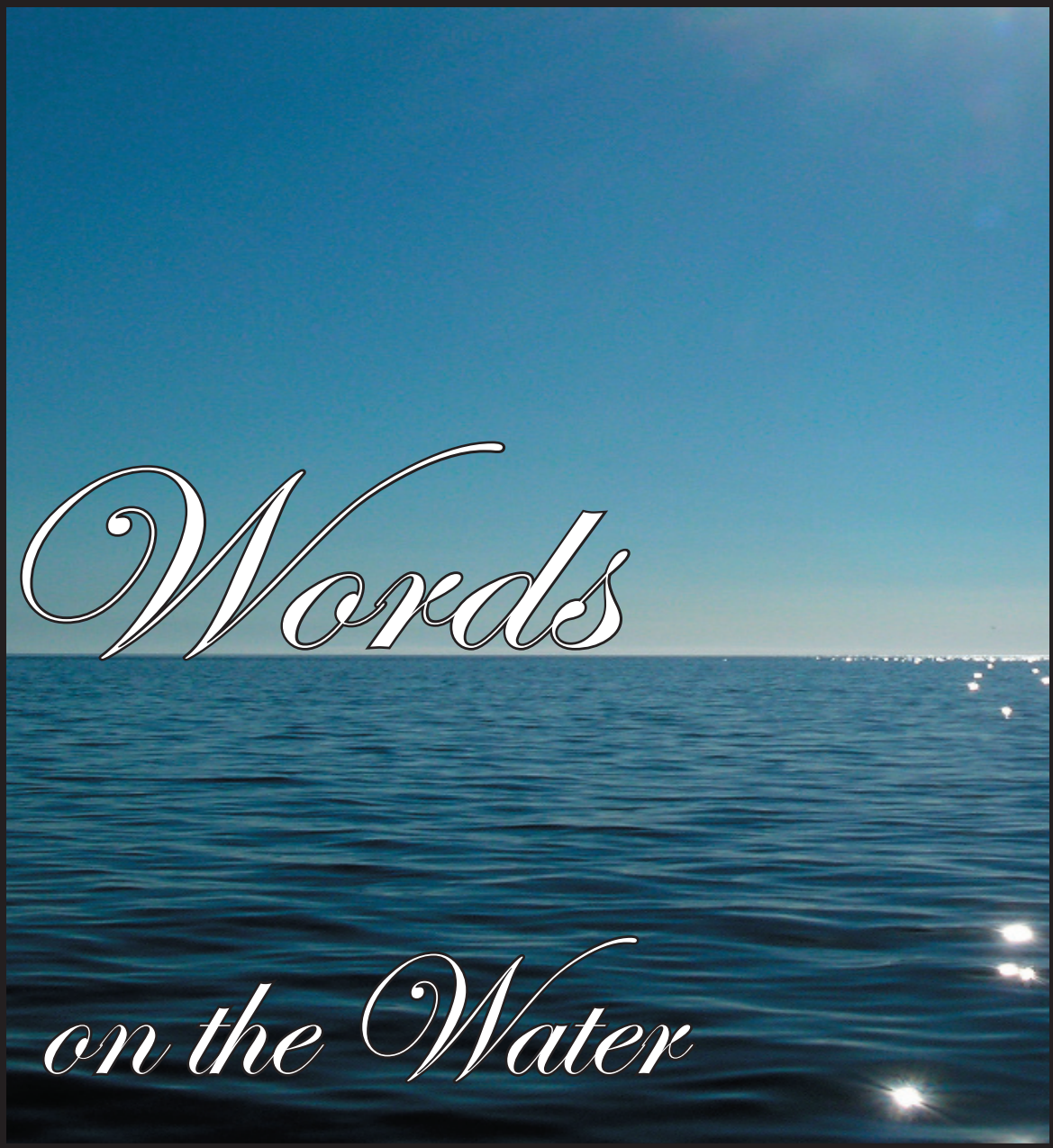




Words

on the Water

Campbell River Writers' Festival 2006
March 24 and 25

Welcome to Words on the Water 2006

The organizing committee of Campbell River's 5th Annual Writers' Festival is pleased to introduce our guest Canadian writers. Every effort has been made to provide a stimulating literary environment in a beautiful setting for all attending writers and readers...and readers who are closet writers. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the weekend's events.

