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TO DOWNLOAD HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES OF THE FINALISTS AND THEIR BOOKS
PLEASE GO TO: http://www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/photogallery_2008.asp

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION ANNOUNCES ITS 2008 SHORTLIST

THE NAMES OF THE FINALISTS for the 2008 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction were announced today at a morning press conference held at downtown Toronto's Le Royal Meridien King Edward Hotel. Noreen Taylor, founder of the prize and chair of the Charles Taylor Foundation, welcomed an audience of publishers, media and booksellers, announcing that the jury had received a record 137 books, submitted by 30 publishers from all across Canada. Mrs. Taylor went on to introduce author and 2008 prize juror Charlotte Gray, who spoke on behalf of the jury and announced the authors shortlisted for the 2008 prize.

THE FINALISTS FOR THE 2008 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE ARE:

KEVIN BAZZANA for *Lost Genius: The Story of a Forgotten Musical Maverick*, published by McClelland & Stewart

The jury notes, "In the meticulously-researched *Lost Genius*, KEVIN BAZZANA brings back to life a forgotten and deeply disturbed musician of extraordinary talent. Thanks to the author's elegant writing skills, psychological insight and musical knowledge, the reader is captured by both the portrait of this bizarre individual, and the story of evolving musical tastes during the twentieth century."

DAVID GILMOUR for *The Film Club: A True Story of a Father and Son*, published by Thomas Allen Publishers

The jury notes, "With sensitivity, but without sentimentality, DAVID GILMOUR explores the intense and dangerously fragile relationship between a father and his adolescent son, with movies as the metaphor for engagement with adult life. In prose that is spare and clear, *The Film Club* exposes the vulnerability of both parent and child as each strains to stay connected yet remain apart."



LORNA GOODISON for *From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her People*, published by McClelland & Stewart

The jury notes, "With her poet's eye for enduring truths, LORNA GOODISON has written that most rare of books: a joyous memoir that finds marvels in adversity. In language as lush as the landscape of her early life, as profound as the childhood river whose waters hid secrets, Goodison plunges into family mythology to find herself in the stories of many, and in so doing reveals the ways in which history and place shape each one of us."

RICHARD GWYN for *John A.: The Man Who Made Us: The Life and Times of John A. Macdonald, Volume One: 1815 - 1867*, published by Random House Canada

The jury notes, "In a lively but thorough biography of John A. Macdonald up to the day of Confederation in 1867, RICHARD GWYN brings to life the young Scottish-born lawyer who found himself unexpectedly entering politics in Kingston in 1844. Gwyn writes from a twenty-first century perspective while painting for his readers a vivid image of nineteenth century Canada: its society, customs, characters and politics. Gwyn helps us understand Macdonald's genius and vision, which would shape the nation that grew to the north of the United States."

ANNA PORTER for *Kasztner's Train: The True Story of Rezső Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust*, published by Douglas & McIntyre.

The jury notes, "Urgently told and exhaustively researched, *Kasztner's Train* revisits the story of a man discarded by history for his efforts to save Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust through intimate dealings with the Nazi regime. ANNA PORTER moves beyond the easy, good-versus-evil judgments of gentler times to explore the extraordinary risks and dilemmas of attempting to live by conscience in extremis; her insights into a brutal past cast valuable light on the challenges of today."

THE JURORS for the 2008 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are author Charlotte Gray (Ottawa, Ontario), author J.B. MacKinnon (Vancouver, British Columbia) and the Honourable John Manley (Ottawa, Ontario).

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

THE SEVENTH CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION will be awarded on March 3, 2008 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. The prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, \$2,000 for the finalists, as well as promotional support to help all shortlisted books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries.

THE PRIZE FINALISTS will be brought to Toronto and invited to speak about their writing at a special installment of the *Globe and Mail*/Ben McMnally Brunch series event on Sunday, March 2, 2008 and to remain in Toronto to participate in the Awards Ceremony and Gala Luncheon on Monday, March 3, 2008.

CBC RADIO ONE'S *Ontario Today* with host Rita Celli will present a two-hour live broadcast of the Awards Ceremony beginning at 12 noon on Monday, March 3, 2008. to listen via the internet go to www.cbc.ca/ontariotoday and click on "listen live".

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION is presented by the Charles Taylor Foundation with the support of their partners: AVFX, Ben McNally Books, BookTelevision, Bravo!, CBC Radio One, Canada Newswire (CNW), *Globe and Mail*, *Quill & Quire*, and Windfields Farm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca