Artistic Director's Message

How to sum up a year’s activity in a few paragraphs? One thing is for sure; the team has not rested on its laurels after a bang-up tenth annual festival in 2018. We’ve focussed our sights on the future, and considered how to make our festival more diverse, intriguing, relevant, inclusive and welcoming of those who don’t yet know what they’ve been missing, and those who may have felt it wasn’t a place for them. To all newcomers, welcome!

We’ve programmed the most diverse festival yet. It wasn’t hard to find a range of stunning new writers in all genres, and seasoned writers with powerful new works. We’ve included the stories of women, the stories of Indigenous writers, Métis writers, writers of different experiences, cultural backgrounds, and orientations. Our individual and collective experience and understanding are sure to be enriched by these fresh perspectives, and new insights into the past.

We haven’t forgotten our roots in good story-telling, presenting a variety of uplifting, entertaining, and thought-provoking fiction and non-fiction events. The International Marquee, Big Idea, Author! Author!, and Robertson Davies Dinner remain cornerstones of the festival. Still, there’s so much that’s new. I invite you to anticipate the riches offered, by browsing this program guide.

Warmest wishes,

Barbara Bell, Artistic Director
Our Vision
To be the organization in our community that celebrates the power of the written word by connecting writers and readers in conversations that inspire, engage, and change our worldview.

Our Mission
To foster the artistic development of individual writers, promote literary expression, and develop an audience for the literary arts.

Festival Staff
Artistic Director | Barbara Bell
Operations Manager | Aara Macauley
Author Patron Manager | Kimberly Clarke
Education Manager | Ying Lee
Hospitality Manager | Gayle Johnson
Director of Marketing | Tricia Knowles
Production Manager | Bill Penner
Volunteer Manager | Moira Demorest

Festival Coordinators
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Assistant Author Patron Manager | Ute Wilkinson
Box Office Services Coordinator | Amanda di Vito
Box Office Manager | Jeremy St-Onge
Hospitality Manager | Gayle Johnson
Library Liaison | Kimberly Sutherland Mills
Newsletter Editor | Lindy Mechefske
Profile Writer | Melanie Dugan

Program Guide Editor | Ben Charland
Program Guide Proofreaders | Sean Fenlon, Gayle Johnson, Ute Wilkinson, Lin Young
Programming Advisors | Ben Charland, Jason Heroux, Ying Lee
Programming Consultants | Ben Charland, Jenny Sullivan, Lin Young

Festival Affiliates
Creative Director | Tracy John, Amplify Marketing & Communications Canada
Graphic Designer | Faraz Ahmad
Webmaster | CaricDesign
Videography | CuriousYou Productions

Festival Service Providers
Auditor | Baker Tilly - Brent Wilson
Bookkeeper | Michael MacDonald CPA
Bookseller | Novel Idea - Oscar and Joanna Malan
Legal Counsel | Jennifer Foster
Printer | Gilmore Reproductions
Sound and Lights | Kingston Sound Works
Tickets

All ticket prices except Writers Retreat packages include HST. Please be advised that the Grand Theatre Box Office adds a handling fee of $3.50 (HST included) per ticket at the time of purchase. THIS IS CHARGED TO THE CUSTOMER BY THE GRAND THEATRE.

All prices are General (Adult or Seniors) Admission, except youth events, which have a Student Price. Ticket prices are listed as Advance (purchased before Wed. Sept. 25) and Door (all tickets purchased after festival begins). All events are unassigned seating.

PLEASE SEE INDIVIDUAL EVENT LISTINGS FOR TICKET PRICING.

PACKAGE PRICING

(No Student or Seniors Pricing on Packages)

Onstage Event Buy 5 and Save
$75 plus handling fees
Choose from over 20 regular onstage events.
$100 value (save $5 per ticket!)

Festival Pass
$180 plus handling fees
Value over $450. See over 20 regular onstage events plus the International Marquee. Look for the ticket icon to see all the eligible events!
Exclusions: Separate tickets must be purchased for all Writers Retreat Master Classes (indicated with a pen icon), Food events (indicated with a fork icon), Pub (S)crawl

Writers Retreat Packages
Two-Day Retreat – $575 plus HST and handling fees
includes 2 hotel nights and daily buffet breakfast
Four-Day Retreat – $1100 plus HST and handling fees
includes 4 hotel nights and daily buffet breakfast

Writers Retreat Buy 5 Pack
$150 plus handling fees
Choose from a dozen classes. $175 value (save $5 per class!)
Enrolment limited to 40. Classes are 2.5 hours long and include a 15 minute break.

STUDENT EVENTS

Reserved class tickets for these events MUST be purchased through the Kingston WritersFest website. Purchase deadline is 11:59pm, Friday September 13.
All unpaid holds will be released for general sale on Monday, September 16. Student tickets may still be purchased on our website, beginning September 16, based on availability.
* Please note the name of the school and the teacher when placing your order.

TeensWrite! Master Class
Pre-Festival Price: $10 plus handling fees
Festival Price: $14 all in
Students 14 - 19 years only.
Enrollment limited to 40.

Festival Field Trip Events
Advance Price: $5 plus handling fees
Door Price: $8 all in
High-school students and accompanying adults.
High-school students attending on their own must show valid ID at time of ticket purchase.

STUDENT FREE RUSH SEATS
Free rush seats to any onstage event, including International Marquee for Queen's University, RMC, & St. Lawrence College students with valid ID. Admittance between fifteen minutes before curtain to ten minutes after curtain, dependent upon availability and at discretion of staff in charge.
Exclusions: Writers Retreat Master Classes, food events (indicated with fork icon), and Literary Pub (S)crawl.

Advance tickets can be purchased from the Grand Theatre Box Office Monday – Saturday, 12 – 6pm (218 Princess St or by phone at 613-530-2050) or 24 hours a day at www.kingstongrand.ca. Advance sales begin at noon on Thursday, July 11 and run until 6pm on Tuesday, September 24.

During the Festival, tickets are only available onsite from the Festival Box Office conveniently located in the Holidome on the main floor at the Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront.
Ticket prices are listed as Advance (purchased before Wednesday, September 25) and Door (all tickets purchased after Festival begins).

TICKET PICKUP DEADLINES – Tickets purchased in advance through the Grand Theatre Box Office may be picked up at the Grand Theatre Box Office until 6:00 pm, Tuesday, September 24. Any tickets not picked up by this time are available for pickup at the Onsite Festival Box Office, starting at 3:00 pm, Wednesday, September 25.

ONSITE FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE HOURS – HOLIDOME, HOLIDAY INN - SEPTEMBER 25-29
Wednesday 3:00 – 8:15 pm
Thursday 8:30 am – 3:45 pm
Friday 8:30 am – 8:15 pm
Saturday 8:30 am – 8:45 pm
Sunday 8:30 am – 3:45 pm

Schedule is subject to change. Please visit the website for the most up-to-date information.
As a proud sponsor of the 2018 Writersfest we invite you to Stay Innspired!

Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront
2 Princess Street
Kingston, ON K7L 1A2
(613) 549-8400
nkemp@hikingstonwaterfront.com

www.hikingstonwaterfront.com
Support the Festival
AND OUR YEAR-ROUND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS!

We believe in the power of the written word to create a strong, engaged community. If you share our vision, we invite you to join our growing family of supporters.

How We Cover Our Expenses
76% of our operating budget comes from people like you! Whether it’s towards honoraria, accommodation, and travel for authors, or subsidized tickets for teens, your contributions make Kingston WritersFest a reality.

* Program ad sales, foundation support, corporate sponsorships, corporate donations, private sponsorship, private donations (Author Patrons, BookLover Donors)
** Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Grants

How You Can Help
Individuals, groups, or businesses can contribute as Author Patrons or BookLover Donors. Businesses can support the Festival in general or align with a particular program or event. Get in touch with us for further information!

Author Patron
Your personal or group donation supports the visit of the author of your choice, based on the distance travelled and length of stay. You’ll also receive some perks, such as reserved front-row seats and a signed complimentary copy of your author’s book. Visit kingstonwritersfest.ca to learn more!

BookLover Donor
Your personal or business donation helps us bring 70 writers and artists to Kingston each September and contributes to our many outreach programs to readers and writers of all ages, year round. Donations at every level are welcomed!

To donate during the Festival, please visit the Box Office on the main floor. Cash, credit cards, and cheques are accepted. You can also donate online: please find us at Canadahelps.org
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97 - 101 DALTON AVE.
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If you flip through the Profiles section of this program guide, you’ll notice that there are a lot of women. In fact, more than half of our writers, moderators, and presenters this year are female. Kingston WritersFest has always striven for gender parity, and has always made an extra effort to find, promote, and feature female authors, and to attract women and girls to the Festival. But 2019 is different – this year, women seem to be taking the literary world and the Festival by storm. Our annual Robertson Davies Dinner celebrates one of Canada’s brightest literary stars, Emma Donoghue. Icons such as Elizabeth Hay, Lorna Crozier, Carol Off, and Lee Maracle are joined by talented newcomers, like H.B. Hogan, Sabina Khan, Abena Beloved Green, Megan Gail Coles, and Karen McBride.

In view of the many women we’re featuring it might seem an odd choice to invite Michael Kaufman to talk about gender equality (Event 34). If you’re worried about the potential for mansplaining, you may be reassured to know that Michael is the co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women. He was also the sole male member of France’s G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council. Michael argues that everyone, men included, will benefit immensely from women and genderqueer/non-binary people finally assuming the rights, dignity, and personal actualization as full human beings. Joining him is poet Tanis MacDonald, Associate Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University with specialities in Canadian literature and women’s literature. This is an event at which all are welcome – and we expect the discourse to be lively.

There is still much work to be done in terms of women’s equality and gender issues, in general. Women and non-binary people are speaking up. Author Lee Airton, who recently published Gender: Your Guide, talks with Joshua Ferguson about the power of language and presumption (Event 8) – and why formal equality in the eyes of the law is not good enough. As a society, we’re just beginning to appreciate that tolerance must give way to acceptance.

Kingston WritersFest is honoured to put dialogue first. Respectful discourse, open conversation, and an exchange of ideas and viewpoints – amongst authors, between authors and audience, and between writer and reader – can be a spark that ignites change. The conversation today is being galvanized by talented and engaged writers of all orientations and identifications.

— Ben Charland
Events
READINGS, CONVERSATIONS, PERFORMANCES!

Events for readers of every age and taste, designed for maximum audience participation, with time for questions and a chance to engage with authors as they sign books.

#1 TREATIES AND ASHES: STORIES OF THE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE
ARMAND G. RUFFO, JESSE THISTLE
Moderator SAM MCKEGNEY
Readings and Conversation
Islandview Room | 6:30–7:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Is a treaty a contract or an act of faith? A form of justice or just another way to tell a story? Poet-scholar Armand Garnet Ruffo and memoirist-historian Jesse Thistle excavate the deeper meanings and consequences of the agreements – written and unwritten, spoken and unspoken, personal and collective – that bind us all. With moderator Sam McKegney they share sometimes painful truths that nevertheless help to shape the past, present, and future of Canada.

Event sponsor: City of Kingston Cultural Heritage: Your Stories/Our Histories.

#2 AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL CRUMMEY
MICHAEL CRUMMEY with STEVEN HEIGHTON
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue Ballroom | 8:00–9:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Is there a slice of Newfoundland that award-winning Michael Crummey’s pen has not touched? No stranger to Kingston WritersFest, Michael is a warm, funny, and charming storyteller to spend an evening with in literary talk. Join Michael and Steven as they unpack his latest novel, The Innocents, a richly imagined and riveting story of a young brother and sister surviving alone, and prepare to be transported to their isolated cove on the Rock. Cash bar.

Media sponsor: 96.3 BIG FM.

#3 WRITING OUTSIDE THE BOX: EXPERIMENTS IN FORM
DIANE SCHOEMPERLEN
Writers Retreat Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 9:00–11:30 am
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Molson Award-winning experimental fiction writer Diane Schoemperlen shares techniques for opening yourself to experimentation with literary form by using the page in unique ways, reimagining the arrangement of text on the page or incorporating visual elements. For the non-adventurous or stuck writer, this is a gentle way to bust out of the rut of conventional storytelling and get the creativity flowing. In-class exercises give you hands-on practice, and you may surprise yourself by creating something that’s outside the box.

Limited enrolment.
#4 GHOSTS, TRUTHS, AND THE POWER WITHIN
KAREN MCBRIDE, DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON
Moderator LINDSAY MORCOM
Readings and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
9:30–10:30 am
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior/ $5 Student | Door $22 / $20 Senior / $8 Student
A Festival Field Trip event, open to teens and adults.

“Life can be hard; death can be harder.” Old magic, deceit, and mystery link the latest works by two innovative and exciting writers, novelist David Alexander Robertson, a Swampy Cree, and Algonquin Anishinaabe debut author, Karen McBride. While tricksters, strange spirits, and post-apocalyptic settings may be unsettling, what could possibly haunt us more than the deeper recesses of our own selves? Lindsay Morcom moderates a conversation about the hidden powers locked within characters who are caught up in an unforgiving world.
Supported by St. Lawrence College.
Event Sponsor: Amazon.ca.

#5 DIVING INTO THE PLANET
JILL HEINERTH
Solo Presentation ■ Bellevue Ballroom
9:30–10:30 am
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior / $5 Student | Door $22 / $20 Senior / $8 Student
A Festival Field Trip event, open to teens and adults.

In her thrilling memoir, Into the Planet, internationally renowned cave diver Jill Heinerth takes us into the least-known crevices of Planet Earth. Through cracks in the world’s biggest iceberg, or along the conduit of a volcano, Jill sees the world as few others can – and dives not merely for sport or adventure, but to expand the boundaries of scientific knowledge. Join Jill for an unforgettable presentation about exploring new frontiers, confronting fear, and pushing the limits of human endurance.
Supported by St. Lawrence College.

#6 PERSONAL POETRY
ALYSSA COOPER
TeensWrite! ■ Sir John A. Macdonald Room
9:30–10:45 am
Adv. $10 Student only | Door $14 Student only

Kingston performance poet Alyssa Cooper offers this learn-by-doing performance poetry workshop. Learn how to use descriptive tools like metaphor and symbolism, and then try out performance techniques like alliteration, syncopation, rhythm, and feel how the act of performing can change the written aspect of a piece. Alyssa walks you through writing your own allegorical piece, choosing an object to represent a person, and as a framing device for what you want to say to that person. Compose and perform. Feel powerful.
Supported by St. Lawrence College.
Limited enrolment.

#7 WITHOUT APOLOGY: YA FICTION
S.K. ALI, SABINA KHAN
Moderator Y.S. LEE
Readings and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
11:00 am–12:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior / $5 Student | Door $22 / $20 Senior / $8 Student
A Festival Field Trip event, open to teens and adults.

