

ALBERTA BOOK AWARDS

JUNE 11
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Winners are announced at the 2011 Alberta Book Awards Gala

Calgary – The Writers Guild of Alberta (WGA) and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) announced the winners of the 2011 Alberta Book Publishing Awards, the Alberta Literary Awards, and the highly anticipated Alberta Readers' Choice Award tonight. About 250 people attended the 2011 Alberta Book Awards Gala, a joint celebration that celebrated excellence and innovation in Alberta writing and book publishing.

Journalist Brenda Finley gave an entertaining keynote address, and many authors and publishers were celebrated for their achievements during the past year.

The second annual \$10,000.00 Alberta Readers' Choice Award was presented to Helen Waldstein Wilkes for her novel, **Letters from the Lost: A Memoir of Discovery**, published by AU Press (Athabasca University).

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Recipients of the 2011 Alberta Book Publishing Awards

Lifetime Achievement 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 **Dennis Johnson**, for his outstanding work and service within Alberta's book publishing industry.



Alberta Book Design Awards

Book Cover/Jacket

University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*The Measure of Paris* by Stephen Scobie, cover design by Alan Brownoff

Jury comments: *This cover is elegant and understated, as befits the subject matter, yet still rich and eye-catching; indeed, it grabs one immediately, and makes a lasting impression. The tone and content of the photo convey the subject matter perfectly, and the design itself is marked by a well-resolved, elegant integration of type and image. The typeface is strong and appropriate, the subtle graphic element added to the cover enriches it, and the overall composition is beautifully handled.*

Book Illustration



RMB (Rocky Mountain Books) (Calgary)—*The Will of the Land* by Peter A. Dettling, illustrated by Peter A. Dettling

Jury comments: *These are excellent, skillfully-done wildlife photographs. The images are well-placed throughout the book, with good rhythm and pacing to the overall unfolding of the visual narrative. The scale of the images in the layout is varied and lively, while the relationship between text and image is appropriate and well-resolved. The photos themselves are marked by care and patience, and by an eye for nature, land and light.*

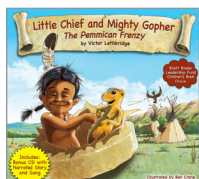
Book Design



University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*Rudy Wiebe: Collected Stories, 1955-2010* by Rudy Wiebe, book design by Alan Brownoff

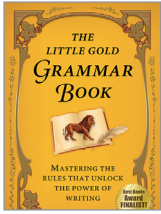
Jury comments: *This book is marked by a strong, appropriate cover and a well-resolved, thoughtfully designed interior—both work together well to provide an appealing home for the text. The designer made good use of subtle and effective typographic contrasts throughout. Chapter openers are nicely composed and balanced; folios and running heads are carefully sized and placed; section-dividing pages are elegant. The subtle graphic elements used add visual interest without detracting from the overall harmony of the layout. The typefaces selected are an appropriate match for the subject matter, and the text is well-composed, carefully set, and very readable.*

Children's & Young Adult Book Award



Tatanka Productions (Rolling Hills)—*Little Chief and Mighty Gopher: The Pemmican Frenzy* by Victor Lethbridge

Jury comments: *We found this a warm, funny and mischievous book that is sold by the illustrations and layout. It's easy to imagine young readers having fun discovering everything in every spread. Easy, too, to picture Little Chief as the hero of his own series. Lethbridge is planning for the long run. It should be fun.*



Educational Book Award

Maven Publishing (Calgary)—*The Little Gold Grammar Book* by Brandon Royal

Jury comments: *Little Gold Grammar Book* represents an impressive effort and commitment in today's publishing context. It also happens to be well-written, well-edited, and useful. Grammar usage books abound, so a new one to the genre should be special. The excellent layout makes the book easy to use and understand. Chapter 3, "Word Gremlins," is worth the price of the book.

