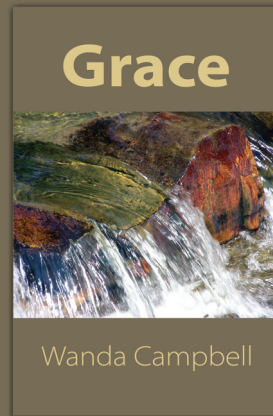


Wanda Campbell's early childhood years were spent in Andhra Pradesh, South India. After the age of ten, she grew up on Canadian land bordering sea. Wanda has a unique aesthetic gained from living among converses: east and west, English and Telegu, extreme poverty and exquisite beauty.

Without television, beginning with a big red book of fairy tales, Wanda journeyed deep into the world of words through books. Winter and Frost, two influential high-school teachers inspired her to write. Mrs. Winter took her to her first poetry reading. Alden Nowlan's work started her long apprenticeship in contemporary poetics. Mr. Frost took her art class to New York City to see great art masterpieces. Female artists; biblical stories and rhythms; literary classics; fine, faithful writers like Alistair MacLeod, Margaret Avison, Denise Levertov, T. S. Eliot and Flannery O'Connor; musical influences—particularly lyrics that read like poetry, using "the best words in the best order" (Coleridge's definition of poetry)—continue to shape her work.

She began writing early—letters, poems and little novels. When her own words were put into print, Wanda Campbell felt like a real writer.

## There is a strength in grace.



Cover: Rushing Calm  
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Marysville Falls



paperback  
ISBN 978-0-9739434-5-0  
\$19.05 CDN

August 2009

Order through the publisher:

**Blue Grama Publications Corp.**

403-320-5815 Lethbridge, AB CA  
Publisher@BlueGrama.ca

<http://BlueGrama.ca>



# Wanda Campbell

**902-585-1111**  
**Wolfville, NS CA**

**Wanda.Campbell@AcadiaU.ca**

# Wanda Campbell



Author photos by Sandy Campbell 2009

Cape Blomidon

## Writing History

### Edited:

- *Literature: A Pocket Anthology*, Penguin
- *Hidden Room: Early Canadian Women Poets*, Canadian Poetry Press
- *The Poetry of John Strachan*, Canadian Poetry Press

### Publications:

- *Grace* (Blue Grama Publications 2009)
- *Looking for Lucy* (Leaf 2008)
- *Haw [Thorn]* (Gaspereau 2003)
- *Sky Fishing* (Black Moss 1997)

Experiencing the present purely is being empty and hollow;  
you catch grace as a man fills his cup under a waterfall.

In turbulent times, there is a pressing need to find refuge. A world of word space in 101 “poems for the way”, is such a retreat. As Wanda turns her gaze toward spiritual images, her lyrical reflection mirrors a soft, gentle light. Grace is “still” poetry, a resting spot for everyman’s everyday’s journey. Falling upon the ear, words spring a joy and hope that reside in this pleasant place of solace, a haven named Grace. This collection is for all who limp towards the light.

Wanda Campbell has a depth and breadth of knowledge around poetry, art, Latin and things ancient and modern which is impressive. I love her oftentimes earthy style. Her work does NOT suffer from religiosity and stuffiness. There is a freshness here that I’m finding to be a most pleasant surprise.

~ Larry J. Fisk, Professor Emeritus of Political, Peace and Conflict Studies, Calgary, AB

I’ve been given so much. My words are part of what I give back.

~ Wanda Campbell, BGP interview 2007

~ Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*