



# WORDS ON THE WATER

2015

Campbell River Writers' Festival

March 13 & 14, 2015

Maritime Heritage Centre

# Welcome to Words on the Water 2015

Welcome!

*Words on the Water* Writers' Festival is for you! As you hear the written word spoken, listening for wit and wisdom, as you laugh and chat, as you wonder and evaluate, we invite you to deeply engage with the cornucopia of thought presented this weekend. The food and beverages are provided for your nourishment, and the music to fill your heart. Enjoy!

*The Words on the Water Committee - 2015*

## Festival Schedule of Events

All events take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13th 7:30 PM

Master of Ceremonies *John Elson*

Words on the Water Commissioned Poem *Bernice Lever*

### *Writers in Conversation*

- #1 Sarah Leavitt and Bernice Lever
- #2 Steven Galloway and Kathleen Winter

### Intermission

*Music on the mezzanine by Richard Spencer*

- #3 David Carpenter and Derek Lundy
- #4 Richard Wagamese and Ivan Coyote

*Friday night sponsored by Scotiabank*

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14th

#### MORNING

9:00  David Carpenter

9:45  Kathleen Winter

10:30 **Break**

10:45  Richard Wagamese

11:30  Bernice Lever

12:15 **Lunch**

#### AFTERNOON

1:00  Sarah Leavitt

1:45  Derek Lundy

2:30 **Break**

2:45  Ivan Coyote

3:30  Steven Galloway

#### EVENING

7:30 Evening Finale

Featuring Guest Writers

And Music by the

Hutchins Brothers

# GREAT MOTHER OCEAN

Born from this cooling flame ball - a far flung chunk of sun,  
became the original womb of earthly life, O Mother Ocean.

We should kneel in awe of your nourishing, random bits  
of methane, hydrogen, ammonia in your wet vapors with warmth  
from solar radiation, volcanic bursts, even lightning flashes,  
nourishing our first cells so many million years ago.

Then these tiny beings made RNA and DNA, multiplying & expelling  
oxygen onto your surface, creating a breathable atmosphere!

All this long before you created beaches for global travel  
for your wasteful children: sun and sand, adored for robber baron  
tourist pleasures - sweetening our millisecond lives.

How can we tell, O Mother, which salty foam splashes are your tears?  
Yeah, we've still a childhood, bone-deep awareness of your beauty -  
mostly awe of your moods & might as they stumble into our words.

Now your limited oneness on our planet brings scenes of sloshing  
over plastic garbage forming islands, sewage rivers, uncountable  
people-made pollutants: our sick goodbye gifts from your newest  
offsprings. Oh watery Mom, we cry in shame, "Save us!"

from what we've caused, this Tsunami of our toxic abuse.  
You, Ancient ONE bewail your generations of this final evolution  
who revel in attacking each other and You, our source & resource.

Our bodies 90% water as you gag with more attacks of poisonous liquids and solids until your wet form is diluted: now you're less than 90% water! O, Mother Ocean, we're sorry.

World Wide Matricide is in epidemic flow and we still pee in your caressing shallows, believing myths of our self-cleaning Ocean! Why can't we appreciate our original womb, our life-giver?

We, Firsters, destroy, ignoring the Spirit of the universe, shaper of stars.

Now let's praise this universal Spirit who is yearning for less selfish beings on myriad other earths who may evolve to survive in gratitude, for longer than our short span.

Bernice Lever's Commissioned poem

# Guest Authors

David Carpenter



## 2015 Writer-in-Residence at Haig-Brown House

David Carpenter first came to Campbell River as a writer-in-residence at Haig-Brown House in 2005-6. He loved the experience so much that he re-applied last year, and here he is again.

David is a Saskatoon writer with one book of poetry to his name and eleven works of prose. Two recent examples are *Welcome to Canada*, a collection of short stories that won two international awards in 2011, and *A Hunter's Confession* (nonfiction), which won the Saskatchewan Book of the Year Award in 2012.

Bring your manuscripts to him at Haig-Brown House, where he writes and reads well into the night.

Ivan Coyote



Robin Toma Photography

Ivan Coyote is the award-winning author of ten books, the creator of four short films, and has released three CDs that combine storytelling with music. Ivan is a seasoned stage performer and long-time road dog, and over the last eighteen years has become an audience favourite at storytelling, writers', film, poetry, and folk music festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam.

The Globe and Mail newspaper called Coyote "a natural-born storyteller" and the Ottawa Xpress once said that "Coyote is to Canadian literature what KD Lang is to country music: a beautifully odd fixture."

Ivan often grapples with the complex and intensely personal issues of gender identity in their work, as well as topics such as family, class, social justice and queer liberation, but always with a generous heart, a quick wit, and the nuanced and finely-honed timing of a gifted raconteur. Ivan's stories remind of us of our own fallible and imperfect humanity while at the same time inspiring us to change the world.

## Steven Galloway



Photo taken by Frances Raud

Steven Galloway's latest novel, *The Confabulist*, weaves together the life, loves and murder of the world's greatest magician, Harry Houdini, with the story of the man who killed him (twice): Martin Strauss, an everyday man whose fate was tied to the magician's in unforeseen ways.

