

## STERN, YES. ORNERY, NO.

I have always enjoyed picking up a copy of *BC BookWorld* and reading the latest review—until your most recent issue. Finding my mother in large relief on page 10 was the first shock. She was always a very private person. The further shock was the nasty tone of what should have been a review of Converse's book but instead was a severely critical review of my grandmother's character. You should have done your homework. There were only five children in the family. Little House was torn down and a new house built. Janet is Capi's daughter-in-law, not daughter. Edith Iglauer wrote the article about Capi for *Raincoast* long after Capi died in '61. She died before her book was even published in B.C. Edith certainly never interviewed her. It is unfortunate that Cathy didn't mine some of Edith's understanding gleaned about the "mysterious" Capi from her then-still-living children. It would have offered a fuller and more humane view of an incredible woman. It is also unfortunate she didn't seek out some of the grandchildren such as myself who not only have living memories of time spent with Capi but also, in my own case, 47 years of knowing my mother Joan who never once in all that time spoke badly of her mother, and only with love and longing for those many summers up the coast.

Capi was fair, honest and kind. Reclusive, yes. Stern, yes. Ornery, no. She certainly did not hold her children captive, nor was she a monster. That she was not a "Waterford Crystal kind of woman" I consider a compliment. I know of no other woman who dared to do what she did. I have many wonderful memories of gathering firewood off the beach for our evening in front of the very large stone fireplace. My grandmother's book has been in print for 47 years, and, as you mention, into its eleventh printing. It has been a bestseller for years. I have met many people over those years who have read and loved her story, who keep a copy on board their boats and read it again every summer. Why, I ask, after she has been dead for the same 47 years are you, and Cathy, concerned with what kind of wood she burned in her fireplace? I find your article truly offensive. To call her a "piece of work" is an insult to my grandmother's memory and to our family. I honestly can't believe I have read this in a magazine that prides itself on supporting literary awareness in B.C.

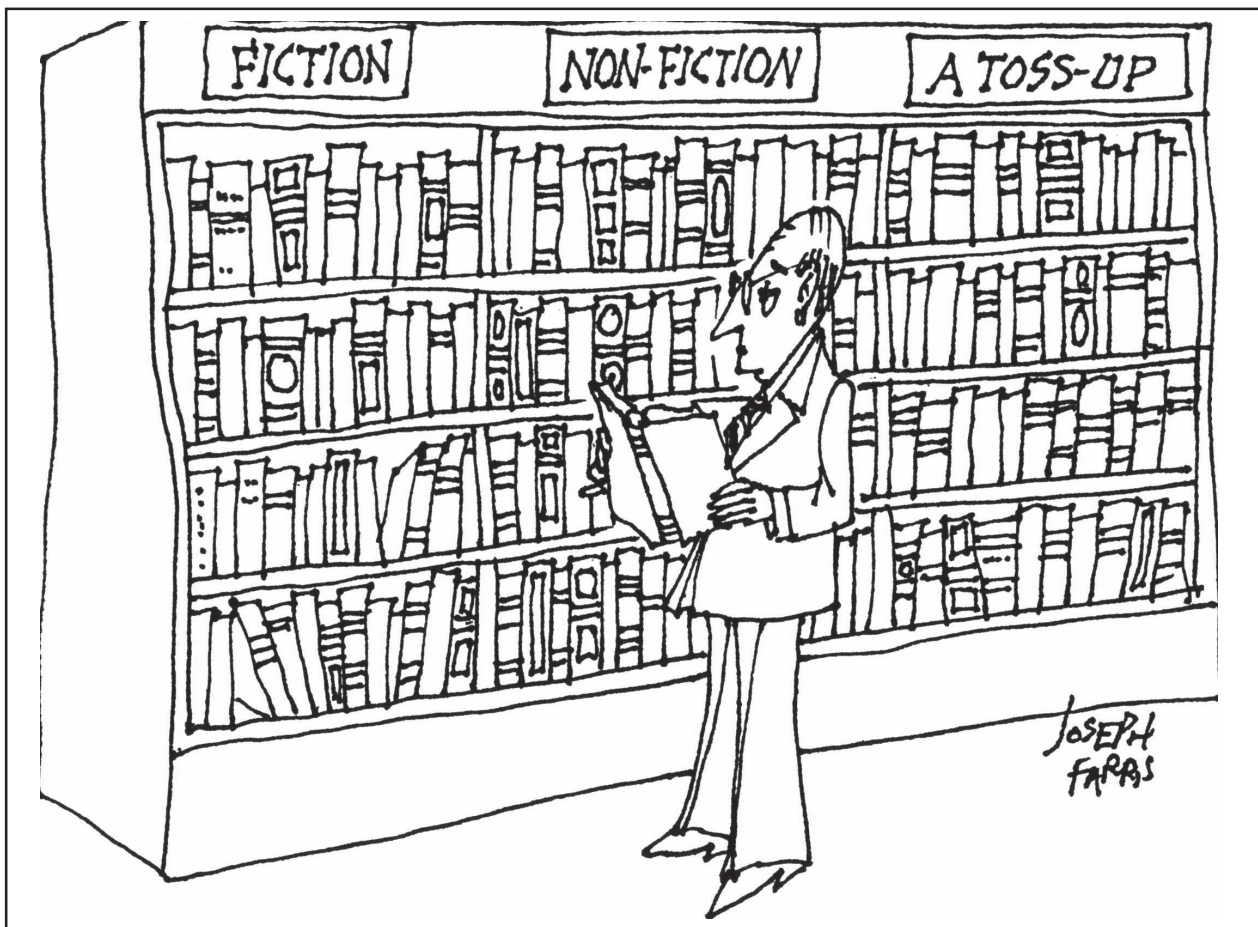
Capi, through her writing, is an integral part of our BC coastal heritage and in my view her own writing, for those who care to listen, offers its own tribute to who she really was.

**Roselyn Blanchet Caiden,**  
*BA, RA, granddaughter to  
Muriel Wylie "Capi" Blanchet*  
Victoria

### Letters or emails contact:

BC BookWorld, 3516 W. 13th Ave.,  
Vancouver, BC V6R 2S3  
email: [bookworld@telus.net](mailto:bookworld@telus.net)

Letters may be edited for clarity & length.



## NEARLY SAVAGE

You have really outdone yourselves this time.

Usually I look through *BC BookWorld* while riding the ferry and have appreciated how you have positioned B.C. writers against the backdrop of the landscape, as almost frontier-type characters. There are the usual motifs of home schooling, cabins on the coast and travel, in the profiles that you have done of various writers and their work. But the cover of your winter issue says it all. The image of Julie Angus captures your narrative of the B.C. writer as adventurer, close to nature, nearly savage, sexual, and evidently because of the work, intellectual. Your stories capture the allure, and "lone wolf" nature of creative work admirably. I might add that with some minor adjustments, you could attract young people into literature... I only wish that local architects had an equally compelling reviewer.

**William Summers**  
Cowichan Valley

## OBAMA & STARK

I always enjoy your publication. Thanks for the excellent work you do in highlighting B.C. books and authors. Just wanted to say it was very nice to see my book *Havens in a Hectic World: Finding Sacred Places* on

your list of "10 Books to Celebrate 150 Years" in *BC BookWorld*. I've had quite a bit of feedback from that mention, and appreciate being included, and in such good company.

The photo you ran in *BC BookWorld* was of biographer Evelyn C. White, (*Alice Walker: A Life*), who chose the gravesite of former black slave Sylvia Stark on Salt Spring Island as her personal sacred place. Evelyn spoke at a book launch event at the gravesite, as did Sylvia Stark's great-granddaughter Naidine Sims, who still lives on Salt Spring. Evelyn said how amazing it was for her to be in the home of Sylvia's descendants on the night she watched Barack Obama accept the nomination for president of the United States, 150 years after freed slaves made their way to Salt Spring to build a new life.

**Star Weiss**  
Victoria

## UNWISE CRACK

We were pleased to see one of our poets Justin Lukyn mentioned in the Who's Who, but Justin is not a "slightly cracked anthropologist of the everyday." While there may be some cracked anthropologist tendencies to Justin's perspective, the press release, where the phrase comes from, actually refers to Henry Pepper, the fictional titular character.

**Stefania Alexandru,**  
New Star Books,  
Vancouver

## THAT SPIRITUAL FEELING

I read the article in *BC Bookworld* about Cascadia, Douglas Todd's book on spirituality without religion in B.C., with interest.

As a Christian, I can confirm that the reviewer is correct to say that most people here are not religious. That has certainly been my experience when talking about my faith in Jesus. It doesn't mean of course that non-religious people don't have spiritual feelings. But I personally find it sad that Christianity is so alien to people in BC—if people could read the Bible, they would see that it is the story of how God longs to save his people and offer them forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. By the way, I really like *B.C. BookWorld*

**Robin Arnfield**  
Osoyoos

## LEILAH'S LIKENESS

Having finally got myself out of the orchards after hauling 50 tons of apples over Apple Mountain and surviving, with the help of plenty of horse liniment, I came upon your issue with the lovely and powerfully arresting coverage of the latest winner of the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness. We are absolutely thrilled with it. Thank you for arranging for a special photo session with this year's winner, Leilah Nadir, and her child. George Ryga would have been absolutely delighted, too. And kudos to your photographer.

**Ken Smedley,** coordinator,  
Ryga Centre, Summerland

# BC BOOKWORLD

**SPRING  
2009**

**Issue,  
Vol. 23, No. 1**

Publisher/ Writer: **Alan Twigg**  
Editor/Production: **David Lester**

Publication Mail Agreement #40010086  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: BC BookWorld,  
3516 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6R 2S3

Produced with the sponsorship of **Pacific BookWorld News Society**. Publications Mail Registration No. 7800.  
BC BookWorld ISSN: 1701-5405

Advertising & editorial: **BC BookWorld**, 3516 W. 13th Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2S3. Tel/Fax: 604-736-4011 • Email:  
available on request. Annual subscription: \$19.08

**Contributors:** Grant Shilling, Mark Forsythe, Joan Givner,  
Louise Donnelly, Hannah Main-van der Kamp,  
Heather Ramsay, Cherie Thiessen, Shane McCune.  
Writing not otherwise credited is by staff.

**Photographers:** Barry Peterson, Laura Sawchuk.

**Proofreaders:** Wendy Atkinson, Betty Twigg.

**Design:** Get-to-the-Point Graphics. **Deliveries:** Ken Reid

All BC BookWorld reviews are posted online at  
[www.abcbookworld.com](http://www.abcbookworld.com)



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- Dance Me Outside (Oberon, 1977) • Scars (Oberon, 1978) • Shoeless Joe Jackson Comes to Iowa (Oberon, 1980) • Born Indian (Oberon, 1981) • Shoeless Joe (1982)
- The Moccasin Telegraph (Penguin, 1983) • The Thrill of the Grass (Penguin, 1984) • The Alligator Report (1985) • The Iowa Baseball Confederacy (Collins, 1986)
- The Fencepost Chronicles (Collins, 1986) • Red Wolf, Red Wolf (1987) • The Further Adventures of Slugger McBatt (Collins, 1988)
- The Rainbow Warehouse (Pottersfield, 1989) with Ann Knight • The Miss Hobbema Pageant (Doubleday, 1989) • Two Spirits Soar (Stoddart, 1990)
- Box Socials (HarperCollins, 1991) • The Dixon Cornbelt League (HarperCollins, 1993) • Brother Frank's Gospel Hour (HarperCollins, 1994)
- The Winter Helen Dropped By (1995) • If Wishes Were Horses (1996) • Diamonds Forever (HarperCollins, 1997)
- The Secret of the Northern Lights (Thistledown, 1998) • Magic Time (Doubleday, 1999) • Japanese Baseball & Other Stories (2000)
- Ichiro Dreams: Ichiro Suzuki and the Seattle Mariners (Kodansha, 2002)

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their tenth anniversary  
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A pair of legends-to-be crossed the border from Wyoming in the fall of 1934. They weren't exactly Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid, but both were charismatic men, born to be wild.

