

Whistler
**WRITERS
FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 15 - 18, 2015



*fledgling
to flight*



Welcome

Welcome to the 14th annual Whistler Writers Festival. Each year we strive to bring the very best Canadian and international authors to Whistler for a weekend packed with readings, workshops, and opportunities for you to meet some of your favourite authors. This year our theme is **fledgling to flight**, which celebrates our ongoing commitment to feature both emerging and established authors on the same stage, each showcasing and supporting the other.

Thursday October 15th will feature Comedy Quickies, a night of bite-sized comedy that takes writers' humorous humdingers to the stage. A panel of judges will pre-select their 10 favourite written submissions to bring to life in the beautiful Millennium Place Theatre. Cash and prizes will be awarded for Best Comedy Writing, and of course, The People's Choice award (chosen by our audience) will go to the best act of the evening. Our special guest will be comedian, humourist and author, **Charlie Demers from CBC's The Debaters** and **This is That**.

On Friday night our Chefs' Reception will feature star chefs **Emily Wight** (*Well Fed, Flat Broke*) and award-winning poet and author **Susan Musgrave** (*A Taste of Haida Gwaii*). **James Nevison**, prize-winning author of the best selling book, (*Had A Glass 2015*) will join in to talk about some of the best and least expensive wine pairings. There will be samples of appetizers to try and you'll be able to meet all three authors and hear them discuss their featured recipes and books. The Reception will be followed by the Literary Cabaret. Hosted by local scribe and musician **Stephen Vogler**, the cabaret is a unique collaboration of live music, and readings from some of Canada's best-loved authors. Local short story author extraordinaire **Katherine Fawcett**, Governor General Award winning poet **Arleen Paré**, and multi-award winning authors, **Caroline Adderson, Michael Christie, Michael Winter, Wayne Grady, Brian Brett and Pauline Holdstock**, as well as spoken word artists, **Jillian Christmas and Chelsea D. E. Johnson**, will headline this lively and innovative event, while talented local musicians will provide the vibe.

We've added several new reading events throughout the day on Saturday October 17th, each featuring authors of different genres: Poetry, Non-Fiction and Fiction. In addition, we've added two workshops specifically for readers. The Gibbons Literary Salon on Friday afternoon, moderated by **Shelley A. Leedah**, is designed specifically for book clubs. A session about the writing life will be moderated by CBC's **Eleanor Wachtel** on Saturday afternoon. Our Saturday crime writers' lunch reading, moderated by **Feet Banks**, will feature authors **Linden MacIntyre, Jackie Bateman, William Deverell and Dietrich Kalteis**. On Saturday night, a special main stage reading will see **CBC's Grant Lawrence** in conversation with Order of Canada recipient and Canada Reads Prize winning author, **Lawrence Hill**. On Sunday, October 18th, **Grant Lawrence** will join us again to host a brunch and discussion with award winning authors **Camilia Gibb, Catherine Hunter, Marina Endicott, Amanda Lindhout, Nino Ricci, and Steve Toltz**.

This year we've added a day-long publishing workshop on Friday October 16th, which is a two-part event. Join us for a three-hour workshop in the morning to hone your pitching skills, then put them to the test in the afternoon with publishers, editors and an agent who together represent all genres.

This growing festival is a labour of love for so many: the volunteers who support it tirelessly; the community that has rallied around it; and the participants who come out year after year. Thank you for your support. Welcome to our festival.

Stella Harvey, Festival Director

Writer in Residence



Michael Winter

Michael Winter will take up residence in Whistler this fall as the community's official Writer-in-Residence. Michael will work with writers on their own projects, starting in mid-September with a potluck get-together and introductory meeting.

Novice, emerging and experienced writers of all genres interested in taking part in the residency program need to register with Stella Harvey by sending an email to writers@whistlerwritersfest.com. Residency participants will receive four one-on-one sessions with Michael to develop their manuscript, and have weekly group lectures on various aspects of the writing craft.

Once accepted, writers must submit a short synopsis of the project they plan to work on during the residency, plus a manuscript of no more than 20 double-spaced pages, by Monday August 17, 2015 to enable Michael to review the work in advance of the first meeting. The residency forms the manuscript-intensive component of the Whistler Writers Festival.

This program is made available through the Resort Municipality of Whistler, Community Enrichment Program and the Canada Council Author Residency Program.



Festival at a Glance

Thursday, October 15th

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. | Millennium Place | \$20

Reading Event 1: Comedy Quickies

With Charlie Demers & 10 Comedy Quickies Contest Finalists.
Moderators: Brandon Barrett and Ira Pettle.

Friday, October 16th

9:00 a.m. – noon | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$60

Workshop 1: How to Write and Pitch the Killer Proposal with Marilyn Simonds

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$60

Workshop 2:

Speed Dating: Pitch Your Book/Idea to Publishers, Agents and Editors

With Amy Collins (Orca Book Publishers), Jesse Finkelstein (Transatlantic Literary Agency), Karen Green (Anvil Press), Karen Haughian (Signature Editions), Brian Kaufman (Anvil Press), Robert McCullough (Random House of Canada), Gordon Shillingford (J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing Inc.)

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | The Mountain Club at The Westin | \$20

Reading Event 2:

Gibbons Literary Salon with author Shelley A. Leedah

A workshop for booklovers who crave stimulating discussion about books. Appetizer and drink included.

6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$15

Reading Event 3:

Tasting the Divine: Cooks With Books

A Chefs' reception, discussion, and book signing with Emily Wight *Well Fed*, *Flat Broke*, Susan Musgrave *A Taste of Haida Gwaii*, and James Nevison *Had a Glass 2015*. Includes appetizer samples.

8:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$20

Reading Event 4:

Opening Night Literary Cabaret

An innovative collaboration of live music and readings. With Caroline Adderson, Brian Brett, Michael Christie, Jillian Christmas, Katherine Fawcett, Wayne Grady, Pauline Holdstock, Chelsea D.E. Johnson, Arleen Paré, Michael Winter.

Moderator: Stephen Vogler

Saturday, October 17th

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$30

Workshop 3: Writing for Young Readers

With Eric Walters

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$30

Workshop 4: Plotting Your Storyline

With Caroline Adderson

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$15

Reading Event 5: Writers of Non-Fiction

With Brian Brett, Trisha Cull, Jan Drabek, Jane Harris, Shelley A. Leedah.

Moderator: Leslie Anthony

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Coffee Break

Refreshments available

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | FREE

Reading Event 6: The Graphic Novel

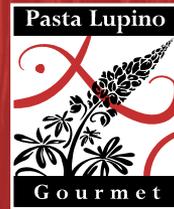
With author Patti Laboucane-Benson and illustrator Kelly Mellings.

