

FOR READERS, WRITERS,
AND LOVERS OF WORDS!

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FESTIVAL LITTÉRAIRE SUDBURY LITERARY FESTIVAL

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Jennifer Farquhar
Roger Nash
Aurore Gatwenz
Ali Hassan

Lee Maracle
Kim Kovala
Kim Fahner
Zoe Whittall
Tyler Pennock

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Brit Griffen
Hiro Kanagawa
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Kirby
Hana Shafi
Gary Barwin
Blaise Ndala

Marion Agnew
Scott Miller
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Kathy Friedman
Liz Howard
Britta Badour
Dave Bidini

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Douglas Gary Freeman
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Amy Jones
Catherine Banks
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th

edition

November 2 to 4, 2023

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**Congratulations
Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival
on your 10th Edition!**

**Thank you for nurturing our
community through the power of words.**



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Holiday Inn

Festival Accommodations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heather Campbell	Festival Director
Bennett Malcolmson	Festival Chair
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FESTIVAL LITTÉRAIRE SUDBURY LITERARY FESTIVAL

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FESTIVAL CHAIR'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 10th edition of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival. We are excited to share this unique opportunity to listen, learn, and grow as a lover of words.

I would like to thank Heather Campbell, Wordstock Sudbury's founder and Festival Director, for her continued commitment to this important facet of my life and this community. With it she continues to put her authorial stamp on our collective literary life – with programming that is diverse and excellent and in a setting that is intimate and ripe for deep connections.

I also want to extend my thank you to my fellow Board Members, the festival's government and community sponsors, the festival's donors, all the staff and volunteers who give time throughout the year to make this festival happen, all the authors who bring their work and their insight to the festival, and to you, all the attendees of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

Without all these people – this community of readers, writers, and lovers of word – this festival would not exist.

Bennett Malcolmson
Board Chair

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I welcome you to the 10th edition of the Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival. A decade of celebrating literature, culture, and the power of words – what a remarkable journey it has been!

As we gather once again in this literary haven, we find ourselves reflecting on the profound impact our festival has had on the Sudbury community and beyond. For a decade, we've been honoured to bring together writers, readers, and thinkers to engage in vibrant conversations, share stories, and inspire one another. Our growth and success would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our passionate community of book lovers, sponsors, volunteers, and the tireless dedication of our organizing team.

This 10th anniversary is a testament to the enduring power of words and the incredible connections they forge. It's a testament to the dreams and aspirations of all who have contributed, making Wordstock Sudbury a landmark event in our city.

As we embark on this special edition, let us celebrate the profound impact of literature in our lives, and the indomitable spirit of those who have nurtured and championed our festival. Together, we have created a cultural legacy that enriches our community and fuels our collective imagination.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and here's to many more years of literary discovery and the joy of words.

Heather Campbell
Festival Director

MP VIVIANE LAPOINTE'S MESSAGE

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Welcome. Aniin. Bienvenue.

I am so pleased to extend greetings to the 2023 Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

I want to personally welcome those who have travelled near and far to Sudbury for this incredible festival. Wordstock is a true celebration of literary arts in Canada, and I know the next three-days will be filled with brilliant guidance, support, and vital conversations to grow and expand the community not just in Northern Ontario, but nationally.

For over 10 years, Wordstock has been an incredible outlet and resource for authors, poets, playwrights, and songwriters. As the festival continues to support and promote the love of reading and writing in Northern Ontario, I know the community will receive great benefits in the programming and opportunities to meet other like-minded writers.

I would like to acknowledge the Board of Directors of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival for their exceptional leadership and dedication to the literary arts in Northern Ontario.

Please enjoy the festival!

Thank you. Merci. Miigwech.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Viviane Lapointe". The script is cursive and elegant.

Viviane Lapointe

Member of Parliament Sudbury

MPP JAMIE WEST'S MESSAGE

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I must begin by sending my most ecstatic “well done” to all of those involved in Wordstock Sudbury. Congratulations on this exciting milestone, reaching your 10th edition of the Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival – you should all be very proud!

I do apologize that I couldn’t make it in person this year, but please know that I am honoured to bring greetings, not only as your MPP, but as a fellow lover of words. Wordstock Sudbury has given this community a wonderful gift by creating opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue that explore diverse perspectives, uses critical thinking and challenges norms, traditions, expectations and more. By having these important discussions, all through a literary lens, the festival offers a unique way to connect with one another.

