

WRITERS' TRUST ANNOUNCES THE FIRST SHORTLISTS OF THE BOOKS SEASON: FIRST NOVELS, RAWI HAGE, AND MIRIAM TOEWS HEADLINE FICTION LIST

TORONTO, ON - October 1, 2008 - The first shortlists for this year's major Canadian literary prizes have been decided by the Writers' Trust of Canada. Finalists in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, and short fiction were announced at an event in Toronto held at Ben McNally Books. The winners of the awards, along with four other prizes, will be announced at the eighth annual Writers' Trust Awards event on November 17, 2008. Total prize money awarded that night to Canadian writers will amount to \$155,000, making the event one of the richest awards nights in Canada.

Book lovers have the chance to win a set of this year's nominated titles by visiting www.writerstrust.com.

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

Sponsored by Rogers Communications Inc.

Jury: Lawrence Hill (Burlington, Ontario), Annabel Lyon (Vancouver), and Heather O'Neill (Montreal)
Each finalist for this prize receives \$3,500.

- **Rivka Galchen** (New York City) for *Atmospheric Disturbances*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- **Rawi Hage** (Montreal) for *Cockroach*, published by House of Anansi Press
- **Lee Henderson** (Vancouver) for *The Man Game*, published by Viking Canada
- **Patrick Lane** (North Saanich, British Columbia) for *Red Dog, Red Dog*, published by McClelland & Stewart
- **Miriam Toews** (Winnipeg) for *The Flying Troutmans*, published by Knopf Canada

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

Jury: Derek Lundy (Salt Spring Island, British Columbia), Darren Wershler-Henry (Toronto), and Jan Wong (Toronto)

Each finalist for this prize receives \$3,500.

- **Taras Grescoe** (Montreal) for *Bottomfeeder: How to Eat Ethically in a World of Vanishing Seafood*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- **Carl Honoré** (London, United Kingdom) for *Under Pressure: Rescuing Childhood from the Culture of Hyper-Parenting*, published by Knopf Canada
- **Mark Kingwell** (Toronto) for *Concrete Reveries: Consciousness and the City*, published by Viking Canada
- **Margaret Visser** (Toronto) for *The Gift of Thanks: The Roots, Persistence and Paradoxical Meanings of a Social Ritual*, published by HarperCollins Canada
- **Russell Wangersky** (St. John's) for *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fire and Losing Myself*, published by Thomas Allen Publishers

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: Lynn Coady (Toronto), Heather O'Neill (Montreal), and Neil Smith (Montreal)
The journal that published the winning entry receives \$2,000.

- **Dana Mills** (Toronto) for "Steaming for Godthab," published in *Geist*
- **Saleema Nawaz** (Montreal) for "My Three Girls," published in *Prairie Fire*
- **Clea Young** (Vancouver) for "Chaperone," published in *Grain Magazine*

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 International Festival of Authors will hold a reading by the finalists of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize on October 29, 2008. For further information visit www.readings.org.

The finalists of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize will also be in attendance at this year's Writers' Trust Gala, a prestigious fundraising event to be held on October 28, 2008, at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel.

The Writers' Trust Awards event will take place in Toronto at the Isabel Bader Theatre on November 17, 2008. 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. The Writers' Trust Awards receive no financial support from any government programs.

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 www.writerstrust.com.

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