

# B.C. culture minister opens writers festival

## Malcolm Parry

Cries of "Keep your day job" greet Ian Waddell as he admits to penning 13 chapters of a political novel.

**IAN WADDELL**, the B.C. culture minister, kicked off the Writers' Festival Wednesday by telling several hundred scribes and others the value of book publishing here has risen from \$10 million to \$50 million since 1988.



WADDELL

"Keep your day job!" someone called out when former member of Parliament Waddell said he's penned 13 chapters of a novel in which a Vancouver Centre MP — not **Kim Campbell**, one gathers — becomes prime minister and has an affair with a Quebec journalist.

Mayor **Philip Owen** gave the City of Vancouver award to *The Greater Vancouver Book*, whereupon its editor, **Chuck Davis**, put things in perspective for attendees by saying its 370 writers will finally be paid.

Davis' book beat out **Carmen Rodriguez's** *And a Body to Remember With* (Arsenal Pulp Press), on the problems of being a Chilean exile here, and **Ian Macdonald** and **Betty O'Keefe's** *The Mulligan Affair: Top Cop On The Take* (Heritage House), about a 1950s payola scandal involving chief constable **Walter Mulligan**.

The former reporters have since written another cheery book for Oct. 28 release. It's *The Final Voyage Of The Princess Sophia* about a Canadian Pacific ship that sank in 1918, drowning all 343 aboard.

**JENNIFER BUSHEY** made those huge photographs of Vancouver Grizzlies hanging in GM Place. But when she shoots herself, the prints are even bigger



BUSHEY



Gallery president **Michael Audain** and curator **Ian Thom** put the Morrice collection up Wednesday for such donors as **Gerald and Sheahan McGavin**, who gave \$1 million to the Vancouver Arts Stabilization Team.



YOUNG

A four-month public showing began this week, too.

VAG director and hotrod enthusiast **Alf Bogusky** said Young, a former president of the Finning heavy-equipment firm, got drawn into the VAG gambit in 1996, when he funded and helped design the gallery's new loading dock.

**STEPHANIE CARLSON** chairs the Crystal Ball, a B.C.'s Children's Hospital Foundation benefit for which the \$300 tickets were sold in three days.

Meanwhile, some \$300 tickets remain for the Endeavour, gala, which goes Nov. 7 in the Hotel Vancouver with **Robert Third** as president and **Stevie Mitchell** and staff piling up the donations they hope will raise \$440,000 for 11 organizations, from the ALS Society of B.C. to the Vancouver Oral Centre for Deaf Children.

**JEANNE HARCO** says things are warming up with *Renaissance In Flame*, her proposed TV series on Christian reformer Savonarola, who was burned to death 500 years ago.



HARCO

U.S. producer **Rob Morrow** took her Renaissance-Italy story for a made-in-Britain feature film, says Harco, who is now writing about Christian mythology on