



PROGRAM GUIDE

Holiday Inn Kingston
Waterfront



UNBOUND
SEPT. 27
– OCT. 01
2023

kingstonwritersfest.ca

#WritersFestYGK #KWF15

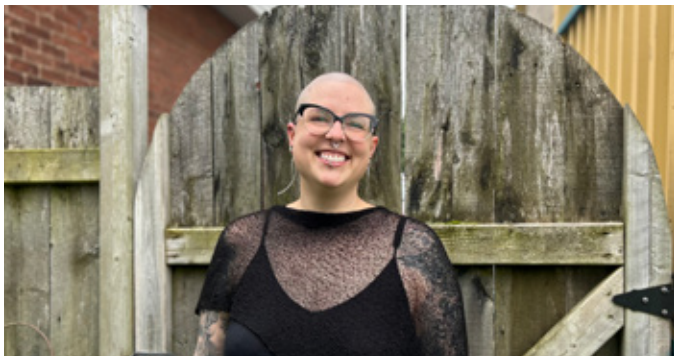




WELCOME TO KA'TAROH:KWI / KEN'TARÓKWEN / CATARACOU / KINGSTON

We acknowledge that KWF operates and is hosted on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy. These Indigenous peoples called this land home before the arrival of settlers, and still call it home today. We acknowledge the presence of these Nations and other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit who share this land today. We are grateful to live and work here and acknowledge our responsibility to peaceably share and honour the land, water, and skies of this territory.

■ KWF CELEBRATES 15



In 2023, we celebrate the development and evolution of KWF, and explore new opportunities to inspire and engage our audience with the spontaneous, energising, and surprising nature of live events. “Unbound” shines a spotlight on written work that challenges the reader and the literary art form with trail-blazing ideas, creative presentations, and playful structures. In addition to the great fiction, nonfiction, culinary, and poetry events you know and love, we’ve curated a series on graphic novels, spoken word, storytelling, hybrid forms, and experimental work.

This is a year to acknowledge the milestones and the authors that helped get us to 15 and explore what more we can be doing as a literary organization to serve our community and artists.

Aara Macauley, Artistic Director



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■ VISION, MISSION, STAFF

Our Vision

To be a community that celebrates the power of the written word by connecting readers and writers in inclusive conversations that inspire, engage, and expand our worldviews.

Our Mission

To promote diverse literary expression, develop and grow an audience for the literary arts, and foster the artistic development of writers of all ages.

Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair | Julie Leclerc

Secretary | Valerie Gravelle

Treasurer | Kimberley Falk

Directors | Chris Everdell

**Thank you to outgoing board members
Craig Anderson and Allison Braithwaite.**

FESTIVAL STAFF

Artistic Director | Aara Macauley

Operations Manager | Jennifer Stefanopoulos

Education Manager | Ying Lee

Director of Marketing | Tricia Knowles

Administration Manager | Felix Lee

Writers Services Manager | Darby Huk

Volunteer Manager | Amanda DiVito

Administrative Assistant | Yume Wu

Ad Sales Agent | Eric Irwin

Production Manager | Wilding

FESTIVAL COORDINATORS

Programming Advisors | Ben Charland,
Jason Heroux, Ying Lee, Ann-Maureen Owens,
Peter Owens, Kimberley Falk, Kimberly
Sutherland-Mills

FESTIVAL AFFILIATES

Creative Director | Tracy John, Amplify Marketing
& Communications Canada

Graphic Designer | Faraz Ahmad

Webmaster | CarriDesign

FESTIVAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Auditor MNP | Brent Wilson

Bookkeeper CMD | Michael MacDonald CPA

Bookseller Novel Idea | Oscar and Joanna Malan

Legal Counsel | Jennifer Foster

Printer | KKP Kingston, Gilmore

Sound and Lights | Kingston Sound Works

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!

Our Office:

209 Wellington Street, Suite 202A
Kingston, Ontario K7K 2Y6
613-767-0513
info@kingstonwritersfest.ca

■ TICKETING INFORMATION

All ticket prices include HST. Handling fees+ are extra.




Ticket prices are listed as Advance (purchased before Wed. Sept. 27) and Door (once the festival begins). All events are unassigned seating. Tickets are emailed to you in advance. Please check your spam filter if you haven't received them.

PACKAGE PRICING

(No student or seniors pricing on packages)

FESTIVAL PASS

\$220, \$180+ before July 19

Value over \$450. See over 25 regular onstage events. Look for the ticket icon  to see all the eligible events! **Exclusions:** *Separate tickets must be purchased for all Writers Retreat Master Classes (indicated with a pen icon ) & Food Events (indicated with a fork icon ).*

WRITERS RETREAT PACKAGES

Two or Four-Day Retreat
\$180 - \$360

Includes special rate at the Holiday Inn and Delta by Marriott.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICING

FESTIVAL ONSTAGE EVENTS

General Admission Advance: **\$20**

Door: **\$25**

Seniors Admission (60+)

Advance: **\$18**

Door: **\$22**

WRITERS RETREAT INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

General Admission Advance: **\$40**

Door: **\$45**

Handouts, if applicable, will be emailed to you in advance. Printed Handouts are \$5 per class, \$30 full package. *Enrolment limited to 40. Classes are 2.5 hours long and include a 15-minute break.*

STUDENT EVENTS

Teachers, please contact educationmanager@kingstonwritersfest.ca to reserve bulk tickets.