**Rich Hobson Jr.** had lost his savings during the 1929 stock market crash and befriended **Floyd "Panhandle" Phillips**, a gregarious storyteller. Hobson, the son of an American naval hero, could write—having attended Stanford University—but it was Phillips, the Illinois farmboy, who could talk.

Both dreamed of being ranchers.



By the time the two greenhorns arrived at Anahim Lake, 200 miles west of Williams Lake, in a Ford panel truck nicknamed 'The Bloater,' winter was fast approaching.

According to Pan Phillips' daughter **Diana Phillips** in *Beyond the Chilcotin: On the Home Ranch with*

# AT HOME ON THE RANGE

The Chilcotin labyrinth of rancher Pan Phillips, as seen by his daughter

Pan Phillips (Harbour \$34.95), they would have frozen to death were it not for the hospitality of a neighbour who invited them to winter under his roof.

In the spring they crossed the Ilgachuz Mountains and founded the Home Ranch, later made famous by two of Hobson's classic books on B.C. ranching.

*Grass Beyond the Mountains* (1951) mythologized a 1937 cattle drive known as the 'Starvation Drive.' This story was serialized in *Maclean's*.

*Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy* (1955) recalled their struggles to maintain their four-million-acre spread dur-

ing World War II when supplies and manpower were scarce.

It didn't hurt that Hobson included his recurring vision of a beautiful blonde woman to break the solitude.

When the two men parted company in the 1940s, Hobson started ranching in the Vanderhoof area with his wife, Gloria, leading to his final book, *The Rancher Takes A Wife*.

Hobson died in 1966 but his stories have endured, providing stimuli for a CBC TV series, *Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy*, filmed in B.C., and an annual Vanderhoof stage production.

More than twenty years ago, **Jack**

**Diana Phillips** (right) says her father **Pan Phillips** (at left) liked to say ranching was easy for men, hard on women and horses.

and **Darlene Brown** wrote *The Legend of Pan Phillips* and now Diana Phillips has emerged with *Beyond the Chilcotin*.

The new memoir gives short shrift to Pan Phillips' first two marriages, but picks up steam when her mother, **Betty Kushner**, is hired to cook for the Home Ranch in 1944. After she meets her new employer Pan Phillips for the first time in Quesnel, they make the six-day, 180-mile journey on horseback, along with Betty's newborn son, Ken (not Pan's son).

The pair soon became a couple. Diana Phillips was born in July of 1945, at the Quesnel hospital, and brought to the remote Home Ranch in a Pacific Milk box perched atop a rubber-tired wagon [pictured above] pulled by horses.

"I'm not even sure who came to get us," she writes, "It could have been one of the hired hands.

"My Dad was not known for his dedication to family life!"

Betty Phillips was the only non-Na-

*continued on page 8*

continued from page 7

tive woman at the ranch and mail was their only contact with the outside world into the early 1950s. Diana's father called the shots.

"Since Dad did most of the grocery shopping, whatever was on the shopping list that he figured we didn't need, we didn't get. If he liked it, he bought it."

A photojournalist named **Richard Harrington** took superb photos at the cattle ranch in 1956 and 1960, with the result that Diana Phillips had penpals around the world.

The high quality of Harrington's images makes *Beyond the Chilcotin* extraordinary—as much as the character of Pan Phillips, who is revealed as a droll country sage and a bit of a ham. He often said, "A cowboy is a shepherd with his brain knocked out."

Although she writes mainly of her own experiences, Diana Phillips allows her father—half mountain man and half cowboy—to steal the show. She ends by recalling **Mike Poole's** 1969 documentary about her father's last cattle drive for CBC's *This Land of Ours*.

"Dad was in seventh heaven with the filming and always wanted to hold centre stage," she recalls.

Phillips supplemented his income with guiding and the purchase of a portable sawmill in 1959. The Home Ranch was sold in 1970. Diana Phillips doesn't mention that her father later moved to nearby Tsetzi Lake to run a fishing camp with his son. Born on March 13, 1910 in Pike City, Illinois, Pan Phillips died at Tsetzi Lake on May 18, 1983.1-55017-447-9

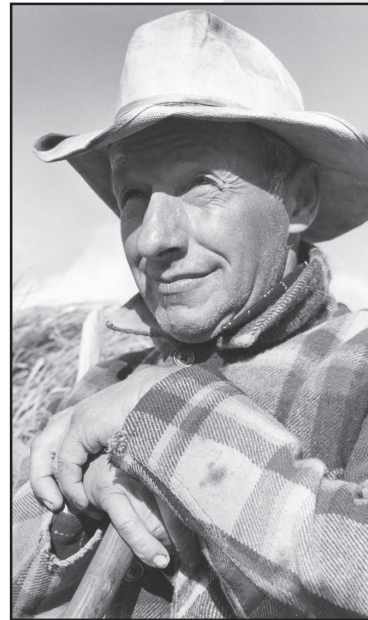
## Cutting a hard, Pan-style bargain

"Mary Cassam had a small, skinny Hereford heifer one spring that was obviously in calf and she wanted to sell it to Dad. He was reluctant to buy it. She was persistent. Finally a bargain was struck. Dad would pay her the money they agreed on but only after the heifer calved. If she died, it was Mary's loss. The heifer was delivered a month or so before calving. She went into labour but was unable to give birth. Dad decided to perform a Caesarean on the heifer. He got her standing up and she stood

through the whole operation. She kicked the first cut he made, and then he started pouring turpentine and continued slowly cutting. Turpentine will numb and disinfect. After the calf was removed, his stitching job left a lot to be desired. I had to leave as soon as he started cutting as I cannot stomach too much of that sort of thing. So I did not witness the stitching job he did inside, but the outside one was there for all to see. There were six or seven stitches

on an eighteen-inch gash. For the next few weeks it was touch and go if she would die of infection or live. The turpentine treatment continued. It was probably due to the turpentine that she survived at all; it killed the flies and disinfected inside and out. By rodeo time in July the heifer went to range and Mary got paid. The heifer was shipped that fall to the cattle sale in Quesnel. She had a very thin scar that was hardly noticeable."

— excerpt from *Beyond the Chilcotin*



Pan Phillips loved company and he liked to argue with a smile on his face.

ESTATE OF RICHARD HARRINGTON / COURTESY OF STEPHEN BULGER GALLERY



ESTATE OF RICHARD HARRINGTON / COURTESY OF STEPHEN BULGER GALLERY

At age 15, in 1960, Diana Phillips takes a break from ranch chores.

If Woody Guthrie had visited B.C. mining camps, he might have written a song about Irene Howard's parents, Alfred and Ingeborg Nelson. The stalwart couple in Howard's *Gold Dust On His Shirt* (Between the Lines \$26.95) represent the heroism of pioneer labour generating profit for others.

Knowing only Swedish, Nils Alfred Nilsson emigrated from northern Sweden in 1905 and worked his way west for the Grand Trunk Railway, reaching Prince Rupert, population 300, in 1908. After Nilsson changed his name to Nelson, he married a beautiful young widow, Ingeborg Aarvik, newly arrived from Norway in 1913. In Norway, at age 19, Ingeborg had married a village tailor, **Kristian Vigen**, who had tuberculosis. After her husband died of TB in 1909, Ingeborg succumbed to so-called "Amerika fever," the desire to start anew on another continent. In order to join her brother in Port Essington, Ingeborg left behind her infant daughter, Inga—with hopes of bringing her later. "Did Inga wave goodbye?" writes Howard, imagining her mother's situation. "I will never know, and Inga would remain a shadowy figure belonging to the Old Country of my childhood, except for this: when I was a young mother, I had to wave goodbye to my two-year-old son when I stepped out of our house, not to enter that door again for a year. Like Kristian, I had tuberculosis." In 1917, Alfred took his family to Mullan, Idaho, to take a railway construction job but severe labour strife eventually forced them to return to Canada. "You can't beat the System," Alfred Nelson used to say, "They'll beat you every time." (Swedish-born folk singer Joseph Hillstrom, more famously known as **Joe Hill**, had been murdered by Utah state authorities in 1915



Irene Howard (pictured below) is held by her mother in this photo taken near the Duthie Mine, north of Smithers, in 1923.

## WORKING CLASS HEROES

Ingeborg & Alfred—unsung lives of parenting and perseverance

for his songs in support of the migrant workers.)



Irene Howard was born in Prince Rupert in 1922. She was raised with her brothers in mining camps, mainly around Smithers and the Bridge River area.

At the Duthie Mine, her father was shift boss for a crew of miners and doubled as the family shoemaker and barber. Her mother carried water from a creek for washday "with a yoke across her shoulders and two pails of water sloshing water at her side with every step" until her brothers Arthur and Verner were able to erect a flume.

The unremitting labour of raising a family of seven—"so impossibly taxing, both physically and mentally, that it can scarcely be even imagined"—was ultimately less demanding than the rigours of an

other kind of labour, childbirth.

Irene Howard recalls her mother and father in the living room, facing one another, in a rented two-storey house in Kamloops in 1930, not long after the Duthie Mine had closed.

"She is telling him that she is pregnant. She doesn't know that I understand what she's saying. I'm looking at my father's face. I think he looks angry. My mother reaches out and holds me to her. But he wasn't angry. I know that now. What he was feeling was utter dismay and help-

lessness at the turn of events:

the mine closing and everything they'd built up at the Duthie lost, the family uprooted again, a job that didn't even pay wages, and now this, another child." Howard's narrative detours into social history, explaining that the dissemination of information about birth control was made illegal in Canada under the Criminal Code of 1892. (In B.C., the door of secrecy wasn't unhinged until the radical journalist **A.M. Stephen** started the Birth Control League of Canada in Vancouver in 1923.)

Ingeborg Nelson was worn out in 1931, in no condition to have another child. Her family had moved five times, from one mine to another, between 1920 and 1930. "Who can know the turmoil in her mind," writes Howard, "[during] those last weeks of her nine months when she no longer felt the child moving, kicking in her womb? And knew that her child had died."

Three weeks after the still-born birth at the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, Ingeborg Nelson died of a blood clot on February 8, 1931. Nils Alfred Nelson died of tuberculosis brought on by silicosis in May of 1948.

"Unaccountably," writes Howard, "I feel as though I share the blame for what the System did to my father's lungs. I grieve because I didn't know what to say when I sat beside his bed, as he struggled for breath in an oxygen tent."

Irene Howard has now found all the words she needed to say. *Gold Dust On His Shirt* is a stunningly vivid and in-depth family history that doubles as progressive labour history. This is a fitting follow-up to Howard's biography of labour organizer and social reformer **Helena Gutteridge**, the first woman to be elected to Vancouver City

Council, who fought for low income housing and women's rights until she died at age 88. 978-1-897071-45-8

"It did not occur to me that our rough prospector's cabin qualified as a pioneer habitation every bit as much as a tent in the Rockies or a sod hut on the prairies."—IRENE HOWARD



TWIGG PHOTO

He still hasn't found  
what he's looking for.

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Lucette ter Borg

Translated from the Dutch by Liedewy Hawke

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# prizes

## SCRUTINY ON THE BOUNTIFUL

**Daphne Bramham** of *The Vancouver Sun* was the lone British Columbian among three runners-up for the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction in Canada that went to **Russell Wangersky** for his firefighting memoir, **Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself** (Thomas Allen). Here Bramham reflects on the process of writing **The Secret Lives of Saints: Child Brides and Lost Boys in Canada's Polygamous Mormon Sect** (Random House), her investigation of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints community in Bountiful, B.C.

As a child, I dreamed of writing books—novels. I chose journalism as a career because I figured that working in newspapers was a great way to learn the skill of putting nouns and verbs together—although you don't get much chance to use adjectives or even adverbs.

And the discipline of daily deadlines helped me evolve from a reporter to a writer. I also rather quickly learned that my imagination is no match for real life. My ability to construct a make-believe world could never begin to compare to the stories in the real world.

In my wildest of dreams, I could never have conjured up Bountiful and the world of fundamentalist Mormonism.

In fact, in May of 2004, when I received an email from **Jancis Andrews** about polygamy and young girls being trafficked across the Canada-U.S. border to be concubines to older men—all in the guise of religion, I really didn't believe her.

