

The Purloined Newsletter



A CAPITAL CRIME WRITERS PUBLICATION

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Capital Crime Writers is an organization of writers and editors working in the mystery field, as well as readers who love the genre.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss writing and crime. Meetings are suspended in July and August for the summer.

Membership fees are:
\$30 per year,
\$15 corresponding.

Meetings are held in Room 156 at the Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Volume 22, Issue 10—June 2010

Next CCW meeting is June 2, 2010 — it's Pub Night!

The final meeting of the season will be held in the basement of the Clocktower Pub at 575 Bank Street in the Glebe (just south of the Queensway). There is a small parking lot and plenty of on-street parking.



Come for dinner anytime after 6:00.

Presentation of the Audrey Jessup Awards will take place around 7:00

All are welcome to do a reading during the evening! There will be a sign up list on arrival if you are interested. There will be readings by Arthur Ellis shortlisted authors, R.J. Harlick and C.B. Forrest, and the authors shortlisted for the Audrey Jessup Short Story contest: R.L. Brennan, Joe Italiano, Bill Newman, Maggie Taylor, and myself, Wynn Quon.

Hope to see you there,
Wynn Quon,
Program Committee

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“Everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

Sylvia Plath

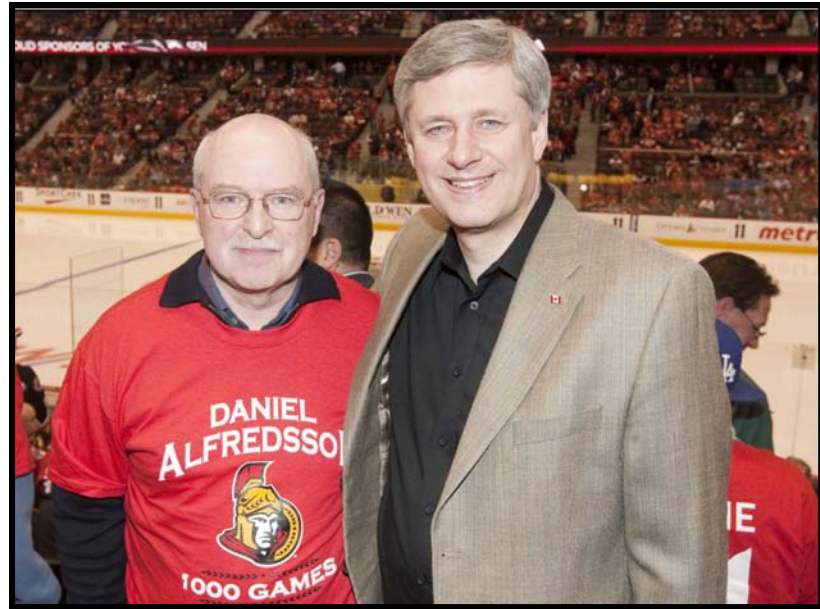
Message from the President - Ken Gibson

CCW's second Annual General Meeting was held prior to our regular monthly meeting on May 12. The meeting included reports from executive members and approval of some editorial changes to the by-laws. The slate of candidates for the 2010/11 executive was approved unanimously. Your new executive, which takes office July 1, 2010 is: Michael Murphy, President; Rachel Pitcher, Vice-President, Ken Gibson, Past-President; Katherine Hobbs, Communications Director, Wynn Quon, Program Director, Darlene Cole, Secretary/Membership Director, and Janet Claridge, Finance Director/Treasurer. In addition, Alex Brett and Tom Curran have agreed to serve on the Program Committee and Brenda Chapman has agreed to assist with communications.

The meeting was preceded by complimentary pizza and followed by a presentation on blood splatter by Sergeant Jim Killeen of the Ottawa Police. Sergeant Killeen's excellent presentation was detailed, graphic and thought provoking. What is fiction and entertainment for most of us, is a sobering reality for others.

We have also been informed by the Library and Archives Canada that they have approved the booking of our regular meeting room for our fall meetings. We are still awaiting approval of our 2011 dates.

Please remember that our season ending Pub Night will take place on June 2nd in the basement of the Clocktower Pub at 575 Bank Street in the Glebe. There is a small parking lot and plenty



CCW President Ken Gibson and his friend, Steve (The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada)

of on-street parking. Come for dinner anytime after 6:00. Presentation of the Audrey Jessup Awards will take place around 7:00. I am also pleased to announce that R.J. Harlick and C.B. Forrest will attend and read from their Ellis nominated novels. As usual, there will be an open mike for anyone who wants to read from their own work. We have added a new twist this year, and are asking everyone who attends to bring a new or gently used book written for the 8-14 age group. The books will be donated to the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club.

