

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Maritime authors share stories of human struggle and strength
Mercy Among the Children nominated for 2000 Giller Prize and Governor General's Award

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WATERLOO – A Giller Prize nominee will be one of two well known Maritime authors reading from their latest books at Wilfrid Laurier University on Wednesday, November 1 – the eve of the Giller announcement. The public can meet David Adams Richards and M.T. Dohaney when the Laurier Bookstore hosts its latest Meet the Author event at 7 p.m. in the Laurier Concourse in the Dr. Alvin Woods Building.

Richards' book *Mercy Among the Children* is considered a frontrunner for this year's Giller Prize, which will be awarded on Thursday, November 2. It has also been nominated for the Governor General's Award for fiction, to be announced on Tuesday, November 14.

Mercy Among the Children tells the story of Sydney Henderson and his son Lyle, who take very different approaches to dealing with their family's exploitation and torment. The complex yet poetic story explores the ways in which human needs are defined by social class as the characters struggle for control over their lives and for a sense of dignity.

A Fit Month for Dying is the third book in Dohaney's highly praised trilogy about the women of Newfoundland's ports. The story revolves around the life and family of Tess Corrigan whose deeply held beliefs are destroyed when she faces numerous family problems. Dohaney tells a masterful and moving story about how Corrigan begins to challenge the long-imposed systems of cultural, political and spiritual authority.

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"David Adams Richards is considered one of our finest Canadian writers and M.T. Dohaney has been described as a literary treasure – those are not small compliments," says series organizer Kathryn Wardropper. "The local community is very lucky to have these two writers in Waterloo and to have the chance to hear from them in person."

Richards was born in Newcastle, New Brunswick, in 1950 and now lives in Toronto. His first novel, *The Keeping of Gusties*, was published when he was 20. In addition to winning countless regional literary awards, he is one of only three writers to win the Governor General's Award in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. Richards has also won two Gemini awards and is currently working on two new screenplays.

Dohaney was born in Point Verde, Newfoundland, and moved to Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1954. She holds a doctorate in literature. In 1988 she released her first book, *The Corrigan Women*, and in 1996 she won the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize for *A Marriage of Masks*. She is currently working on a screenplay for the Atlantic Film Festival.

This is just one event in the Laurier Bookstore's Meet the Author series. In the past 15 years, the Laurier Bookstore has brought to the community such world-renowned authors as Margaret Atwood, Timothy Findley, W.O. Mitchell and Jack Granatstein.