But she convinced me that it was true. And with that, I began a journey into a dark story that had all of the things that my mother had told me were not topics for polite conversation—religion, politics, sex and money.

My mother, as usual, was right. These are not topics that can be dealt with politely so for the most part we shy away from them. In doing so, we tacitly agree that it's okay for old men to have dozens of wives and hundreds of children. We tacitly agree that it's okay for them to take 13-, 14-, and 15-year-old girls as plural wives; that it's okay to use young boys and men as slave labourers before cutting them adrift in order to satisfy the punishing arithmetic of polygamy.

Before I started writing the book, I'd written close to 100 newspaper stories about what was going on in Bountiful, B.C. within the group—



Daphne Bramham

which the lawyers warned me I should never call a cult. But it was only in researching and writing the book that I began to absorb the magnitude of the abuse, the long pattern of abuse and the sheer horror of life in Bountiful.

Because this is non-fiction, not make-believe, I could not have written it without a number

of people who not only took the risk of talking to me, but invited me into their homes. Sometimes for days on end, I sat at kitchen tables sorting through boxes and boxes of religious tracts, personal letters, unpublished family histories and photo albums.

I drank gallons of coffee and poured out nearly equal amounts in tears. I met women so badly traumatized that they'd slipped into lives of prostitution, drug abuse and alcoholism. I met boys who were confused and adrift, convinced that they are damned for all eternity and have nothing left to lose.

The voices of the tyrannical god-men wormed their way into my head. But for every sleepless night I had, I knew from the pain-etched faces of the people I'd met that my bad nights were nothing compared to what they had suffered....

It has been my privilege to shine a light on a dark corner of Canada, to press for the rights of the women and children of Bountiful to be respected and protected and to finally see that justice may be done in that community. But that's the chapter that has yet to be written. 978-0-307-35588-1



For an insider's view of abuse in Bountiful, see also **Debbie Palmer's** courageous memoir *Keep Sweet: Children of Polygamy* (Dave's Press, 2005), winner of the Vancity Women's Book Prize. 0-9687943-3-5



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Turns 25

The 25th annual BC Book Prizes gala will be held at the Marriott Pinnacle Hotel in Vancouver, April 25th. Call 604-687-2405 for details or visit [www.bcbookprizes.ca](http://www.bcbookprizes.ca). **PHOTO:** original organizing committee at the first gala in 1985: (left to right) Brian Newsome, Paddy Laidley, Brian Scrivener, Carolyn Zonailo, Alan Twigg, K.O. Kane, Tony Gregson, Alice Niwinski.

# WHEN CANUCKS WERE CHAMPS

Don Cherry as a Vancouver Canuck? The Maple Leafs in Victoria? And get this—a face-off circle located directly in front of the goal net. Pure hockey fantasy? Hardly.

Welcome to the Western Hockey League.

Between 1948 and 1974 the Pacific Coast/Western Hockey League operated in a total of 22 cities in four provinces and seven states, in one of the two best professional hockey leagues outside of the National Hockey League. While some of these players went on to have careers in the NHL including future hall-of-famers such as **Glenn Hall**, **Alan Stanley** and **Gump Worsley**, most were career grinders (like **Don Cherry** who played one season for the Canucks in 1968-69) who are now at long last remembered in *Ice Warriors* (Heritage \$19.95) by **Jon C. Stott**.

From 1915 to 1926, teams from the Pacific Coast Hockey Association and the Western Canada Hockey League competed against NHL clubs for the Stanley Cup, with Vancouver, Seattle and Victoria each winning professional sports' most prestigious cup. After that, competition for the cup remained largely an eastern based affair until the 1970s. The advent of the Pacific Coast Hockey League in 1948 was seen as a western counterpart to the eastern-based NHL.

The Pacific Coast Hockey League (it became known as the Western Hockey League in 1952) had great aspirations. **Duke McLeod** reported in the *Vancouver Sun* that "league directors believe that...not too long from now, the loop... will become a distinct threat to the NHL and AHL as a 'big-time' professional hockey organization." Actually it would die trying.



The inaugural season of the PCHL in 1948 would operate two five-team divisions: the San Diego Skyhawks, Los Angeles Monarchs, Fresno Falcons, Oakland Oaks and San Francisco Shamrocks would play in the Southern Division.

The Portland Eagles, Tacoma Rockets, Seattle Ironman, New Westminster Royals and Vancouver Canucks would make up the Northern Division.

The 1948-49 season saw Vancouver lead the league in attendance with New Westminster close behind. The southern teams did not fare nearly as well, although the San Diego Skyhawks would be the league's first champions defeating the New Westminster Royals.

The following year saw the Victoria

Cougars enter the league led by hockey legend **Lester Patrick** as its owner. In their first year the Cougars were a lousy team—setting records of futility that drew great crowds.

The 1951-52 season saw a prairie shift for the league with the addition of franchises in Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatchewan. To reflect its extended geographical range, the PCHL renamed itself the Western Hockey League (WHL). The prairie franchises would do well for several years until the introduction of a spoiler known as Hockey Night in Canada that drew live audiences away from the rink and onto the couch.

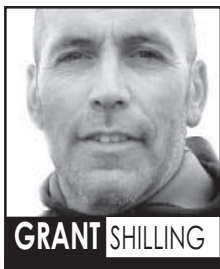
The 1951-52 season also saw the introduction of a new look on the ice level. Instead of two faceoff circles in each defensive zone, there would be only one, directly in front of the goal. League officials

made the change to increase the punishment for non-penalty infractions by the defending team. Should the attacking club win a faceoff, officials reasoned, it had a better opportunity of making a screened shot on the goal. This experiment would be tried for three years before being abandoned in favour of the traditional two faceoff circles on either side of the net.

The 1955-56 season saw the addition of Winnipeg with its state-of-the-art 10,000-seat arena. The league was constantly shifting franchises and allegiances with NHL teams in efforts to become more viable. Its experiments in various markets would eventually point the way for the NHL in its location of franchises. Although an official 'white paper' was signed between the NHL and WHL promising compensation for the location of NHL franchises in WHL territory, this all came to naught.

The peripatetic nature of the league would see it shift its prairie expansion of the 50s into another southern expansion in the early 60s. The WHL would become part of a pattern of expansion, contraction and alas, failure. The 1959-60 season also saw another league innovation, a best of nine championship series. This was played between the Vancouver Canucks and Victoria Cougars and won by the Canucks.

In 1963, the WHL introduced a pension plan, the first in minor league professional sports.



GRANT SHILLING



**FORTY YEARS AND COUNTING:**  
In 1969, Vancouver Canucks won the Western Hockey League championship with the help of ex-New York Rangers star Andy Bathgate (above).

By 1964, the Cougars were purchased by Toronto Maple Leafs owner **Stafford Smythe** and renamed—surprise—the Victoria Maple Leafs. They’d last three more seasons in the provincial capital before being sold to Phoenix.

Stafford Smythe also had his eye on Vancouver. Smythe was prepared to build a downtown coliseum, if the city would give him the land for free. Vancouver voters turned him down. In 1965-66, when the NHL awarded six new conditional franchises, Vancouver was not on the list and speculation was that Stafford Smythe, still miffed by Vancouver voters’ refusal to give him free land on which to build an arena, had influenced his fellow owners’ votes against the Vancouver delegation. (Vancouver fans voiced their displeasure by boycotting products of Molson Breweries, owners of the Montreal Canadiens and a major sponsor of Hockey Night in Canada).

A total of 26 WHL players from the 1966-67 season became NHL regulars in the first year of expansion. This led to many older players in the WHL, including Vancouver’s **Phil Maloney** (39), hanging in a few more years. As Stott writes, “From major-league aspirant to strong and independent professional league, the WHL was now moving toward becoming a place where NHL teams could send their aging farmhands and their not-so-brightly shining prospects.”

In Vancouver, the Canucks moved into their new arena, the Pacific Coliseum, on January 7, 1968 losing 4-2 to Providence of the AHL before 12,403 fans. The Vancouver Canucks played their last WHL game on May 2, 1970. The team entered the NHL along with the Buffalo Sabres for the 1970–71 season. Ex-Ranger centre **Orland Kurtenbach** was named the Canucks’ first-ever captain, and the team played its inaugural game against the Los Angeles Kings on October 9, 1970, in which **Barry Wilkins** scored the first goal in franchise history. Two days later, the squad netted its first franchise win, with a score of 5–3 over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

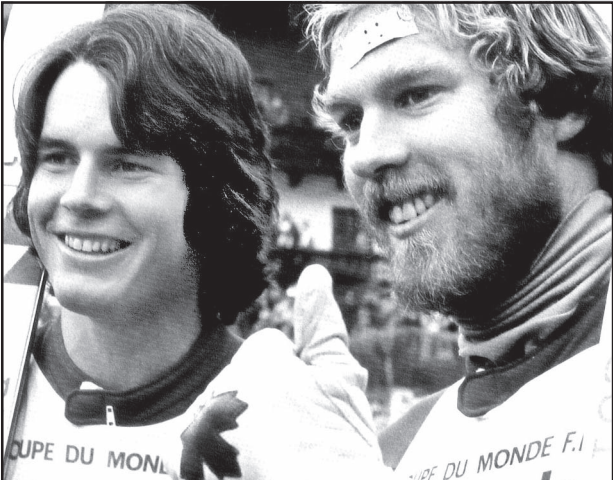
As for the WHL it would struggle on until 1974, the ongoing expansion of the NHL and the creation of the World Hockey Association would all contribute to the demise of a wonderful experiment that served western hockey well and in its way gave birth to our beloved Canucks.

Jon C. Stott recounts the history of the league in a detailed, chronological order that honours the ambitions and dreams of a quarter-century of ice warriors.

*Grant Shilling is a regular contributor from Cumberland.*

# AND WHEN THE CRAZY CANUCKS WERE CHAMPS

North Vancouverite **Janet Love Morrison** interviewed more than 70 people in preparation for CBC’s 1997 skiing documentary *Life and Times: Those Crazy Canucks*. Consequently CBC’s **Peter Mansbridge** has supplied the foreword for Morrison’s coffee table book, **The Crazy Canucks: Canada’s Legendary Ski Team** (Harbour \$34.95) about the rise of Canadian downhill racers such as **Ken Read**, “Jungle” **Jim Hunter**, **Dave Murray**, **Dave Irwin** and **Steve Podborski** during the 1970s, known collectively as the Kamikaze Canadians, as well as *Neus Wunderteam* (new wonder team).



Ken Read and Dave Murray, Schladming, Austria, 1978

“The Europeans think it’s inconceivable that a Canadian could beat them,” said Dave Murray. When the team arrived to compete in Argentina in the summer of 1975, Jim Hunter observed, “When we got off the plane we all looked like commandos. We were all in t-shirts and jeans. Irwin walked over and picked up a ski bag holding eight pairs of skis. He threw it on his shoulder like it was box of toothpicks. There was a sense of BOOM!—we had arrived.”

After Ken Read became the first non-European to win a World Cup downhill event—at Val d’Isère in 1975—the world took notice of the handsome, yellow-suited Canucks who had arrived to compete in a rusty old Volkswagen van. Dave Irwin (“the original Crazy Canuck”) won Canada’s second downhill victory at Schladming, Austria, the same year. Irwin and Read had joined the national team in 1971. Podborski became the first North American to win the World Cup title in 1982, the year Irwin retired. Read retired in 1983; Podborski made his final run at Whistler in 1984.

**Rob Boyd** of Whistler became the first Canadian male to win a World Cup downhill event in Canada in 1989.



Jenny Kwan, MLA,  
Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant

BY ROD DROWN

Women are from Venus, men are from Mars. Women collaborate, men compete. Based on her interviews with women of all political stripes, Anne Edwards' lively *Seeking Balance: Conversations with BC Women in Politics* (Caitlin \$28.95) reveals the extent to which legislative bodies are deeply rooted in the Red Planet.

Although Anne Edwards' sources seem to have had common experiences vis-à-vis their male parliamentary colleagues, *Seeking Balance* is not a litany of female complaints.

Speaking of **Pauline Jewett**, for instance, **Dawn Black** recalls, "The fact that she wasn't married had become a huge issue. People said, 'It's one thing to vote for a woman, but to vote for a woman who's never been married, that's different.'

"Suddenly a farmer got up from the back row and in a no-nonsense manner said, 'Oh, for God's sake, if that's such an issue, I'll marry Pauline!'"

But of course sexism has been endemic. Edwards recalls that during the televised debates for the 1993 federal election, **Preston Manning** called **Kim Campbell** "Kim" and **Audrey McLaughlin** "Audrey" but he called **Jean Chrétien** "Mister Chrétien."

Historically, Manning and other Martian males have not been receptive to the Venusian female. Most of Cana-

# THE RISE OF SISTERHOOD

From Grace MacInnis to Grace McCarthy, gender unites politicians

da's governing men explained their early opposition to granting women the franchise by saying they wanted to preserve the "moral purity and sweetness" of the fairer sex, saving her from the messy business of exercising a franchise.

Although the CCF and NDP in BC have most strongly championed the election of women, on the federal level it was the Tories who gave women the greatest advances politically. Sir **John A. Macdonald's** government proposed several bills allowing universal suffrage and it was **Robert Borden's** which gave Canadian women the vote in 1918 and, in 1920, the right to stand for election. Even so, progress was slow: it was only in 1965, some 45 years later, that NDPer **Grace MacInnis** became BC's first female MP. Her party has put forward

more candidates and elected more women provincially and federally than any other in B.C.

Some of Edwards' sources give the impression that they felt that men viewed politics as a game. The B.C. Legislature, says one-term Liberal MLA **April Sanders**, was like "being in a foreign country, feeling completely from another planet with respect to how things were run: the rules, the way decisions were made."

**Iona Campagnolo** concurs. "We live in an adversarial society. Partisan politics, competing ideologies, and various belief systems generally oppose cooperation and negotiation... [The media] pits opinions against each other to stimulate debate and elicit maximum disagreement. It is a pattern designed for

entertainment, not results."

According to Edwards, left to themselves, women would run governments on a consensus model. The women in Edwards' book also take direct aim at the near-complete cynicism of the media, which often falsely dismisses all politicians as scoundrels and time-wasters.

"I worked really hard to be out there," says one-term NDP MLA **Margaret Lord**, "to keep dialogue going, meeting with groups, bringing people into the office on any particular issue. [I worked at] figuring out where people stood on issues by being totally open to them."

"A lot of people think televising parliament was the death knell," says Kim Campbell. "**John Turner** described question period as bullshit theatre, and it is, but it's an important part of the democratic process.

"Still, as a kind of game, it undermines the seriousness of what politicians do, the seriousness of most of the people I know who were elected to various levels of government."

Edwards works hard to demonstrate that better government for all requires re-making our legislative bodies to better reflect the innate tendencies of the other half of the human race, from Venus.

As long as members must toe the party line under a party whip, with a caucus system which forces voting strictly on party lines, Sanders believes, "you may as well go home—we won't have better government."

Collectively Edwards' sources strongly suggest that communities—communities of interest and common concern—must become the basis for decisions, particularly as the world's business continues to become more and more global, and the impacts more and more local.

978-1-894759-31-1

Rod Drown served for six years on the board of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District during the 1990s.

*Anne Edwards was Minister of Mines, Energy and Petroleum Resources in Glen Clark's NDP government. Some of the more than 80 politicians included in her book are:*

Joy MacPhail

Christy Clarke

Grace MacInnis

• Rita Johnston • Rosemary Brown • Grace McCarthy  
 • Darlene Marzari • Kim Campbell • Iona Campagnolo  
 • Jenny Kwan • Carole James • Pat Carney • Val Meredith

*Rocksalt star  
Harold Rhenisch  
entertains at a  
book launch in  
Nanaimo.*

# GETTING FRESH

## Two editors accomplish mission impossible

**Rocksalt, An Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry, edited by Mona Fertig and Harold Rhenisch, (Mother Tongue \$24.95)**

*In 1973, Robin Skelton of Victoria reviewed the new Oxford Book of Twentieth Century Poetry, edited by Philip Larkin. Some of his comments were "Eccentric, uninventive, superficial, uninformed, trivial, absurd." Out of 207 submissions, Larkin had accepted six poems each from twenty-two poets. Skelton was not one of them.*

*In 2008, Hannah Main-van der Kamp's submission to Rocksalt was rejected. She writes far less peevishly than Skelton.*

PUTTING TOGETHER THE FIRST, extensive anthology of B.C. poets in three decades is an admirable but necessarily precarious project.

It's impossible to please all readers, let alone all writers, all of the time. Some worthy names will always be left out.

GG-winner **Roy Miki** but not two-time GG-winner **Don McKay**? **Bowering, Marilyn** but not **Bowering, George**? Were some writers not interested in contributing?

If you've been reading B.C. poetry for a long time, you may recognize about half of the poets in *Rocksalt* by name, but not their poems, because co-editors **Mona Fertig** and **Harold Rhenisch** limited inclusions to one "fresh" poem each.

Will there be a volume II? And will it include **Bachinsky, Belford, Blackstock, M. Blaser,**

**Bowling, Brighurst, Brown A., Compton, Cookshaw, Crozier, Kearns, Kishkan, Lane, Lamarche, Lau, Lillburn, New, Owen, Pearson, Price, Rader, Reid, J., Roberts, Shreve, Stenson, Thesen, Tucker, Wakan, Webb, Yates, Zwicky?**



The standard Canadian poetry anthology, edited by **Gary Geddes**, first came out in 1970. Now into its umpteenth edition, it must still leave a few noses out of joint. He chooses to include less than twenty poets with an average of ten poems per poet, as well as a few pages of bio/poetics.

The 108 poets in *Rocksalt* represent about one-third of the total number who submitted. B.C. residency was a requirement. The introduction indicates "a new generation" would be welcomed, with an emphasis on "fresh" unpublished work.

True to their resolve, Mona Fertig and Harold Rhenisch have erred on the side of generosity, according space to some less-known writers, but this sampling approach could leave some readers disgruntled. Imagine you are in a coffee shop that offers a huge variety of brews with elegant written descriptions but you may only taste a teaspoon of each.



Speaking of coffee shops,

why is there a cover painting of a jaded Viennese *kaffee haus*? It's hard to relate the image of a bored, paunchy pianist as being relevant to the Pacific Northwest.

The contributors live in all areas of the province and include First Nations writers. There appears to be a preponderance of poets from the islands, especially Salt Spring, home to the publisher. A significant proportion have MFAs and/or teach creative writing. A few wag against that.



Some readers might have preferred to have more poetry, less theorizing. The latter rarely illustrates the former.

The personal statements of poetics mostly avoid posturing

and range from the predictable and pedantic to the original and humble.

One wonders if these statements held equal weight with the poems as they occupy about the same amount of print space.

**Catherine Greenwood** says that it's only once in a great while that she is blessed with a moment of "hitting the right note" and confesses, fetchingly, that writing poetry is "quite hard work."

**John Pass** volunteers this insight: "I know less and less of what I'm up to, or what poetry might make of me."

Overall, it's hard to know

what to make of this collection, mixed as it is, like this review. No anthology of poetry can be representational of all poetry.

Many British Columbians write and never consider publishing. The "Spoken Word" resurgence cannot be conveyed in print. Fine poets take long breaks from writing. Some write in languages other than English and there are no translations in this volume.

But, to its credit, this collection reflects the rich ethnicity of the population with a span of at least six decades between the youngest and oldest. It's generous, it's eclectic, it's welcome; but not all the poems display accomplishment.

An opening *Dedication* recognizes about two dozen wonderful poets who have passed away. Everyone will recognize their own favourites and loved mentors.

Editing an anthology is like teachers trying to identify their best students: it shouldn't be done but they can't help doing it. Somebody has to teach. Somebody has to edit.

978-896949-01-7

*Hannah Main-van der Kamp is a poet, teacher, columnist and reviewer who lives in Lund and Victoria.*

## LOST IN TRANSLATION

**Roots in Stone by Ibrahim Honjo**  
(Back Yard Publishing \$16.95)

New Canadians continue to arrive here and keep writing in their native languages, sometimes translating their work into English as **Ibrahim Honjo** has done for *Roots in Stone*.

Born in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1948, Honjo came to Canada in 1995.



*Ibrahim Honjo*

*Roots* is a mixture of cultures and idioms illustrated with the author's photographs and paintings of rocks. English translations run side-by-side with the original poems in the Serbo-Croatian language. Trembling palms, moaning wind, melancholy sobs, birds' laments. His imagery and style is

unapologetically of the Eastern Europe variety, so no doubt much is lost in translation. It takes all kinds of poets to make a living culture and it takes courage to enter immigrant life and keep writing not to mention the nerve it takes to self-publish.

"ne pokolebaj se jer kucnuce taj cass;" "Do not hesitate when the moment comes."

9780978217518

## SOWING WILD OATEN

*Accelerated Paces is attractive for its inventive writing and perceptions, rather than artful storytelling.*

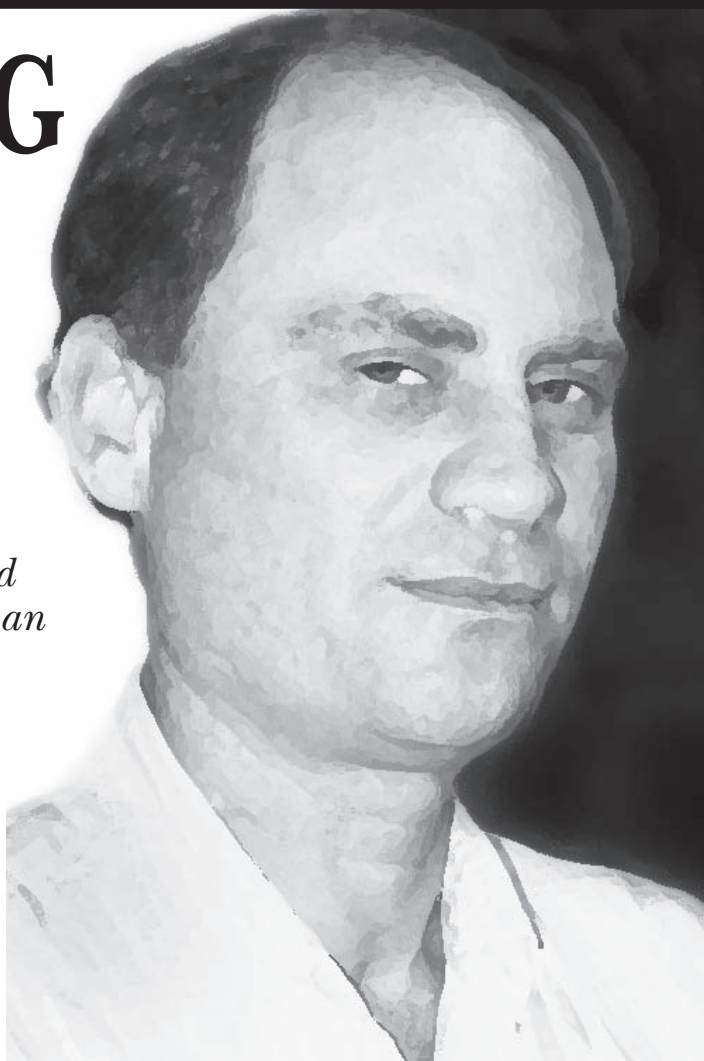
**Accelerated Paces: Travels Across Borders and Other Imaginary Boundaries** by **Jim Oaten** (Anvil \$18)

**J**im Oaten is the opposite of a Pollyanna. As the inaugural winner of *subTerrain* magazine's creative non-fiction award, he has collected his far-from-sanguine memoirs for **Accelerated Paces: Travels Across Borders and Other Imaginary Boundaries**, a potpourri of exploratory confessions.

Along the way Oaten provides some brilliant personal views of despair. "Bottom is a lot deeper than you think it is. And there is, on the descent, a kind of panicked fascination as you keep plummeting past what you thought was ground zero."