This will be my last message as President. I want to thank all of the members of the executive who have made it a fun and fulfilling job. I think we had a positive and productive year. I hope you think so, too. I am pleased to be handing the reins to Michael Murphy. CCW will be in good hands with Michael.

Summer is a great time to refresh the imagination and to plot the demise of annoying colleagues and acquaintances - on paper of course. Have a great one.

Ken Gibson

From the Editor, Katherine Hobbs



As Communications director for Capital Crime Writers a key mandate is to promote writers so they are recognized for the hard work they do, and that they benefit financially from doing it. It was my affiliation with CCW that led

to me becoming the chair for the 2009 Bloody Words National Mystery conference. Bringing that 3-day conference to Ottawa was not only a boon for the city's and local business coffers, but also for our Ottawa writers. They were featured in the Mystery Café which was open to the public. And the public came! We had to move to a bigger room at the Marriott, and every reading was packed. Thanks to a grant from Canada Council, all authors who read received a cheque. The conference was opened by the deputy mayor and featured in The Ottawa Citizen and CBC Radio, increasing exposure for authors.

Encouraged by the success of that conference, CCW hosted its 20th Anniversary event in conjunction with the Ottawa Public Library last November, proving the truth of "if you build it, they will come", the famous line from Field of Dreams. The public did come, in droves. Ottawa Centre MP Paul Dewar opened the day, and notables from media and arts-related businesses were on hand to do readings. We had panels of authors to entertain us. Best of all, we were able to pay the authors for their appearances and hard work that day. And, a remarkable number of books were sold. Reporters from the Centretown News were there and provided CCW with great coverage.

Author Tom Curran arranged for Toronto-based author Maureen Jennings to speak at Christmas. She accepted saying she knew "Ottawa is a hotbed of good writers". Getting Jennings was a boon for a CCW event with her incredible success with her Murdoch television series.

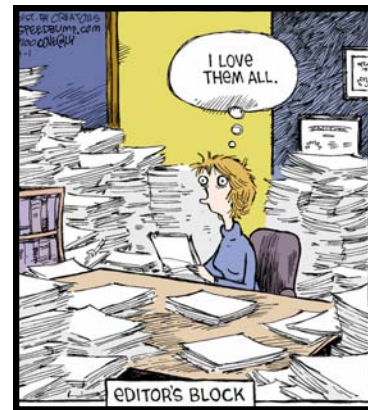
The community outreach liaison at the GCTC took note of CCW's accomplishments and contacted us to put on an event at the theatre. CCW jumped in and hosted "Write Night" in April which was comprised of a CCW-sponsored reception with the playwright, a performance of FACTS by Arthur Milner and a talk back session with him following

the play so we could ask detailed questions on the scriptwriting process.

To help further your career efforts I will send out communication bulletins to the membership (there are also media and other arts group on my list for these types of announcements) — so if you have a book launch, signing, or a press release like Don Dewar (on page 9), — whatever it is, please send it in to me at: newsletter@capitalcrimewriters.com

This year I started a biography project to place Ottawa writers on Wikipedia. I contacted other local and national writing groups in Ottawa to encourage them to take part as well, and was met with great response. I did this to ensure Ottawa writers are represented on this world-wide encyclopaedia because Wiki is the highest Google ROI you can get. And it's free. With all the award nominations and awards garnered by our prolific authors, we need to ensure the world knows Ottawa is on the map when it comes to talented writers.

The ten issues of The Purloined each year are another way of promoting writers and writing activities. It also provides a vehicle to share knowledge of the craft itself or of elements related to crime-writing. It's a tool for you to use for publishing credits. If you have a commentary or article, like Maggie Taylor and Bill Newman this month, if you have writing-related cartoons (I don't know where Paul Sadler finds them, but thanks!), if you have insights from a conference/workshop you want to share with us, or you want to take a crack at the meeting report, putting your unique spin on it... why not take the opportunity? Something to add to the resume...



CCW is working hard to promote you — and to do its part in making writing a viable career choice for all. A career that is not only personally fulfilling but financially rewarding. As you know, that takes work; a ton of marketing and promotion to get your book noticed and read. CCW is here to work together with you to promote your work and achieve these ends.

