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keeps growing after
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See pages
7, 8, 10 11, 16, 19

Heidi Scheifley and Moreka Jolar,
authors of *Hollyhock: Garden to Table*

CONFIDENT



VOL. 27 • NO. 1
SPRING 2013

MINING
EXPOSÉ

CANADA, NEW BAD
GUY ABROAD P. 27

LONG
BEACH

BEFORE THE
TOURISTS P. 16

BLACK
LIKE THEM

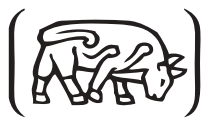
LANDMARK POETRY
ANTHOLOGY P. 38

ALERT BAY'S CRUSADING MATRIARCH P. 23



Storma Sire,
The Great Black North

the Future of D&M



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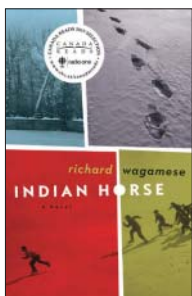
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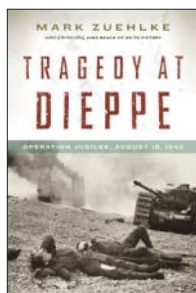
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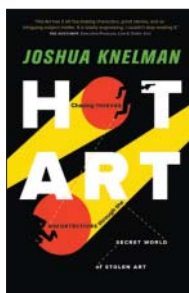


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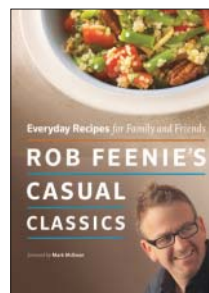


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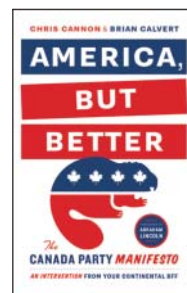


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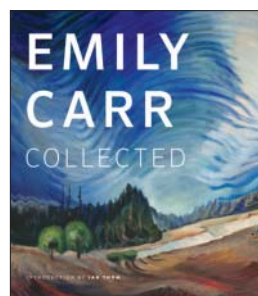
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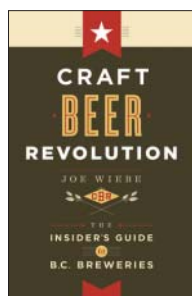


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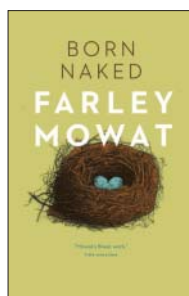


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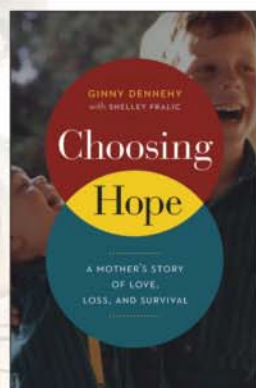
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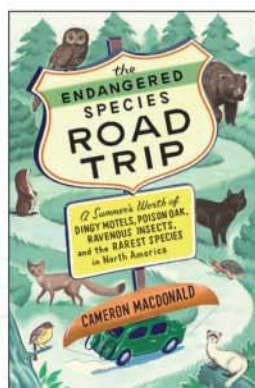


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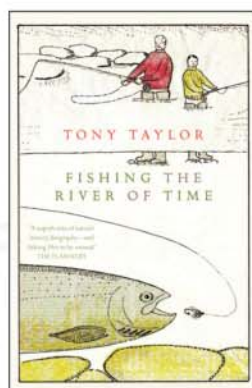


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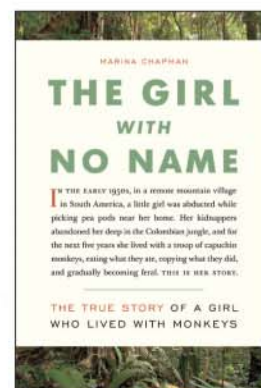
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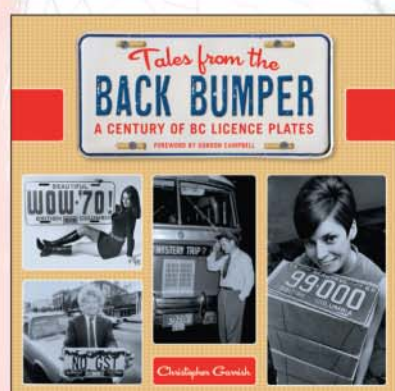


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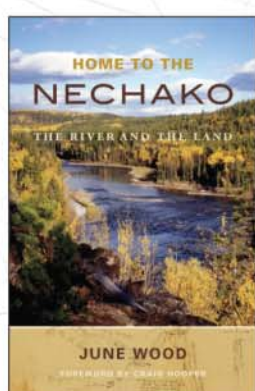


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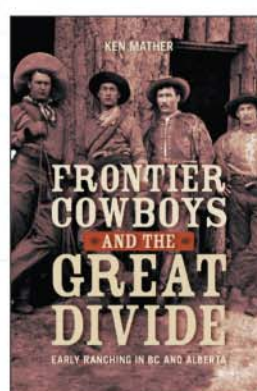


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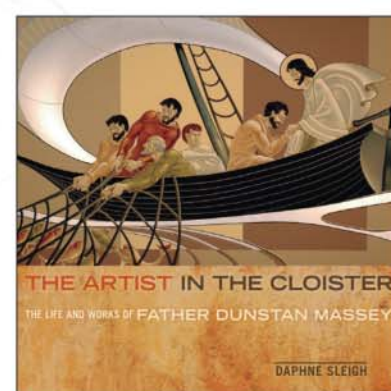


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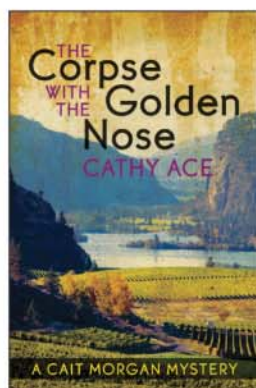


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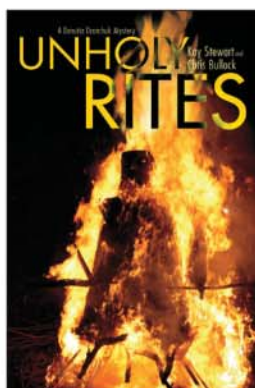
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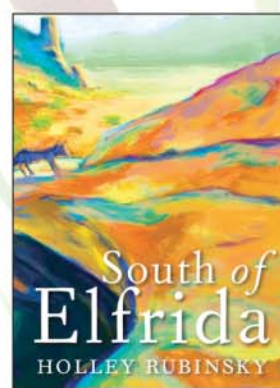
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by Rhona McAdam

Between Heaven and Earth (Seven the series, Orca \$9.95) by Eric Walters

Father August Brabant: Saviour or Scourge? (Ronsdale Press \$24.95)
by Jim McDowell

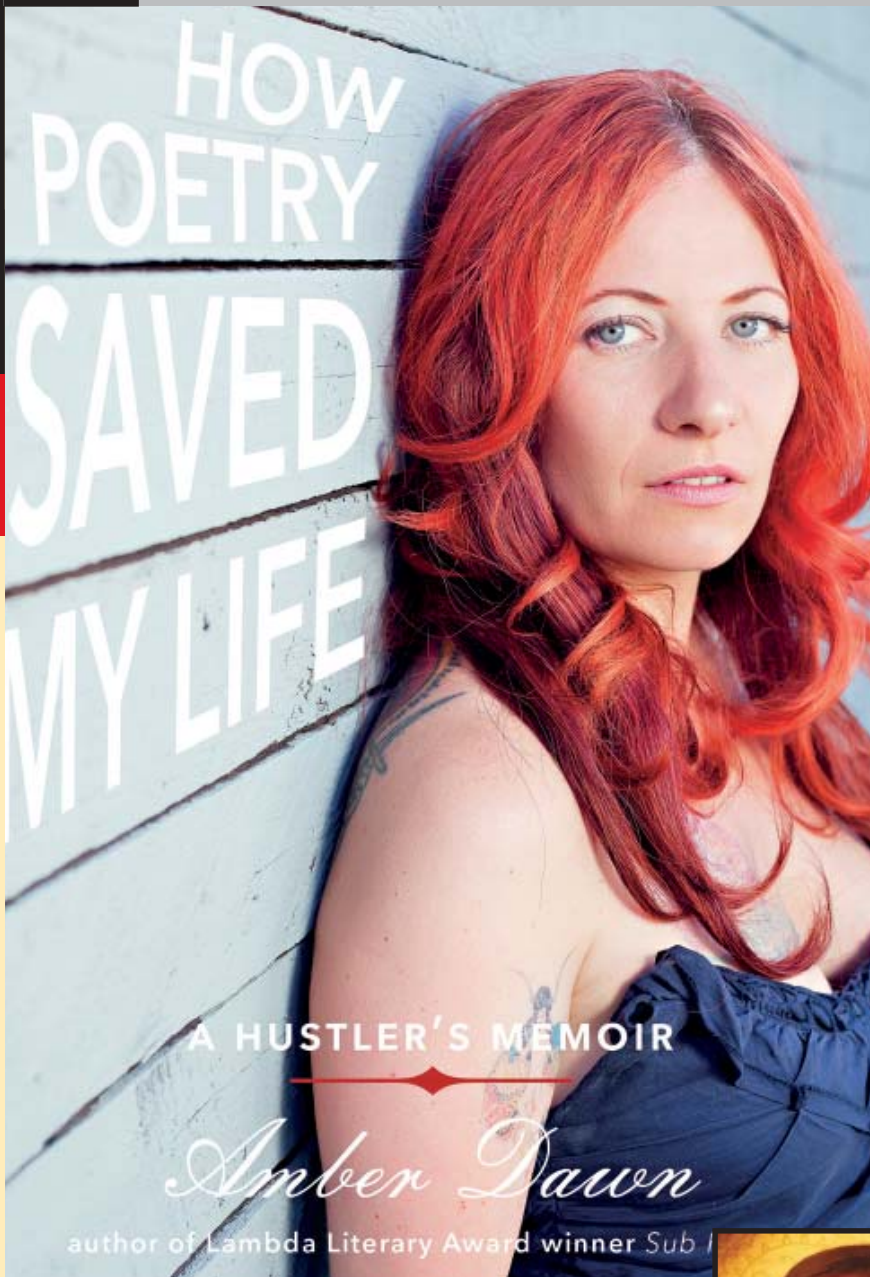
Imperial Canada Inc.: Legal Haven of Choice for the World's Mining Industries (Talonbooks \$29.95) by Alain Deneault & William Sacher. Translated by Fred A. Reed & Robin Philpot

Words, Words, Words: Essays and Memoirs (New Star Books \$19)
by George Bowering

Unlikely Love Stories (Harbour \$32.95)
by Mike McCardell

Toward Sustainable Communities: Solutions for Citizens and Their Governments (New Society Publishers \$22.70) - Fourth Edition by Mark Roseland

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



How Poetry Saved My Life: A Hustler's Memoir (Arsenal Pulp \$15.95), Amber Dawn's sophomore book reveals the terrain of sex work, queer identity, and survivor pride. This story, told in prose and poetry, offers a frank, multifaceted portrait of the author's experiences hustling the streets of Vancouver, and how those years took away her self-esteem and nearly destroyed her; at the crux of this autobiographical narrative is the tender celebration of poetry and literature. Amber Dawn is also author of the Lambda Award-winning novel *Sub Rosa* and was the 2012 winner of the Writers' Trust of Canada Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT writers. She has an MFA in Creative Writing (UBC).

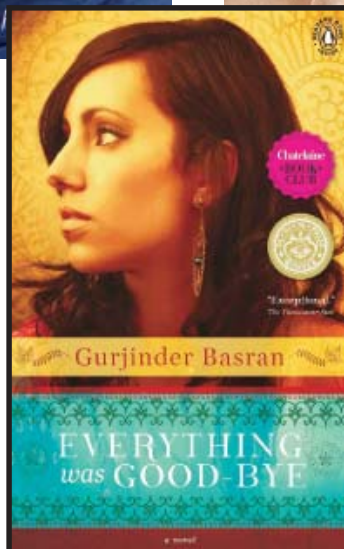
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Carmen Aguirre
in *Blue Box*

Playwright and actor Carmen Aguirre was in the news recently for being owed \$50,000 by her publisher, Douglas & McIntyre, for unpaid royalties resulting from her Canada Reads bestselling memoir, *Something Fierce*. Undeterred, she has moved forward with the publication of her latest play, **Blue Box** (Talon \$16.95), Aguirre's one-woman show of terror and romance. Like her memoir, it revisits the dangerous mountain passes of Chile, but *Blue Box* also includes a perilous detour into the roller-coaster world of Hollywood, where the protagonist has an ardent love affair with a TV star... M.A.C. Farrant's stage play, *My Turquoise Years*, runs at Vancouver's Arts Club, April 4-May 5, based on her memoir of the same title, originally published by D&M as a comic coming-of-age story set in 1960, a time of postwar optimism... Mark Leiren-Young, winner of the Leacock Humour Medal for *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen*, has an adaptation of that book about his stint as a reporter in Williams Lake running May 10-25 also at the Arts Club, starring Zachary Stevenson and directed by TJ Dawe.

Blue Box: 978-0-88922-757-6; Turquoise: 978-1553650379



Gurjinder Basran's first novel **Everything Was Goodbye** has been released in the U.S. as a Pintail Book by Penguin Canada. After it won the First Search for the Great BC Novel contest sponsored by Mona Fertig's Mother Tongue publishing imprint—relocated recently from Saltspring Island to Savary Island—it received the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and was selected as a Top 5 Canada Reads Choice for the BC/Yukon. A shortlist for Mother Tongue's Second Search For the Great BC Novel contest will be announced at the end of March, and the winner at the end of May. Shortlist judges reading submissions are Gurjinder Basran and David Chariandy, and the final judge is Caroline Adderson.

Carla Funk has won the 2012 Constance Rooke Creative Nonfiction Prize from the *Malahat Review* for her story, 'Returning,' selected from 125 entries by final judge, Madeline Sonik. Funk's story appears in issue 181 of *Malahat Review*, and she receives a \$1,000 prize.



Carla Funk



Publisher/ Writer:
Alan Twigg

Editor/Production:
David Lester

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Vol. 27, No. 1**

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Contributors: John Moore, Joan Givner, Sage Birchwater, Shane McCune
Mark Forsythe, Louise Donnelly, Cherie Thiessen, Writing not otherwise
credited is by staff. Design: Get-to-the-Point Graphics
Consultants: Christine Rondeau, Monique Sherrett, Sharon Jackson
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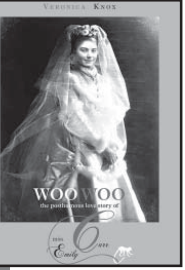
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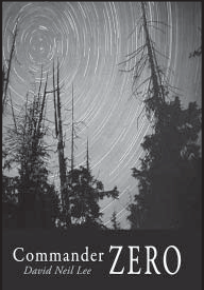
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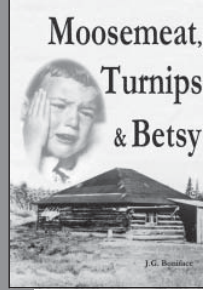
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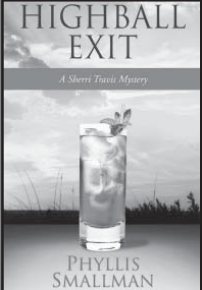
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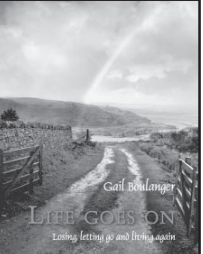
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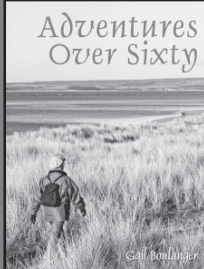
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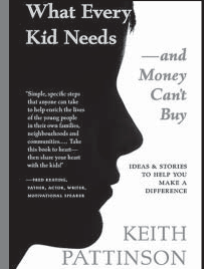
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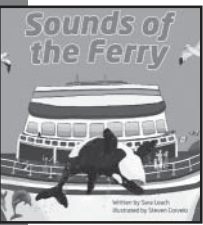
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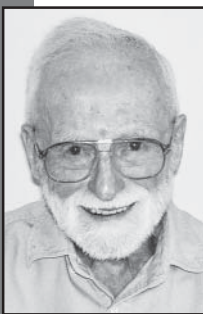
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Howard Overend,
Salmon Arm, author of Book Guy: A Librarian in the Peace (2001), is struggling feebly at age 94 to finish Yon Far Country: Tales of the Peace. Great stuff to be sure.

AUTHOR

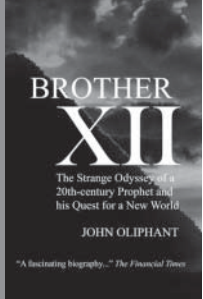
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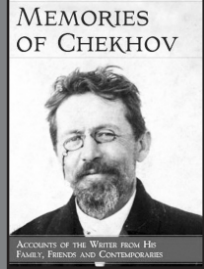
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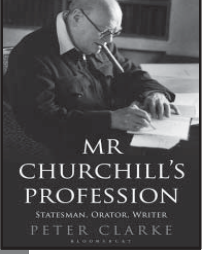
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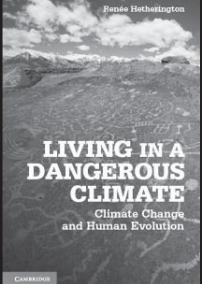
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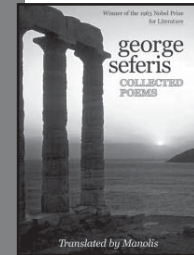
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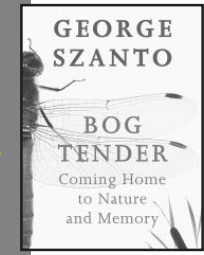
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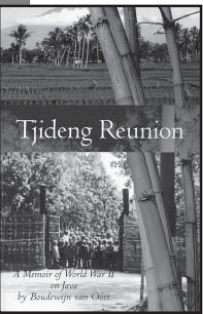
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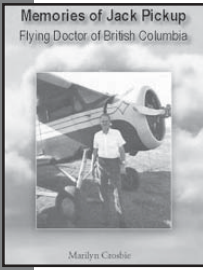
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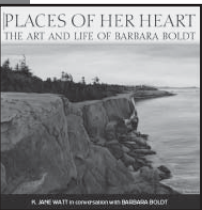
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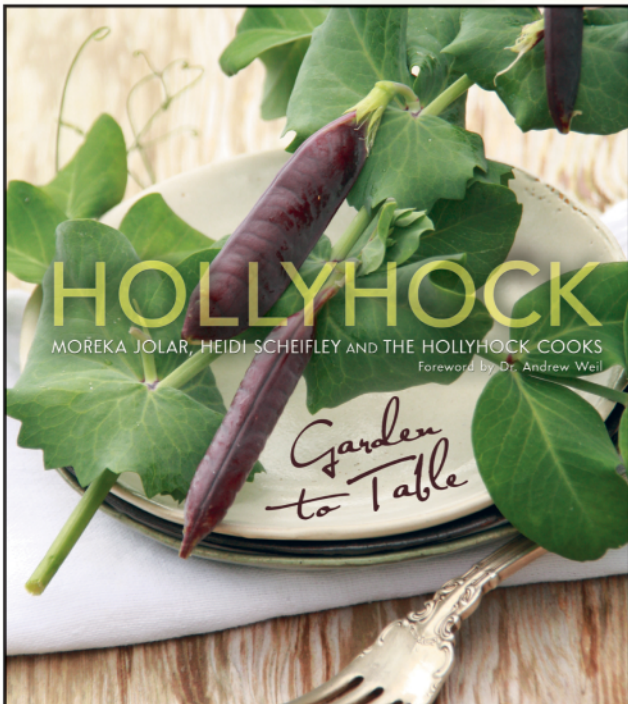
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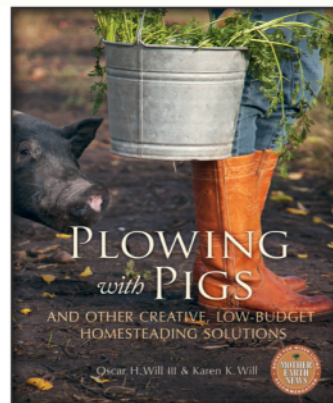
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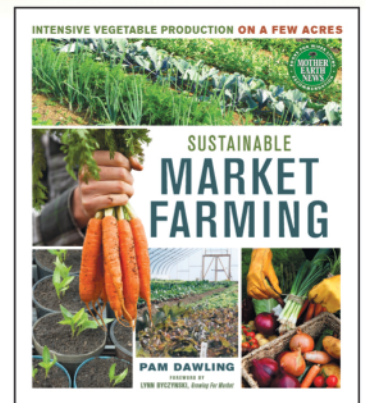
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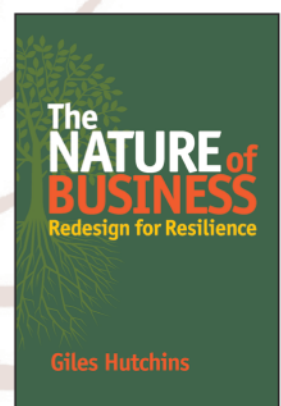
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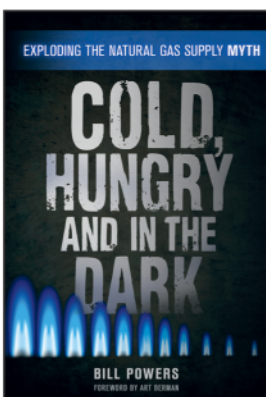
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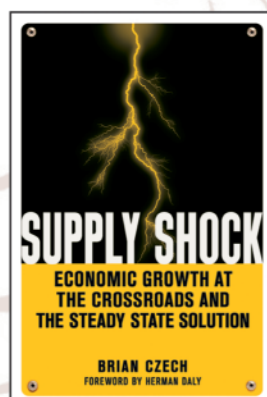
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AROUND BC



This Mack truck and its load of lumber were both destroyed on the Hope-Princeton Highway after an oil line caught fire and the trucker's fire extinguisher ran dry. From *Trucking in British Columbia*.

KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Trucking in British Columbia (Harbour \$49.95) is the first overview of the B.C. trucking industry since Andy Craig's *Trucking* in 1972. In synch with the 100th anniversary of the B.C. Truckers Association, this hardcover went like hotcakes at the annual Transpo convention of B.C. truckers in Kelowna. It was written by Dan Francis, the same guy who edited the *Encyclopedia of British Columbia*. A book about trucking won't win the Giller Prize; it serves a local constituency. The same can be said for **John Clarke: Explorer of the Coast Mountains** (Harbour \$29.95) by Lisa Baile. This tribute to a mountaineering local hero attracted 700 people to a book launch in North Vancouver. They stayed for six hours.

"Books like these remind me why I went into publishing," says Harbour boss Howard White. "There is a B.C. culture that needs to be recognized. And not one of those people who bought those books is going to buy an e-book."

In February, White surprised the Canadian publishing industry by acquiring approximately 500 backlist and in-print titles of his long-time rival in our neck of the woods, Scott McIntyre. Howard and Mary White will now operate Douglas & McIntyre as their own separate imprint. See story in Lookout section, page 19.



After a cache of remarkable photos was recently found at the infamous Penthouse nightclub in Vancouver and incorporated into Aaron Chapman's **Liquor, Lust, and the Law** (Arsenal \$24.95), some 250 copies were sold at the book launch held at the old-school strip club in December. The line-up to get into the event went around the block. Guests included



D&M Publishers Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection but other publishers in B.C. are still flourishing as efficiently and effectively as ever.



Penthouse streakers at the Vancouver Canucks versus the New York Islanders game, Pacific Coliseum, 1974. From *Liquor, Lust and the Law*.

Dal Richards, Nardwuar the Human Serviette, Randy Rampage of D.O.A. and retired police officers who used to check on the club during its heyday. With pho-

tos of entertainers such as Louis Armstrong, Harry Belafonte and Billie Holiday, as well as exotic dancers, *Liquor, Lust and the Law* gives the impression it was mostly fun n' games on Seymour Street, including the time Penthouse owners hired streakers to surprise hockey fans at the Pacific Coliseum.

That same week, some 120 copies of David Wong's pictorial history of Chinese immigrants in western North America, **Escape to Gold Mountain** (Arsenal \$19.95) were sold during a launch at the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden that included youngsters as well as Chinese Canadian war veterans.

continued on page 8

The Brothers Philliponi: Joe, Jimmy and Ross (and unidentified waiter), Penthouse, 1968. Joe would be murdered during a robbery in 1983.



AROUND BC



Two hundred people attended a book launch in an airport hangar at the South Cariboo Regional Airport, located at 108 Mile Ranch, for **Flyover: British Columbia's Cariboo Chilcotin Coast, An Aviation Legacy** (Country Light \$59.95 hc, \$39.95 sc) with photos by Chris Harris and text by Sage Birchwater. "We had to send a brigade to the restaurant next door to bring in more chairs," says Harris, the publisher. For *Flyover*, his eleventh book since 1993, Harris also arranged events in Wells, Williams Lake, Port Moody, Prince George, Bella Coola (Moose Hall), Anahim Lake, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Langley, Vancouver, Whistler, Surrey, Kelowna, Kamloops, Fort Langley and Quesnel.

The event at Anahim Lake School, with less than 50 people, resulted in sales of 40 books.

The airport gathering included a tribute to legendary local pilot Gideon Schuetze who has accumulated more than 42,000 bush flying hours. Unable to make the initial launch at the 108 Airport, Schuetze attended subsequent launches in both Williams Lake and Bella Coola, communities 450 km apart. From his pilot's perspective, it was not a big deal. He and his wife Dora have a home in both communities.

Although the 82-year-old Gideon is still flying, he drove to the two launches he attended.

SUCCESS STORIES AROUND:

An overflow crowd attended the launch of *Flyover* in a hangar at the South Cariboo Airport, 108 Mile Ranch.



The century-long history of *The Vancouver Sun* entitled **Making Headlines** (Sandhill \$34.95) reputedly sold more than 6,000 copies from October to January. Compiled by Shelley Fralic, Kate Bird and others, the lively compendium spans events in B.C. and around the world from 1912 to 2012. The long-serving and well-respected library manager for the newspaper's enormously useful archives, Debbie Millward, the main person responsible for maintaining the archive that generated this bestseller, was unceremoniously chopped from the newspaper's payroll coincidental with the success of this book. It was a cost-cutting measure by the newspaper chain's head office, in deference to the incoming digital age.



Keith G. Powell reports sales of his self-published historical novel **Raising Kain** (Wild Horse \$19.95) at the Cranbrook Farmer's market brought sales over the 1,000 copies mark. "It is known in the book industry that if a book sells 5,000 copies in Canada or 1,000 in British Columbia it is considered a bestseller," says Powell. "So I guess at over 1,000 copies sold, it makes my second book a 'Kootenay' bestseller. Having accomplished almost

70 first ascents or new routes on peaks throughout the Canadian Rockies and 59 ascents (29 first ascents) in New Zealand, Conrad Kain, who is buried in the Cranbrook cemetery, was "the prince of Canadian mountain guides" during the Golden Age of mountaineering in Canada.

Born in Nasswald, Austria, Conrad Kain first came to Canada in 1909. He eventually settled in Wilmer and died at age 50 after climbing Mount Louis.

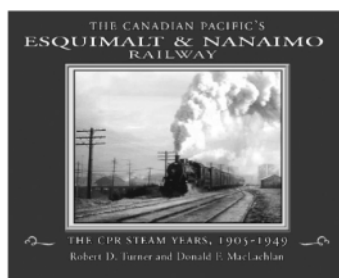


Carrying a bag of newspapers on his shoulders, *Vancouver Sun* paperboy John Follett wades through the flooded Milner-Fort Langley area in 1948.



Debbie Millward, former manager of the *Vancouver Sun's* research library, with Margaret Atwood on a tour of the library.

BACK IN PRINT



**The Canadian Pacific's
Esquimalt & Nanaimo
Railway**

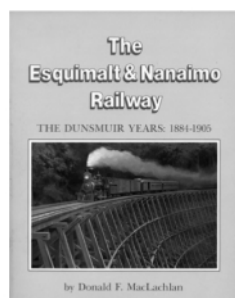
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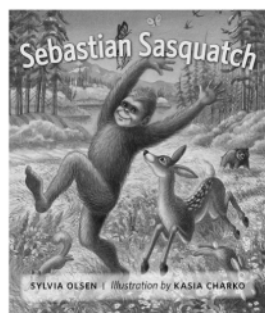
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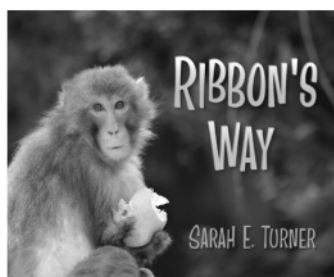
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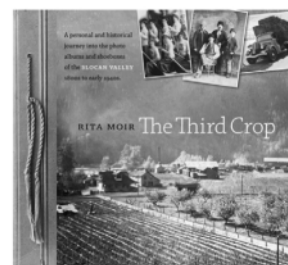
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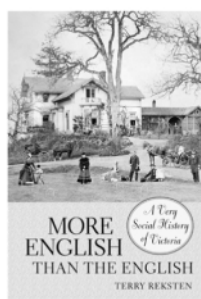
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AROUND BC



MAURICE CHANDLER PHOTO / ROBERT TURNER COLLECTION



The E&N Railway on Vancouver Island was the first railway in Canada to make a complete switch to diesel power. The final days of steam on the E&N came in January and February of 1949, as evidenced by this rare colour image of a train leaving Victoria, from **The Canadian Pacific's Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway: The CPR Steam Years, 1905–1949** (Sono Nis \$49.94 HC / \$39.95 PB) by Robert Turner and Donald F. MacLachlan. This lavish topseller is a project of the B.C. Railway Historical Association.

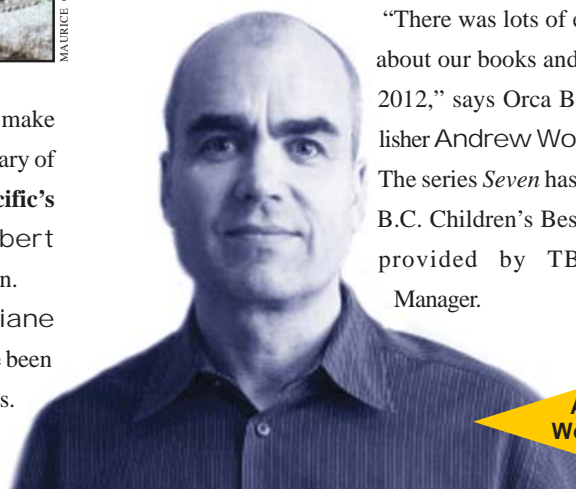
“Bob Turner was the first author my father signed on when he bought Sono Nis in 1976,” says his current publisher, Diane Morriss of Winlaw, “and here we are thirty-seven years later still publishing beautiful books together. His books have been the bread and butter of the press, helping sustain us through lean years that have felled many other small and large presses. The E&N history is his 16th on transportation history. Already we have many readers looking forward to volume two, coming out later this year. We have a huge list of people waiting to buy it.”

HC: 978-1-55039-206-7; PB 978-1-55039-204-3



As the country's leading producer of books for young readers, Orca Books of Victoria reports their new **Seven** series [see *BCBW Autumn*] is going gangbusters. Its Orca Soundings series marked its 10th anniversary with more than one million copies sold worldwide; and its Text2Reader program linked up with LearnNowB.C.

A small busload of Orca titles were nominated for the 2013 **YALSA Quick Picks** for Reluctant Young Adult Readers List from the American Library Association, including all seven of the titles in *Seven (the series)*, plus four titles in the Orca Currents series, two from the Orca Soundings series, a threesome from Orca Sports, as well as the graphic novel *I, Witness* by Norah McClintock and Mike Deas.



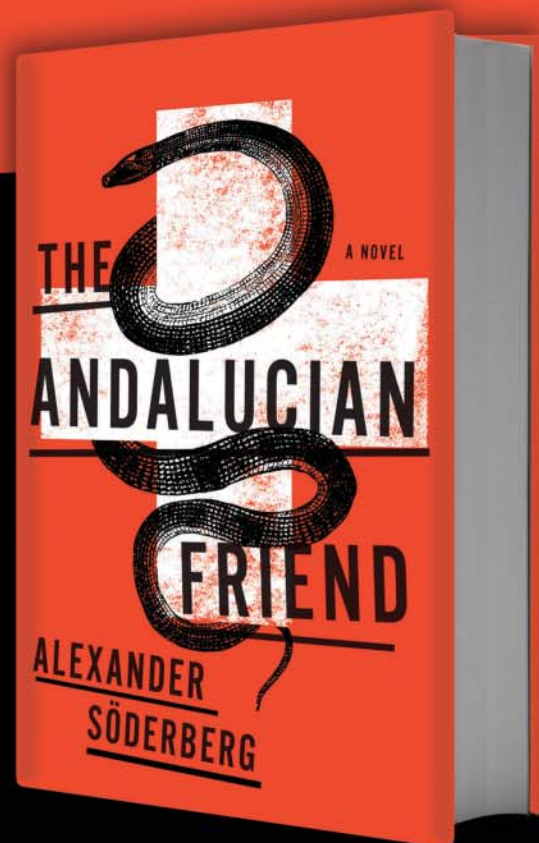
Andrew Wooldridge

“There was lots of enthusiasm about our books and authors in 2012,” says Orca Books' publisher Andrew Wooldridge. The series *Seven* has topped the B.C. Children's Bestseller List provided by TBM Book Manager.

ENEMIES ARE EVERYWHERE

“Söderberg's excellent debut. . . . The jam-packed plot's big-picture view of politics, business, and an international crime ring illustrates how being surrounded by violence affects individuals. . . . Fans of Nordic thrillers will find much to like.”
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AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS & E-BOOKS ARE SOLD.

PHASE ONE

IN 1985, CHRIS AND JUDITH PLANT WERE BACK-TO-the-landers of sorts, seeking the communal experience twenty miles down a gravel road from Lillooet, producing an environmental newspaper called *The New Catalyst*, a let's-fix-the-world endeavor that soon led them into publishing books.

Started in 1990, their fledgling publishing imprint called New Society eventually took over its sister company—New Society Publishers, Philadelphia—with whom they had worked for six years.

“We made a conscious decision to do our bit for the ‘turn-around decade’ that was called for by David Suzuki and others,” says Chris ‘Kip’ Plant, “But somehow that turn-around decade turned into two decades.”

Based out of Gabriola Island, the Plants parlayed their dedication to “bioregionalism” into a successful vehicle for promoting ecological consciousness and community action world-wide.

Having encouraged the use of recycled paper for books, the Plants received the James Douglas Award for outstanding publishing in British Columbia in 2003. By 2005, they were the first publishing company in North America, and only the second publishing company in the world, to declare themselves “carbon neutral.”

PHASE TWO

AFAMILY HEALTH PROBLEM PROMPTED THEM TO RETIRE and sell New Society to Scott McIntyre’s Douglas & McIntyre, often touted as the largest publishing house in Western Canada. It’s possible Lone Pine in Alberta might have greater sales worldwide. D&M was by then Vancouver businessman Mark Scott’s company, since his purchase of the majority of the shares just prior to the acquisition of New Society, but McIntyre remained on board.

“Their list had integrity,” Chris Plant said, “and we had obvious compatibilities with their Greystone imprint, David Suzuki’s publisher.”



SO D&M PUBLISHERS INC. BECAME A CONSORTIUM of three imprints; New Society, Douglas & McIntyre and Greystone. The new owner, Mark Scott, was an acquaintance of Scott McIntyre. “One of the trickiest challenges any company faces is getting succession right,” McIntyre said in 2012, “and I’m very proud of the path we are embarking upon.”

With McIntyre at the helm as its chairman, D&M Publishers Inc., filed for protection from bankruptcy in November of 2012, having accumulated debts exceeding \$6 million, including more than half a million owing to authors.

The second phase of New Society—through no fault of the imprint—was in jeopardy. Judith Plant herself became one of D&M’s major creditors because the full purchase of New Society by the D&M consortium had yet to be completed.

So what to do?

PHASE THREE

THE PLANTS OPTED TO COME OUT OF RETIREMENT and buy back their press, with the essential help of their financial angel, friend Carol Newell of Renewal Partners who had helped them from the outset.

Whereas almost the entire staff at D&M in Vancouver was rendered jobless by the business failure, New Society has remained stable, staff-wise, and they’re now proceeding with a full spring list with the usual range of sustainability titles and one book with a distinctly local flavour.

Signaling the phoenix-like resurgence of New Society, **Hollyhock: Garden to Table** (New Society \$24.95) by Moreka Jolar and Heidi Scheifley reasserts the presence of a unique B.C. institution, Hollyhock, a centre for learning and well-being, B.C.’s Findhorn, created in 1982 on the grounds of the former Cold Mountain Institute on Cortes Island.

Near its ocean-view kitchen, the world renowned learning centre of Hollyhock boasts a spectacular organic garden.

GROW ON YOUR OWN

Much admired as leaders of the sustainability movement, **Chris and Judith Plant** are recycling themselves, buying back their New Society imprint from D&M Publishers Inc. Here’s the three-part story of how their healthy, homemade New Society imprint continues to live up to its name.



New Society authors
Moreka Jolar
and Heidi
Scheifley at
Hollyhock,
Cortes Island



Chris and Judith Plant, 2009

Based on thirty years of cooking, *Hollyhock: Garden to Table* provides more than 200 new garden-inspired recipes as well as growing tips from Hollyhock’s own Master Gardener, Nori Fletcher. Moreka Jolar has been a chef at Hollyhock for fifteen years and Scheifley is a certified gourmet natural foods chef who has cooked around the world.

The Plants’ first B.C.-grown book upon their return to ownership harkens back to their roots in Lillooet—all puns intended—where communalism was viewed as a healthy and natural necessity. It’s also a follow-up to *Hollyhock Cooks* (New Society 2004), co-authored by Jolar.

Now New Society also intends to deal head-on with 21st century technological challenges. “We’re already selling all of our books as e-books,” says Judith Plant, “and an increasing volume of sales are electronic.”

“The real challenge is adapting as a publisher to the broader electronic culture. We must consider ourselves more as purveyors of information that can be parlayed in diverse forms than strictly as a producer of books alone. Being fluid in such a world is crucial.

“The intelligent, committed and passionate people on our staff, many of whom have spent most of their working lives with the company, are raring to go. So, yes, this amounts to a re-birth of sorts.”

This third phase of New Society will also provide an opportunity for a partial employee buy-in to the company. A portion of the shares are being made available for the staff to buy anytime, and a further portion can be bought at a very attractive price, provided certain sales and profitability targets are met.

978-0-86571-727-5

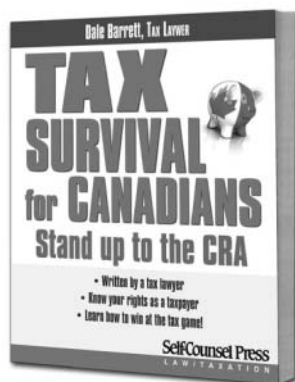
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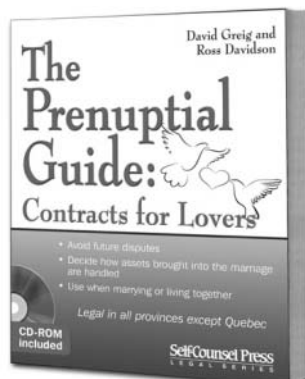
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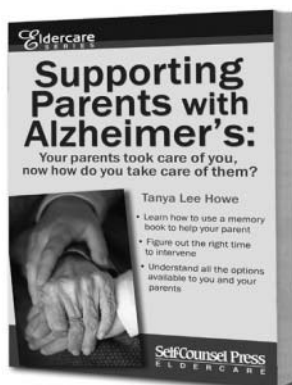


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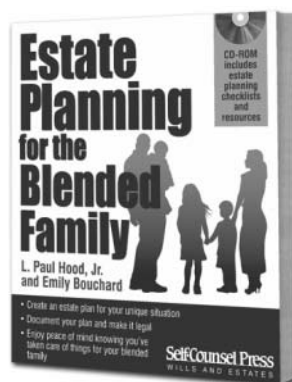
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and Emily Bouchard

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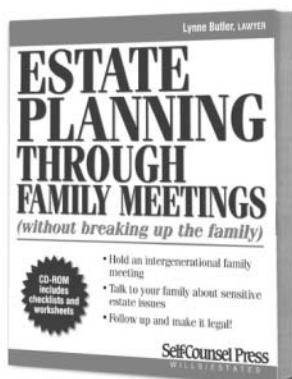


Estate Planning through Family Meetings: (without breaking up the family)

by Lynne Butler

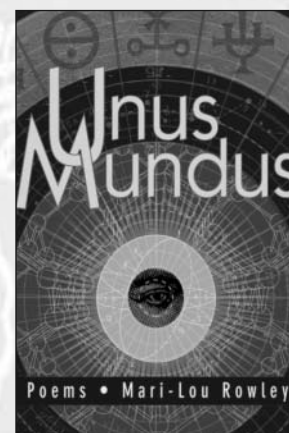
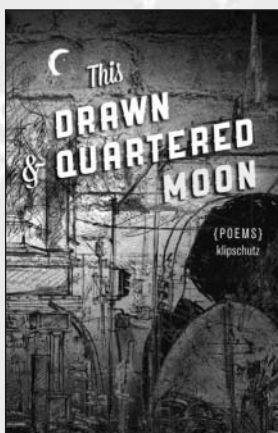
- Hold effective inter-generational family meetings.
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Our Spring Agenda



This Day in Vancouver is a compendium of little known — as well as celebrated — facts about the great city of Vancouver. In fact, one for every day of the year ::

Everything Rustles is a memoir about the tangle of midlife — the long look back, the shorter look forward, and the moments right now that shimmer and rustle ::

Glossolalia is a series of poetic monologues spoken by the 34 wives of Joseph Smith, founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints :: **Unus Mundus** explores how we are shifting away from a union with the cosmos toward a desire to conquer its mysteries and exploit its resources ::

This Drawn & Quartered Moon makes San Francisco its epicenter and from there launches a critical and passionate assessment of America at the turn of the last millennium :: plus fine new editions of two "first" novels:

Teresa McWhirter's **Some Girls Do**, and Annette Lapointe's Giller-nominated novel, **Stolen**.



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Ignorance not bliss

UBC environmentalist
Renée Hetherington
voices optimism.

WITH 7 BILLION PEOPLE on the planet and billions more expected to arrive over the next fifty years, we can innovate and change, or we can go extinct.

According to the latest annual Global Environmental Outlook report from the United Nations Environmental Programme [UNEP], world leaders have signed up for 500 international agreements in the past 50 years, thereby generating “treaty congestion.” It takes years to negotiate these treaties, then most are willfully ignored. Having examined 90 of the major environmental protection agreements in the world, UNEP has discovered:

- “Some” progress was shown in 40 goals (including expansion of protected areas, such as national parks, and efforts to reduce deforestation).
- “Little or no” progress was shown in 24 goals (including climate change, fish stocks, drought and desertification).
- “Further deterioration” was shown for eight goals (including coral reefs).

• “No data” was available for more than a dozen others.

But there is hope.

Renée Hetherington’s engaging recapping of both human and earth history, **Living in a Dangerous Climate: Climate Change and Human Evolution** (Cambridge \$28.95), explains how we got to the 21st century as a dominant species, and why we can rationally hope to exist for a few more centuries.

Written to appeal to both a general audience and an academic one, Hetherington poses poignant questions about the innovation, survival and dominance of the *Homo sapiens* species and provides insightful answers:

BC BookWorld: Why is innovation important?

Renée Hetherington: Looking back on Earth’s history, we have seen that when a crisis strikes, there are three options facing species: (1) move out of the affected areas; (2) innovate and change; or (3) go extinct. Humans are now the dominant species, but our options to respond to change remain the same. With 7 billion people on the planet and billions more expected to arrive over the next fifty years, we cannot migrate to somewhere new. We can innovate and change, or we can go extinct.

BW: How innovative has the *Homo* species been?

RH: Innovation at the species level creates variety, and there has been much variety in our past – *H. habilis*, *H. erectus*, *H. ergaster*, *H. heidelbergensis*, *H. neanderthalensis*, *H. floresiensis*. But today, there is only one remaining *Homo* species – *Homo sapiens*.



Renée Hetherington

BW: What made *H. sapiens* innovate and survive?

RH: *H. sapiens* survived during previous rapid climate changes because of the three Cs: crisis, communication, and collaboration. When crises hit, humans moved into restricted territories where they could survive. They brought with them different ways, responses, cultures, and behaviours. They communicated these different ways of being with each other. Then they collaborated. Intelligence emerged, as did innovative ideas and behaviours like complex stone tools, agriculture and civilization.

