

AUG. ★ 2016

WRITING RETREAT

• GILMOUR, ON •



StartWriting.ca

GILMOUR RETREAT: OVERVIEW



When: Friday Aug. 12th – Wednesday Aug. 17th, 2016

Where: A waterfront venue in Gilmour, about 2.5 hours from Toronto.

Who: Up to seven adult writers. No experience required, other than a willingness to get away from it all and to participate in group sessions. I'll be facilitating. My dog Milo is coming too.

What: The retreat program features:

- daily group writing sessions
- loads of personal time
- evening reading sessions
- one-on-one coaching

Cost: \$1,100. Includes single accommodation (no sharesies!) and meals

Register: Reserve your spot with a \$200 deposit, or save \$100 by paying the full retreat fee at StartWriting.ca.

GILMOUR RETREAT: VENUE



Bed & Beach is a 4 acre waterfront property in Gilmour (an hour north of Belleville and near Bon Echo Provincial Park). The venue accommodates up to 24 guests with a campfire area, swimming, canoeing, a studio and outdoor stage. We'll be the only group on site for our stay.

GILMOUR RETREAT: VENUE



GILMOUR RETREAT: ACCOMMODATIONS



Accommodations are split between a cottage with three bedrooms and a series of one room cabins: everyone gets their own room.

We'll gather to eat and write in the cottage, which has a washroom and full-on indoor plumbing. The cabins offer more privacy, but may not have full bathroom amenities. Port-a-potties are always available nearby. Sleeping areas will be claimed on a "first to sign up chooses first" basis.

GILMOUR RETREAT: PROGRAM

August 12th-17th

Friday

Writers are invited to arrive anytime in the afternoon on Friday, August 12th. Carpooling is an option for those without wheels. We'll kick off with a communal dinner and get ourselves settled.

Saturday-Tuesday

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9:30-11:30am | Group writing session |
| 11:30am-4:00pm | Personal time |
| 4:00pm-6:00pm | Group writing session |
| 6:30pm-8:00pm | Dinner |
| 8:00pm-9:00pm | Reading sessions (Sun. & Mon. only) |

Tuesday-Wednesday

The workshop ends with a communal dinner on Tuesday, a final night to kick back, and a departure by 11am on Wednesday.



GILMOUR RETREAT: PROGRAM

Group writing sessions

Group writing sessions will be facilitated using the Amherst Writers & Artists method. Each two-hour sessions will feature prompt-based writing exercises and non-critical feedback to ensure a safe environment for all participants.

Personal time

Late mornings and early afternoons are yours. Work on your own projects, grab inspiration from a prompt jar, or use the time to explore the property or veg out.

Coaching

Each retreat participant will sit down with me and Milo for a one-hour session. We can take an in-depth look at a piece of your writing, set a plan to help you reach your writing goals, or use the time to discuss whatever you wish.

Reading sessions

On Sunday and Monday, we'll gather for group readings after dinner. These evening sessions give writers the opportunity to share more polished pieces for balanced feedback.

Writers will read their manuscripts out loud, while listeners make notes on their copies in real time. A brief discussion on each piece will follow, balanced between what listeners liked and places where they have questions.

GILMOUR RETREAT: MEALS



Breakfast & Lunch

Take breakfast and lunches on your own terms. The cottage kitchen will be stocked with a good mix of fruit, yoghurt, granola, eggs, bread, coffee and tea for you to eat when you're ready.

Provided foods will generally lean towards hearty pescatarian & non-meat fare. You're welcome to bring anything you can't live without.

Dinner

Writers will likely be asked to create one dinner each for the group. You may be asked to do this on your own, or with a writing partner. As we get closer to the retreat date, a more complete meal schedule will come together.

Food allergies / special needs

By mid-July, a retreat survey will go out for writers to indicate any specific food allergies or sensitivities.

GILMOUR RETREAT: COSTS & TERMS

Cost: \$1,100 inclusive

Retreat fee includes:

- five nights, single accommodation
- meals
- facilitated group writing sessions
- coaching session
- HST

Fee schedule

Secure your spot with a \$200 deposit by credit card at StartWriting.ca. Full balance is due prior to the retreat date. We can work out a payment schedule that works for you.

Save \$100

Pay for the retreat up front at the discounted rate of \$1,000.

Other payment methods

If you aren't able to use a credit card, Paypal, Interac e-transfers, personal cheques and cash are all options. Please get in touch to arrange alternate payment methods.

**** Please note ****

- retreat deposits are non-refundable
- while the general concept of group writing / personal time will be followed, the proposed schedule may change
- while carpooling with myself or another writer is an option, not all schedules may align. It is ultimately your responsibility to arrange transport to and from the retreat
- while all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate dietary needs, those with specific food allergies or preferences may be asked to provide their own meals

GILMOUR RETREAT: HOSTS



David Bester

A freelance copywriter writer and editor, I have worked with many of the world's best-known brands over the past 15 years.

In 2008 I completed a certification course with the Amherst Writers & Artists group to lead workshops based on their methodology.

Since 2009, I have welcomed hundreds of writers into workshop streams including *Writers ' Boot Camp*, *The Manuscript Club*, *The Finishers*, *Copywriting* and *10 Self-Portraits*.



Milo

Since I adopted him almost two years ago, Milo has become a regular fixture at workshop sessions and has earned the title of co-facilitator. Most of the time he doesn't do much more than sit under my chair. But he's a great listener.

Milo despises long car rides. Getting him to Gilmour isn't going to be pretty. But I can't imagine taking on this adventure without him, so we'll make it work.



Registration / Contact

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