

Words On The Water

Campbell River Writers' Festival

March 16 & 17, 2018

Maritime Heritage Centre

WORDS
ON THE WATER



Welcome to Words on the Water 2018

Welcome
writers and readers
alike to the
17th annual
Words on the Water
Writers' Festival!

Words on the Water Writers' Festival marks its 17th anniversary this year, once again bringing eight of Canada's top writers to Campbell River for readings and great conversations in front of an audience of local readers, many of whom return year after year. We are honoured to welcome our distinguished guest writers who have come to share their work, and our dedicated readers who have come to listen. We sincerely hope you enjoy the beautiful setting, music & food, and the stimulating readings, dialogue and conversations. We invite you to escape into the richness of words that will be presented. Enjoy!

The Words on the Water Committee – 2018

Festival Schedule of Events

All events take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre

Master of Ceremonies | Grant Lawrence

Friday
March 16th
7:30 pm

Saturday
March 17th

Welcome

Festival Poem Renée Saklikar

Writers in Conversation

7:30 pm Terry Glavin &
Renée Saklikar

8:00 pm Heather O'Neill &
Kim Fu

Intermission

Music by Michael Wilson

9:00 pm Mark Leiren-Young &
Alix Hawley

9:30 pm David Chariandy &
Bev Sellars

Morning

9:00

9:45

10:30

10:45

11:30

12:15

Afternoon

1:00

1:45

2:30

2:45

3:30

Evening

7:30

Bev Sellars

Renée Saklikar

Break

Heather O'Neil

Terry Glavin

Lunch

Mark Leiren-Young

David Chariandy

Break

Alix Hawley

Kim Fu

Evening Finale

Featuring Guest Writers
and Music by
CC and the Sizzling Seven

Water

Pacifica

Snow perpetual, sun scorching, wind wrecked
Your breath, our breath, watery fathoms long
Who'd be left to believe eons from now
We'd rise, foam covered, running your surf. Fire!
Call us Adam, call us Eve, faces alight
Arms extended east, west, fault line tremors
Delicate as jelly, hot lava boils
Poison pine, radiant gold, wash us, we
Cry: sighting flames, those roiling hills, crumble
Om you heard us say or El Dorado
Singing orcas, no fog dense enough to
Block out that star, our sun, deep to diving
Catch the next wave, jade stones tied, wrists upturned
Your breath, fresh spray, droplets, containing all—

the tale of the last rift

We ran out from under that god's heel, forced
to flee impact, like first contact, total
devastation, poxes and plagues, dust, flies
caught forever, molten spews, cubic weight
flowing to water once aquamarine
where we glimpsed his consort, as she rose, pearls
seeded in braids, her S shaped curves glistened
voices stuck, our throats parched, opening for—
mountain side shelves dug between roots

moon prayers, unanswered, parchment sheaves stacked
We'd done it standing, against basalt, chert
made soft by the magic heat of bodies
melting the grain of rock, moss covered: rain
his name unspoken, eaten by each fish—

liquid shaman

Ocean's edge, she invoked rain, gathered kelp
her seaweed concoctions, blended with salt
she'd call up storms, silver hair streaming past
long enough to curl fish tails left upright
between pebbles, fists full of lava rock
tumbled, wind chants, Sou'easters blowing, ripped
sharp smacks, punching white caps, seals heaved
to sand, belly first, side to side, pushed
where air whistled: purple-pink glass-ball nets
knotted loose, caught unravelling, fish lines
long arcs, tossed, hours till any bell rang
pounded surf, small boys, their crab buckets thrown
Dawn broke, a series of grey clouds lifting
irretrievable—she sent messages—

Renée Sarojini Saklikar

February 6, 2018

Commissioned by Words on the Water Writers' Festival

Guest Authors

Bev Sellars



{ 2018 Writer-
in-Residence
at Haig-Brown
House }

Bev Sellars is a former councillor and chief of the Xat'sull (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake, British Columbia. First elected chief of Xat'sull in 1987, a position she held from 1987-1993 and then from 2009-2015. She also worked as a community advisor for the BC Treaty Commission. Sellars served as the representative for the Secwepemc communities on the

Cariboo Chilcotin Justice Inquiry in the early 1990s. She has spoken out on racism and residential schools and on the environmental and social threats of mineral resources exploitation in her region.

