



THE BANFF CENTRE

# MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release  
October 17, 2003

## Banff Mountain Book Festival Finalists Announced

From West Africa to Peru, the Bugaboos to Everest, the finalists for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Banff Mountain Book Festival bring stories of adventure and discovery to life from around the globe. There is a stunning collection of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge photos, a unique book on mental training for climbing, a work about mountain art in a trail guide format, and a page-turning novel about a lifelong relationship between two climbers.

“This year’s finalists reflect a wide range of experiences that all capture, in different ways, the power, the passion, and the enticing nature of mountains,” says Bernadette McDonald, vice-president, Mountain Culture, The Banff Centre. “What strikes me this year is the diversity, from a look at the personal toll of mountaineering deaths on friends and family, to an historical overview of Mount Everest expeditions since the first ascent in 1953.”

This year, more than 150 books were entered into the competition, up 17 per cent from last year’s figures. An international jury will select the winning books from the 30 finalists. As part of the evening program on Thursday, November 6 beginning at 8 p.m., winners will be announced in the following categories:

- Grand Prize: Phyllis and Don Munday Award, sponsored by the Alberta Sections of the Alpine Club of Canada: \$2000
- Jon Whyte Award for Mountain Literature, sponsored by The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Alberta: \$1000
- Best Book - Mountain Exposition, sponsored by Mountain Lights Bookstore, Lake Louise, Alberta: \$500
- Best Book - Mountain Image, sponsored by Spotted Dog Press, Bishop, California: \$500
- Best Book - Adventure Travel, sponsored by Batstar Adventure Tours, Port Alberni, BC: \$500
- Best Book - Mountaineering History, sponsored by the UIAA: \$500

**For a complete list of 2003 Banff Mountain Book Festival finalists, click on [www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/festivals/book/finalists/](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/festivals/book/finalists/)**

The Banff Mountain Book Festival runs November 5 to 7 at The Banff Centre and is the only festival of its kind in North America. In addition to the international competition, it features readings, seminars, a book fair, book signings and launches, and speakers. This year’s highlights include:

### Wednesday, November 5

Evening presentations (8 p.m.) by author Peter Matthiessen (*End of the Earth: Voyages to Antarctica*) and photographer Subhankar Banerjee (*Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land*).

### Thursday, November 6

Daytime (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

- Douglas Chadwick – *True Grizzly*: Biologist Douglas Chadwick will give a refreshingly clear-eyed view of individual grizzlies and their complex personalities, offering a realistic yet poignant picture of the grizzly as big, strong, bright and adaptable omnivores trying to get by in the modern world any way they can.
- Ray Huey: Ray Huey will give an evolutionary biologist’s perspective on high-altitude mountaineering, including startling statistics on success and death on Everest expeditions.

- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR): A panel discussion with Gwich'in First Nations caribou coordinator Sandra Newman, Alberta natives Karsten Heuer and Leanne Allison, and photographer Subhankar Banerjee. Heuer and Allison just completed a 2,000 kilometre journey following the Porcupine caribou herd from their wintering range near Old Crow, Yukon, to the endangered calving grounds in Alaska's ANWR. The U.S. government will decide later this fall whether to drill for oil in this area.

Literary Lunch (12 noon)

- Geoff Powter -*The Man Who Would Be First: The Story of Earl Denman*: A story about Canadian Earl Denman's 1947 attempt to illegally climb Everest from the north, accompanied by Sherpas Ang Dawa and Tenzing Norgay.

Evening (8 p.m.)

- Presentations by author Maria Coffey (*Where the Mountain Casts Its Shadow*) and Norwegian adventurer Borge Ousland, and the 2003 Banff Mountain Book Festival awards.

### **Friday, November 8**

Daytime (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

- Presentations by Gordon Wiltsie (Mongolian Nomadic Herders), George Lowe (Voices of Adventure series), and Ed Douglas (*Tenzing: the Hero of Everest*).

Literary lunch, 12 noon

- Simon Mawer -*The Fall*: Mawer is the winner of the 2003 Boardman Tasker Award for Mountaineering Literature for his newest novel, *The Fall*.

For tickets to the 2003 Banff Mountain Book Festival, call the Banff Centre Box Office at 403-762-6301 or 1-800-413-8368.

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An electronic version of this media release and downloadable photos of festival speakers are available at [www.banffmountainfestivals.ca/media](http://www.banffmountainfestivals.ca/media)

#### ***The 10th Annual Banff Mountain Book Festival***

Presented by:

Canadian Mountain Holidays and CBC Radio Canada

Sponsored by:

National Geographic, Dunham Bootmakers, Eagle Creek Travel Gear, Patagonia  
Chevy Avalanche, eVENT Fabrics, and MSR - Mountain Safety Research

With assistance from:

Alpine Club of Canada, The Banff Book & Art Den, The Mountaineers Books  
and Cordillera Okanagan Wines

*Mountain Culture at The Banff Centre promotes understanding and appreciation of the world's mountain places by creating opportunities for people to share – and find inspiration in – mountain experiences, ideas and visions.*