

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

Tyler Trafford wins \$10,000 EPL Alberta Readers' Choice Award for 'Almost a Great Escape'

Memoir chosen as best book in Alberta by the reading public

EDMONTON, AB, June 6, 2014 – The story told by putting together a found album of letters and creased photographs by Calgary raised author Tyler Trafford is the winner of the \$10,000 2014 Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award.

The Edmonton Public Library award, one of North America's richest literary prizes, is awarded annually for the best fiction or narrative non-fiction book written by an Alberta author. Now in its fifth year, the award recognizes exceptional writing in Alberta and encourages readers to support local authors.

Almost a Great Escape, published by Goose Lane Editions, has been called a biographical detective story, as Trafford reconstructed the life of his mother after her death to find a tale of love, loss, secrets and The Great Escape of World War II.

Alberta readers were asked to vote for their favourite book and author throughout the month of May after a jury released a shortlist of five finalists. Votes poured in, resulting in the highest number logged since the award was initiated.

John J. MacDonald III, vice-chair of the EPL Board of Trustees, presented the award at the 2014 Alberta Book Awards Gala, hosted by the Writers' Guild of Alberta and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, in Calgary.

"With titles this outstanding, it's no wonder Alberta readers cast a record number of votes this year," said Linda Cook, CEO of EPL. "It is clear there is an abundance of homegrown writing talent in our province and it is wonderful to be able to recognize that."

The other four finalists for the 2014 ARC Award were:

- *Come Barbarians*, by Todd Babiak (Published by Harper Collins)
- *Pilgrimage*, by Diana Davidson (Published by Brindle & Glass)
- *The Dilettantes*, by Michael Hingston (Published by Freehand Books)
- *The Unfinished Child*, by Theresa Shea (Published by Brindle & Glass)

Trafford, who has worked on ranches in both Alberta and Australia, as well as on seismic survey ships and construction crews, was a reporter and editor for many years before turning to writing

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full-time in 1993. His first of three *Sun On The Mountains* novels was published in 2004, and he has also penned books commissioned by engineers, drillers, businessmen, construction innovators and ranchers.

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About the Alberta Readers' Choice Award

The Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award is presented by the Edmonton Public Library (EPL). Currently in its fifth year, the ARC Award promotes literacy and reading to Albertans by highlighting the unique and talented writers residing in our province. The \$10,000 prize, sponsored by EPL, goes to the author of the winning title as voted on by the reading public. The ARC Award is one of the largest literary prizes offered in Alberta and is comparable to many national literary awards. For more information about the ARC Award, visit www.epl.ca/alberta-readers-choice.

About the Edmonton Public Library

From March 2013 to March 2014, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) celebrated 100 years of service to our great city. We've come a long way since 1913 when books were all you could find on our shelves... and we're just getting started! Today EPL carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. The second most visited place in Edmonton, every year we host over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 17 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere – in the library, at home or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value – that is today's EPL. EPL is a registered charity and relies on donations to enhance services. Spread the words. www.epl.ca/donate.

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