

Local writer gets world-class boost at festival

A local author who tested material from her debut novel earlier this year in Mississauga has made a huge splash at a Toronto literary festival.

Anubha Mehta officially unveiled her first book, *Peacock in the Snow*, on Sep. 28 to a hall full of patrons, readers, writers, critics and authors at the Lit Up Festival to an enthusiastic response.

"*Peacock in the Snow* is a story of belief, vengeance, and forgiveness," said Mehta, who has lived on both sides of the world and worked with diverse communities throughout Canada.

"It is a story of optimism rooted in the imperfections of life. The only way to overcome past wrongs is to face them, to conquer our fears and confront our inner demons."

In an emotional speech Mehta read from her book and expressed her gratitude to all those who touched her journey leading to her debut novel.

Mehta also paid tribute to the many stories that are not able to reach such platforms, and shared how the novel has helped her come to terms with the imperfections of life.

The novel follows main character Maya, and how her life with her new husband Veer is thrown into complete disarray when she accidentally stumbles on an ancient family secret.

What begins as unwelcome behaviour by Veer's family soon turns into something sinister. Trapped within the dark walls of her married mansion, the secret begins to haunt Maya and draw a wedge with Veer.

To escape the malicious spirits lingering in the house, Maya and Veer migrate to a distant land and start rebuilding their life amongst adventure and hardship. Not knowing that the ghosts of their past have followed them, in a race against time, Maya is put to a final test. Armed with conviction and courage, she sets out to face

the dark forces that lie await. The book is a genre-bending thriller about the power of love, sacrifice and the tireless capacity of people to hope, strive and succeed despite impossible circumstances, Mehta explained during the event.

"This book talks about those sides of issues and isms, that fall within the shadows and silences of the noise- those aspects that are not often talked about," she said.

"In Patriarchy's forceful dominance - often women get indoctrinated as its gatekeepers and vulnerable men surrender their personal lives, dreams or love in a show of allegiance to this system.

"Across the globe, these issues and isms don't change, nor are they contained within geographic boundaries. They mutate with different cultures and colours and are manifest in a diversity of context, circumstance, and behaviours according to the tolerance and norms of

the place," added Anubha. Due to a tremendous turnout, the novel sold out at the book launch event. More copies are being printed and will reach bookshops across-

the country by mid-October. Mehta told Peel Weekly News that she will continue to represent Canada and showcase her debut novel, on an international panel at

Jaipur Literature Festival. The overwhelming response to the book has also resulted in plans for a second book launch in Delhi, New India in Jan. 2019.



Spooky season arrives in downtown Brampton

Fall has arrived, and with it, a host of activities taking place in Brampton that will offer family-oriented festive fun.

The fan-favourite "Fright Nights" are back starting this Sunday (Oct. 14) at various sites throughout the city.

Visitors can enjoy themed crafts, music, swimming, skating, and more 'spooctacular' activities from 6 - 9 p.m.. Registration is free for all events.

To cap off the season, the 10th annual Great Pumpkin Party will take place on Nov. 1.

Upcoming Fright Night events include:

- Sunday, Oct. 14 at Greenbriar Recreation Centre: Bonfire and wagon rides, face painting and a haunted skate
- Friday, Oct. 19 at Century Gardens Recreation Centre: Pumpkin decorating, air brush/face painting and bonfire/wagon rides
- Saturday, Oct. 20 at Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre: Pumpkin decorating, bonfire/wagon rides and face painting
- Friday, Oct. 26 at Gore Meadows Community Cen-

tre: Haunted wagon rides, Swamp Swim and Zombie Zumba

- Friday, Oct. 26 at Professor's Lake Recreation Centre: Geocaching in the dark, a spooky photo booth and haunted wagon rides

The Great Pumpkin Party will run from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Garden Square, featuring , live entertainment by Enviro-drum, a live glow performance, cookie decorating, airbrush tattoos, a roaming magician and more.

Residents can rock their Halloween costume and bring their pumpkins to be lit up one last time before they're composted in the popular Great Pumpkin Smash! The event happens rain or shine.

"There are plenty of opportunities to explore Brampton this fall while enjoying the season's changing colours," said Mayor Linda Jeffrey.

"I encourage residents to get out to Fright Nights and the 10th annual Great Pumpkin Party and take part in all the festive fun the City has to offer."



DogFest in Riverwood



The Riverwood Conservancy hosted the 2018 DogFest on Sunday, Sep. 30, sponsored by the 2018 Greenbelt River Valley Connector grant program.

It was a day for families, dogs and their owners to enjoy a crisp fall day while also learning about Greenbelt conservation. Participants learned about the importance of keeping dogs on-leash and picking up their waste to protect water quality and wildlife in Riverwood, and beyond, while also enjoying vendor displays, contests and activities. The highlight of the event was a dog-walk-a-thon raising funds for The Riverwood Conservancy and Mississauga Animal Services.

For more information on the 2018 Greenbelt River Valley Connector grant program and Riverwood Conservancy's involvement, visit www.parkpeople.ca/possibilityflowshere/. (Photos Courtesy of Riverwood)