

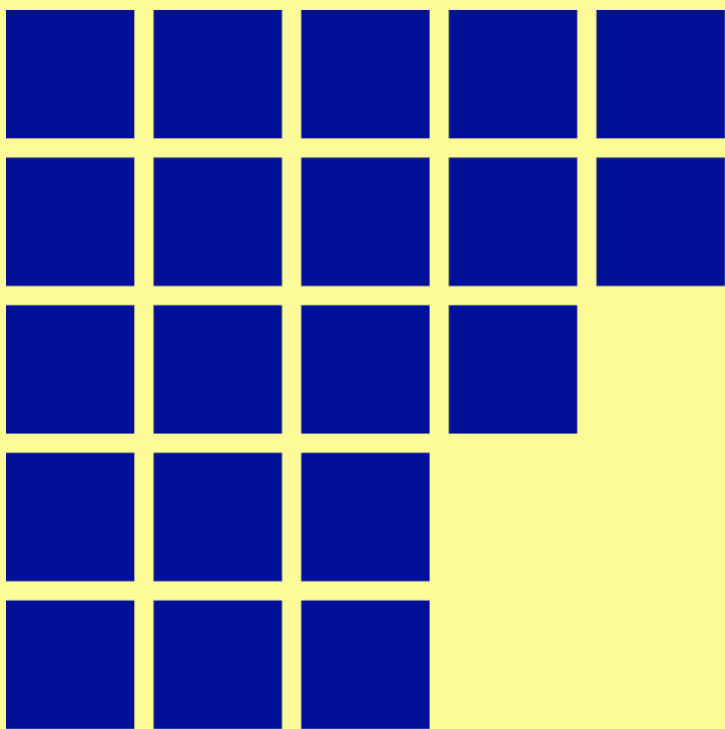
WORDS

ON THE

SALISH SEA



LITERARY FESTIVAL



MARCH 13–14, 2026

Hornby Island Arts Centre
2115A Sollans Road
Hornby Island, BC

Welcome to **WORDS**

Words on the Salish Sea came into being when the League of Canadian Poets awarded a grant to Poetry* Hornby Island, founded and directed by Cornelia Hoogland. At this inaugural edition of the festival we are honoured to have 20 writers and poets from across Canada sharing their work with Hornby Islanders. We're here to listen. To enter. To be held, briefly, by something larger than ourselves—perhaps even to leave changed, even if we can't quite say how.

Schedule

Day 1, Friday March 13

- 4:00** *Doors*
- 4:30** Opening Remarks
- 4:45** Cosmic Bowling Poets
Introduced by Ted Goodden
Julia Tassonyi-Rossignol
Pyx Sutherland
Kitty Radtke
Phoenix Bee
Diane Smith
Gjoa Andrichuk
- 5:20** Matt Radar
Joan Crate

Day 2, Saturday March 14

- 9:00** *Doors*
- 9:30** Live Criticism Session,
How Poems Work:
Melanie Siebert
Kelly Shepherd
Matt Rader
- 10:30** Day 2 Opening Remarks
Nancy Holmes
Martha Attema
Kelly Shepherd
Sonnet L'Abbé
- 11:40** *Break*
- 11:50** Michelle Barker
Julie Berry
Sadiqa de Meijer
- 12:40** Morning Q+A
- 1:00** *Buffet Lunch*
Music by Hornby's Jazz Duo
- 2:00** Melanie Siebert
Judy LeBlanc
Billeh Nickerson
- 2:50** *Break*
- 3:00** Christine Walde
Clea Young
- 3:30** Afternoon Q+A

Martha Attema

North Cowichan, BC



Martha Attema's award-winning novels are inspired by family experiences and historical events during WWII. Her concern for

the environment is reflected in her lifestyle and her writing. Born in Friesland, the Netherlands, Martha moved to Canada in 1981 and settled in North Bay, Ontario. In 2023 she moved to Vancouver Island.

marthaattema.com

Day 2, from 10:30 AM

Michelle Barker

Vancouver, BC



Michelle Barker is the author of three award-winning novels, three co-authored books about writing, a picture book, and a chapbook.

Her poetry, short fiction and non-fiction have been widely published in literary reviews. Michelle holds an MFA in creative writing and works as a senior editor at *The Darling Axe*.

michellebarker.ca

Day 2, from 11:50 AM

Julie Berry

St. Thomas, ON

Julie Berry's first book, *worn thresholds* (Brick, 1995, 2006) was followed by *the walnut-cracking machine* (Buschek, 2010). *I am &c.*

The Gilbert White Poems, (Baseline Press) was published in 2015. Her award-winning poems have appeared in *Grain*, *Arc*, *The Malahat Review*, and many others.