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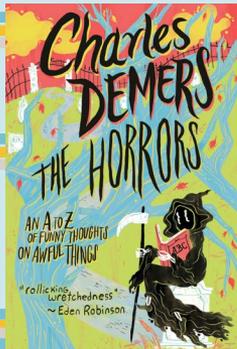
FEATURED AUTHORS at the 2015 WHISTLER READERS AND WRITERS FESTIVAL

CHARLES DEMERS

THE HORRORS

An A to Z of Funny Thoughts
on Awful Things

“One of my favourite comedic voices.”
—Brent Butt, comedian and creator
of *Corner Gas*



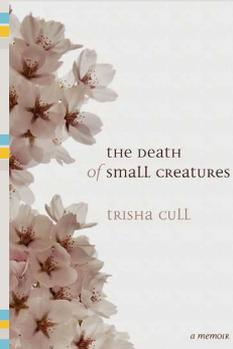
DOUGLAS & MCINTYRE

TRISHA CULL

THE DEATH OF SMALL CREATURES

A Memoir

“Wondrous and startling in its shadows
and revelations.” —Richard Van Camp,
author of *The Lesser Blessed*



NIGHTWOOD EDITIONS

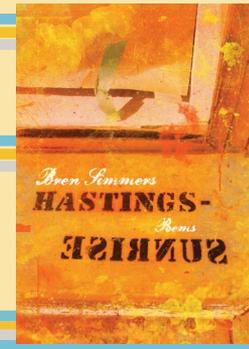
BREN SIMMERS

HASTINGS-SUNRISE

Poems

“Simmers has a lyric eye that poignantly
and carefully captures and illuminates
the everydayness of life.”

—Cole Mash, *The Coastal Spectator*



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• Nightwood Editions

• www.nightwoodeditions.com



Saturday, October 17th Continued..

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$30

Workshop 5: Writing by Ear

With Marilyn Simonds

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$30

Workshop 6:

Making Believe: How to Convince a Reader that a Story Really Happened

With Michael Winter

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$15

Reading Event 7: Poetry of Place

With Garth Martens, Jane Munro, Arleen Paré, Bren Simmers.

Moderator: Mary MacDonald.

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

\$30 includes lunch

Reading Event 8: Crime Writers' Lunch

With Jackie Bateman, William Deverell, Dietrich Kalteis, Linden MacIntyre.

Moderator: Feet Banks

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$30

Workshop 7:

Writing Comics: Pages, Panels, & the Space Between

With Diana Schutz

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$30

Workshop 8: Short Films that Kill It

With Lisa Fernandez, Jonny Fleet, Angie Nolan.

Moderator: Rebecca Wood Barrett

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | FREE

Workshop 9:

Writing Workshop for Young Writers

With Eric Walters (must be under the age of 19 to attend)

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$15

Reading Event 9:

Writing What you Know: Cruising the Fact-Fiction Continuum

With Carellin Brooks, Michael Christie, Elisabeth de Mariaffi, Katherine Fawcett, C.C. Humphreys.

Moderator: Marilyn Simonds

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$15

Workshop 10: The Lives of Writers

(for readers and writers alike) With Eleanor Wachtel

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | FREE

Reading Event 10:

Stella Harvey's new novel *The Brink of Freedom*

8:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$25

Reading Event 11:

Grant Lawrence in Conversation with Lawrence Hill

Includes glass of wine and live music by our very own local musicians.

Sponsored by the Whistler Real Estate Company.

Sunday, October 18th

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | \$35

Reading Event 12:

Grant Lawrence in Conversation with Marina Endicott, Camilla Gibb, Catherine Hunter, Amanda Lindhout, Nino Ricci, Steve Toltz

Includes brunch

**Purchase festival passes and tickets
online at whistlerwritersfest.com**



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καλωσόρισμα!

Γάιτε!

¡bienvenida!

Welcome!

Aloha!

WELKOM!



Stella Leventoyannis Harvey
The Brink of Freedom



Catherine Hunter
After Light



Shelley A. Leedah
I Wasn't Always Like This

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twitter.com/SigEditions



www.signature-editions.com

Sessions in Detail

Reading Event 1:

Comedy Quickies

A night of hair-trigger humour featuring Charlie Demers

Location: Millennium Place Theatre
Date/Time: October 15 / 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Cost: \$20

Give your funny-bone a workout during this night of bite-sized comedy. A panel of judges pre-selected their favourite humorous humdingers to bring to the stage. After the competition, special guest Charlie Demers (CBC's *The Debaters* and *This is That*) will fire up the laughs with a feature comedic performance before the Comedy Quickies winners are announced. Cash and prizes will be awarded for Best Comedy Writing, and The People's Choice award (voted by you!) will go to the best act of the evening.

Moderators: Brandon Barrett and Ira Pettle.

Workshop 1:

How to Write & Pitch the Killer Proposal

with Marilyn Simonds

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 16 / 9 a.m. – noon
Cost: \$60

You've written a great book; now how do you get that editor or agent to read it? This workshop takes you through the primary elements of a successful book submission: the covering letter, the synopsis (and chapter outline, for nonfiction), the author bio and marketing strategy, and the sample manuscript. By the end, you'll be able to pitch your book in 25 words or less. You'll also learn the inner workings of the publishing industry and how to find the perfect editor or agent for your work. Limited enrolment.

Workshop 2:

Speed Dating: Pitching Your Book/Idea to A Publisher/Agent/Editor

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 16 / 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$60

Get in front of publishing decision-makers for 15 minutes to pitch your book or story idea one-on-one, and receive feedback. Don't have a book to pitch? Take this opportunity to ask questions about what the publishers are seeking, and what it is about a manuscript that has them offering red hot deals. Come prepared with a 5 minute pitch and/or questions about what they're on the hunt for. Meet Amy Collins (Orca Book Publishers), Jesse Finkelstein (Transatlantic Literary Agency), Karen Green (Anvil Press), Karen Haughian (Signature Editions), Brian Kaufman (Anvil Press), Robert McCullough (Random House of Canada), and Gordon Shillingford (J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing Inc.).



Joern Rohde

Reading Event 2:

Gibbons Literary Salon with Shelley A. Leedahl

Location: The Mountain Club in the Westin
Date/Time: October 16 / 4 p.m. – 5:30pm
Cost: \$20 includes beverage & appetizer

Avid readers unite! The Gibbons Literary Salon is a session designed specifically for booklovers who crave frank and stimulating discussion about books, and want to learn how to create open and honest conversations in their book clubs. Cozy up with a drink and appetizer in the casual setting of the Mountain Club, as guest author Shelley A. Leedahl leads this workshop on how to be an astute book club reader. Discussion will revolve around how to formulate provocative questions, spur collaborative discourse and encourage diverse opinions about the books you're reading.

Reading Event 3:

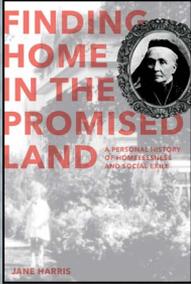
Tasting the Divine: Cooks With Books A Chefs' reception and book signing with Emily Wight, Susan Musgrave and James Nevison

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 16 / 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15, cash bar, includes appetizer samples

Come meet chefs Emily Wight *Well Fed, Flat Broke*, Susan Musgrave *A Taste of Haida Gwaii*, and James Nevison *Had a Glass 2015* at this fun social event where the chefs dish about their books, and you enjoy mouth-watering appetizers from each of their cook books. Talk to them about your and their favourite recipes, discover new recipes, engage in foodie repartee, and buy some of the hottest cookbooks available today.



