



## Celebrate Poetry Month with *Waking the Bard* on Saturday

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer invites the community to *Waking the Bard*, a free evening of poetry, theatre and live music in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's life and death. April 23 is widely accepted as both the day of Shakespeare's birth and death.

Joining Yvonne Blomer will be Youth Poet Laureate Ann-Bernice Thomas and local poets Iain Higgins, Sonnet L'Abbe, Anita Lahey and Troy Sebastian, who will create and perform responses to Shakespearean sonnets.

The event will include University of Victoria Fine Arts students, known as *The Bard Raving Mad Players*, performing an original play inspired by Shakespeare's works. Elizabethan music will be performed by the *Banquo Folk Ensemble*.

The media and the public are invited to attend this celebratory National Poetry Month event.

What: Waking the Bard  
When: Saturday, April 23, 2016, from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.)  
Where: Victoria City Hall Council Chambers, at Douglas Street and Pandora Avenue

Registration is not required. The event will include complimentary beverages, treats courtesy of The Market on Yates, and door prizes donated by Bolen Books, Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival, Ooh La La Cupcakes, Oscar & Libby's Gift Store, and Russell Books.

Established in Canada in April 1999 by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month celebrates poetry and its vital place in Canada's culture.

To learn more about the event and view poet and performer biographies, visit: [www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate).

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### For More Information:

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