

Geoffrey Ursell Recognised for Advancement of Book Publishing in Saskatchewan

Saskatoon - An event celebrating **Geoffrey Ursell** and his contribution to the Saskatchewan publishing industry will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday, 22 November at McNally Robinson in Saskatoon.

The board of SaskBooks established a Recognition of the Advancement of Book Publishing in Saskatchewan award to celebrate the dedication and hard work of the men and women whose expertise in and passion for books and publishing have built and fostered the diverse and productive publishing industry in Saskatchewan. Nominations for this award were collected in 2017 from publishing professionals. A committee of the SaskBooks Board of Directors selected Geoffrey Ursell to receive the inaugural award for his many years of hard work and expertise as a publisher.

Local full-time writer, composer, producer, publisher, and editor **Geoffrey Ursell** has been working in the literary arts for more than thirty years. During his time at Coteau Books as its managing publisher, the books whose publication he oversaw won many provincial and national awards, including three Governor General's awards (for Poetry: Anne Szumigaliski's "Voice"; for Fiction: Gloria Sawai's "A Song for Nettie Johnson"; and for Children's Literature: Wendy Phillips' "Fishtailing"). Geoffrey edited several anthologies for the press as well as a number of single-author titles, many of them going on to be award winners. Geoffrey himself is a winner of the Vicky Metcalfe Editor's Award for his work on the children's anthology "Jumbo Gumbo". His work in publishing was an exciting and productive part of his life. In 2014, at the age of 70, he retired from publishing to focus on his own creative writing. Geoffrey lives in Saskatoon with his partner and fellow writer, Barbara Sapergia.

Coteau Books has been one of Canada's premiere literary publishers for more than 40 years, and Geoffrey and his partner Barbara were two of the founding members, along with Gary Hyland and Bob Currie. For a small publishing house in southern Saskatchewan, Coteau books has a big reach with national and international distribution and publishes award-winning books from talented writers from around the globe.

SaskBooks is the provincial creative industry association for the more than 40 book publishers operating in Saskatchewan. 2019 marks the 30th year SaskBooks has been celebrating, promoting, and supporting Saskatchewan book publishers and the Saskatchewan publishing industry. It is one of the oldest regional publishing associations in Canada. Support your local book industry and read local!

For more information, contact
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