To whet your appetite, we present "Birds on the Water" by Robert Bringhurst. In accordance with WOW tradition, this original work has been commissioned to begin our festival and now belongs to a distinguished and exclusive collection of Words on the Water poems.

Birds on the Water

There are birds on the water,
birds in the air.
birds on the snags and the conifers,
birds flying down to the lakefloor,
birds on the ice, half a million years old, that is melting away
at the foot of the world.

There are birds in the air,
birds on the water,
birds in the bare-naked limbs
of the alders in winter,
birds on the ground overturning the layers
of last summer's leaves.

Birds strop their beaks
on your half-curved fingers,
perch on your shoulders,
find bugs in your ears,
and bring grass stems, mosses and twigs
to your pockets and palms.

Birds break their necks
flying into your eyes
in the perfect belief
that that brilliant interior world
is as spacious and seamless and real
as the world outside.

There are birds on the water,
birds in the air,
birds lying dead at your feet,
never thinking to fear
that your eyes might not mean what they're seeing,
your ears might not read what they hear.

There are birds in the air,
birds on the water,
but no birds in heaven
and no birds in hell
and no one to tell them the difference.
Not here. Not out there.

Robert Bringhurst



Festival Schedule of Events

Friday, March 24 8PM

- 🎤 John Elson, Master of Ceremonies
- 🎤 Robert Bringhurst: "Birds on the Water"
- 🎤 David Carpenter, Claudia Casper, Evelyn Lau
- 🎤 The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
- 🎤 Intermission
- 🎤 Gregory Scofield
- 🎤 Robert Bringhurst, Patrick Lane, Annabel Lyon

Music: Uncle Harry's Wire Choir

Saturday, March 25

Morning

- 9:00 Evelyn Lau
- 9:45 Jan Zwicky
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:45 Claudia Casper
- 11:30 Robert Bringhurst
- 12:15 Lunch

Afternoon

- 1:00 David Carpenter
- 1:45 Annabel Lyon
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Gregory Scofield
- 3:30 Patrick Lane

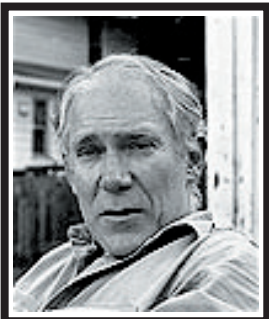
Evening

Literary Cabaret 8:00 PM

Featuring:

- 🎤 Guest Writers
- 🎤 Music: Alayna Howard
Gordon James, Judy O'Dell
- 🎤 No Host Bar

All events take place at the *Maritime Heritage Centre*

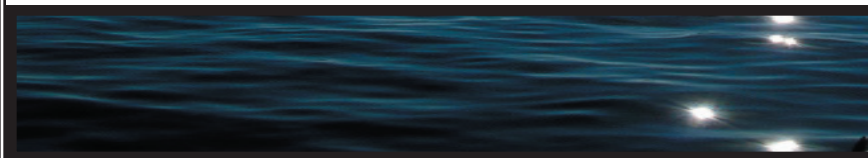


ROBERT BRINGHURST

Robert Bringhurst is first and foremost a poet, but he has also published a substantial quantity of prose, invading the domains of art history, typography, linguistics, classical studies and literary criticism, without the least sign of respect for disciplinary boundaries. His book *The Elements of Typographic Style* is now a standard

text in its field. *The Black Canoe* is one of the classics in the field of Native American art history, and *The Raven Steals the Light*, which he co-wrote with Haida artist Bill Reid, is among the most popular books in Canada in the field of Native Studies.

Bringhurst is the recipient of many awards, including the Governor General's Award in 2005 for which the jury noted the "extraordinary breadth of his outstanding contribution to Canadian letters."



