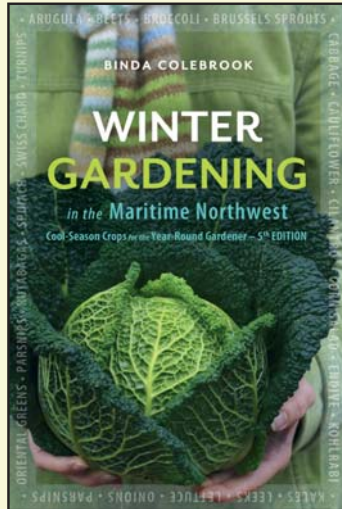


Tools for a World of Change • Books to Build a New Society

Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest

Cool-Season Crops for the Year Round Gardener – Fifth Edition

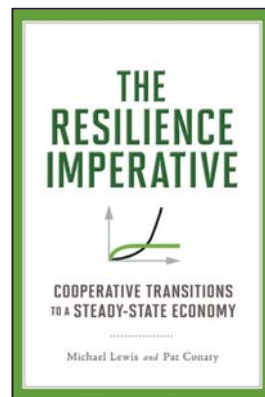
A complete guide to cool-season crops and how to raise them. Gardeners from Southeastern Alaska to southern Oregon will benefit from clear, practical advice on how to put fresh homegrown produce on your table every month of the year.



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— Mark Macdonald, West Coast Seeds



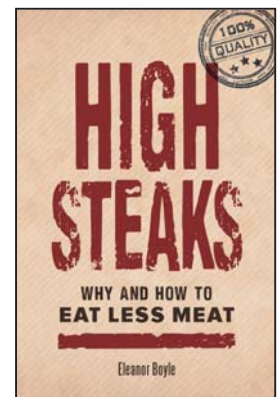
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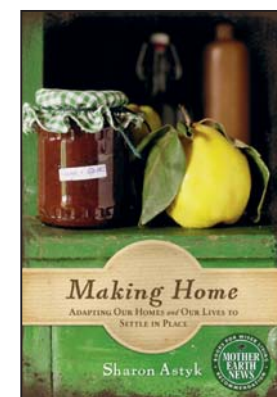
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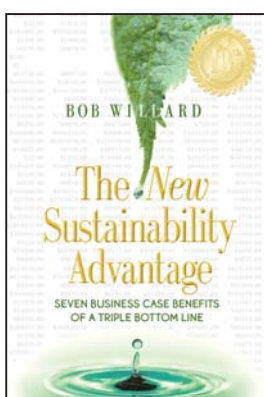
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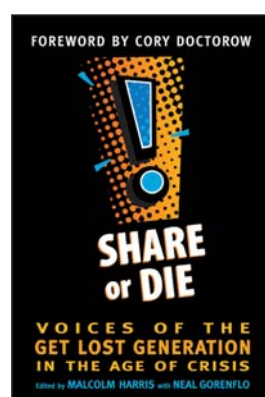


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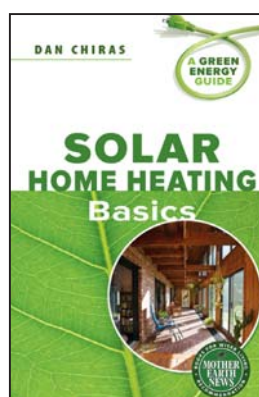
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EDITED BY MALCOLM HARRIS WITH NEAL GORENFLO

Foreword by Cory Doctorow

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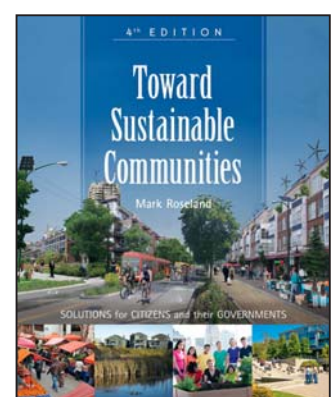
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SELLERS*

The Third Crop: A personal and historical journey into the photo albums and shoeboxes of the Slokan Valley 1800s to early 1940s (Sono Nis \$28.95) by **Rita Moir**

The Chuck Davis History of Metropolitan Vancouver (Harbour \$44.95) by **Chuck Davis**

Easy Way to Stop Smoking (Sandhill Book Marketing \$19.95) by **Allen Carr**

Start & Run a Personal History Business: Get Paid to Research Family Ancestry and Write Memoirs (Self-Counsel Press \$23.95) by **Jennifer Campbell**

Generation Us: The Challenge of Global Warming (Orca \$9.95) by **Andrew Weaver**

Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter (Douglas & McIntyre \$21) by **Carmen Aquirre** Winner of CBC's Canada Reads.

Elusive Destiny: The Political Vocation of John Napier Turner (UBC Press \$39.95) by **Paul Litt**

I Just Ran: Percy Williams, World's Fastest Human (Ronsdale Press \$23.95) by **Samuel Hawley**

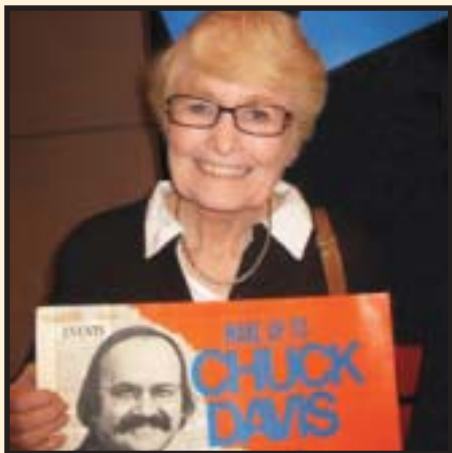
The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality (New Society Publishers \$17.95) by **Richard Heinberg**

Vancouver Noir: Vancouver 1930-1960 (Anvil Press \$25) by **John Belshaw** and **Diane Purvey**

Somebody's Child: Stories about Adoption (TouchWood Editions \$19.95) edited by **Lynne Van Luven** and **Bruce Gillespie**

Crossing the Continent (Talonbooks \$18.95) by **Michel Tremblay**

* The current topselling titles from 12 major BC publishing companies, in no particular order.



Edna Davis at the launch of her late husband's topseller, *The Chuck Davis History of Metropolitan Vancouver*



Janet Marie Rogers

Janet & Pauline

The new poet laureate of Victoria, Janet Marie Rogers, is a Mohawk who is preparing to honour the centenary of the death of the Mohawk poet E. Pauline Johnson in 2013. Born in Vancouver in 1963, Rogers has released two poetry collections, *Red Erotic* (Ojistah, 2010) and in 2011, *Unearthed* (Leaf Press \$17.95). She also hosts *Native Waves Radio* on CFUV 101.9 fm in Victoria and broadcasts a *Tribal Clefs* music column every Tuesday on CBC Radio One. Her radio documentary, *Bring Your Drum* (50 Years of Indigenous Protest Music), aired in 2011 on CBC's *Inside the Music*.

978-1-926655-33-8

Kyoto Kibosh

Following Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Accord at the Durban Conference on Climate Change in December, 2011, Orca Book Publishers sent a copy of Dr. Andrew Weaver's book, **Generation Us—The Challenge of Global Warming** (Orca \$9.95), to all 308 members of parliament.

"Now more than ever it's become critically important that society—and especially our elected leaders—accept responsibility for global warming," Weaver says. "We've created the problem; we must now be part of the solution."

Generation Us explains the phenomenon of global warming, outlines the threat it presents to future generations and offers a path toward solutions to the problem.

Weaver is the Canada Research Chair in Climate Modelling and Analysis at the University of Victoria and a team member of the Nobel-Peace-Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

9781554698042



Canadians rally to demand the Conservative government's continued commitment to the Kyoto Accord.

UTAHNEDAY'S PHOTOSTREAM PHOTO

BC
BOOKWORLD

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2012
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Robyn Michele Levy

Most of me, why not take most of me?

BY LAURIE NEALE

It only gradually dawned on Robyn Michele Levy that something was wrong. Levy had a rigid left arm, frozen facial expressions and an embarrassing limp. She lost her job after five years of depression. But she resisted her doctor's suggestion that she might have Parkinson's—a neurodegenerative disease that usually strikes the elderly—even though her father had the disease and had exhibited similar symptoms.

Most of Me (Greystone \$21.95) describes how Levy was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's at age 43, then breast cancer eight months later. Along the way, she repairs a broken relationship with her daughter, re-connects with new and old friends, and gains a new appreciation for her husband, Bergen.

Levy describes disease-coping mechanisms from deranged sexual fantasies about her dentist-turned-rock-star flossing her teeth to descriptions of her Cry Lady—a sobbing, blubbering woman that inhabited her body. It's proof positive that hardship can rekindle relationships, and a healthy mindset can overcome severe physical challenges.

978-1-55365-632-6

Penguin bound

In April of 2011, **Gurjinder Basran** was awarded the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for her first novel, *Everything Was Good-bye*. Mother Tongue Publishing on Salt Spring Island has now sold Canadian rights to Penguin Canada. *Everything Was Good-bye* will be re-launched this year as a Penguin paperback and e-book.



Gurjinder Basran

OUR LIQUID HIGHWAYS

Royal Roads University professor Phillip Vannini has spent five years conducting 400 interviews and taking 250 ferry rides to examine ferry-dependence on island and coastal communities for **Ferry Tales: Mobility, Place, and Time on Canada's West Coast** (Routledge \$32.50). He hopes to trigger an understanding that our ferry systems are highways to our homes.

978-0415883078



Phillip Vannini

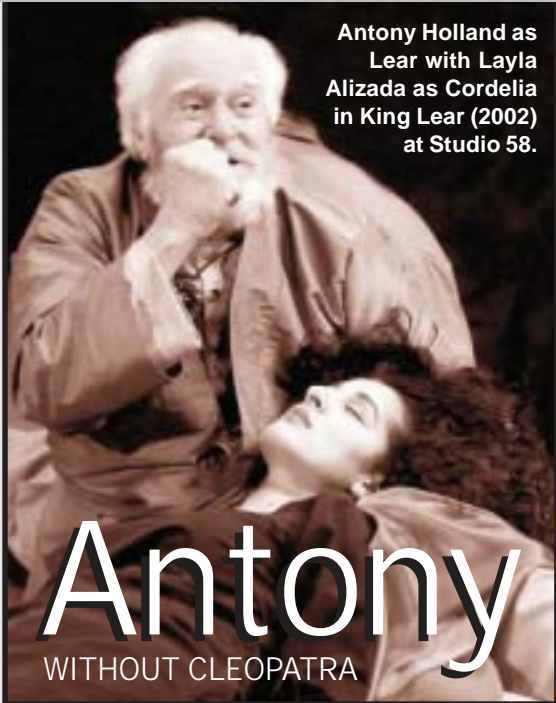
Orwell would approve

F.S. Michaels' first book, **Monoculture: How One Story is Changing Everything** (Red Clover Press \$16.25), has been awarded the 2011 George Orwell Prize for outstanding contributions to the critical analysis of public discourse. It examines how the precedence of the economic story in our lives deeply influences six fundamental areas of life—work, communities, physical and spiritual health, education, creativity, and our relationships with others and the environment. Previous recipients include Pulitzer Prize-winner Charlie Savage, television host Jon Stewart of the *Daily Show*, linguist Noam Chomsky and cultural critic Neil Postman. The annual prize was awarded in Chicago by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), which has over 35,000 members and subscribers worldwide.



F. S. Michaels

978-0986853807



Antony Holland as Lear with Layla Alizada as Cordelia in *King Lear* (2002) at Studio 58.

Antony

WITHOUT CLEOPATRA

With a naked cover image angled more towards Benny Hill than *King Lear*, James Hawkins' admiring biography **Antony's Private Parts** (Bliss Publications \$19.95) nonetheless verifies that Antony Holland has had a prodigious career, on stage and on screen, from Shakespeare to Alan Ayckbourn, since the 1930s.

This memoir-like biography offers tales of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre Company, formed in 1945 out of the Theatre Royal Bristol, as well as brushes with Hollywood royalty such as Katharine Hepburn.

"True to his Stanislavski principles," as Hawkins puts it, Holland was never averse to forming abiding friendships with women, creating dramas in his off-stage life. Still a would-be ladies man, Holland's greatest love appears to be the theatre itself.

According to Hawkins, "Antony consistently drove his first wife mad by his refusal to get a 'real job.'"

Still-vigorous as an actor at age 91, Holland was forcibly retired at age 65, in 1985, as the long-time mentor at Langara College's Studio 58 theatre program in Vancouver. We learn Holland chose the name Studio 58 because it was the room number for the program. Regrettably, too few of his hundreds of gifted students responded to Hawkins' requests for input so the Studio 58 section is thin.

Antony's Private Parts scratches the surface of someone who deserves the adjective great more than grey. A paperback version is newly available.

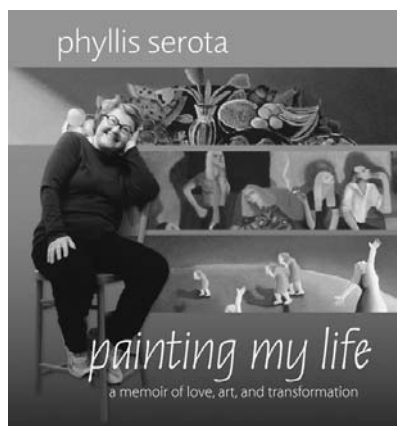
978-0-9877852-1-3



Judi Stransman

We can't do it without YA!

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE'VE said **THANK YOU** to all our brave booksellers around the province who help us provide you with the latest news about B.C. books into our 25th year. While we regret the government's closure of Crown Publications bookstore in Victoria, we celebrate the endurance of our smallest retail partner—teensy **32 Books** on Hornby Island, managed by Judi Stransman.



Painting My Life

A Memoir of Love, Art, and Transformation

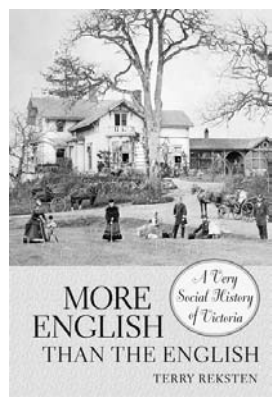
Phyllis Serota

“Serota’s work is an insightful portrayal of humanity—the micro and the macro of what it is to be human. Her rich and direct paintings are about her, her family, being Jewish, memory, and the impacts

of the world around her. *Painting My Life* is a sensitive, poignant biography in word and art. The paintings, from more than thirty years, trace Serota’s evolution with form, colour, light, and depth. Serota is a truly significant Canadian artist, as this book clearly demonstrates.” —PATRICIA BOVEY, FRSA, Art Historian & Consultant, Former Director of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Winnipeg Art Gallery

Stunning full-colour reproductions. A page-turning insight into the place where art and life meet.

978-1-55039-188-6 • 8.5 X 9 • 240 pp • 168 photos • paper • \$28.95



More English than the English

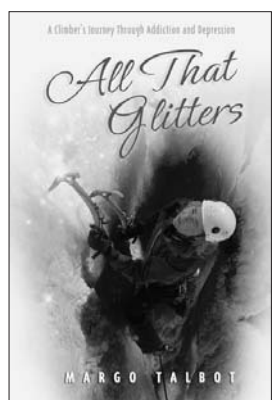
A Very Social History of Victoria

Terry Reksten, foreword and revisions by Rosemary Neering

Twenty-five years ago, Terry Reksten, who died in 2001, wrote *More English than the English* “for those who might not usually find pleasure in reading about the past,” and strove to create a social history that portrayed the spirit of the times

from the mid-nineteenth century into the 1930s. Deliberately selective and anecdotal, this is a delightful collection of stories and sagas of the people who fashioned a fort, a town, and finally, a city on the rocks and meadows of southern Vancouver Island.

978-1-55039-186-2 • 6 x 9 • 232 pp • 100+ photos • paper • \$19.95



All That Glitters

A Climber's Journey Through Addiction and Recovery

Margo Talbot

Margo Talbot’s unflinchingly honest account of a childhood characterized by abuse and neglect, her descent into depression, addiction, and criminal activity is both heartbreaking and, ultimately, inspiring. Finding

redemption and healing through her passion for the outdoors and, in particular, ice climbing, this memoir is a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit and the healing force of nature.

“This inspiring real-life story shows us that our lives’ biggest challenges can also be our greatest opportunities for personal growth, transformation, and enlightenment. Margo is magnificent!”

—BILL PHILLIPS, AUTHOR OF THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER, *Body-for-LIFE*.

978-1-55039-182-4 • 6 x 9 • 192 pages • photos • paper • \$19.95



Working with Wool

A Coast Salish Legacy & the Cowichan Sweater

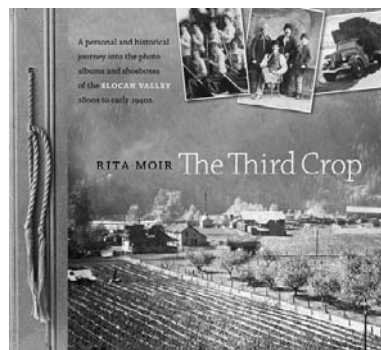
Sylvia Olsen

Cowichan sweaters, with their distinctive bands of design and untreated, handspun wool, have been a British Columbia icon since the early years of the twentieth century, but few people

know the full story behind the garment. Sylvia Olsen tells the tale, drawing on her own experience, academic research, and her four-decade friendship with some of the Coast Salish women who have each knitted hundreds of sweaters.

- *Winner of the Lieutenant-Governor’s Medal for Historical Writing*
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- *George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature (Nominee)*

978-1-55039-177-0 • 8.5 x 9.25 • 328 pages • 165 photos • cloth • \$38.95



The Third Crop

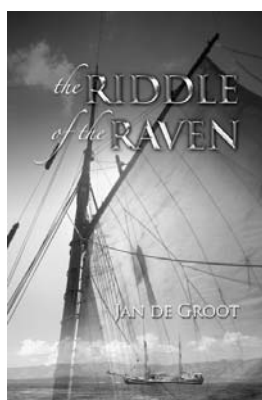
A personal and historical journey into the photo albums and shoeboxes of the Slocan Valley 1800s to early 1940s

Rita Moir

The Third Crop serves a visual feast to lovers of the province’s history, with more than 160

historic photographs beautifully juxtaposed with contemporary images of the valley. Moir’s insights into the history of a place she deeply loves and respects, and her reflections on her experiences living there, are a significant contribution to understanding this vibrant part of British Columbia.

978-1-55039-184-8 • 9.25 x 8.5 • 175 pages • 180 photos • paper • \$28.95



The Riddle of the Raven

A Sailing Ship Possessed by a Ghost

Jan deGroot

When Jan de Groot decided to purchase *Raven*, a 140-foot gaff-rigged ketch, in order to provide sailing adventures for underprivileged children in BC, he had no idea of the bizarre adventure that lay ahead. His voyage began with a crew of thirty-one who set sail in the

Bahamas to bring the ship to her new home in Vancouver. Almost immediately, strange events began to rattle the crew and all were affected by the presence of the ghost who haunted the ship and cursed the voyage with its paranormal skullduggery.

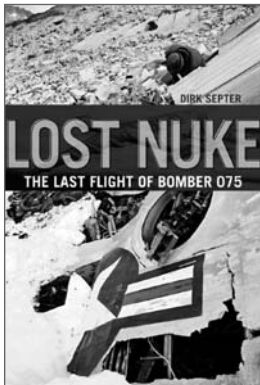
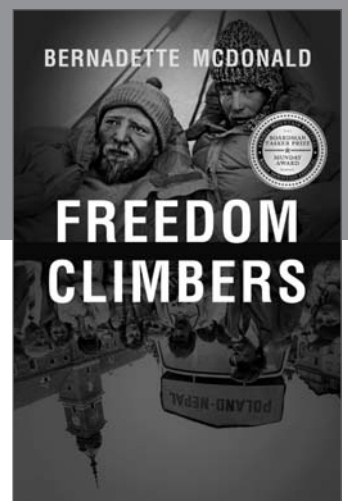
The *Riddle of the Raven* is a wonderful read for all those who love tales about ships and the sea, and for those who are intrigued by the paranormal.

978-1-55039-183-1 • 6 x 9 • 200 pp • photos • paper • \$15.95

DIVE INTO SPRING

Freedom Climbers Bernadette McDonald

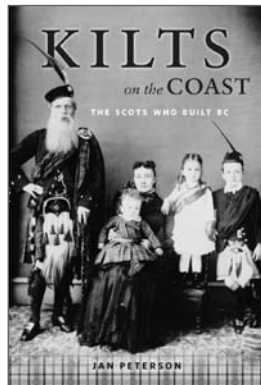
Canada's most decorated book of mountain literature. Winner of the Boardman Tasker Prize (UK), the Grand Prize at the Banff Mountain Book Festival (CAN) and the American Alpine Club's Literary Award (USA).
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The Last Flight of Bomber 075
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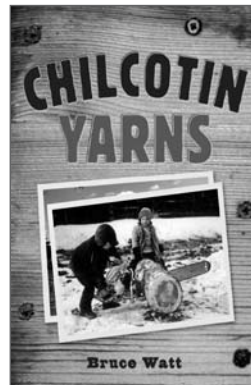
In 1950 a USAF bomber carrying a nuclear bomb crashed in BC's Coast Mountains, not in the Pacific Ocean as reported. What really happened?
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Kilts on the Coast

The Scots Who Built BC
Jan Peterson

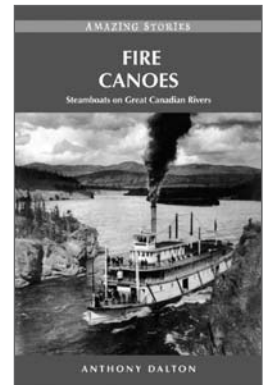
Delve deep into the roots of Vancouver Island's Scottish presence, tracing the lives of such pioneers as Sir James Douglas, Robert Dunsmuir and their descendants.
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Bruce Watt

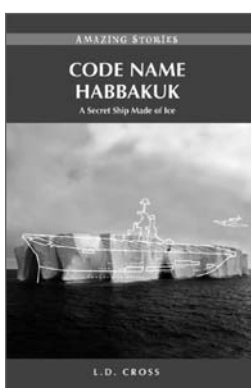
"Bruce Watt knows how to spin a laugh-out-loud yarn that captivates and enchants the reader."
—Ian Ferguson, author of *Village of the Small Houses*
Heritage House \$17.95



Fire Canoes

Steamboats on Great Canadian Rivers
Anthony Dalton

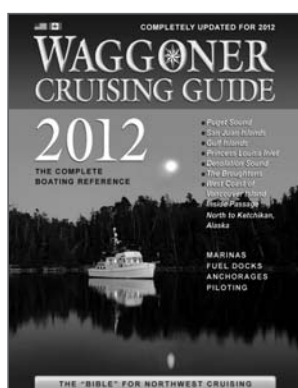
Travel back in time to the decades when steamboat whistles echoed across a vast land of powerful rivers.
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Code Name Habbakuk

A Secret Ship Made of Ice
L.D. Cross

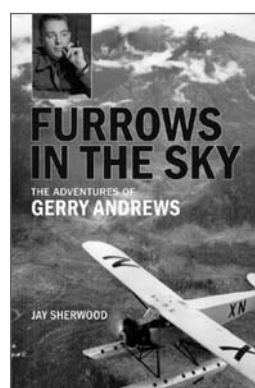
In late 1942, Britain was desperate to win the Battle of the Atlantic. Would its secret weapon be an undetectable aircraft carrier made of ice?
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Waggoner Cruising Guide 2012

The Complete Boating Reference
Mark Bunzel

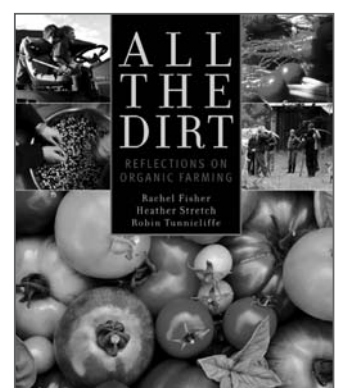
This guide provides complete information about marinas, fuel docks, border crossings, radio requirements and more. It also includes more than 152 maps and 300 photos.
Fine Edge Publishing \$24.95



Furrows in the Sky

The Adventures of Gerry Andrews
Jay Sherwood

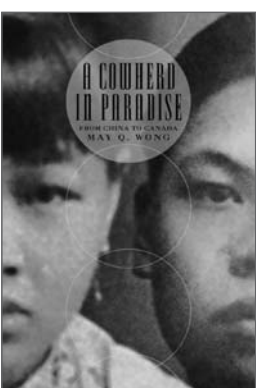
Gerry Andrews' aerial photography dramatically altered forestry in BC in the late 1930s, Andrews' remarkable life left an indelible mark on British Columbia.
Royal BC Museum, \$19.95



All the Dirt

Reflections on Organic Farming
Rachel Fisher, Heather Stretch, Robin Tunnicliffe

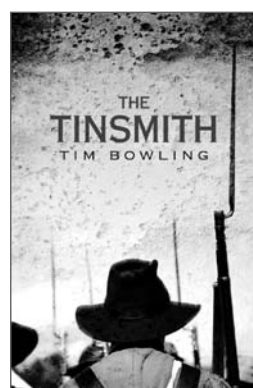
New farmers, experienced growers, budding environmentalists and fans of natural, organic produce alike will find ground to love in this must-read book on small-scale organic farming.
TouchWood Editions, \$29.95



A Cowherd in Paradise

From China to Canada
May Q. Wong

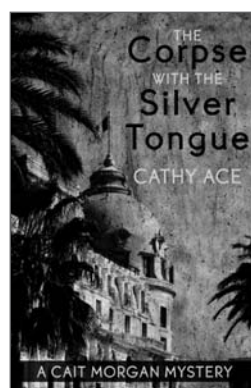
The remarkable story of a couple forced to live apart for 25 years due to Canada's exclusionary immigration laws. "Required reading." —Jan Wong, author of *Red China Blues*
Brindle & Glass, \$24.95



The Tinsmith

Tim Bowling

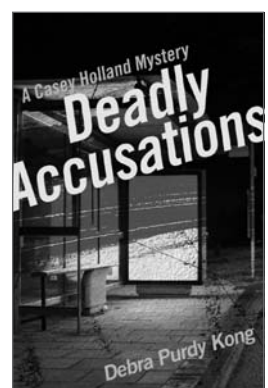
"An odyssey that spans a continent—from the Civil War battlefields, to the British Columbia salmon canneries—*The Tinsmith* is an ambitious and spellbinding read."
—Helen Humphreys
Brindle & Glass, \$21.95



The Corpse with the Silver Tongue

Cathy Ace

The first novel in the Cait Morgan mystery series is set in the south of France, where hatred simmers in the heat, and a man seemingly admired, and certainly feared, drops dead at a dinner party.
TouchWood Editions, \$14.95



Deadly Accusations

Debra Purdy Kong

Delve into a deadly world of secrets and people fighting to maintain control at any cost. A murdered co-worker, gunshots and violence on the buses are all part of the second book in the Casey Holland mystery series.
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AS A NOVEL ABOUT BLACK OR “half-blood” musicians in Berlin and Paris whose lives are threatened by the onset of World War II, Esi Edugyan’s *Half-Blood Blues* first came to international attention when it was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in England, where it was first published.

