

Author Biography — Stephen Leacock Medal

Derek Peach was born in the village of Thistletown, Ontario in 1941, now a part of Greater Toronto. He attended a beer hall for first grade, the local legion hall forced into academic service while a new school was built to amalgamate the populations of one-room schools surrounding the village.

He graduated in the first class from Thistletown Collegiate and went on to Lakeshore Teachers College and a 45-year career in teaching from primary to university classes. Much of his working life was spent in high school classrooms of Saanich, BC, although he has also taught English classes in China, Australia and Tanzania.

His writing began after a move to the west coast and graduate studies at the University of Victoria. Although poetry remains his preferred genre, he has won awards also for his creative nonfiction and a travel journal co-authored with his wife, Beverly.

Academic publications as doctoral dissertation and articles in journals focused on the teaching of essay writing, but those from his travels have been much lighter fare as such titles as “One Room & a Penknife” or “The Great Laundry Lotto” suggest. Those travels have also inspired some of the livelier chapters in his memoir, The Peach Pit: My Side of the Story.

Derek is currently the vice-president of the Victoria Writers’ Society and creative nonfiction editor for their journal, Island Writer.

Partial Publications List

- (1997) The genrists are coming. English Quarterly. Fall 1997, 34-45
- (2001) *Congruency of values: A Study of the Perceived Writing Values Among Students, Teachers and Markers Involved in the Summative English Examination in British Columbia*. doctoral dissertation at University of Victoria.
- (2007) *Ice Wine*. self published poems. Victoria.
- (2008) Euthanize the Fish Farms. Lower Island News. Vol. 25(3), 12
- (2008) One Room & A Penknife. article. 2nd place North Shore Writers Association,
- (2008) Passport Passages. Peninsula Times. Vol. 4(3) March 2008, 10-13.
- (2008) *One Room & A Penknife*. self published travel memoir. Victoria.
- (2015) *In Lands of Long White Clouds*. self published travel memoir. Victoria.
- (2016) iHeaven.com. 1st place nonfiction article, North Shore Writers Association.
- (2018) *Time for a Truce in the War on Drugs*. self published poems. Victoria
- (2019) *The Beverly Poems*. self published poetry collection. Victoria.
- (2021) *The Peach Pit: My Side of the Story*. self published memoir. Victoria.

Retired from: School District #63 Saanich , BC (1999)
University of Victoria (2006)

Career Summary:

2008, 2010: volunteer teaching in Tanzania

2006 Apr-June: ESL teacher at Chiclayo, Peru

2002 – 2003: EFL tech. & staff coordinator, Guangxi U, China

1999 – 2006:instructor at University of Victoria

Feb.-May 1999: supervisor of student teacher interns for Uvic

1999 - 1965: English teacher (dep't. chair) Parkland High School

Royal Oak Middle School

Education: Ph.D. (Education) University of Victoria, 2001

M.Ed. University of Victoria, 1992

B.Ed. University of Victoria, 1970

Ongoing Interests: fly fishing with Haig Brown Flyfishers

amateur magician

writing: articles & poetry

advocacy; with MomsStopTheHarm
in time of opioid crisis