

wordstock

FESTIVAL LITTÉRAIRE **SUDBURY** LITERARY FESTIVAL


11th Edition

November 1st-3rd
2024

Place des Arts

27 Larch St, Sudbury, ON

For readers, writers, and lovers of words!



**Congratulations
Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival
on your 11th Edition!**

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



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Linda Cartier

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ABOUT US

OUR MANDATE

Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival is an intimate three-day celebration of the literary arts. The festival features some of Canada's most celebrated authors, poets, playwrights, and songwriters. Wordstock Sudbury creates opportunities for vital conversations that challenge assumptions, explore diverse perspectives, and use critical thinking—all through a literary lens. Established in 2013 to support and promote the love of reading and writing in Northern Ontario, it continues to grow.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Festival Director: Heather Campbell

Chair: Kyla Heyming

Treasurer: Andy Veilleux

Director: Matthew Del Papa

Director: Ernst Gerhardt

Director: Laura Gregorini

Director: Devin Mahesh

Director: Christa Corbiere

Director: Negar Saeidi

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival's would not be possible without the unwavering dedication and hard work of our volunteers.

3D-229 Elm Street
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1T8
info@wordstocksudbury.ca
wordstocksudbury.ca

TICKET INFORMATION

All in-person sessions take place at Place des Arts du Grand Sudbury, 27 Larch Street, Sudbury. The majority of our sessions are live streamed allowing audience members to participate at a distance. Live stream links are provided in ticket confirmation.

Tickets are available through our website at wordstocksudbury.ca or in person at Place des Arts du Grand Sudbury during the festival weekend.

All Access Festival Pass: (Includes all sessions & two Masterclasses)

Does not include **Ode to Brunch** event or **Manuscript Evaluations**
\$140 / \$110 for students/fixed income

Festival Pass: (does not include Masterclasses)

Does not include **Ode to Brunch** event or **Manuscript Evaluations**
\$90 / \$50 for students/fixed income

Masterclasses:

\$40 / \$20 for students/fixed income

Individual Sessions:

\$25 / \$15 for students/fixed income

Manuscript Evaluations:

\$50

Ode to Brunch:

\$50 / \$35 for students/fixed income

Live Stream Only: \$25 / \$15 for students/fixed income

Poetry Slam:

\$5

Free Sessions:

Poetry Primer, Open Mic and French Kiss: Bilingual Trivia

ACCESSIBILITY

Wordstock Sudbury is committed to providing an inclusive experience for all attendees. Our venues are wheelchair accessible, and we offer services such as ASL interpretation and large print materials upon request. For further assistance or to discuss specific accessibility needs, please feel free to contact us: info@wordstocksudbury.ca

FESTIVAL CHAIR'S WELCOME



Welcome one and all to Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival's 11th edition. We can't wait to share our wonderful program with readers, writers, and lovers of words!

A big thanks to Heather Campbell, the founder and Festival Director of Wordstock Sudbury, who tirelessly works to offer us such a unique and welcoming experience.

She has created this much-needed and appreciated pillar for the literary community and the Greater Sudbury community as a whole. With diverse and à propos programming, there is always something new to enjoy and look forward to.

I would also like to thank my peers on the Board of Directors, our many government and community sponsors, our dedicated volunteers, the festivals donors and our terrific staff for helping us create another incredible edition. We've welcomed many talented authors and guests to our community thanks to your contribution, attendance and connection to the festival.

Wordstock Sudbury is grateful to all for their effort and enthusiasm as we celebrate another great year in Northern Ontario, bringing people together through their love of words!

Kyla Heyming
Festival Chair



FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



We are thrilled to present an exciting 11th edition of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

We decided to return to the heart of Sudbury and host our festival at the stunning Place des Arts Grand Sudbury. This beautiful venue will provide a more intimate and inspiring setting.

Our lineup features engaging discussions with both local and nationally acclaimed authors, exploring topics relevant to everyone today. We've also added some new features, including a Sunday Brunch at the Bistro, an outdoor walking masterclass, a bilingual trivia event, and manuscript evaluations. Our goal is to continue offering a unique program that appeals to a wide range of readers and writers.

We are incredibly grateful to our community sponsors, partners, and government funders for their continued support. Their generosity ensures that our festival can continue to contribute to the cultural arts scene in Sudbury and Northern Ontario. In addition to our funders, we could not bring this multi-day literary experience to life without our volunteers, thank you to our community who we create this literary hub with.

We can't wait to see you there!

Heather Campbell
Festival Director



MP VIVIANE LAPOINTE'S WELCOME



Welcome. Aniin. Bienvenue.

I am so pleased to extend greetings to the 2024 Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

I want to welcome those who have travelled near and far to Sudbury for the 2024 annual Wordstock Literary Festival. Wordstock is a 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 literary community not just in Northern Ontario, but nationally.

For over 11 years, Wordstock has been an incredible resource for authors, poets, playwrights, and songwriters. As the festival continues to promote the love of reading and writing in Northern Ontario, I know the community will benefit greatly from the programming and opportunities to meet other like-minded writers.

I would like to acknowledge Heather Campbell and the Board of Directors of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival for their exceptional leadership and dedication to the literary arts in Northern Ontario. Wishing you all an incredible festival weekend!

Thank you. Merci. Miigwech.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Viviane Lapointe".

Viviane Lapointe
Member of Parliament Sudbury



MPP JAMIE WEST'S WELCOME



A tremendous congratulations to everyone involved in Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival as you celebrate your eleventh year! As the MPP for Sudbury, I am so pleased to join our local Sudbury writers this evening and to be welcoming many Canadian literary artists from afar to our great city.

Whether in times of joy and excitement, or of uncertainty and sadness, the written word is always a unique and special way to share our innermost thoughts and feelings, and to connect with one another. Wordstock Sudbury has given this community a wonderful gift by creating opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue that explores diverse perspectives, uses critical thinking, and can expand our norms and expectations.

This festival inspires a greater love of reading, writing and reflection. It gives us all a chance to explore new views, engage on a deeper level, and get creative. I am so thrilled to see what this festival has meant to our community, and I am hopeful for it's many promising years ahead.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who make this possible. Our community is strengthened by all the people who continue to give back, and all those who work to inspire and support one another.

Jamie West
MPP/ Député Sudbury



MAYOR PAUL LEFEBVRE'S WELCOME



On behalf of City Council, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome all participants to the 2024 Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

As we celebrate Wordstock's remarkable 11th anniversary, this festival continues to be a cornerstone of Northern Ontario's thriving literary arts scene.

Each year, Wordstock unites authors, poets, playwrights, and songwriters, creating an exciting space for creativity, dialogue, and connection among all who share a love of words.

For those attending in person, I invite you to take full advantage of everything our beautiful city has to offer—from our scenic hiking trails to the culinary gems found throughout our local restaurants, Greater Sudbury truly has something for everyone.

I encourage you to embrace every moment of this rich program and share your talents with one another. To the volunteers, sponsors, authors, and everyone involved, thank you for your unwavering dedication in making our community such a vibrant place to live, work, and enjoy. Wishing you all an inspiring and memorable festival!

Paul Lefebvre
Mayor/Maire



Welcome Festival Bookseller

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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, November 1st, 2024

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

MANUSCRIPT EVALUATIONS: ONE ON ONES

Heidi Reimer and Randall Perry

8 spots available for Fiction and Non Fiction manuscripts

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

POETRY PRIMER

Melanie Marttila and Kelsey Borgford

Moderated by Alex Tétreault

7:00 PM

OPENING AND YOUTHWORDS AWARDS

Youthwords Writing Contest winners announced

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

AND THEN SHE FELL: IN CONVERSATION WITH ALICIA ELLIOTT

Moderated by Shana Calixte Pitawanakwat

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

SULPHUR XIII LAUNCH & OPEN MIC

Bring your latest work and test it out at our Open Mic. Hosted by Sulphur Literary Journal.

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

MASTERCLASS: IMMERSIVE WRITING FORAY

Ariel Gordon and Yvonne Blomer

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

WRITING AND PUBLISHING TODAY

Alicia Elliott, John Degen, and Hollay Ghadery

Moderated by Randall Perry

12:30 PM-1:30 PM

FORTY YEAR INFLUENCES

Charlie Angus and Barbara Adhiya

Moderated by Markus Schwabe

1:45 PM- 2:45 PM

INNER WORLD OF WOMEN

Kim Fahner, Heidi Reimer and Louise Ells

Moderated by Liisa Kovala

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

QUEER REFLECTIONS

Kate Cayley and Emily Austin

4:15 PM- 5:15 PM

ECHOES OF THE EARTH

Yvonne Blomer, Sophie Anne Edwards and Ariel Gordon

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

FRENCH KISS: BILINGUAL TRIVIA

Brendan Roy from Nickel City Trivia

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

ANNUAL SUDBURY POETRY SLAM

MC: Jennifer Alicia Murrin

Featured poets: Fareh Malik and Lindsay Mayhew

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

10:00 AM- 11:30 AM

MASTERCLASS: LAWS AND BEST PRACTICES THAT INFLUENCE PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

John Degen

11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

ODE TO BRUNCH

Emily Austin, Fareh Malik and Hollay Ghadrey

Moderated by Kim Fahner

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

BIG AND IMPORTANT FEELINGS

Danielle Daniel, Kern Carter and Emily DeAngelis

Moderated by Jonathan Pinto

2:30PM - 3:30PM

TWO GUYS AND TWO BOOKS

Drew Hayden Taylor and Rod Carley



DOWNTOWN

SUDBURY

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*Celebrating Readers, Writers And
Lovers Of Words!*



TELEVISION

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LATITUDE 46
PUBLISHING



Journal
Printing

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

1:00PM
-
3:00PM

MANUSCRIPT EVALUATIONS - ONE ON ONES

HEIDI REIMER AND RANDALL PERRY
8 SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR FICTION AND NON-FICTION
MANUSCRIPTS

For just \$50, secure one of the 8 spots available to meet face to face with experienced professional editors. Randall Perry, a Toronto-based fiction and non-fiction editor, and Heidi Reimer, a novelist and writing coach, will be available to provide feedback on the first 10 pages of your manuscript. They'll offer insights on structure, flow, tone, style, and more, helping you take the next step in developing your manuscript.

5:30 PM
-
6:30 PM

POETRY PRIMER

MELANIE MARTTILA & KELSEY BORGFORD
MODERATED BY ALEX TÉTREAULT

Northern Ontario poetry reflects the unique experience of landscape and culture. Join Kelsey Borgford and Melanie Marttila as they share their poetry and discuss the influences in their writing from the role of Northern Ontario landscape, mental health and relationships.

7:00 PM
-
7:30 PM

FESTIVAL OPENING

Youthwords writing contest winners announced.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

7:30 PM

8:30 PM

AND THEN SHE FELL: IN CONVERSATION WITH ALICIA ELLIOTT

MODERATED BY SHANA CALIXTE PITAWANAKWAT

Sit down with national bestselling Indigenous author Alicia Elliott as she discusses with Shana Calixte Pitawanakwat her latest award-winning novel, *And Then She Fell*. A thought-provoking story that intertwines themes of motherhood, mental health, generational trauma, horror, and a retelling of the Haudenosaunee creation story. Discover how Alicia continues to create captivating stories that fly off the shelves.

9:00 PM

11:00 PM

SULPHUR XIII LAUNCH & OPEN MIC

HOST: ABIGAIL OSHELL AND BRENNAN GREGOIRE

Join us in celebrating the launch of Sulphur XIII and the Open Mic. Bring your latest work and test it out with a warm and welcoming audience.



SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

9:00AM
-
10:30AM

MASTERCLASS: IMMERSIVE WRITING FORAY

ARIEL GORDON & YVONNE BLOMER

Take an immersive stroll in the outdoors and explore how nature can inspire writing and response. Enjoy lively literary conversation and brief writing exercises with award-winning authors Yvonne Blomer and Ariel Gordon, who will walk you through the role of nature in their writing practices. The session will go ahead, rain, shine or (light) snow, so please dress for the weather!

11:00AM
-
12:00PM

WRITING AND PUBLISHING TODAY

**ALICIA ELLIOTT, JOHN DEGEN & HOLLAY GHADERY
MODERATED BY RANDALL PERRY**

Do you have a question about publishing? Join us for an insightful panel discussion with executive director of The Writers' Union of Canada, John Degen, award-winning authors Holly Ghadery and Alicia Elliott, and freelance editor Randall Perry. Gain valuable insights into the world of publishing, from the manuscript to the final book, and have all your questions answered!

