

INTRODUCTION / Bob Sherrin

This special issue of *The Capilano Review* exists because Sharon Thesen and Patrick Friesen, through a season of conversations, concluded how fitting it would be if writers and artists publicly celebrated bill bissett and his inspirational contribution to our lives and work. Patrick proposed a public tribute and Sharon a text of appreciation. They both approached *The Capilano Review* with the wonderful idea of producing a festschrift. Their enthusiasm sparked the process. Patrick ultimately and eagerly took on the challenges of being this issue's guest editor. To them both, my heartfelt thanks.

The range of authors and material presented in this festschrift is remarkable. They respond to bill's person, as well as to his work as writer and artist. They present a variety that will alternately startle, amuse, illuminate, and stimulate. In their warm and wide response I believe we see and feel the presence of bill bissett in the lives of others, a gift given and regiven.

My hope is that within the limited time and space at the review's disposal, we have made but one contribution to an ongoing process of recognition and tribute that others will carry further. My disappointment is that TCR could not publish more, and I hope that any gaps in this offering may be much tempered by the multi-layered pleasures of the texts — and the shared joy of raising our many voices in celebration.

Finally, we have also the continuing presence of bill bissett, not only within this issue, but more importantly within our larger, living, breathing, speaking embrace.

Please enter.

PATRICK FRIESEN is a poet and playwright. His most recent book is *A Broken Bowl*.

SHARON THESEN is a poet, editor, instructor and writer. Her latest book of poems is *Aurora*.

