



Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador

Suite 102, 155 Water Street, P. O. Box 2681, St. John's, NL A1C 6K1
T: 709-739-5215 or 1-866-739-5215 F: 709-739-5931
email: wanl@nf.aibn.com website: <http://wanl.ca>

MEDIA RELEASE

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WRITERS' ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES SHORTLIST FOR THE 2009 HERITAGE AND HISTORY BOOK AWARD

(March 9, 2010 – St. John's, NL) The Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador presents the Heritage and History Book Award for a work of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or children's/young adult literature that exemplifies excellence in the interpretation of the history and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. The award is sponsored by the Historic Sites Association as a way to demonstrate appreciation for those writers whose exploration of their culture and heritage has shaped their writing.

The 2009 Heritage and History Book Award shortlist, listed alphabetically by author:

- **Ray Guy** for *Ray Guy: The Smallwood Years* (Boulder, 2008)
- **Randall Maggs** for *Nightwork: The Sawchuk Poems* (Brick, 2008)
- **George A. Rose** for *Cod: The Ecological History of the North Atlantic Fisheries* (Breakwater, 2007)
- **Agnes Walsh** for *Going Around with Bachelors* (Brick, 2007)

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The winner of the 2009 Heritage and History Book Award will be announced during the Historic Sites Association's Water Street Book Club, to be held on Thursday, April 1, beginning at 7 p.m. at the gallery space of the Heritage Shop (309 Water Street).

A recipient of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and a National Newspaper Award, **Ray Guy** has been an insightful commentator and journalist for over 40 years. Starting as a newspaper reporter in the early 1960s, Guy has built a wide audience for his brand of fearless journalism and satire. He is also a well known broadcaster; for many years he was a commentator on CBC's *Here and Now*. Ray is also a writer of fiction and, among his most notable achievements, he wrote for the highly acclaimed *Up At Ours* television series.

Randall Maggs is the artistic director of Newfoundland's March Hare festival of music and literature, and teaches literature at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook. He is the author of *Timely Departures* and co-editor of two anthologies pairing Newfoundland and Canadian poems with those of Ireland: *However Blow the Winds* and *The Echoing Years*. His book of poems *Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems* won the 2009 E.J. Pratt Poetry Award, the 2008 Winterset Award and was just named the winner of the 3rd Kobzar Literary Award.

George A. Rose is one of Canada's best known and most respected fisheries scientists. He is widely considered to be the authority on the Newfoundland and Labrador cod fishery. He holds degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Guelph, in biology from Laurentian University, and holds a doctorate in biology from McGill University. His main career interests have been in the fisheries of the North Atlantic and in world-wide conservation, particularly in Africa, on which he has published over 100 peer reviewed publications. He lives on Three Island Pond in Paradise, Newfoundland.

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Agnes Walsh is an actor, playwright, storyteller, and poet. She has won several awards for her poetry, which has appeared in various literary magazines, and has read widely in North America and Europe. Her work has been translated into French, Portuguese, and Icelandic. *Going Around with Bachelors* is her second collection of poetry, preceded by *In the Old Country of my Heart*. In 2006, she was named the inaugural Poet Laureate of St. John's, a position she held for three years.

The Heritage and History Book Award was first presented in 2004 and is awarded annually. The winner receives a \$250 cash prize. The shortlist is selected from among those books submitted to The Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards.

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Media contact:

Théa Morash, Executive Director

Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador

102-155 Water Street

St. John's, NL

Tel: 709-739-5215 Toll free: 1-866-739-5215

E-mail: wani@nf.aibn.com

Established in 1987 to contribute to a supportive environment for writing in the province, the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador offers workshops, programs, and information to both professional and aspiring writers. <http://wani.ca/>