12:30PM
-
1:30PM

FORTY YEAR INFLUENCES

**BARBARA ADHIYA & CHARLIE ANGUS
MODERATED BY MARKUS SCHWABE**

Explore the impact of individual narratives in shaping historical events through an insightful panel discussion. Charlie Angus's *Dangerous Memory* and Barbara Adhya's *Hope by Terry Fox*, reveal the intersection of personal stories and societal shifts. Angus's memoir examines the transformative decade of the 1980s, while Barbara Adhya reveals how Terry Fox's courage inspired monumental change. This discussion will highlight the significant influence of personal experiences on broader historical trajectories.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

1:45PM
2:45 PM

INNER WORLD OF WOMEN

KIM FAHNER, HEIDI REIMER & LOUISE ELLS
MODERATED BY LIISA KOVALA

Join debut novelists Kim Fahner, Heidi Reimer, and Louise Ells as they unravel the emotional intricacies that define the inner lives of women, revealing the connections and conflicts that shape their worlds. Spanning across decades, their protagonists navigate the weight of choice, the oppression of family secrets, and the constraints of societal norms.

3:00PM
4:00PM

QUEER REFLECTIONS

EMILY AUSTIN & KATE CAYLEY

In this session, acclaimed writers Emily Austin and Kate Cayley will engage in a captivating dialogue about their latest works, exploring the art of writing through a queer lens and the depth of interpersonal connections in their work. Through their explorations, these authors reveal the intricate flaws that both bind us to and separate us from ourselves and those around us.

4:15 PM
5:15 PM

ECHOES OF THE EARTH

YVONNE BLOMER, SOPHIE ANNE EDWARDS & ARIEL GORDON

Mythology, power dynamics, and ecological interconnections. Join authors Yvonne Blomer, Sophie Anne Edwards, and Ariel Gordon for a discussion on how their writing challenges traditional narratives and explores the intricate relationship between humans and their environments. Discover how their reimagining of myth along with experimental engagements with ecosystems offer fresh perspectives on issues of power, control over nature, and the possibilities of collaboration with the more-than-human world.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

6:30PM

FRENCH KISS- BILINGUAL TRIVIA

8:30PM

WITH BRENDAN ROY FROM NICKEL CITY TRIVIA

In collaboration with Salon du Livre du Grand Sudbury, take part in a lively, challenging and bilingual trivia game with Sudbury's finest trivia host.

9:00PM

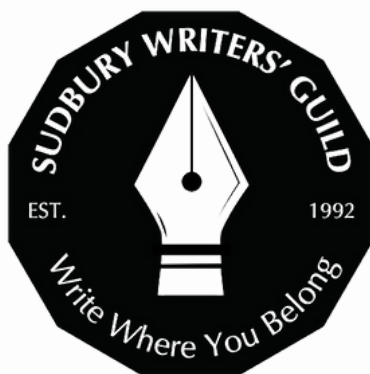
ANNUAL SUDBURY POETRY SLAM

11:00PM

MC: JENNIFER ALICIA MURRIN

FEATURED POETS: FAREH MALIK AND LINDSAY MAYHEW

Jennifer Alicia Murrin, two-time national poetry slam winner and storyteller, is joining us again as the MC for the annual Sudbury Poetry Slam. We are also excited to welcome award-winning spoken word poet Fareh Malik, as our featured poet and local poet Lindsay Mayhew who we are sure will inspire. This poetry slam is going to be one to remember!



SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

10:00AM
-
11:30AM

MASTERCLASS: LAWS AND BEST PRACTICES THAT INFLUENCE PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

JOHN DEGEN

Learn about Canadian laws that impact professional writers from copyright to the latest AI implications. Led by The Writers' Union of Canada's Chief Executive Officer, John Degen, gain insight into the responsibilities and considerations concerning copyright protection for your writing.

11:30AM
-
1:00PM

ODE TO BRUNCH

**EMILY AUSTIN, FAREH MALIK & HOLLAY GHADREY
MODERATED BY KIM FAHNER**

Join us for an intimate and engaging brunch and poetry event featuring poets Fareh Malik, Emily Austin, and Hollay Ghadery, with moderator Kim Fahner. This event will include poetry readings and discussions about the writer's latest work and influences. Enjoy a casual Sunday morning filled with poetry, bottomless coffee, and a delicious brunch at the bistro.

1:15PM
-
2:15PM

BIG AND IMPORTANT FEELINGS

**DANIELLE DANIEL, KERN CARTER & EMILY DEANGELIS
MODERATED BY JONATHAN PINTO**

Dive into the emotional lives of teens with authors Kern Carter, Danielle Daniel, and Emily De Angelis as they peel back the layers of youth entangled in grief, trauma, and fractured family ties. Explore the raw, real-world struggles of their characters who, even at a tender age, confront the weight of life's hardest truths.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTIONS

2:30PM

TWO GUYS AND TWO BOOKS

3:30PM

ROD CARLEY & DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

Humor, heartache, and healing. With new books in hand, award-winning authors Drew Hayden Taylor and Rod Carley will dive into the quirks of human nature, the writing process, and the delicate balance between comedy and tragedy, showing how a well-timed laugh can illuminate even the most challenging moments.



