

Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop Banquet

Keynote Speaker Presentation

Keynote Speaker: Sharon Butala

Presentation: *Living in the Landscape*

Summary: She will talk about her life on the ranch and the unavoidable - or are they? - tensions between ranching and conservation imperatives.

Biography:

Sharon Butala has published 18 books of fiction and nonfiction (many bestselling) and has received many awards and prizes including three nominations for the Governor General's Award. She is an Officer in the Order of Canada and has three honorary doctorates. Born in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, she moved to Saskatoon at 13 where she was educated and lived into young adulthood, and thus has spent nearly all her life in Saskatchewan including thirty-three years on the mixed grass prairie of southwest Saskatchewan where she and her husband ranched. There she fell in love with the special beauties of that landscape and acquired a non-specialist's intense acquaintance with the grasslands, and a firm desire to see as much of it preserved as possible. The Butala Family ranch is now the Old Man On His Back Prairie and Heritage Conservation Area owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In 2007 Peter Butala died and eventually, Sharon moved to Calgary to be near family. There she continues to write and publish. Her most recent book is a memoir called, *Where I Live Now* (Simon and Schuster Canada, 2017) about her life on the prairie and her forced retreat to urban life.

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