



Quill
& Ink
SPRING
2017
SUMMER

Seasons of Change

THERE'S NOTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN WATCHING TREES GETTING DRESSED UP FOR SPRING AND SUMMER.
—Charmaine J. Forde

After a winter spent hunkered down with various creative projects; organizing, optimizing, and reorganizing; or cozied up in the kitchen experimenting with new stews and spicy dishes intended to warm house, body, and soul, we once again spread our arms wide to welcome the arrival of warmer weather and all that it harkens. It felt much like a New Year's celebration all over again, full of hope and inspiration and promises to make the most of the lengthened, warmer days—to plant gardens, perhaps, and gleefully observe the greening of the grasses and trees once again. We made lists of happy projects and adventures to embark upon and threw the windows open to let the fresh, clean, thawing aromas of the earth swirl all around us. From the cheerful home of ScriptAcuity Studio, we watched excitedly for the return of our adopted Canadian geese, whom we'd affectionately named Gerard and Giselle, cheering them on as they raised yet another adorable family of fuzzy little goslings.

And then there were many other changes—both personally and professionally—some of which came to fruition after many years, and some of which seemed to materialize almost overnight.

But as tumultuous and stressful as a handful of those changes have been at times, we're grateful for the opportunities to move forward into new realms and engage in exciting adventures. And while a number of those adventures are well under way, many are just beginning . . .

More about all of that in this issue! Read on!

—S&C—

In This Issue . . .

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Here are some ways to change up your seasons and do something different. **PAGE 2**

New Additions

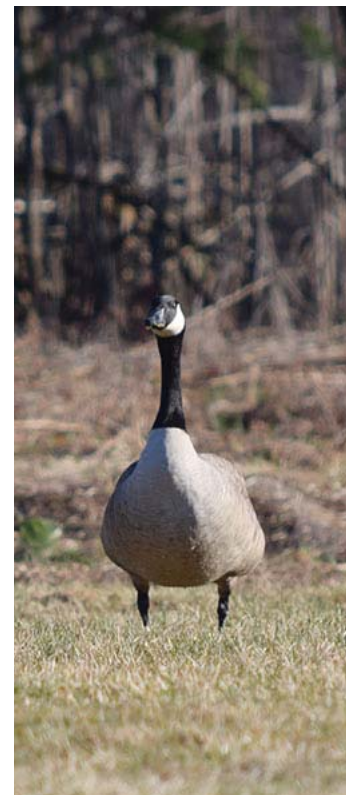
We've had some new additions. What could they be? **PAGE 2**

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Quill & Ink

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Quill & Ink (quill-ink.com) is written, photographed, designed, and published seasonally by ScriptAcuity Studio.

Behind the Name

The quill represents creativity and self-expression, in the written word and also beyond it. Because the inky octopus utilizes a wide variety of tools in the course of its day and is associated with such attributes as adaptability, flexibility, diversity, focus, intuition, and transformation—among others—it thus seemed a fitting symbol for ScriptAcuity Studio.

A little disclaimer: all thoughts, opinions, expressions, and comments are simply our perspectives.



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Seasonal Musings

The warmer seasons are a particularly motivating time of year. The very earth itself is bursting in a flurry of activity, and all its creatures are industriously busying themselves in the finding—or refinding—of mates, establishing homes, raising a new generation. Bees get to work. Frogs and birds sing their little hearts out. Trees and flowers are doing the same in their own way; those breath-holding, anticipatory moments just before the leaves unfurl and stretch themselves toward the sun are akin to listening to a drumroll ... like the moment just before someone blows out the candles on a birthday cake—so full of hope and promise.

Why does mild, comfortable weather inspire such a passion for activity? Perhaps it is the refreshing, revitalizing change of pace it provides. And if that is true, must we wait for it to feel motivated and inspired? Might there be a way to

create it independent of the calendar and of our planet's relative position around our sun?

Travel is regaled as an exceptional way to do this. Depending upon where you venture, you might experience a change of pace, culture, food, music, climate, architecture, language, and more. One of the fantastic things about where we have lived and worked for these many years—a small, quiet community that does not even boast a traffic light—is that we are very near to the fantastic city of Montreal, where we can experience all of this within an hour's drive.

