

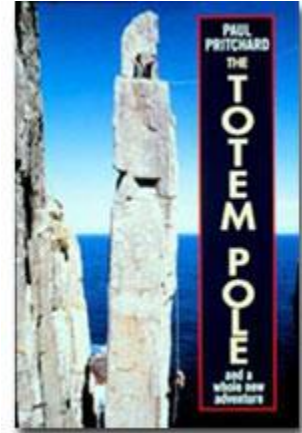
Archives

Banff Mountain Book Festival Winners 1999

The Totem Pole Takes Grand Prize at the 1999 Banff Mountain Book Festival

The Totem Pole: and a Whole New Adventure by Welsh author and climber Paul Pritchard is the winner of the 1999 Banff Mountain Book Festival Grand Prize, the \$2000 Phyllis and Don Munday Award sponsored by the Alberta Sections of the Alpine Club of Canada. The festival awards were presented on Thursday evening, November 4.

Pritchard's book is a perceptive, humane and inspiring account of his experience to surmount unbelievable odds following a climbing accident in 1998 that inflicted such terrible injuries that the doctors thought he might never walk or speak again. At the time of the accident he was climbing a slender sea stack called in Tasmania called The Totem Pole. He had paid for the trip from the prize winnings he received for the 1997 Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature for his book *Deep Play*.



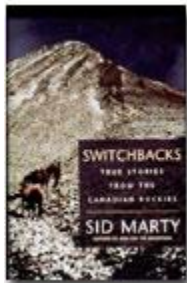
"Without self-pity, Pritchard records the rediscovery of his own will to live, and the control required to move about and to motivate himself in a world made alien by his own disabilities," says jury member John Porter.

The international jury chose Pritchard's book from a group of 30 titles which were selected as finalists last month from a record-breaking 102 entries representing nine countries. This year's book festival jury members include well-known ice climber Will Gadd, Canmore, Alberta; John Porter, Director of the Kendal Film Festival and a Boardman Tasker judge, UK; and Michael Pause, editor of Germany's *Berge* magazine.

Other category winners:

Jon Whyte Award for Mountain Literature, sponsored by The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

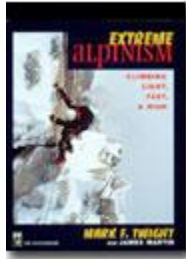
Switchbacks: True Stories of the Canadian Rockies, Sid Marty (McClelland & Stewart)



These interconnected stories are drawn from the length and breadth of Sid Marty's remarkable life in the mountains. The people - and creatures -- that Marty comes to know in the Rocky Mountains are sometimes larger than life. Switching back and forth in time and mood, all but two of the superb stories in this collection are previously unpublished. They are original, thoughtful and beautifully crafted outpourings of a writer at the height of his powers.

"Sid Marty's stories express in wonderful words his deep passion for the mountains where he is at home," says jury member Michael Pause.

Best Book - Mountain Exposition, sponsored by Mountain Lights Bookstore, Lake Louise, Canada



Extreme Alpinism, Mark F. Twight and James Martin (The Mountaineers Books)

A master class on extreme alpine climbing by one of the world's most elite mountaineers. Focusing on how top alpine climbers approach the world's most difficult routes, Twight centres his instruction on the ethos of climbing the hardest routes with the least amount of gear and the most speed.

"You can either read Twight's book or beat yourself up in the mountains learning the same lessons," says jury member Will Gadd.

Best Book - Mountain Image, sponsored by Adventurous Traveler Bookstore, Burlington, Vermont

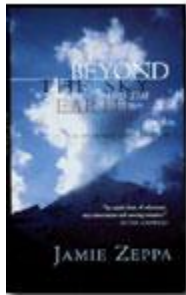
Summit: Vittorio Sella, Mountaineer and Photographer, the Years 1879-1909, Vittorio Sella (Aperture Foundation)



At the turn of the century, carrying a supply of glass-plate negatives, Italian photographer Vittorio Sella climbed scores of the world's most perilous mountains and photographed them, many for the first time. His strikingly beautiful photographs offered ground-breaking scientific and documentary information and are still used by climbers to map routes. This is the first comprehensive volume of Sella's photographs.

"The book is convincing in its brilliant text and images and it shows Sella's significant contribution to mountain photography," Pause says.

Best Book - Adventure Travel, sponsored by Mountain Travel*Sobek, El Cerrito, CA
Beyond the Sky and the Earth, Jamie Zeppa (Doubleday Canada Ltd.)



When she was only 23, a young woman from Sault St. Marie went to Bhutan to teach - only to realize that the unfamiliar people and living conditions made her feel alienated and miserable. Out of the hearts and minds of eight-year-olds came the hope and inspiration that would save Jamie Zeppa's life. Over time, she fell in love with a Bhutanese man and had a child by him. *Beyond the Sky and Earth* is an incredible autobiography of one woman's struggle to survive physically, mentally and spiritually in a foreign land.

"An honest, well composed, unexpected book, written without pretense or any sense of fulfilling an obligation. This should be required pre-reading for all trekkers planning a "get there" holiday in the Himalaya," says jury member John Porter.

Special Jury Mention - Biography

High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places, David Breashears (Simon & Schuster)



In *High Exposure*, elite mountaineer and acclaimed filmmaker David Breashears gives an intimate and captivating look at his life. Breashears' passion for climbing began on the cliffs of Boulder, Colorado -- and nearly ended on the south side of Everest in 1996. An unforgettable story of outdoor adventure, daring filmmaking, and self-discovery.

"Truthful and always competent, Breashears reflects his life and how alpinism and climbing helped him overcome childhood hardship," says Pause.

Special Jury Mention - Fiction

Darkness and the Azure, Anne Sauvy (Baton Wicks)



Anne Sauvy is the literary "Grand Mistress" of mystery, magic and metamorphosis in the mountains. In her new short story collection, she takes her themes from the elegant world of French climbing and skiing, the racy competitiveness of Chamonix, and the chic milieu of Parisian business and academe.

"The language Anne Sauvy uses remains close to the action; she succeeds in conveying to the reader the values of alpinism," Pause says.

Special Jury Mention - Design

Fat Tire: A Celebration of the Mountain Bike, Amici Design (Chronicle Books)

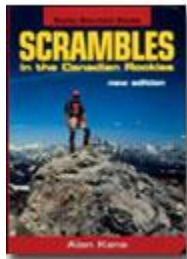


Fat Tire is a history and celebration of these agile, adventuresome, all-terrain machines and the people who ride them. Inside are hundreds of amazing photos, interviews with the founders, profiles of champions, and more. The author and a long list of contributors cover the components that make up mountain biking. This is a glorious full-colour, full-speed, first-hand look at the culture, equipment and key people of the most popular evolution of the bicycle ever.

"Through the creative layout and design of the book the development and history as well as technical aspects of mountain biking are exceptionally presented," says Pause.

In addition to the above, the following awards were also presented:

Canadian Rockies Award, sponsored by Eagle Creek Travel Gear for the best book on the Canadian Rockies



Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies, 3rd edition, Alan Kane (Rocky Mountain Books) Alan Kane brings together 150 of his favourite scrambles so far, starting in Waterton National Park and working his way up through the Crowsnest area and Kananaskis Country into the contiguous national parks of Banff, Kootenay, Yoho and Jasper. Each peak can be climbed in one day from a road or backcountry lodge. All scrambles are carefully graded.

Canadian Alpine Journal Award: \$250 sponsored by the Canadian Himalayan Foundation for the best article in the 1999 *Canadian Alpine Journal*
The Ghoul: An Iced Mountain-Climb, Jeff Everett