



CONCRETE THOUGHTS:

SOCIALISM & SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN THE VALLEY, FROM PAST TO PRESENT

A series of guest lectures and discussions ranging from labour history to environmental justice. Inspired by folk artist, socialist, and concrete pioneer Charles Macdonald (1874-1967)



SEPT 12

Katie Mazer & Charles Macdonald Society

SEPT 19

Jasmine McMorran & Lisa Lachance

SEPT 26

El Jones, Stephen Henderson, & Sue Goyette

OCT 3

Nina Newington & Sadie Beaton



Saturdays, 1-3 pm



WATCH ONLINE:

www.youtube.com/@charlesmacdonaldconcreteho7210

about 1hr lecture,
followed by discussion

CONTACT US:

charlesmacdonaldsociety@gmail.com
(902) 678-3177

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Where is the Concrete House located?

A: We are located at 19 Saxon Street in Centreville, NS, near the town of Kentville

Q: Is parking available?

A: Yes, you can park anywhere on the lawn. There are ropes hung at the boundaries of the parking area, and additional parking is available along Saxon Street

Q: Is the building wheelchair accessible?

A: Yes, our two galleries are accessible by wheelchair. You may drive up directly to the door of the museum to park, as to avoid having to go across the lawn. Unfortunately, our restroom is not yet accessible.

Q: I can't make it in person - is there any way to watch online?

A: We will be livestreaming some of this series. Visit our YouTube for more

Q: Can I have a tour of the museum?

A: We offer free tours - we're open 10am - 5pm, Tues-Sat until Oct 4



MEET THE PRESENTERS

KATIE MAZER



Katie is an Associate Professor of Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at Acadia University. Her research explores how resource-dependent communities in come to see their social and economic futures as reliant on unsustainable resource development. She just published her first book, *Extracting Decline: Resource Development and Mobile Labour in Canada*, which examines how it became normal in Maritime communities for people to travel long distances to work in natural resource extraction, including in the Alberta oil industry today. Katie grew up on PEI and now lives in Kentville with her two kids, her partner, and her cats.



LISA LACHANCE

Lisa Lachance is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island. Lisa was first elected in 2021 and reelected in 2024, and is believed to be the first genderqueer MLA elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. Having founded consulting firm Wisdom2Action and led its transition from government-supported network to independent social enterprise, Lisa has a long-standing track record as a prolific community engager. They started their career in the public sector, advocating for the rights of children and youth at an international level. Lisa and their partner, Heather, were one of the first couples married in Canada upon the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2003. They have two children; Jason, 20, and Keira, 17, and are longtime residents of Halifax/Kjipuktuk. Lisa holds a BA with Honours in International Development Studies, a Masters of Public Administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Health, all from Dalhousie University.



JASMINE MCMORRAN

Jasmine McMorran holds a Bachelor of Music (piano performance) from the University of Lethbridge and a Masters of Arts (Ethnomusicology; the study of music in a sociocultural context). She is an accompanist for community choirs, and an active and dynamic pianist, fiddle player, researcher, and educator. Her research has explored working class women playing fiddle and composing music pre WW II in Nova Scotia

EL JONES

El Jones is a poet, journalist, professor, and abolitionist living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was the 5th Poet Laureate of Halifax and a 2015 resident of the International Writing Program at University of Iowa. El was the poet in residence at U of T Scarborough in 2021. She won 2 Atlantic Journalism Gold awards in 2018 and 2019. In 2016, El was a recipient of the Burnley “Rocky” Jones human rights award for her work with prisoners. She was the 15th Nancy’s Chair in Women’s Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University. El received her PhD in Cultural Studies at Queen’s University and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political and Canadian Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University.

El was the lead author of the report, Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM. Her second book, Abolitionist Intimacies, a collection of poetry and prose examining abolition through Black feminist practices of care and resistance is being released from Fernwood Press in November 2022.

SUE GOYETTE



Sue Goyette lives in K'jipuktuk (Halifax) and has published several books of poems and a novel. Her latest collection is *Future Howl*, (Gaspereau Press, 2025). She is the editor of *Resistance: Righteous Rage in the Age of #MeToo* (University of Regina Press, 2021), *The 2017 Griffin Poetry Prize Anthology* (Anansi, 2017) and *The Best Canadian Poetry in English 2013* (Tightrope Books, 2013). Her work has been translated into French, Spanish and German and has been featured in films, subways, buses, spray painted on a sidewalk and tattooed.

STEPHEN HENDERSON



Stephen Henderson is a historian working at Acadia University. His education includes a BA in History and a BEd from Acadia University, an MA and PhD from York University, and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Brunswick. Henderson's research has focused on the connections between Canadians and their governments. His biography of Nova Scotia Premier Angus L. Macdonald focuses on the often-fraught federal relationship – determining whether the federal or provincial governments ought to deliver a particular service and what was the fairest way to collect revenue for these services.

Writer, carpenter, gardener, citizen scientist and – increasingly – camper on logging roads, Nina Newington lives with her wife on the North Mountain in Kespukwitk on unceded Mi'kmaq land. The heart knowledge that all nature is her kin has sustained her since childhood. This understanding has been a source of joy, strength and, increasingly, grief. The year she turned sixty she made a commitment to do what she can for this living world, to be a voice for the voiceless, to put her body in the way of what damages the Earth. Currently she is president of Save Our Old Forests and working with Mi'kmaw matriarchs, artists and other settlers to create the Peace and Friendship Medicine Trail.



NINA
NEWINGTON

SADIE BEATON

Carrying many generations of settler land relations in Mi'kma'ki, Sadie Beaton is a listener, activist and PhD candidate currently living in Mtaban (Wolfville). Drawing on her own ancestral histories, her research engages with embodied archival practices, Indigenous politics of water, and collaborative storytelling to trouble the pioneer lies that stifle settler imaginations about what kinds of relations and futures are possible on these lands and waters. Her practices yearn in the direction of repair, responsibility, and liveable futures.

