



MEDIA RELEASE

Goose Lane Author Captures Popular Online Vote *Reading by Lightning* Chosen for On the Same Page Literacy Program

For immediate release

Fredericton (June 4, 2009) — Goose Lane Editions is pleased to announce that *Reading by Lightning*, the award-winning 2008 novel by Winnipeg author Joan Thomas, has been selected by online voters as the book to inspire and engage Manitobans through the On The Same Page project this year.

“Everyone at Goose Lane Editions is excited for Joan and very proud that the theme of self discovery in *Reading by Lightning* will be shared with all generations of Manitoba readers. Congratulations, Joan,” says Susanne Alexander, Publisher, Goose Lane Editions.

On The Same Page, a literacy initiative of The Winnipeg Foundation, encourages everyone in the province to read, and talk about, the same Manitoba book at the same time. For 2009-10, Winnipeg Public Library will oversee the program.

Reading by Lightning was chosen from a short-list of five books through an on-line public poll. More than 800 people took part in the selection.

“I’m thrilled that *Reading by Lightning* was chosen as the Manitoba Reads book for 2009, and look forward to the chance to connect with a lot of new readers,” says author Joan Thomas.

Set in Southern Manitoba and England in the years leading up to the Second World War, *Reading by Lightning* was the winner of the 2009 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for the Best First Book in the Canada and Caribbean Region.

JOAN THOMAS grew up on the Canadian prairies. She has worked as a freelance writer, reviewer, and editor and is the winner of a National Magazine Award. She has been a frequent book reviewer for *The Globe and Mail* and a feature writer for the *Winnipeg Free Press* and *Prairie Fire*. She is co-editor (with Heidi Harms) of *Turn of the Story: Canadian Short Fiction on the Eve of the Millennium*. She has also served on the editorial boards for Turnstone Press and *Prairie Fire* magazine.

For more information contact:

Susan Baker, Publicity & Promotions

sbaker@gooselane.com or call toll free (888) 926.8377.

High-res book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.

For information about on the same page contact:

Karen San Filippo, On the Same Page Project Coordinator

coordinator@onthesamepage.ca.

Or Kerry Ryan, Communications Coordinator, The Winnipeg Foundation

kryan@wpgfdn.org or call (204) 944.9474 ext. 243.