, this ideal is carried out with a highly disputed degree of success. And I will be the first to say that Canada has a lot to work on regarding issues of race, culture, and recognition of different sexual orientation. And yet, with all that aside, we still hold up an ideal to follow, and for what it's worth, I think that it's an ideal that is worth pursuing.

That ideal is the idea of multiculturalism. A city such as Toronto or Vancouver boasts a population that is highly diverse in their background and culture. In a world where fanatics issue warnings against entire groups of people based on the actions of their

own extremists, it is crucial to see our fellow humans for whom they are.

Canada, for me, does more than many to welcome people of any creed, culture, or faith. The idea that we have not one, but two national languages acknowledges an entire group of people who would otherwise be discouraged from immigrating to Canada. However, we have a long way to go to achieve genuine equality and true multiculturalism. In times of narrowing viewpoints across the globe, and these tensions lead to violence, we must not lose sight of these goals which we claim to uphold.

© Kyle Climans 2017



Reminiscence of a Lovely Country

On the morning of May 30th Berezon Hems rented a car and headed out to Salmon Arm, British Columbia to visit a friend. He was meaning to take this trip in the past but he couldn't get any time off work until now, his work place gave him three weeks paid vacation. Berezon was pleased with his time off; he loaded the rental car with camp and fishing equipment and then began his journey out west.

Here he is out on the pier overlooking Shuswap Lake now two weeks into his vacation. Berezon sat on a lawn-chair holding a fishing rod with its line bobbing in the water waiting for a bite. Beside him on the pier he had a metal bucket filled with mud and worms and on the other side of his chair was a six pack of beer. He came to the lake to camp for the day; he was planning on heading back to his buddies place tomorrow morning. He loved it at

the lake with its plush green vegetation and series of beautiful trees: Douglas Fir, Dogwood, Garry Oak, Lodgepole Pine and Trembling Aspen all grew out there plus many more. As the sun rose to open a new day, its rays reflected off the lake giving it a silvery glow. Berezon sat there taking in the serenity and beauty of the surroundings.

This time of year in British Columbia most of the national parks were flooded with tourists. Shuswap Lake was different it was located in a remote area of the Rocky Mountains. It took Berezon a half an hour to drive up there from Salmon Arm, even when he got to the spot where the dirt road ended he still had to hike for twenty minutes to get to the lake. It was a nice hike along a beaten path made by past hikers; the path snaked through dense bush (fern, blackberry shrub and lavender

whose leaves were dappled in sunlight).

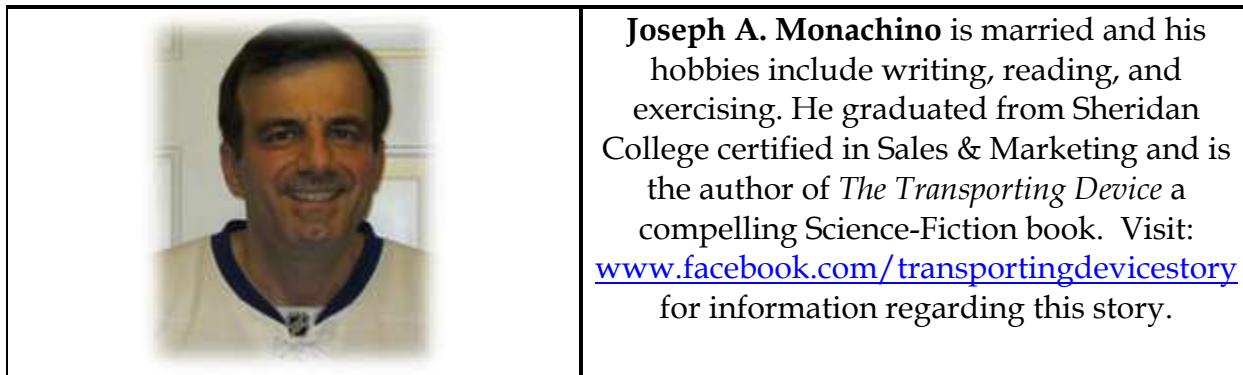
Berezon sat there reminiscing about past experiences he had in British Columbia, like the time he and a couple friends went out to the Carmella Valley to see the giant Red Oaks and Sequoia trees. He remembers Zip-lining through the trees. It was the first time he ever tried Zip-lining; the trees in the valley were so big some of them had roads going through their trunks others twenty people can stand hand in hand around them. He smiled while he reminisced and the rays of the sun felt warm on his face.

