

2018 WordSpring Festival

Quality Inn & Suites Amsterdam, Quispamsis, New Brunswick
May 11–13, 2018



FRIDAY May 11

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| 2:00–4:00 pm | Lounge Area Meet & greet. Bring work to share with writer friends, old & new. |
| 4:00–5:00 pm | Holland Room Icebreaker with Roger Moore. <i>The Sense of an Ending</i> |
| 4:00–6:00 pm | Tulip Room Workshop with Colin Thornton. <i>Starting & Participating in Writers' Groups</i> |
| 6:00–7:00 pm | Holland Room Registration & book table set-up, followed by reception with cash bar. Pick up registration kit, renew membership, mingle with friends. |
| 7:00–9:00 pm | Book launches & author readings with 15-minute break to meet authors & buy books. |
| 9:00 pm onwards | Informal get-together at Barrel's Head Gastropub & Wine Bar, 141 Hampton Road, Rothesay. |

SATURDAY DURING DAY May 12

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| 8:00–9:15 am | Registration just outside Holland Room . Full hot breakfast (complimentary – serve yourself) in Lounge Area . | |
| 9:15–9:45 am (followed by 30-minute break) | Holland Room Plenary Session Guest speaker Wendy McLeod MacKnight <i>Being a Late-Bloomer Writer</i> with Q&A session. | |
| 10:15 am–noon (followed by short break) | Holland Room Workshop Wendy McLeod MacKnight <i>The Child Within: Writing Compelling Kids' Books</i> | Tulip Room Workshop Roger Moore <i>The Black Ink of Courage</i> |
| 12:15–1:15 pm (followed by short break) | Holland Room Buffet luncheon (included in registration) & Annual General Meeting . For all WFNB members. Includes election of WFNB executive & directors. | |
| 1:30–3:30 pm (followed by 30-minute break) | Tulip Room Workshop Deborah Carr <i>Writing Deep: The Gentle Art of Layering</i> | Holland Room Workshop Kerry Lee Powell <i>Writing Short Fiction</i> |
| 4:00–5:00 pm | Blue Pencil Café in Lounge Area (numbers limited; pre-registration required). | |

SATURDAY EVENING May 12

Literary Soirée in Holland Room

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| 6:00–7:00 pm (followed by short break) | Soirée dinner. (\$35, not included in registration. Includes taxes & gratuities.) Catering by The Chef's Table, Dutch Valley, NB. Cash bar. Paying guests are most welcome. |
| 7:15–7:45 pm (followed by short break) | Guest speaker Marjorie Doyle, Chair of TWUC. Includes Q&A session & more. |
| 8:00–9:30 pm | Writing Competition awards ceremony. Meet the winners of this year's WFNB Writing Competition. Short readings by 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd place winners. |
| 9:30 pm onwards | Informal get-together at Barrel's Head Gastropub & Wine Bar. |

SUNDAY MORNING May 13

Open Mic Readings in Tulip Room

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| 9:30 am–noon | Open mic readings. Open to everyone, but please sign up ahead to read. |
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Workshop Presenters & Details



DEBORAH CARR is a freelance writer, author and workshop leader, born and raised in her beloved New Brunswick.

Deborah's biography *Sanctuary: The Story of Naturalist Mary Majka* was shortlisted for the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award in 2011. Her profiles and articles have received regional, national and international awards.

Deborah has taught at conferences and retreats for non-profits, professional associations, government and educational

institutions, as well as within the prison system. In 2012 she spent three weeks in rural Haiti helping farmers, fishermen, midwives and pastors to realize the importance of their stories.

Deborah recently developed the workshop series *Life Writing for Seniors*, delivered in partnership with St. Thomas University, artsnb and the Atlantic Centre for Aging. She hopes to change the conversation on aging to reflect the priceless social value elders bring to society when they share their stories.

Writing Deep: The Gentle Art of Layering with Deborah Carr

Scenes are the heart of your story, no matter whether you write fiction or nonfiction. They pull the reader in and drive the narrative forward. Strong scenes are multi-layered, with descriptive detail, concrete imagery and dramatic action.