JANE HARRIS
author of
Finding Home in the Promised Land
A Personal History of Homelessness and Social Exile



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Reading Event 4:

Opening Night Literary Cabaret

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 16 / 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20

Both innovative and entertaining, the Literary Cabaret pairs local musicians with authors Caroline Adderson, Brian Brett, Michael Christie, Jillian Christmas, Katherine Fawcett, Wayne Grady, Pauline Holdstock, Chelsea D.E. Johnson, Arleen Paré, Michael Winter.

Moderator: Stephen Vogler.



Joern Rohde

Workshop 3:

Writing for Young Readers

with Eric Walters

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Cost: \$30

Eric has written over 90 novels and picture books for children and young adults. His novels have all become best sellers, have won over a hundred awards, and have been translated into more than a dozen languages. He will share his methods of research, writing and organization in helping you to become a more effective writer.

Workshop 4:

Plotting Your Storyline

With Caroline Adderson

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Cost: \$30

Plot is more than a series of events. It is an ordering of all the elements of fiction to produce a unified effect. In this workshop we will examine some of these elements (character, conflict, theme) and see how they combine to create plot. We will review different types of plots and diagnose common plotting problems. Come prepared to imagine new story lines and reimagine old ones.

Reading Event 5:

Writers of Non-Fiction

With Brian Brett, Trisha Cull, Jan Drabek, Jane Harris, Shelley A. Leedahl

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Cost: \$15

Join Leslie Anthony as he connects with five authors to explore how they mined their lives' complexities and struggles through personal memoir, including: a personal history of homelessness and social exile in Canada; a story of struggle with bipolar disorder, bulimia and substance abuse; a 30 plus year relationship with Tuco, a parrot, and others in a scattershot world; an escape from Communist Czechoslovakia and learning to cope with American culture; and one writer's compulsion for starting over.

Moderator: Leslie Anthony

Reading Event 6:

Graphic Novel

With Patti Laboucane-Benson and Kelly Mellings

Location: Whistler Public Library
Date/Time: October 17 / 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cost: FREE

Metis author Patti Laboucane-Benson and illustrator Kelly Mellings discuss their collaboration on the creation of their graphic novel *The Outside Circle*. In the story, two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives. Powerful, courageous, and deeply moving, the graphic novel is drawn from Laboucane-Benson's twenty years of work and research on healing and reconciliation of gang-affiliated or incarcerated Aboriginal men.



Joern Rohde

Workshop 5:

Writing by Ear:

Developing Voice with Marilyn Simonds

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$30

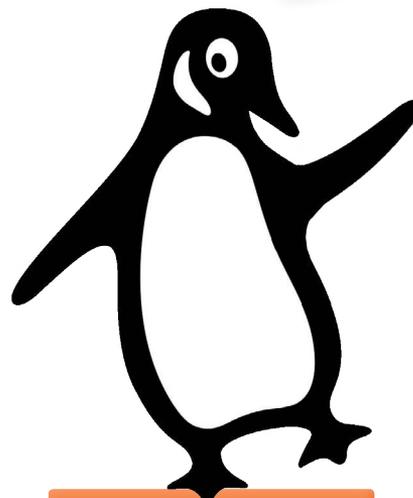
First we sang; then we spoke. In all the best writing, you can still hear the music. It is the essence that enlivens a string of words, the animus that lifts a sentence off the page and lodges it in the memory forever. We call it Voice. We know a good one when we read it, but how to develop a strong, compelling voice in your work? In this workshop you'll learn how to develop your writer's ear.

First, we'll share tips for finding your true writer's voice, then we'll explore how to make it sing – by removing literary distractions and by paying close attention to word choice, syntax, and cadence. Throughout, we'll listen to and analyze the very best writers' voices to see how they achieve their effects. Voice is what editors are most looking for today.

Developing a good writer's ear is essential for all writers, regardless of genre. This workshop will be geared particularly towards writers of memoir and creative nonfiction, but everyone is welcome!

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Armchair Books and Penguin Random House welcome these authors to the Whistler Readers and Writers Festival



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Camilla Gibb
Wayne Grady
C.C. Humphries
Linden MacIntyre
James Nevison
Nino Ricci
Eric Walters
Michael Winter

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Workshop 6:

Making Believe: How to Convince a Reader that a Story Really Happened with Michael Winter

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$30

This creative writing workshop will encourage participants to write from experience, and to make that experience interesting to the reader. We will examine how a good writer convinces a reader that what he or she is reading really happened even though we, the writers, know it's a blend of autobiography, invention, memory, overheard story, and collage. So often a story is interesting not for its content, but for its style—how a thing is said rather than what is said. Learn the technical skills a good fiction writer needs in order to make a story interesting and believable.

Reading Event 8:

Crime Writers Lunch with Jackie Bateman, William Deverell, Dietrich Kalteis, Linden MacIntyre

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Cost: \$30 includes lunch

Break into the mysterious minds of crime writers as Feet Banks plumbs the depths of their villainous creativity. These masters of whodunnits will be pressed to reveal all the howdoin'ts on crime writing, with references to their latest works, involving: the peril that ensues when passion replaces reason; the possibility that evil is everywhere, even inside us; the flash back to the past when a convicted "thrill killer" returns for revenge; and the dark and humourous twists that ensue when a Whistler pot dealer finds himself in the middle of a turf war.

Moderator: Feet Banks

Reading Event 7:

Poetry of Place

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Poetry of place is the way poetry captures the spirit of a place.

The poem is a map and the poet a cartographer, exploring physical and psychological landscape. Poets Arleen Pare *Lake of Two Mountains*, Bren Simmers *Hastings-Sunrise*, Garth Martens *The Prologue for the Age of Consequence*, and Jane Munro *Blue Sonoma* go to places, both external and internal, in creating these places of belonging.

Moderator: Mary MacDonald

Workshop 7:

Writing Comics: Pages, Panels, & the Space Between with Diana Schutz

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$30

Join Dark Horse Comics executive editor Diana Schutz for a look at this narrative art form. The presentation will focus on the medium's basic visual elements and how these impact comics' scripting, as well as the differences between writing prose and writing comics or graphic novels. This will be followed by a workshop session in which participants analyze a short comics script, then write their own.

Workshop 8:

Short Films that Kill It

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$30

Angie Nolan, Jonny Fleet and Lisa Fernandez are three diehard contestants in Whistler's much-loved World Ski and Snowboard Festival's 72 Hr Filmmaker Showdown. Moderator Rebecca Wood Barrett will tease out the tales of their success, and the failures they've endured while competing in this insane no-budget, no-sleep filmmaking race. The filmmakers will screen one of their favourite five-minute films, and talk about short film screenwriting – how they come up with their ideas, and how to make a short film that will kill it with both the judges, and a wild, risk-loving audience.

Workshop 9:

Writing Workshop for Young Writers

with Eric Walters

for school-aged Youth 10 years and up

Location: Whistler Public Library
Date/Time: October 17 / 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Cost: FREE (but must be under 19 to attend)

Eric began writing in 1993 as a way to entice his grade 5 students into becoming more interested in reading and writing. One of the students suggested that he try to have his story published. This book, *Stand Your Ground*, became Eric's first published novel. Eric has written over 90 novels and picture books for children and young adults. He will share his methods of research, writing and organization in helping you to become a more effective writer.