He couldn't forget the time he spent a week in the Okanagan Valley. The inn that he stayed at was so neat it was built back in the 1800's. It was made of stone and the rooms all had real wood furniture. He went on tour with the local distillery and got to see how they made their hard cider; they even gave him a free six pack to take home. He liked the Okanagan with its rows and rows of blackberry bushes and the mountains in the backdrop surrounding the valley. It reminded him of the setting of a John Steinbeck novel.

Berezon opened one of his can of beers and took a swig. Still no bite he noticed as he took a look at his fishing line, the accomplishment of catching a fish didn't matter to Berezon, he just loved being out in nature. As the day grew older, Berezon noticed that the other side of the lake was crowded with campers.

Outdoor activities are a big thing in Canada, kayaking, fishing, camping and hiking are just some of the things you can do in this country. It really comes alive in the summertime here and it doesn't hurt that Canada has so much natural beauty. Berezon is from Guelph, Ontario; he's been all over Ontario and seen many national parks. He loves the Muskokas with its waterfront cottages and fresh air. If you were to ask anyone if Canada is a beautiful country Berezon would be the one to ask he's been all over Canada. From Victoria to Halifax this country is full of natural beauty, Vancouver with its mountains and Halifax with its historical structures and pristine water. Canada is beautiful from sea to shining sea.

Berezon smiled to himself at this thought.



“Why We Love Canada” EVENTS: Come one, Come All!

The Mississauga Writers Group is pleased to announce that we will be instrumental in promoting Canada’s 150th Birthday Celebration.

We have been invited to some city events to promote our group but also Canada’s sesquicentennial birthday. We will encourage attendees to write the reasons they love Canada on a piece of paper and then we will tape it on a board or window for everyone to see.

The “Why We Love Canada” Events will take place as follows:

- ❖ Carassauga: May 27th, 1-10 p.m. and May 28th 1-7 p.m., Hershey Sports Zone Kids Zone

- ❖ Spring Literary Festival: June 3rd 11-4 p.m., Mississauga Central Library Atrium
- ❖ Bread and Honey Festival: June 4th 10-6 p.m., Memorial Park, Vic Johnston Community Centre, Streetsville
- ❖ Paint the Town Red: July 2nd, 1-6 p.m., Port Credit Memorial Park

We are always welcoming members to join our group. We meet once a month at the Central Library. These events are an opportunity to enjoy the festivities of each event as well as talking to group members about getting involved in a self-fulfilling endeavor on a continuous basis.

We are looking forward to seeing you at these events.

© Joseph A. Monachino 2017



Sajeda Manzoor, born in Karachi (Pakistan), is an Author, Early Childhood Educator. My writing is to portray basically love, beauty and art. I follow Haiku to define the theme I choose.

The Most Beautiful Attraction, Niagara Falls

The most beautiful falls in the world is Niagara Falls. It is the major attraction for Canadians and people visiting Canada.

It has an elevation of 614 feet and a collection of three water falls between Canada and United States basically Ontario and the State of New York. Since my childhood I used to read about it in books, magazines and watched it in movies, it was my dream to visit.

I always imagined the gigantic falls and I wished I could stand beside it and feel the mist, sight and beauty of it. Oh! My lovely Canada, what an amazing beauty lies inside you, you were my Dream - My Dream Niagara Falls, the huge area which connects two countries overall.

The day we landed in Canada I was anxious to visit it. The dream came true when we visited Niagara, on a long weekend. I was overwhelmed with joy and could not sleep the

night before the visit. We started early morning on a long weekend and the highway was crowded with traffic, so it took more than two hours to reach there. My eyes couldn't believe what a mesmerizing beauty it was.

It was much more beautiful than my imagination. It was end of the spring and the beautiful Daffodils were growing beside it. The azure and the charisma bewildered my eyes and my thoughts.

It was drizzling and the weather was a little cloudy, I enjoyed it with my family. The falls were huge and covered a vast area. One of the parts lies in our neighbouring country. The joy and pleasure made me walk and enjoy all the area. The water Falls were amazing and it was creating an enchanting beauty.

The Sun came out and as the sun was shining we could see a

rainbow. It was such a pleasure to feel the beauty of thy Lord. The first visit was the most exciting and my children did not want to come away from there. It was a fantastic experience. The beautiful flowers planted there were a great attraction for us. We had lots of fun. It was a great adventure for me the visit to Niagara.

*The vastness and the beauty of yours
oh! Niagara*

*Is an azure, it is a feel to refresh the
mind and thoughts*

*The rainbow seen there was a charisma
the creativity of*

*Thy Lord, the force of the water
creating the current was*

enlightening for the soul and the mind


Oh what a beauty beyond my thoughts

*The mesmerizing beauty I have never
seen in my life*

The natural beauty of Canada is unique.



© Sajeda Manzoor 2017

	<p style="text-align: center;">Vidya Vasant Gopaul</p> <p>I became aware of my writing ability when I was in college. I had to strenuously train myself how to write a two-hundred-page report for one of my projects. In university, I wrote numerous essays and articles in my philosophy, psychology and religious studies classes. I published my first novel <i>Race the Time</i>.</p>
---	--

Canada 150

I have dedicated this story to the birth of Canada as I had dedicated to the birth of my daughter, Jyoti. As an immigrant myself, you experience the same anticipation before you

come to Canada, the joy of staying in Canada and the fond memories you recollect after your successes - as you would experience before, during and after of the birth of your baby.

My Precious Angel

Before my precious angel, daughter, Jyoti, was born, I had asked God for the most beautiful gift to fill my castle. I prayed day and night deep from my heart and mind and finally my wish was granted on May 17, 1989.

At birth, Jyoti was just a tiny gorgeous flower with round nose, rosy cheeks and two tiny beady black eyes. The cry then and the laugh now had confiscated our hearts here and above in the sky. When her daddy held her in his arms for the first time, he was on the top of the world at that time. He

felt part of him became immortal. Happiness in his heart was so intense and gigantic that his eyes burst into joyful tears in the hospital.

Jyoti's tiny little fingers and toes wiggled at him for few times. While her eyes were staring at him, she as if was saying to him, "Daddy you wanted me, here I am and so you have no choice but to take care of me". Daddy warmly pressed her tiny, fragile body against his, and then looking into her eyes, he gladly said, "I shall take care of you till I die".

From thousand of names, Jyoti was chosen as her most appropriate name because it means eternal, spiritual flame. Looking back in time, I can say with certainty that

she is a lucky star born in our family because she had brought an inconceivable miracle in our sweet, sweet little home from her tiny, tiny little cradle.



My Precious Canada

Before I came to Canada I prayed day and night how could I immigrate to Canada that I love dearly. I prayed to every God that I think of and went to every religious place in my own country, Mauritius, and that included, church, temple, mosque and synagogue. Finally, my prayers were answered and my wish was granted on September 1975 when I landed in Toronto International Airport at about 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

Canada looked so gorgeous, beautiful and serene with its huge shiny buildings, complicated highways, breathtaking

landscapes and vast amount of water. All those things confiscated my heart here and above the sky. The joy and happiness were so titanic that I burst into tears because I felt that Canada had held me in its arm and as if it said to me " You poor soul! You made the right choice to land in Canada and Canada will take care of you till the end of time." At the time I felt I was immortal and nothing could stop me to making a better life here.

Looking back I can say that when I landed in Canada I was born again from the womb of Canada's vast resources. It gave me all types of opportunities to succeed in life. I

beautifully and successfully developed my mind, heart, and soul in Canada. I cultivated my mind by pursuing my degree in Electronic Engineering Technologist and Computer Sciences from the University of Toronto. My heart was secretly stolen by a Canadian woman whom I married and had beautiful kid and grandkids. My soul was enriched because I accepted the Baha'i Faith in Canada - a Faith that promotes unity in diversity, equality of man and woman, mandatory education for all among many other excellent teachings.

From thousand of countries I chose Canada because it was the most appropriate, beautiful and promising country for me because it means "village" or "settlement" from the St Lawrence Iroquoian word "kanata". And Canada is a village or settlement for me as it is for millions of other immigrants. Looking back, I can say that Canada is my lucky star country because it had brought to me and my family an inconceivable miracle in our sweet, sweet little home from its vast bosom of resources. Canada is precious to me and so is my daughter.

© Vidya Vasant Gopaul 2017



Frances Frommer is a retired Librarian and the author of *Surviving & thriving Solo: Options When You Live Alone*. She volunteers for the Bradley Museum of Mississauga where she is writing articles on First Nations peoples on topics such as their sweat lodges and medicine wheels.

Sharing a Discovery

I am a retired Librarian. One thing I loved about my job was connecting readers to books. Reading is an essential nourishment for writers. I have recently discovered an author whose writing is wondrous.

He is Richard Wagamese, a Native person who died on March 10, 2017. He was born on October 14, 1955 in Minaki, Ontario. He was taken from his parents (who were survivors of residential schools) and grew up in foster homes until he was adopted by a white family.

Wagamese worked as a reporter for several native newspapers, later becoming a radio and television broadcaster and *Calgary Herald* columnist, winning a Newspaper Award in 1990. Other

prizes include two Native American Press Association Awards, the 2011 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature, and the Canada Council for the Arts' 2013 Molson Prize.

His autobiography, *One Native Life*, is a revelation of what it was like being a Native person in Canada. *Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations* presents exquisite photographs of nature and his reflections on trust, stillness, reverence, perseverance, gratitude, harmony and joy. See also novels such as *Medicine Walk* and *Indian Horse* (finalist for CBC Canada Reads 2013).

You will discover gorgeous prose and learn a lot about our First Nations people. So, be prepared for an awesome adventure.

© Frances Frommer 2017



Elizabeth Banfalvi is the author of *Meditation* book series, and conducts workshops on stress relief naturally & meditation.

Canada and Our Survival Needs

We all have three intrinsic survival needs – whether a new born or a senior. What are they? They are:

1. Safe haven – to feel safe wherever we are.
2. Sustenance – air, water, and food but also what we feed ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually
3. Companionship or relationships

How does Canada sustain these needs? Well, we are one of safest countries in the world. We don't know war. We do know terrorists, murderers, all sorts of people live here but we feel safe enough within our borders knowing we will be cared for.

We are peacekeepers not war mongers. We have our soldiers who promote freedom and our Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We have all sorts of controls but we

invite people to come onto our shores where others think twice.

I lived in the complex where one of the 14 terrorists was captured several years ago. I saw them outside my home and I was in direct sight of the oldest terrorist's home. I saw the SWAT team there and heard them inside his home. At no time did I feel compromised.

As much as we are the neighbours of a country who have the need to carry guns, we are still not the same. Americans need to carry guns for protection – talk about a lack of feeling safe. They, in their own minds, feel they can bring peace by generating war. It amazes me how much money they spend making war and yet they have so many impoverished and imprisoned people. There is such a lack of the first survival need there.

The second need is sustenance. Canada has clean air and water and our land is spotted with so many bodies of water in an unending supply as long as we take care of our land. Food – the wheat fields of the Prairie Provinces; the fishing of the Atlantic Provinces and the fruits, vegetables, chicken, beef and pork of all the farmers in between. We have so many farms here large and small producing so many products serving so many. Farmers are now starting to grow medicines. We have to realize we have the Native Indians who gave this land a promise of being cared for and a spiritual sense. It hasn't always been easy but we are all here together.

Another sustaining need here is health and we have free available health care no matter where you go in Canada – it is our most common human element.

Mentally, we have a full range of libraries, books, materials, magazines which feature all the range of what we know to live our lifestyles. As much as some of the programming comes from the US, we still have a sense of humour about ourselves just watch Rick Mercer making fun of our politicians but with a sense of respect between them. “Sorry”,

“Excuse me” is our dialogue, eeehhh? We need to keep being our innocent self. We welcome other people who we know nothing about to be here and we accept. It is who we are.

Emotional needs are vital here. We have some of the most common love of sports and culture. We have an enormous amount of entertainment celebrities from writers, producers, directors, singers, actors and so forth. There is a freedom to live the life you only dream of. We still care about how people feel. Wish upon a star – go ahead, we have lots of them.

Spiritually – we are free to pray! That is what some children wrote on their submissions for our latest anthology, *Canada, our Home*. It says it all. Pray in whatever religion you want here in Canada. We will not take that away from you. Look around and see how many different churches, mosques and other buildings we have for the different religions.

We need to believe there is someone greater than we are and we do.

The third need is companionship and relationships. As much as we think we don't need anyone else to exist, we are kidding ourselves.

Every day we interact with so many people and we don't even think about that being a relationship but it is. Our relationships enhance us. From the sales clerks, waiters, taxi drivers, bankers, city workers, fellow employees, employers, government, our youth, family, friends, neighbours, sport figures, reporters, and on and on, we are so intertwined with so many others, it is immeasurable. We have pets and nature's animals which are companions.

A young high school student wrote a poem for our latest anthology and the line he wrote was "I was lonely and you (Canada) gave me company". In Canada, we talk to each other beyond saying "Excuse me". We feel safe enough to welcome people, help them and just be a neighbour. We don't know any other way and I hope we stay that way.

So Canada sustains all our survival needs in every way. It is the Canadian way.

© Elizabeth Banfalvi 2017



Denise Neuhaus is an avid fan of the written word. She writes short stories and inspirational poems. Her poems appear in a monthly newsletter called *The Beacon* which can be accessed on this website:

www.standrewsportcredit.ca. Life is busy with leading a Writer's Group in the Port Credit Library, singing in a choir and as soloist, and coordinating an active family schedule. "I was given such gifts for a reason and am thrilled to be using them to bring joy to all I meet".

The Feeling of Home



O Canada, of the bright lights and big cities,
 Home you are to me, a refuge in the growth and
 changes of life,
 I fly away but not for long
 For the sprawl of lighted homes and celestial bodies
 as I cruise in to land
 Brings a tear to my eyes and gladdens my heart.
 Your earth I lean to kiss
 With gratitude for your welcoming arms.
 I've grown to love your ever-changing seasons.
 The dusting of snowflakes, like diamonds, shine and
 sparkle,
 cherry blossoms and fruitful rain,
 falling majestic orange maple leaves and brilliant
 verdant green

Of meadows and farmlands ablaze with summer
dandelions
and floating wishes carried on a warm breeze
Cornfields to the far sight and wide horizons of
waving golden wheat
nodding hello to the sun.
Nowhere is there your equal, your essence,
In the beauty of the land, the peoples of the plains,
the four corners of the True North,
The feeling of... home.

*Happy 150th Birthday Canada! Thank you for more than
30 years of "Home" and for allowing me to share the heart
of YOU!*

© Denise Neuhaus 2017



Melika Ramkissoon is an emerging public relations professional, and a versatile writer. She has been writing poetry for more than fifteen years, with a focus on free verse, and more recently, haikus. Her background draws on international studies, public administration and corporate communications. Melika is an active member of IABC/Toronto.

Canada Day

Shafts of
ethereal light
illumine
our home and native land
in stately repose.

From the North's rugged, meditative echoes,
to the quiet, waterfall trickle of the West Coast,
and the epic roar of the Rocky Mountains;
From the hypnotic melody of farmers' fields on the
Prairies,
to the pulsing, staccato beat of the urban and rural in
the Central provinces,
and the graceful crescendos of ocean waves in the
Maritimes.

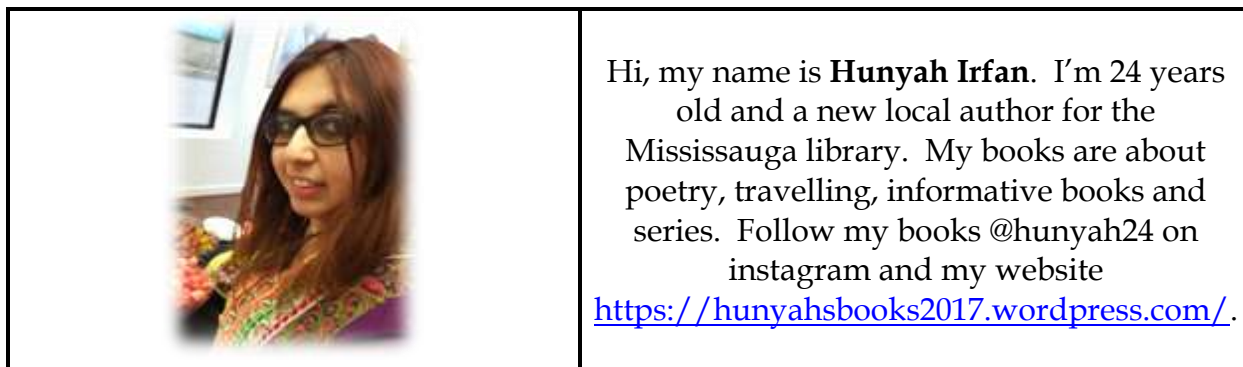
Hear the storyteller voices
of our shared past
as they
reverberate across
time and space:
Aboriginal and First Nations peoples, Settlers,

Immigrants, Innovators, and Soldiers.

Hear the storyteller voices
of our shared past
blend with the
activist voices
of the present:
global citizens of every
faith and religion.

Heed their call to action:
Wrap your heart
in the beloved
maple leaf.
Radiate Love, Inclusiveness, Peace, Freedom,
Generosity,
Ingenuity, Fearlessness, Tolerance, and Compassion.
Under a black, suede sky
fireworks explode, unleashing
sparkling, coloured, sunbursts
in unison, with a
subtle, nuanced patriotism.

© *Melika Ramkissoon* 2017



Canada's 150 Anniversary

Hi, my name is Hunyah and I'm a Mississauga local author.

I would like to share some places you can visit in Canada.

Canada has amazing landscapes and cities.

I recommend people go and visit Montreal and experience its amazing history.

Also visit Ottawa to experience the creation of this country. Vancouver's Rocky Mountains are

amazing .They start from Alberta and then extend to the east coast.

There is so much to see in Toronto and then the landscapes in Mississauga, City of Wassauga.

Northern Ontario is amazing. In the summer it is filled with green mountains seen across the lakes and feels like you're on the other side of the world.

I love the amazing cities in Canada and I'm proud to live in Canada.

© *Hunyah Irfan* 2017

We Are the Mississauga Writers' Group

We are a group of writers who have established this forum to share our experiences and pursue our dreams through creativity, knowledge and mutual respect. We want to learn from our strengths and talents and have enjoyable and stimulating conversations that only writers can relate to!

We would love to have writers from our community join us. All aspiring and established writers are most welcome. We believe we all have something special inside us. Come explore your talent with the Mississauga Writers Group!

Website - mississaugawritersgroup.com

Email - info@mississaugawritersgroup.com

