

# Edmonton Historian Laureate

Report to City Council

April 2014 to March 2015

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## Events

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### Speaking Engagements:

- Headliner for LitFest and Words on the Square
- Presenter at Canada's History Forum in Ottawa
- Book launch events across the country from Montreal to Yellowknife to Victoria
- Talks for Creative Mornings, Nerd Nites, and Girl Geek Dinners
- Spoke at opening of Frank Victor Burton Field
- Participated in Read-In Week in French and English, and at City Hall School
- Two professional development workshops for Fort Edmonton Park around decolonization strategies
- Spoke to public history and oral history classes at Grant MacEwan

### Emceeing:

- Interviewed Padma Viswanathan for St. Albert STARFest
- Edmonton Heritage Council Fall social event
- Mill Woods Artists Collective Glass Door Coffee House



## Attended:

- City Hall School Citizenship Fair
- Fort Edmonton Park opening day
- Edmonton Historical Board Plaques and Awards evening
- Governor General's History Awards ceremony and gala
- Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame Gala
- Alberta Railway Museum's open house



## Publications

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- *Polar Winds: A Century of Flying the North*, published by Dundurn in September 2014
- Articles on Edmonton's heritage and community for *Edmonton Journal*, *Avenue*, *Homes & Living* (Calgary and Victoria), *ACUA Vitae*, Edmonton City as Museum Project website, and Edmonton Heritage Council website

- Wrote children's book, *Aviation ABC's*, with local content

## Awards

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- Elsie MacGill Foundation's Northern Lights Award, Rising Star category



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November/December 2014 | WINGS 9

## Meetings

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- Edmonton Historical Board (x 4) and City Council luncheon
- Edmonton Heritage Council – AGM and board meeting
- Nii Koney, Nile Foundation
- Christina Hardies, Mill Woods Mythologies
- City Hall School planning meeting
- Gabryel Joseph about Citizenship Academy
- Westglen School History project reps
- EHC and EDHS reps about possible 2017 commemoration activities

## Training/Workshops

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- Stories of Survival about working with people affected by residential schools. Offered by Boyle Street and Bent Arrow through REACH



## Media & Social Media

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### Television

- Breakfast TV, Global, Shaw, and Radio-Canada

### Radio

- CBC (Edmonton, North), Radio-Canada, Edmonton This Week, CHED
- Weekly columnist for CBC Radio Active in Summer 2014 for "What's in a Name?" segment about area parks

## Publications

- *Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Sun, Edmonton Examiner, Whitehorse Star, Yukon News, Curb, Skies, COPA Flight, Afrika and Diaspora, Mill Woods Mosaic, Vancouver Sun, Vue Weekly, Northern Journal, Oak Bay News, Red Deer Express, Sherwood Park News, The Fitzhugh*

## Blogs

- *The Wanderer, Edmonton Notes, Kathryn's Report*

## Social Media

- Created Historian Laureate Facebook page
- Engage through my personal blog and Twitter account





## Projects in Progress

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### Speaking/Events:

- Hosting Heritage Forward! Panel
- Keynote for Edmonton and District Historical Society and local Air Cadets squadron's fundraising dinner
- Participating in Alberta Museums Association Future Coalition Summit
- Teaching course at U of A Faculty of Extension

### Publications:

- Editing anthology to be published by Brindle & Glass in Spring 2016, tentatively called *Unsettled: True Stories from Natives and Newcomers*
- Blog post for 49<sup>th</sup> Shelf's Talking History series
- Edmonton Heritage Council Partnership Demonstration multi-media project about Charles Camsell Hospital
- Historical novel drawing on real-life experience of Canadian female pilots for Air Transport Auxiliary, including Edmontonian Vera Dowling
- Column on the names behind significant places in the city for *Homes & Living (Edmonton)*

### Community Projects:

- Multi-media project based on recorded storytelling sessions through Creative Age Edmonton and the Multicultural Women's and Seniors Services Association
- Personal history project for local WWII veteran

### Meetings/Communications

- Ryan Kelly, Aboriginal Affairs



## Projects planned

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### Speaking/Events:

- Joint event with Edmonton Public Library Writer-in-Residence Liz Withey
- Talks for Canadian Club, Gyro Club, and Whyte Avenue Rotary Club of Edmonton
- Workshops for Creative Nonfiction Collective conference (Victoria)
- Panelist and coach for Words in 3D Conference
- Keynote for Strathcona County Writers Foundation conference
- Webinar for Canada's History Society
- Teaching writing course for Edmonton Lifelong Learner's Association

### Publications:

- Columns for Edmonton City as Museum Project website and *Homes & Living* (Edmonton and Calgary)
- Articles in development with Fort Edmonton Park about experiences of indigenous interpreters
- Book-length project on Camsell Hospital (grant application stage)
- Possible corporate history of local company

