

## **Marie Wadden: Landfall Trust's Writer in Residence 2010**

BIRTHDATE: March 2, 1955

BIRTHPLACE: St. John's, NL

MAILING ADDRESS: 192 Topsail Road, St. John's, A1E 2B1

### **EDUCATION**

M.A. Journalism, University of Western Ontario 1976-1977

B.A. Honours History (French Minor), Memorial University 1972-1976

High School ; Holy Heart of Mary

Elementary: Mercy Convent

### **BOOKS**

Nitassinan: the Innu Struggle to Reclaim their Homeland (Vancouver: 1991 Douglas & McIntyre) Winner of the 1991 Edna Staebler Award for creative nonfiction

Where the Pavement Ends: the Aboriginal Recovery Movement and the Urgent Need for Reconciliation (Vancouver: 2008 Douglas & McIntyre) Nominated for the Writers Trust of Canada, Shaughnessy Cohen award for political writing, the Winterset Award and the Newfoundland Labrador Book Award

### **ARTICLES (partial list)**

Globe and Mail, op/ed column: "Fund Inuit, not Canadian, Arctic Sovereignty," August 18, 2009

The Toronto Star, op/ed column "Move Kashechewan at its Peril", December, 2006

The Toronto Star, "Tragedy or Triumph: Canadian Public Policy and Aboriginal Addiction," also still online:

<http://www.thestar.com/specialSections/atkinson>

Harrowsmith Magazine 1988 "Planes Overhead: potential impact of jet bombers on George River Caribou herd," (nominated for National Magazine Award).

Harrowsmith Magazine 1990 "Local Hero; Aloysious O'Brien," St. John's.

Financial Post correspondent on offshore oil issues 1983-85

### **Professional Career**

- In 1977 Marie Wadden became the first woman in Newfoundland and Labrador to obtain a graduate degree in journalism. She continued to break new ground during her career, becoming in 2006 the first journalist east of Quebec to win one of Canada's most prestigious journalism awards, the Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy. The articles she wrote during her fellowship are still available on the Toronto Star website:
- <http://www.thestar.com/specialsections/article/144903--where-tragedy-falls-off-canada-s-map>
- Her first job at CBC was supposed to be just for the summer, but it became full-time in the fall of 1977 when she broke a story about government plans to pump untreated sewage into Conception Bay south. She learned of the situation from Harold Mercer of Topsail who used to sell fish to her parents. Wadden's stories on the issue led to community meetings that forced the government to install sewage treatment facilities at Topsail and Kelligrews.
- In 1979 she covered Brian Peckford's announcement that oil had been discovered offshore, and made this her "beat" for the next six years.
- In 1980, CBC sent her to Scotland to report on the impact the offshore oil industry was having on fishing communities there, and on the city of Aberdeen.

- In 1982 she covered the sinking of the Ocean Ranger. CBC dispatched her to Boston and New Orleans where she reported extensively on the U.S. Coast Guard hearings into the disaster. Following that, she covered the Canadian Royal Commission of Inquiry, filing regular reports on the public hearings that spanned many months.
- Wadden also did a series of reports from Norway in 1983 on how that country regulates safety offshore. Her series won a national award from the Canadian Petroleum Association, as well as an Atlantic Journalism Award. Her work also won recognition from the National Post newspaper where she was invited to file regular articles on the fledgling offshore oil industry as their correspondent from Newfoundland between 1983-1985.
- After a vacation on the coast of Labrador, Wadden also began reporting on Labrador's Aboriginal communities because she'd been moved by their poor social conditions.
- In 1985 Wadden moved to Montreal where she worked for the next three years at CBC television as reporter and assignment editor. One of the programs she assigned won an Anik award in 1988.
- Wadden left the CBC in 1988 to research and write about Innu history. However, she found herself drawn to write about the controversy over plans to install a NATO jet bomber training center in Goose Bay, something the Innu vehemently opposed.
- In 1988 she was invited by acclaimed anthropologist and author, Hugh Brody, to join a NFB/BBC production team to make a film on the jet bomber issue. She became associate producer of "Hunters and Bombers," a film that won the best documentary film award in Manheim Germany in 1991, the same year Wadden's book was published: Nitassinan: the Innu Struggle to Reclaim their Homeland (1991: Douglas & McIntyre). Nitassinan won the Edna Staebler award for creative non fiction that same year.
- She returned to work for the CBC in St. John's, both in radio and television, and produced two episodes in 1997 of the television documentary series commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Cabot's voyage: East of Canada: The Story of Newfoundland and Labrador. Wadden has been the national producer of radio programming from Newfoundland and Labrador for the CBC since 1998.
- She has also been instrumental in creating within the CBC a framework for coverage of Canada's first Truth and Reconciliation Commission (on Canada's Residential Schools).
- Her second book, Where the Pavement Ends: Canada's Aboriginal Recovery Movement and the Urgent Need for Reconciliation, was published in 2008 and received three award nominations, including the Writers Union Trust of Canada "Shaughnessy Cohen" Award for political writing.