



LESLEY MATHEWS

WRITERS' FESTIVAL  
MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> ~ 30<sup>th</sup> • 2003  
CAMPBELL RIVER • B.C.

Campbell River Writers' Festival Society

## Welcome to Words on the Water, 2003

The organizing committee of Campbell River's second annual Writers' Festival, "Words on the Water," is proud to present this year's roster of extraordinary artists. To the writers who have come to share their work and to the readers who have come to listen, we extend a warm welcome and our hope that you find the experience rewarding and enjoyable.

### Festival Schedule of Events

#### Friday, March 28

8:00 pm  
Tidemark Theatre      Official Opening, featuring a writers' panel of  
Gail Anderson-Dargatz, George Bowering, Zsuzsi Gartner  
and Timothy Taylor and musical guests, Island Voices Chamber Choir

#### Saturday, March 29

Campbell River Community Centre (unless otherwise noted)

9:30 - 10:30      Gail Anderson-Dargatz

11:00 - 12:00      Maria Coffey and Dag Goering  
(Multimedia presentation at the GALAXY THEATRE)

1:00 - 2:00      Zsuzsi Gartner

2:30 - 3:30      Don McKay

4:00 - 5:00      Timothy Taylor

8:00 pm      Roderick Haig-Brown Memorial Evening  
Featuring Jocelyn Reekie and George Bowering

#### Sunday, March 30

10:00 am - 3:00 pm      Writing Workshops: (Preregistration only)  
Zsuzsi Gartner (fiction)  
Don MacKay and Jan Zwicky (poetry)



## Gail Anderson-Dargatz

*A Rhinestone Button*, Anderson-Dargatz's fourth book of fiction, was released in Canada by Knopf this past November and was a national best-seller. Both her other two novels, *A Recipe for Bees* and *The Cure for Death by Lightning* were international bestsellers, and were short-listed for the prestigious Giller Prize here in Canada. *The Cure for Death by Lightning* won the UK's Betty Trask Prize among other awards. Anderson-Dargatz's novels have been published worldwide in English and in many other languages. Her first book, *The Miss Hereford Stories*, was short-listed for the Leacock Award for Humour.

In addition to her reading on Saturday, Ms. Anderson-Dargatz will be a member of the opening night panel.

In memory of the coastal themes lived by Dave and Sally Janes and their pioneering family and friends in the Comox Valley and elsewhere, their children have helped make Ms. Anderson-Dargatz's appearance possible.

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## George Bowering

Canada's first Parliamentary Poet Laureate, George Bowering brings to his new job a life time's devotion to the careful use of language. Born in Penticton, he has studied and taught across the country and beyond, but between 1972 and 2001 he could most often be found teaching English at Simon Fraser University. The author of more than 50 books of poetry, fiction, drama, criticism and history, he is remarkable for the breadth of his interests and talents and renowned for his irreverent muse.

Bowering has twice won the prestigious Governor-General's Award; for Poetry in 1969 and for Fiction in 1980. Although he could be comfortably situated in his office on Parliament Hill, our Poet Laureate has graciously chosen to spend this weekend with us.

Mr. Bowering will be a member of the opening night panel, at which time he will unveil the new poem he has written for the occasion. As well, he will be the guest presenter at the Roderick Haig-Brown Memorial Evening on Saturday.

# Tim Hortons

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**Maria Coffey**

**Dag Goering**

Maria Coffey and Dag Goering are a married couple and an internationally published photographer / writer team.

Over the years they have pioneered sea-kayaking destinations around the globe. Many of these exploits are documented in their successful, internationally published books, including *A Boat in Our Baggage* which tells of a year-long, round-the-world kayaking expedition; *Three Moons In Vietnam* which recounts their journey by local boats, bicycles and buses through Vietnam; and *Sailing Back in Time* about a sailing trip on the west coast of Canada. *A Lambing Season in Ireland: Tales of a Vet's Wife* recounts Dag and Maria's adventures in County Kerry, Ireland, where Dag worked as a large-animal vet and Maria as his unofficial assistant, while raising an orphaned lamb named Dora. Of special interest to Islanders is *Visions of the Wild: A Voyage by Kayak Around Vancouver Island* which chronicles Dag and Maria's ten-week paddle around Vancouver Island in 1999.

Please note that Maria and Dag's multimedia presentation will take place in the Galaxy Theatre. This event is made possible by the generosity of the Campbell River Daybreak Rotary Club.



**Zsuzsi Gartner**

Zsuzsi Gartner is the author of the short story collection, *All the Anxious Girls on Earth* (Key Porter). An award-winning journalist and fiction writer who has worked as a senior editor at *Saturday Night*, books editor at *The Georgia Straight*, and as a newspaper reporter, she is currently a contributing reviewer for *The Globe & Mail*. Her short stories have been published in numerous literary magazines, as well as in *Saturday Night*, *Geist*, and *Toronto Life*. She recently won an honourable mention at the 2002 National Magazine Awards for fiction and was anthologized in *Write Turns* (Raincoast) and *Islands West* (Oolichan). Zsuzsi was the 2001 Cliff Writer-in-Residence at the University of British Columbia, a literary mentor at the 2002 B.C. Festival of the Arts, and is on the faculty of the Banff Centre's 2003 Spring Writing Studio. She lives in Vancouver where she is working on her next book.

In addition to her reading on Saturday, Ms. Gartner will be a member of the opening night panel. On Sunday, she will facilitate a fiction writing workshop (preregistration only).



