

## Biographical Note

Phil Hall was born in 1953, and grew up in the countryside near Bobcaygeon, Ontario. He attended the last of the one-room rural schools, then Fenelon Falls High School, and in 1972 went to the University of Windsor, where he earned a B.A. and an M.A. and was mentored by Eugene McNamara, Alistair Macleod, and Joyce Carol Oates. His first book was published in 1973 in Mexico City. He began Flat Singles Press in 1976. In 1979 he moved to Vancouver, where he became associated with Tom Wayman and Erin Moure in the Vancouver Industrial Writers Union.

In 1985 he moved back to Ontario. In Toronto he taught at Ryerson and York universities, as well as Humber, Seneca, and George Brown colleges. Over twenty years he published six books of poetry with Brick Books. Notably, *Trouble Sleeping* (2000) was nominated for the Governor General's Award, and *An Oak Hunch* (2005) was nominated for the Griffin Poetry Prize. Hall has been in residency as a poet at the Pierre Berton House in Dawson City, Yukon; at Sage Hill Writing Experience in Saskatchewan; at the Banff Centre for the Arts; and at Queen's University, The University of Windsor, and the University of Ottawa.

In 2007 he and his wife, Ann, walked the Camino pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In 2011 his book of essay-poems, *Killdeer*, won the Governor General's Award for Poetry in English. This book also won Ontario's Trillium Award in 2012 and was nominated for the Griffin Poetry Prize. In 2012, at Queen's University, Hall set up and inaugurated an ongoing lecture series called The Page Lectures, in honour of Joanne Page. Each year, distinguished writers such as Stan Dragland and Elizabeth Hay are invited to speak.

As Poetry Editor at BookThug Press and as an editor/member of the Kingston Wired Writers group, Hall mentors new innovative voices. He is well known for his folksy yet challenging readings. Hall is a visual artist

who works in assemblage. He plays clawhammer banjo and is a singer of old songs. He is devoted to the sequence poem and to small-press publishing. He lives near Perth, Ontario.