



THE HONOURABLE LAURIER LAPIERRE AND RETURNING JUROR JAN WALTER ANNOUNCE THE FINALISTS FOR THE 2006 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

TODAY, THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation held a press conference at the Windsor Arms in Toronto to announce the names of the finalists for The 2006 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. The prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, as well as promotional support.

The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction will be awarded on February 27 in commemoration of Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community, to the author whose book best demonstrates and combines an uncommon command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception.

Trustee Noreen Taylor welcomed the audience of publishers, booksellers, and media, thanking publishers for 90 excellent submissions, and their support of the genre. Mrs. Taylor went on to introduce The Honourable Laurier LaPierre (sen. ret.) and Jan Walter, who proceeded to announce the four books on this year's shortlist, on behalf of the jury:

JAMES CHATTO for *The Greek for Love: A Memoir of Corfu*, published by Random House Canada

In *The Greek for Love*, JAMES CHATTO deftly recounts the years that he and his wife spent on the island of Corfu, from the idyllic days of early marriage to the desperate months when their son succumbed to leukemia. In prose that is sensuous without being sentimental, he reveals that what sustained them was their connection with the people of the island, a community that ultimately offered the irresistible consolations of home.

LAURA M. MAC DONALD for *Curse of the Narrows: The Halifax Explosion 1917*, published by HarperCollins Publishers

LAURA M. MAC DONALD's *Curse of the Narrows* masterfully blends elements of myth, history and personal story in a dramatic re-examination of the Halifax explosion of 1917. In this well-paced and suspenseful narrative, she takes readers into the maelstrom of the disaster to witness panic, bewilderment, and breathtaking acts of courage and generosity, at the same time demonstrating its lasting impact on the city, the nation, and on individual lives.

J. B. MACKINNON for *Dead Man in Paradise*, published by Douglas & McIntyre

Part true-life detective story, wherein J. B. MACKINNON attempts to solve the mystery that surrounds the murder of his uncle in the Dominican Republic, and part travelogue



through a landscape in political turmoil, *Dead Man in Paradise* describes an engrossing quest in which the riddles of guilt and innocence, memory and reconciliation, what is revealed and what is withheld lead to an unexpected but thoroughly satisfying conclusion.

JOHN TERPSTRA for *The Boys: Or, Waiting for the Electrician's Daughter*, published by Gaspereau Press

Unconventional in form and lyrical in style, JOHN TERPSTRA's *The Boys* celebrates exuberant life in the face of staggering calamity. The lives of his wife's three brothers are taken by muscular dystrophy while all are still young men, yet each in his way refused to be its victim. A series of vivid, unforgettable scenes captures the humour, vitality and grace that came readily to the boys, gifts they left to a blessed circle of family and friends.

THE JURORS for The 2006 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are Laurier LaPierre (Ottawa, Ontario), W. H. (Bill) New (Vancouver, British Columbia), and Jan Walter (Kingston, Ontario). They have selected the finalists from 90 books, submitted by 31 publishers from across Canada. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between January 1, 2005 and November 1, 2005, were eligible if authored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, and widely available across the country.

THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Robert Bringham (Vancouver), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto).

THE SHORTLISTED AUTHORS will be brought to Toronto and invited to speak about their writing at a Nicholas Hoare/*The Globe and Mail* Books & Brunch event, to be held on Sunday, February 26 at Le Royal Meridien King Edward Hotel, and to remain in Toronto to attend the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, to be held at the Windsor Arms on Monday, February 27.

CBC RADIO ONE's *Ontario Today* with host Alan Neal will broadcast the Awards Ceremony live from the Windsor Arms, beginning at 12 noon on Monday, February 27. To listen via the internet, go to www.cbc.ca/ontariotoday and click on "listen live".

THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation gratefully acknowledge the support of their partners: BookTelevision, CBC Radio One, *The Globe and Mail*, *Quill & Quire*, Nicholas Hoare Bookstore, Windfields Farm, and the Windsor Arms.

CONTACT: STEPHEN WEIR 416-489-5868 OR sweir5492@rogers.com

WEBSITE: www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca