

# Words North will showcase the work of all ages

The 2018 Words North writing festival will showcase regional writers of all ages. On Sunday, September 30th, a student reading will be held at the Dawson Creek Public Library. If you are a high school or college student who would like to share your writing, contact Donna Kane at [dkane@pris.ca](mailto:dkane@pris.ca).

Here is a look at just one of our region's talented young writers who will be reading at this event.

Amy Crandall is a seventeen-year-old avid reader and novelist born and raised in British Columbia, Canada. She began writing in elementary school, publishing her first story on Wattpad.com at the age of thirteen. With the support of her loved ones and newfound friends on the site, Amy continued to share her thoughts and interests in the form of storytell-

ing.

Before her Wattpad.com days, she was published in A Celebration of Poets – Summer 2012 (Creative Communication, 2012) for her poem Mountain Garden. That experience only drove her desire to further pursue writing. Her first full-length novel, Delusions, was a featured story on Wattpad.com reaching #7 in the mystery/thriller genre, and surpassing 115,000 reads before its publishing.

When she isn't envisioning a new story plot, Amy can be found camping with loved ones, getting lost in a great read, jamming to her favourite tunes, or giving in to her craving of Timmies' iced lemonades.

For more information on Words North visit [www.peaceliardarts.org](http://www.peaceliardarts.org)

JULY 19, 2018



*Words North*

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AUG 16, 2018



Helen Knott

## Words North

# Writing festival draws near

Words North takes place from Sept. 27 to 30, and offers more than 15 different presentations and workshops, as well as the Words North Art Exhibit.

Visual artists from across the region are invited to create work inspired by the poems of our feature writers: Helen Knott, Jeanette Lynes, and Clea Roberts. The exhibit will open Sept. 27 at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

### Save the dates:

- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Sept. 7, 2018
- **Delivery of artwork deadline:** Monday, Sept. 17, 2018
- **Opening of art exhibit:** Thursday, Sept. 27 at Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre, Dawson Creek

### Helen Knott:

*So maybe the house collapsed, maybe the tree fell down  
 Maybe the cycle is stuck on repeat and the dog ran away  
 But maybe things had to fall apart  
 So you could build something new  
 Cause no one rebuilds the foundation if it doesn't come unglued  
 Maybe the endings are beginnings  
 And you are right where you are meant to be  
 So take some power, some light and love  
 And grow something  
 Remember  
 They tried to bury us and did not know we were seeds*

## **Jeanette Lynes:**

*Paper! But now too trouble-tethered  
to scribble one stanza. Waited for a southern  
wind just as Walton advised, still  
nothing. The angle wrong.  
Words are trout in night-time, deep-pooled,  
hearing but biting not.  
The finest canker flies, stone flies or moor flies  
fail to lure them to the surface.  
Trout seek lusty lives  
far from my perusing pencil. And I  
an honest poet, incomplete, swarmed  
by silent blue. I do not ask so very much—  
Only to send forth a rallying cry—  
    A fish! A fish  
    A poem! A poem!*

## **Clea Roberts:**

*There is nothing lighter than the touch  
That awakens. Morning brought a child  
  
To my bedside. Fingertips touching my cheek—  
I did not ask for this blessing.  
  
Is it love or bright dust  
That we breathe? It will take the shape  
  
Of anything, furring it with light.*

*For more information on the Words North festival, visit  
[peaceliardarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018](http://peaceliardarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018)*

# Local authors to share publishing insights

AUG 30, 2018

Words North takes place Sept 27 to 30 and will feature 16 different events and presentations. On Friday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, four regional authors will share their insights and experiences related to publishing.

First up will be Tumbler Ridge author Tracy Krauss.

“There are so many options open to authors today that the waters can get muddy when it comes to choosing which path is best,” says Krauss, an established author and playwright with more than 20 published titles.

Experienced in various aspects of the publishing industry from working with agents and traditional publishers to the explosion of DIY options Tracy will illuminate various aspects of the industry with a focus on working with literary agents and trade publishers.

Tracy has worked with a literary agent and has had several contracts with both larger publishing houses and small independent presses in the United States. She has also had experience with fee-for-services publishers (otherwise known as vanity presses) and has most recently delved into self-publishing through her own imprint, Fictitious Ink.

“There are pros and cons to every avenue so come with an open mind,” says Krauss. “No one method is best – only what is best for each individual.”

Krauss will focus on the following in her presentation:

- Why bother? What can an agent do for me?
- Finding an agent that is the right fit: it's all in the relationship
- Limitations of the agent relationship
- Pros and cons of 'traditional' publishing deals
- Variety as a business plan



Ronnie Roberts



Pat Ferris



Tracy Krauss

indie vs. traditional publishing.

