

Attention All Writers:

The Northwestern Ontario Writers Workshop is pleased to announce its sponsorship of a pair of special writing classes with Charlie Wilkins, from mid-March to late April.

The **Advanced Course** will be aimed at writers who have been practicing their art and craft for a number of years, who perhaps have an unpublished manuscript that needs polishing or editing, or who need guidance in navigating the difficult twists and turns on the route toward publication. Those without manuscripts but in need of direction or motivation are also welcome.

Charlie will direct six 2½-hour group sessions over a six-week period and will make himself available individually to those who need help with a short story, essay, novel or memoir (or partial novel or memoir). The program will be interactive, very hands-on, and will address writing issues (structure, craft, thematics, narrative tension, etc.), as well as offer practical advice on agents, editing and publication. Because the focus will be fairly tight, the course will be limited to twelve participants. The cost per person will be \$200, which will include any manuscript reading that might be required and any individual consultation (participants with book-length manuscripts will be asked to concentrate on three or four chapters). The program will begin on Thursday March 25th (at a central location TBA) and is open both to NOWW members and to non-members - first come, first served. So please sign up early by notifying Erin Stewart at admin@nowwwriters.org

A second course, **The Foundations of Creative Writing**, will be offered for six weeks beginning Wednesday, March 24th. This program will be aimed at writers either building or refurbishing their chops, or heading out on a new creative exploration, and will deal with structure, rhythm, continuity, self-editing, sub-text, characterization, basic storytelling, narrative tension, internal movement, dialogue, thematics, the role of the senses, setting, writing and the web, and so on. The course will emphasize skills and values applicable to a variety of forms, including memoir and various genres of fiction. Classes will be 2½ hours in

length, will be highly interactive and will include plenty of actual writing and exercises, as well as constructive critiquing of the work of the participants. The cost per person is \$120, and the program will be open both to NOWW members and non-members. So please sign up early by contacting Erin Stewart at admin@nowwwriters.org

Charles Wilkins has taught creative writing at Lakehead University, the University of Manitoba and at four community colleges in various parts of Canada. He has published short stories and poetry, as well as fifteen books, including *Walk to New York*, about his 2,200-km hike from Thunder Bay to New York City, *The Circus at the Edge of the Earth*, about his travels with the Great Wallenda Circus, and *In the Land of Long Fingernails*, about the summer of 1969, during which he dug graves in a big corporate cemetery in the east end of Toronto. He has won several national magazine awards and has been a finalist for, among other awards, the Rogers Non-fiction prize, the Trillium Award, the Stephen Leacock Award and the Toronto Book Award. His last four books have all been named to the *Globe & Mail's* top 100 Books. He lives and works in Thunder Bay.