BW: How did we become the most dominant of all species on the planet?

RH: Around 10,000 years ago, humans began to control and exploit plants, other animals, and nature generally. We responded to

crises by increasingly controlling our environment so as to limit the amount of change with which we had to deal. We grew food, irrigated crops, stored food, heated and cooled our homes. We proliferated. Our dominance continued because our innovations kept up with the relatively minor climate and environmental changes we experienced. However, when innovations and behavioural adjustments did not keep up with a rapidly changing environment, extinction reared its dreaded head as the demise of Maya and Easter Islander civilizations attest.

BW: What is different about today?

RH: Climate change is not new, nor are species extinctions. What is new is the fact that the level of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere has escalated to levels never before experienced by *H. sapiens*, or observed in the scientific records that stretch over the last 800,000 years... Over the past 160 years, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by the same amount it increased over the previous 21,000 years, a period during which the Earth moved out of a glacial deep freeze and into the moderate climate of the 1800s. Yet although we are able to predict that this latest increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide will lead to future climate change, we are unable to feel its full effects here and now because it takes time for these rapid atmospheric changes to work their way through Earth’s climate system. What is different is that our current behaviour will have long-term impacts on humanity and all species on Earth. So although we can predict, we cannot yet feel the crisis – so little change is stimulated.

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THE 5 CENT MURDER



ALFRED COOL

“U-235 & Me” to be released June 2013

Words, Words, Words

Essays and Memoirs

by **GEORGE BOWERING**

Find out what Canada's first Poet-Laureate most cherishes about writers and writing; who Al Purdy was; what David McFadden's work pays attention to; when the world of poetry changed; where Artie Gold appeared as a light fixture in our darkness; how bpNichol's Martyrology legitimized the vernacular; why we cannot read history without encountering Shakespeare.



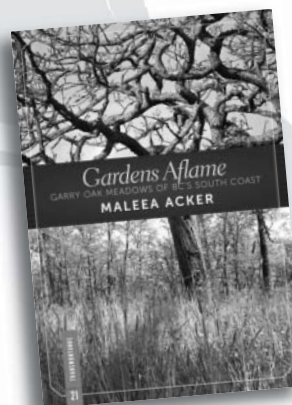
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Gardens Aflame

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.



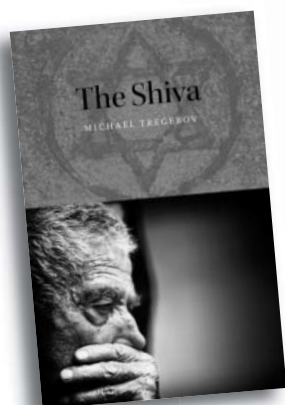
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IKMQ

by **ROGER FARR**

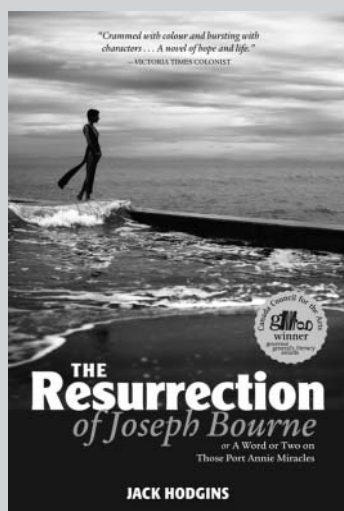
Avant-garde poetry infused with play and humour by Gabriola Island resident Roger Farr. Follow the characters I, K, M and Q as they convert houses to commercial grow-ops, manufacture explosives, go all in on the flop, conduct meetings according to Roberts, plot a prison break, score an all-important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



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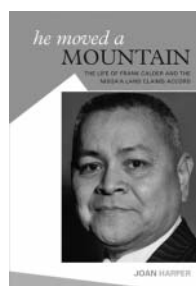
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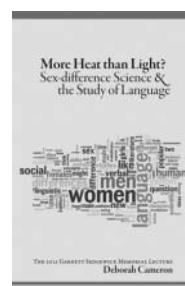


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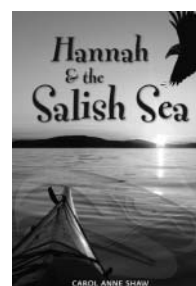


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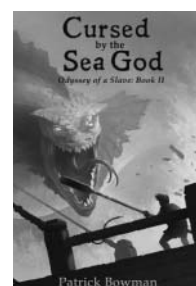


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IF ASKED TO NAME B.C.'S topselling authors, most people might consider Douglas Coupland, or W.P. Kinsella, or William Gibson.

Few would cite David Day whose publicity materials state his six titles about the fantasies of J.R.R. Tolkien alone have sold nearly 2.5 million copies in 20 languages since 1978.

The first of his Tolkien six-pack, *The Tolkien Bestiary*, was originally published in B.C. but written after Day had moved to London. If it has truly appeared in over 180 editions in 20 languages, an argument can be made it's the most widely-read book ever first published from B.C.

Coincidental with three Peter Jackson films based on *The Hobbit*, due in 2012, 2013 and 2014, Day's six Tolkien-related books are now being reprinted in new editions.

As well, Day's book, *Tolkien's Ring*, is illustrated by Alan Lee, the Oscar-winning artist and art director of Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings Trilogy* and *The Hobbit* films.

David Day didn't read *Lord of the Rings* until his late teens. He got the idea for an encyclopedia of an imaginary world while taking a bibliography course at UBC.



BORN AND RAISED IN VICTORIA, B.C. IN 1947, David Day edited his high school newspaper, contributed sports articles to the *Victoria Times* and worked on Vancouver Island for five years as a logger.

He travelled in Europe, staying mainly in Greece, where he wrote some of the poems that were included in his first book, *The Cowichan* (Oolichan, 1975; Harbour, 1976).

"The material for my first book came out of journals kept in the late sixties and early seventies in the Caycuse and Nitinat logging camps in the Cowichan Valley.

"These were logging tales filled with the sound of diesel engines, chainsaws and falling timber mixed with the native Indian lore about wildlife: eagles, bears, mountain lions and elk.

"Most of the poems only began to emerge from those pages as finished works over the next year and a half of living on the Aegean island of Paros in Greece.

"While in Greece, I sent a dozen poems to Robin Skelton at the *Malahat Review* in the hope that he might choose one, and I was astonished that he took the lot, editing them down to one long seven-page sequence, entitled 'Logging: Cowichan Lake.'

"Upon returning to Victoria, I entered UVic's creative writing program. At this time, Gary Geddes was putting together Oxford University Press's first anthology of B.C. literature, *Skookum Wawa* and he chose a couple of my poems.

"He then recommended me to Ron Smith who was just starting Oolichan Books, and Ron published *The Cowichan*. Over the next year, Ron and I had something of a falling out, and Howie White at Harbour Publishing generously offered to publish a second edition with sepia archival photographs."



IN THE YEAR DAVID DAY GRADUATED FROM the department of creative writing at UVic,

"The books I write are far more profound than I am."
DAVID DAY

TOLKIEN ANYONE?

Dealing in death and fantasy has made David Day perhaps the foremost B.C. author you've never heard of.

he completed a non-fiction assignment for the provincial archives called *Men of the Forest* (1977) and he co-edited *Many Voices: An Anthology of Contemporary Canadian Indian Poetry* (J.J. Douglas, 1977) with Marilyn Bowering.

The first of Day's half-dozen books of natural history was his *Doomsday Book of Animals* (Wiley, 1981), with an introduction by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, chosen in 1981 as a *Time Magazine* 'Book of the Year.'

As an author, Day deals a lot in death. *Doomsday Book of Animals* was followed by *The Whale War* (D&M, 1987) and *Eco Wars: True Tales of Environmental Madness* (Key Porter, 1989).

The latter is an encyclopedia of ecological activism that cites the deaths of Chico Mendes (murdered, Brazil, 1988), Dian Fossey (murdered, Rwanda, 1985), Fernando Pereira (murdered, New Zealand, 1985), Hilda Murrell (murdered, England, 1984), Valery Rinchinov (murdered, USSR, 1981), Joy Adamson (murdered, Kenya,

David Day holds a replica of the egg of the Elephant Bird (also known as the Rukh or Aepyornis Maximus), one of the extinct species featured in his book, *Nevermore*. It was ten feet tall, lived in Madagascar, weighed half a ton and became extinct around 1700. Its eggs were the largest ever to exist on the planet. They were four times the size of any dinosaur egg and had a fluid capacity of two gallons, the equivalent to 200 chicken eggs. The estimated weight was 25 lbs.

1980), Karen Silkwood (murdered? USA, 1974) and Guy Bradley (murdered, USA, 1905).



EARLY IN HIS CAREER DAVID DAY WROTE for *Punch* in England. He has also written columns for Britain's *Daily Mail* and *Evening Standard*. *The Whale War* was the basis for a BBC television film of the same name.

Eco Wars was published in the United States as *The Environmental Wars*. *The Emperor's Panda* was adapted and performed by the Young People's Theatre of

Toronto. *Gothic* was adapted as a stage performance by magician Simon Drake at the Royal Victoria Museum's Magic, Shamanism and Poetry Festival in 1987. His 100-part television series *Lost Animals*, narrated by Greta Scacchi, has been translated into 18 languages.

Day has lived in Toronto, London, Spain, Greece and Victoria, including a stint working for McClelland & Stewart in Ontario.

In the mid-1980s, David Day brought Britain's poet laureate Ted Hughes to B.C. to read in Victoria and Vancouver; and later with Linda Rogers he organized the Spirit Quest Festival in Victoria. Since 2007, Day has lived in Toronto but makes annual summer migrations to B.C.



IN 2012, DAVID DAY'S READING TOUR TO promote his newest book, **Nevermore: A Book of Hours: Meditations on Extinction** (Quattro \$20), coincided with his father's 88th birthday and a totem pole-raising ceremony on the grounds of the Lieutenant Governor General's mansion in Victoria by his old friend, Kwakiutl Chief Tony Hunt.

Illustrated by four wildlife artists, *Nevermore: A Book of Hours* is a medieval bestiary—part natural history, part human history, part mythology, and part literature and poetry—as well as a book of remembrance, updating his *Encyclopedia of Vanished Species* from 1989.

Day links the fates of extinct animals to human characters—Julius Caesar to the Aurochs, Jacques Cartier to the Great

continued on page 17

THE TOLKIEN SIX-PACK:

Four new Day/Tolkien editions exclusive to Indigo-Chapters bookstores are being released as *Tolkien's World: A Bestiary* (Bounty/Octopus), *Tolkien's Ring* (Pavilion/Anova), *A Guide to Tolkien* (Bounty/Octopus) and *The Hobbit Companion* (Pavilion/Anova). A fifth title in October, *Tolkien: The Illustrated Encyclopedia* (Simon & Schuster) will be followed by *World of Tolkien: Mythological Sources of Lord of the Rings* (Bounty/Octopus 2013). These Tolkien-related titles were earlier released as *The Tolkien Bestiary* (Harbour, 1978), *The Hobbit Companion* (1997), *Tolkien: The Illustrated Encyclopedia* (1992), *The Tolkien Companion* (Mandarin-Mitchell-Beasley, 1993) and *Tolkien's Ring* (Harper-Collins, 1994).

TIMES WERE TOUGH everywhere in the 1930s, and the Victoria couple had been looking for a new direction. Dick first came out on foot, walking along a rough telegraph trail from Port Alberni to Kennedy Lake. There, he was met by a friend from the west coast, and the pair canoed down to the ocean and spent a few days exploring Clayoquot and Tofino.

On his return trip home via Ucluelet, Dick's route took him down Long Beach. Walking on the huge yet deserted beach, serenaded by the background rumble of waves hitting sand, he fell in love with the place. Back in Victoria, he approached Peg about the idea of making Long Beach their new home.

"We were looking for something and ready to leap at anything that was different than city living," Peg recalled years later. "Sure we argued it back and forth, pros and cons, and were we crazy or weren't we, but I was willing to give it a try."

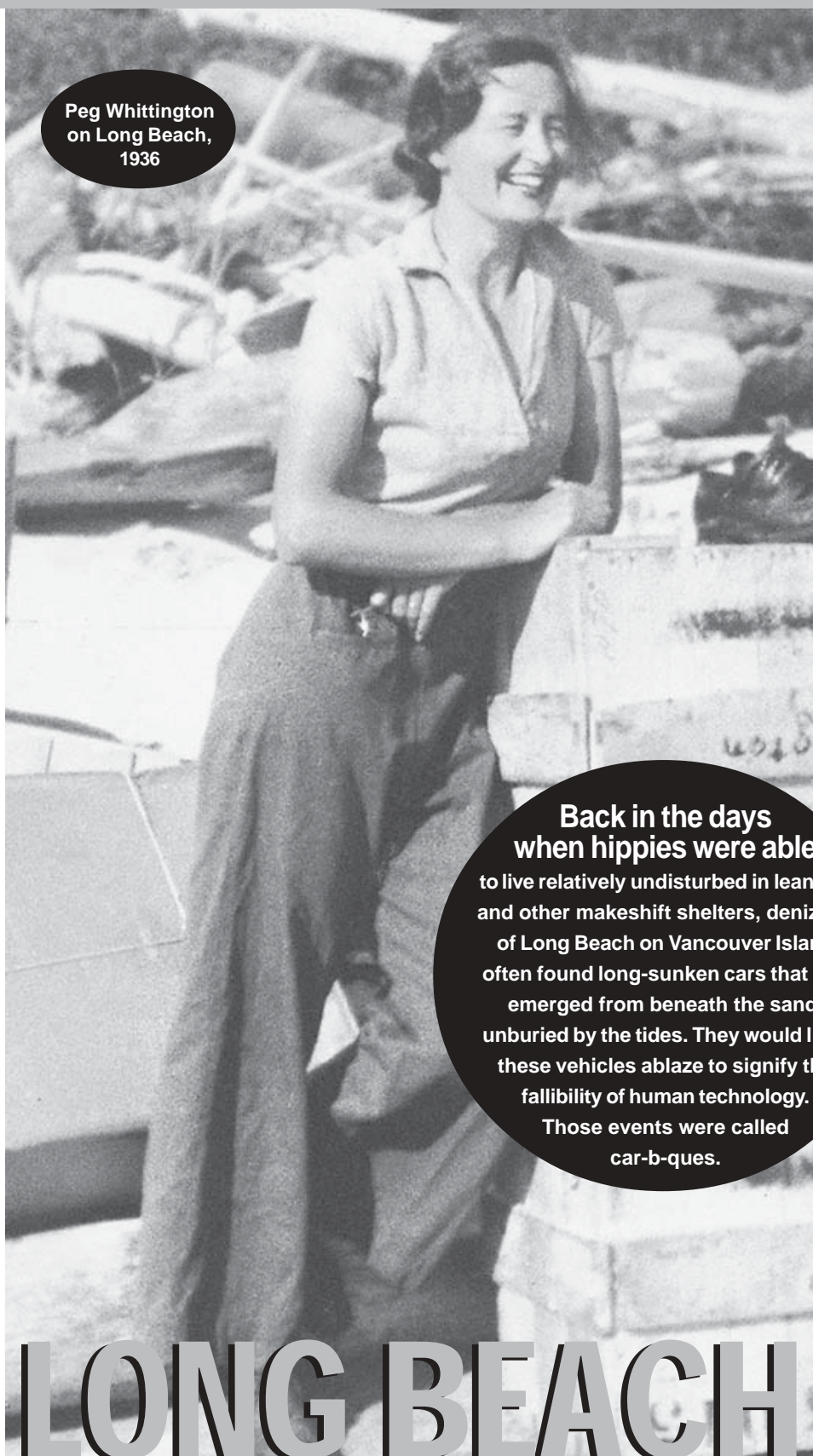
The \$300 the couple brought with them supported them for a year and financed the first house they built. They lived off the beach's plenty, dining regularly on clams, crabs, and salmon and supplementing that with flour, sugar, and other staples from town.

The Whittingtons' first task was to set up a camp. They put up their large canvas tent, moved their supplies in, and then grabbed their machetes. They had purchased the lot where Fred Tibbs had built his Tidal Wave Ranch. His house was still standing, higher up on the cliff above the beach. To get to it, the couple had to hack their way up through the wall of salal. It took three weeks. One of them would cut the brush and the other would clear it away. They found the single-room cabin in rough shape. At least twenty years had passed since Tibbs went off to build his islet castle near Tofino. The logs were rotten and wind blew through the walls, but the roof was sound. Dick and Peg cleaned it out, chinked the logs, and installed windows they'd hauled up the hill from the tent. The couple continued to sleep at the beach in the early days of their arrival, but once the cabin was ready, complete with a tiny tin stove, they moved in.

During the first year and a half, the Whittingtons chipped their home and livelihood out of the forest fronting Long Beach. They cleared an area large enough for a new house, dug a well, and put in a garden. Neither had homesteading experience, yet both were apparently well suited to it. They built their first house completely of wood they salvaged off the beach, mostly sawed lumber lost off the decks of passing ships. For the foundation they used rocks and creosoted posts, and for the roof, hand-cut shakes.

As with the Lovekins' place, the activity at the Whittingtons' property became a topic of curiosity and conversation. Any visitors to the beach made sure to stop by

Peg Whittington on Long Beach, 1936



Back in the days when hippies were able to live relatively undisturbed in lean-tos and other makeshift shelters, denizens of Long Beach on Vancouver Island often found long-sunken cars that had emerged from beneath the sand, unburied by the tides. They would light these vehicles ablaze to signify the fallibility of human technology. Those events were called car-b-ques.

LONG BEACH LONG AGO

Long-time Long Beach resident Adrienne Mason has done a terrific job digging up delightful stories and characters for **Long Beach Wild** (Greystone \$24.95), none more essential to the spirit of the area than pioneers Peg and Dick Whittington, who first arrived together on a beautiful sunny day in August, 1936. In this excerpt, Mason has recalled what happened after they bumped their way to Long Beach in a truck, off-loaded their crates and never left their sixty-four-acre lot northwest of Green Point.



On February 1st, Heritage House Publishing announced it had acquired all the assets of the former D&M Publishers' imprint Greystone Books, managed by Rob Sanders, who will be taking most of his authors and titles — such as *Long Beach Wild* — to Heritage House. Previously, Heritage House was chiefly comprised of Heritage House Publishers, Touchwood Editions, Brindle & Glass and Rocky Mountain Books. Overseen by Rodger and Pat Touchie, The Heritage Group received the Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award in 2008.

to see what they were up to. The locals, Peg assumed, figured it was only a matter of time before this brand of west coast living would get the better of the young pair.

"A lot of people came in and took a look because they wondered, 'Oh, these people won't stay. Nobody will stay there *that* long.'"

At the time, the beach was not considered a prime location or a smart investment. It was just too far from anywhere. Walking out to Tofino or Ucluelet along the rough trails could take three hours each way. Plus, it was a time when money was tight. Within a few years of the Whittingtons' arrival, for example, the property next door at Green Point was listed for \$500, and nobody bought it. "There was no money," Peg recalled, "and [people saw] no future in the beach." It was a far cry from two decades earlier, when Tibbs had sold his land for \$5,000.

From the start, Peg and Dick envisioned building a few cabins as holiday rentals. Once their own home was finished, they started in on building the guest cabins, working full tilt to get them up. A day off was considered a walk to beachcomb lumber. At first, the Whittingtons didn't have a name for their place, which they were reluctant to call a resort. Nevertheless, they ran a small newspaper ad in Victoria, and adventurous guests began trickling in, arriving by boat at Ucluelet and then getting a ride up to Long Beach. The guest book's first entry is dated July 1937.

People typically came for a week, maybe two, bringing all their own supplies. Each cabin had a stove, beds, and a few other basic items: "none of the luxuries, but all of the necessities," Peg liked to say. Every night after sunset there was a bonfire on the beach, and guests from the cabins gathered around the crackling driftwood to visit, while out beyond the circle of light the sound of distant breaking waves filled the dark. In time, the resort was named Singing Sands.

For a few years, most of the signatures in the Singing Sands guest book were from nearby residents—Hillier, Stone, Donahue, Lovekin—but slowly the guest range expanded, reaching to Port Alberni, Victoria, and beyond. Word was beginning to spread about a small resort out there on magnificent Long Beach.

In the summer of 1939, Edith Nelson paid a return visit to her old friends. On leaving, she wrote in the guest book, "Once more unto the beach, my friends." Whether intentional or not, her entry, playing on Shakespeare's "Once more unto the breach, dear friends" from *Henry V*, was portentous. *Henry V* opens just before the Battle of Agincourt begins during the Hundred Years' War. Not two months after Edith Nelson waved goodbye to the Whittingtons and headed home, Canada declared war on Germany.

Even on the remote western edge of Canada, things were about to change.



IF THE LEADING EDGE OF THE CLOUD THAT was about to sweep over Long Beach during World War II was signalled by a truncated honeymoon, perhaps it was fate that saw the need to mark the cloud's departure with another casualty of the heart.

In March 1946, a large mine floated onto the beach near Dick and Peg Whittington's Singing Sands resort. They reported it to

continued on next page

continued from previous page

George Redhead, the provincial policeman stationed in Ucluelet, who in turn sent word to the Canadian navy. Although Redhead advised them to land at Ucluelet, from where he would drive the detonation crew out to the beach site, the navy insisted on proceeding by sea straight out to Green Point and sending the men ashore in a small boat. Redhead and the Whittingtons knew this was a foolish decision—launching and rowing through the surf was risky at the best of times and even more so in the late winter’s high seas—but they had little say in the matter.

Offshore, a skiff with five men was lowered, and they headed in. They made it safely to the beach and set about exploding the mine. The plan went awry, however, when the men tried to return to the base ship. As they strained at the oars to propel the small boat through the breakers, they were flipped over into the churning surf. Dick and Redhead raced in to help while Peg ran to the house for rope. When she got back, she could see three of the navy men struggling in the surf as another clung to the overturned skiff and the fifth was trying to gain purchase on the rocks off the beach.

Eventually, three of them were rescued and brought to shore, and Peg and a neighbour drove the shaken men to Singing



Dick Whittington (left) with George Hillier and an unexploded mine on Long Beach. The navy expedition sent to detonate the mine ended in death.

Sands to warm up.

Dick, meanwhile, had, with great difficulty, made it onto the rocks of Green Point to help the stranded sailor still in trouble there. Whether Dick was swept into the water by the wave surge or pulled in by the man he was trying to save is not clear, but Dick disappeared. Only later was his body found down the beach toward Sandhill Creek. One of the naval men also drowned in the incident.