But travel isn't a requirement to cultivate a shift in perspective and thus inspire motivation. Even just trying something new, something completely out of character, can be a catalyst. This can be as simple as running your errands at a different time of day or night, walking out-

side barefoot if it isn't something you usually do, taking an alternate route to a frequent destination, trying a new recipe, donning a color you normally wouldn't wear, reading about something that you generally wouldn't, watching a documentary about a topic you wouldn't have considered, listening to a different genre of music, going outside after dark to peer upward and search for constellations ... the point is to think of something you might not typically do and then give it a shot (within your moral and ethical framework, of course!).

Essentially, the idea is to create some sort of literal or proverbial change in scenery. Consider giving it a try! You might find yourself invigorated with the energy to tackle that project you've been thinking about or simply able to relax your mind and arrive at that epiphany you've been seeking. ▪

New Additions

It's been nearly two years since we lost Chloe, our little Maltese (we talked at length about what she meant to us in our Fall 2015 issue). We always felt that we'd welcome another little friend into our lives, but we didn't know when that would happen. While it took months to become accustomed to not having Chloe in the house—no toenails clicking across the tiles, concern about leaving her by herself for too long (she didn't gain any comfort knowing our rabbits, Isabean and Preston, were also in the house)—we also tried to do some things we weren't able to do while she was still with us. Such was the intent, anyway,

but the “freedom” people can feel by not having pets—Preston and Isabean don't demand the same level of attention as Chloe did and, arguably, don't even want it—didn't translate into us doing many spontaneous things.

Weeks and months passed, and then it was a year, and then nearly two. There were times when we looked at each other and wondered aloud whether, indeed, we ever would find another little friend to welcome into our home and hearts.

And then ...

We think a lot about serendipity when things like this happen: looking in a previously unknown place and discovering the unexpected. In this case, it was a humane society

an hour away sheltering a pair of six-year-old Maltese brothers searching hopefully for their forever home.

Introducing Murphy and Gili!



These sweet little boys have been with us now for four months, and we have all been having a great time getting to know one another. Wish us luck as we continue to learn and grow together as a fledgling family unit! ▪



Puzzles of English

While editing a manuscript recently, I encountered the intransitive verb *mosey* in a context indicating a hurried retreat. Though I thought, *That is the opposite of what that term means*, I nevertheless double-checked the definition in *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh edition.

To my surprise, I learned that *mosey*, in fact, means both *to hurry away* and *to move in a leisurely or aimless manner: saunter*, earning this term the title of an *auto-antonym*; such terms are also sometimes called *contranym*s or *antagonyms*.

Words like these are further classified as either *homographic*, in which those with identical spellings may have opposing or contradictory definitions; or *homophonic*, in which identically pronounced words can have opposing or contradictory definitions. And then of course, like our earlier-mentioned friend *mosey*, there are some that are both homographic and homophonic.

So, too, is the term *puzzle*, found in the title of this article, which can be a noun meaning *a problem* or a verb meaning *to solve a problem* (“to puzzle out”). In fact, there are dozens of such terms in the English

language, where usage and context influence definition, allowing for both confusion and clever phraseology.

We touched on this subject briefly in a blog article in September 2016, in which we wrote:

Noted in a recent magazine article¹ was the following side blurb: **“Four officials were suspended from their posts for allegedly mismanaging floods in China’s northern province of Hebei.”**

In reading the phrase *Four officials were suspended from their posts*, one might (correctly, in this case) interpret it to mean “Four officials were halted from returning to the jobs to which they were assigned” or some variation thereof, but might one—particularly one for whom English is not a native language—also understand it to mean “Four officials were dangled from their stanchions”?

The culpability for such potential confusion cannot be placed solely at the feet of our poor friends the

