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Amrita Sondhi was hiking up Grouse Mountain when she met Chip Wilson, who shared his vision for a new clothing company to be called Lululemon Athletica. After Sondhi suggested his company should carry yoga wear, Lululemon went global. It was not her first foray into fashion. Working from her parents’ basement, Sondhi had started a clothing company called Tayari and opened a successful boutique in the Point Grey neighborhood of Vancouver, but thieves robbed the store, twice, prompting her to conclude, “the universe must be saying STOP.”

Prior to turning 40, Sondhi left Lululemon and hiked up Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, next to her native Kenya, and returned to Vancouver to launch her own clothing line specializing in sustainable fibres. Having detoured in 2006 to publish The Modern Ayurvedic Cookbook, into its third printing, she has now produced her second Ayurvedic cookbook.

The Tastes of Ayurveda: More Healthful, Healing Recipes for the Modern Ayurvedic (Arsenal Pulp $26.95) includes modern interpretations of Indian cuisine (spicy paneer zucchini kabobs and mango and coconut kulfis), and Ayurvedic spins on vegetarian fare (barley rainbow pilaf and raw zucchini hummus). The book also includes yoga and breathing exercises easily done at home or at work, full-colour recipe photos, and information on sprouting/fermenting techniques and backyard gardening.

The Ayurvedic diet is based on the concept of three “doshas”: vata (air), pitta (fire), and kapha (earth). Each of us has a primary dosha that we can strive to maintain at a healthy balance, but which can cause problems in excess. The book includes a questionnaire so readers can determine their own primary dosha and then look for recipes that will help them maintain or reduce it for optimal health.

Ayurveda, the 5,000-year-old healing tradition from India linked to the development of yoga, is based on the concept that one’s physical, mental, and spiritual well-being comes from a number of sources, including a healthful diet based on one’s individual constitution.

On Kilimanjaro, Sondhi had an epiphany: she would connect westerners with the local people she met in Tanzania who were poor but community-minded, resulting in her creation of The Pamoja Foundation. Now living on Bowen Island, she donates 10% of the proceeds from her Movement clothing line and her cookbooks to her foundation (www.pamoja.org) that supports grass roots entrepreneurs in making their way from poverty to self-sustainability through micro-loans.

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The large and hugely like-able lifeguard was voted “Citizen of the Century” because he taught literally hundreds of children how to swim at English Bay. Now, there’s a swanky restaurant named after Fortes, as well as the West End branch of the Vancouver Public Library.

But who was he? Lisa Anne Smith and Barbara Rogers in Our Friend Joe: The Joe Fortes Story (Ronsdale Press $21.95) is a slim biography about a big man that gamely succeeds in collecting all that can be known. But Joe Fortes will remain an endearing and mysterious presence, a symbol for racial tolerance from an era when it was severely lacking.

The Modern Ayurvedic Cookbook (Arsenal Pulp $26.95) includes modern interpretations of Indian cuisine (spicy paneer zucchini kabobs and mango and coconut kulfis), and Ayurvedic spins on vegetarian fare (barley rainbow pilaf and raw zucchini hummus). The book also includes yoga and breathing exercises easily done at home or at work, full-colour recipe photos, and information on sprouting/fermenting techniques and backyard gardening.

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**KOSOVO, NOT VICTORIA**

**THE MATURITY OF CHRIS GUDGEON’S STYLISTICALLY**

European novel Song of Kosovo (Goose Lane $29.95) will come as a surprise for anyone who might have viewed him solely as a literary arts administrator for the B.C. Arts Council. Gudgeon’s first novel is a sly, frequently amusing and penetrating distillation of individual estrangement and social chaos set during the Balkan wars of the late 1990s. Ostensibly a manuscript discovered by the narrator named Gudgeon while he was working as a post-war “social historian” in Pristina, Kosovo, for an international team of translators and rebuilders, the novel takes the form of a young man’s memoir, written mostly in prison for his defiance of the shattering of former Yugoslavia.

The narrator, one Zavida Zankovic, must retain his sanity in the face of absurd charges, resulting in a darkly comic style reminiscent of Kafka. Josef Skov veky or Jerzy Kosinski

This is not an attempt to reproduce the tragedy of war with documentary zeal; rather it is a literary journey emboldened by wit and artifice, a perfectly executed literary conceit. The intended recipient of the story is the lawyer Nexhmije Gjumi shi of the Pristina School of Law and Cosmetological Sciences. Throughout the horrors of the war, there is the protagonist’s urgent and abiding love affair with the beautiful Tristina. Our hero meets her at the Pavlov Museum outside of Moscow where, as students, spontaneously decide they must steal two stuffed versions of Pavlov’s dogs. Gudgeon’s other books include biographies of folk singer Stan Rogers and poet Milton Acorn. He recently left his civil service job to concentrate on writing.

**ST. ANDREAS**

**BY HIS OWN ACCOUNT, ANDREAS SCHROEDER HAS SUFFERED**

bouts of cultural politics. As well as serving as chair of the Writers’ Union of Canada, 1976-77, he was the guiding force behind the establishment of Public Lending Rights in Canada, only ending his 34-year commitment working on behalf of PLR in 2008. This year he was named the fourth recipient of the Writers’ Union of Canada’s Graeme Gibson Award. Established in 1991 for “varied and remarkable contributions to improve the circumstances of writers in Canada,” the award was first given to Graeme Gibson, it was given to Pierre Berton in 1992 and to copyright warrior Heather Robertson in 2011. “Every Canadian writer has Andreas to thank,” said Greg Hollingshead, Writers’ Union chair. The rarely-given award is the TWUC equivalent to sainthood.

**Amber Dawn**

Established in 2007 from an endowment established by artist Robin Pacific, the $4,000 Dayne Ogilvie Prize annually rewards emerging writers who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT), and who have published at least one title. The 2012 winner is writer filmmaker and performance artist Amber Dawn, author of the Lambda Award-winning novel Sab Rosa (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2010), editor of Fist of the Spider Woman: Tales of Fear and Queer Desire (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009) and co-editor of With a Rough Tongue: Femmes Write Porn (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2008). Currently, directing the programming for the Vancouver Queer Film Festival, Amber Dawn has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.
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To this day, Fidel Castro often retreats to the unpretentious apartment he shared with Celia Sánchez for 21 years, sometimes to prepare a meal for special friends like Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez and his wife, but more often, it is said, simply to be alone.

BY ROSA JORDAN

Born in 1920, Celia Sánchez Manduley grew up in eastern Cuba. By 1950 she was already organizing for the overthrow of Cuba’s undemocratic regime—this while Fidel Castro, six years younger and 1000 kilometres away at the University of Havana, was still embroiled in student politics.

In 1953, when Castro and his followers were apprehended after a botched raid on the Moncada army barracks in Santiago de Cuba, it was Celia Sánchez who organized island-wide protests that resulted in the rebels’ release. Fidel promptly went to Mexico to prepare for another challenge to the Batista dictatorship. Sánchez, who was by then communicating with Castro but had not yet met him, remained in Cuba to lay the groundwork for a guerrilla war. By the time of the invasion (December, 1956), she had convinced him to launch the uprising at the end of the island she knew so well: the rugged Sierra Maestra.

At the time and place designated for the rebels’ arrival, Sánchez was waiting on the beach with trucks to transport Castro and his 81 men to safe houses in the mountains. However, they got lost, not making landfill to two days later and in the wrong place—a mistake that resulted in a bloodbath at the hands of the Batista army. The 16 survivors, scattered, disoriented, and without supplies in rugged, unfriendly terrain, were rescued by Celia’s friends. Despite Fidel’s record of two disastrous military engagements, Celia convinced her co-conspirators that he should command the rebel army— fighters she and her people would have to recruit since most of his had been killed. However, she personally took charge of finances, strategy, organization, community relations, and about everything else essential to a successful guerrilla war. 

Dictator Batista confirmed her threat to his regime by putting up a $75,000 bounty on her head. Ché Guevara, commenting in his diary on a false report that Sánchez had been captured, wrote, “Celia was our [the guerrillas] only known safe contact… her detention would have meant isolation for us.” The CIA reported, “Celia Sánchez is one of the most powerful figures in the 26th of July Movement. All functions not strictly military are under her jurisdiction. All intelligence agents report to her.” Tete Puebla, an officer in the rebel army and now a general in the Cuban military, mentioned in her memoir an astonishing array of activities that were supervised or personally handled by Sánchez during the war, concluding simply, “Celia organized everything.”

Sánchez’s efforts to bring a true social revolution to Cuba continued after the war. While the men in government were dealing with terrorist attacks, economic woes, a US-backed invasion, and other foreign policy issues, she focused on projects that would improve the lives of ordinary Cubans: housing, hospitals, schools, and much more. Her ideas were highly original and she implemented them with astounding alacrity.

As a doctor’s daughter, she knew the effect of parasites on children who ran barefoot in the same mud as pigs. She educated herself on shoe-making and had factories built because, she said, no child, however poor, should have to go barefoot. Free shoes were soon available to all Cuban children, and still are. She had hospitals designed specially for children. One, on beautiful Tarará beach, would later treat more child victims of the Chernobyl disaster than all G-8 countries together. Today Cuban doctors involved in Operación Milagro use the facility to provide blind children from poor countries with free eye operations and post-operative care.

Cover
Celia Sánchez had the huge Copelia ice cream parlour built as a gathering place for Habaneros and she created Parque Lenin, Havana’s equivalent of NYC’s Central Park, to give urban families easy access to recreational activities among flowers, meadows, lakes, and trees—especially trees, which she regarded as sacred.

She established municipal museums all over the island, and scores of campismos—simple huts in the mountains and on beautiful beaches where families and young people could stay practically free. She designed cottages built of native materials to sit on tiny islands in Laguna del Tesores, a unique retreat still enjoyed by Cuban honeymooners.

These were among hundreds of projects she created, constructed, and completed in the 21 years she lived after the war. In A Butterfly Against Stalin, Celia Hart wrote of Sánchez, “She had the magical power to join heaven and earth without showing off. She was a perfect mediator between the work of the revolution, its people and leader.”

The inflexible Cuban bureaucracy that grew after the war was Sánchez’s great enemy. Had she lived longer she might have prevailed over demands for conformity and political correctness that often took precedence over humanitarian considerations. But her death in 1980 left Castro and the Cuban revolution to be influenced by others.

Close friends of Fidel have said that from the time he met Celia in 1957 until lung cancer claimed her 23 years later, he never made an important decision without her concurrence. Shortly before her death, she advised him to marry a friend of theirs, Dalia Soto del Valle, which he later did.

