

TRICITIES
WRITERS
FESTIVAL



JUNE
14/15
2024



www.coqlibrary.ca/writers-festival

Welcome

Welcome to our inaugural Tri-Cities Writers Festival! We're excited to bring this celebration of books and ideas to the Tri-Cities, hosting ten authors over two days, both virtually and in person.

For our first year we are delighted to welcome award-winning author Ryan Murphy as moderator for the Writers Round Table, which follows the Friday night cocktail reception.

We can't wait to introduce you to our line-up of exceptional authors who have written books for adults, teens, and children: **Tanya Boteju, Kevin Chong, Michael Christie, Michelle Good, Harrison Mooney, Kenneth Oppel, Graeme Partridge-David, David A. Robertson, and Iona Wishaw.**

Connect with authors you've read and find some new favourites.

See you at the Festival!

Anthea Goffe

Executive Director, Coquitlam Public Library

On behalf of the Port Moody Public Library, it is my pleasure to welcome all readers and writers to the first Tri-Cities Writers Fest.

The Tri-Cities is rich with local writing talent and passionate readers of all ages. We are excited to be part of a festival that is bringing ten celebrated and award-winning authors to our libraries and to your screens.

In the pages of their remarkable books, you'll find not just stories but gateways to imagination, empathy, and understanding. Whether you're an avid reader or a budding writer, our festival promises inspiration, discovery, and the joy of shared stories.

So, mark your calendars, gather your literary curiosity, and join us at the Tri-Cities Writers Festival. Let's celebrate the magic of words together!

Warm regards,

Marc Saunders (he/him)

Director of Library Services | Port Moody Public Library

On behalf of the Terry Fox Library, it is my immense pleasure to welcome everyone to the Tri-Cities Writers Festival.

Books and authors are the backbone of libraries, and Terry Fox Library is thrilled to work with Coquitlam Public Library and Port Moody Public Library to welcome ten award-winning authors to our community. We have writers for all ages, leading highly entertaining and inspiring in-person and online events.

Let your imagination take flight and come enjoy the rich wisdom of renowned authors.

Best regards!

Dr. Sarwan Singh Randhawa

Library Manager, Terry Fox Library

Venues

Coquitlam Public Library—City Centre Branch

1169 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam

Transit

Buses

Routes that stop outside the library: 160, 183, 186, and 188.

Skytrain

Take the Millennium Line to the Lincoln Skytrain Station.

The library is just across the street from the station.

Parking

Park in the lot directly above the library branch for up to four hours free. You can extend your time for an additional four hours by requesting a parking pass from the branch Help Desk. Electric vehicle charging stations are available in the library parking lot.

Parking in the Henderson mall parkade while using the Library may result in a ticket by Diamond Parking Service. The Library is not responsible for any parking ticket disputes.

Accessibility

- Elevator from parking level to library
- Accessible washrooms with barrier free entry
- Power operated entrance doors
- Designated accessible parking stalls

Inlet Theatre

100 Newport Drive, Port Moody

Transit

Buses

Routes that stop outside the theatre: 160, 181, 182, and 183.

Skytrain

Take the Millennium Line to the Inlet Centre Skytrain Station.

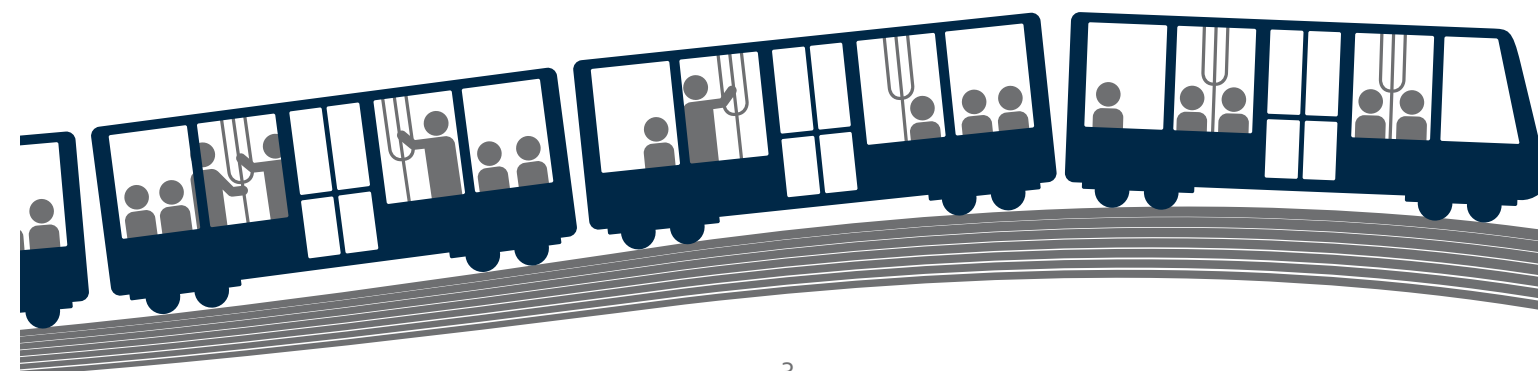
The theatre is a 10-minute walk from the station.