Scholarly & Academic Book Award



The University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*The Beginning of Print Culture in Athabasca Country* by Patricia Demers, Naomi McIlwraith and Dorothy Thunder, Translators

Jury comments: *The judges felt this book was an important undertaking. The volume opens up history in an accessible yet rigorous way. Given the highly specialized content, the publisher took a risk to ensure that the material was well presented; the choice to use print (rather than digital publication) demonstrates a commitment to high-quality scholarship and dissemination. The physical book was thoughtfully produced: the various texts are clear and cleanly presented, and the translation and transliterations will help readers appreciate the subject and context of Alberta's early print culture. This is an all-around excellent book, worthy of this award.*



Trade Fiction Book Award

University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)—*Rudy Wiebe: Collected Stories, 1955-2010* by Rudy Wiebe

Jury comments: *The Jury felt that the authors short fiction is deeply bound within the Alberta landscape, its history, and in the mentality of its peoples. An innovator with his focus on telling Alberta stories, by example and encouragement, the author has midwived natural-born Alberta storytelling to new generations of writers. His fiction plays out the larger events of history and the smaller events of personality in a dynamic of colliding cultural forces. He reminds us that the stories a family or a community tells itself are the very stories that create identity. This keystone collection of this authors short stories will stand for years to come.*

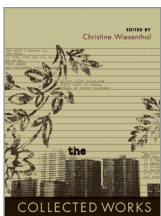
Trade Non-Fiction Book Award



Freehand Books (imprint of Broadview Press) (Calgary)—*Bitter Medicine: A Graphic Memoir of Mental Illness* by Clem Martini and Olivier Martini

Jury comments: *In Bitter Medicine Clem and Olivier Martini have used their talents as author and illustrator to expose their own family's crisis. In this powerfully and imaginatively told memoir, a close knit family adapts as their brother Liv's mental illness becomes apparent even as they struggle with the mental health care system. The message is clear, concise and compassionate. The intensely personal illustrations enhance the words in describing this painful life situation.*

Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence



NeWest Press (Edmonton)—*The Collected Works of Pat Lowther* by Pat Lowther, edited by Christine Wiesenthal

Jury comments: *The judges lauded Wiesenthal's editorial contribution in turning an incomplete archive of material into the collected works of poetry. She had to reconcile many conflicting details in chronology, stanza breaks and punctuation, and ensure that these revised details carried over accurately into print. Wiesenthal handled this complex, detail-oriented job with confidence.*



Poetry Book Award

NeWest Press (Edmonton)—*The Collected Works of Pat Lowther* by Pat Lowther

Jury comments: *The Collected Works of Pat Lowther*, edited by Christine Wiesenenthal, is a book of national interest, affirming and restoring the importance of Pat Lowther's work. The book is well-edited and beautifully designed, and the whole package is a tribute to Pat Lowther and her poetry. The jurors were pleased with the overall quality of all the books submitted. They wish to congratulate each of the publishers for the quality of the poetry, design, and promotion of these books, as well as for their commitment to publishing poets whose voices should be heard.

Publisher of the Year

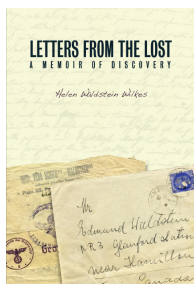
University of Alberta Press (Edmonton)



Jury comments: This publisher's 2010 list displays its commitment to -- and achievement in -- every area considered by this award: editorial, design, production, promotion, marketing, sales, service to clients, and service to the community. This press tackled an ambitious and courageous catalogue, ranging from fiction from the Canadian canon and original poetry, through literary criticism, to cultural theory and history, and language learning, and even sport -- with its compass always pointing west, with its nets always cast for a broad readership, and with spectacular results.

2011 Alberta Readers' Choice Award

Helen Waldstein Wilkes - *Letters From The Lost: A Memoir of Discovery*
Published by AU Press (Athabasca University)



Champion Comments: This is a very moving story about the holocaust, immigration to Canada, denial, survival and guilt. Helen Wilkes fled Czechoslovakia with her parents in 1939 at the age of two. At the age of sixty, she finally opened her father's red Eaton's box full of letters from family in Europe. She discovered a family she never knew, never talked about, and a history of daily life under the Nazis. Translating the letters was not enough, so she embarked on a journey back to Europe to piece together the family history and learn about her grandparents, her aunties, uncles and cousins, and what happened to each of them. It is a rather unique approach to the telling of a holocaust story.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of:

