

## The League of Canadian Poets Congratulates the Winners of the Lowther & Lampert Awards

The winners of this year's Lowther & Lampert awards were announced on Saturday, June 10, at a special awards banquet at the League's 40<sup>th</sup> annual AGM in Ottawa. **Suzanne Buffam**, was the winner of the Lampert Award for her book *Past Imperfect*, and **Sylvia Legris** won the Lowther Award for *Nerve Squall*.

Shortlisted authors for this year's awards include: Ann Compton, Margaret Christakos, Erin Moure, Carolyn Marie Souaid, Jan Zwicky, Leanne Averbach, Matt Rader, Barbara Folkart, David Seymour and Steven Laird.

For more info about this year's shortlisted authors and their books, please visit the League's website at [www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca)

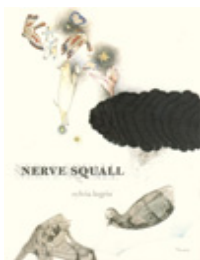
Congratulations to the winners and to all of the short-listed authors!

### Pat Lowther Memorial Award:

The Pat Lowther Memorial Award is given for a book of poetry by a Canadian woman published in the preceding year, and is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975. The award carries a \$1,000 prize.

#### ***NERVE SQUALL***

Sylvia Legris  
Coach House Books



Nerve Squall is Sylvia Legris's third book-length poetry collection; her previous books are *iridium seeds* and *circuitry of veins*. She has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, in 2001 she won the *Malahat Review's* Long Poem Prize for 'Fishblood Sky,' and she received an Honorable Mention in the poetry category of the 2004 National Magazine Awards. She is currently a resident in the state of fidgety fretfulness.

---

#### Judges' Comments:

Sylvia Legris' *Nerve Squall* is a sprung song to the psyche's rampant and spastic synapses, the cacophony of a migraine, the whirling dervish of nerves. Incorporating the lexical intensity of meteorology and ornithology with a surreal splash of fish, this series of taut journeys inside the mind's obsessiveness turns the reader into an electrified listener at the perimeter between insanity and music. Weaving in allusions to fellow iconoclasts, from Dr. Seuss to Robinson Jeffers, Legris reinvigorates the

cadences of the subconscious, from which all true poetry comes. A collection of intense whimsy and mellifluous angst, couched in the lexicon of the ecstatic.

---

### **Gerald Lampert Memorial Award:**

The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award is given in memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who took a particular interest in the work of new writers. The award recognizes the best first book of poetry published by a Canadian in the preceding year and carries a prize of \$1,000.

#### ***Past Imperfect***

By Suzanne Buffam  
House of Anansi Press



Suzanne Buffam's poetry has appeared in various journals in the United States and Canada and in the anthologies *Language Matters* (Oxford University Press), *Breathing Fire: Canada's New Poets* (Harbour Press), and *Breaking the Surface* (Sono Nis Press). A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the Master's program in English at Concordia University, she is currently Visiting Poet at Columbia College, Chicago.

---

#### **Judges' Comments:**

*Past Imperfect* by Suzanne Buffam is an examination of her body's place between here and elsewhere, and the gravitational tug of the two, emotionally and physically. The view on here and elsewhere can be close and palpable as "the honeybees', large and dark as human eyes," or permeable and impenetrable, at the same time: "Not a hole in the sky/ for my eye/ to climb up through/ this morning. No window/ of you. Not an inkling of elsewhere." These poems follow you, like the perception in those flying, honey seeking eyes. It's what makes the book Rilkean, Wallace Stevensish, and haunting.

---

**Lowther Jury:** Katerina Fretwell, Kath MacLean, Catherine Owen

**Lampert Jury:** matt robinson, Maxianne Berger, George McWhirter