Reading Event 9:

Writing What you Know: Cruising the Fact-Fiction Continuum

With Carellin Brooks, Michael Christie, Elisabeth de Mariaffi, Katherine Fawcett, C.C. Humphreys

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Whether their stories are thinly veiled autobiography or speculative fiction set in future societies, fiction writers draw necessarily on our physical world. But how much reality is there in contemporary fiction? And what are the rules around shaping it to your own ends? Join Carellin Brooks, Katherine Fawcett, Michael Christie, Elisabeth de Mariaffi and CC Humphries as they read from their work and discuss the line they draw in the fact-fiction sands.

Moderator: Marilyn Simonds

Workshop 10:

The Lives of Writers (for readers and writers alike)

with Eleanor Wachtel

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15

CBC's Eleanor Wachtel will focus on readers' appetite for biography, the intersection of the life and the work, and the sense of outsider-ness that many writers feel. The presentation includes audio illustrations with clips from interviews.



Reading Event 11:

Grant Lawrence in conversation with Lawrence Hill

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 8:00 p.m.
Cost: \$25 includes a glass of wine, pub treats and live music.

The festival's feature presentation sees Grant Lawrence in conversation with Lawrence Hill, the award-winning and internationally bestselling author of *The Book of Negroes*, which was made into a six part TV mini-series and won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book and both CBC Radio's Canada Reads and Radio-Canada's Combat des livres. Hill's new novel, *The Illegal* tells the story of a young marathon runner, Keita Ali, fleeing for his life from a repressive government and forced into hiding. After the presentation, meet Lawrence and Grant while our very own local musicians play some of their favourite selections of jazz and blues.

Sponsored by the Whistler Real Estate Company.

Reading Event 10:

Book Launch for Stella Harvey's novel *The Brink of Freedom*

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 17 / 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Cost: FREE

Come celebrate Whistler author Stella Levantoyannis Harvey's release of her new novel *The Brink of Freedom*. In the story, Shelby Holt, a well-meaning Canadian aid worker who regularly visits one of the refugee camps, decides to take a young Asian refugee boy into her care. Her neighbours call the police and Shelby is taken to jail, the boy into custody. But all is not what it seems. The family the boy is living with is definitely not his own. Unlike him, they are Roma. They're accusing Shelby of kidnapping the boy, but did they steal him themselves? Christos Pappas, a former engineer lucky enough to get work in the police department, is trying to get to the bottom of the mystery. But his superiors have no patience for the refugees or for Christos' liberal attitudes. As worlds collide, the very human cost of war is revealed. Right on the brink of freedom, these refugees who have sacrificed so much could lose so much more.

Reading Event 12:

Grant Lawrence in conversation with Marina Endicott, Camilla Gibb, Catherine Hunter, Amanda Lindhout, Nino Ricci, Steve Toltz

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler
Date/Time: October 18 / 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$35 includes brunch

Whet your appetite and your curiosity with the CBC's Grant Lawrence, in conversation with Marina Endicott, Camilla Gibb, Catherine Hunter, Amanda Lindhout, Nino Ricci, Steve Toltz. The authors will also be enticed to read, just a little, from their new books.

Guest Authors



CAROLINE ADDERSON is the author of four novels (*A History of Forgetting*, *Sitting Practice*, *The Sky Is Falling*, *Ellen in Pieces*), two collections of short stories (*Bad Imaginings*, *Pleased To Meet You*) as well as many books for young readers.

Her work has received numerous prize nominations including the Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, two Commonwealth Writers' Prizes, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers' Trust Fiction Prize, and the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist. Winner of two Ethel Wilson Fiction Prizes and three CBC Literary Awards, Caroline was also the recipient of the 2006 Marian Engel Award for mid-career achievement. She lives in Vancouver.



LESLIE ANTHONY is a Whistler-based writer, editor, biologist and occasional filmmaker with too few fingers in too many pies. Former Managing Editor of *Powder magazine*, he remains the long-time Features Editor of Canada's *SKIER* magazine, Editorial Director of the acclaimed *Mountain*

Life Annual, and continues his residence on the masthead of a global litany of ski and outdoor magazines. At home he writes broadly about travel, adventure and science subjects ranging from imaginary monsters to fossil smuggling in titles like *Canadian Geographic*, *Canadian Wildlife* and *Explore Magazine*. He is author of *Snakebit: Confessions of a Herpetologist* and *White Planet: A Mad Dash through Modern Global Ski Culture*.



Dave Barnes

Born in 1976, **FEET BANKS** was raised in Northern BC without electricity and his first friend was a rooster named Houdini. At age 12 his parents moved him to Whistler to live the dream. He studied writing and film at the University of Victoria before returning home to continue living the dream while

making stupid little horror movies with his friends. He is the founding editor of *Mountain Life Magazine*, the co-creator of the *Heavy Hitting HorrorFest* and his "Notes from the Back Row"

movie column in the *Pique Newsmagazine* has been running weekly since 2003. Known as Whistler's *enfant terrible*, Feet loves naps, fishing, drive-in movie theatres and finding new ways to stir the pot.



Writer, actor and stand-up comedian, **BRANDON BARRETT** has long been fascinated with the stories we tell. As an award-winning journalist for Whistler's signature publication, *Pique Newsmagazine*, he's had the rare opportunity to uncover some of those stories, and even spin some of his own yarns in the process. A graduate of Carleton University, Brandon relishes the chance to shine a light on Whistler's burgeoning comedy scene — five minutes at a time.



JACKIE BATEMAN grew up in Kenya, and lived in London and Edinburgh for many years before settling in Vancouver with her husband and two children. Her first novel, *Nondescript Rambunctious* won a national First Book Competition in Canada, sponsored by Simon Fraser University.

Savour continues the dark story of Lizzy and her obsessive nemesis Oliver. Jackie has also published many award-winning short stories some of which can be found at www.jackbateman.com



Michael Schoenholtz

BRIAN BRETT is the author of *Trauma Farm: A Rebel History of Rural Life*, which won the 2009 Writers' Trust of Canada Non-Fiction Prize, and *Uproar's Your Only Music*, a *Globe and Mail* Book of the Year. He has also written numerous books of poetry and fiction. He lives with his family on Trauma

Farm, on Salt Spring Island, BC.



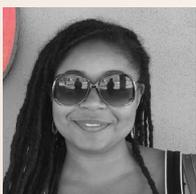
Rhodes Scholar **CARELLIN BROOKS** is the author of *fresh hell: motherhood in pieces* (2013), *Every Inch a Woman* (2011), and *Wreck Beach* (2007). Her latest book, a novel, is *One Hundred Days of Rain* (2015). She edited the anthologies *Carnal Nation*, with Brett Josef Grubisic, and *Bad Jobs*. Winner of the Books

in Canada Student Writing Award for poetry (1993), the Cassell/Pink Paper Lesbian Writing Award for non-fiction (1994), and the Institute for Contemporary Arts New Blood Award for prose (1995), Brooks lives and works in Vancouver, where she was born. Connect with Brooks at carellinbrooks.com or on Twitter @carellinlb.



