

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Rolling Home* wins Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction** ***Tom Allen's book offers travelogue of cross-Canada journey aboard the passenger train

For Immediate Release

November 22, 2002
92-02

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University announced today that Tom Allen's *Rolling Home: A Cross Canada Railroad Memoir* has won the 2002 Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction.

Rolling Home is Allen's attempt at capturing the mood and romance of train travel in Canada. The book, which reads as part celebration, part travelogue and part lament, follows the author's travels across the country, alone and with his family, meeting the passengers, engineers, cooks and porters.

"The judges felt *Rolling Home* provided an evocative cross-country tour of Canada by train," says Staebler award administrator Kathryn Wardropper. "Tom Allen's experiences growing up during the last hurrah of passenger rail travel and its image buffed with lore and romance makes this a story with the drama, disappointments and history of Canada's railway."

Tom Allen is an accomplished storyteller and broadcaster. He holds degrees from McGill and Yale universities. He currently hosts CBC Radio Two's morning show *Music & Company*, and is the former host of Radio Two's *Weekender* and *Fresh Air*. His first book, *Toe Rubber Blues: Midlife Thoughts on the Prospects of Aging*, was published in 1999.

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Four other titles were shortlisted for this year's Edna Staebler Award including *Notes on a Beermat* by Nicholas Pashley, *Waltzing the Tango* by Gabriel Bauer, *The Last Guide* by Ron Corbett and *Under Sydenham Skies* by Cornelia Johanna Baines.

Allen will receive the award at a ceremony to be held at Wilfrid Laurier University in January, 2003. 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 Laurier. It was created 11 years ago to recognize and encourage a Canadian writer publishing a first or second book with a Canadian locale and/or significance.