

A Look at the Lakefield Literary Festival Authors

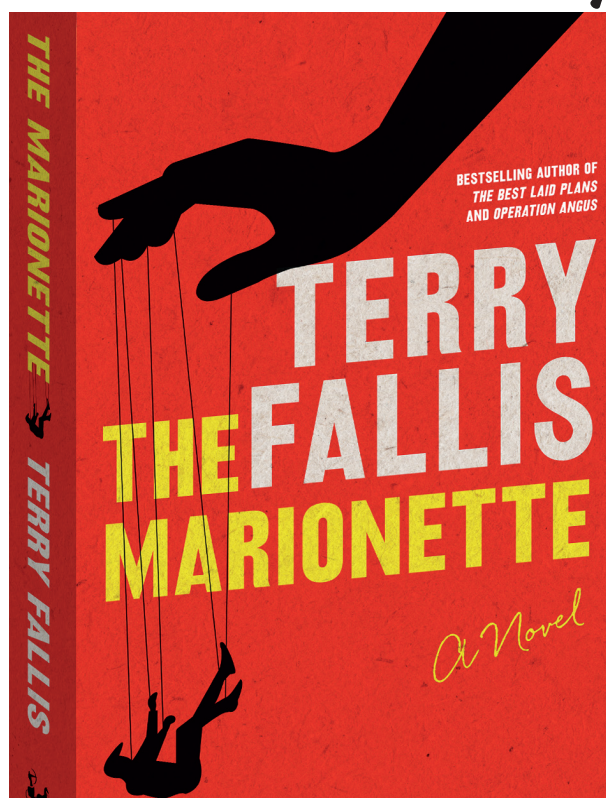
Terry Fallis: The Marionette Book Review

BY JOHN BOYKO

Most of us became acquainted with Terry Fallis through his first novel, *Best Laid Plans*. It won the 2011 Canada Reads and Leacock Medal for Humour. Fallis won the Leacock medal again for *No Relation*. *The Marionette* is his 10th novel. Released in 2025, the national best-seller was on the Winnipeg Free Press' Best Books of the year list, and it was long listed for the 2026 Leacock Medal.

The Marionette is a witty, fast-paced, laugh out loud political satire that is perfect for the strange times in which we find ourselves. The story begins twenty years after James Norval applied to be a spy with CSIS but was rejected. Now a successful writer of a series of spy-thriller novels, Canada's spy agency asks him to help with a sticky situation overseas. Norval is partnered with CSIS agent Lauren Cooper. They are tasked to travel to Mali and extricate 15 Canadians being illegally detained by its corrupt government.

Hilarity ensues as the agent tries to go by the book while



frustrated by the book writer who tears the book to shreds by acting as he assumes the James Bond-like hero of his novels would in each increasingly dangerous situation. Norval discovers that books and real life are not on speaking terms. But then he discerns that the president of Mali is a fan of his books who is using them to secretly relay messages to him and Cooper. Everything is not as it seems. No one can be trusted. And Norval hatches a plan that would work in one of his novels so, of course, what could possibly go wrong? Well, everything.

Fallis is well acquainted with the behind-the-scenes world of politics. After earning an engineering degree, Fallis served on the staff of the federal Minister of State for Youth and then as a legislative assistant both in Ottawa and Queen's Park. He left politics to found a successful communications company while also writing insightful articles for newspapers, *Maclean's*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Toronto Life*. After the success of his first two books, he took the leap and became a full-time novelist. Canadian readers are grateful for that decision.

Fallis' books are lively, well written, and brilliantly paced. His characters are carefully drawn and full of surprises. *The Marionette* burnishes Fallis' already stellar reputation as among Canada's best-known and beloved writers.

LAKEFIELD LITERARY Festival

Books and Tickets available at Happenstance Books & Yarns

Property by Kate Cayley will be featured on July 18 at 3 p.m.

Tickets also available online at LakefieldLiteraryFestival.com

New Digital Fishing and Hunting Licensing Service

To make it easier for anglers and hunters to purchase licences and tags, the Ontario government is creating a new licensing system, FishHuntON. Launching in early 2027, FishHuntON will provide residents with more convenient and flexible ways to access licensing services, including a new easy-to-use mobile app. The new system will operate alongside existing service channels, ensuring residents can continue to access licensing services that work best for them.

"Whether you're a lifelong angler or casting a line for the very first time, our government is making it easier and more convenient to enjoy all that Ontario's world-class fishing has to offer," said Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources. "Our new FishHuntON platform will make accessing licences and tags easier than ever, so people can spend more time doing what they

love and exploring the great outdoors."

Launching in early 2027, FishHuntON will provide approximately 1.5 million anglers and hunters with new ways to conveniently keep track of fishing and hunting licences and tags. Highlights of the new licensing system include:

- a free mobile app to purchase and renew fishing and hunting products
- digital storage through the mobile app of licences and tags, which can be accessed with or without cellular service
- the ability to submit proof of Ontario hunter accreditation documents digitally
- an easier way to submit hunter reports

"Our government is delivering more modern services for those across our province," said Stephen Crawford, Minister of Pub-

lic and Business Service Delivery and Procurement. "FishHuntON will streamline access to Outdoors Cards, licences and tags while expanding convenient digital options, making it easier for anglers and hunters to access the services they need."

Alongside these new features, FishHuntON will continue to deliver core services such as the sale of Ontario Outdoors Cards, licences, tags and big game draw applications online and in-person at private issuers and participating ServiceOntario locations.

Anglers and hunters are a vital part of Ontario's resource-based economy, contributing an estimated \$3.37 billion annually. Anglers fishing for free June 27 to July 5 must follow all conservation licence catch and size limits, respect fishing sanctuaries and obey all other fishing regulations.

DOUGHTY AGGREGATES

SAND	STONE	GRAVEL
------	-------	--------

705-652-3016

Providing a solid foundation
for our community to grow on

www.doughtyaggregates.com

Blue Diamond
SIDING

iamond
WINDOW CLEANING
Since 1987

CALL NOW

to book your spring window cleaning

705-743-7200

Celebrating 38 years of streak free window cleaning

info@bluediamondclean.com

Lakefield Jazz, Art & Craft Festival

Saturday, July 11, 2026

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Isabel Morris Park
20 Concession Street, Lakefield

Presented by:

CIBC PRIVATE WEALTH
PYLE WEALTH ADVISORY

A special thank you to our amazing
sponsors and volunteers!

memories, family, community

HENDREN

FUNERAL HOMES

LAKEFIELD CHAPEL

705-652-3355

MONK CHAPEL
(Bobcaygeon)

705-738-3222

NORWOOD CHAPEL

705-639-5322

www.hendrenfuneralhome.com