One girl is dispatched to Qatar after calling out her Islamophobic teacher. The other is sent away for an arranged marriage in Bangladesh after her parents catch her kissing a girl. These characters, from novels by S.K. Ali and Sabina Khan, share a common experience of exile and discovery. Join S.K. and Sabina for a discussion on family, community, truth, and being loved for who you are. Moderated by young adult novelist Y.S. Lee.
Supported by St. Lawrence College.
Event sponsor: KEYS Job Centre.
#8 FINDING FREEDOM: THE MYTH OF THE BINARY
JOSHUA FERGUSON with LEE AIRTON
Readings and Conversation
Bellevue Ballroom | 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior / $5 Student | Door $22 / $20 Senior / $8 Student
A Festival Field Trip event, open to teens and adults.

In 2018, filmmaker Joshua M. Ferguson made history as the first person to receive a birth certificate declaring their gender as non-binary. Their memoir, Me, Myself, They, explores how they transformed early traumas into creativity, strength, and empathy. Joshua also celebrates the decades-long work of activists for transgender visibility and safety, and invites us to consider our own fluidity and potential for identity to change. Joined by gender studies researcher and advocate Lee Airton, this promises to be a poignant and important conversation.

A co-presentation with Reelout Queer Film + Video Festival.
Supported by St. Lawrence College.

#10 WOLF MUSIC
PAULA WILD
Solo presentation Islandview Room
12:30–1:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior / $5 Student | Door $22 / $20 Senior / $8 Student
A Festival Field Trip event, open to teens and adults.

Can humans and wolves co-exist? Author Paula Wild asks a question that has major ramifications for our place in this world. She considers the myths and fears surrounding wolves, the history of conflict between our two species, current scientific and wildlife management practices, and the contrasting current popularity of the wolf as the “poster child” for endangered species. As humans and wolves now live in closer proximity than most of us imagine, our actions now, more than ever, determine our shared future.

Supported by St. Lawrence College.

#11 WORDS AND PIX: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON
TeensWrite! Sir John A. Macdonald Room
12:30–1:45 pm
Adv. $10 Student Only | Door $14 Student Only

If you’re a fan of Watchmen, Scott Pilgrim, or This One Summer, take a tour of the graphic novel, guided by award-winning author David Alexander Robertson – with stops at its history, how a script evolves into a story told in pictures, and how the script you write helps in the development of the images. David shows you how to plan your story’s structure, how to script it out and develop character and plot. Bring your bullet journal or notebook and get creative!

Supported by St. Lawrence College. Limited enrolment.
#12 VISUAL LITERACY: USING IMAGES TO ENRICH YOUR WRITING
ALAN CUMYN
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 12:30–3:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Award-winning novelist Alan Cumyn guides you through image-based exercises to unlock your creativity while exploring fundamentals of strong, visually rich writing. Whether we write fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or memoir, we’ve all heard the advice to “show, not tell.” Using evocative paintings, photographs, and texts as jumping-off points, students craft new work, paying particular attention to mood, atmosphere, situation, detail, what needs to be on the page... and what does not. Come prepared to play and to write! Limited enrolment.

Howard, and moderator Merilyn Simonds as they seek out the connections, emotions, and anxieties that serendipitously link their books.

#14 SKEPTICS AND SEEKERS: WHAT IS SPIRITUAL LIVING?
ANNE BOKMA, SUSAN SCOTT
MODERATOR LINDY MECHEFSKE
Reading and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
3:30–4:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

How do you live a soulful life? Anne Bokma reports on a year-long experiment of spiritual truth, beauty, trouble, and fun, as she consults a shaman, tries forest bathing, and hosts ‘death dinners.’ Susan Scott has collected stories about the messiness of faith, practice, religion, and ceremony from writers such as Sharon Bala, Carleigh Baker, K.D. Miller, and Alison Pick – stories personal, hilarious, and profoundly meaningful. With essay contributor Lindy Mechefske, they dig deeply into spirituality and scepticism in contemporary life. Media sponsor: Fresh 104.3.

#15 WRITING 101
LAWRENCE SCANLAN
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 3:30–6:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

In this master class, Lawrence Scanlan – the author or co-author of 24 books including non-fiction, memoir, and young adult fiction details what he has learned in his forty-year-long writing life about the fundamentals of good prose. Learn about rhythm and flow, clarity and pacing, the use of imagery and dialogue, how to critique and edit one’s own work, and the art of the interview – the basis of so much journalism and almost every kind of writing. Limited enrolment.

#13 TWO AUTHORS, TWO WOMEN, TWO FLIGHTS: FICTION
HOWARD AKLER, CARY FAGAN
MODERATOR MERILYN SIMonds
Readings and Conversation ■ Bellevue Ballroom | 12:00–3:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Two women, each at the top of a flight of stairs. One grips the banister. The other does not. Bringing them together in this conversation are Cary Fagan, author of The Student, and Howard Akler, author of Splitsville – two powerful novels set in Toronto – that chronicle the extraordinary changes the city has undergone. Join Cary,
**#16 INTERNATIONAL MARQUEE**
Reading and Conversation
■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom
8:00–9:30 pm | Reg $40 / $38 Senior

Each year we invite a distinguished author of international acclaim to participate in a wide-ranging discussion of their career and body of work. The International Marquee is a cornerstone event for Kingston WritersFest, and has featured writers such as Annie Proulx, Michael Ondaatje, and Lawrence Hill. One of the most talked-about events at the Festival, the Marquee provides a unique opportunity to hear from world-class authors in an intimate setting. Come join us for an evening that hits the mark every time.

**Event sponsor:** King’s Crossing.
**Limited Enrolment.**

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**#17 TOP 20 WRITING GAFFES YOU CAN CATCH YOURSELF**
SUSAN SCOTT
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 9:00–11:30 am
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Susan Scott, non-fiction editor of *The New Quarterly*, shines a light on the typical mistakes that writers make, and shows you how to fix them to avoid being panned by social media, the grammar police, or others. Using examples from her work with books and magazines, national contests, retreats, and award-winning collaborations, Susan combines illustrations of errors and missteps with lively, pragmatic tips and exercises for avoiding certain pitfalls and attracting the right kind of attention to your work.

**Limited Enrolment.**

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**#18 ALL THINGS OBSERVED: MEMOIR**
ELIZABETH HAY with HOWARD AKLER
Reading and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
9:30-10:30 am
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

A festival favourite, award-winning author Elizabeth Hay is back! This time she has turned her razor-sharp gaze on herself, her family, and the challenging journey of aging that lies in front of us all. Funny, insightful, brave, and crafty, Elizabeth transforms the trials and tribulations of being a daughter in mid-life into vital prose. Join her in a heartfelt conversation with acclaimed Toronto author Howard Akler, whose own adroit writing unearths the same kind of eternal, yet personal, mysteries.

**Event sponsor:** Balzac’s Coffee Roasters.

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**#19 THE ODD COUPLE: FICTION**
EMMA DONOGHUE with ANAKANA SCHOFIELD
Reading and Conversation ■ Bellevue Ballroom | 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Internationally acclaimed Irish-Canadian author Emma Donoghue returns to Kingston WritersFest with a novel about odd pairings across generations, regions, language, status, and time. What links us is often far stronger than what separates us, and Emma’s writing is a formidable bridge of understanding in the modern world. Emma is joined in conversation by another Irish-Canadian firecracker of an author, Anakana Schofield, and together this pair promises to knock the lid off of writing, humour, and the oddest couple in contemporary fiction.

**Event sponsor:** Chris James.
#20  BOOK LOVERS’ LUNCH  ●  #20
BEN MCNALLY
Lunch and Solo Presentation

Islandview Room | 12:00–2:00 pm
Doors open at noon; lunch served at 12:30 pm
$45 / $40 Senior | Door $50 / $45 Senior

Get your notepads ready – here's your backstage pass to the publishing industry! No one is more plugged-in than Ben McNally of Toronto’s Ben McNally Books, and he is ready to give you another year of insightful book recommendations for discerning readers. Need we mention the charm, verve, and vigour with which he presents them? Always a festival favourite, the Book Lovers’ Lunch sells out quickly, so get your tickets now! Price includes lunch. Cash bar.

#21  POWER OF THE PITCH: FIND YOUR STORY’S NARRATIVE HOOKS  ●  #21
ANDREW PYPER
Writers Retreat ● Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 12:30–3:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

A book pitch is usually a blunt summary and crude sales vehicle, a disposable by-product of the real work. But pitching carries liberating potential to challenge what your story is “about.” In this master class, bestselling author Andrew Pyper gives you a series of exercises to discover your story’s most powerful expression. By the end of the afternoon, you’ll have written one of three documents crucial for getting your book published: the outline, the verbal pitch script, or the submission cover letter.
Limited enrolment.

#22  WOMEN WHO’VE HAD ENOUGH: FICTION  ●  #22
MEGAN GAIL COLES, ANAKANA SCHOFIELD
MODERATOR AARA MACAULEY
Readings and Conversation

Bellevue Ballroom | 2:30–3:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Join Irish-Canadian author Anakana Schofield and Newfoundland author Megan Gail Coles as they discuss small-town politics, neighbourhood gossips, and the fired-up, fed-up female characters that populate their new novels. With moderator Aara Macauley, they explore the situations and frustrations that drive women to the edge, and the challenges and importance of addressing hard topics – abuse, exploitation, power imbalances – with a little light and a lot of dark humour.

Media sponsor: Fresh 104.3.

#23  WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT DIALOGUE  ●  #23
DAVID BEZMOZGIS
Writers Retreat ● Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 3:30–6:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

We talk all the time, so nothing should be easier than writing dialogue. Yet most writers find it hard to do convincingly. The ones who can do it are said to have an “ear.” Showing examples from other writers and from his own work, award-winning novelist and screenwriter David Bezmozgis invites you to investigate together how dialogue is used, what separates the good from the awful, and to try team-writing some dialogue to share with the group.
Limited enrolment.

#24  WHO IS BRUCE KAUFFMAN?  ●  #24
HOST JASON HEROUX, GUEST OF HONOUR BRUCE KAUFFMAN
Film Screening ● The Screening Room
4:00–6:00 pm
FREE

Who Is Bruce Kauffman? is an anthology film that explores and celebrates Kingston's vibrant literary and spoken-word community through the eyes of a poet impresario who manages to be...
both ubiquitous and elusive. This is a thoughtful ode to a life devoted to the fusion of poetry and community, and an invitation for us to bridge the two. Join Kingston’s Poet Laureate, Jason Heroux, and special guest Bruce Kauffman for a special screening and talk-back.

A co-presentation with Skeleton Park Arts Festival.
Event sponsor: The Screening Room.
FREE EVENT for Culture Days.

#25 ROBERTSON DAVIES DINNER
EMMA DONOGHUE with MERILYN SIMONDS
Dinner, Keynote, and Conversation
■ Delta Hotel, Grandview l 6:00–8:00 pm
Doors open at 6:00 pm; dinner served at 6:30 pm
$45 / $40 Senior l Door $50 / $45 Senior
Includes tax and gratuity.

To celebrate the gift of storytelling in honour of Robertson Davies, beloved Canadian man of letters, we present writers whose work is of lasting impact. In 2019, we honour Emma Donoghue, internationally lauded author of unique works such as Slammerkin, Room, The Wonder, and her newest novel, Akin. After dinner, Emma delivers brief keynote comments and chats with Merilyn Simonds about the writing life, the importance of geography in fiction, and the challenges of telling stories on page, stage, and screen. Cash bar.

#26 VOADEN PRIZE READING
Staged Play Reading ■ Bellevue Ballroom
8:00–10:00 pm
FREE

Kingston WritersFest and the Dan School of Drama and Music proudly present a staged reading of the winning play of the 2019 Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition. Join us for an exclusive first look at the winning play at Kingston WritersFest. Previous Voaden Prize winners include Jordan Tannahill for Late Company and Norman Yeung for Theory. This year’s best play, announced at KWF’s July launch, receives a prize of $15,000.
A co-presentation with the Dan School of Drama & Music.
FREE Event as part of Culture Days.

#27 CHOOSING YOUR WORDS
LORNA CROZIER
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence
Ballroom l 9:00–11:30 am
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior l Door $40 / $38 Senior

“Poems, novels, stories are built word by word,” says poet Lorna Crozier. That sounds simple, but what goes into our choosing which word we'll use? Why “dolor” over “sadness”, “mutt” over “canine”? Lorna examines writers’ choices and then lets you write something, with this passage from Lewis Carroll in mind: “Must a name mean something?” Alice asked doubtfully.

“Of course, it must,” Humpty Dumpty said.

“My name means the shape I am – and a good handsome shape it is, too.”
Limited enrolment.

#28 SPILLS, THRILLS, AND READING WILLS: THE FICTION OF FEAR
CATHARINE MCKENZIE, ANDREW PYPER
Moderator MARC GARNISS
Readings and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
9:30–10:30 am
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior l Door $22 / $20 Senior

Petrifying plot twists. Treacheries you don’t see coming. Imaginations both out of this world and very much a part of it. Strap yourself in for some well-crafted and honest suspense with two of Canada’s scariest writers, Andrew Pyper and Catherine McKenzie. Moderated by Marc Garniss, director of the Kingston Canadian Film Festival, this event will explore the deeper truths beneath our fears, and how to face them.
A co-presentation with the Kingston Canadian Film Festival.
Event sponsor: Balzac’s Coffee Roasters.

KINGSTON WRITERSFEST 2019
KINGSTONWRITERSFEST.CA
Seneca said, “As is a tale, so is life: what matters is not how long, but how good.” Many consider the short story the toughest form to master, but David Bezmozgis and H.B. Hogan have found unique ways to tell illuminating, sometimes difficult, and often personal stories in the short form. Joined by short fiction author Adrian Michael Kelly, David and HB talk about how they distill theme, story, and character, and why the twist at the end never gets old.

Event sponsor: Chris James.

#30 Chop Suey Nation: The Exceptional Fusion of Canada, China, and Food

ANN HUI
Lunch, Reading, and Conversation
Silver Wok, 373 King Street East
11:00 am–12:00 pm, buffet open at 11:15 am
$30 / $27 Senior | Door $35 / $32 Senior
Includes tax and gratuity.

Don’t miss this exceptional lunch event! Globe and Mail national food reporter Ann Hui travelled across Canada for 18 days to report on why every small town has a Chinese restaurant. Her report eventually became Chop Suey Nation, which chronicles not just the history of Chinese-Canadian food (and the invention of dishes like ginger beef), but Ann’s own family history. Join Ann at the Silver Wok Restaurant for a tasty and fun exploration of this cornerstone of Canadian culture.

#31 Meaning Schmeaning: Writing as a Journey

STUART ROSS
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 12:30–3:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

In this unpredictable, enjoyable workshop, award-winning poet/fictioneer Stuart Ross encourages you to forget about “meaning” and “intention” and instead approach writing as a journey into a laboratory filled with a mysterious mist. Stuart leads you through four or five lively and fun poetry and prose projects, and what you write will surprise — and perhaps bewilder — even you! Join Stuart for this exploration into the wild possibilities of language.

#32 The Fiction of Guy Gavriel Kay: Where Fantasy and History Collide

GUY GAVRIEL KAY with BEN CHARLAND
Reading and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
12:30–1:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

International best-selling author Guy Gavriel Kay has created almost as many worlds as he has written books, and each is fleshed out with history, culture, language, and religion. While many fantasy authors hide their inspiration, Kay admits it up front. A Brightness Long Ago creatively evokes the Machiavellian world of Renaissance Italy. Ben Charland chats with Guy about the dialogue between fact and fiction, and what happens when the imagination is allowed to run free.
#33 THE TIME HAS COME: ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY
MICHAEL KAUFMAN with TANIS MACDONALD
Reading and Conversation ■ Bellevue Ballroom | 2:00–3:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

For decades, author and educator Michael Kaufman has urged boys and men not only to embrace but to actively promote equal rights for women. Michael argues that men also stand to benefit from the ongoing gender equality revolution, which promises to unlock immense economic, cultural, and creative potential around the world. In light of continuing barriers and backward steps, feminist poet Tanis MacDonald asks Michael what men have done – and what they can do. All are welcome!

Media Sponsor: CFRC 101.9.

#34 THE REALITY BUBBLE
ZIYA TONG with BEN CHARLAND
Reading and Conversation ■ Islandview Room | 3:30–4:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

We are only capable of seeing a thin sliver of reality, but beneath and between the careful surface there are hidden forces that affect our lives in unexpected and even dangerous ways. Renowned science journalist Ziya Tong uncovers the unseen and unspoken through the power of skin-unravelling X-rays, high-tech surveillance enabled by artificial intelligence, 360-degree animal vision, and much more. In conversation with podcaster Ben Charland, Ziya explores and exposes our collective blind spots and unblurs the lens of history.

#35 WRITING CHARACTER AND VOICE
ERIKA BEHRISCH ELCE
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 3:30–6:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Author Erika Behrisch explains techniques to develop richly-imagined and believable characters. Whether your character is fully fictional, based on a historical figure, or the poetic voice, good groundwork and thoughtful choices give your characters depth. Learn how research can be a great tool that delivers unexpected and surprising details that make characters spring off the page, and in a short writing exercise, experiment with bringing a character’s voice to life.

Limited enrolment.

#36 THE BIG IDEA: IS DEMOCRACY DOOMED?
ROBERT LEWIS, LEE MARACLE, DAVE MESLIN
Moderator CAROL OFF
Conversation ■ Bellevue Ballroom | 6:00–8:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

In this election year, the Big Idea focuses on a question that is on everyone’s mind: what is the future of Canadian democracy? Can cherished institutions endure ongoing assault from populism, climate change, social media, geopolitical turbulence, and accelerating social upheaval? Are our governments up to it? Join Indigenous poet and thought leader Lee Maracle, Robert Lewis, and Dave Meslin in conversation.
political journalist Robert Lewis, and community organizer and activist Dave Meslin in a critical and timely discussion with Kingston WritersFest’s veteran moderator, Carol Off.

Media Sponsor: The Walrus.

#37 LITERARY PUB (S)CRAWL
LORNA CROZIER, NANCY JO CULLEN, ABENA BELOVED GREEN, RABINDRANATH MAHARAJ, MICHAEL MCCREARY, STUART ROSS
Host SIDESHOW
Readings at Various Pubs
■ Meet in DOX at Holiday Inn
7:00–10:00 am
Price: $40 – event ticket plus 3 drinks† | $25 event ticket only
† domestic draft, 5 oz red or white wine, or standard bar rail
Special appetizer menus will be available for separate purchase at each venue
Includes tax and gratuity

Gather your friends and hit the town for this original and entertaining night of literature and libations. Join a group of intrepid bibliophiles and a half-dozen authors of poetry, comedic memoir, and prose on a trek to some of Kingston’s finest watering holes. The evening is designed with ample time to settle in, order an appetizer or beverage, and take in a pair of literary readings and performances at each stop. Author Q&A and book signing at final venue.

Media Sponsor: Corus Entertainment Kingston.

#38 AUTHOR! AUTHOR!
M.G. VASSANJI with ERIC FRIESEN
Reading and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
8:30–9:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

M.G. Vassanji’s award-winning novels are global in scope and scale. His most recent novel, A Delhi Obsession, explores the contours, passions, traditions, and seeming impossibilities that link Toronto and Delhi today. In conversation with broadcast journalist Eric Friesen, Vassanji will talk about the connections between his life and work, the inevitable sweep of history, and how those things that make us different are the same as those that make us human.

In celebration of the Governor General’s Literary Awards.

Media sponsor: Corus Entertainment Kingston.

#39 TO BE HERE: WRITING PLACE
TANIS MACDONALD
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 9:00–11:30 am
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Poet Tanis MacDonald asks, what is the action of being here now? How does the past inform the present, where “here” is subject to your own definition, and “history” is your lived experience of place. Using sample pieces of writing as a model, you write a piece about place to share with the class, then begin again, adding a new approach or piece of information that occurred to you as you presented or that was prompted by the work of others.

Limited enrolment.

#40 HOPE MATTERS
COLUMPA BOBB, LEE MARACLE
Moderator LESLEY BELLEAU
Readings and Conversation ■ Islandview Room | 9:30–10:30 am
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

The romance of the raven; the headstones in the clearing; the ember of justice; a cry to the bark-striped moon – these are just a few of the many images in Hope Matters, a collection of poems centred around the journey of Indigenous peoples
in Canada from colonialism to reconciliation, and from home to the broader world. Lee Maracle and co-writer and daughter Columpa Bobb of the Sto:lo Coast Salish nation share their insights and wisdom in conversation with Anishinaabekwe writer, Lesley Belleau.


#41 STITCHING IN TIME: HISTORICAL FICTION
JENNIFER ROBSON with BARBARA BELL
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue Ballroom | 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Join international best-selling author Jennifer Robson as she unpicks, in gorgeous detail, Princess Elizabeth’s super-secret wedding gown in post-war Britain. With glimpses into royal protocols, couturier design houses, and the desperate privations of two young women who work on the gown, Jennifer illuminates a time when a nation set aside its desperate worries and celebrated something happy and uplifting. In the confusion and stress of the present day, we could use such a celebration. Bring your handwork and leave your troubles at the door!

#42 VISUAL STORYTELLING
CLAIRE BOUVIER
Teenswrite! Sir John A. Macdonald Room
12:00–1:30 pm
FREE

Images have the power of saying a lot with a little. In this class, educator, entrepreneur, and creative (NOUN?) Claire Bouvier shows you the importance of light and darkness when telling a story and how to use different perspectives to emotionally connect with your audience. After a brief outdoor photography expedition, an exploratory opportunity to take photographs as part of the class, Claire brings you back inside and guides you through the creation of complementary text to enrich your visuals!

A co-presentation with Juvenis Festival.
Free event for Culture Days.

#43 THE LONG TABLE
AMY SYMINGTON with KATE KRISTIANSEN
Food, Reading, and Conversation
Delta Hotel, Grandview | 12:00–2:00 pm; food served at 12:15 pm
$45 / $40 Senior | Door $50 / $45 Senior
Includes tax and gratuity

What happens when you gather people around a long table for a delicious meal served family-style? Storytelling, of course, and lots of it. And connection. Break bread with professor of nutrition, chef, and food blogger Amy Symington for a delectable spread of “I-can’t-believe-it’s-veggie” dishes, served at a long table, family-style. After the meal, Amy chats with fellow food blogger, Kate Kristiansen. Bring your appetite and your friends for this one-of-a-kind food event! Cash bar.

Media Sponsor: Edible Ottawa.
Limited Seating.

#44 FIGHTING FOR THEIR RIGHTS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BLACK TRAIN PORTERS IN EARLY CANADA
CECIL FOSTER with LAWRENCE SCANLAN
Reading and Conversation
Islandview Room
12:30–1:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

“Blacks have always been part of the Canadian story,” says author Cecil Foster, “but Canada did not always recognize the contributions that blacks have made.” When white unions refused to allow black workers into their ranks, the porters formed their own organizations to demand respect for their labour. In conversation with Lawrence Scanlan, Cecil presents the unromanticized and previously untold story of their fight for social justice and how it changed this country for the better!
#45 BEYOND THE FIRST DRAFT: POLISHING YOUR WORK
RABINDRANATH MAHARAJ
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 12:30–3:00 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Award-winning author Rabindranath Maharaj helps you get your work ready for publication, as he takes you through various subjects, including understanding your audience, matching length and style to genre and topic, and checking for continuity of description, timeline, language, and theme. Rabindranath explains the critical refining decisions that lead to a viable final draft, encourages group discussion, and allows 30 minutes for quiet writing time, during which he offers individual, focused feedback.

#46 LADY FRANKLIN WRITES: WHERE HISTORIANS DARE NOT GO
ERIKA BEHRISCH ELCE with Y.S. LEE
Reading and Conversation ■ Bellevue Ballroom
2:00–3:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

In her debut novel, Erika Behrisch Elce explores the doomed Franklin Expedition from a fresh perspective, that of Franklin’s wife. The story begins as she anticipates Sir John’s return and continues through her campaign for answers after his death. Written in a lively and instantly believable voice, this epistolary novel speaks back to standard biographies of an extraordinary woman. Erika and YA novelist Y. S. Lee talk about rigorous research, pure invention, and the unexplored spaces in between.


#47 AND THE JOURNEY CONTINUES
ALLISON CHISHOLM, ABENA BELOVED GREEN, AND OTHERS
Spoken Word Performance ■ Holiday Inn Garden | 2:00–3:00 pm
FREE

A hit every year! Come celebrate emerging local talent with a set of energizing, provocative, and powerful spoken-word performances. Headlined by Kingston’s own verbal powerhouse Allison Chisholm and Toronto spoken-word poet Abena Beloved Green, this event promises to make you see the world in a different way – maybe more than once! Follow the signs or ask for directions to the Garden at the Holiday Inn, and remember to bring a lawn chair to this outdoor event!

A co-presentation with Juvenis Festival and Blue Canoe Productions, with generous support from Poetry in Voice. FREE EVENT for Culture Days.

#48 SICILIAN AWAKENINGS: FICTION
STEVEN PRICE with GREGORY MCCORMICK
Reading and Conversation ■ Islandview Room
3:30–4:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

Some authors peel back the layers of character to reveal what makes us truly human. Some survey the historical record to find the lines that unite us through time. And some explore the passion, desperation, and terrible power of creativity, and the need to make something magical. Very few novelists do all of these; author Steven Price makes it look effortless. Join him in conversation with literary aficionado Gregory McCormick as they discuss the capacity for fiction to tell many stories at once.
#49 YOGA AND THE ART OF RELAXED WRITING
KIRSTEEN MACLEOD
Writers Retreat ■ Residence Inn, St. Lawrence Ballroom | 3:30–5:30 pm
Adv. $35 / $32 Senior | Door $40 / $38 Senior

Author/ yoga teacher Kirsteen MacLeod helps you harness yoga’s power, free up your writing, and feed your creative flame. Gentle yoga poses, suitable for almost everyone, provide a jumping-off point for writing exercises. The body-centred process teaches you to work with less effort, generate new material intuitively, and apply new skills to advance your writing projects. Please bring your yoga mat and tools for writing by hand, or use provided mats and supplies onsite. All levels of writing and physical ability welcome. Relax, breathe, and be inspired!

FESTIVAL MAP
Legend
1. Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront
2. Residence Inn by Marriott
3. Delta Hotels by Marriott
4. The Screening Room (120 Princess Street)
5. The Silver Wok (373 King Street)
6. Studio 22 (320 King Street)
7. Monte’s (200 Ontario Street)
Join Michael September 28th to bust a gut—and autism stereotypes.

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Kingston WritersFest 2017
Events for Kids, K-8
AUTHORS@SCHOOL

The popular and fun Authors@School program is back! Kingston WritersFest is proud to bring some of Canada’s best children’s authors to Kingston-area elementary schools to share stories and illustrate the power of words to inspire and delight. This is a chance to nurture Canada’s future writers and readers, and to demonstrate that the written word is not only captivating, but accessible.

This year, Erin Bow, Shannon Bramer, Alan Cumyn, Cary Fagan, and David Alexander Robertson visit ten schools on Wednesday, September 25. Young audiences get the chance to meet writers, participate in illustration workshops, listen to story readings, and learn about worlds beyond their own.

For more information, visit kingstonwritersfest.ca.

Sponsored by BMO Nesbitt Burns and the Dr. Samuel S. Robinson Foundation.

Events for Youth
FESTIVAL FIELD TRIPS

Kingston WritersFest welcomes students to a day of events designed to inform and inspire. The program features a range of critically acclaimed authors chosen for their literary talent, compelling topics, and skill in connecting with readers of all ages.

THURSDAY, September 26

#4 GHOSTS, TRUTHS, AND THE POWER WITHIN
with Karen McBride, David Alexander Robertson, and Lindsay Morcom
■ Islandview | 9:30–10:30 am
Secrets, lies, and the borderlands between life and death.

#5 DIVING INTO THE PLANET
with Jill Heinerth
■ Bellevue | 9:30–10:30 am
Explore the planet as few others can.

#7 WITHOUT APOLOGY: YA FICTION
with S.K. Ali, Sabina Khan, and Y.S. Lee
■ Islandview | 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Staying true to yourself, against tradition.

#8 FINDING FREEDOM: THE MYTH OF THE BINARY
with Joshua Ferguson and Lee Airton
■ Bellevue | 11:00 am–12:00 pm
The limitations of gender-binary identity.

#10 WOLF MUSIC
with Paula Wild
■ Islandview | 12:30–1:30 pm
If you heard a wolf howl, would you run towards it?
TeensWrite! Studio Events
IN THE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD ROOM

#6 PERSONAL POETRY
with Alyssa Cooper
Thursday, September 26 | 9:30–10:45 am
Express yourself in poetry, from pen to performance.

#9 I LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL STRANGE WAY YOU SPEAK TO ME: PLAYWRITING
with Shannon Bramer
Thursday, September 26 | 11:00 am–12:15 pm
An interactive playwriting workshop devoted to crafting voices for the stage.

#11 WORDS AND PIX: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
with David Alexander Robertson
Thursday, September 26 | 12:30–1:45 pm
Take a tour of the graphic novel!

#41 VISUAL STORYTELLING
with Claire Bouvier
Sunday, September 29 | 12:00–1:30 pm
Learn the power of saying a lot with a little.

For details, see the Events section in this program guide, or visit kingstonwritersfest.ca.

