



gritLIT, Hamilton's Literary Festival

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For Immediate Release

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gritLIT: Hamilton's Literary Festival Announces Spring 2009 Festival Line Up

From April 2nd, 2009 to April 5th, 2009 Hamilton will be treated to a festival full of the "best." From blockbuster novelist Kenneth J. Harvey, whose book *Blackstrap Hawco* was named Amazon.com's "Number 1 Best Book Out of Canada for 2008" to Hamilton's own award-winning poet Adam Getty and his newest collection *Repose*, which was cited as one of the "best volumes of verse in 2008" by the *Winnipeg Free Press* to the eerie work of Andrew Pyper's *Killing Circle*, a *New York Times* crime novel of the year to Governor General Award Winner Nino Ricci's *The Origin of Species*.

gritLIT readings will be held at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, with youth and young adult readings held at schools across Hamilton. The festival is made up of ten sessions, as well as one blue pencil room and a workshop. Thursday evening's reading is being held in partnership with the Hamilton Poetry Centre and will feature Patrick Friesen, local author Adam Getty and emerging poet Oana Avasilichioaei. Friday evening will showcase fiction with authors Nino Ricci, Ray Robertson and Kenneth J. Harvey.

Our non-fiction panel on city building will take place at the Art Gallery of Hamilton on Saturday afternoon, and two sessions will be held on Sunday. One on Emerging Voices in Fiction with award-winning author Chandra Mayer, and one on Short Stories with Hamilton's own Rebecca Rosenblum. The Saturday evening event, which will be held at Fenian Films on Locke Street, will feature the chilling prose of Maggie Helwig and Andrew Pyper and the sounds of tiny bill cody and the liquor men.

Sunday evening will close the festival with our ever popular LitLive evening featuring an exceptional range of poets, novelists and non-fiction writers. Hamilton's Mike Barnes will read from his latest work *Lily Pond* and local poet Dannabang Kuwabong will read from his latest collection *Caribbean Blues and Love's Genealogy*.

Weekend passes for the festival cost \$20 and individual events cost \$5. Tickets will be available at Bryan Prince, Booksellers in Westdale and Mixed Media on James Street North. For more information please visit the gritLIT website www.gritlit.ca or contact Noelle Allen at noelle.allen@wolsakandwynn.ca or by phone at 905-972-9885.