

The Tenth Thomas H. Raddall Symposium:

Thoughts from the Eastern Edge:

A Symposium in Celebration of Dr. Herb Wyile (1961-2016) Acadia University 6-8 July 2017

As one of the country's most influential scholars, Dr. Herb Wyile's writings on subjects as diverse as regionalism, historical fiction, and neoliberalism fundamentally re-framed many of the core debates in contemporary Canadian literary criticism. Through his teaching, his editorial work, and his widely cited essays and monographs, Wyile consistently questioned dominant interpretations of Atlantic Canadian Literature and he often called for re-readings that challenged accepted wisdom or powerfully entrenched models of analysis. In "As For Me and Me Arse: Strategic Regionalism and the Home Place in Lynn Coady's *Strange Heaven*," for example, Wyile argued persuasively for "Atlantic-Canadian literature's increasing and subversive self-consciousness" and he praised the way that this new-found self-awareness "was foregrounding and deconstructing the way in which Canada's eastern edge tends to be framed from outside." Similarly, in his prize-winning *Anne of Tim Hortons: Globalization and the Reshaping of Atlantic-Canadian Literature*, he focused on the ways that the forces of globalization and neoliberalism often commodified the complex lived reality of the Atlantic Canadian experience, transforming it into a folksy performance that was more act than actual. "(T)he stereotypes by which the region is framed present a substantial challenge," Wyile argued, and these stereotypes have produced "a complex of misconceptions with which writers from the East Coast routinely have been compelled to contend."

In an effort to both honour and extend the broad intellectual project Dr. Wyile helped to initiate, the organizers of the tenth Raddall symposium invite abstracts and panel proposals from all scholars who share in this collective desire to re-frame the debate surrounding Atlantic Canadian Literature. Following the example of Wyile's wide-ranging curiosity, this call for papers places no limitations on historical periods, subject matter, authors, or genres. Papers that re-consider any aspect of Atlantic Canadian Literature's past, present, and/or future are welcomed. How do we understand, or how have we understood, the region in the context of globalization? How do, or how have, writers reconstruct(ed) and repurpose(d) history and culture to present new, hitherto unheard or unconsidered realities of the Atlantic Canadian experience? How do some artists move beyond notions of collective identity to produce stories that are, as Kjeld Haraldsen argues, "(s)ite-specific without being regionally straightjacketed?" "Edgy" essays that engage directly with Wyile's work are encouraged, but participants are certainly not required to discuss his scholarship. Instead the symposium will give the community an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of a dear friend and a respected colleague. Developing scholars are particularly welcomed and registration fees will be dramatically reduced (and hopefully eliminated) for graduate scholars and underemployed colleagues. We are especially proud to announce that *Studies in Canadian Literature's* inaugural *Herb Wyile Prize in Canadian Literature* will be presented as part of the program.

Abstracts should be no more than 500 words and should be accompanied by a 50-word biographical statement. These documents should be sent to WyileRaddall@gmail.com before 31 January 2017. Potential symposium presenters will be notified of their acceptance by 28 February 2017. We look forward to welcoming you to Wolfville next summer.