



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 April, 2008

### **Spring Sizzles with Atlantic Book Festival 2008**

*Twenty-five books. Four provinces. One Festival. May 6 to 15, 2008!*

The shortlists have been announced. The Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize has increased to \$15,000. The Book Festival website is a-shimmer with readings, signings, workshops and the complete details of the nominated authors and books for Atlantic Book Festival 2008. Take a magical mystery murder tour of Halifax with Steven Laffoley...a workshop with imaginary characters with Sheree Fitch...a Gala Soirée at FRED in Halifax with readings and interviews ...celebrations in Saint John, St. John's, Sydney, Truro, Pugwash, Charlottetown ...join us for the not-to-be-missed Atlantic Book Awards Ceremony on Monday 12 May, 4 pm at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth.

Aided and abetted by the creative team at Halifax Public Libraries, readers throughout Atlantic Canada can wager on the winning books. Match your wits with the judges. A Glorious selection of shortlisted titles will be awarded to two individuals who choose the prize-winning authors. Go to [halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://halifaxpubliclibraries.ca) to place your bet!

This year's nominees are:

#### **Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize**

Don Hannah, *Ragged Islands*, Knopf Canada  
Bernice Morgan, *Cloud of Bone*, Knopf Canada  
David Adams Richards, *The Lost Highway*, Doubleday Canada

#### **Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction**

Marq de Villiers, *Witch in the Wind: The True Story of the Legendary Bluenose*,  
Thomas Allen Publishers  
Stewart Donovan, *The Forgotten World of RJ MacSween: A Life*, Cape Breton University Press  
Steven Laffoley, *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder*, Pottersfield Press

#### **Atlantic Poetry Prize**

Don Domanski, *All Our Wonder Unavenged*, Brick Books  
George Murray, *The Rush to Here*, Nightwood Editions  
Anne Simpson, *Quick*, McClelland & Stewart

#### **Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction**

Beatrice MacNeil, *Where White Horses Gallop*, Key Porter Books  
Carol Bruneau, *Glass Voices*, Cormorant Books  
David Doucette, *North of Smokey*, Cape Breton University Press

#### **Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction**

A. J. B. Johnston, *Endgame 1758: The Promise, the Glory and the Despair*, Cape Breton University Press  
Stewart Donovan, *The Forgotten World of R. J. MacSween: A Life*, Cape Breton University Press  
Marq de Villiers, *Witch in the Wind: The True Story of the Legendary Bluenose*, Thomas Allen Publishers

### **Margaret and John Savage First Book Award**

Bob Mersereau, *The Top100 Canadian Albums*, Goose Lane Editions  
Stephanie Domet, *Homing: the whole story (from the inside out)*, Invisible Publishing  
Fred Armstrong, *Happiness of Fish*, Jespersion Publishing

### **Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration**

Eric Orchard, *A Forest For Christmas* (Michael Harris, author), Nimbus Publishing  
Richard Rudnicki, *Gracie, The Public Gardens Duck* (Judith Meyrick, author), Nimbus Publishing  
Nancy Keating, *A Puppy Story* (Susan Pynn, author), Tuckamore Books

### **Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association Best Published Book Award**

*Beaverbrook - A Shattered Legacy*, by Jacques Poitras, Goose Lane Editions  
*Miller Brittain: When the Stars Threw Down Their Spears*, by Tom Smart, Goose Lane Editions  
*Gracie, The Public Gardens Duck*, by Judith Meyrick; illustrated by Richard Rudnicki, Nimbus Publishing

### **Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award**

Steven Laffoley, *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder*, Pottersfield Press  
Jacques Poitras, *Beaverbrook: A Shattered Legacy*, Goose Lane Editions  
Harry Sawler, *Twenty-first Century Irvings*, Nimbus Publishing

### **Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature**

Alice Walsh, *A Sky Black with Crows*, Red Deer Press  
K.V. Johansen, *Nightwalker: The Warlocks of Talverdin*, Orca  
Valerie Sherrard, *Speechless*, Dundurn Group

### **Schedule of Events**

Atlantic Book Festival 2008 (dates and times are subject to change. Visit [www.writers.ns.ca/bookfest08](http://www.writers.ns.ca/bookfest08) for up-to-the-minute details, changes and additions)

