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CEO ROURKE

Plato on Vacation

I took the kids to Horne Lake
and there he was
spelunking with tourists
in a 'Save-the-Planet' t-shirt
intense eyes below a headlamp
searching dark damp recesses
between stalagmites
for some long lost idea
of Beauty
connected to Earth
not the ephemeral form
but the *thing* itself
buried in soil
rooted and living

Naturalist/poet, Ceo Rourke is an award winning writer and a graduate of Vancouver Island University. Widely published in anthologies and literary journals, Ceo writes from a small island cabin, inspired by marine life, coastal storms, and the tenacity of trees.

KATERINA FRETWELL

Effluvium

Yet, when 19 countries agreed ... to establish the Millennium Development Goal ... sanitation was initially left out.

—Jermy Keehn, "The Toilet Papers,"
The Walrus Vol.11

Joshed I'd eulogize the many-foliate
toilets in my travels — blooming
dorm-like squats at Ephesus
pissoirs chez Paris, loo of Waterloo
urine streams at Badaling
two-seater on my honeymoon

but sanitation is a serious matter
2.5 billion, a quarter of us
lack safe dumping grounds
fertilizing field, forest, potable water
with fecal fungi. Diarrhoea culls
800 million children every year.

We rush to invent affordable
portable, waterless water closets
for World Toilet Day — finally
our effluent forms the agenda.
On tour, hurtling by shacks
flowering on a dump, I begged

Halt! Bus stopped for me, cresting
on a hilltop, I crapped in Crete.
Fecal transplants cured Crohn's
in a wraith-like child — but the Lab
growing healthy microbes was forced
to shut down — microbes not sterile.

Katerina Vaughan Fretwell's eighth poetry book, which includes her arrrt, Dancing on a Pin, was published by Inanna Publications in 2015. Five of the poems placed as "runner-up" in subTerrain's Outsider Poetry Contest, 2015. Her seventh book, Class Acts, also published by Inanna in 2013, was included in Kerry Clare's Most Important Books of 2013: Poetry on the online 49th Shelf. She lives in Seguin, Ontario.