TEENSWRITE! MASTER CLASSES

\$10

Students 14 – 19 years only.
Enrolment limited to 40.

FESTIVAL FIELD TRIP EVENTS

\$5

High-school students and accompanying adults.

SPECIAL EVENTS, SPECIAL PRICES

MORNING COFFEE EVENTS ☕

General Admission: **\$25**

Seniors Admission (60+): **\$20**

Vegan/Gluten-free options available.

BOOK LOVERS' LUNCH AND LAST CHAPTER BRUNCH 🍴

Pre-registration for food events is required. Deadline: Wednesday, September 20th at noon.

Advance: **\$45 each**

Seniors Admission (60+): **\$40 each**

15% gratuity included. Cash Bar.

Vegan / Vegetarian options available.

TRIVIA NIGHT 🍷

General Admission Advance: **\$20**

Door: **\$25**

STUDENT RUSH SEATS

Free rush seats to **onstage** events for Queen's, RMC, & SLC students with valid ID. Available *fifteen minutes* before curtain. **Exclusions:** *Writers Retreat Master Classes* 🍴, *Food events* 🍴.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN (PWYC)

We are committed to improving access to our events. If cost is a barrier to your attendance, please email us at info@kingstonwritersfest.ca, or choose

the PWYC option when ordering your tickets. No questions asked.

Advance tickets can be purchased 24 hours a day at www.kingstonwritersfest.ca. Advance sales begin on Wednesday, July 19 and run until Tuesday, September 26.

During the Festival, door tickets will be available to purchase online or from the Festival Box Office conveniently located in the lobby on the main floor at the Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront.

Onsite Festival Box Office Hours - Lobby Holiday Inn - September 27- Oct 1st

Wednesday 3:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday 9:00 am - 7:15 pm

Friday + Saturday 9:00 am - 9:15 pm

Sunday 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Offsite Locations

Curate.Social, 340 King St E., Delta Hotels by Marriott Kingston Waterfront, 1 Johnson St., The Screening Room, 120 Princess St.

Exchange and Refund Policy

Please choose your tickets carefully. There will be no exchanges or refunds.

Photographs

No flash photography, video or audio recording, please.

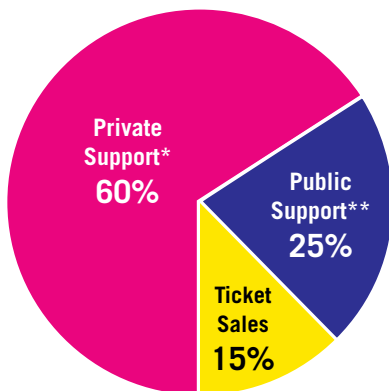
Accessibility

Our event venues are accessible. Please contact info@kingstonwritersfest.ca to discuss your needs.

■ SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL

Support the Festival and our year-round community programs.

We believe in the power of the written word to create a strong, engaged community. If you share our vision, we invite you to join our growing family of supporters.



YOU MAKE THE FESTIVAL POSSIBLE

With government funding cutbacks, and many corporations still struggling to get back on their feet, an increasing percentage of our operating budget comes from people like you. Whether it's honoraria, accommodation, and travel for authors, or subsidized tickets for teens, kids, and those with lower socioeconomic status, your contributions make Kingston WritersFest a reality.

** Program ad sales, foundation support, corporate + private sponsorship, corporate + private donations (Author Patrons, BookLover Donors)*

*** Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Grants*

ANUJA VARGHESE
WAUBGESHIG RIC
CRAIG SHREVE
WAYNE GRADY
JANIKA OZA
ALICIA ELLIOTT
LEANNE LIEBERM
MICHAEL CRUMME
DIANE BORSATO
VINCENT LAM
BRITTA BADOUR
UNBOUNDED
ANDREA CURTIS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Individuals, groups, or businesses can contribute as **Author Patrons** or **BookLover Donors**. Businesses can support the Festival in general or align with a particular program or event. Get in touch with us for further information on all the perks!

Author Patron

Your personal or group donation supports the visit of the author of your choice, with contribution levels based on the distance travelled. You'll receive great perks, such as reserved front-row seats and a signed complimentary copy of your author's book. Visit <https://www.kingstonwritersfest.ca/author-patron/> to learn more!

BookLover Donor

Your gift helps make the festival possible, and contributes to our programming for readers and writers of all ages. Donations at every level are welcomed!

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY'S LITERARY ARTS

To donate during the Festival, please visit the Box Office on the main floor. Cash, credit cards, and cheques are accepted. You can also donate online: please find us at Canadahelps.org.



■ THE KWF CANON

Beneath the Surface

Last year we launched the Beneath the Surface series to give our audience and authors the opportunity to take a deeper dive into the topics that are important to all of us. This year we continue this exploration with events that address the opioid crisis, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People, and the environmental implications of resource extraction in or near Indigenous communities.

Here are three exciting events that shine a spotlight on these topics:



#12 THE RING OF FIRE

Virginia Heffernan explores the mining of minerals critical to the green energy revolution and conflict among resource development, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous rights.



#18 ON THE RAVINE

Vincent Lam offers an intimate portrait of the impact of the opioid crisis on those struggling with addiction, and those struggling to treat them.



#25 HOPE AND JUSTICE

Angela Sterritt investigates the lives of MMIWG2S, demanding accountability, exposing racism, and showing that there is much work to do on the path towards understanding the truth.

Unbound: The Art of the Word Beyond the Printed Page

Our 15th annual programming offers several multi-disciplinary events to delight eyes and ears with music, theatre, and spoken word.

#16 VOADEN PRIZE STAGE READING

KWF and the DAN School of Drama and Music proudly present the debut staged reading of the winning play of the 2023 Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition.

Friday, September 29
Islandview | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

#17 LITERARY TRIVIA NIGHT

The tradition continues with this fun night of literary trivia. We've tweaked the formula, Aara has toned down the tricky questions, and we're sure you'll be delighted with the results! Win prizes, have a few laughs, and show off your CanLit credentials.

Friday, September 29
Offsite | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

ART AFTER DARK

They say 'don't judge a book by its cover', but sometimes those covers are their own art. As part of Downtown Kingston's art crawl, enjoy creative book jacket design and original artwork by Vancouver's Oliver McPartlin.

Friday, September 29 | Curate.Social | 7:00 – 10:00 pm

#24 MUSICAL MATINEE WITH THE GERTRUDES

The Gertrudes musical collective, a down-home "folkestra" from Skeleton Park will perform from their new album Just to Please You followed by an onstage conversation about song writing and collaboration.

Saturday, September 30
Islandview | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

#26 THE SHOE PROJECT

Join us to hear a group of remarkable immigrant and refugee women share their empowering personal stories, developed over a 10 week workshop with local author mentor Diane Schoemperlen.

Saturday, September 30
Islandview | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

■ YOUTH EVENTS

Events for Kids, K-8

AUTHORS@SCHOOL | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Kingston WritersFest is proud to bring some of Canada's best children's authors to Kingston area elementary to share stories and illustrate the power of words to inspire and delight. This is a chance to nurture Canada's future writers and readers, and to demonstrate that the written word is not only captivating, but accessible.

This year **Maria Birmingham**, **Erin Bow**, **Andrea Curtis**, **Geraldo Valério**, and others visit twelve schools on Wednesday, September 27. Young audiences get the chance to meet writers, participate in activities, listen to story readings, and learn about worlds beyond their own.



WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM The Homestead Foundation.

Events for Youth

FESTIVAL FIELD TRIP (FFT) + TEENSWRITE! STUDIO (TWS) EVENTS | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

KWF welcomes students to a day of events designed to inform and inspire. The program features a range of critically acclaimed authors chosen for their literary talent, compelling topics, and skill in connecting with readers. While FFT events are curated for their appeal to youth, they are open to everyone.

Find full TWS workshop descriptions in the Events section.

For full details on all our educational programming, visit
www.kingstonwritersfest.ca/kids-teens.

SUPPORTED BY B'nai Brith, Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario, and Limestone District School Board.



Conseil des
écoles publiques
de l'Est de l'Ontario



Limestone
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Art-house, indie, foreign, classic, Hollywood & special event programming.

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ben mcna/y

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108 Queen St East in Toronto



Kingston's Independent Bookstore

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Telephone: 613-546-9799 Fax: 613-546-5686
novid@kingston.net • www.noveliideabooks.ca

EVENTS

ONSTAGE EVENTS

Wednesday, September 27

#1 HOT OFF THE PRESS 📖

Heather O'Neill with Marilyn Simonds
Reading and Conversation
Islandview | 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Event Sponsor: Chris James, Curate.Social

What the Dickens? Join author Heather O'Neill for a conversation with Marilyn Simonds about her unique new project – a serialized novel publishing over 30 Saturdays in the Montreal Gazette. With *Mystery in the Metro*, Heather is writing on the fly, inviting readers to suggest what happens next. "Tis how writers of yore used to publish novels," Heather says, "and I am curious to try."



Emma Donoghue with Aara Macauley
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 8:00 – 9:00 pm
Event Sponsor: Chris James,
Curate.Social

#2 DEEP AND DANGEROUS LOVE 📖

Be among the first to experience *Learned by Heart*, an extraordinary novel based on the true story of prolific English diarist Anne Lister, dubbed by many as 'the first modern lesbian', and her love affair with Eliza Raine. A deeply researched and rich exploration of Anne's life, loves, and the bucking of convention in 19th century England by the inimitable Emma Donoghue.

EVENTS

Thursday, September 28

#3 MESSY LIVES

Leanne Lieberman

Solo Presentation, Festival Field Trip

Islandview | 9:30 – 10:15 am

Every life has secrets, as Jess – whose homelife is far less than perfect, is about to find out. When she's hired to clean a gorgeous home to help make ends meet, Jess discovers a rich girl's diary. Join Leanne Lieberman for a conversation about how even those who seem to have everything they want can have very real problems.

#4 MY ROAD FROM DAMASCUS

Jamal Saeed

Solo Presentation, Festival Field Trip

Bellevue | 9:30 – 10:15 am

Being a rebellious free-thinker is a challenge in any society, but when you grow up in a country where those in power seek to control the message, the consequences become grave. Jamal tells the true story of his multiple imprisonments in Syria for his writing, social, and political views, what life there was like, and about his journey to Canada, and Kingston.

TWS1. POETRY WRITING FOR TEENS

Sarah Tsiang

TeensWrite! Master Class

Junction Room | 9:30 – 10:45 am

Limited Enrolment. Ages 13 – 19

Join award-winning children's author, poet, and teacher Sarah Tsiang for a relaxed and friendly introduction to writing poems. Whether you want to create rhyming couplets or free style with your verse, Sarah will show you how to use imagery and play with language to develop your unique style and voice.

