



Red Dog, Red Dog and *Graveyard of the Sea* Win Victoria Book Prizes

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — At an awards gala last night, two Greater Victoria authors were recognized for their literary achievements. Patrick Lane, author of *Red Dog, Red Dog*, was named the 2009 winner of the 6th Annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize; and Penny Draper, author of *Graveyard of the Sea*, was named the winner of the 2nd Annual Bolen Books Children's Book Prize.

Mayor Dean Fortin and event sponsor Brian H. Butler, presented Lane with a \$5,000 cheque for his award winning fiction novel published by McClelland & Stewart, for best book published in the preceding year in the categories of poetry, non-fiction, fiction and biography.

Last year, the Victoria Book Prize Society partnered with Bolen Books to establish the Bolen Books Children's Book Prize to recognize children and youth literary works. Mel Bolen, owner of Bolen Books, presented Draper with a \$5,000 cheque for her children's book published by Coteau Books.

An epic novel of unrequited dreams and forestalled lives, *Red Dog, Red Dog* is set in the mid-1950s, in a small town in the interior of B.C., in the unnamed Okanagan Valley. The novel focuses on the Stark family, centering on brothers Eddy and Tom, who are bound together by family loyalty and inarticulate love.

A national best seller, *Red Dog, Red Dog* is Lane's debut fiction novel. Since he started writing in 1961, Lane has authored more than twenty books of poetry for which he has received numerous awards, including the Governor General's Award for Poetry. His acclaimed memoir, *There Is a Season*, won the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence and the Inaugural British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-fiction. Lane lives near Victoria, B.C.

Set in 1906, *Graveyard of the Sea* is about Nell, a young girl who calls a lighthouse on the rugged west coast of Canada, home. To avoid being sent away to school in Victoria, she learns Morse code, becoming a hero after calling for the rescue of a stricken ship.

Draper is an author, a bookseller, and a storyteller who lives in Victoria, B.C. Originally from Toronto, she received a degree in Literature from Trinity College, University of Toronto and on the side, attended the Storytellers' School of Toronto. Draper's first juvenile fiction novel, *Terror at Turtle Mountain*, was a finalist for the Silver Birch Young Reader's Choice Award in Ontario, as well as the Diamond Willow Award, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People and Book of the Year for the ForeWord Magazine Awards in the USA. *Graveyard of the Sea* is part of the Coteau Books for Kids *Disaster Strikes!* series. The series also includes Penny's second book, *Peril at Pier Nine*, also a finalist for the Silver Birch Young Reader's Choice Award.

The gala was held at the Union Club of British Columbia and featured readings by the eight finalists, offering guests the opportunity to meet the writers and have their books autographed. The other four finalists for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize included Dede Crane, David Leach, Ilana Stanger-Ross, and Patricia Young. Sarah N. Harvey and Julie Lawson were the two other finalists for the Bolen Books Children's Book Prize. The event was emceed this year by Hal Wake, Artistic Director of the Vancouver International Writers Festival.

Founded in 2004, the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies. The Bolen Books Children's Book Prize was founded in 2008. This year's sponsors include the Greater Victoria Public Library, the Magnolia Hotel and Spa, the Union Club of British Columbia, the Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour Hotel and the CBC.

The Victoria Book Prize Society establishes the policy and criteria for the prizes, appoints the juries and administers the competitions.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

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