

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Five diverse books shortlisted for Staebler literary award

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2005
62-05

Contact: Kathryn Wardropper
Administrator, Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3109

WATERLOO – Five books representing the best in new Canadian literary non-fiction have been shortlisted for this year's Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction. The \$3,000 award, the only one of its kind in Canada, encourages and recognizes Canadian writers for a first or second work in the creative non-fiction genre.

The books cover a range of topics, involving the creation of a vineyard in Ontario, nursing in an intensive-care unit, a girl's memoir as she grows into womanhood, heroin addiction and prostitution, and a son's tribute to his mother.

"The judges were extremely challenged to come up with a shortlist out of the 54 submissions, most of which were well-written and interesting," said award administrator Kathryn Wardropper. "There's a great wealth of incredible work in this genre."

The books on the 2005 shortlist are:

A Fool and Forty Acres: Conjuring a Vineyard Three Thousand Miles from Burgundy – Written by Geoff Heinricks and published by McClelland and Stewart, the book is a self-deprecating read about a dream and the hard work necessary to bring it about. It includes quotations from poet Al Purdy.

A Nurse's Story: Life, Death and In-Between in an Intensive Care Unit – Written by Tilda Shalof and published by McClelland and Stewart, it makes clear the challenges and heartbreaks – as well as the darkly comic coping mechanisms – that go with caring for patients under difficult circumstances.

– more –

I'll Tell You A Secret: A Memory of Seven Summers – Written by Anne Coleman and published by McClelland and Stewart, it presents the memoirs of an engaging girl, wickedly perceptive and observant, growing into womanhood. It also offers a look at Canadian literary figure Hugh MacLennan.

Snow Bodies: One Woman's Life on the Streets – Written by Elizabeth Hudson and published by NeWest Press, the book chronicles the author's life of heroin addiction and prostitution on the streets of Calgary and Vancouver, along with the eventual discovery that writing is a skill that can be her way out of a frightful life.

The Molly Fire: A Memoir – Written by Michael Mitchell and published by ECW Press, it primarily covers several generations of one family, exploring the members' adventures, yearnings, flaws and triumphs, using the art and artifacts that sustained their lives. But most of all, it is a son's tribute to his mother.

The Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction, created in 1990, is supported by an endowment established by the author after whom it was named and is administered by Laurier. The award encourages and recognizes a Canadian writer publishing a work with a Canadian significance. Laurier is the only university in the country to administer a nationally recognized literary award.

This year's winner will be announced later this month.