Sellars is the author of *They Called Me Number One*, a memoir of her childhood experience in the Indian residential school system and its effects on three generations of women in her family, published in 2013 by Talonbooks. The book won the 2014 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness, was shortlisted for the 2014 Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize, and was a finalist for the 2014 Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature. Her book, *Price Paid: The Fight for First Nations Survival*, published in 2016 by Talonbooks, looks at the history of Indigenous rights in Canada from an Indigenous perspective. Sellars has a degree in history from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. She is currently Chair of First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining (FNWARM).

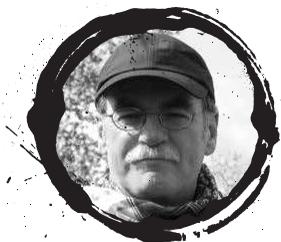
David Chariandy



Photo by
Joy von Tiedemann

David Chariandy grew up in Toronto and lives and teaches in Vancouver. His debut novel, *Soucouyant*, received stunning reviews and recognition from eleven literary award juries, including a Governor General's Literary Award shortlisting, a Gold Independent Publisher Award for Best Novel, and a Scotiabank Giller Prize longlisting. *Brother*, his second novel, was also longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and won the Roger's Writers' Trust Fiction Prize in 2017. His new book, entitled *I've Been Meaning to Tell You: A Letter to my Daughter*, will be published in May 2018.

Terry Glavin



Terry Glavin is an author, editor and journalist. Currently a columnist for the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *National Post*, and a regular contributor to *Maclean's* magazine, Terry is the author of seven books and the co-author of three. His assignments in recent years have taken him to Afghanistan, Israel, the Russian Far East, the Eastern Himalayas, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Geneva, China and Central America. His books have been published in Canada, Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom. He has won more than a dozen literary and journalism awards, including the Hubert Evans Prize and several

National Magazine Awards, and the B.C. Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Literary Excellence.

From its inception in 1994 until 2009, Glavin was the editor of the *Transmontanus* series, published by New Star Books. He lives in Victoria, BC.

Alix Hawley



Alix Hawley studied English Literature and Creative Writing at Oxford University, the University of East Anglia, and the University of British Columbia. In 2008 she published a story collection, *The Old Familiar* (Thistledown Press), which was longlisted for the ReLit Award. Several of her pieces have won accolades from CBC: "Witching" won the 2017 Literary Awards Short Story Prize, "Tentcity" and "Jumbo" were runners-up in 2012 and 2014, and "Pig (For Oma)" won the 2014 BloodLines contest. Her first novel, *All True Not a Lie in It*, was published by Knopf as its New Face of Fiction pick

for 2015, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, won the Amazon.ca/Walrus First Novel Award, and the BC Book Prize for Fiction. *My Name is a Knife*, her next novel, will be published in July 2018.

Alix lives in British Columbia.

From: <https://www.alixhawley.com/about.html>

Kim Fu



Photo by
L D'Alessandro

Kim Fu is a Canadian-born writer, living in Seattle, Washington.

Her first novel *For Today I Am a Boy* won the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. It was also a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice and long-listed for CBC's Canada Reads. Fu's debut poetry collection *How Festive the Ambulance* received a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly*, and includes a 2017 National Magazine Awards Silver Medal winner and a Best Canadian Poetry 2016 selection. Her most recent novel, *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, was published in February 2018.

Fu's writing has appeared in *Granta*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, *Hazlitt*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. She has received residency fellowships from the Ucross Foundation, Berton House, Wildacres, and the Wallace Stegner Grant for the Arts.

From: kim-fu.com/bio

Mark Leiren-Young



Mark Leiren-Young was swallowed by a whale named Moby Doll. His bestselling book, *The Killer Whale Who Changed the World*—about the first orca displayed in captivity—won the 2017 Science Writers and Communicators Book Award. Mark is directing a feature documentary about Moby and his short documentary *The Hundred-Year-Old Whale*, about the life and times of Granny (J2) is touring film festivals now. Mark hosts the popular podcast, Skaana, about orcas, oceans and the environment (www.skaana.org).

He is also a playwright whose work has been produced around the world. His award-winning comedy, *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, debuts at Pacific Theatre this March.

From: www.leiren-young.com

Heather O'Neill



Heather O'Neill is a Canadian novelist, poet, short-story writer, screenwriter and essayist. *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, her debut novel, was published in 2006 to international critical acclaim and won Canada Reads. It was shortlisted for both the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Orange Prize for Fiction. She has since published the novel *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night* and the short story collection *Daydreams of Angels*, both of which were shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize in consecutive years. The collection was also shortlisted for the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. Born and raised in Montreal, O'Neill lives there today with her daughter.

