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## The League of Canadian Poets Congratulates the Winners of the Pat Lowther & Gerald Lampert Memorial Awards

The winners of the 2008 Pat Lowther and Gerald Lampert Memorial Awards were announced on Saturday, June 21, at a special event at the LCP Poetry Fest and Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. **Alex Boyd** was the **winner of the Lampert Award for his book *Making Bones Walk*** (Luna Publications), and **Anne Simpson** **won the Lowther Award for *Quick*** (McClelland & Stewart).

The shortlist for this year's awards:

### **Lampert:**

**Radius of Light**, by Joshua Auerbach (DC Books)  
**Making Bones Walk**, by Alex Boyd (Luna Publications)  
**Wolf Tree**, by Alison Calder (Coteau Books)  
**Contrary Infatuations**, by Dymphny Dronyk (Frontenac House)  
**Ride Backwards on Dragon**, by Kim Goldberg (Leaf Press)  
**the sweet fuels** by Erin Knight (Goose Lane Editions)

### **Lowther:**

**Wolf Tree**, by Alison Calder (Coteau Books)  
**The Crooked Good**, by Louise Bernice Halfe (Coteau Books)  
**Two Hemispheres**, by Nadine McInnis (Brick Books)  
**Shell**, by Olive Senior (Insomniac Press)  
**Quick**, by Anne Simpson (McClelland & Stewart)  
**Going Around with Bachelors** by Agnes Walsh (Brick Books)

### **Pat Lowther Memorial Award:**

The Pat Lowther Memorial Award is given for a book of poetry by a Canadian woman published in the preceding year, and is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975. The award carries a \$1,000 prize.

### **Quick**

**by Anne Simpson**  
**(McClelland & Stewart)**

### **Judges Comments:**

In this new collection, Anne Simpson's voice is instantly recognizable. The poetics of distancing – "how does love make itself so small?/ small as an eye-tooth, tissue-thin" – hold in check deeply felt emotion, and this tension brings the poems to a new level of intensity. The pitch is raised, even to the last line – "An impossible note held, held, held. Piercing, clear." These are poems of extraordinary range, intelligence and empathy. Read *Ceremonies of Water*, *Ceremonies of Fire*. And the poems about the hanged boy. This is the compassion of absolute witness.

Anne Simpson is the author of three books of poetry, *Light Falls Through You*, winner of the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Atlantic Poetry Prize, *Loop*,

winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize and a finalist for the Governor General's Award; and most recently, Quick. Her first novel was shortlisted for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award. In 1997 her short story "Dreaming Snow" shared the Journey Prize, and in 1999 she was awarded the Bliss Carman Poetry Award. Simpson lives in Antigonish, NS where she helped establish the Writing Centre at St. Francis Xavier University.

**Gerald Lampert Memorial Award:**

The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award is given in the memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who organized authors' tours and took a particular interest in the work of new writers. The award recognizes the best first book of poetry published by a Canadian in the preceding year. The award carries a \$1,000

***Making Bones Walk***  
**by Alex Boyd**  
**(Luna Publications)**

**Judges' Comments:**

Tightly crafted, with an easy lope, and seemingly throwaway colloquial line – but pulled up sharp in a startling concluding image again and again. Great surreal leaps of metaphor and magic! Alex Boyd's *Making Bones Walk* shows a fine mastery of craft, but it is his attention to detail, the little things in life that reveal the bigger story that really got me. ... These are poems rich with innovative language and Boyd's very original way of looking at the world. Here is a poet to be celebrated!

Alex Boyd was born in Toronto. He left the city to attend Brock University in St. Catharines (graduating with a BA in English) and again in 2000 to live in Scotland, but now lives and works in Toronto again. He writes poems, fiction, reviews and essays, and has work published in magazines and newspapers such as *Taddle Creek*, *dig*, *Books in Canada*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Quill and Quire*, on various websites and his personal site [www.alexboyd.com](http://www.alexboyd.com). In Toronto he is the organizer and host of the IV Lounge reading series, and he is co-editor of *Northern Poetry Review*, an online site for poetry reviews, essays, articles and more. His first full-length book of poems, *Making Bones Walk*, is new from Luna Publications.

Congratulations to all the authors, and many thanks to the jurors for their hard work on this year's awards!

**Lowther Jury: Mary Lou Soutar-Hynes, Colin Morton, Heather Spears**

**Lampert Jury: Richard Stevenson, Sheri-D Wilson, Lynda Monahan**