#5 SUCK IT IN AND SMILE 🍷

Laurence Beaudoin-Masse

Solo Presentation, Festival Field Trip

Islandview | 10:45 – 11:30 am

#goals. Influencer Ellie is obsessed with creating the perfect life for her many followers. But as her family's disapproval, a fight with another creator, and the impossible quest for the 'ideal weight' and flawless existence start to take their toll, and she begins to wonder if all the faked perfection is worth the effort, and if she really knows who she is anymore.

#6 THE AFRICAN SAMURAI 🍷

Craig Shreve

Solo Presentation, Festival Field Trip

Bellevue | 10:45 – 11:30 am

Join Craig Shreve for the (almost) unbelievable true story of a young 16th century African soldier who was taken from his village as a boy and sold as a slave to Portuguese mercenaries, before being 'gifted' to a Japanese warlord. Given the new name Yasuke, he is granted the role of samurai, a title that has never been given to a foreigner before.

TWS2. CHOOSE YOUR OWN DISASTER ⚡

Erin Bow

TeensWrite! Master Class

Junction Room | 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Limited Enrolment. Ages 13 – 19

Taught by an award-winning science fiction and fantasy author, this interactive course on world-building class considers how worlds suggest stories, and stories suggest worlds. We'll talk about the kinds of scale and the suggestive details that make imaginary worlds feel real. Though focused on SF/F, this class is useful to fiction writers of all stripes.

EVENTS

#7 DELICIOUS MONSTERS

Liselle Sambury

Solo Presentation, Festival Field Trip

Bellevue | 12:00 – 12:45 pm

Event Sponsor: Queen's Department of English and Creative Writing

A haunted mansion, a young woman who sees ghosts, and another trying to escape a very human monster. Join Liselle Sanbury for *Delicious Monsters*, a mind-bending psychological thriller with some chilling characters and a pair of teens, who, ten years apart, are determined to get answers!

CONTENT WARNING: off page mentions of childhood sexual assault, abuse, and suicide.

TWS3. ZINE MAKING 101

Ryan Ewing

TeensWrite! Master Class

Junction Room | 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Limited Enrolment. Ages 13 – 19

Zines can be a little hard to define—but that's what makes them great: they can be written, drawn, printed, collaged, or any other form of combining words and imagery. This small, simple format, but has a unique ability to speak creatively [and loudly] for even the softest voices. Join Ryan of Pocket Thoughts Zines for a crash course on zine making!

#8 VIRAL REFLECTIONS: VOCAB AND CULTURE IN THE NEW NORMAL

Wayne Grady

Reading and Conversation

Bellevue | 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Join author Wayne Grady (*Pandexicon: How the Language of the Pandemic Defined Our New Cultural Reality*) for a wide-ranging conversation on the

ways that culture and language has evolved, adapted, and been forever changed by the emergence (and emergency) of COVID-19 and our pivot to the 'new normal.'

#9 WE DON'T TALK ABOUT CLASS

Deborah Dundas and Ricardo Tranjan

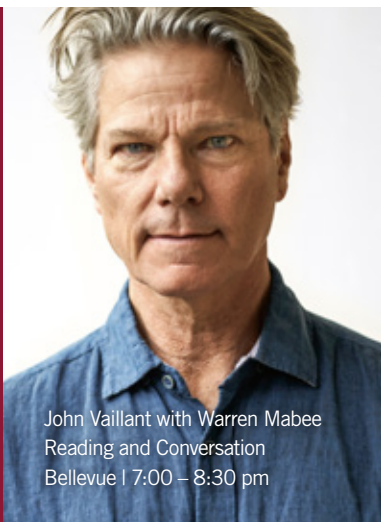
Reading and Conversation

Islandview | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Rich, poor, working class, tenant class. We know these phrases, but North Americans often discount how class, and the inherent machinations of capitalism, impact the lives people can live. When we ignore these realities, what, and who, are we omitting? Join Deborah Dundas and Ricardo Tranjan for a conversation about class: of who controls the narrative, and why this must change.

#10 FIRE WEATHER

In May 2016, Fort McMurray was overrun by a catastrophic wildfire. But, as we've witnessed across Canada this wildfire season, such disasters are no longer isolated incidents. Join John Vaillant (*Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast*) for a riveting discussion of North America's oil industry, climate science, the unprecedented devastation wrought by modern forest fires, and the lives forever changed by these disasters.




John Vaillant with Warren Mabee
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

EVENTS

Friday, September 29

#11 COMPLICATED BELONGING 🗨️ 📖

Taken from home by fate, others' greed, politics, and poverty, the generations of families in Janika Oza's (*A History of Burning*) and Catherine Hernandez's (*The Story of Us*) gorgeous novels are nevertheless bound by blood, love, and belief in a better future. Join the two over coffee for a conversation about identity, place, colonialism, and connection.



Janika Oza and Catherine Hernandez
Reading and Conversation
Islandview | 9:30 – 10:30 am
Event Sponsor: The Screening Room

#12 BENEATH THE SURFACE: THE RING OF FIRE 🔥

Virginia Heffernan with John Smol
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Northern Ontario's Ring of Fire region covers about 5,000km² and is considered one of the most promising development opportunities for minerals critical to the green energy revolution. It is also under the world's second-largest temperate wetland and in the traditional lands of the Cree and Ojibway. Join Virginia and John for a conversation about the confluence of resource development, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous rights.

