

# WRITERS' TRUST INTRODUCES FIRST SHORTLISTS OF THE FALL BOOK SEASON:

*Alice Munro and Douglas Coupland headline list of nominees*

**TORONTO, ON – September 30, 2009** – The Writers' Trust of Canada announced finalists today for \$82,000 in prizes in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, and short fiction, at an event at Ben McNally Books in Toronto.

This year's nominees transport readers from Alexandrian Greece to the near future, and explore ancient wisdom and why it matters in the modern world. The novels include a tale of people in disparate places united by a shared experience in a digital world; a Jewish actress's escape from Nazi Germany; and an English translation of a French novel about writing in a language that makes meaning foreign. A collection of short stories that examine the human ability to transcend adversity and emotions also makes the short list.

The winners of the awards, along with four other prizes, will be announced at the ninth annual Writers' Trust Awards event on November 24, 2009, at the Isabel Bader Theatre in Toronto. Total prize money awarded that night to Canadian writers will amount to **\$147,000**, making the event one of the richest awards nights for literary excellence in Canada.

Book lovers have the chance to win a set of this year's nominated titles by visiting [writerstrust.com](http://writerstrust.com).

## THE ROGERS WRITERS' TRUST FICTION PRIZE (\$25,000)

Sponsored by Rogers Communications Inc.

Jury: Marina Endicott (Edmonton), Miriam Toews (Toronto), and R.M. Vaughan (Toronto)

Each finalist for this prize receives \$2,500.

- **Nicole Brossard** (Montreal), translated by **Susanne de Lotbinière-Harwood** (Montreal), for *Fences in Breathing*, published by Coach House Books
- **Douglas Coupland** (Vancouver) for *Generation A*, published by Random House Canada
- **Annabel Lyon** (Vancouver) for *The Golden Mean*, published by Random House Canada
- **Alice Munro** (Clinton, Ontario) for *Too Much Happiness*, published by McClelland & Stewart: A Douglas Gibson Book
- **Andrew Steinmetz** (Ottawa) for *Eva's Threepenny Theatre*, published by Gaspereau Press

The finalists for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize will deliver a reading at the International Festival of Authors on **October 28, 2009**. More information is available at [readings.org](http://readings.org).

## THE WRITERS' TRUST NON-FICTION PRIZE (\$25,000)

Jury: Tim Bowling (Edmonton), Anne Hart (St. John's), and Bruce Meyer (Barrie, Ontario)

Each finalist for this prize receives \$2,500.

- **Brian Brett** (Salt Spring Island, British Columbia) for *Trauma Farm: A Rebel History of Rural Life*, published by Greystone Books
- **Wade Davis** (Washington, D.C., and northern British Columbia) for *The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*, published by House of Anansi Press

- **Trevor Herriot** (Regina) for *Grass, Sky, Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds*, published by HarperCollins Publishers: A Phyllis Bruce Book
- **Erika Ritter** (Toronto) for *The Dog by the Cradle, the Serpent Beneath: Some Paradoxes of Human-Animal Relationships*, published by Key Porter Books
- **Eric Siblin** (Montreal) for *The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece*, published by House of Anansi 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.

Jury: Camilla Gibb (Toronto), Lee Henderson (Vancouver), and Rebecca Rosenblum (Toronto)

The journal that published the winning entry receives \$2,000.

- **Daniel Griffin** (Victoria) for "The Last Great Works of Alvin Cale," published in *The Dalhousie Review*
- **Dave Margoshes** (Regina) for "The Wisdom of Solomon," published in *The Dalhousie Review*
- **Yasuko Thanh** (Victoria) for "Floating like the Dead," published in *Vancouver Review*

Four additional prizes for a body of work will be presented at the Writers' Trust Awards event:

- **Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life** (\$20,000)
- **Vicky Metcalf Award for Children's Literature** (\$20,000)
- **Writers' Trust Award for Distinguished Contribution**
- **Writers' Trust Notable Author Award** (\$25,000)

The Writers' Trust Awards are made possible through generous support from corporate, foundation, and individual sponsors. The national print media sponsor, *The Globe and Mail*, provides additional support. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) for this project.

#### **About the Writers' Trust**

The Writers' Trust of Canada is a charitable organization that supports Canadian writers and writing through various programs, including literary awards, financial grants, workshops, scholarships, and a writers' retreat. For more information visit [writerstrust.com](http://writerstrust.com).

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