

ONTARIO REPORT

By Eric Folsom

These days in awesome Ontario, the summer festival season is just a memory and the heating season is in full swing. But don't stay cooped up in the house whatever you do. Interesting stuff is still happening.

In Ottawa on November 25th, a boatload of East Coast writers will be at the National Arts Centre, including Michael Crummey, Stan Dragland, Lisa Moore, and Michael Winter. A few days later, November 28th, Steven Heighon will appear at the Tree Reading Series. More details are at www.bywords.ca. Meanwhile, the peripatetic rob mcLennan is hitting the road for a Western Canada tour, and the new press being launched by rob and Jennifer Mulligan, Chaudiere Books, is ready to roll. Three new books from Clare Latremouille, Monty Reid, and Meghan Jackson (plus a new Ottawa anthology) can be ordered by following the links at Bywords. Let's hear it for new publishers!

Turning to the balmy south, Kingston is surprisingly busy this fall. Lauren Carter of Orillia gave a reading and a workshop at the Wolfe Island Bakery in what will hopefully be a new series. (Terry Ann Carter gave a reading and two workshops in Ottawa back in September. Perhaps this is a cosmic coincidence.) Carolyn Smart at Queens University has been bringing in a stellar line-up at Watson Hall on campus.

Watch for Michael Crummey on November 29th, and keep your eyes peeled for Lillian Allen. She's been visiting Queens as a writer in residence this fall

and there are plans for a Dub Poetry Festival in good old Funky Kingston on the weekend of November 25. Details are still being settled, but you can email me for more information: efolsom@kingston.net.

By the time you read this the Hamilton Writers Festival will probably be over, but go to the Arts Hamilton website anyway: www.artshamilton.ca. The poetry line-up for the Sunday November 5th LitLive reading sounds great, Angela Rawlings, Wayne Clifford, Susan Helwig, Mary-Lou Soutar Hynes, Judy Gaudet, and K. I. Press. Also scroll down to the Hamilton Poetry Centre series, with upcoming readings by Eve Tihanyi, Mary Dalton, and others. Don't you think every town should have a Poetry Centre? I have also noticed that Wolsak and Wynn has changed its address to Hamilton. Steeltown must be doing something right.

At the same time as the Hamilton Festival, Windsor celebrates books and writers at BookFest Windsor, see www.bookfest.ca. Once again the line-up is exciting, with a barrage of writers including Ken Babstock, Nicole Brossard, David Helwig, Stuart Ross, and Patricia Young. Finally in St. Catharines, the faculty of Brock University has been receiving imported talent from Queens, notably poets and avant-gardists such as Gregory Betts and Tim Conley. Betts and Conley, along with Terrance Cox and others, recently held a conference called "Transmissions: an anti-symposium. No doubt some new literary perspectives are fermenting in wine country.

Thanks to Chris Pannell, Diane Dawber, Terry Carter, rob mcLennan, Terrance Cox, and Dorothy Mahoney for helping. All errors however are my own. Write me and straighten me out already.

-Eric Folsom