



## Celebrate National Poetry Month with Book Spines and Blossoms!

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Poetry will come to life in Victoria during National Poetry Month in April with events that celebrate the creative and renewal aspects of books, time and spring.

Throughout National Poetry Month, Victoria's Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer and Youth Poet Laureate Maita Cienska invite the community to get creative and reacquainted with their book collections by tweeting their best "book spine" poems. By stacking three book spines, one can create a unique poem. Poets of all ages and experience are encouraged to participate and inspire the community with their literary works by tweeting to @CityofVictoria with the hashtag #yyjpoetry. Tweets should include a photo of the stacked book spine poem or the poem's text. The City will retweet family-friendly poems and post them online at [victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://victoria.ca/poetlaureate).

*Poetry Month: The Theme of Time* will feature poetry readings by local poets on Saturday, April 1 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Central Branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library, 735 Broughton Street. Yvonne Blomer will be joined by Daniel Scott, Wendy Morton, Steven J. Thompson and Barbara Pelman for readings that explore themes of time and what it means to be Canadian. Participants will craft their own poems, too. This program is sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts and the League of Canadian Poets. To register for this free event, visit [gvpl.ca](http://gvpl.ca)

Cherry blossoms will be celebrated at *A Pavilion of Blossoms: Poets Respond to Spring*. Featured poets will read original poems inspired by the Gallery's Asian art collection. Featured poets will include Yvonne Blomer, Maita Cienska, Terry Ann Carter, Jeff Tanaka, Patrick Lane, Sidney Bending and Alana Sayers. The event will take place on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria at 1040 Moss Street. Admission will be by donation.

The *Sakura: Cherry Blossom Festival* will follow at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria on Saturday, April 8 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Hosted by the Gallery, the Nikkei Cultural Society, and Haiku Arbutus—a Victoria-based haiku study group—the afternoon will include free guided walks, talks, and arts and crafts activities for all ages, with poetry readings by Yvonne Blomer and Terry Ann Carter. Admission will be by donation. For more information visit [aggv.ca/events](http://aggv.ca/events)

The community is invited to create book spine poems in person by attending *Book Spine Poetry* on Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Central Branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library. Participants will make book spine poetry using library books; Yvonne Blomer, Maita Cienska and a guest poet will be on hand for inspiration. This free event is a drop-in program. Visit [gvpl.ca](http://gvpl.ca) for more information.

The City of Victoria will once again participate in the *Annual Mayors' Poetry Challenge*, which invites municipalities across Canada to bring poetry into politics. Victoria's Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate each read an original poem at the first City Council meeting of the month. During National Poetry Month, Yvonne Blomer and a guest will read on Thursday, April 14, with Maita Cienska and a guest reading on Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Victoria City Hall.

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. Learn more at [victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://victoria.ca/poetlaureate).

**ATTACHMENT:        Sample Book Spine Poem**

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