

Arts seen

John Lent named Okanagan's Poet Laureate

I have to start this week off with a big high five to the Okanagan Institute for naming John Lent as the Okanagan's Poet Laureate. Lent's humour was in its usual fine form as he accepted the award last week and read excerpts from his latest book, *Cantilevered Songs*.

"I hope this is not the end of me, getting one of these lifetime achievement awards," he joked, and then promised not to do a Sally Fields style breakdown because yes, we like him.

You can find his book at Mosaic Books downtown.

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Lent lauded as Okanagan laureate

The Okanagan's first poet laureate, John Lent, will be honoured in Kelowna on Thursday night.

Lent is an Okanagan College instructor who has been writing poems, fiction, and non-fiction for more than 30 years.

"It's a crazy game this writing life," Lent says. "You just go ahead doing what you're doing – in my case teaching and writing and singing – and you don't stop and wonder about the fame and glory end of it. There is no fame and glory; it's the writing itself."

Lent has been named poet laureate of the Okanagan by the Okanagan Institute, an organization which puts on various arts and cultural events. He will read from his new collection of poems, *Cantilevered Songs*, at the Bohemian Cafe, 524 Bernard Ave., at 5 p.m.