Parking

Free underground and outside parking is available. Electric vehicle charging stations are available in the underground and outside parking lots.

Accessibility

- Designated accessible parking in the front and the back of the library
- Low service counters at the Information Desk
- Accessible washrooms
- Power operated doors



Event Schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 9:45 – 10:45 am

FREE

Author Talk with David A. Robertson

For ages 9 to 13

Co-hosted by Coquitlam Public Library and Terry Fox Library.

Registration: Drop-in

Access live-stream at coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10401775



Live-streamed event

Bio p. 8

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

FREE

Author Talk with Kenneth Opper

For ages 8 to 13

Co-hosted by Coquitlam Public Library and Terry Fox Library.

Registration: Drop-in

Access live-stream at coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10401779



Live-streamed event

Bio p. 8

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 12:45 – 1:45 pm

FREE

Author Talk with Michelle Good

For adults

City Centre Branch & Live-streamed event

Registration: Drop-in

Access live-stream at coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10401784



Bio p. 8

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm

FREE

Author Talk with Iona Wishaw

For adults

City Centre Branch

Registration: Drop-in

Information: coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10387170



Bio p. 9

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 3:45 – 4:45 pm

FREE

Create Your Own Superperson! with Graeme Partridge-David

For ages 8 to 12

City Centre Branch

Registration: Required

Register at coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10389673



Bio p. 9

Event Schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm

\$10 / TICKET

Cocktail Reception

For ages 19+ only

Registration: Ticket required

Buy your ticket(s) at coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10404640



City Centre Branch

Details p. 6

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

FREE

Writers Round Table

All ages welcome

Registration: Drop-in

Information: coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10389744



City Centre Branch

Details p. 7

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

FREE

Writer's Block (aka I'm Afraid to Write Rubbish)

All ages welcome

Registration: Required

Register at coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10387313



City Centre Branch

Bio p. 10

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 | 1:00 – 2:00 pm

FREE

Author Talk with Tanya Boteju

All ages welcome

Registration: Drop-in

Information: coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10387278



City Centre Branch

Bio p. 10

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

FREE

Author Talk with Michael Christie

For adults

Registration: Drop-in

Information: coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10387210



Inlet Theatre

Bio p. 11

Cocktail Reception

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 5:00–7:00 pm

\$10 / TICKET

For ages 19+ only
City Centre Branch

Coquitlam Public Library is hosting a special after hours party and you're invited! Join local authors and readers alike for a two-hour party celebrating the inaugural Tri-Cities Writers Festival. Enjoy food, fun, and drinks served by the best local liquor businesses, with cocktails, mocktails and wine from Nice Life and beer from Mariner Brewing. Formal dress is encouraged, but not required.

Registration is required with a fee for tickets. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and include access to the event, food, and one drink of your choice. Additional drinks will be available for purchase at the event. Proceeds will go toward Coquitlam Public Library's programs and services.

This is a 19+ ONLY event and every attendee is required to have a current government issued ID upon entrance. No attendees under 19 or without ID will be permitted inside the library during this time.

For more information about this event, email ask@coqlibrary.ca

Buy your ticket online at
coquitlam.libnet.info/event/10404640

Writers Round Table

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 7:00–8:30 pm

FREE

For all ages
City Centre Branch

Can't decide which local author talk to attend during the Tri-Cities Writers Festival?

Drop-in to the City Centre Branch after hours for a unique experience. Local comedian and author Ryan Murphy will moderate a panel discussion featuring Iona Wishaw, Harrison Mooney, and Kevin Chong. The conversation will be followed by a question and answer period. (See author biographies on pages 9 & 10)

No registration needed. Entry to the event will start at 6:45 pm.

For more information about this event, email ask@coqlibrary.ca

Author Biographies



DAVID A. ROBERTSON

David A. Robertson is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, has won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, as well as the Writer's Union of Canada Freedom to Read award. He has received several other accolades for his work as a writer for children and adults, and as a podcaster, public speaker, and social advocate. He was honoured with a Doctor of Letters by the University of Manitoba for outstanding contributions in the arts and distinguished achievements in 2023.

He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and lives in Winnipeg.

