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In 2012, Paul Watson became only the second person to receive France’s Jules Verne Award; the first was Jacques Cousteau. Here he appears in Paris in 2011 with Lamya Essemlali, his co-author for Interview with a Pirate: Captain Paul Watson (Firefly 24.95).

Paul Watson, the breakaway rebel, used to come into the Georgia Straight newspaper office in Vancouver and oversee paste-up of publicity materials for his own Sea Shepherd Society anti-seal hunting and anti-whaling initiatives. The Straight was barely surviving by publishing a porn mag called the Vancouver Star using filched material from U.S. publications. Its layout tables would be festooned with slaughtered whales and images of nakedness almost as disturbing...

That was so long ago.

Time magazine has since included Watson in its list of the 20th century’s twenty greatest ecologists.

Nowadays Amchitka is a strange word, Phyllis Cormack is a forgotten fishbitch and the rattle-brassing risk-taker Paul Watson has been called, by Martin Sheen — the actor who has appeared as America’s former TV president in West Wing and the commander in Apocalypse Now — “by far the most knowledgeable, dedicated and courageous environmentalist alive today.”

Watson has also been highly praised and funded by environmentalist Farley Mowat with whom he shares an innate, child-honed reverence for other species.

It all started for Watson at age eleven in New Brunswick when he discovered a beaver that he had befriended had been slain by trappers. Infuriated and heartbroken, the boy set about finding and destroying the traps.

He remains on the same path as a man, grudgingly admired by many of his Greenpeace peers, despite their criticisms of his organization. “Greenpeace lost touch with its roots a long time ago,” he once said. “It’s lost its passion. It’s a corporation, a multinational corporation...

“Other groups are doing a hell of a lot more than Greenpeace on a fraction of the budget, and they don’t litter the U.S. with 48 million pieces of direct mail per year. I think it’s hypocritical for an environmental organization to litter the world with so much junk. The problem is, Greenpeace is a feel-good organization. People join to feel good. It’s a waste of millions of dollars...”

A veteran of the confrontation at Wounded Knee and an active supporter of indigenous people’s protests, Paul Watson was nominated as a Green Party candidate for mayor of Vancouver in 1996.

In the new century Watson has taken tourists to the Galapagos Islands where he’s engaged in environmental campaigns. Along the way he has managed to get several books into the world.

Watson first co-authored Cry Wolf with Greenpeace co-founder Robert Hunter in 1985, then a memoir entitled Barricades in 1992. He moved on to Barricades from the Sea — Twenty-Five Years on the Front Lines (2000), which begins in 1995 when Watson was hauled up in the Magdalena Islands with Martin Sheen. He recalls his forays on the ice floes with Brigitte Bardot, Farley Mowat and Pierce Brosnan.

Watson’s adventures trying to disrupt business on the high seas in order to protect other species from driftnet fishing have been chronicled by David B. Morris in Earth Warrior: Overboard with Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (Fulcrum 1995). A feature-length movie is forever in the works. Meanwhile Vancouver-based filmmaker Trish Dolman directed a compelling, warts ‘n’ all documentary, Eco-Pirate: The Story of Paul Watson in 2011, revealing the egocentricity required to be a leader during forty years of sustained activism.

Harpooning Greenpeace throughout, Watson reiterates his Sea Shepherd Conservation Society mandate “to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world’s oceans” in his latest book, Interview with a Pirate: Captain Paul Watson (Firefly 24.95), co-authored with Lamya Essmaeli, president of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society France.

In it, Watson repeats his contested claim that he was the youngest co-founder of Greenpeace, at age eighteen.

For any detractors who disapprove of his confrontational tactics to stop the Japanese whaling fleet, he has the perfect comeback: “Find us a whale who disapproves of our actions and we promise to give it up.”

RAJADEALISM STILL LIVES IN B.C., IF ONLY ON PAPER. As a descendant of Scottish coal miners who came to Vancouver Island in the late 1800s, Stephen Collins first wrote Mine (New Star 2001), a reconstruction of the early history of the B.C. coal industry from which spirited unionism in B.C. was followed by his investigation into the connection between anarchy and poetry, Anarchive (New Star, 2005), partially inspired by the Spanish Civil War, a conflict so essential to the evolution of counter-culturalists such as George Orwell and George Woodcock.

Now Collins has released To the Barricades (Talon $16.95) to examine shifting strategies of revolt and protest in contemporary social justice campaigns such as the Occupy movement and Idle No More. It is described as a collection of explorations “to drive away from the field and recover forgotten radical ideas.”

Collins simultaneously examines historical authenticity and authority in The Red Album (Book Thug $24). This fictional story, in the tradition of Borges and Nabokov, is complicated by a growing maze of author/characters, “as the ghosts of social revolutions of the past are lifted from the soil and, in Catalonia, and a new revolution unfolds in South America.”

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A is for Abdou

As an initiative to raise funds for PEN Canada, the organization that helps imprisoned and oppressed writers around the world, twelve CanLit authors have shed their clothes for a nearly nude calendar, including Life of Pi author Yann Martel. The two authors from B.C. are Angie Abdou, Miss January, and Yasuko Thanh, Miss July. Visit www.bareitforbooks.ca to buy the calendar.

B is for Bachinsky

PREVIOUSLY A NOMINEE FOR THE BROWNE WALLACE Award for Poetry, the Pat Lowther Award and a Governor General’s Award, Elizabeth Bachinsky is now editor of Event Magazine at Douglas College in New Westminster. Her fifth poetry collection is The Hottest Summer in Recorded History (Nightwood $18.95). 978-1-896949-25-3

C is for Coghlan

NICK AND JENNY COGHLAN FIRST SAILED their diminutive Albin Vega 27, Tarka the Otter, around the world. It took them four years to sail from Maple Bay, B.C. and back, via the Cape of Good Hope and Panama. While living in South Africa, they bought a 27-foot cutter across the South Atlantic. Weathering stormy seas around Cape Horn and New Zealand, they sailed their sturdy, 27-foot cutter across the South Atlantic to the spectacular glaciers of Tierra del Fuego (Fireland) in Patagonia. Nick Coghlan recalls their adventures in Winter in Fireland (University of Alberta Press $34.95).

D is for Dachsel

THE THIRTY-FOUR POLYGAMOUS WIVES of Joseph Smith, founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, provide the fictitious, poetic monologues for Marita Dachsel’s Glossolalia (Anvil $18), an exploration of mid-century Mormon America by a self-described agnostic. Smith was assassinated when he ran for the presidency of the U.S. in 1844. Dachsel includes an appendix listing the 34 wives, their ages and marriage dates.

E is for Edythe

HAVING WRITTEN THE FIFTH BOOK IN THE Unheralded Artists of BC series, profiling Ina D.D. Uthhoff in 2012, Christina Johnston-Dean has added the sixth volume, The Life and Art of Edythe Hembrow-Schleicher (Mother Tongue $34.95) with an introduction by Kerry Mason.

F is for Funk

HAVING SERVED AS THE CITY OF VICTORIA’S inaugural poet laureate from 2006-2008, Carla Funk is one of 77 female poets featured in the landmark anthology Force Field (Mother Tongue $32.95) edited by Susan Musgrave. It’s the first major anthology of BC women poets since 1979. Funk grew up in Vanderhoof, the geographical centre of B.C., originally a Mennonite settlement. “Having grown up in a world of logging trucks, storytellers, ladies’ sewing circles and rural realism,” according to her entry, “she turned to poetry as a place to drown the images of her upbringing.” 978-1-896949-27-7

G is for Grace

MALCOLM LOWRY AUTHORITY AND Canadian Theatre expert Sherrill Grace has produced her twentieth book, Bearing Witness: Perspectives on War and Peace from the Arts and Humanities (McGill-Queens 2012), co-edited with Patrick Imbert, and Tiffany Johnstone.

H is for Herath

CO-FOUNDER OF A NON-VIOLENT, CENTRIST, democratic political party in his native Sri Lanka called the Podujana Party (meaning Peoples’ Party), R.B. Herath, with a Ph.D. in organizational behavior, is the author of Real Power to the People: A Novel Approach to Electoral Reform in British Columbia (University Press of America, 2007). His other books include A New Beginning for Humankind: A Recipe for Lasting Peace on Earth (Universe $22 / $33) in which he examines major violent conflicts in the world and offers a path to avoid the errors of the past.

I is for Immigrant

INCLUDING A BRIEF FRIENDSHIP WITH Steve McQueen in Hollywood (when the author was hawking a Porsche) and a VIP meet-and-greet with Baryshnikov (when the author was working as a carpenter), Dermot McCann’s ‘True Tales of an Irish Immigrant’ in McCann’s Shorts (self-published $20) recalls a varied and colourful life in the tradition of humour-soaked Irish storytelling. Born in Belfast in 1950, McCann now lives aboard his 41-foot sailboat in Victoria’s Inner Harbour. www.dermottmccann.com 978-0-978469-6-9

J is for Jones

A FRENCH-TRAINED CHEF BASED ON Deerholme Farm in the Cowichan Valley, Bill Jones has written for the New York Times, Gourmet, Bon Appetit, Savour and Harrowsmith. As well as being a founding member of FarmFolk/CityFolk and SlowFood Vancouver Island, Jones helped organize the second Canadian Chefs’ Congress held in BC in 2010 and he operates a food consulting company, Magnetic North Cuisine. His interest in wild foods, foraging, and First Nations ethnobotany has led to his tenth cookbook, The Deerholme Mushroom Book: From Foraging to Feasting (Touchwood $29.95) with more than 140 recipes that include Truffle Potato Croquettes; Mushroom Pate; Porcini Naan; Semolina Mushroom Cake; Beef Tenderloin and Oyster Mushroom Carpacccio; and Curried Mushroom and Coconut Bisque.

K is for Kiss

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N is for Numbers

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O is for Opinion

WHAT DOES PEN CANADA DO? PEN Canada promotes the cause of freedom of expression and the right of every person to hold opinions free from interference. PEN Canada tries to ensure that writers and publishers are protected by law, and that the right to a livelihood is not compromised by the use of their work. PEN Canada is also active in the defence of the rights of the author and his/her public. PEN Canada is particularly active in support of authors in prison and in support of authors who have been attacked for their views or for their works.

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The Deerholme Mushroom Book
From Foraging to Feasting
Bill Jones
The essential guide to edible mushrooms. Expand your culinary knowledge of wild and cultivated mushrooms with this comprehensive cookbook by award-winning writer and chef Bill Jones.

Cariboo Gold Rush
The Stampede That Made BC
Edited by Art Deans
A vivid account of the first gold strikes, the miners who made them, and the incredible efforts to establish transportation routes to the goldfields.

Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields
Richard Thomas Wright
Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields brings to life the men and women of the excavations who came in search of gold and left their mark on Canadian history.

Fishing the River of Time
A Grandfather's Story
Tony Taylor
"In this simple story of a fishing trip with his grandson, Tony Taylor weaves an enchanting tapestry of memories, thoughts, and knowledge with humour and affection." —David Suzuki

Birdfinding in British Columbia
Richard Cannings and Russell Cannings
An all-encompassing guide on bird finding throughout the province, from Vancouver Island to the Far North, packed with accurate and helpful information for novices and experts alike.

Hometown
Out and About in Victoria's Neighbourhoods
Written by Amy Scouries
Illustrated by Robert Armos
Discover the quirky and quirky quarters of Victoria, BC, illustrated with 220 original watercolours by acclaimed artist Robert Armos. Hometown presents one of Canada's most livable cities as the locals see it.

Rum-Runners and Renegades
Whisky Wars of the Pacific Northwest, 1919–1922
Rich Mome
From the hijackers to corrupt politicians and frustrated drinkers, an action-packed account of liquor and lawlessness on Canada’s West Coast.

Island Wineries of British Columbia
Edited by Gary Heves
Travel the wine islands off the West Coast with this award-winning book. Now updated to include seven new wineries, this is your guide to a growing wine culture and the food movement that accompanies it.

On the Flavour Trail
Recipes by Island Chefs’ Collaborative
Edited by Christabel Penning
Enjoy over 70 dishes from Vancouver Island’s innovative chefs. Ranging in style and complexity, these recipes allow both the amateur cook and the seasoned chef to find inspiration.

Heritage Apples
A New Sensation
Susan Lucy
Learn more about this popular fruit. Discover the histories behind more than 40 heritage apple varieties and meet the growers, cider-makers, and people fighting to preserve them. Then try the recipes! Tastebuds: Food in Victoria @ 126 pp. book

Voices of the Elders
Haisla and Halkomelem Histories and Legends
Kathryn Bridge and Kevin Neary
A fascinating and engaging glimpse into the complex history of a West Coast First Nation.

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Just READ

Last Retailer Standing
Reliable Leadership
Relevant Brand
George Minakakis

A must-read for retailers and business leaders faced with the challenges of today's market forces. Fierce competition, a failing economy and rapid changes in technology are all obstacles to address at a time when consumers are making decisions at lightning speed. The author is a retail specialist who offers his solutions.
078923190305 | $19.95 pb Minakakis

You Are NOT
What You Eat
Better Digestive Health
in 7 Simple Steps
Van Clayton Powell

According to research, many of us are not digesting our food well. Bloating, gas, fatigue, arthritis and skin problems are only some of the conditions that are linked to improper digestion. Here's a clear road map to changing how we eat - 7 steps that will lead to more energy, vibrant health and a greater ability to eat what you want again, simply by enhancing your digestion.
0896571705 | $15.95 pb Midwest Star Publishing Studio

Legends of Vancouver
100th Anniversary Edition
E. Pauline Johnson

This classic of BC literature pays tribute to Pauline Johnson's contribution to Vancouver's cultural heritage and her enduring legacy. These stories, as told by her Chief Joe Capilano, represent one of her lasting achievements of cultural preservation. They also offer a portrait of a very young Vancou- ver, its rough and tumble gold diggers and its millennials first nations peoples.
078990170113 | $14.95 pb Mistletoe Press

Making Headlines
100 Years of the Vancouver Sun
Shelley Fralic with Kate Bird

Congratulations to Shelley Fralic, Kate Bird and the team behind this fascinating history showing how the Vancouver Sun has captured the news of a city, a province and the world since the newspaper's beginnings in the early 1900's. With thanks to all the BC booksellers who supported this title so strongly!
078901977601 | $34.95 hc Vancouver Sun

BROTHER XII
The Strange Odyssey of a 20th-Century Prophet and His Quest for a New World
John Oliphant

Based on original documents and interviews with Brother XII's former cult members, the book describes the inner workings of the colony, the seekers who fell under Brother XII's spell, and the women who were drawn to him, including a wealthy sociable from North Carolina, the wife of a New York doctor, and a sinister adept of ritual magic known as Madame Z.
078901897202 | $24.95 pb Twelfth House Press

A Wolf's Moon
A Helicopter Pilot's Story
Hank Sands

Meet a host of characters from diamond drillers and geologists to forestry workers and biologists flown into remote northern areas by Hank Sands. From flying in to recover human remains to herding buffalo from the air, this is an entertaining read for all aviation buffs. His many adventures on the ground also include encounters with bears, wolves and even whooping cranes.
078901870789 | $21.95 pb Stoddard

Joy of Bears
Sylvia Dolson

Take an inspiring journey into the world of the Great Bear to discover the true essence of black, grizzlies and polar bears. The book showcases a collection of images from world-class photographers Michael Poliza, Nikola Zinoviev, Dennis Fast, Matthias Breiter, and Paul Nicklen. You'll find quotes from spiritual leaders, the world's top scientists, animal advocates, and other celebrated masters such as the Dalai Lama, Dr. Steven Herero, Charles Darwin, Joseph Campbell and Aristotle among many others. It is a must-have for animal and nature lovers.
078945143153 | $19.95 hc Out There Outsmart Society

Cycling British Columbia
Paul Wood

Grab your bike and let's go cycle BC highways! Explore coastal islands and the coast from Vancouver to Port Hardy. Head north (by ferry) to Haida Gwaii. From Prince Rupert, get to wine country in the southern interior, cycle the Kootenay's and lope through the Rocks-as-de-jasper or Barff. Important elevation maps will let you know exactly what to expect on the road ahead. Don't leave home without it! 978-0-5664526-25 | $23.95 pb

Rocks & Minerals
of Western North America
J. Duane Sept

This clear visual guide will help you identify rocks and minerals throughout the west—cliff dwellings, and give you fascinating information on their place in the landscape. With straightforward language and maps, vibrant color photography, you'll look at rocks and minerals in a whole new light.
078933801707 | $14.95 pb Clayton

BONFIRE
The Chestnut Gentleman
Susan Rabey-Dunn

He wrote the poem In Flanders Fields, but what do we really know about Canadian doctor John McCrae? Bonfire is the true story of McCrae's journey through WWI as told by his war horse. Bonfire is a moving, intimate and unforgettable look at the world of the incredible poem and its writer. The war horse that he was born to be told.
078900164152 | $14.95 pb d/pa Lisa Millet

Grey's Journey
Lydia Millet

This children's story was inspired by the real life sighting of a grey whale in the Mediter- ranean Sea. It's a tale of baby Grey and his adventures when he becomes separated from his mother. Like the real whale, baby Grey ends up on a long journey and discovers things he has never dreamed of before – and along the way learns that he was born to be told.
078900691503 | $24.95 cd/pa Lisa Millet

The Boy Who Paints
Richard Cole & Jane K. Wait

The boy loves to paint. He paints all the time, even when his mother nags him to stop. The boy experiences a new kind of seeing when he embraces his world through a palette of colour and light. Join him as he enters into the world of possibility through art. The lovely illustrated book is a must-have for any child or budding artist.
078900174409 | $14.95 hc Patriot Press

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R is for Rose

RACHEL ROSE’S THIRD COLLECTION, SONG and Spectacle (Harbour $18.95) was shortlisted for the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry, presented by the Publishing Triangle, given to a poet in Canada or the United States. It commemorates Lorde, an American poet, essayist, librarian and teacher. Rose has also been shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, presented by the League of Canadian Poets (LCP). The award is given to a female poet in Canada and honours Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975.

T is for Taylor

AT AGE EIGHTY, TONY TAYLOR returned to British Columbia from his home in Sydney, Australia, to fish the Cowichan River with his eight-year-old grandson, Ned, and teach him how to fly-fly. In the realm of Thoreau, Taylor offers meditations on the natural world in Fishing the River of Time: A Grandfather’s Journal (Greystone $19.95). Taylor pays tribute to the natural history of the area; its geology and its earlier fishermen.

U is for Ursula

HAIRY-FOUNDED LEAF PRESS in 2001, Ursula Vaira is emerging as one of the foremost publishers of poetry in the province, along with Nightwood Editions, Anvil and Mother Tongue Press. Her latest Leaf anthology is Poems from Planet Earth (Leaf Press $20), edited by Yvonne Blomer and Cynthia Woodman Kerkham, featuring 117 poems from the Planet Earth Poetry group in Victoria that is named after the late P.K. Page’s poem Planet Earth. Before founding the publishing company Leaf Press in 2001, Vaira worked at Oolichan Books for ten years.

V is for Vickers

RAVEN BRINGS THE LIGHT (Harbour $19.95), by Robert “Lucky” Budd and artist Roy Henry Vickers features 12 new prints from the artist, and tells the story of Weget bringing light to the world, a Northwest Coast legend that has been traced back three millennia by archaeologists. In a time when darkness covered the land, the story goes, a boy named Weget turns into a raven and flies from Haida Gwaii into the sky, where he tricks the Chief of the Heavens and manages to bring the sun—kept in a box—back to earth. This version of the tale originates from Chester Bolton, Chief of the Ravens, who told it to Vickers.

W is for Wanda

CREE POET WANDA JOHN-KEHEWIN is another successful product of the SFU Writers Studio, having just released her first collection, In the Dog House (Talonbooks $16.95), is divided into four aspects of the Medicine Wheel. Her work has been published in the Aboriginal Writers Collective West Coast anthology Saltfish Seas and she describes herself as “a First Nations woman searching for the truth and a way to be set free from the past.”

Z is for Zhindagee

MAHINDER KAUR DOMAN’S ANTHOLOGY Zhindagee has received the 2013 Shakti Award in the Business and Entrepreneurship category. It’s a collection of memoirs from some of the first South Asian females born in Canada, from 1920 to 1950, whose parents all came from the Punjab. The mother of each of these women was affected by the exclusion of South Asian females, even though they were British subjects, from entering Canada until after 1920.

11 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2013
Great New Art & Music

STANDING AT AN ANGLE TO MY AGE
by W.R. Bridgeman

This fictional writing explores universal themes of forgiveness and redemption, love and loss, of hope and hopelessness, and darkness and light.
The author is concerned – as are many of us – with the lineaments and poetic chiaroscuro of seemingly ordinary lives.

Return of the Raven
SUE COLEMAN

"To Be Loved" includes a mix of standards as well as four original songs all co-written by Bobbi. "After All" one of the four originals was co-written and performed by fellow Canadian Bryan Adams. The new album also includes hits previously recorded by some of Bobbi’s musical heroes including the Bee Gees hit “To Love Somebody”, Don Martin’s “Nevertheless (I’m In Love With You)”, The Jackson 5’s early ’70’s smash “Who’s Loving You”, Jackie Wilson’s “To Be Loved” and the Wes Montgomery classic "先把您老".

WATER IN THE WILDERNESS
by Jan DeGrass

While on a study tour of the Soviet Union during the eastern Bloc’s turmoil, a Canadian student, a swept off his feet by a handsome Soviet man, Volodya. He is a discontented jazz pianist whose idol is singer Ella Fitzgerald. He is haunted by the symbol of everything mysterious and musical that can happen only in the west.

JAZZ WITH ELLA
by Jan DeGrass

"To Be Loved" includes a mix of standards as well as four original songs all co-written by Bobbi. "After All" one of the four originals was co-written and performed by fellow Canadian Bryan Adams. The new album also includes hits previously recorded by some of Bobbi’s musical heroes including the Bee Gees hit “To Love Somebody”, Don Martin’s “Nevertheless (I’m In Love With You)”, The Jackson 5’s early ’70’s smash “Who’s Loving You”, Jackie Wilson’s “To Be Loved” and the Wes Montgomery classic "先把您老”.

GEORGE SEFERIS – POEMS
translated by George Seferis

The poetry is a result of a collaborative effort between the poet, a painter, a wood carver, and a poet, who were three different forms of art, combining equality in the compiling of this unique artistic display.

MYTHOGRAPHY

by Ken Duffy

The story of the us and the answer of the sphinx, a way to Thebes Oedipus can find him. When on his way to Thebes Oedipus encountered the sphinx, his answer to its riddle was: "Man". That simple word destroyed the monster. We have many monsters to destroy, let us think of the answer of Oedipus.

THE UNQUIET LAND
by Ken Duffy

The newly ordained Father Padraig returns to his home village of Corrymore as its new priest. The reason he has set himself this task is to save the souls of the proud, pagan fishermen... Without the help of his daughter Caitlin, converting them to Christianity...
BY JOHN MOORE

Germans call largely an indulgence in what the of twenty and thirty years ago is After all, reuniting with classmates imagine a more perfect setting for a straight out of the gate. It’s hard to — a ripe trash can. [Image 3x25 to 605x927]

Wake up and smell the MURDER

Foul play at a high school reunion gives rise to Glynis Whiting’s first Joan Parker mystery, A Nose for Death.

In A Nose for Death, Joan Parker is the Girl Least Likely to Make Good who actually did. Gifted with olfactory receptors a cut above the normal curve, Joan is one of those people, like winemakers and coffee tasters, who makes her living with her nose, analyzing and developing new flavors for a corporate food conglomerate. She’s a corporate star and if her personal life is a little rocky as she enters middle age, it’s still a long way from Madden, a town so small Kamloops was the big smoke, where she endured daily humiliations as the daughter of an improvident father who died early, forcing her mother to work as a chambermaid at the local hot sheets motel while Joan had to quit school to pull graveyard shifts at a gas bar owned by the father of the high school queen bee. Since she didn’t graduate and only later went back to school, driven by an interest in the chemistry of scents, Joan assumes her invitation is either a mistake or a ploy by someone to tap a successful scents, Joan assumes her invocation is either a mistake or a ploy by someone to tap a successful alumnus for a donation. But for the chance of meeting her fellow high school outcast best friends, Hazel and Gabe, she’d leave Madden and those happy memories in the attic of her memory where they belong. But Whiting has tapped into the fact that the feelings you had for people when you were that age never die. Joan decides go to the reunion, only to discover that the bad feelings you had about people when you were that age are just as persistent and the wounds are just as fresh—except that now they can prove fatal. Her high school best friends, Hazel, now an out-front lesbian living in San Francisco, and Gabe, the former anarchist punk turned RCMP officer in charge of the

TEN FACTS
YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR NOSE

1. Smell is the oldest sense. The olfactory bulb is seated in the most primitive area of the brain. Sea creatures survived by smelling their environment long before they could taste, see, hear, or touch.

2. Every human has a unique smell, the same as a fingerprint.

3. Moisture helps disperse scent molecules, which is why we notice the fresh smells after it rains. A moist nose keeps a dog’s sense sharp. But a wet snout is not the only reason that canines sniff so well. Dogs detect scents at concentration levels 100 million times lower than humans!

4. Women are more likely to detect aromas than men. Studies using MRI’s have shown that women can smell when a man is sexually aroused or frightened. Incidents of “intuition” are often traced to the sense of smell. In an area of the brain the size of a thumbnail, humans can process ten thousand different scents, but are unaware of most of them.

5. Our sense of smell is most powerful when we are hungry. Between seventy-five and eighty percent of what we “taste” is detected through smell.

6. Zinc helps to improve the sense of smell. It’s no coincidence that oysters, very high in zinc, are touted as an aphrodisiac.

7. Studies have found that the scent of donuts is one of the most powerful sexual aroma stimulants to men.

8. Smell is referred to as our memory sense. The olfactory bulb is located next to the area of the brain responsible for memory. One sniff of a scent from our past can resurrect long-buried memories. (If you’re studying for an exam, try chewing a fragrant gum then chew the same gum in the examination room. That minty-freshness might just score you an A+)

9. We can improve our sense of smell; take a brisk walk, stay hydrated, sniff a strong odour for several minutes each day. But beware of foul smells. Extended exposure to the compost pail, the out-house, or other stinky aromas will impair the sense of smell.

10. The best news for last. Smell doesn’t normally deteriorate until we reach our seventies, long after our sight, hearing, and taste have faded. It’s one of the last of the senses to go.

In A Nose for Death, protagonist Dr. Joan Parker is a chemist who uses the same set of skills to solve murder cases as she does to design scents and flavors for the food industry.
Matthew Parker, the 16th century Archbishop of Canterbury and Dean of Corpus Christi College, had an insatiable curiosity and, thus, became known as the first “Nosey Parker.” His addiction to collecting books resulted in the largest library at Cambridge University.

Glynis Whiting, who took this photo, is now working on her second Nosey Parker Murder Mystery, having written, directed and produced more than twenty documentary films. Based on her manuscript for A Nose for Death, Whiting received the Mayor of Vancouver’s Emerging Literary Artist Award in 2012.

The Original Nosey Parker

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Madden detachment, both have conflicted personal lives and her old arch-enemy Marlena, gym-buffed in pursuit of perpetual youth, is still the spoiled brat queen bee of Madden society. Worst of all, the town’s one-hit-wonder band, Rank, has re-formed to play the reunion dance. Roger, the band’s singer whose failed attempt at a solo career has dragged him through every sewer between Madden and L.A. and back, is as odious as only a small town star that has sunk to the level he merits can be. He and Joan have history, as they say, and it’s not the stuff of romantic memoir.

By the time the first evening meet-and-greet winds up, scars have been ripped off all over the room and everyone’s Inner Teenager has re-emerged, literally with a vengeance. After such an event, most people reassume Adult form when they retreat to their hotel rooms, ask themselves what they were thinking when they accepted the invitation to an occasion so fraught with unresolved emotions, have a nightcap and go to bed. But for someone in the class, that’s not going to be enough.

It’s hard to review murder mysteries without inadvertently dropping spoilers. I’m not going to, because A Nose for Death is too good a read to wreck by giving away more of the plot. Whiting does an uncomfortably fine job of creating characters most of us born between 1950 and 1970 will recognize at a glance, especially if you grew up in a small town. She makes effective use of Agatha Christie’s device of confining her characters to a small stage, (isolated country house, moving train, tour group etc.) without the obvious contrivances Dame Agatha and her imitators often resorted to in purely plot-driven mysteries. But modern mysteries, from Raymond Chandler to P.D. James and Ruth Rendell, are driven not by plot, but by character, and Whiting creates characters as familiar as the people we all went to school with.

Mystery writers fly under flags as false as their characters. Posing as mere purveyors of generic ‘entertainments’—a description Graham Greene used to describe some of his best novels—they have been our most perceptive and influential social critics. When the genre emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they zeroed in on the class system in Britain and the meretriciousity of money in North America, using genre fiction to expose ‘the best people on their worst behavior’ and captivated mass audiences for hours in a way no socialist demagogue could for five minutes. By the middle of the 20th century, mystery writers shifted their aim to society at large, exploring the dark emotional underside of ordinary people, their own neighbours, under extreme stress, masked by the uniform civility of suburban life.

Baby Boomers are supposed to be the most self-obsessed navel-gazing generation in history, yet surprisingly few novelists from that generation have made use of the plot device of having the characters of political, social and sexual revolutions come home to roost. By using the device of the high school reunion, Whiting successfully captures and juxtaposes the changed values of two distinct eras in her characters’ lives. Though Whiting makes use of Joan’s ‘professional nose’ as a plot device in the novel, she doesn’t ‘make it a cheap trick to resolve the plot. A Nose for Death is really about the people in a small town in B.C., how they were in their youth and what they have become as adults. Ultimately, that’s much more interesting than the murder plot and that’s the sign of a good novel.

A Nose for Death is really about the people in a small town in B.C., how they were in their youth and what they have become as adults. Ultimately, that’s much more interesting than the murder plot and that’s the sign of a good novel.

Also a novelist, John Moore has contributed book reviews to publications for more than twenty years.
Poet, editor and children’s author William New edited Canadian Literature at UBC for seventeen years, almost as long as his mentor George Woodcock. Among his fifty books, New has edited the Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada. Appointed to the Order of Canada in 2006, he recently received the City of Vancouver Book Award for YVR (Oolichan). A free, celebratory reading for the Woodcock Award will be held at Vancouver Public Library on June 25.

INFO: www.georgewoodcock.com

20TH GEORGE WOODCOCK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

WILLIAM NEW

JOEL BAKAN

Joel Bakan is the 2013 recipient of the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature. He was selected for his critical exposé Childhood Under Siege: How Big Business Targets Children (Penguin / Free Press). The other finalists were Michael Christie’s The Beggar’s Garden, and Howard White’s A Hard Man To Beat. INFO: www.georgerygaaward.org

Since 2004, BC BookWorld has co-sponsored this award with Okanagan College (Norah Bowman-Broz, coordinator).

DEREK HAYES

The inaugural Stuart-Stubbs Prize was presented at UBC Library on May 9, 2013 to geographer and map aficionado Derek Hayes for British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas (D&M), also winner of the BC Historical Federation’s top prize for historical writing. INFO: about.library.ubc.ca/awards/basil-stuart-stubbs-prize

BC BookWorld co-sponsors this new award with UBC Library (Ingrid Parent, chief librarian).

SHERYL MACKAY

The Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the book publishing industry in B.C. This award, which is named for pioneering publisher and founder of Gray’s Publishing, Gray Campbell. The 2013 winner, Sheryl MacKay, is the popular host of CBC’s North by Northwest radio program on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

JIM DOUGLAS PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ANVIL PRESS

The Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award is presented annually to a BC book publishing company that has earned the respect of the province’s community of publishers. It is named after Jim Douglas, founder of J. J. Douglas Publishers, and was presented in 2013 to Anvil Press, founded by Brian Kaufman.

ALL PRIZES SUPPORTED BY PACIFIC BOOKWORLD NEWS SOCIETY

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Being Japanese is a gift and a curse. The gift is that I'm bom into a culture that has a rich history and tradition. The curse is that I'm Japanese and I have to face racism and discrimination. It's not easy, but I've learned to embrace my heritage and share it with others.
**The psychic & the psycho**

Forced to leave the workforce in 2000 by the onset of MS, Karen Magill has conceived a self-published series in keeping with her mission “to make the paranormal normal.” In *Missing Flowers* (Saga $14.95), psychic Julie Seer dreams of women being murdered and she inhabits the body of a Chinese prostitute in Vancouver during the late 1800s.

After attending a Vancouver police press conference for a new task force to investigate the disappearance of prostitutes from Vancouver’s Downtown East Side, Julie and Detective Santoro Ricci, with the help of a sex trade worker, work together to find the killer—who entraps both women.

**Radical lifecotomy**

Write about what you know, they say. Former UBC Museum of Anthropology conservator Miriam Clavir has launched a series of character-driven mystery novels with *Insinuendo: Murder in the Museum* (Bayeux Arts $19.95), a story of intrigue in the world of art and artifacts, told with humour, and set in the UBC Museum of Anthropology. After Berry Cates, the protagonist, under goes a “radical lifecotomy”—starting her life over at 53, following a divorce. She takes a job as an intern in the Conservation Lab, whereupon she and the museum director, also the same age, are suspects in a murder case. It’s not just a whodunit. It’s also a novel about growing older, and growing up, examining more closely one’s actions, body and beliefs, including what is right.

**Brewed murder**

After stints in Afghanistan, ex-Canadian Forces commander Bern Fortin expects a quiet life when he moves to a mountain town in B.C. to work as a coroner. Then the body of a local brewery worker is found floating in a bottle washing tank and the body of the dead man’s girlfriend is discovered in a field. Bern and the world of art and sex workers and perversion. Did Holly really take the highball exit, or was she murdered? And what happened to her baby?

**Drugs, sex, perversion**

SALT SPRING ISLANDER PHYLIS SMALLMAN’s fourth novel, *Champagne for Buzzards* (McArthur & Co.) has been nominated for the Bony Bittle Mystery Award in the inaugural year of the competition. Each year the winner will be announced at the annual Bloody Words conference for mystery writers in late spring. In her newly released *Highball Exit* (Touchwood $18.95), detective Therri Travis is hard-up for cash so she accepts her aunt’s job offer to investigate the “highball exit” of Holly Mitchell, detouring her into the world of drugs, sex workers and perversion. Did Holly really take the highball exit, or was she murdered? And what happened to her baby?

