

Writer's Festival panel of authors announced

North River

The second annual Cabot Trail Writers Festival will be held at North River on Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island over the weekend of October 1st through 3rd, when the Island's fall colours will be at their most breathtaking.

Following last year's phenomenal success, the festival will continue to offer readers and writers a unique opportunity to participate in readings, workshops, and presentations by three of Canada's celebrated authors.

The festival is excited to present Newfoundland's award-winning poet and novelist Michael Crummey, author of *Galore* (Doubleday), 2009 Governor General's Literary Awards finalist and 2010 winner, Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book (Canada & Caribbean), and *River Thieves* (Anchor Canada 2001), a 2001 Giller Prize finalist.

Also joining the festival this year is Marq de Villiers, a journalist, non-fiction author, and a former editor and

publisher of Toronto Life magazine. His book *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource* won the 1999 Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction and the 1999 Canadian Science Writers Award, and *Witch in the Wind: The True Story of the Bluenose* (Thomas Allen 2007) won the 2008 Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction and the 2008 Dartmouth Book Award for Non-fiction.

Rounding out this year's panel of authors is children's author, poet, and novelist Sheree Fitch. Her recently published first novel for adults, *Kiss the Joy As It Flies* (Vagrant Press 2008), was a finalist for the 2009 Stephen Leacock Award for Humour. *Sleeping Dragons All Around* (Doubleday 1989; Nimbus 2009) won a 1990 Atlantic Booksellers Choice award.

The festival will wrap up with a Sunday Brunch spotlighting the music and songs of Carmel Mikol, 2009 Contemporary/Folk category winner of the Great American Songwriting Contest, and North River native.

Scottish Minister to lead Gaelic Service

by Catriona Parsons

On Sunday, May 30, 2010 a special Gaelic service will be held at Ephraim Scott Presbyterian Church, South Haven, Cape Breton, starting at 3:00 pm.

This service will bring to a fitting end all the celebrations and events of May, Gaelic Awareness Month, and will follow on the first successful all-Gaelic service held May 31, 2009.

This year, the Gaelic community will be pleased to welcome to the pulpit the Rev. Dr. Angus Morrison of St. Columba's Old Parish Church, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

He is Convener to the Church of Scotland Mission and Discipleship Council and Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland. Rev. Mr. Morrison graduated MA with Honours in Classics from Glasgow University, receiving first prizes in Celtic Studies. He has also studied at the University of Pisa, London University, and has a Ph.D. in Theology from New College, Edinburgh Universi-

ty.

Dr. Morrison's parents are both from Lingerbay, Harris where he spent all his summers as a boy. He is married to Marion who hails from Fort William, Scotland, and they have four children all of whom speak Gaelic.

All are invited to this very special Gaelic service. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall following the service. Thigibh uile!

The Book Nook

by Kate Oland

Look out, everyone: A moose is coming to Baddeck Library! But there's no need to worry about him rampaging through the stacks. This moose is named Martin, and he loves to help children learn about the alphabet, and about Cape Breton culture.

Martin

the Moose is the main character in "The ABCs of Cape Breton", a children's book created by a family of artists from Margaree. Author Nicole Shaw collaborated with her sister-in-law, Lindsay Shaw Poirier, an artist, and Nicole's husband James, a

musician, to create a colorful, musical, whimsical celebration of Cape Breton culture. On every page, Martin introduces children to the ABCs while taking them on a journey through the heritage of the island.

The book includes a CD with a children's song, "Martin the Moose" (written by James Shaw) and fiddle music entitled "Martin's Favorite Fiddle Set", (written by Lindsay's father and sister).

The publication came about when Nicole and Lindsay, both mothers of young children, realized there was a lack of local material aimed at very young children. Recognizing the importance of early literacy, as well as the value of cultural heritage, the pair embarked on a project that would

help children learn their ABCs in a Cape Breton context.

Financial limitations initially put the project on the back burner, but family and friends thought the book was too good to lie dormant. Shaw and Poirier credit their supporters with giving them the encouragement

they needed to secure funding and get the book into print. Since its launch in October, 2009, the book has been featured on Breakfast Television and in local media, and the book is now available in stores around the island.

On Saturday, May 29th at 3:00,

Nicole Shaw 'and' "Martin the Moose" will visit Baddeck Library to present a free, fun-filled, family event.

Families will enjoy readings from "The ABCs of Cape Breton", listen to some great music, visit with Martin, and have some fun! Copies of the book will be available to purchase. It's a great opportunity for families with young children to visit the library and enjoy story time together.

For more information, please call 295-2055, or visit Cape Breton Regional Library's Facebook page.

Kate Oland, Baddeck Branch/Victoria County Bookmobile - 295-2055
Leona Stockley, Victoria North Regional Branch (Ingonish) - 285-2544



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