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August 2026

Here's What's New at **Royal City Literary Arts Society**



As summer continues, we invite you to join us for a vibrant month of poetry, connection, and literary inspiration. August is one of our busiest and most exciting times of the year, highlighted by the continuing success of **Poetry in the Park 2026**, community engagement opportunities, and celebrations of our talented members. This year marks the 15th year of Poetry in the Park!



Poetry in the Park (PIP) Continues Through August

Our annual Poetry in the Park series continues every Wednesday evening through August 19th at Centennial Lodge in Queen's Park, New Westminster, in partnership with Arts New West and the City of New Westminster.

Events run from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, with Open Mic sign-up beginning at 6:15 PM. The series is free, family-friendly, and open to everyone.

This year's lineup showcases an impressive collection of established and emerging voices, continuing RCLAS's commitment to fostering literary arts and community engagement. Featured poets have included local and regional award-winning writers along with some fabulous hosts. This event is put on in collaboration with **Arts New West** and the **City of New Westminster**.

Why Attend?

- Hear outstanding local and regional poets
- Participate in the Open Mic
- Connect with fellow writers and readers
- Enjoy literature in a beautiful, friendly and supportive setting
- Support the literary arts community in New Westminster



WRITE ON! 2026 Contest Now Open

The Royal City Literary Arts Society is excited to announce that submissions are now being accepted for the **2026 WRITE ON! Contest**, one of our signature annual literary competitions. Submissions are open from **July 15 to September 15, 2026**, giving writers the opportunity to showcase their work and gain recognition within the literary community.

This year's contest features an outstanding panel of judges:

- [Jessica Lee McMillan](#) – Poetry Judge
- [Edie Reaney Chunn](#) – Fiction Judge
- [Cathalynn Labonté-Smith](#) – Non-Fiction Judge

In a unique and inspiring twist, each of this year's judges was a **first-place winner in last year's competition**, bringing both expertise and firsthand experience to the adjudication process.

Whether you write poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction, this is an excellent opportunity to challenge yourself, share your voice, and

become part of a vibrant literary tradition. RCLAS encourages both emerging and established writers to participate.

For contest details and submission information, visit the [WRITE ON! Contest](#) page or contact writeon@rclas.com.

Why Enter?

- Gain exposure for your writing
- Connect with the broader writing community
- Challenge yourself with a professional contest experience
- Celebrate and support literary arts in British Columbia

We look forward to reading the creative work of our members and community writers this year. Good luck to everyone who enters!

August events:

August 1st - Buskers on the Boardwalk

Featuring New Westminster Poet Laureate Janet Kvammen with guests Marlo Browne and Harmeet Kaur Virdee

New West River Market Boardwalk (by the Tin Soldier) at 1pm and 3pm

August 5th - Poetry in the Park SAPP Zine Night

With host Jessica McMillan

Features poets: Jordan Redekop-Jones and KJ Brindle

Centennial Lodge from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

August 6th - Artist Meet and Greet - River as Muse: An Ode to the Fraser

The exhibit is a reflective and unique interpretation of the mighty Sto:Lo offering a spectrum of mediums and perspectives, verse and vision.

Anvil Centre from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

August 12th - Poetry in the Park Pride Night

With host Katie Stobbart

All night Open Mic!

Centennial Lodge from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

August 19th - Poetry in the Park (Final Night)

With hosts Janet Kvammen

Features poets: Cecily Nicholson, Garry Gottfriedson and Kevin Spent

Centennial Lodge from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Do you have an upcoming literary event that you would like us to share. As a member, we will add your literary event to the monthly newsletters.

Reach out to jessigillis@rclas.com for more information.

Membership Corner

Know someone who loves poetry, fiction, memoir, or creative nonfiction? Reading or writing?

RCLAS welcomes both new and renewing members throughout the year. Membership supports our low barrier programming, publications, and community literary initiatives while helping us continue to provide meaningful opportunities for writers and readers alike.

Would you like your writing to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? As a member, you can submit your writing. This can be poetry, fiction or non-fiction (max 1000 words).

September Theme Writing Prompt:

Capture the scent, sound and emotional charge of early fall.

Send us your literary piece with the theme above by August 26th, 2026.

Submit your work to jessigillis@rclas.com or janetkvammen@rclas.com