

NEWS RELEASE

The Frye Festival's 23rd annual edition comes to a close!

11 days of events throughout the Greater Moncton area

(Moncton, May 2, 2022) – The 23rd annual edition of the Frye Festival came to a close on May 1, after 11 days of in-person literary activities. Over the course of the festival, the public had the opportunity to meet award-winning authors, discover the beauty of prose and poetry, dive into fantastic and moving universes, and discuss pressing issues through a literary lens. The Frye Festival featured fifty public events as well as over a hundred community and school activities, from April 21 to May 1, in Greater Moncton and communities throughout New Brunswick.

The festival ended on a tasty note with *Kim Thúy's Kitchen*, a sold-out evening of culinary and literary musings with Kim Thúy, renowned author of many novels as well as of *Secrets from My Vietnamese Kitchen* (Penguin Random House, 2017). The event was paired with a delicious meal inspired from the cookbook and prepared by guest chefs Claire Nguyen (Nguyễn Thiện Trúc), as well as chef Michel Savoie of Les Brumes du coude. A spectacular evening that is sure to become a staple of future Frye Festivals!

Mission accomplished!

Pierre-André Doucet, Interim Executive Director of the Frye Festival, is proud of the work his team has accomplished in bringing the event back to an in-person format. "It was refreshing to be able to revive the Frye Festival, to share our love of books, and to be able to speak with authors (masked) face to (masked) face. Reading is a solitary experience, so to be able to bring literature to life in a collective sense, to hear and reflect on ideas as a community was extremely rewarding" says Doucet, who will be stepping down from his functions this summer in favour of a new, permanent Executive Director. "Just as Giller Prize winner Omar El Akkad eloquently reminded us during the Frye, novels provide us a ground to dwell upon."

Doucet highlights several high points of the Festival, most notably over 70 school visits that made up this year's *Authors in the Schools* program. "Some of our authors were welcomed like rock stars by the students. French author Clémentine Beauvais was absolutely swamped with autograph and selfie requests after her presentation!" says Doucet. Thousands of New Brunswick students, from kindergarten to grade 12, were able to benefit from this program and be inspired by Frye Festival guest authors.

During the past fortnight, the Frye Festival featured conversations, roundtable events, literary performances, readings, storytime events, and even several musical performances, among them Frye Jam and a concert by singer-songwriter Martha Wainwright, who was invited to the festival with her recently published memoir, *Stories I Might Regret Telling You* (Penguin Random House, 2022).

The Frye Festival built and renewed partnerships with over 37 community organizations this

year. “We were overwhelmed with the support of our community partners in building this edition of the festival, which bodes well for the future of the Frye,” says Pierre-André Doucet.

The celebration continues

In the next few months, Frye Festival events that have been recorded will be broadcast for select groups thanks to the brand new *Writers in the Community* program, supported by TD Bank Group. This will enable the Frye to reach new groups and communities whose members may have difficulty taking part in the festival’s programming.

Two podcast episodes were also produced and released this year by Frye Festival partners. A special [Do We Know Things?](#) episode was recorded last week, featuring guest authors Aimee Wall, Clémentine Beauvais, and Sony Malaborza with host Dr. Lisa Dawn Hamilton, and Louisianan author Clint Bruce was a guest of [Yousque t’es rendu?](#) with host Marc-André LeBlanc. The latter episode was released on the first day of the festival.

The second season of **Poésie Poetry Moncton** was also launched during the festival, with Acadian author Rose Després newest addition to the project and is available at www.poesiemonctonpoetry.com. Five more video-poems will be added to this living anthology of Moncton poets over the coming months. Poésie Moncton Poetry was conceptualized by Poets Flyés Kayla Geitzler and Jean-Philippe Raîche, who are also the inaugural Moncton Poets Laureate.

The public will be able to visit the Épistola art exhibit featuring the work of Annie France Noël and Mo Bolduc. The annual correspondence project between a writer and a visual artist will be on display at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre’s Imago Art Gallery until May 27, 2022.

Writing workshops to take place this summer

Two writing workshops will be held this coming June: Fredericton author Triny Finlay will offer one in English, titled “Mental Health Matters: Healing Through Poetry”, and poet Rose Després will offer one in French. Further details will be released in the coming weeks, so interested parties are invited to stay tuned by joining the Frye Festival’s newsletter or by visiting the festival website at www.frye.ca.

Getting ready for 2023!

The 24th annual edition of the Frye Festival is set to take place from April 20 to 30, 2023. From here until then, fans of the Frye Festival will also be able to discover the event’s 2022-2023 season, beginning in September.