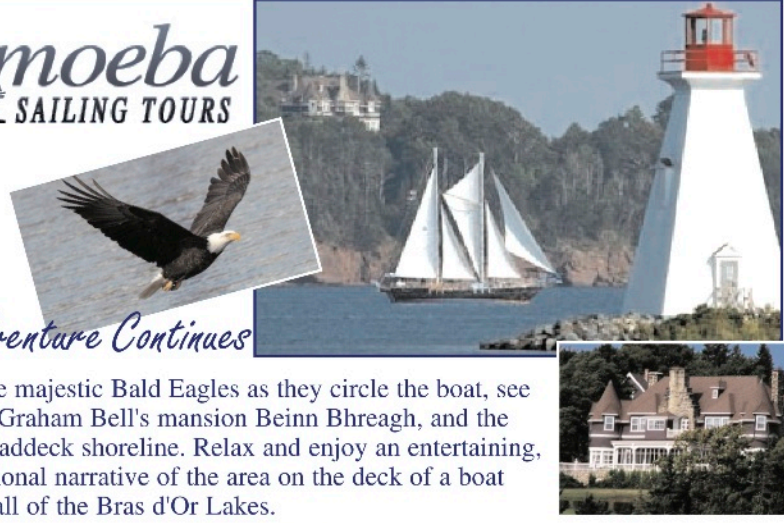


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even my husband sang along!

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Cabot Trail Writers Festival

Diverse & top notch authors

North River

Mark your calendars for the third annual Cabot Trail Writers' Festival, scheduled for September 30 through October 2, 2011.

This year's festival brings lots of variety in writing and presentation styles, and the guest authors and their offerings will engage and delight.

Once again three talented authors, and some exciting musicians will be featured. As in previous years, organizers haven't had to go very far to find some fascinating guests. This festival is not focussed on Atlantic Canada, but organizers do seem to fill the bill pretty quickly from close to home!

The Friday night Gala features five new pieces from spoken-word artist and 2010 Poet Laureate of Halifax Shauntay Grant.

The festival has commissioned these new works which will reflect Shauntay's impressions of the large-scale iron pieces of sculptor Gordon Kennedy. The evening will feature Shauntay's premiere performance of her new works, in the presence of the sculptures that inspired them. Don't plan on getting a lot of sitting done!

Host for the evening is committed arts educator Eric Favaro.

This year's Gala will be at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's, just down the road from North River. Organizers hope patrons will stay after the performance to chat with Shauntay and Gordon, sample the included nibbles, and enjoy the location. The cash bar will be open, and the guest authors' books will be available for sale and signing.

During the day Saturday, the festival offers writing workshops conducted by the guest authors, Shauntay Grant, poet, novelist, and 2010 Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Johanna Skibsrud, and 2010 Giller and Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize nominee Alexander MacLeod. The breadth and scope of these sessions will excite writers of all skill levels, and across the genres.

This year, organizers have a busy Saturday night lined up. To make it more

relaxing for those who also attend the Saturday Sessions, organizers will host dinner for festival-goers and the guest artists before the evening's activities. Everyone who attends the Sessions and the evening schedule is invited—and dinner's included in the Saturday Day Pass ticket purchase.

The evening programme includes readings from Johanna Skibsrud and



Gordon Kennedy

Alexander MacLeod. As always, the Readers' Market will have guest authors' books on hand for buying and signing after the readings.

For the rest of the evening, the cash bar will be open and guests are invited to groove to the tunes of

The Synchronics, a quartet of talented Nova Scotia jazz musicians that includes local son, Alec Frith.

On Sunday, organizers present a panel discussion. This year's panel includes authors Johanna Skibsrud and Alexander MacLeod, editor Kate Kennedy of Nimbus Publishing/Vagrant Press, and publisher Mike R. Hunter of CBU Press. Journalist and avid reader



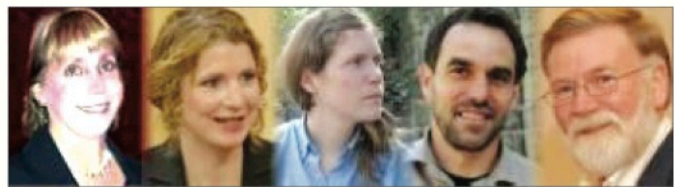
Shauntay Grant

Wendy Martin will moderate what is sure to be a wide-ranging discussion of the various relationships among writers, their editors, and the people who select and publish their work.

Closing out this year's festival, organizers offer Brunch for everyone who attends the Panel, and organizers think that will be a lot of people! During Brunch, dynamic singer/songwriter (and, yes, local son) Angelo Spinazzola.

This year, the festival will stage two events targeted to future readers and writers. One of the stated goals is to further the literary arts via education, and you're never too young to start learning!

Up to 20 lucky students will spend two hours with Shauntay Grant at South



The Sunday Panel participants.

Haven, Cape Breton, and will have lunch with the artist before returning to their respective schools along the Cabot Trail.

The Victoria County Bookmobile has been a popular attendee at each of the previous festivals. This time, it will carry a special guest. Ken Chisholm, new and first-ever storyteller-in-residence of the Cape Breton Regional Library, will delight the youngest residents with, well, stories!

HH BADDECK Heritage House
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Liz & Dick Grubb
 121 Twining Street
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