



The Lakefield Literary Festival has an exciting line-up of six amazing authors attending our event's this July. Over the next several weeks the Festival has partnered with the Lakefield Herald to introduce you to our authors and their books which will be featured over the weekend of July 17 and 18. All tickets are on sale now, available online and at Happenstance Books and Yarns in Lakefield. For more details, visit [lakefieldliteraryfestival.com](http://lakefieldliteraryfestival.com)



# A Look at the Lakefield Literary Festival Authors

## The Trouble with Fairy Tales by Plum Johnson

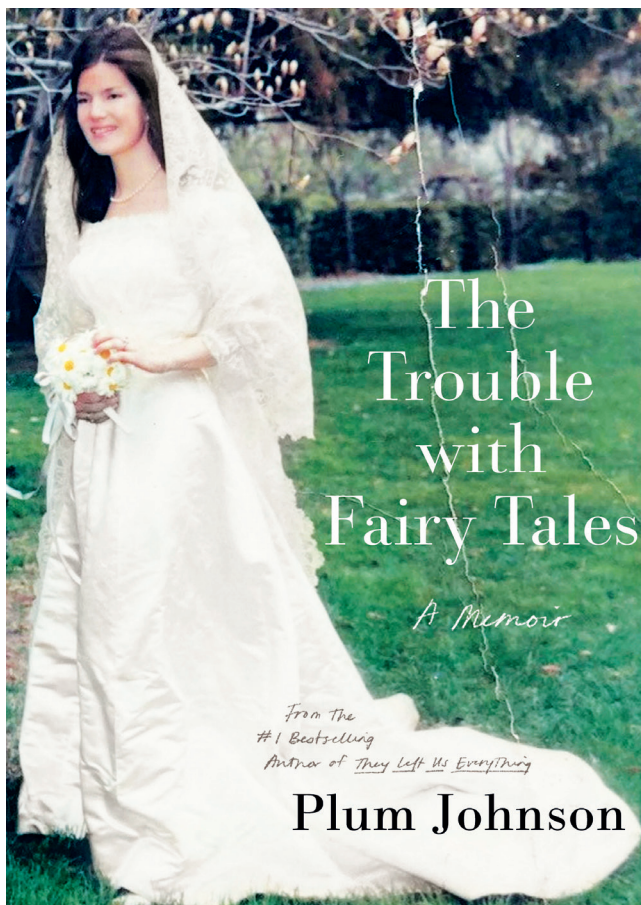
BY JOHN BOYKO

Readers were introduced to Plum Johnson through her 2014 bestselling and RBC Tayler Prize winning debut novel *They Left Us Everything*. Johnson's long-awaited second novel, *The Trouble with Fairy Tales*, is a gentle and insightful memoir that offers reflections and stories that invite us to consider the roles that we have played in our lives and may, in fact, still be playing.

Johnson was the compliant child then the obedient teenager who allowed her father to choose her university that would lead to a life he envisioned for her. She played the dedicated employee, loving mother, and supportive wife, until the fairy tales that lit her way lost their power.

We find ourselves cheering her journey of self-discovery and reinvention but at the same time wondering if she was just trading one set of fairy tale goals for another. Each new relationship in which she finds herself entangled seems to be offering the same lesson as she slowly learns to turn inward for happiness.

Johnson is a skilled writer and storyteller. Richly



drawn characters enter and leave. A gentle humour and many laugh out loud moment offer charm to anecdotes that are sometimes crazy rides and other times thoughtful meditations.

Johnson writes near the beginning, "The trouble with fairy tales is that they're not true, yet they weave in and out of our hopes and dreams, fueling our fantasies for the rest of our lives." So where is Prince Charming? So what happens after Robin Hood was rescued by the woodcutter? Was Cinderella happily married to the Prince? Does happily ever after mean that one is happy twenty-four hours a day and forever?

Plum Johnston lives in Toronto and sets her novel there and in Oakville. Readers will smile at the recognition of sites, streets, and neighbourhoods. The book is both inspiring and a cautionary tale. It is like an invigorating conversation with an old friend who does not mind confessing and sharing bad decisions that led to physical and emotional bruises and worse decisions that somehow led to glorious moments.

*The Trouble with Fairy Tales* will resonate especially with women, but men too will see themselves reflected in the pages that ask us all to consider the power of tropes and myths and the non-existent vision of normal as we plot our personal journeys.

