



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Rebecca Diem appointed Poet Laureate

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**Owen Sound, Ontario – Tuesday, March 05, 2024** – At its February 29th meeting, the Board of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library approved the appointment of Rebecca Diem as the 2024 Owen Sound Poet Laureate, starting March 01, 2024.

Rebecca Diem writes hopeful speculative fiction and poetry. Her published work can be found on Reactor (formerly [Tor.com](https://www.tor.com)) and Write Magazine, and she is the author of the indie steampunk series *Tales of the Captain Duke*. She is currently working on a postpartum poetry collection inspired by the natural world and beach walks with a sleeping baby.

A specialist in communications and strategic initiatives, Rebecca is currently on leave as a director for Canada's largest free book festival, The Word On The Street Toronto. She also hosts the Read the North podcast taking listeners behind the scenes of contemporary Canadian and Indigenous literature.

With favourite writing spots on three continents, Rebecca now calls Grey-Bruce home with her Australian composer husband and newborn daughter.

Diem says "I'm excited to connect with local established and aspiring poets, because we have incredibly talented folks living here. Grey-Bruce and Owen Sound is such a unique place, and I appreciate it more and more as I grow and travel the world. I am honoured to serve my community as the Poet Laureate."

In the final days of his tenure, outgoing Poet Laureate Richard-Yves Sitoski said "It gave me great personal and professional joy to serve the region as Poet Laureate for an unprecedented four years. I am especially thankful to the library for this extension of my term, for it allowed me to dig deeper in my work for the community. I look forward to seeing what my successor has planned, and I am excited to learn from them."

The Poet Laureate program is hosted by the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library with funding from several members of the community. The Poet Laureate's honorarium and other expenses for the current term are covered by donations from Cathy Huntley, Phillip Faulkner, Pat Lorenzo and David Madill, CFP of BMO Nesbitt Burns. Never supported by tax-based funding, the existence of the Poet Laureate program depends entirely on donations from community members who see the benefit of having a local advocate for the literary arts. Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor of the Owen Sound Poet Laureate program is invited to contact Tim Nicholls Harrison, CEO, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library at 519-376-6623 ext. 5201.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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