

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
SUNDAYS AT THE
JAMES BAY INN

by
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Sketches by Linda Downey

Sundays at the JBI is a free weekly reading series that brings the literary arts (poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, storytelling, script) to the relaxed environment of the James Bay Inn Pub in Victoria, BC.

Organized within three-week cycles, the series hosts two consecutive Sundays featuring three invited readers, reading 20 minutes each with a short intermission

between readings, with the exception of special “theme” nights that also occur during this time. The third Sunday in the cycle hosts an Open Mic and Slam.

The series was launched by the late Roy McFarlane in September of 1999 and quickly became a success with both writers and audiences. The series, which I’ve produced since September of 2001, now boasts a list of over 350 past feature readers, including many of Canada’s finest emerging and established authors.

Sundays at the JBI is supported in part by the Canada Council for the Arts, the League of Canadian Poets, and the Writers Union of Canada. The series is also supported by over 40 excellent publishers/presses in Canada who, at their own expense, send their authors to read.

Community is of the utmost importance to Sundays at the JBI and many steps are taken to ensure that the atmosphere of the series is both vital and hospitable. Both presenters and audience often find themselves connecting with each other and feeling part of a cultural community-at-large, adding significance to their overall experience with the series.

Sundays at the JBI was voted “Favourite Literary Night” by Victorians as part of Monday Magazine’s first annual readers/audience’s choice awards in 2003, and most recently, was host to the 3rd Annual CBC Radio Poetry Face-off 2004.

Sundays at the JBI will celebrate its fifth anniversary when the series returns from the summer break on September 12.

For more information, please visit <http://members.shaw.ca/jbisundays>