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2024 FEATURED GUESTS



BARBARA ADHIYA

Barbara Adhiya is an independent Writer and Editor, and a Paralegal and Notary Public in Ontario. Her journalism career spanned over 20 years with The Canadian Press and Reuters. And she is on the board of Compassionate Eye, a Canadian Charity that raises funds by selling stock photography through Getty Images to support small sustainable projects around the world.



CHARLIE ANGUS

Charlie Angus is a nationally recognized politician, author, and musician. He has published nine books and is the recipient of numerous writing awards, including the Trillium Book Award finalist *Cobalt: Cradle of the Demon Metals, Birth of a Mining Superpower*. Angus has served in the Canadian Parliament for twenty years. He has earned a national reputation as a fierce fighter for social justice and Indigenous rights. Angus was the founding member of Toronto punk band L'etranger. He is the leader of the roots band Grievous Angels; their ninth album is *Last Call for Cinderella*. Angus lives in Cobalt, Ontario, with his wife, author Brit Griffin. They have three daughters.



EMILY AUSTIN

Emily Austin was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. She studied English literature, religious studies, and library science at King's University College and Western University. She has received two writing grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, and has written two novels (*Everyone in this Room Will Someday Be Dead* and *Interesting Facts About Space*.) Emily currently lives in Ottawa in the territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation.



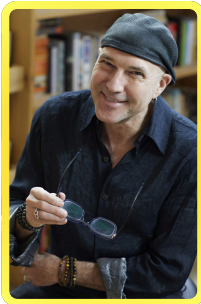
YVONNE BLOMER

Yvonne Blomer's sixth book of poems is *Death of Persephone: A Murder*, a mystery based on the Persephone myth, the noir mystery genre and the ongoing violence to girls and women. Previous books include *The Last Show on Earth, 2022*, which explores grief, love and climate change. She is an award-winning poet and nonfiction writer who has edited five anthologies, most recently: *Hologram: Homage to PK Page*. Yvonne holds an MA with Distinction from the University of East Anglia and is the past poet laureate of Victoria, BC. She lives on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen) speaking people.



KELSEY BORGFORD

Kelsey Borgford is a Nbisiing Nishnaabekwe from the Marten clan. She is an emerging author, passionate about utilizing writing as a tool to revitalize cultural connections. After losing her Gokomis-baa in 2014, Kelsey sought out a means of connection with her grandmother and found that connection to her through the arts. Kelsey's work aims to pass along cultural traditions and identity. Her work is predominantly centered in the practice of beading and writing. She has a children's book, *What's in a Bead*, forthcoming from Second Story Press. In all aspects of her creativity, Kelsey draws inspiration from her culture, her mother, her community, and relatives in the natural world.



ROD CARLEY

Rod Carley is the award-winning author of three previous works of literary fiction (humour): *Grim Reaping*, *Kinmount*, and *A Matter of Will*. He's been long-listed twice for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, received an IPPY Silver Medal for Best Regional Fiction, and was a Foreword Review INDIES Bronze Winner for Humour. His short stories and creative non-fiction have appeared in a variety of Canadian literary magazines. He was a finalist for the Carter V. Cooper Short Fiction Prize and the 2009 winner of TVO's Big Ideas/Best Lecturer Competition and a proud alumnus of the Humber School for Writers. Rod has lived in Toronto, North Bay, and recently returned to his hometown of Brockville.



SHANA CALIXTE PITAWANAKWAT

Shana Calixte Pitawanakwat lives in N'Swakamok, on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe. This territory, part of the Robinson-Huron Treaty, is home to the Atikameksheng Anishinabek and Wahnapiatae First Nations. With over 25 years of experience in health equity and mental health, Shana has supported diverse communities across northern Ontario. Her work has been recognized with awards such as Fierté Sudbury Pride's Golden Brick Award and the Jack Layton Leadership Award. In her free time, she enjoys reading and learning new and exciting things about living with and on the land, thanks to her partner and family-in-law, who mostly live in Wiikwemkoong on Manitoulin Island.



KERN CARTER

Kern Carter is the author of *Boys and Girls Screaming*, along with two self-published novels, *Thoughts of a Fractured Soul* (novella) and *Beauty Scars*. In addition to his writing, Kern is a filmmaker and also teaches professional writing at a local college, committed to supporting emerging writers and helping them find their voice. He lives in Toronto.



KATE CAYLEY

Kate Cayley is the author of three poetry collections, including *Lent*, a young adult novel, and two short story collections. *How You Were Born* won the Trillium Book Award and was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction. She has received the O. Henry Short Story Prize, the Mitchell Prize for Faith and Poetry, and the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, and has been a finalist for various other awards, including the K. M. Hunter Award and the Firecracker Award for Fiction. Cayley's plays have been produced in Canada, the US, and the UK, and she frequently collaborates with immersive company Zuppa Theatre. She lives in Toronto with her wife and three children.

DANIELLE DANIEL



Danielle Daniel is a writer and artist, an award-winning author and illustrator—she writes books for children and adults. Her tenth book, *Reasons to Look at the Night Sky*, will be released this fall: her second middle-grade novel and her debut novel in verse. She is a finalist for the 2024 Governor General Literary Awards for her picture book, *I'm Afraid Said the Leaf*, illustrated by Matt James. Some of her other picture books include *Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox*, winner of the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award and a Best 100 title at the New York Public Library, *Once in a Blue Moon*, *Sometimes I Feel Like a River*, and *Sometimes I Feel Like an Oak*, also released in 2024. Daniel now lives on Manitoulin Island among a large family of cedars, a husk of hares and a fifty-year-old Blanding's turtle who visits quite regularly.

EMILY DEANGELIS



Emily De Angelis comes from a long line of visual artists, musicians, and storytellers. She was born in Sudbury, Ontario, where she lived and taught special needs students for 30 years. A graduate of the Humber School of Writing, her Western and Japanese-style poems, as well as short stories, have been published in various anthologies. *The Stones of Burren Bay* is her first YA novel. Emily now lives in Woodstock, Ontario, while spending summers on Manitoulin Island.

JOHN DEGEN



John Degen is a poet and novelist with three published books, including *The Uninvited Guest*, shortlisted for the 2006 Amazon.ca First Novel Award. His work has appeared in Publishers Weekly, The Globe and Mail, The Hill Times, and more. He has served on boards such as the Book & Periodical Council and the Canadian Creators' Coalition. Degen holds a Master's in Literature from the University of Toronto and has spent 20 years advocating for authors. He is the CEO of The Writers' Union of Canada and Chair of the International Authors Forum. He lives, works, and swims (six months of the year) in Northern Ontario.



SOPHIE ANNE EDWARDS

Sophie Anne Edwards (she/her/settler) lives on Mnidoo Mnising, Manitoulin Island, in Northeastern Ontario with her dog Bea and a roster of other WWOOFers who help in the garden. Her writing has been generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council and published by numerous journals and micro-presses across Canada. She was shortlisted for the 2019 Arc Poetry Magazine poem of the year, and longlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize in 2021. Sophie has an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, a Certificate in Creative Writing from Humber College, and is a Ph.D. candidate in geography at Queen's University.



ALICIA ELLIOTT

Alicia Elliott is a Mohawk writer and editor based in Brantford, Ontario. Her work has appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, CBC, and *Hazlitt*, earning several National Magazine Award nominations, including a gold in 2017. Her debut book, *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground*, was a national bestseller, nominated for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, and won the Forest of Reading Evergreen Award. Her novel, *And Then She Fell*, was also a bestseller, winning the Indigenous Voices Award and the Amazon First Novel Award, and was longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction.



LOUISE ELLS

Louise Ells was born and raised in Northeastern Ontario. After years of travel, she moved to Cambridge and earned her PhD in Creative Writing. She was a Hawthornden Fellow in 2017 and published her short story collection, *Notes Towards Recovery* (Latitude 46), in 2019. Louise teaches at universities and colleges in England and Canada and lives just north of Toronto, where she can often be found in her library surrounded by books and snuggled up with her cats.



KIM FAHNER

Kim Fahner lives and writes in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. She has published two chapbooks, *You Must Imagine the Cold Here* (Scrivener, 1997) and *Fault Lines and Shatter Cones* (Emergency Flash Mob Press, 2023), as well as five full 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), a full member of the League of Canadian Poets, and a supporting member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada. She was Poet Laureate for the City of Greater Sudbury from 2016-18.