# Campbell River Daybreak Rotary Club



## Don McKay

Don McKay has published 8 books of poetry, including *Birding, or desire* (1983), *Night Field* (1991) which won the Governor - General's Award for

Poetry; and *Apparatus* (1997), all published by McClelland & Stewart. His work has also received the National Magazine Award and the Canadian Authors' Association Award. Since 1975 he has served as editor and publisher with Brick Books. He taught creative writing and English literature at the University of Western Ontario and the University of New Brunswick for 27 years before resigning to write and edit poetry full time. From 1991 to 1996 he edited *The Fiddlehead* magazine, and he has also served as a faculty resource person at the Sage Hill Writing Experience and The Banff Centre for the Arts, where he currently holds the position of Associate Director, Poetry, Writing & Publishing. He now lives in British Columbia. He won the Governor General's Award for his book *Another Gravity*.

As well as his reading on Saturday, Mr. McKay will be co-hosting a workshop on poetry writing on Sunday (preregistration only).



## Jocelyn Reekie

Variously a copy-writer, journalist, storyteller, swim coach, social worker and animal boarding-house proprietor; Jocelyn Reekie came late to a career as a full-time

writer. With Annette Yourk as co-editor, she published *ShoreLines: Memoirs & Tales of the Discovery Islands*, an anthology that features thirty-three B.C. writers and gives readers an historical, dramatic, and humorous look at life as it exists on the islands that lie crammed in the turbulent waters of Discovery Passage.

Her other published work includes articles and features in several weekly and daily newspapers, short stories in anthologies and local magazines, comedy monologues performed on Quadra and Vancouver Island stages, and a play produced at the Banff Centre of the Arts. *Tess* is her first published novel but a second novel; a contemporary story for 8-12 year-old readers, will be published by Raincoast in spring 2004, and the sequel to *Tess* is slated to be published by Raincoast in fall 2004.

Words on the Water is proud to present Jocelyn Reekie as an integral part of the Roderick Haig-Brown Memorial Evening.



### PAGE ELEVEN BOOKS

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# Weyerhaeuser



## Timothy Taylor

Timothy Taylor is a Vancouver writer. His first novel *Stanley Park* was a Canadian national bestseller and was short-listed for The Giller Prize, The Rogers

Writers Trust Fiction Prize, The BC Book Awards and the City of Vancouver Book Award. The film rights to *Stanley Park* were recently sold and a dramatic feature film is now in development. Taylor's short fiction has appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. In 2000, Taylor placed three stories in the prestigious Journey Prize Anthology, which gathers the best short stories of the year. He went on to win the Journey Prize and a National Magazine Award for short fiction that year. Taylor's second book, *Silent Cruise - A Novella and Stories*, was published last year to wide critical acclaim in Canada. Both books have also been published in the US.

Taylor also writes non-fiction. He has won two National Magazine Awards for this work. His articles have appeared in such periodicals as *enRoute*, *Saturday Night*, the *National Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

In addition to his reading on Saturday, Mr. Taylor will be a member of the opening night panel. His reading has been generously sponsored by the Campbell River Community Literacy Association.



## Jan Zwicky

Jan Zwicky is an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Victoria. Her academic

history includes teaching appointments at a number of other North American universities, including Alberta, New Brunswick, Princeton, Waterloo, and Western Ontario. At some of these, she has taught creative writing as well as philosophy, English, and interdisciplinary humanities courses. She also has extensive professional experience as a violinist. At UVic, she teaches environmental philosophy, as well as courses in Plato, the Presocratics, and epistemology. She is the author of *Lyric Philosophy* and four collections of poetry, including *Wittgenstein Elegies* and *Songs for Relinquishing the Earth*. Winner of the 1999 Governor-General's Award for Poetry, Zwicky's recent essays have appeared in *Aperion*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Terra Nova*, and *The Harvard Review of Philosophy*. She publishes widely in Canadian literary magazines such as *The Malahat Review*, *Grain*, *Descant*, and *The Fiddlehead*.

Ms. Zwicky will be co-hosting a poetry writing workshop on Sunday (preregistration only).

Words on the Water is  
grateful to



for its generous support  
of our festival

Commissioned to compose a poem in commemoration of this year's WOW festival, George Bowering chose to reply to last year's poem by Patrick Lane. Both poems are presented here.

WORDS ON WATER  
by Patrick Lane

A cursive blue above still water, a heron  
drifting north, a twist of smoke I follow  
as if in my solitude I could read his wings  
and understand the dawn. The far  
islands descend from the burning fog,  
born to the fires of the first sun.  
Three gulls pass over and leave their wings  
in sand, gray hieroglyphs only birds  
can understand. I watch an otter  
play in the wrack among the maze of kelp  
thrown up by storms. I have come  
to read the water as it touches the moon  
lost beyond the mountains of the Malahat.  
The heron passes and the otter retreats  
into the deep. I listen to thin cries  
as gulls disappear in flames. I think like me,  
the grey birds pray to the last of the gods.

WORDS ON WATER  
by George Bowering

What lorn poet prays to gods long gone  
from ocean's glistening wrack, what beach  
on edge of that deep book can offer comfort  
never found by parlour fire? If read he must  
why reads he not indoors, from tomes ended  
centuries afore, beaker full of the warm  
South close to hand? But no, this wind-swept  
gent ambles in the rain, shoes wet with punc-  
tuation from the sea, fishing for words  
in language known but to spectres lost to  
memory. Send him welcome, dry yourself,  
invite, come finger our shelves so proudly  
stacked with words on paper. Here will gulls  
keen and sea-creatures play while reader  
warms his haunch beside the grate. Here  
will flames read to us their living tongue,  
and speak the words that viewless wings have sung.

## Organizing Committee

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