

authors at

○ Harbourfront Centre

International Festival of Authors



THE WRITERS' TRUST OF CANADA

For immediate release

**PAUL QUARRINGTON NAMED RECIPIENT OF WRITERS' TRUST OF CANADA
MATT COHEN AWARD**

Presentation to be made at IFOA event in honour of Quarrington's life and work

TORONTO, October 19, 2009 ----- The Writers' Trust of Canada has named **Paul Quarrington** the ninth recipient of the **Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life**. The award will be presented to Quarrington on Saturday, October 24 as part of the 30th anniversary International Festival of Authors (IFOA: Oct. 21–31, 2009).

The presentation of the Matt Cohen Award will be made by Patsy Aldana, following an introduction by Margaret Atwood, as part of **Paul Quarrington: A Life in Music, Words, and on Screen**, Saturday, October 24, 3pm, Harbourfront Centre. This licensed IFOA event includes readings and tributes from authors including Atwood, **Roddy Doyle** and **Alistair MacLeod**; from Quarrington's film industry peers, including **Paul Gross**, who flies in from the set of *Eastwick* to deliver an onstage tribute; and live music from the **PorkBelly Futures**, the Quarrington Trio, and a reunion of the **Rheostatics**. **Dave Bidini** hosts.

For information and to purchase tickets the public may visit www.readings.org or Call the Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416-973-4000. Tickets are \$15/\$12 members/FREE students with ID (subject to availability).

About the Matt Cohen Award:

Valued at \$20,000, the Matt Cohen Award is presented to a Canadian writer whose life has been dedicated to writing as a primary pursuit, in honour of a body of distinguished work in poetry or prose, in English or French. This year's prize is made possible by a number of generous donors; a committee composed of Patsy Aldana, Graeme Gibson, and Wayne Grady selected the recipient.

Established in 2001 by the Writers' Trust of Canada and a group of anonymous donors, this award is named in memory of Matt Cohen, winner of the Governor General's Award for Fiction (*Elizabeth and After*, 1999) and a founding member of the Writers' Union of Canada. Past recipients include Mavis Gallant, Norman Levine, and Marie-Claire Blais.

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About the Writers' Trust

The Writers' Trust of Canada is a charitable organization that supports Canadian writers and writing through various programmes, including literary awards, financial grants, workshops, scholarships, and a writers' retreat. For more information visit writerstrust.com.

About IFOA

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). For more information visit readings.org.

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