

JANE EATON HAMILTON**E. Coli, Walkerton**

Water scours the pots. Water relieves heat waves
 We drank from a sweating pitcher
 The body is 90% water
 On that hot afternoon her ankles swelled, and then—
 When he said, “I love you, Mom”
 he was telling her that he once floated happily in her
 water

Water falls from the skies
 Through hell
 Water rises cataclysmically
 Don’t throw out the baby
 Water freezes at 0 degrees C
 Water plunges over rocks and down hillsides
 You’re in hot water now

Water is the biggest international resource
 Water is a solvent
 Oil is immiscible in water
 Water is tasteless and odourless
 In Tanzania, children run to Jeeps begging for water
 People are dying of thirst
 in Haiti, the water is malarial
 Women carry water jugs on their heads
 You take to mah jongg like a duck to water
 Many creatures swim in water
 Water is a simple pleasure in a shower
 You are wet behind the ears
 Noodles boil in water

A child can live three days without water
 Salt water is 71% of the globe
 Water boils at 68 degrees C
 Still water runs deep
 Water is a chemical compound with the formula H₂O
 Water can be solid or vaporous
 Hydrology is its study

He would have told her
 blood is thicker than water
 if she hadn’t been so sick
 He would have said I’m sorry
 But water was what he cried
 when they wheeled her away

Jane Eaton Hamilton is the author, most recently, of “Love Will Burst into a Thousand Shapes.” She has twice won first prize in the CBC Literary Awards (2003/2014).

ILONA MARTONFI**Clamdigger**

Knowing the times of low tide
 go to the flats when the tide is down
 all you need is a rake

once the tides are low
 go to the Hyannis Mall bookstore
 across from the Holiday Inn
 the air-conditioning

in the parking lot, seagulls
 etched into sand

buy a book
 on abusive relationships,
Getting Free

your youngest, only six
 a young boy
 three teenage daughters.

All you need is a rake
 once the tides are low
 build a sandcastle
 collect mollusk shells

take coloured photographs
 beach, sand dunes, seaweed algae

hide the book in your bag
 under blue cotton jeans

read it in the hotel room
 when he is at the indoor pool

in the evening go out for dinner
 at Villa Vecchione on Main Street
 beside the Pauper’s Cemetery

pink wild roses
 grey-shingled cottages.

Ilona Martonfi is the author of three poetry books, Blue Poppy (2009), Black Grass (2012) and The Snow Kimono (2015). She is the founder/producer of The Yellow Door and Visual Arts Centre Readings, and the co-founder of Lovers and Others. She is also the recipient of the QWF 2010 Community Award.