

ABOUT THE CAROL SHIELDS WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE



Carol Shields wrote poems, short stories, novels and plays, inspiring literary dreamers around the world. She was known for her generosity, cultivating emerging writers, mentoring students and graciously assisting the writing community.

Created by her husband, Don Shields, The University of Winnipeg's Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence began in 2005 with a \$100,000.00 gift made by the Shields family, and continues today thanks to the support of those who loved Carol and value Canadian writing.

Our Writers-in-Residence read and respond to manuscripts, hold regular office hours in the Department of English, give an inaugural reading, and deliver the Annual Carol Shields Distinguished Lecture, while preserving time for their own creative work. The Residency provides invaluable time and experience to the Resident and the community alike.

The Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence runs for four months out of every year. It begins with an Inaugural Reading and ends with the Carol Shields Distinguished Lecture. Both events are free to the public and well attended. Each writer typically receives positive media attention and interacts with the community. Receptions and regular communication with "Friends" of the program (235 "Friends" and counting) fill the rest of the year, building recognition and anticipation for the upcoming residency.

The Program was designed to distribute \$10,000.00 a year, for approximately a decade, to support an annually selected writer. It has had excellent success in receiving matching grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and grant funding will likely continue into the future, should the University continue to have capital for matching. If it weren't for fund raising efforts and the support from Friends of the program, this would be the last year The University of Winnipeg would host a Writer-in-Residence.

From November 2012 to today, we have raised over \$35,000.00 of new support through mail solicitation, hosting receptions for the Friends of the Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence, writer workshops and through The University of Winnipeg Foundation's Student Call Centre efforts. Gifts big and small are continuously flowing in from Canada, internationally, and from writers themselves, including the acclaimed Margaret Atwood.

For more information check out The University of Winnipeg English Department website or contact **Cindy Doyle** at c.doyle@uwinnipeg.ca / 204-988-7509. Become a Friend of The University of Winnipeg Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence by making a gift online at donate.uwinnipeg.ca. Friends receive letters and updates from the UWinnipeg English Department, advance notice to readings and lectures and the unique opportunity to become a part of Carol's beautiful legacy.