

FEATURE INTERVIEW

Local author pens novel about phases of a woman's life

Interview with Chatham author Gillian Andrews writes about women discovering their courage and strength

By Shaun Sullivan / St. Clair College



Born in the village of Wrenbury, England, on the Welsh border, Gillian Andrews immigrated to Canada with her family in 1966. She fell in love with her adopted country and decided to write about it in her first book *River of the Stick Wavers*.

In her book, Andrews shares the journey of the widow Grace Irwin and how she deals with loneliness and grief over the loss of her husband.

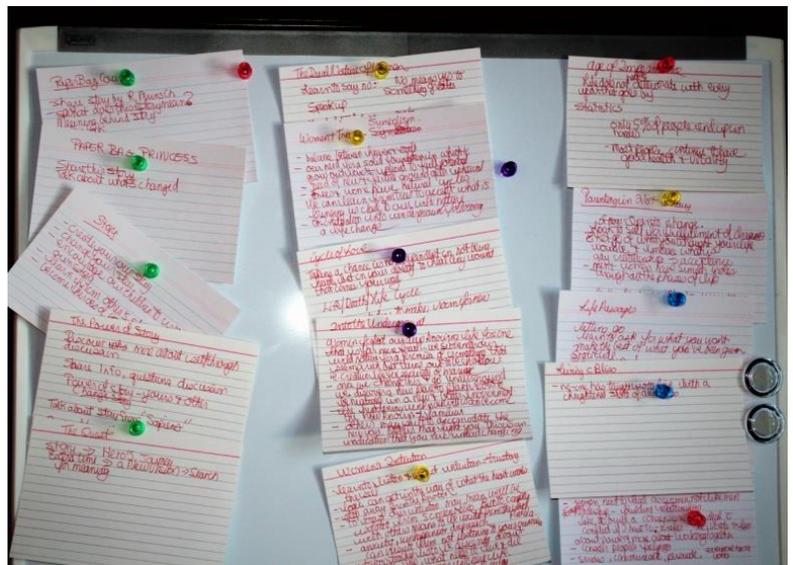
Gillian emphasizes how women motivate each other and together they support each other. The title of the book is very significant and hidden within the pages of the book.

Andrews feels every writer brings something to a story. This novel took five years to write due to the balance with family life. Gillian is interested in the role of women. Characters interest her in how they think and what motivates them.

Andrews has experienced one particular loss when her mother-in-law died. She was the glue that held the family together. Gillian commented that “dealing with the death required lots of rest and processing of what had happened.”

Gillian feels that doing research and learning how to write a book along with editing, publishing, marketing and branding is “energizing and yet exhausting.” Andrews uses a storyboard with q-cards in red pen to jot down her ideas for her next book. Walt Disney inspired her and gave her the idea for the storyboard.

Ms. Andrews is currently working on her next novel which details the struggle of a young woman from a character from *River of the Stick Wavers*. The story will take place in the art world of 1911. Canada will be used as the set for the next novel as well.



Ms. Andrews loves to connect with her fans. Using blogs and Facebook as a platform helps her connect with phases of other women's lives. Gillian said “I am in the process of learning how to use marketing and public relations as a tool for myself and my work as well as how to brand my image.”