

MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

CONTACT:

- Deb Elkind: 403-834-2224 deb@debelkink.com www.debelkink.com
- Wayne Stahre: Habitation of Chimham Publishing: 321-268-0423 chimhampublish@aol.com

G.K. CHESTERTON RESURRECTED

Medicine Hat, AB, August 10, 2015: Late British writer G.K. Chesterton is anything but dead. He's experiencing a revival in the twenty-first century, his work commanding renewed attention, and Canadian author Deb Elkind is helping the process along with her latest book release, *Roots and Branches: The Symbol of the Tree in the Imagination of G.K. Chesterton*.

Chesterton (1874-1936), currently under consideration for canonization by the Catholic Church, is broadly known for his paradoxical, pithy quotations that are showing up on mugs, t-shirts, and Internet postings. Fan clubs are forming throughout North America and Europe, meeting in universities, churches, and pubs to discuss his philosophy, theology, and wit. Chesterton wrote thousands of nonfiction essays for the London papers of his day and penned nearly a hundred books on subjects as diverse as politics, biography, apologetics, and poetry.

But Chesterton's fiction is gaining popular attention, as well, reintroduced by such means as the BBC's current television serialization of his Father Brown mysteries. Several collections of short stories join with half-a-dozen significant novels—including *The Man Who Was Thursday*, *The Napoleon of Notting Hill*, and *The Flying Inn*—to form a body of creative work ripe for interpretation.

The Alberta author's new book examines these short stories and novels. By way of biography and literary analysis, Elkind traces a single motif appearing throughout Chesterton's enigmatic fiction—the tree—in order to get at his underlying meaning.

Roots and Branches is already garnering critical attention. Dale Ahlquist, president of the American Chesterton Society, endorses the "penetrating analysis," and Chesterton expert John Coates likewise warmly recommends the "excellent study." Dr. Bruce Hindmarsh, professor at Regent College in Vancouver, says it provides "a tremendous insight into the sacramental imagination of Chesterton."

Deb Elkind is the 2012 winner of Canada's prestigious Grace Irwin Award for her first novel (*The Third Grace*). She is available for comments, presentations, media appearances, interviews, or book signings; please contact deb@debelkink.com. *Roots and Branches* can be ordered through online and physical bookstores.

MEDIA RELEASE

June 2012

For immediate release

NOVELIST RECEIVES \$5,000 LITERARY AWARD

Medicine Hat, AB, June 2012 — Alberta resident Deb Elkink has received a major award in a national writing competition for her debut novel, *The Third Grace*.

Elkink, who accepted the Grace Irwin Award in Mississauga, Ontario, on June 13, writes from her acreage on the banks of Ross Creek near Elkwater in the Cypress Hills. She has lived in and around Medicine Hat since 1994, sat as a board member on the provincial Alberta Foundation for the Arts, worked for six years as staff writer and assistant editor with a national quarterly paper published in Alberta, and speaks to women's groups in the province and throughout western Canada and U.S. Elkink, who holds a B.A. in communications and an M.A. in theology, was raised in Winnipeg, attended university in Minneapolis, and cattle-ranched in Saskatchewan with her husband for many years while home educating their three children.

In her book, Elkink weaves the fictional story of a big-city costume designer who grew up as a Mennonite farm girl and is now on her way to Paris in search of an old French boyfriend and her own misplaced identity. (Read more on her website: www.debelkink.com.)

The Third Grace was listed as a finalist in one category of The Word Guild's Canadian Christian Writing Awards. Elkink attended the June 13th black-tie Awards Gala held at World Vision's headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario — the premier event honouring the work of Canadian writers who are Christian. Elkink hoped to win in her category, but the novelist did not expect to receive the prestigious \$5,000 Grace Irwin Award. The award is Canada's largest literary prize for writers who are Christian, this year celebrating the top pick of 53 short-listed books published in 2011.

The contest received a record number of almost 360 entries from writers in eight provinces. The 35 award categories included non-fiction books, novels, articles, columns, poems, blogs and song lyrics. Six other Alberta residents shortlisted in various categories of the national contest, two of them placing first (Marcia Laycock of Blackfalds for her blog series and Murray Andrew Pura of Pincher Creek for his historical novel). Elkink shared runner-up status in the contemporary novel category with Hamilton, Ontario, resident Caroline Way. Another noteworthy finalist was Ann Voskamp of Gowenstown, Ontario, for her New York Times bestselling book, *One Thousand Gifts*. All shortlisted book category finalists were in contention for the Grace Irwin Award.

"To begin with, I was delighted to learn that *The Third Grace* was shortlisted in the contemporary novel category I entered," Elkink says. "But I was truly astonished at the Gala when it was named the overall book of the year! The feedback I've been getting on *The Third Grace* lets me know that readers are connecting with my characters, enjoying the plot, and

finding that my message applies to their own lives. It's lovely to receive this substantial recognition for my first novel, and I'm encouraged to finish writing the next one."

The Word Guild, the organization sponsoring the awards, consists of more than 325 writers and editors across Canada who write from a Christian perspective and publish work in a variety of genres. The Word Guild also sponsors Canada's largest Christian writers' conference, Write! Canada (www.writecanada.org). After the Gala, 250 writers, editors, agents and publishers met at the Guelph, Ontario, conference for professional development, networking and marketing opportunities.

To see the complete list of winners, or to obtain more information about the Gala or The Word Guild, visit www.thewordguild.com.