

Finalists announced for 2010 BMO Winterset Award

March 2, 2011 St. John's, NL – The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2010 BMO Winterset Award are Samuel Thomas Martin, Craig Francis Power, Russell Wangersky. The award celebrates excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing. The winner will be announced at Government House on Thursday, March 24th.

The three finalists are:

- Samuel Thomas Martin, *This Ramshackle Tabernacle*, Breakwater Books, St. John's, NL
- Craig Francis Power, *Blood Relatives*, Pedlar Press, Toronto, ON
- Russell Wangersky, *The Glass Harmonica*, Thomas Allen Publishers, Toronto, ON

The winner will receive a prize of \$10,000 and the two finalists will each receive \$2,000.

Books in any genre published in 2010 were eligible for the award. A total of 37 works by Newfoundland and Labrador authors (either native-born or resident) were submitted by publishers from across the country. The jury consisted of authors Libby Creelman (St. John's), Kenneth J. Harvey (Cupids), and Randall Maggs (Corner Brook).

The Winterset Award honours the memory of Sandra Fraser Gwyn, St. John's-born social historian, prize-winning author, and passionate promoter of Newfoundland and Labrador arts. Her husband, journalist and author Richard Gwyn established the award in 2000. It is named after the historic house on Winter Avenue in St. John's where Sandra grew up.

About the 2010 BMO Winterset Award finalists:

Samuel Thomas Martin is from Gilmour, Ontario but now calls St. John's home. He received an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto and his short stories and creative nonfiction **have** been published in both Canada and the U.S. When he's not researching Norwegian death-metal or the B.C. drug trade for a new novel project, he enjoys hiking the East Coast Trail with his wife Samantha and their dog Vader.

Craig Francis Power's debut work *Blood Relatives* was the winner of both the Percy Janes First Novel Award, and the Fresh Fish Award for unpublished fiction manuscripts. Craig lives in St. John's.

Russell Wangersky's 2008 book, *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself*, won three national awards for non-fiction, including the B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, the Edna Staebler Award, and the Drummer-General's Award. His 2006 short story collection *The Hour of Bad Decisions* was long-listed for the Scotiabank/Giller Prize; short-listed for the Commonwealth Writer's Prize, first book, Canada and the Caribbean; and was a finalist for the 2006 Winterset Award. Russell lives in St. John's where he's a journalist at *The Telegram*.

The three finalists will read from their works and answer questions from the audience at a **public reading and reception: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at The Rooms (in the Theatre), 9**

Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's.

Media contact:

Janet McDonald

Communications Officer

Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council