

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

THE Trustees of the Charles Taylor Prize are pleased to announce the establishment of a new literary prize for non-fiction. The shortlist will be announced at a press conference on March 28, 2000. The inaugural prize will be awarded on May 8, 2000 at a breakfast in Toronto. The Prize will go to the book that in the opinion of the jury best reflects the mandate of the Prize.

THE TAYLOR PRIZE commemorates Charles Taylor's pursuit of excellence in the craft of writing. The Prize is for achievement in the field known variously as literary non-fiction and belles lettres. It will be awarded to the author whose book best 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, as well as promotional support to help all shortlisted books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries. The publisher of the winning book will receive a citation. Authors whose books have been shortlisted for the Prize will be brought to Toronto for the award ceremony on May 8, 2000, at the Four Seasons Hotel. Shortlisted authors will be invited to speak on Sunday, May 7, at the Nicholas Hoare-*Globe and Mail* Books & Brunch event at the King Edward Hotel.

The mandate of the Prize is to increase and enhance public attention to quality in the area of literary non-fiction or belles lettres. Charles Taylor believed that a well-read and well-informed public contributes to a thriving democracy. He also believed that excellence in style was the basis of communication in thought; his own journalism and books exemplified that belief.

Noreen Taylor, Chairman and founding voice of the Charles Taylor Prize, said "As a recognized writer in Canada, Charles was most aware of the significance of literary non-fiction and the importance of writing with great style, as well as with information. He was an able defender of the arm's-length principle and believed in the independence of a jury in determining any artistic award. In several ways, this Prize reflects his concerns for his chosen field, both in focus and in format."

The jurors for the inaugural prize are Neil Bissoondath (Québec City), Eva-Marie Kröller (Vancouver), and David Macfarlane (Toronto). They will select a shortlist from among the books nominated by publishers. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction published between January 1, 1998, and December 31, 1999, are eligible if authored by a Canadian citizen and widely available in Canada. The awarding of the Prize will be determined just prior to the award ceremony, May 8, 2000.

The Trustees of the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Robert Bringhurst (Vancouver), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION about the details of The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction, please contact Diane Hargrave, Denis Armstrong, and Devin Crawley, Diane Hargrave Public Relations. Telephone: 416 467 9954.

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES TAYLOR

BEST KNOWN for *Six Journeys* (1977) and *Radical Tories: The Conservative Tradition in Canada* (1982), Charles Taylor wrote four books. He was a correspondent with and member of the Editorial Board of *The Globe and Mail*. Beginning with his first book, *Reporter in Red China* (1966), he displayed a remarkable talent for expressing his thoughts eloquently. His writing style, though deceptively simple, had an elegance of rhythm and music. His second book, *Snow Job: Canada, The United States and Vietnam, 1954 - 1973* (1974) about Canada's involvement in the American war in Vietnam, further exemplified these qualities. He also edited *China Hands: The Globe and Mail in Peking* (1984).

*Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern* is the book for which he is best remembered. In this collection of biographical essays, he explored the path of six exceptional and diverse personalities, driven by the desire to achieve their deeply personal goals. Their lives are described with sensitivity and their tales are told with insight, interest and a keen, curious intelligence.

Charles Taylor was an involved member of the arts community; he was Chairman of the Writers' Union of Canada, worked on the Harbourfront Board, was active on the 1812 Committee, and in 1997 served as a juror for the Gelber Prize. He was a major figure in the world of horse racing and breeding, where he served as Trustee and Vice-President of the Ontario Jockey Club, Chief Steward of the Jockey Club of Canada, member of the New York Jockey Club, and Director of the Breeders Cup. As well, he was President of Windfields Farm Limited and it was during his tenure that the family home on Bayview Avenue became the Canadian Film Centre.

Charles Taylor died of cancer in 1997 and is survived by Noreen Taylor, his widow, and his two children, Nadina and Edward.

## THE JURORS

NEIL BISSOONDATH, author and broadcaster. Most recently published a novel, *The Worlds Within Her* (1998) with Knopf Canada, and is host and writer for “Vision World,” international documentaries on development themes for Vision TV.

Born at Arima, Trinidad, Neil attended St. Mary’s College, in Port of Spain, and York University, Toronto. After graduation, he taught English as a Second Language and French in Toronto and in 1985 published his first book, *Digging Up the Mountains*, with Macmillan of Canada. Since then, Neil has been a full-time writer. He has published many articles in a variety of journals, magazines and newspapers, including *The New Internationalist*, *en Route*, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *Saturday Night*, and *The Globe and Mail*. His books include *Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada*, 1994; *A Casual Brutality*, 1988; *On the Eve of Uncertain Tomorrows*, 1990; and *The Innocence of Age*, 1992. He has lived in Toronto and Montreal. Currently, he resides in Québec City.

