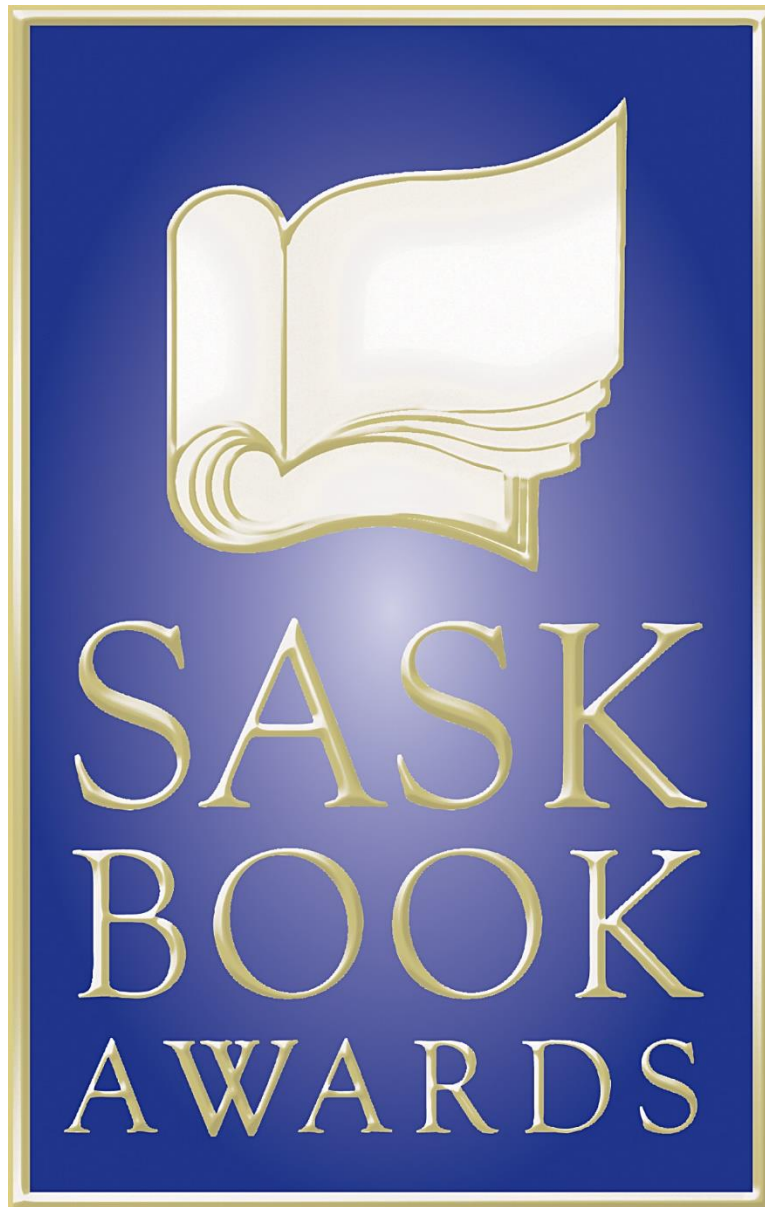


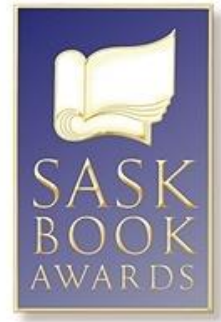
**Saskatchewan Book Awards
2019 Annual Report**



June 24, 2020

Introduction

Since 1993, the Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA) is the premier promoter and advocate of Saskatchewan's literary and publishing community. As a literary platform, the SBA is pleased to use its nationally recognized reputation in order to celebrate and publicize countrywide-calibre writers and publishers throughout Canada.



Saskatchewan writers and publishers work together symbiotically to create a cultural product that celebrates our province's literary talent. As such, it is the position of the SBA to ensure that Award winners are chosen by a jury of peers from outside of Saskatchewan in order to assure neutrality and fairness in the selection process. Ultimately, SBA is a proud facilitator in working with friends and stakeholders such as bookstores, libraries, and schools to ensure that Saskatchewan books are placed in the hands of Saskatchewan readers and throughout Canada. The SBA is about celebrating Saskatchewan authors and publishers!

