

BART VAUTOUR

EDITORIAL (HALIFAX WRITES)

I SPENT MY CHILDHOOD AMID CONSTANT RENOVATION: there was usually at least one room in the series of renovated houses with the walls torn down to the studs or waiting for paint to conclude a durationally drawn-out project. The child of a shift-working nurse and a busy tradesman, it was clear that renovations were things accomplished in the off hours, between other things. Simple observation made clear that it was often difficult for my father to leave work tired and covered in construction dust only to arrive home to more work (and more dust), just as it was difficult for my mother to leave care work to arrive in a place of providing more care. Maybe there is a parallel with the compounded role of the editor who is also a writer... then again, maybe not.

One of the tricks of renovation is to find a house with “good bones.” Renovations, I’ve been told, are worth the time and effort if the house keeps its character, has survived the transient fashions of any given era, or if there haven’t already been too many reinventions of the space. *The Dalhousie Review*, I think, has good bones.

I’ve arrived as Editor in the journal’s one-hundred-and-fourth year alongside a new Managing Editor (the inimitable Stephanie Domet) and we have set to work at some minor renovations. We do so with the real hope that they meet the approval of editorial teams who have previously inhabited our new-to-us roles. Some new paint, some structural reinforcements, and a renewed hope for continued curb appeal: that’s the spirit of how we have arrived at a new literary home with good bones. We arrive able to do some renovation because others have taken good care.

But, we’re not only undertaking minor renovations: we’re extending too. We have expanded both of our Editorial Boards. Steeped in a Canadian context and wide-ranging writing communities, we have reached near and far to gather support for our Editorial Advisory Board: Cooper Lee Bombardier, Stephen Collis, Kit Dobson, Francesca Ekwuyasi, Marina Endicott, Shauntay Grant, Canisia Lubrin, Susan Kerslake, Alexander MacLeod, Hannah McGregor,

Vinh Nguyen, Sina Queyras, Kate Siklosi, Suzannah Showler, Johanna Skibsrud, and J.A. Wainwright have agreed to lend their advice and support to our renewed endeavor.

While also expanding in scope and reach, we have decided to stay closer to home — mostly within Atlantic Canada — with our Associate Editorial Board. Ryan Allan, Becca Babcock, Alyda Faber, Ben Gallagher, Asha Jeffers, Krista Kesselring, Alison LaSorda, Vanessa Lent, Geordie Miller, Meghan Nieman, Amanda Peters, Geneviève Robichaud, Eric Schmaltz, Ryan Turner, and Margo Wheaton have all agreed to help build *The Dalhousie Review* as an inviting space for our contributors to land.

We've also become more at home in Dalhousie's Department of English. We've switched the journal's life as a floating entity at Dalhousie to find a more permanent place. To match our new departmental commitments, we've added some genre-specific Associate Editors: Sue Goyette (Poetry), Heather Jessup (Fiction), and Erin Wunker (Non-Fiction) are all actively teaching in our English and Creative Writing programs. Our Associate Editors will be both vetting and soliciting for future issues.

We've also added a new, continuing feature to the journal: *The Dalhousie Review Questionnaire (the questionnaire about community and craft)*. For this inaugural iteration, we've asked our Managing Editor, Stephanie Domet, to complete the questionnaire and we'll continue for the next little while to ask board members to complete the questionnaire so that our readers can get to know us a bit better.

It was obvious to us that we wanted to begin our arrival by turning, first, to our close-by community. If nothing else, it is the community here in Halifax — situated in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq — that has provided the conditions out of which our own work emerges. We wanted to turn to the writers and readers close at hand. "Halifax Writes" is a collection of texts either about Halifax, by Haligonians, or with some other connection to Halifax. We think you'll enjoy hearing from both established and emerging writers and seeing the breadth of the literary work circulating in and around our city.