#13 BOOK LOVERS' LUNCH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 🍷🍷

Ben McNally

Solo Presentation

Islandview | Doors 12:00, Lunch 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Event Sponsor: Profile Kingston

A festival fixture since 2009, Ben McNally is back with your backstage pass to the literary picks of the crop! The proprietor of Toronto's Ben McNally Books is ready to give you another year of insightful book recommendations for discerning readers. Always a festival favourite, the Book Lovers' Lunch seating is limited, so get your tickets now!

Price includes lunch. Cash bar.

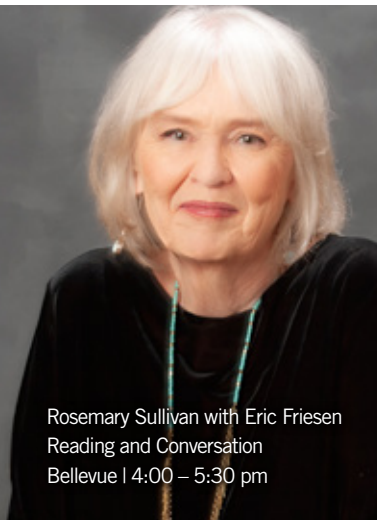
#14 MERCY GENE 📖

JD Derbyshire with Angela Facundo

Reading and Conversation

Bellevue | 2:30 – 3:30 pm

"A dizzying double helix of creative gusto, funhouse humour, hard-won wisdom, and ferocious empathy" – Zsuzsi Gartner. Join writer, playwright, and comedian JD Derbyshire, in conversation with Angela Facundo, with their genre-defying work of auto-fiction *Mercy Gene*. This dynamic book, based on their award-winning one-person play *Certified*, is a beautiful, humorous, and sometimes brutal look at queerness, gender confusion, institutionalization, addiction, and abuse.



Rosemary Sullivan with Eric Friesen
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 4:00 – 5:30 pm

#15 AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Rosemary Sullivan is a prolific author of poetry, travelogue, short fiction, and literary biography. She has won virtually every CanLit top prize, including the Governor General's Award, the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize, the BC National Non-Fiction Award, the RBC Charles Taylor Prize, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. Join Eric and Rosemary for a conversation about the writing life, and her much anticipated memoir.

#16 VOADEN PRIZE STAGE READING

Performance and Talkback

Islandview | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Event Sponsor: DAN School of Drama and Music

A world-premier public stage reading co-presented by DAN School of Drama and Music. Be the first to hear from Brandon Zang, winner of the 2023 Voaden Prize national playwriting competition. A talk-back with the playwright will follow the stage reading. Previous Voaden Prize winners include Jordan Tannahill for *Late Company* and Norman Yeung for *Theory*. This year's best play, *Ah Wing and the Automation Eagle*, announced at KWF's July launch, received a prize of \$10,000.

#00 ART AFTER DARK EXHIBIT

Oliver McPartlin

Curate.Social | 7:00 – 10:00 pm

KWF comes to Art After Dark, featuring a gorgeous selection of original artwork and contemporary book jacket designs by Vancouver print designer, typographer and illustrator Oliver McPartlin. Take a stroll downtown to enjoy art, browse unique artisan wares at markets, listen to live music and meet fellow art lovers as you visit all the galleries.

#17 LITERARY TRIVIA NIGHT

We've reigned in the tricky questions and doubled down on the prizes. If you've been waiting to put your knowledge of the CanLit canon to use, it's time to open up a can of bookworms and gather together for a novel night of literary trivia out on the town! Laugh, learn and show off your bookish brawn with stand-up guy Ali Hassan as your emcee. It's bound to be a good time!



Ali Hassan
Trivia and Performance
Offsite | 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Event Sponsor: Downtown
Kingston BIA

EVENTS

#18 A GROWING GULF OF HUMAN LOSS: THE PEOPLE OF THE OPIOID CRISIS

Vincent Lam with Mike Condra
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Dr. Chen, from the Giller-winning *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures*, is back. A decade out from med school, he is now running an addictions clinic in downtown Toronto as opioid addiction and overdoses surge. Join Vincent Lam, author, emergency and addictions physician in conversation with Mike Condra, a physician and advocate in mental health education for a look at the intimate and profound impacts of addiction on individual human beings.

#19 LATE NIGHTS WITH KWF: GRAPHIC CONTENT

Kevin Chong and Christina Wong with Aara Macauley
Reading and Conversation
Islandview | 9:00 – 10:00 pm

In *The Double Life of Benson Yu*, and *Denison Avenue*, authors Kevin Chong and Christina Wong play with form to create moving works about coming-of-age and decades of change in Canadian Chinatowns. One is a surreal work of metafiction. The other a quietly moving novel/graphic novel hybrid. In both, Kevin and Christina explore complex themes of age, trauma, racism, the tides of change, and hybrid art forms.



TAKE OUR SURVEY

Kingston WritersFest is always looking for ways to make our festival better. Knowing what you think is key!

Your engagement, open mindedness, curiosity, and feedback about the books, authors, and events we showcase makes the festival special.



We invite you to take a few minutes a fill out our survey any time during the festival here.

Visit kingstonwritersfest.ca/survey/ before October 17th.