**Drugs, death, Whistler**

When a young snowboarder named Sacha is found dead on Blackcomb Glacier and Whistler police want to call it suicide, the FBI sends Clare Vengel to infiltrate the partying crowd in Robin Spano’s third crime procedural thriller, *Death’s Last Run* (ECW $14.95).

Turns out, Sacha, daughter of a U.S. senator, was involved in LSD smuggling in caboohs with the top cop at Whistler.

**Foodie crime prof**

A world-famous vintner has died in the Okanagan and Welsh-born Vancouver criminology professor and foodie Cait Morgan can’t resist unraveling the mystery in *The Corpse and the Golden Nose* (Touchwood $19.95). In the debut installment of this series, *The Corpse with the Silver Tongue*, Welsh-born Cathy Ace added a dollop of romantic suspense by sending her detective to investigate murder in Nice, France.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2013 BC BOOK PRIZE WINNERS & NOMINEES

from HARBBOUR PUBLISHING

Geoff Meggs & Rod Mickleburgh
WINNERS OF THE
Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize
FOR
The Art of the Impossible
DAVE BARRETT AND THE NDP IN POWER 1972-1975

Daniel Francis
SHORTLISTED FOR THE
Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award
FOR
TRUCKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: An Illustrated History

Marc Strange & Jackson Davies
SHORTLISTED FOR THE
Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award
AND THE
Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Book Prize
FOR
BRUNO AND THE BEACH: The Beachcombers at 40

from DOUGLAS & MCINTYRE

Derek Hayes
WINNER OF THE
Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Book Prize
AND SHORTLISTED FOR THE
Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award
FOR
BRITISH COLUMBIA: A NEW HISTORICAL ATLAS

Harold Kalman & Robin Ward
photographs by John Roaf
SHORTLISTED FOR THE
Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award
FOR
EXPLORING VANCOUVER: An Architectural Guide

www.harbourpublishing.com | www.douglas-mcintyre.com
The Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize went to Patrick Lane & novelist Esi Edugyan.

The Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award went to Caroline Adderson.

The Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize went to Scott Meggs and Rod Mickleburgh for The Art of the Impossible: Dave Barrett and the NDP in Power, 1972–1975 (Harbour). Mickleburgh cited the importance of Hubert Evans’s classic 1954 memoir Mr. On the River which is a writer and reference to Evans, a Quaker and a freelance writer, as ‘one of my heroes.’ Geoff Meggs thanked their publisher Howard White. ‘I’ve never had eyes on him from the time he agreed to publish our book until tonight,’ said Meggs, ‘so I am glad to know he exists.’

The Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize went to Sarah de Leeuw for Geographies of a Lover (NeWest). ‘This is an incredible privilege for a first-time author’ said de Leeuw, ‘I never saw myself or my culture represented in a writer and referred to Evans, a Quaker and a freelance writer, as “one of my heroes.” Geoff Meggs thanked their publisher Howard White. ‘I’ve never had eyes on him from the time he agreed to publish our book until tonight,’ said Meggs, ‘so I am glad to know he exists.’

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Congratulations to all of these authors! The awards were presented at the British Columbia Historical Federation’s awards banquet on May 11 in Kamloops, part of a three-day conference entitled Historic Grasslands. For more information about the Federation’s projects and programs visit www.bchistory.ca.

Winner of the 2012 Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for historical writing
Derek Hayes

British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas (Douglas & McIntyre)

Second Place
Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer, Gateway To Promise: Canada’s First Japanese Community (Tri-Jean Press)

Third Place
Robert Harley, For King and Country: 150 Years of the Royal Westminster Regiment (Vivalogue Publishing Canada Ltd.)

Honorable Mentions
Daniel Francis, Trucking in British Columbia: An Illustrated History (Harbour)
David Esson Young, The Uchuck Years: A West Coast Shipping Saga (Harbour)

LIQUOR, LUST, AND THE LAW
The Story of Vancouver’s Legendary Penthouse Nightclub
Aaron Chapman
Roderick Haig Brown Regional Prize Finalist

Glamour, scandal, murder: the fabled history of Vancouver’s famous nightclub.
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HOW POETRY SAVED MY LIFE
A Hustler’s Memoir
Amber Dawn

By the author of the award-winning novel Sub Rosa. “Powerful and necessary.” —The National Post
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Theodore Saloutos Book Award WINNER!

SUBVERTING EXCLUSION
Andrea Geiger’s first book, Subverting Exclusion: Transpacific Encounters with Race, Caste, and Borders, 1885-1928 (Yale $45) expands on the SFU history professor’s previous research on race and borders. The book examines how traditional Japanese notions of caste-based social status converged with North American race-based laws and policies to produce a dual system of exclusion for Japanese immigrants in Canada and the U.S.

As the first English-language book to be published on this subject, it has been awarded the 2011 Theodore Saloutos Book Award by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and the 2013 Association for Asian American Studies History Book Award.

The killers on our side are men of peace. Nothing is heard ever of contrition for crimes measured by their absence. We are the king’s sons, the clamour of boots and tongues, the story that a story makes. Content and form are of equal importance in the destruction of one then the other, establishing both. Very troubling. To speak is to say exactly nothing.
Debut stories

The DEUX collection by JOURNEY PRIZE nominees
Théodora Armstrong of Vancouver, Clear Skies, No Wind, 100% Visibility (Artoria Anami $22.95), includes eight mainly British Columbian stories set around the province, including her 92-page novella that concludes the volume, ‘Mosquito Creek.’ Having won a Western Magazine Award in 2008, Armstrong has paid her dues by publishing in the requisite literary mags and has garnered endorsements from short story whiz Mark Anthony Jarman and up-c’-comer, Steven Galloway and Michael Christie.
978-1-77091-102-9

Budding author
FORMER ADVERTISING COPYWRITER, STAGEHAND, RECORDING engineer and chandelier cleaner E. R. (Erick) Brown, is a composer and performer, born in Montreal in 1955. He lived in Vancouver from 1977 to ’81, then returned permanently to Vancouver in 1989. In Brown’s gritty, coming-of-age debut novel, Almost Criminal (Dundurn $17.99), an overly-bright, seventeen-year-old high school drop-out named Nate MacLane takes refuge with a small-town B.C. marijuana dealer as his father figure.
978-1-459750358

Old haunts
REBECCA CAMPBELL’S DEBUT NOVEL THE PARADISE Engine (NeWest $19.95) is a mystifying story that tells the vaudeville era of Vancouver history with contemporary Vancouver. While working to restore the old Temple Theatre in the city’s seedy downtown core, a history graduate student named Anthea is haunted by a vaudevillian tenor named Liam who sang at the theatre a century before. When Anthea is fired from her job, the spirits persist. Originally from Duncan, Rebecca Campbell has a Masters in English from UBC.

All in the family
THREE SHORTLISTED FOR VICTORIA’S BUTLER PRIZE, Dede Crane has fashioned a suite of stories emanating from the fictional Wright family for Every Happy Family (Coteau $18.95). Married parents Jill and Les are beset by challenges such as a mother with Alzheimer’s and a cancer norm, and asbestos hasn’t yet become a dirty word.

Ethel Wilson Prize winner
BILL GASTON’S THE WORLD (Macmillan $32) is this year’s winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. It tells of an early retiree who accidentally burns down his house on the day he pays off the mortgage, only to discover that, for the first time ever, he’s forgotten to pay his insurance premium. His old friend, a musician, prepares for her suicide to end the pain of esophageal cancer. And her father, who left his family to study Buddhism in Nepal, ends his days in a Toronto facility for Alzheimer’s patients. The three are tied together by a book called The World, written by the old man in his youth. The book, possibly biographi- cal, tells the story of a historian who unearths a cache of letters, written in Chinese, in an abandoned leper colony off the coast of Vietnam. He and his young Chinese translator fall in love, only to betray each other.

Addiction & rehabilitation
HAVING TAKEN THE FALL FOR HER DRUG-DEALING, SOMETIME-boyfriend Jimmy Flood and his sidekick, Blacky Harbottle, Louise Debra Poule is doing an eighteen-month stint on a weapons charge at a minimum-security institution in Tom Osborne’s Boulder (Anvil $20), set in the Fraser Valley. It’s described as another tale of madcap human folly about friendship, betrayal, addiction and rehabilitation.
978-1-770515-99-9

Asbestos noir
PETE STEVENS HAS HIT ROCK BOTTOM. He holds himself accountable for his girlfriend’s death. Plagued with guilt, he drops out of medical school and leaves Toronto to punish himself by becoming a labourer at an asbestos mine in northern B.C.

The cold, wet, grey weather reflects his defeated state of mind as he arrives at the Stikine mine, “Home of the Finest Asbestos.” Welcome to 1973, where smoking is the norm, and asbestos hasn’t yet become a dirty word.

Set in the ‘one-time town’ of Cassiar, Jim Williams’ novel Rock Reject starts off at a deliberately slow, dreary pace until Peter makes a gruesome discovery in ‘rock rej- ect,’ where one is crushed for processing. “Twenty feet away and coming towards him on the conveyor belt was a dark shape. A lumpy pile of rags. A parka, coveralls, boots. A pool of red.” This is the moment our reluctant hero wakes from his mental fog.

The tragic accident in rock reject catapults Peter from newbie labourer to safety crusader. He joins the union and uses his medical training to push Pan-American Asbestos, commonly known as ‘The Company,’ to control the green asbestos dust that blankets the mine, the town, and the valley. No one seems to care about the valley. As one worker remarks, “It’s only Indians live down in the valley.” Racism is rampant.

Action is slow to build, but the series of tragic events that unfold feel as though they’re gleaned from first-hand experience. Peter’s mental fog borders on frustrating, but his awakening after the accident at the crusher is satisfying: “He lay his hands open on the desk. Cuffed and strong from swinging a pick and shovel, he clenched them into fists and watched his forearms grow, bigger than he had ever seen them before.” It’s a turning point. Action will be taken.

The novel is historically-based. At issue is whether the type of asbestos the company mines is harmful to human health. As the safety inspector incorrectly informs Peter, “The scientists say that chrysotile fibre doesn’t cause disease, and that’s that.” Trouble is, the scientists are in the back pocket of industry.

Rock Reject is a worthwhile read. What it lacks in surprise, it more than makes up for in authenticity. As the au- thor points out, “More than 100,000 people die each year from lung disease caused by occupational exposure to asbestos.” Williams’ work of fiction is firmly rooted in truth.
In her first novel *Concrete* (Doubleday, 2007)—for which Mary Novik received the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize—we were introduced to the daughter of the poet John Donne, the literate heroine Pegge Donne, who audaciously rebels against her father’s plans for her arranged marriage. Now, in *Muse*, Novik imagines a literate, nun-turned-prostitute named Solange Le Blanc, who inspired Francesco Petrarach’s love poetry, only to be accused of sorcery when a plague kills one-third of Avignon’s population. Set in Renaissance Europe, the novel recounts how Petrarach’s fictional mistress was forced to reinvent herself in order to survive. Our reviewer describes *Muse* as a cross between Umberto Eco’s *The Name of the Rose* and Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*. The novel will be available August 15.

**SOLANGE AND THE FLAMING SPEAR**

**Muse** by Mary Novik
(Transatlantic Review $22.95)

During the fourteenth century, the papacy was based for seventy years not in Rome, but in Avignon, now part of France. It was here that the Italian scholar and poet Francesco Petrarach came to improve his fortunes, and where he wrote the poems to Laura for which he is best known. The sonnet form to which he gave his name influenced many English poets, including Sir Thomas Wyatt and Shakespeare.

