

functioned as Chair of the Steering Committee) and a City Councillor who is co-chair of the TPSB. Other high-ranking police officers attended meetings but were not part of the committee.

<sup>9</sup>Margaret Corion was our excellent facilitator/mediator and works through St. Stephen's Community House. She was selected through an interview process in which police personnel and community members of the Steering Committee took part. Her skills and services allowed for better communication with the TPS/TPSB, although they refused to partake in conflict resolution when it arose. Her fee was paid by the TPSB.

<sup>10</sup>As is standard practice, the Auditor General of Toronto conducted a review of his 1999 audit to determine if changes had been made as per his recommendations. His scathing follow up report blasted police inaction and contravened then Chief of Police Julian Fantino's November 2003 report to the TPSB that all recommendations had been implemented. The Auditor General also criticized police failure to consult with community-based women working in the area of sexual assault.

<sup>11</sup>A fuller elaboration of this difference in perspective was set out in documents prepared for the use of the Steering Committee by the community members. See note 1.

<sup>12</sup>Over the years support for the work of the Steering Committee grew to include the African Canadian Legal Network, Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres, EGALE Canada, Ernestine's Shelter for Women, Maggie's: The Toronto Sex Worker Action Project, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, Parkdale Community Legal Clinic, Sistering, Toronto Police Accountability Coalition, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, Voices of Positive Women, and more—and with apologies to anyone not mentioned.

<sup>13</sup>Personal correspondence from the Chair of the TPSB (May 2008).

<sup>14</sup>Steering Committee members who were salaried employees of community organizations did not claim the honorarium.

## References

Bain, Beverly, Jane Doe and Wendy Komiotis. Sexual Assault Audit Steering Committee: Community Summary Report. Toronto: Toronto Police Service Board, 2007.

Griffiths, Jeffrey. *Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults : Toronto Police Service*. Toronto: City of Toronto Audit Services, 1999.

*Jane Doe v Board of Commissioners of Police for the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto* (1998), 39 O.R. (3d) 487 (Ont. Ct. Gen. Div.)

*Police Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990c.

## ILONA MARTONFI

### THE COMMON DANDELION

*Vater* praises me.

He says: "My daughter is smart."

My father doesn't know

my teacher in fourth grade touches me.

My father doesn't ask.

I don't tell anyone.

I say: "I have my report card."

I pick buttercups, yellow dandelions.

Two-room school beside a cloister.

Nine year old Magyar refugee girl.

I play jump rope:

"Eins, Zwei, Drei."

Shoot marbles with Ingrid

I shop for the groceries.

Grandmother Kisanyuka says:

"Buy bread, potatoes. Coffee.

And five kilos of sugar.

Tell the grocer to put it on credit."

Bavarian Forest foothills:

Bombed military airport Neutraubling.

Father's grey Opel truck.

Unfenced scrap iron yard.

I say: "Mama, braid my hair."

I see her in the kitchen.

I eat breakfast grandmother prepares:

homemade raspberry marmalade

slathered on black bread.

Tin cup of milk.

*Ilona Martonfi's first book of poems, Blue Poppy, was published in 2009. A chapbook, Visiting the Ridge, was published in 2004. Martonfi's poems have appeared in Vallum, The Fiddlehead, Poetry Quebec, Carte Blanche, Headlight Anthology, Accenti, Bibliosofia, (Italy), Arcade, Helios, Serai, Carve, Soliloquies, Poets Against The War. Poet, editor, creative writing teacher, Ilona is the founder, producer/host of The Yellow Door and Visual Arts Centre Poetry and Prose Readings and co-founder, producer/host of the annual Lovers & Others.*