



SUMMER 2010

The newsletter of the Vancouver International Writers Festival

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Strong Canadian presence at 23rd Writers Festival

THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WRITERS & READERS FESTIVAL,
OCTOBER 19 - 24 ON GRANVILLE ISLAND

We've always known that British Columbia has been producing great writers and great writing at an astonishing rate, but this year's Festival is evidence of a bumper crop. From the more well-known voices of **Caroline Adderson**, **Emma Donoghue**, **William Gibson**, **Billie Livingston** and **Kathy Page**, to emerging talents like **Aaron Bushkowsky**, **Miranda Pearson** and **Adam Louis Schroeder**, the very



Caroline Adderson, William Gibson (photo: © Chris Cameron 2005).

best of BC will be on display. Vancouver Island talent is also plentiful this year—**Ann Eriksson**, **Robert Wiersema**, **Rachel Wyatt** and **Terence Young** will all be coming to the Festival with new work.



Terence Young, Paolo Giordano.

Our international line-up is also particularly strong and diverse this year. **Paul Harding** won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel *Tinkers*. The Italian phenomenon **Paolo Giordano's** novel *The Solitude of Numbers* has become a world-wide sensation. **Miguel Syjuco** from the Phillipines won the 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize when his book *Illustrado* was still in manuscript form. UK authors **David Mitchell** (who penned the brilliant *Cloud Atlas*), **Ali Smith** and **Andrea Levy** are three of the finest writers from over the pond. **Kate Pullinger**, also living in the UK, won last year's Governor General's Literary Award for fiction. Two participating writers from the US, **Yiyun Li** and **Wells Tower**, were recently included on *The New Yorker's* Best



Andrea Levy (photo © Laurie Fletcher), Miguel Syjuco (photo © Marcus Townsend).

20 under 40 list. And **David Grossman** is one of Israel's most distinguished authors.



David Mitchell, Yann Martel.

The Canadian contingent is equally impressive, with headliners like **Yann Martel**, **Michael Winter** and former Scotiabank Giller Prize nominees **Jane Urquhart**, **Camilla Gibb** and **Michael Helm**. Governor General's Award-winning poet **Don McKay** returns to the Festival while the former Poet Laureate of Canada, **John Steffler**, makes his first appearance here.

Canadian letters lost one of its most versatile and spirited creators when **Paul Quarrington** died this past January. It is some solace that his work survives him. His memoir of a life in music, *Cigar Box Banjo*, published this spring, immediately leapt onto the bestseller lists. At this year's Festival we will present a feature documentary about Paul entitled *Life in Music* and follow it with a discussion of his writing.

In 2007 Alistair MacLeod joined Vancouver men's choir **Chor Leoni** in an event that has gone down in Festival history as one of the most moving performances ever to grace the Waterfront Theatre stage. While we would never attempt to repeat the event, we *are* planning something similar. This year, Vancouver Island literary lion **Jack Hodgins** will join Chor Leoni on stage. Whereas MacLeod's stories and the accompanying music was evocative of Canada's east coast, Hodgins and the choir will create a distinctly west coast mood.

And finally, it's the continuum of jokes flying around the Festival office that keeps us sane throughout the year, and since laughter is known to be good for our health we've invited some funny guys to make you smile. **Terry Fallis**, **Ken Finkleman** and **Drew Hayden Taylor** not only have new work in common, but they also know how to deliver a sweet punch line.

Look for our full program in August and remember that as a VIWF member you're entitled to a discount on event tickets and advance ticket buying privileges to make sure you don't miss out on popular events like the Literary Cabaret and the Solo Author series.

See you at the Festival!

Hal Wake
Artistic Director

PS For your summer reading pleasure you can download the 2010 Festival reading list. www.writersfest.bc.ca/files/u3/2010_list.pdf

spreading the word

SPRING 2010 WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE: IVAN E. COYOTE INSPIRES STUDENTS AT HOPE & BOSTON BAR

Ivan E. Coyote, one of North America's most beguiling storytellers and an award-winning author, is an audience favourite at music, poetry, spoken word and writer's festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam. This spring Ivan reached star status with Hope and Boston Bar secondary students and teachers as Writer-in-Residence, through the Vancouver International Writers Festival's Spreading the Word education outreach program. During the week-long residency, Ivan taught writing workshops to a select group of grade 11 students at Hope Secondary and grades 9–12 students at Boston Bar Secondary. She also gave readings and presentations on bullying to 240 students during the week.



Ivan E. Coyote

"I can assure you that getting and keeping high school students' interest for any length of time can be a huge challenge," says English 11 teacher Joanne Sauve.

"When students walked into room 1 at Hope Secondary School for a special presentation, they had no idea what was in store for them. I heard one say 'what's this all about?' with a bored look on his face.