Plum Johnson will be at the Lakefield Literary Festival on July 17 at 7 p.m.

For more information on authors, moderators, and tickets for the Lakefield Literary Festival, visit them online at [lakefieldliteraryfestival.com](http://lakefieldliteraryfestival.com) OR at Happenstance Books and Yarns



LAKEFIELD  
LITERARY Festival

Books and tickets available at Happenstance Books & Yarns

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## Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association celebrates 25th anniversary

BY VANESSA STARK

The Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association (KLSA) is celebrating their 25th anniversary of monitoring and protecting local lakes and water sources.

The association 25 years ago started after a group of concerned residents learned of the tragic event that happened in Walkerton.

Past Chair of KLSA Ed Leerdam told *the Herald* that back in 2000 there was a huge outbreak of E. coli due to a lack of control, testing, and treatment of the town's water supply. Many people died and even more became severely ill.

Leerdam said that from this incident, residents from the local area took it upon themselves to do some testing here. At the time, the closest treatment centre was in Peterborough and most of the areas drinking water came from local lakes.

He said, "A bunch of people got together and said, oh, we should do some testing in our lakes to see what's going on in there, and if we have a problem with E. coli, or other bad things. We happen to have the SGS lab here in Lakefield. So, they organized themselves, and by the next summer of 2001 they had incorporated as a non-profit and got a bunch of volunteers that started testing the water. So that was sort of our foundational program and still is."

The coverage area the association follows is vast, spanning the Trent Severn Waterway from Lake Simco to Lake Katchewanooka. This area extends to about 15 lakes covered by dozens of volunteers.

KLSA is a completely volunteer run organization aimed at helping to preserve lake health and water quality.

"Our lakes are used widely for everything from recreational boating, fishing and swimming to actually drinking water. A lot of shoreline properties, they take the water out of their lakes and pipe it up and threw some filtration system, and then they'll use that for the household water. So it's important to know that our lakes are healthy."

For 25 years, the association has been monitoring and reporting on lake health in the area both from their own volunteer base as well as with partners such as the Lake Partner Program run through the Ministry of Environment that measures phosphorous levels in lakes.

The association also started a unique program in 2020 that monitors the water temperature in lake systems.

Leerdam explained, "We have volunteers who get little devices about half the size of a cell phone. And they attach them to the end of their docks, and through Bluetooth they take readings. So, we're looking for a trend. We

expect a rising temperature trend in our lake water and that's important because all the organisms in the water from tiny microscopic organisms to fish and aquatic plants, they're very sensitive to the temperature that they look for. They're like you and I, we're comfortable in this temperature. If it gets 40 degrees, we're dying and if it's minus 40, we're dying, right? So, it impacts what's in our Lakes if the water temperature rises because of global warming and all that kind of stuff."

In conjunction with that testing, they also monitor the oxygen levels in certain parts of the lakes as well. Dissolved oxygen is how species underwater are able to survive.

"We look for the deepest part of the lake, and there's a probe that goes all the way down, and it takes dissolved oxygen readings, and by the time we hit the bottom, there's usually no dissolved oxygen, which means that life cannot be sustained at that point in the bottom of the lake. So fish breathe oxygen through their gills and all these plants that need oxygen, so that's an important program for us as well."

Leerdam said the group also helps protect shorelines along the lakes.

Another program they offer is for private residents to naturalize their shorelines, protecting the lakes from runoff chemicals and other debris that may

contaminate the lake.

He said that there's much science and data around keeping a natural shoreline to protect against what they call "loading" into the water. That is when a shoreline has been developed or modified into lawn, and pesticides, and other contaminates flow easily into the lake system from the yard.

Having a natural shoreline helps prevent much of that from ever hitting the water through filtration systems from the natural vegetation and healthy root systems of a naturalized shoreline.

"We have a program where, through grant money and we continue to raise funds, we go to private property shore landowners, and they'll sign up for this program. And for a small contribution towards the program for their materials, we'll go out, make a plan, come with volunteers, buy all the materials, all the plants and shrubs, and then we go out and plant along the shoreline."

He explained that they will not take away their docks or inhabit them from using their waterfront property but naturalizing a large percentage of the lake edge will go a long way to help keep the lakes healthy.

KSLA is always looking for new board members and volunteers. To learn more about their programs or volunteer opportunities, visit them at [klsa.ca](http://klsa.ca)