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## 2009 Alberta Book Publishing Awards Recipients Announced!

Edmonton, AB—The winners of the 2009 Alberta Book Publishing Awards were announced Friday, May 8 at a Gala event at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. Hosted by CKUA's **Ken Davis**, the event was a sold-out affair. Eleven awards were presented recognizing excellence in Alberta book publishing.

**Tom Thackeray**, Assistant Deputy Minister for Culture and Community Spirit, and **Ben Henderson**, Edmonton City Councillor for Ward 4 brought greetings from their respective governments, reinforcing their support of book publishing in Alberta. Edmonton author **Ted Bishop** delivered a rousing keynote address.

**Linda Cook**, CEO of Edmonton Public Library, announced the launch of the **Alberta Readers' Choice Award**—an annual award presented to an Alberta published author. The \$10,000 prize is being organized in partnership with the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, and the first recipient will be announced at the 2010 Book Awards Gala.

Award highlights include:

- **Jim Beckel**, of Friesen's, was awarded the Contribution to Alberta Book Publishing Award, for his tireless support of Alberta's book publishing community;
- Newcomers **Freehand Books** (Calgary) won Publisher of the Year and the Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence, in acknowledgement of an outstanding first year for the company;
- Edmonton's **NeWest Press** received recognition for design excellence for *Cleavage* (Book Design), and *Listening to Trees* (Cover Design); and
- **AU Press** (Edmonton) took dual honors with the Trade Non-Fiction Book award for Jack Brink's *Imagining Head-Smashed-In*, and the Scholarly & Academic Book award for *The Importance of Being Monogamous*, which they share with co-publisher **The University of Alberta Press** (Edmonton).

Please see attached for detailed information on the recipients. For complete information, please contact the Book Publishers Association of Alberta at [info@bookpublishers.ab.ca](mailto:info@bookpublishers.ab.ca) or (780) 424-5060.

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta is a provincial association of book publishing companies and is one of the strongest communities of regional publishers in North America. With thanks to our sponsors:



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# Recipients of the 2009 Alberta Book Publishing Awards

## Contribution to Alberta Book Publishing Award

This award is presented in recognition of an individual's contribution to Alberta's book publishing community. We are pleased to announce this award went to **Jim Beckel** of Friesens, for his longstanding service to Alberta's book publishers.

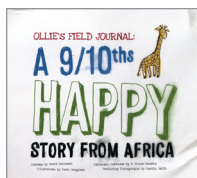


## Alberta Book Design Awards

### Book Cover

**NeWest Press** (Edmonton)—*Listening to Trees* by A.K. Hellum, cover design by Natalie Olsen

Jury comments: *The award goes to a work that does exactly what a book cover should do—reflect the subject matter and entice the reader's curiosity. The simple, clean and casual hand-drawn lettering and illustration succinctly mirror the author's intent and conversational tone.*



### Book Illustration

**Maggie & Pierrot: A Children's Book Publisher** (Edmonton)—*Ollie's Field Journal:*

*A 9/10ths Happy Story from Africa* by Patti McIntosh, illustrated by Tara Langlois & Dustin Delfs

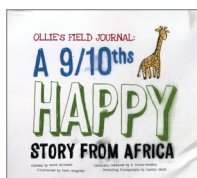
Jury comments: *This year, this award recognizes an effort in which widely varied illustrations not only illuminate the text, but engage the reader in a way that is essential to understanding the book. The layering of photographs and illustrations lends the work a hand-made quality that will spark a young reader's imagination.*



### Book Design

**NeWest Press** (Edmonton)—*Cleavage* by Theanna Bischoff, book design by Natalie Olsen

Jury comments: *The recipient this year reflects a thoroughly contemporary design aesthetic. The clever, light treatment of the content is carried throughout, from the cover to the page numbers and copyright page. The jury noted, in particular, the subtle use of elements from the cover in the interior layout.*

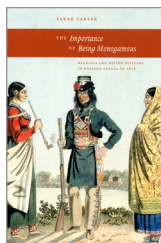


## Children's & Young Adult Book Award

**Maggie & Pierrot: A Children's Book Publisher** (Edmonton)—*Ollie's Field Journal:*

*A 9/10ths Happy Story from Africa* by Patti McIntosh, illustrated by Tara Langlois & Dustin Delfs

Jury comments: *The winner this year is a book with a great concept, design and intent. A young reader will be challenged on every page by the creative and thoughtful storytelling and layering of both illustrations and photographs. This company has created a book that is both thoroughly engaging and educational.*



## Scholarly & Academic Book Award

**AU Press & The University of Alberta Press** (Edmonton)—*The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915* by Sarah Carter

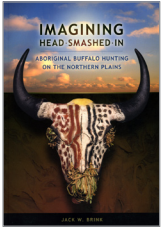
Jury comments: *This year's recipient is a book that has the potential to make a long-lasting impact on the study of early Canadian history, as well as current national policy. The author's incisive and compelling prose, buoyed by strong design, has garnered excellent reviews and award recognition. This is a first-rate example of why scholarly monographs matter.*



## Trade Fiction Book Award

**The University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)**—*The Office Tower Tales* by Alice Major

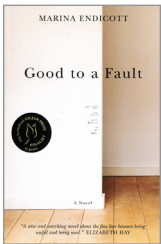
Jury comments: *The award goes to a landmark volume that offers a wealth of superlative writing, humour and sharp social commentary. Innovative, beautifully designed and expertly marketed—this book achieved a perfect score in all areas. Particularly impressive was the long list of marketing activities, gaining the book success far beyond the expectations for Canadian poetry.*



## Trade Non-Fiction Book Award

**AU Press (Edmonton)**—*Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains* by Jack W. Brink

Jury comments: *The prize is awarded to a book that crosses publishing boundaries, from the scholarly world into the broader trade market. The company's solid editing, superb production, and big marketing push, paired with the author's gift for storytelling and deep passion for his subject, resulted in strong sales, with the profits going to the Cross Cancer Institute.*



## Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence

**Freehand Books (Broadview Press) (Calgary)**—*Good to a Fault* by Marina Endicott, edited by Melanie Little

Jury comments: *The jury decided that the award should go to a book for which the editor's role was crucial in the acclaim the book has achieved. The editor's insights and deft approach helped craft a compelling tale that has garnered deserved national recognition for a young company.*



## Emerging Publisher of the Year

**JEM Photography & Publishing**

Jury comments: *The jury has chosen to recognize a company producing works of quality and effort. They were especially satisfied to find the refined production and editing found in the company's first publication, taken even further in their second. Additionally, this company has gained impressive sales for their books.*



**FREEHAND BOOKS**

## Publisher of the Year

**Freehand Books (Broadview Press) (Calgary)**

Jury comments: *This year's recipient has received countless rave reviews, and honours for their astutely chosen list and talented authors, outstanding editing, production values and design standards. They embarked on a tireless effort to build strong relationships with the media and book-trade with an energetic and well-conceived marketing and promotion program. It worked. This is a bold, innovative publisher with an intuitive, can-do attitude.*

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