

BC BOOKWORLD

“If I ever quit, you’ll read about it in the obituaries.”

MIKE McCARDELL

With his 10th bestseller, the veteran TV journalist has raised more than \$90,000 for charity. See page 9



Svend Robinson

Svend Robinson's life in politics

page 7



M.A.C. Farrant

“Brevity is the soul of writ.”

page 25

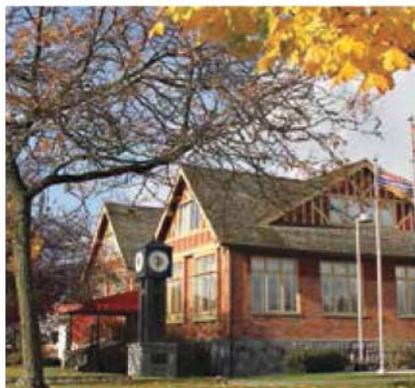
INVOLABLE



VOL. 28 • NO. 1
SPRING 2014

British Columbia Historical Federation
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 6-7, 2014

Cloverdale: Surrey's Historic Centre



This exciting two-day event will take place in a number of Cloverdale venues and feature speakers, a walking tour, field trip by bus as well as a visit to Fraser Valley Heritage Railway and BC Vintage Truck Museum.

Registration is open to anyone interested in history.

For more information
 email: conference@bchistory.ca
<http://bchistory.ca/conferences/2014/index.html>

PHOTO COURTESY SURREY HERITAGE SERVICES



Up-coming Events:

April 26-28, 2014 AGM Weekend Conference – Victoria, BC

May 3, 2014 **Poetic Imaginations:**

A One-day Poetry Conference – New Westminster, BC

June 8, 2014 Write on the Beach:

The Business of Writing – Crescent Beach, BC

For more info about FBCW and these great events visit bcwriters.ca

Mark Your Calendar

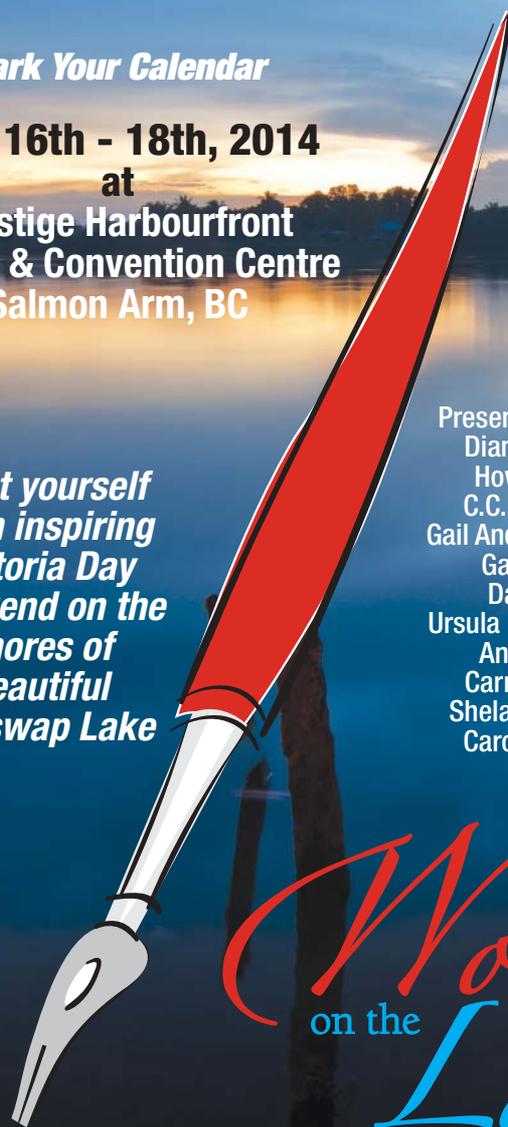
May 16th - 18th, 2014

at

Prestige Harbourfront
 Resort & Convention Centre
 Salmon Arm, BC

Treat yourself
 to an inspiring
 Victoria Day
 weekend on the
 shores of
 beautiful
 Shuswap Lake

Presenters for 2014:
 Diana Gabaldon
 Howard White
 C.C. Humphreys
 Gail Anderson-Dargatz
 Gary Geddes
 David Essig
 Ursula Maxwell-Lewis
 Ann Eriksson
 Carmen Aguirre
 Shelagh Jamieson
 Carolyn Swayze



Word
 on the
 Lake

A Festival for Writers

Information on workshops, Saturday night entertainment, banquet, coffee house and more at: www.saow.ca



SHUSWAP
 association of
WRITERS

*“Such an amazing experience—
 I need to come back to get more!”*

Nicole Cohn
 Bellingham, WA

2013 Conference Attendee



Chuckanut
writers conference

Inspiration into Action

Friday and Saturday
June 27 and 28, 2014

Whatcom Community College
 Bellingham, Washington

presented by



Whatcom
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

with support from



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 Elaine Ellis
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 Thor Hanson
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 William Kenower
 Joanna Kenyon
 David Laskin
 Gary Luke
 Jim Lynch
 Rose McAleese
 Peter Mountford
 Anastacia Tolbert
 Elizabeth Wales
 Lidia Yuknavitch



Left: Original serigraph titled “Along Chuckanut Drive” by Nancy McDonnell Spaulding, commissioned by Chuckanut Bay Gallery, www.chuckanutbaygallery.com



Sylvia Berstein

Air India x 2

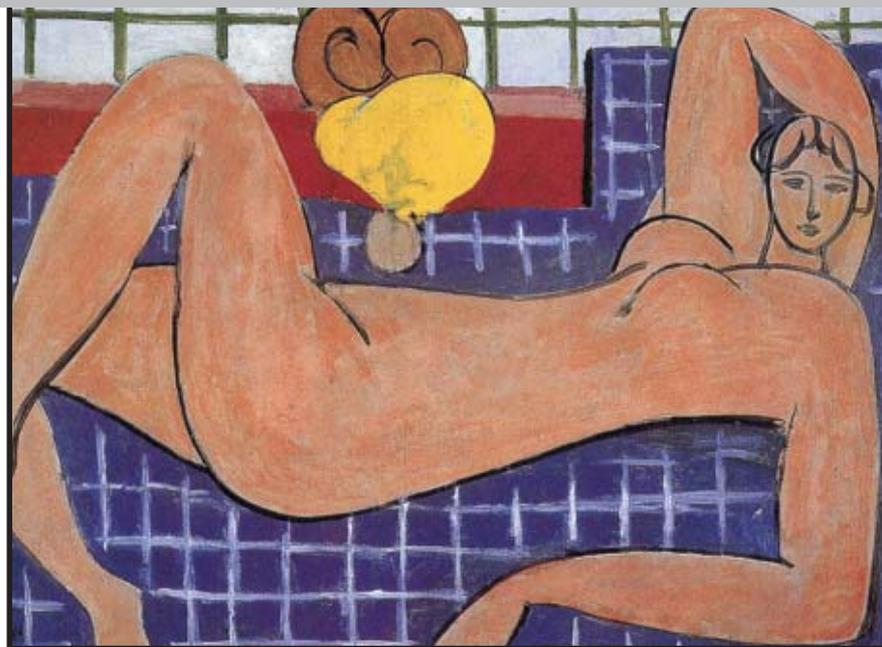
THE WINTER ISSUE OF *BCBW* FEATURED **Renée Saklikar**'s memorial collection *Children of Air India*. Now, inspired by her own family's history, **Padma Viswanathan**'s novel *The Ever After of Ashwin Rao* (Random House \$29.95) is set almost twenty years after the terrorist bombing of the Air India flight from Vancouver that killed 329 people off the coast of Ireland.

As the long trial of terrorist suspects Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri is underway, Ashwin Rao, an Indian psychologist trained in Canada, returns to interview people who—like himself—lost loved ones on the plane. His “study of comparative grief” unexpectedly leads him into a deep association with one family in particular.

978-0-307-35634-5



Padma Viswanathan



Large Reclining Nude (The Pink Nude) by Henri Matisse, 1935

HOW A GREAT ARTIST GOT LOST & BOUND

“You want to mutilate my work!” — Henry Matisse

AFTER HIS PROLONGED INTERVIEW WITH SWISS ART CRITIC **PIERRE Courthion** that spanned several days in Lyon and Nice in 1941, **Henri Matisse** was incensed when he discovered the editing process had reduced the interview text from 310 pages to 260 pages.

Next Matisse was angry about the paper quality selected by the prospective publisher of the extensive interview, Skira. Then Matisse wanted to rewrite parts of the text. He also wanted to censor other passages.

Matisse died in 1954. The revealing transcript remained in the private archive of Pierre Courthion until his papers were acquired by the Getty Research

Institute in Los Angeles in the 1980s. Some biographers had access, but Matisse's ancestors respected the publication ban.

Now the “lost interview” has been edited for publication by **Serge Guilbaut**, professor emeritus of art history at the University of British Columbia, for *Chatting with Henri Matisse: The Lost 1941 Interview* (Getty Research Institute \$45).

Courthion had interviewed Matisse while the artist was in bed recovering from a serious operation. While admitting his predilection to depression, and after months of complicated discussions and just weeks before the book was to come out, Matisse suddenly refused its publication.

“To publish a book rejected by its author is not an easy task,” Guilbaut told *The Observer* in 2013, “... **Claude Duthuit**, grandson of Matisse, was not keen to have all this published because this would contradict Matisse's wishes. But, when he realised that the Getty [Institute] had the definitive text ready to be published, he thought that it was an interesting historical document.”

Ultimately the grandson contributed an introduction. In the conversations Matisse recalls his youth and his life as a bohemian student, experiences with collectors, including **Albert C. Barnes**, and he discusses fame, writers, musicians, politicians, and his travels.

978-160061299

- Aquaponic Gardening: A Step-by-Step Guide to Raising Vegetables and Fish Together** (New Society Publishers \$29.95) by Sylvia Berstein
- This Day in Vancouver** (Anvil Press \$38) by Jesse Donaldson
- Dark Seed: No-one Knows What Evil Grows** (Promontory Press \$17.99) by Lawrence Verigin
- Tribute** (Red Tuque Books \$18.95) by Ted Moore
- Ting Ting** (Sono Nis Press \$9.95) by Kristie Hammond
- Haunting Vancouver: A Nearly True History** (Harbour \$32.95) by Mike McCardell
- Indian Horse** (D&M \$21.95) by Richard Wagamese
- Allen Carr's Easy Way to Stop Smoking** (Sandhill Book Marketing \$19.95) by Allen Carr
- Cadillac Cathedral** (Ronsdale Press \$18.95) by Jack Hodgins
- Quarantined: Life and Death at William Head Station, 1872-1959** (Heritage House \$22.95) by Peter Johnson
- The Deerholme Mushroom Book** (TouchWood Editions \$29.95) by Bill Jones
- Pilgrimage** (Brindle & Glass Publishing \$19.95) by Diana Davidson
- Kiss, Tickle, Cuddle, Hug** (Orca Books \$9.95) by Susan Musgrave
- They Called Me Number One: Secrets & Survival at an Indian Residential School** (Talonbooks \$19.95) by Bev Sellars
- Svend Robinson: A Life in Politics** (New Star Books \$24) by Graeme Truelove
- Defending Battered Women on Trial: Lessons from the Transcripts** (UBC Press \$34.95) by Elizabeth A. Sheehy

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

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SPRING 2014
Vol. 28 • No. 1



Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des arts du Canada

For this issue, we gratefully acknowledge the unobtrusive assistance of Canada Council, a continuous partner since 1988.



BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien

CHOICE PICKS FOR SPRING

RUNNING TOWARD STILLNESS

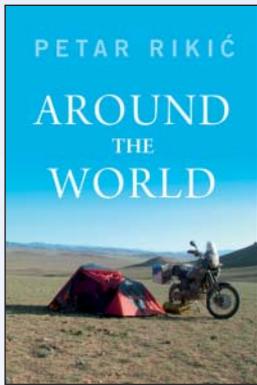
STEPHEN LEGAULT



Running Toward Stillness Stephen Legault

Illustrated with the author's colour photographs highlighting the tranquil beauty of Vancouver Island and exotic locations from around the world, *Running Toward Stillness* is a personal memoir that invites the reader to run through the woods, along the seashore and on mountain trails in order to experience moments of sublime delight, personal insight and the healing power of nature.

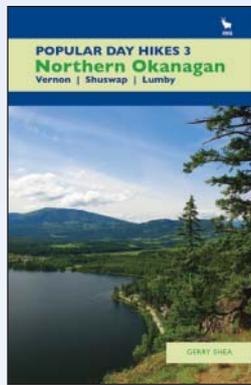
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books \$25 pb | \$16.99 ebook



Around the World Petar Rikić

At the age of 19, a young Croatian by the name of Petar Rikić decided to leave his native country and travel around the world by motorcycle. His published journals contain dozens of colour photos and personal reflections from a variety of unique and exotic locations, including a detailed account of his trip through Vancouver, Prince George, Whitehorse, Dawson City and Inuvik.

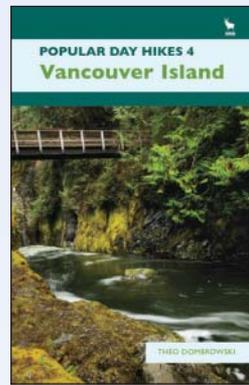
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books \$25 pb | \$16.99 ebook



Popular Day Hikes 3 Northern Okanagan Gerry Shea

Located in the interior of British Columbia, stretching from Grindrod in the north to Vernon in the south and situated between the Okanagan Valley and the Shuswap, this fully illustrated guidebook features colour maps and photographs, step by step directions and 35 popular day hikes in stunning and open terrain.

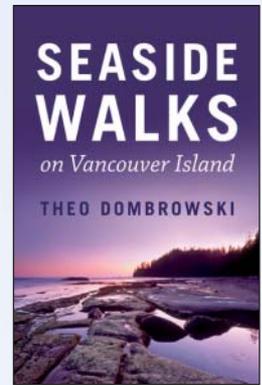
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books \$15 pb | \$9.99 ebook



Popular Day Hikes 4 Vancouver Island Theo Dombrowski

This unique and colourful guidebook sorts through all of the various possibilities and selects for the reader the very best day hikes on Vancouver Island. Ranging from 6 km to 25 km and from easy to challenging, each hike is accompanied by a clear map, step by step directions and colour photographs.

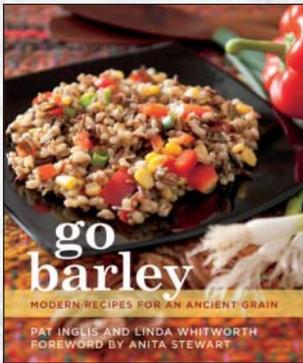
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books \$15 pb | \$9.99 ebook



Seaside Walks on Vancouver Island Theo Dombrowski

The perfect book for those who love to explore the seashore but also love walking through forests and seaside meadows. Whether discovering inviting stretches of sandy beach, hiking along rugged cliffs or strolling through quiet estuaries, each walk is illustrated with colour photos and step by step descriptions.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books \$15 pb | \$9.99 ebook

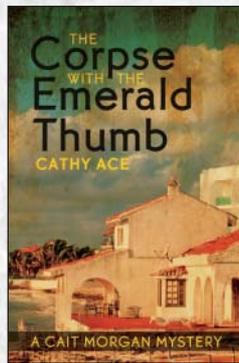


Go Barley

Modern Recipes for an Ancient Grain
Pat Inglis and Linda Whitworth
Foreword by Anita Stewart

Canada's first cookbook dedicated entirely to barley, a sustainable grain with tremendous health benefits, *Go Barley* includes over 100 flavourful recipes sure to become favourites in your kitchen.

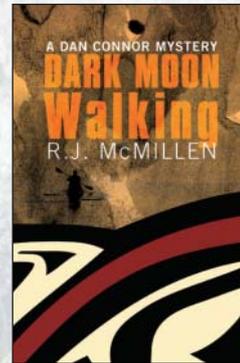
TouchWood Editions \$29.95 pb | \$24.99 ebook



The Corpse with the Emerald Thumb Cathy Ace

The third book of the beloved Cait Morgan Mysteries, *The Corpse with the Emerald Thumb* travels to the idyllic Mexican countryside as Cait Morgan races to clear her wrongly accused partner of a murder charge.

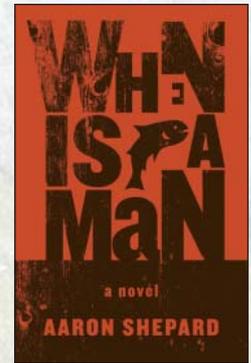
TouchWood Editions \$14.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook



Dark Moon Walking R.J. McMillen

The islands off BC's coast seem like the perfect destination for Dan Connor's retirement, until increasingly sinister events disrupt his peace. With eclectic characters and a riveting plot, the first Dan Connor Mystery is a fast-paced, suspenseful thriller with an explosive conclusion.

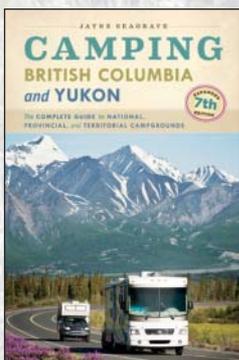
TouchWood Editions \$14.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook



When is a Man Aaron Shepard

When Paul Rasmussen retreats to a remote valley in BC's interior, he discovers how difficult it is to know a place, let alone become a part of it. Then, a drowned man and a series of encounters force him to confront the valley's troubled past and his own uncertain future.

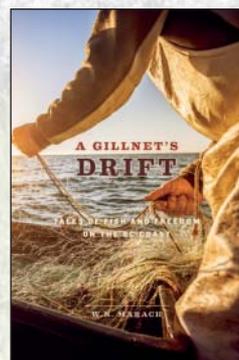
Brindle & Glass Publishing \$19.95 pb | \$14.99 ebook



Camping British Columbia and Yukon The Complete Guide to National, Provincial, and Territorial Campgrounds, Expanded Seventh Edition Jayne Seagrave

In this revamped edition of a BC classic, author Jayne Seagrave has added an entire section on camping in the Yukon along with fully updated information on BC parks and campgrounds. An essential guide for today's camper.

HH | Heritage House Publishing \$19.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook

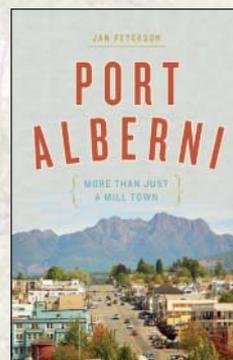


A Gillnet's Drift

Tales of Fish and Freedom on the BC Coast
W.N. Marach

A Gillnet's Drift takes the reader back to a time when all it took to call oneself a commercial fisher was a boat, a net, and a licence. This memoir is about the freedom of youth, the desire for self-expression, and the refusal to settle down.

HH | Heritage House Publishing \$17.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook

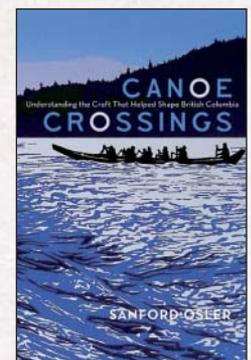


Port Alberni

More Than Just a Mill Town
Jan Peterson

Jan Peterson describes how the people of Port Alberni persevered through three decades of boom and bust, developed a vibrant arts and sporting community, and strived to make life better under any circumstances.

HH | Heritage House Publishing \$19.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook



Canoe Crossings

Understanding the Craft That Helped Shape British Columbia
Sanford Osler

Canoe Crossings will appeal to anyone who has ever sought adventure, found solace, or seen beauty in a canoe. Osler weaves a fascinating account of the origins of the canoe in BC and its potential for bringing people together.

