

Curriculum Vitae (abridged)

Jan DeGrass

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Publishing Credits:

- 2016-2022 Editor of *Sunshine Coast Life* magazine, Sechelt, B.C.
- 2001-2018 Arts & Entertainment columnist for the *Coast Reporter*, Sechelt, B.C.
-Weekly feature articles plus events column.
-Also contributed travel and community articles to the newspaper.
- 2007-present Arts feature contributor for *Coast Life* magazine.
- 1995-2001 Journalist, columnist for the *Coast Independent* newspaper, Gibsons, B.C.
- 1983-present Freelance articles for numerous publications. A short list follows:

Magazines: *Chatelaine, Canadian Living, Just Business, Room of One's Own, Wine Tidings, Wordworks, Enterprise.*

Newspapers: *Vancouver Sun, The Province, Globe and Mail (travel), North Shore News, Coast Reporter, Coast Independent, The Leader.*

1983-1990 Freelance article writer and staff writer (1984-1987) for Publications Department, B.C. Central Credit Union. Wrote feature articles for flagship magazine *Enterprise*. Also produced newsletters, annual reports, directory.

Books: *Winter of Siege* (MW Books-Garden Bay) 2023. In the harsh winter of 1941/'42 a young woman desperately searches for her mother in the besieged city of Leningrad, Soviet Union.

The Co-op Revolution-Vancouver's Search for Food Alternatives (Caitlin Press) 2019. The story of CRS Workers' Co-op – leaders in a new wave of food co-operatives that blossomed in BC's activist years of the 1970s.

Jazz with Ella, (Libros Libertad) 2012. A novel of love and opportunism set in the Soviet Union of 1974. See www.jandegrass.com

Take Potluck! 101 Tasty, Simple Dishes for Your Potluck Party.
Self published. 2000.

Safe Haven-50 Years of Service - Gulf & Fraser Fishermen's Credit Union. 1988. History book commissioned by the credit union.

Anthologies:

- “Cultural Modification” (excerpt) in *Art & Words Anthology*. 2022.
 “Waltzing with Henrik” in *Beachcombers 50th Anniversary Contest Anthology*. Sunshine Coast Writers and Editors Society. 2022.
 “The Masked Intruders” in *Mob Hit on my Grandmother’s Dog*, Summit Studios. Stories in *Elemental - An Anthology* by the Gibson's Landing Writers. 2013.
 "Opening the Egg," *The Fed Anthology: Fiction & Poetry from the Federation of BC Writers*, ed. Susan Musgrave. 2003.
 "Side Trip to the Hospital," *I Really Should Have Stayed Home*, RDR Books.

Awards:

- 2022 *Sunshine Coast Life* magazine, edited by Jan DeGrass, received an award in the category of Special Publications at the BC & Yukon Community Newspaper Association Ma Murray Awards.
- 2014 Second place for a short story: "Sitting in a Dry Canyon When the World has Gone Awry" at Word on the Lake Writing Contest. Salmon Arm, B.C.
- 2013 Winner, Food & Drink Category for an article: "Toasting the Tuscan Kitchen" in Wandertales travel writing competition. U.S.-based travel organization.
- 2009 Semi Finalist: John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award national competition for fiction for a short story "Fool's Gold."
- 2008 Third place: national winner in the Better Newspapers Competition sponsored by the Canadian Community Newspapers Association for the category of Best Coverage of the Arts.
- 2004 B.C. Association of Travel Writers' award for a non-fiction story about an arts retreat on the B.C. coast.
- 1998 Honourable Mention: Cecilia Lamont Award, White Rock, B.C. for short story.
- 1996 Second Place: “Loving in Leningrad” for the Periodical Writers’ Association of Canada national competition.
- 1996 Short listed in the CBC's annual competition for a creative non-fiction story, "Not Going to Sedona."
- 1994 Second place: "The Elusive Moose" for a B.C. publication, *Travel Tab*.
- 1988 First Place: National award for a business article that contributed to Canadian co-operative literature, "Influence, Not Power—Women Working Co-operatively."

Editing:

- Certificates in Basic Editing and Substantive Editing at the Simon Fraser University Writing & Publishing Program
- Offering editing, coaching and manuscript critique for many writing clients
- Assistant editor position on the credit union publication *Enterprise*
- Judging numerous local writing competitions
- Learning editing principles through writing critique group sessions with author, editor and mentor Betty Keller

Editor: 2016 - 2022 *Sunshine Coast Life* magazine, Glacier Media.

1999-present One-on-one manuscript editing with various clients.

- Provided long term editing assistance and advice (fiction and non-fiction) for 14 writers (names and references available).
- Provided short term help and manuscript critique for many other writers.

Teaching Experience:

- B.A. University of Waterloo
- 2001-2006 Co-ordinated (with Carol Upton) a series of writing workshops delivered as the Sunshine Coast School of Writing.
- 2001-2004 Instructor for "Start Writing Now" class with the Community Schools program in Gibsons (with Carol Upton).
- 2003-2004 Sole instructor on "Facing Page One"—six-week and weekend workshops.
- 2002/2003 Creative writing instructor – Malibu Arts Retreat, Princess Louisa Inlet, B.C. A project of the Coast Cultural Alliance.
- 1995-2014: Led a monthly writing critique group in Gibsons, B.C. Encourage, facilitate, and present constructive criticism of participants' work.
- Trained in Adult Education through the Vancouver School Board. Taught "Creative Meatless Cooking" classes at various night schools in Vancouver.

Presentations:

- 2023 Numerous readings and book signings for *Winter of Siege*.
- 2019 Numerous readings and book signings for *The Co-op Revolution* on Sunshine Coast and in Vancouver. Including interview on Co-op Radio.
- 2017 Reading at the Sensuality Exhibition, One Flower One Leaf Gallery.
- 2016 Reading at the Literary Cabaret presentation organized by the Federation of BC Writers, Arts Centre, Sechelt.
- 2015 Joint reading with author Blair McDowell at Gibsons Public Art Gallery.
- 2014 Featured author at Wordstorm reading series, Nanaimo, B.C.
- 2013 Book launch: *Elemental, An Anthology* at Gibsons Public Art Gallery.
- 2013 Guest Lecturer: "The Way it Was Then." I was invited to give a lecture to the University of Waterloo's Russian Thought and Culture class. The subject was my book, *Jazz with Ella*, an account of my time in the Soviet Union as a Russian language student.
- 2012/2013 Readings to promote *Jazz with Ella* at Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, Sechelt; Swish, Gibsons; Renaissance Books, New Westminster; Coffee House, White Rock; Gumboot Café, Roberts Creek.
- 2008 Keynote speaker for Gibsons Public Art Gallery's anniversary - "Stories about the Arts That You Won't Read in the Newspaper."
- 1999 Presentations for working artists and "Writing Effective Press Releases" for Coast Cultural Alliance arts training program.
- 1997 Seminar at Sunshine Coast Arts Centre: "Don't Quit Your Day Job" about the life of a freelance writer.

Membership:

The Writers' Union of Canada
 Coastmasters Toastmasters, Gibsons
 Editors Canada (past member)

Federation of BC Writers (past member)
BC Association of Travel Writers (past member)