

# Lois Peterson

Author - Creative Writing Instructor - Storyteller

## A Newsletter

for students, teachers  
and librarians

No. 1 – June 2011



Author pic by Debbie Ohi

## News

It's the time of year when reading awards start to list their nominated books. And others announce recent winners. You don't have to be eligible to vote to enjoy these great books.

### BC Chocolate Lily Book Awards

<http://chocolatelilyawards.com/>

### Hackmatack Atlantic Children's Choice Book Award

[www.hackmatack.ca/](http://www.hackmatack.ca/)

### Manitoba Young Writers Choice Awards.

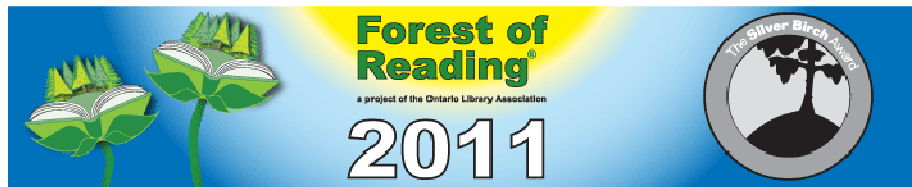
[www.myrc.ca/](http://www.myrc.ca/)

### OLA Forest of Reading

[www.accessola.com/forest2011/](http://www.accessola.com/forest2011/)

### BC Red Cedar Book Awards

[www.redcedaraward.ca/](http://www.redcedaraward.ca/)



## Hanging out with a forest of readers

Every year thousands of Ontario readers vote on their favourite books on the seven Forest of Reading lists. This year, my book *THE BALLAD OF KNUCKLES* McGRAW was nominated for the Silver Birch Express Award. I traveled to Toronto to participate in the awards festivities. What a party that was! And while I was there, I visited two schools in Pickering, and enjoyed the wonderful Durham Silver Birch Celebration.

This was a wonderful chance to meet hoards of keen readers, teachers and librarians, talk about my books, do a little storytelling, and sign hundreds of bookmarks, books, and event passports... and a few hats!

**A special thanks** to the students at Vaughan Willard Public School and EB Phin Public School, and librarians Mrs. Bakker and Mr. Hawley for making me so welcome. And hugs to all the students who listened, laughed, asked questions, told me about their own story ideas and bought copies of my books.



Silver Birch Express Awards (maybe you were there!) Storytelling at Vaughan Willard PS

## My books



## Coming next:

The Wrong Bus (Orca Echoes, Spring 2012); Paper House (Orca Young Reader, Spring 2012)

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## Events



The summer is a quiet time, so I don't have much planned. Other than staying home and writing – a lot – and working on-call at branches of the **Surrey Public Libraries**.

However, this is often the time when teachers start planning activities for their students next year.



### Contact me at

[loispeterson@hotmail.com](mailto:loispeterson@hotmail.com)  
to enquire about school visits, storytelling or literacy activities.

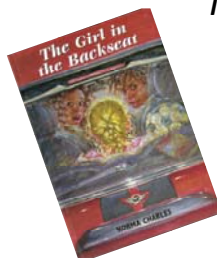
### Coming Up

◆ Presenting 'Ten Steps to Publication' at **Write on the Beach**, Sunday June 12 at Crescent Beach, Surrey.

*Details on this workshop for adults at the Federation of BC Writers website at [www.bcwriters.ca](http://www.bcwriters.ca).*

◆ Presentation during Surrey Libraries' **Grand Opening of its new main City Centre branch**.  
Sept. date tba.

## What I am Reading...



*I love to read as much as I love to write. Each issue I will tell you what I'm reading right now, and where to find more information about the book and its author.*

Right now I am spending a lot of time reading reference books about the Victorian era, and re-reading *Roughing it in the Bush* by Susannah Moodie.

And in my spare time I am enjoying *The Girl in the Backseat* by BC author **Norma Charles**. This wonderful story combines suspense with information about one of BC's most controversial communities, Bountiful. Another powerful novel about Bountiful (this one is for older readers) is *Sister Wife* by BC writer **Shelley Hrdlitschka**. Check your library shelves for these books. And to learn more about these authors and their work check their websites: <http://normacharles.ca> and [www.shelleyhrdlitschka.com/](http://www.shelleyhrdlitschka.com/)

## ... and Writing

*Here's where I will share a little about what I am working on.*

I am spending the next few months working with my editors at **Orca Book Publishers** on revisions to *The Wrong Bus* and *Paper House*, which both come out next spring.

I am also doing early research for a Young Adult historical novel called *The Rough Dress*. This will involve reading lots of books about London in Victorian times, and early settlers in Canada. I will also be reading books by other authors who write about this period. I write by hand in a notebook as I collect ideas, lists of books to read, websites to checkout and early drafts of characters and setting. Then, when I have a good handle on who I am writing about (the characters) and what is likely to happen in the story (the plot), I open a new file in my computer and start writing. That is always a very exciting moment!

And just for fun, when I need a change of pace, I'm playing with a picture book story idea called **Miss Prim and Proper and the Baby**.



## Writing Tips, Questions (and answers) and Contests

**To be eligible to win a signed copy of one of my books**, send me a short note about this first issue of my newsletter. Say what you like about it. What you don't like. What you would hope to see next time. Send me a question. The name of a book that you recommend to other readers. Information about an event coming up in your community...

Email me (or ask your parent or teacher to email me) at [loispeterson@hotmail.com](mailto:loispeterson@hotmail.com) with 'Newsletter contest' in the subject line **by Wednesday, June 15 for a chance to win.**

Include your name, (and age if you are a student – adults are also eligible) and tell me the title of the book you would like to receive if your name is picked.

**GOOD LUCK**

**I love to hear from readers, teachers, and librarians.**

Email me at [loispeterson@hotmail.com](mailto:loispeterson@hotmail.com) with your questions, comments and contest entries.

**Every letter writer will get a personal reply.**

And if I include your question in my newsletter, you will receive a signed copy of one of my books.