HH | Heritage House Publishing \$19.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook



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Bossin-nova

In conjunction with his one-man musical, *Songs and Stories of Davy the Punk*, veteran folk singer **Bob Bossin**, co-founder

of Stringband, has written *Davy the Punk* (Porcupine's Quill \$22.95), the hitherto untold story of his father's life in the gambling underworld of Toronto. "My father, as I knew him in the 1950s," writes Bossin, "was a quiet, conservative man who booked acts into night clubs around Ontario. But before that, in the 1930s and '40s, he had been 'Davy the Punk,' his *nom de guerre* in the gambling underworld. Suffice it to say, Davy was not a man who kept a diary. 'Bobby, what you don't say can't be held against you,' he warned me. But the Attorney General of Ontario and the cops, who doggedly pursued my father from the late 1930s onwards, wrote volumes about him. Bad for him, good for me." Davy died in 1963 when Bossin was seventeen. 978-0-88984-369-1

Eco wisdom

Having studied Indigenous peoples' knowledge of plants and environments for over forty years, **Nancy J. Turner** has published *Ancient Pathways, Ancestral Knowledge: Ethnobotany and Ecological Wisdom of Indigenous Peoples of Northwestern North America* (McGill-Queen's University Press \$100). Turner shows Indigenous peoples' complex understanding of plant resources as she follows them over time demonstrating how they actively cultivated plant resources for thousands of years, as well as how knowledge was passed on from generation to generation and from one community to another. 9780773543805



Nancy J. Turner

Brain comedy



Janet Munsil

Described by media as a wild theatrical romp and an insightful romantic comedy, *That Elusive Spark* (Playwrights Canada Press \$16.95) by **Janet Munsil** brings together the stories of Phineas Gage, a man who survived having an iron rod enter his brain in 1848, and Helen Harlow, a young neuropsychologist in the present day. Munsil is a Victoria-based playwright. 9781770912045

Media whacks weed

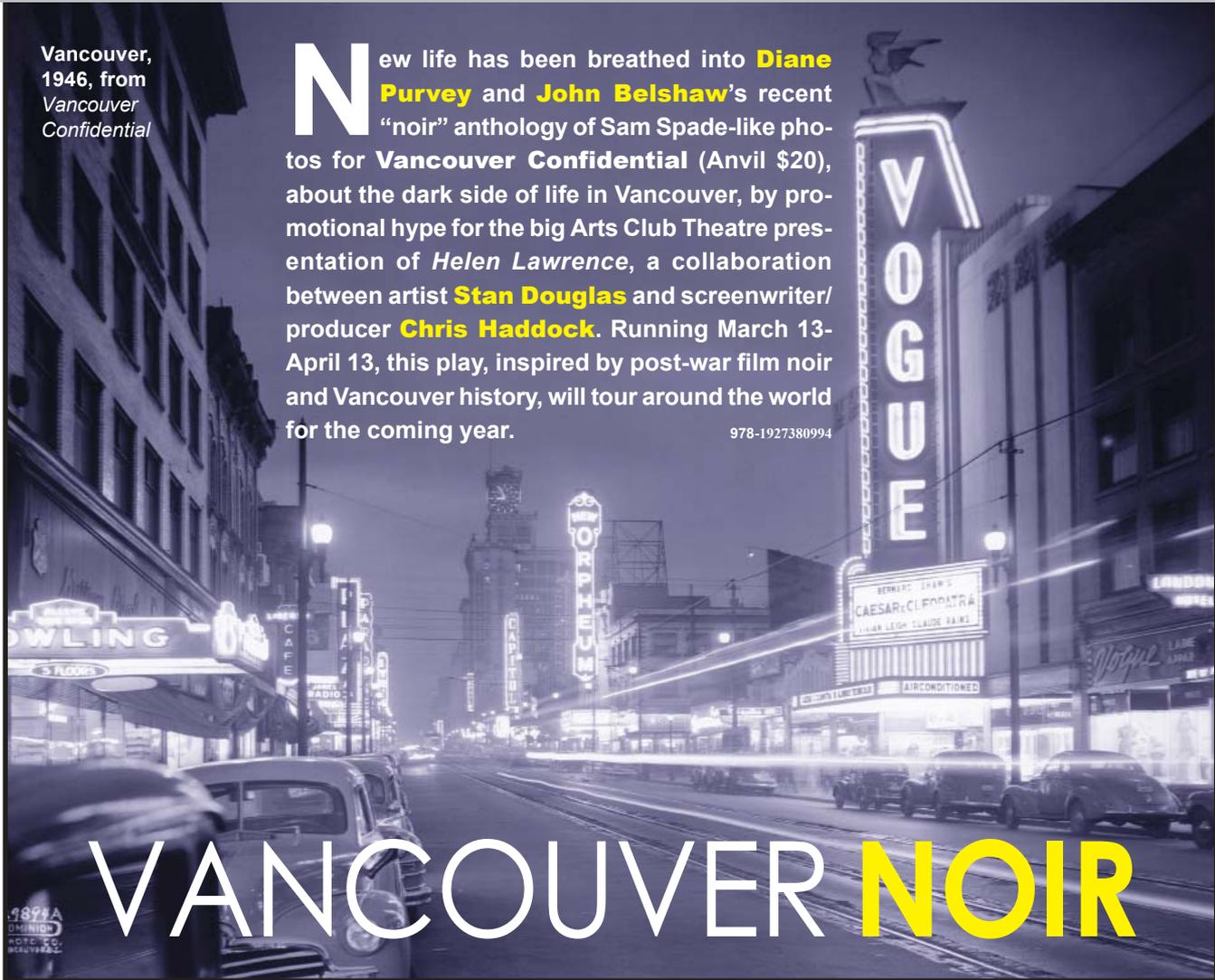
Killer Weed: Marijuana Grow Ops, Media, and Justice (University of Toronto Press \$29.95) by **Susan C. Boyd** and **Connie Carter** analyzes fifteen years of newspaper coverage to highlight how the media and others have manipulated public opinion about grow ops. The authors show that the media consistently interviewed anti-drug spokespeople and thus created a climate for expanding anti-drug campaigns by the police and government, while at the same time curtailing Canadian civil liberties. Boyd is a professor in the Faculty of Human and Social Development at UVic and Carter is a policy analyst for the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition. 9781442612143



Susan C. Boyd

Vancouver, 1946, from *Vancouver Confidential*

New life has been breathed into **Diane Purvey** and **John Belshaw's** recent "noir" anthology of Sam Spade-like photos for *Vancouver Confidential* (Anvil \$20), about the dark side of life in Vancouver, by promotional hype for the big Arts Club Theatre presentation of *Helen Lawrence*, a collaboration between artist **Stan Douglas** and screenwriter/producer **Chris Haddock**. Running March 13-April 13, this play, inspired by post-war film noir and Vancouver history, will tour around the world for the coming year. 978-1927380994



VANCOUVER NOIR

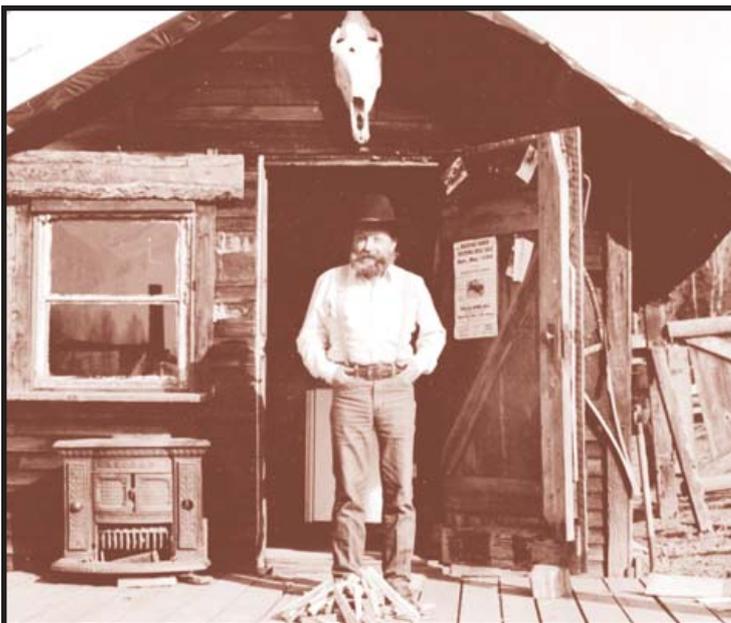
And then there was the time a rancher was driving his D9 Caterpillar down the highway and he passed out, drunk, and fell off...

As recalled in *Corky Williams: Cowboy Poet of the Cariboo Chilcotin* (Caitlin \$24.95), the rancher came to his senses and followed the Cat track on the road to find his rig. Not sure of the direction his bulldozer was heading, he asked a passing tourist if he'd seen his Cat. She asked what colour it was. Trying to help, she started calling, "Kitty, Kitty!"

It's just one of hundreds of tales that **Sage Birchwater** has diligently collected from the Texan émigré **Luther 'Corky' Williams** who came to the Chilcotin in 1971, buying the Corkscrew Creek Ranch near Anahim Lake. Not your average redneck, Corky Williams liked the counter-culture kids and had a background in theatre.

A near fatal outhouse accident at the Anahim Lake Stampede in 1985—when Corky was sober—required an emergency flight to Williams Lake, then onto x-rays in Kamloops. "The doctor showed me the x-rays and the shoulder blade looked like you'd hit it with an axe," he says. Unable to ranch, Williams met **Ian Tyson** at the Chilcotin Inn for an audition that same year.

When storyteller and songwriter Ian Tyson mounted twenty-one sold out performances of his *Cowboyography* show at Expo 86, Corky Williams was prominent in the cast. The rancher-turned-



Corky Williams on the shantytown movie set built for *Bordertown*, the tv series, at Albion in Maple Ridge.

thespian soon got an agent and appeared in tv shows such as *The Beachcombers* and *Bordertown*. Williams enjoyed an impressive career as a touring stage actor in the U.S., based out of Texas for fifteen years, until the Chilcotin called him home in 2007.

"I just had a wild hair up my ass to get up and come back to Canada," Corky says.

After tracking down the ubiquitous local historian Sage Birchwater, the "cowboy poet" Williams commenced an extensive memoir. It includes first-hand input, gathered by Birchwater, from Anahim Lake notables such as **Bob Cohen**, **Big Fred Elkins**, **Bernie "Burnt Biscuit" Wiersbitzky**, **Mike Holte**, **Ollie Moody**, **Mike McDonough**, **Susan Hance**, **Bella Leon** and **George Leon**.

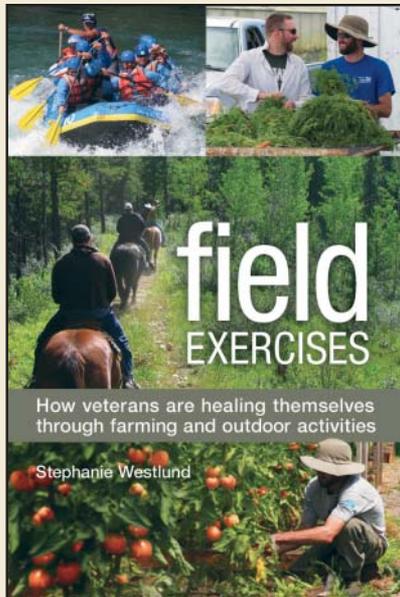
And then there was the time Big Fred suggested they should blow up

some of the beaver dams and sandbars in Corkscrew Creek... The old dynamiter **Morton Casperson** set a three-minute fuse, which gave everyone time to retreat, but Morton's mutt refused to follow. They kept calling the dog, to no avail. Corky was certain he was headed for the big doghouse in the sky. Boom. "Well, would you look at that," said Big Fred. "That dog is going as fast as I have ever seen one run. The only thing is, he can't get any traction 'cause he's twelve feet off the ground." The dog survived the blast but didn't come home for five days. 978-1-927575-18-5

QUIRKY CORKY

A Chilcotin cowboy becomes a thespian

There are 1 million active duty and veteran soldiers in Canada. It is estimated that up to a quarter of these suffer from stress injuries.



Field Exercises

How Veterans Are Healing Themselves through Farming and Outdoor Activities

STEPHANIE WESTLUND

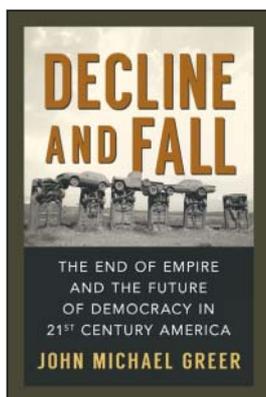
Increasingly, veterans are finding relief from their stressful and traumatic military experiences through outdoor activities such as farming, gardening, hiking, rafting, canoeing and riding horses. *Field Exercises* explores complementary approaches to conventional therapeutic and medical interventions, focusing on stories of hope and possibility offered by those whose transition to civilian life has been transformed through their relationship with nature.

US/Can \$17.95

PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-761-9

eBook ISBN: 978-1-55092-556-2

When the going gets tough, the tough get growing.



Decline and Fall

The End of Empire and the Future of Democracy in 21st Century America

JOHN MICHAEL GREER

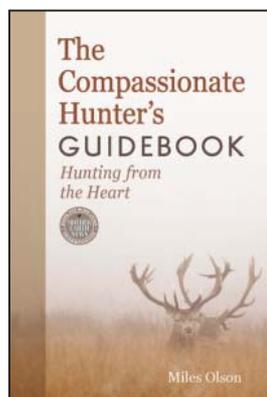
US/Can \$19.95

PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-764-0

EBook ISBN: 978-1-55092-557-9

Greer's work is nothing short of brilliant.

—Richard Heinberg, author, *The End of Growth*



The Compassionate Hunter's Guidebook

Hunting from the Heart

MILES OLSON

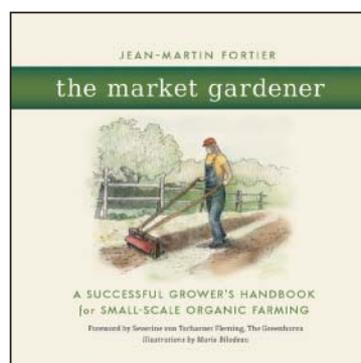
US/Can \$17.95

Pb ISBN: 978-0-86571-770-1

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-55092-553-1

... helps the reader embrace the most basic truth of our existence — that life cannot exist without death.

—Thomas J. Elpel, author, *Participating in Nature*



The Market Gardener

A Successful Grower's Handbook for Small-Scale Organic Farming

JEAN-MARTIN FORTIER

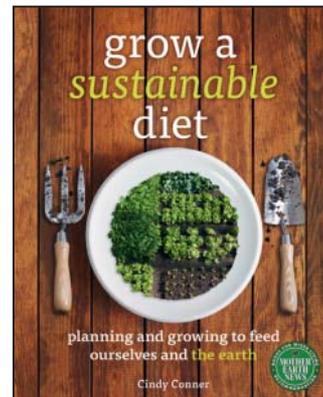
US/Can \$24.95

PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-765-7

EBook ISBN: 978-1-55092-555-5

Jean-Martin's book is very well done and should be of great use to market growers everywhere.

—Eliot Coleman, author, *Winter Harvest Handbook*



Grow a Sustainable Diet

Planning and Growing to Feed Ourselves and the Earth

CINDY CONNER

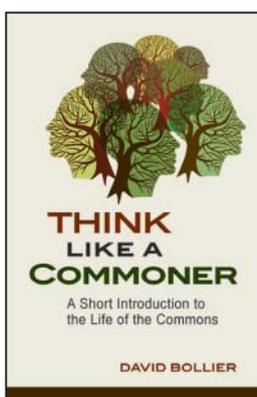
US/Can \$24.95

PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-756-5

EBook ISBN: 978-1-55092-554-8

Just the book you have been looking for!

—John Jeavons, author, *How To Grow More Vegetables*



Think Like a Commoner

A Short Introduction to the Life of the Commons

DAVID BOLLIER

US/Can \$16.95

PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-768-8

EBook ISBN: 978-1-55092-559-3

Commons is among the most important and hopeful concepts of our time, and once you've read this book you'll understand why!

—Bill McKibben, author, *Deep Economy*



Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good

FOR THE COMMON GOOD

HEATHER MENZIES

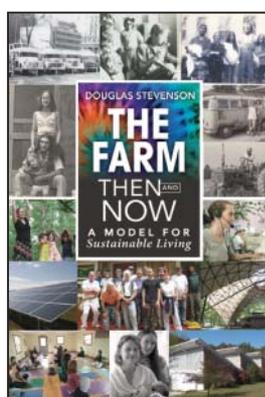
US/Can \$17.95

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EBook ISBN: 978-1-55092-558-6

... an admirable, even noble, vision, and expresses very eloquently what will have to be done if humanity is to escape the current race towards disaster.

—Noam Chomsky, author, *Manufacturing Consent*



The Farm Then and Now

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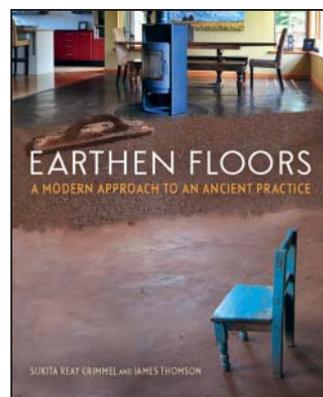
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AND HERE'S TO YOU

MR. ROBINSON

SVEND ROBINSON IS STILL REMEMBERED as a hot-tempered, articulate and crusading NDP politician who became Canada's first openly gay member of parliament. That's only part of a larger story.

Few know about his alcoholic, violent father, his budding altruism as a miner in Northern Ontario (when he taught co-workers how to read in the evenings), or his short-lived marriage to a woman he met at UBC (where he became one of the first two students on the university's board of governors).

The details are in **Graeme Truelove's** biography, **Svend Robinson: A Life in Politics** (New Star \$24). Raised in Delta, B.C., Truelove was an intern in Svend Robinson's Ottawa office from 2002 to 2004, so he caught the tail-end of one of the most fascinating careers in Canadian federal politics.

Many people can vaguely recall that Svend Robinson, after he survived a near-fatal hiking accident on Galiano Island, inexplicably ruined his political career by shoplifting a diamond ring; few know he was later diagnosed as bipolar. Robinson has since found permanent work in Switzerland with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, while still living with his Cuban-born partner **Max** who he met in 1994.

The record shows that during his twenty-five years of public service Robinson achieved a helluva lot more than most politicians, most memorably assisting ALS sufferer **Sue Rodriguez** to die with dignity—avoiding the slammer in the process—thereby giving rise to widespread public demand for right to die legislation in Canada.

Robinson was also front page news for befriending the Haida (who adopted him as White Swan), for blocking loggers from clear-cutting Clayoquot Sound, for being assaulted

Svend Robinson
was a lightning rod for
controversy and progress

by police while protesting at the 2001 Summit of the Americas and for defending human rights in foreign countries—but Truelove's bio reveals a more complex personality than someone who was a cute, attention-grabbing, troublemaker in a suit, thriving on conflict.

Truelove documents how Robinson was an essential influence in the drafting of Canada's Charter of Rights. "He, perhaps more than any other opposition MP, has been the architect of the Charter of Rights," wrote **Michael Valpy** in the *Vancouver Sun*. "No MP worked harder or more effectively to improve the constitutional proposals."

Robinson's efforts helped to guarantee that the right to trial by jury was enshrined, as well as the affirmation of aboriginal rights and the entrenchment of equal rights for the sexes and the disabled. Ultimately his fight for freedom of sexual orientation in the Charter in 1981 was vindicated by the Supreme Court ruling in 1995 that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was prohibited.

The crusty, Newfie, Conservative Cabinet Minister **John Crosbie** once ridiculed Robinson as "a bleeding heart with a mouth," and frequently Robinson infuriated even his NDP colleagues. "The word 'team' is not in Svend's vocabulary," said MP **Nelson Riis**. But the passage of several decades has proven Robinson was prescient and morally correct in most of his stances.

How many Canadian MPs had the temerity to go to Chile after **Salvador Allende's** overthrow by the CIA and publicly declare, "The only terrorism in Chile is state terrorism, and **Pinochet** is the greatest terrorist of them all."

How many had the guts to accompany **Henry Morgentaler** to the Supreme Court in 1988 to successfully appeal his conviction for performing illegal abortions, thereby gaining Canadian women the right to choose?

How many fought successfully to improve prison conditions? How many dared admonish a president of the United States in public, in the House of Commons, for CIA complicity in Central America, shouting as **Ronald Reagan** spoke, "Nonsense, absolute nonsense... Stop funding the Contras, Reagan!"

Truelove has previously worked for Frontier College as a literacy teacher. It is much to Truelove's credit that he has managed to tell Robinson's full story without undue bias, serving history more than hagiography.

There are many fascinating tidbits. When Robinson brought forward a bill to include sexual orientation in the Human Rights Act in 1985, Truelove reveals why Robinson found an unexpected ally in Prime Minister **Brian Mulroney**. Mulroney made a passionate speech to his caucus—letting everyone know his younger brother, **Gary**, an unmarried home decorator, was gay.

Not long after that, Robinson got a birthday present on March 4, 1986 when Justice Minister John Crosbie ordered his department to release the official government response to the "Equality for All" sub-committee report of October, 1985.

