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## Four books shortlisted for Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction

WATERLOO — Four books have been shortlisted for this year's Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction. The \$10,000 award, administered by Wilfrid Laurier University, encourages and recognizes Canadian writers for a first or second work of creative non-fiction that includes a Canadian locale and/or significance.

"The judges were impressed with the quality and diversity of the books," said Dr. David Docherty, dean of the Faculty of Arts at Wilfrid Laurier University. "In keeping with Edna's wishes this award will act as an encouragement to aspiring authors across the country. Based on the quality of books this year, we are convinced that the stature and repetition of this award will only increase in years to come."

The books on the shortlist this year are:

- *Baptism of Fire: The Second Battle of Ypres and the Forging of Canada, April 1915* (HarperCollins) by Nathan M. Greenfield. Greenfield combines storytelling skill with rich historical data to address one of the defining battles of the First World War and a seminal event in Canadian history. Greenfield, who earned a PhD at McGill University, is the Canadian correspondent for *The Times Educational Supplement*. He is the author of a previous book, *The Battle of the St. Lawrence*.
- *French Kiss: Stephen Harper's Blind Date with Quebec* (Knopf Canada), by Chantal Hébert. Hébert is a national political affairs columnist for the *Toronto Star* and a regular guest on television news programs. *French Kiss*, her first book, examines the relationship between Stephen Harper's Conservative party and Quebec during the 2006 federal election, and the political importance of living with Quebec rather than merely wooing it.
- *The Red Wall: A Woman in the RCMP* (General Store Publishing), by Jane Hall. *The Red Wall*, Hall's first book, is a thoughtful exploration of her experiences as one of the first few female members in the RCMP and her subsequent 21-year policing career. Hall joined the RCMP in 1977 after first earning a BA and BEd at Queen's University. She retired from the Mounties in 1998 and lives in Langley, British Columbia.
- *Stardust* (New Star Books), by Bruce Serafin. *Stardust* is a collection of essays by Serafin, published after his death in June 2007. The essays range from the author's experiences as a post office employee to commentary on literary and intellectual luminaries such as Roland Barthes and Northrop Frye. Serafin was an editor and essayist best known for founding and running the *Vancouver Review*, an arts and culture magazine.

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The winner of the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction will be announced in January 2009.

Last year, journalist and author Linden MacIntyre won the award for his book *Causeway: A Passage from Innocence*, a vibrant memoir about coming-of-age in a small Cape Breton town.

The Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction was launched in 1991 and is administered by Wilfrid Laurier University, the only university in Canada to bestow a nationally recognized literary award.

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