Beth Powning of Sussex is among 12 writers participating in the Creating Community tour, which will stop in Saint John Saturday night. PHOTO: LAURA MACINNIS/ KINGS COUNTY RECORD

Literary tour celebrating community, languages

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SAINT JOHN • New Brunswick may have a history of tension between language groups, but a province-wide literary tour aims to unite authors of various backgrounds with one common goal.

Twelve published writers will present their meaning of community in both English and French as part of the Creating Community tour coming to the Saint John Arts Centre this weekend.

"We haven't been talking about language politics at all," said Sonya Malaborza, a tour organizer and literary translator. "We're beyond that question."

As part of the tour, Malaborza said, all 12 writers prepared a short text about the community concept and its deeper meaning. Malaborza said they each have a different interpretation and experience with the community idea.

Participating writers sharing their currently unpublished works include Beth Powning and Gerard Collins of Sussex, as well as Paul Bossé, Lee Thompson and Sheedy Petit Jean of Moncton and Brigitte Lavallée of Petit-Rocher, near Bathurst.

Other writers are Muhammad Al-Digeil of Fredericton, Sébastien Bérubé of Edmundston, Phyllis Grant and Raymond Sewell of Pabineau First Nation, along with Shelby Beaatz Sappier of Tobique and Fredericton and Elizabeth Blanchard from Grand-Barachois, near Shediac.

Readings will be done in English and French, with subtitles provided for other languages.

The texts read during Creating Community will be published in 2018 in Ancrages, an Acadian literary journal.

"We've got a solid lineup of writers," said Malaborza. "It was important to have various voices show with our authors."

Malaborza said she hopes audience members at Saturday's show will discover new authors and ask questions after their presentations.