

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Anne Coleman wins 2005 Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction *I'll Tell You A Secret realistically captures voice and enthusiasm of adolescent girl*

For Immediate Release

November 08, 2005
78-05

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WATERLOO – A memoir about an engaging and wickedly perceptive girl as she grows into womanhood is this year’s winner of the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction.

Author Anne Coleman will receive the award at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, in the Paul Martin Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Coleman’s book, entitled *I’ll Tell You A Secret: A Memory of Seven Summers* and published by McClelland and Stewart, offers an intriguing view of the sometimes enigmatic Hugh MacLennan, her mentor and an important Canadian literary figure. The voice of the memoir is best described as uncompromising, perceptive and rich with reflection. It proves that MacLennan was accurate in predicting that Coleman would be a fine writer in maturity.

“Anne Coleman, now a matured woman in her sixties, amazingly captures the voice and enthusiasm of her young self, back when she was between 13 and 21 years of age,” said Kathryn Wardropper, administrator of the award. “The judges were thrilled with her writing and Edna, herself, was a strong champion of this title.”

Coleman lives in Victoria, where she is a writer, novice sculptor and lover of the natural world. She was born in Toronto and grew up in Ontario and Quebec. She received a bachelor of arts from McGill University and a master’s degree in English from Bishop’s University. She taught for five years in Westmount, Quebec, and then for 30 at University College of the Cariboo, in Kamloops, British Columbia.

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During the Staebler award event, Laurier will also present Kerry Edwards, a third-year student in honours Canadian Studies and history, with the first Dr. Richard Playle Student Award in Canadian studies. Playle was a devoted judge of the Staebler award from 1997 until his death earlier this year. Staebler wanted to honour him by creating a student award. She chose a Canadian studies award as the creative non-fiction award that bears her name is a Canadian award about a Canadian subject or locale.

The Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction is supported by an endowment established by the author and award-winning journalist, who turns 100 in January 2006. It was created 14 years ago and is administered by Wilfrid Laurier University.

This year's short list included author Tilda Shalof for *A Nurse's Story: Life, Death and In-Between in an Intensive Care Unit*, Geoff Heinrichs for *A Fool and Forty Acres: Conjuring a Vineyard Three Thousand Miles from Burgundy*, Elizabeth Hudson for *Snow Bodies: One Woman's Life on the Streets* and Michael Mitchell for *The Molly Fire: A Memoir*.