



A SELECTION OF STEPHEN GILL'S CULTURAL AND LITERARY ACTIVITIES IN CANADA AROUND THE SEAWAY AREA OF CORNWALL, ONTARIO, HIS HOME TOWN (1971- 1998)

* 1971-1973 : Chairman, the World Federalists of Canada Club at the University of Ottawa. Also, chairman of Education Committee of the Ottawa Branch of the World Federalists of Canada. Arranged several gatherings of students and professors on world peace;

*1972 : reads his poetry at cable 11 (*Standard-Freeholder*, Dec. 8,);

*1972 : spoke on Bangladesh to Optimist Club members at Towne Line Motel (*Standard-Freeholder*, June 15, 1972, p.9);

*1973: invites local writers to start a group to help one another (*Standard-Freeholder*, April 2, 1973, p.7);

*1973: elected as chairman of The Cornwall Writers Guild (*Standard-Freeholder*, April 12, 1973);

* 1973: arranges "India Evening" at Beach Hall of St. Paul's United Church on Sydney Street on the 6th of May 1973 to promote understanding among different ethnic groups. (*Standard-Freeholder*, May 7, 1973);

*1973 : plans to edit and publish an anthology of local poets. "The man responsible for creating the group (Cornwall Writers Guild) is Stephen Gill... After several false starts at trying to form a writers circle, he finally got the guild launched in March...." (*Standard-Freeholder*, June 29, 1973, p.9);

*1971-73, 1977-79 : Editor, the newspaper of the World Federalists of Canada;

* 1973-74 : Interviews authors for CBM-FM , McGill University for the program OUR WRITERS;

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*1974: seeks a council seat :

QUOTES : "He finds literature and other arts neglected, and feels the local administration across Canada ought to take an increased interest in the creative people in the municipalities of the country..."(SF. Oct. 28, 1974);

*1974: launches three books at Beach Hall. Writers were entertained with tea and poetry reading (SF., April 24, 1974);

*1974 : guest speaker at Kirk Hill Church (SF, July 6);

*1974: Gill succeeds in arranging to have the books by the local authors displayed at the local library (SF. May 6, p.7);

* 1974 : arranges and participates in a read poetry at Cornwall Collegiate auditorium (SF, Jan 25, p.7);

*1974: "An anthology of Seaway Valley Poets is planned by the Cornwall Writers Guild... Editor is Stephen Gill." (*The Ottawa Citizen*, Dec. 21, 1974);

*1976 : *Seaway Valley Poets*, anthology of twenty-six poets, was published by the only local book publisher Vesta Publications Ltd. Eds. Stephen Gill & Fr. Roland Hamel. "The anthology "refutes the charge that the Seaway Valley is a depressed area--it is not so at least in the field of creative literature." (from the preface of the book by the eds.);

*1976-1978: interviews writers on cable 11 under *Artist Corner*. Interviews several writers per week. It was aired every Monday and Thursday ;

* 1976: arranges a wine & cheese party and reading by The Seaway Valley Poets on February 14 in the basement of St. Felix Church, 100 Montreal Road (*Cornwall Weekly News*, Feb. 11, p.7);

* 1976 : arranges a poetry reading at St. Lawrence College on the 7th of April (*Echoes*, the newsletter of the college, March 19, 1976, p.3) ;

* 1976: offers to write a history of Cornwall (*Cornwall Weekly News*, Oct. 20, p.2; *Standard-Freeholder*, Nov. 9, 1976);

* 1976: gives advise to the local writers how to write and get published (see the article "Time is the True Test for Writer's Ability" in *Standard-Freeholder* by Margaret Penney, Oct. 19, 1976);

*1976: "Stephen Gill doesn't think books by local authors are getting the support they deserve...(SF. Feb. 3, 1976, p.7);

*1976: arranges a display of books by local authors and artists at Milles Roche Hall,

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part of Canada Week activities in the city (*SF*. June 29, 1976, p.22);

*1977: The Cornwall branch of CAA holds a meeting in the library of Osnabruck High School, where "Stephen Gill, President, outlined several future projects.....(*Cornwall Weekly News*, August 17. 1977, p.11);

* 1977- 1979: advises local writers about writing through a regular column "Calling All Authors" (*Standard-Freeholder*, Oct. 15, 1977, p. 6A);

*1978 : writes against censorship and urges stronger government action to protect the interests of authors. (*Cornwall Weekly News*, July 26, p.3; *Glengarry News*, August 9);

*1978: arranges another poetry reading at St. Lawrence College on the 19th of January, 1978. Guest was Len Gasparini, an established poet from Windsor. (*SF*. Jan.20, 1978);

*1978 : arranges a wine and cheese party under Vesta Publications on the 27th of April at the auditorium of St. Joseph's Villa in Cornwall to promote fellowship among the writers of the area. Several writers from Ottawa and Montreal attended the party. Books were displayed. (*Cornwall Weekly News*, May 10, 1978, p.7);

*1974- 1990 : President, Vesta Publications Ltd., promoted more than sixty Canadian writers from more than one hundred and twenty authors;

QUOTES : "Finding a serious writer is like finding a rose in the desert, publisher and author Stephen Gill told the Montreal Branch of Canadian Authors Association meeting at Sir George William University recently. " His own firm "was formed to find just such roses... Mr. Gill is interested in building bridges of understanding between the various Canadian ethnic communities." (*The Link*, October 15, 1976)...

"Gill prefers to publish books that contribute something to society. He believes that publishers and even authors have an obligation to society. " (*The Gazette of Montreal*, January 20, 1979).