MICHAEL CHRISTIE'S debut collection of short stories, *The Beggar's Garden*, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, a finalist for the Writers' Trust Prize for Fiction, and won the Vancouver Book Award. He holds an MFA from the University of British Columbia. Prior to his MFA, he was

a sponsored skateboarder and travelled throughout the world skateboarding and writing for skateboard magazines. Born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, he now lives on Galiano Island with his wife and two sons. *If I Fall, If I Die* is his first novel.



JILLIAN CHRISTMAS was born and raised in Markham, Ontario. She currently lives in Vancouver, BC, where she serves as Artistic Director of Verses Festival of Words. She has won Grand Poetry-Slam Championship titles at both the Vancouver BedRocc poetry-slam (2011), as well as the Vancouver Poetry Slam

(2012, 2014). To date, Jillian has held spots on five Canadian slam teams, has competed in nine North American national poetry slams, including proudly representing Vancouver at the Women of the World Poetry Slam in Minneapolis, MN (2013), Austin, TX (2014), and Albuquerque, NM (2015). Jillian's work has been published in a number of collections, most recently including *Matrix New Queer Writing* (issue 98), and celebrated anthology, *The Great Black North*.



AMY COLLINS is a children's book editor at Orca Book Publishers and specializes in board books, picturebooks, chapterbooks, middle grade and graphic novels. She completed her BA at Western University and her MA at UVic, with a focus on Victorian Literature. Amy currently lives with her partner in Sooke, BC, where she enjoys

hiking, yoga and exploring the West Coast.



TRISHA CULL is a graduate of the University of British Columbia's MFA Creative Writing program. Her work has been published in *Room of One's Own*, *Descant*, *sub Terrain*, *Geist*, *The New Quarterly*, *The Dalhousie Review* and *PRISM*. She was the winner of Lichen's "Tracking a Serial Poet" contest in

2006, PRISM's Communications Award for Literary Non-fiction in 2007, and the 2007 *Prairie Fire* Bliss Carmen Poetry Award. Cull lives in Victoria, BC.



ELISABETH DE MARIAFFI is the Giller Prize-nominated author of one book of short stories, *How To Get Along With Women* (Invisible Publishing, 2012) and the new novel, *The Devil You Know* (HarperCollins, Canada; Simon & Schuster, USA 2015). Her poetry and short

fiction have been widely published in magazines across Canada. In 2013, her story "Kiss Me Like I'm the Last Man on Earth" was shortlisted for a National Magazine Award. Elisabeth now makes her home in St. John's, Newfoundland, where she lives with the poet George Murray, their combined four children and a border collie — making them CanLit's answer to the Brady Brunch.



CHARLES DEMERS is a Vancouver comedian, humourist and author, heralded by CBC Radio as "Truly one of the smartest comics out there." In addition to having performed in clubs and at festivals across the country, and as a regular guest on CBC's *The Debaters* and *This is That*, he is the author of the books *The Prescription*

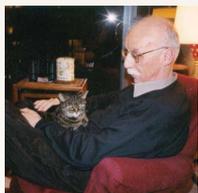
Errors and *Vancouver Special*, which was a finalist for the BC Book Prize for Non-fiction. He is a former co-host of *The Citynews List*, a nightly comedy television news panel show, and has written and performed comedy for TV, radio, web and the stage, including the "shamelessly funny" *Jack & the Beanstalk: An East Van Panto*.



WILLIAM DEVERELL has worked as a journalist and lawyer, and he is a founder and honorary director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. He is the creator of CBC's long-running television series *Street Legal*, which has aired internationally in more than 50 countries. He is also the

recipient of multiple literary awards, including the \$50,000 Seal Prize, the Dashiell Hammett Award for literary excellence, and the Arthur Ellis prize in crime writing.

His novels have been translated into 14 Languages and sold worldwide. He was recently awarded an honorary Doctor Of Letters by Simon Fraser University. He lives on Pender Island, B.C.



JAN DRABEK was born in Prague. His father was arrested by the Gestapo for his Resistance activities, survived Auschwitz and spent the rest of the war hiding in an insane asylum. In 1948 his family escaped on skis from the newly Communist Czechoslovakia, eventually making their

way to the United States where he finished his schooling and served in the U.S. Navy. He has called various countries in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa his home while working as a taxi driver, refugee resettlement officer, high school teacher, radio broadcaster and an ambassador. Married with two daughters, he is the author of some 20 books, both in English and Czech. He conducts seminars on memoir and biography writing and has served three terms as President of the Federation of British Columbia Writers. He lives in Vancouver.



LISA FERNANDEZ obtained her degree in Film Production at Ryerson University, before working as a camera assistant in the Toronto Film scene for a variety of documentaries, music videos, commercials, and feature films. However, her love of the mountains prevailed, and she moved out West where she was able to combine her filmmaking skills with the Whistler mountain-culture scene. Since then, she has produced and directed a variety of short films and commercials, and has been a finalist in the 72 Hour Filmmaker Showdown no less than five times.



JESSE FINKELSTEIN is the co-founder of Page Two, a strategic publishing firm, and an associate agent at Transatlantic Literary Agency. She brings to her current roles an extensive knowledge of author relations, publishing operations, and sales strategy. She has held several other publishing

positions, including that of chief operating officer at D&M Publishers and associate publisher at Raincoast Books. She holds a master of publishing degree from Simon Fraser University.



JONNY FLEET, originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia has lived in Whistler for the past eight years. He has written, produced, and directed 15 short films, as well as music videos, and commercials. He started writing when he was 7 and hasn't stopped since.



CAMILLA GIBB is the author of four novels—*Mouthing the Words*, *The Petty Details of So-and-so's Life*, *Sweetness in the Belly* and *The Beauty of Humanity Movement*—and has been the recipient of the Trillium Book Award, the City of Toronto Book Award and the CBC Canadian Literary Award and shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Camilla has a Ph.D. from Oxford University and is an adjunct faculty member of the graduate creative writing programs at the University of Toronto and the University of Guelph-Humber. She is currently the June Callwood Professor in Social Justice at Victoria College, University of Toronto. Visit her at www.camillagibb.com.



MARINA ENDICOTT is the author of *Good to a Fault*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book, Canada and the Caribbean, and was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize; *The Little Shadows*, which was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize; and *Open Arms*, which was

shortlisted for the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award. Endicott has been an actor, director, playwright and editor, and lives in Edmonton, Alberta, where she teaches at the University of Edmonton.



KATHERINE FAWCETT was born in Montreal, raised in Calgary, has lived in Japan, Canmore and Yellowknife, and now calls Pemberton home with her husband and two children. She began her career as a sports writer before venturing into freelance journalism and commercial writing, and

eventually turning to fiction. Her award winning short stories have been published in *WordWorks*, *Event*, *FreeFall*, *subTerrain* and *Other Voices*. A music teacher, classical pianist and violinist, Katherine also loves a good fiddle jam. *The Little Washer of Sorrows* is her first book of fiction.



WAYNE GRADY is the author of the novel *Emancipation Day*, which won the 2014 Amazon.ca First Novel Award and was named one of the CBC's Ten Best Books of the Year. He is also the author of 14 books of nonfiction, including *Breakfast at the Exit Cafe*, a travel memoir co-authored with his

wife, novelist Marilyn Simonds, and *The Great Lakes*, which won a National Outdoor Book Award. He has won a Governor General's Award for Literary Translation, and currently teaches creative nonfiction in UBC's Creative Writing Program as well as at Sage Hill, Saskatchewan. He and Marilyn live in Kingston, Ontario, and spend part of their time in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Monica Miller



KAREN GREEN is associate publisher at Anvil Press and reviews editor at subTerrain. She's also the communications director at Rebus Creative where she works as a publicist for several projects, is part of the programming team for Word Vancouver, and acts as consultant for various clients

(communications and publishing). She previously was marketing director for J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing in Winnipeg, projects coordinator for the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers, and editor at Prairie Books Now. She was also chair of the Literary Press Group of Canada.



JANE HARRIS turns complex research into engaging scenes and easily understood messages. *Finding Home in the Promised Land* is her second book to be published by J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing. The first, *Eugenics and the Firewall: Canada's Nasty Little Secret* was published in 2010. Jane has

also contributed to two Canadian anthologies. Her articles about business, personal finance, history, faith, politics and social issues have appeared in more than a dozen publications including the *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Canadian Capital*, *The National Post*, *Alberta Views*, *Alberta Venture*, *Lethbridge Herald*, and *The Anglican Planet*.



STELLA HARVEY was born in Cairo, Egypt and moved to Calgary as a child with her family. In 2001, Stella founded the Whistler Writers Group, which each year produces the Whistler Writers Festival under her direction. Stella's first novel, *Nicolai's Daughters*, also set in Greece and Canada,

was released by Signature Editions in 2012 and released in Greece in 2014 by Psychogios Press. Stella's short stories have appeared in the *Literary Leanings* anthology, *The New Orphic Review*, *Emerge Magazine* and *The Dalhousie Review*. Her non-fiction has appeared in *Pique Newsmagazine*, *The Question* and the *Globe and Mail*. She currently lives with her husband in Whistler, but visits her many relatives in Greece often, indulging her love of Greek food and culture. Her latest novel is entitled, *The Brink of Freedom*.



While she was working on her master's degree in English (Creative Writing) and teaching at Concordia University in Montreal, **KAREN HAUGHIAN** decided to audit an undergrad publishing class — which resulted in the formation of a publishing company. Originally named Nuage Editions,

the press began in 1986 as a 16-person publishing collective, although by 1987 it was a three-person press. It was the very first desktop publisher in Quebec, and put out two to four books a year for the next five years. Since 1991 the press has operated as a sole proprietorship run by Karen Haughian and has published eight to ten titles a year. In 1997 the press moved to Winnipeg and in 2000 was renamed Signature Editions.

Karen is committed to discovering and developing new Canadian writing of literary merit, regardless of genre, and the press publishes many first-book authors and works with them to develop their craft. Karen edits all prose titles in-house, while poetry and drama are handled by outside editors. In the 26 years of running the press she has read thousands of manuscripts and edited hundreds of books.



LAWRENCE HILL is the award-winning and internationally bestselling author of *The Book of Negroes*, which was made into a six part TV mini-series. His previous novels, *Some Great Thing* and *Any Known Blood*, became national bestsellers. Hill's non-fiction work includes *Blood: The Stuff of Life*, the subject of his 2013 Massey Lectures, and *Black Berry, Sweet Juice*, a memoir about growing up black and white in Canada. Lawrence Hill volunteers with Crossroads International, the Black Loyalist Heritage Society and Project Bookmark Canada. He lives with his family in Hamilton, Ontario, and Woody Point, Newfoundland.



PAULINE HOLDSTOCK'S work has been shortlisted for a number of awards, including the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her novel *Beyond Measure* was awarded the BC Book Prize Ethel Wilson Award. Pauline returns to the stage this September with *The Hunter and the Wild Girl*, released by Goose Lane Editions.

local bands stretching through the genres of Spoken Word, Funk, reggae, soul and folk...you can only hope she floats your way and kicks your table over with her stunning voice, brilliant song composition, massive attitude and profound sense of humour.



DIETRICH KALTEIS'S debut novel *Ride the Lightning* won the bronze medal in the 2015 Independent Publisher Awards, for Canada West Regional Fiction. Set in Whistler, his second novel, *The Deadbeat Club* is available from ECW Press October, 2015. Forty-five of his short stories have been widely published, and his screenplay *Between Jobs* was a finalist in L.A.'s Screenplay Festival. He resides with his family in West Vancouver and is currently working on his next novel.



Rob Gilbert

C.C. HUMPHREYS was born in Toronto and grew up in Los Angeles and London. A third generation actor and writer on both sides of his family, he is married and lives on Salt Spring Island, Canada



BRIAN KAUFMAN is a writer, editor, and publisher and has been active in the publishing community for over twenty-five years. Mr. Kaufman has ushered over 130 books and 69 issues of *subTerrain Magazine* into print and has served as the Executive Director of the subTerrain Literary Collective

Society since its inception in 1988. In 2009, Mr. Kaufman was a recipient of the City of Vancouver's Mayor's Arts Award for his "significant contribution to Vancouver's arts and cultural community, for shaping Vancouver as a creative city, and for enriching the lives of Vancouver's citizens." Brian was given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2014 Western Magazine Awards.



Poet and novelist **CATHERINE HUNTER** has published three collections of poetry, *Necessary Crimes*, *Lunar Wake*, and *Latent Heat* (which won the Manitoba Book of the Year Award); three thrillers, *Where Shadows Burn*, *The Dead of Midnight*, and *Queen of Diamonds* (Ravenstone Press);

the novella *In the First Early Days of My Death*; and the spoken word CD *Rush Hour* (Cyclops Press), which includes a bonus track featuring The Weakerthans. Two of her novels have been translated into German. Her essays, reviews, and poems appear in many journals and anthologies, including *Essays on Canadian Writing*, *The Malahat Review*, *West Coast Line*, *Prairie Fire*, *CV2*, *The Echoing Years: Contemporary Poetry from Canada and Ireland*, and *Best Canadian Poems 2013 and 2015*. She edited *Before the First Word: The Poetry of Lorna Crozier*, and for ten years she was the editor of *The Muses' Company* press. She teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of Winnipeg.



PATTI LABOUCANE-BENSON is a Métis woman and the Director of Research, Training, and Communication at Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA). She has a Ph.D. in Human Ecology, focusing on Aboriginal Family Resilience. Her doctoral research explored how providing historic trauma healing programs for Aboriginal offenders builds resilience in Aboriginal families and communities. She has also been the recipient of the Aboriginal Role Model of Alberta Award for Education. She lives in Spruce Grove, Alberta.