Complete your survey for a chance to **WIN THE WINDOW!**
(This coveted prize includes all the books in our Novel Idea display.)

■ WRITERS RETREAT

Reignite Your Passion for Writing

Since 2018, we've offered our immersive writing boot camp prepared and taught by award-winning and critically acclaimed authors and publishing professionals. Each year since, virtually every master class has sold out.

What can you expect? In this immersive classroom setting, participants have a hands-on opportunity to develop skills and master techniques, to emerge as a more confident and effective writer. Whether you are experienced and looking to add a few tools to your toolbox, or are just getting your feet wet with fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or playwriting, the Writers Retreat offers fundamental elements of writer's craft elevate your writing to a new level of proficiency and expressiveness.

Want added time to mingle with your peers after the day's lessons? Meet up at Curate.Social, 340 King St E, for a custom cocktail and a relaxed space to talk shop.

Choose a two-day or four-day intensive package and receive three classes each day. Single classes are also on sale, pending availability. Visit our website for full class descriptions and class handouts.

Limited enrolment.

The 2023 Writers Retreat Faculty



WAYNE GRADY
EVENT # 1



TANIS MACDONALD
EVENT # 2



SARAH TSIANG
EVENT # 3



JD DERBYSHIRE
EVENT # 4



**HAZEL AND JAY
MILLAR | EVENT # 5**



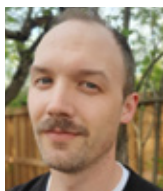
OLIVER MCPARTLIN
EVENT # 6



KEVIN CHONG
EVENT # 7



**ROSEMARY
SULLIVAN | EVENT # 8**



MICHAEL HINGSTON
EVENT # 9



BRITTA BADOUR
EVENT # 10



STUART ROSS
EVENT # 11



LINDY MECHEFSKE
EVENT # 12

■ KWF 2023 MUST READS LIST

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wires that Sputter
Britta Badour | <input type="checkbox"/> Her Body Among Animals
Paola Ferrante | <input type="checkbox"/> I Am Claude François and You Are a Bathtub
Stuart Ross |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suck it In and Smile
Laurence Beaudoin-Masse | <input type="checkbox"/> Pandexicon
Wayne Grady | <input type="checkbox"/> My Road from Damascus
Jamal Saeed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Wild
Maria Birmingham | <input type="checkbox"/> Ring of Fire
Virginia Heffernan | <input type="checkbox"/> Delicious Monsters
Liselle Sambury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Song and Dread
Otoniya J. Okot Bitek | <input type="checkbox"/> The Story of Us
Catherine Hernandez | <input type="checkbox"/> The African Samurai
Craig Shreve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooming
Diane Borsato | <input type="checkbox"/> Survivors of the Hive
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Simon Sort of Says
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Deborah Dundas | <input type="checkbox"/> A History of Burning
Janika Oza | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> And Then She Fell
Alicia Elliott | <input type="checkbox"/> Denison Avenue
Christina Wong | |



Visit our onsite bookstore on the 5th floor to pick up the latest from your new favourite author!

Saturday, September 30

#20 FOLKLORE, FABLE, AND FANTASTICAL FEMALES

Paola Ferrante, Emily Urquhart, Anuja Varghese

Reading and Conversation

Islandview | 9:30 – 11:00 am

A trio of authors explore complex issues through genre-bending stories that blur the lines between the real world and worlds beyond. Join Paola (*Her Body Among Animals*), Emily (*Ordinary Wonder Tales*), and Anuja (*Chrysalis*) for an open discussion of the intersectionalities of being a woman, mother, artist, queer, POC, and how fairy tales, wonder, ghosts, pregnancy, chimeras, plagues, and magic help us tell our stories.

#21 CRACKS IN THE FOUNDATION

And Then She Fell may be Alicia Elliott's fiction debut, but it has readers in its spell. Join Tricia Knowles for a conversation with Alicia about this gothic horror-tinged story of inherited trauma, false allyship, and the secrets that upend a new mother's not-so-perfect life. This is an electric novel critics are calling haunting, surreal, visionary, propulsive, ethereal, and complex.



Alicia Elliott with Tricia Knowles
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Event Sponsor: Queen's
Department of English and
Creative Writing

EVENTS

#22 THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN KINGSTON

Britta Badour, Otoniya J. Okot Bitek, with Tianna Edwards
Reading and Conversation
Islandview | 1:00 – 2:00 pm

In her podcast and blog *Keeping Up with Kingston*, Tianna Edwards challenges the narrative that Black people don't live and create in this city. Join Tianna onstage with poet and scholar Otoniya J. Okot Bitek and spoken word artist Britta Badour for a conversation on their work, and the inspiration and challenges that come with being an artist and creator in a smaller town.

#23 OUTPORT INFIGHTING

Love, corruption, sabotage, revenge, vendettas, violence, grievance, and retribution. Two powerful families vying for the scarce resources of the north Atlantic fishery, and a community divided. You'd better grab another cup of coffee! Join Michael Crummey and Barbara Bell as they talk *The Adversary*, a dark slice of generational drama from an isolated outport on Newfoundland's northern coastline.



