wordstock

FESTIVAL SUDBURY LITERARY FESTIVAL

FÖR READERS, WRITERS, AND LOVERS OF WORDS!



OCTOBER 24th & 25th, 2025

12th Edition

Place des Arts

27 Larch St, Sudbury, ON

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Congratulations Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival on your 12th Edition!

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



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ABOUT US

OUR MANDATE

Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival is a celebration of stories and how we connect to each other through them. The festival features some of Canada's most celebrated authors, poets, playwrights, and songwriters.

Established in 2013 to support and promote the love of reading and writing in Northern Ontario, we return this year for our 12th edition.

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

Wordstock Sudbury recognizes that we are operating on traditional Indigenous land within the Robinson Huron Treaty territory. We respect the cultures and peoples of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Nipissing First Nation, Temagami First Nation, Wahnapitae First Nation, and Dokis First Nation. We recognize and respect the Aaniishinaabe peoples' sacred relationship with the land and water. Wordstock Sudbury will continuously work to listen and learn from the shared wisdom of Indigenous Peoples.

ABOUT US

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annie Blodgett Christa Corbiere Dinah Laprairie Kathleen Barnard Liisa Kovala

FESTIVAL ORGANIZER

Annie Rutherford

FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alex Tétrault
Alexia Cousineau
Holly Gutwillinger
Jessica Watts
Kim Fahner
Laura Young
Liisa Kovala

Matt Heiti Meghan Waterbury Melanie Marttila Nancy Daoust Nicole McGuire Sydney Morgan Tina Siegel

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to all our many, many volunteers who made this year, and every year, possible. If you see one (and chances are, you will), thank them!

Festival Chair's Welcome



Welcome to Wordstock Sudbury 2025!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to the 12th edition of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival. This year's festival is a true collective effort — shaped by community voices, guided by goodwill, and powered by volunteers.

Sudbury is changing. Landmarks that once anchored us — the hospital we were born in, the Superstack that stood on the horizon — are being torn down to make way for what comes next. We are in that in-between moment: surveying the rubble, not yet seeing the future.

This year, we ask: how do we survive change — as readers, as writers, as communities? What gets us through when the map is gone and the landmarks have shifted?

In our organization, we are navigating a changed landscape, too, and we're doing it by drawing new maps — work that will continue into 2026. But one thing is already clear: we need a place for writers and readers to come together, not only to celebrate stories and the written word, but to be in community, to share ideas, and to navigate change through story.

Thanks to the support of our generous funders and sponsors, and the commitment of our volunteers — and all of you who came — we can do that right here in Sudbury. Thank you for joining us.

Dinah Laprairie Chair, Board of Directors

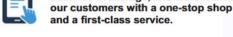


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PROUD TO SUPPORT WORDSTOCK SUDBURY!

Welcome from MP Vivian Lapointe



Welcome, Aniin, Bienvenue.

I am so pleased to extend greetings to the 2025 Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

I want to welcome those who have travelled near and far to Sudbury for the 2025 annual Wordstock Literary Festival. Wordstock is a celebration of literary arts in Canada, and I know the next two days will be filled with brilliant guidance, support, and vital conservations to grow and expand the literary community not just in Northern Ontario, but nationally.

For over 12 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 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!

Thank you. Merci. Miigwech.

Viviane Lapointe Member of Parliament Sudbury

Welcome from MPP Jamie West



A tremendous congratulations to everyone involved in Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival as you celebrate your twelfth 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 know this was a difficult year for Worstock Sudbury, but I am so pleased to see it continue as this festival means a lot to our community. I'll always be here to advocate for this wonderful organization!

