

We will suffer a dearth of writers no more, says Sarah de Leeuw.

When poetic inspiration strikes

Perhaps the inspiration drifted down from a coastal mountain peak shining silver and red in an early northern evening. Maybe it was caught after appearing quickly like the flash of a spawning salmon's back in a full summer creek.



Sarah de Leeuw

However it occurred, poetic inspiration struck five-year-old Madeleine Dafoe with force and fervour. She captured that creativity in a short and creakily misspelled poem entitled "Bluebird Song". What the lines might lack in sophisticated craft, they make up for in raw emotion. The short piece reads, "I just want to fly across the town and over the roof tops and swoop down in the fresh."

With sparse and well-honed imagery coming at such a young age, it is possible Madeleine Dafoe has a future in poetry and creative writing, a future with the literary arts. Unfortunately for the young and budding poet, interaction opportunities with Canada's literary elite are limited. Madeleine is, after all, a writer in British Columbia's northern hinterlands, a region not always renowned for its proliferation of poets and authors.

This dearth will soon be addressed through a writing festival unlike any other Prince George, or northern British Columbia for that matter, has ever seen. Between March 13 and 23, Prince George will be transformed into a writing mecca, and all those interested in the literary arts (young and old alike) will be offered the opportunity to sample works by some of Canada's finest poets, dramatists, novelists and performers.

Organized by UNBC professor Rob Budde and funded by the Canada Council, 20 writers will be featured in the Prince George literary festival

aply named Just West of Unruly. The wild and boisterous writers who will converge on a variety of venues in the community represent a broad spectrum of Canadian talent. Featured will be everyone from local

talent Jacqueline Baldwin, whose book Threadbare Like Lace is a recognized jewel to all northerners acquainted with their bookstore's poetry shelves, to Jeannette Armstrong, one of the Enowkin School of International Writing founders and author of several volumes of poetry.

The nooks and crannies of Prince George will be filled with Canadian nar-

rative. The 20 authors arriving in the city represent, between them, dozens of the most prestigious literary awards in the country and even more acclaimed books. Eden Robinson is reading, along with bill biset, Ashok Mathur, Uma Parameswaran, Aritha van Herk and Dennis Coley.

Eden Robinson's book Traplines was awarded the 1996 Winifred Holtby Prize for the best work of fiction

in the Commonwealth and her first novel Monkey Beach was a finalist for both the Governor General's and the Giller Prizes.

Aritha van Herk's work has also been nominated for the Governor General's Award for fiction, and Uma Parameswaran was awarded the New Muse Award for her first book of fiction in 1999.

These prestigious writers are not to be missed - and because every reading in the Just West of Unruly literary festival is free, there is no excuse for not attending. All too often northerners grumble

about the lack of artistic or literary options available in the rural landscape: those protests will not resonate quite so loudly after March 23.

After a long and lonely winter, it is now time to come out and play. It is now time to frolic with fantastic writers, and as one young poet puts it, "to swoop down in the fresh."

For more information regarding exact times and locations of the upcoming literary festival, watch for promotional materials. If you have further questions, contact Rob Budde at (250) 960 6693.

BCRAIL PUBLIC NOTICE

B.C. Rail's Cariboo Prospector Passenger Train New schedule effective February 1st, 2002

BC Rail Cariboo Prospector

Effective February 1, 2002

SOUTHBOUND NO. 2	MILE BOARD	TIME	FREQUENCY
PRINCE GEORGE - DEPOT	S, T 462.5	0700	SAT, MON
PRINCE GEORGE - END OF MAIN TRACK	456.5	0725	SAT, MON
HIXON	F 424.5	0810	SAT, MON
QUESNEL (ARRIVE)	F 384.9	0907	SAT, MON
QUESNEL (DEPART)	F 384.9	0910	SAT, MON
SODA CREEK	S 335.5	1020	SAT, MON
SPRING FIELD RANCH	S 327.7	1032	SAT, MON
WILLIAMS LAKE - DEPOT (ARRIVE)	S 313.9	1058	SAT, MON
WILLIAMS LAKE - DEPOT (DEPART)	S 313.9	1110	SAT, MON
LAC LA HACHE	F 273.4	1211	SAT, MON
EXETER / 100 MILE HOUSE (ARRIVE)	F 259.5	1235	SAT, MON
EXETER / 100 MILE HOUSE (DEPART)	S 259.5	1245	SAT, MON
LONE BUTE	S 246.2	1305	SAT, MON
FLYING U	F 236.3	1323	SAT, MON
GRVL. PIN - N GRN. / WATCH LAKES	F 232.5	1333	SAT, MON
CLINTON (ARRIVE)	F 202.8	1416	SAT, MON
CLINTON (DEPART)	F 202.8	1421	SAT, MON
KELLY LAKE	F 192.6	1435	SAT, MON
PAVILION	F 177.9	1505	SAT, MON
LILLOOET - END OF MAIN TRACK	158.5	1555	SAT, MON
LILLOOET - DEPOT (ARRIVE)	F 157.8	1600	DAILY
LILLOOET - DEPOT (DEPART)	S, T 157.8	1615	DAILY
LILLOOET - END OF MAIN TRACK	155.5	1622	DAILY
SHALALTH	S, T 142.4	1645	DAILY
SETON PORTAGE	F 139.5	1656	DAILY
CURRIES	F 134.1	1712	DAILY
MARNE	F 139.5	1718	DAILY
MCGILLVRA FALLS	F 129.1	1722	DAILY
PONDEROSA	F 128.0	1725	DAILY
D'ARCY	F 122.9	1735	DAILY
GATES	F 118.0	1744	DAILY
BIRKEN	F 112.6	1754	DAILY
GRAMSONS (10 DOWNING STREET)	F 109.6	1800	DAILY
MT. CURRIE	F 99.4	1817	DAILY
PEMBERTON (ARRIVE)	F 95	1824	DAILY
PEMBERTON (DEPART)	F 95	1829	DAILY
NICKLAUS NORTH	S, T 78.1	1859	DAILY
CANADIAN HOSTEL	S, T 75.3	1905	DAILY
WHISTLER (ARRIVE)	F 73.7	1909	DAILY
WHISTLER (DEPART)	S 73.7	1920	DAILY
CHEAKAMUS	S 50	2013	DAILY
SQUAMISH (ARRIVE)	F 40.4	2027	DAILY
SQUAMISH (DEPART)	F 40.4	2033	DAILY
BRITANNIA	S 31.3	2047	DAILY
LIONS BAY	S 18.3	2114	DAILY
SUNSET BEACH	F 14.4	2123	DAILY
NORTH VANCOUVER - END OF MAIN TRACK	3.5	2148	DAILY
NORTH VANCOUVER	S, T 1.4	2155	DAILY

