

Tickets on sale
Monday, June 1, 2026



Sunshine Coast
FESTIVAL of the WRITTEN ARTS
Rockwood Centre | Sechelt
August 13-16 2026

1-800-565-9631
writersfestival.ca



art by Carol LaFave

Welcome to the **44th**
Sunshine Coast
Festival of the
Written Arts



Tickets go on sale to the general public on
Monday, June 1, 2026 at 8:30 am PT
Purchase tickets online at
writersfestival.ca
by phone at **604-885-9631** or **1-800-565-9631**
in person at the Festival office:
5511 Shorncliffe Avenue, Sechelt
Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

General Information

- No refunds will be issued unless an event is cancelled. A \$5 fee is charged for ticket exchanges.
- Lost or stolen tickets are the responsibility of the purchaser and cannot be replaced.
- Please, no dogs on the Festival site (with the exception of service dogs).
- Support our zero-waste goal by bringing your own reusable water bottle and coffee cup to the Festival. Beverages will be available to purchase on site.
- Order a Gourmet Girl picnic lunch ahead of time (at least 48 hours in advance) and have it delivered to the Festival for pick up. Visit writersfestival.ca for more information.

Accessibility

- A limited number of parking spots for people with physical disabilities are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Festival Pavilion, our venue, is wheelchair accessible. Please call the office prior to the Festival to reserve seats if you have special seating needs.
- We ask that those who have requested accessibility assistance or seats arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the event.
- Real-time captioning for Events #1-18 will be available. Captioning for Event B and C will be available upon request.
- Questions? Visit writersfestival.ca/guest-information or phone the Festival office at 604-885-9631. We would be happy to assist you.

Acknowledgements

We thank the volunteers, donors, sponsors and community partners who make this Festival possible. We also acknowledge our funders:



SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENT A
Blue Pencil Sessions
Friday, August 14, 9:00 – 9:50 am; 12:30 – 1:20 pm
Saturday, August 15, 9:00 – 9:50 am; 12:30 – 1:20 pm
Sunday, August 16, 9:00 – 9:50 am; 12:30 – 1:20 pm
Register for a one-on-one meeting with **Janine Young**, a literary writer and the managing editor of Nightwood Editions. This 20-minute session provides the opportunity to get feedback from a publishing professional and learn about the editing process.
Location: Rockwood Lodge | Session fee: \$40.00
Appointments are limited.
Please note: registrants will have to submit a writing sample by July 30.

EVENT B
Dialogue Workshop with Sam Wiebe
Friday, August 14, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Join crime writer Sam Wiebe for a workshop on dialogue. He'll discuss the difference between dialogue and real-life speech; how dialogue relates to character, pacing, voice, and plot; and why characters say one thing and mean another (even if they don't know it).
Location: Rockwood Lodge Art Space | Workshop fee: \$25.00
Space is limited.

EVENT C
Writing Memoir with Donna Morrissey
Saturday, August 15, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Just what the heck qualifies as memoir and how do you tell your story truthfully when everyone in it is still alive? In this workshop you'll learn to distinguish between three types of memoir (book length, personal essay and narrative essay), decide which one works best for your story, and identify the main themes or 'heart' of your work.
Location: Rockwood Lodge Art Space | Workshop fee: \$25.00
Space is limited.

EVENT D
Festival of the Written Arts Coffee Hour
Sunday, August 16, 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Enjoy complimentary coffee and tea and live music while you share stories, talk books and mingle with other festival goers. No registration required!
Location: Beside the Book Tent | Free
Festival and Day Passes **do not** include admission to special events A, B or C. To reserve tickets for the workshops, order at writersfestival.ca or call 604-885-9631 (while supplies last).

We acknowledge with gratitude that the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts takes place on the traditional unceded homelands of the shísháhl Nation. As we strive to be good allies through word and action, we take the time to pause and remember that the shísháhl People have been sharing stories on this land for millennia.

2026 Festival Planner

Festival Passes
Events 1 - 19 _____ x \$295 = \$ _____
Day Passes Friday, Saturday or Sunday _____ x \$100 = \$ _____

Thursday, August 13
1. 8:00 pm **Mary Walsh** _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Friday, August 14
2. 10:00 am **Betty Baxter** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

3. 11:30 am **Janie Chang** and **Genevieve Graham** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

4. 2:00 pm **BC Books Showcase** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

5. 3:30 pm **Billy-Ray Belcourt** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

6. 6:30 pm **Donna Morrissey** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

7. 8:00 pm **Terry Fallis** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

Saturday, August 15
8. 10:00 am **Robert Moor** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