Dick was posthumously awarded a medal for his part in the rescue. Peg chose not to go to the ceremony; instead his mother accepted the medal.

“Everybody thought I should leave the beach after that,” Peg Whittington said years later, “and I thought I shouldn’t.”

978-1-55365-344-8

TOLKIEN & DAY

continued from page 15

Auk, Samuel de Champlain to the Passenger Pigeon, Vitus Bering to the Stellar’s Sea Cow, Daniel Boone to the Black Bison, Charles Darwin to the Antarctic Wolf.

As a tribute to a multitude of strange and astonishing species which have literally ‘gone the way of the Dodo,’ the book begins with the historic first encounters with the Dodo’s extinction in 1680. Day suggests the Dodo’s demise marks the beginning of ‘Globalization’ and the monetization of species that rapidly resulted in many extinctions at the hand of man.

Day says the highlight of his literary promotion was a reading at the Old Fire House in Duncan, in the Cowichan Valley, where his logging camp journals were written.



CASTLES (MCGRAW-HILL, 1984) WAS THE FIRST of five collaborations with artist Alan Lee, followed by *Lost Animals* (1984), *Gothic* (1986), *Tolkien’s Ring* (1994) and *Quest For King Arthur* (1995).

Day’s first encounter with Alan Lee was the result of a set of coincidences.

“In 1981,” he says, “I was in Toronto, a couple of years after the publication of *A Tolkien Bestiary* and was on my way to New York to promote my *Doomsday Book of Animals*. Someone I had met through Earle Birney suggested I get in touch with Ian Ballantine while I was in New York.

“As Ian Ballantine was the legendary

founder of both Bantam and Ballantine Books, I thought this was rather presumptuous, but I was assured he was very approachable; and as the publisher of the recent best-sellers *Gnomes* and *Faeries*, would be interested in meeting me.

“With nothing much to lose I made the call while in New York. To my astonishment, he arranged a meeting that same day at Bantam Books. To my further astonishment, he stated he knew who I was and then sat by amused as he played me a tape in which his designer David Larkin was having a conversation with the illustrator Alan Lee.

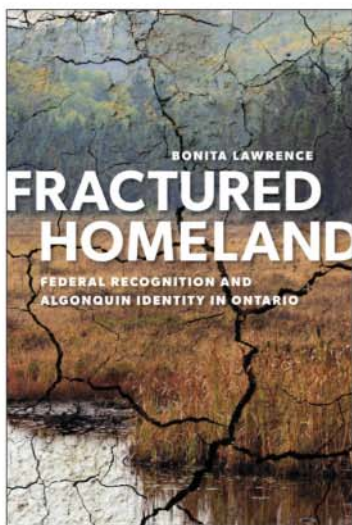
“Two minutes into the tape, Lee stated the illustrations were going fine, but the concept of the book and its text was a major problem for him. Ideally he would like to have someone like that author of *A Tolkien Bestiary*, a Canadian writer named David Day work with him on the project!

“A few months later, Ballantine had flown Alan Lee and me to New York, and then taken us to his upstate New York home in the village of Bearsville in Woodstock. There we sat around a table with the designer David Larkin and brainstormed the project that eventually became the book *Castles*. That was the beginning of a friendship and series of collaborations with Alan Lee that has lasted for over thirty years”

For additional information on David Day and his books, visit abcbookworld.com

Nevermore 978-1-926802-68-8

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



FRACTURED HOMELAND
Federal Recognition and Algonquin Identity in Ontario
BONITA LAWRENCE

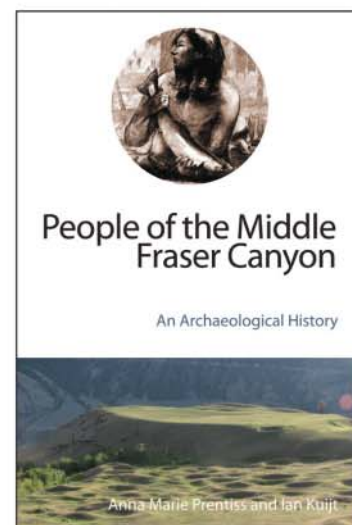
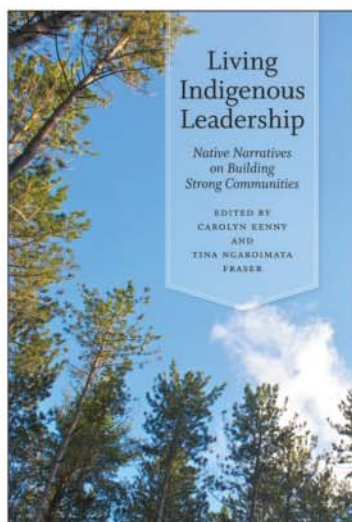
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Native Narratives on Building Strong Communities
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PEOPLE OF THE MIDDLE FRASER CANYON
An Archaeological History
ANNA MARIE PRENTISS & IAN KUIJT

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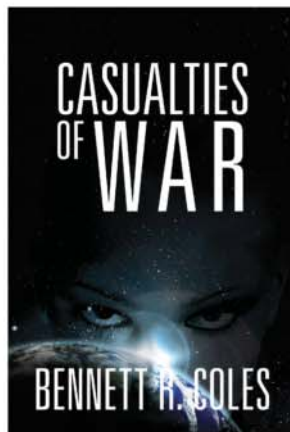
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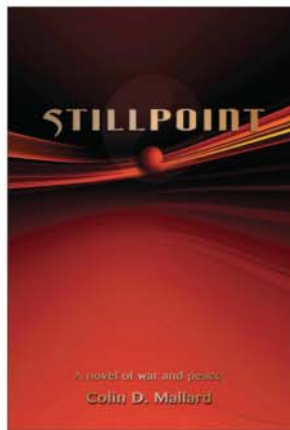


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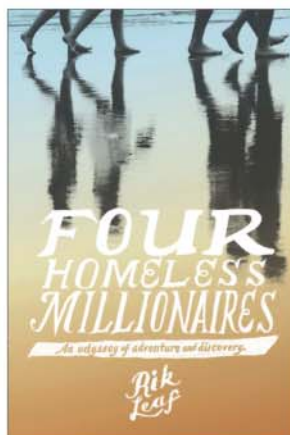


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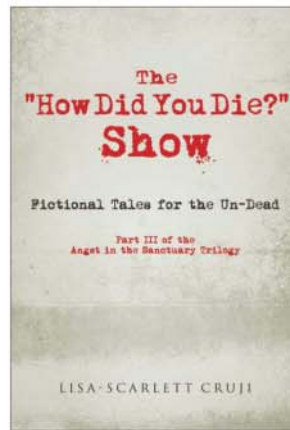
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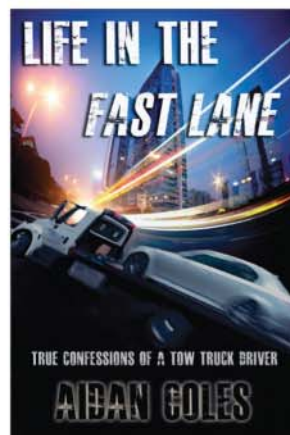


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This book is aimed at teenage girls (and their dads!) who are just learning about this amazing aspect of their bodies. Building on a sound medical base, Jin Shin Do® Acupressurist Kyla Plaxton leads her readers on a path to discovery.



All things must pass

WHEN TWO CULTURAL FLAGSHIPS, D&M Publishers Inc. and The Playhouse in Vancouver, ran aground last year, there was much handwringing.

Since then, the removal of The Playhouse has enabled more light to shine on smaller companies previously in the shadow of that behemoth. Stage offerings around town are more varied than ever.

Ditto for publishing. New players continue to appear while the D&M umbrella has been split into three smaller umbrellas, all hoisted by owners who will more diligently toe the bottom line.



1. New Society Publishers was bought back from D&M by their original owners, a deal approved on January 25. [See story P. 11]

2. Publisher Rob Sanders and editor Nancy Flight had their Greystone imprint bought from D&M by Rodger Touchie's ever-expanding Heritage House consortium, a deal also approved on January 25.

3. That left room for Howard White of Harbour Publishing to spend about ten days dickering with his former business rival Scott McIntyre, inking a deal to acquire approximately 500 D&M titles, 397 of which are in print, in a deal announced on February 6. (D&M Publishers Inc. and Greystone had creditor protection in place until February 18; New Society did not.)



AUTHORS ARE AMONG THE BIG LOSERS, UNABLE TO COLLECT royalties from the original D&M parent company. Owed more than \$2 million, Bank of Montreal, as the preferred creditor, gets first dibs on any fire sale proceeds.

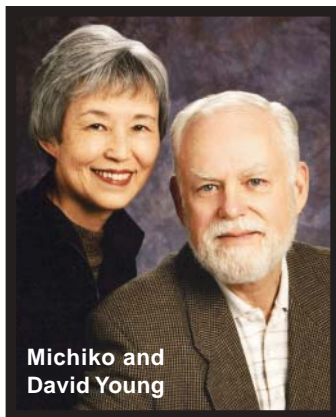
Meanwhile B.C. publishing is expanding with more small players—the latest being newbie publishers David and Michiko Young who have formed Coastal Tides Press to specialize in books on Japanese culture, health and healing, and the traditional knowledge of the First Nations.



THE YOUNGS' STORY BEGINS AT YALE University. It was there David Young stumbled upon a black ink painting, *Winter Landscape*, by the great Zen artist, Sesshu. He had what the Japanese call a *satori* experience. He decided then and there that he would have to visit Japan to see what kind of culture could produce such a work of art.

In 1962, having lined up a job teaching English in a high school in Kyoto, Young and a Yale friend bicycled across Europe, meeting up with another Yale friend in Munich, who happened to be the minister of finance for Afghanistan. The trio drove a Volkswagen bus across the deserts of Turkey and Iran to Kabul.

Young's ultimate destination was Japan. Leaving his friends in Afghanistan, Young flew to India, visited holy places, and then something spooky happened. "In New Delhi, I did something I have only done once in my life," says Young, "I visited a fortune teller, who informed me that I was on my way to Japan where I would marry a



Michiko and David Young

Japanese woman. 'That is not bad.' I thought, 'She is 50% correct.'"

The fortune teller became 100% correct when David Young met Michiko Kimura, a senior in college, at an English speaking retreat in Japan. After Michiko obtained her degree, she joined him in Hawaii where he was completing a master's degree in Asian Studies.

The couple began to seriously research Japanese aesthetics. "The thing that puzzled us most," he says, "was the great difference between the quiet, austere aesthetics associated with art forms such as the tea ceremony and the gaudy lights and noise of the recreational areas of Japanese cities. It took us some time to realize that rather than being competing traditions, the Restrained and Exuberant traditions are actually two ends of a continuum upon which Japanese move back and forth in the course of their everyday lives—in accordance with rules that depend upon the circumstances."

After receiving his Ph.D. in anthropology from Stanford University, David taught anthropology at University of Alberta, specializing in Japanese culture, health and healing, and the traditional knowledge of Canada's First Nations. His seven books prior to Coastal Tides include *Cry of the Eagle: Encounters with a Cree Healer* and *The Art of the Japanese Garden*, written with Michiko.

Now on Gabriola Island, the Youngs are emulating many B.C. publishers (such as Howard White, Harbour; Bob Tyrrell, Orca; Stephen Osborne, Pulp; Julian Ross, Polestar; Ron Smith, Oolichan, Brian Kaufman, Anvil, etc.) by starting off as writers.

Fifty years of shared research on Japanese aesthetics has resulted in **Spontaneity in Japanese Art and Culture** (\$46.40), their third co-written book and the first title from their new Coastal Tides imprint.

It has been followed by **The Mouse Woman of Gabriola** (\$32.95), written by David, who was inspired

by a petroglyph on a boulder near their house showing a female mouse, with one arm outstretched, welcoming people to the sacred site that includes burial caves.

As a "grandmother" spirit, Mouse Woman traditionally protects young people and rectifies injustices done to them. The Youngs have observed people with problems such as rheumatoid arthritis who have leaned against the rock to receive a burst of energy that cures or alleviates their problems. Their book explores possible explanations of spontaneous healing, with an emphasis upon the role of religious symbols, mind-body interactions, and the placebo effect in healing.

The Youngs launched their imprint at the Commons on Gabriola in March, with books available through Page's Resort & Marina Bookstore, 250-247-8931.

It's a far cry from the Frankfurt Book Fair, lobbying in Ottawa or hobnobbing at the Giller Prize, but they are unlikely to leave their printer in the lurch for \$1.4 million and place all their employees on the street.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL. SO IS MEDIUM-SIZED AND LOCAL. D&M Publishers Inc. lost their Canada Council and BPIDP government funding by accumulating \$6.3 million in debts to 143 creditors.

Nobody knows the whole story except D&M board chairman Scott McIntyre, who declined interview requests from *B.C. BookWorld*.

We do know D&M lost their lucrative association with Farrar, Straus & Giroux; efforts to sell the company to an American distributor distracted energies; and new owner Mark Scott invested rashly in an internet book marketing scheme called BookRiff—all problems Coastal Tides Press won't be having.

"People still love to read books, that's the bottom line," says Orca Books' publisher Andrew Wooldridge, "and if things keep going the way they are, the B.C. publishing industry could surpass the Canadian-owned sector of the Ontario publishing industry. Collectively, our glass is half full, not half empty."

Mouse: 978-0-9881110-2-8; Spontaneity: 978-0-9881110-0-4

Juan de Fuca's Strait: Voyages in the Waterway of Forgotten Dreams by Barry Gough (Harbour \$32.95)

THE FIRST EUROPEAN MARINER to have reached B.C. waters, according to written eyewitness accounts, was the Spaniard **Juan Pérez** in 1774, some four years before Captain **James Cook** famously set foot at Nootka Sound in 1778, accompanied by British crewman that included **George Vancouver** and **William Bligh**.

But, as **Barry Gough** now makes clear, there is ample evidence to assert that the first “European discoverer” of B.C. was actually a Greek explorer named **Apostolos Valerianos**, sailing for Spain under the name of **Juan de Fuca**.

In **Juan de Fuca's Strait**, Gough carefully relates how Juan de Fuca was an old man when he met an English dealer in fine fabrics, **Michael Lok**, in Venice, in 1596. Lok, who also spoke French, Spanish, Italian and Latin, was acutely aware that major seafaring nations were hoping to discover a “northwest passage” to the riches of the Orient.

Lok was therefore fascinated by Juan de Fuca's account of a voyage made “up the backside” of North America, in 1592. The transplanted Greek, from the island of Kefalonia—the largest of the Ionian Islands along the Adriatic Coast, a place “held in fee” by the city state of Venice, acquired in 1500—provided Lok with a detailed verbal summary of a voyage as far north as the 48th parallel, at which point he entered a waterway (that now bears his name) that he called the Strait of Nova Spain.

Lok, as an English consul, excitedly sent this news to England. The Greek/Spanish mariner was offering his services to the Queen of England for 100 pounds to help England discover the Northwest Passage. Specifically, Juan de Fuca agreed to serve as a pilot if England provided a ship of forty tons. A pilot in a Spanish vessel, as Gough explains, corresponded to a first mate on English and American ships, second in command.

But Juan de Fuca also wanted the English to provide compensation for goods stolen from him by Captain **Cavendish** in 1587 when, on a return voyage from the Philippines and China on the 700-ton Manila galleon *Santa Anna*, Juan de Fuca was overtaken by Cavendish who stole his cargo valued at some 60,000 ducats, near Cabo San Lucas, where Juan de Fuca was put ashore with food and handguns.

Unfortunately for the English, Juan de Fuca's request for restitution could not be resolved quickly. Juan de Fuca returned to Kefalonia but continued to communicate with Lok, using his native Greek. When Lok wrote to Juan de Fuca in Kefalonia in 1602 and no reply was received, the Englishman presumed, perhaps correctly, that Juan de Fuca must have died.

★
THE WRITTEN EVIDENCE THAT JUAN DE FUCA WAS THE first European to discover the strait between Vancouver Island and Washington State that bears his name is provided in a remarkable compilation of travel literature called *Hakluytus Posthumus or Purchas His Pilgrimes Contayning a History of the World in Sea Voyages and Lande Travells* by Englishmen and others in 1625.

Maritime historian **Samuel Purchas** based his entry about Juan de Fuca on letters written by Michael Lok, who had written to the Lord Treasurer, to Sir **Walter Raleigh** and to Master **Richard Hakluyt**, asking them to send 100 pounds to bring Juan de Fuca to England.

As recorded by Samuel Purchas, the Viceroy of Mexico had sent Juan de Fuca “with a small Caravela and a Pinnace, armed with Mariners only” along the coast of New Spain and California in 1592. He sailed “until he came to the Latitude of 47 degrees and there finding that the land trended North and North-East,



One hundred years after a little known mariner from Genoa named Cristoforo Columbus reputedly discovered the New World, a Greek explorer reached British Columbia while sailing under a Spanish flag in 1592.

THE ANCIENT MARINER, FOR REAL

kd lang's overwrought version of **Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah** was all very well. And it was great to have local, spoken word poet **Shane Koyczan** recite his paeon to how nice we are as Canadians at the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

But imagine the bewilderment of the world—as well as 99.9% of British Columbians—if Olympic organizers had commissioned the province's foremost maritime historian, **Barry Gough**, to conceive the opening ceremonies and tell the story of how modern British Columbian society began. A public address system narrator would begin with, “Once upon a time, in a café in Venice, in April, in 1596....” There and then, in a place not yet called Italy, the English correspondence of merchant Michael Lok references the earliest visit to the shores of what we now call B.C. by a European mariner, as Barry Gough has neatly outlined in the opening chapter for his 15th book, **Juan de Fuca's Strait: Voyages in the Waterway of Forgotten Dreams** (Harbour \$32.95). That ancient mariner was **Juan de Fuca**.

with a broad Inlet of Sea, between 47 and 48 degrees of Latitude, he entered there into, saying therein more than twenty days, and found that land trending still sometime North-West and North, and also East and South-Westward, and very much broader sea than was at the said entrance, and that he passed by divers Ilands in that Sayling. And that at the entrance of this said Strait, there is on the North-West coast thereof, a great Hedland or Iland, with an exceedingly high Pinacle, or spired Rocke, like a pillar thereupon. Also he said, that he went on the land in divers places, and that he saw some people of Land, clad in Beasts' skins; and that the Land is very fruitful and rich of Gold, Silver, Pearle, and other things, like Nova Spania. And also he said, that being entered thus farre into the said Strait, and being come into the North Sea already, and finding the Sea wide enough everywhere and to be about thirtie or fortie leagues wide in the mouth of the Straits, where he entered he thought he had now well discharged his office and done the things he was sent to do.”

It is important to note that Juan de Fuca claimed the entranceway to the great inlet between 47° and 48° was marked by “an exceedingly high pinnacle or spired rock, like a pillar, thereupon.”

The coastal historian Captain **John T. Walbran** later corroborated this report in his *British Columbia Coast Names*. He wrote, “This is substantially correct; the island is Tatooshe, and the spired rock, now known as De Fuca's pillar, 150 feet high, stands in solitary grandeur, a little off shore, about two miles southwards of Tatooshe Island.”

The first English mariner to recognize Juan de Fuca's strait was Captain **Charles Barkley** on the *Imperial Eagle* in 1787—almost two centuries after Juan de Fuca's voyage. He consequently named Juan de Fuca Strait because it lay above the 47th parallel, where Lok's report of Juan de Fuca's exploration had designated it to be.

Barry Gough (left) with Vangelis Catevatis, president of the Kefalonian Cultural Society of B.C. A statue of Juan de Fuca has recently been erected in Kefalonia, Greece, but the explorer remains little-known in Canada.

Frances Barkley's diary of her husband's 1787 voyage recorded the following perceptions: “The entrance appeared to be about four leagues in width, and remained about that width as far as the eye can see. Capt. Barkley at once recognized it as the long lost strait of Juan de Fuca, which Captain Cook had so emphatically stated did not exist.”

★
IN 1847, AMERICAN HISTORIAN **ROBERT GREENHOW** published a history of Oregon and California in which he supplied a summary of Juan de Fuca's life based upon the English and Spanish translations of the correspondence between de Fuca and Lok. In 1854, another American historian named **Alexander S. Taylor** took up the narrative by asking the American consul in the Ionian Islands, **A.S. York**, to gather any and all material concerning Juan de Fuca and his family.

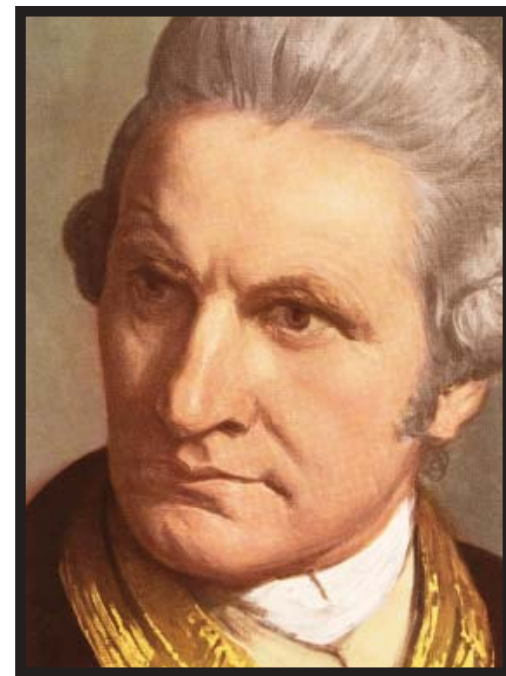
York provided information gleaned from *The Lives of Glorious Men of Cephalonia* written and published in Venice in October 1843 by Rev. **Anthimos Mazarakis**, a Kefalonian. The book had been translated into Italian by **Tomazeo**. Taylor published two articles in the September and October 1859 issues of *Hutchings' California Magazine* that recounted what he had gleaned about Juan de Fuca's life.

According to Taylor's research, the ancestors of **John Phokas** (Fucas) fled Constantinople in 1453 and found refuge in the Ionian Islands. One brother named **Andronikos Phokas** remained as the head of Phokas family. Another brother **Emmanuel Phokas** was born in Constantinople in 1435 and departed in 1470 for Kefalonia. Juan de Fuca was one of four sons born to Emmanuel Phokas, also known as **Phokas Valerianos** to distinguish him from the Phokas family in Argostoli. Emmanuel Phokas settled in a valley in southwestern Kefalonia, at Elios. In that valley lies the village of Valeriano, where a statue of Juan de Fuca has been recently erected.

★
JUAN DE FUCA'S STRAIT: VOYAGES IN *THE WATERWAY OF Forgotten Dreams* represents a synthesis of forty years of research by Barry Gough into maritime exploration of the West Coast.

