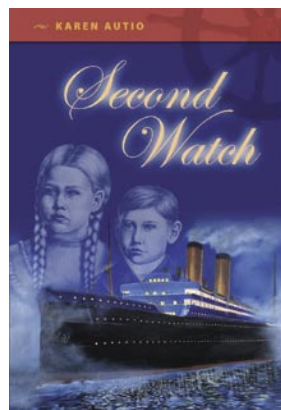


# KAREN AUTIO

## CHILDREN'S AUTHOR



*"I want to present authentic historical settings and accurately reflect human nature in my writing so that the words take hold in the minds and hearts of readers."*



SECOND WATCH  
Sono Nis Press, 2005  
Juvenile Historical Fiction

Born in Fort William, Ontario (now part of Thunder Bay), Karen Autio makes her home in Kelowna, British Columbia. Her passion for history and love of the written word come together in *Second Watch*, a novel inspired by the gift of a silver spoon.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- *The sinking of the Empress of Ireland is Canada's worst maritime disaster in peacetime?*
- *May 29th, 2005 is the 91st anniversary of the sinking*
- *Thousands of Canadians have personal connections to the Empress of Ireland. The ship carried more than 117,000 passengers to this country during her eight years in service as an Atlantic liner.*
- *The cover of Second Watch consists of three illustrations by Briana Bach Hertzog, the great-great granddaughter of Reinhold Bach who perished in the sinking.*
- *Karen Autio is available for author presentations in schools. Contact Sono Nis Press for details.*

## HOW DID YOU COME TO WRITE SECOND WATCH?

When my youngest child entered Grade One in 1998, I decided to pursue my long held dream of writing for children. I enrolled in a "Writing Fiction for Children" course at the local university college with the plan of writing a picture book. The idea began with the gift of a silver sugar spoon from my Finnish grandmother that her Finnish friend claimed was saved from the *Titanic*. I discovered that the *Titanic* wasn't the only ship to sink in that friend's family history. Members of that Finnish immigrant family from Port Arthur (now part of Thunder Bay) perished on the *Empress of Ireland*. When the instructor assigned homework that involved writing the first page of a novel, I decided to invent a history for the spoon and *Second Watch* was born.

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PO Box 160, Winlaw, BC, Canada V0G 2J0  
1-800-370-5228 • fax: (250)-226-0074  
books@sononis.com • www.sononis.com