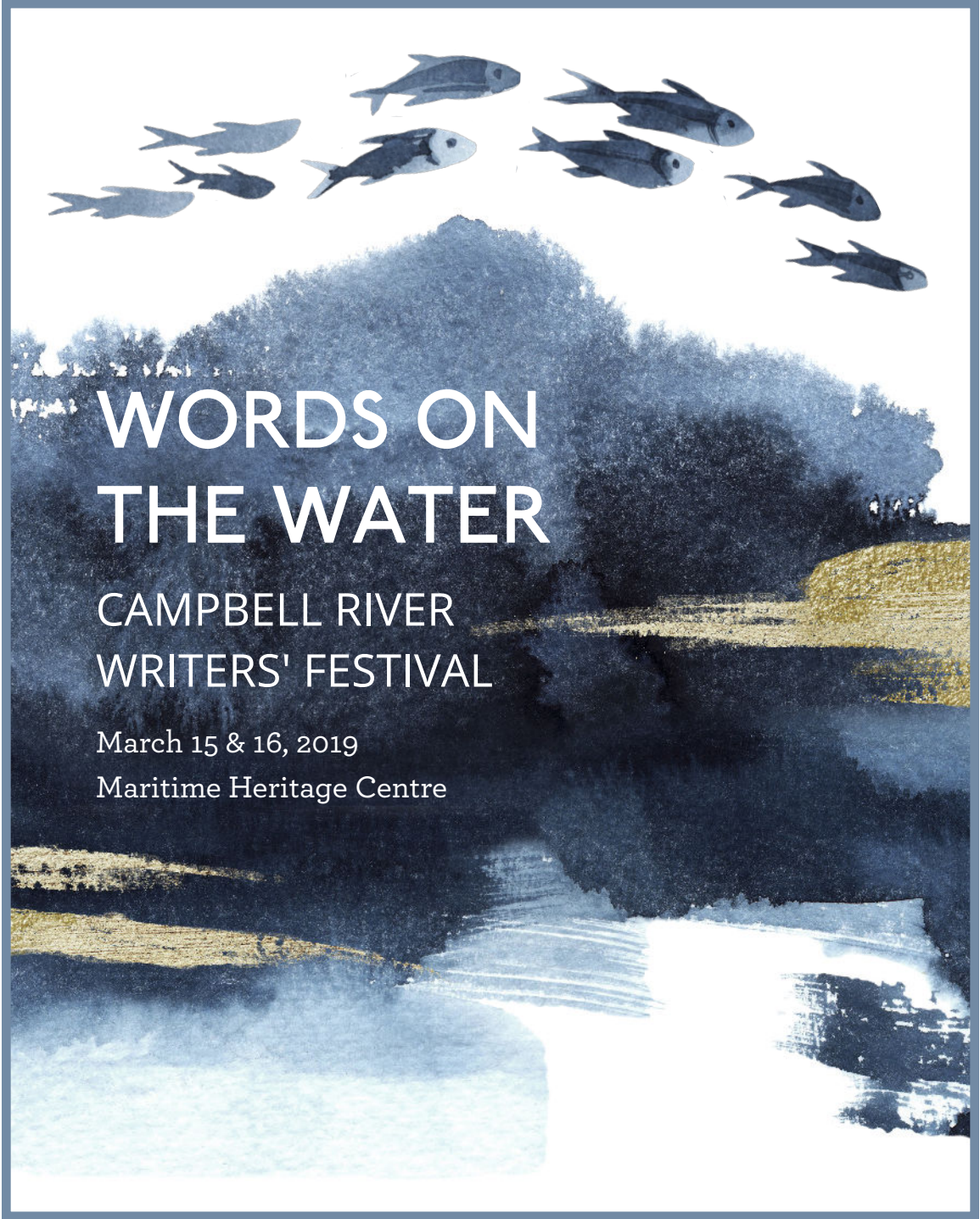




WORDS ON THE WATER

CAMPBELL RIVER
WRITERS' FESTIVAL

March 15 & 16, 2019

Maritime Heritage Centre

WELCOME TO WORDS ON THE WATER 2019

Words on the Water Writers’ Festival marks its 18th anniversary this year, once again bringing eight of Canada’s top writers to Campbell River for readings and great conversations in front of an audience of local readers, many of whom return year after year. We are honoured to welcome our distinguished guest writers who have come to share their work, and our dedicated readers who have come to listen. We sincerely hope you enjoy the beautiful setting, music & food, and the stimulating readings, dialogue and conversations. We invite you to escape into the richness of words. Enjoy!

The Words on the Water Committee – 2019

Festival Schedule of Events

Master of Ceremonies | John Elson

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – WRITERS IN CONVERSATION (7:30PM-10:00PM)

The writers will address questions about the craft of writing and the art of storytelling, and engage in conversations in pairs to begin the festival.

Commissioned Poem: Carrie Jenkins

Monique Gray Smith & Lindsay Wong

Terry Jordan & Alix Ohlin

– Intermission –

Carrie Jenkins & Dr. Brian Goldman

Jack Knox & Danny Ramadan

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

The day session is comprised of four 90-minute sessions, in which two writers have up to 40 minutes each for a reading. The evening session includes a last glance at the authors and a time for stories.

Morning (9:00am-12:15pm)

Terry Jordan

Danny Ramadan

– Break –

Lindsay Wong

Jack Knox

Afternoon (1:00pm-4:15pm)

Dr. Brian Goldman

Alix Ohlin

– Break –

Monique Gray Smith

Carrie Jenkins

Evening (7:30pm-10:00pm)

Literary Cabaret (All

Authors)

Blue

by Carrie Jenkins

Five years ago I started drowning. That’s how long it takes.

Like all practitioners of magic, I am an expert with water.

Erosive, potent, slow pharmakeia.

It wears you down. (An expert

means someone who tried.)

So let’s begin. Today you have drawn the Queen of Cups,

who was made royal by accident.

Drowning is a change of state.

The card is not a mirror and we won’t find ourselves in surfaces.

(Don’t koi suffocate when the meniscus freezes?)

What kills most people who fall in ice water is panic. The trick is to hang on for sixty seconds.

*If you survive that, you have ten minutes to save yourself before your brain starts switching off
all non-essential muscles.*

Instead, ask why this Queen wears whitefoamed

waves that spill on a stony shore. Should every woman

find a beach of her own, a place

to set up her chair and wait for angels?

*It’s a lot harder once your body betrays you. Even then you’ve got about twenty minutes
to be rescued by somebody else.*

We are alleged to leak, to flow

in degrees of light, medium,

or fuck you. Reflection tends to turn us

blue, which brings me to responsible use of technologies

such as the Tarot.

Five years ago I started drowning but I was only diagnosed last year.

It's comfortable to die confused,
embraced by prisms. The Queen is like me:
born analogue, but fully immersed
in this digital situation. We are the Queens of Cusp.
Now water on heavenly bodies
renders them real estate, new homes
for when we've drained this one.
Water will always be a welcome,
which means it's never safe—stare too long
and it crowns you, pronounces you
a prisoner like all queens. Our time
is up. This card suggests
a soul is more for looking out of
than for looking at.

*When I was done drowning I wasn't blue but invisible.
The trick, still, is to hang on for sixty seconds.*



GUEST AUTHORS 2019

DR. BRIAN GOLDMAN



Dr. Brian Goldman has been called ‘a doctor to Canadians.’ For more than three decades, he’s been a respected ER physician at Sinai Health System in Toronto. Since 2007, Goldman has hosted *White Coat, Black Art*, an award-winning show that pulls back the curtain and demystifies the patient experience in the culture of modern medicine. He is the author of three Canadian bestselling books. His latest - *The Power of Kindness: Why Empathy is Essential in Everyday Life* - explores his personal and professional search for empathy in his brain, his heart and around the world.

CARRIE JENKINS



Carrie Jenkins is Professor of Philosophy at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and a nationally elected Canada Research Chair. Jenkins received her BA, MPhil and PhD degrees from Trinity College, Cambridge, where she read philosophy in the analytic tradition shaped by Bertrand Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and G.E. Moore. She previously held academic posts at the University of St Andrews, the Australian National University, and the University of Michigan.

TERRY JORDAN



Terry Jordan, this year's Haig-Brown Writer in Residence in Campbell River, is an award-winning fiction writer, musician, essayist and dramatist. His latest novel is *Been in the Storm So Long*.

Jordan taught Creative Writing at Concordia University, Montreal, and was the first Margaret Laurence Fellow at Trent University. In the past, he facilitated the Fiction workshop at Sage Hill Writing Experience, and has served as Writer in Residence at the Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg Public Libraries, as well as Okanagan College.

JACK KNOX



Jack Knox is an award-winning columnist with the *Victoria Times Colonist*. Since joining the Times Colonist in 1988, Jack has worked as a copy editor, city editor, editorial writer and editorial page editor. Prior to that he was an editor and reporter at newspapers in Campbell River, Regina and Kamloops.

As a journalist he has debated policy with the prime minister, sat down with a succession of premiers and interviewed a murderer in his cell. He liked the murderer. Career highlights include being blasted with blowhole spray by Luna the whale (it tasted like fish), interviewing a porn movie star in the nude (her, not him) and getting a phone call from Barack Obama four days before he (Obama, not Jack) was elected president.

ALIX OHLIN



Alix Ohlin's novel *Inside* was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. She is also the author of *Signs and Wonders*, a story collection, *The Missing Person*, a novel, and *Babylon and Other Stories*. Her work has appeared in Best American Short Stories, Best New American Voices, The New Yorker, and on public radio's Selected Shorts.

Born and raised in Montreal, she taught at Lafayette College and in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers. She is chair of the Creative Writing Program at the University of British Columbia.

AHMAD DANNY RAMADAN



Ahmad Danny Ramadan is a Syrian-Canadian author, public speaker, storyteller and an LGBTQ-refugee activist. His English debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, was released in May 2017 and won the Independent Publisher Book Award for Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Fiction, the Canadian Authors Union's 2018 Best Fiction award, and was named among the Best Books of 2017 by the *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star*.

Ramadan has served on the board of Vancouver Pride Society since September 2017, and is currently a Masters student at the University of British Columbia's Creative Writing Program. He has lived with his fiancé in Vancouver since his arrival to Canada in 2014.

MONIQUE GRAY SMITH



Monique Gray Smith is a proud mom of fifteen year old twins. She is an award-winning, best-selling author and sought after consultant. Monique's first published novel, *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience* won the 2014 Burt Award for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Literature.

Monique's latest release, *Tilly and the Crazy Eights* is an adult novel about an epic road trip that reminds the reader of the power of the human spirit and that love is medicine.

Monique is Cree, Lakota and Scottish and has been sober and involved in her healing journey for over 27 years. She is well known for her storytelling, spirit of generosity and focus on resilience.

LINDSAY WONG



Lindsay Wong's debut memoir, *The Woo-Woo: How I Survived Ice Hockey, Drug Raids, Demons and My Crazy Chinese Family*, published in October, was short-listed for the Hillary Weston Writer's Trust of Canada Prize for Nonfiction.

Wong holds a BFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and an MFA in Literary Nonfiction from Columbia University in New York City.

Currently she is writer-in-residence at the John Howard Society and the Community Arts Council of Vancouver.

MUSICIANS

FRIDAY NIGHT: ANELA KAHIAMOE



Originally from Hawaii, Anela is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter who performs in the Comox Valley. His styles include jazz, rock, country, blues, and reggae with a Hawaiian flavour.

SATURDAY NIGHT: EASY STREET



Annie Handley and Dave Devindisch are talented multi-instrumentalists who can "make that song their own" like no other duo. They put their own jazzy spin on everything from musical standards of the 1940's to current pop hits. Take Annie's sultry, soft voice and rhythm guitar, add Dave's harmonies, upright bass guitar licks and comedic MC'ing, and it's sure to be an entertaining set that will leave you wanting more.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JOHN ELSON



Except for a recent hiatus, John has been connected to WOW since its beginning. Given a choice, he'd rather be outside – but for this weekend of words, wisdom and wit he's happy to make an exception.

WOW ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Rebecca Berry
- Charlene Brown
- Tylere Couture
- Connie Kretz
- Dana Mills
- Betsy Muir
- Angel Murphy
- 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.

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, Ahmad Danny Ramadan will offer readings in the schools and a writing workshop to Campbell River students on Friday, March 15th.

WOW OFFICIAL BOOK SELLER

Coho Books is located in the heart of downtown Campbell River. They carry a large selection of new books catering to a wide range of interests. Their goal is to provide a warm and inviting environment that readers of all ages will enjoy.

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.

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