

## RAYMOND SOUSTER AWARD

Open only to League members, the Raymond Souster Award was started in 2013 to honour Raymond Souster, an early founder of the League of Canadian Poets. The award is presented annually for a book of poetry published in the preceding year.

**2016 JURORS: JENNA BUTLER, WENDY MORTON, CHARLES MOUNTFORD**

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### 2016 SHORTLIST

*The Wrong Cat* by Lorna Crozier (McClelland & Stewart)

*The Pemmican Eaters* by Marilyn Dumont (ECW Press)

*The Poison Colour* by Maureen Hynes (Pedlar Press)

*Standard Candles* by Alice Major (University of Alberta Press)

*The Arrow of Time* by Bruce Meyer (Ronsdale Press)

*The Thunderbird Poems* by Armand Garnet Ruffo (Harbour Publishing)

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### JUDGES' COMMENTS



#### ***The Wrong Cat* by Lorna Crozier**

These are superbly realized lyrical poems. They are sophisticated and technically graceful. The book is “sly, sexy, irreverent and sad” with, always, a serious river of emotion running beneath it.

**Lorna Crozier** is the award-winning author of fifteen previous books of poetry, including *Small Mechanics*, *The Blue Hour of the Day: Selected Poems*, and *Whetstone*. She is also the author of *The Book of Marvels: A Compendium of Everyday Things* and the memoir *Small Beneath the Sky*. She is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Victoria and an Officer of the Order of Canada, and she has received three honorary doctorates for her contributions to Canadian Literature. Born in Swift Current, she now lives in British Columbia.

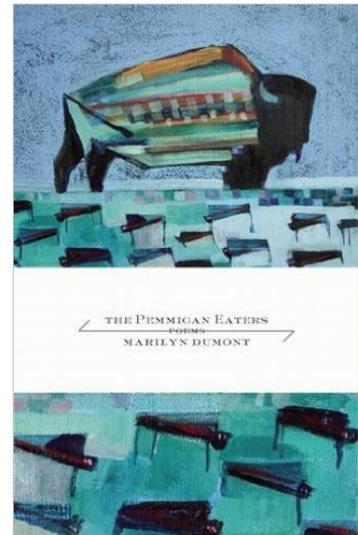
### ***The Pemmican Eaters* by Marilyn Dumont**

Marilyn Dumont uses her fine language to write of Metis history, her history and of her relative Gabriel Dumont. These are poems that soar with history, with pain, with hope.

The buffalo gone, the Metis forced to live a marginal life, she writes:

“there were no quarter sections  
for the miserable half-breeds,  
the pemmican eaters.”

**Marilyn Dumont’s** first book, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, won the 1997 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. This collection is now a Brick Books Classic and in French translation from Les editions Hannenorak Press. Her second collection, *green girl dreams Mountains*, won the 2001 Stephan G. Stephansson Award from the Writer’s Guild of Alberta. Her third collection, *that tongued belonging*, won the 2007 McNally Robinson Aboriginal Poetry and Aboriginal Book of the Year. *The Pemmican Eaters* was published by ECW Press, 2015. Marilyn has been the Writer-in-Residence at the Edmonton Public Library, the Universities of Alberta, Brandon, Grant MacEwan, Toronto-Massey College, and Windsor. She has been faculty at the Banff Centre - Writing with Style and Wired Writing and advised and mentored in the Aboriginal Emerging Writers’ Program.



### ***The Poison Colour* by Maureen Hynes**

In the title poem of this excellent collection, Maureen Hynes writes:

“In the Knit-o-matic store  
a skein of Japanese wool; the saleswoman  
shows me a knitted-up square—  
Mexican tapestries, wild sunsets  
in the south of France, mustard fields  
ripening into full bloom—

her finger on a brown strand, says  
*They put a poison colour on each batch*”

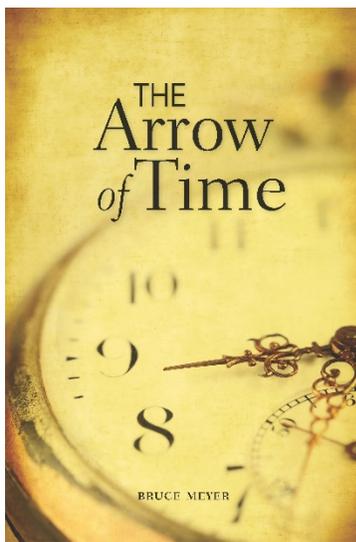
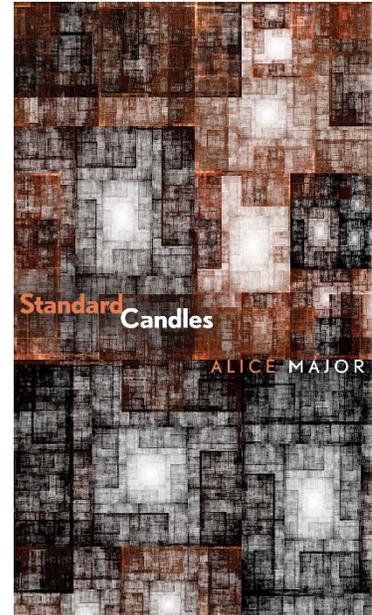
And so we find in these lyrical poems beauty and poison and pain.