In Cuba you can find books and articles about Celia Sánchez, three small museums, some impressive monuments, and scores of charming handcrafted memorials. Cubans probably find it ironic that most foreigners, if they have heard of Sánchez at all, suppose she was just Fidel’s secretary or possibly his lover, and have no idea how powerful and pivotal she was.
THE MAKING OF A HUMBLE LUMBER BARON

Kapoor Singh Siddoo dined with lumberjacks and Indira Gandhi.

By Hugh Johnston

Jewels of the Qila: The Remarkable Story of an Indo-Canadian Family by Hugh Johnston (UBC Press: $85)

It is tempting to liken Hugh Johnston’s remarkable Jewels of the Qila: The Remarkable Story of an Indo-Canadian Family to an Horatio Alger story. Having reached San Francisco in 1906, the modest hero, Kapoor Singh Siddoo, arrives in British Columbia, dispenses with his Sikh turban and cuts his hair—while the Komagata Muria is still stranded in the Vancouver harbour—and overcomes racial prejudice and legal discrimination to transform himself into a forestry millionaire.

But Johnston’s Jewels of the Qila is not just a success story about one unusual family. This is a splendidly serious, smart and multifaceted investigation of events and characters in both India and Canada. Using Kapoor’s wide-ranging life as a prism, Johnston has provided a thorough investigation of events and histories that are outlined below, is but one sliver of Jewels of the Qila.

Born in Punjab in 1885, Kapoor, at age nine, was engaged to marry Besant Kaur, aged four. Educated and pious, she would marry him at age 15 but would remain unable to join him until 1923. At age 33, she would become the first South Asian woman in Kapoor’s multi-racial logging villages on Vancouver Island.

Persuaded to leave India by his friend Piara Singh Langeri, Kapoor sailed third-class steerage to San Francisco. After six years of labouring jobs, he was refused entry to Canada at the Blaine border, but landed in Victoria in 1912, where he bought a small dairy operation.

Kapoor’s role in the origins of Sikh journalism on the West Coast, as outlined below, is but one sliver of Jewels of the Qila.

In Victoria, Kapoor met up with his friend Piara Singh Langeri who introduced him to two literate activists, Dr. Sundar Singh and Kartar Singh Hundal, nicknamed “Scissors.” This highly educated pair was producing Sansur [The World], handwritten in Punjabi and dubbed “The Only Hindustani Paper in Canada,” as well as an English-language monthly, The-Aryan. Kapoor soon joined their efforts to gain equality for British subjects who were Sikhs, as promised by Queen Victoria. Whereas the four-some wanted their printing press on Speed Avenue to produce a secular paper, other devout Sikhs wanted a faith-based publication, leading to the short-lived rival paper, Hindustane.

During the Komagata Maru incident—when 376 Punjabis arrived in the Vancouver harbour, only to be refused entry—militants threatened to destroy the moderates’ headquarters, setting fire to the Sansur office. Kapoor remained active in moderates politics. By 1920, he was elected as the first president of the B.C. branch of the United India Home Rule League (affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi’s Congress movement) then as president of the Hindustani Sabrji Society and the Canadian Hindustani Congress.

Eventually Kapoor became an equal partner in the Mayo Lumber Company Ltd., as well as partnering with Doman Singh, father of future forestry magnate Herb Doman. Despite several incidents of suspected arson, racial resentment and economic depressions, the partnership with Mayo Singh endured for 26 years until Kapoor started his own lumber mill in Vancouver.

The Mayo Sawmill was on the E&N Cowichan Subdivision. The Kapoor Lumber Company mill was located at Mile-35 on the CNR line at Sooke Lake, now part of the Greater Victoria Watershed. The Kapoor Mill operated from 1928 to 1940. Kapoor Lumber Company still owns lands in the area and the Kapoor Regional Park Reserve, at the end of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, includes almost two kilometres of river front land.

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When: November, prize-winning author Sir Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) made his only visit to Canada in 1929, the Bengali poet spoke four times in Vancouver and once in Victoria, to overflowing crowds.

Revered as a writer and as a spokesperson for Indian independence, Tagore was joined by his English translator and editor Charles Freer Andrews, a missionary who was a close associate of Gandhi.

Kapoor returned to B.C. from Toronto to serve as a translator and continued on page 12

With the Komagata Maru marooned in the harbour, England-educated Dr. Sundar Singh rushed to Ottawa, hoping to resolve the crisis, but his charm offensive with federal politicians failed. Kartar Singh Hundal, Piara Singh Langeri and Kapoor Singh Siddoo all followed him to Ontario nonetheless, where, before he mysteriously vanished, Dr. Sundar Singh started a new publication, Canada and India: A Journal of Information and Confluence.

While Kartar assimilated into Toronto society as a Theosophist, Piara would not forsake his turban and beard, and so he urged Kapoor to return to India with him to fight for independence with the Ghadar movement. Piara would soon be imprisoned in India for sedition, and narrowly escaped hanging, while Kartar was hobnobbing at the Toronto Literature Club with the likes of poet Bliss Carman and influential McClelland & Stewart editor Donald French.

Kapoor took the middle path between Piara and Kartar. In 1917, former bulldozer cook Mayo Singh, while he was winding down his logging venture in Chilliwack, sent Kapoor money for his passage back to B.C. to work as his bookkeeper and English spokesman. They undertook logging and milling operations in the Cowichan Valley, at the village of Paki (originally called Mayo) and the village of Kapoor, both north-west of Duncan, and near the Sooke River. Neither man wore turbans; both shaved.
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
The landing of the Komagata Maru revisited

I N 1914, VANCOUVER IMMIGRATION officials infamously enforced an exclusionary law that forbade arrival of 376 British subjects (340 Sikhs, 24 Muslims, and 12 Hindus) from India unless they had sailed directly from India. The Komagata Maru had embarked from Hong Kong. The ship could have landed in Port Alberni without hindrance but the man who had chartered the ship, Gurdui Singh, was intent upon directly challenging the British Empire and exposing its racist policies. The ship was sent back to India with most of its passengers. The stand-off is now marked by a plaque in Vancouver harbour.

Having made Continuous Voyage, a 2004 feature documentary about the Komagata Maru incident, Ali Kazim, a film professor at York University, has fashioned a hardcover equivalent with Undesirables: White Canada and the Komagata Maru. It contains an unprecedented array of contextual photos and images, including a photo of Dr. D.P. Pandia, the lawyer associate of Mahatma Gandhi who was influential in the efforts of Canadian Sikhs to obtain the right to vote. Ali Kazim was born and raised in India as a Muslim.

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Oct 2 Dec 3rd, McGill Library, 4595 Albert St., Burnaby
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Oct 20th 8 pm, BOOK LAUNCH & EXHIBITION OPENING, Salt Spring Island
Nov 7th 7-9 pm, Barry Peterson TALK McGill Library
Nov 17th 3-5 pm, BOOK LAUNCH, Comox Valley Art Gallery
Nov 24th 1-3 pm, RECEPTION, Nanaimo Museum
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I usually dread photographic portrait sessions. But Barry’s methods made me feel comfortable. I was really looking at a beautiful photo of myself.
DAPHNE MARLATT

I am so grateful to have been a part of this exciting project. It was truly humbling to present with such talented and well-known writers and artists.
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“a rare combination of analytical precision, presentation, and lyricism”
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“an inspired combination of analytical precision, presentation, and lyricism”
SARAH MUNROE
The struggle against not forgetting

In our summer issue, we featured seven books by Canadian authors. Here are four new books from or about Japanese Canadians. These volumes recognize there are lessons that need to be re-taught and re-learned for new generations.

S

hipwrecked Japanese sailors arrived on Vancouver Island as early as the 1850s. There was a Japanese curio shop in Victoria operated by Charles Gabriel in the mid-1880s.

Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer’s 380-page study of the Japanese presence in Victoria, Gateway to Promise: Canada’s First Japanese Community (Ti-Jean Press $29.95), fills a major gap in B.C. history, recalling particulars such as the Japanese Tea Garden in Gorge Park, Japanese baseball (first played in Victoria in 1910) and dozens of family stories.

Long before Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer joined the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society and began their research, Gordon had lived in Japan from age three to 20.

After exploring the Ross Bay Cemetery, the couple produced a booklet called Japanese Pioneers of Victoria in 2007. This led to extensive research in the provincial archives and countless interviews.

“A lost world had emerged,” they write. “Pieces of a puzzle had to be assembled.”

The above family in Slocan, B.C., had agreed to be sent back to Japan by the Canadian government in 1946, From Fighting Canada’s Wrongs (Lorimer)

In 1945, before the end of World War II, the Canadian government offered to “repatriate” any ethnic Japanese to Japan after the war ended, even Canadian-born British subjects. Signing up for the move was voluntary, but many felt pressured to agree.

In 1946, a year after the end of the war, some 4,000 Japanese Canadians travelled by ship to a Japan devastated by war—an action that violated international law at the time.

The story of those who moved to Japan after the war has been told for the first time in English by Tatsuo Kage, who has interviewed men and women who were teenagers in internment camps during the war.

Born in Utsunomiya, Japan, in 1935, Tatsuo Kage was the son of a military officer whose family settled in Tokyo in the early 1940s. In 1969, he became assistant professor at Meiji Gakuin University, teaching political science and European history.

After relocating to Vancouver, Kage worked as a Redress Implementation coordinator for the National Association of Japanese Canadians, corresponding with Japanese Canadians in Japan. As part of a joint delegation of the government’s Redress Secretariat and the NAIC that visited Japan in 1989, he made 700 contacts with either exiled people or their family members.

Kage’s research and interviews with the deportees in Japan and in Canada led to a bilingual discussion on their experiences at the 1992 Homecoming Conference, resulting in his publication of Nikkei Kanadajin no Tsuishyo (Exiled Japanese Canadians) (Tokyo: Akashi Shoten, 1998).

Translated by Kathleen Merken, and reconfigured for a Canadian readership by Merken and Kage, that book has been republished as Uprooted Again: Japanese Canadians Move to Japan After World War II (Ti-Jean Press $19.95).

Cross border dropping

How can we top Real Housewives of Vancouver? Well, how about an even scarier reality TV show, Real Nukes of B.C.?

“Just before midnight on February 13, 1950, three engines on Bomber 075 caught fire over Vancouver Island. The crew was ordered to jump, and the plane ditched some four hours’ flying time in the opposite direction of where it was supposed to have crashed. How did it get there?”