Supported by B’nai Brith, Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, and Limestone District School Board

Supported by St. Lawrence College

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Last year, wanting to be part of something unique here in Kingston, I first got involved with WritersFest. I quickly discovered an infectious and relentlessly curious energy, both onstage and behind the scenes. The events in this guide promise not just entertainment and fresh ideas, but the chance to be changed by the written and spoken word, and thus get inspired to be the change in the world.

As editor of this program guide, I wondered if others shared in my enthusiasm, and if they could help explain what transforms a few days on a waterfront corner of Kingston into a bustling crossroads for dialogue and discovery. In this spirit, I asked long-time Festival presenters Eric Friesen (Events 16, 38) and Ben McNally (Event 20), “just what is it about Kingston WritersFest?”

BEN McNALLY:
“There are lots of reasons to love Kingston WritersFest. The programming is unfailingly top notch; always topical, diverse, and considered. The Festival very wisely schedules events from morning to night, and its ongoing focus on process is extremely valuable. What stands out for me, however, is the community. It is always gratifying for me to see the level of enthusiasm and engagement of the local people. The audiences are always uplifting, whether I’m standing up in front of them or seated in their midst. Obviously, Kingston is a pretty great place, but the degree to which WritersFest has generated and nurtured the involvement and support of the citizenry is truly cause for celebration.”

ERIC FRIESEN:
“What has always impressed me about Kingston WritersFest, from its earliest days, is the sheer scope of its ambition to be a significant festival to rank with those of our major cities. When Nobel prizewinner J.M. Coetzee came for the International Marquee, I knew we had something very special. I remember sitting among a group of high school students, who were crying by the time Marina Nemat finished describing her time as a prisoner of Tehran. As an interviewer I recall the night Michael Chabon deftly faced down his critics for his position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And I will never forget the unexpected warmth, honesty, and curmudgeonly humour of Annie Proulx, whose passions ranged from the destruction of our native forests to the outports of Newfoundland and the folly of her grand house project in Wyoming. Every year of WriterFest I am reassured that I don’t have to travel to Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal to meet the great and the best up-and-coming writers of our time. I will meet them here, in Kingston, up close and personal.”

– Ben Charland
JOIN US FOR OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
REGISTER AT STLAWRENCECOLLEGE.CA/OPENHOUSE
The Big Idea
From climate change to rising populism to social media, how is democracy meant to evolve and function in modern society—and is it rising to the challenge? A conversation on the future of Canadian democracy between poet, critic, and activist Lee Maracle, political journalist Robert Lewis, and community organizer Dave Meslin, moderated by Carol Off.
Event 36
Saturday, September 28, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

The Robertson Davies Dinner
In celebration of Canadian literary lion Robertson Davies, this event welcomes award-winning novelist, playwright, and screenwriter Emma Donoghue. Join Emma and moderator Merilyn Simonds for an intimate dinner and conversation, as they reflect on Emma’s illustrious career and the diverse challenges of telling stories on page, stage, and screen.
Event 25
Friday, September 27, 6:00 – 8:00 pm,
Delta Hotel, Grandview
Adv. $45 / $40 Senior
Includes tax and gratuity

The International Marquee
One of the festival’s signature events, the International Marquee celebrates international talent, bringing acclaimed, award-winning authors from around the world to the Kingston stage.
Event 16
Thursday, September 26, 8:00 – 9:30 pm,
Delta Hotel, St. Lawrence Ballroom
Reg $40 / $38 Senior

Author! Author!
Award-winning novelist MG Vassanji’s latest novel, A Delhi Obsession, explores the passions, histories, and seeming impossibilities that link Toronto and Delhi today. In conversation with broadcast journalist Eric Friesen, Vassanji discusses love, grief, tradition, and rebellion in a multi-faceted global context.
Event 38
Saturday, September 28, 8:30 – 9:30 pm
Adv. $20 / $18 Senior | Door $22 / $20 Senior

THE CORNERSTONES OF KINGSTON WRITERSFEST
COUNT ON THESE FOUR SIGNATURE LITERARY EVENTS TO SPARK LONG-LASTING CONVERSATIONS.
Learning to say “they” is a process, admits Lee Airton, “rather like learning to pronounce and use someone else’s culturally unfamiliar (to you) name... This takes repetition, trial and error. A note to self, a bit of practice, a few gentle reminders, and, voila: You’re on your way.”

Lee is an award-winning Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies in Education at Queen’s University. As a researcher and speaker, Lee enables individuals and institutions to welcome gender and sexual diversity in everyday life. They founded the blog They Is My Pronoun, and the No Big Deal Campaign, which supports transgender peoples’ right to proper pronouns.

Lee’s book, Gender: Your Guide - A Gender-Friendly Primer on What to Know, What to Say and What to Do in the New Gender Culture, serves as a complete primer to all things gender. In a starred review, The Library Journal calls it “an invaluable resource... especially with Airton’s empathetic approach, which regularly acknowledges and validates challenges.”

Lee’s writing has appeared in publications such as the Journal of Education Policy, The Globe and Mail, and the Toronto Star. With Dr. Susan Woolley, they are editing a collection of gender diversity lesson plans for K-12 teachers. Event 8

HOWARD AKLER “Akler delivers the goods with originality and flair, with language as gorgeous as a Jean Harlow pin-up and dialogue sharper than a burst from a Thompson submachine gun.” — The Globe and Mail.

Howard Akler is the author of four books including The City Man, which was nominated for the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, the City of Toronto Book Award, and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, and Men of Action, which won the Canadian Jewish Literary Award, was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Award, and was featured as a part of the 2015 New York Times Gift Guide. Howard writes columns and book reviews for numerous publications, including the Toronto Star and the Los Angeles Review of Books.

His latest novel, Splitsville, recounts a bookseller’s love affair, start to finish, against the backdrop of a city in protest against the proposed construction of the behemoth Spadina expressway. Author Kerry Clare praises “the novel’s attention to language, its literary references, its bookstore setting, the subtlety of its plot and pacing, its absolutely perfect conclusion, and the mystery at its core, questions without answers... And now that
Governor General’s Literary Award. His writing has appeared in many publications, including The New Yorker, Harper's, Zoetrope: All-Story, and Best American Short Stories.

Immigrant City, David’s latest book, represents his first collection of short stories in more than a decade. In a starred review, Quill & Quire states that “this new collection resonates with power and poignancy,” and The Globe and Mail praised his “uncanny ability to write sensitive, sympathetic prose.”

A graduate of the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts, David pairs his literary output with an active filmmaking career. His first feature film, Victoria Day, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and subsequently received a Genie Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. His second feature film adapts his story Natasha, and was released in 2017. He is the Director of the Humber School for Writers.

Born in Riga, Latvia, David lives in Toronto. Events 23, 29

COLUMPA BOBB is an award-winning actor, writer, and instructor. Acting credits span screen and stage, including roles with the Firehall Arts Centre and Native Earth Performing Arts Inc. TV appearances include Mary Cook on CBC’s North of 60 and guest roles on The Rez.

She is the author of numerous plays, including Singing Shards, Jumping Mouse (which was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award), The Race, and co-writer of the sketch comedy A House Fell on Our Sister with Leith Clark.

Hope Matters, co-written with her mother Lee Maracle and sister Tania Carter, is a collection of poetry focused on the journey of Indigenous people from colonial beginnings to reconciliation. Author Judith Thompson described the poems, written in alternating voices, as “utterly unique and yet there is a striking commonality: commonality of blood, of perspective, and most of all, how the immense power of female desire is expressed through the power and dynamism of the natural world.”

Columpa was Artistic Director and lead Instructor of Manitoba Theatre for Young People’s Aboriginal Arts Training and Mentorship Program, and a founding member of both the Indigenous Peoples Arts Alliance and the Eastern Empowerment through the Arts Facilitators.

She lives in Toronto. Event 40

ANNE BOKMA’s parents presented her with a portable Olivetti manual typewriter for her 11th birthday, and she has been writing ever since. Anne is an internationally recognized freelance journalist, editor, and travel writer who specializes in writing on spiritual topics. Her work has appeared in many of Canada’s leading national magazines and newspapers, and she had been recognized with over two dozen awards from The Canadian Business Press, The Canadian Society of Magazine Editors, and The Canadian Association of Journalists, amongst others. She currently serves as the “Spiritual but Secular” columnist for Broadview, reporting on the growing Spiritual-But-Not-Religious (SBNR) population.

Her book, My Year of Living Spiritually: One Woman’s Secular Search for a More Soulful Life, documents her twelve-month experiment in living a more soulful life, tracing her journey with a “tender, tongue-in cheek” sensibility. The book is based on Anne’s blog of the same name, which saw Anne hiring a ‘soul coach,’ dancing under the full moon at witch camp, and attempting forest bathing.

A dynamic public speaker, Anne is the founder of the 6-Minute Memoir “speed storytelling for a cause” series of charitable events that brings together storytellers to share tales on a theme. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario. Event 14

CLAIRE BOUVIER “I’ve always believed those who leave their comfort zones will find an unexpected beauty, a new opportunity, a connection that leads them to something greater,” says Claire Bouvier, “a happiness that is found outside the worlds of mediocrity.”

Claire clearly practices what she preachers. Her background includes teaching, music, sports, fashion, design, travel, photography, art directing, and creative design. For the past ten
years, Claire has been working to help women leave their comfort zone and reach their full potential through the arts and entrepreneurship. Her projects include The Loft Girls, a mobile fashion boutique that features vintage, custom, and local handmade items, and FEIST Canada, which helps build communities for female entrepreneurs in small towns across Canada.

Her television show, FEIST-Y (Bell Fibe TV1), has Claire meeting with some of Kingston’s most “interesting and eclectic personalities.” Claire’s photography draws inspiration from the hashtag #SpreadYourAwesome, and her belief that life should be about dedicating moments of your day to creativity and curiosity. Her professional photography portfolio spans the globe, from North America to Asia to Europe, and she has been praised for her “natural and instinctive flair for visual storytelling.”

Claire lives in Kingston, Ontario.

**ERIN BOW**

“All my books will either make you cry on the bus or snort milk out your nose,” warns Erin Bow. “I am dangerous to your dignity.” Her stories also stretch our heartstrings almost beyond endurance before returning us to ourselves, exhausted and tear-stained and exultant. Erin is a physicist by training, a poet and novelist by vocation, and a lover of animals, quests, and well-timed poop jokes.

Her first novel, the Russian-flavoured fairy tale *Plain Kate*, won the TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award. She is also the author of two critically acclaimed science fiction novels, *The Scorpion Rules* and *The Swan Riders*, and the fantasy-horror story “Sorrow’s Knot.” In her middle-grade debut, *Stand on the Sky*, Erin immerses us in nomadic Kazakh culture, which she learned about while living and working alongside a family of Kazakh nomads in the Olgii aimag (province) in Westernmost Mongolia.

Erin believes cats actually can talk; they just don’t find us worthy. She lives in Kitchener, Ontario, with her husband, author James Bow, their two daughters, a noble grey tomcat, and a Goldendoodle named Luna Lovegood.

**Authors@School**
SHANNON BRAMER Poet and playwright Shannon Bramer “love[s] listening to people talk; how people express and hide what’s inside. It’s so wonderfully peculiar and specific.” The poems in *Climbing Shadows* were specifically “inspired by conversations with children and by conversations (overheard!) between children — both my own and those I have spent time with in schools as a visiting artist and kindergarten lunchroom supervisor.” But Shannon reminds us that, gorgeously illustrated though they are, these are not nursery rhymes for children only; they are “poems for human beings of all ages.”

Shannon has published a number of poetry collections and chapbooks, winning the Hamilton and Region Best Book Award for *Suitcases, and Other Poems*. Her most recent collection, *Precious Energy*, has also been highly acclaimed. Shannon’s plays include *Chloe’s Tiny Heart Is Closed* for young audiences, and *The Hungriest Woman in the World*. She lives with her family in Toronto. *Authors@School, Event 9*

BEN CHARLAND is a writer, podcaster, and creative consultant. Ben’s work is informed by the many hats he’s worn over the years: playwright, theatre director, artistic director, tour guide, actor, political hack, traveler, teacher, government worker, blogger, speechwriter, manager, and (yes) traffic coordinator for a paper shredding company. He’s lived on four continents and has been lucky to visit over 50 countries, but the common thread for Ben is unrelenting curiosity.

Ben hosts the weekly podcast *What On Earth is Going On?*, which covers wide and varied topics ranging from globalization and climate change, to the rise of social media and the decline and fall of Blockbuster Video, to AI and VR, and Donald Trump and Flat Earthers.

“The world is changing so fast that we can’t get a grip on how we got here,” explains Ben, “let alone where we’re headed.”

The podcast is his way of peeling back the headlines to ask, what are the events, characters, forces, and ideas that shape the human story today? Have things always been this nuts, or are they getting crazier by the day? And, most importantly, just what on Earth is going on?

Ben lives in Kingston, Ontario, with his wife Shelaine. *Events 32, 34*

“ALLISON CHISHOLM’s poems are plain-talking spirals of wit and description. She walks the reader along a path of surprises — a straightforward line steps to another straightforward line, but getting there involves Escher-like angles.” — author Alice Burdick.

Allison is a poet, photographer, and former Hawaiian dream pop glockenspiel player whose poetry has appeared in *The Northern Testicle Review*, the chap-poem *The Dollhouse, The Week Shall Inherit The Verse*, and the chapbook *On the Count of One*.

*On the Count of None* is her first full-length poetry collection. Alison explains that the poems in this debut explore “the juxtaposition between the serious and the absurd.” *The Winnipeg Free Press* praises the work as being “filled with surprising turns and sly imagery,” with “something for every reader, even their horoscopes.” Author Nelson Ball commends her “deadpan humour,” stating that “there are lots of rewards among these lines,” a sentiment echoed by author Jaime Forsythe, who notes the “surprising pleasures tucked into these succinct poems.”

Allison Chisholm lives and writes in Kingston, Ontario. *Event 47*

MEGAN GAIL COLES “In history, every time a society is on the precipice of moving into a different, potentially more advantageous or equal stage, there’s a lot of push-back,” says Megan Gail Coles, “and unfortunately the push-back that
we’re feeling right now is taking on very violent, very sinister forms.”

Megan is an award-winning author, editor, and playwright. She is co-founder and co-artistic director of Poverty Cove Theatre Company. She has published numerous plays including Falling Trees, Bound and Our Eliza, with several more in progress. Her debut fiction collection, Eating Habits of the Chronically Lonesome, won the BMO Winterset Award and The Margaret & John Savage First Book Award.

Her new novel, Small Game Hunting at the Local Coward Gun Club, focuses on a cast of complexly interconnected characters as they navigate through a shared stormy day at the upscale Hazel restaurant. Author Elisabeth de Mariafi calls the book “a singular, beautiful, burning story — not only a piercing page-turner but a sharp and essential portrait of an island and its people… It is an ocean of a book.”

