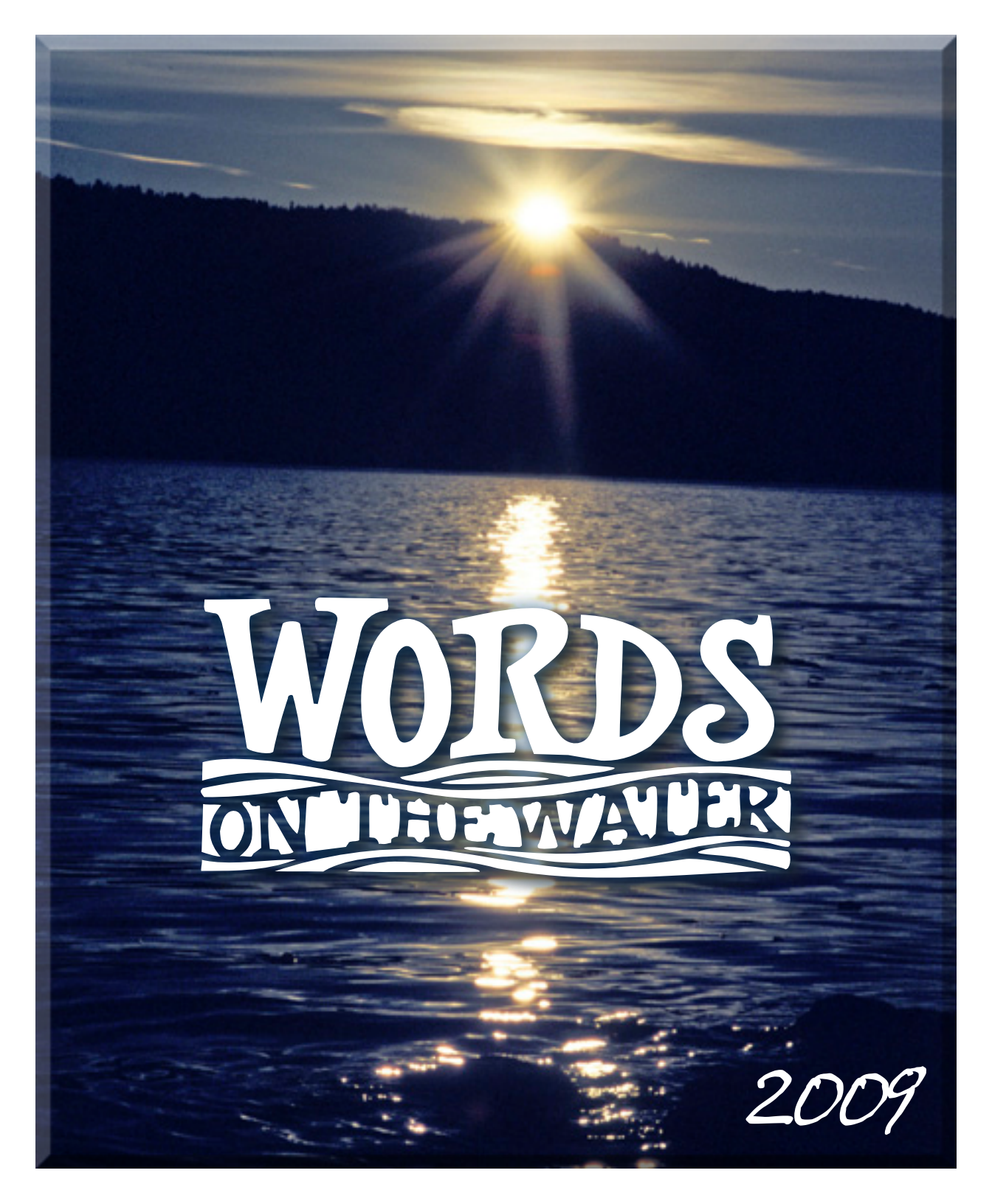


A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright lens flare and a shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with some light clouds. The water is dark blue with small ripples. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted hills or mountains. The text "WORDS" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the words "ON THE WATER" are written in a smaller, white, stylized font that looks like it's floating on waves.

WORDS

ON THE WATER

2009

Marilyn Bowering

Words for Travelling by Water

Those for whom there are words
may lose themselves in forests,

blindly, not listening,
and stagger under a weight

with scarred hands,
and wake up with wounds,

but will hear only praise--

words loud, cursive, clear
as the calving of glaciers.