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

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All activities except those marked with * take place at Place des Arts

Friday, October 24, 2025

5:00 PM- 6:30 PM	Open Mic, hosted by Anaphore	Studio
6:30 PM - 7:15PM	Festival Opening	Studio
7:15 PM-7:45 PM	Opening Remarks	Studio
8:00 PM- 9:00 PM	Reading w Farzana Doctor	Studio
9:00 PM -11:00 PM	Poetry Slam	Studio

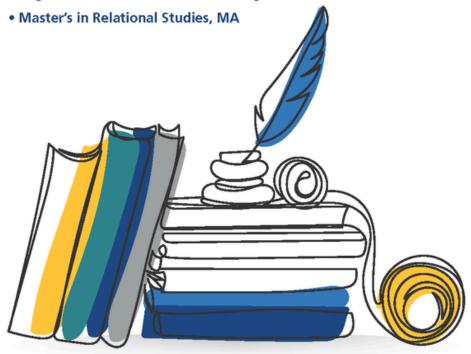
Saturday, October 25, 2025

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	The Reading Hour: A Silent Reading Event	Books and Beans
9:30 AM- 10:30 AM	Ontario Arts Council Info Session & Q&A	Bistro
10:30 AM- 12:00 PM	7 Ways to Find Telling in Your Writing	Studio
12:30 PM- 1:30 PM	Northern Exposure: Local Lit for Your TBR Pile	Studio
1:45 PM-2:45 PM	The Road to Getting Published	Studio
1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Songs and Stories with Eric Morin	Librairie
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Buffering: Swiping, Searching, and Staying Human	Studio
3:00 PM- 4:00 PM	Jumpstart a Memoir	Librairie
4:15 PM-5:15 PM	Survival Stories for Uncertain Times	Studio
6:30 PM-7:30 PM	Zilla Jones, in conversation with Jonathan Pinto	Studio

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• English Literature, Media and Writing, BA



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CTORED 24TH

OCTOBER 24TH

OPEN MIC 5:00-6:00 PM (Studio)

Read something of your own, or come listen to some inspiring works at the Open Mic, hosted by Anaphore. This Open Mic will feature readings from local poets **Lindsay Mayhew** and **Alex Tétrault**. Sign up at the front desk.

FESTIVAL OPENING 6:30-7:45 PM (Studio)

Join us in kicking off the 12th edition of Wordstock Sudbury Literary festival, with appetizers, welcoming remarks, and recognition for those who made this year possible.

FARZANA DOCTOR, IN CONVERSATION WITH MATTHEW HEITI 8:00-9:00 PM (Studio)

Join **Farzana Doctor** for a conversation with local writer and playwright **Matthew Heiti** about her most recent YA novel, *The Beauty of Us.* The novel explores survival and hardship, the power of friendship and growing up.

Featuring Farzana Doctor and Matthew Heiti.

POETRY SLAM 9:00 PM- LATE (Studio)

One of the most anticipated events of the festival, this year's Poetry Slam brings the same excitement as every year. Sign up and compete for the winning title, or come and watch the fun unfold.

Featuring Lindsay Mayhew and Connor Lafortune and hosted by Alex Tétrault, Sudbury's Poet Laureate.

OCTOBER 25TH

THE READING HOUR: SILENT READING 9:30-10:30 AM (Books and Beans, 158 Elgin)

Calling all bookworms! Join us for a cozy reading session at everyone's favourite cafe — grab a hot beverage, maybe a snack, and dive into your current read. We promise we won't interrupt! Not until the reading session is over, anyway — then we'll chat about our books and why we love them (because we know you want to).

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Q&A WITH SUE CARTER 9:30-10:30 AM (Bistro)

Let's face it: Arts funding is hard to come by. So come hang out with OAC Literature Officer **Sue Carter**. She'll answer your questions about OAC grants for writers, and how to access them so you can focus on the real work — writing!

7 WAYS TO FIND TELLING IN YOUR WRITING 10:30-12:00 PM (Studio)

"Show, don't tell" is not just tired writing advice, but a skill writers spend their whole career developing. It is often hard for writers to see the telling in their own work, so after years of working with thousands of writers, Suzy Vadori has developed 7 ways to find sneaky "telling" in your own pages, so you can decide when to tell or when to zoom in and "show" readers around. Conquer this tricky writing technique, once and for all in this masterclass.

Featuring Suzy Vadori.

october 25th

NORTHERN EXPOSURE: LOCAL LIT FOR YOUR TBR PILE 12:30-1:30 PM (Studio)

Whether you're looking to add more books to the pile on your nightstand or to connect with storytellers rooted in the local soil, this is the session where you'll hear Northern voices come alive. Meet talented writers who call this region home — emerging and established voices who reflect the spirit of the North.