Visit him online at www.darobertson.ca



KENNETH OPPEL

Kenneth Oppel is the bestselling author of numerous books, including *Airborn*, which won the Governor General's Award for children's literature and a Michael L Printz Honor Award, and the *Silverwing* trilogy, which has sold over a million copies worldwide. *The Nest* and *Half Brother* both won the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award. Some of his other books include *The Boundless*, *Every Hidden Thing*, and *Inkling*. His latest books are the *Bloom* trilogy, *Ghostlight*, and *Silverwing: The Graphic Novel*.

Visit him online at www.kennethoppel.ca or twitter @kennethoppel

(photo: Mark Raynes Roberts)



MICHELLE GOOD

Michelle Good is a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. After working for Indigenous organizations for 25 years, she obtained a law degree and advocated for residential school survivors. Good earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia while managing her own law firm. Her poems, short stories, and essays have been published in magazines and anthologies across Canada. *Five Little Indians*, her first novel, won the HarperCollins/UBC Best New Fiction Prize, the Amazon First Novel Award, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Award, the Evergreen Award, the City of Vancouver Book of the Year Award, and Canada Reads 2022. In 2022, Simon Fraser University granted her an Honorary Doctor of Letters. Her newest work, *Truth Telling: Seven Conversations about Indigenous Life in Canada* came out in 2023.

Visit her online at www.michellegood.ca

Author Biographies



IONA WHISHAW

Iona Wishaw is a former educator and social worker whose mother and grandfather were both spies during their respective wars. She is the award-winning author of the Globe and Mail bestselling *Lane Winslow Mystery* series. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband.

For more details, visit ionawhishaw.ca



GRAEME PARTRIDGE-DAVID

Graeme Partridge-David is an autistic writer and cartoonist, whose pronouns are he/his/him. He was born and raised on the unceded territory of the Kwikwetlem, Tseil-Watuth, Qayqayt and Sto:Lo peoples, in what is now known as Coquitlam, BC, Canada. He gratefully lives there still with his wife, two astonishing children and their hilarious pets. He loves reading comic books and watching movies almost as much as he loves writing and drawing.



KEVIN CHONG

Kevin Chong is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, most recently the novel *The Double Life of Benson Yu*, which was a finalist for the 2023 Scotiabank Giller Prize and named a Best Book of Canadian Fiction by the CBC. His creative nonfiction and journalism have recently appeared in Time Magazine, Literary Hub, Montecristo, and the Globe and Mail. An associate professor at the UBC Okanagan, he lives in Vancouver with his family.

See thatkevinchong.com for more details about Kevin.

Author Biographies



RYAN MURPHY

Ryan Murphy is an award-winning writer and editor who has created engaging digital content for some of the largest and most trusted brands in the world including Walt Disney Studios, HBO, and many more.

His critically acclaimed short stories and columns have been published in 21 books and have been featured on more than 170 radio stations and 60 newspapers and magazines across North America.

Visit his website at www.ryanmurphywrites.com



HARRISON MOONEY

Harrison Mooney is a best-selling memoirist and award-winning journalist from Abbotsford, BC. His debut memoir, *Invisible Boy*, was the winner of the 2023 Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for nonfiction, and shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award and the Hurston Wright Legacy Award in memoir nonfiction. Harrison's work has appeared in the New York Times, the Vancouver Sun, the Guardian, Yahoo, Maclean's and the Tyee, where his columns appear regularly. He lives in East Vancouver with his family.

Learn more about Harrison at www.harrisonmooney.ca



TANYA BOTEJU

Tanya Boteju lives on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations (Vancouver, BC). Part-time, she teaches English to clever and sassy young people. The rest of her time, she uses writing as an excuse to eat pastries. Her debut novel, *Kings, Queens, and In-Betweens*, was named a Top Ten Indie Next Pick by the American Booksellers Association. Her second novel, *Bruised*, was selected as a Gold Standard book by the Junior Library Guild. Look for another YA novel, *Messy Perfect*, in 2025.

Visit her at tanyaboteju.com

Keynote Speaker



MICHAEL CHRISTIE

Michael Christie is the author of the novel *If I Fall, If I Die*, which was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Kirkus Prize, was selected as a New York Times Editors' Choice Pick, and was on numerous best-of 2015 lists. His linked collection of stories, *The Beggar's Garden*, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Writers' Trust Prize for Fiction, and won the Vancouver Book Award. His essays and book reviews have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Globe & Mail. *Greenwood*, his most recent novel, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

A former carpenter and homeless shelter worker, he lives with his two children in Victoria, BC, the unceded territory of the Lkwungen speaking people, and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEC First Nations.

Visit Michael online at www.michaelchristie.net

Thank you

We acknowledge we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation, which lies within the shared territories of the Tsleil-Waututh, Katzie, Musqueam, Qayqayt, Squamish, and Sto'lo Nations.

Thank you for attending the inaugural Tri-Cities Writers Festival.

Please scan the QR code and share your thoughts.



HOSTS



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