9. 11:30 am **Elee Kraljii Gardiner** and **bronwyn preece** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

10. 2:00 pm **Alexis Stefanovich-Thomson** and **Sam Wiebe** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

11. 3:30 pm **Michelle Good** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

12. 6:30 pm **Christopher Gaze** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

13. 8:00 pm **The Rockwood Lecture: Dr. Alika Lafontaine** _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Sunday, August 16
14. 10:00 am **Georgia Toews** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

15. 11:30 am **New Voices: Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho** and **Iryn Tushabe** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

16. 1:30 pm **Charles Demers** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

17. 3:00 pm **Antonio Michael Downing** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

18. 4:30 pm **Monique Gray Smith** _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

19. 8:00 pm **BTU: Bentall Taylor Ulrich** _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Special Events A _____ x \$40 B _____ x \$25 C _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

THURSDAY

1 8:00 PM Thursday, August 13
Mary Walsh

Comedy icon Mary Walsh launches this year's Festival with wry flair. The Gemini-winning star of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* presents *Brassy Bit of Aging Crumpet*, a vulnerable, hopeful, wickedly funny memoir-in-essays celebrating her colourful—sometimes difficult but never dull—life and career.



photo Dave Howals

FRIDAY

2 10:00 AM Friday, August 14
Betty Baxter

Betty Baxter's memoir, *Outspoken: A Journey from Olympic Athlete to Activist* is a deeply personal account of her struggles against the discrimination, scrutiny, and systemic inequities she faced as a young elite level athlete and coach in 1970s and '80s Canada, charting the beginnings of her activist path.



photo Nicola Davison

3 11:30 AM Friday, August 14
Janie Chang and Genevieve Graham
with Kathryn Gretzinger

Meticulous research, propulsive prose, intricately layered narratives and long-buried secrets that imperil their resilient female protagonists unite Janie Chang's *The Fourth Princess* and Genevieve Graham's *The Chambermaid's Key*. Infused with extortion, murder and mysteries that echo across generations, these novels from two exceptional storytellers deliver gripping, unforgettable reads.



photo Kelly Schuster



Shickendoodle Photography

Introducing the Al and Eurithe Purdy BC Award for Excellence

The Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts is pleased to announce the Al and Eurithe Purdy BC Award for Excellence, an annual prize recognizing an outstanding book of fiction or non-fiction that is both authored and published in British Columbia.

The prize is made possible through the generous support of Eurithe Purdy—in memory of her late husband, the great Canadian writer Al Purdy—and was created to honour his literary legacy and his ties to British Columbia.

The \$5,000 prize will be awarded to an author whose work shows literary merit, craft, originality, creativity and is rooted in BC's cultural, historical or literary landscape. Starting in 2026, the award will be presented each year at the Festival of the Written Arts.

4 2:00 PM Friday, August 14
BC Books Showcase

The Al and Eurithe Purdy BC Award for Excellence moderated by Kathryn Gretzinger

Please join us to celebrate the inaugural shortlist for the Al and Eurithe Purdy BC Award for Excellence. Three outstanding authors from British Columbia will be on hand to speak about and read from their shortlisted works, discuss the joys and challenges of publishing in BC, and share insights about the writing life and their literary craft.

5 3:30 PM Friday, August 14

Billy-Ray Belcourt

Celebrated Cree author and Griffin Prize winner Billy-Ray Belcourt expands his bold, intimate body of work with *Coexistence*, stories of Indigenous love and loneliness, and *The Idea of an Entire Life*, poetry that explores queerness, grief, and the futures we dare imagine.



photo jaye simpson

6 6:30 PM Friday, August 14

Donna Morrissey

In *Tell It to the Water*, Donna Morrissey crafts a voice-driven family memoir capturing the grief that engulfs her family after her mother's death. Blending love, loss, and the fierce complexities of kinship, her Newfoundland storytelling is rich in character, humour and emotional truth.



Shickendoodle Photography

7 8:00 PM Friday, August 14

Terry Fallis

Two-time Stephen Leacock Medal winner Terry Fallis returns with *The Marionette*, a comic thriller in which spy novelist James Norval is unexpectedly recruited by CSIS for a mission to Mali. Danger, high-stakes consequences and Fallis's signature satirical wit follow.



photo Tim Fallis

SATURDAY

8 10:00 AM Saturday, August 15

Robert Moor

Over a decade-long, globe-spanning quest, Robert Moor sought the hidden wisdom of trees and discovered "tree-thinking," a way of seeing shaped by patience and interconnection. With *In Trees*, he shows us how trees can guide us toward resilience, rootedness and the art of living meaningfully.