Featuring A.-M. Mawhiney, David Wickenden, Scott Overton, Jeremy John, Kyla Heyming.

MUSIC AND STORIES WITH ERIC MORIN 1:45-2:45 PM (Librairie)

Families can join **Eric Morin** and the Greater Sudbury Public Library in a fun storytelling activity, suitable for youth ages 5-12, but sure to please young and old.

ON THE ROAD TO GETTING PUBLISHED 1:45-2:45 PM (Studio)

The road to publication is a winding one, and it's different for every author. Find out how our panelists — **Allister Thompson** and **Rosanna Battigelli** — went from aspiring to published writers, and get insight from publishing industry insider, **Noelle Allen!** From writing and editing, to crossing genres, this panel will cover it all.

Featuring Rosanna Battigelli, Allister Thompson, Noelle Allen and moderated by Liisa Kovala.

october 25th

BUFFERING: SWIPING, SEARCHING, AND STAYING HUMAN 3:00-4:00 PM (Studio)

Memoirist and cultural commentator, **Dr. Treena Orchard**, takes on dating in the digital age. Join us for a reading from her most recent book — an investigative memoir on internet dating — and a speed-dating conversation on surviving and thriving in the online world.

Featuring Treena Orchard and moderated by Dinah Laprairie.

MEMOIR JUMPSTART: INSPIRATION, INTENTION, AND CREATIVITY IN WRITING OUR STORIES 3:00-4:00 PM (Librairie)

Writing a life can feel like a daunting task. Where do we start? How do we start? How do we keep going when we're feeling stuck? In this workshop with **Kate Gies**, you'll explore memories and events that are important to you, discover innovative ways to tell your stories, and tackle the ever-elusive question in memoir writing: Why does my story matter? You'll leave this workshop with fresh ideas and a renewed excitement for writing your story. This will be a generative workshop, so come prepared to write!

Led by Kate Gies.

october 25th

SURVIVAL STORIES FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES 4:15-5:15 PM (Studio)

The world is changing in some scary and disorienting ways. It can be hard to see any light in the dark. So join us to hear from writers who've explored fundamental, frightening social shifts in their books, and what we might find on the other side

Featuring Waubgeshig Rice, Kate Gies, Allister Thompson and moderated by Farzana Doctor.

ZILLA JONES IN CONVERSATION WITH JONATHAN PINTO 6:30-7:15 PM (Studio)

Join **Zilla Jones** for a reading from her most recent novel, The World So Wide. Jones' novel explores the story of Felicity Alexander, who is supposed to be charming audiences at New York's Metropolitan Opera, not placed under house arrest in Grenada in October 1983 when the Americans invade.

This reading will be followed by a Q & A with local journalist Jonathan Pinto, host of CBC Radio's Up North.



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2025 Featu



Noelle Allen is the owner and publisher of Wolsak and Wynn, an award-winning literary press based in Hamilton, Ontario. She has served as the Chair of the Literary Press Group and the Co-Chair of gritLit: Hamilton's Readers and Writers Festival. Currently, Noelle she is a member of the Hamilton Review of Books and is working with Hamilton's Supercrawl on literary programming. She recently founded Sharp Words: Hamilton's Winter Book Fair and in 2024 received the Arts Champion Award from the City of Hamilton.



Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli is an award-winning teacher and writer. She was born in Calabria, Italy, and immigrated to Sudbury, Ontario with her family when she was three years old. She has been published in over 20 anthologies and journals, and has read at many conferences and events in Canada, the US, and Italy. Along with writing historical fiction, short fiction, and creative nonfiction, Rosanna has also mentored both teachers and emerging writers. All her books are available at rosannabattigelli.com.



Farzana Doctor is a Tkaronto-based author, activist and psychotherapist. She's written five critically acclaimed lit-fic novels, *Stealing Nasreen*, *Six Metres of Pavement*, *All Inclusive*, *Seven* and *The Beauty of Us*, as well as a poetry collection, *You Still Look the Same* and a self- and community care workbook for helpers and activists, 52 Weeks to a Sweeter Life.



