

William (Bill) Andrew Waiser
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Education

B.A. Honours (History), Trent University, 1975
M.A. (History), University of Saskatchewan, 1976
 Queen's Fellowship, The Canada Council, 1975-76
Ph.D. (History), University of Saskatchewan, 1983
 Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada,
 1979-81

In 2006, Waiser received the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Honour Award. He was also named a College of Arts and Science Alumni of Influence in 2015.

Employment History

A specialist in western and northern Canadian history, Waiser was a member of the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan for more than thirty years. He served as Director of the Graduate Program from 1988-1991 and then Department Head, 1995-98. Prior to his Saskatchewan appointment, he was Yukon Historian for the Canadian Parks Service.

Waiser is now a full-time writer and speaker/commentator.

Honours

Waiser is the 2018 recipient of the **Royal Society of Canada J.B. Tyrrell medal**, presented for "outstanding work" in Canadian history. He has also been awarded the 2018 **Governor General History Award for Popular Media (the Pierre Berton award)**.

In 2017, Waiser was named a member of the **Order of Canada**, the country's highest civilian honour. This recognition complemented his appointment to the **Saskatchewan Order of Merit** (2006), his election as a **Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada** (2007), and his award of **the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal** (2005).

Waiser was appointed **A.S.Morton Research Chair** in July 2010. He was only the second History Department member to hold the research chair, the last time being 1975. He was also awarded an **Earned D.Litt.** at the University of Saskatchewan convocation ceremonies in October 2010. In July 2011, he was named a University of Saskatchewan **Distinguished Chair (Distinguished Professor Emeritus** upon leaving the university). Waiser has also served as a visiting scholar at Duke (Durham, N.C.), McGill (Montreal, P.Q.), Trent (Peterborough, Ont.) and Victoria (Wellington, N.Z.) universities.

Teaching Career

Starting in 1984, Waiser was the instructor for more than twenty courses, from large introductory survey classes to small graduate seminars and from topics ranging from the Circumpolar North, Public History, and the Real and Imagined West to Protest Movements, Europe and the Americas, and Canada's Great War. About 3,000 students took his courses.

In 2002, Waiser was awarded the College of Arts and Science Teaching Excellence Award (Humanities and Fine Arts).

41 graduate students completed their theses/dissertations under his supervision. Many of these students have secured university positions or gone on to history-related careers.

Waiser was the recipient of the University of Saskatchewan Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award in 2013.

Major Publications (by publication date)

Waiser is the author, co-author and/or co-editor of seventeen books:

History Matters: Stories from Saskatchewan (Saskatoon: Bill Waiser 2018).

with Geoff Cunfer, eds., Bison and People on the North American Great Plains: A Deep Environmental History (College Station: Texas A&M University Press 2016).

A World We Have Lost: Saskatchewan before 1905 (Markham: Fifth House Publishers 2016).

Winner of the 2016 Governor General's Literary Prize for Non-Fiction and the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Award for Non-Fiction

with Stuart Houston, Tommy's Team: The People Behind the Douglas Years (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2010).

Short-listed for the 2011 Canadian Authors Association Lela Common Award for Canadian History

Portraits of an Era: The Aerial Photography of Howdy McPhail (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2009).

Feature story on CBC TV's "The National," 21 November 2009 broadcast

Who Killed Jackie Bates? Murder and Mercy during the Great Depression (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2008).

A short-list finalist in three categories (Book-of-the-Year award, Non-fiction award, and Saskatoon Book award) at the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards. The Canadian National Institute of the Blind turned it into an audio-book.

Everett Baker's Saskatchewan (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2007).

Short-list finalist in the Non-fiction category at the 2007 Saskatchewan Book Awards

Tommy Douglas (Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside 2006), The Canadians Series

Short-list finalist in the Children's Literature category at the 2007 Saskatchewan Book Awards

Saskatchewan: A New History (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2005).

Winner of the Clio Prize, Canadian Historical Association and a short-list finalist for the Dafoe Book Prize. In a laudatory review in the Globe and Mail, Ramsay Cook claimed that Saskatchewan had found its historian. The University of Saskatchewan distributed copies of the book to all schools and libraries in the province. Waiser presented a special pre-publication copy to HRH Queen Elizabeth II at a private ceremony in Saskatoon in 2005.

