

CAMPBELL RIVER'S WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2012

WORDS ON THE WATER



Welcome to Words on the Water 2012

Welcome writers and readers alike to the 11th *Words on the Water* Writers' Festival!

Few things in life are as rewarding as venturing into the world of another. At *Words on the Water* we have the unique opportunity to do just that through readings, dialogue and personal encounters. Anticipation is running high as we begin this weekend, and we hope that you enjoy the music & food, and this time away to indulge in the written word.

The Words on the Water Committee – 2012

Festival Schedule of Events

All events take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre

Friday, March 23rd - 7:30 pm

Master of Ceremonies *John Elson*

Words on the Water Commissioned Poem *Daphne Marlatt*
“full spectrum eye appeal”

Writers in Conversation

- Daphne Marlatt and Garry Thomas Morse
- Terry Fallis and Robert J. Wiersema

Intermission

Music by Ellisa Hartman

- Trevor Herriot interviewed by host John Elson
- Gurjinder Basran, Susan Juby, and Zsuzsi Gartner

Friday night sponsored by the Scotiabank

7:00 a.m. Saturday, March 24th

Join Trevor Herriot for “*Birds on the Water*” an early-morning nature walk. Meet at Dick Murphy Park - the northernmost parking lot. Bring your binoculars and dress in all-weather gear. Thank you Trevor!

Saturday, March 12th

MORNING

7:00 am Birds on the Water
9:00 am  Terry Fallis
9:45 am  Gurjinder Basran
10:30 am **Break**
10:45 am  Trevor Herriot
11:30 am  Garry Thomas Morse
12:15 **Lunch**

AFTERNOON

1:00 pm  Susan Juby
1:45 pm  Daphne Marlatt
2:30 pm **Break**
2:45 pm  Robert J. Wiersema
3:30 pm  Zsuzsi Gartner

EVENING

7:30 pm Literary Cabaret
A lively creative showcase
Featuring
Guest Writers
and Music by
 ***Fiftieth Parallel***

full spectrum eye appeal

lost in depths that absorb
sun's red or orange wavelength
miniatures hunt

striped nudibranch's toothy rasp
at luminous sea pen, painted
anemone's tactile wave
stung crab to mouth

sea cuke's moptop licking its
tentacle chops we forget

underwater gastronomy
its delicate clarity of interception, inter-
connection lost

to the dry suit beings we are

solo surfing the next new wave
through passages of print black
on white

while vermillion and purple stars
climb walls on slow tube feet
tanker traffic will rock

not to any lullaby, the super
duper poster image of
profits, the gracious do si do
we do in grocery aisles
our eyes on "oceanwise"

our still so surface eyes

Daphne Marlatt

Guest Authors

Gurjinder Basran



Gurjinder Basran's debut novel, *Everything Was Good-bye*, was the winner of the Search for the Great BC Novel Contest in 2010, the winner of the BC Book Prize, Ethel Wilson Fiction Award in 2011 and named as a Chatelaine Magazine Book Club pick in 2012. Gurjinder studied Creative Writing at Simon Fraser University and lives in Delta, BC, with her family.

Terry Fallis



Despite an engineering degree, Terry Fallis has enjoyed careers in politics, in public affairs and in public relations. In 2005, he finally wrote the novel that had been rattling around inside his head. He podcast *The Best Laid Plans*, his satirical novel of Canadian politics, gathering rave reviews from listeners in Canada and around the world. Encouraged by the response, he self-published the novel in September 2007. *The Best Laid Plans* won the 2008 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, the first self-published novel ever honoured with this venerable literary award. The sequel, *The High Road*, was equally well-received. His third novel will be published in September 2012.

Zsuzsi Gartner



Zsuzsi Gartner is the author of the acclaimed story collection *All the Anxious Girls on Earth* and editor of *Darwin's Bastards: Astounding Tales from Tomorrow*, a 2010 BC Book Prize Nominee. Her fiction has been widely published and anthologized, most recently in *The Walrus*, and in *Best Canadian Stories* 2010 and 2011, and broadcast on CBC and NPR. Her latest short fiction collection, *Better Living through Plastic Explosives*, was a *Globe & Mail* Best Book and on the *Vancouver Sun*'s top ten Canadian titles of 2011, as well as a finalist for the prestigious 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Trevor Herriot



Trevor Herriot, prairie naturalist/writer and current Haig-Brown Writer-in-Residence is working on a personal inquiry into questions of male spirituality, sexuality, and maturity, as they affect our bonds to community and place. His book *Grass, Sky, Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds* has won major Canadian and international awards for non-fiction. *River in a Dry Land: a Prairie Passage* and *Jacob's Wound: a Search for the Spirit of Wildness* also received awards and nominations. Trevor's writing has appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *Canadian Geographic*, and several anthologies. He has written two radio documentaries for CBC's *Ideas* and is a monthly guest on CBC Radio Saskatchewan's *Blue Sky*. Visit Trevor's blog: "Grass Notes" (trevorherriot.blogspot.com). His home is in Regina with his wife, Karen, and their four children.