2019 Saskatchewan Book Awards Recipients

The SBA offers thirteen annual and one semi-annual awards to celebrate, promote and reward Saskatchewan authors and publishers worthy of recognition. In 2019, fourteen awards were given to the following:

- **Saskatoon Public Library Indigenous Peoples' Publishing Award** – *Blackbird Song* by Randy Lundy
- **SaskBooks Publishing in Education Award** – *Dissident Knowledge in Higher Education* by Marc Spooner and James McNinch

- **Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Publishing Award** - *Antigone Undone* by Will Aitken
- **Prix du livre français** sponsored by Ann Phillips - *Peau d'ours* by Carol Rose
GoldenEagle
- **Jennifer Welsh Scholarly Writing Award** sponsored by University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan - *Prairie Fairies* by Valerie J. Korinek
- **G. Murray & Edna Forbes Young Adult Literature Award** - *Crimson* by Arthur Slade
- **City of Regina Book Award** – *Thornfield* by James Trettwer
- **Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award** – *Blackbird Song* by Randy Lundy
- **City of Saskatoon and Public Library Saskatoon Book Award** – *A Hero for the Americas*
by Robert Calder
- **First Book Award** sponsored by the Saskatchewan Book Awards - *Never Rub Noses*
With A Narwhal by Ruth Wellborn
- **Rasmussen, Rasmussen and Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award** -
Kisiskâciwan, ed. by Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber (editor)
- **Muslims for Peace and Justice Fiction Award** - *The Small Things That End the World* by
Jeanette Lynes
- **University of Saskatchewan Non-Fiction Award** - *Clifford* by Harold R. Johnson
- **Regina Public Library Book of the Year Award** – *Hummingbird* by Devin Krukoff

Chair of the Board Report
Donna Woloshyn
December 2019

I am pleased to introduce the SBA 2019 - 2020 Board of Directors:

- Donna Woloshyn (Chairperson)
- Zoé Beaulieu Prpick (Secretary)
- Brenda Niskala (Treasurer) representing SaskBooks
- Carla Flengeris, representing Saskatchewan Library Association
- Joe Couture, Member at Large
- Jack Walton, representing Saskatchewan Writers Guild
- Pamela Snider - resigned September 2020
- Shelley Svedahl – added October 2019

SBA had one board vacancy in SBA's 2019-20 term.

In June 2019, Courtney Bates Hardy tendered her resignation after 4.5 years working as SBA's Executive Director. In my role as SBA's Chairperson, I found it a pleasure to work with Courtney, an exemplary employee who was professional, diligent and worked collegially with our partners through a wide range of activities to promote and recognize excellence in Saskatchewan's literary and publishing community.

From July to October 2019, I filled in as SBA's acting Executive Director and Chairperson of the SBA Board of Directors to facilitate the continuing work of the SBA until we were able to hire a new Executive Director in October 2019. Over the summer, while my primary focus centred on conducting an Executive Director candidate search and working with a Hiring Committee to fill the vacancy, I also represented SBA at community events, applied for grants and sponsorships, oversaw the 2019 SBA Call For Submissions, solicited jurors for 13 award categories for 2020 Awards, and undertook administrative responsibilities (payments and invoices, correspondence, social media posting, etc.). Stepping into this role was a huge learning curve for me but Courtney readily assisted with my transition as new challenges arose in the administration of daily activities.

In October 2019 I was pleased to welcome a new staff person, Kam Teo who enthusiastically accepted the position as SBA's new Executive Director. Kam, who was previously employed with RCMP Learning Resource Centre, and prior to that, Branch Librarian at Weyburn Public Library, has two Master's degrees, is a writer and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the library and literary world.

2019 Successes:

- Received ACCESS Grant (\$6000) to hire an Event Planner Assistant for 4 months to assist Courtney with the planning and organization of the 26th Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony.
- Worked with SBA Criteria Committee to revise 2019 Call for Submissions.
- Secured the newly appointed (2019) Lieutenant Governor, Russ Mirasty, as Honourary Patron of the Saskatchewan Book Awards.
- Funding opportunities have opened up; secured the following sponsorship and grants from:
 - Ministry of Culture, Parks and Sport's sponsorship (\$5,000) of the SBA First Book Award
 - G. Murry and Edna Forbes Foundation (South Saskatchewan Community Development Foundation) sponsorship (\$5,000) for SBA Young Adult Fiction
 - Creative Saskatchewan's sponsorship (\$5,000) of the SBA Publishing Award
 - Secured \$2,000 contribution from ArtsVest, pending requirements met
- Hired and provided orientation for SBA's new Executive Director (26 applications reviewed) in October 2019.
- Since 1993, SBA has awarded over 300 book prizes totaling over \$600,000 to Saskatchewan authors and publishers – a significant accomplishment that has contributed to support Saskatchewan's literary community and reading public.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Funding for operations continues to be an issue. In 2019, SBA applied for grants from the Saskatchewan Arts Board (operational funding) and the Canada Council (author reading) but did not receive approval, thereby creating