**See you on the 2nd of June at the ClockTower!
Katherine**

Advances in communication?

by Bill Newman

As writers we probably think we're good communicators, at least the written variety. I'm always open to new ways of communicating, so I took note when I recently received a request to join Twitter. For those who don't use it, it's a way of communicating on multifarious topics, sometimes with quite well known people. There's a catch, though: one is limited to sending "tweets" of no more than 140 characters, about 20-25 words including spaces and punctuation. I suppose this limitation says something about how much people have to say, or perhaps their attention span.

We've come a long way with written and verbal communications since we left behind our chimpanzee cousins. A thousand years ago, only a select few could write, and few bothered to read until the advent of the printing press.

Letters existed in the middle ages, but not the post office, so communicating one's thoughts long distance was tricky. Then, in the nineteenth century, Alexander Graham Bell came along with his phone and Marconi with his wireless device. They represented a quantum leap in the way we chatted to each other.

The telegraph and Marconi's invention marked the beginning of the email revolution. They both employed Morse code to send

telegrams that could be converted into text. For example, the one sent on April 15, 1912 - "Help, we're sinking," from the Titanic's wireless operator. This message was probably the first example of SPAM, as the closest recipient and possible saviour had turned on their SPAM filter by turning off their radio.

In my job at the late lamented Nortel company, I worked on the



Guglielmo Marconi, the man who ushered in the modern Wireless universe in which we all live.

development of the forerunner of today's cell phones. We used to amaze our fellow workers by wandering around the lab pulling these phones out of a shirt pocket, flipping them open and saying, "Beam me up Scottie." It's interesting that, while the cell phone was about two hundred years ahead of Captain Kirk's communicator, we still haven't invented a transporter.



Teenagers prefer to eschew the single most important feature of the cell phone (voice) by mainly using it to text their friends. Note that "text" has acquired verb status. Texting is worse than twittering (also a verb now) because messages are usually even shorter than twitter's. This shortness encourages abbreviated English sentences, like: "CU L8R."

I look forward to the day when I will find L8R in the Oxford English Dictionary, so that I can legitimately compose my emails more rapidly. I also look forward to the day texting is banned while driving. Technically, it is already, but the police don't realize teenagers can text

blind, with the cell phone in their pocket.

To further facilitate this antisocial car-texting behavior, I predict that a new version of cell phone will soon appear that has only two buttons. These buttons will be labelled "dot" and "dash" allowing messages to be sent in Morse code, a skill teenagers, I'm sure, will quickly learn.

An editorial on May's Meeting: Bloodstain Pattern Analysis

by Maggie Taylor

"Bloodstain Pattern" is a concept in my mind, transcribed onto paper. In a way still fiction, like the special effects seen on television, merely cinematic creations.

Specialists trained to analyse bloodstain patterns learn how to recreate them in the lab using such implements as a syringe. Re-creation. Almost real.

Then the slides of actual crime scenes. No longer fiction. Vital blood, spilled violently. Life taken. Reality. Raw and irreconcilable with fiction.

As a culture we have romanticized crime. A Murder Mystery must have at least one, preferably two bodies. Clues must be supplied, cleverly disguised and scattered throughout the text. Include plausible red herrings, dialogue, prose plot, subplot.

But I have seen her body, bludgeoned to death by a family member.

I have stared at the body of a man who turned a shotgun on himself, permanently ending his anguish. Shattered skull and brain tissue blasted throughout the room. The bullet embedded in the woodwork. Irretrievable. A metaphor for his life.

And how do I feel about the bloodstain pattern of the drug dealer? The one who survived the attack? The damn fool doesn't know enough to value his own life! Do I care? I must, or why would I bother to write about it?

It would be easy to write off criminals. Live with violence, die violently.

"Write off." But I still want to "Write of."

I want to create fictional characters, who live interesting, but fictional lives, where the mystery and loose ends are tied up satisfactorily and the criminals pay the price.

Sgt. Jim Killeen's slides of bloodstain patterns from actual crime scenes are real and very sobering. I am stunned by the images I saw. Four days have passed and still I struggle to make sense of, to process the acts of violence they represent.

So. What is a human being?

Each day we make countless decisions that weave the patterns of our lives. Our choices interweave with those of family, friends and strangers. Throw in genetic anomalies, substances consumed before and during pregnancy. We grow, are nurtured or not, experience life as fair or not. We make choices to ingest, imbibe, inject. Add human passions: love or hate, generosity or greed, compassion or non-empathy. Include a sense of right and wrong, or not. Then add a tipping point.