While his clerical status prevented Petrarach from marrying, the records indicate that he fathered two children by an unknown woman. To this hitherto unknown woman Mary Novik gives substance and a strong narrative voice for her second novel, *Muse*.

Petrarch’s mistress in Solange, born in a brothel in Avignon as the illegitimate daughter of a pope and his mistrix. Following the death of both her parents, the precocious child is taken into Clairefontaine Abbey, where her gift for prophetic visions (she experiences her first vision while in the womb) is encouraged by the abess, who dreams of nurturing a prophetic saint, like the legendary German mystic, abbess and composer Hildegard of Bingen, to glorify her abbey.

At Clairefontaine, Solange develops skills as a scribe and a linguisit until the rich promise of her life as a nun and a woman of letters is brought to an abrupt end by a brutal rape. Solange is attacked in the scriptorium by a visiting Florentine cleric and subsequently expelled from the cloister “outwards into the world of men.”

Returning to her birthplace in Avignon, Solange survives among the prostitutes as a professional scribe. It is this literary work that brings her to the attention of Petrarach. She quickly becomes an indispensable amanuensis, copying, editing and encouraging his verse. The two become lovers:

**This act so new to me, so quick, so carnal, was also spiritual, for in that mutual joy our base affections were transmuted into purer metal, as alchemy turns lead to gold. Surely this ecstasis, like being pierced by a flaming spear such as angels carry; was how the soul felt when it pierced the resurrected flesh. A nightjar whirring as it took flight above the chapel and I came back to myself slowly, cautiously, knowing that I had been forever changed.**

From this point, the pace of the novel accelerates as Solange’s entanglement with Petrarach, his conniving brother, and his best friend sets her on a headlong course. Overcoming rape, coerced sex, childbirth and the kidnapping and loss of her children, she becomes a picaresque heroine who survives by means of her beauty and talent. Solange also lives through the plague, experiences prophetic visions, is suspected of sorcery and witnesses the burning at the stake of her maid who is mistaken for herself.

Throughout all these adventures, Solange’s love for Petrarach remains steadfast, even as she takes other lovers. One of these is the elderly Pope Clement VI.

Since the papal bed was too short for us to stretch out fully, we embraced sitting up, then turned sideways to pleasure one another. His desire keen and quickly satisfied, his manners courtly. Clement was always regretful to dismiss me to my chamber. As I left, his steward rushed in to sit him up, for the Pope must sleep upright in case God called him in the night.

The various strands that make up the story are linked by Novik’s overarching passion for the world of literature and her interest in the role of women in that world. The ruthlessly ambitious Petrarach, a man torn between two women who nurture his art in different ways, looks to Solange for practical help and for the satisfaction of his sexual needs. However, the conventions of courtly love require him to find his inspiration in a less earthly, more ethereal woman—the high-born, unattainable Laura. Thus the title of the novel takes on an interesting ambiguity.

As an unprotected woman with no family, Solange is trapped by the conflicting ambitions of those with better prospects or power. Petrarach is proud of the son she bears, but he cannot allow his child to be raised in a brothel.

*continued on page 26*
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Mary Novik: Muse

continued from page 24

She concludes, “I had been betrayed by Francesco, by this city of men, by this church that turned honest women into courtesans because canons were forbidden to marry.” The suppression of her own talent recalls Virginia Woolf’s meditation on the tragic fate of Shakespeare’s sister if she, too, had been born a genius.

When Solange seeks refuge once more at Clairefontaine, she again falls prey to the ambitions of the abbess. This time it is the narrative of her protegée’s life to which the abbess lays claim. She wishes it to be written as hagiography, with the prophetic visions and sainthood bringing fame to her abbey. If Solange’s checkered past doesn’t exactly lend itself to saintly treatment, it can be edited and reshaped.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SENSATIONAL TWISTS AND TURNS of Novik’s plot, the rapid changes of scene, and the piling on of horrors, all combine to give this story a wide appeal. A minority of readers might regret that Novik’s thoughtful subject matter is overwhelmed by the trappings of popular historical fiction—rapes, tortures and grisly corpses and sometimes over-heated prose.

Regardless, the various themes in Muse—women as nurturers of male artists, as muse figures, as artist’s models and subjects—are skillfully woven by Novik, and given resonance by her knowledge of the historical and literary background. Her quotations of lines from Petrarch’s sonnets in the original Italian, followed by English translations, are especially well done.

Exiles in Constantinople

IN HER DEBUT NOVEL, THE MIDWIFE OF VENICE (DOUBLEDAY 2011), former family lawyer Roberta Rich told the story of Hannah, a barren Jewish midwife living in the Venetian Ghetto Nuovo, in the late 1500s, when the bubonic plague ravaged Europe and the Inquisition forced Jews to convert or flee. Hannah risks her life, and endangers her ghetto, to save a Christian baby, enabling her to pay ransom for her husband, who was captured at sea. Rich will release a follow-up in October, THE HAREM MIDWIFE (Doubleday $22.95), in which Venetians in exile, Hannah and Isaac Levi, have set up a new life for themselves in Constantinople. While Isaac operates in the silk trade, Hannah plies her trade as a midwife within the opulent palace of Sultan Murat III, tending to the thousand women of his harem.

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Alfred Cool's e-novel THE 5 CENT MURDER, set in 1973, follows a narrator who takes a chokerman job in a remote B.C. coastal logging camp. He soon realizes the company has hired work-release prisoners to fill out the full crew—including a dangerous, serial rapist. In this narrative comedy, the author captures the local color, high-risk taking and humour of those who did "run or die!" in logging camps, culminating in a confrontation for the finale of the story.

Contact: alcoolbc@gmail.com
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Middle East 1
WHEN GILA GREEN LEFT CARLETON UNIVERSITY, SHE SAW an advertisement for an apprenticeship at the Jewish Western Bulletin newspaper and came to Vancouver where she also undertook freelance journalism at the Jewish Community Centre in 1993-1994, then moved to Israel. She has since published short stories in literary magazines and anthologies in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Israel and Hong Kong. Her first collection White Zion was nominated for the Doris Balkin Literary Award and her work has been nominated for six international awards. Her first novel, King of the Class (Now or Never $19.95), is a futuristic satire set in a post-civil war Israel, published from Vancouver.

Middle East 2
MEDIEVAL THINKING CLASSES WITH MODERNITY IN ERNEST Hekkanen’s 30th fiction release, Heretic Hill (New Orphic $22), his 45th book since 1987. Hoping to prevent the primitive execution of his friend, Dr. Sadhar Badhar, in an unnamed Middle East country, New York Times correspondent Aki Kyosolamaki, the narrator, risks his own life when he is permitted to visit Badhar in the Reeducation Center for Misinformed Individuals, ostensibly to convince Badhar to confess his sins against Islam. Ever prolific, Hekkanen previously released Flesh and Spirit: The Rasyatin Meditations, a poetry collection.

Danzania
TRAINED AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, BENJAMIN MADISON worked for seventeen years in Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, giving rise to his first novel about a cocky, indomitable protagonist, Long Legs Boy (Oolichan $19.95). Set in a fictional West African country of Danzania, it’s the Oliver Twist-like tale of Modou, orphaned after his family dies from AIDS. Leaving his remote village, Modou attaches himself to an African holy man and becomes a beggar in the city where he becomes increasingly well-known due to his daring escapes from the police. The sixteen stories that followed, chiefly arose from his stint as a volunteer English teacher in Nigeria at Udong Community School.

Africa novel: 2 wins out of 4 nominations
DERIVED FROM THE AUTHOR’S EXPERIENCES IN SOUTH SUDAN, THE DEBUT novel by Saskatchewan-born Melanie Schnell, While The Sun Is Above Us (Freehand $21.95) was shortlisted for four Saskatchewan Book Awards, winning the Regina Book of The Year and the First Book Award. The novel provides two female perspectives of war and contemporary slavery in that area of Africa. Schnell, a graduate of UBC creative writing, had no way of knowing that the remote South Sudan region would become newsworthy as the planet’s youngest nation. Republic of South Sudan became an independent state in 2011.

Ireland 1
FIRST PUBLISHED BY POLESTAR IN 2002, AILSLINN HUNTER’S Stay (Anchor $19.95) is being re-issued in synch with the release of a film version at the Toronto International Film Festival starring Aidan Quinn. The story provides an introspective look at a village outside Galway, Ireland, where Abbey, a young Canadian, has an unconventional, affectionate relationship with Dermot, an older Irish man who is a disgraced academic. If only Dermot could find some way of making her stay…. “A fence,” he thinks. “Everyone should have one. And at that moment Dermot believes it, thinks...”

Ireland 2
RAISED IN BANGO, NORTHERN IRELAND, PATRICK TAYLOR of Bowen Island has eight books about Northern Ireland including his first novel, Pray For Us Sinners (2000), which portrayed the Troubles of 1973-74 in Belfast. British Army bomb disposal officer Marcus Richardson goes undercover in the Falls Road ghetto to identify the source of Provisional IRA bombs, fellow Ulsterman Davy MacCutcheon, who becomes disenchanted with the IRA when his handshake is employed to kill civilians. Davy wants to leave Ireland with the woman he loves, but not before he undertakes a final mission.

Antarctica
A DESCENDANT OF THE POLAR EXPLORER Roald Amundsen on his mother’s side, Jay Ruzesky visited Antarctica on the centenary of Amundsen’s arrival at the South Pole to write a “mongrel” book of both memoir and fiction, Antarctica: An Amundsen Pilgrimage (Nightwood $24.95). Amundsen reached the South Pole on December 14, 1911; Ruzesky reached Antarctica on a 71-metre ice-strengthened research vessel, Polar Pioneer, in December of 2011. “The Pole regions are terrifying, deserted, and unknown,” says Ruzesky, “and the stories others have brought back are tales of struggle and failure.”

Melanie Schnell writes of slavery and civil war in South Sudan.
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.

CONTACT: robinps@shaw.ca
www.robinpercivalsmith.wordpress.com
www.createspace.com/3648661 for story synopsis and author biography.
The book may be downloaded from Kindle bookstore.

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Sturgeon Reach
Shifting Currents at the Heart of the Fraser
Transmontanus #20
by Terry Glavin & Ben Parfitt
As the Fraser River tumbles down from Hope, its slowing currents deposit gravel, carried from the Interior, along a stretch called Sturgeon Reach. Home for millennia to spawning salmon, pre-historic sturgeon, and the Sto:lo Nation, Sturgeon Reach is now also a rich gravel mine supplying suburban development. Ben Parfitt and Terry Glavin explore the area’s critical role in the coastal ecosystem in this compelling story about competing human and environmental needs.

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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 Brit-

Voyage Through the Past Century
A Memoir
by Rolf Knight
Rolf Knight is an independent socialist scholar and one of BC’s most important and influential historians. In Voyage Through the Past Century he focuses his keen eye and lively prose on his own extraordinary life, from his upbringing in working-class East Vancouver to his experiences in Berlin, Colombia, Nigeria, New York City, and Canadian academia. The result is a vivid, thoughtful, and wholly engrossing memoir. From the author of Along the No. 20 Line.

www.NewStarBooks.com

After Desire
by George Stanley
“Don’t gaze into the abyss,” George Stanley says in After Desire, his eighth book of poetry, “Gaze out.”
These are poems firmly rooted in the materiality of the city, inspired by a beautiful waiter in Stanley’s Kitsilano neighbourhood, a conversation in a local pub, a glance exchanged with a baby on the bus. They contain the contemplations of a poet—and a consciousness—as they confront old age, “stripped of even the desire for desire.”

