

Festival offers a chance for writers to mingle



Ed Riche (above, right), winner of the 2005 Winterset Award, will be on a panel along with writers Ramona Dearing, Joel Hynes and Wayne Johnston at this year's Winterset in Summer Literary Festival in Eastport. The panel will be hosted by CBC Radio's Michael Enright (above, left).

BY JEAN EDWARDS STACEY
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Book lovers get ready. The fourth annual Winterset in Summer Literary Festival is taking place Aug. 12-14 at the Beaches Heritage Centre in Eastport.

The organizing committee — headed by Edythe Goodridge, a founding member of the festival — urges people to come for an evening or for the whole weekend.

Bert Riggs, head archivist at Memorial's Centre for Newfoundland and Labrador Studies (CNS), has been going to the festival since its inception. He's been on the organizing committee since the festival's second year, and this year he will mark his debut as a host.

"The festival is a celebration of Newfoundland and Labrador writing and it gives people an opportunity to talk to new and celebrated writers. It also gives people in rural Newfoundland a chance to attend book launches they might not otherwise be able to get to," he says.

During the festival, writers from this province and across Canada will participate in a program of readings and discussions with audiences from near and far.

Special features include the launch of Joanne Soper-Cook's book, *A Cold Blood-*

ed Scoundrel, at the Royal Canadian Legion in Eastport on Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

Michael Crummey's latest novel, *The Wreckage*, will be launched at the Legion 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

As well, there will be a book fair, readings by professional actors, an exhibit from the CNS, and an exhibition of work by artists from the Road to the Beaches area.

"And this year," said Goodridge, who is a former director of the Memorial University Art Gallery, "we have a very, very exciting children's program with writers Carmelita McGrath, Susan Chalker Brown and Alison Baird, who is Bernice Morgan's niece."

On Friday, the New Voices panel will feature writers Beth Ryan (What is Invisible), Mark Callanan (Scarecrow) and Nicholas Wilkshire (Sleeper), discussing the publication of their first book with host Bert Riggs.

The same day, a panel dubbed Distant Voices will see authors Jane Urquhart (*A Map of Glass*), Patrick Kavanagh (*Gaff Topsails*) and Charlotte Gray (*The Museum Called Canada*) share the stage with CBC-Radio host Michael Enright.

On Saturday, the Young Voices panel will allow Chalker Browne (*Goodness Gracious*, *Gulliver Mulligan*), McGrath

(*The Boston Box*) and Baird (*Willowmere Chronicles: A Trilogy*) to interact with young residents and visitors. The winner of the student writing award will also be announced.

Mina Hubbard's Labrador is a session in which co-authors Anne Hart, Roberta Buchanan and Bryan Greene will introduce their new book, *Mina Hubbard: The Woman Who Mapped Labrador*. Host is Anne Buddell of CBC Radio.

Winterset Voices is a panel consisting of Winterset Award winners and finalists, including 2005 award winner Ed Riche (*The Nine Planets*) and finalists Ramona Dearing (*So Beautiful*) and Joel Hynes (*Down to the Dirt*), as well as Wayne Johnston, a 2003 finalist for *The Navigator* of New York. Host is Michael Enright of CBC Radio.

On Sunday, St. John's-based theatre company Artistic Fraud will put off dramatic readings from Michael Crummey's book of poems, *Salvage*, in the community of *Salvage*.

The festival will wind up with a soup supper and dance in *Salvage*.

To book tickets for the festival, call 677-2360.

The Winterset Award is an entirely different entity than the annual festival. It was established in 2000 by Richard Gwyn

to commemorate his late wife, Sandra Fraser Gwyn, a native of St. John's — and cousin of Goodridge — who was a summer resident of Eastport and a strong promoter of the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador. She was also a journalist and social historian and is likely best known for her books, *The Private Capital* and *Tapestry of War*.

The name Winterset was taken from the house on Winter Avenue in St. John's where she grew up.

The award ceremony takes place at Government House in St. John's in March. The winning author receives a prize of \$5,000 and a commemorative plaque. Finalists receive prizes of \$1,000 each. The winner and finalists are selected by a jury of three, comprised of a previous Winterset winner and a guest juror living outside the province and with a specialized knowledge of Newfoundland.

The award is managed by Richard Gwyn and administered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council.

Previous winners of the Winterset Award include Michael Winter in 2001 (*This All Happened*), Michael Crummey 2002 (*River Thieves*), Joan Clark 2003 (*The Word for Home*) and Robert Mellin 2004 (*Tilting*).

jes@thetelegram.com