"The government believes that one's sexual orientation is irrelevant to whether one can perform a job or use a service or facility," it read. "The Department of Justice is of the view that the courts will find that sexual orientation is encompassed by the guarantees in Section 15 of the Charter. The government will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction."

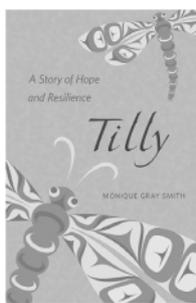
According to Truelove's biography, Svend Robinson can still cite that Crosbie response verbatim.

He not only made history; he helped write it.

9781554200726



Svend Robinson unbuckling the seat belt of ALS sufferer Sue Rodriguez in 1993. It is now twenty years since her assisted suicide when Robinson was daringly open in his overt role to assist Rodriguez to die with dignity.



Tilly

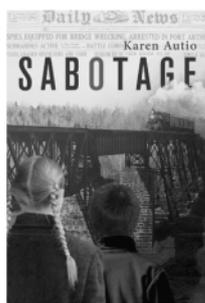
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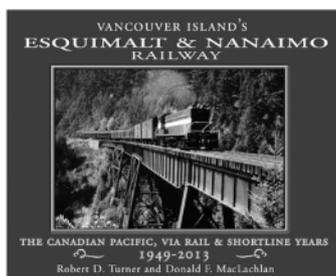
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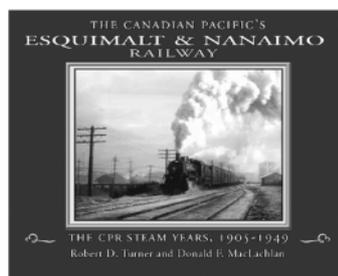
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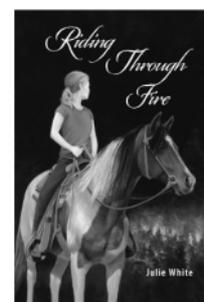
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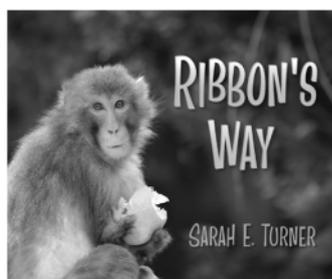
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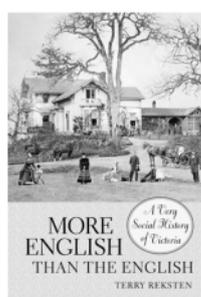
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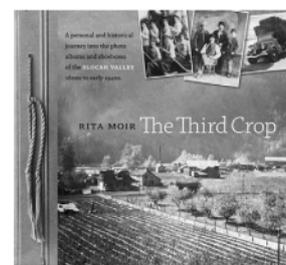
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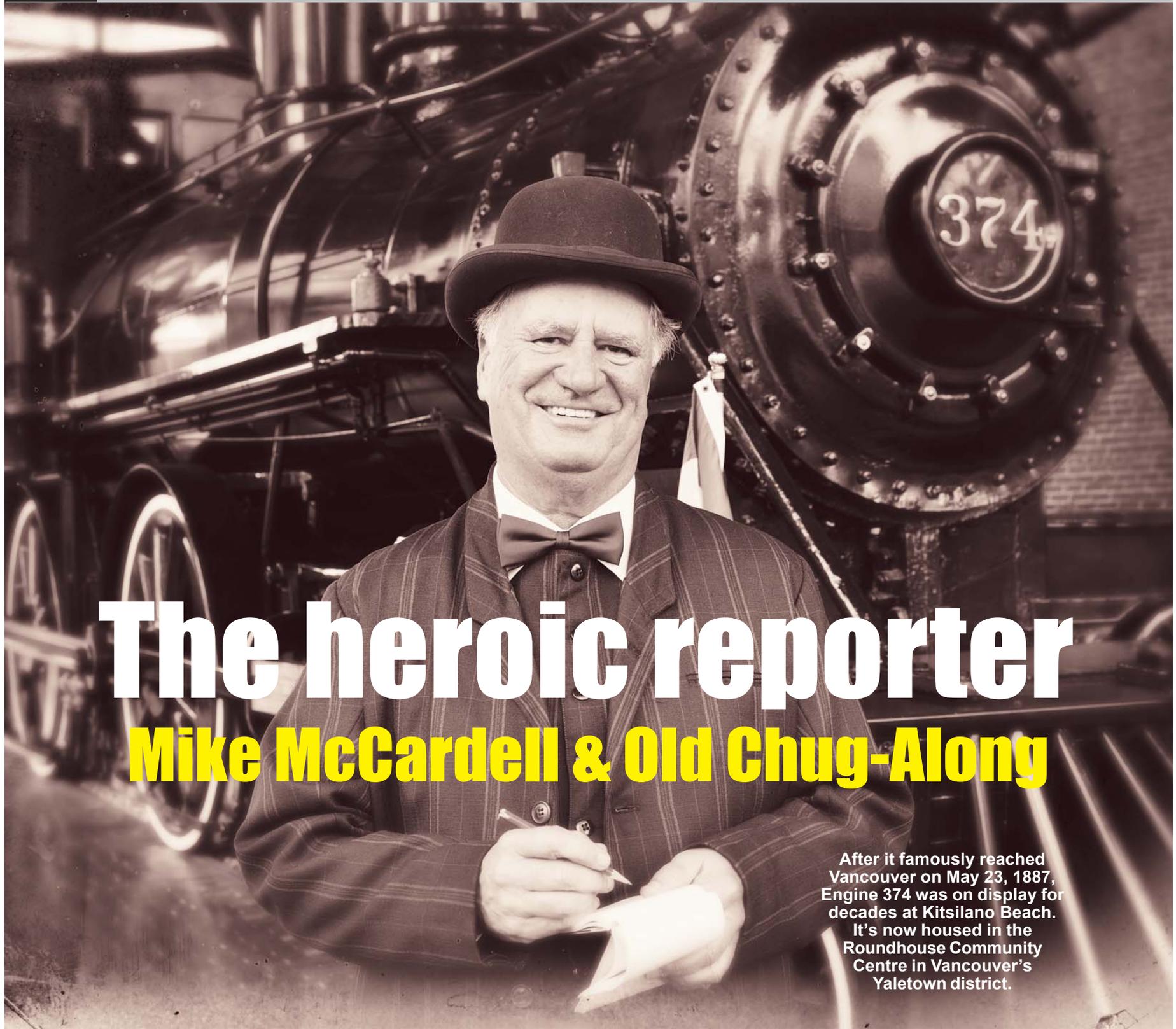
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The heroic reporter

Mike McCardell & Old Chug-Along

After it famously reached Vancouver on May 23, 1887, Engine 374 was on display for decades at Kitsilano Beach. It's now housed in the Roundhouse Community Centre in Vancouver's Yaletown district.

SOME OF THE BEST WRITERS DON'T WIN PRIZES BUT THEY ARE the quiet heroes of the publishing world. They keep our history alive or they keep the book industry afloat by making books that people want to own. The ever-affable **Mike McCardell** does both. He has also arranged for his publisher and Global TV to donate more than \$90,000 generated by book sales to Variety, The Children's Charity.

Hired by the *Vancouver Sun* in 1973 as a police beat reporter, Mike McCardell went on to work for BCTV (Global BC) in 1976 and has since produced more than 9,000 mostly "human interest" stories and ten books.

In his latest title to top the BC Bestseller List, **Haunting Vancouver: A Nearly True History** (Harbour \$32.95), McCardell cheerfully revives tales of saloon-owner "Gassy" **Jack Deighton** (the inspiration for Gastown), The Penthouse nightclub and how **Pauline Johnson** named Lost Lagoon.

He also introduces beloved lifeguard **Seraphim "Joe" Fortes**, Vancouver's first openly gay politician **A.E.B. Davie** and China-born **Chang Toy** who rebelled against racist city planners and built the famous Sam Kee Building in Chinatown, the narrowest commercial building in the world.

Fairly described as "a rollicking tour of Vancouver history," this tenth tome is more than an amusing romp. With a

consistent abhorrence of racism, McCardell has deftly crafted a clever and informative overview of the city by adopting the persona of an "accidental immortal," Jock Linn.

McCardell clearly enjoys the artistic conceit he has adopted: His alter-ego Jock arrives with a detachment of British Army Royal Engineers in the 1850s, and dies in 1876. No problem. McCardell resurrects him as a time-travelling reporter with a shrewd sense of humour and a nose for fascinating facts.

McCardell, the former police reporter, is not averse to digging up a little dirt along the way. Always with a deft touch, never brazen, McCardell divulges, for instance, how and why the Canadian Pacific Railway line really got completed.

The real story of why **John A. Macdonald** partnered with the CPR to connect "sea to sea" is cited here in Jock's seemingly innocuous piece about the locomotive called Engine 374.

9781550176063

REMEMBERING Engine 374

By Mike McCardell

IF YOU GREW UP IN VANCOUVER ANYTIME BEFORE EXPO 86 and you went to Kitsilano Beach you probably climbed on that old locomotive in the parking lot.

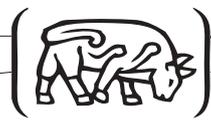
It was Engine 374. You could see that engraved right in the front. It stood on rails that were just long enough for its wheels. It stood in the rain and the snow, and on any days when it was not raining or snowing it stood under the feet and fingers of kids who climbed all over it.

It was wonderful fun but it was falling apart; a sad ending for the steam engine that saved Canada.

I know everyone in school learned about the first spike and the last spike, and that the people in British Columbia were going to leave Canada if they did not have a train that connected them with the rest of the country, but did you know that the railway was almost not built?

It cost huge amounts of cash to build the longest train line in the world and the CPR had run out of money. **William Van Horne** wanted to keep going because his company was getting such a good deal. They were given twenty miles of land on both sides of the tracks all the way across the country in return for laying down the steel, but no matter how much money they were going to get they could not finish the project. The cash they had raised and borrowed

continued on page 11



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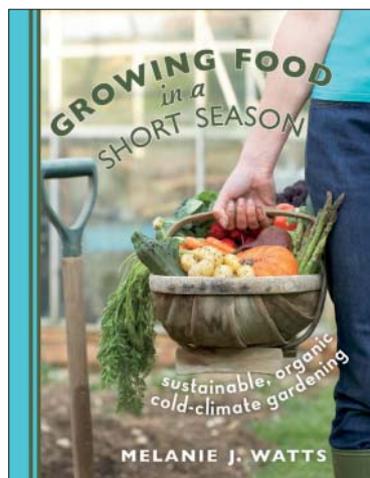
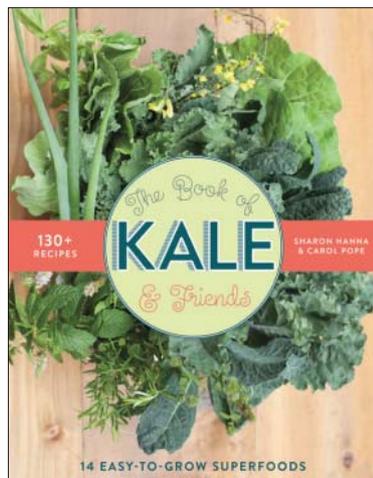
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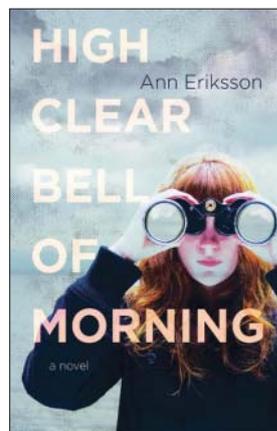
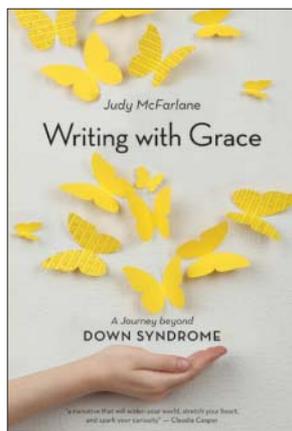
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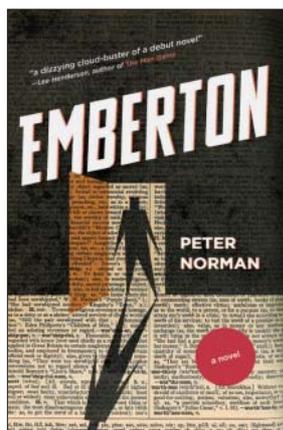


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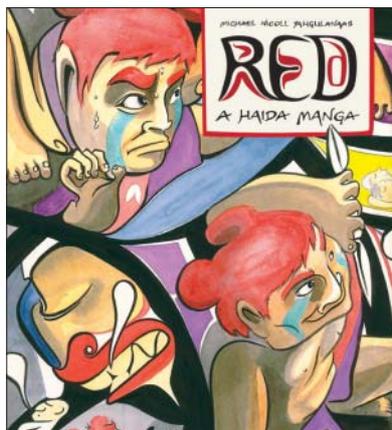


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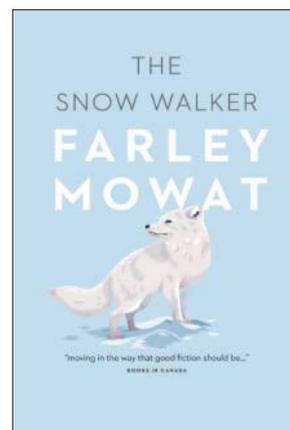
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continued from page 9

and squeezed out of investors was gone. Most of the money they owed was borrowed from the Government of Canada, which means from the people. I was doing a series of stories on building the railroad when William Van Horne heard the news that they were broke.

“We can’t raise any more. We can’t borrow it. There must be something we can do.” Then he said to someone, “Give me that newspaper.”

He read the headlines and his eyebrows went up. There was a major rebellion going on in the territory of Saskatchewan. He had never been to Saskatchewan. The rebellious people were the Métis. He had heard about them, but he could not remember ever meeting one.

“That is the answer,” he said.

I could see his genius at work. He had a problem and he figured out a solution, even though the solution would be very bad for some people. “It says here in the newspaper that the government will have great difficulty putting down this rebellion because they can’t get troops there.”

He smiled.

“I will get them there,” he said.

The only problem was the tracks going near a place that would later be called Winnipeg were not yet finished and those that were in place had never been tested.

“Finish them,” he said.

If you think Canada never had a king you are only technically right. It had William Van Horne, an American, who acted as though he had a crown.

The tracks were finished within a few days and Van Horne told the prime minister to send his army on the new troop train to Saskatchewan. He did, and in a record nine days the guns of the government were there.

Poor Louis Riel, who had led the rebellion, was hanged for treason in 1885. That was not a good ending for him, but the Canadian government was so thankful to Van Horne that all the debt he owed the government was forgiven. That part of the history of the CPR is written in small print.

There is another part of the building of the railroad that is not in the headlines of the CPR history. I was on the line when the work was being done and this is not something you joke about.

The white men who worked on the railroad were getting between \$1 and \$2.50 a day. Out of that they had to pay for their

own food, their clothing, their medical care and their transportation from wherever they slept to where they were working. Rotten conditions.

Van Horne was not in the business of charity.

After a hundred non-stop days of back-breaking work (they had no days off) they were lucky if they had fifteen dollars left over.

Tough. But the Chinese who worked alongside the whites were paid half those wages. It was basically the same as being black in Alabama in the 1930s. About half the workers were Chinese, so Van Horne was making a big saving there.

At the end of a hundred days they had only a few dollars to send back to their families in China, which was the reason they had left home and travelled across an ocean to come here.

But there were other problems with being Chinese. If there was dynamite to be put into a cave to blow it up to make a tunnel, guess whose job that was? If you had to climb out over a cliff to string a cable, guess whose job that was? And if you were killed, the officials of the railroad would not inform your family. They would tell the other Chinese to bury you alongside the tracks and forget you.

As for the young boys who were Chinese, well, someone had to hold the spikes while someone else with a twenty-pound sledgehammer would lift that hammer up high and then come slamming down with all his might. Usually they hit the spike, but not always.

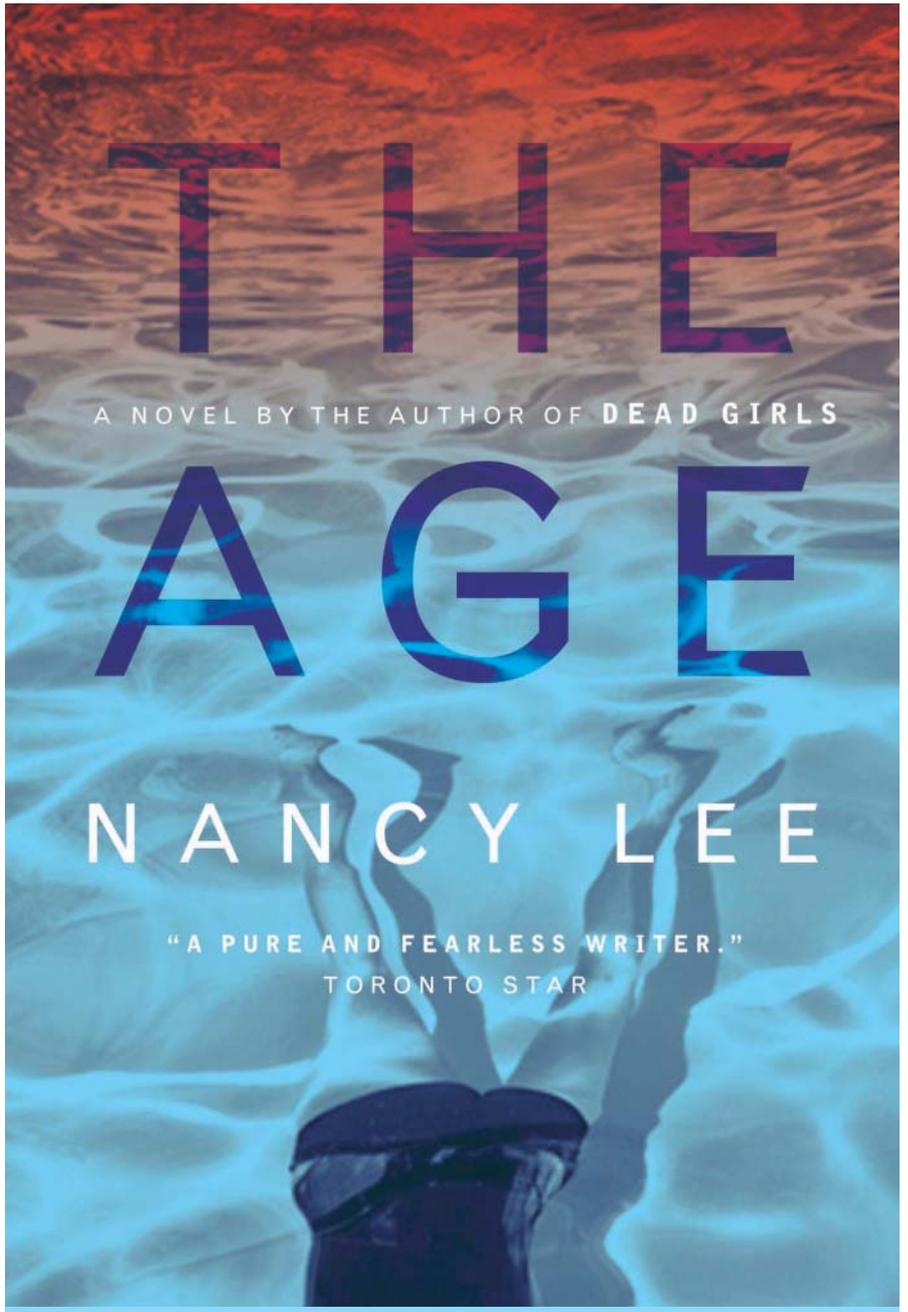
What I really enjoy nowadays is to report on the computer science and economics classes at the universities, which are almost all filled with Chinese students.

I’m supposed to be impartial but I like to say, “Right on.” Anyway, the train that made the people in the west happy and kept them in Canada reached Vancouver on May 23, 1887. At the front of it was Engine 374. That same engine is now in the Roundhouse Community Centre in Yaletown. It is the same engine that was at Kits Beach. But now you can go to the Roundhouse and climb up to where the engineer and fireman worked. You will not only be touching the past, you can touch your own past and pretend you are a kid again.

If I were a history teacher I would teach all my classes beside the train.



Mike McCardell came to B.C. from New York in 1933.



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CHARLES MONTGOMERY IS a zeitgeist interpreter who has an instinct for a distinctive turn-of-phrase; a social scientist who can mix a broth of serious ideas with an entertaining style. Like **Douglas Coupland**, he's a card-carrying internationalist who is nonetheless distinctly a product of Vancouver.

Dubbed an urban experimentalist, Montgomery, in his latest book, **Happy City: Transforming our lives through urban design** (Doubleday \$29.95), has examined how cities have positive or negative impacts on human happiness with a particular focus on Vancouver.

Here is the remarkable paradox: he writes, "the more crowded Vancouver gets, the more people want to live there and the higher the city has risen on international surveys ranking the world's best place to live..."

"...Unlike their counterparts in many other cities, Vancouver's municipal planners enjoy broad discretionary power when considering new development."



MONTGOMERY'S RISE BEHIND DOUGLAS COUPLAND'S JET stream (who rose behind **Marshall McLuhan**'s jet stream?) borders on meteoric.

Tracing the paths and voyages taken by his great-grandfather who was the Bishop of Tasmania in 1892, Montgomery first explored the South Pacific and published an account of his journey and his exploration of how Christian missionaries affected the region in *The Last Heathen: Encounters with Ghosts and Ancestors in Melanesia*. (D&M 2004).

The Last Heathen received the \$25,000 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction and was published in England by Fourth Estate as *The Shark God: Encounters with Myth and Magic in the South Pacific*.

Now Montgomery has again won exposure on the world stage, such as coverage in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*, with *Happy City*, aptly described by one reviewer as, "an eye-opening, pleasurable, utterly necessary tour through the best and worst neighborhoods of our urbanized world."

Montgomery has provided an intelligently rendered potpourri of personal observations, research and digested data that germinate a vision worthy of **David Suzuki**, who has recommended it. The upbeat promo states, "The happy city, the green city, and the low-carbon city are the same place, and we can all help build it."

If Vancouverites think their Happy Planet mayor **Gregor Robertson** is a bicycle zealot, they ought to read Montgomery's comments about

Don't worry, read Happy

According to Charles Montgomery, by 2030, there will be five billion urbanites on the planet. So how can they expect to find happiness?

Bogotá's mountain bike-riding mayor **Enrique Peñalosa**. He didn't declare war on drugs, we are told—no, Peñalosa declared war on cars. And people, we're told, love him for it. Evidently Gregor could use some Spanish lessons.

Along the way we get to learn stuff.

"If one was to judge by sheer wealth," Montgomery writes, "the last half-century should have been an ecstatically happy time for people in the U.S. and other rich nations such as Canada, Japan and Great Britain. And yet the boom decades of the late 20th century were not accompanied by a boom in well-being. The British got richer by more than 40% between 1993 and 2012, but the rate of psychiatric disorders and neuroses grew..."

"...A couple of University of Zurich economists, **Bruno Frey** and **Alois Stutzer**, compared German commuters' estimation of the time it took them to get to work with their answers to the standard wellbeing question, 'How satisfied are you with your life, all things considered?'

"Their finding was seemingly straightforward: the longer the drive, the less happy people were. Before you dismiss this as numbingly obvious, keep in mind that they were testing not for drive satisfaction, but for life satisfaction. People were choosing commutes that made their entire lives worse.

"Stutzer and Frey found that a person with a one-hour commute has to earn 40% more money to be as satisfied with life as someone who walks to the office. On the other hand, for a single person, exchanging a long commute for a short walk to work has the same effect on happiness as finding a new love."

Happy City: 95 978-0-385-66912-2



BORN IN 1968, CHARLES MONTGOMERY SPENT MUCH OF HIS formative years on a Vancouver Island farm. Among his numerous awards is a Citation of Merit from the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for outstanding contribution towards public understanding of climate change science.

Influenced by the writing of **Malcolm Lowry**, **Bruce Chatwin**, **Miguel de Cervantes** and **Paul William Roberts**, Charles Montgomery has been a member of a loose affiliation of Vancouver-based literary journalists who explore contemporary issues around the world, including **J.B. MacKinnon**, shortlisted for British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction with *The Once and Future World* (Random House 2013). It's MacKinnon's follow-up to his co-written *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating* (Random House 2007) that received the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize.



J.B. MacKinnon

Literary hotshot **Charles Montgomery** lives in East Vancouver and Mexico City.



SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION PHOTO

Talon Spring 2014

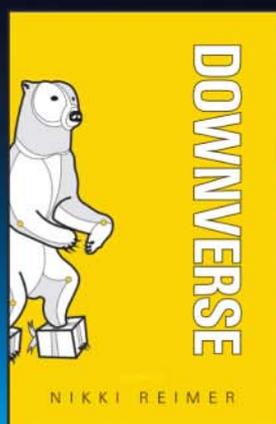


The World Afloat Miniatures

M.A.C. Farrant

In *The World Afloat*, a collection of seventy-five irreverent and humorous stories that meld narrative with elements of prose poem and farce, master of the absurd and expert observer M.A.C. Farrant interrupts everyday routine – daily rounds of doctor's appointments, meetings, and mealtimes – with intensely surreal, frothy moments that help keep chins up and thrust bravely forward. As each "miniature" story read stranger (and truer) than the one before, Farrant coaxes her readers from their well-worn, earthbound narratives and into a world afloat on satire, absurdity, and, in her most brilliant moments, expansive joy.

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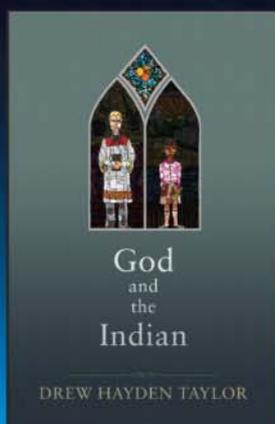


Downverse

Nikki Reimer

In this quick-witted collection of poems, Nikki Reimer mines the language of new media – hashtags, YouTube comments, Twitter updates – to defamiliarize the very substance of modern life: the constellation of media-enforced ideals that barrage our newsfeeds, daily commutes to #work, and (mostly online) excursions to the (Apple) store. #nuffsaid

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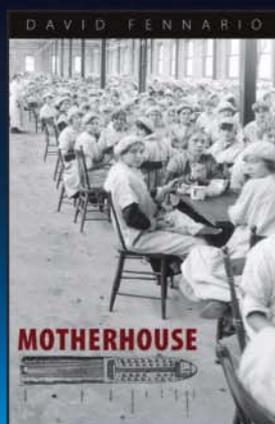


God and the Indian

Drew Hayden Taylor

While panhandling outside a coffee shop, Johnny, a Cree woman, is shocked to see a face she recognizes from her childhood, which was spent in a residential school. Desperate to hear him acknowledge what happened to her and other children at the school, Johnny follows Anglican Assistant Bishop George King to his office to confront him.

\$17.95 / 128 pp / Drama / 978-0-88922-844-3



Motherhouse

David Fennario

This powerful drama gives a voice to the disillusioned working-class women employed at the British Munitions Factory in Verdun, Quebec, during World War I. Despite tension over the conscription issue, dedicated mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts assemble artillery shells to support the war effort. Meanwhile, their men die abroad and their children starve because of war profiteers.

\$16.95 / 96 pp / Drama / 978-0-88922-848-1

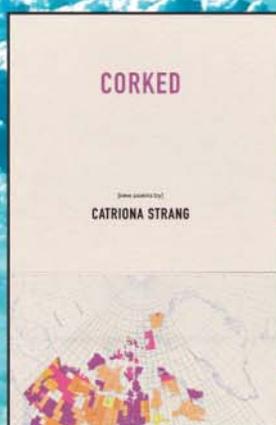


The Valley

Joan MacLeod

Inspired by the 2007 Taser death of Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver airport, *The Valley* dramatizes the often volatile relationship between law enforcement and people in the grip of mental illness. The play connects both sides of this relationship by portraying two families embattled with depression, each guided by good intentions but challenged by their own flawed humanity.

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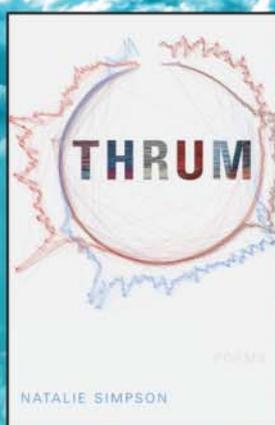


Corked

Catriona Strang

In *Corked*, Catriona Strang, in an impressive display of poetic ingenuity, "fabricates" her "own reality" in letters to Marcel Proust. In this thoughtful response to Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, Proust himself serves not only as Strang's addressee, but as harbour or mooring place for powerful and focused meditations on the female condition.

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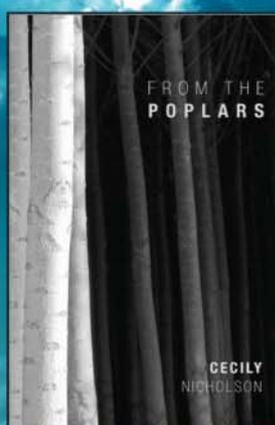


Thrum

Natalie Simpson

In these smart and often funny poems, Natalie Simpson expertly tugs and pulls at syntax, re-stitching a language that reveals the fallacy of description, while inviting startling insight. Here, a sentence is no longer a sentence, but "a word in pieces, plastered, faster," which "crumbles" on the page into strange, luminous new linguistic patterns.

\$16.95 / 128 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-850-4

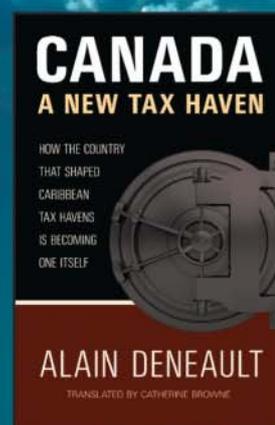


From the Poplars

Cecily Nicholson

At one end of the North Arm of the Fraser River lies an uninhabited island. It is lush and unspoken, but storied. *From the Poplars* is the poetic outcome of archival research and of listening to these stories—both old and new. Present in efforts of decolonization, reconciliation, and land protection, this text tempers a silence that inevitably will be heard.

\$16.95 / 96 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-856-6



Canada A New Tax Haven

Alain Deneault

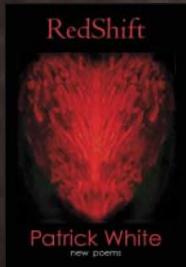
The Caribbean islands became jurisdictions of banking and tax leniency in the last half of the twentieth century under the guidance of Canadian financiers. Now government policy to increase the international "competitiveness" of Canadian companies encourages multinationals to relocate to Canada as if it were Barbados or Belize. This book traces the history and examines the implications of this development.

\$19.95 / 224 pp / Non-fiction / 978-0-88922-836-8

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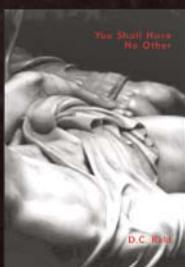


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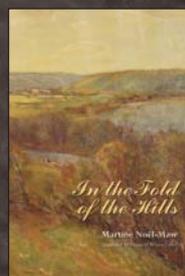
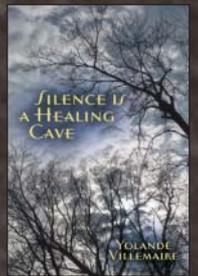


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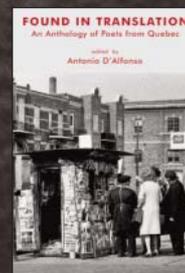
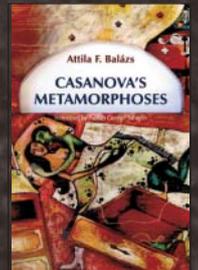
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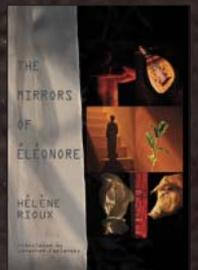
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Monique Gray Smith



Tilly & her sisters

Monique Gray Smith joins a distinguished sorority

HAS ANYONE NOTICED? WE'VE HAD A flurry of books solely about the lives of individual First Nations women of B.C.—four in the same year—including **Monique Gray-Smith's** under-publicized *Tilly* (Sono Nis \$19.95).

It wasn't always thus. Here are ten predecessors from the past thirty years.

1. Cariboo resident **Jean Speare** broke new ground when she interviewed her Shuswap neighbour, **Mary Augusta Tappage**, born in Soda Creek in 1888, and produced *The Days of Augusta*, in 1973, but there were only a few follow-ups.

2. Raised in North Vancouver, **Lee Maracle**, of Salish and Cree ancestry, is a member of the Stó:lo First Nation who produced a synthesis of autobiography and fiction, *Bobbi Lee, Indian Rebel*, in 1975, followed by *I Am Woman*, in 1988, which recounts Maracle's struggle to "climb the mountain of racism."

3. Born in Masset on September 15, 1896, **Florence Edenshaw Davidson** was the daughter of renowned artist **Charles Edenshaw** and the grandmother of artists **Reg Davidson** and **Robert Davidson**. She was profiled by **Margaret Blackman** in *During My Time: Florence Edenshaw Davidson, A Haida Woman*, in 1982.

4. **Pauline Johnson** ("Tekahionwake") only resided in Vancouver for four years. **Betty Keller's** biography *Pauline*, first appeared in 1982. An edited version for young adults was issued in 1999.

5. Social worker **Bridget Moran** published *Stoney Creek Woman*, about the life and times of Carrier elder **Mary John**, in 1988, and for many years it was the bestselling title published by Arsenal Pulp Press.

6. With *Chiwid* in 1995, Cariboo journalist **Sage Birchwater** profiled the remarkable Tsilhqot'in woman who lived outdoors for most of her adult life, having escaped from a violently abusive husband, **Alex Jack**. Widely known as a crack shot, **Chiwid** (or "Chickadee") moved her solitary campsite according to the seasons, protected only by a tarp. Chiwid was born as Lily Skinner, daughter of deaf and mute **Luzep**, a Tsilhqot'in from Redstone, and **Charley Skinner**, a white settler in the Tatlayoko–Eagle Lake area.

7. Published more than 50 years after her death, *Mourning Dove: A Salishan Autobiography* (1990), documents the ground-breaking literary achievements of American-born Okanagan aboriginal **Mourning Dove**, who lived briefly in Oliver, B.C. She was possibly the first female First Nations novelist in North America.

8. Having grown up hearing stories about her

mother's great aunt, Mourning Dove, **Jeannette Armstrong** spearheaded the En'owkin Centre in Penticton for First Nations writers. Her second novel, *Her Whispering in Shadows*, in 2000, can be read as a companion novel to her first, *Slash* (1983). It follows the life and times of Penny, an Okanagan artist and single mother who has contracted cancer after her exposure to pesticides while working as a fruit picker in the Okanagan Valley.

9. **Shirley Sterling** retold her experiences in the Kamloops Residential School for an Egoff Prize-winning children's book, *My Name is Seepeetza*, in 1992.

10. In 2004, the first autobiographical portrayal of a Kwakwaka'wakw matriarch, *Paddling to Where I Stand*, recalled the life of storyteller **Agnes Alfred**, co-written and translated by **Daisy Sewid-Smith** and **Martine J. Reid**.



LAST YEAR *BC BOOKWORLD* PROVIDED FEATURE REVIEWS OF *Standing Up with Ga'axsta'las: Jane Constance Cook and the Politics of Memory, Church, and Custom* (UBC Press, 2012), co-written by **Leslie A. Robertson** and the Kwagu'l Gixsam Clan, and Chief **Bev Sellars'** autobiography, *They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School* (Talonbooks 2013).

Monique Gray Smith, a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota and Scottish ancestry, has just released *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience* (Sono Nis \$19.95).

Like her protagonist named Tilly, Gray Smith grew up knowing she was part Lakota on her dad's side—but she didn't know her mother was Cree. After she learns the truth from a bizarre encounter in the street, Tilly becomes unglued and turns to alcohol in her teens, first introduced to booze by a seventh-grade schoolmate, Abby.

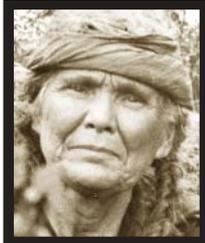
Like the author's mother, Tilly's mother was a Cree who was taken from her parents as a baby. The death of Tilly's beloved grandmother, her mentor, who has passed along traditional teachings to her, is like the loss of lifejacket in the water. Tilly drowns in despair and partying. She can only summon the courage to swim to safety, to revive her self-esteem, when a stranger says to her, "Never question who you are or who your people are. It's in your eyes. I know it's in your heart."

Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience is not only an inspirational and sometimes humorous account of attaining sobriety. Gray Smith also offers a matter-of-fact panorama of social hurdles faced by Canada's First Nations in the 21st-century.

Now a proud mom of young twins, Monique Gray Smith lives "on Coast Salish territory" in Victoria, B.C. where she operates Little Drum Consulting. Sober for more than twenty years, she is an articulate spokesperson and writer who was invited to contribute to the proceedings of the recent reconciliation conference at UBC. Tilly 978-1-55039-209-8



Mary Augusta Tappage



Chiwid



Mary John



Agnes Alfred

The LG's Mom

Rena Point Bolton struggled all her life to combat cultural silencing.

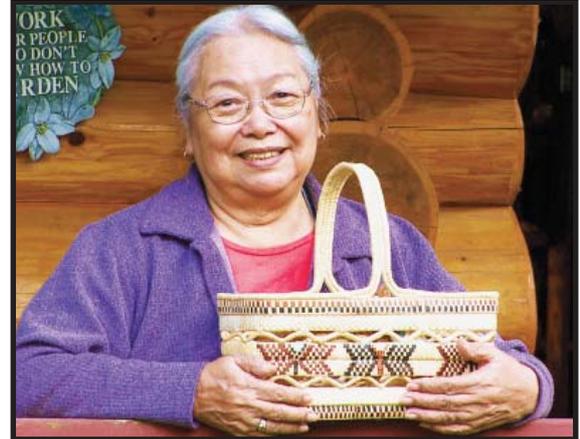
IT'S NOT EASY TO PROMOTE A WEST COAST book with an awkward title from an Alberta-based publisher.

But that didn't prevent the authors of *Xweliqwiya* from having an unforgettable launch in Sardis, at Coqualeetza, near Chilliwack, to celebrate Stó:lo matriarch, artist and craftswoman **Rena Point Bolton**, mother of **Steven Point** who served as the 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia from 2007 to 2012.

Co-authored with friend and ethnologist **Richard Daly**, Bolton's autobiographical *Xweliqwiya, The Life Story of a Stó:lo Matriarch* (Athabasca University / distributed by UBC Press \$34.95) was not printed until the annual Stó:lo Nation winter dance *mi'lha* season had already begun, so everyone took a break from initiation work—the training of new spirit possession initiates—to honour the mother of ten children for her key role in fostering Stó:lo customs and knowledge on November 7, 2013 at the new Stó:lo Research and Culture Centre.

The Point family provided drummers, singers and dancers, served smoked chum and sockeye, bannock, salads and finger foods, tea and coffee, for more than one hundred well-wishers and admirers. After Daly showed a five-minute video interview with Rena made by the B.C. Achievement Foundation, he explained how he had gradually co-written the book with Rena, from 1989 onwards.

Daly also read two pages from Rena's book that described how she was brainwashed at residential school, "coming out ready to march off to India as a missionary." Then Rena spoke and explained the name she holds, *Xweliqwiya*, meaning Flesh-eating Wolf Mother.



Rena Point Bolton, in front of her log house near the junction of the Skeena and Zymacord Rivers, with craftwork she took with her to receive a B.C. Lifetime Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art in 2010.

Much to Daly's surprise, Rena revealed she no longer retains the name, having recently passed it along to her grandchildren's generation. Instead she has taken the name of Mrs. August Jim, keeper of the sacred *sxwoy:wey* cult back in the era of the pioneering, UBC-based anthropologist **Wilson Duff**, who was active in the 1960s and 1970s.

Later in the evening Rena explained *Xweliqwiya's* right to subject all babies whose mothers claimed the father was from Rena's wolf family to the test of being offered to the wolf mother on Sumas Mountain. If the girl told the truth the baby was licked, if not, it was eaten.

It's that type of knowledge that Rena Point Bolton is renowned for preserving on behalf of the Stó:lo, or *Xwélmexw*, as they call themselves today.

The book recounts Rena's youth on the banks of the Fraser River during the Depression, a period when the Canadian government persecuted her people and cultural activities were mostly done in secret. Her mother and grandmother educated her in traditional skills as well as the songs of her people. Later Rena made it her duty to revive Stó:lo practices as a teacher and activist.

978-1-927356-56-2

A Miner celebrity

The lady photographer & the gentleman bandit

AT THE OUTSET OF THE **PHILIP BORSOS** MOVIE *The Grey Fox*, often cited as one of the best Canadian films ever made, the so-called Gentleman Bandit we now know as **Bill Miner** rides through fields near Kamloops and meets an attractive and independent woman who is listening to opera on a gramophone and hitting golf balls.

Also a local photographer, this exotic creature turns out to be Miner's love interest for the movie, Kate Flynn, a character who is very loosely based on a real-life photographer named **Mary Spencer**.

As **Sherril Foster** assuredly reveals in her illustrated biography, *A Steady Lens: The True Story of Pioneer Photographer Mary Spencer* (Caitlin \$22.95), the real "picture-takin' lady" that took famous photos of Bill Miner and his gang most certainly did not play golf or consort with criminals.

"In fact," writes Foster, "the movie did not even include the one role that Mary Spencer actually played in Miner's story: instead of showing her taking the photos of the train robber, that job is given to a young man!"

The unembellished Mary Spencer was an Ontario-born Baptist spinster who came west, at age 44, with her sister and mother in 1899. Her ten years as a professional photographer in Kamloops from 1899 to 1909 were not unprecedented—**Hannah Maynard** had already opened Mrs. R. Maynard's Photographic Gallery in Victoria in the 1860s—but Spencer can be described as the province's first photojournalist.

Spencer signed a contract with the *Vancouver Daily Province* in 1896 to take photos of the accused bank robbers Ezra "Bill" Allen Miner (aka George Edwards and William A. Morgan), the refined-looking bookkeeper **Louis Colquhoun** and the "savage-looking little man" **William 'Shorty' Dunn**—the lone bandit who put up a fight and got shot for his efforts.

This much is true: The unfailingly polite Miner had served many years in prison, for a string of train robberies and stagecoach hold-ups, before he and an accomplice robbed a train near Portland, Oregon in 1901 and fled to British Columbia.

In 1904, near Mission Junction, B.C., Miner gained the distinction of making



Ted Grant's photo of sprinters at the 1972 Olympics a few days before the hostage-taking in Munich that resulted in the murder of eleven Israeli athletes.

the first successful train robbery in Canada by stealing \$7,000 in gold and bonds from a CPR train.

In 1906, with Dunn and Colquhoun, he held up the CPR Transcontinental Express at the water tower at Ducks Landing, sixteen miles east of Kamloops, and this time the trio escaped on foot with only \$15.50 and a bottle of liver pills.

Mary Spencer took the now-famous mug shots of the gang outside the Kamloops Gaol on May 16, 1906, as well photos of the Ducks Robbery Posse and the Grand Jury Hearing that was held at the Kamloops Courthouse on the following day.

Although her identity was not cited by the *Province*, Foster asserts that Spencer was "the first woman in Canada and probably the first in the British Empire to take official photographs of individuals accused of a crime." Bill Miner's biographer **Peter Grauer** has claimed that Spencer's photo of Miner "is probably the most instantly recognizable individual portrait produced in West Canada at any time."

Both claims are arguable. Mary Spencer was a meek and mild person, someone who almost spoke in a whisper. Her studio and landscape photos were competent. At age 81, she died in the Summerland hospital in 1938; her sister Isobel died at age 86 in 1948, in the same hospital. Having previously self-published a history of Summerland, Sherril Foster deserves praise for setting the record straight with due diligence.

978-1-927575-22-2



Bill Miner, after his arrest, outside of Kamloops Gaol, 1906

A cock-eyed cameraman

The newlywed & the humble freelancer

IN 1949, **IRENE GRANT**, A NEWLYWED BRIDE, SPLURGED big-time and bought her husband Ted his first camera. That \$30 investment paid off for more than sixty years, making cock-eyed cameraman **Ted Grant** into one of Canada's most successful freelance photographers.

With more than 300,000 images stored at Library and Archives Canada and the National Gallery, Ted Grant has been the subject of a 2007 documentary, *Ted Grant: The Art of Observation* and received an honorary doctorate from UVic in 2008. Now **Thelma Fayle's** laudatory **Ted Grant: Sixty Years of Legendary Photojournalism** (Heritage \$26.95) provides a panorama of his oeuvre.

Grant is among only two percent of the population who peer into a viewfinder with their left eye because he was born with a condition formerly known as 'lazy eye.' Despite his handicapped vision, Grant persevered as a congenial generalist, working his way through the National Film Board to take classic photos of **Pierre Elliott Trudeau** (sliding down a banister), sprinter **Ben Johnson** (crossing the finish line in Seoul, raising his right arm alongside his rival **Carl Lewis**) and the children of Chernobyl.

Although the retrospective has its share of politicians and celebrities—such as **Jackie Kennedy**, **David Ben-Gurion**, **Margaret Thatcher**, **John Travolta**, **Patrice Lumumba**, **John Diefenbaker** and **Joe Clark** (a friend who contributed the foreword)—Grant has preferred to take pictures of so-called ordinary Canadians. The only thing lazy about Ted Grant was his right eye.

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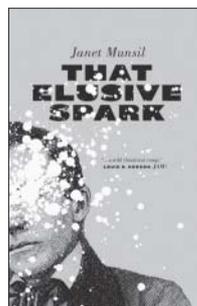
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BASED ON A TRUE STORY, AN ALMOST PERFECT THING IS A MULTI-PERSPECTIVE THRILLER ABOUT A MISSING GIRL WHO HAS JUST RETURNED HOME TO A WORLD SHE NO LONGER RECOGNIZES, AND A HIGH-PROFILE JOURNALIST WHO TELLS HER STORY.

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Grant Lawrence

HE SHOOTS HE STOPS

CHRISTINE MCAVOY PHOTO

Between the Pipes: A Revealing Look At Hockey's Legendary Goalies by Randi Druzin (Greystone Books \$19.95)

The Lonely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie by Grant Lawrence (D&M \$26.95)

IN BETWEEN THE PIPES, VETERAN sports writer **Randi Druzin** showcases twelve outstanding NHL goalies, with a foreword by eminence grise, **Roy MacGregor**, who writes:

"This is a storyteller's book, and as such it is also a reader's book. You don't have to be a goaltender to enjoy it; you just have to be a reader who loves words, loves sports and appreciates the sorts of insights that will never be found in 140 characters or less."

Good hockey writing manages to synthesize and emulate the adrenalin and energy of the game, the tragedy of career-ending injuries and the comedy of wags like **Gump Worsley** and **Bernie Parent**.

Druzin gives us gems like: "The butterflies in his stomach became pterodactyls" and "(the defenceman) was patrolling the blue line with the diligence of an East German border guard."

And "...the team was as vigorous as a small dead animal. Squeamish spectators looked away."

Readers will appreciate that goalies suffer extensive physical damage from pucks fired at 100 mph or more, the honed, knife-edges of skates and dog-piles of huge, angry men in the crease. Then there is the mental and emotional stress of carrying much of the game's outcome on their shoulders.

Druzin presents her iconic goalies with a key personality trait or role within the team, for example, **Terry Sawchuk**, the Tortured Soul, came to hockey from working-class Winnipeg where he and his pals used a "prairie puck" aka frozen horse dung. He was a cranky chain smoker who lived with chronic pain. His life story is a tragedy, from his sad childhood to his alcohol-fuelled death at age forty, except for his records, which lasted for decades, and a posthumous Canadian stamp—plus Winnipeg's Terry Sawchuk Memorial Arena.

Lorne "Gump" Worsley may



Caroline WOODWARD

Caroline Woodward has played hockey since childhood. At UBC, often the goalie for her Fort Camp Women's Residence team chose to study chemistry rather than play. Faced with forfeiting another game to Totem Park's hulking women's team, she strapped on the goalie pads instead of playing left-wing—and loved it. So she stayed in goal, incurring a spectacular black eye until her coach scrounged a mask of dubious provenance... A netminder ever since, here Caroline Woodward reviews two new books about goalies.

have said it best when asked about Terry Sawchuk: "He was one of the great ones, but a strange man... He drove his own team-mates nuts too ... maybe that's the mark of a good goaltender. We're not well, you know, or we wouldn't be playing the position."

Glenn Hall of the Chicago Blackhawks, the Trooper, was famous for barfing into a bucket before every game, and for his butterfly style. By the 1962 season, he'd played 502 consecutive regular games, a record unbroken to this day.

Jacques Plante, the Maverick, enhanced the goalie reputation for eccentricity by knitting his own toques and cooking for the fun of it. Born in 1929, Plante suffered from debilitating asthma. After experiencing the usual broken nose and cheekbones, hundreds of facial

stitches and concussions, the Maverick created his own face mask for training camp and defiantly wore it to a game in 1959, changing the face of goaltending forever.

Gump Worsley, the Joker, handled media questions with aplomb despite dropping out of school at age fourteen to work. While Plante was a string bean, Worsley was somewhat potato-shaped, with a brush-cut and lightning fast reflexes. He went to a therapist every day for a month to control his fear of flying and baked pineapple squares christened "gumpies" by appreciative team-mates.

Johnny Bower, the Gentleman, began his career in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, wearing goalie pads made from an old mattress and a stick his Dad carved from a branch. He may be the only NHL player to have recorded a best-sell-

ing record in 1967. Over 40,000 copies of *Honky the Christmas Goose* were sold. He played with rheumatoid arthritis and a positive attitude, the kind of goalie who checked on anyone who crashed behind his net to make sure they were okay.

Bernie Parent, the Bon Vivant, was an extrovert, the toast of Philadelphia, where he anchored the first expansion team to win the Stanley Cup. His game-day ritual was a 16-ounce steak, exactly ten mushrooms, a nap with his dog Tinker Bell and then a video of The Three Stooges. He wrote a self-help book in 2011, *Journey Through Risk and Fear* after a freak eye accident prematurely ended his career and he had successfully battled alcohol and depression.

Ken Dryden, the Scholar, forged successful careers as a star goalie, author of *The Game*, and as

a lawyer, politician and businessman. He possibly earned his sober moniker by working with **Ralph Nader** on a water pollution project after winning his first Stanley Cup in 1972, instead of golfing.

Others included are **Ron Hextall**, the Warrior; **Patrick Roy**, the Cock of the Walk; **Ed Belfour**, the Fanatic; **Dominick Hasek**, the Enigma and **Martin Brodeur**, the Cool Customer.



FANS OF **GRANT LAWRENCE'S** FIRST book, *Adventures in Solitude* or his alt-rock band, The Smugglers, will enjoy his trademark blend of humour and hyperbole in **The Lonely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie**. But it's also an honest, introspective look at childhood bullying and the scars left unhealed in adulthood as well as the grip that hockey has on our national psyche and our sometimes appalling behaviour as fans. The upside is an insider's account of the Exclaim! Hockey Summit of the Arts, wherein a national gathering of artistically inclined individuals (Sam Roberts Band, Sloan, the Rheostatics, **Sean Cullen**, **Patti Schmidt**, the Sadies and others) meet in team uniforms to play hockey and music and to party in "a frozen nirvana."

Chapters devoted to the author's undersized childhood, cursed with glasses in Grade 2 and a bizarre condition wherein his kneecaps painfully dislocate without warning, set readers up for a decidedly non-athletic path. Lawrence gravitated to the nerds in the school library but watching the Vancouver Canucks with his Dad ignited the fan fuse. The well-designed book is illustrated with photos, quirky line drawings and pearls of wisdom from great goalies, (cleverly structured in First, Second and Third Period eras and Overtime.)

Some volatile goalies featured in *Between the Pipes* might have benefited from reading this thoughtful book, seasoned with the tears of a clown.

Between the Pipes: 978-1771000147; Lonely End: 978-1771000772

Caroline Woodward will no longer attempt the butterfly but remains a Canucks fan, an equally painful position some days.

ALSO RINKED WRAPPED

A to Z Guide to Hockey Terms by Tim, Perry, Sheldon and Travis Moshansky (First Wave \$16.95)

In a pocket-sized format that can be taken to the rink, **Tim Moshansky** and his brothers **Perry, Sheldon** and **Travis** have explained more than 800 hockey terms and phrases used by players, coaches and sports commentators, along with NHL trivia and history, for their **A to Z Guide to Hockey Terms**, first published in 2006. We learn **Mario Lemieux** was the first player to score in every category during one game: Even Strength, Power Play, Short-Handed, Penalty Shot and Empty Net. No player has ever done it since. Pucks are frozen prior to professional games. As many as 30 or 40 pucks are used in each NHL game. If you play more than ten seasons in the NHL, you qualify for roommate amnesty. That means you can have your own room on road trips.

978-0968070222

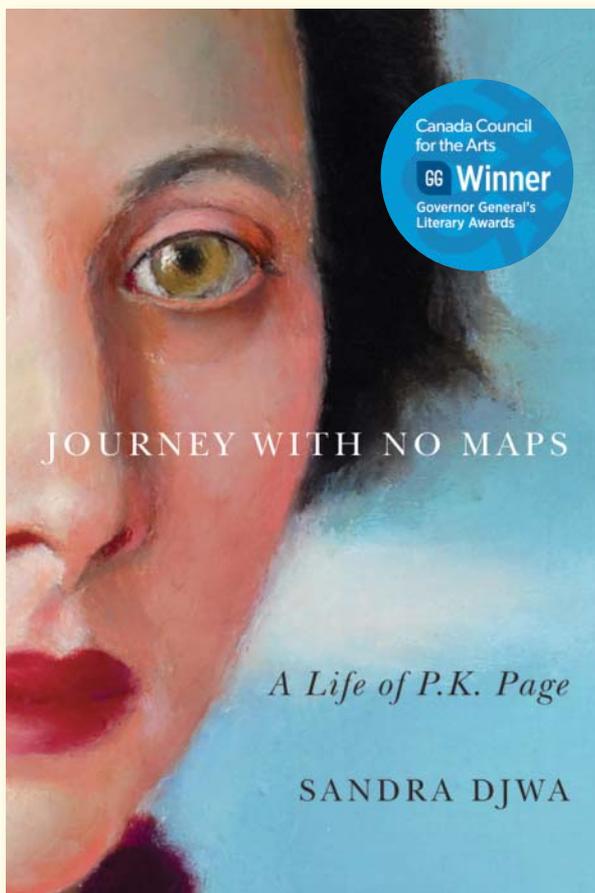


Mario Lemieux

1913: The Year They Invented The Future Of Hockey by Craig Bowsby (Knights of Winter Publishing \$7.95)

Once upon a time, hockey was akin to rugby in that the puck, like the ball in rugby, could not be passed forward. In **1913: The Year They Invented The Future Of Hockey**, historian **Craig Bowsby** looks at the introduction of the forward pass. He writes: "Before 1913, the game of hockey had to be played backwards. The Patrick brothers of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association shattered this hallowed tradition, and played the game forwards. The new rule they invented—the forward pass—was denounced as a farce, and its implementation thought to be impossible. There was only one way to prove they were right—to win the Stanley Cup against the NHA using their despised and reviled new rule. A hundred years ago the Patricks took that challenge."

978-0-9691705-7-0



Journey with No Maps A Life of P.K. Page

SANDRA DJWA

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“This beautifully documented biography proceeds through the full development of Page’s career, which is also the history of CanLit in a single example.”

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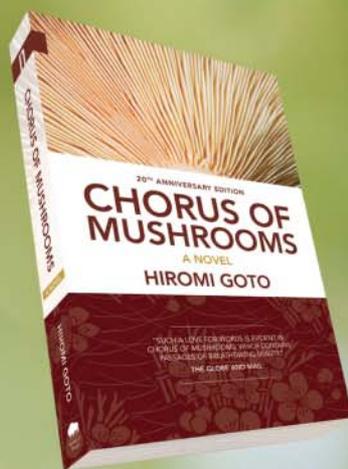
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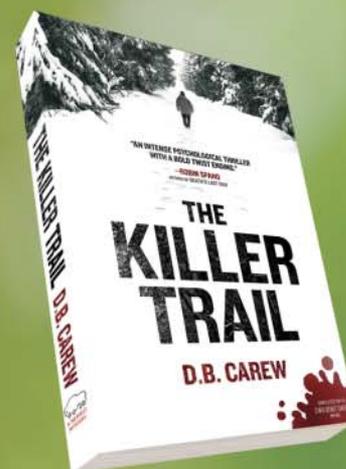
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as well as a series about the origins
of B.C. publishing houses

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Members of Jayne Seagrave's family brave the Yukon chill while she researches *Camping BC*.

HAPPY CAMPERS

It's often said that 5,000 copies sold in Canada constitutes a bestseller. **Jayne Seagrave's** *Camping BC: A Complete Guide to Provincial and National Park Campgrounds* is approaching 50,000 copies sold since 1996, entering its seventh edition. Seagrave won't win the Giller, but it's solid "backlist" titles like hers that make the B.C. publishing industry stable. We asked her to recount the story behind her success, largely because it contradicts the standard impression that authors are frequently at odds with their publishers.

By Jayne Seagrave

I AM NOT A CLASSIC OUTDOORS TYPE. IN comparison to many, I actually know very little about camping. And as much as I would love to admit to lonely years of struggle and dedication, and a lifelong ambition to write, agonising hours spent over each carefully constructed sentence, prior to writing *Camping BC* I never dreamed about success or even felt the need to convey information to the camping fraternity.

Having seven editions of my book is largely the result of two individuals recognising a gap in the market, recognising a sales opportunity.

In 1995 I published the first Canadian textbook on policing. It was a very boring book, the result of my criminology Ph.D thesis with the imaginative title of: *Introduction to Policing in Canada*. The publisher, Prentice Hall, put a picture of a manhole cover on the front of the work. No one ever strolled into a bookshop, looked at the manhole and exclaimed, "Wow, that looks so interesting, I must get a copy for my mum/brother/boyfriend."

A lot of work went into the 400-page text, for which royalties are still received, but no one *really* wanted it. The Ph.D taught me how to write and edit, but more importantly it forced me to learn about book proposals,

Jayne Seagrave credits **Rodger Touchie** for masterminding all aspects of her camping guides beyond her research and writing—making her a rarity: an author who has total faith in her publisher; as she describes here in her 'Rodger and Me' essay.

how to approach publishing houses and the idiosyncrasies of publishers, all valuable lessons, but it was not personally gratifying and gave me little satisfaction as a writer.

At the same time this book was being completed I was taking camping vacations as there was no money to spend on other more luxurious alternatives. Upon discovering numerous provincial park campgrounds among BC's breathtaking scenery, I became hungry for more information. I recognised a gap in the market.

Without having written a word on the subject, a three-page book proposal was formulated and dispatched to four potential publishers. Within a couple of weeks **Rodger Touchie**, the new owner of Heritage House Publishing, called and we arranged to meet in a coffee bar below the new Vancouver Public Library.

I do not think Rodger really knew what he was doing and I certainly did not. We met in September, 1995 and, despite not having written a word, I told him I could get a manuscript to him by Christmas. We may have had a contract—I cannot recall—but we did get on, and, although he may be reluctant to acknowledge it, I think there was a rapport. For the next ten weeks *Camping BC* was researched, written and finally delivered. One by one the three other publishers who had received the proposal rejected it, the final one conveying his dismissal almost six months following receipt.

Early in May 1996, I drove to a remote location south of the Fraser and, after thirty minutes touring the back roads, located the unheated Heritage House warehouse behind McDonald's. There I was unceremoniously handed ten complimentary copies. I was as excited as a six-year-old at Halloween.

The first edition of *Camping BC* hit the bookstores in May, 1996. All 5,000 copies were sold in the following four months. If there was a quick "down and dirty" way to write and release a guide book, this was it.

Now I see there are two components to becoming a "bestselling" author: firstly, the text should be relevant and appealing to a wide audience; secondly it must be successfully marketed and sold.

Significant sales of the book were in Costco, whose customers I thought were more interested in cheap, large packs of meat than camping, but this was obviously not the case. Rodger recognised anyone shopping at Costco would be spending large amounts and may well be likely to impulse buy a book. His hunch delivered.

I was asked to undertake book signings in Chapters whereupon no one attended (except ten of my friends and the Chapters staff on their breaks), but which, Rodger explained, enabled the book to appear in the shop window for weeks along with the announcement of a forthcoming author signing and consequently promoted the text above others.

