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TORONTO

RICHARD GWYN WINS THE 2008 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

THE WINNER OF the 2008 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction is Richard Gwyn (Toronto) for his book, *John A.: The Man Who Made Us: The Life and Times of John A. Macdonald*, published by Random House Canada. The prize of \$25,000.00 was awarded Monday, March 3, 2008 at a gala luncheon held in the historic Sovereign Ballroom of Toronto's Le Royal Meridien King Edward Hotel. The four runners-up — Kevin Bazzana, David Gilmour, Lorna Goodison, and Anna Porter — each received \$2,000.00.

2008 MARKS the seventh awarding of the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. The prize, which has contributed significantly to the growth and recognition of the genre, was founded to commemorate the life and work of the late Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community.

OF THE BOOK, the jury said: "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."

RICHARD GWYN is an award-winning author and political columnist, well known to readers of the *Toronto Star* and to TV and radio audiences. He is the author of two biographies, *The Unlikely Revolutionary* on Newfoundland premier Joey Smallwood and *The Northern Magus* on Pierre Elliott Trudeau. His most recent book, *Nationalism Without Walls*, was selected by the *Literary Review of Canada* as one of Canada's one hundred most important books.

THE JURORS for the 2008 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are Charlotte Gray (Ottawa), J.B. MacKinnon (Vancouver), and The Honourable John Manley (Ottawa). They selected *John A.: The Man Who Made Us: The Life and Times of John A. Macdonald* from among 137 books, submitted by 30 publishers, from across Canada. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between November 1, 2006 and October 31, 2007 were eligible for submission if authored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, and widely available for purchase in Canada.



THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto). The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction is presented by the Charles Taylor Foundation with the support of their partners: AVFX Audio Visual Services, Ben McNally Books, BookTelevision, Bravo!, CBC Radio One, Canada Newswire (CNW), *The Globe and Mail*, *Quill & Quire – Canada's Magazine of Book News & Reviews*, and Windfields Farm. Today's awards ceremony was broadcast live on CBC Radio One's "Ontario Today" with host Rita Celli.

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AND THEIR BOOKS

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