But sometimes, our scenes seem flat or contrived. We scratch our heads;

we shuffle words.... Where did we go wrong? What's missing?

During this workshop, we drop below the surface of the nonfiction scene and examine the underpinnings. We work with layering as an artist works with paint, exploring several approaches to help us breathe life, colour and dimension into our flat canvas.



WENDY McLEOD MacKNIGHT grew up in St. Stephen, NB, and at age nine wrote her first novel – *Pam's Summer* – about a girl who lived above a New York City laundromat. She'd never been to New York or stepped inside a laundromat.

She continued to write throughout her teens, mostly bad poetry about boys who broke her heart.

Over the next 25 years, she worked for the New Brunswick government, ending her career as the Deputy Minister of Education only after the siren call of writing became impossible to ignore.

Wendy's debut middle-grade novel, *It's a Mystery, Pig Face!*, was

published in 2017 by Sky Pony Press. Her second book, *The Frame-Up*, is a fantasy set in the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. It was sold at auction in a two-book deal to Harper Collins imprint Greenwillow Books, to be published in June 2018.

Wendy can't wait for *The Frame-Up* to come out so she can share her love of art and the Beaverbrook. In fact, she's been known to wander through galleries and converse with the paintings – mostly in her head, although sometimes not.

Wendy is represented by Lauren Galit of the LKG Agency in New York City.

The Child Within: Writing Compelling Children's Books with Wendy McLeod MacKnight

Children's literature has undergone a tremendous transformation over the past two decades. Apart from their inherent entertainment and educational value, children's books have the ability to help young people make sense of an increasingly complex world.

But in order to do that well, authors of children's books need to be able to step into the shoes of those they write for in a respectful and contemporary way.

This interactive workshop explores current trends in the world of kidlit, shares techniques to help participants elevate their writing, and offers suggestions to aid participants on the road to publication.

In addition, Wendy shares her experience in navigating the world of children's publishing in the United States and Canada. The session ends with lots of time for Q&A. (*Note: Wendy also is our plenary session guest speaker.*)

Workshop Presenters & Details *(cont'd on p. 4)*



ROGER MOORE (BA, Bristol; MA, PhD, Toronto) is a long-time member of WFNB, League of Canadian Poets, and The Writers' Union of Canada. He is a widely published, award-winning poet and short story writer whose oeuvre includes 30+ books and chapbooks, 130+ poems, and 14 short stories that appear in some 25 Canadian literary magazines.

Roger is also an academic with a strong teaching and research record. He was the first person to receive the Excellence in Teaching Award at Fredericton's St. Thomas

University (1996) and subsequently was named the Atlantic Association of Universities Distinguished Teacher of the Year (1997). Roger received a 3M National Teaching Fellowship (2000) and is a Life Member of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Roger's teaching style is that of the facilitator who works with participants to open their minds and allow them to discover and develop skills and knowledge for themselves. *(Self-portrait by Roger Moore.)*

The Sense of an Ending with Roger Moore

This session begins with a series of questions, to which participants write brief answers.

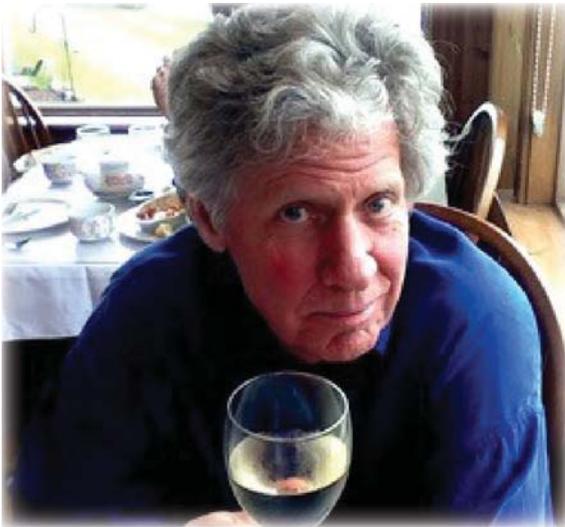
Participants then 'meet and greet,' circulating around the room, engaging with all other participants and discussing with them (compare and contrast) the variety of answers they have generated.