**Maureen Hynes’s** first book of poetry, *Rough Skin* (Wolsak and Wynn), won the League of Canadian Poets’ Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. Subsequent collections include *Harm’s Way* (Brick Books), *Marrow*, *Willow*, and *The Poison Colour* (both from Pedlar Press). Maureen is a past winner of the Petra Kenney Poetry Prize (London, England). Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and in over 20 anthologies. Her work was included in *Best Canadian Poems 2010* and longlisted for that anthology in 2011. She has been Writer-in-Residence at the University of Prince Edward Island and a judge for several national poetry contests and awards. She has co-edited poetry anthologies and is poetry editor for *Our Times* magazine. Maureen teaches in the University of Toronto’s Creative Writing program in the School of Continuing Studies. Recently, with several Toronto poets, she has become involved in River Poetry Walks, focusing on Toronto’s rivers and buried creeks. [www.maureenhynes.com](http://www.maureenhynes.com)

### ***Standard Candles* by Alice Major**

From the personal to the mathematics of the universe, *Standard Candles* takes on big questions: how we place ourselves in the cosmos and how we measure the markers of a life. Veteran poet Alice Major once again turns all the tools at her disposal, scientific and poetic, to contemplations of our place in the vast scale of things. Major is well known for her exploration of the connections between of science and art, visible in earlier works such as *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*. In *Standard Candles*, she brings her poetic eye to bear on these same questions of belonging. At times playful, at others sharply philosophical, this collection showcases the work of a multitalented interdisciplinary poet.

*Standard Candles* is **Alice Major's** tenth poetry collection. She has been using science – from geology to embryology – as one of her favourite source of images, ideas and understanding throughout a distinguished poetic career. Her books also include the essay collection, *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*. Her work has been recognized by prizes such as the Pat Lowther Award and a National Magazine Award gold medal. She has published and presented her work across Canada, as well as in the U.K., Australia and the US. Alice served as Edmonton's first poet laureate, and during that term she founded the Edmonton Poetry Festival. She has been a committed volunteer on behalf of writers, as president of the League of Canadian Poets and the Writers Guild of Alberta. In 2014 she was awarded the Guild's Golden Pen, recognizing an outstanding Alberta writer. Her website is [alicemajor.com](http://alicemajor.com)



### ***The Arrow of Time* by Bruce Meyer**

Time and change are central to this beautiful collection. Much of it is ekphrastic poetry at its best. It is a celebration of the challengers that face us in life. Meyer writes in his poem "Masterpieces":

"...I knew  
that man is as much the enemy of forever  
as time, and our best efforts stand before  
us as reminders of our brief lives."

**Bruce Meyer** is author of 47 books of poetry, short fiction, non-fiction and pedagogy. He was Poet Laureate of the City of Barrie from 2010 to 2014, and is professor of Creative Writing at Georgian College and professor of Comparative Literature at Victoria College in the University of Toronto. He lives in Barrie, Ontario.

### ***The Thunderbird Poems* by Armand Garnet Ruffo**

Following on the heels of *Norval Morriseau: Man Changing Into Thunderbird*, his revelatory biography of the painter's life and works, comes Armand Garnet Ruffo's *The Thunderbird Poems*. These terse, vivid poetic depictions of both Morriseau's art itself and the emotional context under which it was created act as written parallels to the strikingly coloured works of the painter. Part ekphrastic celebration and part biography-in-verse, *The Thunderbird Poems* are a startling cultural and sensory feast.

**Armand Garnet Ruffo** is the author of the biography *Norval Morriseau: Man Changing into Thunderbird* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2014) and three books of poetry: *Opening In The Sky* (Theytus Books, 1994), *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney* (Coteau Books, 1997) and *At Geronimo's Grave* (Coteau Books, 2001). In addition to writing an award-winning film, *A Windigo Tale* (2010), he has also edited and co-edited *(Ad)Dressing Our Words: Aboriginal Perspectives on Aboriginal Literatures* (Theytus Books, 2001) and *An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English* (Oxford University Press, 2013). He is an associate professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Queen's University and lives in Kingston, Ontario.