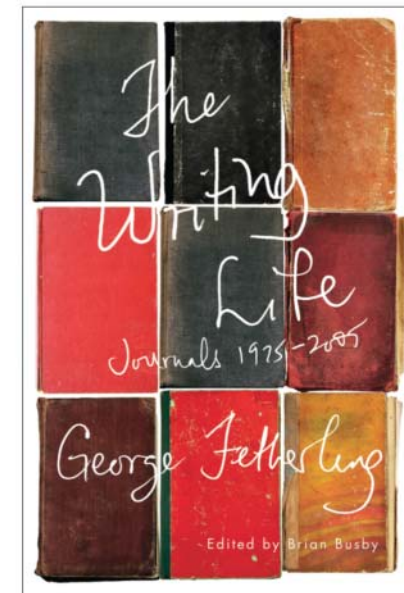
After capably recounting this tale of the ancient mariner, Gough proceeds to illuminate the voyages of mariners in his wake, such as James Cook, **Manuel Quimper**, **José María Narváez**, George Vancouver, **Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra** and **Dionisio Alcalá Galiano**.

978-1-55017-573-8-6



James Cook: first mariner known to have stepped ashore on land now part of British Columbia

CanLit unmasked



The Writing Life
Journals, 1975–2005
GEORGE FETHERLING

A prolific author's candid and insightful look at leading figures in Canada's cultural landscape.

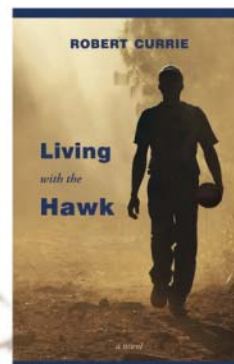
“Fetherling's narration is engaging, amusing, and poignant ... a perceptive witness to his time and place.”

Joel Yanofsky, author of *Mordecai and Me: An Appreciation of a Kind*

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Robert Currie

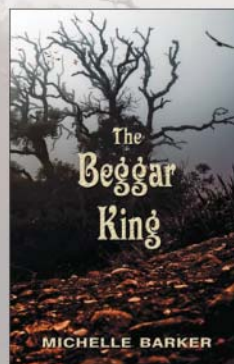
Inspired in part by a poem written by one of the author's students, *Living with the Hawk* is a novel that examines the ways in which teenage drinking, the male bonding of high-school football, bullying, misogyny, and racism can lead to tragedies which affect even well-intentioned people.

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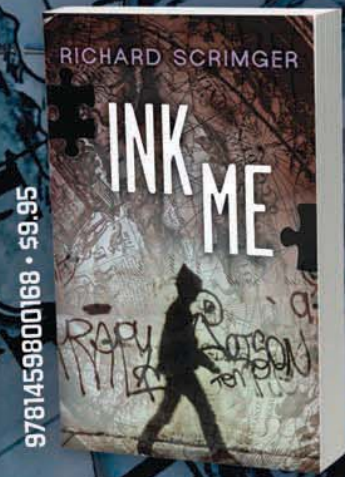
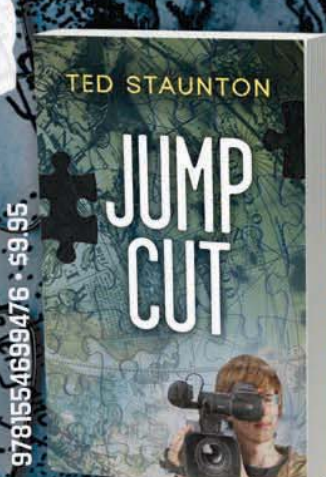
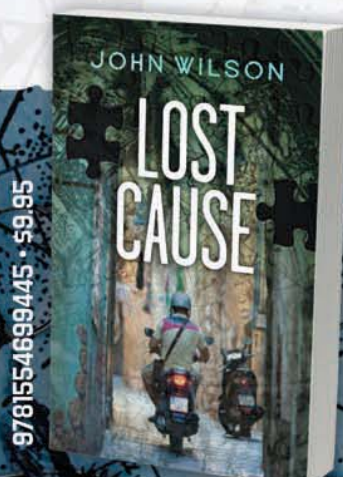
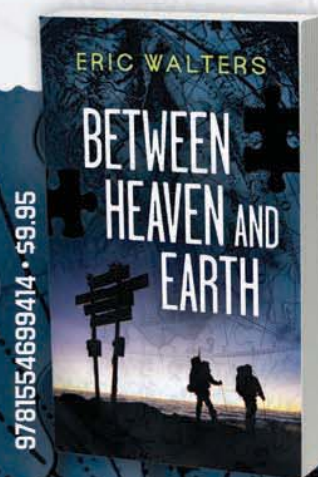
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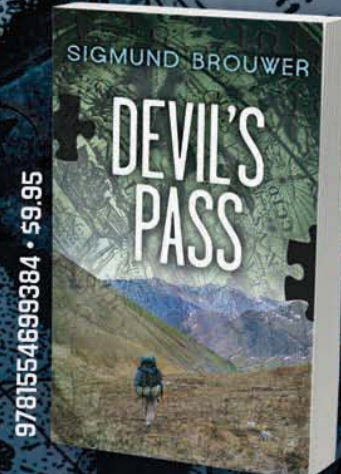
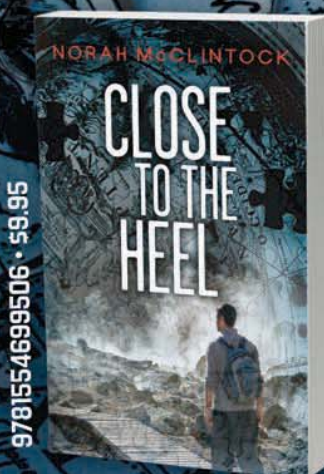
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THE CRUSADING MATRIARCH OF ALERT BAY

Married at 18, Jane Cook gave birth to 16 children and assumed the role of caregiver for Alert Bay and the surrounding communities, delivering babies, nursing the sick and tending the dying.

Standing Up with Ga'axsta'las: Jane Constance Cook and the Politics of Memory, Church, and Custom by Leslie A. Robertson with the Kwagu'l Gixsam Clan (UBC Press \$125 hc, \$39.95 pb, pub. date: July 2013)



Joan
GIVNER

AS THE 1914 PHOTO at far right shows, Jane

Cook was a singular female presence in the struggle to retain, or regain, First Nations civil and property rights in B.C.

Leslie A. Robertson with the Kwagu'l Gixsam Clan's new biography of Jane Cook, aka Ga'axsta'las is a testament to the legacy of this remarkable First Nations woman as well as a history of her descendants.



JANE CONSTANCE COOK WAS BORN in 1870 to Gwayulalas (Emily), a Kwakwaka'wakw woman from Fort Rupert and Captain William Gilbert, an English trader.

As the first-born child of a first-born mother, Cook's high rank derived from primogeniture. She was educated by Alfred Hall, an English missionary, and became a devout Christian, serving for many years as president of the Anglican Women's Auxiliary.

Descendants remember her as Granny Cook, the strong-willed matriarch who presided over the Cook big house, an imposing structure completed by her husband in 1907.

This house had two storeys, nine bedrooms, a veranda, and a large garden that yielded food for the multigenerational occupants who sometimes numbered thirty-five, with two sittings for every meal.

Straddling both the reserve and land bought from the church, the house coincidentally symbolized its owner's duality.



DOMESTIC LIFE AND COMMUNITY service was only a part of Jane Cook's activities.

In the political arena, she advocated strongly for women's rights, urging support for destitute women and children. She represented her people in their demand for land claims, fishing rights and health services, and acted as interpreter for the anthropologists and ethnologists, such as Franz Boas and the photographer Edward Curtis.

It was the political activity that distorted her legacy, and in particular her involvement in the infamous potlatch trials of 1921. The potlatch custom, a complex economic system of

property exchange (she described it as a form of government or constitution) was banned because the colonial authorities considered it "the most formidable of all obstacles in the way of

Indians becoming Christians."

The ban not only pitted First Nations against the authorities, but caused divisions within native villages and clans. As a result of the trials, ceremonial property was confiscated, forty-five people were arrested, twenty-two were given suspended sentences, and twenty held in Oakalla Prison near Vancouver.

In the late thirties, Jane Cook described herself and her family as

One of the criticisms directed against Jane Cook in the aboriginal community was that she married only once.



Jane Cook: the lone female among the Allied Indian Tribes council

non-potlatching Christians who felt like "outcasts."

A rumour circulated that her opposition to the potlatch surpassed "even that of the Indian agent." Another had it that she deliberately mistranslated, that when a magistrate asked the accused, "Do you plead guilty or not guilty?" she mistranslated the question to "He wants to know were you there?" An affirmative response was translated as, "He's guilty. Yeah."

Her expertise in both the Kwakwala language and English was called into question. Boas wrote to a correspondent that people said she talked like a child. This unlikely claim could have several explanations, among them the fact that the language had changed by the time she was sixty. What was construed as childish may well have been earlier usages.

At a 1936 church meeting, Jane Cook said "we were children of the potlatch system," and her husband said the custom was "in my blood." Nevertheless, when they entered into a Christian marriage, they stepped out of the system.

Jane Cook opposed the potlatch because of the financial burden it placed on families, and especially on women and children. Yet she later worked to obtain compensation for property confiscated during the potlatch arrests.

In a 1932 interview with a journalist for the *Christian Science Monitor*, she struggled to make the custom understandable to an outsider by comparing it to a Christmas gift-giving exchange.

"It keeps the property in circulation," she said, "for suppose a man gives a phonograph set away, in the course of a few years, he is likely to receive it back."

She goes on to describe the crucial importance of the shield-shaped piece of copper to the potlatch giver.

"The more 'copper' a chief owns, the more powerful he is among other tribes... A man

will marry his daughter to anyone who will give him a 'copper.' A stranger coming into the tribe cannot buy a 'copper,' no matter how rich he is, until he has given feasts and one potlatch after another and even then he may still be regarded as an outsider."

One of the criticisms directed against Jane Cook in the aboriginal community was that she married only once. As the eldest daughter of a noble line she would have been expected to have a series of marriages, and earn money by marrying so that her family could be glorified by holding potlatch.

Her marriage was considered illegal because she chose not to have a First Nations ceremony, and no bride price was given. As a consequence, her children were considered illegitimate and stigmatized. At the same time, she was a strong advocate for recognition of the Indian/First Nations marriage tradition.



THIS IS AN ACADEMIC BOOK WITH the research documented in detailed footnotes and an extensive bibliography. As such, it constitutes a valuable resource for other scholars working to uncover the traces of any culture suppressed by racism, conversion, and assimilation.

Standing Up with Ga'axsta'las also has a strong popular appeal as the rich collection of personal anecdotes, and the fifty-six photographs provide graphic evidence of Jane Cook and her times.

UBC Professor of Anthropology, Leslie A. Robertson, has worked cooperatively with the Kwagu'l Gixsam Clan to do justice to Jane Cook's complicated character and to the diverse opinions of her. Robertson draws on oral history, memory and archival material—letters, recorded interviews, newspaper articles—and enters into a dialogue with various members of the Kwagu'l Gixsam, allowing their voices to interrogate the source material.

Thus a valuable portrait of Jane Cook emerges cumulatively throughout the book. 9780774823845

Joan Givner writes regularly on biographies and autobiographies. She lives in Mill Bay.



Father August Brabant, Saviour or Scourge? by Jim McDowell (Ronsdale Press \$24.95)

MENTION JIM MCDOWELL in the milieu of writers festivals, grants and Facebook-fostered book launches and you'll likely draw a blank.

But his illuminating investigation of alleged cannibalism on the West Coast, *Hamatsa: The Enigma of Cannibalism on the Pacific Northwest Coast* (Ronsdale 1997) easily ranks as one of the great, under-acknowledged works of B.C. historical literature.

In that book, McDowell painstakingly reveals how the practice of ritual (symbolic) cannibalism on the West Coast has been misinterpreted, largely due to untrustworthy and ignorant accounts of early mariners, which were recycled by the settlers and colonists who followed.

"Cannibalism did not represent the type of gastronomic custom that may have existed among certain aboriginal societies in Africa or the South Sea Islands," he concludes. "On the contrary, the eating of human flesh was abhorrent to all Northwest Coast Indians. It was precisely this loathing that made the gruesome rite all the more powerful."

Following his acclaimed biographical study, *José Narvaez: The Forgotten Explorer. Including his narrative of a voyage on the Northwest Coast in 1788* (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1998), McDowell has generated another definitive work, this time focusing on one of the most fascinating and controversial missionaries of the West Coast, **August Joseph Brabant**.

Not surprisingly, **Father August Brabant, Saviour or Scourge?** is another thoroughly documented, even-handed account that reveals Brabant's life and thoughts through his substantial writings, as well as the author's meticulous research and observations.

★
AS AN IDEALISTIC, 24-YEAR-OLD missionary, Brabant left Belgium for Victoria in 1869 and underwent a long apprenticeship in Victoria before he was sent to live and work amongst the Hesquiahts in a remote coastal village, 275-km northwest of Victoria.

Having first visited the West Coast of Vancouver Island with Right Reverend **Charles Seghers** in 1874, and having just returned from Sitka, Alaska, Brabant arrived at Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island as a 29-year-old Catholic priest, aboard the twenty-eight-ton schooner *Surprise*, and he proceeded to stubbornly operate "the poorest church in Christendom" at

Hesquiaht, at the north end of Clayoquot Sound, about a four-hour boat trip from Tofino, from 1875 to 1908.

Not long after his arrival in 1875, Brabant's fingers in his right hand were deformed after he was attacked by Hesquiaht **Chief Matlahaw** who, fearful he had contracted smallpox from Brabant, shot Brabant twice using Brabant's own gun. First Matlahaw shot Brabant in the right hand. While the priest was cleaning his injury in a creek, Matlahaw sprayed the missionary with buckshot in his back and shoulder.

Brabant was rescued by a British man-of-war, *H.M.S. Rocket*, and recovered in Victoria. His return to Hesquiaht greatly enhanced his reputation as a formidable force. Speaking Chinook (an intermediate pidgin language) and using a local translator, he held Mass and taught the Lord's Prayer, stubbornly opposing Nuuh-chah-nulth shamans.

"They blame me for the absence of food. They laugh at the doctrine which I teach. I can do nothing by making the sign of the Cross.



Cherie THIESSEN

in *The Messenger of the Sacred Heart*. His serialized reports were republished collectively as *Vancouver Islands and its Missions, 1874-1900*

I am neither a white man nor an Indian," he wrote. "I am the Chigha, the devil."

Nevertheless, Brabant stubbornly persisted. Brabant's memoir of his missionary work first appeared in serialized form

(Messenger of the Sacred Heart Press, 1900) which formed the basis of a 1920 biography by **Reverend Van Der Heyden**.

★
"BECAUSE SIX VERSIONS OF FATHER August Joseph Brabant's life were written between 1900 and 1983," McDowell notes in his preface, "the reader may justifiably ask: Why do we need a seventh? What is new or different about this one?"

If words such as 'well-balanced' and 'meticulous' don't stir you to pick up this book, how about 'surprisingly gripping reading' and 'intriguing characters'?

Father August Brabant: Saviour or Scourge? is not only a biography, it is a classic tale of conflicting ideologies embodied by two men.

Brabant was determined to save and civilize indigenous

people who he considered his "children." Meanwhile the Hesquiaht knew they were a proud culture that could trace its heritage back thousands of years.

Packed with deception, heroism, murder, white-knuckle adventure on the seas, pestilences, battles and shipwrecks, this examination of Brabant's character simultaneously documents the changing times for aboriginals, their increasing contact with Europeans, their efforts to resist acculturation, and the slow swing to commercial sealing and a cash economy.

In his sidebars, footnotes, sizeable appendix and endnotes, McDowell describes many of the beliefs, practices and lore of the aboriginal population. For example, Transformers are supernatural beings whose power pervades the world and whose spiritual energy can be accessed by unique human beings such as shaman, powerful chiefs, and other avatars.

The historic photos are well-chosen, although most readers may yearn for more to break up the sometimes daunting text.

Today, we can condemn this arrogant priest for living and preaching among the Hesquiaht for so long without bothering to master their language, yet made sweeping assumptions about being understood and winning converts.

continued on page 26

MISSIONARY IMPOSSIBLE

Deception, heroism, murder, white-knuckle adventure, battles and shipwrecks are all in this gripping life story of **Father August Brabant**



Father August Brabant, circa 1865

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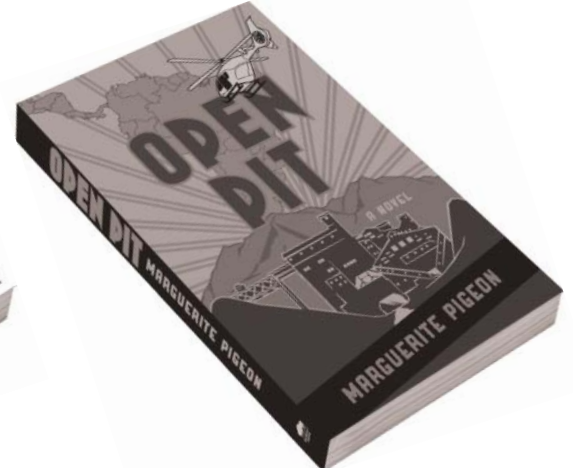
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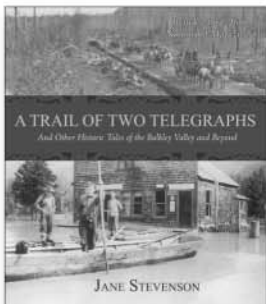
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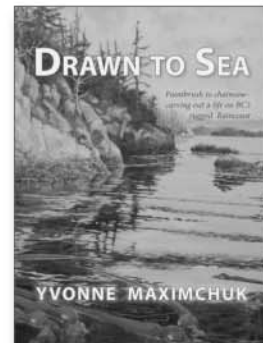
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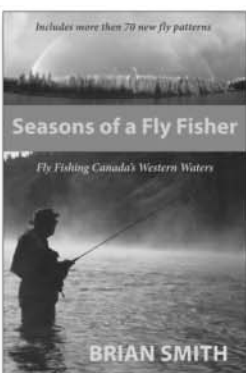
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In his ignorance, Father Brabant made many fundamental errors that are still being made by zealous missionaries: pushing to convert without first understanding or respecting, and focusing on salvation without taking service into account.

However, we can also appreciate the hardships that these early Christian crusaders bore. Many times Brabant slept on the bare ground when travelling, went without meals, and risked his life in dug-out canoes on long open-sea journeys.

Known for building several log churches, Brabant recruited indigenous labour, transported building materials by canoe, felled timber and cut lumber by hand, acted as architect and supervisor, and thrived on the exhausting work.

He watched the Hesquiahts suffer through famines when the sea was too rough for the men to fish; he survived more than one attempted murder and numerous threats to his authority; he serviced the sick-albeit ineffectually — 24/7, and yet he endured.”

Shored up as he was by his faith and the inviolability of his mission, Brabant weathered repeated setbacks and disappointments, more than a few depressions, and moved

stubbornly toward his goal.

He viewed Protestant missionaries who arrived after him as devils who were ‘perverting’ his children. They were moving in and building churches nearby, giving the Catholic church another perceived challenge. Brabant’s response was to open the first “Indian” residential school on Vancouver Island.

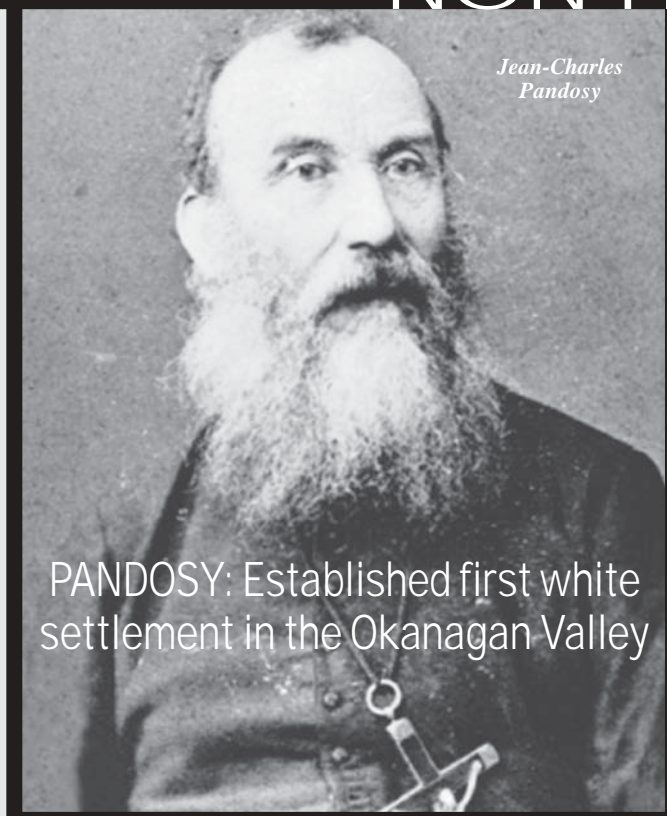
Christie School opened in 1900 on Meares Island, linking the priest’s name forever with a shameful history.

McDowell is critical of Brabant’s attitudes and actions as a missionary, including his role in launching a notorious residential school. Nevertheless, his criticism is balanced with historical, social, and political explanations that help the reader understand Brabant’s behaviour. McDowell also credits the priest for his invaluable writings and records.

Prior to turning his hand to Pacific Rim historical subjects, Jim McDowell served as the first director of the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver, forging the inner-city community centre that today remains a remarkable gathering place for the under-privileged.

978-1-55380-189-4

Cherie Thiessen writes from Pender Island.



Jean-Charles Pandosy

PANDOSY: Established first white settlement in the Okanagan Valley

Father Pandosy: Pioneer of Faith in the Northwest (Midtown Press/Sandhill \$19.95)

ANYONE WHO HAS LIVED IN THE OKANAGAN VALLEY RECOGNIZES THE NAME Pandosy; others will not. But the Oblate priest **Jean-Charles Pandosy** ought to be better known. In 1859-1860, Pandosy established his chapel and farm as the first white settlement in the Okanagan Valley. His Okanagan Mission evolved into the city of Kelowna. Trained in Marseilles, he worked with indigenous societies as far south as Walla Walla and as far north as Prince George, and also lived in Victoria, Hope and Kamloops. **Louis Anctil**, a publisher’s sales rep in B.C. since 1987, has opted to publish the first English translation of a French biography of Pandosy by **Edmond Rivère, Father Pandosy: Pioneer of Faith in the Northwest**, translated by Dr. **Lorin Card**.