EVA-MARIE KRÖLLER, academic, editor and author. Most recently published *Pacific Encounters: The Production of Self and Other* (1997) with the UBC Institute of Asian Research; edits *Canadian Literature*, and is a professor in the Department of English at the University of British Columbia.

Eva-Marie studied at the Staatsexamen and the University of Freiburg in Germany; in 1978 she received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Alberta. From 1990 to 1995, she chaired the Programme in Comparative Literature at UBC. In 1992 she published *George Bowering: Bright Circles of Colour* with Talonbooks and, in 1987, she published *Canadian Travellers in Europe, 1851-1900* with UBC Press. Eva-Marie has won a number of awards and distinctions, most notably a Killam Research Fellowship in 1995 and a Killam Teaching Prize in 1999.

DAVID MACFARLANE, author and journalist. Most recently published the novel *Summer Gone*, with Knopf Canada; previously published the family memoir, *The Danger Tree* (1991) with Macfarlane, Walter & Ross; has a weekly column in *The Globe and Mail*.

David was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and now lives in Toronto. He began his career as a writer and editor with *Weekend Magazine*, and his writing has appeared regularly in *Saturday Night*, *Toronto Life* and *Maclean’s*. David has won a number of awards, including six gold and five silver National Magazine Awards; a Gemini for “Place of the Boss” (CBC’s Witness series) and the Canadian Authors’ Association Award in 1992 for *The Danger Tree*.

## THE TRUSTEES

MICHAEL BRADLEY is a lawyer and investment advisor. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. from Cambridge and his law degree from the University of Toronto. A member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, he practised with the firm Fraser & Beatty from 1965 to 1998, when he retired as a Senior Tax Partner. In addition to his law practice, principally in the areas of international and corporate tax, he also represented writers in matters related to publishing. Michael is one of the founders and a principal of Quant Investment Strategies in Toronto, a firm providing investment advisory services.

ROBERT BRINGHURST is a poet, author and cultural historian. Most recently, he published *A Story as Sharp as a Knife : The Classical Haida Mythtellers and Their World* (1999) with Douglas & McIntyre. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship for poetry and has lectured on Native American arts and oral literature at universities around the world. In addition to *A Story as Sharp as a Knife*, he published *The Black Canoe: Bill Reid and the Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, considered one of the best books on the subject of Native American Art. He has also published several books of poetry, most notably two volumes of selected poems, *The Beauty of the Weapons* and *The Calling*. In addition to these accomplishments, he has written what has become a standard in the field, *The Elements of Typographic Style* (2nd Edition 1996). Robert is currently translating the epic Haida poetry of two of the West Coast's most important poets, Skaay (c.1827-c.1905) and Ghandl (c.1851 - c.1920).

JUDITH MAPPIN is the sister of the late Charles Taylor; she was born and brought up in Toronto, received a B.Sc. from McGill University, worked for a year in the Banting Institute, then married John N. Mappin and moved to Montreal, where she and her husband raised a family of five children. In 1974, with two partners, she established The Double Hook Book Shop on Greene Avenue, where she became well-known as a champion of Canadian authors and their books. Judith served a term as a Director of the Canadian Booksellers Association, was a founding member and director for nine years of the Quebec Society for the Promotion of English Language Literature (QSPELL) and has served for two years on the jury selection committee of QSPELL successor, the Quebec Writers Federation. She is currently the President of Windfields Farm Limited and is a juror for 1999 The Giller Prize for Fiction.

DAVID STAINES is Dean of Arts and Professor of English at the University of Ottawa. Born in Toronto, he received his B.A. from the University of Toronto and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard. He is the author or editor of many books, most notably *Tennyson's Camelot: The Idylls of the King and Its Medieval Sources* and *The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes*. David is a founding member of the Giller Foundation and also serves as general editor of the New Canadian Library and editor of the *Journal of Canadian Poetry*.

NOREEN TAYLOR is the Chairman of the Charles Taylor Foundation and founding voice of the Charles Taylor Prize. She is also the widow of the late Charles Taylor. Working under the name Tomlinson, Noreen is a Toronto-based painter; her works are in a number of public and private collections, and grace the covers of several literary books. She exhibits on a regular basis. She has been an arts administrator and educator, most notably as the first Artistic Program Director of the Claude Watson School for the Arts and as the Chairman of the Art Department at William Lyon MacKenzie Secondary School in Toronto. Noreen is a Member of the Jockey Club of Canada, a Member of Cancer Care Ontario Regional-Central East committee, and a Trustee of the E.P. Taylor Equine Research Fund.