Originally from Savage Cove, Megan now resides in St. John’s where she works at Breakwater Books, and is Artist-In-Residence at the Arts & Culture Centre. Event 22

ALYSSA COOPER was born and raised in Belleville, Ontario, and is currently living in Kingston with her partner, two cats, and a Boston Terrier. A wearer of many hats, Alyssa is an author, poet, and spoken word performer, as well as an artist and graphic designer.


Alyssa is an active member of the poetry and spoken word communities in Kingston, and is one of the featured performers/interview subjects in the documentary film Who is Bruce Kauffman? As well as being a regular performer in Kingston and Toronto, she currently holds executive positions in the Kingston Poetry Collective and the Kingston Youth Poetry Slam planning committee. Event 6

LORNA CROZIER An Officer of the Order of Canada, Lorna Crozier has been acknowledged for her contributions to Canadian literature, her teaching, and her mentoring with five honorary doctorates, most recently from McGill and Simon Fraser Universities. Her books have received numerous national awards, including the Governor General’s Award for Poetry. The Globe and Mail declared The Book of Marvels: A Compendium of Everyday Things one of its Top 100 Books of the Year, and Amazon chose her memoir as one of the 100 books you should read in your lifetime. A Professor Emerita at the University of Victoria, she has performed for Queen Elizabeth II and has read her poetry, which has been translated into several languages, on every continent except Antarctica. Her book, What the Soul Doesn’t Want, was nominated for the Governor General’s Award for Poetry.

Her latest work, The House the Spirit Builds, is a collection of poems inspired by the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. Lorna’s poetry, accented by the photographs of Peter Coffman and Diane Laundy, evokes some of the area’s most characteristic landscapes and revered cultural heritage.

In 2018, Lorna received the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award. She lives on Vancouver Island with cats who love to garden. Events 00, 27, 37

MICHAEL CRUMMEY “I have a very strong sense that what makes Newfoundland… unique, what’s different about us,” says Michael Crummey, “is the stories we have, of what we came from and what we are. It’s an unbelievably rich tradition.”

Michael Crummey was born and raised in
Newfoundland, though he’s secured his status as an honorary local following a spell in Kingston as a student and writer, during which time he was the inaugural recipient of the Bronwen Wallace Award for Poetry. His first poetry collection won the Writers’ Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Poetry; his second was short-listed for the Milton Acorn People’s Poetry Award. His fiction novels are equally acclaimed: *Galore* won the Canadian Authors Association’s Fiction Award, the Commonwealth Prize, was short-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Award, and the Governor General’s Award. *Sweetland* was a finalist for the Governor General’s Award, and *River Thieves* was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

This year Michael returns with the new novel *The Innocents*, a heartbreaking and richly imagined tale set on an isolated cove on Newfoundland’s northern coastline. The novel follows the lives of an orphaned brother and sister as they struggle with hardship, survival, and the limits of familial loyalty. **Event 2**

NANCY JO CULLEN is an award-winning novelist and poet. She is the recipient of the Writers’ Trust Dayne Ogilvie Prize for Emerging Gay Writers, the Metcalf-Rooke Award, and the Alberta Publishers Trade Book Award. She has been nominated or shortlisted for several awards, including the W.O. Mitchell Calgary Book Prize, the Canadian League of Poets Gerald Lampert Award, and the Journey Prize twice. Her new novel, *The Western Alienation Merit Badge*, is set during the early 80’s recession in Calgary. It focuses on Frankie as she returns from overseas to help her father and sister as they struggle with grief and impending financial ruin. Author Casey Plett describes the book as the “queer prairie novel of my dreams — electric, funny, hot, heartbreaking, scathing… [it] flashes effortlessly back and forth between four decades of sisterhood, poverty, estrangement, grief, queerness and, well, alienation.” In his review, author Brian Francis says, “I loved many things about this book… but I loved Nancy’s writing most of all. She has a gift of capturing the smallest moments of our lives and turning them into brilliant gems.”

A transplanted westerner, she now lives in Kingston, Ontario. **Event 37**

ALAN CUMYN “For me, the strongest draw of fiction is to give the reader a semblance of living through compelling events in the thoughts and skins of fascinating people,” says Alan Cumyn. “I want to have done all the hard work of breaking down the barriers so that it is easy for me to immerse myself in other lives and worlds.”

In Alan’s new novel, *North to Benjamin*, we live the experience of Edgar, a shy but resourceful boy trying to find his balance as a newcomer to Dawson City. A perpetual outsider with a charismatic and unstable mother, Edgar finds himself able to speak only to dogs — an affliction that coincides with the most dangerous episode of his life.

The author of a dozen critically acclaimed novels for both adults and children, Alan’s work has been shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award, the Giller Prize, and the Trillium Award, and he has twice won the Ottawa Book Award. In 2016 he received the Writers’ Trust of Canada’s Vicky Metcalf Award for his exceptional body of work in young people’s literature. **Authors@School, Event 12**

EMMA DONOGHUE “From the age of 23,” says author Emma Donoghue, “I have earned my living as a writer, and have been lucky enough to never have an ‘honest job’ since I was sacked after a single summer month as a chambermaid.”

Emma’s passion for writing is clear — she has tried her hand at everything from kidlit, YA, historical and contemporary fiction, to literary history, screenplays, playwriting, and radio drama, and has won countless awards in the process. She experienced phenomenal success with *Room* in 2010, which won the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize and the Commonwealth Prize for Fiction, amongst other accolades.

Emma later adapted the book into an Oscar award-winning film. Her screenplay was nominated for its own Oscar and won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Adapted
Screenplay, as well as over a dozen other awards.

Her latest novel, *Akin*, marks her return to contemporary fiction. The story explores the odd-couple pairing of a retired New York professor and his eleven-year-old great-nephew going to the French Riviera to unearth the professor’s mother’s wartime secrets.

After years of commuting between England, Ireland, and Canada, Emma eventually settled in London, Ontario, where she lives with her partner and two children. **Events 19, 25**

**ERIKA BEHRISCH ELCE** Now Associate Dean of Arts and Associate Professor, Distance Learning Coordinator, at the Royal Military College of Canada, Erika Behrisch Elce lived in Alaska until the age of 12. Given that background, perhaps it’s not surprising she decided to study 19th-century polar exploration professionally.

Erika originally came to Kingston to do graduate work at Queen’s University. “I chose the study of literature as a vocation because I am at heart very nosy,” she says. “English Literature, so full of opinions, hidden agendas, unintentional revelations, and cultural complexity, offered what was in my mind the richest study of culture higher education could afford.”

Erika’s novel, *Lady Franklin of Russell Square*, was described by Helen Humphreys as “[a]n original and provocative exploration of John Franklin’s doomed Arctic odyssey from the perspective of Lady Franklin…a captivating tale of transformation.”

Erika draws on nineteenth-century naval surgeons’ journals to explore “the tales that don’t make the history books: the smell of the lower decks, the effects of quack medicines, the crews’ rowdy onshore adventures, and the heavy toll a life at sea takes on the sailor’s body.” These details give her narrative a sharp immediacy that brings her tale to vibrant life. **Events 35, 46**

**CARY FAGAN** “Every story,” says Cary Fagan, “tries to put into words something for which there are no words.” The author of six novels and three story collections, as well as many award-winning books for children, Cary explores this ambiguity within his characters’ lives. His novel *The Student* focuses on a young woman in 1957 who abandons her safe, high-achieving life in order to follow her activist boyfriend to the States. A half-century later, on the eve of her son’s wedding, Miriam must reckon with her past. With innovative structure, delicate prose, and intelligently crafted characters, Cary explores how we are shaped by — and can eventually overcome — the constraints of the times we occupy.

Cary also presents one of his recent picture books as part of our Authors@Schools program. *What Are You Doing, Benny?* is a sweet, moving portrait of sibling relationships in which younger children will surely recognize themselves.

Other books include *A Bird’s Eye* (finalist for the Rogers Trust Fiction Prize, and Amazon.ca Best Book of the Year) and the story collection *My Life Among the Apes* (longlisted for the Giller Prize, Amazon.ca Best 100 Books of 2013). Cary was born and raised in Toronto, where he lives. **Authors@School, Event 13**

**JOSHUA M. FERGUSON** When asked about the lack of understanding about being a non-binary individual, Joshua M. Ferguson says, “we aren’t just a spectacle, a passing fad or a new thing. We’ve been here forever, and we have important stories to tell.”

Joshua has found many ways to tell their story as a filmmaker, writer, and advocate. Their writing has been featured in publications like *Teen Vogue*, *HuffPost*, *OUT Magazine*, and the *Toronto Star*. Joshua’s films have screened internationally and include the award-winning *Whispers of Life*, *Limina*, *Henry’s Heart*, and the forthcoming documentary *They Are Joshua*. Their advocacy on behalf of non-binary trans people has contributed to government reform in Canada. In 2018, Joshua made history by becoming the first person in Ontario to receive a non-binary ‘X’ birth certificate after resolving a human rights challenge with the province.

Joshua’s memoir, *Me, Myself, They: Life Beyond the Binary*, chronicles the evolution of their identity, including traumatizing experiences with
gender conversion therapy, bullying, depression, and sexual and physical assault. But Joshua’s story is above all about survival, empathy, and self-acceptance. The book calls for recognition, understanding, and respect for all trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people.

Joshua lives in Vancouver with their partner Florian. Event 8

Cecil Foster

CECEL FOSTER is an acclaimed author, academic, and journalist. He has worked with major print and broadcast media in the Caribbean and Canada including The Globe and Mail, CBC Radio and TV, Chatelaine, and Maclean’s.

His book, Blackness and Modernity: The Colour of Humanity and the Quest for Freedom, won the Canadian Sociology Association’s John Porter Tradition of Excellence Book Award, and A Place Called Heaven: The Meaning of Being Black in Canada, won the Gordon Montador Award for Best Canadian Book on Contemporary Social Issues. His novel, Sleep On, Beloved, was shortlisted for the Ontario Trillium Book Prize.

They Call Me George: The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada, was inspired by his fascination with “the narrative of how Canada was built by the railways,” says Cecil, “how Canada was held together by a thin ribbon of steel. But who manned those railways?” A Toronto Star review praises his exploration of the largely erased “role that Black train porters played in furthering social justice and shaping Canada into the country it is today.”

Born in Barbados, Cecil is Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Director of Canadian Studies in the Department of Transnational Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Event 44

ERIC FRIESEN’s name and voice are well known to radio listeners. A long-time radio personality who has been called one of the most gifted broadcasters in the industry, Eric has hosted many CBC flagship programs, including All in a Day, The Eric Friesen Show, Onstage at Glenn Gould Studio, In Performance, and Studio Sparks.

Born in Altona, Manitoba, Eric fell in love with radio at an early age and worked his first on-air shift when he was just a teenager. He has also worked in American public radio and recently created three major radio documentary series featuring Pinchas Zukerman, Emanuel Ax, and Peter Oundjian.

Since leaving the CBC at the end of 2008, Eric has been busy serving a wide variety of major cultural organizations in Canada. Most recently, Eric helped launch Winnipeg’s Classic 107 radio station and is currently a consultant for Radio New Zealand Concert. He has also been a host on Minnesota Public Radio.

Eric is past Chair of Kingston WritersFest’s Board of Directors and a ten-year alumnus of our stage. We simply couldn’t imagine a Festival without him. He and his wife, artist Susan Friesen, live on Amherst Island near Kingston. Event 38

MARC GARNISS is the director of the Kingston Canadian Film Festival (KCFF), the world’s largest all-Canadian film festival. The 2019 festival was his sixth season with the organization.

Prior to KCFF, Marc managed KPP Concerts (aka Kingston Punk Productions), an independent concert promotion collective he formed with several friends while studying history at Queen’s University. KPP has organized hundreds of concerts, including shows for Arkells, Henry Rollins, City and Colour, Fred Eaglesmith, Dinosaur Jr., and Bedouin Soundclash.

Marc’s interests include hockey and the Toronto
Maple Leafs, playing guitar (he toured in a band from 2007-2010, playing shows across Canada, the US, and Europe), and of course, Canadian movies. Marc is an avid festival-goer and enjoys experiencing new events whenever possible, with recent trips to the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Pop Montreal, and the Orlando Fringe Festival.

Marc lives in Kingston with his wife Moira Demorest and their cats. Event 28

ABENA BELOVED GREEN (aka Roots n’ Rhythm) is an award-winning multi-disciplinary artist. As a poet and spoken word artist, she is a two-time Halifax Slam team member and was a Canadian Individual Poetry Slam finalist. She won the Writers’ Federation of Nova Scotia’s Atlantic Writing Competition (now Nova Writes) poetry prize, and, as a recipient of the Ontario Arts Council’s Word of Mouth grant she produced the spoken word album Beloved. As a freelance writer and editor, her work has appeared in various websites and magazines including Sway, Black to Business, Profile Halifax, The Service Mag (Rwanda), and Halifax Magazine.

Abena also has over ten years of experience dancing and teaching traditional and modern West African Dances and step (also referred to as stomp). She founded the step team Lady Step and led the group for four years, and performed with the African Dance Ensemble in Toronto.

The Way We Hold On is Abena’s debut book of poetry. Her poems address cultural, social, and environmental issues, relationships, and reflect on everyday life as a small-town raised, semi-nomadic, first-generation Canadian. Here are poems about holding on and letting go — of ideas, opinions, beliefs, people, places, and things.

Abena lives in Toronto. Events 37, 47

ELIZABETH HAY Repeat KWF alumna Elizabeth Hay is the author of nine original, highly distinctive novels. From The Only Snow in Havana — an imaginative blend of autobiography, history, and biography that won the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Nonfiction—to the highly-acclaimed stories in Small Change, to the Giller Award-winning Late Nights on Air, each is characterized by Elizabeth’s keen insight, dark humour, and superb craftsmanship.

All Things Consoled: A Daughter’s Memoir, her first book of non-fiction, was shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize and won the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction.

“There’s no two other people that I’ve thought about as much as I’ve thought about as my parents,” says Elizabeth. “I call them the vivid giants of my life.”

She describes writing the memoir as a “wonderful exercise in giving my parents more room, so that they actually became full characters.” In its jury citation, the Writers’ Trust called the memoir “rare and poetic. All Things Consoled becomes, itself, a consolation for anyone despairing at the loose ends that parents leave behind. Page-after-page this is a masterclass in observation — a lesson in how meaning can emerge from grief.”

Born in Owen Sound, Elizabeth lives in the Ottawa Valley. Event 18

STEVEN HEIGHTON is an eclectic writer, who has published in half a dozen genres, including numerous novels, collections of essays, poetry, and short fiction.

His work has appeared in The London Review of Books, Tin House, The New York Times Book Review, Best American Mystery Stories, Best American Poetry, TLR, and Best English Stories. He is also a seasoned workshop leader, having taught everywhere from Sage Hill and Wintergreen Studios to the Banff Centre in BC, and The Summer Literary Seminars in St.
Petersburg, Russia.

His most recent poetry collection, *The Waking Comes Late*, won a Governor General’s Literary Award. His latest novel, *The Nightingale Won’t Let You Sleep*, depicts a Canadian soldier in Cyprus who stumbles across a secret community. “I came across a description of the ghost city of Varosha,” Steve explains, “population: 0… Before long I was repopulating it with fugitives, deserters, misfits and outcasts, and the story began to write itself.” The *Toronto Star* calls the novel “powerful…unsettling, affecting” and author Annie Proulx describes it as “a rich and disturbing literary thriller.”

Steve was born in Toronto. A graduate of Queen’s University and, more recently, a writer-in-residence there, he has lived in Kingston for thirty years. He is a past Kingston WritersFest Board member, and a repeat Festival alumnus.

**Event 2**

**JILL HEINERTH** “More people have walked on the moon than have visited some of places Jill Heinert has explored, right here on earth.” Jill is an internationally renowned cave diver and the inaugural explorer-in-residence of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

While cave-diving is often described as the world’s most dangerous sport, it is primarily, for Jill, a way of discovering and sharing some of the most closely guarded mysteries of our planet. She describes it as “a deep spiritual experience” akin to “swimming through the lifeblood of the planet — the fresh water that nourishes what is the essence of life.” Director James Cameron describes Heinert’s deep-sea adventures as “proof that real life is far more exciting than fiction.”

An accomplished photographer and cinematographer, Jill’s documentaries include *We Are Water* and *Ben’s Vortex*, as well as television series for PBS, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, and the BBC. In 2017, she received the Canadian Polar Medal for her remarkable scientific contributions to our understanding of polar regions. With the publication of her newest book, *Into the Planet*, Jill shares with us her experience, insights, and knowledge of the places where no man has ever gone before. **Event 5**

**JASON HEROUX** “I don’t know anyone in this country who is doing this kind of work, writing this very quietly explosive surrealism.” — Stuart Ross

Jason Heroux is Kingston’s third Poet Laureate, a position he uses to “explore new ways of introducing poetry to the hearts and minds of the community,” celebrating the long history and promising future of Kingston’s literary arts scene.

He has written four books of poetry, including *Natural Capital*, which was shortlisted for the RELIT Poetry award, and *Hard Work Cheering Up Sad Machines*. His poetry has appeared in numerous anthologies, including *Breathing Fire 2: Canada’s New Poets*, and three editions of *Best Canadian Poetry in English*. He has also appeared in magazines and journals in Canada, the U.S, Belgium, France, and Italy. His novels include *Good Evening, Central Laundromat* which was shortlisted for the RELIT Novel award, *We Wish You a Happy Killday,*
and Amusement Park of Constant Sorrow. In their review, The Varsity likened the novel to Kafka’s The Metamorphoses, calling it “a puzzle perfectly jigsawed together to capture both the mundane nature and the complexities of everyday life.”

Originally from Montreal, Jason moved to Kingston in the 1990s to attend Queen’s University, and has lived here since. Event 24

H.B. HOGAN When asked about the creative process behind the stories in her debut short story collection, This Keeps Happening, author H.B. Hogan explains that “they all started the same way: someone would floor me with something that they heard or saw or experienced. The squirrel. The weird kid. Or I’ll overhear something ridiculous on the subway or in the elevator. Then I’ll take that snippet and build a whole new story around it until it’s something that every reader can relate to, like self-immolation or coprophagia.”

The result of these inspirations is, as you might imagine, a collection full of short, punchy vignettes featuring underdogs, weirdos, and other people on the periphery. The Toronto Star praises it as a “darkly entertaining debut,” and author Michelle Winters calls the stories “dirty, fresh, and brutally funny, lingering on little human details until they’re just uncomfortable enough—then pushing a little farther. Their wickedness will stay with you for days.”

H.B.’s fiction has been published in Taddle Creek, This Magazine, and subTerrain, and she has a chapbook with Proper Tales Press.

H.B. lives in Toronto, where — when she is not writing or lawyering — she tries to catch her breath. Event 29

ANN HUI “For my family, and every other Chinese family I knew growing up in Vancouver,” says author and journalist Ann Hui, “food was an obsession.”

From the moral and environmental debate around eating insects, to the heated conversation surrounding the politics of “ethnic” cuisine, to the complexities of nutrition labeling, and the challenges of developing a national food policy, Ann has investigated many corners of the world of food as national food reporter for The Globe and Mail.

In 2016 Ann published a two-part travelogue of Canadian Chinese restaurants, Chop Suey Nation, which took Canadians on a cross-country exploration of the history of the cuisine in Canada. The story captured readers’ attention, and Ann realized there was a larger story waiting to be told. The result is the book Chop Suey Nation: The Legion Cafe and Other Stories from Canada’s Chinese Restaurants. Alternating between stories of her visits to some of Canada’s most iconic, and curious, Chinese restaurants (including a remote island shop and a curling club in Thunder Bay), and reflections upon her family’s own experience living in North America, the book offers readers a unique taste of the impact of immigrant foods on Canada’s history. Event 30

MICHAEL KAUFMAN As co-founder of the White Ribbon campaign, which encourages men to take the “pledge to never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls,” Michael Kaufman situates himself at the centre of one of the most heated issues in contemporary society.

Dubbed “essential reading for the 21st century” by one reviewer, his most recent book, The Time Has Come: Why Men Must Join the Gender Equality Revolution, is a call for men to mobilize in support of gender equality. Michael explores topics ranging from domestic violence to parental leave, demonstrating how real gender equality benefits everyone personally and globally.

After earning a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Michael taught from 1979-92 at York University. He brings his extensive experience as an educator and theorist to bear on the issue of gender violence. After earning a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Michael taught from 1979-92 at York University. He brings his extensive experience as an educator and theorist to bear on the issue of gender violence.

In 2017, Michael was awarded Canada’s Meritorious Service Cross. He has worked with many UN agencies, and other non-governmental organizations, including OXFAM, and was the sole male member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council. He is the
author of eight non-fiction books and two novels, including the award-winning *The Possibility of Dreaming on a Night Without Stars*. Event 33

**GUY GAVRIEL KAY** When asked about his predilection towards fantastic historical fiction, Guy Gavriel Kay explains that the genre “takes incidents out of a very specific time and place and opens up possibilities for the writer — and the reader — to consider the themes, the elements of a story, as applying to a wide range of times and places… And, paradoxically… it might actually be seen to apply more to a reader’s own life.”

Guy Gavriel Kay is the bestselling author of fourteen novels and a book of poetry. His titles include *Tigana*, *The Lions of Al-Rassan*, and *Ysabel*, which won the International Goliardos Prize and the World Fantasy Award. His work has been translated into more than 25 languages.

His latest work, *A Brightness Long Ago*, is set in a world evoking early Renaissance Italy, offering an extraordinary cast of characters — a healer, a powerful religious leader, a frivolous son — whose lives come together through destiny, love, and ambition. Kirkus Reviews praises it as “an epic tale filled with characters compelling enough to bear the weight of the high stakes,” and author Marina Endicott calls it “a diamond-bright jewel.”

Guy is a member of the Order of Canada, the country’s highest civilian honour. Event 32

**ADRIAN MICHAEL KELLY** is a writer of short fiction, fiction, and essays. He is the author of the novel *Down Sterling Road*. His short fiction has appeared in three compilations of *Best Canadian Stories* and in the *Journey Prize Anthology*, and his essays and journalism have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Calgary Herald*, *CNQ: Canadian Notes and Queries*, and other periodicals. He holds a doctorate in English (with a creative writing focus) and has taught writing and literature to students and professionals worldwide.

Adrian’s most recent work is his debut short fiction collection *The Ambassador of What*, a series of linked stories about fathers, sons, and the complicated reality that is family. A *Canadian Notes & Queries* review calls “the way Kelly wields (and welds together) words is astounding … When your brain finally clicks into Kelly’s rhythm, *Ambassador* accomplishes something rare: it feels fresh, a brand-new mode of storytelling; it rearticulates your way of seeing the world, reprograms your brain, gets your feet tapping to a different beat. And this is what makes it a book worth slowing down for.”

Adrian was born in Timmins, grew up in Campbellford, and currently lives in Kingston. Event 29

**SABINA KHAN** “I’ve spent my whole life in the small and undefined spaces that exist between communities, religions, and cultures,” says Sabina Khan. “It’s an interesting place to exist, where labels don’t quite fit, so you learn to grow into your own unique identity.”

This is what happens to the protagonist of Sabina’s debut novel, *The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali*. When Rukhsana’s parents catch her kissing her girlfriend, they react with fear and anger. Whisked off to Bangladesh and put on the fast-track into an arranged marriage, Rukhsana has almost no options. If she asserts her identity as both a lesbian and a Muslim, it might destroy her relationship with her parents. Sabina thus examines the tangles of community, religion, and culture with honesty and compassion, and reminds us that “no culture or religion is a monolith. Rukhsana finds unexpected allies within the Bengali Muslim community and struggles to make her American friends open their minds to try and understand her
circumstances."

An educational consultant whose life has taken her from Germany to Bangladesh to Macao, Sabina now writes in British Columbia, where she is at work on a novel about Islamophobia and immigration. Event 7

Kate Kristiansen

Kate Kristiansen is the owner of the Hummingbird Studio, a marketing and publicity agency, and has nearly 20 years of experience in marketing and brand sponsorship development. She lent her talents to Kingston WritersFest as our Director of Marketing in 2014 and 2015, and has experience with live entertainment touring shows across North America for Cirque du Soleil and Dreamworks Live, and within Kingston at the K-Rock Centre. Kate writes about all things food and family and has a strong interest in food security, the farm-to-table movement, and other global issues. Kate’s Up in My Grill column for Kingston Heritage and Frontenac Gazette newspapers shares her musings on seasonal food, urban foodie delights, culinary trends, restaurant reviews, local chefs, and life in her kitchen at home.

She also freelances for Local Tastes, a food and wine magazine.

Also an avid traveller, Kate has travelled around the world, living for several years in New Zealand and across the United States.

Never one to sit idle, Kate is currently working on two novels. She lives in a limestone century home outside Sydenham, Ontario. Event 43

Y.S. (Ying) Lee

Y.S. (Ying) Lee burst onto the young adult writing scene with a gripping new mystery series — The Agency. The first two books have been translated into seven languages and shortlisted for the Agatha Award and the Ontario Library Association’s Red Maple Award. A Spy in the House won the inaugural John Spray Mystery Award for Young People.

With a PhD in Victorian literature and culture, Ying draws on her academic expertise to create the rich historical backdrop for her lively, tightly wound novels. Scrappy young heroine, Mary Quinn – orphan, thief, and undercover agent – lives in 1850s London, in all its grime and glory, and solves crimes with the help of her more socially acceptable associate, James Easton. The third novel in the quartet, The Traitor in the Tunnel, takes Mary to Buckingham Palace and was shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile or YA Crime Book. Rivals in the City, the final book in the Agency series, was released in 2015.

Born in Singapore and raised in Vancouver and Toronto, Ying now lives in Kingston with her husband and children, and is an alumna of Kingston WritersFest. Events 7, 46

Robert Lewis has written a brilliant, irreplaceable book… It is a remarkable celebration of our country and the value of a free and outspoken press.” — Bob Rae.

Robert Lewis’ career as a journalist spans over four decades, including 12 years as a parliamentary correspondent and seven years as editor-in-chief of Maclean’s.

His new book, Power, Prime Ministers and the Press: The Battle For Truth On Parliament Hill, recounts the history of the press gallery on Parliament Hill who have covered 23 prime ministers and 42 elections in the past 150 years. The book was long-listed for the RBC Taylor Prize. The jury citation describes the book as “a timely and welcome reminder of the importance of a free and challenging press in times of political change. Tracing the critical role of the media from Macdonald and Laurier to today, Lewis adroitly uses deep archival research and dozens of current interviews to show how the power-and-press relationship has changed — and not always for the better.”
Author Roy MacGregor calls it “the most important book of the year… essential reading for all who believe in a free press, democracy and the critical role of responsible journalism.”

Robert lives in Toronto. Event 36

AARA MACAULEY’s passion for the written arts led her to pursue a B.A.H. in Classical Studies and an M.A. in Latin Literature from Queen’s University. Aara ran her own local retail business, Get Funky Boutique, for four years and has been involved in the fundraising, event planning, and promotion committees for various local cabaret, film, and arts festivals.

She has been involved with the Reelout Arts Project Board for eight years, including five years as Chair. She performs in the occasional cabaret fundraiser, and performed with local musicians the Huaraches for several years. She writes a regular book review column featuring Kingston WritersFest authors and personal picks for Grapevine Magazine.

Aara has volunteered and worked in various roles with the festival since 2014, moving from archivist and box office manager to her current role as operations manager. Aara is a discerning and eclectic reader, and sits on the Kingston WritersFest program advisory committee.

Event 22

TANIS MACDONALD “offers a virtuoso display of poetic craft…her poems consistently mix fearlessly intellectual elements with passages rich in lyric resonance.” — The Malahat Review.

Tanis MacDonald is an award-winning author, poet, reviewer, and instructor. She has published five books of poetry and essays, including Out of Line: Daring to Be an Artist Outside the Big City, and is the editor of the collections GUSH: Menstrual Manifestos for our Times and Speaking of Power: the Poetry of Di Brandt. Her book, The Daughter’s Way was a finalist for the Gabrielle Roy Prize in Canadian literary criticism. She is the winner of the Bliss Carman Prize and the Mayor’s Poetry City Prize for Waterloo. Tanis has taught at the Sage Hill Writing Experience, and won the Robert Kroetsch Teaching Award from the Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs.

Mobile, Tanis’ most recent poetry collection, is described as an ‘uncivil’ feminist re-boot of Dennis Lee’s Civil Elegies. Tanis explains that “I wanted to write about a young woman’s experience of urban citizenship using Lee’s text as a template against which to set a different kind of urban history.”

Tanis teaches Canadian literature and creative writing at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. Events 33, 39

RABINDRANATH MAHARAJ is an award-winning Trinidadian-Canadian author of seven novels and three short story collections. His novel, The Amazing Absorbing Boy, won both the Toronto Book Award and the Trillium Fiction Prize, and he has been a finalist for the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize twice.

Rabindranath is co-founder of the literary magazine LICHEN. He’s been a writer-in-residence for several universities and libraries, a mentor for young writers, an instructor, and a faculty member at the Banff Writing Studio. He has published stories, reviews, and articles in various newspapers, literary journals, and anthologies, written the radio series “Malcolm and Alvin” for CBC Radio, and co-written a screenplay for the film Malini.

