

## NEWS RELEASE



***A Story Worth Telling:*** The Frye Festival celebrates Maritime writers in honour of the Governor General's Literary Awards' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

An evening with GG-winning writers  
**Catherine Banks, Anne Compton, David Adams Richards and  
Serge Patrice Thibodeau**

(Moncton, October 19, 2011) – In honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Governor General's Literary Awards (GGs), the [Frye Festival](#) is celebrating the richness of Atlantic Canada's literary tradition and shared culture with four GG winners from all corners of the Maritimes and representing diverse genres: Catherine Banks (drama, NS), Anne Compton (poetry, PEI), David Adams Richards (fiction and non-fiction, NB), and Serge Patrice Thibodeau (poetry, Acadie).

On **November 24, 2011 at 8 p.m.**, these four Maritime writers will share the stage for the first time ever and tell truths about our culture at théâtre l'Escaouette (170 Botsford St, Moncton). They'll chat about the excellence of Maritime writing and the influence the region's geography, culture and history have had on their body of work. Writers will participate in the language in which they write, and the Festival will provide simultaneous translation to guests. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for students), plus tax and service fees, and are available now at all Greater Moncton Ticketing Network locations (l'Escaouette, Capitol Theatre, Université de Moncton, Monument Lefebvre, Dieppe Arts & Culture Centre).

"Atlantic Canada has an amazing literary tradition to celebrate and stories worth telling," says Frye Festival Chair Dawn Arnold, "Atlantic Canada has produced roughly two GG-finalists every year since 1979. Even Northrop Frye served as a judge for the awards for several years, and won in 1986 for *Northrop Frye on Shakespeare*. This event, which is a first for the Frye Festival, is a much overdue opportunity to celebrate our stories, culture and history, and what we as a community have accomplished on the national literary stage."

### **Atlantic Canada and the GGs**

Atlantic Canada boasts some impressive statistics when it comes to the region's literary production:

- Atlantic Canadian writers have won GGs in every major English-speaking category (poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama).
- Since the awarding of the GG to French-language authors began in 1959, several Acadian writers have won [GG awards], including Antonine Maillet, Serge Patrice Thibodeau, and Herménégilde Chiasson.
- Atlantic Canada has produced nearly 30 GG winning titles since the prize's inception in 1936.
- Atlantic Canada boasts several multiple GG award-winners, including Hugh MacLennan, E.J. Pratt, Serge Patrice Thibodeau, David Walker, and Thomas Raddall. And of course David Adams Richards, one of only a select few Canadian writers to ever win in both the fiction and non-fiction categories.
- Since 1979, more than 40 Atlantic titles have been chosen as finalists for the GG, not including those titles that have won the award. This means that over the last 30 years Atlantic Canada has produced roughly two GG-finalists every year.

### **The Governor General's Awards**

The GGs, Canada's national book awards, honour the best of our literature in seven categories, in both official languages. These Canada Council awards celebrate and promote the excellence of Canadian writers, illustrators and translators.

The GGs are celebrating 75 years of **GG**reat Books and inviting the public to [share their love of Canadian literature](#) by making their own virtual bookshelf, visit a display of past winning books and participate in online quizzes.

### **The Canada Council for the Arts**

In addition to its principal role of promoting and fostering the arts, the Canada Council for the Arts administers and awards many prizes and fellowships in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural and health sciences, engineering, and arts management. These prizes and fellowships recognize the achievements of outstanding Canadian artists, scholars, and administrators. The Canada Council for the Arts is committed to raising public awareness and celebration of these exceptional people and organizations on both a national and international level.

### **The Frye Festival**

The Frye Festival is Atlantic Canada's largest literary happening and Canada's only bilingual international literary Festival. The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival will take place from **April 23 to 29, 2012** in the Greater Moncton area, and work is already underway to invite some of the best authors in the world to Moncton. More information about the Festival and its mission is available at [www.frye.ca](http://www.frye.ca).

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**Photos:** Photos of the authors and the winning book covers are available in the Frye Festival's [online Media room](#) at [www.frye.ca](http://www.frye.ca).

**For more information or interviews:**

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