

# Celebrating three authors from the Southwest at Write Out Loud

**By Megan Roth**

Write Out Loud, an literary event at the Lyric Theatre in Swift Current, is celebrating the unique talents of three authors from the Southwest.

Each of the three authors have very different writing styles and even more different topics.

Each author will do a reading from her book as well as have a short discussion with the audience.

Mitzi Tait-Zeller has lived in Swift Current all her life, and through her life she has found a passion and love for horses.

Her first book, "Hoof Print on My Heart" is more of a memoir. The main theme of the book is horses and family, according to Tait-Zeller.

"I had one reader tell me it was a love story, and I guess it is. It is my love story with horses," said Tait-Zeller.

Her second book is the first in a trilogy, "Rim-Fyre and the Stones of Time." This is an adventure book, with just a touch of science-fiction and takes place southwest Saskatchewan.



**Pat Stewart will read from her book "Not Just Words: Sexual Abuse and the Canadian Justice System" at the Write Out Loud event on Feb. 17.**

*Photo by Robert W. Harwood*

"Everyone has these fantasies of what could be, or thoughts of adventure that you never get to experience. This was my outlet for those thoughts," said Tait-Zeller.

Madonna Hamel, of Val Marie, is still working on her book, "Habit, Orders and Vows" but is excited to share her work.

The book studies the language of religion as

well as Hamel's own family history.

"The first Canadian nun was actually the first Canadian author as well. I really wanted to explore that and, my own family as well," Hamel said.

Every generation of her family has had a nun, up until her generation.

"It is telling the story of this nun, and the history of religion and of the

country," said Hamel.

She wanted to write about understanding religious words and how they look in today's world. She said the book looks at the depth and the power of the language.

"I had a hard time reading these books, because the language was so hard to decipher. I realized, for many people, that could be why religion doesn't appeal to them, because of the language surrounding it," she said.

Pat Stewart, also from Val Marie, tells the story of Wayne Porte, who is a survivor of sexual abuse as a child.

The book took 14 years to write as Stewart did all her interviews over the phone and, at the same time, tried to overturn a publication ban on Porte's trial against his accused.

"There were times I didn't think I could continue. I would think of Wayne, and all that he survived and continue on," Stewart said.

Stewart's book, "Not Just Words: Sexual Abuse and the Canadian Justice System" does not gloss over any of the harsh reality Porte went through as a child.

"Many books that detail these events gloss over what happened. I don't do that. I am quite blunt about the brutality of it," Stewart said.

Stewart does not make any money off the sale of her books, all proceeds go toward the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Center in Calgary. That was what Porte wanted,

to ensure the proceeds go towards helping children.

"I am not making any profit from this book and neither is Wayne," she said.

The three authors are excited and nervous to share their work with those in the Southwest.

Tait-Zeller is excited to meet other writers and more people from the Southwest, while ensuring everyone she is not done writing yet.

"My next plan is to start the second book for "Rim-Fyre." I already have the outline done," said Tait-Zeller.

Stewart believes that these events are important for authors, because it

gets their name out into the public.

"Without these we would be anonymous. No one would know who we are or about what we have to say," she said.

For Hamel she is excited to have a deadline, as she is still in the process of editing her book.

"It is essential for writers to have deadlines," said Hamel.

Write Out Loud is held at the Lyric Theatre in Swift Current. Doors open for the event at 6:30 p.m., with reading starting at 7 p.m.

Admission for the event is \$8.



**Madonna Hamel will read from her book "Habit, Orders and Vows" along with writers from the Southwest, Pat Stewart and Mitzi Tait-Zeller.**

*Photo by James Page*

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**Mitzi Tait-Zeller, from Swift Current, will read chapters from both her books "Hoof Print on My Heart" and "Rim-Fyre and the Stones of Time" at Write Out Loud at the Lyric Theatre in Swift Current. Admission is \$8 and the doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

*Photo contributed*