The session ends with an open discussion, during which the multiple meanings of 'the sense of an ending' will be explored and debated.

The Black Ink of Courage with Roger Moore

Participants in this workshop consider, in writing and verbally, the various meanings of courage. Is courage the opposite of fear? What, as writers, do we fear most? How and why do we experience fear? Is it something individual to each of us? Or, as with stage fright, is it something experienced by many, if not all, of us at one time or another in our writing careers?

This workshop takes writers into both their conscious and their subconscious writing worlds. Hopefully, we will explode some of the myths surrounding courage and fear and, in the process, begin to gain insight into how to strengthen our courage as well as how to face, understand and thereby control our fears.



COLIN THORNTON enjoyed a 30-year career as an advertising copywriter. While advertising has many shortcomings, he learned how to communicate a wide range of ideas, products and services in television, radio and print. He also gained experience in how to focus on a precise message, cut the fat, create characters, devise plots and trigger emotions.

Since retiring, Colin has been applying those lessons to his own short stories. He has been published in the *Globe and Mail*, *Ellipse*, *Galleon*, *Pulp Literature*, *Dime Store Review* and *Jewish Literary Journal*. In addition to short stories, he has written and produced 25 audio dramas for Misfits Audio.

Starting & Participating in Writers' Groups with Colin Thornton

The most successful writers' groups thrive when members combine genuine encouragement with respectful, insightful critique. In this workshop, Colin discusses how to create – and sustain – a vibrant writers' group in your community.

He begins with the nuts and bolts of forming a group: how many people, how often to meet, and how to find compatible personalities. He uses short, interactive exercises

to flex the freeform writing muscles and (with participant involvement) demonstrates best practices in dramatic voice projection.

After inviting participants to read aloud from their own writing samples (bring prose or poetry), he asks for audience feedback and uses those comments to explore ways of offering constructive, honest critique. Finally, Colin touches on where and how to publish your work.



KERRY LEE POWELL was born in Montreal and has lived in Antigua, Australia and the UK, where she studied Medieval and Renaissance Literature. Her work has appeared in *The Spectator*, *Boston Review*, Virago Press Writing Women series and Best Canadian Stories.

In 2013 she won the *Malahat Review's* Far Horizons Award and *Boston Review's* Aura Estrada Short Story Award. In 2015 she received a Pushcart Prize special mention.

Her debut poetry collection *Inheritance* was nominated for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Alfred G. Bailey Prize. Her short fiction collection, *Willem de Kooning's Paintbrush* (HarperCollins 2016) was nominated for the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize and shortlisted for the 2016 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

She is the series editor for Grey Suit Editions, a London-based contemporary visual arts archive and press.

Writing Short Fiction with Kerry Lee Powell

Short stories are famously easy to conceive (“I’ve got a great idea for a story...”) but far harder to write and refine.

In this workshop, we look at the basic elements of fiction – plot, character, point of view and language – and engage in short, timed exercises that summon inspiration. We learn powerful techniques to unlock creativity and dissolve

writer’s block. We also examine ways to constructively analyze short fiction for those times when inspiration falters, and we are unsure about how to move forward.

Kerry Lee Powell gave a highly popular, comprehensive version of this workshop for the University of Toronto’s Winter 2018 online course program.

Marjorie Doyle: Saturday Evening Keynote Speaker



MARJORIE DOYLE is the author of four works of nonfiction, one of which is *Comic Relief: Writing Humour in Creative Nonfiction*.

She has published widely in literary magazines such as *Descant*, *Queen’s Quarterly*, *Geist*, *Fiddlehead* and *Antigonish Review*. She’s given readings across Canada, including at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and has taught and mentored creative nonfiction.

Her awards include Silver in the National Magazine Awards, CBC Radio Awards for Performing Excellence, and a Golden Sheaf nomination for the film *Regarding Our Father*. In 2009 she was Haig-Brown Writer-in-Residence on Vancouver Island.

Marjorie is a tireless advocate for writers’ rights and currently serves as president of The Writers’ Union of Canada. Visit marjoriedoyle.ca.

Our Sponsors



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