



2020 Victoria Book Prize Finalists Announced

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The finalists have been announced for the 2020 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and Children’s Book Prize.

“Congratulations to all of the Victoria Book Prize finalists; we have so much literary talent in our region,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “During these uncertain times, literature can help us take a break, unwind and take care of our emotional health. I encourage you to pick up a copy of one of these finalist’s reads to enjoy as the fall weather sets in.”

In its 17th year, the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is awarded to a Greater Victoria author for the best book published in the preceding year in the categories of fiction, non-fiction or poetry. The five finalists are:

Lorna Crozier (poetry) - *The House the Spirit Builds* (Douglas & McIntyre)
Carla Funk (non-fiction) - *Every Little Scrap and Wonder: A Small-Town Childhood* (Greystone)
Christin Geall (non-fiction) - *Cultivated: The Elements of Floral Style* (Princeton Architectural Press)
Carey Newman & Kirstie Hudson (non-fiction) - *Picking Up the Pieces: Residential School Memories and the Making of the Witness Blanket* (Orca Book Publishers)
Steven Price (fiction) - *Lampedusa* (McClelland & Stewart)

In its 13th year, the \$5,000 City of Victoria Children’s Book Prize is awarded to a Greater Victoria author or illustrator for the best children’s book published in the preceding year. The three finalists are:

Sara Cassidy - *Nevers* (Orca Book Publishers)
Mark Leiren-Young - *Orcas Everywhere: The Mystery and History of Killer Whales* (Orca Book Publishers)
Sylvia Olsen & Odelia Smith - *Neekah’s Knitting Needles* (Sono Nis Press)

Two independent juries comprised of representatives from the local literary arts community adjudicated the entries. The winners will be announced at a free online event, hosted by CBC’s Gregor Craigie on Sunday October 4 at 7 p.m. as part of the Victoria Festival of Authors. Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance via the Victoria Book Prizes website: victoriabookprizes.ca.

"We are pleased to partner with the Victoria Festival of Authors this year to present the awards gala as the closing event of the festival," said Alyssa Polinsky, President of the Victoria Book Prize Society. "This free, online event will allow more people than ever to join us in celebrating our region's incredible literary talent."

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 Children’s Book Prize recognizes and celebrates exceptional children’s and youth literature in our community. The prize was established in 2008 by the late Mel Bolen of Bolen Books.

Additional sponsors include the Union Club of British Columbia, Friesens Corporation, Munro's Books, Russell Books, Tanner's Books, Ivy's Bookshop, CBC Radio, Island Blue Print Co., and the Greater Victoria Public Library. The Victoria Book Prize Society establishes policy and criteria for the prizes, administers the competition and appoints the juries. For more information: victoriabookprizes.ca or victoria.ca.

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