CBC radio interviews were solicited and suddenly I was The Camping Queen, a crown I continue to hold, now earned. Heritage House employed one roaming salesman for the province who seemed to stop at every BC community, no matter how small, to tout their inventory. On camping trips to small BC towns I continue to find the book in the most unlikely places, on small racks in angling stores, in family restaurants and gas stations.

In one of our early meetings Rodger confided to me that one of the most difficult things about dealing with first-time writers is they always wanted to have input into the cover and interfere with the layout of their book. Now Rodger and I meet about once a year. He owns a very successful publishing company, issues contracts over eleven pages long, has numerous staff, hundreds of authors and a number of locations. And I have taken his advice. I only supply the text.



Rodger Touchie

GHANA AGAIN

Four Canlit connections

So Much For Democracy by **Kari Jones** is a convincing example of how social fear can invade the home and safety concerns can be stifling.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR KARI JONES to imagine her family's African adventures would one day connect her with Canadian literary giants **Margaret Laurence** and **Audrey Thomas** when she moved to Accra, the capital of Ghana, at age eleven.

In preparation for her father's stint as head of the Canadian High Commission in 1979, Jones' parents had prepared her to encounter the heat, strange food, electricity outages, limited access to clean drinking water and even the threat of disease. Not an attempted military coup.

Friends at school with pet pythons were one thing; walking home in streets filled with fearsome soldiers were quite another. But never mind the threat of civil war. In Jones' juvenile novel, **So Much For Democracy** (Orca \$9.95), an increasingly house-bound teenage protagonist must learn to, first and foremost, accept the stifling protectiveness of her mother.

That's the gist of Jones' literary experiment: Rather than exploit the exoticism of Africa for her story, she has opted to concentrate on evoking the growing tensions within a family, as witnessed exclusively through the eyes of a young teen, twelve-year-old Astrid.

"I tried to write the story from the perspective of a young girl who would only ever get snippets of

what was going on—she could see that her own life was being changed but not have a broad perspective on why—that was certainly my own experience.

"I had been there, seen what happened," says Jones, "but never understood why it had happened, and I thought what better way to learn about why there was a coup than by writing a book about it.

We learn precious little about an abortive coup in May of 1979, or the bloody coup in June by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council. Instead the story describes how freedom at home is jeopardized in the face of a political emergency.

The mother's fears for the safety of her three children are galvanized on a continuous basis after Astrid's younger brother Gordo catches malaria and her baby sister briefly goes missing. Her brother remains benignly immune to the crisis.

Now Jones finds herself among good company.

AS A YOUNG WIFE, MARGARET LAURENCE WENT WITH her husband Jack, an engineer, to live in the African colonies of British Somaliland (1950-1952) and Gold Coast (1952-1957), where her son was born in 1955. During her subsequent four years in Vancouver from 1958 to 1962, struggling as a single mother at 3556 West 21st Avenue, Margaret Laurence revised her first novel, *This Side Jordan*, set in Gold Coast, with assistance from her editor-friend **Gordon Elliott**, and she also wrote many of the African short stories that are contained in her debut story



Kari Jones—on a different beach, near Victoria—where she is now raising her own children



Kari Jones with her younger brother on a beach, near Accra, in 1979, when civil war in Ghana was not looming and the family felt safe.



Audrey Thomas

collection, *The Tomorrow Tamer*. Gold Coast became Ghana in 1958.

AUDREY THOMAS ALSO followed her husband to Ghana where they lived from 1964 to 1966. There she wrote her first published story, "If One Green Bottle..." describing a confinement and miscarriage in a Ghana hospital. It won an award for debut fiction from the *Atlantic Monthly* and served as the basis for her first novel *Mrs. Blood* (1970). Later her *Blown Figures* (1974), set in Ghana, reputedly used Africa as a metaphor for the unconscious.

During a vacation in 1965, Thomas and her husband visited the remains of the Elmira and Cape Coast Castle slave-supply hubs, now both World Heritage Sites. There she saw the graves of the Cape Coast Castle manager **George Maclean** and his bride **Letitia Landon**, formerly a respected English author before her mysterious death. Thomas has brilliantly imagined the life of the transplanted authoress from 1836 to late 1838, in both London and at Cape Coast, for a stunning new novel for adults, *Local Customs* (Dundurn \$16.99).

AS THE HOMETOWN OF HER FATHER, GHANA ALSO figures into **Esi Edugyan's** 48-page *Dreaming of Elsewhere: Observations on Home* (University of Alberta \$10.95), which is derived from the Henry Kreisler Lecture Series. "Home, for me, was not a birthright," she writes, "but an invention."



Esi Edugyan

Democracy 978-1459804814; Customs 978-1459707986; Dreaming 978-0-88864-821-1

Don't cry for me, 'Argenteena'

It's heroic to be untouched by crime in Alvear Plaza.

RAISED IN ARGENTINA, **SILVANA Goldemberg** has written a realistic, Latin American equivalent to Shaw's *Pygmalion*, **Victoria** (Tradewind \$12.95), set in the mean streets of the Paraná neighbourhood of Buenos Aires where food is scarce and danger is a given.



It doesn't look like a tough neighbourhood, but this photo of Alvear Plaza in Buenos Aires shows the café in the red building where the heroine of Silvana Goldemberg's *Victoria* ekes out a living. The other corner is where Victoria leaves her bucket to wash windows.

"In small and medium Argentine cities," says Silvana Goldemberg, "everyday there are at least ten kids, teens and mothers knocking at your door asking for food.

"My mom was a teacher of those children and we used to have the door open with a basket full of fruits for these kids to serve themselves."

That was the catalyst for **Victoria**, a thoroughly engaging Young Adult novel of endurance in the face of poverty.

Instead of being saved by someone else, fifteen-

year-old Victoria must save herself, overcoming daunting responsibilities and rampant violence by eking out a living selling flowers in nightclubs and cleaning cafes—if she's lucky.

"The characters of my book are based on real people," says Goldemberg, "and I want children in Canada, the US and UK to get to know them. I grew up very close to kids with lives like Victoria's."

Victoria is the sole provider for her younger, twin brothers. With determination and the friendship of her cousin, who is a pop singer named Betina, Victoria ultimately overcomes the odds and forges a healthy romance with a budding, teenage soccer player, Andrés.

It's not exactly a fairy tale ending, but the righteousness of the central character is validated. She had risen beyond the status of innocent victim and taken control of her life, nourished by hope and persistence.

Goldemberg, who lives in Richmond, B.C., was born in Argentina in 1963. *Victoria* has been translated by **Emilie Smith** who was also born in 1963 in Cordoba, Argentina, to American parents and came to B.C. in 1967. Smith was working as a minister in New Westminster when she was contacted by publisher **Michael Katz** to translate Goldemberg's Spanish text to English.



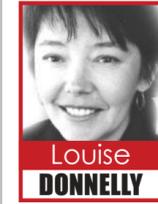
Silvana Goldemberg

978-1-896580-95-1

Getting Hot, getting Warm

Acting and dance dramas

LILY NEEDS TO ACE THE TOOTHPASTE commercial. Last year she'd booked half a dozen gigs but this year it's been nothing but a lame non-speaking spot for salami. She's flunked the algebra test, too and if she



Louise Donnelly

doesn't start making some serious money, her dad's going to fire up the "less time on acting... more time on polynomials" speech.

Lily gets acting gigs because she's "exotic." Chinese mom, Irish-German dad. So she doesn't look like the other girls. Hair, eyes, cheekbones... Then there's the problem with the cats. Who puts cats in a toothpaste commercial? Lily is stuck in a suffocating studio cubicle with a bunch of cats, at least half of them Siamese—they're the worst—and so suddenly it's asthma attack time.

Dizzy and wheezing, Lily stumbles for the elevator, right into the burly arms of big-time director Nic Mills. The same Nic Mills who catapults unknown actors into megastars! And that's how 15-year-old Lily finds herself swept from her everyday Vancouver life to LA in **Laura Langston's** *Hot New Thing* (Orca, \$9.95).



Laura Langston

Soon Lily finds herself filling in for the injured lead in Nic Mills' latest movie, opposite dimpled, French-speaking, Emmy-winning Etienne Quinn who, as it turns out, smells as delicious as maple-sugar bacon.

Even in his loser character's dorky green sweater and Value Village jeans, Etienne radiates charm. His famous "flick of the too-blue eyes" and a "full-on grin" knocks the breath right out of Lily. Getting through a scene, though, with the "French flirt" is only one of Lily's problems.

Her aloof cousin Samantha with her "starchy blue shirt and lace-up shoes" hasn't exactly given her a warm welcome to LA, Lily's dad and her math teacher are still on about the polynomials, and her own agent seems to be using her time supposedly chaperoning Lily to drum up new clients.

And then Lily herself gets wooed by one of the biggest Hollywood agencies. They'd love to represent her if she just tones down her unique look with breast implants, a nose job, an eye job...

It's okay to look Asian, as long as it's "non-threatening, Westernized" Asian. Acting is all Lily has ever wanted but will she have to lose herself to do it? As she struggles with the hardest decision of her young life, Lily's strongest ally, astonishingly, is none other than Etienne Quinn.

Hot New Thing is part of *Limelights*, an on-going series of performing arts novels aimed at an 11- to 14-years-old readership. A former journalist with CBC, Laura Langston found reality too confining and went searching for truth in fiction. She now also writes adult romance and women's fiction under the name **Laura Tobias**.

WARM UP (ORCA, \$9.95), BY WHISTLER-BASED TEACHER-librarian **Sara Leach**, also in the *Limelights* series, explores the equally competitive world of dance. Jasmine and her dance team, having squeaked into third place in the preliminary round, finally qualify for a spot in the finals. But that just sends Miss Carina, the gray-haired, tightly-coiffed founder of Moondance studio, into a tailspin.

All ribs and collar bones, right foot turned out in fourth position and tapping impatiently, Miss Carina tells the disbelieving girls she's reworking the entire dance to better their chance of winning the Star Struck championship.

Jasmine suspects it's less about what's best for the team and more about Miss Carina trumping Miss Brandi and the InMotion studio. Rumour has it that years ago the two women once danced together and then a rivalry erupted that still consumes Miss Carina. Driving her dancers with daunting warm-ups and endless changes to the choreography, she appears blind to the mounting rivalries and distrust brewing between the girls.

For Jasmine, the joy—the "air filling her lungs"—goes out of dancing and she comes close to quitting. But, prodded by her Russian grandmother, Jasmine dares to reclaim that joy and, suddenly, winning the championship is a tantalizing possibility.

Other *Limelights* books include *Big Time* by **Tom Ryan** and *Cut the Lights* by **Karen Crossing**.

Louise Donnelly writes her column from Vernon.

Sara Leach

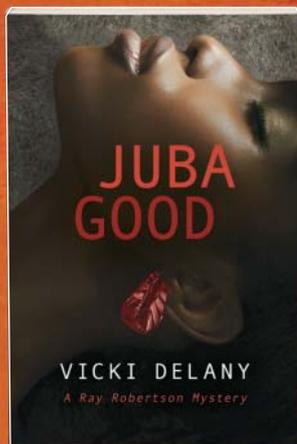
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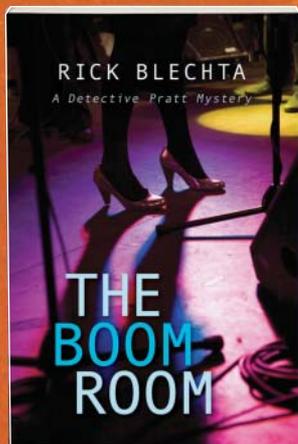
NEW THIS
SPRING

VICKI DELANY



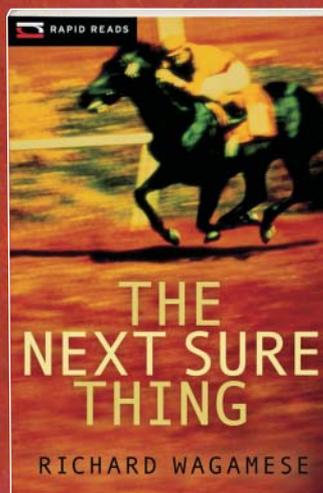
RCMP Sergeant Ray Robertson, on a year-long UN mission in Juba, South Sudan, struggles to find a serial killer.

RICK BLECHTA



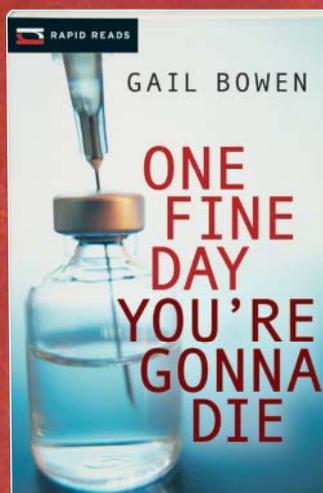
Detective Mervin Pratt investigates a nightclub murder with awkward connections to his partner.

RICHARD WAGAMESE



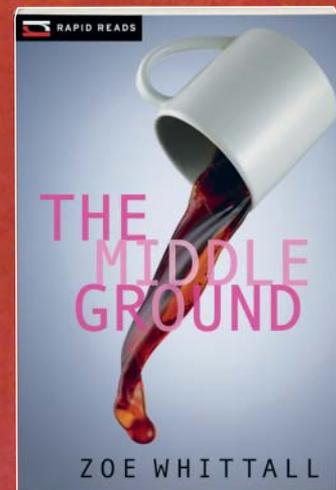
*“A clever puzzle that features a young man seeking to make his way.”
—Library Journal*

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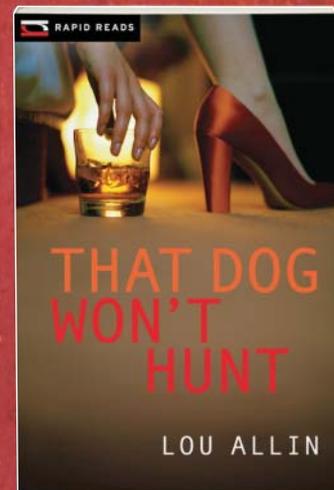
*“Replete with suspense and tension, One Fine Day is compelling and difficult to put down.”
—Quill & Quire*

ZOE WHITTALL



*“Whittall’s prose demonstrates vitality and humour... An entertaining read. Recommended.”
—CM Magazine*

LOU ALLIN



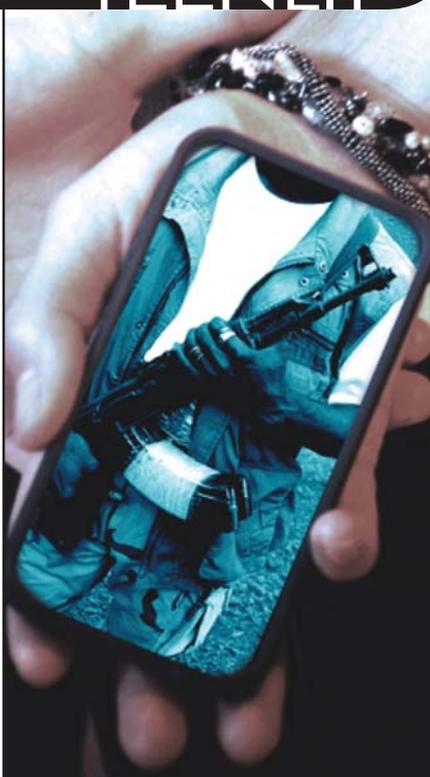
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Blue Gold by Elizabeth Stewart (Annick Press \$12.95)

SUPPORTED BY AN INTELLIGENT BOOK trailer used for promotion, **Blue Gold** by Elizabeth Stewart is about as cutting edge as a young adult novel can be. Three disparate teenagers on three continents are connected to the global trade in an essential component for cell phones and computers called blue gold.

Blue gold is the colloquial term for coltan, an ore known industrially as tantalite. Elements of niobium and tantalum are extracted from columbite-tantalite (the scientific name) to make tiny tantalum capacitors.

Chinese protagonist Laiping has left her village to work in a cell phone factory with deplorable conditions.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sylvia is marooned in a refugee camp after her father was killed by a rogue militia group fighting to control mining for blue gold.

Fiona's seemingly easy life in North America is turned-upside-down when she takes a photo with her cell phone and soon regrets having done so.

Although Stewart does not proselytize in the novel, her well-researched story will make readers want to google the subject matter. Doing so, it takes only seconds to learn how ever-increasing technological efficiency comes at an exceedingly high price, mainly for all those who can't afford it. In Africa, where 57% of blue gold is mined, the Democratic Republic of Congo is the chief source of coltan. Some Canadian-based mining companies have been complicit in the deadly struggles there. But that's another story. Sort of. 9781554516346

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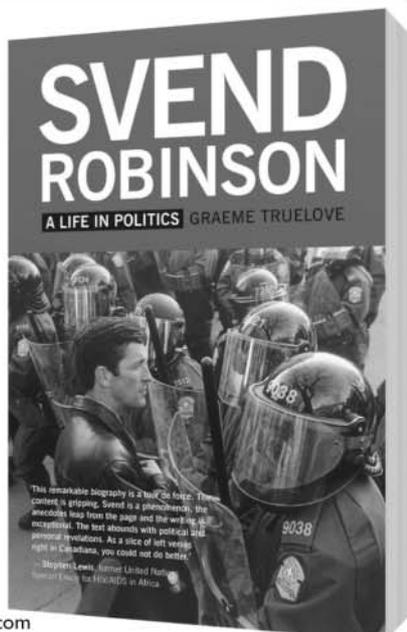
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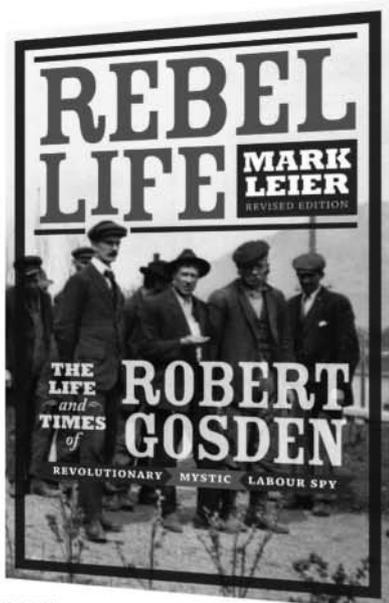
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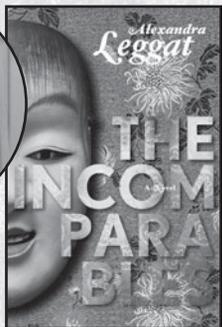


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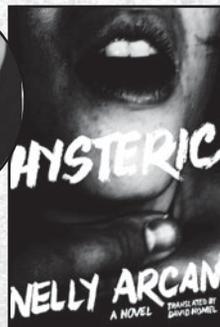
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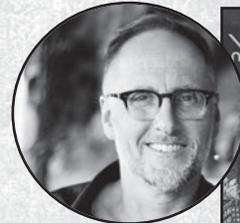
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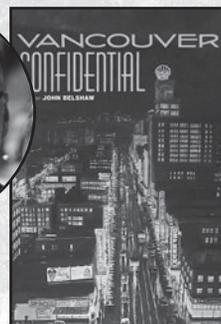
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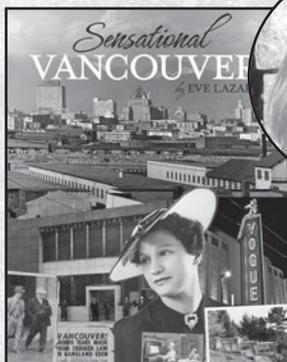
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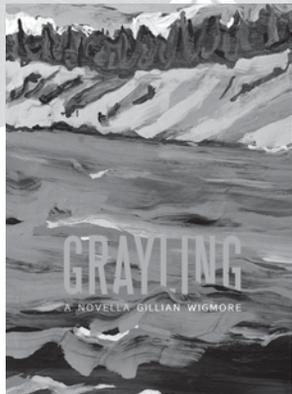


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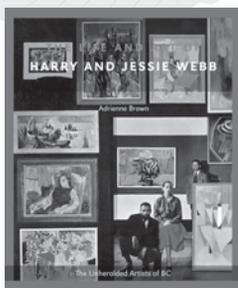
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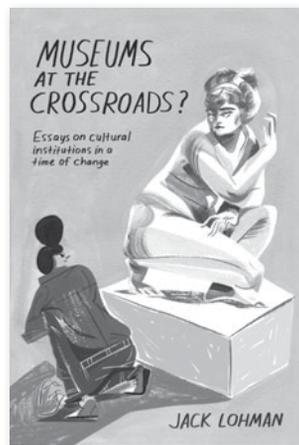
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PLAYFUL, LIKE MAGRITTE

M.A.C. Farrant
extends her talent
for subversion.