The United States has finally admitted Bomber 075 was carrying a Mark IV nuclear bomb.

It turns out that massive U.S. Air Force B-36 intercontinental bombers—termed as “Peacemakers”—regularly flew mock bombing exercises over major US cities, including San Francisco. During one of these training runs Bomber 075 caught fire over Vancouver Island.

So was the bomb on board blown up at the aircraft’s resting place in the mountains? Or was it dropped and exploded over the Inside Passage?

In Lost Nuke: The Last Flight of Bomber 075 (Heritage $19.95), Dirk Septer of Cortes Island investigates the final hours of Bomber 075 and attempts to “unravel the real story behind more than 60 years of secrecy, misdirection and misinformation.”

Unfortunately, it’s all too real. Dirk Septer was the lead investigator for a television documentary called Lost Nuke. He has published over 100 articles in aviation magazines in Canada and the UK and for years he wrote a regular column called “North of Sixty” in Canadian Aviator.
Air India bombing revisited

Since his immigration to Canada in 2001, Georgia Straight journalist and Radio India broadcaster Gurpreet Singh has been interviewing relatives of the 329 people killed on Air India Flight 182 on June 23, 1985.

The first-ever bombing of a 747 jet remains the largest mass murder in Canada’s history and the worst fatal disaster to occur over a body of water.

Intending to write a book with the working title Canada’s 9/11, Singh has published a preliminary study, Fighting Hatred With Love: Voices of the Air India Victims’ Families ($9.95), after talking to twelve families who lost loved ones. Launched at a memorial ceremony at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in July, it’s distributed locally by Asian Publications of Surrey and published by Punjab-based Chetna Parkashan.

Singh has voiced criticism of the South Asian community in B.C. for failing to fully ‘adopt’ the terrorist attack as a distinctly Canadian story, instead preferring to view the event within a broader South Asian perspective.

The death of Air India Flight 182 (W. Allen 1986) by Province reporter Salim Jiwa examined India’s political tensions within the context of the disaster only one year after the debris had settled in the Irish Sea.

Loss of Faith: How the Air-India Bombers Got Away With Murder (M&S 2005) by award-winning Vancouver Sun reporter Kim Bolan appeared in the wake of the acquittal of Sikh leaders Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri. It also examines the same-day, terrorist explosion at Tokyo’s Narita Airport that killed two baggage handlers for Air India Flight 301.

Salim Jiwa also co-wrote Margin of Terror: A Reporter’s Twenty-Year Odyssey Covering the Tragedies of the Air India Bombing (Key Porter 2006), with Donald J. Hauka, adding information about the 20-year Air India investigation and the 19-month trial that resulted in a verdict of not guilty for the accused in 2005.

Desperately Seeking Susans

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“... readers will want to spend as much time as they can in Sylvia’s world.” - Globe and Mail
HISTORY
continued from page 15

Rules of the roads
Hazelton ran a competition in 1911 to reward the first car to reach their new town. The winner arrived by driving along river beds and, it was later revealed, dismantling his car and packing the parts over trails, reassembling the vehicle when nearing Hazelton. Hayes’s atlas depicts a 1919 tourist road map complete with the banner admonition “The Rule of the Road in British Columbia — Keep to the Left.” He also reproduces a map that documents the changeover from left to right which began the following year.

The majority of the province outside of Vancouver Island and the southwestern mainland changed from left hand driving to right hand driving as of January 1, 1920. It was easy for them; there were few roads with more than a single lane. The rest of the province changed two years later. A two-stage change was possible because the two parts of the province were not connected by road. Construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway (now Canadian National) in the Fraser Canyon had obliterated roads in many places. The Hope-Princeton highway was not completed until 1949.

Maps indicated the necessity of shipping cars between Hope and Princeton by rail.

Baillie-Grohman’s dream
In 1882 William Adolph Baillie-Grohman, a British sportsman and author, embarked on a fantastic project. He proposed to link the Upper Columbia River at its source — Columbia Lake — with the Kootenay River, in order to lower the level of Kootenay Lake, a considerable distance downstream on the Kootenay River, so that he could reclaim flat land that flooded every year at the southern end of the lake. It was a grandiose project that would make today’s environmentalists throw up their hands in despair, but in the freewheeling 1880s no one seemed to disapprove. By 1889, employing mainly Chinese labour, Baillie-Grohman constructed a canal linking the Columbia and the Kootenay at Canal Flats, enabling Baillie-Grohman to claim a large land grant. He even began the first steamboat service on the Upper Columbia (brilliantly circumventing customs duties payable on a boat imported from the United States by declaring it was an agricultural implement, meant to pull a steam plow on the lands he was to reclaim). It takes a map to fully appreciate the visionary scope of Baillie-Grohman’s land reclamation and development dream; Hayes’s book contains one such published map to convince investors to chance their money in the scheme.

Boom and bust in real estate
British Columbia was thought to have a boundless future following the opening of the Panama Canal. In his previous Historical Atlas of Vancouver, Hayes included maps from real estate ads just before World War I when real estate speculation was rampant. The war abruptly squelched speculators and by 1916 land that had sold for hundreds of dollars was being sold for taxes, with few takers.

Hayes has uncovered more real estate maps from 1907-1914. Although some parts of Vancouver owe their beginnings to this period, many more proposed schemes didn’t get off the ground until very much later. When the end was in sight for land-grabbing opportunists, one magazine even offered free lots in White Rock with a subscription, and no, that’s not a misprint: a lot free with a magazine subscription!

Defending the coast
Long before Pearl Harbor, the Canadian military had been preparing for a possible attack by the Japanese from the sea, an anticipation that came to a head in the months following the December, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor when an oil refinery near Los Angeles was shelled by a submarine, and air attacks were thought to have occurred; in June, 1942 came the attack on Estevan Lighthouse, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Shortly after the United States ordered all persons of Japanese descent removed from the coast, Canada did the same. Hayes’s book shows maps of some of the detention camps set up in the interior to house them, maps drawn by internees themselves. As with many of the maps in the book, they are combined with old and modern photos to better convey what they were like.

978-1-92681-257-1

IT’S FALL. TIME TO HIT THE BOOKS.

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EDITED BY ALEX MARLAND, THIERRY GIASSON, & JENNIFER LEES-MARSHWENT

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16 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2012
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Copublished with the Victoria Natural History Society
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October

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Nancy J. Turner and Richard J. Hebda
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Enter the Bruno and the Beach Raffle to VISIT GIBSONS, BC HOME OF THE BEACHCOMBERS

Celebrate the show’s 40th anniversary and the publication of BRUNO and the BEACH
BY MARC STRANGE AND JACKSON DAVIES
Jan Peterson’s chronic research syndrome
How forced retirement rendered ten books about Vancouver Island in twenty years

BY MARY ANN MOORE

Jan Peterson of Nanaimo finds and remembers stories wherever she goes.

When she looks out her window and sees Gallows Point on Protection Island, she knows Siamasit, the son of a Snuneymuxw chief, and Squees, son of a powerful chief of a Cowichan tribe, were hung there in 1853 for shooting Peter Brown, a Scottish shepherd.

Scots are the basis for Kilts on the Coast: The Scots Who Built BC (Heritage, 1849–1999), her tenth book on Vancouver Island history, in which she describes settlement and growth during six critical years from 1848 to 1854.

In 1849, Snuneymuxw chief Ki-et-sa-kun, known as Coal Tyee, formed the Hudson’s Bay Company of the presence of coal in the Nanaimo area. Kilts on the Coast traces the lives of “founding father” James Douglas and other “company men,” as well as laborers who arrived from Orkney and Ayrshire to work in Nanaimo’s mines.

Coal baron Robert Dunsmuir, whose Wellington Colliery became the largest producer of coal on Vancouver Island, built Craigdarroch Castle in Victoria (between 1887 and 1900) for his wife, Joan, Hatley Castle, the present-day Royal Roads University, was completed in 1908 for his son, James.

In Kilts on the Coast, Peterson calls Dunsmuir an “educated coal miner and an astute businessman.”

There were 600 men were killed over the years at 50 mining sites in the Nanaimo area. Workers got paid for it, Peterson became a reporter for the Alberni Valley Times. In 1982, Peterson was one of three finalists to receive the Jack Wasserman Award for her first year of investigative journalism on social and environmental affairs. At the awards presentation at the Vancouver Press Club, Peterson was introduced as “the middle-aged housewife from Port Alberni.” She says, “We always get a good laugh about that.”

In early 1987, Peterson collapsed in the offices of the Alberni Valley Times and was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. She hasn’t stopped writing books since.

First, she plunked herself down at the Port Alberni archives and produced The Albernis, 1860–1922 (Oolichan, 1992), donating all royalties to the Alberna District Historical Society. During her tenure as president of the Alberni Valley Community Arts Council, Peterson oversaw renovation of a heritage building that became the Rollin Art Centre and donated her royalties from Twin Cities: Alberni/Port Alberni (Oolichan, 1994) to the project.

Peterson and her husband “retired” to Nanaimo in 1996 where she continued to write. When she wanted to learn more about Barkley Sound, Peterson went to the docks in Port Alberni with her friend, the late Dorrit MacLeod, and talked to people in the coffee shop. The result of her listening to the stories that emerged was Journeys down the Alberni Canal to Barkley Sound (Oolichan, 1999).


WRITING IN BC STUDIES (Winter 2004), reviewer Patrick A. Dunae noted Peterson “has a keen eye and a good nose for local history” but he did criticize her books for being “long on action but short on analysis.”

“That’s not my purpose,” Peterson responds. “Let the academics do that. I don’t feel like analyzing. I feel like getting the facts out and letting people draw their own conclusions.”

“I learned from my mother that you give as much as you take. Community has given to me so I give back to them,” Peterson says. Jan Peterson has been awarded many honours for historical research including Certificates of Honour from the B.C. Historical Federation.

With two more books in the works, she writes every day—never tiring of Vancouver Island stories.

Mary Ann Moore is a freelance writer based in Nanaimo.
American-born David Kos, of Salt Spring Island, immigrated to Canada in 1971 and became a Canadian citizen in 1980. He has taught English literature in the United States, Canada, Nigeria, China, Thailand and Japan.

During two teaching stints in Vietnam at Can Tho University in the Mekong Delta, Kos became incensed at the Agent Orange-related suffering he saw in the Can Tho Children’s Hospital, a 180-bed facility that treats children with malaria, dengue fever, dysentery and the effects of the chemical weapon Agent Orange. One particular child had been born without an arm.