All Hell Can't Stop Us: The On-to-Ottawa Trek and Regina Riot (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2003).

Awarded the Non-fiction prize at the 2003 Saskatchewan Book Awards.

with Paul Dederick, Looking Back: True Tales from Saskatchewan's Past (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 2003).

with Blair Stonechild, Loyal Till Death: Indians and the North-West Rebellion (Calgary: Fifth House Publishers 1997).

A finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-fiction.

Park Prisoners: The Untold Story of Western Canada's National Parks, 1915-1947 (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers 1995).

The New Northwest: The Photographs of the Frank Crean Expeditions, 1908-09 (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers 1993).

with D. Debrou, eds., Documenting Canada: A History of Modern Canada in Documents (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers 1992).

Saskatchewan's Playground: A History of Prince Albert National Park (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers Ltd 1989).

The Field Naturalist: John Macoun, the Geological Survey and Natural Science (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1989).

Waiser was named the university's Distinguished Researcher at the 2004 University of Saskatchewan convocation ceremonies.

Public Presentations

Waiser has given over 250 talks on Canadian topics to schools and libraries, conventions, clubs and organizations, public ceremonies, and conferences (from the Association of University Architects to the Aquatic Toxicology Workshop to the Japanese Association of Canadian Studies to the International Master Gardener Conference to the Royal Society of New Zealand to the UofS Alumni Association in Great Britain).

Known for his informative and entertaining presentations, Waiser seeks to provide a better understanding and appreciation of Canadian History. He is particularly concerned with taking the story of Saskatchewan to a wider audience.

Waiser was the recipient of the University of Saskatchewan Distinction in Outreach and Public Service Award in 2013.

Media Work

Between 1999 and 2001, Waiser served as researcher and on-camera host for "Looking Back," a CBC Saskatchewan Television weekly production. Each episode examined some little known or little understood aspect of Saskatchewan history in a five-minute segment that was aired during the early evening provincial news broadcast.

The series won a CBC English Television Award and an honourable mention, Chris Awards, Columbus International Film and Video Festival. The series was reproduced in DVD format by Sask Learning for distribution to all schools in the province. A book about the series was also published.

Waiser also had a regular CBC Saskatchewan radio program ("Saskatchewan Centennial Stories") during the province's centennial year. Print versions were published by the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association. He returned to radio in 2016 and did a weekly History column, "Mining the Past," for CBC Radio Saskatoon.

Waiser is also a frequent contributor to radio, television, and print media, including interviews with Peter Gzowski, Vicky Gabereau, Shelagh Rogers, CBC's The Sunday Edition, the Globe and Mail, and Maclean's Magazine.

Waiser wrote a bi-weekly column, "History Matters," for the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (every second Tuesday on p. A2) from 2016-18.

Committee Duties

Waiser has served and continues to serve on a number of national, provincial, and local boards, including the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Canadiana.org, the Champlain Society, Saskatchewan Archives Board, Canada's National History Society (publisher of [The Beaver](#) magazine), the Canadian Council of Academies, Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, Council of the Canadian Historical Association, and [The NeWest Review](#).

He also played a leading role in the successful campaign to secure public access to historic manuscript census materials. (See "Gaps in Census mean Canadians are being Left out of History," [Toronto Star](#), 22 July 2016; "Canadians have Second Chance to Make History," [Globe and Mail](#), May 10, 2011; "Say 'yes' for History's sake," [Globe and Mail](#), 14 April 2006; "The Agency that stole History," [The Globe and Mail](#), December 18, 2002, A21; "Come to your census, Statscan," [The Globe and Mail](#), November 19, 2001, A15; "Don't Muzzle Our Past," [The Globe and Mail](#), 20 June 2001, A15; "Show Us the data," [The Globe and Mail](#), 11 January 2001, A17).

Assessment Work

Waiser is frequently called upon as an expert reviewer and has performed assessments for several agencies, organizations, publishers, and individuals (this work includes over 140 book reviews). He is regularly consulted about Canadian history.

Down Time

Waiser is a recreational runner, who also likes to garden, hike, and canoe.

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