Ronnie and Pat are local writers who have written 17 books between them and have been there in the trenches.

“We will lay out the facts about writing and publishing in today's market, possibly saving you months, even years, of research, thousands of dollars in costs and help you make the best choice for you as a writer,” says Ronnie.

“Want the skinny on what's happening in publishing today? Come to Words North and take in Friday's presentation. You'll be glad you did.”

Finishing off the two-hour session will be Rebekah Rempel, a Dawson Creek writer who has many publishing credits to her name in both traditional literary journals and in literary anthologies.

“Most writers will agree that submitting to literary journals, magazines, and traditional publishers can be frustrating and discouraging — so why bother at all?”

Rebekah will discuss the various rewards, incentives, and opportunities that go along with the challenges of traditional publishing.

She will also provide an overview of the process for those who are new to the publishing world and who are interested in starting to submit their own work. These steps will include preparing your work for publication, selecting journals or publishers that are a good fit for your work, submitting your work, and dealing with acceptance or rejection.

Following Tracy, will be Ronnie Roberts and Pat Ferris, who will present an informative and entertaining presentation on

For a full festival schedule, visit [peaceliardarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018](http://peaceliardarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018). Tickets are limited, so be sure to get yours early.

JULY 26, 2018

# Southern poet finding a new home and voice in the Peace

Rebekah Rempel studied creative writing at the University of Victoria. Her poems have appeared in the anthologies *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific* (Caitlin Press), *Force Field: 77 Women Poets of British Columbia* (Mother Tongue Publishing), and *Unfurled: Collected Poetry* from Northern BC Women (Caitlin Press), as well as various journals, including *Room Magazine*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Prairie Fire*, and *Lake*. She lives in Pouce Coupe with her husband and son.

At Words North, Rebecca will be taking part in the Publishing Presentation Sept. 28 at 11 a.m., giving a workshop titled The Poetic Line Sept. 29



Rebekah Rempel

at 11 a.m., and reading from her work Saturday night, all at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

For more information on Words North, visit [peaceliardarts.org](http://peaceliardarts.org).

# Internationally-acclaimed poet featured at fall writers festival

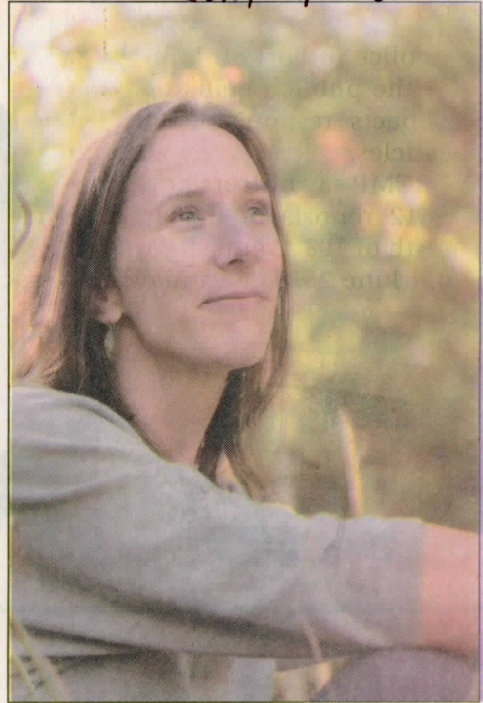
JULY 12, 2018

Clea Roberts lives in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. She was born in North Vancouver, but Whitehorse has been her home for the past 15 years. Her debut collection of poems, *Here Is Where We Disembark* (Freehand Books, 2010) was a finalist for the League of Canadian Poets' Gerald Lampert Award for best first book of poetry in Canada, was nominated for the ReLit Award and was published in German (Edition Rugeurp, 2013) and Japanese (Shichosha 2017).

Clea's poems have been published in journals and anthologies in Canada, Europe, the United States, and Australia. She has received fellowships from the Canada Council for the Arts, Vermont Studio Centre, the Atlantic Centre for the Arts, the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity, and is a five-time recipient of the Yukon Government Advanced Artist Award.

Clea facilitates a workshop on poetry and grief through Hospice Yukon and is the Artistic Director of the Kicksled Reading Series. *Auguries*, her second collection of poetry, was published by Brick Books in Spring 2017.

At Words North, Clea will be taking part in the panel discussion, Writing to Engage Community, giving a present-



Clea Roberts

ation titled *Speaking the Unspeakable* and reading from her work *Friday*, September 28th at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

For more information on the Words North festival, visit [peaceliandarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018](http://peaceliandarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018)

# Fateful tweet brings Fort St. John author's debut novel to bookshelves

SEPT 6, 2018

**MATT PREPROST**

editor@ahnfsj.ca

When Jenna Morland couldn't find a book she wanted to read on the store shelf two years ago, she took an old adage to heart, and her keyboard: she would write one herself.

