

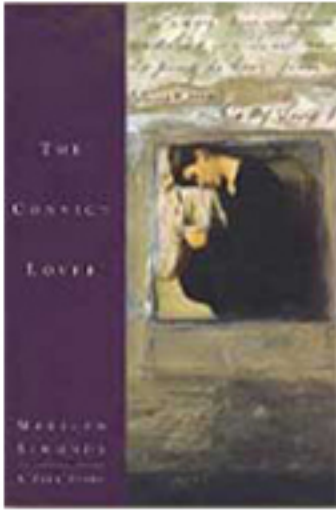
ALGONQUIN COLLEGE SPEAKER SERIES

presents . . .



Merilyn Simonds, Author of 17 Books

Stories from Canada's Most Notorious and Historic Prison



In 1987, Merilyn Simonds discovered a cache of letters in her attic, written to a 17-year-old girl in the village of Portsmouth from a convict in Kingston Penitentiary—a young man from Renfrew, Ontario, who was part of a gang of petty thieves who terrorized the Ottawa Valley in the early years of the last century. Intrigued by the clandestine relationship of Phyllis Halliday and Josie Cleroux and by the forbidden world of Canada's oldest and most notorious prison, Simonds spent the next 8 years researching and writing the story that became *The Convict Lover*, an international bestseller and inspiration for two Canadian stage plays. Join Merilyn Simonds on the 30th anniversary of the discovery of this unique correspondence for an inside look at Kingston Penitentiary in the year leading up to Canada's first prison riot.

Merilyn Simonds is the author of 17 books, including the novel *The Holding*, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, and the Canadian creative nonfiction classic, *The Convict Lover*, a finalist for the Governor General's Award. Her work is anthologized and published internationally in eight countries. Her most recent fiction is *The Paradise Project*, a collection of flash stories hand-printed on a 19th-century press with endpapers made in part from plants in her garden. The experience of producing the collection in both a digital and book-arts edition is the subject of her latest work, *Gutenberg's Fingerprint: Paper, Pixels, and the Lasting Impression of Books*.



Tuesday, September 12, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
Algonquin College Waterfront Campus in Pembroke
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE WATERFRONT CAMPUS
\$15 in advance or \$20 at the door