fiscal challenges to maintain a full-time staff position and to offer a full program of events, including the annual SBA gala as it currently exists.

- In June 2019, Courtney, Brenda Niskala and I met with founding partners, Saskatchewan Writers Guild, SaskBooks and the Saskatchewan Library Association to discuss future options on the SBA structure and activities. Options were discussed but not fully pursued due to interruption of SBA activities affected by transition challenges created by the Executive Director vacancy over the summer of 2019. Two positive outcomes include:
 - The Saskatchewan Writers Guild provided a \$3500 contribution to SBA to assist with the 2020 Saskatchewan Book Awards celebration;
 - By assuming Executive Director responsibilities from July to October 2019, SBA saved \$9,000 in Executive Director salary, thereby helping to improve SBA's bottom line.
- SBA's 2019 Budget as of December 31, 2019 included revenue of \$135,575 and Expenditures of \$136,110 with a net deficit of \$344. Thank you to our accountant, Toni Weber, for assisting with tight financial control and supports to the Board's Financial Committee. This was a relatively positive budget outcome given fiscal challenges in 2019. SBA will continue to seek new funding opportunities in 2020.
- The SBA's current Strategic Plan is due to expire in 2021 but will be reviewed in 2020 to accommodate ongoing and potential future changes. Of particular interest is the development of a social media strategy to promote SBA more widely.
- Work with the SBA Governance Committee to update the SBA Policy and Procedures Manual began in 2018 but was not completed. In 2020, I plan to work with the SBA's Governance Committee will review current policies adopted by the Board and incorporate procedural changes to increase SBA operational effectiveness.

**Saskatchewan Book Awards
Report of the Executive Director
Kam Teo
December 2019**

The year 2019 has been one of change for the Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA). After a five-year tenure, Courtney Bates-Hardy resigned as SBA's Executive Director in July to take a position with the Regina Public Library. I was hired in October. I am mindful that I have big shoes to fill. Board Chair, Donna Woloshyn, stepped into the position voluntarily from July 15, 2020 until my arrival on October 7, 2020. I owe her a great debt, both for stepping in as well as training me.

2019 Book Submissions Adjudicated

In 2018 the SBA received 168 submissions (80 titles) for 14 awards (including the Prix du livre français awarded every second year) given out at the 26th Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2019.

The 2019 shortlist was announced concurrently on February 14, 2019 in Saskatoon and Regina Public Libraries, hosted by writers-in-residence Elizabeth Philips and Judith Silverthorne, respectively. The shortlist announcement was followed by a series of readings that promoted the shortlisted authors and publishers, along with winners from the 2019 Awards Ceremony.

2019 Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony – April 28, 2019

The 26th Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony was celebrated at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina in front of over 300 authors, publishers, dignitaries, and other bibliophiles from throughout Saskatchewan. Guests included the new Deputy Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Twyla MacDougall; Regina Deputy Mayor John Findura; and Saskatchewan's Poet Laureate Bruce Rice, and Youth Poet Laureate, Alasdair Rees. The 2019 Awards Ceremony was hosted by the Regina Symphony Orchestra Maestro Emeritus, Victor Sawa.

Once again, Access 7 in Regina recorded the Awards Ceremony and broadcast it at a later date. The recording was shared with Shaw TV in Saskatoon so viewers all over Saskatchewan could see authors and publishers being honoured for their work. All presenters received a copy of the Award Ceremony recorded and aired by SBA's partner, Access (Cable Regina).

All of the shortlisted books were provided for sale by our long -time Saskatoon partner, McNally Robinson Booksellers, sold by SBA volunteers at the event.

The big winner of the 2019 SBA Ceremony was Randy Lundy for his book, *Blackbird Song*, in the Indigenous Peoples' Publishing, and Poetry categories.

