

From Inspiration to Publication - Panelists

Scott Fraser, President and Publisher of Dundurn Press, spent eight years in the Canadian Armed Forces, and most people who have known him for a long time agree that he's better at books than boot camp. Dundurn Press is a leading independent, inclusive publisher offering Canadian books (fiction, non-fiction adult and children/YA) from every corner of the country.

Shane Joseph is the owner and publisher of Blue Denim Press. He is committed to publishing quality literary prose with a focus on novels, short stories and selective non-fiction, as well as services for self-publishing, POD or ePub. Shane is also the author of five novels, including the award-winning dystopian novel *After the Flood*, and three collections of short stories.

Frances Peck, a Certified Professional Editor (Hon.), a partner in West Coast Editorial Associates, has worked on all kinds of material, from websites and brochures to reports and books, and on all kinds of subjects. Her courses at the University of British Columbia and Douglas College, and her popular private workshops, deal with broad topics, such as plain language and the finer points of grammar and usage.

Heather M. O'Connor makes her living as a writer through her freelance work and children's books. Her YA novel for Orca Books, *Betting Game*, will be followed in 2020 with *Too Fast Tyson*, a picture book with Scholastic Books. Heather also writes short stories, fantasy and historical fiction. She's been awarded grants, scholarships and residencies, most recently Halls Island Artist Residency in Haliburton County.

Ruth E. Walker's first submission won *Canadian Living* magazine's story contest in 1996. She hasn't looked back, having since won several more competitions and awards for her poetry, fiction and playwriting. A popular and skilled facilitator, Ruth is a partner with Gwynn Scheltema in [Writescape](#), offering writing retreats and workshops for writers at all levels. A professional writer and editor, Ruth writes in Oshawa and at her Drag River cottage in Haliburton.

Jim Poling Sr. is the author of nine books including *Tecumseh*, *Shooting Star*, *Crouching Panther*; *Waking Nanabijou: Uncovering a Secret Past* and a newly released version of *Tom Thomson: His Life and Death*. He is the retired general manager and editor of *The Canadian Press*. He writes a weekly column for *The Minden Times* and on social media and was named 2016 Columnist of the Year by the Ontario Community Newspaper Association. He splits his time between Barrie and Haliburton County.