

Media Release

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For immediate release

LOCAL WRITER FINALIST FOR NATIONAL AWARD

COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO—Gloria V. Phillips of Courtice Crescent in Collingwood has been shortlisted in a national writing competition for her historical fiction book *A Pilgrim Passing Through*.

Phillips has been employed by the Town of Collingwood for twenty years, working part-time as a crossing guard. She is also a dedicated genealogist whose other writings include two non-fiction genealogy books - *From Islay They Came* and *The Clockmaker's Children*. Her writing reflects her interest in history and her talents as a researcher.

A Pilgrim Passing Through chronicles the life of a Home Child who immigrated from Britain to Canada a century ago, one of the more than 100,000 children who were sent to Canada over a seventy-year period. The book is a finalist in the Historical Novel category in The Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards.

The winner will be announced on June 17th at a black-tie Awards Gala at World Vision's headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario, to which the public is invited. The Gala is the premier event honouring the work of Canadian writers who are Christian. It will be hosted by Herbie Kuhn, popular speaker and in-house announcer for the Toronto Raptors basketball team.

The contest received a record number of 237 entries from writers in eight provinces.

The 30 award categories include non-fiction books, novels, articles, columns, poems and song lyrics.

"I am incredibly excited to be shortlisted for this award," Phillips said. "*A Pilgrim Passing Through* is my first work of fiction, and it is a real honour to be a finalist for the award."

The Word Guild, the organization that sponsors the awards, consists of more than 340 writers and editors across Canada who write from a Christian perspective and publish work in a variety of genres.

The Word Guild also sponsors Canada's largest Christian writers' conference, Write! Canada (www.writecanada.org). After the Gala, 250 writers, editors, agents and publishers will meet in Guelph, Ont. from June 18 to 20 for professional development, networking and marketing opportunities.

Excerpts from the best-selling inspirational anthology *Hot Apple Cider* are shortlisted seven times in the contest. Noteworthy contestants include singer/songwriter Carolyn Arends of Surrey, B.C., who is a contender in five book and article categories. Donna Dawson of St. Marys, Ont., author of the suspense thriller *Vengeance*, is vying for best novel in two categories, as is male historical romance writer Shawn J. Pollett of Golden Valley, Ont. for *Christianus Sum* (translated, "I am a Christian"), a love story set during the Roman Empire.

Three leaders who founded innovative ministries to Canada's urban poor are candidates for major book awards: Tim Huff for *Bent Hope: a street journal*; Greg Paul for *The Twenty Piece Shuffle: Why the poor and rich need each other*; and Colin McCartney for *The Beautiful Disappointment: Discovering Who You Are Through the Trials of Life*.

The Leslie K. Tarr Award for career achievement, sponsored by Tyndale University College and Seminary, will be presented at the Gala to Ray Wiseman of Fergus, Ont., a newspaper columnist, biographer and novelist. Previous Tarr Award recipients include Governor General's Award winners poet Margaret Avison and novelist Rudy Wiebe.

To see the complete shortlist of finalists, or to obtain more information about the Gala or The Word Guild, visit www.thewordguild.com or telephone 519-886-4196.