

LITERATURE

# Andy Jones wins BMO Winterset Award

*Greg Malone and Russell Wangersky also finalists*

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The 2012 BMO Winterset Award for excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing was presented at Government House on Thursday afternoon. Winner Andy Jones (centre) ("Jack & Mary in the Land of Thieves") garnered the \$10,000 first prize while other finalists Greg Malone (left) ("Don't Tell the Newfoundlanders") and Russell Wangersky ("Whirl Away") will each receive \$2,500. — Photo by Joe Gibbons/The Telegram

Newfoundlanders," is the result of years of research into the story behind Newfoundland and Labrador joining Canada.

Wangersky and Malone will each receive \$2,500 as finalists.

Jones has become known for his written tales for children, including "The Queen of Paradise's Garden," which was shortlisted for the 2010 Bruneau Family Children's/Young Adult Literature Award, as well as "Jack and the Manger," which won the Bruneau award last year. Jones is an actor, comedian and director as well as a writer.

The BMO Winterset Award, Atlantic Canada's most lucrative literary prize, honours the memory of Sandra Fraser Gwyn, a St.-John's-born author and social historian. It was established in 2000 by her husband, journalist and author Richard Gwyn, and named after the home in which she grew up.

This year, 31 books by Newfoundland and Labrador writers (either native or resident) were submitted for the BMO Winterset Award, by publishers from across the country. Books in any genre, published in 2012, were eligible.

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They've been friends since they were children, and, thanks to CODCO, their names have been inked professionally since the 1970s.

On Thursday, Andy Jones and Greg Malone found themselves vying against each other for the \$10,000 BMO Winterset Award.

Jones won the award for his book "Jack and Mary in the Land of Thieves," and thanked Malone and fellow finalist Russell Wangersky in his acceptance speech, calling them both "master storytellers."

"Of course, I have a very personal relationship with Greg Malone," he said, through tears.

"He is also the person who — and I've never told him this — but certainly in the early days of us working together, he encouraged me constantly to write stories like that. I wouldn't have done anything if he hadn't done that, so I always want to thank Greg."

The three shortlisted books couldn't be further apart in genre, but closer together in their power of language and impact of the stories told, Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council chairman Tom Gordon said at the award ceremony at Government House Thursday, newly

appointed Lt.-Gov. Frank Fagan's first official event.

"Jack and Mary in the Land of Thieves" is a children's book, told in the cadence of a recitation, while

Wangersky's "Whirl Away," which was shortlisted for the Giller Prize, is a collection of short stories about what happens when people's coping skills go awry.

Wangersky, an editor and columnist with The Telegram, won the BMO Winterset Award in 2010 for his novel, "The Glass Harmonica."

Malone's book, "Don't Tell the