



WORDS ON THE WATER

15th Anniversary

Campbell River Writers' Festival

March 11 & 12, 2016

Maritime Heritage Centre

Welcome to Words on the Water 2016

Welcome writers and readers alike to the 15th annual *Words on the Water* Writers' Festival! 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, the stimulating readings, dialogue and conversations, and we invite you to escape into the richness of words that will be presented. Enjoy!

The Words on the Water Committee - 2016

Festival Schedule of Events

All events take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre

FRIDAY, MARCH 11th 7:30 PM

Master of Ceremonies *John Elson*

Welcome *Curtis Wilson*

Words on the Water Commissioned Poem *Eve Joseph*

Writers in Conversation

John Vaillant and Wayne Grady

Tracey Lindberg and Lorimer (Lori) Shenher

Intermission

Music on the mezzanine by Jim Vining and Colin Massie

Grant Lawrence and Timothy Taylor

Eve Joseph and Lucia Misch

Friday night sponsored by Scotiabank

SATURDAY, MARCH 12th

MORNING

9:00  Wayne Grady

9:45  Eve Joseph

10:30 **Break**

10:45  John Vaillant

11:30  Lucia Misch

12:15 **Lunch**

AFTERNOON

1:00  Lorimer (Lori) Shenher

1:45  Timothy Taylor

2:30 **Break**

2:45  Tracey Lindberg

3:30  Grant Lawrence

EVENING

7:30 Evening Finale

Featuring Guest Writers

And Music by

Roger Seldon

It has become a tradition that each year *Words on the Water* should commission an original poem from one of the writers attending the festival. This year we are honoured to present a new work by the award winning poet, Eve Joseph.

Notes on Water

Before Cayetano Valdés y Flores, before Vancouver and Cook,
the sea was a table so bountiful there was no word for hunger.

The edge of imagination is water. Boundless, spilling over
occasionally during a storm, flooding the lands of reason.

It wakes me. The thought of it. *Some lives have form
as a tree has form, some as water poured in a vase.*

A ship of phantoms glides beneath the real ship in waters
turned black with sorrow. My father's lungs -

the little sacs he's carried like a goatherd across the desert -
are filling up. Yesterday they drained 1.5 litres.

He is becoming floodplain, sediment,
habitat to great blue heron, kingfisher, osprey and otter.

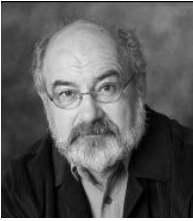
Pointing to a dark shape disappearing into the depths
he tells us:

*That's where I'll end up
in the belly of leviathan -*

behind whose glistening wake one would think the deep had white hair.

Guest Authors

Wayne Grady



2016 Writer-in-Residence at Haig-Brown House

Wayne Grady is the 2015-16 Haig-Brown Writer-in-Residence. Grady is the author of 14 books, the translator of 15 novels from French to English, and the editor of 11 anthologies of literary fiction and nonfiction.

He was awarded the Governor General's Award for *Translation* in 1989 and nominated again in 1995 and 2005. His extensive travels through the Gobi Desert, Patagonia, the United States and a visit to the North Pole have all informed his extensive travel and environmental writing.

Tree: A Life Story was co-authored with David Suzuki in 2007 and was shortlisted for the BC Book of the Year. His first novel *Emancipation Day* (Doubleday 2013) was long-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Award and won the Amazon First Novel Award.

Eve Joseph



Eve Joseph was born in 1953, grew up in North Vancouver and now lives in Victoria. Her recently-released book about death and dying, *In the Slender Margin* (Patrick Crean Editions, 2014; Arcade Publishing 2016), won the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Award. Her two books of poetry, *The Startled Heart* (Oolichan, 2004) and *The Secret Signature of Things* (Brick, 2010) were both nominated for the Dorothy Livesay Award and in 2010 she

was awarded the P.K. Page Founder's Award for poetry. Her work has been published in a wide number of Canadian and American journals and anthologies. Her nonfiction has been shortlisted for the CBC Literary Awards and her essay "*Intimate Strangers*" was nominated for a National Magazine Award and won both the Malahat Review's Nonfiction Award and the Western Magazine Awards "Gold" category for the B.C. and Yukon Territories. Of the piece in the Malahat, the final judge wrote: "the essay illuminates one of the great mysteries of the human condition with a supple and often incandescent array of imagery, insight, allusion, even humour – and a daring lack of sentimentality."

Grant Lawrence



For years, the gregarious and encyclopedic Lawrence has hosted the top-rated CBC Radio 3 Podcast with Grant Lawrence, a monthly showcase of Canadian independent music.

In the fall of 2013, Grant released his second book, entitled *The Lonely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie*; The new book is a darkly hilarious memoir of Grant's conflicted relationship with the game of hockey and his position as goaltender on his beer league hockey team, the championship-winning Vancouver Flying Vees. His sophomore writing effort was an immediate bestseller, debuting at #3 on the National Nonfiction Paperback List, and hitting #1 on the BC Bestsellers list, and won the BC Book Prize for the 2014 Book of the Year (Grant Lawrence is the only BC author to have won this award twice).

Grant's first book, *Adventures in Solitude*, is a memoir of his experiences spending his summers growing up in the coastal wilderness of Desolation Sound, BC, which went to #1 on the BC Bestsellers List, #2 on the National Bestsellers List, won the BC Book Prize for the 2010 Book of the Year, and was a finalist for the inaugural Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction. Grant still spends much of each summer at his cabin in the Sound between MC gigs at summer festivals.

Grant is married to Canadian singer Jill Barber and they live together with their son Joshua and daughter Grace in Vancouver, BC Canada.

Tracey Lindberg



Tracey Lindberg, a woman of Cree-Métis ancestry from northern Alberta, is a professor of law and an Indigenous-rights activist. She has a doctoral degree in law as well as law degrees from the University of Ottawa, Harvard Law School and the University of Saskatchewan. She was awarded the Governor General's Gold Medal, the most prestigious award given to a doctoral student in humanities (other past recipients include Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Robert Bourassa and Gabrielle Roy). She has been professor of

law at the University of Ottawa and is currently at Athabasca University, where she is Chair of the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and the Canada Research Chair of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, Legal Orders and Laws.

Professor Lindberg has published many legally based articles in areas related to Indigenous law and Indigenous women, and she is also a fiction writer, with stories published in a number of literary journals, as well as a blues singer. As she describes herself, she is next in a long line of argumentative Cree women. This is her first novel.

Lucia Misch



Lucia Misch grew up at an astronomical observatory near San Jose, California. Lucia has written and performed poems for organizations including Human Rights Watch and the United Food Workers Union Women's Network, and presented original work at the 2015 Vancouver Fringe Festival and the 2015 Vancouver Writer's Festival.

As an arts educator, Lucia is a veteran workshop leader with Vancouver Poetry House's WordPlay program, and has worked with youth as part of Speak Up! in Montreal, Brendan McLeod's Travelling Slam, and BC's youth spoken word festival, Hullabaloo. In 2015 she served as an ArtStarts project poet in residence in Tsawwassen, BC, and later that year was a guest teacher at a Media Poetry Studio, a day camp that empowers young women to find their voices through film making and literary art.

Sometimes witty, sometimes haunting, always thoughtful, Lucia's words lean between poetry and lyric, monologue and song. Author and poet Robert Priest says of her work: "the future of poetry is safe and dangerous thanks to Lucia Misch."

Lorimer (Lori) Shenher



Lorimer (Lori) Shenher was born and raised in Calgary and moved to Vancouver in 1991. Lorimer holds a BA in English from the University of Calgary, a degree miraculously achieved while pursuing a double major in basketball and beer.

He joined the Vancouver Police Department as a constable in 1991 and undertook numerous undercover assignments in drug, sex work, and homicide files over the course of his career. In 2013 Lorimer took medical leave to receive treatment for a Post-Traumatic Stress Injury and continues to work toward recovery. ***That Lonely Section of Hell: the botched investigation of a serial killer who almost got away***, Lorimer's memoir of working on Vancouver's Missing and Murdered Women file, was published by Greystone Books in 2015. It was named a ***Globe & Mail*** Top 100 Book of 2015.

In 2015 Lorimer began a gender transition to male. He lives with his partner, their three children and their dog in Vancouver. He continues to write and is pursuing a MA in Professional Communications at Royal Roads University.

Timothy Taylor



Timothy Taylor started life as a banker and has a MBA from the Queen's University School of Business and a BA Economics from the University of Alberta. He became a freelance journalist and novelist after his short time in business and, as of July 2013, has been full time faculty at the UBC Creative Writing Program.

Taylor's first novel *Stanley Park* was published in 2001. It was an immediate bestseller and a critical success. He's since published a prize-winning collection of short fiction, *Silent Cruise*, and two further bestselling and critically acclaimed novels, *Story House* and *The Blue Light Project*, which was awarded the CBC Bookie Prize in the literary fiction category. He is also the winner of the Journey Prize, and has been finalist or runner-up for six other major national fiction prizes in Canada, including the prestigious Giller Prize. His work has also been chosen as the 'One Book One City' selection for Vancouver and named a finalist for Canada Reads.

Taylor's most recent book is *Foodville*, a nonfiction account of his life as a food writer and self-identified non-foodie who is nevertheless a passionate eater. Taylor has also been widely published and recognized for his non-fiction magazine and newspaper work. He was the Big Ideas columnist for the Globe and Mail's Report on Business Magazine for several years and has been winner or finalist in over twenty separate magazine awards, including six nominations in 2012 for National and Western Magazine Awards in Canada.

John Vaillant



John Vaillant is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic* and *Outside*, among others. His first book, *The Golden Spruce* (Norton, 2005), was a bestseller and won several awards, including the Governor General's Award for Nonfiction (Canada). His second nonfiction book, *The Tiger* (Knopf, 2010), is also an award-winning bestseller. His latest book, a novel, is *The Jaguar's Children* (HMH/Knopf Canada).

Our Master of Ceremonies

John Elson



Since its inception, John has been pleased to be part of *Words on the Water*. As host, he aims to provide just enough lubricant to keep the WOW machinery spinning smoothly and in return enjoys the privilege of spending the weekend in the company of inspiring authors.

Our Musicians

Friday evening - music on the mezzanine

Featuring Jim Vining and Colin Massie.

Saturday evening - music on the mezzanine

Roger Seldon

Campbell River-based songwriter Roger Seldon splits his time between Vancouver Island, where he performs solo and with his band OGRE Major, and South Africa's Hibiscus Coast. Since the days of Durban High School party band Transit, Seldon has been madly off in all directions, literally and figuratively. Seldon is a regular feature each southern winter on the Zululand South Coast music scene and has been labelled a 'musical catalyst' for sparking a seasonal surge in local music interest and activity each year.

He recently released a six song E.P. (six) recorded in Johannesburg by award-winning South African producer Dan Roberts and has just returned from Australia where he recorded the soon to be released *swimming vigorously but in no particular direction*, a four song collaboration with Australian musicians Scott Blackley and Steve Reynolds, members of the band Forever Since Breakfast.

Words On The Water Organizing Committee

Rebecca Berry
Connie Kretz

Charlene Brown
Betsy Muir

Clay Carlson
Angel Murphy

Tylere Couture
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, *Grant Lawrence* will offer readings in the schools and a writing workshop to Campbell River students on *Friday, March 11th*.



Wow Official Book Seller

Laughing Oyster Bookshop is located in the heart of downtown Courtenay. Our staff will help you find new books that inspire, inform, entertain or transport you to new worlds. We know the classic favourites and new releases, award winners and reviewers' choices. If your choice is not among the 10,000 titles on our shelves, we will gladly special order.

Campbell River Art Gallery

Campbell River Art Gallery is the region's sole public gallery, with a mandate to stimulate thought, understanding, curiosity, involvement and discussion of contemporary visual art. The gallery exhibits the artwork of professional contemporary artists from across Canada and beyond.

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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