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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 13, 2009

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual The Word On The Street Toronto**  
**Sunday, September 27, 2009 - Queen's Park**  
**11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
**Free Admission**  
[www.thewordonthestreet.ca](http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca)

**The Word On The Street shines the spotlight on queer writers**  
**at its 20<sup>th</sup> festival**

(Toronto) – **The Word On The Street** is proud to partner with **Pride Toronto** for the third consecutive year to present some of the most vital artists in the queer literary scene at our **Proud Voices Tent**.

Our non-fiction offerings will include a riveting panel discussion on the highs and lows of queer parenting with contributors to *Who's Your Daddy*: **N. Gitanjali Lena**, **Derek Scott**, **Elizabeth Ruth** and **Rachel Epstein**. **Anne Hines**, whose books, columns and articles have kept Canada laughing since 1998, when *HineSight* first appeared in *Canadian Living*, will ruminate on the nature of loss in our lives in *Parting Gifts*. Meanwhile, contributors to *Second Person Queer*, including **Paul Bellini**, **Steve Berezani**, **Terry Goldie** and **Sukie Lee**, will share their moving essays on LGBT life, all written in the second person.

This venue will also play host to some of the hottest queer fiction writers in the country. **Jeffrey Round**, best known for the *Bradford Fairfax* murder mystery series, will grace the venue on behalf of *The Honey Locust*, his new tale of a photojournalist affected by the war in Yugoslavia. **Nairne Holtz**, identified as a "writer to watch" by *The Globe and Mail* will read from her new collection of short fiction, *This One's Going to Last Forever*. Lauded Irish writer (by way of London, ON) **Emma Donoghue** will appear on behalf of *The Sealed Letter*, her latest work based on the details of a scandalous divorce case that gripped England in 1864.

The Word On The Street is also pleased to host the return of the **Dayne Ogilvie Memorial Grant**. Administered by **The Writer's Trust of Canada**, the grant provides \$4,000 annually to an emerging Canadian gay writer who demonstrates great promise through a body of exceptional work. 2009's runner-up, **Greg Kearney**, will read from his short fiction debut, *Mommy Daddy Baby*, and this year's winner, **Debra Anderson**, will read from *Code White*.

In the realm of poetry, we'll host **Billeh Nickerson** with his tongue-in-cheek collection, *McPoems*, based on working at a particularly well-known fast-food restaurant. In addition, crowd-favourites the **Toronto Poetry Slam** will have their members, including **Yehuda Fisher**, **Krystle Mullin**, **Kinga Nowak**, **Beth Anne Fischer**, **Tanya Neumeyer** and **Truth Is**, give blistering performances of verbal acrobatics!



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### **About The Word On The Street**

Every year on the last Sunday of September, in Vancouver, Kitchener, Toronto and Halifax, The Word On The Street unites the country in a national celebration of literacy and the written word. Annually attracting more than 200,000 visitors to its Queen's Park location, The Word On The Street in Toronto is the largest book and magazine festival in Canada. The 2009 edition is set for September 27, 2009.

*Please add this information to your listings. Images are available upon request.*

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