



## **Tofino Environmental Education Fundraiser to Feature Celebrated Authors Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson**

Tofino, BC, November 12, 2009 – Wildside Booksellers, Tofino’s original specialty book store, today announced that internationally acclaimed authors Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson will speak at an environmental education fundraising event to be held at the Best Western Tin Wis Resort Conference Center ([www.tinwis.com](http://www.tinwis.com)) in Tofino on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 PM.

A selected stop on the “Go Green” tour supporting Atwood’s latest critically acclaimed futuristic novel *The Year of the Flood* ([www.yearoftheflood.com](http://www.yearoftheflood.com)) and Gibson’s *Bedside Book of Beasts* wildlife compendium, the event raises funds for a variety of ongoing environmental education initiatives and organizations in and around Tofino and the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve. The authors’ visit is also part of the Wickaninnish Inn’s Writers Inn Residence series (<http://wickinn.com/eventscalendar.html>).

“Our community is very excited to welcome Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson,” said Wildside Booksellers founder and owner, Dorothy Baert. “I am personally in awe of the accomplishments of these artists and what they have achieved in expressing their work from an unapologetic sense of place and country. And with a long history of eco-awareness and activism, Tofino is a perfect location for these authors to deliver and discuss their powerful pro-environment messages to a receptive audience.”

The agenda for the Atwood/Gibson event includes:

- A narrated visual presentation and reading by Gibson followed by discussion and audience question period moderated by Pacific Rim National Park Reserve wildlife-human conflict specialist, Bob Hansen.
- A reading by Atwood followed by discussion and audience question period moderated by Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival founder and former Artistic Director, Alma Lee.
- Book signings and refreshments.

Tickets (\$20 including a \$5 book coupon or \$8 for students) are available at Wildside

Booksellers: 320 Main Street, Tofino, BC; Phone: 250-725-4222. This event is jointly sponsored by the Best Western Tin Wis Resort, the Wickaninnish Inn and Wildside Booksellers.

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**About Margaret Atwood** (Photo credit: George Whiteside/House of Anansi)



Margaret Atwood is the author of more than forty books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her recent publications include *Moral Disorder*, a collection of interconnected short stories and *The Door*, a collection of poetry (both 2007). Most recently, Ms. Atwood delivered the CBC Massey Lecture Series, published by House of Anansi Press as *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth* (2008). Her novel, *Oryx and Crake*, was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize and the Giller Prize. She is the author of the 2000 Booker Prize-winning *The Blind Assassin* and *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy. Her other books include *The Robber Bride*, *Cat's Eye*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Penelopiad*, and *The Tent*. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Prince of Asturias Award for Letters in Spain. Margaret Atwood lives in Toronto with writer Graeme Gibson. (Photo credit: George Whiteside/House of Anansi)

**About Graeme Gibson** (Photo Credit: Dennis Minty Photo)



Graeme Gibson is the acclaimed author of five novels, a collection of short stories called *The Bedside Book of Bird*, and the recently published companion book of stories and illustrations, *The Bedside Book of Beasts*, which explores the relationship between predators and their prey. Mr. Gibson is a past president of PEN Canada and the recipient of both the Harbourfront Festival Prize and the Toronto Arts Award, and is a member of the Order of Canada. He has been a council member of World Wildlife Fund Canada, and is chairman of the Pelee Island Bird Observatory.

**About Wildside Booksellers** <http://tofino-kayaking.com>

An integral part of the popular Tofino Sea Kayaking Company, Wildside Booksellers offers travellers and local residents quality guide books and the very best of regional, national and international fiction and non-fiction, as well as opportunities to meet visiting authors! This tiny bookstore generates considerable excitement from readers who can be heard to exclaim, "I want to read every book in this store!" or "This is my favourite bookstore anywhere!"

**Event Contact**

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