

NEWS RELEASE

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Into the Blue wins Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction *Andrea Curtis uncovers a story full of surprises through a mix of non-fiction and fiction*

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WATERLOO – A book that chronicles the tragedy, disaster and promise of early life on the Great Lakes has won the 2004 Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction.

Author Andrea Curtis has won the award for the personal account found in *Into the Blue: Family Secrets and the Search for a Great Lakes Shipwreck*. She will receive the award during a reception that will be held in Laurier's Paul Martin Centre at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9.

Into the Blue explores the shadows cast over Curtis' family by a century-old shipwreck on Georgian Bay. Using family stories, archival research and fictionalized re-enactments, Curtis narrates her family's history. *Into the Blue* recreates a time when Canadians persevered through unthinkable loss, violence and disaster, and brings to life a grand era of Great Lakes history.

"The judges felt *Into the Blue* was a fine example of creative non-fiction, in which Andrea Curtis writes a language that is sure and sophisticated, beautifully lyrical," says Staebler award administrator, Kathryn Wardropper. "This is swashbuckling romance with a light touch. It is a thoroughly credible and enjoyable book."

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Andrea Curtis is a National Magazine Award winner and has worked as a magazine editor and writer for the past 10 years. She was editor-in-chief of This Magazine and remains a contributing editor to Toronto Life and This. She lives in Toronto.

Other titles short listed for this year's award were *Rogue Diamonds: The Rush for Northern Riches on Dene Land* by Ellen Bielawski, *Wondrous Strange: The Life and Art of Glenn Gould* by Kevin Bazzana, *From Somewhere Else: A Memoir* by Ralph Osborne, and *Discovering Eden: A Lifetime of Paddling Arctic Rivers* by Alex M. Hall.

The Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction is supported by an endowment established by author and award-winning journalist Edna Staebler, and administered by Wilfrid Laurier University. It was created 13 years ago to recognize and encourage a Canadian writer publishing a first or second book with a Canadian subject or location.