

# authors

Harbourfront

International Festival of Authors

For immediate release

## HELEN HUMPHREYS NAMED WINNER OF \$10,000 HARBOURFRONT FESTIVAL PRIZE

**TORONTO, September 23, 2009** --- The International Festival of Authors (IFOA) announced at a luncheon today that **Helen Humphreys** has been named the winner of this year's Harbourfront Festival Prize.

Inaugurated in 1984 to honour individuals who have made a substantial contribution to the world of books and writing, both through their published works and their investment in the writing skills of others, the Harbourfront Festival Prize was reinvented in 2003 as a cash award of \$10,000. The prize is presented on the closing night of IFOA (Oct. 31) in Harbourfront Centre's Fleck Dance Theatre, followed by readings by the 2009 Scotiabank Giller Prize nominees. The Prize jury this year comprised Geoffrey E. Taylor, Director, Authors at Harbourfront Centre; Ben McNally, of Ben McNally Books; and Mark Medley, Arts Reporter, *National Post*. Previous Prize recipients include Wayson Choy, Christopher Dewdney, Paul Quarrington, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Dionne Brand and Jane Urquhart.

**"Helen has worked across genres – as the author of poetry, novels, non-fiction and plays – and immersed herself deep in the Canadian writing community – most recently as Writer in Residence at Queens University,"** says Geoffrey Taylor, Director, International Festival of Authors. **"We are delighted to honour her many achievements with this award."**

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary International Festival of Authors (IFOA XXX) features more than 130 authors from 15 countries, participating in over 70 events as part of the largest literary festival in North America. The festival runs October 21–31, 2009.

For more information about the Harbourfront Festival Prize and IFOA, and to purchase tickets to this and other IFOA events, the public may call the **Harbourfront Centre Box Office** at **416-973-4000**, or purchase online at [www.readings.org](http://www.readings.org)

-30-

### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

Print: Becky Toyne, [btoyne@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:btoyne@harbourfrontcentre.com); 416-973-5836

Lindsay Gulin, [lgulin@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:lgulin@harbourfrontcentre.com), 416-973-4395

Broadcast: Althea Linton, [alinton@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:alinton@harbourfrontcentre.com), 416-973-4428

General: [IFOAmedia@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:IFOAmedia@harbourfrontcentre.com)

The annual International Festival of Authors (IFOA) (October 21–31, 2009) – including YoungIFOA (October 27, 29 & 30, 2009) and IFOA Ontario (October 24 – November 3, 2009) – is part of the annual season programmed by Authors at Harbourfront Centre (AUTHORS). Since its inception in 1974, AUTHORS has hosted over 5,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 16 Nobel Laureates. Its season runs from September to June and, in addition to a weekly reading series, includes the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 2010).