Day 2, from 11:50 AM

Joan Crate

Calgary, AB

Joan Crate's work appears in over 60 books, anthologies and journals. Among other awards, she's the recipient of the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Golden Pen 2023,

and the W.O. Mitchell City of Calgary Book Award in 2017. Her poem "I am a Prophet" appeared on screen during the last Canadian tour of the band U2.



Day 1, from 5:20 PM

Sadiqa de Meijer Kingston, ON



Sadiqa de Meijer's latest book is the essay collection *In The Field*. Her previous works include *Leaving Howe Island*, *The Outer*

Wards, and the Governor General's Award winning *alfabet/alphabet*. She is the current Poet Laureate of Katarokwi/Kingston. Her new book of poetry, *Qaf's People*, comes out in May 2026. sadiqademeijer.com

Day 2, from 11:50 AM

Nancy Holmes Kelowna, BC



Nancy Holmes has published six collections of poetry, most recently *Arborophobia*. She is the editor of *Open Wide a Wilderness:*

Canadian Nature Poems. She recently won the 2024 Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize with *The Fiddlehead*. nancyholmes.ca

Day 2, from 10:30 AM

Sonnet L'Abbé Nanaimo, BC

Dr. Sonnet L'Abbé is a poet, editor, vocalist and professor. They are the award-winning author of three collections of poetry, *A Strange Relief*, *Killarnoe*, and *Sonnet's Shakespeare*, and the chapbook, *Anima Canadensis*. They currently write and perform at the intersection of poetry, jazz, blues and spoken word while teaching Creative Writing and English at Vancouver Island University. @sonnetlabbe



Day 2, from 10:30 AM

Judy LeBlanc Fanny Bay, BC

Judy LeBlanc is the author of *The Promise of Water*, short stories, *The Broken Heart of Winter*, a novel, and a memoir, *Permission to Land*.

Recently she's co-edited an anthology titled *Barren*. She lives on the traditional territory of the Qualicum Nation.



Day 2, from 2:00 PM

Billeh Nickerson Vancouver, BC



Billeh Nickerson is an author, editor and educator whose six books include *McPoems* (Arsenal Pulp), the City of Vancouver-Book-Award-Nominated *Artificial Cherry* (Arsenal Pulp) and his most recent collection, *Duct-Taped Roses* (Book*hug). He is a former Associate Dean and long-time faculty in the Creative Writing department at KPU in Surrey, BC.

Day 2, from 2:00 PM

Matt Rader Kelowna, BC

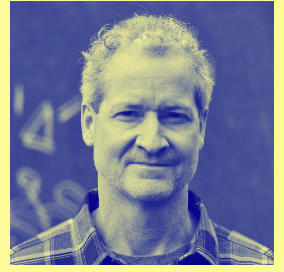


Matt Rader is the author of six volumes of poetry, most recently, *Fine* (Nightwood Editions 2024), a collection of short fiction, and a work of experimental nonfiction. His work has appeared in publications around the world. He teaches writing at UBC Okanagan. mattrader.com

Day 1, from 5:20 PM; Day 2, from 9:30 AM

Kelly Shepherd Edmonton, AB

Dog and Moon (Oskana, 2025) is Kelly Shepherd's third poetry collection. His second, *Insomnia Bird* (Thistledown, 2018), won the 2019 Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize. He's written eight chapbooks, and he's an editor for *The Trumpeter*. Originally from Smithers, BC, Kelly lives on Treaty 6 territory, in Edmonton.



Day 2, from 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Melanie Siebert Victoria, BC

Melanie Siebert is the author of two poetry collections: *Signal Infinities* and *Deepwater Vee*, which was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. Her nonfiction book *Heads Up: Changing Minds on Mental Health* won the Lane Anderson Award for best science writing for young readers in Canada. melaniesiebert.ca



Day 2, from 2:00 PM; Day 2, from 9:30 AM

Christine Walde

Victoria, BC



Christine Walde is an artist, poet, and academic librarian whose work combines library and archival research with interests

in artists' books and multiples, experimental poetry, visual poetry, performance, book arts, and the visual arts. She is grateful to live on Lekwungen territory in the Cascadia Bioregion of the Pacific Northwest.

Day 2, from 3:00 PM

Clea Young

Squamish, BC



Clea Young's stories have been included in Best Canadian Stories 2025 and three volumes of The Journey Prize Stories. She has twice

been longlisted for the CBC Short Story Prize. Clea is the author of two story collections, *Teardown* (Freehand Books), and *Welcome to the Neighbourhood* (House of Anansi Press).