DAVID CARPENTER

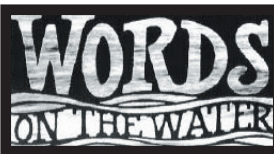
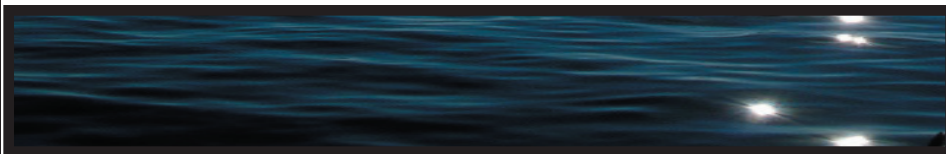
David Carpenter was born in Edmonton and spent his first 23 years there as a carhop, bus driver, fish stocker, trail guide and folksinger. It was not until 1976 that he began writing seriously, publishing a series of novellas and long stories such as *Jewels*,

God's Bedfellows, and *Jokes for the Apocalypse* which was runner up for the Gerald Lampert Award. Carpenter's novella, *The Ketzer*, won first prize in the Descant Novella Contest. From 1975 to 1997 Carpenter taught Canadian Literature at the University of Saskatchewan and wrote when he could. In 1997 he began writing full-time and his first full-length novel, *Banjo Lessons*, was published and given the City of Edmonton Book Prize. He is currently Campbell River's Haig-Brown Writer-in-Residence. His most recent book, *Luck: A Bill Shmata Mystery*, was published earlier this year and has been described as a "murder mystery, numismatist's dream, a rich man's nightmare, a treasure hunt, a love story, a meditation on luck, and a thriller all in one."



CLAUDIA CASPER

"I'm forty-three, married with two sons, four and eight. They go to school, I drink coffee and write until I pick them up, by which time I'm hungry, speedy but spinning my wheels, and some combination of excited/depressed. To move I play squash or ride a bicycle." Casper's first novel, *The Reconstruction*, published by Penguin Canada in 1996, sold rights in Canada, Britain, the U.S. and Germany and has been optioned for a feature film. Casper's shorter work has most recently appeared in Geist magazine and Best Canadian Stories by Oberon. Her thought provoking short fiction "*Victory*" appeared in Carol Shields and Marjorie Anderson's bestselling anthology, *Dropped Threads*. Casper's second novel, *The Continuation of Love by Other Means*, shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize in 2004, demonstrates her great skill in capturing the nuances of a complex and painful long-distance relationship between a girl and her father.



PATRICK LANE

Patrick Lane has lived and travelled extensively around the world and his work has been published in many countries. He has been a writer-in-residence and a teacher at a number of Canadian Universities. Lane lives near Victoria, British Columbia, with his wife poet Lorna Crozier.

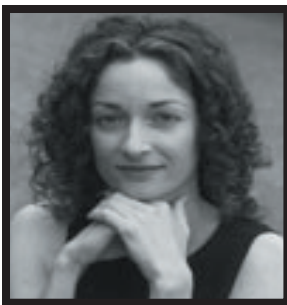
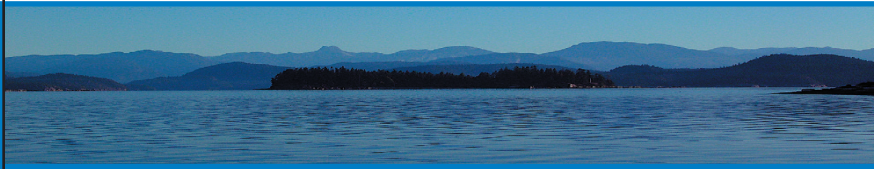
Since he started writing in 1961, Lane has authored more than twenty books of poetry, for which he has received most of Canada's top literary awards, including the Governor General's Award, the Canadian Authors' Association Award, and two National Magazine Awards. Today, his poetry appears in all major Canadian anthologies of English literature. He has also been recognized for his gardening skills. The half acre he tends was featured in the Recreating Eden television series and provides the setting, the inspiration, and the central metaphor for *There Is A Season: A Memoir in a Garden*. Published in 2004 this book, a startling and beautifully told account of Lane's life, won the 2005 BC Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, and was also nominated for the Hubert Evans Non-fiction Prize and the Charles Taylor Prize. His newest volume of poetry, *Syllable of Stone*, was published this spring.



