

The Uxbridge COSMOS



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WICKED - Dancer/acrobat Diana Lopez Soto plays a nasty tree faun in this solo from *Textiles, Textures & Fairytales*, a unique outdoor performance premiering tonight at Willo'Wind Farm, at 12740 Concession 5, just south of the Zephyr Sideroad. The show features art installations by Emily Martin, seen on the tree behind Diana. For show info, see p. 10. Photo by Lezley Woodhams.

New children's novel born on slopes of Lakeridge

by Neil Coxworth

Inspiration can be found in many different ways. It can be found in the people you meet, the places you travel or as Whitby author Erin



Thomas discovered, it can be found in the jobs you work.

This Saturday, May 15th, at 2 p.m., a book launch is being held at Blue Heron Books for Ms. Thomas's new children's novel, *Boarder Patrol*.

The story, which is part of the Orca Sports series, takes place at a fictional ski resort in British Columbia. The idea and several aspects of the setting however, are drawn from Ms. Thomas's personal experience as a ski patroller at Lakeridge Ski Resort.

"Ever since patrolling at Lakeridge, I always wanted to use that setting," she says.

The book's main character is a 16-year-old aspiring snowboarder named Ryan. Ryan lives with relatives near Salmon Valley Ski Resort where he volunteers as a ski patroller in exchange for a lift pass.

When the resort is hit with a string of thefts, including that of Ryan's snowboard, his investigations reveal that his cousin, Kevin, knows too much for his own good. Ryan must choose between his family and the possible big break he has been waiting for in his snowboarding career.

This is the second published novel for Ms. Thomas, who has been writing seriously for three and a half years. Her first novel, entitled *Draco's Fire*, is the third book in the Dragon Speaker Trilogy, a series of three stories written by her, Cheryl Rainfield and Deborah Oullet.

In addition to the novels, Ms. Thomas has written a number of short children's stories.

What does Ms. Thomas like to read?

"Some modern fantasy and a lot of children's books," she says, adding, "My husband asks me, 'When are

you going to start reading grown up books?'"

When she's not busy writing up a storm, Ms. Thomas is either working as a part-time supply teacher for Durham Region, walking her dog, or spending time with her husband Aaron Vegh and their 6-year-old daughter Sarah. She is also a proud member of the Writers' Circle of

D u r h a m Region, C A N S C A I P (C a n a d i a n Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers) and the writing group, Critical Ms.

Like most true artists, Ms.

Thomas has many pieces on the go, one them being another trilogy with the two previously mentioned authors planned for a March 2011 launch.

Come out this Saturday to Blue Heron Books at 2 p.m. to support Ms. Thomas. There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Trilliums, Goodwood by Jack MacQuarrie

