



## MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **Paul Quarrington, celebrated author, musician and WordFest alumnus, dies**

(Calgary, AB – January 21, 2010) **Paul Quarrington**, WordFest™ alumnus and long-time friend of the Festival, died Thursday morning at home in Toronto, surrounded by family and friends. He was 56 years old.

Quarrington attended the inaugural WordFest in 1996 and visited the Festival again in 1997, 1998, 2004 and 2008. He was also the inaugural moderator for Summit Salon, the artist retreat held annually at The Banff Centre immediately following WordFest.

“It is an immeasurable loss and not only was Paul enormously multitalented, he was warm and generous and funny. He was a really good friend.” said Anne Green, Festival Director for WordFest.

He was an accomplished author whose novels includes Giller Prize nominated *Galveston*, Governor General’s Award winner *Whale Music* and Stephen Leacock Medal winner and 2008 Canada Reads winner *King Leary*. He was also an acclaimed non-fiction author, TV writer and screenwriter, adapting *The Ravine* as the BookShorts film *Pavane* and Quarrington’s screen adaptation of *Whale Music* was nominated for several Genie Awards. Paul Quarrington was also the lead singer of Porkbelly Futures, a rock-blues band based in Toronto.

In May 2009, Quarrington was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. From May 2009 to January 2010 he bravely completed many artistic projects, including his first solo CD release, a third PorkBelly Futures CD release, a memoir for Greystone Books titled *Cigar Box Banjo* and a documentary film.

Contributions to the Quarrington Arts Society are being accepted in his honour; visit <http://www.quarringtonartsociety.ca>.

WordFest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival brings readers and writers together in a six-day literary festival that takes place annually in the Calgary, Banff and the Bow Valley region. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual WordFest will take place October 12-17, 2010. The Festival attracts more than 13,000 individuals each year and is considered one of North America’s premier literary festivals. WordFest features more than 70 writers from the local, national and international stage and hosts more than 65 events. For more information on WordFest visit [wordfest.com](http://wordfest.com) or call 403.237.9068.