



**Margita Gailitis** was born in Riga, Latvia, and is writer, poet and translator. She left Latvia as a small child at the age of three and after several years spent in displaced persons camps in Germany, immigrated with her mother and two sisters to Canada. She has traveled extensively and has lived for extended periods of time in the US, Jamaica, Italy and Spain.

In 1998 she returned to Latvia to work at the Translation and Terminology Centre in Riga on a Canadian International Development Agency sponsored project translating Latvian laws into English – a prerequisite for Latvia's accession to the EU. Having spent her professional life in Canada working in advertising and marketing, she also assumed marketing and PR responsibilities for the Translation Centre.

Now Margita Gailitis concentrates her efforts on literary translation and her poetry, which she writes in both Latvian and English. She has translated some of Latvia's finest poetry and prose and been instrumental in organizing publishing opportunities for Latvian writers in Canada, US and elsewhere. Her poetry has been published in various periodicals and has been awarded both Ontario and Canada Council grants.