Her sophomore novel, *Half-Blood Blues* has since won the \$50,000 Giller Prize in Canada. It was also shortlisted for a Governor General’s Award and the Rogers Writers Trust Fiction Prize.

Publication was delayed in Canada with the demise of Key Porter Books. Edugyan’s husband Steven Price, whose first novel was published by Thomas Allen in Ontario, encouraged his editor Patrick Crean to read the manuscript and accept it for publication.

Edugyan soon found herself a finalist for four major literary awards, having just given birth to her first child. Born and raised in Calgary, Edugyan lives in Victoria.

We asked Joan Givner to review both of Esi Edugyan’s novels.

Half-Blood Blues by Esi Edugyan
(Thomas Allen \$24.95)

The Second Life of Samuel Tyne
by Esi Edugyan (Knopf \$17.95)

IN BOTH HER NOVELS, **Esi Edugyan** illuminates little-known corners of black history, and shows the forces of racial hatred militating against, and ultimately destroying, the black person of extraordinary talent.

Her first novel, **The Second Life of Samuel Tyne**, is set in a small Alberta town, established as a black community by fugitives from the southern United States. Here in the 1960s, decades after it has lost its black identity, Tyne arrives with his family. An economic forecaster by profession, his real love is electronics, his ability to create a rudimentary computer marking him as a visionary. However, he is an immigrant from Ghana, and his world is not hospitable to a black visionary. What follows is the steady erosion of his dreams and the devastation of his family. He left the city to follow his vocation, fearing an ignominious epitaph: “he made it to the end.” After all his struggles those words sum up his life exactly. As **Faulkner** wrote of his black characters, “They endured.”

How the DIVINE MADNESS of ART PREVAILS

Esi Edugyan’s note-perfect tribute to Afro-German jazz in the Third Reich.

This bleak chronicle has a cast of grotesques—monstrous twins (right out of **Marjorie Wallace’s** 1986 book, *The Silent Twins*), and the town’s deputy mayor and his wife, a red-neck couple that arrives on Tyne’s doorstep shouting, “Call the Guinness Book—we made it here in less than a month.” Even the comedy of their antics and dialogue cannot relieve the overwhelming heaviness of the story.

Seven years after this debut, Edugyan found a body of material that intensified her themes and focussed them brilliantly. The characters of *Half-Blood Blues* are jazz musicians in Nazi Germany and, as such, they face threats far more dire than the bigotry of rural Alberta. Not only is the mixed race of the performers abhorrent to Nazi ideology, but the music itself is anathema:

It was a plague sent out by the dread black hordes, engineered by the Jews. Us Negroes, see, we was only half to blame—we just can’t help it. Savages just got a natural feel for filthy rhythms, no self-control to speak of.

For any writer, the Holocaust is dangerous subject matter since the good-versus-evil dichotomy invites (almost condones) melo-

drama. Edugyan negotiates the territory deftly. In focussing on black victims, she neither diminishes Jewish suffering, nor makes every German a Nazi collaborator. Of her six musicians, the Jewish pianist is

deported to Sachsenhausen, one German cravenly abandons the group, while the *hochgeboren* manager risks his life to save the black performers. These are Sid Griffiths and Chip Jones, African-Americans from Baltimore, and the young genius, Hieronymus Falk. He is a *Mischling* (mongrel) the son of a Senagalese soldier and a white German mother. It is the fate of this trio that the book traces, as they flee Berlin for Paris, only to arrive as the army of occupation moves in.

Sid Griffiths, anti-hero, a good but not great musician, is the narrator. Naturally for such a polyglot group, communication is a problem. Sid explains how they (and the author) solve it:

We talked like mongrels see—half German, half Baltimore bar slang. Just a few scraps of French between us. Only real language I spoke aside from English was Hochdeutsch.

The idiom they improvise is as spontaneous, lively, and rhythmic as their music. It allows the witty repartee of Chip Jones to run counterpoint to the harrowing events, creating a sustained chiaroscuro effect. The novel’s other stylistic distinction is the perfectly calibrated, cyclical arrangement of the six sections, alternating between past and present. Only at the end, do the implications of the opening segment become clear.

continued on next page



Joan GIVNER

continued from previous page

The scenes—a meeting in a disused Jewish bath house, hiding out in an abandoned night club, waiting for forged papers in the baronial manor of a prominent official, a side trip to Hagenbeck’s “human zoo” outside Hamburg, lying low in a dingy Montmartre apartment—provide a panorama of life in Nazi Germany and of Paris in the first months of the occupation.



A LIST OF SOURCES AUTHENTICATES Edugyan’s picture of Afro-Germans, blacks and jazz musicians in the Third Reich. She also includes a true portrait of **Louis Armstrong** among her characters. It emphasizes Armstrong’s commitment to Judaism, the legacy of his childhood, when he was nurtured by a Jewish family in New Orleans. Armstrong is seamlessly integrated into the plot when he passes on the mantle of his genius to Hieronymus.

Edugyan’s focus on the music gives the narrative its deeper resonance; and her description of jazz extends by implication to all art forms—musical, visual and literary.

She addresses the mystery of artistic creativity—its collaborative nature, the jealousy it inspires, its tendency to transcend the individual artist, and the rare appearance of genius. Sid, heartbroken by Armstrong’s rejection, bitterly considers the unfair distribution of talent:

Gifts is divided so damn unevenly...In every other walk of life, a jack can work to get what he want. But ain’t no amount of toil going to get you a lick more talent than you was born with. Geniuses ain’t made, brother, they just is. And I just was not.

But it is the Nazi official, a lover of classical music, who speaks the most poignant words on the subject. “Dedication,” he says, “can be genius in its own right.” His statement is prophetic, for it is Sid who ensures the creation and survival of the great piece of music. He does so by committing an act of betrayal that recalls Faulkner’s words:

The writer’s only responsibility is to his art...he has a dream... If a writer has to rob his mother, he will not hesitate; the “Ode on a Grecian Urn” is worth any number of old ladies.



Esi Edugyan at the Giller Award ceremony, Toronto.

The ultimate affirmation of the novel is that “Half-Blood Blues” is produced, and that a fragment—a mere 3 minutes and thirty-three seconds—survives. That outcome carries a faint echo of the conclusion to **Eliot**’s vision of a devastated world, *The Waste Land*:

These fragments I have shored up against my ruins...

Hieronymo’s mad again

It is the divine madness of art that produces the things of value (often mere shards) that we find again after the destruction ends and the tides of ignorance and hatred recede.

However, nothing in Esi Edugyan’s work is unshaded and unambiguous. The final irony is that the music produced secretly in a squalid studio, as the last defiant cry before its creators are silenced, endures to gain mainstream acceptance. It is embalmed in the trappings of success (a conference and a documentary film) by a critical establishment, which in another era, colluded in its denigration.

9780887627415

Biographer and novelist Joan Givner writes from Mill Bay.

BLACK LIKE TRUMAN GREEN

A Credit To Your Race by Truman Green (Anvil Press \$18)

ACCLAIMED CANADIAN director **Norman Jewison** explored U.S. race relations in his 1967 release *In the Heat of the Night*. The Oscar-winning film features **Sidney Poitier** as a Philadelphia homicide detective who reluctantly takes the lead in a backwoods Mississippi murder investigation.

In a now legendary scene, Poitier interrogates a white plantation owner who, enraged by his “effrontery,” slaps him in the face. Poitier returns the slap, a bold move (even for the movies) during an era when racist whites routinely killed blacks with impunity.

Truman Green delivers similarly charged moments in *A Credit to Your Race*. First published in 1973, the novel has been reissued as part of the Vancouver 125 Books Legacy Project. In celebration of the city’s 125th anniversary last year, the program republished ten classic titles.

Set in Surrey, circa 1960, *A Credit to Your Race* chronicles a romance between narrator Billy Robinson, a 15-year-old black youth and Mary Baker, his 14-year-old white neighbour. Their liaison draws the wrath of family members, teachers and schoolmates who, for various reasons, disapprove of interracial relationships. The most vocal opponent of the couple’s union is Mary’s father, a farmer in what was, fifty years ago, a rural community on the outskirts of Vancouver.

“One day out in the hayloft at the back of her place, Mary said she was starting to hate her father,” Green writes. “Apparently he

didn’t have anything against me personally, but he had seen it happen too many times when he was in the army overseas. ... Too many coloured soldiers (or whatever he called them) got white girls pregnant and then refused to marry them. ... These Canadian men of colour just up and left thousands of poor little white girls knocked up all over the world.”

Billy responds with a cheeky sarcasm that courses throughout the novel and serves to endear the narrator to the reader: “But Mary ... there’s only about one coloured soldier in the whole Canadian army.

Surely he couldn’t be responsible for all this.”

At a time when many adolescents are obsessed with computer games, music videos and their ubiquitous cell phones, Green gives voice to a period during which roller skating rinks, ice cream parlors and drive-in movies were central to teenage life. Indeed, Billy revels in an activity that is likely to surprise readers who’ve been bombarded with media images of young black men festooned in baggy pants, gaudy jewelry and backward baseball caps. The protagonist of *A Credit to Your Race* is better likened to the late country singer **Wilf Carter** than to the Toronto rap star **Drake**.

Here, Billy rides his bicycle to Mary’s house (she’s sitting on the front steps reading a newspaper!), to remind her of their upcoming date: “You know we’re going square dancing. ... Square dancing was the best ... we’d smile at the lyrics and ‘do-si-do,’ as they say, and everything that went with that.”

In a deft plot move early in the text, Green introduces an element that raises suspense and fuels the flames of the novel’s already blis-



Truman Green

tering racial tension. With Mary’s parents away on holiday, the teens enjoy more time in the hayloft.

“Those two weeks were probably the best of my entire life,” Green writes. “Besides just feeling like a normal human being and not having to hide around corners like a burglar... we did all kinds of things.”

“That last night before the Bakers got back... knowing the... stupid sneaking-around would soon be starting up... put us in a kind of desperate mood,” Green continues.

“Where we’d always stop and go home, something happened that night and we ended up going a lot further than we’d intended.”

Green employs skilled pacing and pointed sub-plots—“Scoutmaster O’Reilly wanted to see me box because he had some idea that I’d be a natural”—to keep readers enthralled as the nerve-wracked adolescents await the result of their unintended splendour. This, before pregnancy test kits became readily available at any pharmacy (to say nothing of online outlets).

“Mary seemed to love me, all right,” Green writes. “She even said we could run away and elope... if her dad threatened me. But at least I wasn’t *that* dumb. ... Where’s a fifteen-year-old coloured boy and a fourteen-year-old white girl going to hide?”

Feeling cornered on every front, Billy explodes when Mary, reiterating “wisdom” gleaned from her father, announces that mixed-race children are “a lot dumber than all white or all coloured... and that a lot of them are deformed.”

“You know Mary, your dad’s a fucking idiot,” Billy asserts.

As for Mary’s mom, she one day summons Billy to her Oldsmobile where she shares a personal saga that prompts another plot twist. “I thought of the word dilemma... and that was what Mrs. Baker was,” Green writes. “A dilemma.”

A Credit To Your Race is enhanced by a closing interview with Truman Green that details the evolution of the novel and its intriguing publication history. Green recalls a 1970s-era publisher who, disaffected with his narrative style, had rejected the manuscript (“He constantly tells the reader how he feels”).

“I feel that Billy’s thoughts, expressed directly to the reader, are the most interesting and touching parts of the book,” notes Green, a UBC graduate and now retired contractor who lives in Surrey. “I remember thinking that perhaps the publisher should reread Anne Frank’s diary or *The Catcher in the Rye*.”

Ditto.

978-1897535868

Biographer of Alice Walker, Evelyn C. White is the author of *Every Goodbye Ain’t Gone: A Photo Narrative of Black Heritage on Salt Spring Island*.

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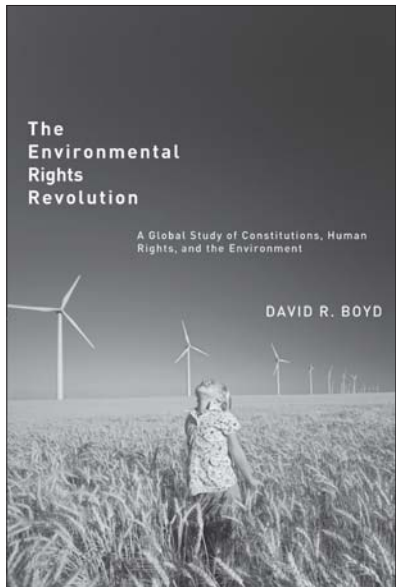
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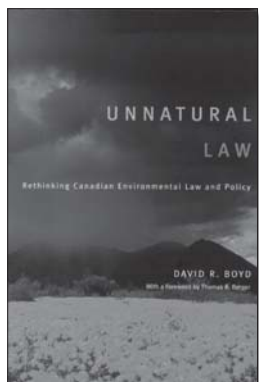
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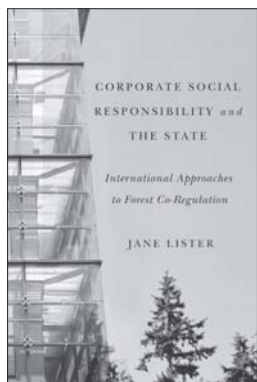
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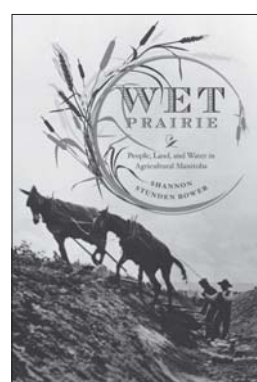
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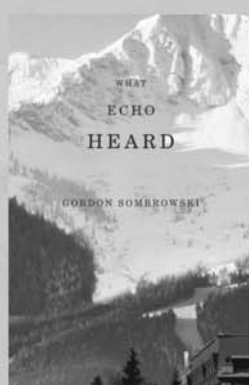
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W.P. Kinsella at Lady Franklin's Rock

LAURA SAWCHUCK PHOTO

Butterfly Winter by W.P. Kinsella
(Enfield & Wizeny \$29.95)

EVIDENTLY THE HEAD trauma from a 1997 car accident has not inhibited W.P. Kinsella's imagination.

Unable to concentrate after being injured as a pedestrian, Kinsella did little for five years and considered himself to be retired—but has since become one of the country's top Scrabble competitors.

After a 15-year hiatus from publishing his work, the wizard of diamond lit and magic realism has rebounded with gusto for **Butterfly Winter**, another baseball novel.

"*Butterfly Winter* came about because I read an article about the migration of monarch butterflies from Canada and the USA to winter in Mexico," Kinsella told *BCBW*. "I made that into a short story. I had another short story about twins who play catch in their mother's womb. I combined the two stories for a novel, then rewrote it several times, changing narrators, and making the novel more of an interview."

Two chapters were previously published in a slightly different form, as short stories. "*Butterfly Winter*," appeared in *Red Wolf*, *Red Wolf*, in 1987, and "The Battery," in *The Thrill of the Grass*, 1985.

Kinsella told *BCBW* his primary literary influence for *Butterfly Winter* was *What The Crow Said*, a novel by **Robert Kroetsch**. Quirky and convoluted, Kinsella's long-incubated novel offers cabbages waltzing, herons bayoneting villains and butterflies punishing evil-doers.

The story is largely set in a fictional country called the Republic of Courteguay, located between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

WALTZING CABBAGES & BASEBALL IN THE WOMB

Magic and mayhem highlight W.P. Kinsella's first novel in more than a decade

"When I started the novel," Kinsella says, "I thought Courteguay was a real country in Central America, but it isn't, so I moved it to Hispaniola."

[A Latin American dictatorship called Corteguay was first imagined by novelist **Harold Robbins** in *The Adventurers*, a trashy novel that became a trashy movie in 1969.—Ed]

Life in Courteguay changes with the arrival of a baseball missionary named Sandor Boatly who brings the word of baseball to the masses. There is an extremely unreliable narrator named The Wizard who says, "The word *chronological* is not in the Courteguayan language, neither is *sequence*."

The considerable cast of characters in this novel turns out to be shorter than it appears. We realize the wizard and prime narrator is also Sandor Boatly, The Old Dictator, Jorge Blanco and Octavio Court, the founder and namesake of Courteguay, rolled into one. And could the wizard also be the villain, Dr. Lucius Noir, responsible for banishing baseball, for untold slaughters, and any number of despicable acts?

There's nothing our sleazy narrator can't do. He's as often the

villain as the hero. He rescues the kidnapped Julio from the guerillas by buying them off with colourful uniforms, descending grandly from the sky in his beloved hot air balloon.



THE NOVEL'S PROTAGONISTS ARE the pitching battery of Julio and Esteban who start playing catch in their mother's womb. These miraculous twins are born to an im-

poverished and astonished couple, Hector and Fernandela Pimental.

As toddlers, the dashing Julio and plodding Esteban amazed international tourists who came to watch the diapered pair play baseball in their nursery. At ten, they were off

to America to play on the "only major league baseball team in the True South," apparently the Atlanta Braves. Super star Julio will only pitch to his sibling, even though Esteban falls far short of his brother's brilliance.

The beautiful Quita Garza, Julio's true love, could conceivably also be an Alpha butterfly, or a heron, or exist in the retinue of one night stands to which Julio eventually succumbs.

While much of the narration belongs to the wizard, a gringo journalist also elbows his way onto the

page, and, unlike the wizard, he does not shift shapes. He's just trying to do his job, attempting to sort out fact from fiction, past from present, and villain from champion.

The intrepid journalist has been over four months on the story, untangling the wizard's stories, and he's no longer on an expense account, but he is determined to write the history of Courteguay and its famous baseball twins.

Logic and time wobble about like the proverbial Jell-O on the wall; we have first-person segues into third-person narration in the same chapter, and people don't necessarily stay murdered.

The book's division into three sections, each with a myriad of short chapters, seems as whimsical as the plot. Each chapter is titled by a name: usually The Wizard, or The Gringo Journalist, occasionally Julio Pimental, Hector Pimental, (the twins' father), or Quita Garza. But that doesn't necessarily mean that chapter is delivered from that character's point of view, or that it will even have anything to do with that character.

With its time bending, shape shifting and death defying zaniness, *Butterfly Winter* kicks magic realism up a notch. The main thread of consistency is wonderful writing:

Properly played, baseball consisted of mathematics, geom-

etry, art, philosophy, ballet, and carnival, all intertwined like the mystical ribbons of color in a rainbow.



KINSELLA HAS BEEN ASKED COUNTLESS times by interviewers, 'why baseball?' He puts part of his answer into Sandor Boatly's excited revelation: "The field is not enclosed. The possibilities are endless. There is no whistle to suspend play, there is no clock to signal an ending."

So the possibilities in *Butterfly Winter* are likewise endless.

"Magic is only something you haven't seen before," the wizard says to Julio.

So how come *Butterfly Winter* was released by a little-known imprint in Manitoba? That's almost as bizarre as the novel.

As the man who wrote *Shoeless Joe*, the basis for the movie, *Field of Dreams*, surely Kinsella can get published anywhere he chooses. But no way, Julio.

"Let's face it," Kinsella says, "the offer to publish from Enfield & Wizeny was the only offer. So I'm happy they decided to award me their Colophon Prize and publish the novel."

"Major publishers want huge sales. Something like 60% of all books are sold in Canada within a hundred miles of Toronto. I have never been a big seller in Ontario."

"My novel *Box Socials* sold like 70,000 hardcover copies in the USA, but when my next novel was ready they not only didn't want to buy it, they didn't want to read it. Reason? Not enough sales in Canada."

978-1926531168

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

F I C T I O N

Oh, *Sisters Brothers*, where art thou?

Overshadowed somewhat by Esi Edugyan winning Toronto's Giller Prize, Patrick deWitt won both the \$25,000 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Governor General's Award for Fiction for his sophomore novel, **The Sisters Brothers** (Anansi \$22.95). The Canadian-born deWitt is getting half the press even though he has won twice as much partially because he lives in Portland. His offbeat novel is a rollicking tale of two cowboy assassins, Eli and Charlie Sisters, and their faithful horses, as they are tracking down a gold prospector with a secret. Born on Vancouver Island, deWitt was also nominated for the Giller and long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. "I think of my work as a bit left-of-centre," he has said. DeWitt has been credited with a "dark and gentle touch" in his storytelling. DeWitt's previous novel, *Ablutions*, was published in 2009, and he wrote the screenplay for the film, *Terri*. 978-1-770890329

Patrick deWitt:
a bit left of
centre



The first novel by five-time Ironman finisher Margaret Dietz of Squamish, **From My Mother** (CreateSpace \$9.99), follows marathoner Nadia as she undertakes a 100-kilometre ultrarun, all the while contemplating the endurance of her 94-year-old grandmother Oma who immigrated to the Netherlands in the early 1950s, escaping Czechoslovakia in the aftermath of the communist takeover. Born in the Netherlands in 1970, Dietz has written four previous non-fiction books about running including *A Hundred Reasons to Run 100km*, *Running Shoes Are a Girl's Best Friend* and *Powered from Within: Stories About Running & Triathlon*. Dietz moved from Sydney, Australia to British Columbia in late 2007. 9781456471347



Margaret Dietz:
running shoes
are a girl's
best friend

EVERY FEW YEARS OR SO, WE LIKE to take stock of what our storytellers are doing collectively. So welcome to our latest omnibus about where B.C. writers are at—literally and figuratively—including Anne DeGrace (*above*), seen here on the shores of Kootenay Lake. The size of the publishing house shouldn't matter, so we don't discriminate against small fry. We leave it to our readers to discern any thematic trends.

In Richard Wagamese's new novel **Indian Horse** (D&M \$22.95) we meet Saul Indian Horse whose last binge almost killed him. Promo material describes Saul as a reluctant resident in a treatment centre for alcoholics: "Saul wants peace, and he grudgingly comes to see that he'll find it only through telling his story. With him, readers embark on a journey back through the life he's led as a northern Ojibway, with all its joys and sorrows... For Saul, taken forcibly from the land and his family when he's sent to residential school, salvation comes for a while through his incredible gifts as a hockey player. But in the harsh realities of 1960s Canada, he battles obdurate racism and the spirit-destroying effects of cultural alienation and displacement." 978-1-55365-402-5

After two novels, Anne DeGrace of Nelson has released her first collection of trans-Canada short stories, **Flying with Amelia** (McArthur \$29.95), spanning the country from 1901 to 1999: A St. John's boy watches as his employer Marconi receives the first transatlantic wireless signal. A British Home Child finds solace on an Ontario farmstead. In 1920s Montreal, a one-armed WWI veteran gambles everything for a beautiful, intelligent, political young woman. German prisoners of war find creative ways to quell boredom in northern Manitoba. Doukhobor children are snatched from their parents by RCMP in British Columbia. And during the sixties, draft evaders find refuge. 978-1-55-152-416-0



Scottish-born Grant McKenzie, while living in Gibsons, published a debut thriller, **Switch** (Penguin \$25), a mass-market paperback that has been translated into German, Russian and Chinese.