I end back at "acts of senseless violence" and "bloodstain patterns". Six days have passed since Sgt. Killeen's presentation. I am still drawn to write about the human condition in the genre of murder mysteries.

Does this dishonour those who have died violent deaths?

Is the writing of crime stories something that romanticizes and perpetuates violence?

Or are Murder Mysteries entertainment that allows both writer and reader to experience ambiguities resolved and justice served?

Maggie Taylor

An Opportunity for Women Writers

Jo-Ann Tremblay of Potentials Management seeks women writers to be interviewed for articles to be published in an e-zine with a focus on women 55 years old plus. This magazine has a broad, international readership.

Here is an opportunity for you to promote yourself and your books to a large and international market of women readers.

To take advantage of this opportunity, contact Jo-Ann Tremblay at:

jo-ann@potentialsmanagement.com

Letter From the Outgoing Treasurer, Rachel Pitcher



I'm so glad I agreed to do this. In the Fall of 2007 I decided to join CCW in hopes that it would help me with my writing and motivation. Well, joining CCW gave me much more than that. The programs, the people, the friends — and with the discovery of all our very own awesome authors this has been a learning experience and such a pleasure to be a part of.

It happened a couple of months after joining CCW and after faithfully attending all the meetings. Someone thought I might be a possible candidate for the treasurer position which had unexpectedly been vacated. So, while I was sitting quietly in my seat waiting for the meeting to start Brenda Chapman came up to me and said, "Hi, I'm Brenda. Would you like to be our new treasurer?" Well the conversation was a little longer than that but that's about the gist of it.

So I embarked on my CCW journey. Since then I've met so many people and have made a bunch of wonderful new friends. I also got involved in Bloody Words which I never would have done had I not known the people I was getting involved with were very dedicated and a joy to work with. That was worth the experience.

If you ever join an organization to meet new people and make friends the best way is to jump right in with both feet and be part of a committee. It's the fastest and easiest way to fit in and enjoy the rewards of doing something for others. I loved my time as treasurer and look forward to my term as Vice President. I want to thank all those who've helped and supported me during that period. It has been a delight.

Thank you all so very much,

Rachel Pitcher

Out damned spot, out: The May Meeting report on Bloodstain Analysis

by Janet Claridge

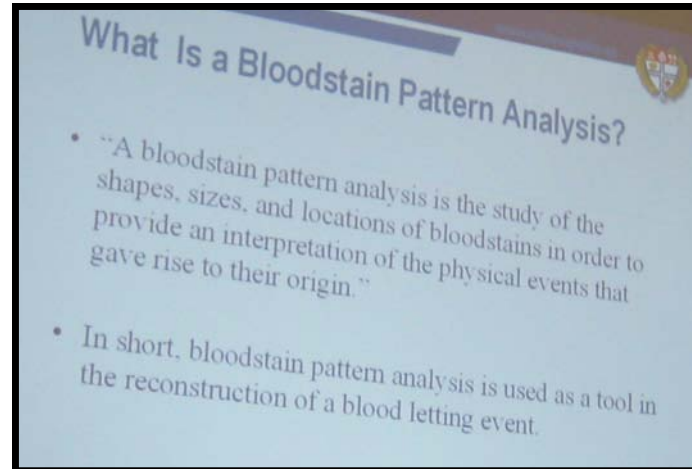
As we sat looking at picture after picture of blood-spattered homes, a question we had all been thinking but were afraid to ask came forward, "Who is responsible for the clean up of blood and brain fragments? Is the landlord?"

Sergeant Jim Killeen, Bloodstain Pattern Analyst from the Ottawa Police Services, then enlightened us. There are actual companies that are hired to do the clean up, once the

one to come to the scene of the crime.

In Ontario, the training to be a BPA specialists with the police force, consists of three courses: 1) Recognition course, 2) Mathematics and Physics Course, and 3) Advanced Bloodstain Analysis Course.

Throughout the training, the student is part of a mentorship pro-



stain patterns were presented as evidence.



Sergeant Jim Killeen, Bloodstain Pattern Analyst from the Ottawa police Services at the CCW May Meeting 2010

investigation is completed.

Okay, good to know. But my-oh-my that would be ghastly work.

Sergeant Killeen came to Capital Crime Writers meeting May 2010, to also enlighten us on the training, history, principals, and categories of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis or BPA. BPA is the study of shapes, sizes, and locations of blood, which provides interpretation of events.

The BPA specialist is the last

gram, where the student attends crime scenes with a certified analyst and will observe and then be observed. The final tests are a written exam and a mock trial, which is administrated by 3 certified analysts.