Kate Gies is a writer and educator living in Toronto. She is the author of It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished: A Memoir of My Body, which details her experiences as a girl born missing an ear. Her writing has also appeared in The Globe and Mail, The Walrus, The Malahat Review, The Humber Literary Review, Hobart, and the Best Canadian Essays 2024 Anthology. She teaches creative nonfiction and expressive arts at George Brown College.

red Guests



Born on Wembley Drive and now surviving one street away, **Matthew Heiti** wrote the novel The City Still Breathing (Coach House Books) and a play for teens, Black Dog: 4 vs the wrld (Playwrights Canada Press). His short stories have received the Carter V. Cooper Award and Grain Magazine's fiction prize. He is a member of TWUC and PGC. He teaches English and Creative Writing at Laurentian University. In his spare time, he is usually working.



The city of Greater Sudbury's 7th Poet Laureate, **Kyla Heyming** (KPH), is a bilingual writer who sets her soul in ink and paper with the help of her typewriter. Author of For Those I Have Loved, her poetry and nonfiction pieces have appeared in a number of arts and literature journals such as *Sulphur*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *Mundane Joys* and the League of Canadian Poets "Poetry Pause" and Fresh Voices anthology. Fiercely driven to ensnare all of life's little moments, she works tirelessly for her passion so that she may someday lead others to find their own meaning in her words.



Jeremy John is the sixty-second most famous person from Brantford, Ontario. (Look it up. There are a lot.) He has written three collections of humorous short stories that he (and only he) calls The Poop Trilogy: Robert's Hill (or The Time I Pooped My Snowsuit) and Other Christmas Stories, The Strange Grave of Mikey Dunbar, and Other Stories to Make You Poop Your Pants, and The Death Swing at Falcon Lake and S'more Summer Stories to Make You Poop Your Pants. He currently lives with his wife and kids (plus a dog he pretends not to like) in Sudbury, Ontario.



Zilla Jones is an African-Canadian writer of Afro-Caribbean, Chinese and European decent living and working in Treaty 1 territory (Winnipeg). She was named a 2025 Writers Trust Rising Star and a 2024 CBC Writer to Watch. She was a finalist in the 2024 CBC Short Fiction Prize, and winner of the 2023 Writers' Trust RBC Bronwen Wallace Award and the 2023 Journey Prize. Her debut novel, The World So Wide, was published in 2025 (Cormorant Books). Zilla is also a singer, mother, lawyer and anti-racist educator, and she is a co-author of Canada's Black Justice Strategy.

2025 Featu



Dr. Treena Orchard is an anthropologist, author, and activist whose work on sexuality, gender, and health sheds new light on human behaviour in the 21st century. As both a scholar and creative storyteller, Treena translates complex social issues into engaging narratives that are relatable to a wide audience. She shares her insights into digital culture, online relationships, and how tech is reshaping how we think in her book Sticky, Sexy, Sad: Swipe Culture & The Darker Side of Dating Apps.



Scott Overton was a radio broadcaster for more than thirty years, inspiring the setting of his first novel, the mystery/thriller *Dead* Air, which was published by Scrivener Press of Sudbury and was shortlisted for a Northern Lit Award. Since, Scott has published seven science fiction novels and a children's chapter book. His short fiction has been published in numerous magazines and anthologies, and collected in his BEYOND collections. Now a freelance author and voice talent, Scott works from his home on a lake in Northern Ontario.



Jonathan Pinto is the host of Up North, CBC Radio One's current affairs afternoon program for Northern Ontario. An urban planner by training, Jonathan has combined his knowledge of cities with his passion for public broadcasting as a CBC journalist in Toronto, Windsor, London, Thunder Bay, and Sudbury. His long-running radio food column spawned a cookbook version published by Biblioasis in 2016.



Waubgeshig Rice grew up in Wasauksing First Nation on the shores of Georgian Bay, in the southeast of Robinson Huron Treaty territory. He's a writer, listener, speaker, language learner, and a martial artist, holding a black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He is the author of the short story collection Midnight Sweatlodge and the novels Legacy, Moon of the Crusted Snow, and Moon of the Turning Leaves. He appreciates loud music and the four seasons. He lives in N'Swakamok — also known as Sudbury, Ontario —with his wife and three sons.

red Guests



Liisa Kovala is a Finnish Canadian author, book coach, and podcaster. Like Water for Weary Souls (2025) is her second historical novel. Liisa is the author of Sisu's Winter War (Latitude 46, 2022) and Surviving Stutthof: My Father's Memories Behind the Death Gate (Latitude 46, 2017) which was shortlisted for a Northern Lit Award and published in Finland by Docendo (2020). Liisa lives with her husband in Greater Sudbury, Ontario. She is inspired by her Finnish heritage and the northern landscape she calls home.



Connor Lafortune is from Dokis First Nation. Anishinaabek, Queer, and Francophone, Connor uses his understanding of the world to shape his creations as a writer, spoken word poet, and musician. Connor combines the written word with beadwork and sewing to recreate the stories of colonization, showcase resilience, and imagine a new future. Connor is coeditor of A Thousand Tiny Awakenings with Lindsay Mayhew. Above all else, Connor is an activist, a shkaabewis, and a compassionate human being. Visit nmkns.ca for more information.



A-M Mawhiney has lived in Greater Sudbury most of her life with brief times in Powassan, Montreal, and Toronto. At age 8, she was already writing poetry and short stories. She retired from Laurentian University in 2018 and was named a professor emeritus. Her first book, Spindrifts, was started during the first lockdown in 2020 and was short listed for the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writing Literary Prize and the Whistler Independent Book Awards in 2022. Spindrifts sequel, Spelldrifts, was published in 2023. Her latest, Fugitive Rifts, was released in Fall 2025.



Lindsay Mayhew is a spoken word poet, workshop facilitator, and co-editor of A Thousand Tiny Awakenings. Lindsay is a seasoned slam competitor, placing as a runner up in the 2025 Canadian Individual Poetry Slam. She has featured in events across Canada, including Guelph Poetry Slam, Wordstock Literary Festival, Nuit Blanche, Vancouver Poetry House, JAYU Canada, and more. Lindsay's poetry centres feminism, mental health, and human rights. Find her work in The Literary Review of Canada, Moria, and Sulphur.

2025 Featured Guests



Alex Tétreault is Greater Sudbury's eighth Poet Laureate and a francophone theatre creator. He was born and raised in Sudbury and is known for his activism in the queer community and his social issues column in Le Voyageur. Alex has served on several theatre and cultural boards over the years, also appearing on stages in Sudbury, Toronto, and Ottawa. Alex's play, Nickel City Fifs, in collaboration with Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario has won several awards.



Allister Thompson was born in the UK and spent his childhood in Mississauga, where he got his first job at age 16 in a small bookstore at the mall. His career in the publishing and bookselling industries includes 15 years at small and mid-sized publishers in Toronto. Allister is now a freelance editor in North Bay, and he has worked with dozens of authors from around the world for the past 10 years. He is the author of two speculative fiction novels, the latest being Birch and Jay.



Suzy Vadori is the Calgary-based bestselling author of The Fountain Series (The Fountain, The West Woods, Wall of Wishes), which has received three Aurora Nominations for Best Young Adult Novel. Suzy is the founder of the Inspired Writing Community, a Resident Writing Coach for Writers Helping Writers, a touring member of the Young Alberta Book Society (YABS), and a regular presenter at writers' conferences across North America, both in person and online.

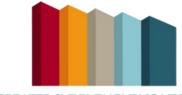


David Wickenden is a retired Deputy Fire Chief who now writes thriller novels full-time, penning six thrillers and one YA fantasy since 2018. He has adapted five books for feature films and his *Laura Amour Vigilante* series into a TV pilot. His last two novels, The Home Front and The Origami Deception, were finalists in the Global Thrillers Award hosted by the Chanticleer International Book Awards. He is currently working on a firefighting thriller and the third book in his *Vigilante* series. David is currently the Chair of the Crime Writers of Canada

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You can be a part of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival's year-round work to ensure Northern Ontario has a vibrant and growing literary arts community.

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- **2** E-Transfer: info@wordstocksudbury.ca
- By Cheque: Mail your donation to Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival, P.O. Box 994, Coniston, ON POM 1M0.

Questions?

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