Grant McKenzie

Now living in Victoria where he doubles as editor-in-chief of *Monday* magazine, McKenzie has signed a two-book deal in the U.S. with Midnight Ink to introduce mystery lovers to a sassy heroine named Dixie Dash. "As a rule-breaking reporter for alternative weekly *San Francisco NOW*, Dixie will

do whatever it takes to get to the bottom of the stories she feels most passionate about."

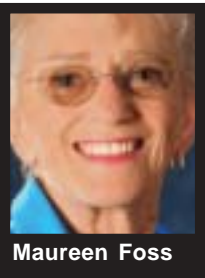
As the series is written in first-person from Dixie's point of view, McKenzie is adopting the pseudonym K.C. Grant. 9780143173359



W.D. Valgardson has returned to adult fiction for **What the Bear Said: Skald Tales from New Iceland** (Turnstone \$19), a collection of short stories that was launched in Gimli, Manitoba, centre of all things Icelandic-Canadian. The stories capture the experiences of Icelandic settlers in Canada in the old style of eddas and sagas. 978-0-88801-3804



Part love story, part medical drama, and part wartime saga, Daniel Kalla's seventh novel **The Far Side of the Sky** (HarperCollins \$24.99) weaves fictional characters into World War II history. An Austrian Jewish physician and surgeon flees the Nazis with his daughter to operate a refugee hospital in Shanghai where he falls in love with an enigmatic nurse, Soon Yi "Sunny" Mah. 9781443402651



Maureen Foss

Surely the only novelist in Lac La Hache, Maureen Foss has published her third novel, **Scribes** (Caitlin \$22.95) about four disparate women in a writers’ group: a closet lesbian, a vengeful wife, a sentimental poet and an etiquette columnist. The darkly comic novel is dedicated to Foss’ husband and the Quintessential Writers Group on the Sunshine Coast that included Betty Keller, Rosella Leslie, Gwendolyn Southin and Dorothy Fraser.

978-1-894759-68-7



June V. Bourgo

Surely the only novelist in Clinton, June V. Bourgo has worked in marketing/sales for telecommunications, managed a physiotherapy clinic, lived on a houseboat in Victoria harbour and worked at a remote Yukon gold mine. Her debut novel, **Winter’s Captive** (Asteroid \$19.95), shares with the reader what she learned through the fictitious story of one woman’s struggle to enlightenment and empowerment.

978-1-926720-17-3



J. Jill Robinson

J. Jill Robinson delves into the intricacies of mother-daughter relationships with **More in Anger** (Thomas Allen \$24.95), a novel about emotional inheritance. As the legacy of anger trickles through three generations of the Mayfield family, the youngest daughter, Vivien, struggles to become the first to break the chain. Robinson has previously excelled at short fiction, and dedicated one of her collections to her sisters.

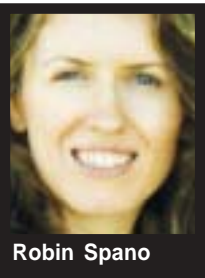
978-0-88762-953-2



Barbara Lambert

Described as a fairy tale for grown-ups, Barbara Lambert’s **The Whirling Girl** (Cormorant \$22) follows botanical artist Clare Livingstone to Cortona in Tuscany to accept the inheritance of her uncle’s property. While fending off unscrupulous archaeologists, nosey neighbours and two male suitors, the sly, wry, lovely ‘princess’ in her new castle must come to terms with self-deception and buried truth.

978-1-77086-093-3



Robin Spano

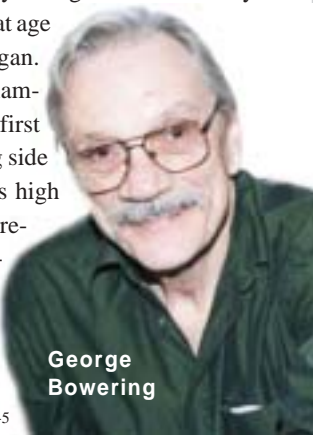
It’s not exactly a statement P.D. James would make, but mystery novelist Robin Spano of Lions Bay wishes she lived inside the *Charlie’s Angels* TV show. In Spano’s second novel featuring female cop Clare Vengel, **Death Plays Poker** (ECW \$24.95), Clare goes undercover to investigate the deaths of world class poker players who are being strangled in their hotel rooms. To catch the Poker Choker, she must pose as a card shark, alias Tiffany, dressed to kill. You don’t win the Giller with a thriller, but possibly she’s having more fun.

978-1-55022-994-3



Arguably it can be better classified as a memoir than fiction, but George Bowering’s wit and storytelling are once more at play in **Pinboy** (Cormorant \$32), previously announced for publication two years ago. It humourously recalls his sexual awakenings at age fifteen in the south Okanagan. Bowering finds himself enamoured of three choices: his first love, the girl from the wrong side of the tracks, and one of his high school teachers. He’s also released non-chronological reminiscences of his literary endeavours, **how i wrote certain of my books** (Mansfield \$19.95).

Pinboy 9781897151945;
Certain 978-1-894469-55-5



George Bowering

Pinochet’s long shadow

Growing love from hate can take several generations.

Carmen Rodriguez’ **Retribution** (Women’s Press Literacy \$22.95) takes the form of three memoirs by a daughter, mother and grandmother. Whereas the grandmother Soledad was once convinced to vote for a right-wing candidate in Chile, her daughter Sol joined the resistance movement against the dictator Pinochet and was tortured for nine months.

The threesome arrives in Vancouver in 1974 as refugees. Sol’s child Tania is a newborn. The grandmother recalls:

“As much as I wanted to pretend that I didn’t care about Chile anymore, it didn’t take me long to realize that when you leave your country behind, you don’t really leave your country behind. It haunts you, it teases you, it plays tricks on you; it shows up at every corner, in every street; in

the wind, in the clouds. It doesn’t leave you alone. Your past plays in your head over and over again, like a movie that you already know by heart, but cannot stop watching.”

During their first weeks at the Cove Motor Inn in English Bay, a one-star transit hotel operated by the Canadian government, her daughter Sol tells her, “The baby’s father is my torturer.” (Rodriguez has given the reader some foreknowledge of this, near the outset.) Soledad, the grandmother, explodes with hatred:

“I hated Pinochet. I hated my son’s murderer. I hated my sister for having turned my daughter in. I hated my daughter’s torturer. I hated my daughter for giving birth to the torturer’s baby and I hated baby Tania.

But above all I hated myself for not having known to live my life to the fullest when I was young; for not having accepted and loved my son for who he was; for having disapproved of my children’s political views; for not having appreciated what I had. I hated myself for being alive and not having the guts to end it all and leave this world once and for all.”

The grandmother rallies herself and becomes involved in the solidarity movement of Chilean exiles and refugees in Vancouver, but the title *Retribution* arises from the tortured daughter Sol’s resolve to take revenge by breaking the legacy of cruelty and hate, by re-inventing love.

*[Carmen Rodriguez is not to be confused with Chilean-born playwright Carmen Aguirre, also of Vancouver, whose memoir of political resistance in Chile, **Something Fierce**, won this year’s Canada Reads competition.]*

978-0986638817

Carmen Rodriguez was born in Chile in 1948. She came to Canada as a political exile following the military coup of September 11, 1973.



In **Timothy Taylor's** novel that examines the culture of celebrity, **The Blue Light Project** (Knopf \$32.95), a man armed with an explosive device storms a television studio where a youth talent show is being filmed, and demands an interview with a disgraced former investigative journalist.

978-0-307-39930-4



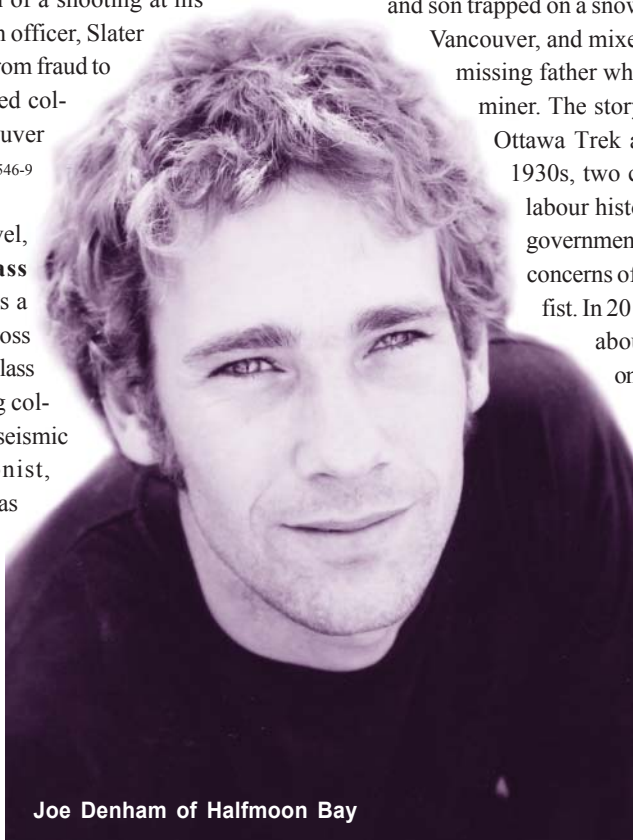
Vancouver cop **Sean Slater's** first mystery thriller **The Survivor** (Simon & Schuster \$19.99) follows Detective Jacob Striker's investigation of a shooting at his daughter's high school. As an officer, Slater has investigated everything from fraud to homicide, and has contributed columns and editorials to Vancouver newspapers.

978-0-85720546-9



Joe Denham's first novel, **The Year of Broken Glass** (Nightwood \$24.95), follows a struggling crab fisherman across the Pacific Ocean to deliver a glass fishing float to a high-paying collector. Against a backdrop of seismic degradation, the protagonist, Francis "Ferris" Wichbaun, has a romantic affair with his trans-ocean travelling companion while he is deeply concerned about his dual families: Ferris is married to Anna and they have a son named Willow, and simultaneously he has a baby daughter, Emily, with his girlfriend Jin Su.

978-0-88971-252-2



Joe Denham of Halfmoon Bay



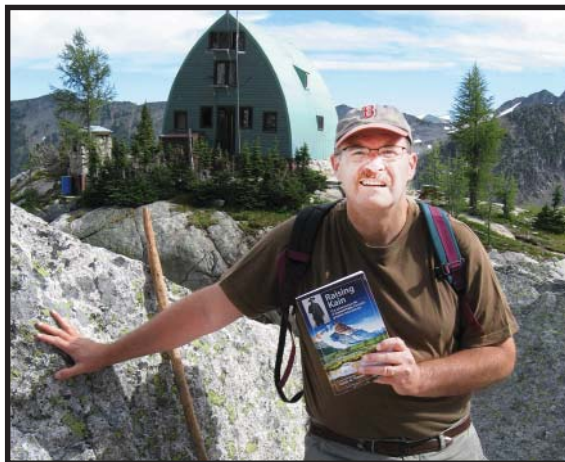
Arley McNeney

Arley McNeney played on Canada's national wheelchair basketball team from 2001 to 2007, winning two World Championships and a bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympics. With two creative writing degrees, at age 24 she wrote *Post* (ThistleDown, 2007), her debut novel about retired wheelchair athlete Nolan Taylor who is forced to build a new identity in her post-basketball life. Leaving sports behind, she has crafted **The Time We All Went Marching** (Goose Lane \$19.95), a novel about a mother and son trapped on a snowbound train heading west to Vancouver, and mixed with the political past of a missing father who had worked as an itinerant miner. The story chiefly explores the On to Ottawa Trek and the Regina Riots of the 1930s, two cathartic events in Canadian labour history during which the federal government and RCMP responded to the concerns of the unemployed with an iron fist. In 2011, McNeney began blogging about her recent hip replacement on her blog called Young and Hip.

978-086492-640-1



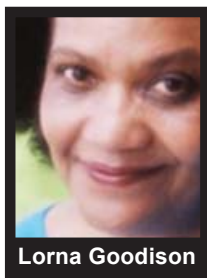
In 1909, twenty-five year-old **Conrad Kain**, from the tiny Austrian village of Nasswald, boarded the CPR ship *Empress of Britain* en route to the Canadian Rockies where he became the first official mountain guide of the newly formed Alpine Club of Canada (ACC). **Keith G. Powell's** second his-



Keith G. Powell at the Conrad Kain hut in the Bugaboos, one of Kain's favourite climbing haunts.

torical novel, **Raising Kain** (Wild Horse Creek Press \$19.95), recounts Kain's remarkable adventures in Canada, mainly in the Rockies, but also around Wilmer in the Columbia Valley. Kain lived in Wilmer (just north of Invermere) for almost 20 years and died in Cranbrook's St. Eugene Hospital in 1934. He made almost 70 first ascents or new routes on peaks in the Rockies to go with 59 ascents (29 first ascents) in New Zealand. He is widely recognized as "the prince of Canadian mountain guides."

978-0-9812146-2-7



Lorna Goodison



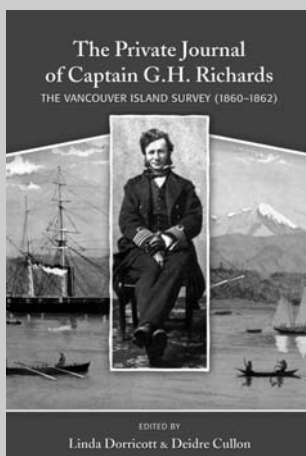
Lorna Goodison is the author of two collections of short stories, eight books of poetry, and the award-winning memoir *From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her People*. She has received much international recognition, including the Musgrave Gold Medal. Born in Jamaica, Goodison divides her time between Ann Arbor, Toronto, and Halfmoon Bay, B.C. Her new story collection is **By Love Possessed** (M&S \$28.99).

978-0-7710-3577-7

The Private Journal of Captain G.H. Richards

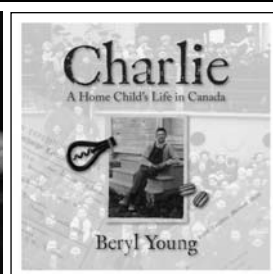
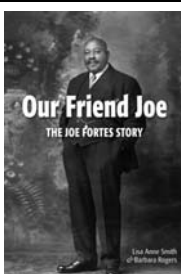
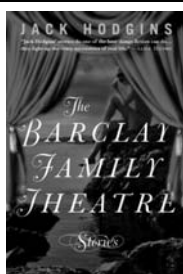
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978-1-55380-143-6 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 256 pp \$11.95

Surrey underworld & Little India revealed

Disturbed by Indo-Canadian gangland murders, Surrey-raised Ranj Dhaliwal took the title for his “underworld” novel, *Daaku* (New Star 2006) from the Punjabi word for outlaw or gangster. In his follow-up, **Daaku: The Gangster’s Life** (New Star \$21), the protagonist Ruby Pandher is a little older, wiser and more ambitious—while remaining reflective about his lone-wolf lifestyle. “Maybe God will forgive me if I get out of this life now.” Dhaliwal now devotes some of his time to organizations that deal with at-risk Indo-Canadian youth.

9781554200597



Newcomer Raminder Sidhu examines the lives of contemporary women in Vancouver’s tightly-knit Little India district in her first novel, **Tears of Mehndi** (Caitlin \$24.95), to expose “the shrouded violence within Canada’s Punjabi community.” Similar in scope to Gurjinder Basran’s Wilson Prize-winning debut novel in 2010, *Everything Was Good-bye* (Mother Tongue), it has characters caught between two cultures—a fundamental theme in B.C. fiction first made conspicuous in Hubert Evans’ *Mist on the River* in 1954. Sidhu was born and raised in Mackenzie, BC, and resides in Surrey.

978-1-894759-73-1



Raminder Sidhu

Ranj Dhaliwal



From Russia with \$100

Diversity and a zest for life punctuate Marina’s world

Marina Sonkina still recalls being 18 at Moscow University when her cultural history professor Uri Lotman wrote a detailed bibliography on the blackboard in French, German, English and Italian:

“We, the newly-fanged scholars and researchers looked at each other in dismay,” she recalls, “but didn’t dare to raise any objections. Accepted into the Great Temple of Philology, we were treated as his equals. And, if we, for some reason, didn’t have the reading knowledge of a given European language, we still had a week until the next seminar to acquire that knowledge!”

As a Ph.D student of Lotman, Sonkina learned that a variety of disciplines must be explored to study culture, so she studied philosophy, psychology, film, theatre, folklore and visual arts. In 1987, she immigrated to Canada with her small sons, two suitcases, and one hundred dollars, leaving her job teaching at Moscow University. “It was all the Soviet government—a proponent of

Marxist materialism in theory, but a defender of extreme non-materialism in practice—allowed me to take with me.”

Convinced her sons would eventually be forced into military service for Russia, Sonkina has no regrets about her exodus. One son is now a tenured professor of mathematics at Dalhousie in Halifax; the other returned to Moscow as a Canadian citizen and has achieved success as an actor in 28 films.

In Montreal, Sonkina initially found work in the Russian section of Radio Canada International at CBC. Now teaching literature at UBC and SFU, Sonkina has published a diverse,

third collection of stories, **Lucia’s Eyes and Other Stories** (Guernica \$20). The longer stories include ‘Tractorina’s Travels,’ about a twice-married Russian who is uneasy about Perestroika, and ‘Carmelita,’ about a volatile, Bohemian painter who has a poignant, sensual and lethal relationship with a much older narrator, Joseph, in Mexico. Sonkina’s new children’s book is *The Violin That Wanted To See The World* (MW Books).

When not writing and teaching, Marina Sonkina teaches yoga and dances the tango (“with an often unjustified fervor”).

978-1-55071-334-3



Marina Sonkina: Moscow, nyet

Don Hunter’s political thriller, **Cooper and The Queen** (Mirador \$14.85) opens with reports that the Queen is to abdicate, that the throne will go to her grandson William and his bride Kate Middleton, and that the Queen then will spend much of her future in her favourite Commonwealth country—Canada. The narrative then turns back to events of 1983, during the North American royal tour, scheduled to end in Vancouver where the Queen would announce plans for the Expo 86 World Fair. A rogue Irish Republican Army assassin Sean Dooley plans to assassinate the Queen on the final day of the royal tour (a tour that Don Hunter covered as a reporter with *The Province* newspaper.). Coincidentally Sgt. Matt Cooper of the Vancouver Police Department is removed from his position as head of the Emergency Response

Team and appointed bodyguard to a woman who does theatre impersonations of HRH. The story moves from Vancouver Island to Ottawa, the Caribbean, Ulster, California, Galiano Island, and Vancouver, to its dramatic climax at the Hotel Vancouver.



978-1-908200-26-6

In **End of the Line** (Touchwood \$18.95) by Stephen Legault, newly reinstated Mountie Durrant Wallace arrives in a lawless shantytown to solve the murder of a CPR section boss before the killer can strike again. According to novelist Angie Abdou, “*The End of the Line* transported me. This explosive tale takes readers on a rough and tumble ride through Canada’s Wild West. I completely lost myself in Stephen Legault’s imagined world—what more could a reader ask for?”

Homelessness in the

Downtown Eastside is the lightning rod for intrigue and murder for the third volume in Legault’s mystery series featuring ex-Ottawa politico Cole Blackwater. In **The Vanishing Track** (Touchwood \$18.95) he helps his friend Denman Scott thwart the demolition of the Lucky Strike Hotel, home to nearly three hundred poor people. When he discovers homeless people are disappearing without a trace—hence the title—the pair uncover corruption with the help of an intrepid *Vancouver Sun* reporter and street nurse named Juliet Rose.

Vanishing: 9781927129036; End: 978-1926971049



Dedicated to P.K. Page, Rachel Wyatt’s sixth novel, **Letters to Omar** (Coteau \$21) is about three interfering women “with time on their hands” who tackle a charitable cause by hosting a dinner party, only to realize that fixing the universe is no easy task.

978-1-55050-448-4



Creator of a monthly sex column, *Blush*, in Vancouver’s *XtraWest*, as well as a stand-up improv performer and drag queen named Miss Cookie LaWhore, Michael V. Smith has received the inaugural Dayne Ogilvie Award for Emerging Gay Writers with his candid poetry collection, *What You Can’t Have*. But sex is not overtly the focus for Smith’s second novel, **Progress** (Cormorant \$21), in which a lonely widow named Helen has to relocate when a dam is built in her small town, and she learns a family secret when her long-lost brother suddenly reappears.

978-1-77086-000-1



In Jenn Lafortune’s debut mystery, **Murder in Parksville** (Diamond River \$16.95), the protagonist Leann revisits her hometown of Tofino where she is woken by police who tell her that her parents are the apparent victims of a fatal car crash in Parksville. Appearances are deceiving. A local RCMP detective must unravel the case.

978-0-9866598-1-2



Don Hunter



Stephen Legault



Rachel Wyatt



Jenn Lafortune

The one-man culture known as **bill bissett** has broken new ground—as usual—with his first work of semi-fiction, **novel** (Talonbooks \$17.95), partially an uncapitalized narrative about a character named jimnee searching for his lover, mark. There are also “pomes and essays” to comprise a mélange of invariably vibrant bissett humour and wisdom—as usual. There is nobody like bill bissett and there is no novel like *novel*. His bio material states he is, “originalee from lunaria ovr 300 yeers ago in lunarian time sent by shuttul thru halifax nova scotia originalee wantid 2 b dansr n figur skatr b became a poet n paintr in my longings after 12 operaysyuns reelee preventid me from following th inishul direksyuns.” Simultaneously, **Carl Peters** has released the first scholarly study of bissett’s poetry and pictures, **textual vishyuns: image and text in the work of bill bissett** (Talonbooks \$24.95).

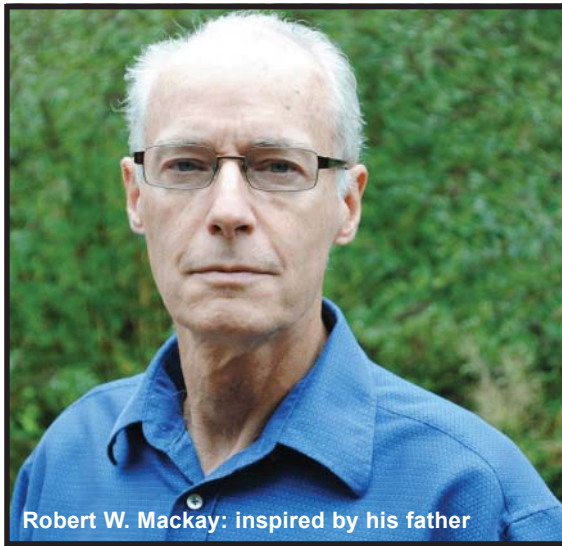
novel 9780889226715; vishyuns 9780889226616

★
Kevin Chong’s Beauty Plus Pity (Arsenal \$17.95) follows the travails of Malcolm Kwan, a slacker twentysomething Asian-Canadian living in Vancouver who is pursuing a modeling career. When his filmmaker father dies and his fiancée leaves him, Malcolm is forced to confront his past relationships with women, including his own mother, and his ambivalence toward his hyphenated cultural identity. He also discovers that at some point his father had an affair, resulting in his teenaged half-sister, Hadley. Chong’s follow-up is a superb memoir about becoming part-owner of a Vancouver racehorse. See SPORTS, page 20. 9781551524160

★
Robert W. Mackay’s historical novel Soldier of the Horse (TouchWood \$19.95) is a World War I tale inspired by his father’s true story and letters about fighting in Picardy, France. Mackay is president of the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association. He himself served with the Royal Canadian Navy and the British Navy, in destroyers and submarines, until 1969. He returned to UBC to study law and practiced law until 2008. 978-1-926741-24-6



bill bissett: one-man culture



Robert W. Mackay: inspired by his father

Pauline Holdstock’s Into the Heart of the Country (HarperCollins \$32.95) tells the story of **Molly Norton**, mixed-blood daughter of Governor **Moses Norton** and a personal favourite of explorer **Samuel Hearne**. Molly speaks to the reader from across the centuries, revealing the story of her liaison with Hearne, and exposing both its privilege and its price. When Molly’s small society is torn apart by a French attack, the women of the fort, including Molly, find themselves and their children abandoned by their British masters. 9781443405575



From the late 1800s onwards, many peasants left southern Italy to work in the orchards and vineyards of either Argentina or British Columbia. These peasants were called *golondrinas*: the swallows. Instead of following the swallows to Capistrano, **Robert Pepper-Smith** followed them to a fictional town in southeastern B.C. for his first novel, *The Wheel Keeper* (NeWest 2002), about an Italian family that deals with displacement as a proposed hydro-electric dam threatens to flood their village. The narrator’s



Robert Pepper-Smith

grandmother was forced to emigrate from Italy as a young, unwed mother, fleeing to Canada to avoid giving up her child to the church. Edited by **Thomas Wharton**, Robert Pepper-Smith’s second poignant novel **House of Spells** (NeWest \$18.95) follows the friendship between teenagers Rose and Lacey. When Rose becomes pregnant, the mysterious and childless Giacomo family, whose wealth is well-known in the community, offers to adopt the child. As Rose wrestles with the decision to give up her baby, Lacey recounts her efforts to help her friend and the unsettling discoveries she makes along the way. Born in Revelstoke in 1954, Robert Pepper-Smith lives on a farm in the Cinnabar Valley and teaches philosophy at Vancouver Island University.