The analysis of bloodstains is as old as written record, with references in the Bible and by authors Shakespeare and Conan Doyle. The first case in Canada occurred in Gloucester in 1976, where blood-

Bloodstain analysis can help determine:

- Location of the original blow
- The type of impact that would create such a pattern
- The minimum number of blows that were struck
- The movement or direction of the person while shedding blood
- The position of the victim or object during bloodletting

- If an artery was breached

Once these are determined they should corroborate the statements by witnesses or the accused.

There are 4 basic principals of bloodstain analysis:

- Blood behaves according to laws of physics with regard to gravity and air resistance.
- The size of the blood is in

Out damned spot, out—The May Meeting Report on Bloodstain Analysis, cont'd by Janet Claridge

relationship to the force.
The stronger the force the
smaller the shape.

- The tail determines the direction of the blood.
- Bloodstain patterns are predictable and reproducible.

There are different categories of bloodstain patterns. There is passive blood staining where the blood drops according to the gravitational pull. There is transfer of bloodstains where wet blood is transferred from one object to another. Also there is projected bloodstain, when force is used.

On television shows, such as CSI and Dexter, we will witness the method of Stringing. However, Sergeant Killeen said physics and mathematics can also help determine areas of convergence and area of origin.

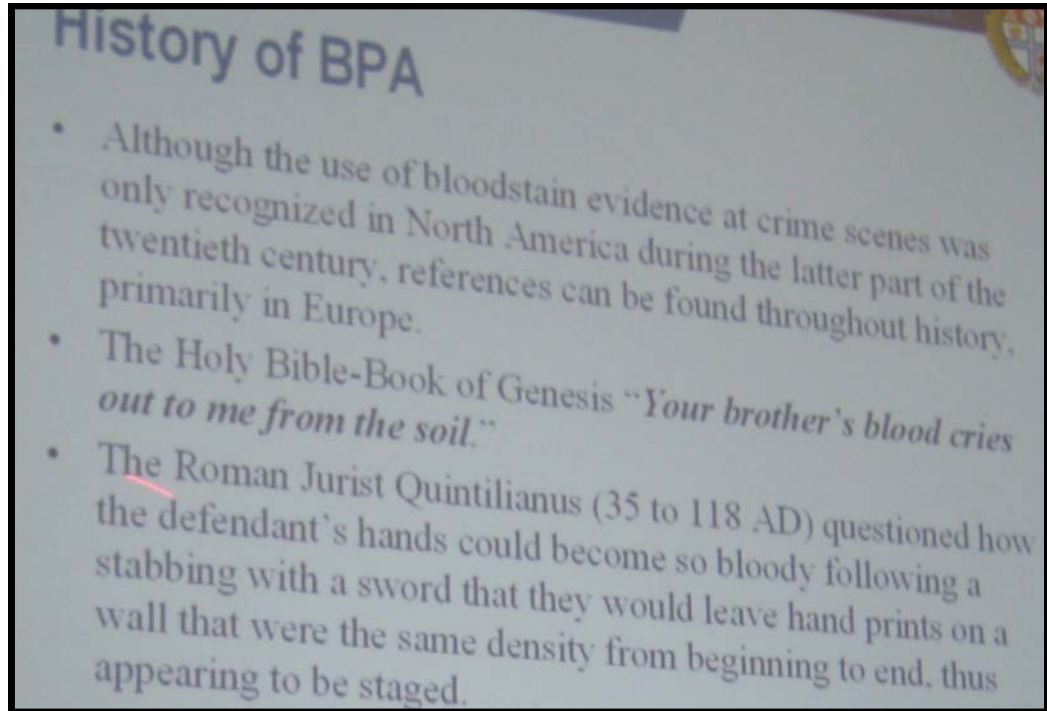
Sarg. Killeen provided the following websites for further information:

www.iabpa.org

swgstain.org

Sergeant Killeen also recommended the author, Steward McBride, as an example of realistic police banter and BPA.

We also learned a couple of other things. A little bit of blood can go along way, and bad guys do not get rid of their shoes. How bloody lucky is that for the specialists?



Above: The History of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis from a presentation by Sergeant Jim Killeen.