It was February 2016 when Morland started typing the first words to *Empress Unveiled*, and chased away the boredom of long and dark winter nights, her husband out working in the oil patch and her two young children tucked in early in bed.

Morland's debut young adult fantasy novel was released Sept. 4 through UK-based OfTomes Publishing, and she'll host a book launch and social in Fort St. John on Sept. 8.

"My imagination is just a little crazy, and I had picked a little pieces of what I liked from so many things over the years and just created one thing that I loved," Morland says.

"That's where my inspiration came from, picking pieces from movies and books, what I would want to see on the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Jenna Morland, an author in Fort St. John, released her debut young adult fantasy novel *Empress Unveiled*, on Sept. 4, 2018, through OfTomes Publishing.



big screen one day and what I would want to see in a book, and put it all together."

Empress Unveiled is billed for fans of fantastical adventures, unexplained magic, and deadly romance.

It follows Swayzi, a 17-year-old teen sick from a mysterious illness her entire life, and sent home from the hospital to die at home. That's when she sees something she probably shouldn't have, Morland says, setting off a chain of events that shows her who she truly is and why she's sick — and how the fate of a magical world depends on her survival.

"It's a fun read and it's an easy read, and it's for people that either like fantasy, or ones that have maybe never read fantasy but want to try it," Morland says.

The story is other-worldly and easy to follow, Morland says, and Swayzi is a relatable character for all ages as she overcomes adversity.

"I relate to her on a teenage level as well as an adult, discovering herself and how

to change the things in her to better her life," Morland says.

"The decisions that she needs to make, she would be a good role model for girls to look up to because she does take a leadership role eventually in the book. There's so many books and movies out there that don't have many good, solid role models, and I think Swayzi would be that."

Morland caught the attention of a number of publishers and agents during a pitch party on Twitter in March 2017, but it was OfTomes that won the rights and offered her a publishing deal months later in July.

"I said in my email that I thought they were meant to publish my book. I genuinely felt that way," says Morland, who had been following the company on social media.

"Everything is changing in the publishing industry — the way that authors are presented, and how publishing works. The traditional houses, it's getting harder and harder to get into, especially with

book stores slowly not having as many books.

"I really liked their style. When they came back to me with an offer, I had to choose between them, two other publishers, and an agent. I went with them."

Morland will hold a book launch and signing at Coles Totem Mall on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by a social at Browns Socialhouse from 4 to 6.

"I got 200 books in the mail the other day and just looking at the boxes and boxes of them, I was like, oh my gosh I need to sell all these books," she says, adding that so far the response from readers and reviewers online has been positive.

"I'm just hoping to keep the momentum. But, it is definitely terrifying, having my work out in to the world and people judging it and liking it, and loving it and hating it. Who knows? You can't please everybody. But I'm excited for people to finally meet these characters because I love them and they will too."

## Words North

# Editors to talk newspapers, community

Do newspapers have a future? It depends on who you ask, but ask a pair of Peace region inklingers and they'll say the business of selling stories on dead trees is alive and well.

Matt Preprost, editor of the Alaska Highway News, and Rob Brown, editor of the Dawson Creek Mirror, will host a panel discussion called Stop the Presses on Friday, Sept. 28, as part of the upcoming Words North writing festival.

With more than 30 years of newspaper experience between them, Preprost and Brown have stories of humour and horror to share, and are looking for engaged and enthusiastic writers to join the conversations in their respective pages.

"The first three people to

step off the train in any new town are the sheriff, the mayor, and the newspaper publisher," Preprost says.

"No community is complete without its local paper and the people that drive the talk of the town."

Stop the Presses will be interactive, taking in questions from columnist and session moderator Judy Kucharuk, as well as the audience.

Preprost is an award-winning editor and reporter from Winnipeg, where he began his career at the Winnipeg Free Press in 2008. He joined the Alaska Highway News in 2013, and was named editor in 2015. He was most recently recognized by the BC & Yukon Community Newspaper Association

with a bronze for newspaper excellence and silver for editorial writing.

Since beginning in 2001, Brown has more than 20 AWNA, MCNA, CCNA, BNA, and other writing, photography, and media awards. He is part of an exclusive club with more than 10,000 news stories filed, for daily/weekly print products in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and B.C.

Stop the Presses runs Friday, Sept. 28, at 3 p.m. at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre in Dawson Creek.

*For more information on the Words North festival, visit:*

[peaceliardarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018](http://peaceliardarts.org/words-north/words-north-2018)