

# Ryga Award short list announced

The George Ryga Centre, B.C. Book-World, CBC Radio One and Okanagan College are proud to announce the Shortlist for this year's Seventh Annual George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature. In alphabetical order (according to the writer's last name), the top three books submitted for this award this year are: A Slice of Voice At The Edge of Hearing, Brian Dedora (Mercury); The Cellist of Sarajevo, Steven Galloway (Vintage Canada) and Reena: A Father's Story, Manjit Virk (Heritage House).

"It was a difficult process this year as our long list was so strong and the books all so deserving," said John Lent of Okanagan College, "but in the end we kept returning to these three incredible books."

This year's Ryga Award judge will be award-winning designer and publisher, Robert MacDonald.

MacDonald has been involved in Canadian publishing since the late-60s when he began as a designer with Coach House

Press and as a publisher with Dreadnaught Press in Toronto. Since then, MacDonald has started up 35 magazines in this country, ran the Writing & Publishing Program at The Banf Centre for nine years, and helped initiate writing programs in Toronto and Vancouver. Most recently, he has invented The Okanagan Institute and this year is serving as the Publisher In Residence at Okanagan College.

This year's winner will be announced in Vernon, at The Lecture Theatre of Okanagan College, at a gala celebration of The Ryga Award on Saturday, Nov. 7, the last day of George Ryga Week, proclaimed by the Provincial Government and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Excerpts from Dedora, Galloway and Virk's books will be aired on CBC Radio One before the final announcement is made.

Last year's winner was Leilah Nadir's book, The Orange Trees of Baghdad (Key Porter Books).

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