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October 2026

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



As the days grow shorter and autumn settles in, October offers us a chance to slow down, reflect, and reconnect through creativity. Whether you're an experienced writer, a first-time poet, a musician, or someone who simply enjoys the arts, we are grateful to have you as part of the RCLAS community.

This month we celebrate the power of storytelling, self-expression, and the connections that creative gatherings inspire.



EXTENSION: 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 October 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!

River as Muse

In September, members and guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of poetry and art with **Janet Kvammen, Poet Laureate of New Westminster**. Participants experienced a unique blend of visual art and literary expression through readings and discussions inspired by the New West Artists' juried exhibition, *River as Muse*. Local poets and artists explored the rich connection between landscape, creativity, and community through the art of ekphrastic poetry.

Common Chords: Poetry Inspired by Art Workshop

We were also pleased to present an ekphrastic writing event inspired by *Common Chords*, an exhibition featuring artist **Paulina Constancia**. Attendees engaged with the artwork through reflective writing and discussion, discovering new ways that visual art can spark imagination, storytelling, and poetic expression. The event highlighted the powerful dialogue that emerges when artists and writers respond to one another's creative work.

Both events showcased the vibrant artistic talent within our community and reinforced the value of bringing together visual arts, poetry, and meaningful conversation. Thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and helped make these gatherings such a success.



October events:

October 3 - [What We Carry, Where We Stand: Poetry Reading Salon](#)

October 3 & 4 - [New West Cultural Crawl](#)

October 8 - [SAPP Poetry and Art open mic](#) - featured poet Ellie Sawatzky at Moodswing 6:30-8pm

October 14 - Famous Last Words - This is a free event, [register here](#)

October 16 - Open mic night (poetry) at the Fraser River Discovery Center 6:30-8:30pm (drop in)

October 23 - Open mic night (music) at the Fraser River Discovery Center 6:30 - 8:30pm (drop in)

October 28 - [RCLAS Halloween Event](#) - Poets wanted

Email secretary@rclas.com if you are interested

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.

October has long been associated with change and transformation. The turning leaves remind us that creativity often emerges when we embrace new perspectives.

A simple writing prompt for this month:

Write about a door that appears only once each autumn.
What lies beyond it?

Musicians might consider:

Composing a short piece inspired by the sounds of falling rain, rustling leaves, or a crisp autumn morning.

Send us your literary piece with the theme above by
October 25th, 2026.

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

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.

Become a Member Today!



A Final Note

As we move toward the end of the year, we encourage members to continue creating, sharing, and connecting. The coming months will bring additional opportunities to showcase your work and celebrate the creativity that thrives within our community.

Visit **RCLAS.com** regularly for event updates, announcements, and community news.

We look forward to seeing you at this month's gatherings and celebrating another season of creativity together.

Happy October!

Keep writing. Keep creating. Keep connecting.

Royal City Literary Arts Society (RCLAS)

Building community through the literary arts.

