



Journalist, writer and researcher W. Brian Stewart is 1998 Mississauga Arts Award recipient.

Award winner *Peel Big. News March 15/98* keeps writing

Journalist, writer and researcher W. Brian Stewart may be officially retired, but this 1998 Mississauga Arts Award recipient for literature continues to work as diligently and as passionately as ever.

Stewart will receive his Mississauga Arts Award for literature, April 21 in Hammerson Hall at the Living Arts Centre. The presentation of the awards comes on the eve of the five-day Mississauga Arts Festival at Square One.

It was 1945 when Stewart, then a young lad of 17, began his writing career as a reporter with the *Otago Daily Times* in his native New Zealand. He remembers it, though, as if it were yesterday.

"I started at the lowest of the low as a copy holder," Stewart said.

That lasted only three months. After that, Stewart became the newspaper's cub reporter covering cricket matches and council meetings, among other things.

"Still, it was a good start," said the father of three and grandfather of seven.

About 2-1/2 years later, Stewart struck out on his own as a freelance journalist, writing for various newspapers and magazines in New Zealand and Australia. Then in 1956, Stewart emigrated to Vancouver with his wife, Gwyneth.

"I had a few anxious weeks of searching for work," he said, until he landed a job as a features writer with the CBC's *Times Magazine*.

"I got to travel around with film crews and write about what they were shooting. I saw a lot of British Columbia that way."

Stewart stayed with the CBC for 28 years. He moved to Toronto in 1959, then moved into the CBC's management and research sector in Ottawa.

In 1971, Stewart moved to Mississauga — he now lives in Port Credit — but continued to do research for the CBC until 1984, when he retired as head of research services.

Retirement for Stewart, however, included a two-year stint at TSN, until he finally decided to slow down at age 60.

But there was no true retirement for Stewart. Recently, Carleton University Press published Stewart's historical biography, *A Life On The Line: Commander Pierre-Etienne Fortin And His Times*.

As a Mississauga Arts Award winner, Stewart will receive a commemorative trophy and a \$1,000 cash prize, courtesy of a corporate sponsor, KPMG Peat Marwick.

Stewart has been a member of the Mississauga Writers' Workshop for the past 10 years.