Haunted by his memories, Kos has written The Desserts of War (Tagman Press), a novel that was originally self-published, and now has been republished in Britain. Here Kos outlines the facts about Agent Orange in Vietnam and its three million civilian Vietnamese victims, more than 100,000 deformed children and a recent miserly American offer to provide $3 million dollars aid without any admission of guilt or responsibility. Some 10,000 American war veterans are receiving disability benefits for their exposure to the chemical. Here is an excerpt from The Desserts of War by David Kos:

For ten long, war-torn years between 1962 and 1971 the United States sprayed up to 90 million litres or 23 million gallons of Agent Orange defoliant over Vietnam’s jungles and countryside in ‘Operation Ranch Hand.’ The key Agent Orange dioxin is one of the most toxic chemicals ever produced and the campaign’s purpose was to destroy the natural ground cover of trees and undergrowth, thereby exposing enemy Viet Cong fighters to American bombs.

But tragically it did much more than defoliate the jungles because the dioxin also poisoned the soil and water.

Consequently peasant villagers, including women, children, and the elderly, became innocent victims and three million Vietnamese have suffered serious health problems. The unborn were, and are, especially vulnerable. According to the International Red Cross, more than 100,000 babies have been born deformed, physically and emotionally, because their mothers drank the water and ate the meat, fish and rice that had been contaminated by Agent Orange.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the United States insisted that there was no evidence linking Agent Orange to serious health problems, including birth deformities. American corporations, specifically Dow Chemical and Monsanto, also denied any liability, claiming that they were ordered by the Pentagon to manufacture Agent Orange in patriotic support of the war.

U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have both visited Vietnam, promising funding for scientific research, but nothing by way of monetary compensation is so far being provided to the Vietnamese victims. In fact, in 2005 the U.S. Federal Court ruled that the use of Agent Orange, although toxic, did not fit into the definition of ‘chemical warfare,’ and therefore did not violate international law. On September 12, 2007, the Canadian Government finally offered compensation to its soldiers and civilians who were exposed to Agent Orange at a Canadian military base, which the Americans secretly used in the 1960s with Canada’s official approval to test the effectiveness of Agent Orange as a herbicide.

The U.S. Government has recently agreed to cooperate with Vietnam in an effort to contain the dioxin contamination in several Agent Orange ‘hot spots.’ But this was not accompanied by any apology which would have implied moral guilt and possibly triggered legal actions involving hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation. To date, the U.S. Congress has allocated a paltry $3 million to this cooperative project. In my view this is a pitfall in relation to the funding required to clean up the contaminated sites in Vietnam and provide proper health care for the innocent victims—past, present and future. Nevertheless more than 10,000 U.S. war veterans are presently receiving disability benefits for serious health problems caused by their exposure to Agent Orange. This to me seems to beg the question: Is the life of an American soldier more valuable, more deserving and more precious than the life of a Vietnamese child? I felt angry and sad on discovering all this at first hand in Can Tho. That anger has not subsided with the passage of time—and it became the mainspring for the writing of this novel.

978-1-903571-72-9
www.vietnamfriendship.org
Dung and disabled adults at Friendship Village, a training centre for victims of the American War in Vietnam, especially those hurt by Agent Orange. The Friendship Village was founded in 1988 by an American war veteran and Vietnamese veterans. More info: www.vietnamfriendship.org

American: Having worked at the hospital for 30 years, Dr. Seb Kloster is estranged from the United States, bitter about the devastation wrought by an unnecessary war, and sickened by the napalm-involving hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation. To date, the U.S. Congress has allocated a paltry $3 million to this cooperative project. In my view this is a pitfall in relation to the funding required to clean up the contaminated sites in Vietnam and provide proper health care for the innocent victims—past, present and future. Nevertheless more than 10,000 U.S. war veterans are presently receiving disability benefits for serious health problems caused by their exposure to Agent Orange. This to me seems to beg the question: Is the life of an American soldier more valuable, more deserving and more precious than the life of a Vietnamese child? I felt angry and sad on discovering all this at first hand in Can Tho. That anger has not subsided with the passage of time—and it became the mainspring for the writing of this novel.

The central characters in The Desserts of War are American: Having worked at the hospital for 30 years, Dr. Seb Kloster is estranged from the United States, bitter about the devastation wrought by an unnecessary war, and sickened by the napalm-involving hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation. To date, the U.S. Congress has allocated a paltry $3 million to this cooperative project. In my view this is a pitfall in relation to the funding required to clean up the contaminated sites in Vietnam and provide proper health care for the innocent victims—past, present and future. Nevertheless more than 10,000 U.S. war veterans are presently receiving disability benefits for serious health problems caused by their exposure to Agent Orange. This to me seems to beg the question: Is the life of an American soldier more valuable, more deserving and more precious than the life of a Vietnamese child? I felt angry and sad on discovering all this at first hand in Can Tho. That anger has not subsided with the passage of time—and it became the mainspring for the writing of this novel.

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When it comes to West Coast literature, we have come from famine to feast in less than a lifetime. An array of portraits now celebrates this bounty. By Alan Twigg

A former Trotskyite at UBC named Earle Birney was trying to be a name for himself as a poet, much less conspicuous was a gifted novelist named Ethel Wilson who was named a prominent physician in Vancouver’s West End, but that was about as far as literary reputations went.

When Eric Collie’ s Okanagan River Fish Against the Wilderness (1959) was republished by Reader’s Digest and translated worldwide, almost nobody had read Malcolm Lowry’s Under the Volcano (1947).

So named eleventh by the editors of Modern Library in their list of the best 100 novels written in English in the 20th century, the manuscript of Under the Volcano was completed on Christmas Eve, 1944, when the terminal alcoholic was living in a squat-ter’s shack at Dillarton in North Vancouver. Soon after, every day “by misadventure,” inSusan, Eng-land, his shack was unceremoniously bulldozed into oblivion in 1957.

Probably the most esteemed B.C. author was Prov-ince columnist Eric Nicol, the first living Cana-dian writer to be included in The Oxford Book of Canadian Prose and the first local playwright to have his work produced by the Vancouver Playhouse. He was widely respected. He had a real job.

Fast forward to the likes ofAlice Munro, Murdo Coupland, W.P. Kinsella and William Gibson are world fa-mous and their success does not strike anyone as fictional. British Columbia is a literary hotpot on the planet. There are now more than 10,000 B.C.-related authors on the public service website abcsbookworld.ca, hosted by Simon Fraser University Library.

This incredible growth in authors—from ten known authors to ten thousand —was not accidental

The rise of a flourishing publishing industry has been fundamental to the growth of authors. The golden age of publishing in B.C. publishing can be marked from the formation of the Association of Book Publishers in B.C. in the early 1970s—led by J.J. Douglas Ltd who evolved into Douglas & McIntyre, western Cana-da’s largest publishing company—to the publication of the 50th-anniversary version of Under the Volcano, edited by Daniel Francis, in 2005—form Harbour Pub-lishing, now the leading producer of regional titles. As its West Coast Literary Portraits is, in fact, a literary landmark of sorts. An English novelist John Fowles wrote in his novel Daniel Martin, “know how to enjoy anything is to glorify it.” Just as B.C. books, 111 West Coast Literary Portraits is an effort to glorify the people who create these books.

BARRY PETERSON’S APPROACH AS A PHOTOGRAPHER IS CONSISTENTLY NON-PRETENTIOUS, attempting to serve both the public and subject, in an honest fashion. The fact that his preferred technical approach is “non- digital” seems fitting when one considers the epoch to which our attention is being drawn.

As we move into this increasingly digital-based 21st century, it is hard to imagine someone producing a “real book” such as 111 West Coast Literary Portraits twenty years from now, at least not in this pleasantly old school “coffee table book” format. Or maybe some people will prefer to access this information on their coffee table e-reader? Well, to each his own.

As many people are now fond of noting that digital images can’t duplicate at this point.

Barry Peterson and Blaise Enright’s mission to represent the array of authors in the province—not simply the stars, but rather a representative pan-orama—reflects and celebrates a golden era of literary expansion in the province.

PHOTOGRAPHER BARRY PETERSON writes: “Robert Gray thought a surreal photograph in the style of the painter Rene Magritte would work for him. So there Blaise and I were at English Bay on a Sunday afternoon with Robert in the water with his umbrella. I hadn’t realized how many people sunbathe at English Bay on a Sunday. There were hundreds of people. As we walked into the water, people started yelling and screaming. They thought this was performance art. Suddenly this huge man came up behind us and said, “Don’t worry. I’ll take care of this.” It turns out he was a life guard. He saved me that day. I was never able to thank him so hopefully this will have to do: THANK YOU!”

Digital images are printed on the surface of the paper while film images are printed on layers of emul- sion in the paper. Film and fibre-based prints have been around for over 150 years, and many of the first prints are still around—and that was before they knew how to archivally process prints.

Regardless of technology, Barry and Blaise have mostly wanted to be of service to the literary com-munity. Readers will now be able to judge whether or not they have succeeded.

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Born to Ruin

Teresa McWhirter’s feminist novel on girls gone punk

Five Little Bitches by Teresa McWhirter

Five Little Bitches is a Hard Core Logo-like travelogue. We hit the road and the bottle and rock bottom with four female members of a punk band, Wet Leather, as well as one band member’s estranged friend. Having kicked drug addictions and other self-destructive behaviour, the estranged friend becomes their mother, big sister and landlord. It’s clear that McWhirter has toured with bands herself. She convincingly writes about Wet Leather gigs in Canada, the U.S. and Europe—leading to exhaustion, excess and exclusion in the male-dominated world of rock. Though the storyline is at times frenetic, it captures the essence of a sub-culture.

Five Little Bitches introduces Maxine Micheline, lead singer of Wet Leather; then we meet drummer Squeaky Ladencier, bassist Kitty Domingo and guitarist Fanta Geiger. The foursome are authentically complex individuals that the reader can’t help but admire on one page, and revile on the next. Although she is non-judgmental, McWhirter is not averse to soft-pedal the promise of sex and drugs. Eventually, the foursome and their friends are unapologetic. But as much as the characters of Five Little Bitches appear hellbent on being abrasive, this thoroughly modern feminist novel ultimately succeeds because it portrays human vulnerability.