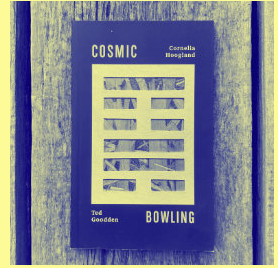
cleayoung.com

Day 2, from 3:00 PM

Cosmic Bowling

Opening the festival at **4:30 PM on Friday, March 13**, six Hornby poets respond to *Cosmic Bowling* (Guernica Editions,

2020), a collaboration by poet Cornelia Hoogland and visual artist Ted Goodden. The original project was a response to the sixty-four hexagrams of the *I Ching*, or *Book of Changes*.



Gjoa Andrichuk

Hornby Island/Whistler, BC

Gjoa Andrichuk is an island, sea, and mountain woman looking to make sense of her Ukrainian-Canadian roots and build connections through

writing, in-person events, attentive listening, lived experience, and the slow work of belonging.

Substack [@gjoaandrichuk](https://www.substack.com/@gjoaandrichuk)



Phoenix Bee Hornby Island, BC



Phoenix Bee is a songwriter, poet, writer and artist living on Hornby Island. She is a long term member of several local writing

groups and has participated in many group readings, in addition to performing her music and releasing an album of songs, many of which began their lives as poems.

IG @phoenixbeemusic

Kitty Radtke Hornby Island, BC

Kitty Radtke and her husband have lived on Hornby since 2012. Here Kitty has been fortunate and grateful to join writing classes and



groups where she has explored chronicling her early life in Chile and 37 years living in the Middle East teaching high school in Iran, Pakistan, and Dubai.

Julia Tassonyi-Rossignol Hornby Island, BC

Julia Tassonyi-Rossignol studied contemporary dance at Toronto Dance Theatre, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts at York University and a



Bachelor of Education at the University of Toronto. A songwriter, singer, choreographer, and painter, her work is imbued with physicality and reverence for the forces of nature. She has been a full-time Hornby Island resident since 2016.

Diane Smith Hornby Island, BC

Diane Smith is a Hornby Island writer, Yoga teacher, Somatic Experiencing



Practitioner, artist and a former midwife. Her chapbook of birth poetry was self published in 1995. She authored *Birthing with Dignity*, a training manual for village midwives (India, 2003). Her poetry was selected for The Gold Poetry Project (2025).

Pyx Sutherland

Victoria, BC



Pyx Sutherland, a third-generation settler, first arrived on Hornby Island in the early sixties as a student of the artist Jack

Shadboldt. Since then, she has covertly painted her way into poetry. After giving up a beloved Grassy Point studio she works in Victoria and maintains island connections through the Hornby writing community.

Cornelia Hoogland

Artistic Director



Cornelia Hoogland is the author of eight books of poetry, chapbooks, and a graphic novel. Her work has been shortlisted for major national awards and she is 2023 winner of the Colleen Thibaudeau Outstanding Achievement in Poetry Award. Hoogland is professor emeritus at Western University, and founder and former artistic director of the Antler River reading series and Poetry* Hornby Island. corneliahoogland.com



Lunchtime musical atmosphere provided by **Hornby's Jazz Duo**, Gary Manzer and Bonita Thornsbury.

Saturday Lunch catered by **Taste of the West Coast** and **Hornby Island Bakery & Pizzeria**.



Emma Walter

Festival Coordinator



Emma Walter is a writer and editor. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Emily Carr University of Art + Design) and a Master of Publishing (Simon Fraser University). She provides event and exhibition production, publications coordination, archiving, and communications management for the Hornby Island Arts Council, Information Office publishing, and individual artists.



Words on the Salish Sea Literary Festival acknowledges that we are gathered on the unceded, traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation and Pentlatch People, and is connected to the lands and waters cared for by the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, Tla'amin, Homalco, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, and Ligwildaxw peoples.

This year's festival is produced with generous support from

hornby**arts**



Poetry*
Hornby
Island

Thank You to Melissa Moore, Executive Director of Hornby Arts, for your enthusiasm and support of this project. Our work would not be possible without the support of volunteers. Thank you to the billeters hosting our visiting writers: Households Anderson, Casper, Fletcher, Gardner, Goodden-Hoogland, Hale, Harris, Hill-Radtke, Morrissette, Paris, and Tassonyi-Rossignol. To volunteers who have contributed time or baking, thank you for helping this weekend run smoothly.