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## Andrew Westoll named Edna Staebler Writer-in-Residence

WATERLOO – Author Andrew Westoll has been named Wilfrid Laurier University's Edna Staebler Writer-in-Residence. Westoll's residency takes place from January to April, 2013.

Westoll is a primatologist and an award-winning narrative journalist. He is the author of *The Riverbones*, a travel memoir set in the jungles of Suriname, and *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary: A Canadian Story of Resilience and Recovery*. *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary* won the 2012 Charles Taylor Prize, one of Canada's most prestigious non-fiction book prizes. The book was also shortlisted for the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, and named a book of the year by *The Globe and Mail*, *Amazon.ca*, *Quill & Quire* and CTV's *Canada AM*.

During his role as writer-in-residence at Laurier, Westoll will devote much of his time to writing projects. He will also be very involved with community programs and projects at the university's Waterloo campus, including: reading manuscripts and consulting with students and the public, visiting classrooms, giving readings and lectures, and leading workshops. He will conduct similar community programming for one week at Laurier's Brantford campus.

"I am honoured to have been selected," said Westoll. "Every writer yearns for a creative opportunity like this. But I am especially excited to begin engaging with the Laurier student community through lectures and workshops. If I can help aspiring writers on campus find their own literary voices, I'll consider these three months a success."

Westoll holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. He is a Gold National Magazine Award winner and his feature writing appears in *The Walrus*, *Utne Reader*, *explore*, *Canadian Geographic*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Guardian*, among others. His work has also been anthologized in *Cabin Fever: The Best New Canadian Non-Fiction*. Westoll currently resides in Toronto.

### **About the Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence**

The Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence program is a full-time, three-month residency for Canadian writers that comes with a \$25,000 award. The writer-in-residence resides in Lucinda House, a century home close to Laurier's Waterloo campus, and splits his or her time between writing and community programming at the university's various campuses.

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