Susan Juby



Susan Juby is the author of the bestselling Alice MacLeod trilogy, which was adapted into a television series called *Alice, I Think*. Her memoir, *Nice Recovery* (Viking), was a *Globe and Mail* Top 100 Book for 2010. Her latest novel, *The Woefield Poultry Collective*, is a "...funny and touching yarn about an endearing band of social wrecks who are impossible not to love." Her novels have been published all over the world and nominated for many awards. Susan was raised in Smithers, BC, and teaches creative writing at Vancouver Island University and at U.B.C.

Daphne Marlatt



Daphne Marlatt is an award-winning Vancouver poet whose titles includes *Steveston*, *Touch to my Tongue*, *This Tremor Love Is* and the novels *Ana Historic* and *Taken*. Her novelistic long poem in prose fragments, *The Given*, received the 2009 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Award. She has performed her poetry with the musical duo Robert Minden and Carla Hallett, with whom she has a collaborative CD, *Like Light Off Water*. In 2009, Talonbooks released her international award-winning contemporary *nob* play, *The Gull*, in a bilingual edition with photographs from the 2006 Pangaea Arts production. And in 2011, the chamber opera *Shadow Catch*, for which she wrote the libretto, was produced by Pro Musica and staged to acclaim at The Firehall Centre for the Arts in Vancouver.

Garry Thomas Morse



Garry Thomas Morse has had two books of poetry published by LINEbooks, *Transversals for Orpheus* (2006) and *Streams* (2007) and one collection of fiction, *Death in Vancouver* (2009). He has two books of poetry published by Talonbooks, *After Jack* (2010) and *Discovery Passages* (2011). *Discovery Passages* is the first book of poetry about the Kwakwaka'wakw people, and finalist for the Governor General's Award for Poetry. *Minor Episodes*, his second book of fiction, concerning surrealist and speculative genres, is forthcoming from Talonbooks in 2012.

Robert J. Wiersema



Robert J. Wiersema is the author of four books: *Before I Wake*, which was a national bestseller; *The World More Full of Weeping*, a novella; *Bedtime Story*; and *Walk Like a Man: Coming of Age with the Music of Bruce Springsteen*, his first book-length foray into non-fiction. Wiersema is one of this country's foremost reviewers, appearing regularly in the Globe and Mail, the National Post, the Vancouver Sun, and numerous other publications. He lives and works in Victoria, BC.

Our Master of Ceremonies

John Elson



After a decade of hosting *Words on the Water*, John continues to be in awe of writers and their work. He is only too happy to interrupt his life of pensioned play to spend a weekend in their company. Check out his latest venture: “A Way With Words,” at www.johnelson.ca

Our Musicians

Friday

Ellisa Hartman



Ellisa Hartman’s artistic presence, unique voice and quirky instrumental timing bring an honest and charismatic sound to the folk genre. At 25, her portfolio of written music moves all who hear it. She was nominated for ‘2011 Song of the Year’ at the Vancouver Island Music Awards, and has toured extensively through British Columbia and Alberta. Hartman recently moved to Campbell River and is thoroughly enjoying her newfound friends in this thriving artistic community.

Saturday

Fiftieth Parallel



Fiftieth Parallel’s debut album, *Weapon of the Future*, was released in December by local duo Jonathan Hinds (acoustic guitar and djembe), and Philip Marchand (acoustic guitar).

Combining the acoustic stylings of Australian guitarist John Butler and influenced by Michael Hedges and the hypnotic rhythms of Kyuss and Pink Floyd, Fiftieth Parallel has created a unique sound.

Visit them on
facebook.com/fiftiethparallel and youtube.com/fiftiethparallel.

Words on the Water Organizing Committee

Rebecca Berry
Trevor McMonagle

Charlene Brown
JoAnn Milutinovic

Clay Carlson
Angel Murphy

Ruth McMonagle
Paul Murphy

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.

Words on the Water 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, *Robert J. Wiersema* will offer readings in the schools and a writing workshop to Campbell River students on *Friday, March 23rd*.

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.

Words on the Water Logo design
Lesley Mathews

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