

DR. ROBERTA BUCHANAN

Dr. Roberta Buchanan retired from Memorial University in 2003 after 38 years of service teaching in the English Department and Women's Studies.

Since her retirement, Dr. Buchanan has transcribed and edited for publication Mina Hubbard's diary of her 1905 expedition through the interior of Labrador. This work was published in 2005 under the title *The Woman who Mapped Labrador, the Life and Expedition Diary of Mina Hubbard*, authored by Dr. Buchanan, Anne Hart and Bryan Greene.

Shortly after retirement, Dr. Buchanan convened a group of MUN pensioners now known as the "Memoir Group". This group of writers meets informally one afternoon a month to read and discuss their memoirs with the guidance of Dr. Buchanan. Members have documented not only their own personal histories but, in many cases, these memoirs are intertwined with the history of their many years at the University. Several members have since joined the Newfoundland Writers' Guild and, building on the experience of this group and the Memoir Group have gone on to submit their writings for publication. As leader of the group, Dr. Buchanan has been interviewed by two Canadian magazines recognizing the contribution of the memoir form.

Dr. Buchanan served two terms as Vice-President of the Writers' Guild, mentoring young poets and helping to organize celebrations of the Guild's 40th anniversary. She co-edited and contributed to the Guild's anthology, *A Charm Against the Pain*. She has served on the committee which publishes the newsletter of the Writer's Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador, *Words*, and contributed to the WANL celebration of the centenary of Grace Butt in 2008.

She is currently editing the 1905 expedition diary of George Elson, Mina Hubbard's famous guide, which is the basis of her forthcoming biography of his life and relaxes by taking watercolour classes. She has exhibited at MUN Botanical Gardens and the Open Space at the QEII Library.