

See what's on ?The Bookshelf? Saturday with York Region authors

By Brock Weir

Detective Albert Hodgins is a man on a mission.

The Toronto police officer's adventures have taken him to Stouffville and Woodbridge so far and his next case, given to him by his creator, author Nanci Pattenden, is set to take him to Aurora, solving a murder unfolding during the holiday season in 1874.

While this third installment in Ms. Pattenden's mystery series is still in the works, you will have a chance to catch up with her and over 50 area authors at The Bookshelf, a new initiative of the Writers' Community of York Region bringing together over 50 Canadian authors to read from their books and interact with local book lovers.

Taking place this Saturday, June 25, at the Newmarket Community Centre in conjunction with the Newmarket Farmers' Market, it is an opportunity to buy local when stocking up on some summer beach reads ? or even a cozy mystery to tuck away for the winter months.

?It came into being because we felt there was a need for something in our area showcasing local authors and local talent because there really doesn't seem to be anything in York Region that does that,? says Ms. Pattenden, who is helping organize the event. ?Everyone knows the big names and things that go on in the city, but there is a lot of good talent in the small towns as well. We need to make people aware that there is good writing locally that they can find.?

Communities typically come together to support traditional artists like painters and sculptors, she adds, but that is not often the case with ?print artists.?

?That is what you would call us because it is an art and it is a craft,? she says.

Featured authors, and those who will be reading selections from their books, include Terry Fallis, Kim Chatel, Alexandra Harvey, Bob Brunet, Marissa Campbell, Mark Konig, MJ Moores, Sheila Horne, Cynthia St-Pierre, Doouglas Owen, Isobel Warren ad Ms. Pattenden.

The book fair runs from 9 a.m. ? 3 p.m., with readings taking place between 10 a.m. and 2.35 p.m.

For a full list of participating authors and a schedule of readings, visit thebookshelf.wcyork.ca.