

22nd MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Conference - 2013 artists' bios

CHARLES DE LINT immigrated to Canada from the Netherlands when he was four months old. He is known as a master of contemporary fantasy. His awards and honours include the 2005 ALA Best Book for Young Adults, the 2005 New York Public Library Best Book, the 2006 Ontario Library Association White Pine Award and the 2006 Ontario Library Association Honour Book. Charles has written 36 novels and 35 books of short fiction to date, writing for children, teens and adults. His most recent novel is "Under My Skin", the first in his new series *The Wildlings*. "The Cats of Tanglewood Forest", a novel for middle-grade readers, will be published in March 2013. He currently resides in Ottawa, Ontario. www.charlesdelint.com

JO RIOUX was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada. As a child, she read comics voraciously; first in her native French and later in English. Attending a high school for the arts was an early step in an artistic path which led to the illustration program at Sheridan College. After graduation, she was drawn to children's books, illustrating *Swordquest* and the graphic novel series *A Sam and Friends Mystery*. Her love for the comic medium spurred her to author her first graphic novel series *Cat's Cradle*. She lives in the lush suburbs of her home town, where, when not working at her drawing desk, she can be found nestled within a pile of books. www.joriox.com

FRIEDA WISHINSKY is the international award-winning author of over sixty trade and educational books. She writes in a variety of genres: picture books, novels and non-fiction. Her books have been translated into many languages and her picture book, *Please Louise!* won the 2008 Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award. She is the author of the popular *Canadian Flyer Adventures*. Frieda's newest books are *Explorers who made it ...or died trying*, *Halifax Explodes!* (book #17 in the *Canadian Flyer adventures*) and *What's up Bear?* Frieda loves sharing the writing process with students at all levels. www.friedawishinsky.com

LINDA GRANFIELD is the author of close to thirty non-fiction titles for young readers. Her books deal with such themes as immigration, slavery, politics and the First and Second World Wars. Linda has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2001 Vicky Metcalfe Award. All of her books have been selected by the Canadian Children's Book Centre for the Our Choice Award. Linda has read to audiences ranging from a few children in a small village to hundreds at the Canadian War Museum. Her latest title *Remembering John McCrae* was released in 2009. *The Road to Afghanistan* is to be published in 2013. Born in Massachusetts, she has been a Canadian citizen for 35 years. She lives in Toronto. www.lindagranfield.com

JENN KELLY is the lovely author of the *Jackson Jones: the Tale of a Boy...* books. She has almost won some writing awards, but then didn't. She failed English Lit at University and took up Forestry. Cause she's cool like that. She has learned to embrace her disorganized, creative self and persevered through many rejections and won. She believes in happy endings, ridiculous plots, and the whimsy of eccentric characters. She's a stay-at-home mama who pretends to clean while writing. She is currently finishing her YA dystopian/fantasy/thriller. www.jennkelly.com

ERIC WILSON is a successful writer of mystery stories for children. Eric's childhood was spent in the diverse regions of Canada as his family moved often to accompany his father, a career RCMP officer. This experience gave Eric a unique appreciation for the vastness and variety inherent in Canadian culture and geography, and was the inspiration for his highly popular *Tom and Liz Austen mystery series* for children. His mystery series takes readers to every Canadian province and to Nunavut. He was awarded the Arthur Ellis Award for Lifetime Achievement from The Crime Writers of Canada, voted Author of the Year by the Canadian Booksellers Association in 1992 and the 2002 Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his work in fostering Canadian literacy. Eric lives in Victoria B.C. www.ericwilson.com

JEREMY TANKARD was born in South Africa. He attended the Alberta College of Art and Design where he studied drawing and printmaking. He worked as a graphic designer and typesetter before becoming an illustrator. After a few years of commercial illustration, he went back to storytelling and began writing and illustrating his own books. His books are inspired by the stories all around him. *Grumpy Bird* was nominated for the 2008 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award, the 2008 CBA Libris Award, Children's Illustrator of the Year, the 2007 Blue Spruce Award and the Early Years Niagara Literary Award. He was short listed for the 2008 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award. Jeremy's most recent book is *Me Hungry* was published in 2010. Jeremy lives in Vancouver, B.C. www.jeremytankard.com

JANET WILSON is an author and artist whose non-fiction picture books *Our Earth: How Kids are Saving the Planet* and *One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists* have garnered International awards and acclaim. Her novel *Shannen and the Dream for a School* is the 2012-2013 First Nation Communities Read feature selection and a Silver Birch Selection short-listed nominee. She was recently writer-in-residence in Masset on Haida Gwaii, BC. Janet lives in Eden Mills, Ontario, a community with a strong environmental focus that includes an initiative to be the first village in North America to go carbon neutral. www.janetwilson.ca