Wheel Keeper 1-896300-49-9; Spells 978-1-897126-87-5



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GURJINDER BASRAN
DAVID CHARIANDY

Final Judge:
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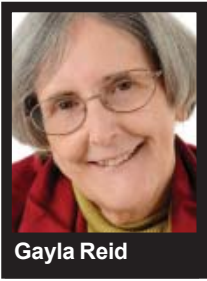
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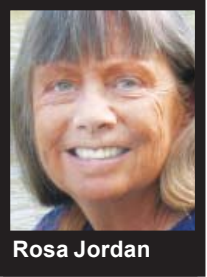
As a teacher of literature and creative writing at Langara College, **Paul Headrick** published *That Tune Clutches my Heart* (Gaspereau 2008), shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. It’s hard to hype short story collections but his follow-up collection, **The Doctrine of Affections** (Freehand Books \$23.95), has one of the better ‘blurbs’ in recent memory: “A poverty-stricken guitar virtuoso navigates the political landscape of nineteenth-century Parisian society as he comes out of retirement for one final concert. A sessional instructor competing for the prestigious Interdisciplinary Chair in Aretha Franklin Studies gets sidetracked by her obsession with a mysterious student in a yellow hat. A dying doo-wop DJ and his wife try to bridge the estrangement wrought by illness as they travel in search of the horns, drums, and vocals of highlife.” Headrick lives in Vancouver with his partner, novelist **Heather Burt**.

978-1-55111-978-6



In 2006, **Gayla Reid** received the \$15,000 Marian Engel Award for a female writer in mid-career for a body of work. The publisher’s synopsis for her fourth work of fiction, **Coming From Afar** (Cormorant \$32), reads, “In England in the spring of 1939, Clancy, an Australian nurse, waits with her infant daughter for news of her lover, who was a volunteer with the Mackenzie-Papineau Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. As she waits, Clancy shares with her daughter the story of her own childhood in the Australian bush and her disastrous marriage to an English archaeologist. When the Spanish Civil War erupted, Clancy volunteered on the Republican side. Her chance for happiness amid the chaos came when she met the young Canadian, Douglas Ross. She has not heard from him since the final desperate offensive.”

9781770860445



Anyone who knows Cuban history in depth can tell you there could not have been a successful Cuban Revolution without **Celia Sánchez, Fidel Castro**’s lover, who handled the organizational aspects of the otherwise chaotic Castro brothers’ uprising and, equally important, kept Fidel’s monstrous ego in check. In **Rosa Jordan**’s forthcoming novel **The Woman She Was** (Brindle & Glass \$21.95) we meet Celia Cantú, a pediatrician in modern Cuba, named after Celia Sánchez, who scours the island to find her 16-year-old niece Liliana, hoping she can prevent her from turning into one more jintera (prostitute) who gets American dollars from tourists. While present-day Celia searches from popular tourist destinations to the Sierra Maestre range where Celia Sánchez and Fidel first became lovers, she herself must choose between lovers—Luis, a high-level bureaucrat in Havana or her former fiancé, Joe, who has returned from Miami.

978-1-926972-46-6

Writer’s digest

Mennonite makes an eleven-course debut

BY PORTIA PRIEGERT

The title of **Darcie Friesen Hossack**’s first collection of eleven short stories, **Mennonites Don’t Dance** (ThistleDown \$18.95) might well have been lengthened to *Mennonites Don’t Dance, But They Sure Can Cook*.

Married to the executive chef at the Okanagan Golf Club—also her high school sweetheart—Hossack, 35, is a passionate cook who writes food columns for the *Kelowna Courier* and *Kamloops This Week*.

While her stories, set mainly on the prairies, often explore sin, penance and redemption, as well as the conflicts between tradition and change—common themes for Mennonite-related fiction—there are plates and plates of food throughout.

“I didn’t include recipes,” she says, “but I considered

it. To me, being Mennonite is so much about the food that I don’t know how I could ever separate it. If cooking wasn’t in my writing, I don’t think it would have the depth that I want it to have.”

Hossack, who lives in Kelowna, credits her success in part to the Humber School for Writers in Toronto, where she was mentored through the correspondence program by Manitoba’s Giller Prize-finalist **Sandra Birdsell**.

According to Birdsell, Hossack’s stories “reverberate with what has been left unsaid, the silence between people that speaks of betrayal, forgiveness and the power of love to prevail.”

There’s no shortage of notable Canadian writers of Mennonite descent such as Birdsell, **Miriam Toews**, **Rudy Wiebe** and **Andreas Schroeder**, who says Hossack’s stories “prove the title true—both literally and metaphorically—but these very constraints make the stories’ hard-won moments of joy and insight especially memorable.”

To honour her heritage, Hossack has used her mother’s maiden name, Friesen, as a middle name. Her mother’s family came to Canada five generations ago and farmed at Schoenfeld, a small Mennonite village in southwestern Saskatchewan. Hossack grew up nearby in Swift Current, living with her mother and attending public schools, but was exposed to traditional culture through her grandparents.

As a teenager, she moved to the Okanagan, joining her father, a Seventh-Day Adventist, and finishing high school there. Her next project is a novel, *What Looks In*, which will explore a family divided by grief and religion.

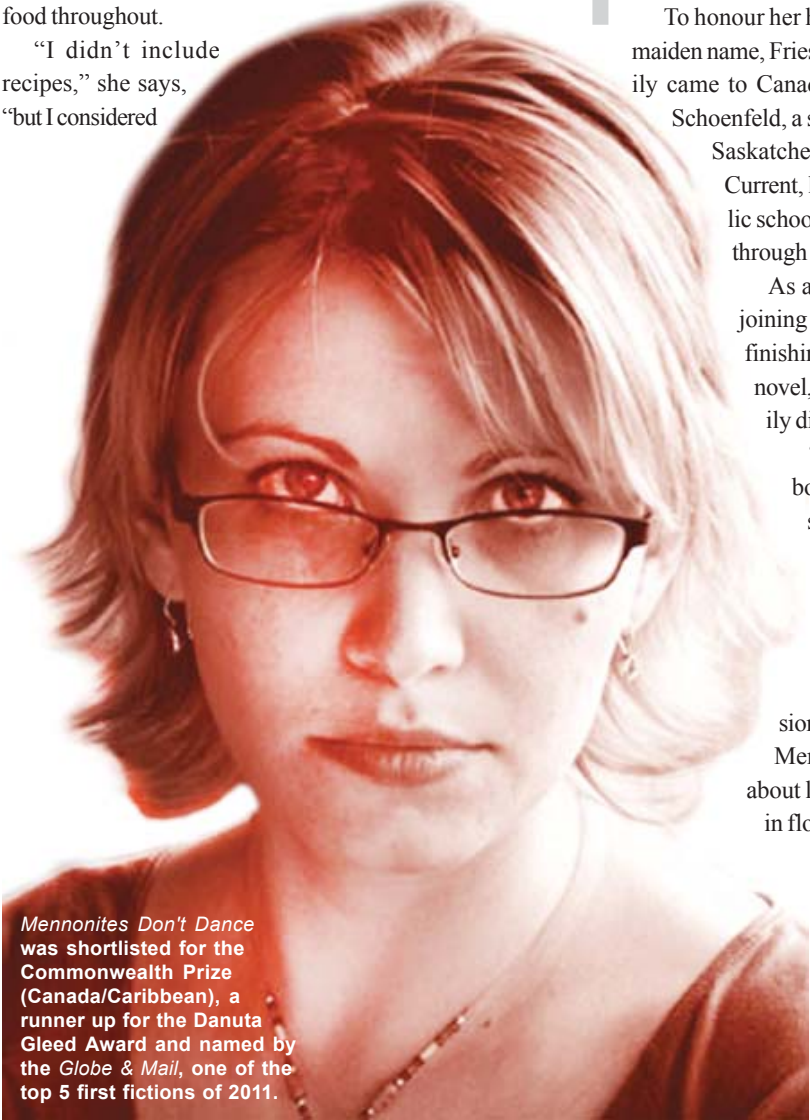
“The two ideologies, although they’re both Protestant, don’t mix very well,” she says. “But hopefully, by the time I come to the end of the story, there will be some kind of meeting of hearts or, I suppose, meeting of souls, and the family can come together.”

Meanwhile Hossack welcomes her inclusion in the realm of Canadian Mennonite Lit. Mennonite writers, she says, “seem to write about life with raw honesty. They don’t cover it in flowers. They don’t try to engineer it. They don’t try to steer it toward a conclusion.

They usually have no conclusion at the end. It’s not preachy. It’s the way Mennonites are—they are simple, honest and often very funny people.”

978-1-897235-78-2

Portia Priegert writes from Kelowna.



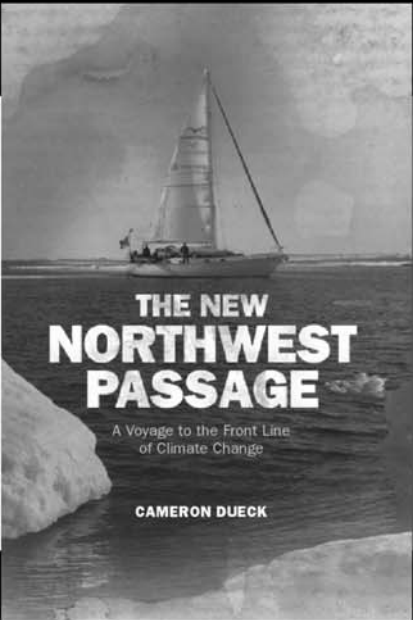
Mennonites Don't Dance was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize (Canada/Caribbean), a runner up for the Danuta Gleed Award and named by the *Globe & Mail*, one of the top 5 first fictions of 2011.

More people have climbed Everest than have sailed this fabled route.
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- E. C. Pielou, author of *A Naturalist’s Guide to the Arctic*

“Lots of people dream of quitting the rat-race, buying a boat and sailing away to the Caribbean but few embark on a voyage through the Northwest Passage. Hats off to Cameron Dueck: he acted, made good, and now he’s written a compelling book about it.”
- Ken McGoogan, author of *The Fatal Passage Quartet*

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Why Edmonds deserves Starr treatment

JUST DO THE MATH.

Six-out-of-ten students at Edmonds School in Burnaby are learning to speak English as a second language. Eight-out-of-ten don't speak English at home. One-third come from refugee backgrounds. Many have witnessed horrific violence.

David Starr's **From Bombs To Books** (Lorimer \$22.95) tells the inspiring story of how refugee and immigrant children—if they are well-loved and well-taught—can be remarkably resilient and thrive in a new country.

Here is an edited excerpt.

EDMONDS STREET, IN THE SOUTHERN CORNER OF Burnaby, has always been a place of new beginnings. The Scottish, Irish, and English arrived here more than a century ago, soon followed by successive waves of Japanese, German, Italian, and Polish immigrants. In the 1970s and 1980s the Indians and Chinese came, joined by Bosnians and Croatians, Koreans and Filipinos.

Today the neighbourhood is an assortment of small shops and businesses: a Balkan butcher shop is next to an Afghan restaurant; an African grocery store is adjacent to a tattoo parlour; a temple is across the street from an adult video store.

Condominiums are taking over the vacant lots once occupied by boarded-up buildings and crack houses. Although Edmonds has long been a rough place, it is a tight-knit community, one in which residents take pride. That pride is evident in the regular neighbourhood clean-ups, in the Santa Claus parade, and in the faces of the children who attend Edmonds Community School.

In a profoundly personal and concrete way, that school represents the most distinctive aspect of the community: the dreams of a better life for families of refugees and immigrants.

Edmonds Community School isn't much to look at from the outside. Originally founded in 1894, the school is a two-storey white-and-green building that was built just after the Second World War. Among its alumni are Carrie-Anne Moss of *The Matrix* and Hollywood star Michael J. Fox.

Edmonds lacks the flash of newer schools in other parts of the city and, despite recent updates, the place seems a little tired. The pavement in the parking lot is cracked, the playground needs upgrading, the gravel soccer field has a habit of flooding in the winter rains and, last year, a cherry tree on the south side of the school—one of the few green things left on the grounds—fell sick and was chopped down.

But looks can be deceiving. Inside, the school is spotless, with new flooring throughout. Artwork covers the walls and, in the foyer, there is a beautiful mosaic that encapsulates the school's demographics.

In 2009 Keith and Celia Rice-Jones, well-known Vancouver-area artists, were commissioned through the Artist in Residence program to make the mosaic, entitled *From Many Places*—a fitting choice since the school currently serves students from almost fifty countries.



School principal David Starr with Nasima Muhammad Aslam, Victor Gonzalez Aguirre, Rifad Bhuyia, Jennifer Mascardo and Maryam Jawansheer. Sabria Ahmed Mohamed (below).

Nearly 100 students of refugee families from countries such as Ethiopia, the Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq now call Edmonds their home. The school and the refugee population it serves have frequently been featured in local, provincial, and national media.

But there has been negative publicity as well. The Fraser Institute—a right-wing think tank that takes assessment numbers from the controversial Foundational Skills Assessment (a reading, writing, and math assessment written by students in Grades 4 and 7)—has singled out Edmonds as one of the “worst” schools in British Columbia. Traditionally, the school ranks low in these assessments—and not just low, but very low—and the rankings have always been a source of anger in the building.

The Fraser Institute's assessment is simply wrong. Far from being one of the worst schools in the province, Edmonds is actually one of the best at what it does.

The Fraser Institute fails to take into consideration some essential realities:

- Six-out-of-ten Edmonds students are still learning to speak English as a second language.
- Eight-out-of-ten don't speak English at home
- Fully one-third of our students come from refugee backgrounds.
- Many students arrive at the school having never attended a school before.
- In many cases, students have witnessed scenes of horrific violence and bear the scars of significant physical and psychological trauma.
- Often new students can neither understand a word of English nor read or write in their own first languages.

Yet, with just one or two years of instruction, these children learn to function proficiently in English and find themselves well on their way towards catching up to—and frequently exceeding—their native-born peers, thanks to a dedicated staff with a skill set second-to-none.



WHEN I CAME TO EDMONDS, I HAD almost as much to learn as my students. I had spent eight years teaching social studies and English literature in the comfortably middle-class suburb of Coquitlam, and then—armed with a newly acquired Masters Degree in Administration

and Leadership from UBC—spent two years working as a vice principal in a small rural public school in the eastern Fraser Valley.

When I began working as vice principal at Byrne Creek Secondary School in 2006, it was immediately clear to me that small-town schools with predominantly white and First Nations students were worlds apart from the large, urban, multicultural community where I now found myself in Burnaby.

The penny dropped for me one day when I was registering a new student from Afghanistan. “We came so that our children could attend school and have a good life,” the child's mother told me through an interpreter. I agreed with her that school was indeed important.

“No,” she said forcefully, her voice quaking with emotion as she touched the office wall. “You don't understand. We came for *this* school.” Byrne Creek was a new school beset by difficulties, a school the Fraser Institute didn't like either, and yet this mother from Afghanistan had travelled thousands of kilometres to put her most precious possessions—her children—into that school and in my care.

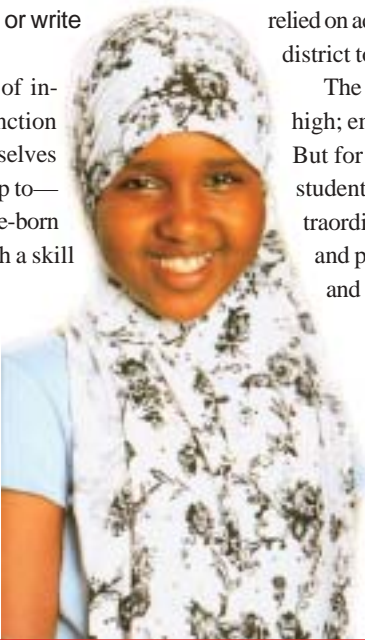
I carried the hopes and expectations of that mother with me to nearby Edmonds Community School two years later as its new principal. Although the students are younger at Edmonds, the faces and the names are the same as at the high school and, in many ways, the story of Edmonds is incomplete without including the story of Byrne Creek.

Edmonds and Byrne Creek are not easy places to work. In an age of shrinking budgets, the spectre of reduced services hangs constantly over the schools, which have relied on additional staffing and resources from the school district to do their job effectively.

The level of commitment demanded of the staff is high; emotional burn-out is an occupational hazard. But for those who come, stay, and learn to love the students and the neighbourhood, the rewards are extraordinary as they enable some of Canada's newest and perhaps most vulnerable residents to integrate and succeed.

I wrote *From Bombs to Books* to chronicle and celebrate the roles that Edmonds Community and Byrne Creek Secondary schools have played in educating, acculturating and welcoming people who have fled from some of the most dangerous places on earth, but first and foremost this book about brave families—their journeys and their experiences.

978-1-555277-860-9



JENNIFER HOUGHTON PHOTO

SOCCER

If you discount Whitecaps co-owner Steve Nash of NBA fame—who grew up playing soccer in Victoria and would dearly love to have played professionally with his brother, Martin Nash—there is only one soccer folk hero in B.C.

Arguably it should be John Catliff, the Vancouver-born striker who has scored the second-most goals for Canada's national team, or it should be prolific scorer Christine Sinclair, who is leading the Canadian women into the London Olympics, but the household soccer name for decades remains Bobby Lenarduzzi, current president of Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

Co-written with veteran sportswriter Jim Taylor, who accompanied Lenarduzzi, his brother Sam Lenarduzzi and the rest of Canada's national men's team to their only World Cup appearance, **Bob Lenarduzzi: A Canadian Soccer Story** (Harbour \$28.95) ranges from:

- Lenarduzzi serving as a ball-boy during raucous matches at Callister Park in East Vancouver
- his character-building apprenticeship at age fourteen with Reading FC in England



Bob Lenarduzzi won four straight CSL titles.

- the Whitecaps' heady 1979 championship of the North American Soccer League after which some 100,000 Vancouverites attended a victory parade
- his experiences as a coach and player for the Vancouver 86ers.

It's seldom noted that Lenarduzzi's 86ers won four straight Canadian Soccer League titles and amassed a 46-game unbeaten streak, a record for any professional team in North America.

The wryness of Taylor is evident in much of the text: Nobody saw Canada lose its final game at its first-ever World Cup appearance because the live broadcast was pre-empted. By *Sesame Street*.

Lenarduzzi describes the ancient Elm Park stadium at Reading: "It's said that once in your place it was impossible to squeeze down the line to get out to the loo or your place would be lost. So, it's said, you peed in the pocket of the man next to you. 'Liverpool hot pocket,' it came to be called... Folklore, no doubt. One can only hope."

This memoir is far from a 'tell-all' page-turner, opening as it does with a chapter of appreciation for current Whitecaps majority owner Greg Kerfoot, but there are some lively bits and some beguiling humility.

Lenarduzzi has been inducted into the Soccer Hall of Fame, United Soccer League's Hall of Fame, the North American Soccer Hall of Fame, the BC Sports Hall of Fame and he's a recipient of the Order of B.C. Not bad for an east-end kid whose father was once busted for making homemade wine. 978-1-55017-546-2



This quintet of gents won B.C.'s five-a-side soccer championship in 1893.

There are precious few Canadian books about soccer—even though it is the most-played sport in the country—so one has to admire Robert Lanning's self-published labour of love, **Westcoast Reign: The British Columbia Soccer Championships 1892-1905** (Ballboy Press \$39.95), a rare attempt to trace the origins of the game in B.C. It's more about soccer politics and team results than individual players and blow-by-blow reportage.

The first provincial soccer association

was organized from Nanaimo, the hub for coal miners from Britain, in 1891. The more the Nanaimo-based BC Football Association cemented nepotistic relationships with clubs from the mining community, the more jurisdictional disputes between the mainland and island ensued.

"In many ways," he writes, "the actions of the B.C. Football Association closely mirrored those of the young boy who owned the only soccer ball at his school... The BCFA's unwillingness to change its rules in order to satisfy the needs of those it governed resulted in the fall of British Columbia's first soccer dynasty."

Lanning was inspired to pursue this project after taking a creative writing course from David Zieroth in Coquitlam. 978-0-9877478-1-5

HOCKEY

Eighteen years ago, the Canucks advanced to the Stanley Cup final and didn't win. Last year it was the same story, but this time they boasted the Sedin twins, winners of back-to-back scoring championships.

Having completed the best NHL season in the history of the franchise, the Vancouver Canucks are celebrated in Grant Kerr's **A Season to Remember: The Vancouver Canucks' Incredible 40th Year** (Harbour \$19.95). Kerr is assistant coach of the Coquitlam Express and winner of the 2007 Ernie Gare Memorial Trophy as the BC Hockey Coach of the Year. With veteran Vancouver sportswriter Greg Douglas, Kerr also co-authored **Canucks at 40: Our Game, Our Stories, Our Passion** (Wiley \$39.95). Paul Chapman and Bev Wake also edited **A Thrilling Ride: The Vancouver Canucks' Fortieth Anniversary Season** (Greystone \$19.95).

Incredible 978-1-55017-564-6; Passion 9780470679166; Thrilling 978-1-92681-291-5

As Brad Pitt's recent movie *Moneyball* makes clear, general managers of sports franchises are as much responsible for victory or defeat as players and coaches.

In 84 years of NHL history, only 32 general managers have won the Stanley Cup as a GM. "I believe that the NHL's general managers have been the brains and the conscience of the game since the league opened for business in 1917," says Brian Burke, who won the cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007.

Jason Farris reportedly took 18 months and 60,000 kms of travelling to create **Behind the Moves: NHL General Managers Tell How Winners Are Built** (circaNow Media \$99.95), a 252-page coffee table book based on his in-person interviews with every living NHL GM who has taken a team to the Stanley Cup final. Collectively these GMs represent over 500 seasons of GM experience. It is touted as part history book, part encyclopedia and part manual for would-be managers. 9780973901658

RUNNING

Lori Bowden of Victoria is one of 22 women profiled in Timothy Moore's **Sub Nine: History's Fastest Ironwomen** (CreateSpace \$14.99 plus postage) about women in the world who have finished an Ironman race in less than nine hours. Moore, a resident of Squamish, has written for San Diego-based *Triathlete* magazine and is a regular contributor to Toronto-based *Triathlon Canada Magazine*. An Ironman race consists of a 3.8km swim, a 180km bike ride and then a 42km run. As of October, there were 26 women who had gone 'Sub Nine.' The feat was first accomplished by Thea Sybesma of the Netherlands in 1991. 978-1-4609-0764-1



BJ McHugh

A farmer's daughter who was born at a time when few women ever dreamed of running marathons, BJ McHugh, now in her eighties, only took up running in her fifties. **My Road to Rome: The Running Times of BJ McHugh** (Sandhill \$18.95) recounts

how McHugh became the world's fastest senior long-distance runner for her age group. This memoir of courage and determination was co-written with Bob Nixon. 9780986905407

Since it was first published in 1999, *The Beginning Runner's Handbook* has reputedly helped more than 35,000 participants at community clinics across Canada realize their goal of running 10km. Re-issued by Ian MacNeil and the Sports Medicine Council of B.C., with a foreword by Doug Clement, the new version is now called **The Beginning Runner's Handbook: The Proven 13-Week RunWalk Program** (Greystone \$19.95). 978-1-55365-860-3



Kevin Chong

They call horse racing the sport of kings, but Kevin Chong's **My Year of the Racehorse** (Greystone \$17.95) cites a more apt description from an old movie—it's a slow poison. His brilliant memoir about being minority owner of a mediocre race horse will be reviewed in the next issue. 978-1-55365-520-6

PERCY WILLIAMS

World's fastest human

In 1981, the Brits made a movie about two obscure amateur sprinters who gained unexpected glory at the 8th Olympiad in Paris, in 1924.

You might recall they put some orchestral music by Vangelis behind a title sequence that showed a band of men in white shirts and shorts running along the surf.

The heroes were a devout Scottish missionary who refused to run on Sundays and a determined Jew whose devoted trainer couldn't get inside the stadium. *Chariots of Fire* won the Oscar for best film.

So you would think by now someone in Canada would have made the Percy Williams story as a movie. As Samuel Hawley makes abundantly clear in his biography **I Just Ran: Percy Williams, World's Fastest Human** (Ronsdale \$23.95), Williams' ascendancy to Olympic superiority was far more unlikely, and his personal story was far more heart-wrenching.

Four years after that *Chariots of Fire* story of underdog purity, Williams astonished the world by winning both the 100- and 200-metre gold medals in 1928. Everyone was aghast. He was only five-foot-seven and weighed 126 pounds. But it was no fluke. Williams held the 100-metre world record from 1930 onwards until the advent of Jesse Owens in 1936.

