

# HACKMATAACK

## 2006

### **Rochelle Strauss**

author of *Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth*

Rochelle grew up in Montreal and moved to Toronto at age 16. She returned to Montreal to attend McGill University, where her favourite class was on children's literature. While her fellow students studied chemistry and physics, Rochelle took great joy in re-reading *The Hobbit*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Charlotte's Web* and many others. As an assignment for class, Rochelle wrote her first children's story. From then on Rochelle dreamed about publishing children's books.



Rochelle now lives in Toronto, where, in addition to writing children's books, she works as an independent writer and educational consultant. Recently, she's worked on a number of exciting projects, including Puente De Vida, a biodiversity museum in Panama City, Panama; Downsview Park, a new national park in Toronto; and RiverSphere, a proposed river museum in New Orleans. Additionally, she has developed exhibits and gallery content for the Hands-on Biodiversity Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum, as well as educational programs for Earth Rangers. She has also written and developed content for Environment Canada's award winning *Great Lakes Kids* website, as well as for Parks Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum outreach program and Classroom Connections.

Had Rochelle not become an environmental educator, she had two other dreams to follow - one was to become a marine biologist, the "Jane Goodall of the Ocean". The second was to become the first female player in Major League Baseball, pitching for the Montreal Expos.

### **Selected Awards**

*Tree of Life*, 2005 Independent Book Publishers Award (Juvenile-Teen-Y/A Non-Fiction); Skipping Stones Honor Award Winner (Ecology/Nature Books); Green Earth Book Award - Honor Book; ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award (Environment and Ecology); Chicago Public Libraries Best of the Best Books of 2004; nominated for Silver Birch Award, Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award, Science in Society Award (Canadian Science Writers Association), ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award Finalist (Juvenile Non-Fiction)

### **Some Other Books by Rochelle Strauss**

*One Well: the Story of Water on Earth* (tentatively scheduled for Fall 2006)  
Contributing author for *POP! Magazine*, Paton Marketing Resources Inc. 1998