ESCAPE ROUTES: Trevor Clark details awkward lives

Intrigues at Sussex

Escape and Other Stories by Trevor Clark

Trevor Clark creates such complex and diverse characters in Escape and Other Stories that it’s like reading ten different stories from ten different authors. In the title story, Escape, a father picks up his ten-year-old daughter for their weekend visit. He has no intention of bringing her back to his mother. From the outset of the story, the narrator makes himself look exactly like the bad dad his estranged wife makes him out to be. His hope for becoming his daughter’s primary parent rests solely on a forged document that will get them across the border. He has not considered the most important element in his dreamed scenario: the image of a movement associated with unmitigated recklessness.

“From Fanta’s vantage point on stage left, she watches men pound each other in the crowd. A woman joins in and they pound her, too. They seem to find such joy in this violence. Though, when someone falls, everyone rushes to help them back up.”

The design of the text is as bold as its uncensored language. Every page is coloured with the chaos of punk rock shows, volatile relationships, pain, joy and humour—and illustrated with gritty black lines, grafitti art, band posters, set lists and photos. It’s not an inspiring tale of righteous women in the 1980s who don’t wear bras or shave their armpits. Rather, McWhirter presents women who, at times, abuse themselves and each other, and who occasionally compromise their well-being and their friendships at the promise of sex and drugs.

These are flawed, real women who are unapologetic. But as much as the characters of Five Little Bitches appear hellbent on being abrasive, this thoroughly modern feminist novel ultimately succeeds because it portrays human vulnerability.
The Path to Ardroe by John Lent

Four Characters in Search of a Coltrane

"I write to surprise myself, to scare myself even." — John Lent

Four characters share the frame. The four characters are Rick, one of four protagonists that include Rick's long-time friends Peter Chisholm and Tania Semenchuk, as well as Melissa Picard, twenty-two-year-old daughter of another couple who are close friends to the older trio. The four characters share the pages almost equally from four different places—Glendarroch, Strasbourg, Edinburgh, and Vernon—all on the same day in 1994.

In Scotland, Peter takes a little-used footpath to Ardroe, from Glendarroch, hoping for excellent coastal views and a glimpse of the hamlet of Ardroe. But he leaves too late, enjoys one smoke too many, lingers too long, caught up in memories of the woman he had come to help.

Brave and open to mysticism, Peter is struggling with a painful family history, having lost his father and sister at an early age. His creativity is reflected in his dreams. The book's other three narrators are also on personal quests, but their explorations are interior. Rick is also a heavy drinker and smoker, and a writer. Twenty-two-year-old Melissa has spread her wings and flown to France, to write. She has left behind a nagging mother, a boy-friend called Brian, a divorced alcoholic father who has fathered an extramarital child, and several creative writing instructors who possibly did her more harm than good. Tania is older, a teacher and a successful public figure who has an interesting story to tell us about her trip west with Rick when she was Melissa's age. She's a woman who has tragically lost her lover and who has chosen to raise a child on her own, a child who was deliberately and secretly fathered by Melissa's father.

In metafiction, a novel usually imitates a novel, rather than the real world, so readers don't have the luxury of losing themselves in a fictional story. The Path of Ardroe qualifies as metafiction. William Gass came up with the term metafiction in 1970. Irony and introspection are two of its trademarks, and Lent uses both heavily. Another metafiction trademark is the superimposition of the author's life on his characters. Sonia and Rick love jazz; Rick's brother Neil is a musician. Lent and Rick also seem to have the same musical brother called Neil. All four characters grew up in Edmonton, as did the author. The first draft of The Path to Ardroe was largely written while Lent was on sabbatical in 1994, in Scotland.

After years of singing folk, blues, roots then jazz, I'm always singing a bit behind the beat. I love that slight delay. It allows me to improvise more freely, to sing like a saxophone. — Fraser group that features guitarists Neil Matties, sonatas, suites. I would see Coltrane's Blue Train

"But there are crucial differences in the kinds of thrills and rushes and satisfactions both forms offer. The painful thing about writing compared to music is that writing is slow and eventually completed in one form whereas music is immediate, very physical, and never the same twice. That needs to be said,"

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Gardens Aflame
Garry Oak Meadows of BC's South Coast
by MALEEA ACKER

Victoria writer and environmentalist Maleea Acker tells us about the Garry oak, its unique and vanishing ecosystem, and the people who have made it their life's work to save this species along with the environment — including the human environment — it depends on.

The Shiva
by MICHAEL TREGEBOV

Set in Winnipeg's Jewish community, The Shiva tells the story of a syndicate of buddies from the local casino and their scheme to short-sell the 2008 mortgage crisis, and make a fortune for themselves. A hilarious, fast-paced, character-driven novel about greed and destiny, and two sons desperate for their aging mother's love. By the author of The Briss.

IKMQ
by ROGER FARR

Avant-garde poetry infused with play and humour by Gabriola Island resident Roger Farr. Follow the characters I, K, M and Q as they convert houses to commercial grow-ops, manufacture explosives, go all in on the flop, conduct meetings according to Roberts, plot a prison break, score an all-important goal, get the door for the pizza delivery boy, and get on with transforming the world through their revolutionary action.

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FROG-SONG NIGHTS

Debut collection from Skeena poet reverberates with the balefulness of fog-soaked landscapes.

Between Duck and Night

by Emily McGiffin

Dirt of Ages

by Gillian Wigmore

GRANDUNION

Deftly she

acknowledges the influence

of her mentors,

the

mournful

philosopher

Jan

Zwicky,

(nothing is as bawdy as an elegy) and the estac-ti-

cally contemplative

Tim Libburn,

(the

curved

land, the river

that gleams). The poem

‘Songs for the Spatzius’ could have

been written by these mentors: the
cold struck eye of the lake…
alpine water an ablation… moonlit scrub

willows.

‘Madshid,’ the nine-part

long

poem that closes the book, de-
scribes the process of making a

wool blanket from scratch; bird’s-

eye twill, six hundred ends, dyed

with lichens.

Throughout the making, a con-

versation goes on between the

weaver and the absent lover for

whom the blanket is intended as a
gift. There are doubts about the

project and the relationship. “What

is the end/too strange to imagine

alone-

ness plied double thick?”

The conversation grows less
tentative as the blanket approaches

completion. The gift is received.

“You took your gift. It held you all

night.”

Although the words sadness and

loneliness also occur in

Swadeshi, the
doleful tone is lessened.

Sometimes the repetitive movement

of good simple work, and writing

about it, can have that effect.

“… the whole civilization and its

ugly deceits” ceases to be such a

burden when work is absorbing.

From shearing to taking the fin-

ished piece off theloom, McGiffin

convinces the reader of her re-

sourceful pleasure in the craft, “the

labour of my own attentive hands.

She works clear through the frog-

song night and when dawn came I
cut it free.”

(STM 1/09)

Gillian Man-wan van der Kamp

works deeply within a few miles of her

home on the rainy Upper Sunshine

Coast, making seaweed blankets for

her garden.

SEVENTH TIME LUCKY

Having just released his historical novel about the B.C. fishing industry, The Tinsmith (Brindle & Glass $21.95), Ladner-raised Tim Bowling has won his third Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry for his most recent collection, Tenderman. The tenderman is a term for a

crow member on a salmon packing boat. The poems are often delivered through dialogues between poet and fisherman, reminiscences of their shared childhoods, or narratives deliv-

ered by the tenderman. Bowling previously won the Stephansson Award for Dying Scarlet (Nightwood 1998) and Fathom (Gaspareau 2006) and he has been nominated for the prize an additional four times.

Tim Bowling

(978-0-88971-259-1)

Dying Scarlet


Privates

Your own billy club bullies me into submission

not just your wrestling holds or muscular legs

clamping me still with your raging eyes

promising pain

Your boneless fifth limb rigid with need or anger

has no personal message

nor private intended gift

just total thrusting invasion

demanding my surrender

bernice lever

poetry

ignore linear

Minds are beyond machines,

light years away from their maps.

You know what I adore best about these MRIs

those B&W negatives of my brain:

no straight lines, not even a few

triangles, rhombus or rhomboid figures shaded 3-D.

Yes, most of all, I adore

those unpredictable curves,

crinky vines, touching digits in my bumpy,

bulging creviced mind.

No, they were second.

First was that random light show,

impulses still flashing

on and off, then on again.

Just believe, there is

more than zero and one

in your grey matter.

Privates

Tenderman by Tim Bowling (Nightwood Editors) ($18.95)

(978-0-88971-779-9)

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(978-0-88971-779-9)
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JAZZ WITH ELLA
novel by
Jan DeGrass
During the summers of 1973 and 1974 Jan visited Russia. She was young and daring; soon after she arrived in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) she met a man who became the subject of this novel.

MIDNIGHT EMBERS
poetry by
Candice James
Words, when strung together like a beautiful rare necklace, are priceless, indestructible and eternal. Poetry is the grand ballroom where these words live, breathe and dance in.

THE UNQUIET LAND
novel by
Ron Duffy
The newly ordained Father Padraig returns to his home village of Corrymore as its new priest. The mission he has set for himself in addition to his parish duties is to save the souls of his patients sets in motion a series of heartbreaking events that neither she nor Morley could ever have imagined.

WATER IN THE WILDERNESS
novel by
Doris Niedweg
Happily married to her beloved Morley, Tyne Cresswell is content in her dual role of farmer’s wife and hospital nurse. Then a late night conversation with one of her patients sets in motion a series of heartbreaking events that neither she nor Morley could ever have imagined.

SECRETS KEPT / SECRETS TOLD
novel by
Ben Nuttall-Smith
Seven Kept / Seven Told, Padraig’s story of Personal Growth, relates a journey of healing, showing that anyone can heal from abuse and PTSD, giving readers insight and hope.

SMALL CHANGE
short stories by
George Amabile
This is a book about growing up and coming of age in the inner city, an unpredictable adventure filled with risk, spontaneous invention, bizarre hilarities, moments of grace...

THE EARTH REMEMBERS EVERYTHING
novel by
Adrienne Fitzpatrick
$10.00
caitlin-press.com

EVER-CHANGING SKY
novel by
Doris Lee
$24.95

VOX
poetry by
Manolis
An ancient music runs through the poetry of Manolis, so it is appropriate that his work should be presented with Greek en face. Vibrant, radiant, thoroughly modern in scope and texture filled with risk, spontaneity and a unique tradition and yet is thoroughly modern in scope and refreshingly new.

This is a book about growing up and coming of age in the inner city, an unpredictable adventure filled with risk, spontaneous invention, bizarre hilarities, moments of grace...

