

The Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards

Under the distinguished patronage of the Honourable Frank Fagan, CM, ONL, MBA, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

Crummey and McNaughton take home 2016 Newfoundland & Labrador Book Awards

(June 6, 2016 – St. John’s, NL) The Literary Arts Foundation NL and the Writers’ Alliance NL are delighted to announce the winners of the 20th Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards, this year honouring excellence in the categories of Fiction and Children’s/Young Adult Literature. In a ceremony at Government House this afternoon, author Michael Crummey was named winner of the 2016 Newfoundland & Labrador Book Award for Fiction for *Sweetland* (Penguin Random House); Janet McNaughton was named winner of the NLBA Bruneau Family Foundation Children’s/YA Literature Award for *Flame and Ashes: The Great Fire Diary of Triffie Winsor* (Scholastic). Each winner received a cash prize of \$1,500. The four runners-up—Joan Clark and Sara Tilley for fiction, and Charis Cotter and Susan MacDonald for children’s/YA—each received \$500.

“This is the twentieth year for these prestigious awards celebrating excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing, and once again the judges had many fine submissions to consider,” says Alison Dyer, the executive director of the Writers’ Alliance. “All six finalists are incredible writers and storytellers, and the Writers’ Alliance is proud to recognize this talent.”

“We are extremely grateful to the Bruneau Family for once again sponsoring the Bruneau Family Foundation Children’s/Young Adult Literature Award,” says Jennifer Morgan, president of the Literary Arts Foundation NL. “We’re also delighted this year for the generous support of our new sponsors – Killick Capital, Noreen Golfman, John and Jan O’Dea, and Fisher’s Loft Inn – for the 2016 Fiction Award.” The 2016 NLBAs are also supported by *The Telegram*, Perfect Day, Rogers TV, CBC, Rocket Bakery and the NLTA.

Fiction judges Linden MacIntyre, Patrick O’Flaherty, and Joan Ritcey said of *Sweetland*: “An atmospheric tale of a man who is so attached to his small island home that he decides to stay there when the whole community makes a permanent move to the mainland. Memories, isolation and hunger wear him down from reality into a haunted dream-state. Crummey effectively uses his seductive powers of plot and language, and originality of style and voice to take the reader along on Sweetland’s wanderings. Despite the strangeness, *Sweetland* is a very readable novel.”

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Children's/YA Literature judges Ed Kavanagh, Kevin Major, and Patricia Parsons said of *Flame and Ashes*: "Triffie Winsor's diary shows not only how life can be turned upside down in the blink of an eye-but also how resilient and adaptive children are in the wake of a disaster. With meticulous research, McNaughton weaves an engaging tale of the very fabric of day to day life in St. John's after the great fire of 1892, as the successful Winsor merchant family go from "riches to rags" overnight. *Flame and Ashes*, in true *Dear Canada Series* format, and with beautifully crafted narrative, will give all readers – young and old – poignant insight into an amazing "coming of age" story during one of the most important periods in Newfoundland history."

The NL Book Awards consider books released in the two previous years. In even-numbered years, fiction and children's/YA literature are recognized, in alternate years; works of non-fiction and poetry are recognized.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards are sponsored by the Literary Arts Foundation NL and administered by the Writers' Alliance NL under the distinguished patronage of The Honourable Frank Fagan, CM, ONL, MBA, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Established in 1987, the Writers' Alliance NL is a not-for-profit organization providing a supportive environment for writing in Newfoundland and Labrador, advocating on behalf of the well-being of the province's writers, increasing public awareness of and celebrating the province's authors, and fostering the growth of the provincial literary industry.

Established in 2005, the Literary Arts Foundation NL raises support for programs that involve the community in the literary arts, and fosters awareness, understanding and appreciation for the literature of this province. In addition to sponsoring the NL Book Awards, the Literary Arts Foundation NL offers an intense writing retreat in the autumn: Piper's Frith: Writing at Kilmory.

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