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## **The Eden Mills Writers' Festival announces 2019 Lineup**

The Eden Mills Writers' Festival (EMWF) has long been a beloved showcase for CanLit legends and rising literary stars. Under the helm of new Artistic Director Nicola Dufficy, the 2019 festival presents a sensational lineup of programming and presenters for readers and writers of all ages. Thought-provoking, eclectic and entertaining, the EMWF offers something for everyone.

On Friday September 6, the EMWF brings together two best-selling Canadian authors for the opening night of the festival. **Marina Endicott** and **Guy Gavriel Kay** will appear on stage together for the first time, to discuss their craft and the role of the past in their respective novels. Opening the evening will be **Garry Thomas Morse**, reading from *Safety Sand*, his most recent collection of poetry, accompanied by Juno-award-winning cellist, **Matt Brubeck**.

New this year, an expanded offering of workshops for aspiring writers, to be held on Saturday September 7, 2019. **Cecil Foster**, acclaimed author of *They Call Me George*, which depicts the history of black train porters in Canada, leads a workshop on finding self-confidence as a writer. **Alix Ohlin**, Chair of the Creative Writing Program at UBC, leads "Time Travel for Everyone", an investigation of time within stories—when to speed up, when to slow down, how to move around in the past, present, and future. **Anakana Schofield**, the inventive author of *Bina*, invites writers to participate in a workshop entitled "Expand Your Universe" wherein they will be encouraged to "furnish (their) upstairs chamber with a bit more variety and a few more open windows". Celebrated children's author **Marie-Louise Gay**, of the Stella and Sam series, will lead two workshops, the first for teachers and librarians, exploring how to encourage children to write their own stories, and the second aimed at aspiring children's book authors.

Festival Sunday, the main event, will welcome more than 50 writers to the village of Eden Mills on Sunday September 8, 2019. **Emma Donoghue** returns to Eden Mills with *Akin*, her first contemporary novel since *Room*, along with best-selling author **Terry Fallis**, Giller-winner **Lynn Coady** and award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author **Linden MacIntyre**, whose newest work *The Wake* tells the true story of destruction and survival following the tsunami that struck Newfoundland's Burin Peninsula in 1929. **Catherine Porter**, the Canada bureau chief for The New York Times, shares the ways in which her personal and professional lives collided as a journalist covering the devastating aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

For the first time, the EMWF will present graphic novelists as part of Festival Sunday, including **Renee Nault**, whose stunning graphic novel adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale* brings the story to vivid life. The EMWF also presents poets **Lee Maracle**, **Garry Thomas Morse**, **Hasan Namir**, **Armand Garnet Ruffo**, **Hugh Thomas**, **Shannon Webb-Campbell**, and **Chantal Gibson**, whose genre-blurring extension of her artistic practice "gives voice to black women represented across the Canadian cultural imagination." *Hope Matters*, Maracle's collection, has the journey of

Indigenous peoples from colonial beginnings to reconciliation as its focus, and was written in collaboration with her two daughters.

Memoirs featured at the festival by **Samra Zafar**, **Jesse Thistle** and **Kristen Worley** tell incredible stories of strength and resilience. Zafar details her struggle to escape a brutal arranged marriage in *A Good Wife*. *From the Ashes* depicts Thistle's troubled youth, his refusal to give up, and the love and support that enabled him to find happiness. *Woman Enough* is the fascinating account of Worley's activism in the fight for transgender rights, as the first person to successfully sue the International Olympic Committee for a human rights violation.

Festival Sunday is family-friendly; presenters for children and young adults include **Tanaz Bhathena**, **Marie-Louise Gay**, **Kevin Sylvester** and award-winning author of *Scarborough* **Catherine Hernandez**, whose charming book *I Promise*, about the sacred promise to love a child, marks her return to children's literature.

While the EMWF is a chance to hear from favourite authors, it's also the ideal place to discover new voices. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from **Philip Huynh**, **Karen McBride**, **Zalika Reid-Benta** and **Amy Spurway** and their exhilarating debuts.

A detailed schedule of events can be found at [www.emwf.ca](http://www.emwf.ca). For more information or to arrange interviews with our Artistic Director and/or any of our authors, please contact [manager@emwf.ca](mailto:manager@emwf.ca).

### **Presenters for Adults**

Anar Ali, *Night of Power*  
Laure Baudot, *This One Because of the Dead*  
Lynn Coady, *Watching You Without Me*  
Anthony De Sa, *Children of the Moon*  
Emma Donoghue, *Akin*  
Marina Endicott, *The Difference*  
Terry Fallis, *Albatross*  
Cecil Foster, *They Call Me George*  
Armand Garnet Ruffo, *Treaty#*  
Chantal Gibson, *How She Read*  
Christian Guay-Poliquin, *The Weight of Snow*  
Farah Heron, *The Chai Factor*  
Karen Houle, *The Grand River Watershed: A Folk Ecology*  
Philip Huynh, *The Forbidden Purple City*  
Amy Jones, *Every Little Piece of Me*  
Andrew Kaufman, *The Ticking Heart*  
Linda Kenyon, *Sea Over Bow*  
Katherine Koller, *Winning Chance*  
Linden MacIntyre, *The Wake*  
Rabindranath Maharaj, *Fatboy Fall Down*

Lee Maracle, *Hope Matters*  
Missy Marston, *Bad Ideas*  
Karen McBride, *Crow Winter*  
Hasan Namir, *War / Torn*  
Lilian Nattel, *Girl at the Edge of the Sky*  
Renee Nault, *The Handmaid's Tale*  
Alix Ohlin, *Dual Citizens*  
C.S. O'Conneide, *Petra's Ghost*  
Catherine Porter, *A Girl Named Lovely*  
Zalika Reid-Benta, *Frying Plantain*  
Anakana Schofield, *Bina*  
Antanas Sileika, *Provisionally Yours*  
Amy Spurway, *Crow*  
Marissa Stapley, *The Last Resort*  
Susan Swan, *The Dead Celebrities Club*  
Jesse Thistle, *From the Ashes*  
Garry Thomas Morse, *Safety Sand*  
Hugh Thomas, *Maze*  
Shannon Webb-Campbell, *I am a Body of Land*  
Jessica Westhead, *Worry*  
Howard White, *A Mysterious Humming Noise*  
Kristen Worley, *Woman Enough*  
Samra Zafar, *A Good Wife*

**Presenters for Young Adults**

Tanaz Bhathena, *The Beauty of the Moment*  
Eileen Cook, *You Owe Me a Murder*  
Sarah Henstra, *We Contain Multitudes*  
Sylvia McNicoll, *Body Swap*  
Nicki Pau Preto, *Crown of Feathers*  
Tim Wynne-Jones, *The Starlight Claim*

**Presenters for Children:**

Marie-Louise Gay, *Fern and Horn*  
Catherine Hernandez, *I Promise*  
Jess Keating, *Nikki Tesla and the Ferret-Proof Death Ray*  
Mireille Messier, *Sergeant Billy and Treasure*  
Guy and Patricia Storms, *Moon Wishes*  
Kevin Sylvester, *Gargantuan (Jr!)* and *Almost Epic Squad*  
Janet Wilson, *Our Future: How Kids are Taking Action*  
Brad Woods, *Storyteller*