Since 2013, the festival has shown so much support for this form of art, and has promoted the love of reading and writing, not only in our community but across Northern Ontario. As your member of provincial parliament, I am overjoyed to see its success continue to grow.

Congratulations again and thank you to all the organizers and volunteers who help make this event possible year after year. Please accept this commemorative scroll as a token of my gratitude for the amazing work that you do in our community.

Jamie West
MPP/ Député Sudbury

MAYOR PAUL LEFEBVRE'S MESSAGE

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On behalf of City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome participants from across the region to the 2023 Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

Now celebrating its 10th edition, Wordstock Sudbury continues to enrich Northern Ontario's literary arts community. The annual festival celebrates the work of authors, poets, playwrights, and songwriters, all while sparking conversation and connection among those who love words.

For those of you participating in person, I encourage you to explore the many amenities our city has to offer; from the dozens of hiking trails to the culinary delights of our local restaurants, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

I hope you will relish each opportunity to share your gifts with one another during this impressive program of events. Thank you to all volunteers, sponsors, presenting authors, and supporters for your commitment to making our community a great place to live, work, and play.

Enjoy the festival!

Paul Lefebvre
Mayor/Maire

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Bennett Malcolmson

Endie Commanda

Erin Medakovic

Jade Roberts

Jennifer Trainor

Judi Straughan

Ali Ashrafi

Jill Bazylykut

Kyla Heyming

Linda Squires

Nancy Daoust

Pamela Sauerbrei

Tina Siegal

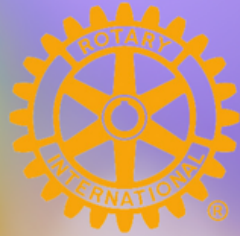
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sharing your time and talents to
bring together Wordstock
Sudbury's 10th Edition.



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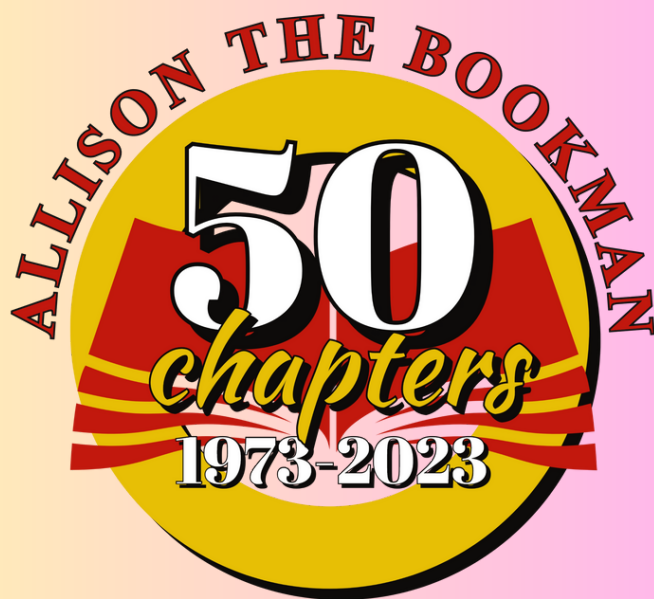
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TICKETS

All in-person sessions will be live streamed allowing audience members to participate at a distance. Live stream links are provided in ticket confirmation.

Tickets available through Eventbrite or in person at the Holiday Inn

All Access Festival Pass:

Includes all sessions & two Masterclasses
\$130 / \$100 for students /fixed income.

Festival Pass:

Includes all sessions except Masterclasses
\$90 / \$50 for students/fixed income.

Masterclasses:

\$30 / \$15 for students/ fixed income.

Individual Sessions:


\$20 / \$10 for students/ fixed income

Poetry Slam:

\$5

Free Sessions:

Poetry Primer and Open Mic



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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Poetry Primer

Kim Fahner, Vera Constantineau, Roger Nash
Moderated by Kyla Heyming

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Festival Opening

Youthwords Writing Contest winners announced

In Conversation With

Hana Shafi and Quinn Van Essen

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sulfur Open Mic

Host: Abigail and Brennan



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

French Kiss: In Conversation with

Blaise Ndala with Alex Tétreault

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Minwaajimo: Tell a Good Story

Jordan Abel and Tyler Pennock

9:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Annual Sudbury Poetry Slam

Britta Badour

MC Tanya Neumeyer



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Masterclass #1: Make'em Laugh

Terry Fallis and Rod Carley

Masterclass #2: Artistic Infidelity

Catherine Banks and Hiro Kanagawa

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Inside the Industry

Deborah Dundas, Patricia Westerhof, Kirby

Moderated by Randall Perry

:

From Page to Stage

Catherine Banks and Hiro Kanagawa

Moderated by Matthew Heiti

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Crossover Creators

Jamaluddin Aram and Dave Hurlow

Moderated by Bennett Malcolmson

Good Grief

Marion Agnew and Stuart Ross

Moderated by Heather Campbell

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

CONTINUED

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

CripLit Voices

Matthew Del Papa and Therese Estacion
Moderated by Dinah Laprairie

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Journalism at its best

Deborah Dundas and Haroon Siddiqui
Moderated by Jonathan Pinto

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Pathways to Poetry

Britta Badour, Therese Estacion, Tyler Pennock,
Kirby and Stuart Ross
Moderated by Kim Fahner

8:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Gala Celebration with Ali Bryan and Terry Fallis
MC Rod Carley



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

· THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023 ·

5:30 PM

Poetry Primer

6:30 PM

Kim Fahner. Vera Constantineau, Roger Nash
Moderator: Kyla Heyming

City of Greater Sudbury's former Poet Laureates, Kim Fahner, Vera Constantineau, and Roger Nash join us to share their new poetry collections published this year and discuss the world of poetry and its influence in our community.

7:00 PM

Festival Opening

8:30 PM

Youthwords Writing Contest winners announced

In Conversation

Hana Shafi and Quinn Van Essen

Hana Shafi, writer and illustrator, joins us with her latest book *People You Know, Places You've Been* that explores the question, what if seemingly mundane places are actually the foundations of who you are?

9:00 PM

Sulfur Open Mic

10:00 PM

Host: Abigail and Brennan

Bring your latest work and test it out at our Open Mic. You will find a gracious host in Laurentian University's Sulfur Journal's co-editors, Abigail Oshell and Brennan Gregoire.

12:00 PM **Info Session for Northern Writers**

1:00 PM Ontario Arts Council

Curious about Ontario Arts Council grants that can support you as a writer, storyteller, or spoken word artist living and working in northern Ontario?

Join OAC staff, Derek Mascarenhas, Interim Literature Officer, and Alana Forslund, Northern Arts Representative on Zoom to find out more about funding programs and have your questions answered! This session will be delivered in English.

6:00 PM **French Kiss: In Conversation with**

7:00 PM Blaise Ndala and Alex Tétreault

Blaise Ndala, an award-winning bilingual author will talk about his latest English language novel *In the Belly of the Congo*. Grounded in rich history, Ndala explores family, hardship, and war. (Bilingual session)

9:00 PM **Annual Sudbury Poetry Slam**

11:30 PM Feature Poet: Britta Badour

Tanya Neumeyer, poet and educator, is returning to Sudbury to host our annual poetry slam along with award-winning spoken word poet and performer Britta Badour. This poetry slam is bound to be one of the most memorable ones yet!



· SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 ·

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MASTERCLASSES

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Masterclass #1: Make'em Laugh

Terry Fallis and Rod Carley

Award-winning writers Rod Carley and Terry Fallis will lead a discussion on humour writing covering a range of topics, including why funny writing is hard, how to transfer humour to the page, humour techniques, accepting that not every reader will "get you," and who to read if you want to learn and laugh. Speaking of laughs, you'll have a few along the way and there will be a short writing exercise.

Masterclass #2: Artistic Infidelity

Catherine Banks and Hiro Kanagawa

Do you know a story or a novel that you think would make a great play? Catherine Banks and Hiro Kanagawa lead attendees in a discussion about the practicalities: obtaining rights, royalty splitting; and the art of adaptation; methods, attitudes, strategies and pitfalls. What does it mean to write a "faithful" adaptation? And what is your responsibility to the original work? What are some of the things to consider when it is your work that is being adapted from page to stage, or from stage to screen.



CONTINUED

11:00 AM

Inside the Industry

12:00 PM

Deborah Dundas, Kirby and Patricia Westerhof
Moderator: Randall Perry

Sit down with professionals working in the publishing eco-system to learn more about behind the scenes of publishing. Deborah Dundas, Toronto Star book editor, Kirby, a poet, publisher and bookstore owner and writing instructor Patricia Westerhof join editor, Randall Perry to answer your questions.

From Page to Stage

Catherine Banks and Hiro Kanagawa
Moderator: Matthew Heiti

Two of Canada's playwriting gems, Catherine Banks and Hiro Kanagawa, join us to talk about bringing the play from the page to both stage and screen.



CONTINUED

1:00 PM

Crossover Creators

2:00 PM

Jamaluddin Aram and Dave Hurlow
Moderator: Bennett Malcolmson

Juno nominated musician and author Dave Hurlow, joins Jamaluddin Aram, filmmaker, producer and writer, to share how the importance of multiple art forms influence their writing.

Good Grief

Marion Agnew and Stuart Ross
Moderator: Heather Campbell

Stuart Ross, poet, author, editor and translator joins Thunder Bay's Marion Agnew as they explore the challenges of writing about the complex topic of grief.

2:15 PM

CripLit Voices

3:15 PM

Matthew De Papa and Therese Estacion
Moderator: Dinah Laprairie

A conversation with two CripLit Canadian authors, Therese Estacion and Sudbury's own Matthew Del Papa, discuss the importance of literature that brings those living with disabilities to the page.



CONTINUED

3:30 PM

Journalism at its Best

Deborah Dundas and Haroon Siddiqui

4:30 PM

Moderator: Jonathan Pinto

Two of Canada's esteemed journalists, Toronto Star book editor, Deborah Dundas and award winning long-time journalist Haroon Siddiqui, join us to talk about their new books.

6:30 PM

Poetry Pathways

Britta Badour, Kirby, Therese Estacion,

7:30 PM

Tyler Pennock and Stuart Ross

Moderator: Kim Fahner

Join us as we discuss how and why these Canadian poets came to be drawn to poetry as their genre of choice. We'll consider their distinct poetic pathways through life, why they think poetry is a powerful genre, and then we'll ask them what they're poetically fascinated by right now.

8:30 PM

Gala Celebration

10:00 PM

Ali Bryan and Terry Fallis

MC Rod Carley

Award winning authors Terry Fallis and Ali Bryan will humour us with a romp through their latest novels and close out the 10th edition with an unforgettable memory.





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2023 FEATURED GUESTS

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ALEX TÉTREULT

Alex Tétreault is a francophone theatre creator, clown, freelance communicator, and queer community activist born and raised in Sudbury.

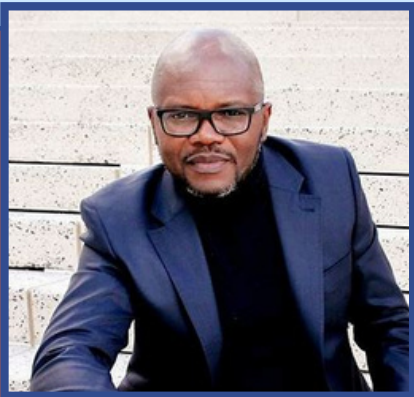
He is a graduate of Laurentian University's late French-language Theatre and Political Science programs. A dabbler in playwriting, poetry, and acting, Alex's first full-length self-directed project, *Nickel City Fifs*, a celebration of Sudbury's queer and francophone communities, was coproduced with Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario in June 2023 .



Ali Bryan is an award-winning novelist and creative nonfiction writer who explores the what-ifs, the wtf's and the wait-a-minutes of every day. Her first novel *Roost*, won the Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction and was the official selection of One Book Nova Scotia. Her second novel, *The Figgs*, was a finalist for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour and has been optioned for TV by Sony Pictures. She has three novels forthcoming in 2023: *The Crow Valley Karaoke Championships* (Henry Holt), *Coq* (Freehand Books) and *The City* (Dottir Press).



ALI BRYAN



BLAISE NDALA

Blaise Ndala is a Canadian writer originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His debut novel, *J'irai danser sur la tombe de Senghor*, won the Ottawa Book Award for French fiction and was a finalist for the Trillium Book Award. His book *Sans capote ni kalachnikov* won the 2019 Combat des livres and was a finalist for the Grand prix littéraire d'Afrique noire and the Trillium Book Award. *In the Belly of the Congo* is his first book to appear in English.



Born and raised in Kingston, Ontario, Britta Badour, better known as Britta B., is an award winning artist, spoken word poet, performer, emcee, voice talent and mentor living in Toronto. Her debut poetry collection, *Wires that Sputter*, was just published by McClelland & Stewart in Canada and the USA. In 2021, Britta was announced Toronto Arts Foundation's Emerging Artist and COCA Lecturer of the Year.



BRITTA BADOUR

BENNETT MALCOLMSON

Bennett Malcolmson is a film photographer and zine maker. He received his Undergraduate in Political Science from the University of Guelph and is a graduate of Seneca College's Documentary Film Institute. He lives in Sudbury, ON with his girlfriend and their three cats.



Catherine Banks is a Canadian playwright, a two-time winner of the Governor General's Award for English-language drama, in 2008 for *Bone Cage* and in 2012 for *It Is Solved By Walking*. She resides in Sambro, Nova Scotia. Her play *Bone Cage* was adapted by actor and director Taylor Olson for the 2020 theatrical film *Bone Cage*.

CATHERINE BANKS



DAVE HURLLOW

Dave Hurlow is the author of *Hate Letters from Buddhists* and *Deep Sea Feline*. He teaches creative writing through a nonprofit organization called Story Planet. Dave plays bass in a band called Nightshades and performs solo as Decafwolf. He lives in the east end of Toronto where he dazzles locals with an assortment of exciting shirts.



Deborah Dundas is the Books Editor at the Toronto Star with a broad background in the media, including stints in business, lifestyle and national and city politics, in Canada and while working and living in Northern Ireland. She has interviewed some of the world's most recognizable authors including Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Colson Whitehead, Jonathan Franzen, Zadie Smith and John Irving. She regularly appears on stage, television and radio and is deeply involved with the literary community.



DEBORAH DUNDAS

For 13 years, Dinah was the Editor-Publisher of the literary magazine *Open Minds Quarterly*. She is an Author Accelerator-certified book coach and licensed to use the Blueprint for a Book method. Dinah graduated from Carleton University's Comparative Literary Studies program.



DINAH LAPRAIRIE



HANA SHAFI

Hana Shafi is a writer and an illustrator who uses the name Frizz Kid for her visual work. Born in Dubai, Shafi immigrated with her Indo-Iranian family to Canada in 1996 and settled in Mississauga, Ontario. Shafi is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Journalism Program. In the fall of 2020 Book*hug published her collection of essays, *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* that are built around 30 affirmation artworks that she created and first shared on Instagram.



Haroon Siddiqui is editorial page editor emeritus of the *Toronto Star*, Canada's largest paper, and a senior fellow at Massey College. A member of the Order of Canada, he has covered or supervised coverage of Canada for fifty years through ten prime ministers, and also reported from fifty nations, including his native India. He lives in Toronto.

HAROON SIDDIQI



Although perhaps best known as an actor, Hiro is an award-winning playwright and sought-after story consultant. He was story editor on several critically-acclaimed Canadian television series: *Da Vinci's Inquest*, *Da Vinci's City Hall*, *Intelligence*, and *Blackstone*. His plays *Tiger of Malaya* and *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park* have been performed across Canada. His most recent play, *Indian Arm* received the 2015 Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Original Script and the 2017 Governor-General's Literary Award for Drama.



HIRO KANAGAWA

Jamaluddin Aram is a documentary filmmaker, producer, and short story writer from Kabul, Afghanistan. His short stories have appeared in *Numero Cinq* and *Blood and Bourbon* literary magazines and in 2020 was selected as a mentee by Michael Christie for the Writers' Trust Mentorship Program. Aram is also the associate producer of the Academy Award-nominated film *Buzkashi Boys*. He has a bachelor's degree in English and history from Union College in Schenectady, New York and currently resides in Toronto.



JAMALUDDIN ARAM



JONATHAN PINTO

Jonathan Pinto is the host of *Up North*, the afternoon show for Northern Ontario on CBC Radio One. With degrees in Canadian Studies and urban planning, Jonathan became a journalist by accident, falling in love with the art of radio during an internship at the CBC in 2010. Born and raised in Peterborough, Jonathan has worked as a reporter and producer at CBC stations in Toronto, London and Windsor.



JORDAN ABEL

Jordan Abel is a queer Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. He is the author of *The Place of Scraps* (winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize), *Un/inhabited*, and *Injun* (winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize). *NISHGA* won the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize and the VMI Betsy Warland Between Genres award, and was a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, the Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction, and the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize.



Kim Fahner lives and writes in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. She has published one chapbook, *You Must Imagine the Cold Here* (Scrivener, 1997), and five books of poetry, including: *braille on water* (Penumbra Press, 2001), *The Narcoleptic Madonna* (Penumbra Press, 2012), *Some Other Sky* (Black Moss Press, 2017), *These Wings* (Pedlar Press, 2019), and *Emptying the Ocean* (Frontenac House, 2022). Kim is the First Vice-Chair of The Writers' Union of Canada (2023-25).



KIM FAHNER



KIRBY

Kirby's work includes *Behold* (2023), a stage adaption of *Poetry is Queer* (Palimpsest Press, 2021) *What Do You Want to Be Called?* (Anstruther Press, 2020) *This Is Where I Get Off* (Permanent Sleep Press, 2019) and *She's Having a Doris Day* (KFB, 2017) They are the publisher, purveyor of fine poetry at knife | fork | book and Festival Director of the Fertile Festival of New & Inventive Works, Toronto.



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K.P. Heyming (KPH) is a bilingual writer with deep roots, a full heart, and a yearning to set her soul in ink and paper with the help of an old, dusty typewriter. In her writing, she displays the most fragile emotions through the exploration of an ordinary life. Born and raised in Northern Ontario, she moved to Ottawa to pursue her studies in English Literature where she was able to find more connections to her calling.



KYLA HEYMING



MARION AGNEW

Marion Agnew is the author of a personal essay collection, *Reverberations: A Daughter's Meditations on Alzheimer's* (Signature Editions, 2019) and *Making Up the Gods* (Latitude 46, 2023). Her essays have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and a National Magazine Award. She lives in Shuniah, Ontario, mere yards from Lake Superior, on Anishinaabe/ Robinson-Superior Treaty territory.



MATTHEW HEITI

Born in a meteor crater, Matthew has published a novel, *The City Still Breathing* (Coach House Books) and a play *Black Dog: 4 vs the wrld* (Playwrights Canada Press). His short fiction has appeared in many publications, winning several awards including the Carter V. Cooper Award for Emerging Writer, and Grain Magazine's Short Fiction award. He teaches English and Creative Writing at Laurentian University. In his spare time, he is usually working.



Born with spinal muscular atrophy, Matthew Del Papa has been in a wheelchair since the early 1980s. A graduate of Laurentian University (MA Humanities), past president of the Sudbury Writers' Guild, and currently on the board of directors for Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival, he has been writing steadily since 2005. An amateur local historian and part-time columnist, his work has been published in newspapers and magazines, as well as anthologies such as *Spooky Sudbury* (Dundurn Press, 2013).



MAT DEL PAPA

Patricia Westerhof is an author, speaker, and writing coach. Her broad and eclectic tastes in reading have led to a similarly broad range of genre of her published works. Along with her most recent book, *The Canadian Guide to Creative Writing and Publishing*, she has written novels, short stories, a textbook, and writing curriculum. She is currently working on a new novel inspired by her recent experience of having been forced to write an index.



PATRICIA WESTERHOF



Quinn is the Coordinator of Programs and Outreach at the Greater Sudbury Public Library, fulfilling their childhood dreams of working at a library, while also having the privilege of connecting with the community, building safe spaces, and creating opportunities for learning. Quinn has a strong connection to Wordstock Sudbury as a past Chair of the Board of Directors, and as Volunteer Coordinator. They are a reader, a writer, an artist, and a passionate advocate for supporting early learning through play.

QUINN VAN ESSEN

Randall Perry is a writer and editor living in Toronto, Ontario. He holds a Certificate in Publishing from Toronto Metropolitan University and is currently a fiction editor at *Exile Editions* and *Exile Quarterly*. He has served as administrative judge and anthology editor for both the Carter V. Cooper Short Fiction Competition and the inaugural Nona MacDonald Heaslip Short Story Prize (2023).