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Gardens Aflame
Garry Oak Meadows of BC’s South Coast
Transmontanus #21
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.

www.NewStarBooks.com
Far East 1

Before immigrating to Canada at age nine, Julia Lin was born in Taiwan and also lived in Vietnam. Her process of adapting to life in Toronto and Vancouver has led to an historically rich story collection Miah (TSAR $20.95), that reflects Taiwanese life through three distinct eras: Japanese occupation near the outset of the 20th century, persecution under the Koomintang and, finally, contemporary Taiwan.

In the title story, Miah attends her grandmother’s funeral in Taiwan, accompanied by her mother, giving rise to stories that unveil the island’s harsh and complex past. Miah is Taiwanese for “fate.”

Far East 2

While teaching in Hanoi from 2005 to 2011 Elizabeth McLean developed a curiosity about Vietnamese history and folklore. It inspired her to write eight stories that trace the history of Vietnam from the 11th century to the present in Imagining Vietnam (Impress $10.99).

We meet Lan, a 13-year-old girl in 1067, who dreams of having her teeth stained so that she can attain womanhood in ‘The Black Stain,’ an unhappy village wife who two centuries later has a passionate affair with a household servant and almost gets away with it, and a modern woman manager who must weigh the personal and family cost of marrying a foreigner for his money. Elizabeth McLean lives in Vancouver where she is a member of the Grind Gallery Café writers collective managed by Margo Lamont.

Far East 3

Stretching from Tokyo to Dislocation Sound, Ruth Ozeki’s third novel, A Tale for the Time Being (Viking $28.95) is about a teenage Japanese girl’s diary, discovered by a woman on the West Coast of Canada when it is washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox, and how two people who will never meet can be deeply connected. Bullied at school in Tokyo, upset by her unemployed and suicidal father, Nao loves her 104-year-old great-grandmother, a feisty Buddhist nun. Reviewed in the New York Times, the novel is both a mystery and a meditation. Also a documentary filmmaker, Ozeki is the daughter of anthropologist Floyd Lounsbury. She is married to Canadian land artist and activist Oliver Keilhammer and the couple divides their time between New York City and Vancouver.

Far East 4

So how many novels written in Richmond by a white guy get reviewed in Hong Kong’s Cha: An Asian Literary Journal? That could only be Robert N. Friedland’s spicy The Second Wedding of Doctor Geneva Song (Libros $20) about “the inter-cultural war of the sexes.” Friedland’s heroine is a sexually adventurous family physician who marries outside her Chinese culture. The novel doubles as the story of her childhood friend Deri who overcomes her upbringing in remote northeast China to become a devout Buddhist nun, a concubine and then the most powerful female financier in Canada. Robert Friedland was a two-time city councillor in Victoria who now practices human rights and administrative law in Vancouver. He is also one of only three writers in Canada to have two of his stories included in Stuart Maclean’s upcoming full release: Time Now for the Vinyl Cafe Story Exchange (Penguin).

Ruth Ozeki: A Japanese girl’s diary washes ashore in B.C.
No out-of-shape, 50-year-old Canadian woman wants to be battling diarrhea in El Salvador while surviving on rubbery tortillas and wet beans.

BY CHERIE THIESSEN

There’s no joy in sleeping in flea-ridden old shacks, or outdoors on plastic tarps, in the humid, bug-infested jungles of El Salvador. No, this is definitely not what Danielle Byrd, aged 50, volunteered for when she left Toronto to lead a small group of Canadian human rights activists.

She and her companions were on their way to meet the charismatic Marta Ramos, a co-founder of the Salvadoran Committee for the Environment, hoping to help locals confront NorthOre, a Canadian-owned open pit gold mine poisoning a nearby river, filling the air with dust, and leaving the earth with repeated explosions.

One minute the Canadian goodwill was on a bus to Morazán, trying to save the world; the next minute a corrupt driver had stopped their vehicle at a sugar cane juice stall and they were all kidnaped at gunpoint—and trying to save themselves.

But it’s not simple. They are being held hostage by the good guys. Led by Pepe and his good friend and cousin, Cristóbal; along with Cristóbal’s rebellious wife, Rita, and her younger sister, Delmí; Danielle’s captors are not after ransom money. Cristóbal’s rebellious wife; Rita’s eccentric, brave, young to care for a dependent grandmother much of the time.

Nonetheless, Aida was left in the care of her grandparents much of the time. Aida is wary of her mother, Danielle was too restless and young mother, Danielle was too restless and young to care for a dependent so Aida was left in the care of her grandparents much of the time. Nonetheless, Aida decides she must join the other hostages’ family members in El Salvador, awaiting the outcome of the hostage taking. First, she’ll attend a vigil and demonstration in Toronto against NorthOre organized by her mother’s close friend, Neela, who would have been the human rights activist’s leader swatting bugs in the jungle and fearing for her life had not Danielle decided at the last moment that she wanted to revisit El Salvador—after a decades-long absence.

While staying at her mother’s home in Toronto, Aida reads her mother’s twenty-year-old letters that were sent to Neela. These letters were written when Danielle was a young, idealistic university student, eager to report the injustices she witnessed in El Salvador during the country’s bloody civil war (1979-1992).

During that civil war, Danielle had traveled and lived with a guerrilla faction. The letters won’t necessarily heal her mother-daughter rift but Aida realizes they hold clues as to who Aida’s father might be, and why Danielle chose to live such an unconventional life.

Within days, Aida finds herself doing very uncharacteristic things—abandoning the final work term placement she’s been assigned to complete for her M.B.A. degree and spending money for plane fare that she was saving for her honey-moon in Europe—behaving the way her mother might behave.

From the letters, Aida becomes curious about the former guerrilla leader Carlos who is now a Democratic Alliance candidate. Is he on the side of the environmentalists? Or is he in league with Mitchell Wall, the NorthOre mine owner from Vancouver?

Will Carlos help to liberate the hostages or does he want them dead?

Constantly shifting scenes from Toronto to San Salvador and the jungle of Morazán province gives Open Pit a filmic quality, arguably at the expense of characterization. The reader may wind up feeling dizzy, like riding a rickety chicken bus, travelling but without experiencing a bit, a dazed.

But Open Pit has the saving grace of being about something—the difficulties of indigenous people who must confront the combined power of their own governments in league with Canadian mining companies.

Set in 2005, the story is too credible for anyone who read the review of Imperial Canada Inc., an expose about the practices of Canadian mining companies abroad, in the Spring issue of this paper.

It’s all the more believable because Marguerite Pigeon herself lived for several months near the Salvadoran-Honduran border in 2001, protecting a local indigenous organization by witnessing their civil rights demonstrations as a foreign observer.

Cherie Thiesen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

Poems from Planet Earth

Edited by Yvonne Blomer and Cynthia Woodman Kerkham

A round-up of poems from readers at internationally renowned Planet Earth Poetry in Victoria BC — “launching pad for the energies of writers and poets established and not.”

978-1-926655-58-1 208 pp $20.00

Daniela Elza

Milk tooth bone

“...the dark-winged protagonists in these pages are splintered shards of the self haunting the branches. Out of the ache of the present moment, Daniela Elza has crafted something spare and irresistible, an open armature for wonder.”

—David Abram

with an introduction by Alissen Hunter

978-1-926655-60-4 104 pp $16.95

www.leafpress.ca

Leanne McIntosh

Dark Matter

The chronicle of a unique journey of friendship: Leanne McIntosh’s poems respond to the prose she has chosen from thirty years of private correspondence, journals and articles from Jack Sproule, her friend for many decades, a Catholic priest, now retired.

with a foreword by Jock McKeen

978-1-926655-57-4 104 pp $16.95

Emilia Nielsen

Surge Narrows

“...if we could taste it, this book would be salmonberry. It would be salt. To read these poems is to stand under a waterfall, letting the words rush like cold, clean water over the skin. A powerful debut.”

—Anne Simpson

978-1-926655-59-8 80 pp $16.95

31 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2013

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PHOTOID

Cherie THIESSEN

Open Pit by Marguerite Pigeon (Handfront Press $19.95)

In 2001, Marguerite Pigeon [red shirt] volunteered to work with el Consejo Civico de Organizaciones Populares e Indigenas de Honduras (COPINH, or Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras). “I generally followed them wherever it could help to have a ‘northerner’ present at government meetings and to the small communities,” she says, “as a means of showing locals that the organization had an international profile.” With a background in television, Pigeon also made two short documentaries for them and wrote updates from Central America for Rights Action, the NGO that had connected her to COPINH. Her farewell party [above] was held on the Salvadoran side of the Salvadoran-Honduran border.
Chinese Quebec

André Lamontagne’s The Grave-Diggers (exact $24.95) follows a Radio-Canada journalist who returns to his native Quebec City from Vancouver to spend Christmas with his family and research Chinese roots for a West Coast neighbour. The journalist uncovers an unnamed individual who was forgotten by the family which adopted Quebec City in the 19th century. Originally published as Les fossoyeurs and nominated for the Prix des lektres de Radio-Canada in 2010, this novel, translated into English by Margaret Wilson Fuller, unravels little-known facets of Quebec City, from old graveyards of the Chinese community and a possible traffic in bones, to an unfinished tunnel and the young people squatting in it. Lamontagne is the vice-president of the Francophone Historical Society of British Columbia and head of the French, Spanish and Italian Studies Department at UBC.

Surviving abuse

Secrets Kept / Secrets Told by Ben Nuttall-Smith

B en Nuttall-Smith’s second novel is a tale of surviving the debilitating guilt of childhood sexual abuse during the London Blitz. The story is true. Only names and places have been changed to permit publication as a novel.

The central character named Paddie is Nuttall-Smith. One Saturday evening, Paddie and his wife treated themselves to dinner and a movie. The Prince of Tides starred Nick Nolte as Tom Wingo, a trauma patient, and Barbara Streisand as his psychiatrist.

Following this episode, about 25 years ago, Ben Nuttall-Smith wrote passages that he calls the Fox Sisters—Maggie, Katie and Leah—who purport to be mediums and séances. A practical New York physician named Mrs. Mellon reluctantly becomes the link to the sisters, and eventually communicates with ghosts, as part of a quasi-religious spiritualist movement in the late 1800s, replete with mediums and seances. A practical New York physician named Mrs. Mellon reluctantly becomes the link to the sisters, and eventually communicates with ghosts, as part of a quasi-religious spiritualist movement in the late 1800s, replete with mediums and seances.

When three armed convicts break into the Wingo home, violently rape Tom’s mother and his twin sister, Savannah, and particularly sadistic con anally rapes young Tom, Paddie suffered such a vivid flashback to being repeatedly raped in an uncle in London during the blitz, that he froze in his seat and cried aloud.

After the movie, when everyone else had left the theatre, Paddie was finally able to pull himself together and join his wife in the lobby. Without a word, the couple walked to the hotel. Paddie got back behind the wheel. Within minutes, he had to pull over because he could no longer see to drive.

“I was the boy in the movie,” Paddie whispered. “I was the boy in the movie.”

Parent cons

Having just won the Danuta Gleed Award for best first collection of Canadian short fiction with Greedy Little Eyes, Billie Livingston chronicles the struggle of 16-year-old Sammie Bell to not replicate the scams of two con-artist parents in One Good Hustle (Random $22.95). Horrified to realize she occasionally wishes her alcoholic mother was dead, Sammie takes a summer-long vacation with a ‘normal’ family who provide the “weird, spearmint-fresh feeling” of life in the straight world. While longing for the approval of her con-man dad, Sammie worries she could be genetically prone to hysteria.

