

Word on the Lake Writers' Festival – Workshop Schedule

MAY 20, 2017

Get Your Book Noticed

9:15 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Balmoral Room
presented by: Gail Anderson-Dargatz

Thousands of books are published each year, through self-publishing and traditional publishers. How do we get an agent or editor to notice our book? Or, if we self-publish, how do we get our book noticed by readers? We're told to promote our writing on social media sites. But most of us aren't comfortable with promoting our work at all. And how do we connect with readers in the ocean of Facebook and Twitter posts? Gail will talk about approaches that have helped her own novels become national and international bestsellers. Writers, come with a notebook or tablet in hand, prepared to come up with ideas for your own marketing plan.

Let's get Busy working with Social Media this weekend!

9:15 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Monashee Room
presented by: Lorelei Fiset

An activity based learning experience for writers, publishers, and entrepreneurs. Learn how to attract an audience in 15 minutes a day through publicity, hashtags, twitter, and more! Bring your laptop, tablet or smartphone!

Effective Book Proposals

9:15 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Seymour Room
presented by: Anna Comfort O'Keeffe

Effective book proposals – a participatory workshop on how to pitch a book to publishers (and what not to do if you don't want your proposal to be pitched). Participants will be invited to craft a proposal on the spot, including a cover letter and book synopsis, and will work together in small groups to hone and perfect the pitch.

Memoir Writing Basics (For Writers Just Starting Their Memoir)

9:15 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Hudson Room
presented by: Cea Sunrise Person

Workshop will be a combination of screen presentation, discussion, handouts, examples, writing prompts, student readings and author feedback. Topics discussed will include:

- Definitions, formatting, punctuation/grammar, etc
- Truth and Fiction in Memoir Writing—what's acceptable to fabricate vs truths not to mess with
- Dealing With the Tough Stuff—writing about difficult memories, dealing with writer's block, legalities and ethics

Songwriting Demystified

11:00 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Monashee Room
presented by: Blu & Kelly Hopkins

In this workshop we will be discussing and demonstrating various song forms, the parts of a song (verse, chorus, bridge), rhyme, metre and melody and how they work together to create a successful lyric.

Channelling Our Ghosts – Creating Historical Fiction for YA Readers

11:00 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Hudson Room
presented by: Jacqueline Guest

Persuading teens to read history is critical. Creating historical fiction that is relevant and readable for a YA audience is challenging. The past CAN be resurrected for young readers with all the facts they need and all the fiction they crave. This is a hot market but details count – know the rules and the tips that will make your manuscript stand out. Join Jacqueline Guest to discover how to channel our ghosts, bringing historical fiction to life!

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Creating a Book Marketing Plan

11:00 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Seymour Room
presented by: Jill Veitch

How to create a book marketing plan by making use of a website, social media, email marketing, paid advertising, book tours, live events, networking, promo materials, and the support from your team.

Steam Punk. What the Punk?

11:00 am - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Balmoral Room
presented by: Halli Lilburn

Advancing Invention & Altering Reality Steampunk: the popular sub-genre where steam powered machinery rules a Victorian culture – a.k.a. a boundless vehicle for creation, invention and exploration. Its influence is felt far and wide from post-apocalyptic distopia to wild west fantasy, from Jules Vern to Scott Westerfeld, from clockwork to kite work. Write it, wear it, dream it. Witness samples of the best books, movies and gear in steam and other punk – to fill your libraries and your brains.

Six sentences in Search of a Home

1:45 pm - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Monashee Room
presented by: Theresa Kishkan

Participants will write sentences based on prompts and then will find ways to weave them together to make a literary object. An essay? The beginnings of a story? A hybrid? Will the six sentences inspire other sentences to help them along? Participants are asked to bring a family photograph, a small object of personal significance, and the lyrics to a favourite song. We'll spend an hour writing and half an hour sharing our results.

Astonishment in the world: Creative Nonfiction

1:45 pm - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Seymour Room
presented by: Myrna Kostash

Creative nonfiction happens at the place where public events meet private lives. It is the genre that begins with the writer's moment of astonishment – to borrow from Annie Dillard – in the world. Something in the world has reached me – moved, disturbed, excited, haunted me – and set me on an inquiry into my own memories, emotions, and ideas in response to it. Creative nonfiction, then, is the genre that raises two questions that must be answered: What has this got to do with me? And: Why am I telling you this?

Dance of Words

1:45 pm - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Hudson Room
presented by: Sheri-D Wilson

Prepare for something new in the realm of Spoken Word! We will write, think and play. We will jette and sashay with –hard and soft-silly and serious-style. We will enter the introspective space to contemplate and curve through writing exercises. And then we will voice our ideas and learn more about ourselves until we bend our minds.

The Importance of Setting in Fiction

1:45 pm - Prestige Harbourfront Resort - Balmoral Room
presented by: Dr. Patrick Taylor

My remit is to discuss with you the importance of “setting” in fiction so the first question must be, what is setting? Setting “When well executed description is unobtrusive and lends substance to a novel. It is the body fat of prose. Too much is unhealthy but without any you no longer have the thing—you have its skeleton.”

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SPECIAL EVENT – A Conversation with John Vaillant

9:30 am - Okanagan College - Room 130
presented by: John Vaillant

A relaxed setting where you can speak with John Vaillant re his books and also hear him read excerpts from his work.

Six sentences in Search of a Home

10:30 am - Okanagan College - Room 134
presented by: Theresa Kishkan

Participants will write sentences based on prompts and then will find ways to weave them together to make a literary object. An essay? The beginnings of a story? A hybrid? Will the six sentences inspire other sentences to help them along? Participants are asked to bring a family photograph, a small object of personal significance, and the lyrics to a favourite song. We'll spend an hour writing and half an hour sharing our results.

Write On!

10:30 am - Okanagan College - Room 136
presented by: Jacqueline Guest

We've all heard the phrase "write what you know" but writing fiction from real life isn't easy. We worry about what mom will think. We worry if we have the right to tell the story, or write about a given location. We get stuck in reality — what "really happened" — and our fiction flounders because of it. In this workshop, we'll explore all these issues and more with the goal of writing powerful fiction that has the authority that can only come from "writing what you know."

Writers, come with a notebook or tablet in hand, prepared for writing exercises that will bump your writing up to the next level.

Who Says I Need an Editor?

10:30 am - Okanagan College - Room 143
presented by: Joy Vowles

What does the publishing industry expect for edited submissions and what does an editor do anyway? This workshop will endeavour to answer these questions, as well as discussing how an editor fits into the writing process, the variety of services an editor can provide, how much to budget for editing, and how to find, choose, and work with an editor. You will leave with a better understanding of the editor/writer relationship and the editing process, contact information for editing associations, and, I hope, a smile.

Effective Book Proposals

10:30 am - Okanagan College - Room 141
presented by: Anna Comfort O'Keeffe

Effective book proposals – a participatory workshop on how to pitch a book to publishers (and what not to do if you don't want your proposal to be pitched). Participants will be invited to craft a proposal on the spot, including a cover letter and book synopsis, and will work together in small groups to hone and perfect the pitch.

One Traditional Writer's Place in the Electronic World

10:30 am - Okanagan College - Room 130
presented by: Dr. Patrick Taylor

Patrick will put the electronic world into perspective with humour and Irish wisdom, from a traditional writer's perspective.

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Travel Writing: No Matter Where You Go, There You Are

12:30 pm - Okanagan College - Room 141

presented by: Myrna Kostash

It is a cliché about travel writing that the journey the writer is on is as much a journey of self-exploration as of adventure and discovery of the “new” or “other”. It is also fair to say that most of us who write-while-travelling see ourselves as travellers, not tourists. We’re not heading out for relaxation; we’re travelling to expand our intellectual and emotional horizons.

We introduce ourselves and we say something about our travel experiences. Have we kept travel journals or diaries, travel blogs, written letters home?

1. Tips for travel writing
2. What is travel writing? We discuss and then do some writing and reading back to each other

Writing Home

12:30 pm - Okanagan College - Room 130

presented by: Gail Anderson-Dargatz

We’ve all heard the phrase “write what you know” but writing fiction from real life isn’t easy. We worry about what mom will think. We worry if we have the right to tell the story, or write about a given location. We get stuck in reality — what “really happened” — and our fiction flounders because of it. In this workshop, we’ll explore all these issues and more with the goal of writing powerful fiction that has the authority that can only come from “writing what you know.” Writers, come with a notebook or tablet in hand, prepared for writing exercises that will bump your writing up to the next level.

Making Your Voice Come To Life

12:30 pm - Okanagan College - Room 134

presented by: Sheri-D Wilson

Lovers of poetry who desire to learn more about the craft of spoken word and gain confidence in your own words; this is the workshop for you. Inspiration-through image prompts, discussion observation, in-class writing and readings we will play with ideas and everything will turn into poetry. You will begin to write immediately and the space will open up for you to tell your own story, express your own dreams and visions.

The Business of Writing: Taxes for Literary Artists

12:30 pm - Okanagan College - Room 143

presented by: George Opacic

A detailed seminar

- Writers who already obtain income through print-based publishers, e-publishing, other self-publishing, grants or other payments, should have sorted themselves out regarding taxation
- Those writers who are just starting down this path need to be armed with knowledge of their obligations to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), or there will be pain in their future
- You Are A Professional
- If you are a writer “with the expectation of a profit”, as the CRA calls it, you are a professional – IT-504r2, para. 5
- Taxes are applied to professional writers in the same way as to a person who starts a business as a sole proprietor – you will report your income on your personal tax form, with a few additions
- T2125 – Professional income
- Deductions: home-office; computer; editing; illustrations; printing; research; professional development; vehicle...
- Donations; gifts; grants; contracts

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Elements of Storytelling – For Any Level of Memoir Writer

12:30 pm - Okanagan College - Room 136

presented by: Cea Sunrise Person

Just like novel writing, memoirs require effective use of all the storytelling elements. Strengthen yours through a series of directed writing exercises on:

Settings/ Character Development/ Dialogue-Pacing/ Foreshadowing.

The workshop will be a combination of screen presentation, discussion, handouts, examples, writing prompts, student readings and author feedback. Please note that memoir basics will not be covered in this class.

Includes Handouts for all the above topics PLUS:

1. Top 10 Memoir Writing Mistakes
2. Tips for Writing with the Reader in Mind
3. Cea's 12 Golden Rules of Memoir Writing, Including The Number One Most Important Rule of Memoir
4. Completed Manuscript Checklist and Rules to Write By