Weather and other factors may affect operating conditions, therefore scheduled times cannot be guaranteed.

BC Rail Cariboo Prospector

Effective February 1, 2002

NORTHBOUND NO. 1	MILE BOARD	TIME	FREQUENCY
NORTH VANCOUVER	S, T 1.4	0700	DAILY
NORTH VANCOUVER - END OF MAIN TRACK	2.1	0707	DAILY
SUNSET BEACH	F 14.4	0732	DAILY
LIONS BAY	F 18.3	0741	DAILY
BRITANNIA	F 31.3	0808	DAILY
SQUAMISH (ARRIVE)	S 40.4	0822	DAILY
SQUAMISH (DEPART)	S 40.4	0828	DAILY
CHEAKAMUS	F 50.0	0842	DAILY
WHISTLER (ARRIVE)	S 73.7	0935	DAILY
WHISTLER (DEPART)	S 73.7	0945	DAILY
CANADIAN HOSTEL	F 75.3	0949	DAILY
NICKLAUS NORTH	F 78.1	0955	DAILY
PEMBERTON (ARRIVE)	S 95.0	1025	DAILY
PEMBERTON (DEPART)	S 95.0	1030	DAILY
MT. CURRIE	F 99.4	1037	DAILY
GRAMSONS (10 DOWNING ST.)	F 109.6	1054	DAILY
BIRKEN	F 112.6	1100	DAILY
GATES	F 118.0	1110	DAILY
D'ARCY	F 122.9	1119	DAILY
PONDEROSA	F 128.0	1130	DAILY
MCGILLVRA FALLS	F 129.1	1133	DAILY
MARNE	F 130.6	1139	DAILY
CURRIES	F 134.1	1143	DAILY
SETON PORTAGE	F 139.5	1159	DAILY
SHALALTH	F 142.4	1210	DAILY
LILLOOET - END OF MAIN TRACK	155.5	1233	DAILY
LILLOOET (ARRIVE)	S, T 157.6	1240	DAILY
LILLOOET (DEPART)	S, T 157.6	1310	SUN, FRI
LILLOOET - END OF MAIN TRACK	158.5	1315	SUN, FRI
PAVILION	F 177.9	1355	SUN, FRI
KELLY LAKE	F 192.6	1425	SUN, FRI
CLINTON (ARRIVE)	F 202.8	1439	SUN, FRI
CLINTON (DEPART)	F 202.8	1444	SUN, FRI
GRN. LAKE CROSSING / 70 MILE	F 223.2	1515	SUN, FRI
GRVL. PIT - N GRN. / WATCH LAKES	F 232.5	1527	SUN, FRI
FLYING U	F 236.3	1537	SUN, FRI
LONE BUTE	F 246.2	1553	SUN, FRI
EXETER / 100 MILE HOUSE (ARRIVE)	S, T 259.5	1613	SUN, FRI
EXETER / 100 MILE HOUSE (DEPART)	S, T 259.5	1625	SUN, FRI
LAC LA HACHE	F 273.4	1651	SUN, FRI
WILLIAMS LAKE (ARRIVE)	S 313.9	1752	SUN, FRI
WILLIAMS LAKE (DEPART)	S 313.9	1805	SUN, FRI
SPRING FIELD RANCH	F 327.7	1831	SUN, FRI
SODA CREEK	F 335.5	1843	SUN, FRI
QUESNEL (ARRIVE)	S 384.9	1953	SUN, FRI
QUESNEL (DEPART)	S 384.9	1958	SUN, FRI
HIXON	F 424.5	2055	SUN, FRI
PRINCE GEORGE - END OF MAIN TRACK	456.5	2140	SUN, FRI
PRINCE GEORGE	S, T 462.4	2205	SUN, FRI

T Denotes ticket sales F Denotes flag stop
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