They swim naked, stretched darkly,
with breath like a curved spoon,

crying like gulls to the wave-skimming wind:
This is me! This is who I truly am!

And when they are most alone,
shadowy ancestors nod, saying—

*Who is it you belong to?
Stop at our fire; take these phrases,
and keep them warm!*

Those for whom there are words
always find each other,
that is all. You don't have to believe,
just say:

*The Sea-- repeat after me—
Sea, your blue, your thousand years of voices;
How many repetitions until you end
And the broken sea can be renamed love?*

Welcome to Words on the Water 2009

This year's festival is the 8th time that the event has occurred in Campbell River. It is a testament to the interest, intelligence and loyalty of you, the audience, that Words on the Water continues to thrive and stimulate reading, thinking and conversation in our community. The WOW committee is proud once again to present a thought provoking mix of current Canadian writers and invites you to listen to, discuss and escape into the richness of words that will be presented. *Enjoy!*

Festival Schedule of Events

All events take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre

Friday, March 27 - 7:30 pm

Master of Ceremonies *John Elson*

Words on the Water Commissioned Poem *Marilyn Bowering*

	Panel	Topic	Moderator
#1	Marilyn Bowering Marjorie Doyle Lorna Jackson	Where's the Book?	Craig Gillis
#2	Mary Novik Rex Weyler	Where's the audience?	Jeanette Taylor

Intermission

Music by John Ringstead & Friends

#3	Wayde Compton John Gould Richard Van Camp	Why Teach Creative Writing	John Elson
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Saturday, March 28

Morning	Afternoon	Evening
9:00 Richard Van Camp	1:00 John Gould	7:30 Literary Cabaret
9:45 Marilyn Bowering	1:45 Wayde Compton	
10:30 Break	2:30 Break	Featuring
10:45 Mary Novik	2:45 Lorna Jackson	Guest Writers
11:30 Marjorie Doyle	3:30 Rex Weyler	Music by Doug Folkins and Jazz Piano by Jim Vining
12:15 Lunch		

Marilyn Bowering



MARILYN BOWERING is an award-winning novelist, poet and playwright whose first book, *The Liberation of Newfoundland* was published in 1973. After this, she continued to write poetry, publishing several more volumes including *The Killing Room* and *The Sunday Before Winter*, which was nominated for a Governor-General's Award in 1980. In all, she has published 8 books of poems - the latest, *Green*, in 2007 - four novels and several plays, articles and radio plays. Her first novel, *To All Appearances A Lady*, brought her international recognition and acclaim and is a popular choice amongst book clubs and senior English classes. It has been followed by *Visible Worlds*, *Cat's Pilgrimage* and *What It Takes To Be Human*. Born in Winnipeg but growing up in Victoria, Bowering studied with poet Robin Skelton and formed important friendships with poets Dorothy Livesay and P.K. Page. She currently lives in Sooke and teaches at the University of Victoria. *Words on the Water* is honoured that Marilyn Bowering agreed to write this year's commissioned poem, which appears in the program.

Wayde Compton



WAYDE COMPTON is a Vancouver writer whose books include *49th Parallel Psalm*, *Performance Bond* and *Bluesprint: Black British Columbian Literature and Orature*. He and Jason de Couto perform turntable-based sound poetry as a duo called *The Contact Zone Crew*. Compton explored uncharted territory in his first book. While doing his BA in English, he encountered American, African, and Caribbean black writers, but found no body of black literature in BC. When he went looking for black B.C. writers, he realized that the primary research just hadn't been done. Had there been black writers here in the past? Compton started researching: the result is *49th Parallel Psalm*. Compton continued his exploration with his second book, *Bluesprint: Black British Columbian Literature and Orature*, (2001) which provides a documentary history of migration and transformation within British Columbia's black communities from 1858 to the present. Compton continues to break new ground with his performance turntable based sound poetry. In his poetry project called "The Reinventing Wheel," Compton explores and creates in this innovative medium. Wayde Compton teaches in Simon Fraser University's Writing and Publishing Program, where he is a creative writing instructor; he also teaches English composition and literature at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and at Coquitlam College.

