



## Pauline Holdstock and Dawn Green Win Book Prizes

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Tonight, two Greater Victoria authors were recognized for their literary talent at the 2016 Victoria Book Prize Awards Gala. Pauline Holdstock was named the winner of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual City of Victoria Butler Prize for *The Hunter and the Wild Girl* (Goose Lane Editions). Dawn Green was named the winner of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize for *In the Swish* (Red Deer Press).

Councillor Chris Coleman and event sponsor Brian Butler presented Pauline Holdstock with the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize, and Samantha Holmes from Bolen Books presented Dawn Green with the \$5,000 Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize.

Pauline Holdstock has written six novels, including *Into the Heart of the Country*, long-listed for the 2012 Giller Prize, and *Beyond Measure*, winner of the Ethel Wilson Award for Fiction and shortlisted for both the 2004 Giller Prize and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize.

*The Hunter and the Wild Girl* spins a haunting tale of a feral girl who roams the dense forests of nineteenth-century France, stealing food from remote farmyards and avoiding human contact. Seen on one of her thieving missions in the village of Freyzus, she is chased by suspicious townspeople to the edge of a deep gorge, where she jumps and disappears, vanishing into village legend. It is a dark fairy tale affirming the persistence of life, the power of human connection, and the fundamental urge to be free.

Dawn Green graduated from the University of Victoria with degrees in languages and education. She is a high school Spanish and English teacher, basketball coach, and volunteers with Special Olympics BC. *When Kacey Left* is her first young adult novel.

*In the Swish* is a coming of age story about friendships made and friendships tested set against the fast-paced world of competitive girls’ basketball. Bennett Ryan is a superb young player who propelled her team to a regional championship. But in her senior year, she discovers there’s a lot she doesn’t know. She has to switch schools, for one thing, and learn to fit in with the team she helped defeat the previous year. What’s more she confronts a far more complex world than she’s been used to — a new friend who is on the autism spectrum, as well as team-mates from a diversity of cultures. Finally, she has to face her old team — and some old assumptions — in a dramatic playoff game.

The Victoria Book Prize Awards Gala was held at the Union Club of British Columbia and was emceed by journalist and community builder, Jo-Ann Roberts. Victoria's Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer opened the evening with a reading from her recent works.

The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize celebrates its 13th year in 2016 and is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies. Mel Bolen founded the Bolen Books Children's Book Prize in 2008 to provide authors and illustrators of books for children and youth an increased opportunity for recognition. Additional sponsors include the Union Club of British Columbia, Greater Victoria Public Library, Island Blue Print, Chateau Victoria, Magnolia Hotel and Spa, Friesens Corporation 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.victoriabookprizes.ca](http://www.victoriabookprizes.ca) or [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)

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