As the biography makes clear, Williams was "so touchingly shy; so humble despite his talents; so much the epitome of the amateur tradition." His unpaid trainer was a janitor at King George High School, an oddball named Bob Granger. They had no money, no facilities, no support. The pair never faced international competition until Williams breasted the tape in Amsterdam in 1928.

Williams' triumph as a scrawny kid from nowhere made him into an overnight sensation, almost as well-known in North America as contemporaries Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey. And because Williams wore a prominent maple leaf on his chest, his Cinderella victories inspired Canada to embrace the maple leaf as its symbol.

But Williams and Granger went their separate ways in 1932, having only track in common. Williams found any sort of publicity excruciatingly painful. He was cantankerous with reporters and suspicious of anyone who wanted to use him. He didn't tell people what they wanted to hear.

"I always thought it was a lot of hogwash to say that you ran for your flag and your country," he said. "I was out there to beat the guy beside me."

Reclusive and alcoholic, the lightest sprint champion in the history of the Olympics carried a very heavy heart. In 1982, Percy Williams put a 12-gauge shotgun to his forehead and blew his brains out, exactly 12 years after his trainer Granger died in a nursing home in Parksville. His cremated remains can be visited in the Masonic Cemetery in Burnaby, overlooked by a telephone pole.

Oddly, Percy Williams never much liked running in the first place. He mostly ran to satisfy the expectations of others, particularly his unconventional trainer. After Granger's funeral, Williams was asked how much credit ought to be accorded to Granger for his Olympic wins, and he replied, "Offhand, I'd say a hundred per cent. I'd never have continued running after high school, but for him. I couldn't have cared less about running at the time."

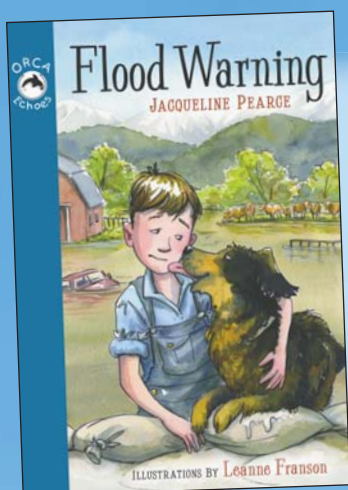
If there has been a more thorough and necessary sports biography of a British Columbian in recent decades, we haven't seen it. 978-1-55380-1216-9



Percy Williams
(second from left) winning the gold in the 100-metre event at the 1928 Olympics in Holland.

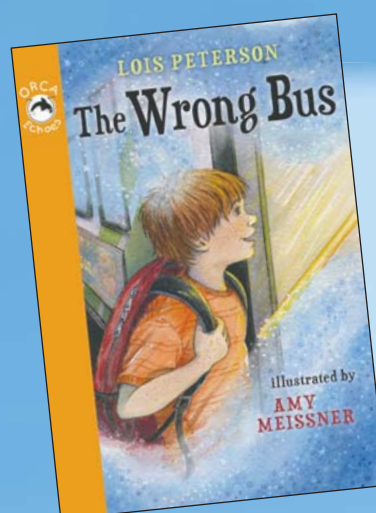


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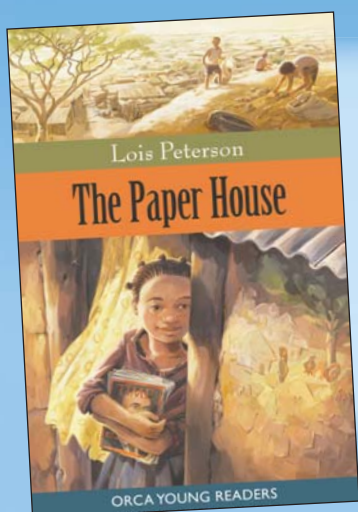
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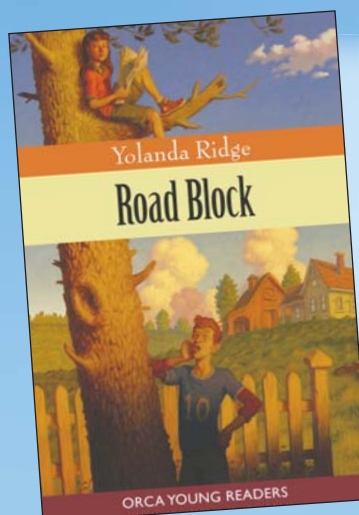
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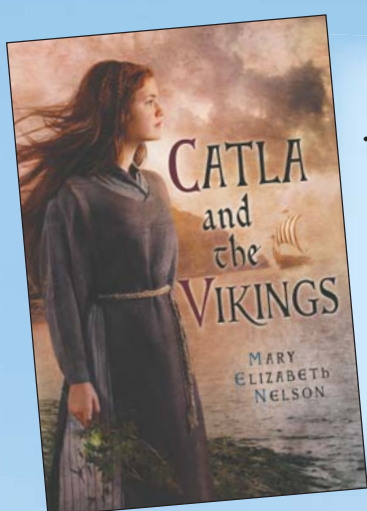
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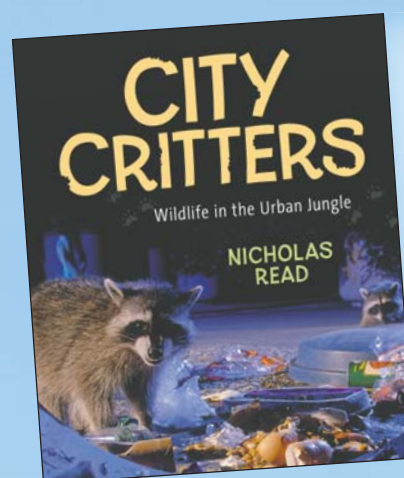
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Kid Dynamite: The Gerry James Story
by Ron Smith (Oolichan \$30)

ATHLETES WHO CAN COMPETE at the highest level in two sports are rare. Chicago Bulls wunderkind **Michael “Air” Jordan** couldn’t manage it. When he tried professional baseball, he was marooned in the minors.

The NFL dandy “**Neon Deion**” **Sanders** played both major league baseball and pro football. **John Ferguson** and **Jack Bionda** played both pro hockey and lacrosse.

Canadian cyclist and speed skater **Clara Hughes** is the only person to have won multiple medals in the summer and winter Olympic Games, for cycling and speed skating.

Before them all came **Gerry James**. Within one year, he played in both the Stanley Cup and the Grey Cup.

- As the youngest player to play in the CFL, at age 17, James earned \$50 per week, when it was still called the Western Inter-provincial Football Union, in 1952.

- He scored the first touchdown against the newly-minted BC Lions in 1954 at Empire Stadium.

- He was the first player to win the CFL’s Schenley Award for Outstanding Canadian.

- He led the league in scoring in 1957 and won the Schenley for a second time that year.

- For 43 years he held the CFL record for most rushing touchdowns in a season (18). He set 18 CFL records and played on four Grey Cup winning teams.

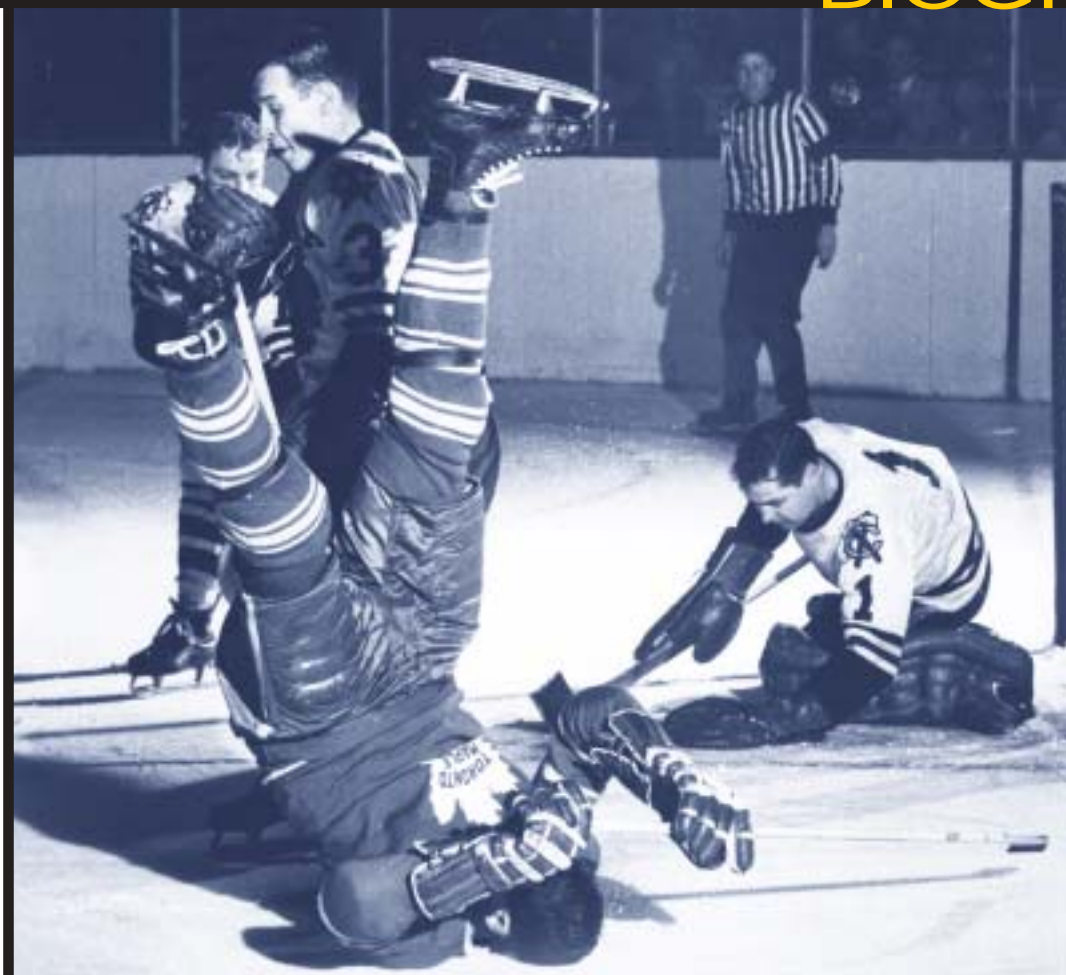
In hockey, after winning the Memorial Cup with the Toronto Marlboros in 1955—by which time he was a teenage father—James played for four seasons with the Toronto Maple Leafs, epitomizing **King Clancy**’s aphorism, “If you can’t beat ’em in the alley, you can’t beat ’em on the ice.”

James later became one of the most successful coaches in minor league hockey, voted all-star coach seven times in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, and tutoring the likes of NHLer **Brian Propp**.

Gerry James has been inducted into the CFL Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Halls of Fame—along with his father, **Eddie “Dynamite” James**, who was a football star with the pre-war Blue Bombers—but who *is* he now?

You have to remember the glory days of the Canadian Football League and the hockey broadcasts of **Foster Hewitt** to even recall his name. Fortunately his golfing partner on Vancouver Island, former book publisher **Ron Smith**, knows and understands sports better than most sportswriters. Upon his retirement, Smith decided James was worthy of an in-depth biography.

Kid Dynamite: The Gerry James Story is not a quickie rehash of career highlights and stats—although it certainly does provide extensive records of James’ twin



UP

KEEPING

WITH THE JAMESES

Ron Smith’s tale of two athletes in one.

sporting careers. Smith, no slouch himself as an athlete, has spent years gathering information for an intimate portrait of how a very naïve, gifted and angry young man evolved into a complex, argumentative and inordinately proud enigma.

Although he’s clearly respectful, Smith does not try to make Gerry James likeable. The result is a compelling narrative that will prompt even the most ardent sports fan to realize sports can be over-valued in society, and that success in sports is invariably a double-edged sword.



GERRY IS A NICKNAME. HE WAS BORN **Edwin Fitzgerald James** in Regina, in 1934, but the James family, including one older brother, moved to Winnipeg—leaving Edwin in the care of his aunt in Broadview, Saskatchewan, for the first year of his life.

Reunited in Manitoba, Gerry’s asthmatic brother Don, four years older, beat and oppressed him for as long and often as he could. “He had no stamina at all,” James recalls. “I think when he saw that I could do all the things he couldn’t do, he was jealous. I think he feared that I would become Dad’s favourite.”

At age 14, Gerry was strong

One of the most requested photos from the archives of the Canadian Hockey Hall of Fame is this image of Gerry James being toppled by Chicago Black Hawks defenceman Pierre Pilote, with netminder Glenn Hall in the background.

enough to finally pummel his brother, remorselessly, into complete submission. The brothers barely spoke for the rest of their lives. (Don settled on the east coast; Gerry would eventually gravitate to Vancouver Island with his wife, **Marg**.)

Sibling rivalry and the cruelty of an older brother were certainly catalysts for James’ fiercely competitive nature, but he was also determined to rival his ex-sports-hero father, who was less than heroic at home. “Gerry remembers many occasions when he leapt on his father’s back to try to stop him from striking his mom,” Smith writes.

His parents divorced in 1947, after his father, a chronic drinker, had returned from the war. To this day James’ favourite memory of boyhood was taking a bath. “A simple bath,” he told Smith. “Can you imagine? Warmth is a precious luxury, an almighty luxury, especially for someone who grew up on the prairies.”

Outspoken, but rarely one to indulge in introspection, James once noted, in 1981, “It was either sports or jail, one or the other.” By grade ten in Kelvin High School, he was a sports celebrity in Winnipeg, excelling as a sprinter.

A Canadian Press story predicted he might exceed his famous father. Soon enough, sports announcer “**Cactus**” **Jack Wells** dubbed him Kid Dynamite, in much the same way as **Henri Richard** became known as the “Pocket Rocket” in reference to his older brother Maurice “Rocket” Richard.

James lost his two front teeth while playing baseball at age 15, in St. Boniface, against grown men, when he was sucker-punched by a rival first baseman. “That was probably the shortest fight I was ever in. For two days I kept quiet and hid my mouth because I knew my mother would be upset and I knew she couldn’t afford the additional financial burden of replacing them. I never did find the teeth.”

James was once offered an NFL contract by the New York Giants, but in those days the CFL paid more. Eventually the Leafs demanded that James not play football in 1956 if he was contracted to play hockey. James has vivid memories of the Original Six. “For all-round skill, **Gordie Howe** was

the best,” he says, “but for sheer entertainment value, the Rocket would get my vote.”

Smith devotes more than half the book to chronicling James’ athletics, then deals with his coaching years, which included a stint coaching Special Olympians.



JAMES AND HIS WIFE VISITED Vancouver Island during a trip to B.C. to attend Expo 86. They bought a lot near Nanoose Bay in 1989, arrived to live in B.C. in 1994 and took possession of their present home in 1997. Not long afterwards, he met Ron Smith on the putting green of the Fairwinds Golf Course. It might have been one of the luckiest breaks of James’ life.

Kid Dynamite: The Gerry James Story is a rarity—a sports biography that does its subject the favour of being warts ‘n’ all. It resurrects Gerry James as a fascinating personality, not simply an exceptional athlete.

An anecdote towards the end of the book serves as a case in point. James firmly believes the two sexes are wired differently. He doesn’t believe that men can write about what women think, so he skips over any parts of a novel that purport to reveal the female mind.

“Once I thoroughly enjoyed a particular work of detective fiction,” he recalls, “skipping the female parts as usual, only to come to the end of the book and discover the author was **P.D. James**. I was so pissed when I saw P.D. was female. I threw the book down on the floor. I felt like I’d been tricked.”

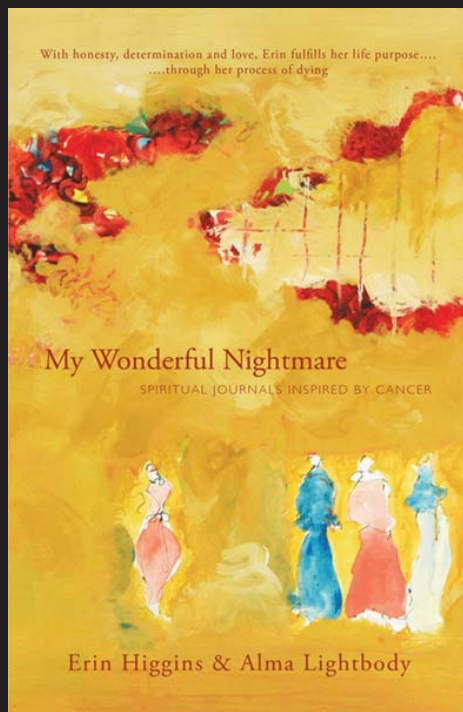
Despite his feisty nature, James remains genuinely modest about his accomplishments. When his biographer told him he held the record for most appearances in CFL post-season games (36), James wasn’t even aware of the record.

“I played in the days before the big money in sports,” he tells Smith, “and I looked at it as a way to support my family. Marg and I had three children by the time I signed to play two sports, and our family kept growing.”

Smith notes that Gerry James’ ascendancy in two pro sports in Canada is not unprecedented. An obscure athlete named **Elwyn (Moe) Morris** played pro hockey and pro football. **Lionel Conacher** won a Grey Cup with the Toronto Argonauts in 1921 and successive Stanley Cups with the Chicago Black Hawks in 1934 and the Montreal Maroons in 1935—and was named Canada’s greatest athlete of the first half century (20th) for doing so.

Nowadays, once a week, Marg drags Gerry along to the soup kitchen at the Salvation Army to serve as a volunteer, and every Christmas, for several weeks, Gerry can be seen outside the Petro Canada station on the main island highway, attending to his Salvation Army donation kettle. People donate—cuz they don’t want to get punched in the nose.

978-0-88982-276-4



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& Alma Lightbody

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ISBN 978-1-4251-8725-5 • \$18.99

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My Wonderful Nightmare is an inspiring evocation of unconditional love and spirituality.

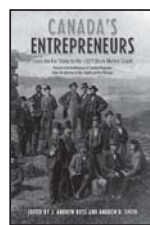
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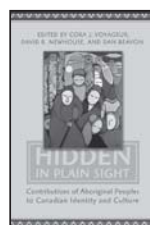


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by Paul McEwan

Consistently ranked as one of the best Canadian movies of all time, punk-rock documentary *Hard Core Logo* continues to enjoy a devoted international cult following. McEwan provides an entertaining analysis of Canada's one of the most mythologized movies.

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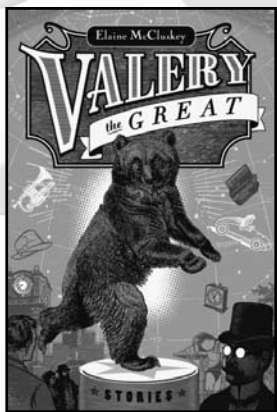
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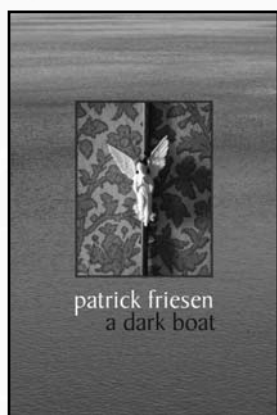
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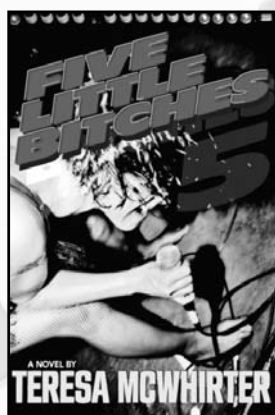
From the award-winning author of *The Watermelon Social* and *Going Fast* comes *Valery the Great*, Elaine McCluskey's quirky collection of absurdist and highly entertaining stories. Sometimes sweet, sometimes sarcastic, the unique narrative voice is always powerfully touching. [STORIES • 978-1-897535-89-9 • \$20 • APRIL]

Patrick Friesen's latest volume of poetry, *A Dark Boat*, explores the kind of loneliness and yearning



that is contained in the Portuguese word *saudad*: a longing for something in the past that can never be found because time has shifted everything away from what it was. [POETRY • 978-1-897535-91-2 • \$16 • APRIL]

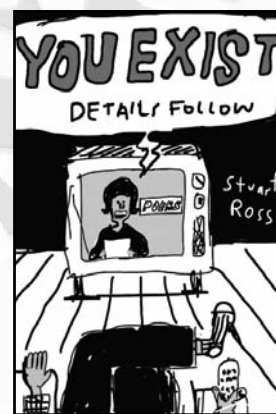
Five Little Bitches by Teresa McWhirter is a



punk-rock travelogue from a psychologically charged feminist perspective, exposing the external pressures and tribulations which slowly increase as an all-girl band achieves success in the male-dominated world of rock 'n' roll. [NOVEL • 978-1-897535-90-5 • \$20 • APRIL]



In *Mutant Sex Party & Other Plays*, Ed Macdonald eviscerates the high and the mighty, the hypocritical, and those who abuse power in late-capitalism America. He expertly peels back the façade of corporate respectability, exposing the rot that is brokered and sold under the



guise of "doing business" in America. [DRAMA • 978-1-897535-93-6 • \$16 • MAY]

You Exist. Details Follow. New poems from Stuart Ross. "... there's no other poet like Ross in North America: one who drinks deep from the leaping, skittering invention of early surrealists like Benjamin Peret but delivers it with the croaky conviction of a Jewish Captain Beefheart." (Eye Weekly) [POETRY • 978-1-897535-92-9 • \$16 • APRIL]



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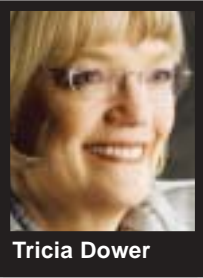




Tim Bowling

Known for his many books about the contemporary fishing industry on the West Coast, Tim Bowling starts his novel **The Tinsmith** (Brindle & Glass \$21.95) at the Battle of Antietam in 1862. An assistant surgeon with the Union Army, Anson Baird survives the American Civil War and helps a black slave named John assume a new identity in British Columbia where they combat the unscrupulous business practices of the pioneer salmon cannery some twenty years later.

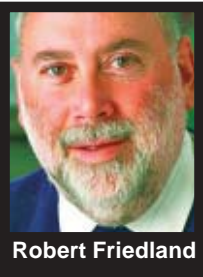
978-1-926972-43-5



Tricia Dower

Set in twentieth and twenty-first century Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, and the United States, Tricia Dower's first book, *Silent Girl* (Inanna 2008), was a collection of stories inspired by female characters in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night* and *Coriolanus*. Her forthcoming release, **Stony River** (Penguin \$24), set in New Jersey in 1955, shows how perilous the so-called innocent fifties could be for children in a smalltown. The threat of violence could be omnipresent against a backdrop of absent mothers, controlling-fathers, biblical injunctions, and teenaged longing.

978-0-14-318247-4



Robert Friedland

The heroine of Robert Friedland's **The Second Wedding of Doctor Geneva Song** (Libros \$20) is a sexually adventurous family physician who marries outside her Chinese culture. Her childhood friend Deri overcomes her upbringing in remote northeast China to become a devout Buddhist nun, a concubine and the most powerful woman of finance in Canada. Friedland's portraits of these two provocative women in contemporary B.C. are audacious, intelligent and fanciful, spiced with murder and sex—barely recognizable as Canlit. A civil rights lawyer in Richmond, Friedland has had two stories selected to be read on CBC's *The Vinyl Café*.

978-1-926763-17-0



Charles Tidler

Playwright Charles Tidler's stylistically daring novel **Hard Hed: The Hoosier Chapman Papers** (Anvil \$20) is a contemporary retelling of the Johnny Appleseed story. The protagonist Hoosier Chapman is an apple orchardist and local historian who has just been released from an Ohio jail after serving two years for planting wild apple trees in a city park. The character named Hoosier tries to make ends meet in Charles Tidler's home state of Indiana.

978-1-897535-69-1



The first installment of John Wilson's Desert Legends Trilogy, *Written in Blood* (Orca 2010) began his examination of the legend about the infamous American outlaw known as Billy the Kid. In the sequel, **Ghost Moon** (Orca \$12.95), we follow young James Doolen after he has discovered the terrible truth about his father in *Written in Blood*. In 1878, young Jim heads to New Mexico and meets Bill Bonney (later known as Billy the Kid) who takes him to a ranch, south of Lincoln, Nebraska, where they find work as cowboys. Lucrative army contracts with nearby Fort Stanton give rise to violence and cold-blooded murder. Jim watches as Bill swears revenge and leads a gang of killers into the hills. In Wilson's third installment, **Victorio's War** (Orca \$12.95), Jim is an army scout in a war to force Victorio's



John Wilson

Apaches onto a reservation, far from their traditional lands. Captured by his nemesis Ghost Moon and forced to flee with an Apache band of warriors, Jim is only saved from a slow and torturous death when his old friend Wellington adopts him as his son. Will he be branded a traitor? Or killed in a battle with the 10th US

Cavalry or the Mexican Army? There's a mini-series in here somewhere, perhaps to be called *Divided Loyalties*. Wilson knows his history and he knows his storytelling. Due in May, *Victorio's War* will be the Lantzville author's 32nd title for juveniles, teens and adults.