His latest novel, Fatboy Fall Down, follows the life of Orbits, an overweight everyman whose life unfolds as a seemingly endless series of disappointments. Novelist M.G. Vassanji calls it “a sad, comical tale, beautifully composed, describing the Sisyphean life-journey of a simple man on a simple island, shaped by casual cruelty and limited means.”

Rabindranath is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He resides in Ajax, Ontario. He has a dog named Pickles and cat named Mr. Mistoffelees. Events 37, 45

KIRSTEEN MACLEOD is a writer, editor, and yoga teacher. Her poetry and prose have appeared in CV2, TNQ, and The Malahat Review, and she has been shortlisted for the CBC Literary Award and Writers’ Union prose award. She is the author of a collection of short fiction, The Animal Game, which Helen Humphreys
praised as “beautifully written” and Diane Schoemperlen declared a “captivating debut.” The nine short stories take us on a global journey in search of meaning and our place in the world.

Kirsteen has been teaching yoga in Kingston for the past 14 years, having practiced yoga since her university days. In addition to regular yoga classes at Queen’s University, the YMCA, and Janati Studio, Kirsteen teaches “Yoga and Expressive Writing” classes. Her latest short story, *Yoga Rage*, appears in the new collection *Body and Soul: Stories for Skeptics and Seekers*. It is the perfect marriage of MacLeod’s two careers, guiding her reader with a voice that is insightful, warm, and wry, as she muses that “a life in yoga remains far from all peace and calm.”

Kirsteen was born in Glasgow, Scotland, lived in Toronto and Brazil, and now lives in Kingston, Ontario. **Event 49**

**LEE MARACLE** “One of the most prolific and respected Indigenous writers in Canada.” – CBC

Lee Maracle is the author of numerous critically acclaimed works including: *Ravensong*, *Bobbi Lee Indian Rebel*, *Daughters Are Forever*, *Celia’s Song* (long listed for CBC Canada Reads and a finalist for the ReLit Award), *I Am Woman*, *First Wives Club*, *Talking to the Diaspora*, *Memory Serves: Oratories*, and *My Conversations with Canadians*, which was a finalist for the Toronto Book Award and the First Nation Communities READ Award. She is also the co-editor of the award-winning *My Home As I Remember*. Lee has served as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of Toronto, the University of Waterloo, and the University of Western Washington. Lee received the J.T. Stewart Award, the Premier’s Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Blue Metropolis Festival First Peoples Prize, the Harbourfront Festival Prize, and the Anne Green Award. Lee received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from St. Thomas University, is a recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Her latest poetry collection, *Hope Matters*, co-written with her daughters Columpa Bobb and Tania Carter, focuses on the journey of Indigenous people from colonialism towards a “shared song of hope and reconciliation.”

A member of the Sto:lo Nation, Lee lives in Toronto and teaches at the University of Toronto. **Events 36, 40**

**KAREN McBRIDE** is an Algonquin Anishinaabe writer from the Timiskaming First Nation in the territory that is now Quebec. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and English, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa, and an M.A. in creative writing from the University of Toronto.

*Crow Winter* is her debut novel. It follows the story of Hazel, a young Algonquin woman who returns home to her reservation, Spirit Bear Point First Nation, to reconcile the death of her father and the legacy left in his wake. She discovers that the quarry that’s been sitting unsullied for over a century on her father’s property is stirring the old magic that crosses the boundaries between this world and the next. With the aid of the trickster, Nanabush, Hazel begins to unravel a web of deceit that, if left untouched, could destroy her family and her home on both sides of the Medicine Wheel.

Karen works as an elementary school teacher on her home reserve. **Event 4**

**GREGORY MCCORMICK** serves as the Manager of Cultural and Special Event Programming for the Toronto Public Library, where he oversees the cultural and literary programming for one of the largest library systems on the planet. His portfolio includes managing the development and delivery of high-profile, citywide literary
programs and events such as the author series at the Appel Salon, the eh List Canadian Author Series, and the Library’s Heritage Celebration programs. In 2018 he spearheaded TPL’s biggest series yet, “On Civil Society,” which consisted of thousands of year-long free activities to encourage people to “get out of their social-media echo chambers.” Gregory comments that, “particularly on social media, we’ve kind of forgotten how to disagree with each other... we live in this world where our impulse is just to dismiss someone who has a different point of view or a different world view than our own.”

Prior to his work at TPL, he spent six years as the Director of Programming at the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival, which is the largest multilingual literary festival in the world.

Originally from the United States, he has a Master’s Degree in English and Comparative Literature from the University of Montreal, and lives in Toronto.

**MICHAEL MCCREARY** A busy author and stand-up comedian, Michael McCreary was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome when he was five years old. In what he describes as “an act of self-preservation, combined with the desire for constant attention and the inability to stop talking,” he found his way into stand-up comedy. His comedy acts, which tackle “the lighter side of Asperger’s,” have been performed at conferences, galas, universities, bars, and church basements across North America, and have been profiled by the *Toronto Star*, *CTV*, *CBC*, and more.

According to Michael, “comedy is the only medium... that can turn a perceived disability into a weapon and that’s what I love about it.”

Michael’s debut book, *Funny, You Don’t Look Autistic: A Comedian’s Guide to Life on the Spectrum*, is a witty, insightful, and comical trip through his life and experiences dealing with well-meaning folks who are quick to quip that he doesn’t ‘look’ autistic. Described by *Open Book* as a “unique and hilarious” read, his memoir regularly smashes stereotypes and challenges assumptions with wit, empathy and humour. *Booklist* calls the book, “[f]resh, zippy, and funny while at the same time engrossing and enlightening.”

Michael was born in Orangeville, Ontario.

**SAM MCKEGNEY** is a settler scholar of Indigenous Literatures and an Associate Professor at Queen’s University in the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe Peoples. He has published two books — *Masculindians: Conversations about Indigenous Manhood*, and *Magic Weapons: Aboriginal Writers Remaking Community after Residential School* — as well as numerous articles on such topics as masculinity, environmental kinship, prison writing, and mythologies of hockey.

Sam has won multiple awards for teaching and research, including the Queen’s University Award for Excellence in Research, and was co-recipient of the Queen’s University Human Rights Initiative Award, along with the other members of the Kahswentha Indigenous Knowledges Initiative. Along with fellow Kingston WritersFest author and colleague Armand Garnet Ruffo, Sam is a member of the Indigenous Literary Studies Association, which was formed to address the need for “a network dedicated to discussing, promoting, celebrating, and fostering relationships around the ethical study and teaching of Indigenous peoples’ literatures in Canada”. He has served as co-chair on the board of the Indigenous Voices Awards, working to amplify the voices of Indigenous authors.

Sam lives in Kingston, Ontario with his family.

**CATHERINE MCKENZIE** “To be a good lawyer, you have to be a good storyteller,” explains author Catherine McKenzie, “you’re not making up facts, but you are telling a story. To convince someone of something, you have to lay out the facts in a compelling way. The skills you develop writing effective pleadings and delivering them are very applicable to writing. Also, lawyers are driven, they’re focused, they know how to get things done.”
Catherine clearly knows a thing or two about how to get things done. Over the course of her 18-year legal career, which has taken her to the Supreme Court of Canada five times, she still found time to publish eight best-selling novels, including *The Good Liar*.

Her latest novel, *I’ll Never Tell*, finds the MacAllister siblings returning to their family camp after their parents’ sudden deaths for a reading of the will. But an unsolved murder at the camp 20 years ago, and a surprise accusation, soon interferes with the sibling’s plans for their inheritance. Author A.J. Banner praises the book as “a cleverly crafted, heart-wrenching tale of obsession, regret and the devastating effects of keeping secrets for far too long.”

Catherine writes and practices law in Montreal, Quebec. **Event 28**

**BEN MCNALLY**  “I’d rather have a book that sells one copy that no one else will sell, than to stock several best sellers you can get anywhere,” says Ben McNally, owner of Ben McNally Books in Toronto. “One of the greatest benefits of life is finding things that one is not looking for.”

Ben McNally knows books and he knows readers. He’s been putting the two together in intriguing and sometimes surprising ways since 1970, most recently at his beautiful Bay Street store, and in the fabulously successful Books and Brunch series that he runs in partnership with *The Globe and Mail* at the King Edward Hotel.

Ben’s warmth and genuine enthusiasm for books have made him a favourite with Canadian authors and readers. He’s been in a happy long-term relationship with Kingston WritersFest readers at our Book Lovers’ Lunch event since 2009 and continues to please the crowd as he reveals a discerning selection of the season’s best books.

Ben is past president of Project Bookmark Canada, a charitable organization that erects plaques bearing excerpts from Canadian books in the locations that inspired the writing. Ben is married to Lynn Thomson, author of *Birding With Yeats: A Mother’s Memoir*. **Event 20**

**LINDY MECHEFSKE** For as long as Lindy Mechefske can remember, she has loved being in the kitchen. An accomplished author, mother, feminist, food columnist, freelance writer, food-blogger, and cook, Lindy describes one of her earliest memories of “being in my grandfather’s ancient Yorkshire kitchen and rolling out the pastry for jam tarts. I was three years old. There, in my grandfather’s kitchen, is where I first came to know love.”

Her books combine her enduring love of food and history, including *Out of Old Ontario Kitchens*, which includes over one hundred historically sourced recipes from early Canada; *Sir John’s Table: The Culinary Life and Times of Canada’s First Prime Minister*, a travelogue that follows Macdonald’s colourful life and meals and won the Taste Canada Gold Medal for Culinary Narrative; and the cookbook *A Taste of Wintergreen*.

Her latest work, the story “Spotted Dick,” combines her interests in food and gender. It can be found in the anthology *Body and Soul: Stories for Skeptics and Seekers*, which takes readers on a spiritual journey through “the messiness of faith, practice, religion, and ceremony.”

Lindy lives in Kingston. **Event 14**

**DAVE MESLIN** “Two things I’ve learned is that you can make a difference, but it’s really hard,” says author Dave Meslin. “What I’m focusing on these days is making it easier. People see working outside of government or with government as a binary option… I’ve been having a lot of fun playing with the space in-between.”

Dave Meslin is an activist, artist, and community
organizer who has been alternately described as a "wizard," a "mastermind," “the ultimate ideas guy," a "mad scientist," and a "start-up genius" who inspires better engagement between governments and citizens. He formed the Toronto Public Space Committee, which was chosen as the "Best Activist Group" by both EYE Weekly and NOW magazines, and which publishes Spaced Magazine, the award-winning urban affairs publication. Dave appears as an expert on political engagement on national media, and his TED talk about apathy has more than 1.5 million views.

Dave’s book, Teardown: Rebuilding Democracy from the Ground Up, argues that partisanship, centralized power, and rigged systems all contribute to growing voter cynicism. But he also argues that we can fix things by turning elite power structures upside down and giving a voice to ordinary people.

Dave lives in Toronto. Event 36

LINDSAY MORCOM is an assistant professor in Queen’s University’s Faculty of Education, where she coordinates the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP). “ATEP’s focus on reconciliation means that we have a lot of deep conversations about things that have happened historically and currently in Canada,” says Lindsay. While these conversations can be difficult, they are essential for all educators, so that they can live up to their professional roles in the classroom and in society. She is also involved with the Kingston Native Language Nest, a community-based initiative that offers a safe space for sharing Indigenous language, songs, and stories. The preservation of Indigenous languages is critical, explains Lindsay, because “language contains important information about culture, about ways of viewing and being in the world.”

An interdisciplinary researcher with experience in education, Aboriginal languages, language revitalization, and linguistics, Lindsay completed her doctorate in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in 2010.

She is an Algonquin Métis and member of the Bear Clan. Event 4

CAROL OFF As a television and radio journalist, Carol Off has been at the heart of breaking stories on the national and international stage. She covered the fallout from 9/11, post-war reconstruction of the Balkans, and the war crimes tribunal for Yugoslavia.

Carol is the author of several best-selling non-fiction titles, including The Lion, the Fox and the Eagle: A Story of Generals and Justice in Rwanda and Yugoslavia, which was shortlisted for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, The Ghosts of Medak Pocket: The Story of Canada’s Secret War, which won the Dafoe Foundation Award, and most recently All We Leave Behind: A Reporter’s Journey into the Lives of Others, winner of the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, and finalist for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize, the Governor General’s Award for Non-fiction, and the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction.

Carol co-hosts CBC Radio’s As It Happens every weekday. She has long-time involvement with the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, and has won numerous awards for her media work, including a Gemini and two gold medals from the New York Festival of Television.

She lives in Toronto with her husband, Linden MacIntyre. Event 36

STEVEN PRICE “I’ve always tried to read widely, in fiction, in poetry, but most of all in nonfiction,” says author Steven Price. “I do think everything acts as an influence on a writer, and that that’s a good thing. I believe an emerging writer ought to read everything she can find, everything she can get her hands on. Influence is a gradual thing, an approximate thing. A young writer afraid of being "influenced" by another writer’s voice needs to be reading far more hungrily. We are all of us made up of so many influences, the rhythms of our parents’ voices, our childhood friends’ teasing, the prose we have read and loved.”

Steven is the author of two novels, By Gaslight, longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and Into That Darkness. Also an acclaimed poet,
he is author of *Anatomy of Keys*, winner of the Gerald Lampert Award, and *Omens in the Year of the Ox*, winner of the ReLit Award.

*Lampedusa*, his latest novel, is set in Sicily, among the decadent Italian aristocracy of the late 1950s where Giuseppe Tomasi, the last prince of Lampedusa, struggles to complete the novel *The Leopard*.

Steven lives in Victoria, B.C., with his partner, fellow writer and KWF alumna Esi Edugyan, and their two children. **Event 48**

**ANDREW PYPER** is an author and creative writing instructor with nine novels to his name, including *The Demonologist*, which won an International Thriller Writers Award and was selected for The Globe and Mail’s Best 100 Books and Amazon’s 20 Best Books, and *The Killing Circle*, which was a New York Times Best Crime Novel of the Year. Four of his novels are in development for television or feature films.

Andrew’s latest thriller, *The Homecoming*, has been described as “bizarre and innovative,” “chilling and creepy,” and “brilliant.” After the death of their absentee father, Aaron and Bridge Quinlan travel to a mysterious property to hear the reading of his will. There, they are shocked to discover the will’s terms: in order to claim their inheritance they must all remain at the estate for 30 days without any contact with the outside world. In a starred review, *Booklist* praises it as a “weird, wonderful, audacious new novel… an abyss of shattered memories, disquieting dreams, and an evil that borders on the surreal… Brilliantly constructed and absolutely mesmerizing, this could very well be the best book yet by the author.”

Andrew lives in Toronto. **Events 21, 28**

**DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON** For David Alexander Robertson, storytelling is powerful work: “It provides the tools Canadians need to work towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It also is an act of healing, within families and communities.” Because truth-telling and healing are crucial for people of all ages, David wrote *When We Were Alone*, a picture book that tells the story of Canada’s residential schools. For this, he received the Governor General’s Award for Literature in 2017.