The World Afloat — Miniatures by M.A.C. Farrant (Talonbooks \$12.95)

LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE ON this planet, fiction faces a simple choice; evolve or become extinct.

M.A.C. Farrant continues to make it clear she has no intention of walking with the dinosaurs.

With her new collection of surreal ‘miniatures,’ *The World Afloat*, Farrant reappears to remind us that CanLit still has a few bats in the attic.

While university creative writing departments from coast to coast are no doubt preparing a new generation of authors to follow in the footsteps of the Nobel Prize-winning Alice Munro, Farrant’s *The World Afloat* is tuned to an FM wave-band in which brevity is the soul of writ, perhaps because contemporary narrative fiction has to



LAURA SAWCHUK PHOTO

M.A.C. Farrant writes tasty postcard fictions that are the surrealistic literary equivalent of *Slow Food*.

compete with texts composed on cell phones.

A perceptive *Globe & Mail* reviewer once called Farrant “the bizarro Alice Munro,” a particularly apt description of the narrative style of her collection, *Darwin Alone in the Universe* (Talonbooks, 2003). While many of those stories superficially resembled traditional short stories in length and opening



John
MOORE

lines, we quickly found ourselves sucked through the looking-glass by a seductively subversive parody of conventional narrative that is disrupted by filmic jump-cuts and tectonic clashes of inner and outer reality. The cumulative effect leaves us feeling like patrons trapped in a fire-bombed cabaret where the comedy duo of Franz Kafka and Groucho Marx

are working the smoldering stage because the show must go on.

The ‘miniatures’ of *The World Afloat* are briefer, and as wild as colourful birthday helium balloons released into a hurricane; small points of cheerful light whirled in a dark and violent wind.

In painting, Rene Magritte and Giorgio de Chirico represent the extremes of surrealist art—Magritte’s playful, cheerful juxtapositions in which defiance of

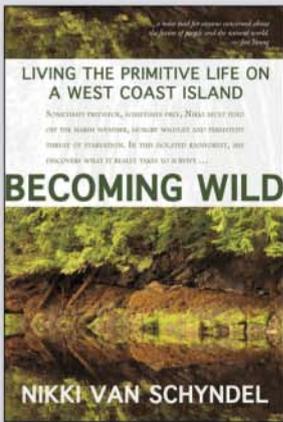
gravity, ‘floating,’ is a recurrent theme, versus de Chirico’s dark and deserted distorted cityscapes, anchored by unspeakable anxieties. These are the emotional poles of our inner lives, our dreams, and it’s clear which side of the table Farrant hovers weightlessly above, tipping a signature bowler hat.

Necessarily surreal because of their extreme brevity, stories like those in *The World Afloat* used to be called ‘postcard stories’—though nobody younger than your grandmother actually sends postcards anymore. It’s not a new concept; Franz Kafka and Ernest Hemingway both struggled to write very short stories because they recognized that such stories demand not only more from the writer; they force readers to slow down, go back, re-read, and make sure they haven’t missed not just something, but everything—the literary equivalent of *Slow Food*.

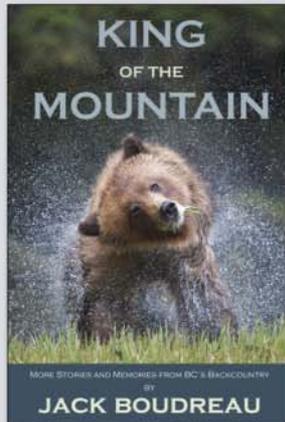
Nobel Prize-winning Japanese author Yasunari Kawabata wrote numerous (what he called) “palm of the hand” stories, some of which were attempts to condense his already notably brief novels into a few terse paragraphs. In 1987, Quebec writer Gilles Archambault won the

continued on page 27

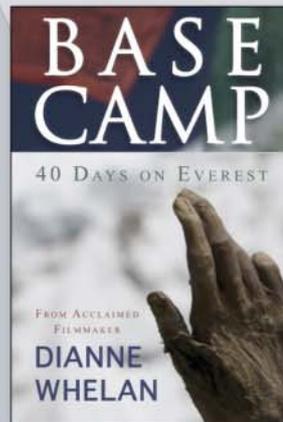
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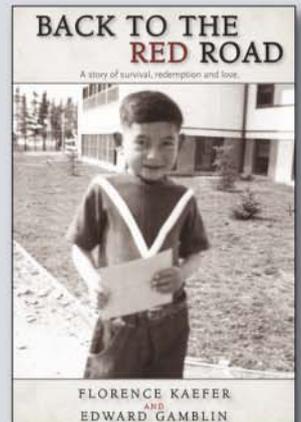
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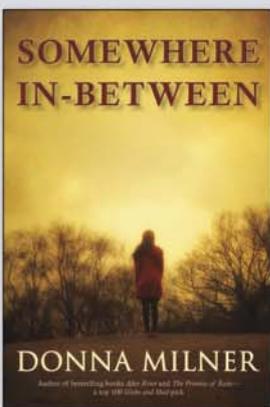


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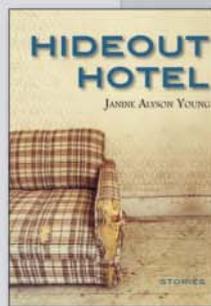


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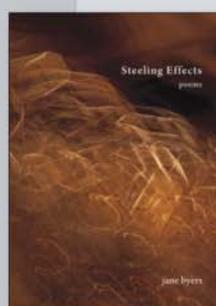
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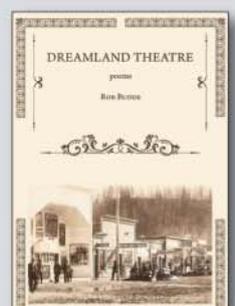
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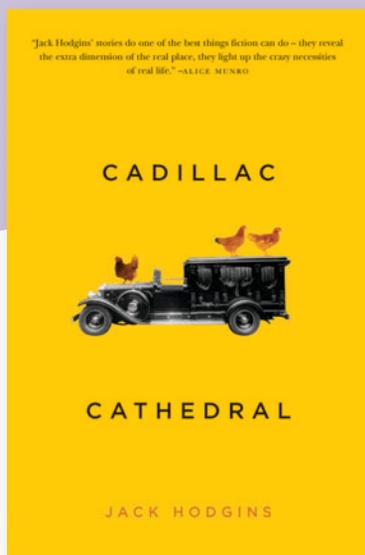
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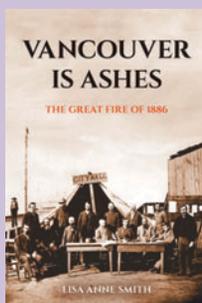
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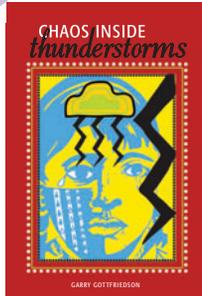


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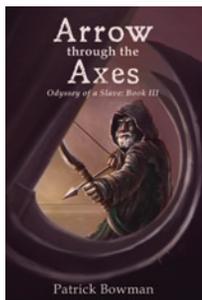
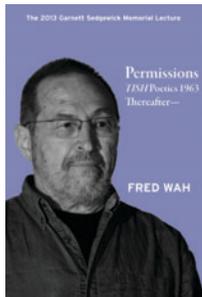


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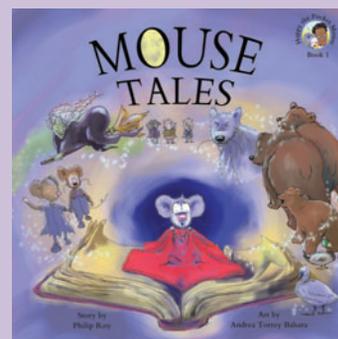


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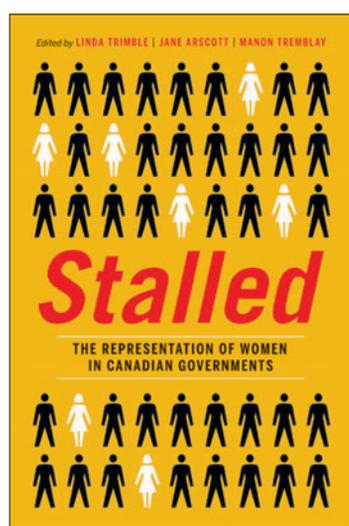
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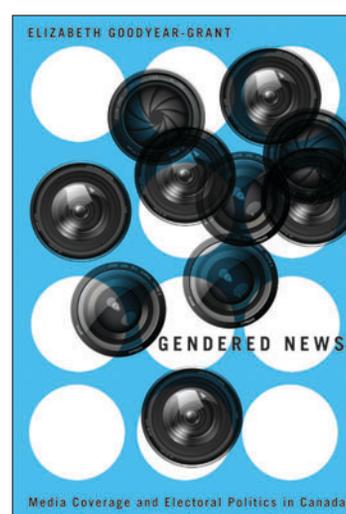
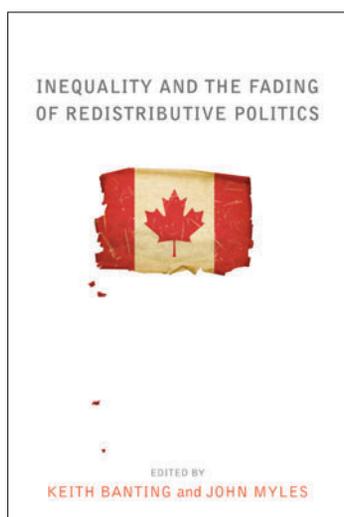
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Stigma and a traumatizing mental health system

High Clear Bell of Morning by Ann Eriksson (D&M \$22.95)

ANN ERIKSSON'S FOURTH NOVEL, *High Clear Bell of Morning* examines what happens to a family when a loved one requires help with a mental illness.

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"For the most part I was a helpless onlooker, and probably with all the stereotypes and misconceptions about mental illness in place. So writing about these issues became a way I could educate myself, but also, in some small way, to contribute to raising awareness."

"I was struck by how traumatizing the mental health system experience was for the entire family and by how difficult it was for them to get and maintain the help they needed, both a result of the nature of the disease, (e.g. lack of insight, variability in response to medications, lack of compliance) but also the inadequacies of the system (e.g. poorly understood disorder, lack of psychiatrists, legal privacy and rights issues).

"Stigma also remains a huge problem, toward both the ill person and the family. I heard and read many stories about parents who were made to feel they were the source of their child's problems by poorly educated health care workers, and sometimes shut out of par-

ticipating in treatment. I was also shocked that a person could go into the system with a mental illness and come out a drug addict. This is unfortunately quite common, as ill, vulnerable and lonely young people, who may have lost all their other friends because of their bizarre behaviour, are exposed in the hospital, group therapy, and group homes, to other mentally ill peers with addiction problems."



ANN ERIKSSON OF THETIS ISLAND WAS BORN in Saskatchewan and grew up in all three prairie provinces. Having studied and lived in New Zealand, Europe and Halifax, she came to the West Coast in 1978, living for ten years on Galiano Island. Moving to Victoria in 1990, she completed a degree in biology with a minor in Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. Her work as a consulting biologist on biodiversity has had an impact on her writing. Ann Eriksson is also a founding director of the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy.

Ann Eriksson and her husband **Gary Geddes** will be featured at the Word on the Lake Festival in Salmon Arm, May 16-18. Also appearing will be **C.C. Humphreys**, **Carmen Aguirre**, **Gail Anderson-Dargatz**, **Diane Gabaldon**, **Ursula Maxwell-Lewis** and **Howard White**—along with literary agent **Carolyn Swayze**, singer/songwriter **David Essig** and editor **Shelagh Jamieson**.

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M.A.C. FARRANT, FROM PAGE 25

Governor General's Award for French language fiction for *L'obsédante obèse*, (published in English as *In a Minor Key* by Oberon Books in 1990), a classic of the genre probably little-known to most English readers other than, possibly, M.A.C. Farrant.

Since the early 1990s, these kinds of stories have been called 'flash fictions' and published extensively on websites. Most of them are not memorable in the conventional sense. There are no ironic, dramatic plot twists in the manner of **Maugham** or **de Maupassant**. Like poems, or

recalled fragments of dreams, these kinds of stories are meant to resonate, rather than reveal, to stir up the mental sludge, flush out the septic tank of the subconscious, to make us feel more truly aware and alive.



M.A.C. FARRANT HAS MADE A CAREER—A DOZEN BOOKS THUS far, and counting—of literary subversion. It's a dirty job, but somebody has to don the rubber gloves and apron and put an edge on the knife if fictional narrative is to be more than a self-indulgent hobby for egoists or a domesticated cash cow for cynical hacks who'd rather be writing film scripts.

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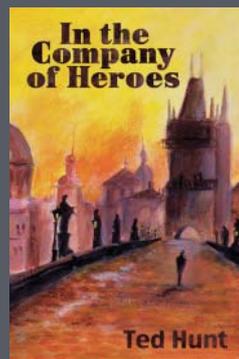
John Moore reviews fiction from *Garibaldi Highlands*.



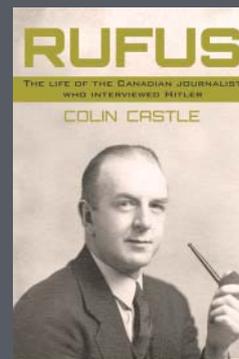
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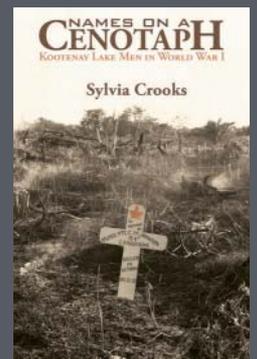
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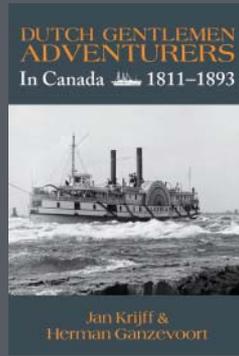
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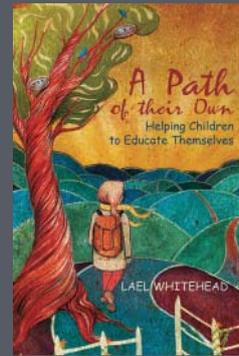
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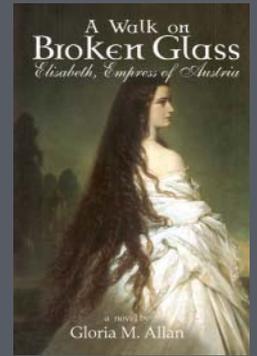
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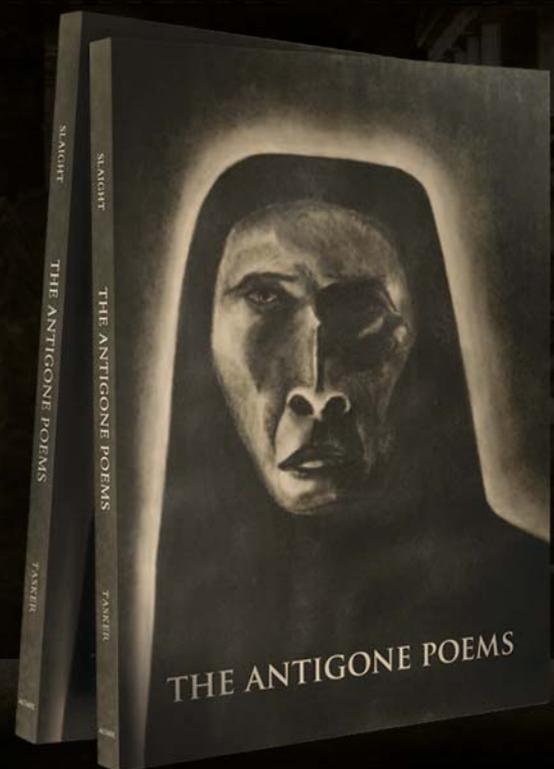
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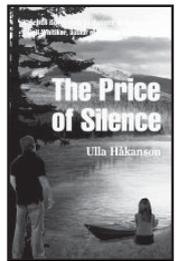
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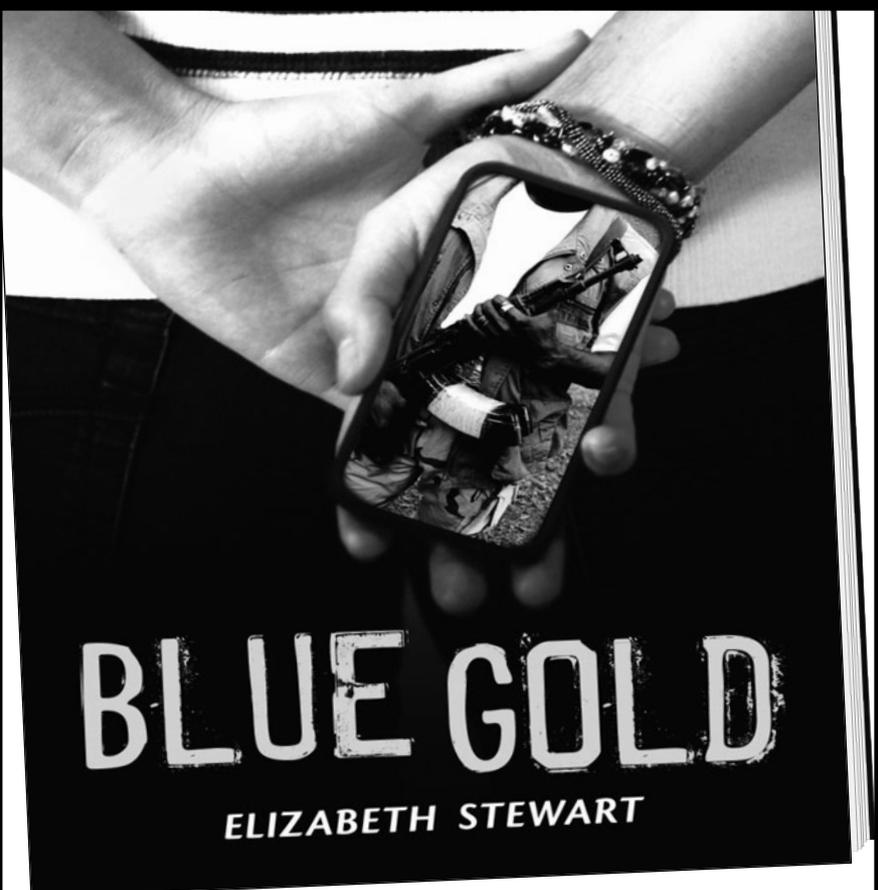
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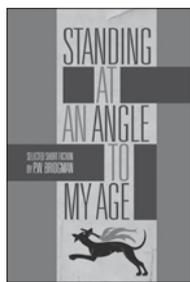
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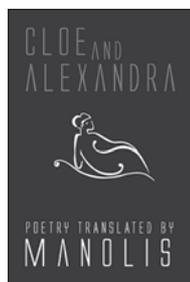
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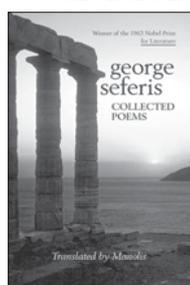
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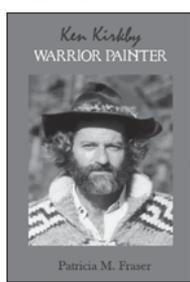
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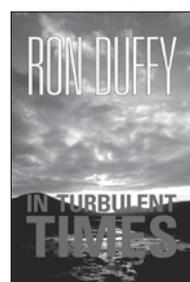
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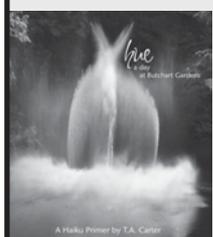


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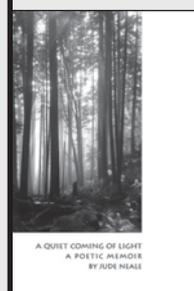
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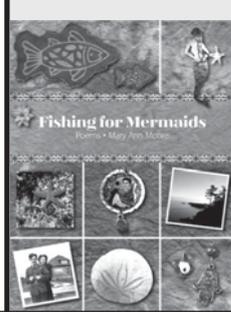


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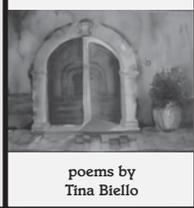
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IN THE BONE CRACKS OF THE WALLS by Tina Biello

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Cadillac Cathedral by Jack Hodgins
(Ronsdale Press \$18.95)

LOVE is a many- splendoured Cadillac

A Finnish bachelor gets his hands dirty and his heart a flutter in Jack Hodgins' mirthful return to Portuguese Creek.