Ghost 978-1-551469-270-5; Victorio 9781554698820



Debra Purdy Kong

When a new security cop named Jasmine Birch is killed, co-worker Marie Crenshaw asks her rival security team member Casey Holland to clear her brother of the murder rap. Colleagues and employees soon become mired in a swirling maelstrom of distrust in **Deadly Accusations** (Touchwood \$14.95), the second Casey Holland Mystery by Debra Purdy Kong.

978-1-927129-06-7



In Cathy Ace's debut novel, **The Corpse with the Silver Tongue** (Touchwood \$14.95), a Welsh Canadian criminologist and professor, Cait Morgan, also a gourmand, investigates a murder at a dinner party in the south of France. In classic Agatha Christie style, all the guests are suspects. An ancient gold collar has disappeared in the process, alleged to carry with it a curse. It is described as "a Nicoise salad of death, secrets and lies."

978-1-927129-09-8



Cathy Ace

JEREMY WILSON PHOTOGRAPHY

ALSO NOTED

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Radio Belly Stories by Buffy Cram (D&M \$19.95) 978-1-55365-902-0

No one expects the Spanish Inquisition—or physical disabilities

How desire and imagination fuel the fiction of Kim Clark

There are various psychological reasons given for why people must invent stories. Some say, for instance, that most fiction writers are injustice collectors.

Kim Clark believes that before MS began its insidious infiltration of her body, there was no writing in her and that, somehow, the damaging changes that shut down certain functions in her brain also opened up other unused areas that housed a secret love affair with language and all its delicious sights and sounds and feelings.

Here Kim Clark's first story collection, *Attemptsions*, is reviewed by Mary Ann Moore.

KELLY LOUISE JUDD'S COVER ARTWORK FOR *ATTEMPTIONS* leads one to expect the unexpected: A woman appears to be levitating. There is a rabbit in mid-air, poised to land on her throat. It turns out the characters throughout *Attemptsions* have physical challenges—and, of course, nearly all physical afflictions arrive unexpectedly. Even the dog in "Dick & Jane and the Barbecue" has epilepsy. Jane has "an obscure disease involving physical wasting."

Shorter stories at the outset build towards the longer ones. In "Solitaire," Lillian, an aging woman with arthritis, plays cards on her own. Her days consist of taking her meds, eating a poached egg for dinner, and perhaps watching a documentary about superstitions and talismans.

With a desire to have her own lucky rabbit's foot, Lillian hears about the human feet—"mostly left"—that are being washed up onto Gulf Island beaches. (Detached human feet, mostly left ones, have been found on various occasions on West Coast beaches.)

Before long, Lillian dreams herself "agile as all get-out" and into a feline body. Her "dreams become reality" and we go along for the shape shifting ride, largely because Clark appears to delight in her own word wizardry, and we share in that delight.

The other long story, "Six Degrees of Altered Sensation," introduces Melanie, a writer with MS, another of Clark's feisty female characters. At her launch in Nanaimo, Clark said she finds this story the most fun. Indeed it is. Melanie's inner dialogue is hilarious at times. She is another physically challenged character full of desire.

When Mel goes to an MS clinic for her annual check-up, she learns the results of a Sexual Neuro-Response Study. Dr. Sharni tells Mel that she'll only be able to have a few more orgasms before her "sensory nerves, the sympathetic system, will stop responding."

When she's given a number at the clinic—six—Mel finds that "six is so close to sex, even the numerical becomes highly erotic." Charlene, Mel's friend, tells her she can't survive on desire. "Yah, well, watch me. It's a different kind of high," Mel responds.

Clark's stories are erotic, fused with dark humor and everyday magic—a different kind of high. She throws caution to the wind and seizes every opportunity to surprise us with characters who don't let anything get past them.

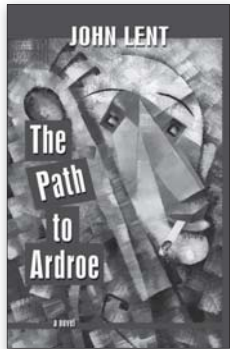
Kim Clark also has two poetry collections due later this year.

978-1-894-75966-3

Mary Ann Moore is a freelancer based in Nanaimo.

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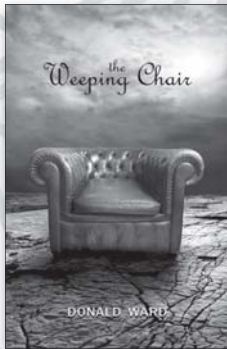


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Donald Ward's stories in *The Weeping Chair* are confidently layered with surprising situations and characters whose faith in themselves provides the strength to confront whatever weird or challenging experience befalls them. With Ward's stories you can always expect the unexpected and be assured his intentions are not frivolous.

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Ron Hyde

The Sockeye Special was the tram that operated from Vancouver to Steveston from 1905 through 1958.

Ron Hyde provides a fascinating look at the B.C. Electric's partnership with the people, the canneries, industry, entertainment and life on Lulu Island, plus the Steveston Opera House and Richmond dairy industry. Includes 82 photos and images.

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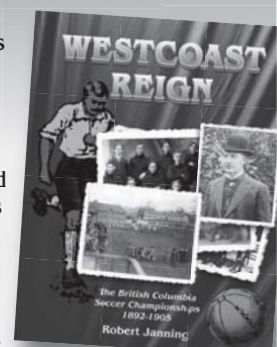


Ballboy Press

Vancouver-based historian Robert Janning, has had a life-long passion for soccer. *Westcoast Reign* gives a historical account of the early days of soccer in British Columbia. The first players and organizers came from all walks of life with all the antics and escapades you would expect from such a diverse mix. Whether it was a pugilisticly inclined linesman who gave his referee a black eye for disagreeing with a call or a president of the BCFA (and local Chief of Police) arousing the ire of a certain clergyman for allegedly frequenting establishments of vile repute, you will find that this book shines a fascinating light on one of the more colourful aspects of British Columbia's sports history.

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The Wild Weathers: a gathering of love poems

Peter Trower's poem "A Wild Girl to Walk the Weathers With" inspired the title of this collection.



And here is love! Portaging the bog of refusal! Here is its rust and rasp and snare, its frisk, its trumpets – love driving the getaway car, love forgetting why it came, love hollering *Crazy, crazy, crazy*. Here is love shouting *Shut Up! Love Me!*



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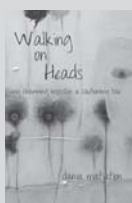


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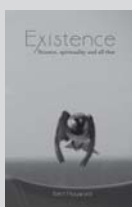
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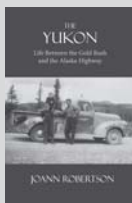
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THE JOYFUL FRICTION OF GRANITE

“As the deaths multiplied, those who survived began to feel immortal.”—Bernadette McDonald



Mark
FORSYTHE

plummeted to -35 at night, storms screamed through camps and toes froze. He and **Tadek Piotrowski** reached the peak of Noshag, Afghanistan's highest mountain.

“The wind on my cheeks, and the cold when it was winter, the warmth in the summer, the friction of granite against my fingers,” Andrzej said, “They bring me so much joy.”

Andrzej began to dream of a first-ever winter assault on Everest. In 1980 he fronted a team of 20 that put **Leszek Cichy** and **Krzysztof Wielicki** on the summit. Andrzej would inspire many others to test their limits, including **Voytek Kurtyka** and **Jerzy**

Kukuczka, two of the most innovative of the Himalayan climbers

Wanda Rutkiewicz was also making a name for herself at this time. A slight figure and a lone wolf, often at odds with her climbing partners, she had a willfulness that was forged from tragedy. Wanda's brother was killed as a child by a grenade explosion; her father was murdered and buried in his garden.

Approximately thirty of her climbing partners and friends were lost over the years. McDonald writes, “Perhaps it was an overexposure to premature and sudden loss of life that prompted her, and other climbers, to ignore their own mortality rather than

succumb to trauma. As the deaths multiplied, those who survived began to feel immortal.”

Wanda Rutkiewicz became the first European woman to climb Mount Everest on the same day Polish Cardinal **Wojtyla** was elected Pope **John Paul**. Poles were euphoric, and she later presented him with a stone from the Everest summit.

Another Polish team followed by tracing a challenging new route up its peak, and through these successes fellow Poles saw new hope and possibilities. These individual achievements soon had Polish authorities worried. Trouble was brewing with food

prices going through the roof in 1980, and **Lech Walesa** launching the Solidarity trade union movement in the Lenin Shipyards. The hammer came down with the imposition of martial law.

Money for climbers was drying up, so Wanda Rutkiewicz sought private sponsors for future climbs. Her life was now completely focused on climbing (with personal relationships left in the dust). She continued to set more firsts for women, but then took one too many chances.

In 1992, while attempting to climb her ninth peak over eight thousand metres, she disappeared on Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak (elevation of 8,586 m. or 28,169 ft.), located along the India-Nepal border.



MCDONALD'S RESEARCH IS SUPERB, enhanced by years of interviews, and from being part of the mountaineering community. She goes inside group dynamics, dissects various egos, tells of the mysterious Third Man hallucinations that some climbers experience at altitude, and conveys the awe of reaching the top of the world.

For Poles under the Soviets, mountain climbing offered a modicum of control and freedom. “They channelled their unfulfilled hopes and suppressed energies into a passionate love of mountains and adventure... a way to fulfill themselves and create meaningful lives,” McDonald writes.

Of course the age-old questions of *why* people climb in such conditions lingers like a potential avalanche in these pages, but given what the Polish people had experienced, perhaps the question might be, “*Why not?*”

A more poetic rationale has been provided by Polish climber **Voytek Kurtyka**, “*Beauty is some kind of laser connection to higher worlds.*”

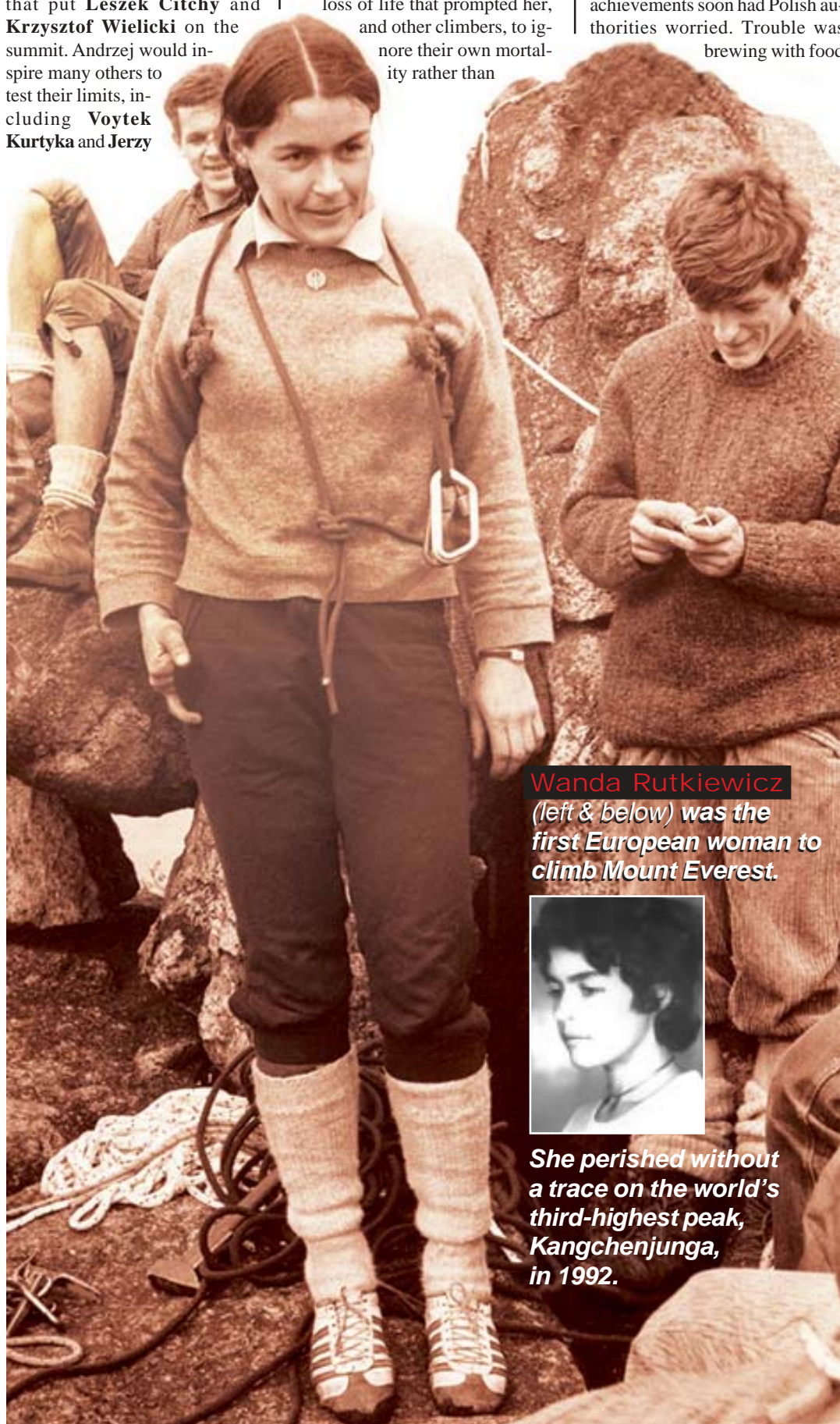
978-1-926855-60-8

Mark Forsythe is host of CBC radio's *Almanac*.

Bernadette McDonald

of Naramata is the first person to win the ‘Triple Crown’ of mountain literature.

With *Freedom Climbers*, McDonald received the Grand Prize at the Banff Mountain Book Festival, then she won Britain's £3,000 Boardman Tasker Prize, becoming the first Canadian to gain that honour. (The Boardman Tasker Prize commemorates the lives of **Peter Boardman** and **Joe Tasker**, two British adventurers who died while climbing Mt. Everest). In February she won the 2012 American Alpine Club Literary Award.



Wanda Rutkiewicz (left & below) was the first European woman to climb Mount Everest.



She perished without a trace on the world's third-highest peak, Kangchenjunga, in 1992.

Freedom Climbers
by Bernadette McDonald
(Rocky Mountain Books \$32.95)

PATRIOTISM, EGO AND AN uncanny capacity for suffering took Polish climbers to the very top of the alpine climbing world in the 1970s and 1980s.

The world's most celebrated climber, Italian **Reinhold Messner**, says the Poles' achievements in the 1980s made them, “Worldwide leaders as high-altitude climbers, especially in the Himalayas.”

Dozens perished or vanished. In 1989 alone, five Polish climbers died on Everest.

Freedom Climbers by **Bernadette McDonald** describes how Polish men and women, armed with ice axes, crampons and grit, overcame the most extreme high altitude conditions, making first ascents and forging innovative new routes, often in harsh winter conditions that most would dare not climb in.



THE POLISH PASSION FOR ALPINE climbing emerged as Poland exchanged the horrors and humiliation of Nazi occupation for Soviet domination, deprivation and martial law.

Poles had climbed in the Himalayas back in the 1930s, but the ravages of the Second World War and life behind the Iron Curtain virtually killed that desire. Climbing was officially frowned upon, “Mountains were a sign of freedom,” McDonald writes, “a concept the Soviets feared above all.”

Eventually political oppression hardened the climbers' desire to catch up with others on the international scene. Poles formed mountaineering clubs and laboured at menial jobs, such as painting factory smoke stacks, to generate enough money for expeditions into the nearby Tatras and Alps, and eventually the Himalayas.

Freedom Climbers captures how the sheer joy and sense of achievement associated with climbing became an escape from a dreary existence that offered few opportunities for personal advancement.

Some of the Poles became very good smugglers, selling equipment (and sometimes alcohol) during their foreign climbing excursions to acquire coveted foreign currency. Climbers joked about defecting, but few of them did. They were Poles first, who'd figured out how to work the system. For many, climbing became a living.

McDonald profiles many icons of Polish climbing who drew strength from hardship, such as **Andrzej Zawada**, a leading climber in the 1970s, who colluded with partisans during the Russian “liberation.” He kept a machine gun under his desk at night. Arrested at age 17, he survived prison—unlike friends who were tortured and executed by the Russian secret service.

In 1973, Andrzej served notice to the climbing world that Poles were prepared to suffer and rewrite the record books. He led a team on a winter ascent of a mountain over 7,000 metres where temperatures

Old Macdonald had a B.C. riding



I AM CURIOUS AS TO THE BASIS FOR the subheading, “First B.C.-based Prime Minister John Turner finally gets his bio” (*BCBW* Winter). Sir John A. Macdonald was the first person elected to serve as prime minister from British Columbia, when elected as MP for Victoria on Oct. 21, 1878, though he never resided in B. C.

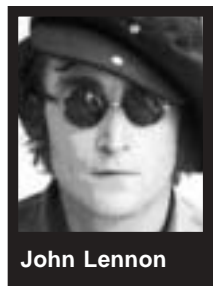
John Turner was not an MP when he became prime minister on June 30, 1984. He announced he would run for election in Vancouver Quadra on July 16 and was subsequently elected as its MP in the general election on Sept. 4, 1984, though he ceased being prime minister on Sept. 16 following his party’s defeat in the election. As I recall, Mr. Turner’s principal residence in 1984 was in Toronto. I do not recall exactly what kind of residence he had in Vancouver in 1984 when he was prime minister, though it’s likely he did not spend more than a handful or two of days in Vancouver during that period. An article entitled “Turner sells posh home in Toronto” in the *Globe and Mail* on Dec. 6, 1984, page 1, notes Turner sold his Toronto home and was looking for a residence in Vancouver in Shaughnessy or Kerrisdale, as well as moving into Stornoway as leader of the opposition in Ottawa.

Kim Campbell may be the first truly B.C.-based prime minister when she became prime minister on June 25, 1993, having been born and raised in B.C., and being a sitting Vancouver MP with a Vancouver residence when she became prime minister. Though, like Turner, her tenure was short-lived as she ceased to be prime minister on Nov. 3, 1993, after losing during the general election on Oct. 25 along with her party. At least Turner could say he was elected as prime minister, though for only 12 days.

Depending on what you mean by B.C.-based, Macdonald was the first person elected as prime minister in a B.C. constituency, Turner probably had some kind of temporary residence in Vancouver when he was prime minister and only Campbell, while not elected as a prime minister, had a permanent residence in B.C.

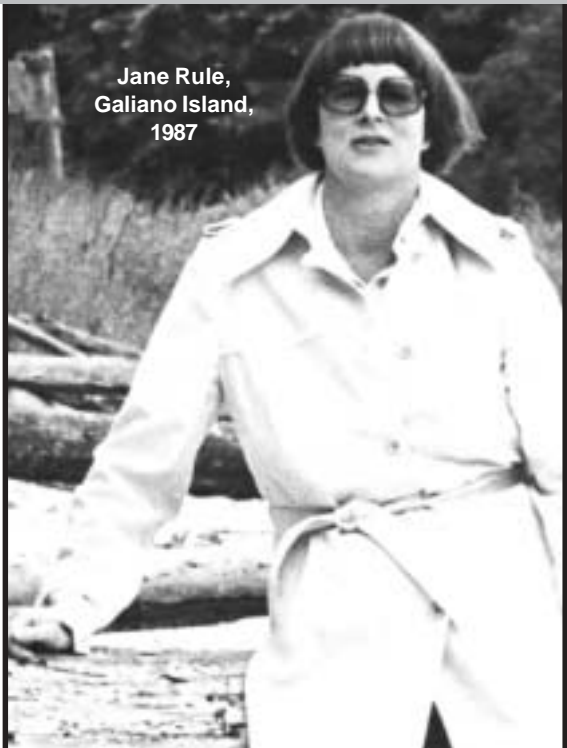
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IT’S GREAT THAT *BC BOOKWORLD* HAS always given coverage to independently-produced titles from B.C. especially, even though most self-publishers have little or no advertising fund. I am one self-publisher who has been grateful for *BCBW*’s support through the years, most recently for my fourth book, **The Lennon-Bronte Connection** that reveals John Lennon was the reincarnation of the troubled Branwell Bronte, brother to England’s literary sisters Emily and Charlotte.

Jewelle St. James,
Delta



Joan & Jane

IN THE LAST ISSUE (*BCBW* WINTER) JOAN GIVNER WRITES IN her review of *Taking My Life* that editor Linda M. Morra does not clarify in the introduction of her book whether or not she got permission from Rule to publish her memoir.

I want to refer the reviewer to page 274 where Ms. Morra clearly indicates that she received the permission of three members of Jane Rule’s estate and that the three executors have been very supportive and further more participated in the project by providing corrections and photos.

On another note, I really enjoy reading *BC Bookworld* and wish you a long life.

Sylvie Beauregard,
Galiano Island

Executors’ permission is quite different from Jane Rule’s own written (or even verbal) permission to reprint the work—neither of which are referenced in the introduction. —Ed.

e-eeks

I HAD TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT how to write this letter. This is a difficult letter for me to write. I want to talk about how my words were represented in your article in *BC BookWorld* in the Fall 2011 issue. I was quoted as saying “Writers have always been getting the shaft from publishers. Now we will be getting the e-shaft.”

While it is true this is pretty much what I said, pulled out of the context in which I spoke it and placed into the context in which it appeared in your article, I feel I need to clarify a couple of things.

First of all, I am first and foremost a writer and a storyteller. This



Ivan Coyote,
Vancouver

Written permission to print Ivan Coyote’s comment about e-rights, made at the Galiano Literary Festival, was obtained from her prior to publication.—Ed.

Ivan E. Coyote’s current memoir-writing course for the Vancouver Public Library has sold out. Her new book this spring is *One in Every Crowd* (Arsenal \$17.95) 978-1-55152-459-7

Write to BC BookWorld at 3516 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6R 2S3 or bookworld@telus.net. Letters may be edited for clarity & length.

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the weight of dew by Daniela Elza
(Mother Tongue \$19.95)

BORN IN BULGARIA AND PARTIALLY raised in Nigeria, **Daniela Bouneva Elza** has a Masters in English Philology from Sofia University. She acquired a second Masters, in Linguistics at Ohio University (USA). In 1999 she immigrated where she gained her Ph.D in Education from Simon Fraser University.

In 2010, Elza was the recipient of Pandora’s Collective Citizenship Award. She is the Vancouver editor for the *Pacific Poetry Project*, an anthology of three cities (Portland, Seattle and Vancouver) forthcoming from Ooligan Press (US) in the Fall of 2012.

With an introduction by **Aislinn Hunter**, Daniela Elza’s debut collection of poetry, **the weight of dew** has been described as a literal, metaphorical and philosophical journey from Vancouver inland through (mostly) British Columbia. Here it is reviewed by **Hannah Main-van der Kamp**.

IN THIS DEBUT COLLECTION, linguist and philologist Daniela Elza shapes an unusual format to convey the fugitive nature of words.

Using italics, spaces, dashes, alternate punctuation and broken-up words, she weaves a web of print that does not restrict itself to conventional verse form.

For example:
“as my heart
(b (e (a) t) s)

DANIELA’S DEW LINES

The speed of the hungry eye versus the fugitive nature of words

Such writing can be likened to very loose knitting. Each poem—most short enough for one page—has many dropped stitches, dropped with skillful intent.

Playing with words and the spaciousness between them, she’s not asking them to carry much weight.

It’s difficult to replicate the shape of these word nets in a short review. One wonders if they can even be read aloud. Readers will have to see these poems for themselves.



THE SO-CALLED “LANGUAGE poets,” most of them academics (**Legris, Tostevin**), have had a profile in B.C. for decades. At times



Hannah
MAIN-VAN DER KAMP

these poets risk being too clever with their typography as with the over-use of brackets.

Elza quotes from, and acknowledges the influence of, the poetics of **Tim Lilburn** regarding the hubris of trying to capture the world with

words. How helpless words really are when confronted with the particularity, the “thisness” of things.

Lilburn, poet/philosopher and teacher, has articulated an approach, especially to Nature, that questions a writer’s ability to “capture” the essence of anything let alone understand it. Even so there is the paradoxical importance of continuing to write poems with reverence and humility.

Does Elza intend for the words to be read in a sequence? It’s unclear and part of the strategy. Appearing to not be trying to control a word flow is also a technique, an artifice.

Except for the titles and the liberal sprinkling of quotes from other writers, it’s possible to read these phraselets in any order. But then they are not intended to evoke linear thoughts. Feelings, thoughts and images dance on the page and the page, the only apparent structure, can hardly contain them. The dance has eccentric rhythms.

Mostly concerned with birds, water, light, sky, leaves, the first and last of the three sections have an ephemeral quality.

The middle section of the three is a record/journal of a car trip with very young children through BC. Here the reader who longs for some concrete narrative can relate to geography/history and touristic experiences: Osoyoos, Fort Steele, picnics, motels, elk and moose.

At one point, the poet asks us to “suspend / your ability to comprehend.” But the scattered text and rich word play in *the weight of dew* may still be barricades for some readers.

It’s pleasant, nonetheless, to wander through these verbally deconstructed landscapes, not unlike engagement in any absorbing activity when the talky self-conscious brain lets itself be parked.

Elza’s imaginative alterations of words will raise a few eyebrows, thoughtfully. The arrangements will halt the speed of the hungry eye and give it cause to pause.

Isn’t that, in part, what poetry is for? 978-1-896949-21-5

Hannah Main – van der Kamp does not knit but tries to hold words loosely on the Upper Sunshine Coast.

Daniela Elza



Jamella Hagen

Dragging the Cabin

It would be easier, they thought, to move the six-sided cabin they’d built than to start again with a pile of logs, spikes and two-by-fours, so

my parents unroofed the place shingle by shingle to avoid snagging passing hydro wires, pried out all the glass windows, jacked up the walls and floor,

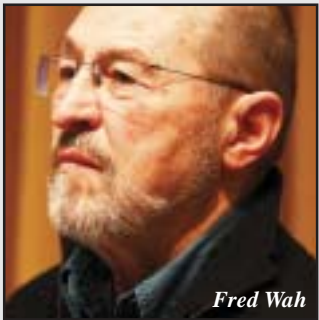
the wood cookstove still inside, loaded the thing on skids and dragged it, eight miles on gravel roads. Needless to say, the skids —two huge spruce—

shredded beneath it as they hauled. The logs began to shift, unhinging at each of the six corners and the floor beneath the cookstove

splintered, heaved, gave itself up to the rutted driveway, that long dirt track thick with timothy, chickweed, the occasional lowbush blueberry.

From **Kerosene** (Nightwood \$18.95) by **Jamella Hagen**, who grew up in Hazelton.

978-0-88971-263-8



Fred Wah

Wah named PL

Fred Wah has been appointed Canada’s parliamentary poet laureate. Born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan on January 23, 1939, he grew up in the West Kootenays. He is the son of a Canadian-born Chinese-Scots-Irish father raised in China and a Swedish-born Canadian mother from Swift Current. In the early 1950s, his family operated the newest and most modern Chinese cafe in Nelson, the Diamond Grill, subject of one of his more than twenty books.

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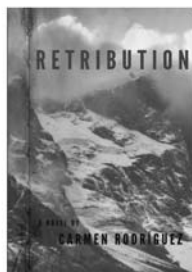
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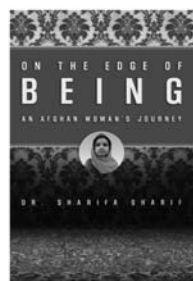


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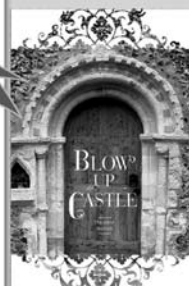
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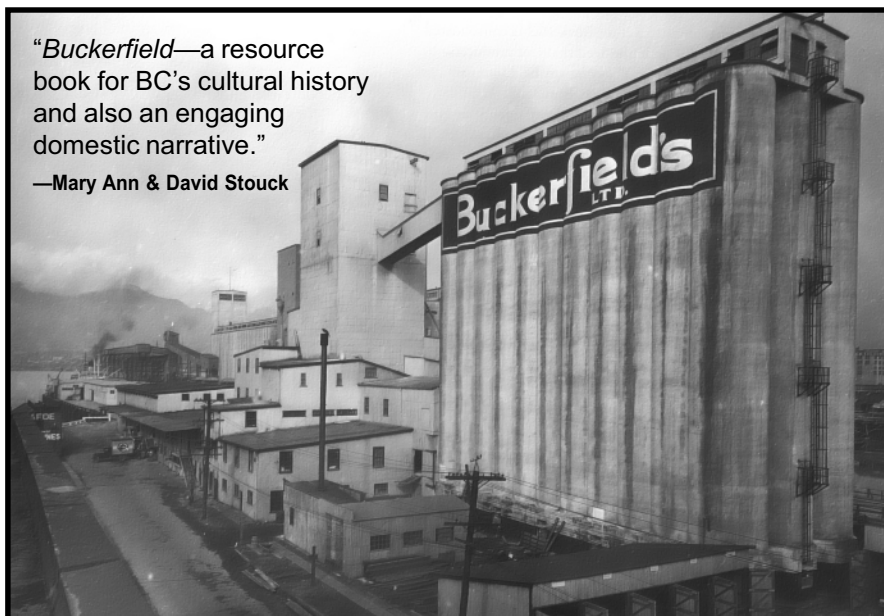
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Ben Swankey
(1913-2011) with
Geoff Meggs

"ENGAGED & OUTRAGED"

The life and times of a tireless man

A biographer of On-to-Ottawa trek leader Arthur 'Slim' Evans and Métis commander Gabriel Dumont, Ben Swankey was one of Western Canada's foremost socialist historians and lecturers.

As a prominent Communist Party candidate in B.C. and Alberta, Swankey was interned during World War II, but then enlisted in the Allies' war effort. He later became one of the three main co-founders of the Vancouver civic political party COPE (the Committee of Progressive Electors) along with Harry Rankin and Frank Kennedy. Vancouver city councillor Geoff Meggs edited Swankey's autobiography in 2008. Swankey died at age 98 on November 22, 2011.

After his parents newly emigrated from Russia, Swankey was born in Steinbach, Manitoba, as Bernhard Schwanke, on September 17, 1913, as the fifth child of Leokadia and Gustav Schwanke. His father initially worked as a railroad labourer and the family lived in Herbert, Saskatchewan. Ben rode the rails at age 14, reaching Washington State one summer, where he worked as a fruit picker. With \$10, he hitchhiked from the prairies to Vancouver at age 17.

Soon after his arrival, Swankey became politically radicalized by attending an anti-war rally with his brother, a teacher, at the Cambie Street Grounds in Vancouver. When demonstrators revealed their communist loyalties, police brutally attacked the crowd. According to Tom Hawthorn's obituary in the *Globe & Mail*, Swankey tore off a white picket from a fence at a gas station and struck back. Swankey kept attacking capitalism with words for seven more decades after that.

As oppression against Communist Party members and dissident labour in Canada increased, Ben Swankey became an outspoken 'coalition builder,' raising funds to support striking coal miners at Crowsnest Pass in 1932. He also co-organized and participated in a hunger march in Edmonton that year, an event often cited for the solidification of his radicalism.

Swankey married Olive Senko one day after his 20th birthday, and the couple tried homesteading north of Prince George, but they barely survived one long winter before returning to live in Alberta. Following their divorce, he would marry a Winnipeg pianist, Anne Wiseman, during the war years. The couple met after hearing a speech by communist leader Tim Buck.

In 1940, Ben Swankey, as a communist, was arrested in Calgary for allegedly pasting anti-war stickers in the streets. This police frame-up failed to win a conviction, but Swankey was re-arrested on the steps of the courthouse as soon as he was released. This time he was arrested under Section 21 or the War Measures Act, without charge or a trial. He was held for a month in a Calgary jail before being sent to Kananaskis Internment Camp south of Canmore, Alberta. There he was sequestered without recourse with other communists and left-leaning citizens who had been apprehended by the state—and imprisoned along with Nazis.

Swankey was eventually transferred to another internment camp for intellectuals and communists in Petawawa, Ontario. [The internment camp at Kananaskis is no longer recognizable as a barbed wire compound; it was used in the 1980s as an Environmental Science Centre for the University of Calgary.]

When the Soviet Union joined forces with the Western allies to combat Hitler's Nazis, Swankey was released and he soon enlisted in the Canadian Army. After serving briefly overseas, he became Communist Party leader in Alberta in 1945. He ran in the 1945 federal election in the Alberta riding of Jasper-Edson but received only five per cent of the vote. As the Communist Party had been outlawed, he represented the newly formed Labour-Progressive Party, a euphemism for the communists. Again he ran federally in 1949 in Edmonton, then in 1953 in Peace River.

In 1957, Ben Swankey moved to Vancouver where he befriended lawyer Harry Rankin, also a World War II veteran. As a journalist, Swankey was editor of various trade union publications. As reported by Tom Hawthorn, Swankey said his Moscow-published biography of the Métis military leader Gabriel Dumont, for which he could find no publisher in Canada, sold 50,000 copies in its Russian-only version.

Swankey later became a strong advocate for the Old Age Pensioners Association, fighting to preserve social programs and appearing in the media to defend and affirm seniors' rights. The City of Vancouver declared Ben Swankey Day in 2003 to mark his 90th birthday.

Ben Swankey remained committed to social justice even during his final years in a Burnaby care facility where he had the newspaper read to him daily. In Hawthorn's words, he remained "engaged and outraged."

BOOKS by Ben Swankey

Man Along the Shore: *History of the Vancouver Waterfront and the Canadian Area, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union* (ILWU Local 500 Pensioners, 1975) Two printings.

"Work and Wages"! A Semi-Documentary Account of the Life and Times of Arthur H. (Slim) Evans: 1890-1944 Carpenter, Miner, Labour Leader (Trade Union Research Bureau, 1977), co-written with Jean Sheils.

Gabriel Dumont and the Saskatchewan Rebellion of 1885 (Moscow: Progress Books, 1980). Published in Russian only.

The Fraser Institute
(Centre for Socialist Education, 1984)

The Tory Budget (Centre for Socialist Education, 1985)

Brother Can You Spare a Billion?
The Politics of Corporate Concentration in Canada
(Centre for Socialist Education, 1987)

COPE: Working for Vancouver: 1968-1993
(Committee of Progressive Electors, 1993).
With John Church, Elaine Decker and Gary Onstad.

What's New: Memoirs of a Socialist Idealist
(Trafford, 2008) aka *A Prairie Marxist's Memoir*.
Edited by Geoff Meggs.

Margaret Primeau (1914-2011)

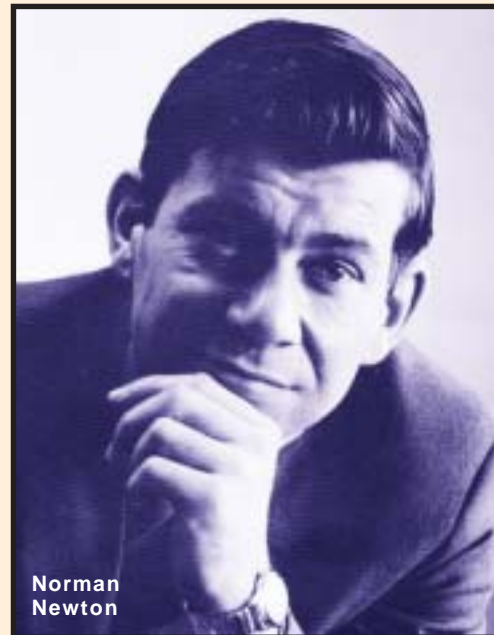
Under-heralded five-time novelist Margaret Primeau died at age 97 in Vancouver on October 29, 2011. Born in Saint Paul, Alberta on May 10, 1914, she wrote in French, having lived in France and Italy. Primeau first came to Vancouver in 1954. She later became associate professor Emerita of the UBC French department. Memories of a fairytale childhood were the basis for *Sauvage Sauvageon* (Editions des Plaines, 1984), winner of the Prix Champlain for the best novel written in French in North America (1986). In that book, when Maxine is five years old in Alberta, her father is like 'a magic lantern,' like a prince who holds the key to a world of magic. Later, the heroine comes to terms with her disillusionment with life while surveying her past from a retreat on Galiano Island. The novel was translated and B.C.-published as *Savage Rose* (Ekstasis, 1999).



Margaret Primeau

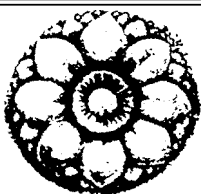
Norman Newton (1929-2011)

Novelist, playwright and CBC radio producer Norman Newton died on December 27, 2011. Born in Vancouver in 1929, Newton corresponded with Earle Birney and became part of Birney's Author's Anonymous circle that included Robert Harlow, Norm Klenman, Ernest Perrault, Ben Maartman and Hilda Thomas. During Newton's many years at CBC radio, his friendship with fellow CBC announcer Bill Reid led him to an enduring interest in the Haida. Released one year prior to Alan Fry's breakthrough novel about B.C. Indian reserves, *How A People Die*, Norman Newton's third novel, *The Big Stuffed Hand of Friendship* (1969), provides a credible and occasionally ribald portrait of a coastal B.C. town and its often strained relations between Aborigines and whites. Newton later produced a non-fiction book, *Fire in the Raven's Nest: The Haida of British Columbia* (1973) that is an amalgam of interviews, oral narratives, myths and documentary materials, with some direct input from Bill Reid. One section recalls how smallpox destroyed the traditional culture on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Published in England, Newton's first historical novel about Mexico, *The House of Gods* (1961), recalls Toltec culture from the 15th century. His second novel set in Mexico, *The One True Man*, incorporates Mayan and Aztec stories to theorize that Phoenicians could have established colonies in North America centuries prior to the birth of Christ. Newton's non-fiction book, *Thomas Gage in Spanish America* (1969), recalls the Englishman who went to Spain in 1612 and became a Dominican priest. He retired to Gabriola Island.



Norman
Newton

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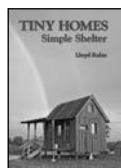
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Václav & Vancouver

Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz remembers Czech playwright and president Václav Havel who was published by UBC Press

On a lovely sunny fall day in October 2011 in Prague, I wrote the following note for a Czech journal *Tyden* ('The Week') that had a special issue on Václav Havel's 75th birthday. Little did I know this birthday greeting to my friend was to be my last.

Dear Václav,

The first Becherovka [aperitif] of my life I drank with you in September 1978. It was in Hradecek [his summer house] and it seemed to me like a dream. You said then that I should come back in a couple of days with my mother, and you would make us scrambled eggs with fresh mushrooms.

As it turned out, this did not happen. The police stopped us in front of Hradecek. We both played the roles of slightly stupid tourists, who totally mixed up a detour and had no idea where they were.

You have been with me from 1978 onward and enriched my life in so many directions that I have no words for it. So, just simply in the Canadian way, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VASEK! [diminutive for Václav]

— Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz



IN 2012, AS THE PLANE CARRIED ME FROM Frankfurt to Prague, I was late for the main memorial for Václav Havel, the country's ex-president, in St. Vitus Cathedral at the Hradcany Castle.

With a grey feeling of unreality I dragged my take-on suitcase to the exit at the airport. There I could hardly believe my eyes. A man was holding up a sign that said "Marketa."

The grey feeling gradually evaporated as I was driven to the Prague crematorium where a less official memorial for friends was to take place. Still there was a crowd outside. Darkness was falling but the evening was illuminated by hundreds of candles.

Inside, people brought flowers and stopped by the small coffin that was raised above the crowd. Friends stepped forward, one by one, and spoke about how Václav had affected their lives.

There was a powerful choir and classical music—some of it Czech—but this gathering was also punctuated by silence as a deep sense of irreparable loss filled the air.

A few days earlier, television screens around the globe showed hundreds of thousands of Czechs moving slowly, following the car bearing Havel's casket across the ancient Charles Bridge to the castle where, twenty-two years earlier, a youthful dissident playwright had been catapulted into the presidency by - in this case - the benevolent storms of historical change.

Václav Havel wrote a new constitution, reopened the Castle Gardens, inaccessible to the public for many decades, and re-established a democratic government after more than four decades of totalitarian rule. The latter work, of course, encountered many difficulties and proceeded only gradually.

Freedom, so passionately yearned for by multitudes everywhere in the world, imposes a heavy burden of responsibility on those who fight for it, then struggle to maintain it. In the case of Havel, he sacrificed some of himself as a writer in order to serve his people as a politician.

When still a persecuted "dissident" whose writings were banned in his own country, Havel had come to worldwide attention through his essays: "The Power of the Powerless" (1978), "Politics and

Conscience" (1984), and his *Letters to Olga*, written from prison between 1979 and 1982.

His plays, including *The Vanek Plays* (published by UBC Press in 1987) and the formidable Faust play *Temptation*, were produced in many countries.

Literature always infused him with wisdom and courage. As president, Havel travelled the world, giving speeches on five continents, talking (in the words of his English translator Paul Wilson, a Canadian) "about Godot and political patience to the French, about Gandhi and non-violence to the Indians, [and] about Kafka and self-doubt to the Israelis."

Václav Havel wrote all his presidential speeches himself. He claimed that this writing kept him sane on the job "because it is really one of the more creative aspects of being president." So it was he made the name of his small country, the Czech Republic, crushed for centuries on that restless crossroads at the centre of Europe, internationally known and respected.

All this is doubtless generally familiar to literate people, but it seems only fitting at the time of his death to renew publicly our homage to this man whose moral courage had an extraordinary national and international impact.

During those days in Prague that were darkened by the loss of a unique man, I again became acutely aware of the perennial contradictions that seemed engrained in Václav Havel's life.

While basically shy and entirely free of political posturing, he was yet able to address huge gatherings and keep their undivided attention; he was deeply sincere, yet had an ironic detachment from events; while capable of genuine self-depreciation, he was unbendable when a basic value was at stake; he preserved a sustained sense of humour even during the gravest situations, and having lived through decades of harassment and persecution, he claimed he was incapable of hatred.

Now, as I grope for the mysteries of his personality, I must refrain from becoming emotional (a quality abhorred by the Czech character, and Václav himself). So I will end with this reminiscence of Havel by noting his connection with Vancouver—where his plays were published in English.

The Czech-born novelist Jan Drabek lives here, and I have translated some of his plays, but Havel also had a persistent curiosity about the city itself. In 2004, Havel had been planning to come to Vancouver to participate in a panel that also included the Dalai Lama and Bishop Tutu but his doctor forbade him to do so due to his frail health.

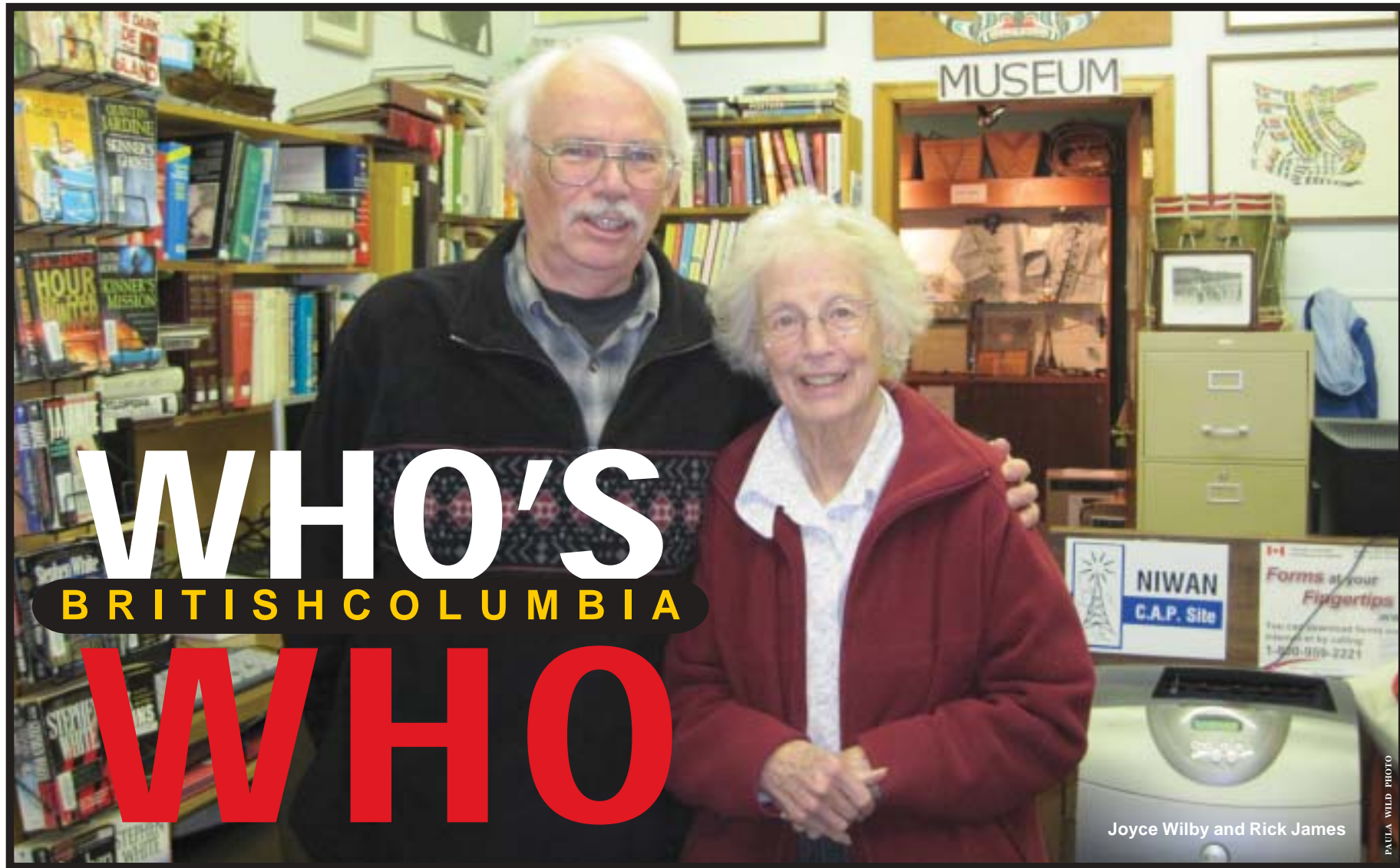
Although several of his plays have been performed here, he himself never managed a visit. Still he maintained a deeply-felt connection to Canada.

For many years, Václav Havel loved to wear a T-shirt I sent him that said 'VANCOUVER MILUJE VAŠKA' ('Vancouver loves Václav'). It is a joyful thought that this amazing man liked to show, with a twinkle in his eye, the loving note on his chest that displayed the affection of a Canadian city. While mourning his loss, I remind myself of the T-shirt, and smile.

I particularly cherish a photo of Havel in his Vancouver T-shirt in 1984, a short time after he came out of prison. He is carrying a sack of potatoes, clearly not at his best. Others show him wearing it earlier, in the garden of his country home where friends and dissidents met and discussed philosophy, literature and politics.

*Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz is a UBC professor emerita of comparative literature. While Václav Havel was imprisoned by the Communist Party, she edited **The Vanek Plays, Four Authors, One Character** (UBC Press 1987), which featured Havel's fictional Ferdinand Vanek as a dissident playwright. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1927, Goetz-Stankiewicz also wrote **The Silenced Theatre: Czech Playwrights Without A Stage** and edited **Critical Essays on Václav Havel**.*

Václav Havel, wearing his Vancouver t-shirt and holding a bag of potatoes, soon after being released from prison in 1984.



WHO'S BRITISH COLUMBIA WHO

Joyce Wilby and Rick James

PAULA WILD PHOTO

A is for Alert Archivist

LONG ENSCONCED AT POSSIBLY THE ONLY archives on pilings anywhere on our West Coast, Joyce Wilby (*above*) of the Alert Bay Public Library and Museum has been a local librarian and archivist for 53 years, having arrived at Alert Bay in 1948. In the above photo she welcomes Rick James on his tour to promote **Raincoast Chronicles 21: West Coast Wrecks & Other Maritime Tales** (Harbour \$24.95).

978-1-55017-545-5

B is for Bartlett

FOLLOWING THE PATH MADE BY SONG-gatherer Phil Thomas, the duo of Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat have mined the archives of Princeton and Hedley for an unprecedented collection of heritage writing, **Dead Horse on the Tulameen: Settler Verse from BC's Similkameen Valley** (Canadian Folk Workshop \$29, includes postage). Their illustrated narrative and verse anthology is a rare, thorough reflection of pioneer life in B.C. to accompany their new CD of Similkameen-made songs and poetry, *Now It's Called Princeton*, their fifth musical release.

978-0-9877255-0-9



Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat have sung B.C. folk songs together since 1975.



A section of Stan Douglas' massive mural "Abbott & Cordova"

C is for Compton

AFTER HIS ONE-YEAR STINT AS THE VANCOUVER Public Library's seventh writer-in-residence, Wayde Compton has been selected to take over from Betsy Warland as the director of Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio. The new Poet Laureate for Vancouver is Evelyn Lau; and Victoria's Deborah Willis is the 2012 writer-in-residence at Joy Kogowa House, where she will live and work at until April 15, 2012.

D is for Douglas

STAN DOUGLAS: **ABBOTT & CORDOVA, 7 August 1971** (Arsenal \$40) arises from his creation of a gargantuan photo mural depicting Vancouver's infamous 1971 Gastown Riot. The book is a rare attempt to delve into the historical and social ramifications of a pivotal and violent event in Vancouver's history during which police, equipped with newly acquired riot sticks, pummeled peaceful demonstrators during the "Gastown Smoke-in" held to protest harsh anti-marijuana laws. The debacle was the pinnacle of friction between Dan McLeod's *Georgia Straight* 'hippie' newspaper and Mayor Tom Campbell, marking the beginning of the end of the 'peace 'n' love' counter-culture movement in B.C.