Some of his observations are even helpful. "Depression doesn't just refer to a feeling of unhappiness. The key to the disorder is in the word itself. Depress. To push down. Most depressives have learned, almost instinctively from childhood, to hold down their emotional selves."

Oaten has taken the lid off in his writing. Life is one big struggle for honesty. The reader shares in the narrator's amused detachment when he visits Metrotown, "a megamall that seemingly comprises about half of Burnaby, British Columbia," or Las Vegas, "fifty



*Jim Oaten: "Most writers generally make poor public speakers."*

years of unfiltered cigarettes, spilled cocktails and the sweaty residue of dashed hopes."

Would-be screenwriters will also enjoy Oaten's account of attending writing instructor **Robert McKee's** legendary thirty-six-hour sermon on the well-told story in New York. Oaten remains transfixed for three days by the hyper-confident McKee. He notes, "Most writers generally make poor public speakers. Their calling is tailor-made for social isolates whose best lines flow from the considered touch of fingertip and the safe distance of the printed page."

*Accelerated Paces* is not exactly fiction; but **Hunter S. Thompson**

didn't exactly stick to the facts either. Some writing is just too good to be true—not easily classifiable as fact or fiction.

An East Vancouverite who says he lives in fear of real estate prices, Oaten offers sentences that bristle with unintentional humour.

"Travel truly is a type of time-stamped insanity," he writes. "In fact, for someone who has never experienced it, the closest analogy I can think of to a bout of profound clinical depression is international air travel. In Economy Class." 978-1895636-93-4

## SCOT GONE WILD

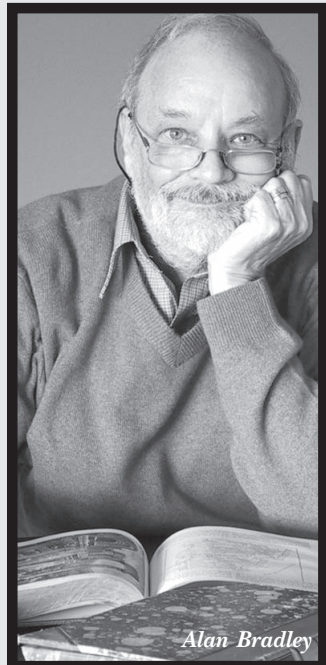
**Wild Talent: A novel of the Supernatural** by **Eileen Kernaghan** (ThistleDown \$15.95)

**S**et in London and Paris, circa 1888, **Eileen Kernaghan's** young adult novel **Wild Talent: A novel of the Supernatural** follows the flight of a 16-year-old Scottish farmworker, Jeannie Guthrie, who heads to London to escape the advances of her n'er-do-well cousin. Introduced to Madame Helena Blavatsky's famous salon for occultists, she discovers she has an unwanted "wild talent" for supernatural communication. With her free-spirited friend Alexandra David, she meets more spiritualists, anarchists and theosophists in Paris, while venturing further in the frightening world of the Beyond. 978-1-897235-40-9

## ALIEN TALES

**Finding Creatures & Other Stories** by **C. June Wolf** (Wattle & Daub \$15.95)

**A** street kid at age thirteen, **C. June Wolf** has twice hitchhiked across Canada, lived in and often visited Haiti where she worked with street kids, worked in a Vancouver rape crisis centre and held a variety of jobs before settling in Vancouver. Her first medley of speculative fiction stories, **Finding Creatures & Other Stories**, includes tales of aliens inadvertently trapped in sculptures by **Henry Moore**, a skid-row waitress with a passion for paleontology and a northern Native man who searches for somewhere to bury a dead spaceman. 978-0-9810658-0-9



SHIRLEY BRADLEY PHOTO

## MURDER AT ELEVEN

**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by **Alan Bradley** (Doubleday \$25)

**A**lan Bradley of Kelowna, at 70, has published the first novel in his projected new murder mystery series featuring an eleven-year-old detective named Flavia de Luce. **The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** focuses on the sleuthing of the enthusiastic and precocious Flavia, a chemistry buff, who lives in an ancient family house somewhere in England in the 1950s with a stamp-collecting father and two very nasty older sisters.

The manuscript received the Debut Dagger Award of the British Crimewriter's Association in July of 2007, leading to its publication in a dozen countries, including Canada. 978-0-385-66582-7

## NOW WE THREE ARE SIX

The triumvirate calling themselves SPiN have all hit paydirt recently. **Jen Sookfong Lee's** debut novel *The End of East* (Knopf 2007) is now available in paperback, as is **Mary Novik's** debut novel, *Conceit* (Doubleday 2007), winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. **Jane Hutton**, the third member of this six-year-old writers' group, makes her first fiction splash this spring with a war novel, **Underground** (Cormorant \$21), published on the anniversary of the fall of Madrid. *Underground* follows Vancouverite Albert Fraser from the Somme in WW I, through the Depression and into the Spanish Civil War. The hero is inspired to defend freedom in Spain by Picasso's painting *Guernica*. SPiN has a collective website at [www.spinwrites.com](http://www.spinwrites.com). UNDERGROUND: 9781897151812

*Mary Novik, Jen Sookfong Lee and Jane Hutton have supported one another as novice novelists.*

THE INCONVENIENT PROOF

Andrew Weaver’s global warming study dispels obfuscation and charts media mood swings.

Keeping Our Cool: Canada in a Warming World by Andrew Weaver (Penguin \$34)

MUCH LIKE THE DENIAL industry that emerged in defense of Big Tobacco, there has been a concerted effort on behalf of lobbyists and politicians to spread uncertainty about climate change. One of the chief architects of this obfuscation was Frank Luntz, a conservative spin doctor who authored a now infamous memo for the Republican Party outlining a political strategy on the environment. “The scientific debate is closing [against us] but not yet closed,” Luntz wrote. “There is still a window of opportunity to challenge the science.”



MARTIN TWIGG

Urging republicans to “be even more active in recruiting experts who are sympathetic to your view,” Luntz played an integral role in the Bush administration’s attempts to manipulate public opinion on science and the environment, perpetuating a false impression that the scientific community was still largely divided on the issue of climate change.

If any doubt remains today, *Keeping Our Cool: Canada in a Warming World* by Andrew Weaver, a climate scientist at the University of Victoria, should be the final nail in the climate-change-denier coffin, thoroughly dispelling any lingering skepticism about the science of global warming.

A lead author in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace prize with Al Gore, Weaver provides an authoritative, yet accessible, explanation of the science behind climate change and the recent history of public debate over the matter.

According to Weaver, climate scientists struggled for decades to communicate the dangers of global warming, but the tide of public opinion has finally turned, thanks in part to the success of Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth* and a flurry of terrible weather-related disasters like Hurricane Katrina. The media, initially wedded to principles of journalistic balance, even in the face of scientific consensus, is now presenting the issue in its proper light (in 2003, 36.6% of all major newspaper stories provided artificially balanced coverage of climate change, compared to only 3.3% in 2006.)

While this sea change is certainly cause for hope, the fact that it took so long is both tragic and unnecessary. As Weaver

Worst CO <sub>2</sub> Emitting Countries by Volume **		
1	United States of America	1650020
2	China	1366554
3	Russian Federation	415951
4	India	366301
5	Japan	343117
6	Germany	220596
7	Canada	174401
8	United Kingdom	160179
9	Republic of Korea	127007
10	Italy	122726
11	Mexico	119473
12	South Africa	119203
13	Iran	118259
14	Indonesia	103170
15	France	101927
16	Brazil	90499
17	Spain	90145
18	Ukraine	90020
19	Australia	89125
20	Saudi Arabia	84116

\*\* Ranked by total annual emissions in millions of metric tonnes in 2004.

Worst CO <sub>2</sub> Emitting Countries Per Capita *		
1	Qatar	21.63
2	Kuwait	10.13
3	United Arab Emirates	9.32
4	Aruba	8.25
5	Luxembourg	6.81
6	Trinidad and Tobago	6.80
7	Brunei (Darussalam)	6.56
8	Bahrain	6.53
9	United States of America	5.61
10	Canada	5.46
11	Norway	5.22
12	Netherland Antilles	5.12
13	Australia	4.41
14	Falkland Islands	4.13
15	Faeroe Islands	3.86
16	Estonia	3.82
17	Oman	3.72
18	Saudi Arabia	3.71
19	Gibraltar	3.65
20	Kazakhstan	3.64

\* Ranked by per capita annual emissions of carbon in metric tonnes in 2004.

makes clear, the science of global warming is well-established, dating back to the early 19th century with people like Svante August Arrhenius, winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry, who developed the first theoretical model illustrating how carbon dioxide can affect the Earth’s temperature.

In 1938, a British steam engineer named Guy Callendar studied the effects of fossil fuel combustion on global temperatures, leading him to identify a man-made element to warming. By the 1950s, warning bells were already going off in the scientific community about the possibility of continuing temperature increases.

Between 1965 and 2007, there were 30,219 scientific studies published on the topic of climate change. Weaver distils this massive body of literature into manageable chapters, including everything from the basics, such as the greenhouse gas effect and its related causes (carbon dioxide, although the main contributor to global warming, is only one of many greenhouse gasses) to debunking common myths about sunspots and “global cooling.”

While much of the recent literature on climate change has now moved beyond the science, evaluating potential policy solutions to the problem, there is likely no better introduction to the subject than Weaver’s *Keeping Our Cool*. It records that Canada has a poor performance on emissions. In 2004, we produced 2.2% of all global emissions of carbon dioxide, despite having less than 0.5% of the global population.

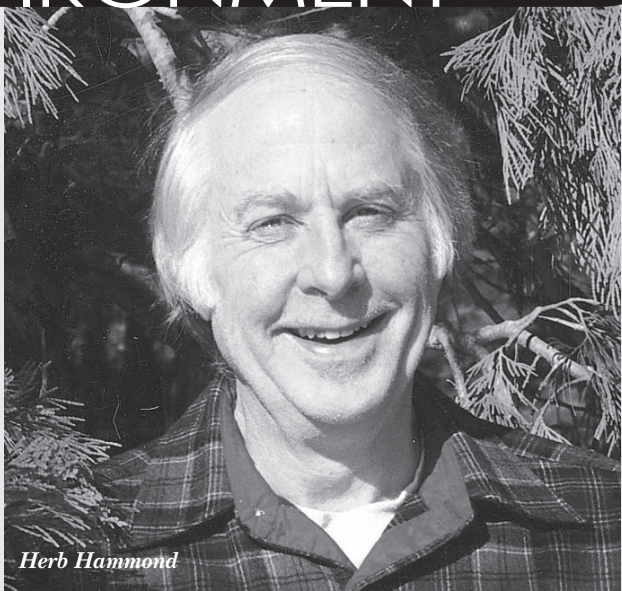
“Alberta, the home of Canada’s oil and gas industry, contributes a whopping 31.4% of total Canadian emissions,” writes Weaver, “despite having only 10% of Canada’s population.”

B.C., Manitoba and Quebec produce 8.9%, 2.0% and 12.3% of total emissions although they represent 13%, 3.7% and 24% of the overall population because these provinces make extensive use of hydro power for electricity needs.

Martin Twigg’s blog on the environment is at [www.rocksandwater.ca](http://www.rocksandwater.ca)



Andrew Weaver



“NOW IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO GET THE FUTURE RIGHT.”

Herb Hammond of Winlaw is a registered professional forester and forest ecologist with more than 30 years experience in forest management. He extensively criticized government and industry policies in *Seeing the Forest for the Trees*, which presented his case for holistic forestry use and received the Roderick Haig-Brown Book Prize in 1992. It has been followed by *Maintaining Whole Systems on Earth’s Crown: Ecosystem-Based Conservation Planning for the Boreal Forest* (New Society \$49.95), a guide to protecting and managing the planet’s largest remaining carbon reservoir.

Written as a narrative mystery, *Alex Rose’s Who Killed the Grand Banks?* (Wiley \$36.95) investigates the collapse of Canada’s fishery 16 years after the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced a moratorium on northern cod. Rose provides answers and identifies culpable parties.

Norwegian-born Andreas Kare Hellum, who studied forestry at UBC, has recalled his lifelong journey to salvage the world’s declining forests—with visits to Thailand, China, Guyana and the Philippines—in *Listening to Trees* (NeWest \$22.95).



A.K. Hellum

A former editor of *Outside* magazine, James Glave recalls building a designed-for-sustainability writing studio (which doubles as a suite for in-laws) on Bowen Island. The process escalates marital tension and debt in his humorous memoir, *Almost Green* (Greystone \$22). Glave suggests we should care about the environment, not about eco-puritanism. “This movement isn’t a crusade,” he says. “It’s a series of quiet conclusions reinforced by individual actions. We have to accept our limitations and hypocrisies and not let them bog us down along the way.”

Also pitched as humorous, *Franke James’ Bothered by My Green Conscience* (New Society \$16.95) is subtitled *How an SUV-driving, imported-strawberry-eating urban dweller can go green*. As a fine arts grad from UVic, she has used drawings and photos, mixed with hand-drawn text and a confessional style, to percolate changed attitudes and behaviour.

David Suzuki’s *Green Guide* (Greystone \$19.95), co-written with David R. Boyd, is another how-to guide for green citizenry outside and inside the home. “Knowledge plus motivation equals action,” they preach. They suggest how citizens can effectively encourage governments to support sustainable lifestyles. Change your diet, change your transportation. The authors quote Ronald Wright who wrote in *A Short History of Progress*, “Now is our last chance to get the future right.”

# RELUCTANT LAND, HO

With minimal pandering and maximal knowledge, **Cole Harris** has built his case for the uniqueness of Canada. *By Raymon Torchinsky*

*The Reluctant Land: Society, Space and Environment in Canada*  
by **Cole Harris** (UBC Press \$32.95)

**R**ETIREMENT, FOR **COLE HARRIS**, HAS MEANT GETTING BACK TO WORK. There is that unfinished wattle-and-daub house in the Slocan Valley that should be attended to, as well as the attraction of honing his wood-working skills, but mainly the professor emeritus has taken four years to integrate 40 years of study and geography teaching at UBC for **The Reluctant Land**, an impressive overview of the character and experience of Canada before Confederation.

This is a welcome antidote to the simplistic renderings of early Canadian history we are exposed to in high school social studies courses, political speeches and CBC mini-series.

There is no March of Progress, no Heroic Moments or Triumphant Forging of a Nation. Instead, Harris has crafted a deeply insightful account of the history of what would become Canada, “not to promote, preach or create a national vision but to understand and thereby bring into clearer focus what this country is and what it is not.”

*The Reluctant Land* will be used in historical geography courses for many years to come—but it’s more than that, because Harris set himself the task of writing a scholarly book accessible to the general reader. For the most part he has succeeded.

Encountering *The Reluctant Land* is like listening to a series of articulate public lectures, organized on a regional basis, allowing for an exploration of each part of the country, in turn.

The writing style is spare, straightforward, free of jargon. There are no footnotes. Instead, each chapter is followed by a succinct bibliographic essay to encourage further reading.

**Eric Leinberger**, the cartographer, has done an excellent job in preparing the many maps that illustrate the text. And most importantly, Harris provides the reader with a clear account of his thinking process as he assembles evidence from a vast range of research and emphasizes the distinctive features of the Canadian experience.

In stressing the unique nature of Canada’s pre-confederation development, Harris shows the extent to which theories applicable to the development of the American colonies, and the broad forces underlying nation building in Europe, have little explanatory power for Canada.

Harris, an Order of Canada recipient, provides an understanding of the country based on inter-relationships between Native peoples, the physical environment, as well as the three major forms of European expansion: the imperial system, commercial capital and agricultural settlement.

This is not the Berton-esque *People* magazine approach to history. Harris has not used illustrative stories of individuals to entertain. Rather he explores the experiences of

fur-traders, pioneer settlers, Native hunters, lumber camp workers and merchants by vividly describing the environmental, social and economic contexts in which they lived.

Harris’ somewhat detached style can be compelling. A good example is the discussion of the disastrous social and ecological consequences of the Pacific maritime fur trade—the first rush for quick profit on the West Coast. Even if the unintended consequences had been foreseeable, it is unlikely they would have posed any moral concern for the fur traders.

After Captain Cook’s crew accidentally discovered the value of sea otter pelts in China in the 1780s, European transportation technology and Asian demand almost wiped out the

West Coast sea otter population by the 1820s. Over 650 sailings, mainly by ships from England and New England, were made to the West Coast to obtain pelts.

The combination of greed and disdain for ‘savages’ led to an often violent struggle to coerce the Native population to supply the fiercely desired pelts.

Even before Europeans built settlements and took away land control, the impact on indigenous societies was immense:

- Their populations were decimated by new diseases brought from Europe (for which they had no defense).
- They were forced into a global trading network to supply the demand for furs.
- Their way of life was forever changed by the introduction of European trade goods (blankets, iron goods, firearms, liquor).

Environmental effects were also devastating. Sea otters feed on sea urchins, which in turn feed on

kelp. Destruction of the sea otters resulted in unchecked growth of the sea urchin population, which in turn vastly reduced the kelp beds that sheltered in-shore fish stocks.

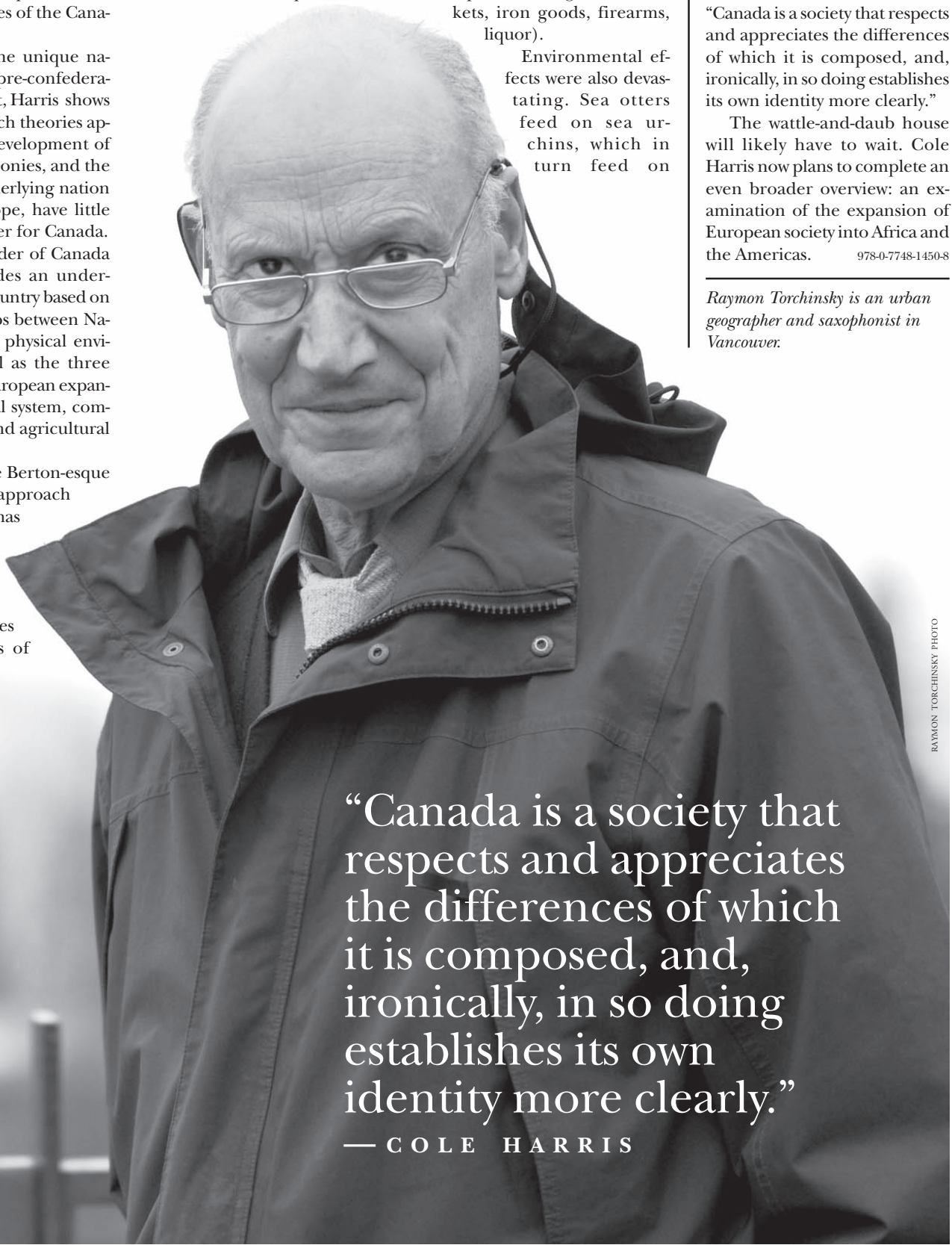
Harris contends that the subsequent changes in the Pacific coast ecology, with regards to Native livelihoods, have yet to be fully understood.

Even though events of the past 140 years are not mentioned in the final chapter of summation—about how the grounds for Confederation were prepared, both advertently and inadvertently—Harris makes an eloquent explanatory argument as relevant to current political and social concerns as anything in today’s editorial pages.

“At its best,” he concludes, “Canada is a society that respects and appreciates the differences of which it is composed, and, ironically, in so doing establishes its own identity more clearly.”

The wattle-and-daub house will likely have to wait. Cole Harris now plans to complete an even broader overview: an examination of the expansion of European society into Africa and the Americas. 978-0-7748-1450-8

*Raymon Torchinsky is an urban geographer and saxophonist in Vancouver.*



“Canada is a society that respects and appreciates the differences of which it is composed, and, ironically, in so doing establishes its own identity more clearly.”

— COLE HARRIS

## GOING FOR A PIAZZA

Siena Summer by Ann Chandler  
(Tradewind, \$12.95)

Grateful to leave her mother and the alternating “stony silences and yelling matches” that have erupted since the death of her father, Angela goes to Italy expecting an uneventful summer with her uncle in Tuscany.

As described in **Ann Chandler’s** fictional debut *Siena Summer*, Angela arrives in Siena in time to witness the time-honoured *Palio*, a highly competitive and often bloody, bareback horse race, staged twice each summer, during which ten riders recklessly circle the Piazza del Campo.

Angela’s life becomes complicated when she discovers a dappled horse named Tempesta, awaiting a final journey to the slaughterhouse, and she meets the girl this unpredictable horse threw and trampled. Trouble comes in the form of a broad-shouldered, dark-eyed and devious *fantino*, or jockey, named Tony.

The *Palio* evolved from medieval times. Animal rights organizations have frequently protested the mistreatment of horses at the event.

978-1-896580-17-3



Cover art from  
Siena Summer



Bev Cooke

## FERAL CATS & FERAL TEENS

Feral by Bev Cooke (Orca \$9.95)

In **Bev Cooke’s** compelling *Feral*, hunger forces Little Cat to leave the safety of dark subway tunnels for the bright but largely empty subway platform. “It’s the safe-time, the sleep-time, when the earth-shaker ear-breakers run seldom and the two-legs are few.”

Little Cat meets the street kid Candlewax, “as agile and careful as any cat,” who tosses Little Cat a chunk of Egg McMuffin. Candlewax steals candles from the church where he hides out and hawks them on the platform.

Candlewax is young, tough, scared. Feral. Just like Little Cat.

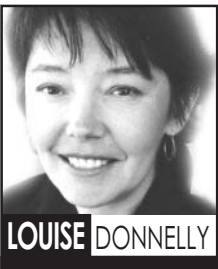
Theirs is a violent coming-of-age. Little Cat endures the kicks

and blows of the two-legs and faces down rats, evil-fanged dogs and other, bigger, viciously territorial cats.

Candlewax, or Con as he calls himself, has escaped a “worms-in-the-head

bad” gang leader only to be targeted by a rival gang. The old gang Nightside will kill him if he goes too deep into the tunnels.

Out on the street the Crew is hunting him. Stay too close to the station, the cops will grab him and it’s Juvie; and if



LOUISE DONNELLY

Nightside doesn’t get him there, then it’ll be Crew. Either way, Con’s “dead-meat.”

