



## Writer in Residence Information Sheet

*"When my parents sold their property along the river to the provincial government for greenbelt purposes (at a reduced price) my father said he hoped the place would be used for 'deserving writers and conservationists'. The initiation of the Writer in Residence program was the beginning of a most successful program that has carried out his hope, and been a pleasure for the visiting writers and a considerable joy to his children."*

Valerie Haig-Brown, 2013

### **About the Writer in Residence Program**

Located in the home of well-known Canadian author and conservationist, Roderick Haig-Brown, this residency provides a unique opportunity for professional Canadian writers to live and work in a coastal BC community.

Established in 2004, this program has hosted writers from across Canada who have had a wide range of literary expertise. The program provides an opportunity for writers to further their professional career and several have commented on their productivity during this residency.

Writing and literacy were a large part of family life at the Haig-Brown House and this residency is integral to ensuring that the literary legacy of the house remains relevant and vibrant.

### **Who hosts the residency?**

The Museum at Campbell River is responsible for managing the Haig-Brown House and will be your host for the duration of residency. For further information regarding the Museum please see: [www.crmuseum.ca](http://www.crmuseum.ca)

### **What does the Haig-Brown House residency provide?**

A monthly stipend of \$2,000 is provided and up to \$1,000 is paid for travel costs to and from Campbell River. There is no cost to Writers for rent or utilities at the Haig-Brown House.

The Museum provides the assistance of the Public Programs Manager in planning programming, and the Museum promotes the program.

Writers are responsible for their own long-distance telephone as well as personal expenses. Wireless Internet is provided on site; however, writers are responsible for bringing their own computer. The house is fully furnished including linens and basic kitchen equipment.

### **What are the Writers' obligations to the program?**

The Writer is expected to live on site for the duration of the residency (five months, November to April), and is expected to spend 60% of his or her time on their own writing projects. The remainder of his or her time is to be spent on community engagement.

Community engagement includes:

- Individual consultations to provide mentorship to emerging regional writers
- Participation in the annual Words on the Water Festival, a writers' festival held annually in Campbell River ([www.wordsonthewater.ca](http://www.wordsonthewater.ca))

- Public readings of their works
- Holding writing workshops in the community

Additionally the Writer is encouraged to network with regional reading and writing groups and be available for interviews with local media. The Writer is also expected to abide by policies and procedures in place at the Haig-Brown house that ensure that the heritage assets of the house are preserved.

### **Who is eligible to apply for the residency?**

Invited writers must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Additionally, they must have been published professionally at least once before the application deadline. They must be willing to engage with the local writing community, and have experience in teaching and/or other forms of presentations related to creative writing.

### **How do you apply for the residency?**

Applications should include:

- A current resume or CV (maximum two pages)
- A list of publications
- A sample of work in progress (10 to 20 pages)
- A letter of interest outlining
  - Ideas and themes for proposed community programming
  - Reasons why the residency would further your work, including an indication of what personal writing project you would be working on during the residency
  - Experience mentoring emerging writers
- Two letters of reference

The application due date for the 2020/2021 season is February 15, 2020. Application packages can be sent via mail attention: Ken Blackburn, Program Manager, Museum at Campbell River, Box 70 Stn A, Campbell River, BC V9W 4Z9 or e-mail: [public.programs@crmuseum.ca](mailto:public.programs@crmuseum.ca).

### **About the Haig-Brown House**

The Haig-Brown House is a restored heritage house located on a rural property at the edge of the small city of Campbell River (on the east coast of Vancouver Island). The property backs onto the banks of the Campbell River. Originally a twenty-acre farm, today the property surrounding the house includes Kingfisher Creek (a tributary of the Campbell River), a formal garden, orchards, fields and woodlands.

During the residency, the Writer lives and works in the house. The Writer's main living quarters include a living room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and small study. Both the bedroom and study (Haig-Brown's original study) overlook the river. A second larger study with an excellent library that has secured entry is also located on the main level. Three more bedrooms and two bathrooms are upstairs.

In the summer months the Haig-Brown House is operated as a Bed & Breakfast. For more information regarding the site please see [www.haig-brown.bc.ca](http://www.haig-brown.bc.ca)