978-1-55152-406-1

E is for Eden

ONE WAY TO WEEN YOUR KIDS OFF THE computer, cel phone and a plethora of other consumer items is to get 'em hooked on 100 fun, green garden projects for the whole family as outlined by Christina Symons and John Gillespie's **Everyday Eden** (Harbour \$29.95). There are step-by-step

directions for projects that can take anywhere from five minutes to an entire weekend. It can be for a balcony-sized plot or a rural acreage.

978-1-55017-538-7

F is for Furstenwald

LIKE 'EM OR HATE 'EM, FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR York Furstenwald wants parents and children to know more about guns. There are almost 300 million guns in North America, so **Kids, Guns & the Truth** (North Vancouver: 3B Publishing \$19.95) shares facts and advice: A modern high calibre rifle has more force at ¼ mile away than a point blank shot from a handgun. Firing guns in celebration often kills people when the bullets come to earth. Treat every gun as if it's loaded.

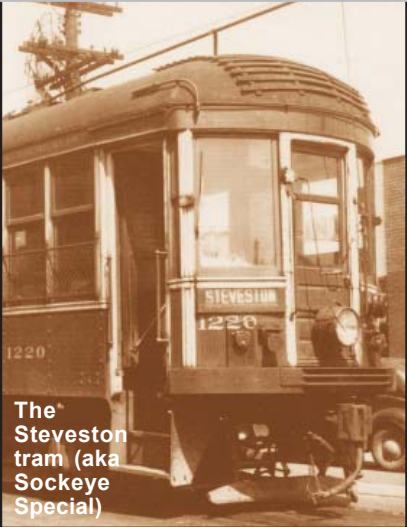
978-0-9737938-0-2

G is for Gambone

LARRY GAMBONE GREW UP IN LOGGING towns on Vancouver Island where he was active in the anti-nuclear weapons 'Ban-the-Bomb' movement. He founded Red Lion Press in 1984 and began to publish a series of chapbooks on labour, social history and anarchism. His most recent books are **The View From Anarchist Mountain** (Red Lion Press \$16) and **The Impossibilists** (Red Lion Press \$10), which features the writings of the Socialist Party of Canada and the One Big Union (1906-1938). It is a revised edition that also includes writings by **Ginger Goodwin**. More info: Redlionpress@hotmail.com



Ginger Goodwin



The Steveston tram (aka Sockeye Special)

H is for Hyde

RON HYDE OF THE BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION has written **The Sockeye Special: The Story of the Steveston Tram and Early Lulu Island** (BCHF \$15 plus \$5 postage). The Sockeye Special was the tram that ran between Vancouver and Steveston from 1905 through 1958. Initially many passengers were workers from Vancouver traveling to the canneries in Steveston where they were canning Sockeye salmon, the premium of all salmon, thus is became known as the Sockeye Special.

978-1-55383-303-1

I is for Island

HAVING RESEARCHED THE HISTORY OF Vancouver Island wine-making and visited its meaderies, cideries, fruit wines, artisan distilleries and craft beer makers, **Gary Hynes** and the writers of *EAT* magazine have won a 2011 Gourmand International Wine Books Award for **Island Wineries of British Columbia** (Touchwood \$29.95). It includes recipes from chefs at Café Brio, Camille’s, Sooke Harbour House, Stage Wine Bar and other leading Island restaurants.

9781926741260

J is for JJ

J.J. LEE OF NEW WESTMINSTER WAS NOMINATED for the Governor General’s Award for Non-Fiction for **The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit** (M&S \$29.99). It’s now up for the Charles Taylor Prize [See T for Taylor]. Lee is the menswear columnist for the *Vancouver Sun* and broadcasts a weekly fashion column for CBC Radio in Vancouver. He spent a year as an apprentice at Modernize Tailors and was featured in the award-winning film about the shop, *Tailor Made: The Last Tailor Shop in Chinatown*.

978-0-7710-4647-6



J.J. Lee

K is for Kishkan

IN HER SUPERB NEW MEMOIR **MNEMONIC: A Book of Trees** (Goose Lane \$19.95), **Theresa Kishkan** names each chapter for a particular tree — the Garry oak, the Ponderosa pine, the silver olive, and others — to place her personal past within a botanical/historical context. It’s about childhood, young womanhood, marriage, the building of a house, raising children and writing books, echoing the words of Pliny the Elder, “Hence it is right to follow the natural order, to speak about trees before other things...” Flip open this book on any page, and you’re charmed.

978-0-86492-706-4



Theresa Kishkan

L is for Lawrence

IAIN LAWRENCE OF GABRIOLA ISLAND HAS received the \$20,000 Vicky Metcalf Award for Children’s Literature from the Writers’ Trust of Canada. The prize recognizes his body of work for young adult fiction ranging “from the realms of early nineteenth century seafarers to a remote, twentieth century lighthouse off B.C.’s north coast, and from Cold War rural America to a southern English village at the height of World War I.” His books include *Gemini Summer* for which he received the Governor General’s Literary Award for Children’s Literature in 2007. Visit www.writerstrust.com



MELISSA STEPHENS PHOTO

Writers’ Trust winner Iain Lawrence: “I don’t think it’s good enough to just entertain.”

M is for McCardell

ONCE MORE ONE OF B.C.’S MOST philanthropic writers, **Mike McCardell**, has enjoyed a prolonged presence on the BC Bestsellers List, this time with **Here’s Mike: With Junkyard Granny, Whistling Bernie Smith, the Robertson Screwdriver, Pancakes and Eternal Truth** (Harbour \$32.95). It’s a compendium of McCardell’s favourite stories from the thousands of television tales he has shared at the close of Global TV’s *News Hour*.

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continued on next page

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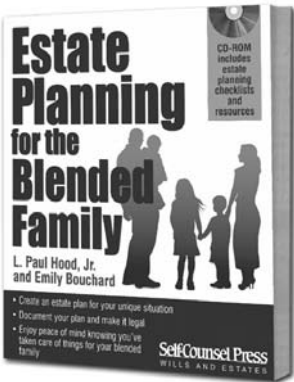
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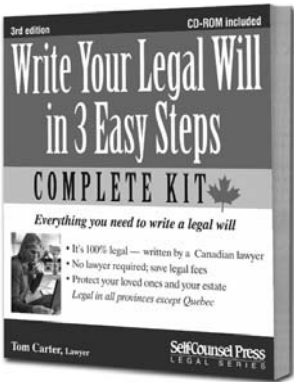


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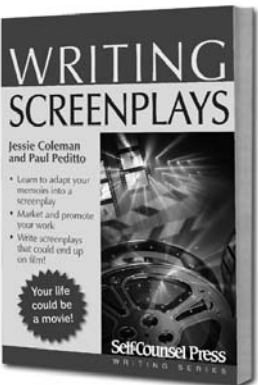


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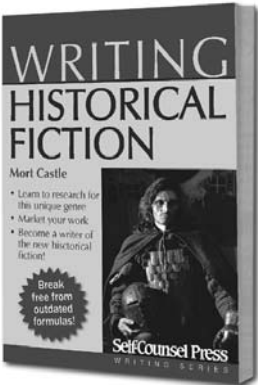


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N is for Nawrocki



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ALONG WITH DENMAN Island's **Ron Sakolsky** and **Sean Wood**, East Vancouver-born **Norman Nawrocki** is one of three British Columbians included in the first-ever anthology in English of anarchist fiction, **Subversions** (Les Pages Noires \$14.95), a bilingual collection of eighteen contemporary anarchist writers from across North America and Europe. 9782980576324

O is for Oke

NANCY OKE, A RESEARCH VOLUNTEER AT the Royal B.C. Museum, and **Robert Griffin**, manager of its history section for 30 years, along with **Greg Evans**, have gathered more than 200 photos for their extensive look at 100 years of food and drink in Victoria, **Feeding the Family** (RBCM \$29.95). *Feeding The Family* tells how local biscuit makers disappeared as cheaper imports arrived and how seasonal fresh peas gave way to canned and then frozen peas on the supermarket shelves. A review of the book can be found in the latest issue of *BC Studies*, our province's most venerable book review periodical. www.bcstudies.com

978-0-7726-6343-6

P is for Parr



Joy Parr

JOY PARR, AUTHOR OF *The Gender of Breadwinners*, became the first female historian to win the J.B. Tyrrell Historical Medal from the Royal Society of Canada when she was teaching at SFU. Her *Sensing Changes: Technologies, and the Everyday, 1953-2003* (UBC Press) has received the 2011 Canada Prize in the Social Sciences category. Parr has been cited as "the outstanding Canadian historian of her generation."



An ad in *The Colonist*, 1936, extolling the virtues of drinking beer to improve athletic performance.

Q is for Quartermain

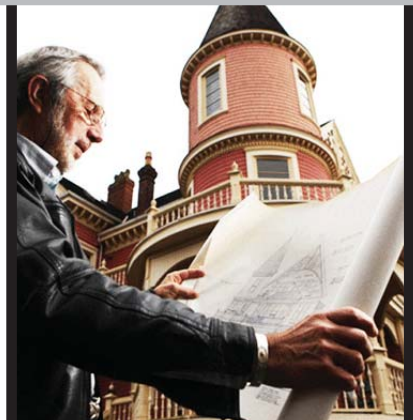
THE VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF HAS selected poet **Meredith Quartermain** as its writer-in-residence for 2012. Associated with the Kootenay School of Writing, Quartermain received the Dorothy Livesay Prize for **Vancouver Walking** in 2006, a collection followed in 2008 by **Nightmarker**, prose-like observations of Vancouver's architecture and people.

R is for Russell

VICTORIA HALLMARK SOCIETY PRESIDENT **Nick Russell** has published **Glorious Victorians: 150 Years/150 Houses – Celebrating Residential Architecture in BC's Capital** (Sandhill \$34.95) to reflect changing architectural fashions that tell a story about the prosperity of British Columbia's capital city. What is Queen Anne style? Did a premier live here? Who were the great architects? What important buildings have been lost over the years? And what will tomorrow's heritage buildings look like?

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David Spaner



Nick Russell with Victorian blueprint

S is for Spaner

DAVID SPANER'S SHOOT IT! HOLLYWOOD Inc. and the Rising of Independent Film (Arsenal \$22.95) examines how Hollywood lost its ability to support the work of creative filmmakers. It is also a portrait of the independent filmmakers who have risen up to fill the void. Indie directors **Gus Van Sant**, **Mike Leigh**, **Atom Egoyan**, **Sally Potter**, **John Sayles**, and **Ken Loach** are interviewed. Spaner has worked as a movie critic, reporter, and editor. He is the author of *Dreaming in the Rain: How Vancouver Became Hollywood North by Northwest* (Arsenal 2003).

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DESIGN

T is for Taylor



FOUR OF THE FIVE finalists for the \$25,000 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are British Columbians: **Charlotte Gill** for her treeplanting memoir, *Eating Dirt* (Greystone); **Wade Davis**, for *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest* (Knopf); **J.J. Lee** for *The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit* (McClelland & Stewart); and **Madeline Sonik** for *Afflictions & Departures: Essays* (Anvil). In February, with Premier **Christy Clark** in attendance at the Vancouver presentation, Charlotte Gill was selected as the 2012 recipient of the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, worth \$40,000.

U is for UBC



LONGTIME UBC PRESS head honcho **Peter Milroy** has retired, and is replaced by **Melissa Pitts**, while the press has had two titles shortlisted for The Canada Prize in the Social Sciences: **Alan Gordon's** *The Hero and the Historians: Historiography and the Uses of Jacques Cartier* and for **Joy Parr's** *Sensing Changes*. [See P is for Parr]. Two publishing imprints associated with UBC, Pacific Educational Press and UBC Press, have recently marked their 40th anniversaries, along with trade publishers Talonbooks and Douglas & McIntyre.



Caitlyn Vernon

V is for Vernon

A SIERRA CLUB CAMPAIGNER IN VICTORIA, **Caitlyn Vernon** guides young readers through an ecosystem of information in *Nowhere Else on Earth: Standing Tall for the Great Bear Rainforest* (Orca \$22.95), encouraging stewardship for the Great Bear Rainforest. 978-1-55469-303-0

W is for White

AT AGE 88, **MARY BUCKERFIELD WHITE**, with **Philip Sherwood** (lifewriters.ca), has self-published *Buckerfield: The Story of a Vancouver Family*. White's father was one of the province's foremost businessmen (feeds, seeds, and fertilizers) and her

mother a leading member of Vancouver's arts community. Mid-century they befriended and entertained at their home some of the most distinguished persons to visit Vancouver including **C.D. Howe**, **Leonard Bernstein**, **Dylan Thomas** and Dame **Joan Sutherland**. Novelist **Ethel Wilson** was Mary White's aunt. White's memoir contains numerous photos and anecdotes about Wilson. The 300-page family history is available in hardcover from Hagar's Books in Kerrisdale for \$25.

X is for X-Files



THE FACE OF **WILLIAM B. Davis** is recognizable worldwide. As the Cigarette Smoking Man or "Cancerman" in the television series *The X-Files*, Davis dishes candidly about the show's famous co-stars **Gillian Anderson** and **David Duchovny** in his memoir, *Where There's Smoke* (ECW \$22.95), while revealing the character of his undergraduate colleague **Donald Sutherland** and recalling his own work at the National Theatre in London with Sir **Laurence Olivier**, Dame **Maggie Smith** and **Albert Finney**. 978-1-77041-052-7

Y is for Yellowknife

WITH A FOREWORD BY **JOE MCBRYAN** OF Buffalo Airways, pioneering ice pilot **Don F. Hamilton's** self-published journal of flying in Canada's Arctic, *Flying Overloaded* (Aspire Media \$26.95), is packed with the requisite hair-raising episodes. It recounts his flying in the Far North for various companies, including training pilots on the DC-3 for Buffalo Airways in their early days, and in support of his two fly-in lodges with his own aircraft. It appears at a time when there are two new television series about aviation in Canada's far north. Concurrently, **Mike Vlessides' The Ice Pilots: Flying with the Mavericks of the Great White North (D&M \$17.95) is derived from the History Channel show about pilots based in Yellowknife, currently airing in eleven countries.**

Ice Pilots: 9781553659396; Flying: 978-0-9809319-1-4

Z is for Zastrozzi

IN HER SELF-PUBLISHED MEMOIR OF LIVING aboard a ship, *The Life and Times of the Floathouse Zastrozzi* (\$15), **Mary Hughes** asserts that getting a 1917 Heintzman piano down the ramp at Fisherman's Wharf in Victoria was a minor challenge compared to what she and **Alan Hughes** faced in their twelve years living aboard the ship. Over the years, Zastrozzi narrowly avoided a collision with the Coho ferry, repelled a mink invasion, and only barely survived sinking at the dock. Then there was the daunting challenge of moving Zastrozzi ashore on Salt Spring Island in 2002. The book is available at a few coastal book outlets, from her website, or from her front porch on Salt Spring.

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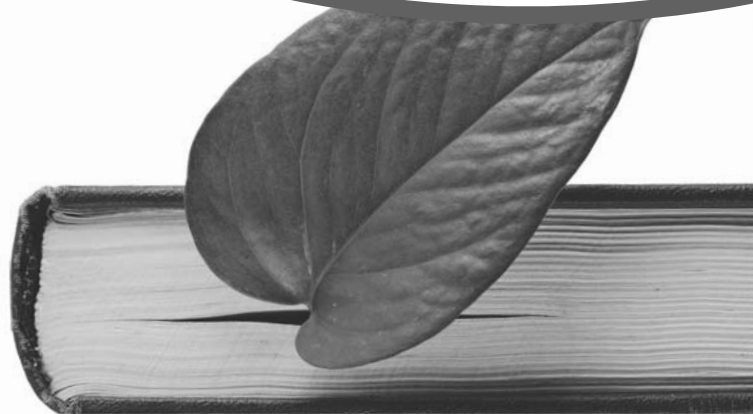
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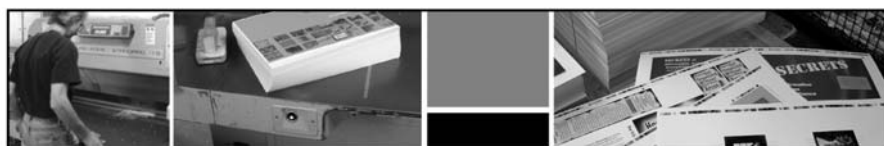
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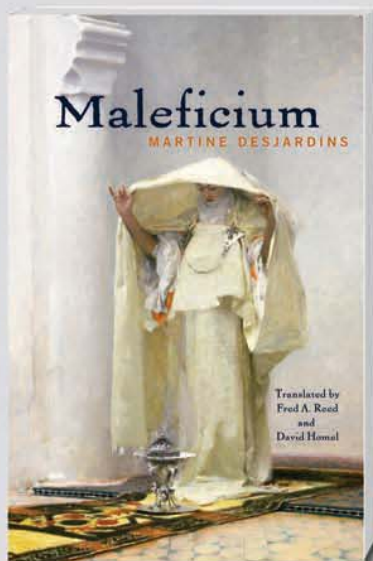
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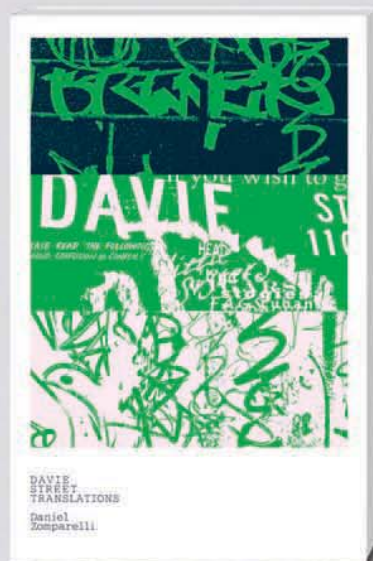
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Translated by Fred A. Reed & David Homel

In Martine Desjardins's fourth novel, the nineteenth-century priest Savoy divulges the confessions of seven men who met strange and unsettling fates in their pursuit of incense, oriental rugs, rare insects, and precious spices. Desjardins indulges the Baudelairian notion that the bizarre is always beautiful, weaving together an exotic literary oddity rich with sensory description and historical detail.

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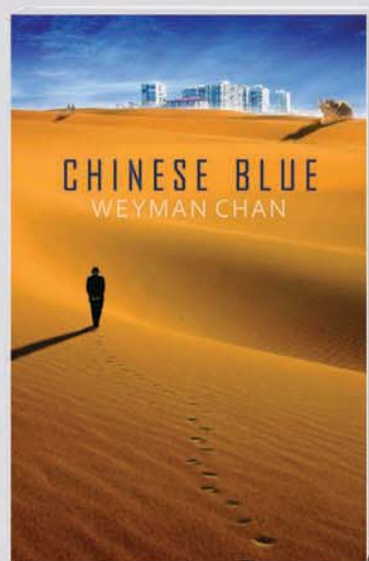


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Daniel Zomparelli

Davie Street Translations is a witty, lively, documentary-style series of poems about gay-male culture in Vancouver. With versified musical machismo after the San Francisco Renaissance poets, Daniel Zomparelli emphasizes an aesthetic sensibility that pervades the wireless shell of personal relations, facing up to HIV fears, drug culture, porn fantasy, gay bashing, and the aftermath of love letters on Craigslist.

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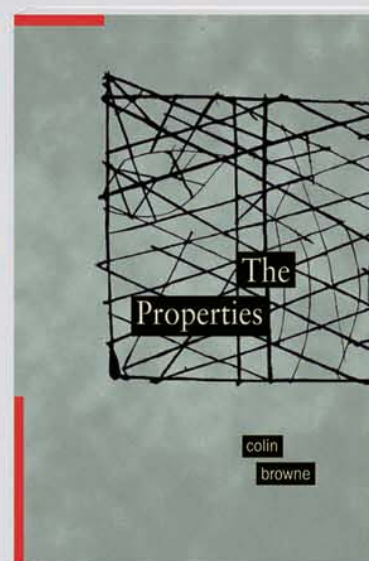


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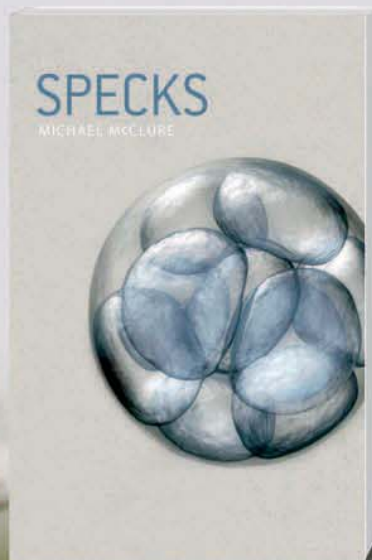
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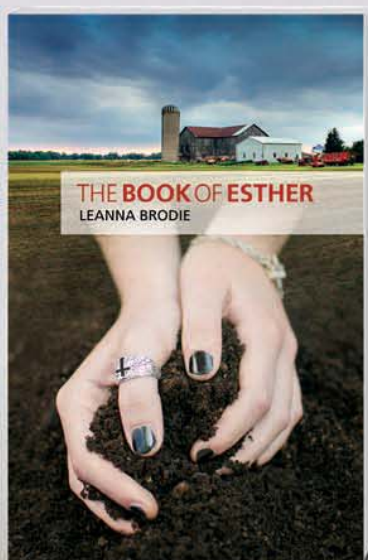


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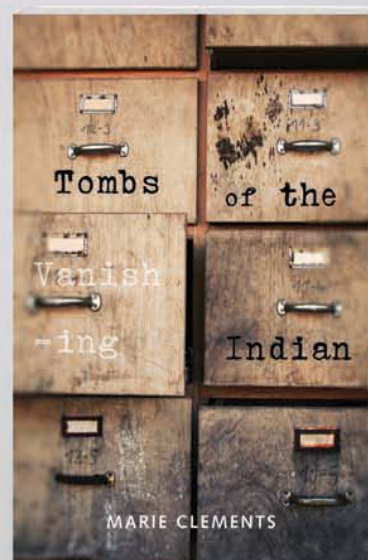


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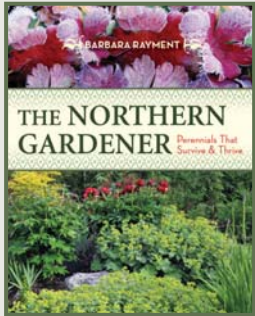
Three sisters and their mother are forced by the American government to relocate from Oklahoma to Los Angeles. As these four women try to re-establish connections to a new land, each finds herself lost. Inspired by true events, *Tombs of the Vanishing Indian* is a poetic excavation of the lost stories of displaced Aboriginal people.

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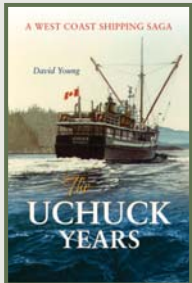
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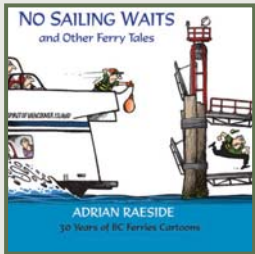
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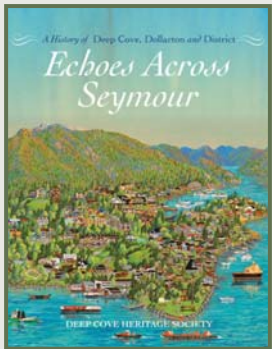
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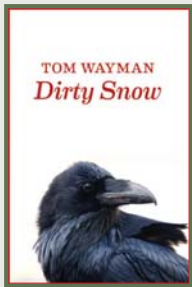
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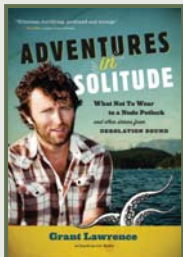


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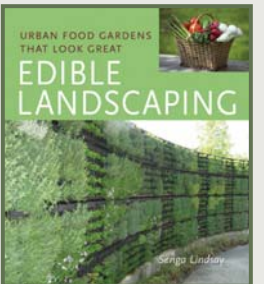
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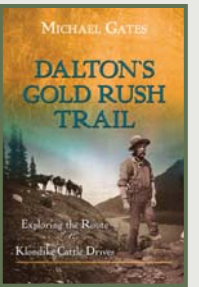
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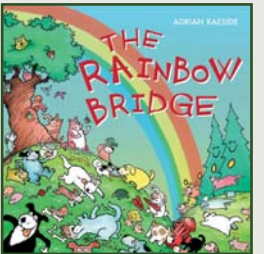
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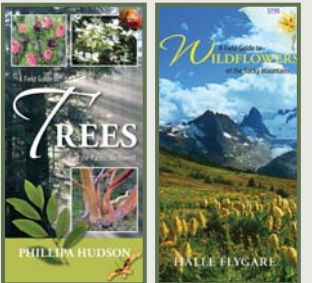


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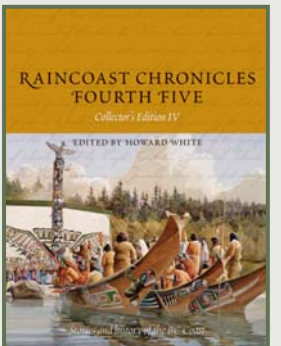
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