HOLLAY GHADERY

Hollay Ghadery is a multi-genre writer living on Anishinaabe land in Ontario. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. Her memoir *Fuse* (Guernica Editions, 2021) won the 2023 Canadian Bookclub Award for Nonfiction/Memoir. Her poetry collection, *Rebellion Box* (Radiant Press, 2023), and short fiction collection, *Widow Fantasies* (Gordon Hill Press, 2024), showcase her diverse talent. Upcoming works include her debut novel *The Unraveling of Ou* (Palimpsest Press, 2026) and children's book *Being with the Birds* (Guernica Editions, 2027). Hollay is also a book publicist, co-host of two radio shows, and Poet Laureate of Scugog Township.



ARIEL GORDON

Ariel Gordon (she/her) is a Winnipeg/Treaty 1 territory-based writer, editor, and enthusiast. She is the ringleader of Writes of Spring, a National Poetry Month project with the Winnipeg International Writers Festival that appears in the Winnipeg Free Press. Gordon's essay "Red River Mudlark" was 2nd place winner of the 2022 Kloppenberg Hybrid Grain Contest in Grain Magazine and other work appeared recently in *FreeFall*, *Columba Poetry*, *Canthius*, and *Canadian Notes & Queries*. Gordon's fourth collection of poetry, *Siteseeing: Writing nature & climate across the prairies*, was written in collaboration with Saskatchewan poet Brenda Schmidt and appeared in fall 2023.



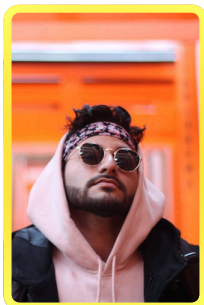
LIISA KOVALA

Liisa Kovala is a Finnish Canadian author and certified Author Accelerator book coach. Her debut novel, *Sisu's Winter War* (Latitude 46) was released in 2022. Her first book, *Surviving Stutthof: My Father's Memories Behind the Death Gate* (Latitude 46, 2017), was shortlisted for a Northern Lit Award and published in Finland under the title *Stutthofin selviytyjä* (Docendo, 2020). Her work is inspired by her Finnish heritage and the northern landscape she calls home. She lives in Greater Sudbury, Ontario.



LINDSAY MAYHEW

Lindsay Mayhew (she/her) is a spoken word artist and author from Sudbury, Ontario. She is the editor of *A Thousand Tiny Awakenings* with Connor Lafortune (April 2025). Lindsay is the multi-year champion of Wordstock Sudbury's poetry slam and has featured in events across Ontario, including Nuit Blanche, JAYU Canada, Hamilton's 10th Fashion Week, and the YWCA Gala. She represented Canada in the 2024 Womxn of the World poetry slam. Lindsay recently graduated with a Master's in English Literature from the University of Guelph, and her written work is featured in multiple editions of *Sulphur*. Lindsay's work explores themes of mental health, healing, and feminism.



FAREH MALIK

Fareh Malik is an author and artist from the Greater Toronto Area. Originally a spoken word poet, recently he was named the 2023 winner of the Austin Clarke Prize in Literary Excellence, the 2022 PEN Canada New Voices Award winner, and his book *Streams that Lead Somewhere* was the winner of the Hamilton Literary Award for Poetry, and longlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award.



MELANIE MARTTILA

Melanie Marttila has been writing since the age of seven, when she made her first submission to CBC's "Pencil Box." She is a graduate of the University of Windsor's masters program in English Literature and Creative Writing and her poetry has appeared in *Polar Borealis*, *Polar Starlight*, and *Sulphur*. Her short fiction has appeared in *Pulp Literature*, *On Spec*, *Pirating Pups*, and *Home for the Howlidays*. She lives and writes in Sudbury, Ontario, in the house where three generations of her family have lived, on the street that bares her surname, with her spouse and their dog, Torvi.



JENNIFER ALICIA MURRIN

Jennifer Alicia (she/they) is a queer, mixed Mi'kmaw and settler (German/Irish/Scottish) multidisciplinary artist originally from Elmastukwek, Ktaqmkuk (Bay of Islands, Newfoundland), now residing in Toronto. She is a two-time national poetry slam champion and her work has been featured in *Canthius Magazine*, *NOW Magazine*, *CBC* and *imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival* to name a few. Jennifer Alicia co-edited a poetry anthology titled *The Condor and the Eagle Meet* and has a debut chapbook titled *Mixed Emotions*. Most recently, she participated in the Animikig Creators Unit through *Native Earth Performing Arts*, working on her debut play titled *To Go Home*.