A cast of characters spins around Houdini's celebrity-driven life: from the Romanov family soon to be assassinated, to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the powerful heads of Scotland Yard, to the Spiritualists who would use whoever they could to establish their religion. *The Confabulist* is a novel about fame and ambition, reality and illusion, and the ways that love, grief and imagination can alter what we perceive and believe.

Steven Galloway is the award-winning and bestselling author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, *Finnie Walsh* and *Ascension*. He teaches creative writing at UBC and SFU, and lives with his wife and two young daughters in Vancouver, B.C.

## Sarah Leavitt



Sarah Leavitt's first book, *Tangles: A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother, and Me*, a graphic memoir, has been published in Canada, the US, UK, Germany and France to international critical acclaim (*LA Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Globe and Mail*, *The Guardian*) and is forthcoming in Korea.

Her prose and comics have appeared in anthologies, magazines and newspapers in Canada, the US and the UK.

Sarah currently teaches comics classes in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia.

## Bernice Lever



Bernice Lever has published nine books of poetry, a teaching/learning CD: *The Colour of Words*, and over 200 short prose pieces. She has been involved with the Canadian Authors Association, the League of Canadian Poets, the Federation of BC Writers and other local writer groups. She has read poems across Canada and the USA and on four other continents. She has won four Lifetime Achievement awards, including CAA's Sangster Award.

Bernice, the child of two Alberta pioneer farm families, is the mother of three children, two grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. Retired in 2000 from Seneca College's English Department, she continues to give writing workshops across Canada. She lives on Bowen Island.

## Derek Lundy



Derek Lundy's most recent book, *Borderlands: Riding the Edge of America*, was published in 2010 by Knopf Canada, and was a finalist for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize.

He is the author of *The Bloody Red Hand: A Journey Through Truth, Myth and Terror in Northern Ireland* (Knopf Canada, 2006), and has written two books about the sea: *The Way of a Ship: A Square-Rigger Voyage in the Last Days of Sail* (Knopf Canada, 2002), which was a B.C. Book Prize finalist and a *Globe and Mail* Best Book in 2002, and *Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters* (Knopf Canada, 1998). The latter was a bestseller in Canada and the United States and has been translated into ten languages.

Derek Lundy was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and lives on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

## Richard Wagamese



Richard has worked as a professional writer since 1979, and published thirteen books. He is from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in Northwestern Ontario, and writes of Ojibway culture and life in his memoir, essays, poetry and many novels. His novel *Indian Horse* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2012) was the Peoples' Choice winner in the national CBC Canada Reads competition.

His latest work, a national bestseller, is the novel *Medicine Walk* (McClelland & Stewart, 2014):

It is a timeless and universal story about family, loss, forgiveness and redemption. A young man journeys with his dying father to lay him to rest. Their walk across the land becomes the opportunity to reclaim a lost history, come to understand each other and ponder the nature of love.

Richard lives in Kamloops, B.C.

## Kathleen Winter



Photo by Aaju Peter

Kathleen Winter is the author of the international bestseller, *Annabel*, which was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Orange Prize for Fiction, and CBC's Canada Reads.

Her first collection of stories, *boys*, won both the Winterset Award and the Metcalf-Rooke Award.

Her most recent work, *Boundless*, has been nominated for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the RBC Taylor Prize.

A long-time resident of St. John's, Newfoundland, she now lives in Montreal.

## Our Master of Ceremonies

John Elson



John has been pleased to be part of Words on the Water since its inception, fourteen years ago. As host, he aims to provide just enough lubricant to keep the WOW machinery spinning smoothly and in return enjoys the privilege of spending the weekend in the company of inspiring authors.

## Our Musicians

Friday evening - music on the mezzanine

Richard Spencer

Richard's main instruments are the chop saw, hammer and pneumatic nail gun. This evening he will pluck upon steel strings for your listening pleasure.

Saturday evening - music on the mezzanine

John and Jacob Hutchins

John and Jacob Hutchins are members of the local Campbell River alternative rock band Off to Sea. John is a graduate of Timberline Secondary, and Jacob a Grade 12 student.

# Words On The Water Organizing Committee

Rebecca Berry  
Connie Kretz  
Paul Murphy

Charlene Brown  
JoAnn Milutinovic

Clay Carlson  
Betsy Muir

Tylere Couture  
Angel Murphy

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many volunteers who help make *Words on the Water* function smoothly. You have been steadfast and perennial in your support and your expertise in running the weekend is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

## WOW Student Outreach Program

An important commitment of *Words on the Water* is to foster an appreciation of literature in the youth in our community. Thanks to the joint sponsorship of WOW and School District #72, *Ivan Coyote* lead a writing workshop and presented readings in schools to Campbell River students on *Friday, March 13th*.

## Ann and Roderick Haig-Brown



From its inception, *Words on the Water* has taken inspiration from the lives and works of Ann and Roderick Haig-Brown. The Haig-Browns were philosophers and conservationists who carefully considered their place in the world. Roderick's writing and Ann's humanitarian work continue to influence this community. *Words on the Water* aspires to contribute to keeping their memory alive

and to honour their legacy.

*Words on the Water* Logo design  
Lesley Mathews

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