The Recorder And Times writes : " Vesta Publications, a small publishing house in Cornwall, caters especially to unknown and previously unpublished writers in eastern Ontario ... Mr. Gill said Vesta sees its role as giving an author's work its first public exposure. After this first publication, an author's work is more likely to be accepted by a larger established publishing house." (August 25, 1976, p.16) ;

*1976-1978: interviews writers on cable 11 under *Artist Corner*, one per week. It was aired every Monday and Thursday;

*1976: fights another municipal election. He wanted development of art and culture. (*SF*. Nov. 13, p.7):

QUOTES : "Gill wanted a new way of looking at art in Cornwall...Most municipalities don't do anything for culture, and I wanted the local people to be more

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active.

' So he ran as an independent alderman on a cultural platform in a historical city which is an important seaway location. ... He doesn't see himself going into political arena again for he has books to write and publish. But now he's getting his cultural message across in a regular half hour television show on Cornwall Cable TV where he interviews writers and artists." (*The Montreal Star*, Feb.21, 1978);

*1977-1978: receives a grant from the federal government to hire young people to do research for a book of history of Cornwall and its surrounding areas.

QUOTES : "*The researchers under the guidance of Gill find that not all the area's history is buried in musty records.*" (*The Chesterville Record*, July 13, 1977).

"Stephen Gill will co-ordinate and organize the project without receiving any remuneration for his services. The project was officially launched May 30. Mr. Gill told his enthusiastic researchers that 'it is like baptizing a child to launch a project of this sort.'" (*The Standard-Freeholder*, June 1, 1977, p.5;)

"On July 11, the researchers and supervisor were interviewed by Mr. Gill, in two half-hour taped television shows, to be shown on Cable 11 August 10 and 17" (*The Winchester Press*, July 28, 1977, p. 13);

*1977-1979 : president, the Canadian Author's Association, Cornwall Branch. Elected on Thursday, May 12 at the first meeting at St. Lawrence College. Fred Kerner, director of Harlequin Publishing , and Ontario Regional Director of C.A.A explained the aims of the Association which started in 1926. Gill chaired the meeting. (*Cornwall Weekly New*, May 25, 1977, p.26; *The Glengarry News*, May 26, 1977, p. 15);

QUOTE: "Your organization is most fortunate to have a competent person, as yourself, responsible for its affairs" (A letter from Ed. Lumley, M.P. May 27, 1977);

* 1977-79: Advises local writers about writing through a regular column "Calling All Authors) (*Standard-Freeholder*, Oct. 15, 1977, p. 6A);

*1979-81 : National vice-president, The World Federalists of Canada;

* 1982-1990: Takes over the charge of *Writer's Lifeline*, a fortnightly international publication for writer, poets and librarians. (*Cornwall Weekly News*, Feb. 17, 1982). It is published periodically now;

*1985: guest speaker about writing and publishing at St. George's Separate School, Long Sault. Ray Barnes, principal writes in a letter of thanks : "Your talk was very interesting, and by the response of the students, I know they learned a great deal...(letter, May 1, 1985);

*1986--1987: vice-president, Indo-Asian Association of Cornwall. Arranged several functions;

*1987--1988: vice-president, Multicultural Council of Stormont & Dundas Counties. Helped to arrange multicultural festival;

*1990 : guest speaker at the Messena Public Library to address writers. "A complete manuscript, he explained, "is like a well-designed house...."(SF. Oct. 4, 1990, p.9);

*1990 : expresses his experiences as a poet in an interview (SF Dec. 6, 1990, p.11);

*1991: reads poetry at 39ers club, Alexandria. (*The Glengarry News*, Augst. 28, 1991, p.2);

*1992: receives a certificate of recognition for active and cooperative participation in the 10th annual multi-cultural festival;

*1990-1992 : The City of Cornwall appoints him as a representative of the city at The Cornwall Arts Board;

*1993--: chief delegate to represent The World University, Arizona, in Canada. The news appeared in several publications of the world, bringing Cornwall to the limelight.

He presented papers on world peace and understanding at several international gatherings of the World University.

On his recommendations, more than twenty persons from Canada have been honoured with D. Lit. Two of the recipients were from Cornwall. These recipients worked hard to make Canada a better place to live in their own fields;

*1994: arranges in cooperation with Neelam Ghar a symposium of Urdu, Panjabi and English poets at St. Lawrence College on the 15th of May. Guest : Sohan Singh Josh, a poet from Kenya, was honoured by the Canadian Alumni of the World University with the best poet of 1993 in Panjabi Literature abroad;

*1994: A cultural interpreter for Cornwall & District Immigration Services Agency, Pitt Street, Cornwall. Translated brochures into Urdu, and helped as an interpreter for R.C.M.P and the local school boards, and the department of social services. He passed examinations approved by the Government of Ontario and helps particularly Ontario Works with interpretations.

* 1994-1996 : A director for Indo-Canada Association of Cornwall;

* 1994-- : Member, The Pen International;

* 1994--- : Vice-President, The Christian Cultural Association of South Asians. Arranged several functions and gave talks to promote harmony and peace among ethnic groups;

*1995-1996: A member of the Seniors Concerns Committee, appointed by the City Council;

*1996-- : The Writers Union of Canada. Member of Foreign Affairs Committee;

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*1998—member: Amnesty International

*1998-- : Honorary Advisor and Editor: *The Brain Wave*, a literary publication from India. Plans to edit several special issues on Canadian Literature; *The Mawaheb International* (cultural, Canada); *Weekly Blitz* (Bangladesh); *Pakistan Christian Post* (online), *The Eternity* (India) and others...

AND MUCH MORE