978-0-9881101-0-6

AFTER THE APOLOGY

Marjorie Too Afraid To Cry: A Home-Child Experience by Patricia Skidmore (Dundurn \$30)

Growing up in Coquitlam Patricia Skidmore couldn’t understand why her mother was so reluctant to discuss her own childhood. In particular, her mother avoided talking about five years at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School, located south of Duncan, on Vancouver Island, or why she had been sent there.

In the late 1990s, Skidmore began the research that has resulted in **Marjorie Too Afraid To Cry: A Home-Child Experience**, a rare study of child migration to Canada.

At age ten, Marjorie Arnison, her mother, had been one of thousands of children (over 100,000 between 1869 and the late 1930s) who were removed from their families, communities and country and placed in a British colony or Commonwealth country to provide “white stock” and cheap labour.

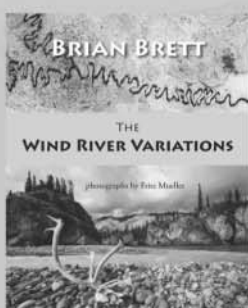
Marjorie Too Afraid To Cry contains 65 b&w illustrations and a foreword from former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who, in 2010, as prime minister, gave a formal apology to all British child migrants sent from Britain between 1619 and the mid 1970s. Patricia Skidmore’s mother Marjorie attended the apology.

Finally, in adulthood, Skidmore has been able to unravel the story and confront the issues inherent in forced child migration. She is editor of the *Fairbridge Gazette* and lives in Port Moody.

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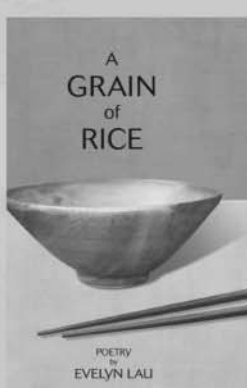
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—DAVID STANLEY, ORIGINAL AUTHOR, *LONELY PLANET CUBA*

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Imperial Canada Inc.: Legal Haven of Choice for the World's Mining Companies by Alain Deneault & William Sacher (Talon \$29.95)

ONCE UPON A TIME, WHEN **Tommy Douglas** was fighting for Medicare and **Lester Pearson** won the Nobel Peace Prize, Americans who travelled abroad sewed Canadian flags onto their backpacks.

Nowadays Canadians might be better off in some developing countries showing off the Stars and Stripes.

That's because Canada, unbeknownst to most Canadians, is home to more than 70% of the world's mining companies.

Subtitled *Legal Haven of Choice for the World's Mining Companies*, **Imperial Canada Inc.** by **Alain Deneault** and **William Sacher** examines the foreign practices of Canadian-registered mining companies as well as the Ontario/Quebec society that condones and protects them, focussing on Quebec's and Ontario's mining codes; the history of the Toronto Stock Exchange; Canada's involvement with Caribbean tax havens; and Canada's role of promoting itself to international institutions governing the world's mining sector.

Temporarily suppressed by the threat of a SLAPP ("Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation") lawsuit by **Barrick Gold**, this exposé concludes with the allegation that Canadians, by customizing our financial environment to suit the needs of the world's "extractive sector," are repeating the sins of our forefathers, in essence, replicating the imperialistic practices of the Hudson's Bay Company and Great Britain.

Deneault and Sacher remind us that two years after the constuct of Canada was created by the British North America Act in 1867, Canada perpetuated the imperial ambitions of its mother country by claiming possession of all of the land draining into Hudson Bay—so-called Rupert's Land—as well as the North West Territories, thereby grabbing three million square miles of resources and extending its Dominion, by executive fiat, "from sea to sea."

It's a big idea to swallow—we are replicating the rapaciousness of our colonial forefathers—but piece by piece, example by example, the reader can digest their claim.

• Three years after a tailings pond collapsed at the Omai mine in Guyana, contaminating much of that South American country's water supply with cyanide, an alliance of 23,000 Guyanese citizens filed suit against the offending mining company, Quebec-based Cambior, in Quebec Supreme Court, in 1998, seeking reparations.



Protesters hold placards during an anti-mining rally in front of the Canadian embassy in Manila ahead of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's arrival last November for a two-day visit. The protesters accused Canadian mining companies operating in the country of harming the environment.

Canada Inc. is not just a searing indictment of the Toronto Stock Exchange and the lax guidelines of Quebec's mining code that condones exploitation. Deneault and Sacher claim the concentration of foreign-owned mining companies in Canada is having a severe impact on the management of our domestic resources.

As more giants of the Canadian mining industry such as Inco, Falconbridge and Noranda have been sold to foreign interests, foreign-controlled mining assets jumped from \$10 billion in 2005 to \$54 billion in 2006. "Canada," they allege, "has abandoned its sovereignty... and transformed itself into a paradise for the extractive sector."



IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN FIFTY years since Lester Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his key role in resolving the 1956 Suez Crisis, creating the UN's first designated peacekeeping mission.

Now we keep the profit, not the peace.

Deneault and Sacher want Canadians to wake up and smell the copper. And the gold. And the silver. With a chapter entitled 'The Comedy of Self-Regulation,' they clearly have little faith in the ability of the current federal government or the Quebec and Ontario governments to regulate and admonish foreign-controlled mining companies registered in Canada, so they have opted to demand a moralistic reckoning among its citizenry, or, rather, the few thousand people from sea to sea to sea who might have the stomach for *Imperial Canada Inc.*

"What price do people in the South have to pay in order for a share price to rise on the Toronto exchange, bringing large profits to major shareholders and modest returns to small investors? Must dictators be strengthened, civil servants corrupted, ecosystems destroyed, workers suppressed, peasants expropriated, arable land flooded, community leaders assassinated, warlords financed, contracts deposited in Caribbean tax havens, taxes evaded, and Africa looted, for the sole purpose of supporting extractive industries registered in Canada?"

The next book by Deneault and Sacher promises to analyze the connections between Canada's extractive industry and Canada's contribution to the creation of tax havens in the Caribbean.

9780889226357

THE TRUE NORTH: STRONG & GREED

Temporarily suppressed by the threat of a lawsuit, **Imperial Canada Inc.** is an exposé that concludes with the allegation that Canadians are replicating the imperialistic practices of the Hudson's Bay Company and Great Britain.

The Quebec court concluded the case had to be heard in Guyana, whereupon the Guyanese court declared a mistrial and the citizens' group was compelled to pay the company's court costs.

- Canadian capital, including public funds, is supporting the Moanda Leasehold project in Congo-Kinshasa that will allocate a huge area for resource extraction and power plants for a century, harkening back to 19th-century European colonialism.

- In 2010, Canada remained the world's fifth largest asbestos producer, supplying 100,000 metric tons, mainly used for making asbestos cement for construction in countries such as India, Indonesia and Thailand. Indisputably, the Canadian and Quebec governments have supported the extraction and sale of a known carcinogen.

- When El Salvador refused to sanction exploitation of gold in the country's northern region, the Canadian company, Pacific Rim, through its Panamanian subsidiary Pac Rim Cayman LLC, filed a complaint with the World Bank demanding \$77 million in damages from the Salvadoran government. The lawsuit was filed under the provisions of a U.S.-made free trade agreement.

- When two prominent Romanian politicians, including the environment minister, tried to halt the extinction of a two-thousand-year-old Romanian village named Rosia Montana, threatened by the proximity of an open-pit mine described as Europe's largest, the Canadian mining firm Gabriel Resources responded by filing suit against them for 100,000 Euros.

- Hudbay Minerals, a Canadian

corporation, was sued in Canada for \$12 million by **Angelica Choc**, the wife of Guatemalan activist **Adolfo Ich Caman**, over the death of her husband in September of 2009, arising from local opposition to a nickel mine.

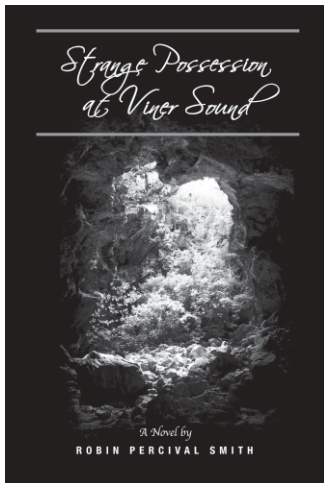
- In Ghana, Canadian mining firms hold half of all mining concessions.

- Before the adoption of a new Peruvian Mining Code in 1995, Canadian resource extraction investment in Peru was virtually nil. Today, in keeping with a new free-trade agreement, 40% of all mining investment in Peru is Canadian.

"For the first time in history," write Deneault and Sacher, "we are feeling the pressure of world opinion. We have discovered that we, too, can play the villain's role."

As translated by **Fred A. Reed** and **Robin Philpot**, *Imperial*

Strange Possession at Viner Sound



A novel by Robin Percival Smith

This is a story of spiritual possession and reincarnation that uses the traditional culture of the Kwakiutl aboriginals on the British Columbia west coast. The spirit of Jojo, a young Kwakiutl boy, possesses Matti, a single handing sailor on board his sailing vessel, Windsong, to tell of his captivity at a secret Japanese radio base on the west coast during WWII.

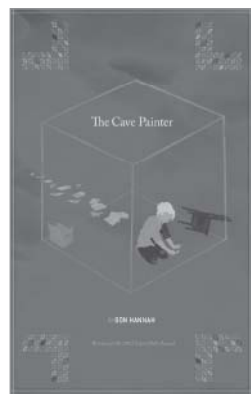
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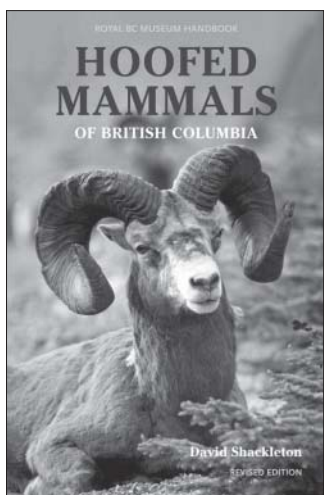
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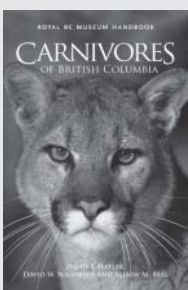
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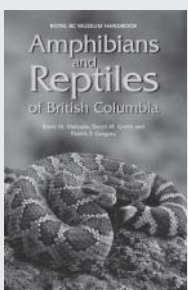
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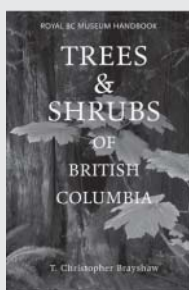
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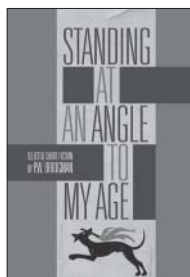
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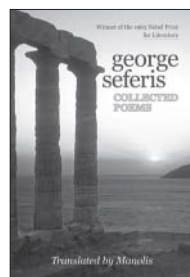
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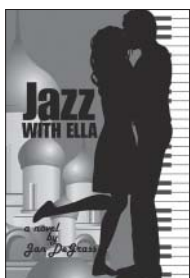
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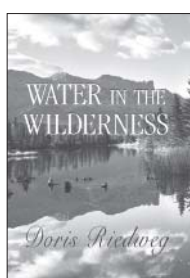


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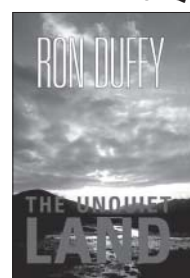
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After **Richmond P. Hobson, Jr.** dissolved his Frontier Cattle Company partnership with **Pan Phillips** and written two, non-fiction, ranching classics, *Grass Beyond the Mountains* (1951) and *Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy* (1955), Hobson, Jr. wrote a third, lesser-known volume called *The Rancher Takes A Wife* (1961), to describe his ranching days in the Vanderhoof area with his wife, **Gloria**. Hobson's accounts of life in the B.C. Interior served as a basis for a CBC television series *Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy*, filmed in British Columbia, just as Chilcotin-based stories by **Paul St. Pierre** had led to the breakthrough, made-in-B.C. series, *Cariboo Country*.

All of which sets the stage for **Doris Lee**.

BY SAGE BIRCHWATER

Ever-Changing Sky: From Schoolteacher to Cariboo Rancher by Doris Lee (Caitlin \$24.95)

AT 86, DORIS LEE IS PRETTY pumped about getting her story out. In February of 1951, married for less than two years, she moved from northern California with her husband, **John**, to Big Lake in the heart of the Cariboo. It was an odd time of year to start ranching in central B.C.

John, several years older, had grown up on a ranch; whereas Doris was a city girl from Redding. She was a young school teacher with different dreams and ambitions than John, but in those days it was expected that a wife should go where her husband could support his family.

John was a kind and gentle man, but it took Doris several years to stop being homesick and to learn the skills of backwoods living. Sixty years later, her memoir **Ever-**



Doris Lee with her son and the grizzly she shot in her sheep camp in the hills of Yank's Peak.

THE RANCHER TAKES A WIFE — TAKE 2

Doris Lee guided hunters, skinned animals, wrangled horses, cooked, and did whatever else needed to be done.

Changing Sky: From Schoolteacher to Cariboo Rancher takes the reader on an intriguing journey through the eyes of a newcomer who learns the wiles of ranching, the challenges of making do without modern conveniences and the warm friendliness of country neighbours.

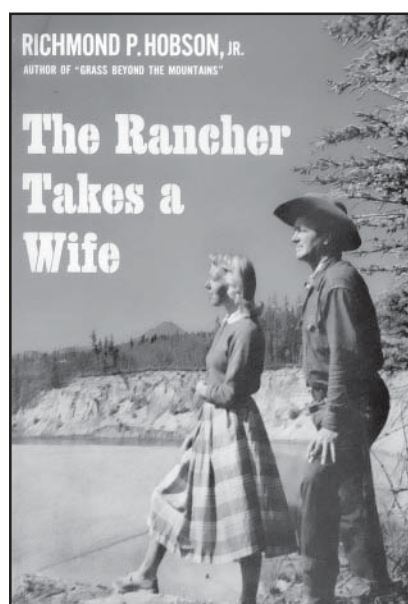
Over several decades Doris Lee persevered, pulling (birthing) calves, working in the hay fields, trapping, hunting, herding flocks of sheep into the alpine of Yank's Peak north of Likely, and raising two sons, **Michael** and **Gary**.

Her links with Cariboo history go well beyond her stint as a school teacher. In August of 1963, for in-

stance, while exploring with her kids at Yank's Peak, they came upon a five-foot wooden grave marker inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of William Luce – Native of Maine, USA, Died 28 May, 1881, Aged 60 years."

Thirty years later she took historian **Dave Falconer** to the site and they found the grave marker still undisturbed except for a lengthwise crack. They took the headboard to the Cedar Creek Museum in Likely and left a replica in its place.

Doris Lee had been in the



The Rancher Takes A Wife (1960)

country ten years when she came to the realization she was no longer a dude. "Despite the many tears and exciting and sometimes horrendous experiences," she writes, "I had accomplished the feat of becoming a rancher's wife."

That job included turning herself into a good hunter and an excellent shot. Doris tells of shooting two caribou at their sheep camp. "We field dressed these caribou, then skinned and hung the meat back at camp," she writes. "Neither John nor I enjoyed killing them. I had lived with them all summer and it felt like killing a friend. We vowed never to shoot another caribou and we didn't.

"I was also a rugged individual who could strap on a backpack and compete with the best. Guiding was something I could do well. I cooked, took out extra hunters, skinned and cared for their meat, wrangled horses and did whatever else needed to be done."



EVER-CHANGING SKY WAS PUBLISHED after Doris Lee attended a book launch last year for *The Legendary Betty Frank*, a memoir by and about the trailblazing hunting guide **Betty Frank**.

Lee and Frank had a mutual acquaintance, **Roy Cessna**, who had doctored Doris' sheep. As Betty Frank's memoir mentions, he was known for, among other things, biting the balls of the sheep he was castrating.

At the book launch, Doris Lee met Betty Frank's publisher, **Vici Johnstone**, of Caitlin Press, and handed her the manuscript that has enabled her to become an octogenarian author.

No sheep were harmed in the making of this book. 978-1894759892

Sage Birchwater writes from Williams Lake.



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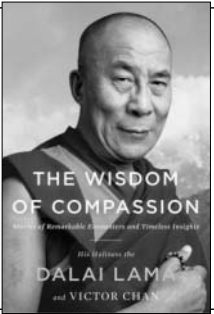
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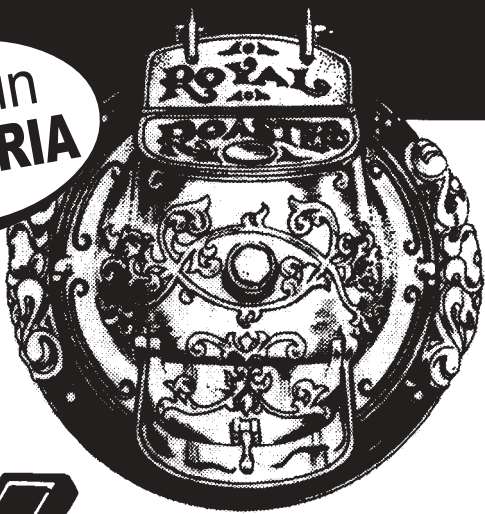
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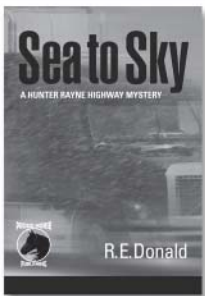


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BY PHYLLIS REEVE

Bog Tender: Coming Home to Nature and Memory by George Szanto
(Brindle & Glass \$19.95)

ON A ROCKY, WET, HILLY, bumpy, property known to local realtors as the “Engineer’s Challenge,” **George Szanto** of Gabriola Island has recently come to terms with petty annoyances and the Holocaust, with being young and becoming old, in a memoir written in a cottage beside a bog above the Salish Sea. “Our bog’s ongoing transformations give me a way of dealing with whatever is immediate and unique,” he writes in **Bog Tender: Coming Home to Nature and Memory**, “with the local as it exists here, now, and nowhere else, filled with its private mysteries. I look into the September bog, under the water—what’s down there in all that murkiness?”

Clearly tending a bog has affected Szanto as a writer. “I report what I discover or recover, I write down snippets of memory. Often I merely mull about what could be down there, back there, in my memory bog.” And so Szanto acknowledges that human recollections over the course of a lifetime gestate into a kind of bog, “obscure on the surface, at times clearer when waded into, at times murkier.”



DIVIDED INTO TWELVE CHAPTERS—one for each month of the year—*Bog Tender* begins and ends with September and dragonflies mating by the water, while the writer, an avid fisherman, reels in the memories, chronology determined only by what ripples just below the surface, and how one thing leads to another.

Although he was born in Londonderry, Northern Ireland in 1940, George Szanto takes the reader to Vienna, where his parents lived until **Hitler** arrived, before he was born. His father had been born in Budapest. Two uncles disappeared into the Theresienstadt death camp.

Szanto spent his early childhood in Ireland and England, then his youth in New England small towns and Ivy League campuses, followed by postgraduate studies in Europe. The highlight remains his romance with **Kit** in Paris. Married for fifty years, the couple still likes to roam the streets of Paris.

Memory allots Szanto’s many accomplishments as a teacher,



Novelist and playwright George Szanto speaks four languages, has written fifteen books—and has one wife, Kit.

BOGGED UP NOT DOWN

George Szanto goes wading into the murkiness of memory and the thrill of a Paris romance

playwright and novelist in the United States and Mexico no more space, maybe less, than the honing of his fishing skills and the construction of his house.

In *Bog Tender*, Szanto lingers with loving detail over cherished family moments, significant introductions, chance encounters, and unexpected opportunities, such as organising antiwar protests in Somerville, Massachusetts, dealing with anti-Semitism beside a Laurentian lake, or developing protective covenants for the Commons on Gabriola Island.

“The bog beside the road has

its own kinds of secrets,” he writes, “long invisible, unsmellable, unheard, till the season comes for it to release one or another of them—a deer trail here, some lily pads in the newly open water, a thousand frogs mating, ten thousand tiny crab-apples heavy on the boughs—whatever is ready to burst forth at its moment in the cycle.

“Our bog has given me the pattern, seasonal, monthly, an external imposed structure for this memoir.”



THE SENSE OF ONE REALITY HIDING another reality keeps turning up in

Szanto’s work, in book titles such as *The Underside of Stones*, *Inside the Statues of the Saints* and *Second Sight*, as well as his recent whodunit series of mysteries co-authored with **Sandy Frances Duncan**. Nothing is ever what it seems in murder mysteries, so perception matters, including physical perception and the act of seeing.

“The notion ‘magical’ is not part of my active vocabulary,” he insists, and yet when he describes his first encounter with the area of Gabriola Island where he would build his home, he admits, “in this instance to have called that space

magical wouldn’t have been inappropriate.”

When aging islanders board the ferry from a Gulf Island, they are most likely keeping a doctor’s appointment on the mainland, armed with the pink voucher which allows us to travel free.

For Szanto, the most frightening off-island trips have involved his eyes, the care and restoration of his sight. Yet the diagnosis of an unusual syndrome called birdshot retinochoroidopathy can suggest the author’s bird’s-eye view, and successful cataract surgery can stand for clear-sightedness. Even in the operating room he notices, observes, witnesses.

Only someone who has learned to perceive, notice, observe and witness could identify the process of loading and unloading the Gabriola-Nanaimo ferry as “choreography,” revealing the artfulness hidden within a humdrum slice of our everyday life.

“A sense of impatient dance seems to build, the passengers partnering the ferry workers. One crewman steps over the rope to tie the ship fast to the dock, a second crosses the breadth of the deck. He slides the orange netting into a bunch at the far end, then comes back, unhooks the rope and holds it, expectant.

“With the ship secure, the man carries the rope across, looping it as he goes. Only then do the passengers stream off, each still a member of the disembarkment ritual...The ritual takes place, unaltered, sixteen times a day on the Gabriola end, sixteen in Nanaimo.”

Bog Tender also recalls Szanto’s life in England, France, Germany, Mexico and the U.S.

Szanto has a Ph.D in comparative literature from Harvard and he worked as executive director of New Heritage Theater in San Diego (1970-1974).

He came to Canada in 1974, taught at McGill University and served as president of Playwrights Canada (1980-1981). He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1988.

