Authors Stephen Reid and Polly Horvath
Win Victoria Book Prize Awards

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VICTORIA, BC — Two Greater Victoria authors were recognized for their literary achievements last night at the 2013 Victoria Book Prize Awards Gala. Stephen Reid, author of A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden was named the winner of the 10th annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize; and Polly Horvath, author of One Year in Coal Harbour was named the winner of the 6th annual Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize.

Mayor Dean Fortin and event sponsor Brian H. Butler presented Al Forrie, Publisher of the Thistledown Press, with the $5,000 prize on behalf of Stephen Reid for his award-winning non-fiction book. Colin Holt of Bolen Books, presented the $5,000 Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize to Polly Horvath for her award-winning fiction novel published by Groundwood Books.

Reid has created an affecting book about growing old in prison in his collection of essays, A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden. He grapples with issues such as the painful separation of family and friends, and the nature of addiction. Jurors for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize, writer George Fetherling, academic and editor Laurie Ricou, and librarian Michelle Whitehead had this to say of the winning book, “Framed by a sharply observed, imaginatively speculative, and risky exploration of beachcombing, Stephen Reid’s A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden is a prison ethnography taut with wit and humanity.”

Stephen Reid began writing in 1984 while serving a 21-year prison sentence for his role as a member of the “Stopwatch Gang”. Reid has written the novel Jackrabbit Parole, as well as articles and essays for a variety of journals, magazines and newspapers. He has taught creative writing, worked as a youth counsellor, and served on boards such as the John Howard Society, Prison Arts Foundation, PEN Canada, Spirit of the People, and the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons. Reid is married to the critically acclaimed writer Susan Musgrave.

In Polly Horvath’s One Year in Coal Harbour, Primrose Squarp is back! The wise and curious heroine of the Newbery Honor Book Everything on a Waffle is facing another adventure-filled year in Coal Harbour. Primrose’s parents are safe at home, having once been lost at sea. But now other people and places that Primrose loves are in precarious circumstances. Through a year of turmoil, Primrose is undaunted as she tries to save what matters to her.

Jurors for the Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize Leslie Hudson, librarian Freda Nobbs, and bookseller and writer Beryl Young had this to say about the winning entry, “Woven throughout are glimpses of just what it means to be alive, of how to discern what you truly value and cherish, how to find beauty, even when it’s wrapped in anger and pain. Brimming with wit, imagination, and insight, One Year in Coal Harbour is at once contemporary and timeless.”
Polly Horvath is one of the most highly acclaimed authors writing today. Her books include *The Canning Season* (winner of the National Book Award and the CLA Young Adult Book Award), *Everything on a Waffle* (a Newbery Honor Book, an ALA Notable Book and winner of the Mr. Christie's Book Award and the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize), *The Trolls* (a National Book Award finalist), *My One Hundred Adventures* (a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, a Booklist Editors' Choice, a Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of the Year and winner of a NAPPA Gold Award and the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize), and *Northward to the Moon* (an Oprah's Book Club Kids' Reading List selection and winner of a Parents' Choice Gold Award). Her next book, *Lord and Lady Bunny - Detectives Extraordinaire!* will be published in February 2014.

The other four finalists for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize included C.P. Boyko for *Psychology and Other Stories* (Biblioasis), Christina Johnson-Dean for *The Life and Art of Ina D.D. Uthoff* (Mother Tongue), Lorna Crozier for *Book Of Marvels: A Compendium of Everyday Things* (Greystone), and Bill Gaston for *The World* (Hamish Hamilton). Sarah N. Harvey for *Three Little Words* (Orca Book Publishers) and Kit Pearson for *And Nothing But the Truth* (HarperCollins Canada) were the two other finalists for the Bolen Books Children's Book Prize.

The awards gala was held at the Union Club of British Columbia and emceed by Jo-Ann Roberts, host of CBC's *All Points West*. City of Victoria Poet Laureate Janet Rogers opened the evening with readings from her recent works *Chiefswood*, *Bring Me Back* and *Am I Not*.

The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize celebrates its 10th year in 2013 and is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies. The Bolen Books Children's Book Prize was founded by Mel Bolen in 2008 to provide authors and illustrators of children's and youth literature an increased opportunity for recognition. Additional sponsors include the Union Club of British Columbia, Greater Victoria Public Library, Island Blue Print, Magnolia Hotel and Spa, Thrifty Foods and CBC Radio.

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](http://www.victoria.ca) or [www.victoriabookprizes.ca](http://www.victoriabookprizes.ca)

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