CHELSEA JOHNSON is truly one of the most talented singers that Vancouver has ever been blessed with, says vanmusic.ca. Her creative a cappella compositions force Janis Joplin to sit down to tea with Macy Gray and Bettye Lavette, and consistently launch her in front of thousands of people from coast

to coast. She can often be seen brazenly taking on impromptu sets on street corners, in coffee shops, and renegade at music festival side stages. Her talent and joie de vivre leave her audiences and friends stunned and consistently ready for more. Chelsea has been featured on countless East Van albums of



GRANT LAWRENCE is an award-winning author, music journalist, and host with CBC Radio. He can be heard on the CBC Radio 3 Podcast with Grant Lawrence and on various regional and national programs on CBC Radio 1. Grant is the author of two books: his bestselling debut *Adventures in Solitude: What Not To Wear To A Nude Potluck* and other stories from *Desolation Sound*, and his latest *The Lonely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie*. Previously, Grant was the lead singer of the notorious Vancouver band The Smugglers. Grant is also the goaltender of the arts-based beer league hockey team the Vancouver Flying Vees. He is married to singer Jill Barber, and they live together in East Vancouver with their son Joshua.



MARY MACDONALD is a poet, writer, and child psychologist, living a sometimes wildly incompatible life, in Whistler and Vancouver, B.C. Mary thrives on collaboration, and has written for ballet, opera, and public art. Her work has appeared in *Pique* and *Room Magazine*.

Joe Passarelli



LINDEN MACINTYRE was a co-host of the fifth estate for 24 years and the winner of ten Gemini Awards and one international Emmy for broadcast journalism. His bestselling first novel, *The Long Stretch*, was nominated for a CBA Libris Award and his boyhood memoir, *Causeway: A Passage*

from *Innocence*, was a Globe and Mail Best Book of 2006, and won both the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the Evelyn Richardson Prize. His second novel, *The Bishop's Man*, was a #1 national bestseller, won the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Dartmouth Book Award and the CBA Libris Fiction Book of the Year, has been published in the U.K. and the U.S. and has been translated into eight languages.



SHELLEY A. LEEDAHL writes poetry, short fiction, novels, children's literature and non-fiction. Her numerous titles include *Listen, Honey; Wretched Beast; Orchestra of the Lost Steps; The Bone Talker* (with illustrator Bill Slavin); *The House of the Easily Amused; Riding Planet Earth; Talking*

Down the Northern Lights, and *A Few Words For January*. Her work also appears in wide-ranging anthologies, including *The Best Canadian Poetry in English, 2013*, *I Found It at the Movies: An Anthology of Film Poems*, *Great Canadian Murder and Mystery Stories*, *Slice Me Some Truth: An Anthology of Canadian Creative Nonfiction*, *Country Roads: Memoirs from Rural Canada*, and *Outside of Ordinary: Women's Travel Stories*. She has received Fellowships to attend artist retreats in Canada, The United States, and Europe. Aside from literary writing, she also works as a freelancer, editor, and writing instructor, and frequently presents in schools and libraries.

Leedah was born in Kyle, Saskatchewan and has lived in numerous small Saskatchewan towns and Saskatoon, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Sechelt, and Edmonton. She now lives in Ladysmith, BC.



GARTH MARTENS' writing has appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *This Magazine*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Prism*, *Vallum*, *Grain*, and *The Malahat Review*. In 2011 he won the Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. He has worked eight years in large-scale commercial construction. *Prologue for the*

Age of Consequence is his debut collection. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia.



AMANDA LINDHOUT is the founder of the Global Enrichment Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports development, aid, and education initiatives in Somalia and Kenya. For more information, visit AmandaLindhout.com and GlobalEnrichmentFoundation.com



ROBERT MCCULLOUGH is Publisher of *Appetite* by Random House and a Vice-President of Penguin Random House of Canada. After twenty-one successful years at Whitecap Books, Robert had the opportunity to start a new imprint in Vancouver for Penguin Random House

of Canada, where he has been creating a carefully curated collection of food, drink, and lifestyle titles since launching in 2012. *Appetite's* list has produced more than ten *Globe and Mail* Bestsellers and five *New York Times* Bestsellers, including *Seven Spoons* by Tara O'Brady, *Plenty More* by Yotam Ottolenghi, *The Sobo Cookbook* by Lisa Ahier, *Butter Baked Goods* by Rosie Daykin, *The Soup Sisters Cookbook* by Sharon Hapton and *What's*

For Dinner by Curtis Stone. In Fall 2015, Appetite looks forward to publishing *My Kitchen Year* by Ruth Reichl, *Butter Celebrates!* by Rosie Daykin, *Lidia's Mastering the Art of Italian Cuisine* by Lidia Bastianich and *Simply Nigella* by Nigella Lawson. Whether food, wine, health, or design, Appetite by Random House publishes books to celebrate and satisfy your appetite for life!



lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

KELLY MELLINGS is an award-winning art director, illustrator, and designer. His work has appeared in comic books, magazines, apps, museum exhibits, and online games, and his clients include Microsoft. He is the co-owner of the acclaimed illustration, animation, and design firm Pulp Studios. He



in Vancouver.

JANE MUNRO'S sixth poetry collection, *Blue Sonoma* (Brick Books), won the 2015 Griffin Poetry Prize. Her work has also received the Bliss Carman Poetry Award, the Macmillan Prize for Poetry, and was nominated for the Pat Lowther Award. She is a member of Yoko's Dogs, a poetry



Gwaii where she is the proprietor of Copper Beech House.

SUSAN MUSGRAVE has been labelled everything from an eco-feminist to an anti-feminist, from stand-up comedian to poet of doom and gloom, from social and political commentator to wild sea-witch of Canada's northwest coast. She is the author of 19 books of poetry, numerous works of



to wine enjoyment.

JAMES NEVISON is an award-winning writer and educator and the co-founder of HALFAGLASS wine consultancy in Vancouver. His weekly wine column "The Wine Guy" appears every Thursday in *The Province*, he contributes regularly to *TASTE* magazine, and he can often be



the Industry Programming Manager.

ANGIE NOLAN was born and raised in BC, and got her start in TV as a teenager when she landed a production assistant job on the long running CBC hit *The Beachcombers*. She has also written, directed and acted in her own film and theatre projects. This includes a number of award-winning short



Lake of Two Mountains is her second poetry collection.

ARLEEN PARÉ is a poet and novelist, author of two previous books. Her first book, *Paper Trail*, was short-listed for the Dorothy Livesay BC Book Award for Poetry and won the Victoria Butler Book Prize. Her second book, *Leaving Now*, a mixed genre novel, was also well received. Originally from Montreal, she



and was followed by the highly acclaimed *In a Glass House* and *Where She Has Gone*, which was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. His bestselling novel *Testament* won the Trillium Book Award. His most recent novel *The Origin of Species* received the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction and the Canadian Authors Association Award for Fiction. Nino Ricci has also won the Betty Trask Award for Fiction (UK), The Winnifred Holtby Prize (UK) and the 1992 Prise Contrepoint Madrineaux (France). He lives in Toronto.

NINO RICCI'S first novel, *Lives of the Saints*, won the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, the SmithBooks/Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the F.G. Bressani Prize and was made into a motion picture starring Sophia Loren. The novel was also a long-time national bestseller,



IRA PETTLE B.A, M.Ed, children's entertainer extraordinaire, is thrilled to be joining the ranks of the Whistler Readers & Writers Festival. With a Master's degree in Education and over 20 years performing, producing, and teaching theatre, Ira is truly a master in his field. Having worked with hundreds of

thousands of kids, teens, and adults, his experience is second to none. This year, Ira will be co-producing and directing *Comedy Quickies*, The Whistler Writers Festival's first comedy writing contest set to stage.