RANDALL PERRY

Randall Perry is an independent writer and editor living in Toronto, Ontario. He holds a Certificate in Publishing from Toronto Metropolitan University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Prince Edward Island. He served as administrative judge and anthology editor for the final three years of the Carter V. Cooper Short Fiction Competition as well as the 2023 Nona MacDonald Heaslip Short Story Prize. His fiction has appeared in *Islandside* and *On the Run* magazines, and in the anthologies *Fear from a Small Place* and *Storgy 2019*. His non-fiction essays, columns, and reviews have appeared in *Wayves*, *The ARC Quarterly*, *Outlooks*, and *fab*.



JONATHAN PINTO

Jonathan Pinto is the host of CBC Sudbury and CBC Sudbury's afternoon radio show on CBC Radio One, Up North. He started his career as a producer at CBC Toronto, and most recently was a reporter and guest host at CBC Windsor and CBC London's Afternoon Drive. He also has a Masters in Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in Canadian Studies.

When Jonathan isn't caring for his infant daughter, you can find him browsing local markets, sampling beloved eateries or cooking at home. He's a self-professed food lover and is open to all must-try suggestions!



HEIDI REIMER

Heidi Reimer is a novelist and writing coach at Sarah Selecky Writing School. Her debut novel, *The Mother Act*, was published by Random House Canada/Dutton in April 2024, receiving a starred review from Publishers Weekly and a #1 spot on best books lists from *People Magazine* and *Chatelaine*. Heidi has published in *The New Quarterly*, *LitHub*, *Chatelaine*, and the anthologies *The M Word: Conversations About Motherhood*, *Body & Soul: Stories for Skeptics and Seekers*, and *Outcrops: Northeastern Ontario Short Stories*. She is from Northern Ontario.



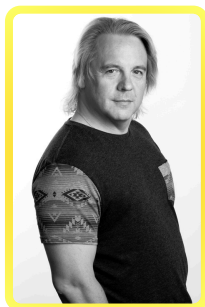
BRENDAN ROY

Brendan Roy has been a dedicated trivia host and writer for Nickel City Trivia since 2018. He brings fun and challenging trivia every Tuesday night at the Townhouse Tavern and also caters to private trivia events upon request. Outside of his trivia passion, Brendan works full-time at Science North, and enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Erin.



MARKUS SCHWABE

Markus Schwabe began his CBC Radio career as an intern while attending the School of Journalism and Communications at the University of Regina. After a brief period at Gemini News Service in London, England, he returned to Regina to work as a part-time researcher for CBC. He later moved to Northern Saskatchewan, Northern British Columbia, and, since 1996, Northern Ontario. Sudbury is the farthest south he has ever lived. Markus enjoys mornings, connecting with people, and sharing stories with listeners across the region. He and his wife have traveled over a quarter million kilometers with their four children to various activities since buying a minivan in 2000.



DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

Drew Hayden Taylor is an Ojibway from Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario, with a dynamic career spanning stand-up comedy at the Kennedy Center, serving as Artistic Director of Native Earth Performing Arts, and winning awards as a playwright. His work includes over 100 play productions, journalism, novels, short stories, TV scripts, and over 20 documentaries on the Native experience. His documentary series *Going Native* is in its third year on APTN. The author of thirty-four books, he looks forward to finding out where his imagination will take him next.

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ALEX TÉTREULT



Alex Tétreault (he/him) is a bilingual theatre creator and queer community activist from N'Swakamok (Sudbury). A graduate of Laurentian University, he has served on several boards, including the Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury and Fierté Sudbury Pride. Currently, he is the President of Théâtre Action, supporting Ontario's francophone theatre community. In 2023, he co-produced the award-winning play *Nickel City Fifs*, with a Spring 2025 tour planned. Named Greater Sudbury's Poet Laureate in 2024, Alex also writes a social issues column for *Le Voyageur*.



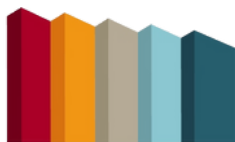
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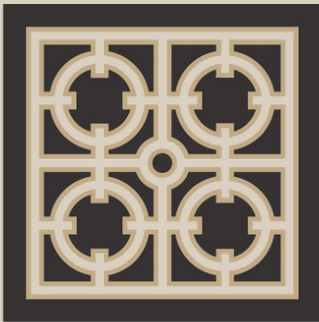
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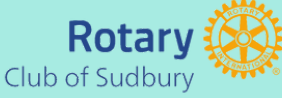
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