

Vancouver

FOR BOOK LOVERS

From bookstores to author readings to a thriving literary scene, this city has everything a bibliophile could desire

BY SHERI RADFORD // PHOTOS BY KK LAW

Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival

Name a well-known author and chances are that writer has appeared at this annual festival in the past 22 years. Among the most celebrated previous guests: JK Rowling (*Harry Potter*), Salman Rushdie (*The Satanic Verses*) and Audrey Niffenegger (*The Time Traveler's Wife*). This year's festival (Oct. 19 to 24; page 30) showcases more than 100 authors in 67 lively events, ranging from a poetry bash to a literary cabaret to daytime events (some in French) for schoolchildren. It's six days of heaven for readers.

A Salon with Yann Martel

Spanish-born Canadian author Yann Martel took the world by storm with *Life of Pi*, a novel about an Indian boy trapped on a life raft with a tiger. His new book, *Beatrice & Virgil*, is an allegorical tale about the Holocaust. Readers fortunate enough to snag a ticket to A Salon with Yann Martel (Oct. 24; page 29), which is a pre-event for the JCC Jewish Book Festival (www.jccgv.com/JewishBookFest), will enjoy a cocktail reception with the master storyteller in a private home. *L'chayim!*

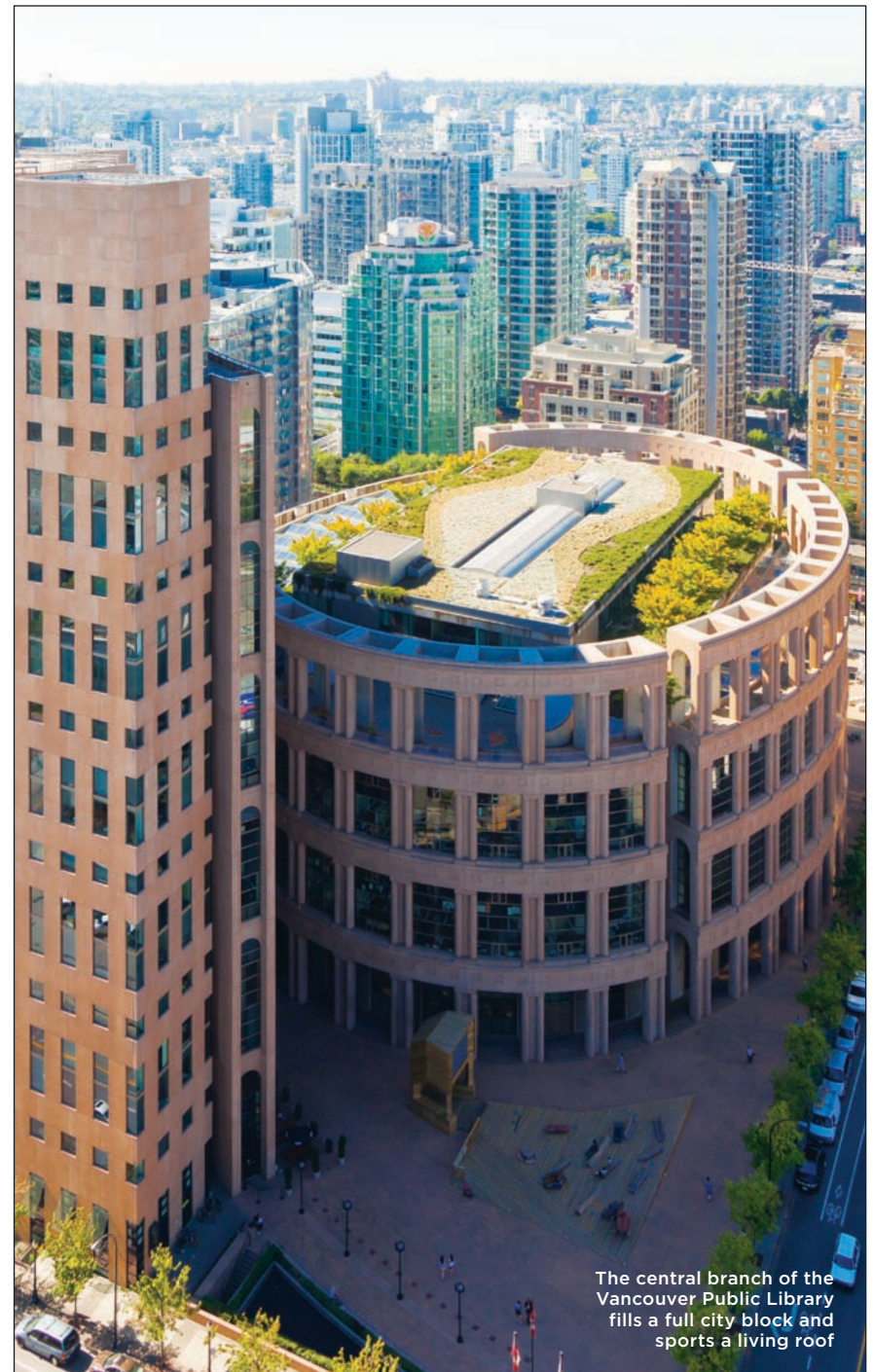
Vancouver Authors

It doesn't matter whether an author was born here, moved here or just spent a few years here—we claim them all as Vancouverites, because we know they're all West Coasters at heart.