#### **Tuesday May 6**

10 am PRESENTATION – Richard Rudnicki, illustrator, with *Gracie, the Public Gardens Duck* at Cole Harbour Library

#### **Wednesday May 7**

10 am PRESENTATION – Eric Orchard, illustrator, with *A Forest for Christmas* at Bedford Library, Bedford  
7 pm READING – Carol Bruneau with *Glass Voices* at Alderney Library, Dartmouth  
7 pm LAUNCH – Steve Vernon with *Wicked Woods* at Fredericton Public Library, 12 Carleton Street, Fredericton  
7 pm LAUNCH – Ken Smith with *History of Disaster* at Bathurst Book Gallery, 145 Main Street, Bathurst

#### **Thursday May 8**

Noon READING & DISCUSSION – Stephanie Domet with *Homing* and Robbie MacGregor, publisher Invisible Books. First books – writing them, publishing them at Spring Garden Road Library, Halifax

- 7 pm Harvey Sawlor with *Twenty-first Century Irvings* at Keshen-Goodman Library, Halifax
- 7 pm READING – Cape Breton celebrates Atlantic Book Festival at McConnell Memorial Library, 50 Falmouth Street with Marq de Villiers, Beatrice MacNeil & Susan Zettell
- 7pm LAUNCH – Shauntay Grant and illustrator Susan Tooke with *Up Home* at Nelson Whynder School, 979 North Preston Road

**Friday May 9**

- Am SIGNING – Marq de Villiers at Cole’s, Sydney
- 7 pm READING – Don Domanski, George Murray, Anne Simpson, Herménégilde Chiasson, Study Lounge-Ward Chipman Building-UNBSJ, Saint John, NB
- 7 pm READING – Marq de Villiers with *Witch in the Wind* at Thomas More Church Hall, Pugwash

**Saturday May 10**

- 11 to 3 Shorts! – a day of exploration and writing workshops with Sheree Fitch, Stephens Gerrard Malone, Shandi Mitchell and Philip Moscovitch at WFNS
- 11:30 – 12:30 SIGNING – David Adams Richards at Frog Hollow Books, Halifax
- 2 pm WORKSHOP – David Adams Richards at Spring Garden Road Library, Halifax, sponsored by the Writers’ Trust of Canada
- 7 pm READING – Don Domanski and George Murray, Charlottetown, PE with PEI Writers’ Guild
- 7 pm GALA BOOKFEST READING AT FRED, 2606 Agricola, Halifax with David Adams Richards, Stephanie Domet, Steven Laffoley, Stewart Donovan, moderated by Sue Goyette

**Sunday, May 11**

- 12 – 2 SIGNING – David Adams Richards at Chapters, Dartmouth
- 2 pm Magical Mystery Murder Tour with Steven Laffoley, *Hunting Halifax*
- 3 – 5 SIGNING – David Adams Richards at Chapters, Halifax

**Monday, May 12**

- 9 – 2 Halifax Grammar School hosts K.V. Johansen, Alice Walsh and Lesley Choyce
- 9 am Cobequid Consolidated Elementary in Old Barns (near Truro) hosts illustrators Nancy Keating, Eric Orchard and Richard Rucnicki
- 4 – 6 Atlantic Book Awards Ceremony at Alderney Theatre, Dartmouth

**Tuesday, May 13**

- 10 am READING – K.V. Johansen with *Nightwalker* at Alderney Library, Dartmouth
- 2 pm READING – Don Hannah with *Ragged Islands* at Alderney Library, Dartmouth
- 7 pm READING – Bernice Morgan with *Cloud of Bone* at Keshen-Goodman Library, Halifax

**Thursday, May 15**

- 7 pm READING – Stephanie Domet with *Homing* at Keshen-Goodman Library, Dartmouth
- 7 pm LAUNCH – Lawrence Coady with *The Lost Canoe* at Downhome Shoppe & Gallery, 303 Water Street, St. John’s, NL
- 7 pm READING – Marq de Villiers, Bernice Morgan, George Murray at The Studio, 272 Water Street, St. John’s, NL hosted by Writers’ Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador