

Twentieth Anniversary of Read by the Sea Summer Literary Festival July 3-6, 2019, River John, NS

In 2000, Read by the Sea literary festival featured four prominent Canadian authors reading on a River John stage, on one fine afternoon in July.



Twenty years later, in 2019, the annual event will present seven prominent authors reading across four days in July, on two separate stages.

As well as readings, the festival now includes opportunities for new authors to pitch their manuscripts to a panel of Atlantic publishers, participate in a writer's workshop, join a local writer's group to share an open mic, and practice story-telling in the oral tradition during a campfire and a

story walk. There will be live music, books for sale and authors to autograph them. A series of displays throughout the village will tell the festival's story – and offer prizes to those who visit them all. If last year is an indication, the audience will exceed 1,200 – just about double the village's population! But no worries - River John rises to the occasion.

Keep reading for more information!

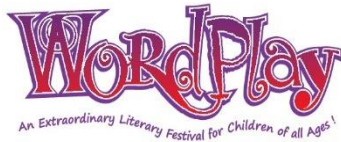
The annual summer literary festival takes place Wednesday, July 3 to Saturday, July 6, 2019, in River John, NS.

Admission is free to all events, but some require pre-registration. Note the items marked with an asterisk*.

For the outdoor events, the River John fire hall is booked in case of **inclement weather**.

Twentieth Anniversary Displays

A series of **displays** depicting festival history will be found at locations throughout the village. Visitors to them will be given a passport – if you get it stamped at all four display locations you can turn it in to festival sponsor **Caldera Distilleries** in River John – to get a free mocktail/cocktail. One per person.



WordPlay, a literary festival for children of all ages, takes place **Wednesday, July 3, 1-3 p.m.** outdoors at Mabel Murple’s Book Shoppe & Dreamery, 286 Allen Rd, River John.

The featured authors:

Jessica Scott Kerrin, from Halifax, really wanted to be an astronaut, but wrote books about them instead – and about monster lobsters, creepy cemeteries and giant tree forts. Her books, including *The Better Tree Fort*, *Lower the Trap* and many more – have been translated into six languages for children around the world. Visit Jessica online at jessicascottkerrin.com

Arthur Slade was raised on a ranch in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, and now lives in Saskatoon. He is the author of more than twenty novels for young readers including *The Hunchback Assignments*, which won the prestigious TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award; and *Dust*, winner of the Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature. His books are read all over the world. Visit him online at www.arthurslade.com.

Singer-songwriter Anna Plaskett, uses music to help people, especially children and seniors. She joins WordPlay to perform from her debut children's album *To the Moon and Back*, released in June 2017. Visit her at annaplaskett.bandcamp.com

MC Sheree Fitch

Rainbow Express – participatory musical entertainment

Yoga for kids

The featured books and CDs will be sold at Mabel’s, and the presenters will sign them. Food concessions will be available. Bring your grown-ups, your beach blankets or lawn chairs, your sunscreen and sun hats, and - especially - your imaginations.

***Write-by-the-Sea “Ugh: I hate the internet (for writers)” Workshop**
Thursday, July 4, 9-11 a.m. Instructor Arthur Slade.

Topic: Using social media without using up writing time. Open to published writers of any genre or level of experience.

Pre-register by using the contact feature on the website www.readbythesea.ca or by mailing your information to Read by the Sea (workshop), c/o River John Library, PO Box 104, River John, NS B0K1N0. Include your name and contact information, and a sentence or two about what you do and why you want to participate in the workshop. **Place to be announced.**

Heritage Story Walk

Thursday, July 4, 2019, 9:30 am.

Meet at the River John Heritage Museum, Highway 6, to join members of the River John & Area Historical Society for a guided tour of the river's East Side. Hear the stories, share your own. Dress for walking and the weather. About two hours.

Family Story-Telling Campfire –

Thursday, July 4, 6:30 p.m. on the Caldera Patio, 65 River John Rd.

Bring your tall tales - and your amazing true stories - to share in the oral tradition. Bring a lawn chair, a light jacket (just in case), and family and friends to this relaxed event.

Writers' Group Meet 'n' Greet

Friday, July 5, 2 pm at the River John Library

Followed by open mic session 3 pm.

Drop in, schmooze the local writing scene with members of the **Pictou County Writers Group**. Stick around for an informal Open Mic session (details later – watch the website or Facebook page). Participate or just listen and cheer on your writer colleagues.

***Pitch the Publisher**

Saturday, July 6: 9-10:30 am, River John Legion hall.

It's a literary Dragon's Den!

Entrants have a strict maximum of three minutes to describe their writing projects to a panel of three or four publishers, in front of an audience. The publishers then have 5 minutes to reply. So - if you have a manuscript inside you, or all typed but hidden in your sock drawer, this could be your chance to get a publisher's attention.

The steps: Prepare a proposal: describe your book in two sentences or less; plus say why you are the most qualified person to write it, and why people will want to read it. State the genre: (for example - fiction? Memoir? Poetry? Or...?). Say who will read it (Adults? Children? Taxpayers? Or...?) Say it all in a way that will grab the publishers' attention so tightly that they won't sleep for days, thinking about YOUR manuscript. Practice saying your pitch out loud in a mirror and to a friend. Send your submission (not the manuscript) to Pitch the Publisher, using the "contact us" feature at www.readbythesea.ca; or by Canada Post to Read by the Sea, c/o River John Library, PO Box 104, River John, NS B0K1N0. Include your contact information.

Deadline: June 5, 2019. A jury will select nine or 10 entrants that are most likely to succeed, and assign each a pitching time. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your allotted time and check in with the registrar. You may submit a resume, contact information and manuscript or portion thereof to the registrar, who will deliver it to panellists AFTER your pitch. More information is available on the Read by the Sea website and Facebook page.

Everyone is welcome to join the audience – including the pitchers.

Read by the Sea Main Stage

Saturday, July 6, 11 am-3:30 p.m., in the Legion Memorial Garden

Five prominent Canadian authors will each read from their latest works, followed by an onstage interview. After all authors read, they will participate in a moderated panel discussion and then answer audience questions.

The authors:

Colin Campbell (*Free Days With George*) takes the Local Author Chair - introduced in honour of the festival's 20th anniversary - to read from his first book, a New York Times best-seller.

Mayann Francis (*An Honourable Life*) The former lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia reads from her new book, a candid account of her life and her challenges - beginning with her early days in Whitney Pier, through to filling the province's vice-regal position. This is her second book, following a children's book *Mayann's Train Ride*.

Kevin Major (*Land Beyond the Sea*) reads from his novel about the 1942 sinking of a Newfoundland passenger ferry by a German U-boat, Major's latest addition to 18 highly-acclaimed works that emanate from his close relationship with his home province, Newfoundland and Labrador. Among them are *Hold Fast*, a Governor General's Award-winner, and his first adult novel *No Man's Land*, adapted as a long-running play.

Allan Cooper (*Toward the Country of Light: New and Selected Poems*) is a New Brunswick poet whose 40 years of work earns accolades wherever people hear or read it. He's published 16 poetry collections and a book of translations, and his work appears in publications across North America. Oh - he's also a musician and a publisher.

Elizabeth Hay (*All Things Consoled*) reads from her award-winning memoir about her parents' deaths and her life as their daughter. The Ottawa resident is a life-long hard-core reader who travelled widely before returning to Ontario. She won the Giller Prize for an earlier work, *Late Nights on Air*, and has written several other novels. She is happiest at her desk.

MC is local radio personality AJ (Alan Johnson).

Interviewers: Lana MacEachern, Trecia Schell

Coles will have a mobile bookstore onsite to sell the authors' works. Volunteers will sell festival swag (souvenirs), and raffle tickets to raise funds to support the festival. (Donations are gratefully accepted). Food concessions will be on site, and live music will accompany the lunch break. Picnics are welcome.

Authors will meet their fans and sign books.

Bring your lawn chairs or beach blankets, your sun hats and sunscreen, your snacks – and sit back and enjoy.

Sponsors, Volunteers and the Community

Read by the Sea runs on volunteer power and through the gracious funding and sponsorship from public entities like Canada Council for the Arts, the province of Nova Scotia, the Municipality of Pictou County and Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library; and from private

enterprises including Caldera Distilleries Inc, Advocate Printing and Publishing, River John & Area Historical Society, Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery, Nook & Kranny Garden Centre and more. The festival depends largely on local suppliers and services, and on the tremendous support from the village of River John and surrounding area. We encourage our audience to patronize local businesses.

Should you wish to help ensure the festival's future, you may wish to **1.** Volunteer during the festival or in the organizing committee. Just drop a line letting us know what you can do and would like to do, then make yourself known to the volunteers when you arrive. **2.** Help fund the festival by becoming a named sponsor, by buying a spot for your business' banner during the main stage, by contributing "in kind" goods or services, or by making a direct donation. You may reply to this email, use the contact feature on the website, or write to Read by the Sea c/o River John Library, PO Box 104, River John, NS B0K1N0.

"Sea" you at Read by the Sea!