Marjorie Doyle



MARJORIE DOYLE hails from Newfoundland and is this year's guest Writer-in-Residence at Campbell River's Haig-Brown house. The versatility of her writing is apparent in her long list of accomplishments. She is an essayist, the author of *Reels, Rocks and Rosaries: Confessions of a Newfoundland Musician*, former columnist with the *Globe and Mail* and music columnist for the *Evening Telegram*. She has published in *This Magazine*, *Geist*, *Queen's Quarterly* and among her many awards are three wins in the NL Arts and Letters awards. As a broadcaster, Marjorie hosted a national radio program, *That Time of Night*, and was frequently heard as a guest on CBC programs such as *Gabereau*, *Morningside* and *Arts Tonight*. She has won two CBC Radio Awards for Programming Excellence. Growing up in Newfoundland and belonging to a 7th generation Newfoundland family provided Marjorie rich cultural nutrients. She earned her M.A. at Memorial University in St. John's where she has taught non-fiction and, although she has lived in Switzerland, Spain, Wisconsin, Illinois, Toronto and Calgary, she now lives in her native St. John's.

John Gould



Born in Toronto in 1959 and earning his BA at the innovative Integrated Studies Program at the University of Waterloo, JOHN GOULD arrived in B.C in 1983. He has been involved in the writing community here ever since. He is the author of two books of very short, short stories. The first, *The Kingdom of Heaven* was published in 1996 and the second, *Kilter: 55 Fictions*, 2003, was short-listed for the Giller Prize and received the Mary Scorer Award for the best book by a Manitoba publisher. His fiction has also appeared in chapbooks and periodicals across the country.

In *Kilter*, lightness, quickness, exactitude, visibility, multiplicity and consistency unite in a tight experimental form that Gould calls "flash fiction." Gould brings his background as an Arts administrator, environmental researcher, tree planter, house framer and haiku enthusiast to his writing. He now teaches fiction: he co-created and now is the Executive Director of the Victoria School of Writing, serves on the Editorial Board of the *Malahat Review* and gives Creative Writing classes at the University of Victoria.

Lorna Jackson



LORNA JACKSON is “full of the sort of contradictions that make for bright, original writing.” A classically trained vocalist who spent a decade singing country rock in small town BC bars, an exacting university writing teacher who is also a raucous hockey fan, an urban youngster who now lives in the country on Vancouver Island, Lorna writes about what matters; about what “needs telling and sorting out.” Following her saloon singing years, Jackson returned to university to pursue degrees in English and to take writing courses with Jack Hodgins and Mark Anthony Jarman. She received her BA and MA from the University of Victoria, where she is now an Assistant Professor in the Writing Department. Her non-fiction book, *Cold-Cocked* (2007) received glowing reviews and has been called “absolutely one of the best hockey books of our era” and her latest book, *Flirt: The Interviews*, is a cheeky collection of fake interviews with real, famous people, including some well-known hockey players. Both of these books, she says, are intentionally irreverent. Lorna Jackson is this year’s *Writer in the Schools* presenter for the festival.

Mary Novik



After teaching for many years at Langara College in Vancouver, MARY NOVIK realized that if she was ever going to write a novel, she “had better get started.” She was inspired to begin by the *Chapters Competition* for debut novels. The result, *Bracelet of Bright Hair* was one of the five books short-listed out of the 400 unpublished entries. Encouraged, Novik decided to write a second novel that would make it to the top. Her stunning book, *Conceit*, is the result. *Conceit* has been called “a magnificent novel of 17th century London” by the *Globe and Mail* and “the book that critics have been drooling over” by *The Ottawa Citizen*. *Conceit* won the Ethel Wilson Prize for Fiction and was long-listed for the Giller Prize. It has recently been selected as a Top Ten Hottest Book of 2008. *Conceit* tells the story of John Donne’s daughter, Pegge, who is a rebellious girl, barely in her teens and “already too clever for a world that values learning only in men.” Exquisitely written, *Conceit* is seductive, elegant, and enormously satisfying.

Richard Van Camp



A proud Dogrib from Fort Smith, NWT, RICHARD VAN CAMP is an internationally renowned and spellbinding storyteller. With the release of his novel, *The Lesser Blessed*, he became the first ever published Dogrib writer, sounding previously unheard aboriginal voices. Richard grew up in a family that loved storytelling and provided a rich culture for his writing. He began to write, he says, because “nobody else was writing about his life and experiences.” *The Lesser Blessed* is a powerful coming-of-age story that follows a Dogrib boy growing up in the small community of Fort Simmer. Richard’s second book, *Angel Wing Splash Pattern*, a collection of short stories, is also set in the North. With the Cree artist, George Littlechild, Richard has also published two children’s books; the most recent, *Welcome Song for Baby: A Lullaby for Newborns* was the official selection of the Books for BC Babies program. Richard was recognized in both Canada and the U.S. as Storyteller of the Year by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. He currently teaches Creative Writing at UBC with an Aboriginal focus.

Rex Weyler



Perhaps best known for his work with *Greenpeace* and for his 2004 book of that title, REX WEYLER’S achievements are multi-faceted. He is a journalist, ecologist, photographer, historian, and author of several best selling books. Born in Denver and coming to Vancouver in 1972, Weyler became active in the burgeoning environmental movement and spent the 1970’s not only studying and writing about the issues, but also becoming instrumental in shaping them. He was a founding member of the original *Greenpeace*: he sailed on the first *Greenpeace* whale campaign and his photos and accounts appeared worldwide. His book, *Greenpeace: How a Group of Journalists, Ecologists and Visionaries Changed the World*, tells the inside story of the early years in the organization: it has received critical acclaim. In 1984 he co-authored the classic *Chop Wood, Carry Water, A guide to Finding Spiritual Fulfillment in Everyday Life*, which after two decades is still a best seller. It was also during the 80’s that Weyler was the Executive Director of Hollyhock, an education centre dedicated to environmental and personal studies that he co-founded on Cortes Island. In his latest book, *The Jesus Sayings: The Quest for His Authentic Message*, Weyler examines the evidence of an historical Jesus, his original message, and his relevance today.

Master Of Ceremonies



John Elson is Campbell River's favorite MC. A founding member of the *Words on the Water* Festival Committee, John has been the perennial choice to guide and entertain us through the weekend's events. John will also moderate the third panel discussion on Friday evening. The theme, "Why Teach?" is right up John's alley – he's a long-time Social Studies teacher and has spent 2 years at SFU teaching aspiring teachers.

Our Musicians

John Ringstead

John has played jazz guitar in Courtenay and Campbell River for years, performing in several groups and playing in countless musical theatre productions. A Social Studies teacher by day, John manages to keep a busy schedule of playing by night. *Words on the Water* is delighted to have John and his musical mates play for us on Friday evening during the breaks.

Jim Vining

Jim is currently devoting his time to writing and recording his own musical compositions. A Campbell River music teacher, Jim is an accomplished and experienced jazz pianist. His smooth jazz melodies will provide the musical backdrop on Saturday night before the event and at intermission.

Doug Folkins



Every year, *Words on the Water* is proud to feature a local musician at Saturday evening's cabaret. This year our guest performer is singer-song writer Doug Folkins, both a folk troubadour and rock artist who offers up-tempo, cleverly crafted songs from both his experiences and his roots – from his life on the BC coast and his Celtic roots in rural New Brunswick. His music is "energetic, raucous and fun."

Words on the Water Organizing Committee

Charlene Brown Trevor McMonagle Angel Murphy Paul Murphy
Chris Round Sherry Sprungman

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many volunteers who help make *Words on the Water* function smoothly. You have been steadfast and perennial in your support and your expertise in running the weekend is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

Wow Student Outreach Program

An important commitment of *Words on the Water* is to foster an appreciation of literature in the youth in our community. Thanks to the joint sponsorship of WOW and School District #72, Lorna Jackson will offer readings in the schools and a writing workshop to Campbell River students on Friday, March 27th.

Ann and Roderick Haig-Brown



From its inception, *Words on the Water* has taken inspiration from the lives and works of Ann and Roderick Haig-Brown. The Haig-Browns were philosophers and conservationists who carefully considered their place in the world. Roderick's writing and Ann's humanitarian work continue to influence this community. *Words on the Water* aspires to contribute to keeping their memory alive and to honour their legacy.

A Very Special Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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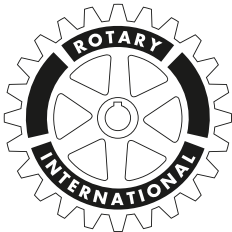
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