Katherine, herself involved in the gangs through a shifty, untrustworthy boyfriend, befriends both Con and Little Cat and then

unknowingly unites them for the chilling climax of *Feral*, the second children’s book by Cooke who, not surprisingly, is a cat-lover.

978-1-55143-747-7

*Louise Donnelly writes her column from Vernon.*

## ELLEN’S SECOND MOTHER

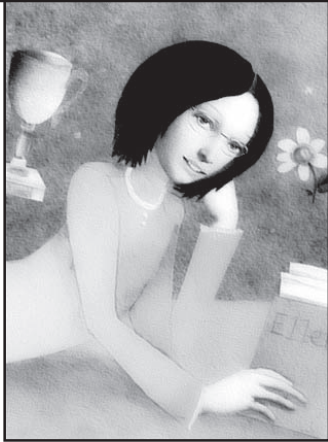
Ellen’s Book of Life by Joan Givner  
(Groundwood, \$17.95)

The latest installment of **Joan Givner’s** series about a klutzy, feisty, brainy heroine named Ellen (*Ellen Fremedon*; *Ellen Fremedon Journalist*; *Ellen Fremedon Volunteer*) presents the adolescent, would-be writer from Vancouver Island with her most heart-wrenching challenge.

At first, Ellen’s summer is full of promise. Pressured into competing in a provincial debating tournament and dressed down by the judge for wearing jeans and a juice-stained t-shirt, she goes home triumphant with the silver cup for best speech. So she’s off to Toronto for a glorious month of big-city shopping, museums, concerts and art galleries.

Best of all, Ellen will be leaving behind her little brothers and their ghoulish delight in spiders. Then a call comes: Ellen’s mom, who’s been bedridden with MS, has been rushed to the hospital. That’s the set-up for *Ellen’s Book of Life*.

After her mother’s death Ellen spends a lot of time down



Ellen’s Book of Life cover art

at the marina where she stomps on washed-up baby crabs and kills them. She throws her best friend Jenny’s unopened notes and gifts in the garbage. She rages at her Dad for encouraging Gran, her mom’s mother, to come around more often.

Then she finds a hand-written letter that begins, “*My dearest Ellen, One day you will want to find your birth mother...*”

When Ellen’s resultant search leads her hesitantly to a lawyer’s office in Vancouver, she’s astonished to discover the lawyer is the same short-tempered, frizzy-haired judge who chewed her out at the debating

In **Annabel Lyon’s** first work of juvenile fiction, **All-Season Edie** (Orca \$8.95), eleven-year-old Edie responds to the illness of her beloved grandfather by acting out—trying to practice witchcraft, ruining her older sister’s



Annabel Lyon

party, trying to learn flamenco dancing and meeting Zeus at the mall while Christmas shopping.

978-1-55143-713-2



Prior to ending a ten-year tenure as books columnist for the *Georgia Straight* and joining *Vancouver* magazine as an executive editor, John Burns published a novel about a teenager named Peter who, in the wake of his father’s death, runs away after he accidentally learns he was adopted. In Burns’

**Runnerland** (Raincoast \$11.95), Peter increasingly takes refuge in a psychedelic sub-conscious world he calls Runnerland.

978-1-55192-957-6

John Burns



In **Jacqueline Pearce’s Manga Touch** (Orca \$9.95), a teenage outsider named Dana hopes her knowledge of manga art will make her popular during her school’s trip to Japan. But after the only manga fan she meets in Japan refuses to talk to her, Dana must make an effort to gel with the “in-crowd” from her school, known as the Melly Mob. She must come out of her shell to confront and overcome its oppressive leader, Melissa, aka Melly.

978-1-55143-746-0

contest. And more astonishing—and downright appalling—this woman turns out to be her birth mother.

Ellen hopes to never see her birth mother, Sarah Maslin, ever again, and she believes the feeling must be mutual, but she finds herself increasingly taking the ferry back and forth to Vancouver. In a matter of weeks she finds herself growing closer to a new grandmother who deepens her awareness of a Jewish heritage.

And so Ellen learns about eating kosher, the sham children’s opera performed at the Theresienstadt concentration camp, and the Book of Life, opened on Rosh Hashanah, in which the names of the righteous are listed.

*Ellen’s Book of Life* concludes with the celebratory Seder meal and its symbolic foods—the bitter herbs, the unleavened bread—and a girl moving on with tentative resiliency and a slowly healing heart.

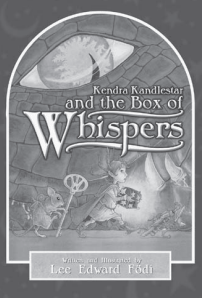
A self-described “sober academic type,” Joan Givner lives in Mill Bay, a seaside village much like Ellen’s hometown.

978-0-88899-853-8

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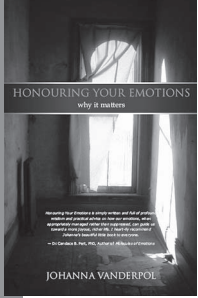
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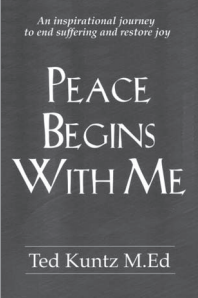
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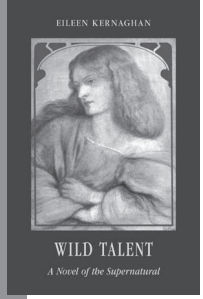
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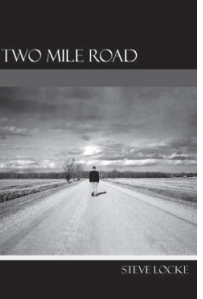
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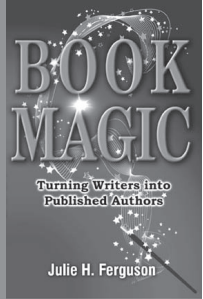
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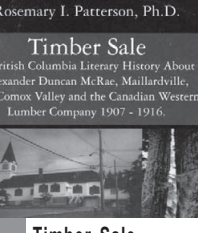
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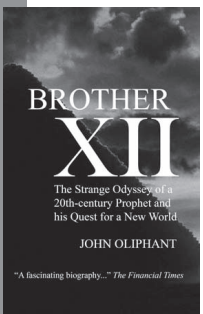
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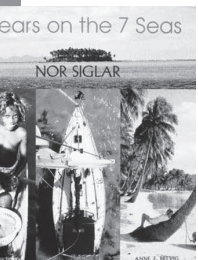
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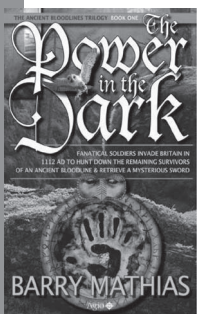
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# reviews KIDULT

## SPOONERISMS

*Titanic sugar spoons and making love spoons*

BY PORTIA PRIEGERT

AGES 10+

**Saara's Passage** by Karen Autio (Sono Nis \$13.95)

Her grandmother's silver sugar spoon started **Karen Autio** on the path to two children's novels about the history of Finnish settlement in Canada.

The spoon had belonged to her grandmother's friend, who claimed it had been saved from the *Titanic*. The spoon led Autio to another story about the woman's relatives, who died when the *Empress of Ireland* sunk in the St. Lawrence River in 1914.

"When I found out it was Canada's worst nautical disaster in peacetime," says Autio, "I couldn't believe I'd never heard of it." She began researching the *Empress of Ireland* and discovered the ship had brought more than 100,000 European immigrants to Canada. "I realized, wow, there's a lot of material here. Maybe it could be a novel."

Seven years later, she released *Second Watch* (Sono Nis 2005), in which 12-year-old Saara Mäki is en route to Finland aboard the doomed *Empress of Ireland*—and she survives the catastrophic voyage.

In its sequel, **Saara's Passage**, her return to northwestern Ontario is complicated by the necessity of having her beloved Aunt Marja move to the sanatorium in Toronto for treatment of tuberculosis, leaving Baby Sanni in need of a caregiver.

The story was inspired by the experience of Autio's grandmother, who had to leave her baby—Karen Autio's mother—with her husband at their farm near Thunder Bay while she was treated in a Toronto sanatorium. Her grandmother never talked about the tragedy, but Autio pieced together the story from other family members.

Her grandmother, who had emigrated from Finland only five years before, was miserable in the sanatorium and eventually discharged herself against her doctor's orders. She returned home, living alone in a barn so no one else would be infected.

"She had to spend the next couple of years apart from my mother, watching other women care for her child," says Autio. She eventually recovered. When she died at age 86, she left letters she had written to the baby when she expected to die from tuberculosis.

"It was just soul-bearing," says Autio, her voice choking with emotion. "My mom translated them for me into English so I could read these letters. At that point, I had to know more about what had happened."

*Saara's Passage* provides an authentic portrayal of a bygone era in Ontario, including the socialist history of Finnish immigrants. Although the characters came from her imagination, she gleaned details about daily life from interviews with seniors as



Cover art from *Saara's Passage*

well as research at the archives of Lakehead University and the museum at Thunder Bay, where she grew up. "I am a stickler for the details and being accurate to the time period," says Autio.

Autio studied math and computer science at the University of Waterloo, which led to jobs in software development for major corporations, including Shell Canada and MacDonald, Dettwiler, an information-services company. She moved to Kelowna in 1996, after living in Calgary and the Lower Mainland with her husband, Will, also a software developer. Her first child Annaliis is now 21. Autio started writing ten years ago when her son Stefan started school.

978-1-55039-167-1

Portia Priegert is a writer based in Kelowna.

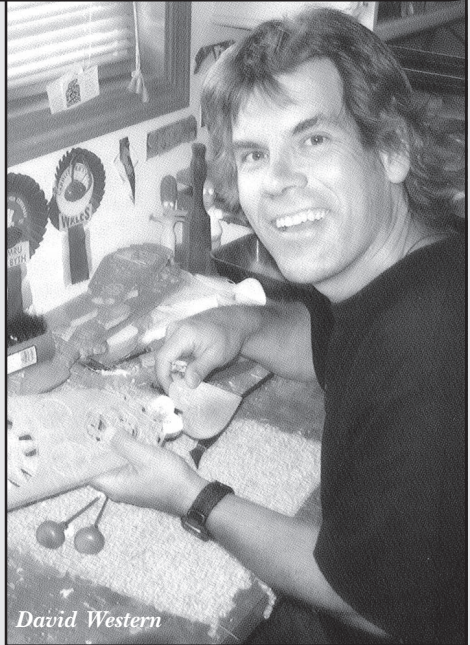
## THE LOVING SPOONFUL

**Fine Art of Carving Lovespoons by David Western** (Fox Chapel Publishing \$24.95)

Initially stimulated by his casual interest in Welsh lovespoons, self-taught craftsman **David Western** now teaches lovespoon carving at Camosun College and makes his living primarily by carving lovespoons to order.

His **Fine Art of Carving Lovespoons** is a guide to the enduring craft of presenting ornate spoons as a token of affection. In addition to three step-by-step projects that provide all the fundamentals artists need to get started, Western offers a detailed study of the lovespoon's history, symbolism and

evolution. Western specializes in Celtic knotwork, but also incorporates Islamic, Art Deco and Northwest Coast First Nations art forms. Photography of modern-day and ancient lovespoons is provided with the text. His book has been commended by the curator of the St. Fagan's Natural History Museum in Wales, reputedly the origin of the lovespoon.



David Western

[Fox Chapel Publishing, 1970 Broad St., East Petersburg, PA 17520] 978-1-56523-374-4

# WHO'S WHO

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### A is for Avasilichioaei

When not translating the Romanian poetry of Nobel Prize winner **Nichita Stanesco** or French literature, **Oana Avasilichioaei**—the most vowel-rich name in Canadian literature—has used Vancouver's Hastings Park (PNE grounds) as her focus for *feria: a poem park* (Wolsak & Wynn \$17), an oblique examination of the legacy of **George Black**, a little-known settler who had plans for a slaughterhouse in 1869.

