



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Poetry Month spreads the word in uncommon ways

(Toronto) — This April, The League of Canadian Poets (www.poets.ca) will present its first-ever baker's dozen, a list of 13 must-read Canadian poetry books made available to booksellers across the country as a guide to readers exploring Canadian poetry.

"The baker's dozen is meant as a starting place from which we can promote Canadian poets and their poetry," commented Edita Page, Executive Director of the League of Canadian Poets. "It's important to the League to communicate the richness and depth of poetic talent in this country. We're the envy of much of the literary world."

The English list, as well as an equivalent list of French-language titles, is featured on National Poetry Month posters distributed across the country. Each book is currently in print and will be available for sale in April 2004. The public will be encouraged to comment on the list and to talk about their favourite Canadian titles by visiting a special message board on the League's web site at www.poets.ca.

In alphabetical order, the English titles and authors are as follows:

- Margaret Avison, *Always Now*, Porcupine's Quill, 2003
- Christian Bök, *Crystallography*, Coach House Books, 2003
- Dionne Brand, *Land to Light On*, McClelland & Stewart, 1997
- George Elliott Clarke, *Execution Poems*, Gaspereau Press, 2000
- Gerry Gilbert, *Moby Jane*, Coach House Books, 2004
- Rita Joe, *We are the Dreamers*, Breton Books, 1999
- Irving Layton, *A Wild, Peculiar Joy: Selected Poems, 1945-89*, McClelland and Stewart, 2004
- Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*, Key Porter, 2001
- Gwendolyn MacEwen, *The T. E. Lawrence Poems*, Mosaic Press, 2001
- A.F. Moritz, *Early Poems*, Insomniac Press, 2002
- bp Nichol, *The Martyrology*, Coach House Books, 2000
- P.K. Page, *Planet Earth*, Porcupine's Quill, 2002
- Al Purdy, *Rooms for Rent in the Outer Planets, Selected Poems 1962-1996*, Harbour Publishing, 1996

The National Poetry Month Committee members are John Degen, poet; Beatriz Hausner, librarian, poet, and translator; Ann Jansen, producer, CBC Radio's *Between the Covers*; Judy Mappin, owner, Double Hook Bookshop; Jay Millar, poet, Assistant Editor, Coach House Books; Laura Repas, publicist, House of Anansi Press; Julie Wright, hawkestone communications; Silas White, Managing Editor, Nightwood Editions.

MORE

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH IN CANADA. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS

Poets across the country will celebrate National Poetry Month's 2004 theme, *Poets in our Communities*, by reading in some unusual, community-inspired venues. For a list of coast-to-coast readings, visit www.poets.ca or check local newspaper and magazine listings for details.

National Poetry Month activities will also include Young Poets' week (**April 12-18**), the announcement of this year's "Poetic Licence" contest winners on **April 13th**, and the announcement of the Lowther and Lampert Awards shortlists on **April 15th** at a special event hosted by The League of Canadian Poets in Toronto.

BACKGROUND:

The League of Canadian Poets, established in 1966, is a charitable national arts service organization with a membership of approximately 600 professional Canadian Poets. The League aspires to develop the art of poetry; to enhance the status of poets and nurture a professional poetic community; to facilitate the teaching of Canadian poetry at all levels of education; to enlarge the audience for poetry by encouraging publication, performance and recognition of Canadian poetry nationally and internationally; and to uphold freedom of expression. Visit www.poets.ca on the Web.

The 'must-read' list of French-language titles is available upon request.

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