
FOREWORD

With this fourth issue, *The Puritan* celebrates its status as Ottawa's only quarterly prose journal. The issue also brings to a firm close the journal's first full year of publication—and what an achievement this is!

Starting a brand new journal is a mammoth duty—financially demanding, time-consuming, physically and emotionally draining—especially for students. The editors of *The Puritan* are committed to careful and close readings of all submissions, regardless of whether or not they ultimately appear in the journal. This task is a daunting challenge, but one that needs to be done. Every published story profits from sound editorial advice, a process that engages each author in dialogue and discussion. And therein lies the essence of good writing: good rewriting.

Issue Number 4 marks the close of the year, and is also a sign of things to come. Look at the pages of the previous three issues, and notice how the journal has grown, both in how it looks, and how it reads. This issue of "Ottawa's Literary Prose Journal" features new work by writers both from Ottawa and abroad—from the East and West coasts of Canada to the deep south of the United States. It features familiar names, such as Paul A. Toth, as well as new and distinguished contributors, such as George Bowering and John Moss.

The Puritan is preparing to move into its second year of publication. As it continues to refine and re-imagine the prose it publishes, there is little doubt that the journal will blossom into one of the city's best.

Onward to another year of publication and promise.

David Staines

David Staines is a professor of English literature at the University of Ottawa. He is the author of several books including The Selected Letters of Stephen Leacock (2006), The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes (1990) and Beyond the Provinces: Literary Canada at Century's End (1995). He was a member of the jury for the Giller Prize in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 2003. He is also the general editor of McClelland & Stewart's New Canadian Library.