Michael Crummey with Barbara Bell
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 2:30 – 3:30 pm
Event Sponsor: Chez Piggy & Pan
Chancho Bakery

#24 MUSICAL MATINEE: THE GERTRUDES 🎵

The Gertrudes with Sadiqa de Meijer
Musical Performance and Conversation
Islandview | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Join us for a free community concert with a lively performance from Kingston's own The Gertrudes. This unique musical collective has a new album out, *Just to Please You* with "a sound like an old-time saloon party travelling through deep space." Following their performance, the group will take the stage to speak with Sadiqa de Meijer about the art and process of song writing.

#25 BENEATH THE SURFACE: HOPE AND JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS 📖

"She could have been me."
Award-winning Gitxsan investigative journalist Angela Sterritt speaks with Tina Munroe about *Unbroken*. Part memoir, part investigation, Angela reflects on the struggles of her own upbringing, and shows how colonialism and racism have led to a society where the lives of Indigenous women and girls are ignored and devalued.



Angela Sterritt with Tina Munroe
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 5:00 – 6:00 pm



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**CANADA'S
CONVERSATION**



#27 THE BIG IDEA: CANLIT UNBOUND

Kwame Scott Fraser, Michael Hingston, Stephen Marche, Stuart Ross
with Carol Off

Panel Discussion

Bellevue | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Event Sponsor: The Walrus

Carol Off helps a lively discussion with a panel of independent Canadian publishers and authors about current trends in CanLit – from the evolution of the written arts with the rise of hybrid and experimental works, to the growing trend of AI-generated writing. What needs to be done to keep CanLit vital and relevant in the future, as major mergers and chatbots loom on the horizon?

EVENTS

#26 THE SHOE PROJECT

Performance and Conversation
Islandview | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Shoes are a metaphor for journey and transformation. They are with us every step of the way. They are also a great icebreaker for groups of women of diverse age, faith, background, and language. In cities across Canada, the Shoe Project mentors women with writing and performance coaches. Experience stories and performances from participants of Kingston's graduating class and coaches!

#28 LATE NIGHTS WITH KWF: HIVES OF ACTIVITY

Jason Heroux, Stuart Ross, Paul Vermeersch
Reading and Conversation
Curate.Social | 9:00 – 10:00 pm

Enjoy a nightcap and savour our Strange Salon - a selection of weird and wonderful readings from a singular group of Canadian authors who are not afraid to push the literary envelope to tickle your aural fancies. Get ready for alternate futures, the dawn of civilisations, all-knowing potatoes, loss, grief, and centipedes.

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September 29
7:00 - 10:00 pm



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EVENTS

Sunday, October 1

#29 THE LIBRARIANIST



Join bestselling and award-winning author Patrick deWitt for a Sunday morning cup of coffee and a conversation about *The Librarianist*, an introverted outcast with a love of literature. “Readers come to deWitt for his brand of slightly off-kilter storytelling blessed with exuberant characterizations, gleeful dialogue, and a proprietary blend of darkness and charm, all strung up in lights here.” – Booklist.



Patrick deWitt with Mark Sinnett
Reading and Conversation
Bellevue | 9:30 – 10:30 am

#30 LAST CHAPTER BRUNCH: FORAGED FLAVOURS

Diane Borsato with Emelie Chhangur
Reading, Meal, and Conversation
Islandview | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Event Sponsor: Edible Ottawa

Cap off the 15th annual celebration with fungi, friends, and foraged flavours during our Last Chapter Brunch. Gain a new perspective on the fascinating, edible, deadly and strange world of mushrooms from artist, naturalist, and educator Diane Borsato. With Emelie Chhangur, she'll discuss how mushrooming can expand our perspectives, connect us to nature and quietly enrich our lives, and inspire foragers at all levels to see the wondrousness of fungi wherever they are.

■ WRITERS RETREAT EVENTS

With the exception of Sunday afternoon, all Writers Retreat events take place in the Crawford Room. *Limited Enrolment.*

Wednesday, September 27

WR1. WRITING MEMOIR 🖋️

Wayne Grady

Master Class | 6:00 – 8:30 pm

On the surface, writing a memoir is an easy task. You have all the memories and experiences readily at hand. But how do you commit these stories to paper in a way that engages your reader? Join Wayne Grady for a workshop on how to flesh out your unique story with research and writing tips to keep your reader hooked.



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Thursday, September 28

WR2. THE TRUTH ABOUT BODIES IN MOTION

Tanis MacDonald

Master Class | 9:00 – 11:30 am

In this workshop, we will work with the pleasures and the problems of being a body in motion, and shift towards writing about our bodies in all their beauties and oddities as nature writing. What is the beauty of a hawk in flight seen through the lens of a panic attack? How does foot pain change the act of urban foraging? Bring your breathing, grousing, observant bodies.

WR3. POETRY WRITING 101

Sarah Tsiang

Master Class | 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Get ready to get your creative juices flowing in this welcoming introduction to writing in verse. Join award-winning poet Sarah Tsiang through a series of writing exercises designed to help you find your spark. Through explorations of imagery, language, structure and flow, you'll play with ways to make writing that feels authentically you.

WR4. BRAVE SPACES - INCREASING OUR CAPACITY FOR UNCOMFORTABLE FEELINGS

JD Derbyshire

Master Class | 3:30 – 6:00 pm

JD is a writer, comedian, mad activist, performer, playwright, theatre maker, inclusive educator and innovator. In their playwriting, performance, and essays, they have tackled some deeply personal and complicated subjects like queerness, gender confusion, institutionalization, addiction, and abuse with humility, grace, and humour. Learn how to navigate tough feelings, and use them to your advantage in your writing.