SMALL CHANGE
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George Amabile

Women of Brave Mettle
More Stories of the Cariboo Chilcotin
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Keith Billing
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A Carpenter’s Story
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EXIT STAGE LEFT

Tom Wayman pays tribute to American folk singer Bruce “Utah” Phillips (1935-2008)

Are you sorry to leave?
I feel I barely got started.

What do you consider your legacy?
Every act of kindness and solidarity I did in the world.

Any regrets?
I’m sorry that people would rather listen to a song than to sing themselves, let alone make up their own tunes. I’m not talking here about adolescents, who imagine they can use the music industry to obtain glory and wealth. I mean how people used to sing together as a family, and at parties, and at public meetings. In church some still do, but we’re mainly watchers now.

The union anthems, folk tunes, even pop songs once were carried into the air on many voices not just sung by one or, at most, a handful, while everybody else listens, pays money to listen. Since division of labour like this was the bosses’ idea, not ours: let us to ourselves, we arrange a job so those with the most skills show the way, while everybody else joins in as best they know how.

But doesn’t today’s new media let people—
The rulers of this life are happy to have you shut yourself off—pushing at buttons on a computer keyboard—

thus giving the powers-that-be a free ride in the real world. You can exchange virtual information by the hour or “hit” “send” to add your name to another online petition or denounce anything in your blog. That sound you faintly hear in the background is the chortling of the ruling class: they’ve got you exactly where they want you.

EDDIE STRATTON PHOTO

Wouldn’t you agree, though, that—
Social change means face-to-face interactions with your workmates, your neighbours, everybody who shares the biosphere with you. With your head in a computer you’ll never figure out how you can put your values into effect collectively with other live human beings at your job site, or down the block, or in the union.

Would you say nostalgia played a part in your appeal?
I wish nostalgia entered into it. The boss still organizes the workplace like it’s 1865, never mind 1905, or the twenty-first century. He insists that the money the owners put into the enterprise justifies his unselected right to tell you what to do all day. The boss might try to soften this arrangement by permitting flextime, or by talking about starting a company daycare. But when push comes to shove, it’s you who gets shoved. If the same rationale were applied outside the office door or factory gate only the rich would be allowed to vote. After all, they’ve invested their money in this country or community, while you’ve only invested your life. Everything I sang and said was meant to celebrate each person who resists the idea that, on the job or off, dollars trump democracy. Would that the latter type of thinking was so far in the past that at least a few people could look back on it with nostalgia—although the view of most of us would be: “Good riddance!”

How would you describe your contribution, then?
I carried it on: helped keep alive that age-old goal to fashion a more humane arrangement of society than the present mess. I saw revolutionary industrial unionism as the best route to a world where we respect each other and care for each other, including the homeless and other outcasts. After all, it’s through your and my daily work that groceries are delivered to the stores, kids are raised, roofs are shingled. The television and the newspapers keep screeching at you not to pay attention to how your employment keeps society functioning, and how your job affects your life, and that of the people of your community, and the natural environment.

You’re supposed to be concerned only about what happens to a handful of celebrities, sports stars, politicians. Yet it’s our sweat and brainpower, not theirs, that rebuilds the world each day.

The Wobbles—the Industrial Workers of the World—knew back in 1905 that your life doesn’t change for the better because the team you root for wins, or because you buy something you don’t really need. Your life is improved when your working day changes—when there’s a real turnover in the power relations at your job, when there’s a real change in the impact the goods and services you create each shift have on other people and on our planet.

How effective do you think you actually were?
I thought we’d be further along as a species by now.

Fred Thompson, a long-time IWW organizer, used to say the working class always develops effective forms of resistance about fifty to a hundred years behind the employing class. Yet it’s our sweat and brainpower, not theirs, that rebuilds the world each day.

I like to imagine we could be ahead of the curve for once.

In one way, we are: the IWW said in 1905 that world labour needs a worldwide union. That was thinking “globalization” long before the capitalists conceived of the term.

But the bosses are far in front of us when it comes to But the bosses are far in front of us when it comes to putting the concept into practice. I don’t doubt we’ll get there eventually.

I just wish we weren’t so damn slow.

Any parting advice?
If you can get out into the countryside away from the smog and the noise and the money pollution, you’ll observe in the nighttime sky the three shining stars of the IWW: Education, Organization, Emancipation.

Back in the city, if you look real hard on a clear day, you’ll observe in the nighttime sky the three shining stars of the IWW:

EXIT INTERVIEW: “UTAH” PHILLIPS

Bruce “Utah” Phillips (1935-2008)

Bruce "Utah" Phillips (1935-2008) was a world-renowned 
performer whose presentations combined union 
hymns, original songs on so-

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just sung by one or, at most, a handful, while everybody else 
listens, pays money to listen. Since division of labour like this 
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In one way, we are: the IWW said in 1905 that world labour needs a worldwide union. That was thinking “globalization” long before the capitalists conceived of the term.

But the bosses are far in front of us when it comes to putting the concept into practice. I don’t doubt we’ll get there eventually.

I just wish we weren’t so damn slow.

Any parting advice?
If you can get out into the countryside away from the smog and the noise and the money pollution, you’ll observe in the nighttime sky the three shining stars of the IWW: Education, Organization, Emancipation.

Back in the city, if you look real hard on a clear day, you’ll observe in the nighttime sky the three shining stars of the IWW:

EXIT INTERVIEW: “UTAH” PHILLIPS

Bruce “Utah” Phillips (1935-2008) was a world-renowned performer whose presentations combined union hymns, original songs on social themes, and stories—often humourous. When Phillips learned the FBI was tapping his phone, his response was: “That’s okay. Those buzzards have to learn about unionism some way.”

The focus of Utah’s message was the Industrial Workers of the World. Founded in 1905 and dedicated to organizing industrially (everyone in an industry belongs to the same union) rather than by craft (different occupations within an industry belong to different unions, thus dividing the workforce against itself). The IWW played a significant role in B.C. in the early years of the 20th century. For example, by 1911 the IWW represented civic employees, teamsters and construction labourers in Nelson, B.C., winning the eight-hour day. The union led free-speech fights (for the right to have street corner speakers and meetings) in Victoria (1911) and Vancouver (1912).

IWW leadership in the 1912 strike by crews building the Canadian Northern Railway (later the Canadian National Railway) through the Fraser Canyon led legendary IWW songwriter Joe Hill to write the rousing ballad “Where the Fraser River Flows,” still sometimes heard at B.C. union gatherings.

The IWW was severely harmed by attacks from proponents of the American Federation of Labor/Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)-style business unionism due to the IWWs organizing of immigrants and fighting against racism within the union movement. The IWW was also a target of the US government for the union’s opposition to US participation in World War I (many BC unionists also opposed that war, in part because the Canadian militia had been used to try to break the Vancouver Island coal strike 1912-14).

In the aftermath of the 1960s, new blood flowed into the IWW as young people were attracted by its cheerful anti-authoritarian stance, and its use of humour, art, music and literature in the fight against corporate rule.

Tom Wayman got to know Phillips when Wayman was active in the Vancouver General Membershship Branch of the IWW between 1970 and 1989. Utah Phillips included Wayman’s poem “Bosses” in this 1996 CD The Long Memory, also featuring Rosalie Sorrels.

“The only way Utah Phillips would leave the organization he loved and served, the Industrial Workers of the World,” says Wayman, “was by dying.”

Rather than crafting an elegy for someone he greatly admired, Wayman has imagined the following unconventional “exit interview” for his newest collection of poetry, Dirty Snow.
YOU’VE HEARD OF THE Magnificent Seven and The Seven Samurai. And Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. And Seven Wives for Seven Brothers.

Now along comes Seven: The Series, for readers aged ten and up—seven novels by seven writers released simultaneously, all involving quests for seven grandsons as laid out in their grandfather’s will.

The eldest grandson has the task of spreading grandpa’s ashes atop Mt. Kilimanjaro, as outlined in Between Heaven and Earth (Orca) by Eric Walters, who brought the series idea to the publisher.

The seven novels can be read in random order. The contemporary action of each book occurs at the same time as the seven grandsons are dispersed around the world according to their grandfather’s instructions.

Electronic chapters are being made available each month, for seven months, prior to the official release date of October 10.

The lone B.C. author in the series is John Wilson with Lost Cause (Orca $9.95), in which grandson Steve investigates his grandfather’s activities in Spain with the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War.

“I was approached by Eric early in the process,” he says, “and we decided to make our characters twins. Their relationship is established early in both books and develops through exchanged texts as they undertake their adventures.

“This is an exceptional case with the Seven books. The only point of commonality is reading where each character is given their task/quest. After that, the stories go their own ways as envisaged by each author.

“Obviously, I have read Between Heaven and Earth. I can’t speak for the other authors, but I plan to read all the books. I’m intrigued to see the different directions taken by my colleagues.

Wilson says he’s in awe of Sarah Harvey, who edited all seven books and who undertook the task of making sure that everything in each book fitted with what the other six characters did in the other books.

Lost Cause, for John Wilson, is an attempt, like most of his historical fiction, to relive a time for which he was born too late. “I have long been convinced that, had I been 20 in 1936, I would have gone to fight in Spain in the International Brigades. Fortunately, since so few came back from that war, I never had the chance. Steve is me, reliving the experiences I wish I could have been a part of.”

978-1-55469-944-5

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Lost Cause — Seven: The Series by John Wilson (Orca $9.95)
Shortlisted for the 2012 Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize, *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier, is a Dickensian tale of redemption about a ten-year-old blind orphan who searches for his mother amid the perils of the inner-city. It’s not a search for real jobs, write and play gui-

tion about a ten-year-old blind orphan who

pockets a box of magic eyes, he is transported to an island on top of the world where the eyemaker, Professor Cake, provides him with an opportunity to visit the Vanished Kingdom where he can rescue others, accompa-
nied by a knight errant, Sir Tode, who is part human, part horse and part cat. (Orca $16)

*Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier (Putnam $19)

### Vancouver-born Jonathan Auxier has written his first novel, *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*, a Dickensian tale of redemp-
tion about a ten-year-old blind orphan who was raised to be a whaler but instead pursues a life of play and adventure. The book is a

tale of a boy who is transported to an island on top of the world where he helps to rescue others, accompanied by a knight errant, Sir Tode, who is part human, part horse and part cat. The son of two anthropologists, Sean Rodman has taught school in Australia and now works at the Royal B.C. Museum. In his first teen fiction for reluctant readers, *Infiltration*, he explores prohibited areas in the city, taking only photos for bragging rights, until Kieran is pursued by killers. 9781554697892

*Infiltration* by Sean Rodman (Orca $16.95), a teen graphic novel by Norah McClintock about two teens who witness a violent murder and are

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BUILD IT & THEY WILL WRITE

“A room filled with computers and plastic tablets strikes me as about as alluring as a garden full of artificial flowers.” – Glen Huser

M Y HOMETOWN OF ASHMONT IN Alberta was very small, so as a teenager, I was always looking for chances to get away to the big city, to Edmonton, where I could catch the latest Elvis Presley movie, and browse through its gigantic library, even if I wasn’t allowed, as a non-resident, to check any of the books out.

