



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary Walsh to headline second annual Cavendish Literary Festival

Cavendish, Prince Edward Island (June 10, 2026) - Bestselling author, actor, comedian and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* co-creator Mary Walsh will headline the festival's Friday evening Spotlight Session at the 2026 Cavendish Literary Festival. The four-day celebration returns to Prince Edward Island September 24-27 with 35 events, 45 featured Canadian voices and new programming that blends literature, food, music and community.

"In only our second year, we're welcoming some of Canada's most celebrated authors while continuing to create opportunities for Island readers and emerging writers," said Darcy Butler, Executive Director of Tourism Cavendish Beach. "The festival is becoming a gathering place where local voices connect with national conversations."

"PEI boasts a rich literary history, shaped worldwide by L.M. Montgomery's iconic *Anne of Green Gables*. Storytelling is woven into Island life from tip to tip... our stories define who we are," said Ernie Hudson, Minister of Fisheries, Rural Development and Tourism. "The Cavendish Literary Festival is a perfect opportunity to celebrate local voices, spark creativity, and bring our community together."

The 2026 schedule includes events for all age groups, from writing workshops and author presentations to kids' programming, a French-language conversation, a literary walk, and headline spotlight sessions. As part of the festival's special Fall Flavours programming, *The Literary Table: From Page to Plate* with Chef Adam Loo offers an immersive four-course culinary experience that blends PEI food, storytelling, and live music in a memorable evening of Island creativity.

Community support remains central to the festival's mission. In partnership with the Crowan Awards, the festival is proud to present a workshop for young Prince Edward Island writers who have previously won the Crowan Award for Writing during the 2026 festival, led by Island writer and publisher Mo Duffy. The festival also continues to build on its commitment to readers and writers through partnerships and previously supported events, including *An Evening with Kate Quinn* and Janie Chang's discussion on their new novels *The Astral Library* and *The Fourth*

Princess with bestselling Halifax author Donna Jones Alward, the Salon du livre de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard and the Prince Edward Island Rare Book Fair.

"In the setting that first inspired our most celebrated author, a new generation of creative entrepreneurs will share their work, wisdom, and insight into the industry," said the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Member of Parliament for Malpeque. "Our government is proud to support this event through ACOA, inviting visitors and residents out to celebrate, learn, and experience all that autumn has to offer on the Island."

Minister Macdonald spoke on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Guests booking a minimum two-night stay at a participating accommodation partner will receive festival pass discounts and early access to tickets starting June 10. Public ticket sales open June 17. Visit cavendishliteraryfestival.com and follow the festival on social media for updates and ticket information.

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View the press release online [here](#).

Media Contact:

Darcy Butler

Executive Director

darcy@cavendishbeachpei.com

About:

The Cavendish Literary Festival is an annual celebration of storytelling and creative expression held in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island. The festival brings together readers, writers and literary enthusiasts through author events, workshops, community programming and cultural experiences that showcase local, regional and national voices.