For more than two decades he lived in Montreal before moving to British Columbia in the late 1990s. For more info: abcbookworld.com

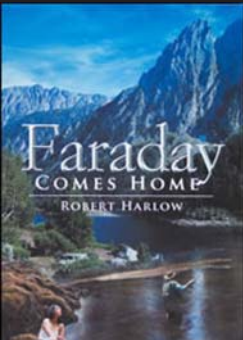
Phyllis Reeve is co-founder of Page’s Resort & Marina Bookstore on Gabriola Island.

MAYNE ISLAND Writes Books

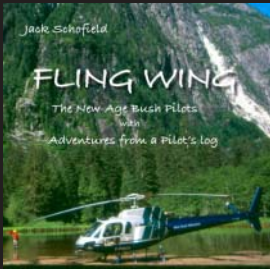
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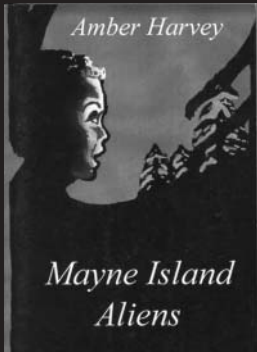
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JUVENILE FICTION

Not A Chance by Michelle Mulder (Orca \$9.95)

EVERY SUMMER DIAN’S PARENTS, who are both doctors, set up a clinic in the Dominican Republic, and every year thirteen-year-old Dian is forced to tag along with them, bringing the dreaded suitcases of donated, outdated clothing that they’ll leave behind for the villagers when they return to Canada. New clothing, she has learned, “exploits poor workers and impacts the environment.”

At the outset of **Not A Chance**, it’s the end of June and Dian is once again decked out in lame secondhand clothes — this time it’s polka dots and tie-dye — and there’s no one but her Dominican friend Aracely to get her through the endless days far from home.

But this year Dian won’t be able to count on Aracely. As the girls head down to the river — not to swim (Aracely hasn’t done that for two years, not since she became a woman) but to have some privacy — Aracely whispers a secret. She’s getting married.

Vincente — she speaks his name in the same hushed tone Dian’s best friend back in Canada uses when she talks about her boyfriend — has left to find work in a Santo Domingo mine. When he returns he’ll have money to buy a house and land. By then, Aracely will be fifteen and of legal age to marry.

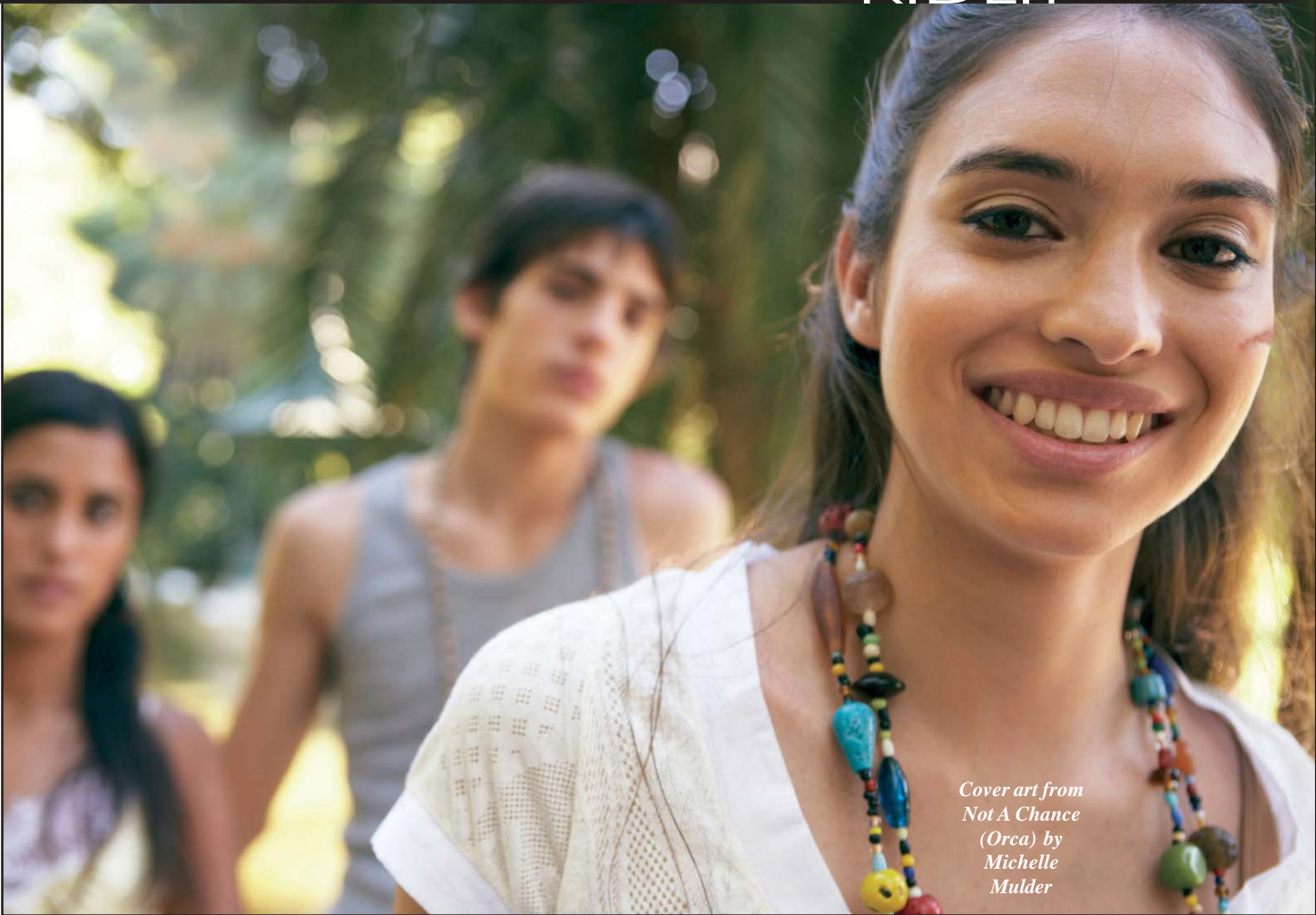
This is hardly what Dian — or her parents — had planned for the gifted Aracely! After seeing her drawings of medicinal plants, Dian’s father envisioned Aracely would come to Canada, augmenting her grandmother’s teaching of traditional healing with an academic education, then return to the Dominican Republic to make a difference in her village.

Dian also had imagined Aracely thriving in Canada, discovering girls could do anything boys could, that women weren’t weak, or subject to the subservient role envisioned for them by the village church.

Dian wants Aracely to have choices. She wanted her Caribbean friend to have the freedom to choose her own path. So shouldn’t Dian and her parents respect Aracely’s dreams of having a husband who loves her, despite the childhood scars on her face. Shouldn’t the well-meaning Canadians also respect Aracely’s hopes for children, a house, some land? in her own little village?

Author **Michelle Mulder** is married to the Argentine pen pal she’d written to since she was fourteen. As a 19-year-old, she volunteered in the Dominican Republic digging a water pipeline. The cultural shock of witnessing the struggle there for basics such as water, education, food and clothing have now given rise to *Not A Chance*, in keeping with Mulder’s previous young adult novels about the challenges and benefits of cross-culturalism, including *Out of the Box* and *After Peaches*.

Her next book, **Pedal It! How Bicycles are Changing the World** (Orca \$19.95), is a history of a mode of transportation that can power



Cover art from
Not A Chance
(Orca) by
Michelle
Mulder

NOT WHAT THE DOCTORS ORDERED IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

15-year-old Aracely whispers a secret. She’s getting married.

computers, reduce pollution, promote health and is perhaps still the quickest way to get a package to its destination across a busy city.

Chance 978-1-4598-0216-2;
Pedal 978-1-4598-0219-3

AGES 9-11

Mimi Power and the I-don’t-know-what by Victoria Miles (Tradewind Books \$12.95)

AT AGE NINE, MIMI POWER is a budding artist, a reluctant swimmer and the long-suffering older sister to tyrannical three-year-old Lily June, better known as “The Waby.”

The Waby screams blue murder if she doesn’t get the desired colour of gummy bear vitamin and, proudly potty-trained, virtuously flushes their movie-location-scout father’s prized fossilized poo down the john.

The toddler’s “fire engine” tantrums rattle their already-loopy market research mother so much that she’s known to leave the house still wearing her telephone headset.

And when The Waby’s beloved Bunny Jim disappears, and is spotted dangling from the back of a garbage truck, and no amount of polite requests to the burly driver work, even after they shockingly morph into Incredible Hulk-like threats from their father, Mimi saves the day with the sacrifice of her souvenir red double-decker pen.

But when The Waby’s chocolate-pudding-finger-painting additions to Mimi’s masterpiece for the school’s art auction fundraiser crush any hope her class has of winning a pizza lunch with the opportunity



Victoria Miles

to have a visiting lizard crawl on their heads, Mimi’s “Mimi Power” fails her. Until inspiration

strikes and Mimi channels a solution from her recently acquired fascination with the artist **Henri Matisse**.

Victoria Miles’ Mimi Power and the I-don’t-know-what is illustrated by the prolific **Marc Mongeau**. Victoria Miles is also the award-winning author of **Magnifico, Old Mother Bear**. She lives in North Vancouver with her husband, photographer **David Nunuk**.

978-1-896580-65-4

AGES 13-18

Last Cut by Wren Handman (Lorimer \$9.95)

WREN HANDMAN’S FIRST YA novel **Last Cut** is an edgy look at the dangers that can befall a naive teen actor in the film business. When she doesn’t get the lead role in the school play, Caitlin Myers lies about her age and secretly takes a small role as a girl in a bikini in a low budget slasher movie.

Soon overwhelmed and out of her depth, she can’t face the shame of letting her parents and boyfriend know about her debasement in a crass world that is far removed from her dreams of stardom.

Handman won the Best New Play citation at the 2007 Victoria International Fringe Festival as well as the Theatre in the Raw New Play Contest.

978-1459401877

AGES 13+

Homo by Michael Harris (Lorimer \$9.95)

YA NOVELS WITH GAY PROTAGONISTS are rare, so **Michael Harris’** debut with **Homo** will likely raise some eyebrows, particularly as it includes an HIV-positive boyfriend. As a student at Chilliwack High School, Will has been circumspect about his gay orientation until his best friend outs him on Facebook. Whereas his schoolmate Daniel has been unabashed about being gay, and has even endured beatings as a result, Will quite simply doesn’t want to have his sexuality as the main focus for his identity. Michael Harris is a Vancouver-based magazine editor and writer.

978-1459401914

Louise Donnelly writes from Vernon.

By changing only a few words in the English language’s best-known poem, ***T’was the Night Before Christmas***—making Santa into a politically correct non-smoker without his pipe—self-publisher **Pamela McColl** has garnered media coverage around the world and bestseller status on numerous lists. The much-loved poem about Santa’s visit was first published in 1823 as ***A Visit From St. Nicholas***. McColl’s smoke-free version is ***Twas the Night Before Christmas: Edited by Santa Claus for the Benefit of Children of the 21st Century*** (Grafton and Scratch Publishers \$16.95).

Pamela McColl is a smoking-cessation coach. Funds raised from a website at www.BooksThatFit.com are being donated to the Slave Lake Library Association for the rebuilding of the library that was destroyed by fire. When she was 18, McColl fled her home, which was engulfed in flames as a



result of her father falling asleep in bed with a lit cigarette. Though she had taken up smoking as a teenager, she quit over three decades ago.

Pamela
McColl (on
the left)

978-0987902306

LETTERS

Fidel & BCBW

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT *Anita's Revolution* in *B.C. BookWorld*. I sent a copy of it to Fidel Castro and included a copy of *B.C. BookWorld* so Fidel could read the feature article about Celia Sanchez, his lover and a Cuban heroine. His office acknowledged receipt of the package, signed by Fidel himself.

Also, I am thrilled to say that the Cuban Book Institute has notified me of their interest in translating *Anita's Revolution* into Spanish and publishing it in Cuba in 2014. I have also been invited, and am going, to Cuba's International Book Fair in February. So best wishes for the continuing vibrancy of *B.C. BookWorld*.

Shirley Langer
Victoria

An open and shut case

I HAVE NOW TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS AT THE CADBORO BAY Book Company. This is just a note to say thank you for sending *B.C. BookWorld* all these years. The information always created interest for customers to come into the bookstore and the residents of Cadboro Bay appreciated having an interesting, free publication available to enjoy with their coffee at the Olive Olio's Espresso Cafe next door. Now, in this new digital business model we seem to be embracing, it's really the sense of community we are losing.

Patricia Jutras
Victoria

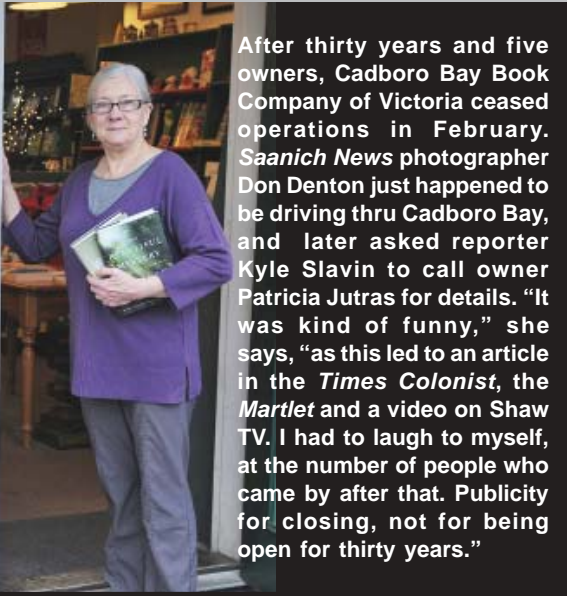
All the books fit to print

I AM HAPPY TO SUPPORT *B.C. BOOKWORLD* AND ITS continued emphasis on the printed book. I feel there is absolutely nothing like a good book, holding it, writing in the margins and yes, (gasp!) even turning down the corner of a page which is especially noteworthy.

Lillian Zimmerman
Vancouver



DOON DENTON / SAANICH NEWS PHOTO



After thirty years and five owners, Cadboro Bay Book Company of Victoria ceased operations in February. *Saanich News* photographer Don Denton just happened to be driving thru Cadboro Bay, and later asked reporter Kyle Slavin to call owner Patricia Jutras for details. “It was kind of funny,” she says, “as this led to an article in the *Times Colonist*, the *Martlet* and a video on Shaw TV. I had to laugh to myself, at the number of people who came by after that. Publicity for closing, not for being open for thirty years.”

Wells, far go

WOW! 25 YEARS, CONGRATULATIONS. *B.C. BOOKWORLD* MAKES OUR decades of ferry trips bearable. I always look forward to the latest volume. What a delight to read about Susan Safyan's new book, *All Roads Lead to Wells*. I have ordered Susan's book from our local book store. I have also forwarded this to two of my Wells buddies; we see each other on an annual basis and are regular Wells reunion attenders. We were there for reunions in 1973, 1991 and 1995. I lived in Wells from 1951 to 1958 and then worked in the mines and Barkerville. We visited Wells this summer with our grandkids and found our old house up on Bowman Crescent.

David Brown
Campbell River

Singh-ing in the rain

I WAS SO PLEASED TO FIND THE IN-DEPTH ARTICLE ABOUT Hugh Johnston's *Jewels of the Qila* and Kapoor Singh Siddoo's career on the west coast.

Growing up, I always knew there was a section of Vancouver Island southwest of Shawnigan Lake that my father

hunted regularly and referred to as “Kapoor.” On occasions we would pile into the family car, drive to the west side of Shawnigan Lake and head overland via the logging roads to Jordan River. The road ran along the side of a broad valley which was still an open slash. We knew it as the “Kapoor slash.” I asked my father once why it had never regrown and he said it had been deliberately burned over sometime around the war years; it was something to do with fear of a Japanese invasion.

Consequently, I knew of Kapoor Logging Company. My father worked for the Mayo Lumber Company and he often mentioned, with considerable liking and respect, the personality of “Old Mayo” and comments he had made during that time. Thank you for adding so much background to my snippets of family lore with that article.

Laura Lee Life
Charlie Lake

Letters / emails: BC BookWorld, 3516 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver., BC V6R 2S3 bookworld@telus.net.
Letters may be edited for clarity & length.

MW BOOKS

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New Books, Fall And Winter 2012



Comrade Stalin's Baby Tooth
Marina Sonkina



**Scott the Starfish
An Unexpected Adventure!**
Jennifer Fraser and Melanie Eastley

New Books, Spring 2013

Dancing With Bears on Kootenay Time
David Litvak

Gold Mad
Michael Maser

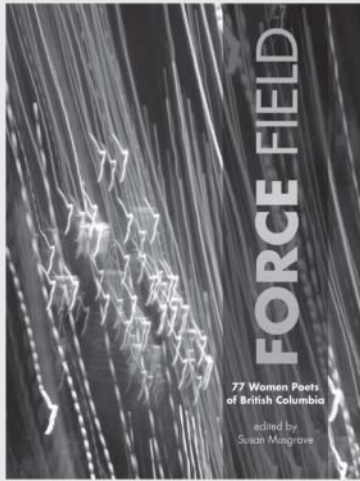
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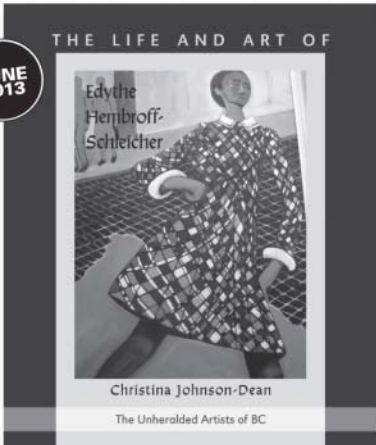
Christina Johnson-Dean

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—At 24 fashionable Edythe met 59 yr old Emily Carr after Edythe's return from art study in Paris—they immediately became good friends.



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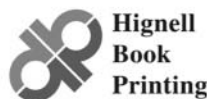
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WHO'S BRITISH COLUMBIA WHO

A is for Ash

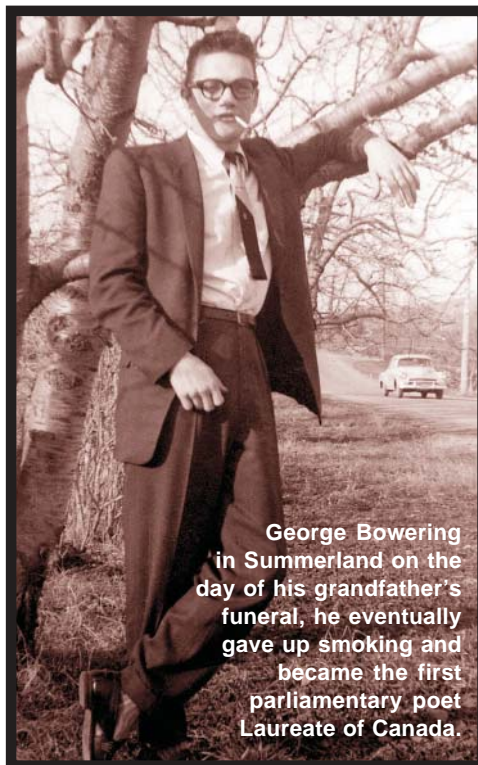
Aaron Ash is the new-age Umber to for Vancouver. The former personal chef for one of the Beastie Boys will soon be opening a second, larger retail outlet to complement his organic, raw vegan restaurant Gorilla Food on Richards Street. Ash's cooking manual **Gorilla Food: Living and Eating Organic, Vegan, and Raw** (Arsenal Pulp \$24.95) is a vegan bible with recipes that include a raw lasagna made with zucchini noodles, kale and a "cheese" made from walnuts. The cookbook also contains recipes for dehydrated and cultured foods for a raw food diet. 978-1-55152-470-2

Aaron Ash: rah-rah raw

B is for Bowering

HAVING PRODUCED MORE BOOKS THAN some people read in a lifetime, George Bowering maintains his Woodcockian pace of productivity, like a home-run hitter trying to outdo Hank Aaron or Babe Ruth. On the heels of his well-received memoir of his Okanagan teen years, **Pinboy** (Cormorant \$32), shortlisted for the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction (won by Toronto historian Modris Eksteins), Bowering has released an engaging and varied collection of essays and memoirs, **Words, Words, Words** (New Star \$19), including recollections of Nat Bailey Stadium, Vancouver Mounties' pitcher George Bamberger and his own Kozmic League team, the Granville Grange Zephyrs.

Pinboy: 9781897151938; Words: 978-1-55420-066-5

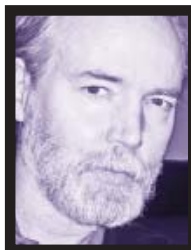


George Bowering in Summerland on the day of his grandfather's funeral, he eventually gave up smoking and became the first parliamentary poet Laureate of Canada.

C is for Coupland

DOUGLAS COUPLAND KEEPS EXPLORING. In 2010, the novelist began his own clothing label with Roots. In November of 2012, the developer proposing the large redevelopment of the Oakridge complex in Vancouver submitted a plan that included Coupland as a design consultant to "re-think the library for the 21st century." The proposal contains text from Coupland's website describing him "as possibly the most gifted exegete of North American mass culture writing today" and "one of the great satirists of consumerism."

Douglas Coupland: rethinking the library



D is for Djwa

SANDRA DJWA'S BIOGRAPHY OF P. K. PAGE, **Journey with No Maps: A Life of P.K. Page** (McGill-Queen's \$39.95), has been nominated as one of five finalists for this year's Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. It has also been shortlisted for the new Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize for best scholarly book pertaining to British Columbia, to be presented at UBC Library in May. The other nominees are Jim McDowell's biography *Father August Brabant: Saviour or Scourge* (Ronsdale \$24.95) and Derek Hayes' *British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas* (D&M). The atlas was featured in BCBW Autumn; the P.K. Page bio was reviewed in BCBW Winter by Joan Givner; and the Brabant bio is reviewed in this issue by Cherie Theissen.

Journey: 9780773540613



Sandra Djwa

E is for Ekstasies

EDITED BY CAROL ANN SOKOLOFF AND Richard Olafson to mark the 30th anniversary of their Ekstasis Editions of Victoria, **Ekstasies: Thirty Years of Ekstasis Editions** (Ekstasis \$23.95) features highlights from hundreds of poetry volumes published by the literary press. The word 'Ekstasis' comes from an ancient Greek word, meaning "to stand outside oneself." The press began with Olafson's own collection *Blood of the Moon* after he had attended the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics during its second year of operation (in 1977) and was much influenced the following year by taking classes from Warren Tallman at UBC's English Department.