(Students are used to having special guests of all kinds talk about issues such as substance abuse, gangs or bullying, to name a few.) After everyone was settled down, the audience waited for Ivan to start. It wasn't long before all eyes and ears were riveted to this wonderful storyteller. The only noise I heard throughout the whole hour was laughter and sighs of compassion."

"How often does an adult reach a skeptical audience like teenagers with such force and success? Not very often, that's for sure. The humour in each story caught the students' attention and the underlying message got through to them. After the presentation, I had a chance to talk with a lot of them, and they were full of praise for Ivan. They wanted to read her stories, they were talking about how awesome she was, how terrible the fate of young people affected by bullying. During one of the stories skillfully delivered by Ivan, I noticed a few teary eyes in the room, not to mention my own. We would feel privileged to have Ivan come back to Hope Secondary in the future. Her talent in storytelling and the poignancy of some of the underlying issues really provoked some further thinking on the part of many, many students."

For Ivan, "there was never a dull moment. Some of the kid's stories that they shared in the workshop were pretty harsh: deaths of siblings, drug use by parents, alcoholism, abuse." For the students, it

was an inspiring experience—several students are continuing to work with Ivan via email to finish the stories they started during her residency.

The Writer-In-Residence program is supported by the Michael R. Shaw Fund.

READING WITH WRITERS SPRING 2010

The goal of Reading with Writers is to reach K-12 students at inner city schools and ignite a passion for reading and writing. By all accounts this spring's program hit that goal, as ten authors took over classrooms from Hope to Victoria and in between to engage students in lively discussions about the craft of writing and the power of books.



Maggie DeVries at John Henderson Elementary Photo: Ilona Beiks

Authors who participated in the Reading with Writers program this spring were **Maggie deVries, Robyn Harding, Glen Hauser, Chris Humphreys, Brendan MacLeod, Sean McGarragle, Barbara Nickel, C.J. Taylor** in Burnaby, Hope, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Surrey and Victoria.

"It was a thrill to have Chris (Humphreys) present to a full library of students from a wide range of grades and ability levels (including a French Immersion class), and to see a high level of engagement in even the most reluctant and distractible groups."

Brian Saunders, Teacher, Cariboo Secondary

Reading with Writers is sponsored by HSBC Bank Canada.



Brendan MacLeod at New Westminster Secondary Photo: Ilona Beiks

spreading the word



Susie Morgenstern, Jacques Pasquet, Jennifer Tremblay, Pierre Pratt

LA JOIE DE LIRE

About 30 years ago, an American writer fell in love with a French mathematician; and so she moved to France, knowing only three words of French. Since then **Susie Morgenstern** has written 100 or so books for young people—in French and in English—that have been translated into many other languages. Morgenstern is one of five authors to participate in La Joie de Lire (the joy of reading) 2010. Along with Québec author **Jacques Pasquet**, Morgenstern will feature in events for students aged 10 to 18. Publisher and author **Jennifer Tremblay** (Québec) and illustrator **Pierre Pratt** (Québec/Portugal) will be sharing their books with younger audiences.

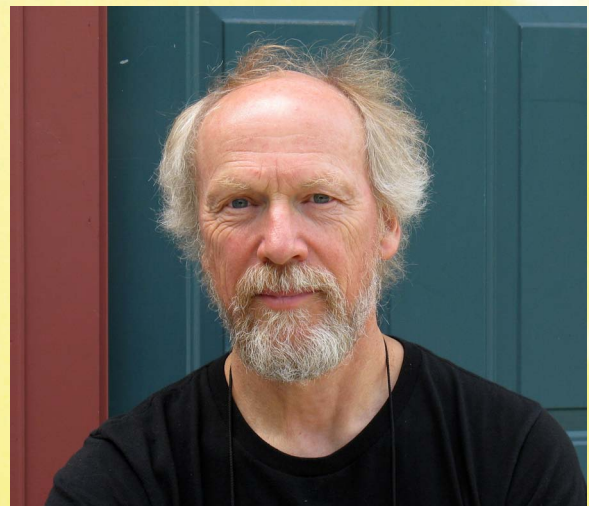
poetry

Warm Shallow Sea

I am sifting down through shafts of light,
krill clouds glittering in the currents,
my smoothness, my hardness, my shield I have
dropped, opened my hand and let my money
fall, I am all smile, it is possible to be only
an open door, the whole sea running harmlessly,
genially through your eye holes, ear holes,
mouth, while the shield sinks down
and down, glinting, a turning silver
flake joining the deep litter, we can stretch
completely out in the long descent, pillowed
in glow, in the water's mouth, in the sweet
yellow intricate feathered moan

Copyright John Steffler, 2010, from *Lookout* used with the permission of McClelland & Stewart Ltd.

John Steffler will be appearing in the Poetry Bash at the 2010 Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival.



John Steffler (Photo: Susan Gillis).



Friend of the Festival

Kip Woodward is a longtime supporter of the Vancouver International Writers Festival and especially of the Spreading the Word education program. The Woodwards were early supporters of the Festival's annual Literati Gala, which raises funds for Spreading the Word each fall. In 2003, Kip established the Michael R. Shaw Fund, in memory of his nephew, Michael, who tragically passed away in an avalanche accident in the interior of BC during a school outing. The Fund supports the Festival's Writer in Residence program, which sends authors to two small BC communities for a week every year, to work with high school students and encourage them to explore their creative writing skills.

Kip says "Michael was always an avid reader from the beginning. He had an incredible imagination and with support of his family, we thought this would be a lasting legacy to young readers who may be inspired by those authors who they have come across in their school".

Kip and the Woodward family have a long history of philanthropy and community service in BC. They have been active and instrumental in many ventures that have benefitted the Greater Vancouver community in significant ways. With his brother John, Kip headed up the capital campaign for the new Vancouver Public Library building, and Kip was also involved in the creation of the children's department at the VPL's main branch.

Kip was recently appointed Chair of Vancouver Coastal Health. Prior to that, he spent four years as Chair of the Board of Providence Health Care. He is president of Woodcorp Investments Ltd., a venture-capital investment firm, and has served on a number of organizations as chair including Brentwood College School, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, Village Farms International, Keg Royalty Trust Fund. and past member of the Provincial Judicial Council.

DONATE YOUR AEROPLAN MILES

It's that time of year again. Purge those pesky air miles from your account and donate them to the Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival!

The VIWF is once again partnered with Aeroplan's Miles Without Borders, a program that enables local organizations to pool donated Aeroplan points in a charitable account. As always, the Festival is responsible for covering travel costs for a handful of writers. Your donation of Aeroplan miles will help us with this expense. We will accept donations of any amount because they all add up.

You can download the donation form from our website www.writersfest.bc.ca/supportus/aeroplan

aeroplan

12th Annual VIWF Poetry & Short Story Writing Contest

Submit your finest prose and poetry to the twelfth annual Writers Festival Poetry & Short Story Contest, presented by the Vancouver International Writers Festival. Prizes will be awarded to the top two entries in both the poetry and creative short fiction categories.

1st PRIZE \$500 **2nd PRIZE \$350**

The contest deadline is **5 pm, October 24**, the last day of the 2010 Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival. Entries may be dropped off at Book Warehouse locations, or delivered by hand or mail to the Writers Festival office. Entries will be judged by professionals in the writing and publishing industries. Winners will be announced by **January 15, 2011**.

Check our website for complete contest submission details:
www.writersfest.bc.ca



Photo: Chris Cameron 2009

MAKE A NOVEL INVESTMENT

Spreading the Word, the education program of the Vancouver International Writers Festival offers grades K-12 students the opportunity to engage with writers at the Festival and in the classroom. We provide outreach programs for BC students and offer affordable Festival school event tickets, made possible through the generosity of our individual and corporate donors.

You can contribute to Spreading the Word by sending a cheque payable to the Vancouver International Writers Festival, Suite 202, 1398 Cartwright Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3R8. Please include your name, telephone number and complete mailing address. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$35.

To make a donation on your VISA or MasterCard, please call (604) 681-6330. Or you may donate online using our secure donation form at www.writersfest.bc.ca.

Great news! CanadaHelps now accepts gifts of securities online. With the elimination of capital gains on donations of publically traded securities, gifts of securities are now the most tax efficient way to make a charitable donation...and a great way for donors to make a greater impact with their gift.

It's easy - both for donors and charities. Once a donor has completed the online process and the shares have been sold, the donor receives their tax receipt and the charity receives the funds. It's just that simple. To find out more about how it works, visit www.CanadaHelps.org.

VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
**WRITERS
& READERS**
FESTIVAL 

October 19 – 24, 2010

Tickets on sale to VIWF members September 1, general public September 8 and school groups on September 13. Check the Festival program guide or our website in late August for complete program details.

www.writersfest.bc.ca

Tickets to Vancouver International Writers Festival events will be on sale through VancouverTix. See the Festival program guide and our website for full details in September.



VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WRITERS FESTIVAL
& RANDOM HOUSE OF CANADA present

ALEXANDER M^cCALL SMITH



The bestselling author of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* Series will talk about his forthcoming book, *Corduroy Mansions*.

AUGUST 16-7:30 PM

ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY
UNITED CHURCH
1022 Nelson Street (at Burrard)

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~ www.writersfest.bc.ca ~

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Photo: Festival Staff

**Join our team of 280 fantastic volunteers for the
23rd Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival.**

If you have some spare time and would like to immerse yourself in the literary world for a week or two this fall, we need you!

Volunteer Manager Kathryn Fowler will be on staff in August.

For more information on volunteering please visit
www.writersfest.bc.ca/get-involved/volunteers.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Vancouver International Writers Festival is committed to protecting the privacy of our members and patrons. We will not trade or sell your contact information to other businesses or organizations.