EVEYLYN LAU

Born in Vancouver in 1971 to Chinese immigrant parents, Evelyn Yee-Fun Lau endured a tortured childhood that led to desperate years on the streets of Vancouver. Always a reader and writer, her early life weaves its way into the content and sensitivity of

Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid; volumes of poetry: *You Are Not Who You Claim*, *Oedipal Dreams* and *In the House of Slaves*; short stories collected in *Fresh Girls & Other Stories*; and in her first novel, *Other Women*. Lau's writing has garnered many awards and much acclaim. Her most recent publication, *Treble*, is a volume of poetry that offers Lau's signature insights into human relationships captured with a keen eye and an intimate voice. Of her writing future, Lau says, "...I find myself thinking about my work differently all the time...I have always wanted to move from the 'margin' to the 'centre' in my writing...train my powers of observation and imagery on more normal lives than I have previously been able to chronicle. But the 'centre' has plenty of darkness itself, and I suppose I will always want to examine those shadows too..."



ANNABEL LYON

Annabel Lyon's first book of fiction, the short story collection *Oxygen* was published to wide acclaim, and was nominated for the Danuta Gleed and ReLit awards. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous publications, including Toronto Life, The Journey Prize Anthology, and Write Turns: New Directions in Canadian Fiction.

In addition to creative writing, Lyon has studied music, philosophy, and law. She lives in Vancouver, where she writes full time.

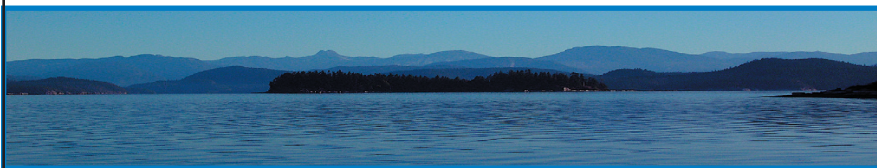
Of her most recent collection of Three Novellas, *The Best Thing for You*, reviewers have written "Annabel Lyon is a sharp, funny, and subversive writer who knows how to keep her readers off-balance..." and "Lyon delivers something of a tour de force with this trio of vibrant novellas. Her inventive use of language, her audacity with character, place and plot, reveal an astonishing range....Annabel Lyon has stretched her wings and let fly. The results are dazzling." (Toronto Star)



GREGORY SCOFIELD

Métis Poet Gregory Scofield often mixes autobiographical themes with passionate and gritty, sometimes gut wrenching, images. His poems are perched between ironic distance and outrage, with such titles as **“Another Street Kid Just Died”**, **“Fix”** and **“How Many White People Noticed (and recounted the scene over dinner).”**

Scofield is a poet, writer, activist and community worker whose maternal ancestry can be traced back five generations to the Red River Settlement and to Kinesota, Manitoba. He has garnered both the Canadian Authors’ Air Canada Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. He has also penned four much praised books of poetry and an acclaimed memoir, ***Thunder Through My Veins: Memoirs of a Métis Childhood***. Scofield’s latest book, ***Singing Home the Bones***, uses poetry and storytelling to reclaim the untold history of the Métis people and his own biological family.



JAN ZWICKY

A native of Alberta, Jan Zwicky is a poet, musician and philosopher who received her Masters and Doctorate degrees in Philosophy from the University of Toronto. She has taught philosophy and creative writing at four North American universities including Princeton and the University of Victoria. A violinist who has worked in many orchestras, Zwicky is also the author of a number of collections of poetry including: ***Where Have We Been***, ***Wittgenstein Elegies*** and ***The New Room***. In 1999 she was awarded the Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry in recognition of her ***Songs for Relinquishing the Earth***. Jan Zwicky is an essayist on music, philosophy and poetry and throughout her writing these multi-disciplinary interests are intertwined.

