



Winters set in Summer



For
Michael Enright
Tributes



*WinterNet in Summer
Literary Festival
Eastport, Newfoundland*





Michael,

the year 2000 you surprised me by phoning and saying you had it in mind to learn something about the small, distant Province of Newfoundland. Knowing your taste for the un-ordinary I suggested *Eastport*, near to the Island's center and with a lively history.

You came with Karen and Gabriel. Promptly the three of you fell in love with the community of *Salvage*, unquestionably the most beautiful in the entire Island and the place where you always stayed. As well, you seemed delighted by almost everyone you met. At this point the rest of us began to wake up. Our goal was to assemble an annual literary festival. Suddenly there emerged a CBC star, ready, indeed eager, to help us bring attention to our event.



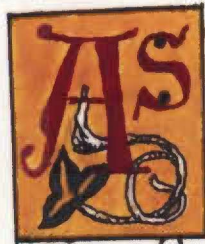
FROM BITS and PIECES a Literary Festival began to be assembled. It was clear it would be a long time before the CBC would send Enright back to Newfoundland. He, though, could go there during his holidays. You drew attention to Newfoundland writers by interviewing the three finalists of the *Winterset Literary Award*. This threesome is always a sizeable attraction but a national interviewer stirred these local stars to their limits.



This, the 17th Festival will be the last one that You and Karen will participate in, at least on the formal basis. The gift you both brought us we will always admire and always remember.

Richard Gwyn

Jo



a nominee for the first
Winterset Award I participated
in the inaugural
Winterset in Summer Festival,
which is where I first met Michael.
Since then, he has been the Festival's flagship
persona and I will miss his presence on stage
along with the enthusiasm and honesty he brings
to the event each year.
All the best wishes, Michael

Jo Libby Creelman (2002)



How to put this? Being interviewed
by Mr. Enright makes me want to
ride a helmet without a bike on.
Thanks, Mr. Enright, for that
certain je ne sais quoi.
Winter won't be set without you.

Michael Crumney (2002, 2010,
2014, 2015)



Vividly remember
Michael Enright's gracious goodhumour
and wonderful erudition. A champion
host at a magical Festival!
Very best wishes Michael for all
future endeavours.

Carol Bruneau (2004)





It takes a really good journalist to turn an interview into an informative, revealing and interesting conversation. But it takes a cut above really good - i.e. Michael Enright - to do the same with a panel.

David MacFarlane (2006)



Michael: gentle and emphatic enough to know the questions that touch the rawest nerves; curious and professional enough to go ahead and ask them anyway.

Russell Wangersty (2007-2011)



Michael Enright: witty, perceptive; quick to skewer pomposity or vice; possessed of a richly textured radio voice, I met this companion of my Sunday morning on the steps of the *Winterset* venue in 2004. I was tongue-tied and gauche... but we continue our mornings in *Radioland* where his program is an oasis in an increasingly arid desert.

• Mary Dalton (2004)



Best wishes, Michael. Hope you come back to the Rock.

• Wayne Johnston (2004, 2005, 2018)




Winterset panelists generally behave as if being interviewed by Michael Enright is a normal occurrence. I acted that way but, in my heart, it remains a memorable and extraordinary experience.

• Paul Ross (2017)



Figure adapted from Thomas Bewick (English, 1753-1828) c.1790's

How fitting that a
bookish man
of Irish descent
should quit the rarefied air of the Broadcast Centre
and come to an Isle of like minds
where he is made king
of a Festival
that blows fresh air west
and celebrates new pages of creativity. 
Marie Wadden (2009)





Michael has a way of making an interview feel simultaneously relaxed and charged up. I loved being interviewed by him, because I felt that even though the conversation was intimate, everyone was included, everyone beyond the footlights, as well as everyone onstage. Michael is generous and intellectually engaging and funny all at the same time. He had my back. As much as I enjoyed our onstage discussions, cherish them, in fact, I would have to say my favourite Michael Enright interview was one with Jessica Grant, 2010, the year she won the prize. It was one of the best onstage interviews I've ever heard - a spilling-out of wit and charm and wisdom and out-right hilarity and surprise at every turn, a duet of clear, bright, beautiful thinking and feeling and joy about literature.

Lisa Moore (2004, 2010, 2011, 2014)





Michael, thank you for the excellent questions and the insight you brought to our discussion on the *Winterset* stage. You will be missed.

• Sara Tilley (2009, 2016)

It was lovely to meet the source of the keen, compassionate voice of inquiry that graces my radio every Sunday. Thanks for all you do.

• Mark Callanan (2012)



I've been a Michael Enright fan as long as I care to remember. Every year when CBC announces their up-coming season, I fear Michael's *Sunday Edition* will be cancelled and then what would I do with my Sunday morning, not being a church-goer that is. I first saw Michael in person at *Winterset*; he stepped out on the stage with his commanding presence and familiar voice and said: "Good evening I'm Michael Enright. Toronto is where I reside but Newfoundland is where I live".

I admired him even more then.

• Barbara Doran (2003)



Michael Enright as Doggerel Verse
(Apologies to Edward Lear)

How fine to have known Mr. Enright
Who's palavered such barrels of words!
Though some find him clever and all-bright,
He can wander the Fields of Absurd.

As a host, he was often the nicest,
And he tried not to snigger and scoff;
As a friend he was there in a crisis,
As a horseman, he seldom fell off.

So as all of our clocks approach midnight,
Or maybe a quarter to ten,
We smile at our blessings in hind sight—
Oh, how fine to have known Mr. En!
—your friend Margaret A.
at the Festival 2010



Afterword

"The home of the Winterset in Summer Literary Festival is the Eastport Peninsula and for nearly two decades it has been your home and neither the Festival nor the Peninsula will be the same without you."



Salvage House
All Festival organizers and volunteers, past and present, truly appreciate how you have helped shape the Festival to be the magical event it has become."

Thank you, Michael

