



## The Sweet Sixteen: The Journey that Inspired the Canadian Women's Press Club

In 1904, sixteen women travelled together by train to cover the St Louis World's Fair. *The Sweet Sixteen* traces the fateful ten-day trip that resulted in the formation of a professional club for the advancement of Canadian newspaper women.

Drawing upon letters, journals, interviews, and most significantly, newspaper stories written by the women themselves, Linda Kay narrates the journey to St Louis with evocative detail. Delving into the group dynamics and individual experiences of these women, Kay explores the cultural divide between the Anglophone and Francophone members of the group and provides compelling biographical sketches of each woman's life and work.

*The Sweet Sixteen* documents the struggles of a group of tenacious and talented women who, in 1904, did not have the right to vote, were not regarded as persons under the law, and were credentialed as journalists at a time when marriage and motherhood were considered a woman's one true calling. Their legacy -the Canadian Women's Press Club - is a testament to their daring.

### Linda Kay

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#### Education

B.A. Journalism, Syracuse University  
M.A. Media Studies, Concordia University

#### Journalism background

Columnist and sports writer for *The Chicago Tribune*.  
Page 2 columnist for Montreal's *The Gazette*.  
Freelance magazine writer for *Chatelaine*, *Reader's Digest*,  
*Inside Sports*, *Newsweek*, *People*, *Ladies Home Journal*,  
*Ottawa Magazine*.



#### Books:

*The Sweet Sixteen* (McGill-Queen's University Press, Spring 2012), details the journey that resulted in the formation of the Canadian Women's Press Club.

*The Reading List* (Hamilton Books, 2005), a memoir, is a reflection upon the nature of truth in reporting and looks at the symbiotic relationships journalists build with their sources.

#### Articles in Refereed Journals

Kay, L., Reilly, R. C., Amend, E. & Kyle, T. *Between a rock and a hard place: The challenges of reporting about trauma and the value of reflective practice for journalists*. *Journalism Studies*. Vol 12 No 4 out August 2011.

Kay, L., Reilly, R. C., Connolly, K., & Cohen, S. *Help or harm? Symbolic violence, secondary trauma and the impact of press coverage on a community*. *Journalism Practice*. December 2010 edition.

#### Presentations

*Help or Harm? The impact of press coverage on a community experiencing trauma*. Paper presented at the 1st Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, February 10, 2008.

*Stimulation through Simulations: Teaching journalists to cover trauma and tragedy*. Paper presented at the 1st Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, February 10, 2008.

*Lines of Identity and Their Crossings*. Paper presented to the annual conference of the Canadian Association of American Studies, UQAM Montreal, November 2007.

*Being the "I" witness: Ethical complexities and contextual sensitivities when investigating community trauma*. Paper presented with Concordia colleague Kate Connolly at the Third Annual International Conference on Qualitative Research at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana (May 2007).