SPECIAL GUESTS



THE HONOURABLE IONA CAMPAGNOLO, PC, CM, OBC LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Words on the Water is pleased to announce that Her Honour, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will attend and address the audience of Words on the Water on Friday evening.



PAUL VASEY

Paul Vasey is an award-winning journalist, author and CBC radio host. His journalistic work has been recognized with many awards including the Canadian Press Story of the Year and a Southam Fellowship.

Vasey's literary accomplishments are also numerous. He has written nine books including: *Kids In The Jail*, a non-fiction look at the problem of young offenders; *Into Thin Air*, described as "...an existential mystery"; and novel *It's Only A Broken Heart*. His latest novel *Last Labour of the Heart* has recently been published. Vasey's morning radio program, "On The Island", was broadcast from the Maritime Heritage Centre on Friday, March 24 and he has graciously agreed to participate in the Literary Cabaret on Saturday evening.



JOHN ELSON

Master of Ceremonies

Mistaking, at an early age, his mother's use of the phrase, "jack of all trades, master of none" as an instruction rather than a warning, John Elson has spent his life dabbling. For the past thirty years or so he has supported his habit by teaching high school in Campbell River, most recently at Carihi Secondary School. Currently John is enjoying an urban adventure while working as a faculty associate in SFU's Education Department. A founding member of WOW's organizing committee, John credits this experience with increasing the height of the pile of unopened books at his bedside and his admiration for those who can perform the magic of writing well.

THIS FESTIVAL ASPIRES TO HONOUR THE HAIG-BROWN LEGACY



Roderick Haig-Brown was a writer and conservationist with an international reputation. He was also a local judge, university chancellor, father and community steward. In 1934 he married Ann Elmore of Seattle, a woman of formidable intellect, who became a teacher and community activist. They settled on the bank of the Campbell River where they lived the rest of their lives thinking, reading and working.

The Haig-Browns were philosophers who carefully considered their place in the world both as it related to their community and to the natural environment. They worked tirelessly to support the dignity of all people, often together, but also individually. Their work continues to have an influence in the community and time continues to demonstrate the visionary ring of Ann's community service and Rodrick's writing.



WORDS ON THE WATER ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

✍ David Carpenter

✍ Colin Gabelmann

✍ Robin Geary

✍ Craig Gillis

✍ Ruth McMonagle

✍ Trevor McMonagle

✍ Terry Moist

✍ Sherry Sprungman

✍ Patricia Trasolini

WOW COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Annabel Lyon will lead a writing workshop with local secondary students on Friday, March 24.
 - Gregory Scofield will perform a reading at Carihi and Timberline schools on Friday, March 24.
 - North Island College is sponsoring a short fiction writing contest on Sunday, March 26.
- Registration information will be posted at the Maritime Heritage Centre this weekend. You are not too late!

Thank you

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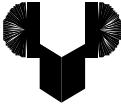


Drs. Arnold &
McFadden

Museum
at Campbell River

470 Island Highway

We offer a wide selection of local authors
including Robert Bringham, Roderick
Haig-Brown, Jeanette Taylor
Shop proceeds support Museum programs



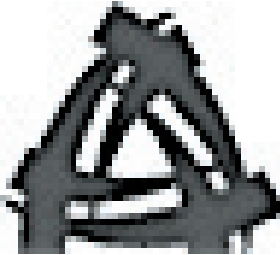
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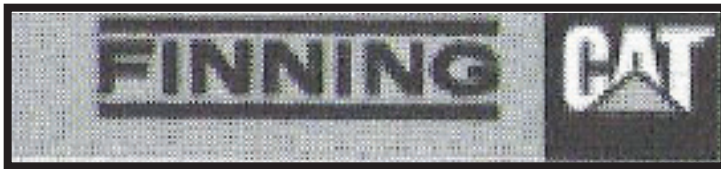
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*...Your generosity has allowed us to bring
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the community of Campbell River.*



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