In *Ghosts*, the final book in his acclaimed Reckoner trilogy, David incorporates traditional Indigenous spirit guides. As he observes, “some of these supernatural things… aren’t legends. They are beliefs within the Cree culture that are held as fact… The trickster spirit, for me, was important to at once do justice to, and also to offer a unique take on. Holding true but standing apart.” David is also the author of *Will I See?*, winner of the Manuela Dias Book Design and Illustration Award, and *Betty, The Helen Betty Osborne Story*.

David is a member of Norway House Cree Nation. He lives in Winnipeg. **Authors@School, Events 4, 11**

**JENNIFER ROBSON** History is in the big events and personalities: World Wars, kings, queens, princes. But it’s also in the small things: clothing, food, the quotidiant circumstances of daily life. Jennifer Robson is a writer who recreates in exacting detail the fashions, foods, manners, and mores of an era long gone in order to bring the past to life, and her fiction is populated with characters both real and imagined.

“If you can create characters who people care about, then you can get people to care about history and keep it alive somehow,” she says. “If reading one of my books … propels someone to want to learn more about the Great War, for example, then I feel I’ve accomplished something,” she says.

But don’t call her novels romances. “Romance isn’t at the heart of any of these stories,” Jennifer says. “What I’m interested in seeing is a woman go from a place of relative powerlessness to a place of relative strength.”

Born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, where her father taught European history at Trent University, Robson earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario and a PhD at St. Antony’s College at the University of Oxford. **Event 41**

**STUART ROSS** “I am drawn to the weird, to the dreamlike, to the absurd,” says Stuart Ross.
“I don’t think we should be constrained by the laws of the real world in our writing.”

Stuart is a prolific writer, editor, and teacher. He is the author of 20 books of poetry, fiction, and essays including the novel *Pockets*, and the poetry collection *A Sparrow Came Down Resplendent*. His work has won or been shortlisted for numerous awards, including the Alberta Readers’ Choice Award, the ReLit Award for Short Fiction, and the Canadian Jewish Literary Award. He teaches workshops in elementary and high schools across the country, and has been writer-in-residence for the Writers’ Circle of Durham Region, the Ottawa International Writers’ Festival, Queen’s University, and the Toronto Public Library.

*Motel of the Opposable Thumbs*, Stuart’s latest poetry collection, “continues to ignore trends in Canadian poetry,” according to his publisher. Describing Stuart as “protean and ever-playful,” *Quill & Quire* calls *Motel* “another collection that flies in the face of poetic pieties and gleefully mashes up genres and approaches. Running from surrealism to lyricism, from hilarity to heartbreak, these poems take pleasure in poking tradition in the eyes.”

Stuart lives in Cobourg. Events 31, 37

**ARMAND GARNET RUFFO**’s work — strongly influenced by his Anishinaabe (Ojibway) heritage — sheds light on contemporary Indigenous issues such as the environment, spirituality, education, and self-determination.

He is the author of five collections of poetry including *At Geronimo’s Grave*, winner of the Archibald Lampman Award for Poetry, and *The Thunderbird Poems* that accompanied his creative biography of Norval Morrisseau, *Man Changing Into Thunderbird*. Armand’s critically acclaimed film about residential schools, *A Windigo Tale*, won Best Picture at the American Indian Film Festival, and Best Feature film at Edmonton’s Dreamspeaker Film Festival. He also co-edited the 2013 edition of *An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English*.

Armand’s latest poetry collection, *TREATY #*, is an examination of the meaning of a treaty. It documents his observations of life from an Indigenous perspective, looking at the complex relationships and obligations between nations, humans, and nature. “Most Canadians don’t want to know this stuff,” says Armand, “reconciliation to them is something out there, something intangible that really has nothing to do with them. ‘It happened before I was born.’ We hear that a lot. But who benefited?”

An associate professor at Queen’s University, Armand teaches Aboriginal literature and creative writing, and lives in Kingston. Event 1

**LAWRENCE SCANLAN** is an eclectic and prolific writer whose curiosity often takes him into uncharted
territory. A journalist for nearly five decades, he was the literary producer for Peter Gzowski’s *Morningside* on CBC Radio, literary editor of *The Kingston Whig-Standard*, and managing editor of *Harrowsmith* magazine. As a freelancer he has written articles on scores of subjects, including science, sports, literature, travel, and medicine, winning three National Magazine Awards.

He is the author or co-author of more than two dozen books and served as ghost-writer for several Canadian personalities, including Margaret Trudeau, Richard Peddie, Olivia Chow, Robert Bateman, and Ian Millar. His subjects are diverse – from the horse-human bond (*Wild About Horses, The Horse God Built*) to philanthropy (*A Year of Living Generously: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Philanthropy*), to violence in hockey (*Grace Under Fire: The State of Our Sweet and Savage Game*). He is currently working on a family memoir entitled *Baseball & Bloodlines: Five Brothers, Forty Years, and the Quest for the Perfect Road Trip*.

Lawrence lives in Kingston with partner Ulrike Bender, and they spend as much time as they can at their cabin in Prince Edward County.

**Events 15, 44**

**DIANE SCHOEMPERLEN** “I have never had any trouble dispensing with the ‘rules’” admits Diane Schoemperlen. Readers will agree — her writing always takes an innovative approach to storytelling, and plays fast and loose with narrative convention. *In the Language of Love* draws inspiration from 100 stimulus words from the Standard Word Association Test. *Forms of Devotion* combines contemporary stories with wood engravings and line drawings from earlier centuries to challenge readers’ expectations.

Her short story collection, *The Man of My Dreams*, was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award and the Trillium Prize, and *Forms of Devotion* won the Governor General’s Award. Her memoir, *This Is Not My Life*, was a finalist for the RBC Taylor Prize and appeared on multiple year’s best book lists. Diane is recipient of the Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life from the Writers’ Trust of Canada and was awarded the Molson Prize by the Canada Council for the Arts in recognition of exceptional achievement in the arts.


Diane was born and raised in Thunder Bay before moving to Kingston. **Event 3**


This year, Anakana returns with *Bina: A Novel in Warnings*, a darkly comic novel about a woman who has, quite simply, had enough. Author Rachel Cusk calls *Bina* “fiction of the rarest and darkest kind, a work whose pleasures must be taken measure for measure with its pains. Few writers operate the scales of justice with more precision... The novel’s themes – male violence, the nature of moral courage, the contemporary problems of truth and individuality, the status of the female voice – could hardly be more timely or germane... yet her writing is so vivacious... she is the most compassionate of storytellers, wearing the guise of the blackest comedian.”

Anakana lives in Vancouver. **Events 19, 22**

**SUSAN SCOTT** wears many hats. As an author, her output includes *Temple in a Teapot* and a memoir-in-progress, *Sainted Dirt: Reckonings with Land, Language, Family, and Imperfect Teaware*. As a community builder, she works with artists, scholars, and activists to release powerful, transgressive stories that inspire grassroots change and healing. As *The New
Quarterly's non-fiction editor, she directs Write on the French River Creative Writing Retreat and serves as associate director of the Wild Writers Literary Festival.

Susan is also the editor of Body & Soul: Stories for Skeptics and Seekers, a new collection of stories that centre on the various forms that spirituality can take, focusing on female perspectives on spirituality and writing. Reflecting on the experience of compiling the anthology to All Lit Up, Scott writes that “When I put the call out for this book, I had no idea what would flood in: tales of birds and clowns and wombs and songs, reflections on heart-stopping adventures, betrayal by razor blade, devotion to trees and rivers, to the art and craft of writing.”

Susan currently lives in Waterloo, on the Haldimand Tract, in the heart of the Great Lakes basin. **Events 14, 17**

**SIDESHOW** is a radio host, announcer, musician, and father. His voice has been heard on K-Rock 105.7 for more than a decade, across the country on syndicated programs, and inside Rogers K-Rock Centre at Kingston Frontenacs games. He was a 2018 nominee for best Program Director in the small station category of Canadian Music Week’s Music & Broadcast Industry Awards.

Sideshow was born in Kingston and grew up in Odessa and Wilton. His love for music started at a very young age, and customers of the Wilton General Store may remember a wee Sideshow sitting on the counter strumming his guitar. He may not have known a single chord at that time – he was three, after all, but by age eight he had won second prize in the Odessa Fair talent show. After high school, Sideshow went to Loyalist College in Belleville to study Radio Broadcasting, and the rest is history! **Event 37**

**MERILYN SIMONDS** “Stories have been part of my life forever. I don’t remember a time when I didn’t read, and I hardly remember a time when I didn’t write.”

Merilyn Simonds is the author of 18 books, including the creative nonfiction classic, The Convict Lover, a finalist for the Governor General’s Award and inspiration for Judith Thompson's play, Hothouse; the autobiographical story collection, The Lion in the Room Next Door; a bestselling novel, The Holding; a travel memoir, Breakfast at the Exit Café, co-written with Wayne Grady; a collection of personal essays, A New Leaf; and Gutenberg’s Fingerprint: Paper, Pixels & the Lasting Impression of Books. A Project Bookmark Canada plaque in Kingston honours The Convict Lover’s place in Canada’s literary landscape.

Merilyn’s most recent novel, Refuge, introduces us to the reclusive 96-year-old Cassandra MacCallum, whose quiet island existence is shaken by a young Burmese woman who contacts her, claiming to be kin. The story takes readers on a decades-spanning journey, via Cassandra’s reminiscences, through Mexico, New York City, Montreal, and eastern Ontario as she mulls her life choices, and the fate of Nang.

Merilyn was the founding artistic director of Kingston WritersFest; she retired from the festival in 2014. With her husband, author Wayne Grady, she divides her time between Kingston and Mexico. **Events 13, 25**

**AMY SYMINGTON** “In the nutrition world, it is becoming more and more apparent that we do, in fact, have a say in how our health turns out,” says Amy Symington. “Sound nutrition, which includes whole, plant based foods, is more important than is sometimes credited by your average healthcare institution. Supplying the general population with the practical tools to steer themselves and their loved ones toward optimal health is what I strive for every day of my wonderful existence. My aim is to inspire.”

Amy is a passionate plant-based chef,
nutritionist, professor, researcher, blogger, and cookbook author. She is also Nutrition and Kitchen program coordinator at Gilda’s Club Greater Toronto. She has developed recipes for various publications including the Toronto Vegetarian Association and Clean Eating Magazine.


Amy lives in Toronto. Event 43

**JESSE THISTLE** “If I can just make it to the next minute... then I might have a chance to live.” - Jesse Thistle, *From the Ashes.*

Jesse Thistle is Métis-Cree, from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He is a multi-award winning assistant professor in Métis Studies at York University in Toronto, where he researches the historic and intergenerational trauma of the Métis people, working closely with contemporary Métis communities in the Batoche area of Saskatchewan and the Temiskaming of Northern Ontario.

Once a high-school dropout and addict, Jesse brings his lived experience to his research on Canadian social injustice.

"The way that Canadians understood homelessness by the Canadian definition was about not having a house to live in," he says. "I realize that it was more about a dispossession from something called ‘all my relations,’ which is an Indigenous worldview where everything is interrelated, interconnected."

In his debut memoir, *From the Ashes*, Jesse chronicles his life on the streets and his journey to overcome trauma and addiction with honesty, incisive insight, and eloquence. Author Ian Mosby calls Jesse’s debut “an unflinching, heartrending, and beautifully written story of survival against seemingly impossible odds. But it’s also a book that should make you furious."

He lives in Toronto. Event 1

**ZIYA TONG**

Described as one of “the world’s most engaging science journalists,” Ziya Tong is perhaps best known as the longtime co-host of the Discovery Channel’s *Daily Planet*. Before *Daily Planet*, Ziya hosted *ZeD* on CBC, earning a viewer’s choice Gemini Award for best lifestyle host. In 2007, she both hosted and produced *Wired Science* on PBS and *The Leading Edge* on The Knowledge Network. She also served as a correspondent on *Nova ScienceNOW* alongside Neil deGrasse Tyson, and is currently the vice chair of WWF Canada.

In addition to her award-winning television work, she has also written for *Wired* magazine and blogged for *Wired Science*, as well as producing the weekly column “Ziyology,” which shares her love of wonder, science, and technology. In 2019, she defended Max Eisen’s memoir *By Chance Alone* in the Canada Reads competition, ensuring that the book won the competition.

Ziya is also an avid traveler who has visited over 70 countries. Her book, *The Reality Bubble: Blind Spots, Hidden Truths, and the Dangerous Illusions that Shape Our World*, explores the wondrous and dangerous hidden worlds that shape our daily lives, and was described by David Suzuki as “required reading for all who care about what we are doing to the planet."

Ziya lives in Toronto. Event 34

**M.G. VASSANJI** is the author of seven novels, two short story collections, two memoirs, and a biography of Mordecai Richler. His novel *The Gunny Sack* won a regional Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, and *The Book of Secrets* and *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall* were both Giller Prize winners. Other awards include
a Governor General's Prize for nonfiction, the Harbourfront Festival Prize, the Commonwealth First Book Prize, and the Bressani Prize. *The Assassin’s Song* was shortlisted for the Giller Prize, the Governor General's Prize, the Writers' Trust Award, and India’s Crossword Prize.

This fall, M.G. returns with *A Delhi Obsession*, a powerful new novel about grief and second chances, tradition and rebellion. Munir Khan, a recent widower from Toronto, decides on a whim to visit Delhi, his ancestral city, though he has never visited India before. There he meets Mohini, an attractive married woman from a very different background. Soon an inexplicable attraction and passionate love affair begins.

M.G. is a member of the Order of Canada and is the recipient of the Canada Council Molson Prize for the Arts and several honorary doctorates. He was born in Nairobi and raised in Tanzania before moving to Canada. He lives in Toronto. **Event 38**

**PAULA WILD** The first time Paula Wild heard a wolf howl, it “sparked wonder, as well as a tiny frisson of apprehension.” Her instinct was to run towards it — a moment that exemplifies her subject in *Return of the Wolf*. A blend of natural and cultural history, interviews with scientists and wolf-observers, Indigenous stories, and Paula’s own experiences as a traveller, *Return of the Wolf* examines the human-wolf relationship. It investigates ancient and recent myths about wolves and the question of wolf aggression towards humans, and asks if it’s really possible for us to coexist.

Paula is intrigued by the relationships between people, places, and the natural world: the ways people adapt to or modify the land and how the roles of hunter and prey shift between humans and wildlife according to circumstance. Her non-fiction book, *The Cougar*, was the Gold winner of the Foreword Review’s Nature Book of the Year, and a BC Bestseller. She is also the author of five other titles. Paula has feasted on fresh oolichan grease in the Bella Coola Valley, paddled the piranha-infested waters of the Amazon River, and lived off the grid in the rainforest of northern Vancouver Island. She currently calls Courtenay, B.C., home. **Event 10**
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