The SBA is extremely proud to play its part in the successes of these authors and publishers. The Awards Ceremony reinforces pride in Saskatchewan authors and publishers, who craft amazing and significant books.

2019 Author Readings

The SBA had a number of readings before and after the 2019 Saskatchewan Book Awards in order to highlight Saskatchewan authors and publishers.

Carol Rose GoldenEagle, James Trettwer, and Gillian Harding-Russell read at the Vertigo Reading Series held in Regina. Meanwhile, two author readings were held at McNally Robinson Booksellers in Saskatoon. The authors were Gillian Harding-Russell, Barbara Langhorst, Dave Margoshes, Jeanette Lynes, James Trettwer, and Alice Kuipers.

The SBA partnered with the Regina Public Library to have Devin Krukoff read from his shortlisted book, *Hummingbird*. In addition, the Sage Hill Reading Series in Humboldt featured George Elliot Clarke and Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber.

The annual Saskatchewan Library Association Conference (held in Saskatoon in 2019), showcased Jeannette Lynes, Alice Kuipers, Curtis Peeteetuce, Daniel Parr, and David Gane. The Regina-based Cathedral Village Arts Festival (held in May 2019) highlighted Chelsea Coupal, David Robert Lodlaw, and Randy Lundy.

Saskatchewan mainstay and nationally-reknown Moose Jaw Festival of Words held in July 2019 presented Bob Currie, Carol Rose GoldenEagle, and Randy Lundy.

After the Awards Ceremony, SBA partnered with Sage Hill, Cathedral Village Arts Festival (May), the Moose Jaw Festival of Words (July), and the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for Words in the Park (August). Once more, the SBA was pleased to partner with the Legislative Library (October) featuring winning authors Harold Johnson, Valerie Korinek, and Arthur Slade. In November, we worked with the River Volta Reading series (MFA Program at the University of Saskatchewan) featuring authors Carol Rose GoldenEagle and Paul Hanley. Working with different organizations for author readings is essential as SBA continues to promote Saskatchewan authors and publishers.

2020 Call for Submissions Announcement September 1, 2019

The Call for the 2020 SBA submissions was announced on September 1, 2019 and closed October 31, 2019. For the 2020 awards, SBA received 185 submissions (80 titles) in 2019 for 13 categories, for assessment for the 2020 SBA Ceremony.

Partnerships and Sponsorships

More than ever, partnerships with sponsors remains vital for the success of the SBA. At the same time, even though organizations such as SK Arts (formerly known as the Saskatchewan Arts Board) and Canada Council have changed their funding matrixes over time it is still important to work with them. The volunteer Board of SBA and its Executive Director will continue to sustain and build relationships with its sponsors and partners in order for the Saskatchewan Book Awards to fulfill its mandate as the province's premier promoter of Saskatchewan writers and publishers.

**Awards Ceremony Committee Report to the Board of Directors
Annual General Meeting - May 15, 2019
Courtney Bates Hardy**

The 26th Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony held April 27, 2019 at the Conexus Centre was attended by 315 people, including the Deputy Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Twyla MacDougall, and the Deputy Mayor, John Findura.

Terrence Littleton was a highlight for the evening with his hoop dancing under a black light. RSO conductor emeritus, Victor Sawa, served as Master of Ceremonies. Poetry readings by Saskatchewan Poet Laureate, Bruce Rice, and Youth Poet Laureate, Alasdair Rees, added a lyrical touch.

Tickets were priced at \$60 for early bird tickets and \$75 for regular tickets. Ticket sales made approximately \$12,840 (excluding PayPal fees). Once again, guests enjoyed the Prairie Buffet at the Awards Ceremony.

The AV presentation and voice-over were both excellent, thanks to Zoé Beaulieu Prpick.

The Silent Auction proved successful, with 22 items donated from local businesses. The auction raised about \$1,265 for SBA. The committee recommends closing the silent auction at the end of the Ceremony next year and asking bidders to pay for and pick up their items before they leave. The books for the book sales table were provided by McNally Robinson and made approximately \$3,060.

Our incredible volunteers outdid themselves again this year. We had lots of help with transferring and setting up the book arch, decorating the space, and tearing down at the end of the night. The committee would like to thank everyone who made the 26th Saskatchewan Book Awards Ceremony a success.