photo Remi Morawski

9 11:30 AM Saturday, August 15

Elee Kraljii Gardiner and bronwyn preece with Megan Cole

Two poets attuned to nature and language examine the forest, its role in our lives and our impact on it. In *sometimes, forest*, Elee Kraljii Gardiner explores the woods as mirror, companion and adversary, while in *hiking beyond*, bronwyn preece charts a personal and courageous journey through external and internal landscapes shaped by movement and attention.



photo Sophie Hsin



10 2:00 PM Saturday, August 15

Alexis Stefanovich-Thomson and Sam Wiebe
with Antonio Michael Downing

Patrick Bird meets Dave Wakeland, both PIs, but one's a naive rookie, the other a battle-tested veteran, separated by over six decades and thousands of hard miles, yet cut from the same shadowed cloth. Join Alexis Stefanovich-Thomson and Sam Wiebe in conversation with Antonio Michael Downing as they delve into their new crime novels, *Opposite Sully's Gym* and *Guns Across the Water*.



photo Mel Yap

11 3:30 PM Saturday, August 15

Michelle Good

Author of *Five Little Indians*, Michelle Good returns with her highly anticipated second novel, *Eliza Sunshine*, a sweeping, intergenerational Cree family saga tracing three generations of women whose lives are shaped by colonial violence, resilience and the enduring power of story.



photo Silken Seigman

12 6:30 PM Saturday, August 15

Christopher Gaze

In his memoir, *The Road to Bard*, Bard on the Beach founder Christopher Gaze recounts a life in the theatre, sharing vivid stories of acting, fundraising, leadership and community building, revealing with warmth and humour how a bold vision grew into one of Canada's great theatre companies.



photo Emily Cooper

13 8:00 PM Saturday, August 15

Rockwood Lecture
Dr. Alika Lafontaine

Drawing on his decades of experience, Dr. Alika Lafontaine's *The Outrage Cure* offers a groundbreaking exploration of how anger and betrayal deepen into outrage when we lose hope that change is possible, along with a compassionate guide to finding our way back, individually and together.



Beauchamp Photography

SUNDAY

14 10:00 AM Sunday, August 16

Georgia Toews

Georgia Toews's novel *Nobody Asked for This* follows 23-year-old comedian Virginia as she navigates grief, a collapsing friendship and a date gone wrong. A rich, darkly comic, raw portrait of early adulthood, trauma and the limits of humour as a coping mechanism.

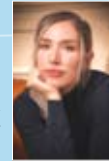


photo Mark Boucher

15 11:30 AM Sunday, August 16

New Voices
Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho and Iryn Tushabe with Megan Cole

Our New Voices authors offer powerful portraits of youth navigating upheaval and longing. Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho's memoir *The Astronaut Children of Dunbar Street* traces a Taiwanese-Canadian family fractured across continents, while Iryn Tushabe's novel *Everything Is Fine Here* follows a Ugandan teen confronting her sister's forbidden love—each illuminating profound resilience and hope.



photo S1 Visaris



photo Robin Schiant

16 1:30 PM Sunday, August 16

Charles Demers

Beloved comedian and author Charles Demers brings us *The Eh Team: A Celebration of Canadianisms from Elbows Up to Poutine*, a laugh out loud guide to the quirks and charm of our uniquely Canadian foods, expressions and turns of phrase that define who we are.



photo Joshua Berson

17 3:00 PM Sunday, August 16

Antonio Michael Downing

In his coming-of-age debut novel *Black Cherokee, The Next Chapter* host Antonio Michael Downing introduces Ophelia Blue Rivers—"half Black, half Cherokee, and all mixed up"—a young woman searching for belonging in a landscape fractured by generations of social and racial divides.



photo Dawn Bowman

18 4:30 PM Sunday, August 16

Monique Gray Smith

Bestselling Cree-Scottish author Monique Gray Smith returns with *Sharing the Light*, a quietly profound collection of stories, vignettes and reflections that invites readers to cultivate gratitude, love, joy and hope while moving through a world that is both changing and challenging.



photo Centric Photography

19 8:00 PM Sunday, August 16

Bentall Taylor Ulrich

Individually, BTU—Barney Bentall, Tom Taylor and Shari Ulrich—are accomplished, acclaimed award-winning musicians. Together, they become a powerhouse trio of talent whose music melds folk, roots and acoustic singer-songwriter traditions into something warm, intimate and deeply human. Their blend of acoustic guitars, mandolin, fiddle and swoon-worthy three-part harmonies—along with a palpable love of playing together—offers an inspiring close to this year's Festival.

