

Post North was created six years ago by Graham Pearce, of the CNC English department, along with Matt Partyka and Alex Buck. Since then, this event has provided a venue in which younger poets read alongside more established writers. This year's reading list was comprised of CNC students Mariah Snih and Tessa Gregory; additionally, CNC alumni Matt Partyka, Penny Douglas, Shane Darroch, Andy Johnson, Andrew Kenway, Lyne Ongman, Kale Walske, Paulina Nielson and Garrett Svenson read at this event. Furthermore, local writers Paul Strickland and Daivid Oligive read as well. Finally, Graham Pearce of CNC and G.P. Lainsbury of Northern Lights College made up the complete set list.

Graham Pearce opened the show with his poem "December Penis", immediately reestablishing the tradition of Post North being an event in which the poets put themselves at risk. By opening with this poem, Graham basically said, "if you came to hear poems about Prince George's northern landscape, you're screwed." The audience did not have the chance to become complacent; consequently, they became an integral reason why Post North was such a success this year and in previous years.

Unlike other literary events, Post North actively encourages the audience to become involved. The energy created between the interaction of the poets and the audience members is definitely unique in Prince George poetry events. David Oligive remarked during his reading, "I know some of you guys are against me and some of you with me, but the guy with the biker tattoos is with me."

This comment established the tone of Post North being a fun event in which the readers do not take themselves too seriously.

The hole as nothing." All jokes aside, this poem delivered some epic lines: "it all glacial holes, sink holes, pot holes, and assholes.../ but then there's the love-hole too." During the Post North debrief, Graham Pearce said "You killed it Matt [...] I routinely read garbage."

This Post North also saw the return of Lyne Ongman, to Prince George, from ITT Tech down in Burnaby. Her poems were short, but powerful: "The dorm girls look haggard and hang off the necks of the boys slurring their words/ We are all too youthful, and we are all too sad."

The energy carried throughout the night; the final reader, G.P. Lainsbury, claimed that he was willing to trade a copy of his new book, Plato's Pharmakon, for muscle relaxants. Lainsbury concluded the evening's readings by saying, "I'll die, you won't know." This delightfully macabre statement once again reinforced the fact that Post North is, above all else, a fun environment. To restate my claim, the writers do not take themselves too seriously.

I hope this review titillated you enough to check out Post North next year. However, there is no need to wait that long to satisfy any literary lust; The Barry Mckinnon Chapbook awards for poetry and The John Harris Fiction awards are coming up in April. These events are a great way to see what's being done in the Prince George writing community and an excuse to have a few drinks.