WRITERS RETREAT EVENTS

Friday, September 29

WR5. PUBLISHING 101

Hazel and Jay Millar

Master Class | 9:00 – 11:30 am

You've drafted, edited, spit, and polished. Now that the writing is done, how do you get it in people's hands so they can read it? Hazel Millar and Jay Millar have been the dynamic force behind Book*hug Press, a radically optimistic Canadian independent publisher working at the forefront of contemporary book culture, for two decades. Come with your burning questions!

WR6. MAKING WORD ART

Oliver McPartlin

Seminar | 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Are you an artist wondering how to get into book design? Are you a writer wondering how book covers are made, and who gets a say? Want to develop your own unique typography to make your work unique? Graphic designer, illustrator and artist Oliver McPartlin offers an insight into the book jacket and typography design business.

WR7. ON METAFICTION

Kevin Chong

Master Class | 3:30 – 6:00 pm

Get ready to subvert convention! While most stories hope to suspend the reader's disbelief, metafiction actively reminds the reader that they are reading a work of fiction. In this workshop, you will explore examples and discuss techniques such as talking to the reader, alluding to the process of writing the story, writing characters who are aware that they are fictional and more.

Saturday, September 30

WR8. TRAVEL WRITING 🖋️

Rosemary Sullivan

Master Class | 9:00 – 11:30 am

A true master class with one of Canada's preeminent authors. In this class, Rosemary will guide you through five rules of travel writing guided by the elementary question: "what is it to travel and why would we write about it?" Participants should select a place they want to travel to, their reason for wanting to do so, and how they intend to prepare themselves.

WR9. CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS – COMBINING IMAGERY AND WORDS 🖋️

Michael Hingston and Natalie Olsen

Seminar | 1:00 – 3:00 pm

The creative duo behind Hingston & Olsen Publishing believe in the power of the physical book. In this seminar, they will talk about creative collaboration, how they got started, their philosophy when putting together titles over the years, and what they've learned along the way. You'll look at some sample books and designs to inspire your own creative process.

WR10. SPOKEN WORD 🖋️

Britta Badour

Master Class | 3:30 – 6:00 pm

What is a spoken word performance? It's a rhythmic mix of poetry that intersects public speaking and theatre. Learn to engage your audience through your content, vocal delivery, and stage presence. Build your confidence and learn how artistic choices focused on facial expressions, gestures, emotion, punctuation, and tone can bring the energy of your poem to a whole new level.

■ WRITERS RETREAT EVENTS

Sunday, October 1

WR11. PLOTLESS FICTION ⚡

Stuart Ross

Master Class | 9:00 – 11:00 am

Writer, editor, and writing teacher Stuart Ross offers a relaxed, supportive workshop that explores the possibilities of fiction beyond the constraints of narrative and the artificiality of plot. In this hands-on session, you will be introduced to writers whose works push against the definitions of the story, and will produce your own short works, using a variety of enjoyable, challenging writing strategies.

WR12. WRITING ABOUT FOOD ⚡

Lindy Mechefske

Master Class

Wolfe Island Hotel, Wolfe Island | 12:00 – 2:30 pm*

*please take the 11:30am ferry to arrive on time for this class. Return ferries are on the hour.

From newspaper to magazine, culinary narratives to cookbooks to blogs, two-time Gold Medal Taste Canada-winner Lindy Mechefske is one of Canada's most recognized names in food writing. Hop on the ferry to beautiful Wolfe Island and take lunch at the Wolfe Island hotel while learning to develop ideas, craft compelling stories, and develop writing drool-worthy food writing through a range of styles and techniques.

An optional soup, salad and sandwich lunch buffet is available at the Hotel Wolfe Island. Order in advance, \$40.

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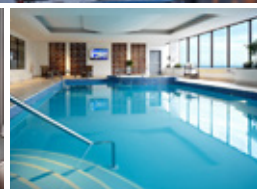
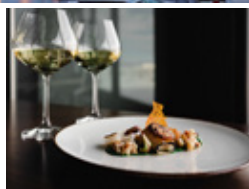
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Join us on Sunday, October 22 at the Screening Room with Waubgeshig Rice and *Moon of the Turning Leaves*.

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Be the first to know about this and other exciting events by subscribing to our newsletter.

Write On: The KWF Podcast

Stay tuned! KWF is taking to the airwaves with Write On, our literary podcast. Get to know what makes authors tick – from how they deal with failure, to the ways in which identity has shaped their work. We'll be posting the schedule on our website soon.

Thank you to our funders The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Kingston Arts Council for making this auditory adventure possible.

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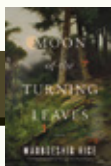
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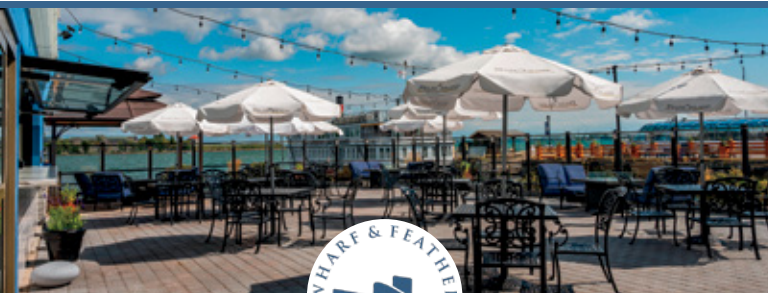


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