Her latest novel, *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*, won the 2017 Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and was longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction.

Photo from twitter.com and description from writersfestival.org

Renée Sarojini Saklikar



Photo by Sandra Vander Schaaf

Renée Sarojini Saklikar is Poet Laureate for the City of Surrey, British Columbia. Passionate about connecting people through poetry, as Laureate in Surrey she offers free writing consultations, teaches poetry in schools and at community events, and hosts workshops with youth and seniors to tell Surrey stories.

Trained as a lawyer at the University of British Columbia, with a degree in English Literature, Renée teaches creative writing for Simon Fraser University and Vancouver Community College. Renée's first book, *Children of Air India*, (Nightwood Editions, 2013) won the 2014 Canadian Authors Association Award for poetry and her second book, with Wayde Compton, *The Revolving City: 51 Poems and the Stories Behind Them* (Anvil Press/SFU Public Square, 2015) was a finalist for a 2016 City of Vancouver Book Award. Fascinated by artistic collaboration, Renée's work has been made into opera and song cycles (*air india [redacted]*, Turning Point Ensemble, 2015) and visual art (Chris Turnbull, see [thecanadaproject](http://thecanadaproject.wordpress.com) on wordpress for images from Turnbull's outdoor eco-installation featuring Renée's poetry).

Renée is working on an epic sci-fi journey poem, THOT-J-BAP and her chapbook, *After the Battle of Kingsway, the bees*, was a finalist for the 2017 bpNichol chapbook award. She recently published a long poem about her personal connection to the Air India Flight 182 bombing, in an anthology of scholarly and artistic work (*Remembering Air India, the art of public mourning*, University of Alberta Press, 2017). This spring, Renée will publish poems about bees in the book *Listening to the Bees* (Nightwood Editions, 2018) in collaboration with scientist and Governor General award winner, Dr. Mark Winston.

Description from <https://thecanadaproject.wordpress.com/>

Grant Lawrence



Grant Lawrence is an award-winning author, CBC personality, singer, columnist, and live event host. We are delighted he has returned for his second year as Master of Ceremonies, after joining us as a guest author in 2016!

His new book, *Dirty Windshields*, is his third. His previous books are *Adventures in Solitude* (Harbour Publishing, 2010) and *The Lonely End of the Rink* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2013). At the CBC, Grant is known mostly for his work with the ground breaking Radio 3 and the championing of Canadian independent music.

Previously, he worked as an indie label publicist and concert promoter. Grant is the lead singer of the Smugglers and the goalie for the Flying Vees beer league hockey team. He is married to musician Jill Barber and they live in Vancouver, BC, with their two children.

Photo and description from: grantlawrence.ca

Our Musicians

Friday evening – music on the mezzanine

Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson has performed locally as a keyboardist since moving to the Comox Valley almost 30 years ago. His piano repertoire covers a wide range of styles including classic show tunes, jazz standards, and pop music favourites.

Saturday evening – music on the mezzanine

CC and the Sizzling Seven

Mostly members of the Carihi band, this jazz group has been playing together for six months. Members include Cody Chamberlin on tenor sax; Nico Matheson on trombone; Cameron Younger on guitar; Tom Younger on bass; Nick MacGregor on drums; Jon Takach on alto sax; Zach Mudie on baritone sax; and Arlen Cox on trumpet.

Words on the Water Organizing Committee

Rebecca Berry

Tylere Couture

Connie Kretz

Angel Murphy

Charlene Brown

Campbell Dick

Betsy Muir

Paul Murphy

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many student volunteers from Timberline's Leadership program! Your commitment, expertise and generosity with your time are 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, Heather O'Neill and Joel Thomas Hynes will offer readings and writing workshops to Campbell River students on Friday, March 16th.

WOW Official Book Seller

Coho Books is located in the heart of downtown Campbell River. They carry a large selection of new books catering to a wide range of interests. Their goal is to provide a warm and inviting environment that readers of all ages will enjoy.

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

Cover image design – Michaela Deevy, Timberline student

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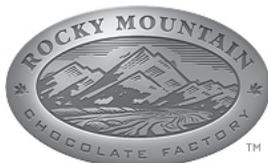


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