

The New Richmond Reader

Issue 82

October 2025

Our Literary News from the Heart
of the Karoo



October, 2025

Hills of Gatineau
Quebec Province
Canada

Dearest Karoosters,

Greetings from just outside Ottawa where we find ourselves visiting family and all the other things which emigrants have to do to keep the home fires burning. October in the northern hemisphere is well into autumn, and we were really lucky for our first week with summer balmy weatherclear skies and well into the high 20's and on one day 32C which is quelque chose extraordinaire, as we say in French. The leaves are turning from greens into yellows, oranges, russets and reds. We are staying with my son and his family on a large wetland with resident beaver community....Robert's (my son) adversaries as they dam up the stream as fast as he can break it apart...the little buggers work all night cutting trees with their teeth and dragging them to their dam and knitting them into the dam structure and then packing the entire structure in



Beaver dam now grass covered

mud. The little buggers just never stop. The migrating birds make stop overs in the water to rest and eat and the little deer are always in the woods keeping an eye for the coyotes which also are in the thick bush and just love deer on the hoof!

Ottawa the capital of Canada is in constant construction and upgrade mode...which makes me recall our el Presidente Ramaphoria's mention.....no in fact he waxed lyrical about it...in his last speech from the throne that he was going to turn South African into one huge construction site!! With construction cranes to the horizon. Last time I noticed his workers had dug quite a few thousand holes all over Johannesburg in order to fix broken water and sewerage pipes, but none of which they ever bother to refill and pave over again. They are just left a meteorite craters in a wasteland of garbage.



The Gatineau on the other side of the Ottawa in the Province of Québec

Canada is a really nice country with really nice people and a really nice outlook on everything and really nice open spaces and a really nice peaceful way of life, but the weather is crap, notwithstanding our first week in the big C. Black flies in the summer and over 5 months of winter misery, which no one likes and are the back breakers. Canadians just have to embrace the cold and snow and I admit that they mostly make the best of a crummy climate. Insulated houses and double glazing and central heating do help. In the areas in SA where we do get seriously cold weatherlike the Karoo....highveldand lots of other spots we have yet to cotton on to keeping our houses warm in the dead of winter. We just say that winter is short and gird our loins to living in a cold house and pray for summer!

The big deal in Canada this time of year, and a month later in the States is Thanksgiving weekend which ranks right up there with the likes of Christmas as a time for feasting on turkey and gatherings of the family clan. My sister put on a two-turkey banquet for 30 in her double dining room cum living rooms.



Harvest time in the great north strong and free

We are in the final straight for BoekBedonnerd and looks like all stops are out for a Blowout weekend in the Karoo...again. It is great to know that most of the speakers will be live and in person front row centre so the dorp will come to life in a big way.

So, this is the line up as we stand and if there are changes they will be only a shuffle here and a wiggle there.

<https://booktownrichmond.co.za/2025-programme/>

On Friday late afternoon we have a treat for everyone in town....**Christof van der Berg** on stage at the Booktown Richmond HQ. Christof is a highly sought after performer and artist and a man of many talents and means to express he creative imagination. His performance will just so happen to take place during and after the regular BookBedonnerd afternoon wine tasting.....so lots of fun in store. Tickets at the door R100 per head.



First Changing of the Guard

See you in die dorp pretty soon,
Very BookBedonnerd to all,

A Richmond Community Development Foundation Project