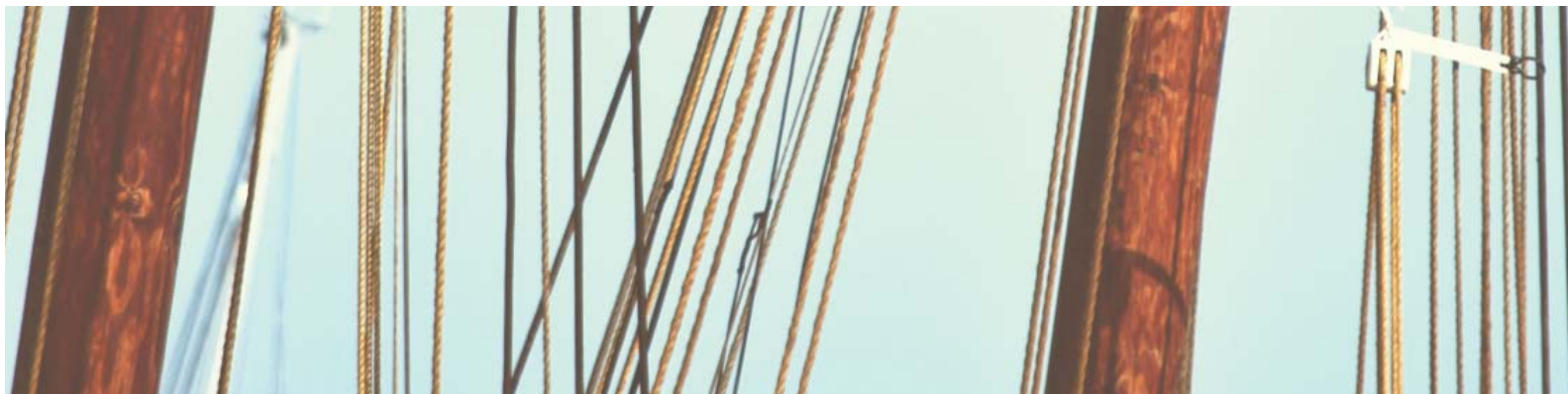
¹ “The World This Week: Politics,” *Economist*, July 30, 2016.

homonyms. Given the intricacies, subtleties, and complexities of language, it is little wonder that what a person often attempts to communicate to others is not necessarily interpreted as he or she intends by those on the receiving end. Such is a situation that occurs in all forms of communication—with sometimes hilarious or even tragic results—and it is certainly rampant in written communication, particularly with the still additional layer of complexities introduced by the vast universe of punctuation.

In that article, we further stated:

In our work, we assiduously focus on an author’s intent and try to assist him or her in selecting the most appropriate words to convey his or her message ... by working with writers to increase their work’s clarity, editors can help writers to present themselves and most accurately impart their message ...

The bottom line is that language is complex, and context is very important! Be creative and have fun with it! ■



The Big News: Here It Is!

After more than a decade of actively talking about it and after dreaming about it for even longer, the grand announcement to which we'd alluded earlier in this issue and in a previous *Quill & Ink* blog post is this: we have sold our home and most of our possessions and are embarking upon a new experiment in traveling to and living in places to which we have long been drawn and about which we have always been curious and intrigued ... writing and editing from wherever we are!

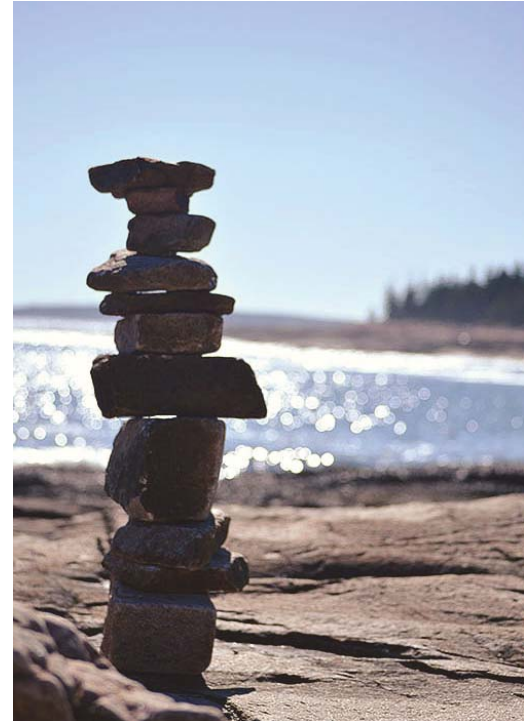
Parenthetically, this—along with a record-setting editing workload and acclimating and training our two new rescued dogs—has been the driving force behind this special combined-seasons issue of *Quill & Ink*. Planning for and orchestrating

the seemingly countless logistics involved with so dramatic a shift in lifestyle amid our ever-expanding editorial work required a bit of re-prioritization and creative organization of our resources.

Our first stop? As of now, all doors are open. Perhaps it will be somewhere by the sea in a small community; perhaps somewhere we wouldn't have expected. Who is to say? Exploring beautiful places and perhaps occasionally wintering in warmer climes as we live and work and further our creative pursuits are the goals. We suspect that our future destinations will reveal themselves to us in their own time.

To say we are excited and inspired is an understatement of comedic proportions. Stay tuned for updates

about where we are and what we're doing in future *Quill & Ink* publications. Have any recommendations for us? Let us know what you think. ■





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