

## Don Kerr

Teacher, writer, editor, historian and guardian of the province's heritage, describes how Don Kerr has devoted his life to enriching his community. He enjoyed a distinguished teaching career at the University of Saskatchewan spanning more than forty years, and became a powerful voice for local drama, local writing, Canadian literature and Saskatchewan literary culture. He is the author of seven books of poetry, two books of fiction, three non-fiction volumes, eleven edited books, six full-length plays and a number of one-act dramas. Best known as a regionalist, who throughout his career has written on the history and culture of the prairie west, his work has been well received by both readers and critics, and he has been shortlisted for several Saskatchewan Book Awards, winning the Saskatoon Book Award for "The Garden of Art: Vic Cicansky, Sculptor".

Always interested in the history of Saskatoon and the province in general, he has been a galvanizing force for heritage preservation. He was the first chair of the Saskatoon Heritage Society, the first chair of the Saskatoon Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and has been Saskatchewan's Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation. He was a board member of the Meewasin Valley Authority.

He served on the Board of Directors of Coteau Books and remains on the Board of NeWest Press. He has been a board member of the literary journals *NeWest Review* and *Grain*, and he has served on the Writer-Residence Committee of the Saskatoon Public Library.

He has been a member of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, chair and member of the Saskatoon Public Library Board, member of the SaskFilm Board of Directors, member of the Lieutenant Governor's committee on the 2005 Celebration of the Arts and is a member of the Board of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance.

In recognition of these, and many other, contributions to Saskatchewan arts, culture, and heritage organizations, the University of Saskatchewan awarded Mr. Kerr with the Public Service Extension Award at the 2003 Fall Convocation. Don Kerr is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

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