# BOOKFEST WINDSOR

## A Community Celebration Of Literacy

BY LORI NEWTON

**Image of artistically altered book created in one of the 2006 student studios.**

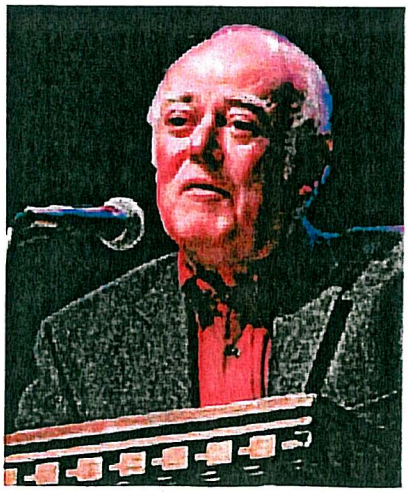
Get ready for this area's premier book lovers' event of the year as award winning local and international authors, poets and artists head to Windsor for the 6th Annual BookFest Windsor Festival from November 2nd to 4th. Attracting a mix of established authors and poets, including John Metcalf and Alistair MacLeod, as well as relative newcomers such as Sue Elmslie, Tanis MacDonald, and Eden Robinson, the event promises an engaging variety of passionate voices and perspectives for everyone who enjoys a good read.

Organizer Martin Deck explains that the festival treasures many facets of books. "It is a celebration of the book in all forms, from the art of bookbinding to the joy of reading and the freedom of expression." Martin says organizers are particularly excited about this year's event, which will see over 40 authors, poets and artists take up residence in the Windsor area where they will participate in workshops and discussion panels that will delight, challenge and engage audiences of all ages.....and in both official languages.

Franco-Ontarian writer Michèle Laframboise, award winning author of young adult fiction and graphic novelist, will be launching her latest adventure book "La Quete de Chaaas" during the festival. Following a number of discussion panels, public meet and greets and book signings, she will head out to local French schools where she will lecture and share with students her illustration techniques. Because she's one of only a handful of women author/artists in the world who are actively writing and drawing science fiction novels and comic books.....a genre that has caught on like wildfire among young readers...festival organizers are especially excited to welcome her here.

Local author Kay Douglas will also be participating, with her recently launched children's book "Yours for the Dreaming", which she wrote and illustrated to ▸

**Gil Adamson's acclaimed short fiction and poetry has been widely published in magazines and literary journals and her new book "Outlander" is receiving rave reviews.**



**Alistair MacLeod speaking at the 2003 Windsor Festival of the Book. He will be appearing again this year.**

**Windsor author and illustrator Kay Douglas recently launched her first book, "Yours for the Dreaming", to encourage children to approach reading in a fresh new way.**

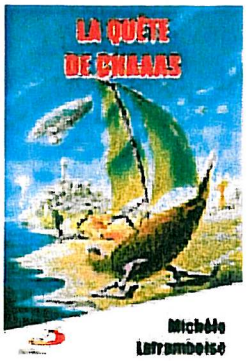
encourage creative thinking and present a new perspective on reading. By combining intricate, imaginative art and beautifully written prose, Kay has created a book that both adults and children find enlightening and entertaining.

"There is no better gift to give our children than teaching them to hold on to their natural creative ability," says Kay. "To carry their creativity into adulthood provides them with the tools to think through difficult challenges, to imagine bigger than they would do otherwise, and to refuse to settle for what is, just because it is."

The lineup of events and activities promises something for everyone, from the author readings, interviews and signings to exciting workshops on book arts, book collecting and publishing, as well as lectures on various aspects of book history and production. Local schools, the Windsor Public Library and the Art Gallery of Windsor are all on board to host intriguing collaborative workshops with the artists who will highlight the art of book creation, the joy of reading and the giddy power of freedom of expression.

Among the workshops will be an exploration of the art of mystery writing ("How to Build a Better Sleuth"); a look at how books are transformed into art objects ("Turning the Pages"); an insider's view of graphic novels ("Getting Graphic"); and for children, there will be "For Kids, By Kids". Engaging panel discussions will span such topics as translation ("Found in Translation"), poetry ("The Road to an Ode"), getting started writing ("Who's Who, How To"), short stories ("To Make a Long Story Short") as well as powerful novels ("A History of Strength" and "A Strong Slice of Life"). Crime writer Mary Jane Maffini will engage those with criminal minds, while George Rizok and Jeff Lemire will appeal to the graphically gifted.

Clark Blaise, Lawrence Hill and Afua Cooper will delight those who prefer their literature weighty, and Karl Jirgens and Emma Donoghue will provide a witty counterpoint.




**Franco-Ontarian author and artist Michele Laframboise will launch her newest SF graphic novels at BookFest 2007 before visiting area French language schools to introduce students to her imaginative writing style and illustration techniques.**

Organizer Martin Deck is quick to point out that BookFest Windsor has been enormously successful at bringing acclaimed authors to Windsor and has grown into an important fixture on Canada's book tour circuit. It's a uniquely important festival for Southwestern Ontario as it is the only Canadian literary festival within a four hour radius and subsequently, it successfully attracts a phenomenal group of nationally and internationally recognized artists. By drawing these artists to our city, Martin notes, BookFest offers the world a powerful and positive introduction to Windsor because these traveling authors inevitably "pass it on", as Noah Richler did following last year's Festival when he wrote a glowing review of the city in a piece for The Globe and Mail.

For more information and a complete list of participating authors and artists, visit www.bookfestwindsor.ca or email Lenore Langs at langs@cranberrytreepress.com. WL

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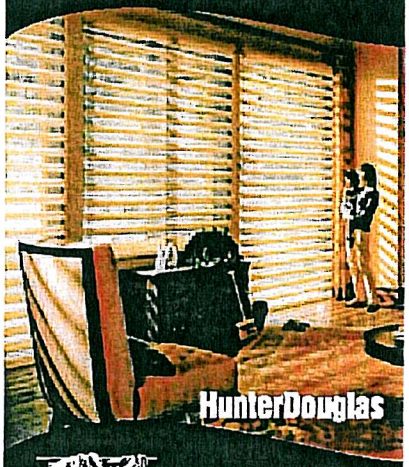

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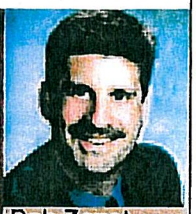
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