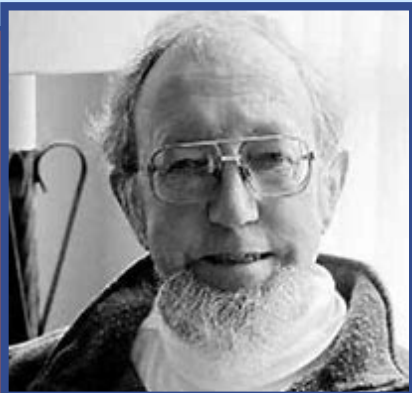


RANDALL PERRY



ROD CARLEY

Rod Carley's second novel, *Kinmount*, won the Silver Medal for Best Regional Fiction from the 2021 Independent Publishers Book Awards and was one of ten books longlisted for the 2021 Leacock Medal for Humour. His first novel, *A Matter of Will*, was a finalist for the Northern Lit Award for Fiction. His short stories and creative non-fiction have appeared in *Cloud Lake Literary*, *Blank Spaces Magazine*, *Broadview Magazine*, the anthology *150 Years Up North and More*, the Carter V. Cooper 2022 Short Fiction Anthology, and *HighGrader Magazine*.



ROGER NASH

Roger Nash was born in the blitz in London, where he was bombed out of his pram. He grew up in Egypt and Singapore, coming to Canada in 1965.

He's Poet Laureate of the City of Greater Sudbury, Professor Emeritus in the Philosophy Department of Laurentian University, and Cantor at Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue. He served a double term as President of the League of Canadian Poets, during which he worked with Senator Grafstein to create the position of Canadian Poet Laureate.



Stuart Ross is a writer, editor, writing teacher, and small press guerrilla living in Cobourg, Ontario. The recipient of the 2019 Harbourfront Festival Prize and the 2010 Relit Prize for Short Fiction, among others, Stuart is the author of over twenty books of poetry, fiction, and essays, most recently *The Book of Grief and Hamburgers* (ECW Press, 2022).



STUART ROSS

Tanya is queer poet and educator committed to access and equity. As a Toronto based poet who facilitates spoken word workshops, Tanya has more than 10 years of experience as a professional poet and continues to innovate. A Toronto Poetry Slam organizer, a member of the League of Canadian Poets and has worked with the Ontario Arts Council's Artist in Education program, with Louder Than A Bomb Toronto, and TDSB Creates.



TANYA NEUMEYER



TERRY FALLIS

A two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, Terry Fallis is the award-winning author of nine national bestsellers, including his most recent, *A New Season* (2023), all published by McClelland & Stewart (M&S). He is currently working on his tenth novel, likely to be released in August 2025.

Therese Estacion is part of the Visayan diaspora community. She is an elementary school teacher and is studying to be a psychotherapist. Therese is also a bilateral below knee and partial hands amputee, and identifies as a disabled person/person with a disability, and lives in Toronto/Tkaronto. Her first collection of poems, *Phantompains*, was published by Book*Hug in Spring 2021 and was a finalist for both the 2021 Indies Foreword Reviews and CLMP Firecracker awards.



THERESE ESTACION



TYLER PENNOCK

Tyler Pennock is a two-spirit adoptee from a Cree and Metis family around the Lesser Slave Lake region of Alberta. Tyler is a member of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation. They currently teach in the Indigenous Studies Department at the University of Toronto, and School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph. They graduated from Guelph University's Creative Writing MFA program in 2013, and currently live in Toronto.

Vera Constantineau's poetic focus is haibun, haiku, senryu and tanka. A member of Haiku Canada and the Haiku Society of America, she served as poet laureate in the City of Greater Sudbury (2020-2022), offering a podcast that gained a following worldwide. Her first haibun collection, *Enlightened by Defilement*, was released in April 2023 (Latitude 46).



VERA CONSTANTINEAU



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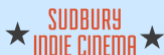
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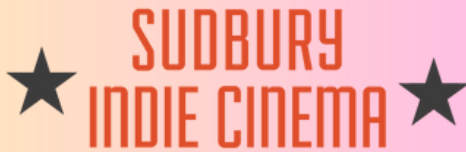
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