978-1-897430-00-2



Richard Olafson

F is for Fetherling

NOBODY HAS EVER ATTEMPTED A LITERARY life balanced between Toronto and Vancouver so assiduously and exhaustively as George Fetherling, as evidenced by his engaging, enlightening journal of meetings, dreams and observations in **The Writing Life: Journals 1975-2005** (McGill-Queen's \$37.95). The sheer survivalism of The Artist Formerly Known As Doug Fetherling deserves some kind of medal. His literary model George Woodcock figures prominently throughout, dead or alive. It appears there isn't anyone Fetherling hasn't met. His shrewd assessments are as frequently generous as they are prickly.

978-0-7735-4114-6

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G is for Geiger

Andrea Geiger's **Subverting Exclusion: Transpacific Encounters with Race, Caste, and Borders, 1885-1928** (Yale \$45) explores ways in which the idea of outcast status framed Japanese immigrant responses to constraints and opportunities in the North American West on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It expands on the SFU history professor's previous research on race and class. The cover image (seen here) is of Japanese coal miners in Cumberland, B.C.

9780300169638

H is for Hungrywolf

AFTER MORE THAN FIFTY TITLES SINCE 1969, Adolf Hungrywolf of Skookumchuk, born of Swiss and Hungarian parents, is easily one of B.C.'s most unusual and prolific self-publishers. His Aboriginal history and culture titles culminated in a massive, four-volume history of the Blackfeet, entitled *The Blackfoot Papers* (2006). His appetite for travel and railroading, after twelve visits to Cuba, has now resulted in a remarkable pictorial overview of vintage railroads in Cuba, **Vintage Cubano** (Canadian Caboose Press / Hayden Consulting \$75 U.S.), a 320-page volume for which he has adjusted the spelling of Hungry Wolf to Hungrywolf. For Canadian sales: www.adolphhungrywolf.com

I is for Indigena

SET PRIMARILY IN VANCOUVER AND Winnipeg, the fourth collection of poems from "NDN word warrior" Annharte, **Indigena Awry** (New Star \$19), "swings from a poetic madness into a mad poetics." The poet also known as Marie Annharte Baker works to decolonize the mind from her outsider perspective as Anishinabe (Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Manitoba). This collection is a follow-up to her book of essays, *AKA*, released last year by Capilano University Editions.

9781554200672

J is for Jennie

JENNIE'S BOOK GARDEN IN BEAUTIFUL, downtown Winlaw has joined the list of independent bookstores that are unable to compete in the Amazon jungle. Founded in 1985 by Jennie Ash, Jennie's Book Garden featured hand-picked titles on philosophy, politics, gardening, building, crime fiction, children's literature, locally-made pottery and jewelry, as well as baskets, clothing and antique furniture. After five owners and thirty years, Cadboro Bay Books of Victoria also went out of business in February. See LETTERS page 33.

K is for Kawatski



Deanna Kawatski

DEANNA KAWATSKI'S newest book **Burning Man, Slaying Dragon: My True & Transformative Travel Tale** (Gracesprings Collective \$21.95) is a dual memoir that recalls her overland trip to

India via Turkey as a young hippie at age 21 as she simultaneously narrates her recent journey to the Burning Man Festival at the Black Rock Desert in Nevada with Natalia, her 23-year-old daughter. Kawatski was born in Salmon Arm.

978-0-9809608-6-0



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1939 hijinks: The Baring-It-All Gang on Mt. Seymour, from *Echoes Across Seymour*

L is for Louann

FRANCI LOUANN MOVED TO THE WEST COAST in the late 1960s where her poetry appeared in *Woman's Eye: 12 BC Poets* (Air Press, 1974), edited by Dorothy Livesay. She has served as poetry editor for *The Canadian Unitarian* for five years and co-founded New Westminster's Poetic Justice. Her first chapbook of short poems is **Beach Cardiology** (Gabriola: Lipstick Press, Unpriced).

978-0-9781204-8-1

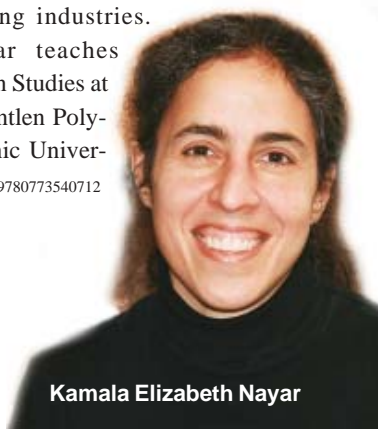
M is for Mackie

FOR HOME TRUTHS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM **BC History** (Harbour \$26.95), co-edited with Graeme Wynn and drawn from the first forty-four years of *BC Studies* (1968-2012), Richard Mackie writes, "Somehow we narrowed 600 articles down to ten works arranged on the theme of 'finding home' as outlined in George Bowering's landmark article 'Home Away' in *BC Studies* in 1984. Graeme and I have written an introduction to the volume concerning the search for home on the West Coast—safeguarding old homes for indigenous peoples and making new ones for settlers." 978-1-55017-577-6

N is for Nayar

KAMALA ELIZABETH NAYAR OF SURREY first conducted more than one hundred interviews for *The Sikh Diaspora in Vancouver: Three Generations Amid Tradition, Modernity and Multiculturalism* (UTP 2004) which examines family relations, child-rearing and religion. She has conducted another one hundred interviews for **The Punjabis in British Columbia: Location, Labour, First Nations and Multiculturalism** (McGill-Queens \$32.95) with a particular emphasis on the relocation of Punjabis from the Skeena region to B.C.'s Lower Mainland during the decline of the forestry and fishing industries.

Nayar teaches Asian Studies at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. 9780773540712

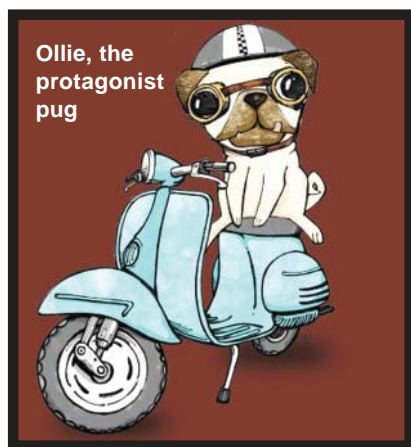


Kamala Elizabeth Nayar

O is for Ollie

RAISED ON GABRIOLA ISLAND, ADRIAN Chamberlain, as an arts writer for the *Victoria Times Colonist*, has collected his humorous dog stories about owning a playful and headstrong pug. First published in the *Times Colonist*, it is a relatively rare B.C. humour title, **Adventures with Ollie** (Oolichan \$19.95).

978-0-88982-291-7



P is for Pavlik

AS A MEMBER OF THE DEEP COVE HERITAGE Society, established in 1985, Janet Pavlik has co-authored **Echoes Across Seymour** (Harbour \$39.95), a hardcover history of North Vancouver's eastern communities, including Dollarton and Deep Cove, with her co-editors Eileen Smith, formerly with the Deep Cove Crier, and Desmond Smith, who wrote the first official community plan for the District of North Vancouver. It's a follow-up to *Echoes Across the Inlet*, a Seymour history produced in 1989.

978-1-55017-588-2

Q is for Quwutsu'un

STEVE WALKER-DUNCAN'S CO-OPERATIVELY written cookbook **Flavours of the West Coast** (Cedarwood/Touchwood \$29.95) has won the Best Local Cuisine (Canada) award at the 2012 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. It includes recipes from Chef Vikram Vij, owner of Vij's Restaurant, Vancouver; Carolyn Herriot, author of *The Zero Mile Diet*; Executive Chef Matthew Batey, Mission Hill Family Estate, Kelowna; Chef Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, Quwutsu'un Centre, Duncan; Chef John Cantin, John's Place, Victoria; and many others.

9781927129241

continued on page 38

photo by Mark Mushet

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British Columbia History

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R is for Reliquary

TO MARK THE AUGUST DEATH OF BURNABY-born poet Daryl Hine, *The Malahat Review* dedicated its Winter 2012 issue to Hine’s memory. Five of his last poems were included as well as an excellent interview by *Malahat* editor John Barton with Hine’s literary executor Evan Jones, editor of Hines’ forthcoming posthumous collection, **In A Reliquary** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside / \$14.95). Hines began studying classics at McGill University in 1954 and lived outside of Canada since 1962, teaching comparative literature at the University of Chicago, where he had obtained his Ph.D.

A reliquary is a repository for relics.

978-1-55455-225-2

S is for Sire

BORN IN B.C. FROM DESCENDANTS OF SLAVE escapees, Storma Sire, of West African Akan (Ghanaian) heritage, won Best Emerging Author/Illustrator in Children’s Literature from Canada Council for her 2005 novel *Lessons in Magic*. Consequently she is one of numerous B.C. writers featured in a landmark anthology of contemporary African-Canadian poetry, **The Great Black North** (Frontenac \$21.95), edited by Valerie Mason-Jones and Kevan Anthony Cameron.

Storma Sire has Sickel Cell Anemia, a genetic blood disorder that is common among those of African or tropical decent. This condition is cited as another influence on the themes of overcoming weaknesses and disabilities in her poetry and stories. As a fourth-year psychology student going into art therapy, Sire is currently co-founding the first Sickel Cell Society in B.C. and has previously worked as a crisis and suicide prevention counsellor.

Storma Sire has also co-written two independent feature films, two television pilots and one documentary on the homeless in Vancouver called *Goin’ Home*. Shot in 2007 by Barbara James, the independent feature film, co-written with Gerry Atwell and Winston Washington Moxam, was the first full-length, independent feature film by black people to come out of Winnipeg. The film was honoured by the National Film Board of Canada and won for best picture, best actress and was nominated for best screenplay at the



Storma Sire **is one of the British Columbians in *The Great Black North* along with** Lorna Goodison, Wayde Compton, Tanya Evanson, Julianne Okot Bitek, Jilian Christmas, Addena Sumter-Freitag, Jean Pierre Makosso **and** Joy Russell.

Toronto Black Film and Video Network Reel Awards aired on Much Music and MTV.

The 272-page anthology with 91 poets will be featured during the Verses Festival of Words at the Havana Theatre, 3pm, Saturday, April 13 in Vancouver. 978-1-897181-83-6

T is for Thompson

A FILMMAKER AND TELEVISION WRITER WHO has relocated from Toronto to Saltspring Island, Kim Thompson has written scripts for children’s cartoons such as *Franklin*, *Jacob Two-Two*, *George Shrinks*, *Pearlie*, and *The Doodlebops*. For ages nine to twelve, her **Eldritch Manor** (Dundurn \$12.99) is a whimsical YA novel about twelve-year-old Willa Fuller who is convinced the old folks in the shabby boarding house down the street are prisoners of their sinister landlady, Miss Trang. Only when Willa is hired on as housekeeper does she discover the truth. Eldritch Manor is a retirement home for some very strange, magical beings.

9781459703544

U is for UVic

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA’S FACULTY of Fine Arts Alumni Night in October, *The Malahat Review* announced Pamela Porter of Sidney, Susan Musgrave of North Saanich, and Katherine Edwards of Kamloops, as the first, second, and third place winners respectively in UVic’s 50th Anniversary Prize in Poetry.

V is for Verses

ON APRIL 8–13, POETS FROM AROUND NORTH America will gather on Vancouver’s Commercial Drive for the 3rd annual Verses Festival of Words. The Spoken Word Marquee Series will feature **Beau Sia, Sheri-D Wilson, Lillian Allen, Mike McGee, CR Avery, Tara Hardy, Wayde Compton, Kevan Cameron, Valerie ‘Queenie’ Mason-John, Adelene da Soul Poet and Reggie Cabico**. The festival includes the Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Championships.

W is for Wasserman

JERRY WASSERMAN IS THE INSTIGATOR AND overseer of Vancouverplays.com, a public service site about Vancouver theatre, pro-

duced and edited by Wasserman, and managed by Linda Fenton Malloy. Also head of UBC’s Theatre and Film department, and a veteran actor with more than 200 acting credits, Wasserman has released the fifth edition of his **Modern Canadian Plays: Volume One** (Talon \$49.95), an anthology that provides a bedrock for Canadian theatre in English. 978-0-88922-678-4

X is for Xwemelch’stn

THE TEXTS IN COLIN BROWNE’S **THE Properties** (Talon \$19.95) range from a twenty-first-century visitation by Herman Melville at a diner in New York City to an unknown history of the Lions Gate Bridge that begins in the Coast Salish village of Xwemelch’stn and ends with an assassination in Egypt. **Igor Stravinsky, Sigmund Freud, Duke Ellington, Jeanne d’Arc, Walter Guinness, George Bowering, André Breton** and more appear. 9780889226852

Y is for Yee

VANCOUVER-BORN-AND-RAISED PAUL YEE has received the Vicky Metcalf Award for Children’s Literature (\$20,000) via the Writers Trust, sponsored by the Metcalf Foundation (Jury: **Deirdre Baker, Ronald Jobe, and Joanne Schwartz**). The citation stated: “He was virtually the first children’s author to document the Chinese Canadian experience from its early days to the present.” His sixth release from Tradewind is **The Secret Keepers** (Tradewind \$12.95).

978-1-896580-96-8

Z is for Zonailo

CAROLYN ZONAILO PAYS TRIBUTE TO HER Douhkobor heritage in **Fight Fire With Spirit: Selected & New Poems** (Ekstasis \$24.95). Having founded Caitlin Press in Vancouver in 1977, Zonailo sold it to Cynthia Wilson who relocated it to Prince George in 1991. Caitlin Press then operated for its second fourteen years as an important small press publisher for northern B.C. writers. After the death of Cynthia Wilson (Howard White’s sister), Caitlin Press was relocated to Pender Harbour. It’s now owned and operated by Vici Johnstone from Halfmoon Bay.

978-1-897430-89-7

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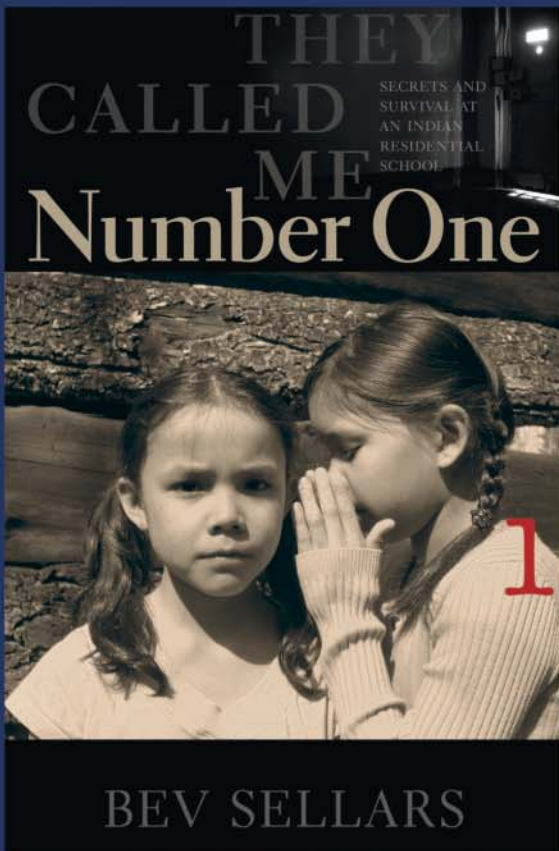
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They Called Me Number One

A Seminal Memoir from the Chief of the Soda Creek Band

Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School

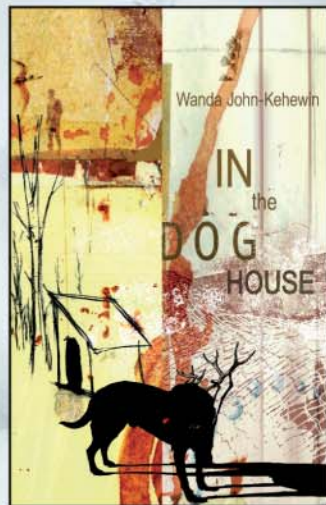


They Called Me Number One
Bev Sellars

"Soon after we arrived at residential school, we were given a number that would become our identity. I became Number 1 on the girls' side. Although the other kids all continued to call me by name, 'Bev Sellars' ceased to exist for most of the nuns, priests, and staff. Instead they would say, 'Number 1, come here' or 'I want these girls in my office: Numbers 1, 14, 72, and 105' or 'Number 1, say the second decade of the rosary.' Ninety or more years after she left St. Joseph's Mission, my grandmother still remembered her number – 27 – and 28 – the number assigned to her sister Annie. My mom remembers her number was 71. Thankfully, our numbers were not tattooed on our skin."

Bev Sellars is chief of the Xat'sull (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake, British Columbia. She returned to the First Nations community of Soda Creek after an extended period of "visiting other territories." While she was away, she earned a degree in history from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia, and she served as adviser for the B.C. Treaty Commission. She was first elected chief in 1987.

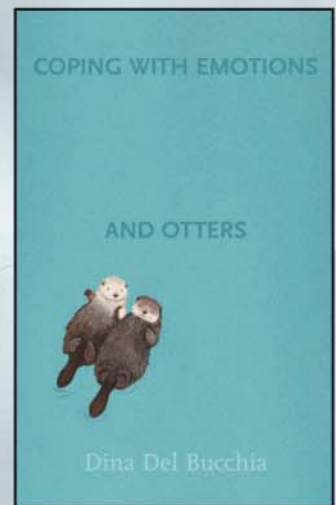
\$19.95 / 256 pp / Non-Fiction / 978-0-88922-741-5



In the Dog House
Wanda John-Kehewin

In her first idiom-shattering book of poetry, Wanda John-Kehewin endeavours to "speak her truth," combining elements of First Nations oral tradition with a style of dramatic narrative that originates from the earliest traditions of cultural storytelling and also keeps pace with the rhythmic undulations of Canadian poets such as James Reaney and E.J. Pratt.

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Coping with Emotions and Otters
Dina Del Bucchia

Combining serial poetic technique with pop psychology how-to books, Dina Del Bucchia fashions punchy emotional guides in an age when illusory autonomy is achieved by "going viral." She then examines our obsessive identification with celebrities, tracking two otters holding hands at the Vancouver Aquarium and watched by millions, prompting us to meditate upon the media frustum through which we construct emotional realities.

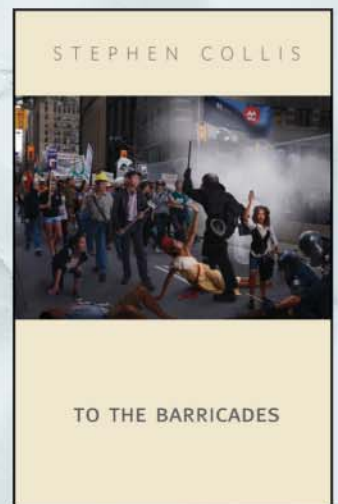
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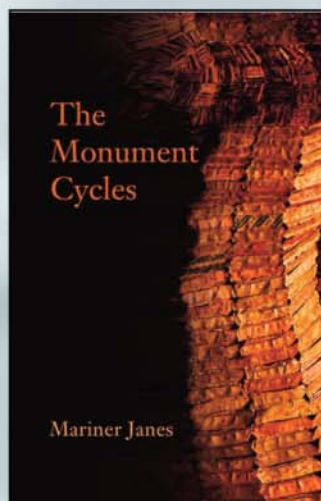
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Stephen Collis

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The Monument Cycles
Mariner Janes

Written through the lens of history, geography, and a fear of memory, *The Monument Cycles* roams from meditations on DNA and remembrance, to transportation, nuclear weapons, and community, veering into societal invective. The book begins by investigating the human relation to monuments and works of public art: Why do we make these representations of people, history, and place?

While many of the poems in *The Monument Cycles* speak to Vancouver as a whole, several focus specifically on the city's Downtown Eastside ("the poorest postal code in Canada"); they explore the narrator's experiences working in this community and write toward possibility, remembrance, and the nature of truth and storytelling.

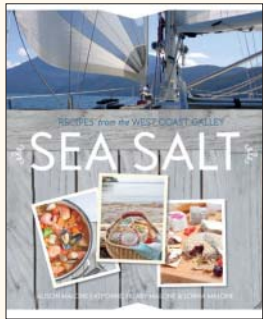
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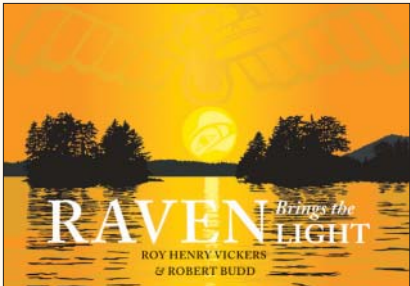
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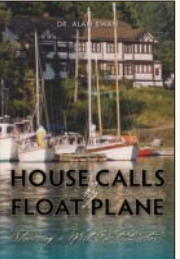


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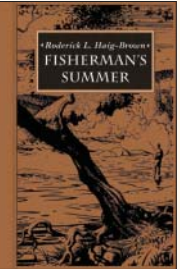
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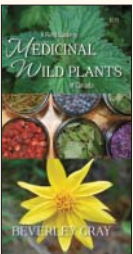


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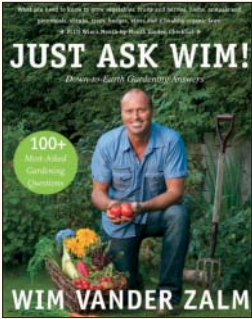
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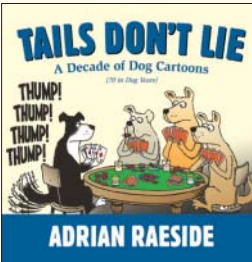
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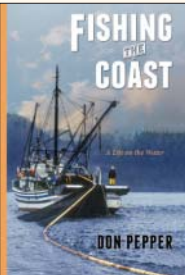
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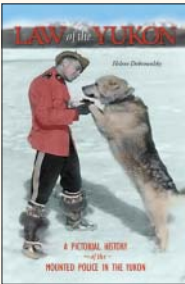
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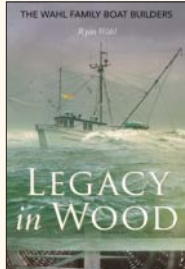
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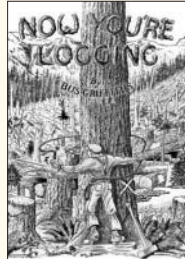
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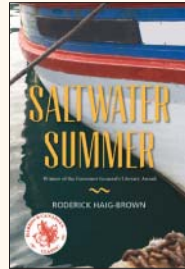
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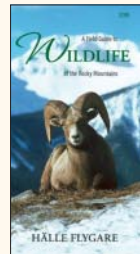


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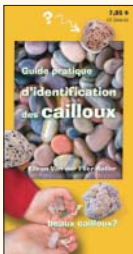


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