978-1-894987-29-5

Oana Avasilichioaei

### B is for Billington

Registered nurse **Keith Billington** and his wife Muriel, an English trained midwife, obtained Canadian nursing registration in Edmonton, then worked at the Fort McPherson Nursing Station in the Mackenzie Delta. As recalled in his memoir, *Housecalls by Dogsled: Six Years in an Arctic Medical Outpost* (Lost Moose \$19.95) they had two children in the north, and a third was born later in B.C. The Billingtons now live in Prince George.

978-1-55017-423-6



### C is for Cramp

With **Samantha Amara**, architecture and arts journalist **Beverly Cramp** has co-written the *Vancouver Book of Everything* (MacIntyre Purcell \$14.95), a nifty guide crammed with 'didja know' tidbits and statistics, including the number of traffic lights in the city, average rents and ethnic population figures. Cramp has edited a newspaper for the Musqueam Indian Band and served as Executive Director of the BC Book Prizes. 978-0-9784784-7-6

### D is for Decker

**Karla Decker** has edited the third volume in a popular series from and about B.C.'s ranching heartland, *Heart of the Cariboo—Chilcotin: Three* (Heritage \$19.95). It contains stories by Rich Hobson, Paul St. Pierre, Irene Stangoe and Eric Collier, as well as Barry Broadfoot's tribute to Fred Lindsay, Bruce Ramsey's description of Barkerville's Chinatown, a new story by Ann Walsh, and, yes, wilderness lover Lutie Ulrich Cochran's story about her pet weasel.

978-1-894974-42-4

### E is for Emerald

Operational for three periods between 1905 and 1973, the Emerald Mine near Salmo was the first mine in Canada to use heavy diesel-powered equipment underground and also boasted a heated, Olympic-sized swimming pool built with volunteer labour. Having worked as a miner for 13 years, including one summer at the Emerald mine, **Larry Jacobsen** of Port Coquitlam has produced *Jewel of the Kootenays: The Emerald Mine* (Gordon Soules \$25).

978-0-9781640-1-0

### F is for Faragher

Thistledown Press in Manitoba has become—believe it or not—one of the leading publishers of fiction by B.C. authors. Launched on Bowen Island, **Nick Faragher's** first collection of fiction, *The Well and Other Stories* (Thistledown \$16.95), "combines sharp-witted voyeur-

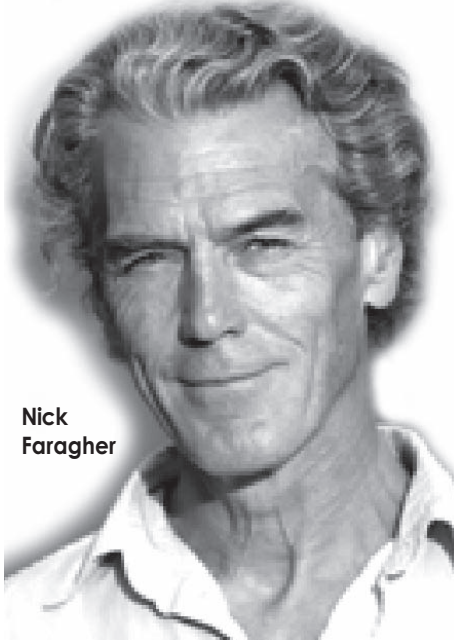
ism, psychological twists, and an assembly of maladjusted characters whose dark desires govern their fates." 978-1-897235-48-5

### G is for Gainor

It *is* rocket science. **Chris Gainor's** *To a Distant Day: The Rocket Pioneers* (U. of Nebraska Press \$29.95) recounts dreams of space travel from Chinese gunpowder-powered rocket experiments, to the launching of Sputniks and Muttniks, to the first human space flight in 1961.

Gainor traces the solitary advances made by America's great pioneer of rocket development, **Robert H. Goddard**; the aviation experiments of **Hermann Oberth** and early German rocketry; the progress made by **Wernher von Braun** and the Nazis, and the further progress made by von Braun and the Americans.

978-0-8032-2209-0



Nick Faragher

### H is for Hiromi



Hiromi Goto

Partly written during her 2007 Writer in Residency at the Vancouver Public Library, **Hiromi Goto's** *Half World* (Puffin \$20) for young adults is described as an epic gender-bending fantasy

about a lonely, overweight only child of a loving but neglectful mother who is lured back to 'Half World' by a vindictive Mr. Glueskin. The heroine Melanie Tamaki must save her parents and protect the future of the universe in the bargain.

978-0-670-06965-1

### I is for Inglis

Internationally respected as an expert on the Spanish presence in the North Pacific, former Vancouver Maritime Museum and North Vancouver Archives curator **Robin Inglis** has compiled an invaluable reference work, *Historical Dictionary of the Discovery and Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America* (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press \$110), to be reviewed in our next issue. Yup, that's not a typo on the price.

978-0-8108-5551-9



Robin Inglis

continued on next page

# who's who

## J is for Jauk

Having co-managed the BC Book Prizes since 2001, **Liesl Jauk** has taken a new position as manager of Richmond's Community Cultural Development. Her husband **Bryan Pike** will continue to manage Rebus Creative, the organization that manages Vancouver's Word on the Street. Rebus has hired **Fernanda Viveiros**, former director of the Federation of B.C. Writers.

TWIGG PHOTO



## K is for Kramer

Alberta-born **Pat Kramer** has worked for and with Northwest Coast First Nations in educational capacities for more than 20 years. In **Totem Poles** (Heritage House \$19.95) she teaches how totem poles are made, their origin and history, the symbols and ceremonies linked to them, where to see them and how to identify recurring symbols.

978-1-894974-44-8

## L is for Leiren-Young

**Mark Leiren-Young's** *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen* (Heritage House \$19.95) is a collection of true-life tall tales about a rookie reporter's adventures in Canada's still-very-wild West: "The night Mark Leiren-Young drove into Williams Lake in 1985 to work as a reporter for the venerable *Williams Lake Tribune*, he arrived on the scene of an armed robbery. And that was before things got weird."

978-1-894974-52-3

## M is for Marc

It all started when **James Marc** found a Canadian Pacific Steamship cup while diving under an abandoned dock site about twenty years back—and now his **Pacific Coast Ship China** (RBC Museum \$75) identifies more than 280 china patterns used along the pacific coast of North America. Marc also includes descriptions of more than 59 pacific coast shipping companies from the late 1800s onward.

978-0-7726-5979-8

## N is for Newlove

A documentary directed by **Robert McTavish**, *What To Make of it All? The Life and Poetry of John Newlove*, features contributions by fellow poets such as **bill bissett** and **George Bowering**. It was shown at the Western Front Lodge in 2008 to coincide with the launch of a posthumous volume edited by McTavish, A

**Long Continual Argument: The Selected Poems of John Newlove** (Chaudiere Books \$22), with a foreword by **Jeff Derksen**.

978-0-9781601-1-1

## O is for Obits

We regret to report the deaths of B.C. authors **Mary Macaree**, **Dick Hammond**, **Michael Bullock**, **Lewis Robinson** and **Billy Little**. Please visit [www.abcbookworld.com](http://www.abcbookworld.com) for further details.

## P is for Penne

The quest for self-understanding in various characters percolates through the short stories of Sechelt author **A.S. Penne's** first fiction collection, **Reckoning** (Turnstone \$18.95), a follow-up to her search for family roots in *Old Stones: The Biography of a Family* (2003).

978-0-88801-337-8

## Q is for Queer

Filmmaker and performance artist **Amber Dawn** has edited a collection of "subversive, witty and sexy" horror stories by queer and transgressive women, **Fist of the Spider Woman: Tales of Fear and Queer Desire** (Arsenal Pulp \$18.95). "Instilling both fear and arousal," the tales of horror encompass gothic, noir and speculative fiction genres.

978-1-55152-251-7

## R is for Reksten

As a project to mark B.C.'s 150th anniversary, **Don Reksten** and **Leona Taylor** have augmented information published in a 1908 edition of the *Victoria Times Colonist* that listed Victoria residents who had been living in British Columbia since 1858.

The 54-page booklet entitled **Roster of the Fifty-Eighters** (Victoria: Old Cemeteries Society \$7) includes pertinent obituaries and newspaper stories related to the Victoria pioneers who are listed, as well as a map marking pertinent gravesites in the Ross Bay Cemetery.

S is for Shewchuk

**Murphy Shewchuk's** *Cariboo Trips & Trails* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside \$22.95) is a 406-page guidebook covering backroads trips and recreational trails in the Gold Rush region from Hope north to Barkerville and from Yellowhead Highway 5 west to Bella Coola. There are tables at the end of the chapters that include GPS waypoint data and kilometre references. The text is supplemented with 26 maps and 220 black & white photos.

978-1-55455-031-9

T is for Transpeople

A different kind of public transit: As Clinical Director of the Adler Centre of the Adlerian Psychology Association of British Columbia, **Christopher A. Shelley** has examined why transgendered people face hostility and prejudice and why society needs to more fully recognize “trans-related” issues in *Transpeople: Repudiation, Trauma, Healing* (UTP \$29.95). Shelley’s study is based on interviews with ten male-to-females and ten female-to-males.

978-0-8020-9539-8

U is for Ullmann

With her well-illustrated *The Life and Art of David Marshall* (Mother Tongue \$34.95), arts journalist **Monika Ullmann** has launched publisher **Mona Fertig's** ambitious literary series dedicated to under-recognized visual artists of B.C. A master carver who also worked extensively in bronze, Marshall pursued a modernist tradition in league with his friend **Henry Moore**. A founding member of the Sculptors’ Society of B.C., **David Marshall** died in 2006.

978-1-896949-44-4

V is for Vander Zalm

**Bill Vander Zalm**, never a man to be at a loss for words, the 28th premier of British Columbia has self-published a 615-page autobiography called *Bill Vander Zalm “For The People”* (\$39.95 plus tax and shipping) available via his internet site.



David Watmough at the funeral of his partner Floyd St. Clair

W is for Watmough

Following the recent death of his partner for more than fifty years, the much-admired UBC professor and opera critic **Floyd St. Clair, David Watmough** has reaffirmed his adherence to a notably English style of writing by releasing *Coming Down the Pike* (Ekstasis \$18.95), a volume of sonnets with “inborn Cornish Rhythms.” Drawn from nature, literature, human foibles and gay culture, Watmough’s sonnets, are “loosely related to those of Milton” but also offer modern humour and irony.

978-1-897430-30-9

X is for X-treme

Years after losing his lower right leg in a motorcycle crash in the Dominican Republic in 1985, **Robert Kull** traveled to a remote island in Patagonia’s coastal wilderness to live alone for a year. Living near a different Vancouver Island—one located in southern Chile—with only a cat as a companion, Kull wrestled with inner demons to write a diary based on his tumultuous quest for inner peace *Solitude: Seeking Wisdom in Extremes* (New World Library \$23.95).

978-1-57731-632-9

Y is for Youssef

As co-artistic producer of newworldtheatre, **Marcus Youssef** published *Adrift* (Talonbooks \$16.95) inspired by the novel *Adrift on the Nile* by Egyptian Nobel laureate **Naguib Mahfouz**. Set amongst hip partygoers on a Cairo houseboat during the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the play begins as a comedy as a petty bureaucrat falls in love with a hijab-clad journalist, but tragedy arises from the friction between Western imperialism and its counterpart in the Arab world: religious fundamentalism.

978-0-88922-585-5

Z is for Ziegfeld

If people remember the actress **Billie Burke** at all, it’s for her role as Glinda the Good Witch of the North in MGM’s 1939 film, *The Wizard of Oz*, but before that movie she was a famous stage personality, in London and New York, and as well as the wife of **Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr.**

As the first biography of its subject, **Grant Hayter-Menzies' Mrs. Ziegfeld: The Public and Private Lives of Billie Burke** (McFarland & Company \$55) has been released to mark the 70th anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz*.

“It is something of an ‘authorized’ biography,” says Hayter-Menzies, “as Burke’s daughter and grandchildren cooperated with me in researching Burke’s private life.” He also interviewed actors who performed with her on stage and screen.

978-0-7864-3800-6