

June 9, 2012

ALBERTA
BOOK AWARDS

JUNE 9th
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Winners are announced at the 2012 Alberta Book Awards Gala

Calgary – The Writers Guild of Alberta (WGA) and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) announced the winners of the 2012 Alberta Book Publishing Awards, the Alberta Literary Awards, and the highly anticipated Alberta Readers' Choice Award tonight. About 225 people attended the 2012 Alberta Book Awards Gala, a joint celebration that celebrated excellence and innovation in Alberta writing and book publishing.

Founder and former Publisher and Editor of Alberta Views Magazine, Jackie Flanagan, gave an entertaining and passionate keynote address, and many authors and publishers were celebrated for their achievements during the past year.

The third annual \$10,000.00 Alberta Readers' Choice Award was presented to Wayne Arthurson for his novel, **Fall From Grace**, published by Forge Books.



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Recipients of the 2012 Alberta Book Publishing Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is presented in recognition of an individual's contribution to Alberta's book publishing community. We are pleased to announce this award went to **Diane Bessai**, for her outstanding work and service within Alberta's book publishing industry.

Alberta Book Design Awards

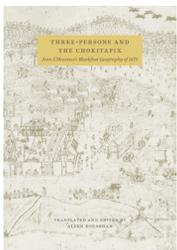
Book Cover/Jacket



NeWest Press (Edmonton)—*House of Spells* by Robert Pepper-Smith, cover design by Natalie Olsen, Kisscut Design

Jury comments: *The design of House of Spells communicates a sense of playfulness and joy. The uncluttered jacket is both simple and spare, but still evocative and effective. It suggests a hint of mystery, enticing the reader to sneak a peek through the windows of the House of Spells. This theme is carried through the book. Type is treated with reverence, as art. The small size of the book makes it feel precious and personal. Together, all of these elements help to communicate the magic of a House of Spells.*

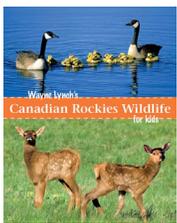
Book Design



CAHS Press (Red Deer)—*Three-Persons and the Chokitapix* by Allen Ronaghan, book design by Marvin Harder

Jury comments: *From its full-bleed cover with French flaps that evokes a rustic map, to its gorgeous typography and classic interior composition, Three Persons and The Chokitapix evokes the historical era in which it is set. It successfully blends contemporary and traditional book design in a way that perfectly suits the historical subject of its tri-lingual text. The typography, layout and illustrations elicit comparisons to the elegance of letterpress. While the book's overall design is unified and representative of the content, the lively composition of the layout adds visual interest to what could have been viewed as dry historical subject matter. The designer effectively balances illustrations with text. The playfulness of the illustrations on the pages facing the start of each chapter punctuate the book like secret previews on what is next to come.*

Children's & Young Adult Book Award

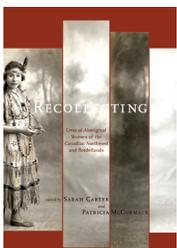


Summerthought Publishing (Banff)—*Canadian Rockies Wildlife for Kids* by Wayne Lynch

Jury comments: *In choosing the award for the 2012 Children & Young Adult Book of the Year award, the jury looked at content, the quality of the editing, excellence in design and illustration. This year's recipient has produced a book that will appeal to its intended audience, as well as parents and teachers. Lynch's trademark "in your furry face" photography combined with engaging commentary effectively illustrates the good, the bad and the fun of life in the wild.*

For the 2012 Alberta Book Publishing Award for the best Children & Young Adult Book of the Year, what could be more "Alberta" than Wayne Lynch's Canadian Rockies Wildlife for Kids?

Scholarly & Academic Book Award



Athabasca University Press (Edmonton)—*Recollecting: Lives of Aboriginal Women of the Canadian Northwest and Badlands* edited by Sarah Carter and Patricia McCormack

Jury comments: *This important work examines the place of Aboriginal women in the early days of First Nations – European contact, a subject that is only recently being discussed. Although it is a scholarly work, it is easy to read, accessible and has illustrations, including some in colour, which clearly enhance the book's focus and helps the narrative.*



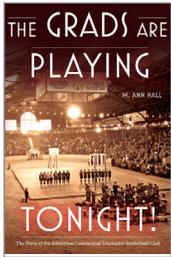
Trade Fiction Book Award

Freehand Books (imprint of Broadview Press (Calgary))—*And Me Among Them* by Kristen den Hartog

Jury comments: *At the heart of this finely rendered tale, an outcast giant of a girl, drawn by her simple need for friendship crashes headlong into the complex world of deception and cruel betrayal. With perfect emotional pitch, the author lifts her characters to extraordinary heights, despite their ordinary and all too human flaws.*

Trade Non-Fiction Book Award

The University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*The Grads Are Playing Tonight!* by M. Ann Hall



Jury comments: *Almost like a fairytale, this hard- to -believe story about an almost-invincible female basketball team and their committed coach, J. Percy Page (later Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta), comes alive in the pages of The Grads are Playing Tonight. Well-written and engaging throughout its ten chapters, the book focuses on not only the adventurous tales of the Grads, but also of Edmonton coming into its own as an important city in Western Canada.*

In this feel-good book there is something for everyone – sports fans, history buffs, feminists, educators, scholars, politicians, and readers who dare to dream the impossible. A story within many stories, The Grads are Playing Tonight reaffirms a city is more than a place on the map --- it is the people who live there and make it home.

The Grads are Playing Tonight, will continue to play itself out in readers' heads long after they shut its covers.

Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence

The University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*The Man in Blue Pyjamas* by Jalal Barzanji, edited by Peter Midgley



Jury comments: *Peter Midgley's edit of Jalal Barzanji's The Man in the Blue Pajamas has helped create a book that tells an important and accessible story. In his work, Peter considered both the author's and the reader's needs. His consultative approach with the author sought to clarify and elaborate a work complicated by the fragility of memory and translation. The edit resolved complex language issues and delivered compelling detail, aware of the "challenge not simply to rewrite, but to...allow the author to do the work." The result is an excellent read, with a glossary and timeline that provide valuable guides and context for readers. In addition, the documents submitted to track the editing process were highly organized, thorough, and a joy to explore.*

Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award

The University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*Demeter Goes Skydiving* by Susan McCaslin



Jury comments: *Demeter Goes Skydiving is the best-produced book of the entries in this award category. The cover and page designs are clean and elegant. The text is well edited and readable. The poems torque a common mythological figure into a smart, well-crafted sequence that thrusts the venerable tradition of the Canadian long poem into the 21st century.*

Publisher of the Year

University of Calgary Press (Calgary)



Jury comments: *This year's Publisher of the Year, The University of Calgary Press, exhibited exceptional innovation and creativity in identifying and reaching their target audience. They also showed exemplary efforts in marketing and promotion over the past year and demonstrated an active leadership and commitment in the area of open access publishing. The jury would also like to commend NeWest Press on a year of publishing excellence.*

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of:

