

PRESS RELEASE

FINALISTS FOR THE GREAT LITERARY AWARDS ANNOUNCED:

WRITERS' TRUST TO PRESENT \$133,000 IN LITERARY PRIZE MONEY

Toronto - February 3, 2004 - *Lascelle Wingate, executive director of the Writers' Trust of Canada, announced today the finalists for literary awards in Canadian fiction, non-fiction, and biography. Eight awards will be presented on Wednesday, March 3, in Toronto at the third annual Great Literary Awards. Total prize money to be awarded that night to Canadian writers will be \$133,000, making the event one of the richest awards nights in Canada.*

This year's nominated books share a common thread, telling stories of icons and private citizens and the impact they've had on Canada and the world. They range from biographies of influential Canadians - Dalton Camp, Glenn Gould, and Mordecai Richler - to the heart-wrenching tale of a newborn's battle to overcome a congenital heart defect. From the Sand Hills of Saskatchewan to a hotel swimming pool in Kigali, Rwanda, to the beaches at the End of the Earth in China, these tales take readers across Canada and the globe.

"The works of this year's finalists are a testament to our country's creative output," said Janet Wright, Chair of the Writers' Trust of Canada. "The Writers' Trust is proud to announce that Sun Life Financial, the event sponsor of this year's Great Literary Awards, will join us in celebrating this country's wealth of literary talent."

Finalists for this year's prizes come from every region of Canada, with particularly strong representation from British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Nominees will gather with publishers, members of the literary community, and supporters of the Writers' Trust of Canada for the Great Literary Awards on March 3 at 6 p.m. at the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. Winners will be announced there for the following awards.

THE ROGERS WRITERS' TRUST FICTION PRIZE (\$15,000)

Sponsored by Rogers Communications Inc.

Each finalist for this prize receives \$2,000.

Jacqueline Baker (Edmonton) for ***A Hard Witching & Other Stories***, published by HarperFlamingo Canada/
A Phyllis Bruce Book

Gil Courtemanche (Montreal) for ***A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali***, translated by **Patricia Claxton** and published by Alfred A. Knopf Canada

Barbara Gowdy (Toronto) for ***The Romantic***, published by HarperFlamingo Canada

Judith McCormack (Toronto) for ***The Rule of Last Clear Chance***, published by the Porcupine's Quill

Kevin Patterson (Salt Spring Island, British Columbia) for ***Country of Cold***, published by Vintage Canada



THE PEARSON WRITERS' TRUST NON-FICTION PRIZE (\$15,000)

Sponsored by Pearson Canada

Each finalist for this prize receives \$2,000.

Mark Abley (Montreal) for ***Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages***, published by Random House Canada

J. Edward Chamberlin (Toronto) for ***If This Is Your Land, Where Are Your Stories? Finding Common Ground***, published by Alfred A. Knopf Canada

Brian Fawcett (Toronto) for ***Virtual Clearcut: Or, the Way Things Are in My Hometown***, published by Thomas Allen Publishers

Taras Grescoe (Montreal) for ***The End of Elsewhere: Travels Among the Tourists***, published by Macfarlane Walter & Ross/McClelland & Stewart

Marq de Villiers and **Sheila Hirtle** (Lunenburg, Nova Scotia) for ***Sahara: A Natural History***, published by McClelland & Stewart

THE DRAINIE-TAYLOR BIOGRAPHY PRIZE (\$10,000)

Sponsored by Claire Drainie Taylor and Nathan A. (Nat) Taylor

Paul Adams (Tel Aviv, Israel) for ***Summer of the Heart: Saving Alexandre***, published by Macfarlane Walter & Ross/McClelland & Stewart

Kevin Bazzana (Brentwood Bay, British Columbia) for ***Wondrous Strange: The Life and Art of Glenn Gould***, published by McClelland & Stewart

Geoffrey Stevens (Cambridge, Ontario) for ***The Player: The Life and Times of Dalton Camp***, published by Key Porter Books

Joel Yanofsky (Montreal) for ***Mordecai & Me: An Appreciation of a Kind***, published by Red Deer Press

THE WRITERS' TRUST OF CANADA/McCLELLAND & STEWART JOURNEY PRIZE (\$10,000)

*Made possible by James A. Michener's donation of his Canadian royalty earnings from his 1988 novel, **Journey**.*

The Journey Prize recognizes the best short story or excerpt from a novel-in-progress by a new and developing writer that had its first publication in a Canadian literary journal in the previous year. The journal that publishes the winning entry receives \$2,000. This is the third year that the Writers' Trust has partnered with McClelland & Stewart to administer the award, now in its fifteenth year.

Dawn Rae Downton (South Shore, Nova Scotia) for ***"Hansel and Gretel,"*** published in *Grain*

Charlotte Gill (Vancouver) for ***"Hush,"*** published in *Grain*

Jessica Grant (Calgary) for ***"My Husband's Jump,"*** published in *The Malahat Review*



THE MARIAN ENGEL AWARD (\$15,000)

Sponsored by the Honourable Hilary M. Weston

The Marian Engel Award was established by the Writers' Trust to honour the memory of one of Canada's most beloved and respected writers. The award is given out annually to a female writer in mid-career for a body of work and in anticipation of future contributions.

THE TIMOTHY FINDLEY AWARD (\$15,000)

Sponsored by the Writers' Trust of Canada

The Timothy Findley Award was established by the Writers' Trust in 2002, shortly before the death of the author and playwright. The award is given out annually to a male writer in mid-career for a body of work and in anticipation of future contributions.

THE VICKY METCALF AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRESENTED BY THE WRITERS' TRUST OF CANADA (\$15,000)

Sponsored by the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation

Established in 1963 by the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation to encourage and support the writing of children's literature, the Vicky Metcalf Award is given out annually to a writer of children's literature for a body of work. This is the second year the award has been administered by the Writers' Trust.

THE WRITERS' TRUST OF CANADA'S MATT COHEN AWARD: IN CELEBRATION OF A WRITING LIFE (\$20,000)

Sponsored by anonymous donors and the Writers' Trust of Canada

Established in 2001 by the Writers' Trust of Canada and a group of anonymous donors, the Matt Cohen Award is presented for a lifetime of distinguished work by a Canadian writer, working in either poetry or prose.

The 2004 Great Literary Awards event is made possible with generous support from the event sponsor, Sun Life Financial, and the media sponsor, *The Globe and Mail*.

The Writers' Trust of Canada is a unique national charitable organization providing a level of support to writers unmatched by any other non-governmental organization or foundation. Through its programs and awards, it celebrates the talents and achievements of our country's novelists, poets, biographers, and non-fiction writers. The Writers' Trust is committed to exploring and introducing to future generations the traditions that will enrich our common literary heritage and strengthen Canada's cultural foundations. For more information on the Writers' Trust please visit www.writerstrust.com.

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For more information or to interview any of the finalists, please contact:

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