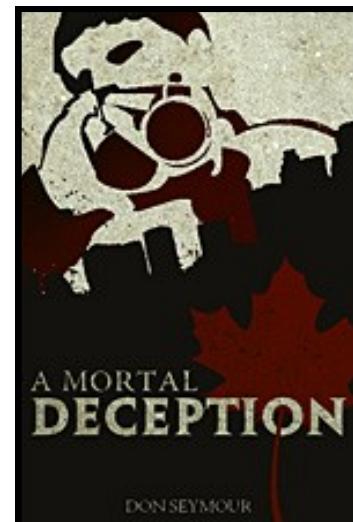
Bottom: Wynn Quon, CCW program committee thanking Sergeant Jim Killeen, May 12, 2010 at Library & Archives Canada

CCW Member Book Release—A Mortal Deception, by Don Seymour

CCW member Don Dewar has a scheduled book signing at **Read's Book Shop in Carleton Place on June 12**. The book is entitled "A Mortal Deception" by Don Seymour and is usually in the Mystery/Thriller section

The book is available locally as well as at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble as well as the Publisher, tatepublishing.com.

Following please see the press release issued by Tate Publishing.



Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Ontario Author Releases Riveting Fiction Thriller

ARNPRIOR, ON – This week, Ontario author Don Seymour celebrates the release of his new fiction thriller, "A Mortal Deception," the intriguing story of Canadian criminal mastermind Gary Watson, who is not accustomed to being had after years of defrauding governments, businesses, and his less-talented criminal counterparts.

Another successful heist seems in order in Georgia until gritty, street-smart Canadian civil servant Joe Crewman leads Watson to believe he may have finally met his match. Each man quickly realizes that this will be a whole new chess game, a battle of equals on opposite sides of the law.

Seymour reveals what happens as they match wits with each other and a world of bureaucrats, hungry criminals looking for the big-time, and backwoods vigilantes.

The plot is developed in two localized areas, Calhoun in Northern Georgia and the Peterborough region in Eastern Ontario. Local residents may speculate at crime scene locations.

Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book is available through bookstores nationwide, from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore, or by visiting barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.

Seymour was born and raised in an agricultural area of eastern Ontario. After graduating as a biochemical technologist, he began working in the finance industry in finance companies, banks, and eventually the federal government. His experience in this area and the characters he encountered has been a continual source for inspiration in his writing. He is currently retired, living in Arnprior, Ontario, and writing full time.

For more information, visit the author's website, seymourtales.tatepublishing.net. For promotional inquiries, please contact Jim Miller, Marketing Representative, at (888) 361-9473 or send an email to jim@tatepublishing.com.

STORY MASTERY Presented by Michael Hauge - A one day seminar for all storytellers

September 25, 2010 at Algonquin College, Ottawa

In collaboration with Algonquin College, Ottawa Romance Writers' Association is proud to host Story Mastery with Michael Hauge as part of their 25th Anniversary Celebrations. The seminar is open to the writing community at large.

Every writing platform and genre from novels, movies, television and theatre, tells a story. This seminar is a wonderful opportunity, whatever your experience or targeted audience, to improve your skills in the craft of storytelling and learn from one of the most respected experts in the field. STORY MASTERY is Michael Hauge's unique approach to creating compelling fiction and to eliciting emotion in your readers. Using clips from recent blockbuster love stories and romantic comedies, along with hands-on exercises, Michael will help you strengthen your story concept, plot structure, love story, character development and theme.

Early Bird Registration closes May 31, 2010 Early Bird registrants will have their names entered into a draw for a chance to win Michael Hauge's DVD "Writing Love Stories and Romantic Comedies". Only one name will be drawn. Early Bird Ticket Prices: ORWA members \$60, RWA members \$70, Others \$80

General registration opens June 1, 2010 and closes September 15, 2010 (or earlier once all tickets have been sold. General Registration Ticket Prices: ORWA members \$85, RWA members \$95, Others \$105 Please check ORWA's website at www.ottawaromancewriters.com for more details

www.capitalcrimewriters.com

ABOUT MICHAEL HAUGE...

MICHAEL HAUGE is a story and script consultant, author and lecturer who works with writers and filmmakers on their screenplays, novels, movies and television projects. He has coached writers, producers, stars and directors on projects for Will Smith, Julia Roberts, Jennifer Lopez, Kirsten Dunst, Charlize Theron and Morgan Freeman, as well as for every major studio and network.

Michael also works extensively with Hollywood executives, producers, agents and managers, helping them sharpen their story and development skills, and improving their companies' abilities to recognize powerful material, employ advanced principles of structure, character arc and theme, skilfully communicate a story's strengths and weaknesses, and work effectively with writers to achieve a commercially successful screenplay.

For more information about Michael Hauge visit his website at www.screenplaymastery.com