Libraries intrigued me. When I found there were boxes of books stowed away in the attic of the Ashmont Municipal Building, I convinced the town officials to let me set them out again, in what had once been a makeshift library, with rough wooden shelving and a barrel-shaped, wood-burning stove.

One merchant donated some paint for the shelves. Convincing a couple of friends to help me, we painted the shelves—two coats in fact, which never quite seemed to dry—and the book covers were always encrusted with bits of apple green paint. My friends and I “played librarian.” Old, donated book-of-the-month club selections and ancient encyclopedia sets provided me with reading material for my mid-teen years.

Now I see an Ontario school has made the news with an initiative to take away all the books in its library and replace them with computers. A library landscape devoid of books is, to my mind, a pretty sad prospect.

I realize that research tools are abundantly available on computers now and works of fiction and non-fiction can be accessed on various e-readers. But a room filled with computers and plastic tablets strikes me as about as alluring as a garden full of artificial flowers.

I love the feel of a book to my hands—its size and shape and heft, the texture of the paper, the companionable comfort of a volume resting against me. But even in secondary schools, I believe real books should have the option of taking a break from omnipresent screens to curl up in a comfortable spot with a book that offers small satisfying sounds as pages are turned—sounds like a whispering of the winds of thought. They should be able to enjoy the feel of their fingers resting on paper, the companitional comfort of a volume resting open, inverted over a thigh as the reader rests his eyes for a few minutes or chats with a friend.

Even unopened, books are a kind of pleasing embellishment to any room. I dread the day when all ornamentation in the spaces in which we live will be turned on with the flick of a switch—and we’ll see plastic walls with electronic visuals of the décor du jour.

Meanwhile, in 2010, more books than ever before in history were published. An unprecedented number of new books were released in print format in the U.S. alone, according to the Bowker, the company that manages Books in Print—excluding so-called e-books.

That’s where libraries are needed. Libraries do an amazing job of winnowing, separating wheat from chaff, somehow deciding what books are needed more for society than others beyond the dizzying maze of the internet.


Shelves filled with books have always struck me as displays of treasure—treasure filled with the mystery and promise of life and the universe.

I think the Ontario school that went cyber was a secondary school. We can hope a little more thought was given to their elementary sites. As a former teacher-librarian committed to reading to children, I find it difficult to imagine sharing a plastic e-reader with a group of kindergarten kids in a story corner.

For years, I had a collection of pop-up books that I shared with students on special occasions. They loved the paper sculptures that sprang to life as pages were turned.

Didja know?

The Canadian Library Association is seriously concerned about the negative impact of government budget cuts on libraries in federal departments and at Library and Archives Canada. While not all details are known at this time, indications are that libraries are being hit hard by budget reductions.

At Library and Archives Canada, 430 people have been given notices, with more than 200 jobs to be cut over the next three years, representing a reduction of 20% of their workforce. They have also had to cut their acquisitions budget, end their role in national inter-library loan activities, and cut the National Archival Development Program, which has provided funding to Canadian archival organizations to increase their capacity to preserve archival materials and make them available to Canadians.

According to the CLA, these cuts will negatively impact Library and Archives Canada’s ability to provide front-line services, resulting in reduced access to information for Canadians.
From drama to comedy to crime-thriller, Ye brings us a variety of characters and plots in a series of imaginative, thought-provoking vignettes.

Matti has been fascinated with angels ever since her brother died. Now she is writing her doctoral thesis on the portrayal of angelic feet in Renaissance paintings.

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LETTERS

G is for Gabriola

Just got my latest BCBW in the mail. Great article on my friend Naomi Wakan, written by another good friend, Phyllis Reeve. They are both very talented individuals and tireless supporters of the rest of us in the Gabriola writing community. The whole issue, I think, is one of your best—from cover to cover.

Roy Innes
Gabriola

Stage write

I covet each issue of BCBW since arriving in Steveston a year ago. Please write more about author Susan McNicoll and her newly released book entitled The Opening Act from Ronsdale Press. McNicoll is clearly passionate about stage performance in Canada. The story of how professional theatre began in Canada, post-war and prior to Stratford, is an important and inspiring one. So few people know it.

Meanwhile we can enliven the arts and our lives simply by attending performances. Bard on the Beach, for starters! Namaste.

Yvonne Goode
Steveston

K is for Kootenay

Thanks for all that ink, on behalf of the Kootenay literary crowd, in the BCBW summer issue. Anne DeGrace and I were remarking that this was almost a K-is-for-Kootenay issue! Jenny Craig, Margo Talbot, Ernest Hekkanen; there’s Shelley Adams on the top seller list, a letter from Anne, and, of course, we’ll always consider Fred Wah and Caroline Woodward as ours. Plus an ad for the Elephant Mountain Festival in Nelson! Did we miss anything?

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Neville Langrell (Bill) Barlee was one of the foremost historians of the B.C. Interior and an innovating force in the evolution of B.C. publishing.

"Bill Barlee, was a nugget, pure gold, remarkable in more ways than can be described."—RANDY MANUEL, ILLUSTRATOR AND FORMER PENTICTON MUSEUM DIRECTOR

"If any recent B.C. politician deserves a historical plaque, it would be him. Given how he knew, loved and chronicled so many things in this province, the hard part would be deciding where to put it."—VAGHIN PALMER, VANCOUVER SUN

As a self-described ‘moderate New Democrat’ and an entrepreneur with a social conscience, Barlee was able to draw votes away from other parties with his local reputation as an author and as a popular teacher of gold panning classes.

As B.C. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from 1991 to 1993, Barlee introduced the ‘Buy B.C.’ campaign, resulting in a Buy B.C. logo that appears on food products from B.C. He also served as the provincial Minister of Small Business, Tourism, Culture and Film in British Columbia, 1993-1996 within the NDP government of Mike Harcourt, during which time he successfully advocated for the restoration of many historical provincial sites, including the Kettle Valley Railway.

Mainly known as N.L. Barlee as an author and editor, he published under the name Bill Barlee for his Canada West series.

With Barlee always dressed in his “Canadian Tuxedo,” consisting of a denim jacket, Barlee was the lone interview guest for a long-running B.C. history program for Kelowna’s CHBC TV called Gold Trails and Ghost Towns, hosted by interviewer Mike Roberts. It ran from 1986 to 1996, on five different networks, and continues in reruns on various channels.

“He was a wonderful writer,” says Mike Roberts. “You can hear his voice in his writing. But what always impressed me the most was the way he checked his sources. He used to tell me there are hundreds of great stories out there, but 99% of them are aces. He wasn’t interested in just spinning yarns. He wanted to serve and preserve history.”

Barlee told Roberts his penchant for collecting stories arose at age six when he befriended an old ex-miner in Rossland. Some of Barlee’s extensive mining research collection is stored at UBC Rare Books and Special Collections. Samples of his valuable collection of more than 15,000 Old West artefacts, valued at the area of $1 million, have been shown on loan at the Museum of Civilization and other museums.

After he moved to Osoyoos from his long-time base of Kelowna, Barlee tried unsuccessfully to enter federal politics for the Liberal Party in the Kootenay-Boundary-Okanagan constituency in 2000.

“Basically he was a social democrat,” says Roberts. “He had quarrels with some aspects of the NDP and he had quarrels with the Liberals. But mainly he always wanted to help the little guy, people like farmers.”

Barlee was always keenly interested in preserving historical mining sites at small communities such asSandon, Hedley, Beaverlodge and Quesnel Forks.

TRIBUTES TO BILL BARLEE’S CAREER AS A writer, historian and politician were numerous after he died in Victoria on June 14, 2012.

“I first met Bill, as a wide-eyed 12-year-old,” says Randy Manuel of Penticton. “In 1959 he was my art and gym teacher, yet he still managed to hold all of us in the palm of his hand with tales of British Columbia’s past. The most obvious student in any other class was held spellbound in Bill’s room. There were no ‘bad kids’ when Bill had control.

“Bill encouraged my drawing ability... the subject matter, of course, was always historical, no bowls of fruit, but artefacts from Bill’s western collection, thus tales could be told while the techniques of artistic style were learned.”

“It was a pleasure to work with Bill in the creation of the Kettle Valley Steam Railway, The Mascot Mines at Hedley, and my favourite, the historic ships at Penticton, S.S. Sicamous, Naramata, Okanagan (stern salon section) and the CN #6 tug, all now part of the Okanagan Inland Waters Marine Museum.

“I will always think of Bill Barlee, a nugget, a treasure in the life and times of British Columbia.”

Barlee was a catalyst for the growth of Sandhill Book Marketing of Kelowna, a successful book distribution company for independent authors such as himself, owned and operated by Nancy Wise.

It was Barlee’s Canada West Magazine that directly inspired Howard White to produce his own regional publication, Raincoast Chronicles, giving rise to Harbour Publishing, one of the foremost publishing houses of British Columbia.
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Proceeds from sale donated to Vancouver Public Library
**J is for Jaden**

Continuing to explore the relationships of adolescent sisters, Polynesian dancer and fitness instructor Denise Jaden has released her second YA novel, Never Enough (Simon & Schuster $11.99). Loann looks up to her all-too-perfect sister Claire—so much so that she even wants to date Claire’s ex-boyfriend; but Loann soon discovers that the appearance of perfection comes at an unhealthy cost.

**K is for Kale**

Kale is a vegetable that can be grown year-round throughout North America, helping families save hundreds of dollars a year on grocery bills. Sharon Hanna’s The Book of Kale: The Easy-to-Grow Superfood, 80+ Recipes (Harbour $26.95), is a garden-to-kitchen guide about growing this super-sustainable crop organically—edible landscaping, on balconies and boulevards, and even indoors.

Known as a kale-evangelist, Hanna, of Vancouver, received the Mayor’s Prize for Environmental Excellence in 2006 for her inner-city children’s gardening program. Hanna contributes to GardenWise magazine and was West Coast correspondent for Gardening Life.