- Linda Bailey, *Stanley's Party*
- Wayson Choy, *The Jade Peony*
- Douglas Coupland, *Generation X*
- Sarah Ellis, *Pick-Up Sticks*
- William Gibson, *Neuromancer*
- Nan Gregory, *How Smudge Came*
- Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*
- Evelyn Lau, *Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*
- Annabel Lyon, *The Golden Mean*
- Kit Pearson, *Awake and Dreaming*
- Al Purdy, *The Cariboo Horses*
- David Suzuki, *The Sacred Balance*
- Timothy Taylor, *Stanley Park*

Vancouver Magazines

You might already be reading local magazines without even knowing it. *Adbusters* (www.adbusters.org), *Modern Dog* (www.moderndogmagazine.com) and *Nuvo* (www.nuvomagazine.com) are all produced right here in Vancouver.



The central branch of the Vancouver Public Library fills a full city block and sports a living roof

Vancouver Public Library

If the central branch of the library (page 52) looks familiar, it may be because the distinctive building has popped up in movies and TV shows such as *The Sixth Day*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* and *Battlestar Galactica*. (Or it may be because architect Moshe Safdie's striking design evokes thoughts of the Roman Colosseum.) Celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, the downtown building regularly hosts free events such as book club meetings, computer workshops, film screenings and talks. This month, authors Annabel Lyon (Oct. 4), Caroline Adderson (Oct. 5) and Keith Billington (Oct. 26) all discuss their latest releases. To buy books of your own, stop by the library's annual fall sale (Oct. 21 to 24) and search for a treasured tome among the thousands of used books. Or simply find a quiet corner on one of the library's seven floors to relax with a novel or magazine.

Kidsbooks

Lively colours and kid-friendly decor fill all three locations of this store (page 18), inviting children into the magical world of books. The eager readers on staff each carry around at least a card catalogue's worth of information in their heads, easily answering questions about which titles a seven-year-old reluctant reader or 11-year-old goth girl or 16-year-old sports fanatic might enjoy. This month, David Wiesner (Oct. 13) and Pseudonymous Bosch (Oct. 14) drop by the West Broadway location to entertain kids of all ages.

Barbara-Jo's Books to Cooks

If your twin passions are reading and cooking, are you ever in luck. This store (page 18) is crammed full of books that get mouths watering. In addition to the expected cookbooks and epicurean magazines from around the world, some hidden treasures make slow, thorough browsing a necessity: out-of-print books and other rare finds hide tucked away in the corners, carefully chosen by owner Barbara-jo McIntosh. She's both a foodie and an author, having published titles such as *Tin Fish Gourmet* and *Cooking for Me and Sometimes You: A Parisienne Romance with Recipes*. Special events in-store this month include a knife skills class (Oct. 2), slow-cooker demonstration with Erik Akis (Oct. 22) and Indian tea with Madhur Jaffrey (Oct. 24).



Everything about Kidsbooks appeals to young readers

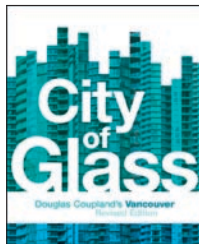


Chapters/Indigo

Readers flock to Canada's largest bookstore chain (page 18) for the in-store Starbucks cafes, the assortment of gift items and—above all else—the huge selection of books, magazines and newspapers. Touch-screen kiosks allow immediate access to a seemingly endless array of titles for sale on the company's popular website (chapters.indigo.ca)—handy for those whose tastes run more to the obscure and less to the teetering stacks of Stephen King and Nora Roberts novels. Special events at the Chapters on Robson include talks by authors Robert Herjavec (Oct. 4) and R.A. Salvatore (Oct. 16).

Books About Vancouver

Forget the tacky t-shirts and snow globes—books make much better souvenirs.



Douglas Coupland's *City of Glass* (Douglas & McIntyre, \$24.95) is a love letter to the city, filled with insider knowledge such as how Vancouver is similar to *The Simpsons*, where "the nakedest place in Canada" is and why the Grouse Grind is better than a singles bar.

Compiled by the Chef's Table Society of BC, *Vancouver Cooks 2* (Douglas & McIntyre, \$40) bursts with more than 100 recipes from 70 local chefs, making it an ideal memento for foodies.



Vancouver Then and Now (Thunder Bay Press, \$22.95) by Francis Mansbridge explores the city through paired photographs—one old, one new—of prominent locations. www.thunderbaypress.com



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