Ghost sisters

Now living in Pennsylvania, Claire Mulligan was raised in B.C. and graduated from UBC in 1995. Her second work of historical fiction, The Dark (Random $32.95) recalls the Fox Sisters—Maggie, Katie and Leah—who purportedly communicated with ghosts, as part of a quasi-religious spiritualist movement in the late 1800s, replete with mediums and seances. A practical New York physician named Mrs. Mellon reluctantly becomes the link to the sisters, and eventually communicates with ghosts, as part of a quasi-religious spiritualist movement in the late 1800s, replete with mediums and seances.

Skin & home

The Green and Purple Skin of the World by paulo da costa (Freehand $21.95) is a fiction collection, The Green and Purple Skin of the World, consequently looks at what drives families apart and what forces them back together.

“It is often within the home where we first learn how to not care,” he says, “and to ignore the harm we inflict on others. We carry on later, failing to understand and protect the most vulnerable who will cross our paths, and often, we will abuse our circumstantial power to fulfill personal wants at another being’s expense.”

In the collection, a nine-year-old certain she’s adopted, runs away from home and tells her stuffed rabbit, Carrot, that it’s not as easy to run away as she thought, especially when she suspects someone is following her. In private life, a man writes one-sides letters to his beloved as their relationship ruptures.

Another man ponders the positions of predator and prey with a cougar in a West Coast forest. A son tries to convince his aging mother to accept a new IKEA tablet. His stories have been published in Canadian and international literary magazines and journals, and in the anthology of the Caribbean Region of the Commonwealth Writers Prize 2003, the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize in 2002 and the Camagnote Prize for Short-Fiction in 2001, da costa moved to B.C. in 2003 and now lives on Vancouver Island. His stories have been translated into Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Serbien, Slovenian and Portuguese.

Golf Sex

Former Vancouver Magazine editor Jim Sutherland has self-published a golf novel with sex and humour, Stack and Tilt (Woodling Books $14.95-$7.95).

When he loses his girl and her job, Jeff Jones spends long days on Big Bill’s driving range, developing a radical way to swing a golf club. When the June issue of Golf Digest arrives, he is disturbed to read a sensational cover story on the new Stack and Tilt swing which seems identical to his own. Just as he gets a new female companion, both his mother and lost girlfriend re-enter his life. Possibly. Kevin Costner is ready for Tin Cup II.

Leaping prose

Jan Zwicky’s first book of fiction, The Book of Frog (Pedlar Press $20), is an amusing narrative with the best promotional copy of the year: “I would like to say about it: ‘The Book of Frog is probably the best book ever written, right up there with the Divine Comedy and Gilgamesh. Except it’s short and in English! You will like it. In addition to being action-packed and by me, it has some great pictures of frogs (alas). And it has some excellent emails from my friend Al, who is extremely smart. You will learn stuff you never knew, maybe even be enlightened. (It’s possible) If you think that because it is a book by a frog, it has nothing for you, you are wrong. Frogs are the best. Even Al thinks so. It talks about Schubert and baseball and green onion pancakes. With ponzu sauce! And there are heaps of tips on how to manage the humans in your life.”

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Heavy mental

Saskatchewan-raised C.R. Boyko of Victoria has had work nominated for the Journey Prize four times (more than any other writer except David Bergen). His first collection of stories, Blackouts (McClelland & Stewart, 2008), which includes his 2007 Journey Prize-winning story entitled "OZY," has been followed by Psychology and Other Stories (Biblisossa $19.95), about mental illness and mental health, and the people who try and tell the two apart. Shrinks and therapists share the same neuroses as the patients they attempt to diagnose, often disastrously. It was shortlisted for this year’s Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

Fleming first

ANNE FLEMING’S GAY DWARVES of America (Pedlar Press $21) was shortlisted for the 2013 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. It’s the second time Fleming has been nominated for the award and probably the first time any book published from Newfoundland has made one of the shortlists. Fleming is a UBC creative writing professor and ukulele player, as well as a hockey player. Coincidentally, Jan Zwicky’s latest release The Book of Frog is from the same press in St. John’s.

Meditation on love

EVER-FERTILE BILL BISSETT has returned for his second extended “novel-poem”, range 7 (Talon $17.95), in which he recounts the ten-year relationship of two men as a meditation on love. Whereas one man is bold and unafraid, the other is burdened by terrible memories and unable to trust. bissett is now beyond seventy books—and not counting…

Gang warfare

JOEL MARK HARRIS GRADUATED FROM LANAGRA’S Journalism School in 2007. He wrote and co-produced the feature-length film Neutral Territory with Josias Tschanz (co-producer, director, actor). The filming was done at Tschanz’s parents’ ranch in Burns Lake. Harris’ self-published novel in A Thousand Bayonets (Universe $18.95) about a journalist who, upon returning from Afghanistan to Canada, discovers a gang war in his city.

Short stories

IN 2012, P.W. BRIDGMAN (A PEN NAME) HAD HIS SHORT STORY “Cake, Bang and Elm” awarded third prize in the Leonard A. Koval Memorial International Fiction Competition and it was therefore included in the Irish anthology, Gw Stor. Published by Labello Press of Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Bridgman has now released his first short story collection, Standing at an Angle to My Age (Libros Libertad $20). Promotional material states, “While he is convinced that the short story is both the preeminent literary prose form and the true metier, when pressed Mr. Bridgman will also quietly admit to having begun work on a novel.”

Also Received

• Unholy Rites: A Danuta Dranchuk Mystery (Touchwood $14.95) by Kay Stewart & Chris Bullough 978-1-877279-83-8
• The Third Riel Conspiracy (Touchwood $14.95) by Stephen Legault 978-1-877279-85-2
• Dream Walk a Little Angels (Kensington $16.95) by Michael Hiebert 978-1-926763-27-4
• Jazz Walk Ella (Libros Libertad $23.00) by Jan DeGrass 978-1-927063-27-0
• The Modern World (Oboen $19.95) by Cassie Beecham 978-0-7780-1394-5
• A Crowbar In the Buddhist Garden (Thistledown $18.95) by Stephen Reid 978-1-926763-25-5
• Oddly, many of the early stories include animals—turtles, emus, birds, a cat, a poodle, a rooster, a rat. It’s those two aforementioned longer stories that generate a memorably resonant; either might have served as a better opener. The protagonist, Jean’s, fascination with a self-assured but narcissistic “hawk man” who leads a gaggle of female bird watchers through desolate Cochrane County is ultimately supplanted by her loyalty to her bird-eating cat in ‘South of Elfrida’. As in an Alice Munro story, the reader goes, “Yes, this is how life really is.” Filling because it is unpredictable.

Rubinsky lives in Kaslo, the publisher is on Vancouver Island and the cover is garish orange, so don’t hold your breath for a Giller nomination; but she’s the real deal for anyone who enjoys sophisticated storytelling.

For several years Rubinsky was host of The Writers’ Show, about writing and publishing, produced by Kootenay Coop Radio CJLY in Nelson.

18 stories on the road

South of Elfrida by Holley Rubinsky (Brindle & Glass $19.95)

Holley Rubinsky ought to submit either the title story for South of Elfrida, about a birdwatching field trip in Arizona, or ‘Desert Dreams,’ in which Nina rents a seventeen-foot Easy Loader from U-Haul to rescue Miriam from the nursing home because her mother “just wants to look at the ocean one last time.”

Most of Rubinsky’s eighteen stories feature mature women in America’s mid-west, usually estranged from, or missing, men. Each sentence is carefully constructed. Oddly, many of the early stories include animals—turtles, emus, birds, a cat, a poodle, a rooster, a rat. It’s those two aforementioned longer stories that generate a memorably resonant; either might have served as a better opener. The protagonist, Jean’s, fascination with a self-assured but narcissistic “hawk man” who leads a gaggle of female bird watchers through desolate Cochrane County is ultimately supplanted by her loyalty to her bird-eating cat in ‘South of Elfrida’. As in an Alice Munro story, the reader goes, “Yes, this is how life really is.” Filling because it is unpredictable.

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MANY OF THE BEST books from British Columbia nowadays are self-published. These books seldom receive media coverage; they are rarely considered for literary awards. Here are just eight titles of undeniable merit; see the QUICKIES section on page 3 for more.

Escaping a marriage
You gotta love a book on divorce that opens with a Shakespeare line, “Go to your bosom; knock there, and ask your heart what it doth know.” Even though Lisa Thomson’s wise and prudent The Great Escape: A Girl’s Guide to Leaving a Marriage ($14.95) is being marketed towards women, some of her good counsel—such as how to deal with anger—works for any sex person. It’s about leaving a marriage responsibly, not as a victim, but instead “choosing joy.” A sublime, smart and useful book.

Contact: www.b actediva.com. 978-457753-6-7

Back to the land
Already into its second printing, Gumboot Girls: Adventure, Love & Survival on British Columbia’s North Coast (Musquek Press) tells the stories of 34 women, through their own eyes, as they move from their comfortable city-dwelling surroundings to the north coast of B.C. in the 1970s as part of the “back-to-the-land” counter-cultural movement. Edited by Lou Allison and compiled by Jane Wilde.

Imperial Vancouver Island
John Boshier’s earliest ancestor on Vancouver Island was Sarah Taylor Marsden (1833-1916) who arrived from Liverpool on a bride ship. Born in North Sannich, Boshier studied at the Sorbonne and Liverpool on a bride ship. Born in North Sannich, Boshier studied at the Sorbonne and

Imperial Vancouver Island

Cyclone Taylor

Political cartoons

Charles and Cynthia Hou’s third volume in a series, Great Canadian Political Cartoons. 1946-1982 (Moody’s Lookout $39.95), delivers drawings by some of the best cartoonists from the period 1946-1982. Many cartoons address issues prevalent today such as aboriginal land disputes, big oil in Alberta and the debate on the decriminalization of marijuana.

Contact: Moody’s Lookout. 978-690811-6-4

The rise of hockey
The remarkably diligent hockey historian Craig H. Bowlsby cites the diary of Reverend John Sheepshanks in January of 1862 as the first recorded reference to hockey being played in British Columbia, at New Westminster following a freeze-up of the Fraser River. Bowlsby has now followed his unparalleled, illustrated 381-page reference work on ice hockey in British Columbia, from 1895 to 1911, The Knights of Winter (2006) with an equally admirable, 388-page volume, Empire of Hockey: The Rise and Fall of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association, 1911-1926 (Knights of Winter $25). It features Cyclone Taylor, Frank and Lester Patrick, Nels Stewart and others. The PCHA created the first American teams to compete for the Stanley Cup.

Contact: Cyclone Taylor. 978-690927-0-3

A CIA agent’s memoir of a doomed son

Graham E. Fuller’s Three Truths and a Lie: A Memoir (Create Space) is a memoir about Luke, a Korean adoptee who comes to an American family at age one and who gradually loses his way—to die from crack cocaine at age 21. It is also a story of his adoptive father, a CIA officer, who offers an unsparing and vivid account of his own efforts—wise, misguided, passionate, naive, creative, ultimately unsuccessful—to save his son.

According to publicity materials, “Luke is warm, likeable, funny, quick to win friends—and a skilled deceiver; able to impress others with a seeming maturity and urbanity. But the image he works to create for himself is increasingly belied by the darker realities of his life and the black hole he creates around his family. The tale chronicles a poignant and tumultuous quest to grasp the meaning of Luke’s life—and death—against a broad international backdrop from Afghanistan to Latin America. It explores the mysteries of adoption, identity, addiction—and grace.”

Graham E. Fuller is an independent writer, analyst, lecturer on Muslim world affairs and adjunct professor of history at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

He received his BA and MA at Harvard University in Russian and Middle Eastern studies. He served 20 years as an operations officer in the CIA, mostly in the Muslim world, working in Germany, Turkey, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Afghanistan, and Hong Kong. In 1982 he was appointed the national intelligence officer for Near East and South Asia at the CIA, and in 1986 vice-chairman of the National Intelligence Council at CIA, with overall responsibility for all national level strategic forecasting.

In 1988 Mr. Fuller left government and joined the RAND Corporation where he was a senior political scientist for 12 years. His research focused primarily on the Middle East, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and problems of ethnicity and religion in politics. His studies for RAND included an innovative upon study on the geopolitical implications of the Palestinian “Intifada,” a series of studies on Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey, Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Algeria; the survivability of Iraq; the “New Geopolitics of Central Asia” after the fall of the USSR, and problems of democratization and Islam.

Fuller moved to BC in 2004 and lives in Squamish.

Fidel Castro & Fred Brown
Lillooet magazine publisher Van Andruss has completed his long-in-process biography of Fred Brown who led two pioneering settlements in B.C. and taught at SFU. In A Compass and a Chart: The Life of Fred Brown, Philosopher and Mountaineer (Lived Experience Press), Andruss, a self-avowed protégé who met Brown in 1967, has documented Brown’s peripatetic journey as a leftist thinker, while often skipping over Brown’s troubled private life.

The 391-page tribute includes the fascinating story of how Fidel Castro hired Brown to serve as the head of the University of Havana philosophy department in the early 1960s even though Brown could speak only rudimentary Spanish. While living in Havana not long after the Cuban Revolution, Brown’s daughter Satya met Castro in a restaurant. Along with Castro’s cohorts and Satya’s Canadian girl friend Bella Scup, they all shared a communal meal at the apartment where Andruss, while learning Satya’s father was a philosopher, whimsically decided to invite Fred Brown—someone he had never met—to come to the University of Havana to teach. At the time Brown was majoring in a teaching job at Telegraph Creek in northern B.C.

Fred Brown and his wife Phyll were subsequently given a house in the New Vedado district of Havana in 1963. Brown eventually delivered a few lectures in October of 1964 but was hospitalized when he had a black out.

The Cubans financed Brown’s journey to Prague in 1964 where he underwent treatment for alcoholism. He didn’t return to Havana until 1965. Shortly thereafter, the Browns returned to Canada; Satya became a doctor in Cuba and married a fellow Cuban doctor.

In an ideal world, we would have an annual prize for best self-published book from B.C. There are literally hundreds of very worthwhile B.C. books entering the world this way—under the radar, fueled by belief…
IT’s NOW VIRTUOUS FOR PEOPLE to ride bicycles in the city, as well as in the country, so one can’t argue with the timing of Michelle Mulder’s Pedal It!: How Bicycles Are Changing The World.

Bikes have been changing lives since the early 1800s. When bicycles were first mass produced, suffragists soon recognized the potential for solo transportation to serve as a catalyst for the emancipation of women. Herself an avid cyclist, the great singer Sarah Bernhardt said, “The bicycle is on the way to transforming our way of life more deeply than you might think. All these young women and girls who are devouring space are refusing domestic family life.”

American’s leading feminist in her day, Susan B. Anthony wrote, “I think [the bicycle] has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It provides a woman with a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. The moment she takes her seat she knows she can’t get into harm unless she gets off her bicycle, and away she goes, the picture of free, untrammeled womanhood.”

But women represent only half of humanity; Mulder’s overview looks at the whole enchilada, showing multiple uses. At a bicycle-powered movie theatre in Vilnius, Lithuania, for example, volunteer pedalers power the projector. When they get tired, they ring the bell, and another movie watcher takes over. “These days,” Mulder writes, “bicycles represent not wealth or poverty but good thinking.”

Cargo bikes can carry enormous loads. Bikes in the developing world are being used to power computers or sharpen knives. After she bought her first bike at age fifteen, Mulder rode it for almost twenty years, including a bike trip across Canada. Then she donated it to Recyclistas, a Victoria organization that gives new life to old parts. “I like to imagine pieces of my old bicycle riding around Victoria and maybe even retracing my steps across the country,” she says.

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Day break

BC BOOKWORLD ARRIVED TODAY AND, as usual, I immediately dive in. I was surprised to find my name mentioned in the lengthy piece on David Day. He says we had a fall-out about his incorrect description of our family as being ‘historically satisfying content.’ He also notes that the book is up for sale and they describe it as having ‘historically satisfying content.’

Some were disappointed that the book didn’t receive more attention. The Hamatsa is a he-reditary ceremony of the Kw’akwakawakw (formerly known as Kwaguitl) people of northeastern Vancouver Island. They are our traditional enemies.

Such a depiction is offensive to our people and I’m sure just as much so to the Kw’akwakawakw. As a child I received a book by Isabel M. Allende that I believe is held at the National Museum. It’s troubling to see the book recommended by these sites as suitable for students in grade 5 and up. The misleading content regarding aboriginal people has been bane to us for a very long time. I apologize for any offense caused to your hard work, but your website is the only one I’ve found that makes provision for feedback. I’m writing this in the spirit of setting the record straight.

Victor Guerin
Musqueam First Nation
[BCBW Spring 2013]

Kerosene, “Cash” & iPhones

THANKS FOR MENTIONING MY NEW BOOK, Vintage Cubano [BCBW Spring]. Although it’s gotten a couple of in-depth reviews in U.S. publications, yours is the only mention of my book in Canada. My four-volume “life’s work,” The Blackfoot Papers, also got no mention in Canada except by B.C. BookWorld, in spite of being the largest volume ever produced about a single native tribe in the world.

The Blackfoot Papers has now been taken over by the school board of the Blackfeet tribe to educate future generations. The tribe has paid off my debt to Friedman printers and now owns the rights.

I’m content as can be in my old age. I still have my kerosene lamps, but now also rely on solar panels to charge my iPhone and phone. I’m still totally committed to “simple living in harmony with nature.”

Meanwhile our family press, Good Medicine Books, is entering its 44th year as having a new “apprentice director,” twelve-year old Cashius Klay Hungry Wolf. He is the oldest of my ten grandchildren. He loves reading books and already has a couple of titles in the works.

As an enrolled member of the Blood tribe in Alberta, he won’t have to put up with the racist crap I’ve endured from various critics and self-styled “intellectuals” and frustrated would-be writers on his behalf.


Paddle twaddle

I HAIL FROM THE MUSQUEAM FIRST NATION. As a child I received a book by Isabel M. Reekie entitled Red Paddles about two young boys in Burrard Inlet at the time of the 1866 Vancouver fire. One of our ancestral village sites, situated in present day Stanley Park, is described in the book as the home village of the aboriginal boy in the story. I’ve looked at various websites where the book is up for sale and they describe it as having “historically satisfying content.”

This is not so; one of the events described involves the boy arriving home to find his family is holding a Hamatsa cer-mony that evening. The Hamatsa is a he-reditary ceremony of the Kw’akwakawakw (formerly known as Kwaguitl) people of northeastern Vancouver Island. They are our traditional enemies.

Such a depiction is offensive to our people and I’m sure just as much so to the Kw’akwakawakw. As a child I received a book by Isabel M. Allende that I believe is held at the National Museum. It’s troubling to see the book recommended by these sites as suitable for students in grade 5 and up. The misleading content regarding aboriginal people has been bane to us for a very long time. I apologize for any offense caused to your hard work, but your website is the only one I’ve found that makes provision for feedback. I’m writing this in the spirit of setting the record straight.

Victor Guerin
Musqueam First Nation
[BCBW Spring 2013]

Non-stop reader

I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I appreciate and enjoy B.C. BookWorld. I have read it since the first issue. Before postage became an expense, I used to send all the issues to my brother in the U.K. who was originally from here.

I started collecting early B.C. books in 1950 when items that are worth $1000 now could be had for $5 from great Toronto book-stores such as Britnell’s. I later spent two years as president of the Victoria Historical Society. Just turning ninety now. Items found in B.C. BookWorld are of great interest and nowhere else does one see the products of our many small presses reviewed and advertised.

Robert Thomson
Victoria

Good Godwin

BARRY GOUGH IS CERTAINLY NOT THE FIRST to plead the case for Juan de Fuca being a real person who actually entered the strait which bears his name [BCBW Spring]. George Goodwin, polymath writer and his- torian, closely argued at length the same points as Gough in his Vancouver, A Life (New York: Appleton, 1931, pp. 60-62). I was astonished to find no reference to Godwin in Gough’s narrative or even mention of him in Mr. Gough’s index. (“Ingrati- tuous, thou marble-hearted fellow!”) I am sure that Mr. Gough ought to have known of this book because I brought it to his atten-tion five years ago at a cocktail party in Broadmead.

Robert Thomson
Godwin Books
Victoria

Air India lessons

I AM THANKFUL TO B.C. BOOKWORLD FOR giving coverage to my book, Fighting Ha- ted With Love. The review received a tremen-dous amount of attention from various parts of B.C. I am now looking for a publisher for my forthcoming book, Canada’s 9/11, Lessons from the Air India Bombings, to be a comprehensive reassessment of geo-political context. It will look into reasons that led to the worst terrorist attack in the history of aviation prior to 9/11.

Gurpreet Singh
Vancouver
**LETTERS**

**The good ferry**

Thank you very much for the super lovely spread on Contingency Plan in B.C. BookWorld [Winter]. Your publication greeted me on the ferry back in ’06 when I moved from Ontario, and it’s an honour to be in its pages. Your continuing support of B.C. authors is truly appreciated.

Lou Allin
Sooke

**Prizes, schmizes**

The support and advice I’ve received from B.C. BookWorld has meant every bit as much to me as the two prizes my book has received. In fact, I think of the support B.C. BookWorld gives us all as a prize in its own right. Thanks so much for all you do for all of us.

Andrea Geiger
Vancouver

**Just Desserts**

I was surprised to see a reproduction of an illustration created by the famous Robert Crumb in B.C. BookWorld. The “Keep on Truckin’” phrase is also very well known to all of us who are fans of the work of Mr. Crumb. I’m puzzled — I don’t believe this image is in the public domain and as Mr. Crumb now lives in France with his wife Aline, I imagine he can use all the revenue he gets. I would be interested to hear whether this image is readily available or if there has been some dreadful mistake.

Michael J. Turner
Victoria

[We first wrote to Crumb’s website or if there has been some dreadful mistake.

Robert Crumb in

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE A REPRODUCTION

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I would like to make clear that the article is not an excerpt from the novel, but rather something written by way of a postscript.

That said, I certainly appreciate your support and, as always, look forward to each and every issue of B.C. BookWorld.

David Kos
SaltSpring Island

**Write away, Renée**

I was very pleased to receive my copy of B.C. BookWorld and find the lovely interview article you printed regarding my book Living in a Dangerous Climate. As always you do an excellent job of raising awareness of B.C. authors and books.

One note of correction. I did go to UBC for a while, but none of my degrees were obtained there. I did obtain my Ph.D from the University of Victoria and worked there. I now work independently.

Renée Hetherington
North Saanich

**Letters / emails:** B.C. BookWorld, 3516 W. 13th Ave., Van., B.C. V6R 2B3 bookworld@telus.net

Letters may be edited for clarity & length.
B.C. BookWorld continues to support independent writers and publishers. We have also launched a new site for B.C. literary awards

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