**L is for Le Bel**

Pauline Le Bel of Bowen Island is an Emmy-nominated screenwriter and a singer with five CD’s of original songs. She is known for her portrayals of the “little sparrow” Jacques Brel and her interpretations of the music of Jacques Brel In 2001, she performed her one-woman show, The Way of the Goddess: Songs Honouring the Divine Feminine, at Vancouver’s Sacred Music Festival. She writes a blog integrating science, song, nature and spirit. Her new book is Science, Wisdom, and the Future: Humanity’s Quest for a Flourishing Earth (Collins Foundation Press $22.95).

**M is for McIlwraith**

Thomas Forsyth McIlwraith was a young Canadian anthropologist who spent eleven months with the Nuxalk First Nation. His two-volume ethnographic study called The Nuxalk Indians (UBC Press in its 100-year history. McIlwraith was one of the few non-Natives who was permitted to participate in winter ceremonials and potlatches that were held continued on page 37
Nothing relaxes the mind like a great book.
This Poem
Adena Karasick
This Poem is an ironic investigation of contemporary culture and the technocratic-saturated world we're enmeshed in. Composed in the style of Facebook updates or extended Tweets, and mashing up semantic theory, Lady Gaga, Derrida, and Flickr streams, This Poem is a self-reflexive romp through fragments of post-consumer culture.
$19.95 / 112 pages / Party / 978-0-88832-691-0

Theogony / Works and Days
Hesiod
Translated by C.S. Morrissey
This lively new translation adapts the two great poems of Hesiod that paved the way for subsequent achievements in Greek philosophy. Theogony tells of the first generations of the gods, and Works and Days examines the twofold role of competition in life, what Hesiod calls "the bad strife" and "the good strife.
$17.95 / 144 pages / Party / 978-0-88832-788-2

Imperial Canada Inc.
Legal Haven of Choice for the World's Mining Industries
Alain Dereault and William Sacher
Translated by Fred A. Reed and Robin Philpott
Why is Canada home to more than 70% of the world's mining companies? The authors contend that Canada's imperial heritage offers the global extractive sector a customized trading environment that not only supports speculation and enables capital flows, but also provides government subsidies and a politicized legal haven from litigation.
$29.95 / 216 pages / Non-Fiction / 978-0-88832-635-7

Against the Wind
Madeleine Gagnon
Translated by Phyllis Aronoff and Howard Scott
In reaction to the trauma of having defended her mother from violent sexual assault, Joseph sets out to reconcile the contradictory themes in his life, including abandonment, madness, love, and death, as the reader experiences, through letters and journal entries, the creation and development of an artist "in his own words.
$34.95 / 368 pages / Fiction / 978-0-88832-698-6

Minor Episodes / Major Ruckus
Garry Thomas Morse
In tribute to surrealism, while remaining at a distance, Minor Episodes documents the serial adventures of Minor, ubiquitous "envy-monger" who embodies the economic 1% and keeps musically erotic quixoties on tap. Major Ruckus follows a struggle for a time-travel component involving psychic "ticks", universal call centre operators, Aboriginal erotistics, lubricant heuristics, rogue advertisements, pornography censors, and alien sperm bank clones.
$16.95 / 180 pages / Fiction / 978-0-88832-697-5

Dispatches From the Occupation
A History of Change
Stephen Collins
Dispatches from the Occupation is a collection of essays written during and in response to the global Occupy movement, from the author's perspective as an activist participating in Occupy Vancouver. More broadly, it is also a meditation on the idea of change as it moves through intellectual history and is variously articulated across disciplines.
$16.95 / 246 pages / Non-Fiction / 978-0-88832-696-1

Tracing the Lines
Reflections on Contemporary Poetics and Cultural Politics in Honour of Roy Miki
Edited by Maia Joseph, Christine Kim, Chris Lee, and Larissa Lai
Tracing the Lines gathers a wide range of community voices working in critical, poetic, visual, and hybrid forms. Contributors take the life and work of cultural activist, poet, and critic Roy Miki as a starting point for analytical and creative reflections on key artistic, social, and political movements of the second half of the twentieth century.
$24.95 / 246 pages / Non-Fiction / 978-0-88832-694-4
TRUCKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
An Illustrated History
Daniel Francis
With annual revenues of $1.88 billion and 60,000 employees, trucking is among BC’s five largest industries. Along with hundreds of previously unpublished archival and contemporary photographs, award-winning historian Daniel Francis delivers a fascinating account of the last hundred years of trucking in BC. In this new illustrated history celebrating the BC Trucking Association’s 100th anniversary.
978-1-55017-561-5 • 8½” x 11”, 320 pages, cloth • $29.95 + art photographs • $39.95 • September

UNLIKELY LOVE STORIES
Mike McCandless
Publishing sensation and popular Global TV personality Mike McCandless returns with a new collection of hilarious, heartwarming and honest stories. As much as his good-news TV reports have become a BC institution, his annual collections have become a Christmas tradition. With close to 70,000 copies sold, the books have raised over $80,000 for Variety—the Children’s Charity.
978-1-55017-563-9 • 6½” x 9” • 320 pages, cloth • $32.95 • October

BRUNO AND THE BEACH
The Beachcombers at 40
Marc Strange and Jonathan Davies
Bruno and the Beach is a lively, highly illustrated book celebrating the 40th anniversary of Canada’s longest-running dramatic TV production, The Beachcombers. It is a portrait of Bruno Germain—an unforgettable actor—the story of an iconic television series and of the remarkable community that grew up around it.
978-1-55017-563-9 • 8½” x 10”, 102 pages, paper • B&W and colour photographs • $16.95 • October

THE ZERO-MILE DIET COOKBOOK
Seasonal Recipes for Delicious Homegrown Food
Carolyn Herriot
In her bestselling book The Zero-Mile Diet, gardening activist Carolyn Herriot inspired readers to put organic homegrown fruits and vegetables on the table. Now Herriot is back with even more ideas to cook up fresh food from the garden throughout the year.
978-1-55017-567-7 • 8½” x 10”, 280 pages, paper • B&W colour photographs • $25.95 • October

SEASONINGS
Flavours of Southern Gulf Islands
Andrea and David A.E. Spalding
On the enchanting Gulf Islands, fresh seafood is never far away and locally produced, organic food is prominent in island life. Writers and long-time island residents Andrea and David Spalding have explored the highways and byways of the islands and have gathered and created recipes that reflect the variety and abundance of island food year round.
978-1-55017-568-4 • 8½” x 10”, 280 pages, paper • B&W colour photographs • $25.95 • October

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978-1-55017-568-4 • 8½” x 10”, 280 pages, paper • B&W colour photographs • $25.95 • October

JAUN DE FUCIA’S STRAIT
Voyages in the Wastary of Forgotten Dreams
Barry Gough
From internationally recognized author and historian Barry Gough, here is another riveting history of exploration on the high seas. A sea-venture tied up with piracy, political loyalty and betrayal, all bound in a web of international intrigue, Juan de Fuca’s Strait is an indispensable contribution to the history of discovery on the Pacific Northwest Coast.
978-1-55017-573-4 • 6½” x 9”, 280 pages, cloth • B&W maps and illustrations • $32.95 • September

GINTY’S GHOST
A Wilderness Dweller’s Dream
Chris Cygalowski
After nearly three decades of wilderness dwelling far from neighbours and roads, Cygalowski purchases a derelict homestead which had previously belonged to a woman named Ginty Paul. As Cygalowski chronicles the many challenges of settling into her new home, it becomes clear that she and her family must have more than just a piece of land in common.
978-1-55017-575-8 • 6½” x 9”, 296 pages, paper • B&W photographs and maps • $21.95 • September

HOME TRUTHS
Highlights from BC History
Edited by Richard Muckle and Garvanneynn
“History in BC grows proflusely and lavishly, but with odd undergrowth,” observed historian J.M.S. Careless many years ago. This claim is fully borne out by this impressive anthology of some of the province’s most distinguished historians, geographers and writers, gleaned over four-ty years of British Columbia’s leading scholarly journal, BC Studies.
978-1-55017-577-2 • 6½” x 9”, 300 pages, paper • B&W photographs • $19.95 • October

THE ART OF THE IMPOSSIBLE
Dave Barrett and the NDP in Power, 1972–1975
Geoff Meggs and Bad Mickleborough
For more than a decade, The Globe and Mail has featured comprehensive obituaries of suitable British Columbians by columnist Tom Hawthorn, who bids adieu to a panorama of characters in obits that are colourful and touching. The exuberance of his writing makes this book one of the great reads of the season.
978-1-55017-581-1 • 6½” x 9”, 288 pages, paper • B&W photographs • $25.05 • October

DEADLINES
Obits of Memorable British Columbians
Tom Hawthorn
For more than a decade, The Globe and Mail has featured comprehensive obituaries of suitable British Columbians by columnist Tom Hawthorn, who bids adieu to a panorama of characters in obits that are colourful and touching. The exuberance of his writing makes this book one of the great reads of the season.
978-1-55017-581-1 • 6½” x 9”, 288 pages, paper • B&W photographs • $25.05 • October

JOHN CLARKE
Explorer of the Coast Mountains
Lisa Balle
In this fascinating biography, author Lisa Balle provides a detailed portrait of John Clarke, the man who became British Columbia’s most renowned mountaineer by doing it his way. He dedicated his life to exploring the peaks of the Coast Mountains. After he succumbed to cancer in 2003, the BC government named Mount John Clarke in his honour—firing recognition for the man who had himself named many BC mountains.
978-1-55017-585-4 • 6½” x 9”, 296 pages, cloth • B&W photographs • $32.95 • October

SONG & SPECTACLE
Rachel Rose
Song & Spectacle, the third collection by award-winning poet Rachel Rose, is composed of fierce hymns to the particular and universal struggles of birth, passion and loss, and the paradoxical quest for non-attachment in a treacherous, unpredictable and yet deeply hopeful world.
978-1-55017-592-4 • 6½” x 9”, 112 pages, paper • $16.95 • September

A FIELD GUIDE TO EDIBLE MUSHROOMS OF CALIFORNIA
Daniel Wickler
Mushroom expert Daniel Wickler has returned with another easy-to-use field guide to help hunters track down their favorite fungi in California! Use this region-specific guide to identify over thirty common and easily-recognized edible mushrooms—and stay away from the not-so-edible look-alikes.
978-1-55017-599-9 • 3½” x 9”, 8 foldout plates • 50+ colour photographs • $17.95 • November

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