

Literary icons discussing books, culture at conference

Best-selling contemporary Newfoundland literature is commonly associated with last names like Major, Morgan, and Crummey.

It's rare to have all three literary powerhouses in one room discussing their writing process and the thematic make-up of their books.

However, an exception will be made at the Plum Point Motel on Sept. 5 as part of an international conference, entitled 'Bird Cove and Beyond: Celebrating a Decade of Regional Archeology on a Global Scale'.

The evening, dubbed 'Stories in the Kitchen, Stories from the Sea', is an homage to Newfoundland storytelling and yarns which often happened in outpost kitchens. While exciting topics such as seafaring,

the fishery, exploration and survival have all been themes of the authors collectively, organizers of the conference say the evening will also focus on aboriginal components of their most recent books. Michael Crummey will read from *River Thieves*, Bernice Morgan from *A Cloud of Bone* and Kevin Major from his new book, *L'Anse Amour/L'Anse aux Morts*.

Together, these three authors have been awarded or nominated for high honours in both Newfoundland and Canadian literature, including Newfoundland Artist of the Year, Thomas Head Raddall Award, Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award, the Pearson Non-Fiction Prize, and the prestigious Giller Prize.



DUNCAN MAJOR PHOTO

Author Kevin Major (left) and wife Anne Major are among the guests who will attend a conference from Wednesday to Saturday in the Plum Point area. Mr. Major will read from his latest book and Ms. Major will moderate a session during the conference.

In addition, some of their books have been turned into movies, such as Morgan's *Random Passage*, a CBC

mini-series hit, and even an opera such as Major's *Ann and Seamus*, which toured Ireland and Denmark in recent years.

The evening's importance will be magnified by the spirited presence of host Anne Major, wife of Kevin, who is an educator and well-versed in Newfoundland literature, heritage and culture. She has most recently worked with Kevin to craft articles for school textbooks which feature prominent past Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who embodied traditional culture.

Anne hosts an intimate evening in a sit-down setting where writers share excerpts from their novels and answer questions from the audience about their literary gifts and process.

"These three writers are

provincial treasures, people who have brought Newfoundland life to an international audience," says conference organizer Latonia Hartery, who has planned to cap the evening with book buying opportunities so that if interested, attendees can purchase and receive signed copies of Newfoundland's most famous recent literature.

The event is just one of many featuring international and local scholars and performers from Sept. 3-6 in the Plum Point area. The conference has been organized to educate and inspire local people and visitors to preserve Newfoundland identity, culture and talent, so that it is the subject matter of many more international bestsellers to come.