



Penticton Herald

Amanda Lewis is all smiles over the publishing of her book of poems *One*. The West Bench resident will be signing copies of the book on Saturday at Coles Books in Penticton with a portion of the proceeds going to the Agur Lake Camp near Summerland.

## BOOK SIGNING

# Poems a reflection of life

**Writer hopes to become a motivational speaker and advocate for those with special needs**

By JOHN MOORHOUSE

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Amanda Lewis has never been one to let cerebral palsy get in her way.

You only have to look to her newly-published book of poetry, entitled *One*, for an example.

Lewis, a West Bench resident enrolled in the business program at Okanagan College in Penticton, is donating \$2 from every book sold to the Agur Lake Camp Society.

The camp for children with special needs and their families is planned for a 22-hectare site bordering Agur Lake,

west of Summerland.

Lewis, a director with the society, will be holding a book signing on Saturday at Coles Books in the Cherry Lane Shopping Centre from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A book release party will be held Nov. 30 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Blenz Coffee at Main Street and Nanaimo Avenue.

*One* is a collection of 33 poems Lewis has written since she was seven years old. Each poem is illustrated with artwork – most of them created by her aunt, Josée Balfour.

"Writing has always been a passion of mine," she said. "So it connected the two passions in my life – writing and helping individuals with special needs and seeing the camp come to fruition, hopefully."

Lewis said the book's title reflects her personal philosophy on life. She hopes to become a motivational speaker and advocate for those with special needs.

"I always like to focus around the idea that we are all connected and that we are all one," she said. "Everybody should be able to help everyone else."

Lewis credits Yasmin John-Thorpe and Penticton Writers and Publishers for helping to get the book published. It was designed by Angela Hook of Summerland and printed in Vernon.

She was also helped by family and friends. In fact, the handprints on the cover are all from members of her family.

Lewis said she was delighted by how well the book came together.

"It's hard to imagine something being complete, when you've seen it in pieces for so long," she said. "To see it come together is really, really amazing."

"My hope for people when they read this book is they end it a little happier than when they started it and it can inspire them."