



THE 2005 JURY ANNOUNCES THE FINALISTS FOR THE 2005 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

TODAY, THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation held a press conference at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto to announce the names of the finalists for The 2005 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 28, 2005, in commemoration of Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community. The prize will be awarded 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, stating that 2004 was a banner year for Canadian literary non-fiction. She announced that, for the third consecutive time, the ceremony to announce the winner of The 2005 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction will be broadcast live on CBC Radio One's *Ontario Today* with host Alan Neal. Mrs. Taylor went on to introduce Jan Walter, who proceeded to announce this year's shortlist, on behalf of the jury.

THE FINALISTS for The 2005 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are listed below, along with the jury's comments on each title.

CHRISTOPHER DEWDNEY for *Acquainted with the Night: Excursions Through the World After Dark*, Published by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

In the resonant prose of *Acquainted with the Night*, CHRISTOPHER DEWDNEY tracks hour by hour how authors, scientists, artists, and historians have turned night into metaphor. Sounds, stars, dreams, nightmares, myths of fear and magic, and tales of things that go bump: these subjects lead writer and readers alike to appreciate the extraordinary richness of the world after dark.

PATRICK LANE for *There Is A Season: A Memoir in a Garden*, Published by McClelland & Stewart

PATRICK LANE, in *There Is a Season*, eloquently weaves his personal tale of recovery from addiction with a meticulous account of planting a garden on Vancouver Island. With courage and honesty, he confronts the traumas of his past and celebrates the possibility of new beginnings. Life, and life in his garden, intertwine, and out of the complexities of the past comes a simple desire for reconciliation.



CHARLES MONTGOMERY for *The Last Heathen: Encounters with Ghosts and Ancestors in Melanesia*, Published by Douglas & McIntyre

CHARLES MONTGOMERY's *The Last Heathen* — part travel book, part family history — engages with the religious fervour of missionaries, mystics, gods, and believers in Melanesia. What begins as a retracing of his great-grandfather's footsteps becomes an irresistible adventure in discovery, a journey into rough terrain, and a revelation of the power of ancestral stories across cultural divides.

PAUL WILLIAM ROBERTS for *A War Against Truth: An Intimate Account of the Invasion of Iraq*, Published by Raincoast Books

In *A War Against Truth*, PAUL WILLIAM ROBERTS reports passionately and provocatively about his experiences of the war in Iraq. As an independent eyewitness to the invasion of the country in March 2003, he describes in dramatic detail the sufferings of ordinary people, the rivalries among political factions, and his personal outrage at the transformation of a place he loved.

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE for Literary Non-Fiction commemorates Charles Taylor's pursuit of excellence in the craft of writing. The Prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, as well as promotional support to help all shortlisted books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries. Authors whose books have been shortlisted for the Prize will be brought to Toronto for the award ceremony on February 28 at The Windsor Arms Hotel. Shortlisted authors will be invited to speak about their writing at the Nicholas Hoare/*The Globe and Mail* Books & Brunch event at Le Meridien King Edward hotel on Sunday, February 27, 2005.

THE JURORS for The 2005 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are Robert Kroetsch (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Bill New (Vancouver, British Columbia), and Jan Walter (Kingston, Ontario). They have selected the nominees from 96 books, submitted by 28 publishers from across Canada. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between January 1, 2004 and December 1, 2004, were eligible if authored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and widely available in Canada.

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

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