

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**New Book Club Launched at Ste. Anne's Spa
*Noah Richler to Host Online and Face-to-Face Discussions***

Grafton, Ont., - May 22, 2007 – Ste. Anne's Country Inn and Spa is introducing yet another enjoyable and relaxing activity for its clientele: a monthly book club. Each month, award-winning author Noah Richler will select an exciting new novel and discuss it in a column, which will appear in the Ste. Anne's E-Blast newsletter. Three or four weeks later, he will come to Ste. Anne's and host a lively session with interested guests at the spa, who may or may not have read the book in question. During these literary get-togethers, Richler, known for being an excellent reader, will select passages from the book to read aloud; he will then engage in discussion about the book, share anecdotes about the authors, and answer questions. These book club sessions will take place either in the yoga room or in the garden, depending on the weather.

The first book, which will be presented in the May 29 newsletter and discussed in person at the spa on June 23, is Michael Ondaatje's new novel, *Divisadero*. Ondaatje is best known for his previous novels *The English Patient* and *Anil's Ghost*. In *Divisadero*, he writes about a makeshift family whose happiness is disrupted by a violent incident that alters their lives dramatically. Set in Northern California and in southern France, this beautiful novel, which showcases Ondaatje's breathtaking prose, is about possession and loss, the demands of family, and the need to face up to the past.

Toronto author Noah Richler is the ideal bookclub host. In addition to having spent 14 years making documentaries and short features for the BBC, he has been the books editor and the literary columnist for the *National Post*, and has contributed literary reviews to numerous publications. His first book, *This is my Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada* (2006), is a literary travelogue; through interviews with over 100 contemporary authors, he paints a cultural portrait of modern-day Canada. "I love books, and I love talking about them," says Richler, who is looking forward to discussing novels at the spa. "I hope people will drop by, even if they haven't read the book. Ste. Anne's is such a beautiful spot, and I wanted to introduce an activity that was in keeping with the spirit of the place." Staff at the spa quickly endorsed the idea; the bookclub will be sure to match and enhance the high quality and popularity of the other services and activities offered at Ste. Anne's.

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For more information, please contact:

David Navia

Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Ste. Anne's Spa

1-905-349-3704, ext. 277

david.navia@steannes.com

<http://www.steannes.com>

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