DIANA SCHUTZ is an award-winning editor who has worked in the comics industry for over thirty-five years. Since 1990, she has been at Dark Horse Comics, where she is now a senior executive editor. She is also an adjunct instructor of comics art history and criticism at Portland Community College, a

published author of both comics and prose, and the first female to be inducted into the Canadian Comic Book Creator Hall of Fame.

She is Frank Miller's editor on *Sin City* and *300*, Matt Wagner's editor on *Grendel*, Stan Sakai's editor on *Usagi Yojimbo*, Paul Chadwick's editor on *Concrete*, and Larry Marder's editor on *Beanworld*. She is currently applying her knowledge of romance languages to edit international material in translation such as *Blackad* and *The Manara Library*. She works or has worked with authors Michael Chabon, Neil Gaiman, Harvey Pekar, and Harlan Ellison, among others. She was fortunate to have been Will Eisner's *Dark Horse* editor until his death in 2005.



GORDON SHILLINGFORD has been a publisher for nearly thirty years and is the President of J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing Inc. That company is comprised of several distinct imprints including Scirocco Drama, The Muses' Company, Watson & Dwyer, and J. Gordon Shillingford.

Still a Saskatchewan-born boy at heart, he always cheers for the Riders. Which means he has to watch his back in his adopted home of Winnipeg.



BREN SIMMERS is the author of one previous book of poetry, *Night Gears* (Wolsak and Wynn, 2010). She is the winner of an Arc Poetry Magazine Poem of the Year Award, was a finalist for The Malahat Review's Long Poem Prize and has been twice longlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize. Her work has been

anthologized in *Alive at the Center: Contemporary Poems from the Pacific Northwest* (Ooligan, 2013). She currently lives in Squamish.



MERILYN SIMONDS is the internationally published author of 16 books, including *The Holding*, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice; *The Convict Lover*, a Governor General's Award finalist; *Breakfast at the Exit Café*, a travel memoir co-written with her husband; a book of essays *A New Leaf: Growing with my Garden*; and most recently, *The Paradise Project*, flash-fiction stories hand-printed on a 19th-century press.

Her writing is anthologized and published in eight countries. She was founding artistic director of Kingston WritersFest, consults with festivals across Canada, and is former Chair of The Writers Union of Canada. She has taught creative writing in the UBC MFA program, at Sage Hill, and she mentors 4-5 writers each year, here and in Mexico. She lives in Kingston, Ontario.



STEVE TOLTZ'S first novel, *A Fraction of the Whole*, was released in 2008 to widespread critical acclaim, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Guardian First Book Award. Prior to his literary career, he lived in Montreal, Vancouver, New York, Barcelona, and Paris, variously working as a

cameraman, telemarketer, security guard, private investigator, English teacher, and screenwriter. Born in Sydney, he currently lives in New York.



STEPHEN VOGLER is the author of *Only in Whistler: Tales of a Mountain Town* and *Top of the Pass: Whistler and the Sea-to-Sky Country*, both published by Harbour Publishing. He has written radio documentaries and commentaries for CBC Radio's Ideas, DNT0 and Outfront programs, and contributed to

Explore Magazine, *The Globe and Mail*, and Vancouver's *Georgia Straight* among other publications. Stephen hosts *Creative 5 Eclectic*, a monthly arts open mic night, and is the founder of The Point Artist-Run Centre in Whistler. www.stephenvogler.com



ELEANOR WACHEL is the host and co-founder of CBC Radio's *Writers & Company*, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this fall, and is a winner of the New York Festivals Award. She also co-founded and hosts *Wachtel on the Arts*. Her most recent books are *Original Minds* and *Random*

Illuminations, which won the Independent Publisher Book Award. Wachtel has received many honours for her contributions to Canadian cultural life including eight honorary degrees and Officer of the Order of Canada.

Kristina Laukkanen



ERIC WALTERS began writing in 1993 as a way to entice his grade 5 students into becoming more interested in reading and writing. Each day he would read to his students the story he was writing which was set in their school, in their community and with some of the students as characters. At the end of the year

— and the end of the novel — one of the students suggested that he try to have this story published. This book, *Stand Your Ground*, became Eric's first published novel. Since that first creation Eric has published 90 novels and picture books. His novels have all become best sellers, have won over a hundred awards, and have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Over the past few years he has been the driving force behind The Creation of Hope (www.creationofhope.com) — an organization that serves orphans and needy children in Kenya. Along with private donations and fundraising events he has involved over 125 schools across Canada in raising funds that have built a children's residence, have created water projects, provided school supplies, blankets, goats and chickens, medicine, shoes and clothing to more than four hundred children throughout the Kikima area.

In 2014 Eric was named a Member of The Order of Canada. The citation reads — *For his contribution as an author of literature for children and young adults whose stories help young readers grapple with complex social issues.*



MICHAEL WINTER has published two collections of stories, five novels, and one work of non-fiction. He is the only writer ever to win the Notable Author award, given out by the Writers Trust. He divides his time between Toronto and Newfoundland.

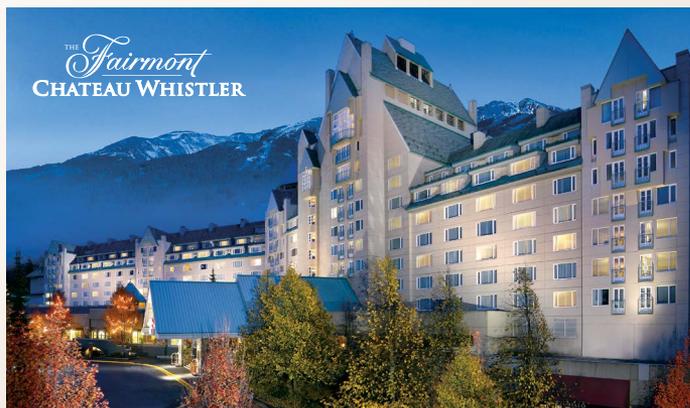


REBECCA WOOD BARRETT, (BAA Film, MFA Creative Writing), is a filmmaker, writer and creative writing teacher living in Whistler, BC. Rebecca's short fiction has been published in *Room*, *Pique* and *The Antigonish Review*, and has won the Sea to Sky Literary Contest's Long Fiction award and Whistler Select Postcard Jam Contest. She has competed in the WSSF's 72 Hr Filmmaker Showdown 10 times, is a five time finalist, and two-time winner of People's Choice Award.

Tracy Kusiewicz | Foodie Photography



EMILY WIGHT is a writer, blogger, and home cook. A graduate of the Creative Writing program at the University of British Columbia, she's spent the past six years blogging at *Well Fed, Flat Broke*, a site that chronicles her forays in the kitchen as she tries to balance a career and parenthood, which includes a picky-eating toddler and a neurotic cat. Everything in her life is sticky. wellfedflatbroke.com



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