TAKE ONE LACONIC FINN, Arvo Saarikoski, a retired mechanic who, since leaving the logging camps, has lavished his love on abandoned cars. He spends much of his time restoring them and handing them off to his friends and neighbours.

Now add a vessel that makes his heart race, a 1930s hearse, the Cadillac Cathedral, left to molder in the mountains and subsequently used to haul logs. It's an old-time glass-walled horse-drawn carriage, modified with an open-air driver's cab, sporting a long engine hood out front and a running board with a mounted spare tire alongside.

So Arvo's in love.

Then take a small but indefatigable flame that has been burning in him for over half a century, cherished memories of his childhood love, Myrtle Birdsong. Is she why Arvo has never married?



CADILLAC CATHEDRAL IS MADE from a distinctly **Jack Hodgins'** literary recipe using locally sourced characters and settings. The hearse used to belong to Myrtle's undertaker father. Is it possible that by restoring the grand old hearse and returning it to Myrtle in the big city, he just might have a chance? Arvo's flame of love is leaping higher, but does he have the nerve?

But there's a detour on the road to bliss. When a well-liked retired politician in Portuguese Creek dies, the only relative is an estranged son, so friends of the deceased, Martin Glass, gather in Arvo's garage and decide they ought to bring home Martin's remains for a proper send-off. But in what?

One of Arvo's friends, Peterson, recalls seeing the venerable old 'gal' in the forest.

Hodgins is a master storyteller and he's never going to be caught dead with only one dish on his table. As always, his fictional Vancouver Island community and characters become large as life in all their laid-back and humorous detail. The origins of the story emanate from his mid-island upbringing between Courtenay and Campbell River.

"I had toyed with the idea of once again using the little rural community I call Portuguese Creek," says Hodgins. "It's named after the real creek that wandered through nearly every farm in the community where I grew up.

"While I had never tinkered with

old cars myself, I knew several who did and I recall one property nearby where there was always a gathering of old vehicles waiting their turn to be repaired or ransacked for parts.

"So I began with an image of a small group of pals watching a friend fix up a damaged

vehicle in his workshop. I only realized much later that I'd already invented a very similar situation in an earlier novel."

A short stage version of Hodgins' story was written first after the Vancouver-based *Chor Leoni* asked him to write a piece which they would set to music and sing in concert in early February performances in Vancouver,

Nanaimo and Victoria (see www.chorleoni.org). Hodgins became intrigued and spun a longer tale for the new novel.

"I didn't know what he [Arvo] would find in the city," says Hodgins, "and I didn't know how Myrtle would react to him, until Arvo and his friends had brought me to the situation.

"By this time I had come to

know that Myrtle was much more than simply Arvo's imagined 'goal.' She would have to have a story, an attitude, and a future of her own. By travelling with Arvo and his pals, I gradually discovered that what he had gone looking for was not necessarily what he would find."

Myrtle is still available, as it turns out. She still lives in the town where she and Arvo grew up. But will she reciprocate the lanky old Finn's feelings? Will he even knock on her door?

All of Vancouver Island seems bent on keeping him from accomplishing his mission. Arvo is stymied by the slow speed of the hearse itself, the desire of an ambitious realtor to own the hearse at all costs to advertise his business and the 'borrowing' of the Cadillac for a 'pre funeral' (because there's no such thing as 'theft' on Vancouver Island's back roads).

The detours and diversions of Arvo's accompanying pals who are helping to escort the hearse to pick up Martin's body are one thing; the fascination of the motorists who find themselves in an impromptu cavalcade behind the old 4-wheeled 'dowager' are another.

And then there are the machinations of one of the regular visitors to Arvo's garage, retired schoolteacher, Cynthia O'Brien. Who can blame the winsome Cynthia for imagining what the single-minded devotion that Arvo has consistently put into restoring wrecks might be like when directed toward a woman? Or for wondering whether some of that long-nurtured love for Birdsong might spill her way?

I suspect some female readers might find the ending unconvincing, or frustrating, but it's definitely worth going along for the bumpy ride to arrive at the wake to end all wakes back in Portuguese Creek.

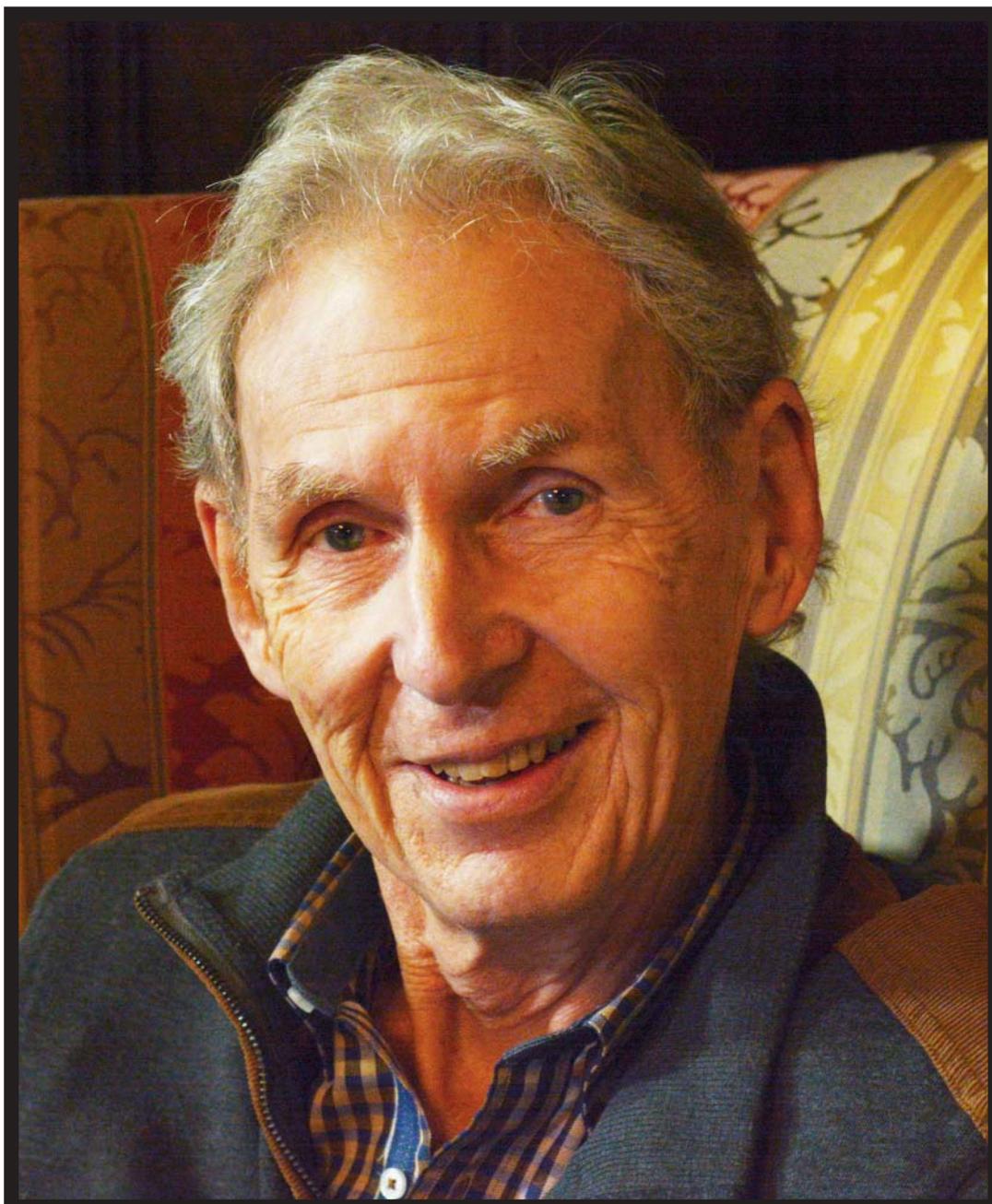


THIS IS A WELCOME TALE IN THE spirit of Hodgins' light-hearted novel that earned him a Governor General's Award for Fiction, *The Resurrection of Joseph Bourne* (1979), celebrating a potpourri of characters in the coastal town of Port Alice, as well as his venerable and much-loved first collection of stories, *Spit Delaney's Island* (1976). Both have been newly republished by Ronsdale Press, along with Hodgins' *The Invention of the World* and *The Barclay Family Theatre*. 978-1-55380-298-3

Cherie Thiessen regularly reviews fiction from Pender Island



Cherie THIESSEN



LAURA SAWCHUK PHOTO

Jack Hodgins:
Cadillac Cathedral is a tale in the spirit of his light-hearted novel *The Resurrection of Joseph Bourne* that earned him the 1979 Governor General's Award for Fiction.

How can we resist mentioning a poetry collection called **Meeting the Tormentors in Safeway** (Biblioasis \$17.95) by **Alexandra Oliver**, described as text-based home movies about the comedies, cruelties, and epiphanies of domestic life? Born in Vancouver, Oliver studied Italian film and theatre, only to graduate from university and declare, "Whoa! Where are all the film history jobs?"

978-1-927428-43-6



Stephen Scobie's At the limit of breath: Poems on the films of Jean-Luc Godard (University of Alberta Press \$19.95) celebrates the French movie director as one of the greatest film makers of his era with original poems by Scobie that respond to 44 of Godard's films, from his first film *Breathless*, with **Jean Seberg**, to later works such as his documentary on the Rolling Stones.

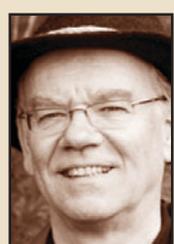
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Some Birds Walk for the Hell of It (Anvil Press \$18) is the third volume of poetry and prose from East Vancouver performance artist **C.R. Avery**. His publisher describes his work as "Like a cross between **Lenny Bruce** and **Anais Nin**." He has released 17 albums.



One of the twenty-one writers who appeared at the fifth annual Galiano Literary Festival, Feb. 21-23, **David Zieroth** has published **Hay Day Canticle** (Leaf Press \$10). "A portrait of an agricultural feed-supply salesman may be an unusual subject for a poem," he says, "and how I came upon the speaker in *Hay Day Canticle* is not entirely clear, but as his story presented itself to me, I followed him from prairie-farm childhood through first sex to marriage, affairs, baseball."



David Zieroth

More recently, **The November Optimist** (Gaspereau \$24.95) is a non-fictional, humorous love story combining fiction, observation and anecdote.

Hay 978-1-926655-19-2;
Optimist 978-1554471270



Dennis E. Bolen's Black Liquor: Poems (Caitlin Press \$16.95) explores the gritty landscape of post-war lives on the West Coast.

978-1927575246



Susan Musgrave

NOT LAZY SUSAN

IT'S BEEN ABOUT FOUR DECADES SINCE **DOROTHY Livesay** edited *Women's Eye*, 12 B.C. **Women Poets** (AIR Press 1974) and **Ingrid Klassen** edited two volumes for *D'Sonoqua: An Anthology of Women Poets of British Columbia* (Intermedia Press 1979). Now **Susan Musgrave** has edited **Force Field: 77 Women Poets of British Columbia** (Mother Tongue \$32.95). Read an extensive interview with Musgrave at www.bcbooklook.com

978-1-896949-25-3



WHILE STROLLING ON BROADWAY in Vancouver, **Joanne Arnott** found the title for her new poetry collection, **A Night for the Lady** (Ronsdale \$15.95), on a poster advertising a benefit gathering to honour our Burmese leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**. "The balance of honouring her and political activity spoke to me strongly," she says. "It's evocative of both the Divine Lady (or Ladies) of my Roman Catholic youth, and the regional ways of speaking that I



Joanne Arnott

am at home in, a more casual and affectionate use of the term." Once again focussed on the 'brown feminine,' Arnott has fashioned a tapestry of poems inspired by her relations with other writers and her wide-reaching influences from foreign literature. Both play-

ful and mournful, she celebrates the resiliency of the human spirit and her own hard-won dignity as a Métis mother.

978-1-55380-250-1



AT AGE 86, AFTER TWO DECADES OF worrying about her mental health and discovering her body was simply reacting severely to her diet, **Gloria Barkley** published her second collection of spare poems, **Water Window Mirror** (Wattle and Daub \$12.95).

978-0-9810658-4-7



IN HER SECOND BOOK, **The Lost Letters** (Brick \$20), **Catherine Greenwood** has generated a series of wry, diverse poems—and one amusing lyric for a blues song—based on the story of **Heloise and Abelard**, the ill-fated lovers of the twelfth century. After Abelard seduced his brilliant stu-

dent, she gave birth to a son. Her uncle Fulbert punished Abelard with castration. She entered a convent; he kept writing, asserting faith must be subject to reason. As a competent abbess, she read Abelard's account of their tragic love, the *Historia Calamitatum*, whereupon they began a correspondence. Their disinterred bones are united in the Péré Lachaise cemetery in Paris.



DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY of **Manuela Dias**, a man-



Catherine Greenwood

aging editor at Turnstone Press who died in 2001, **Lydia Kwa's Sinuous** (Turnstone \$17) is a suite of memoir poems and lyrical narratives "mapping various internal territories." These narratives include her first years in Canada after arriving from Singapore with her "21-year-old body squeezed into Lee overalls and maroon suede Puma sneakers," a collection of dreams, visits to Japan, reflections on trauma based on her experiences as a psychologist, the practice

of the martial art of *ki aikido* and her responses to living in Vancouver since 1992. **Lydia Kwa** is the author of three novels and one poetry collection.

978-0-88801-447-4



PARKWAY: HAMMERTOWN, PART 3 (New Star \$18) by **Peter Culley** is his third book about an imaginary fishing port on Vancouver Island. Culley is a Nanaimo-based poet and art critic.

9781554200764



EXPLORING THE REALITY OF FIRST Nations' experience in present-day Canada, **Chaos Inside Thunderstorms** by **Garry Gottfriedson** (Oolichan \$15.95) includes the issues implicit in the Idle No More Movement, and the Truth and Reconciliation commission. Gottfriedson was born and raised in Kamloops.

978-1-55380-326-3



WINTER'S SKIN (OOLICHAN \$19.95) by **Tom Wayman** is a series of poems in response to Nobel-prize-winning Chilean poet **Pablo Neruda's** posthumous volume *Winter Garden*.

9780889822931



BORN IN 1926, **DAVID Watmough** has written some of his most honest and poignant poetry since he moved to Crofton

Manor in Kerrisdale, shifting into a "sonnet a day keeps the doctor away" pattern of sending his keen observations to friends. These missives are non-sentimentalized but spirited reflections on ageing: "Life perceived devoid of memory is aught but ruse." Watmough has collected many of them for his third volume of sonnets **Songs from the Hive** (Ekstasis Editions \$22.95).

978-1-897430-96-5

Chairman Billeh's *Cherry*

BORN IN HALIFAX AND RAISED IN LANGLEY, **BILLEH NICKERSON'S Artificial Cherry** (Arsenal Pulp Press \$14.95) references **Elvis Presley**, glass eyes, phantom lovers and hockey. Nickerson, who was a silver medalist at the Canadian Gay Curling Championships, is now chair of the creative writing department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Vancouver.

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New Westminster
North Delta Secondary
North Van City

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- Capilano
- Parkgate

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- Armstrong
- Audio Visual
- Canoe
- Coldstream
- Enderby
- Falkland
- Golden
- Kaleden
- Kelowna
- Keremeos
- Lumby
- Naramata
- Okanagan Falls
- Oliver
- Osoyoos
- Oyama
- Peachland
- Princeton
- Revelstoke
- Rutland
- Salmon Arm
- Seymour Arm
- Sicamous
- Silver Creek
- Summerland
- Trout Creek
- Vernon
- Westbank
- Winfield
- South Bookmobile
- North Bookmobile
- Headquarters

Camosun College

Cariboo-Thompson
- 100 Mile House
- Alexis Creek
- Alkali Lake
- Anahim Lake
- Ashcroft
- Avola
- Barriere
- Big Lake
- Blue River
- Bridge Lake
- Cache Creek
- Chase
- Clearwater
- Clinton
- Douglas Lake
- Eagle Creek
- Forest Grove
- Horsefly
- Kamloops
- Lac La Hache
- Likely
- Logan Lake
- Lytton
- McLeese Lake
- Merritt
- Narcosli
- Nazko
- North Kamloops
- Quesnel
- Riske Creek
- Roe-Sheridan
- Savona
- Spences Bridge
- Strathnaver
- Tatla Lake
- Tillicum
- Wells
- Williams Lake

Richmond
- Brighouse
- Cambie
- Ironwood
- Steveston

Port Moody

Surrey
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- Fleetwood
- Guildford
- Newton
- Ocean Park
- Port Kells
- Semiahmoo
- Strawberry Hill
- Whalley

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- Kitsilano
- Marpole
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West Vancouver
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The Whistler Writers' Group
Weekly Writer's Workshop
The Grind Café
Writers' Group
North Shore Writers' Association
Powell River Writers' Conference

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University of the Fraser Valley
University of Victoria
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CHAD HIPOLITO PHOTO

Janet Merlo served many of her nineteen years with the RCMP in Nanaimo.

SERMON ON THE MOUNTIE

Cop recounts nineteen years of sexual harassment

No One To Tell: Breaking My Silence on Life in the RCMP by Janet Merlo (Breakwater \$24.95)

AS DESCRIBED IN HER MEMOIR, NO ONE To Tell: **Breaking My Silence on Life in the RCMP**, former cop Janet Merlo left the force in 2010 citing post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Merlo has since alleged sexual harassment from colleagues and superiors as the source of her problems.

"During my first few years as an RCMP officer," she says, "I had a supervisor who kept a naked, blowup doll in his office. And during the nightshifts, he would keep it standing ... and when I'd bring in files for reading he'd ask me to stand next to it to see who was taller."

Merlo further asserts that her boyfriends were repeatedly told by her male colleagues that she was having sex with her fellow officers, specifically describing an alleged sex act that was performed with a six-pack of beer on her head.

Merlo says a senior officer yelled at her in 1992, when she was pregnant, saying "next time keep your f—ing legs closed" if she wished her RCMP career to proceed. A year later male cops chided her, belittling her motherhood status, saying, "Janet, can you take that call or are you pregnant again?"

Some sexual discrimination was endemic within the system, she claims. For instance, whereas male officers were allowed to play hockey for three hours on duty, female officers were prohibited from taking aerobics classes at lunchtime.

In a book dedicated to her ex-husband and two daughters, Merlo references the sexual harassment claims of her fellow RCMP graduate Cpl. **Catherine Galliford** who served as the RCMP spokesperson for the Air India disaster and the trial of **Robert Pickton**.

Neither woman's allegations have been proven in court.

Merlo's stance is unusual in that her lawyers are helping her to launch a class action lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court, suing B.C.'s minister of justice and the attorney-general of Canada, for alleged negligence in terms of staff supervision. Although she will be the lead plaintiff, her case could include several hundred women who have come forward and alleged inappropriate conduct by their fellow RCMP officers.

Opening statements on behalf of both Merlo and the government are likely to be heard for five days in April or May, according to Justice **Miriam Gropper**.

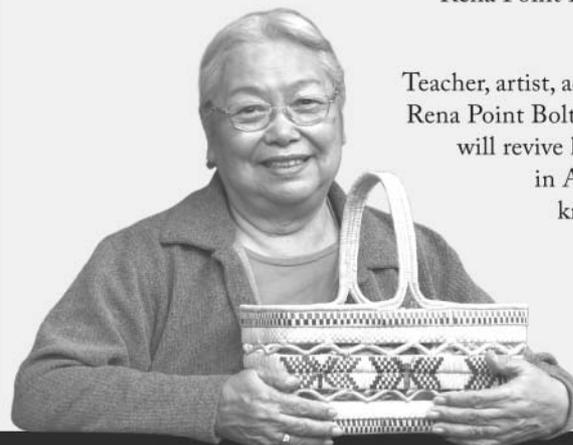
The RCMP has responded by announcing that 100 officers will be trained to examine internal complaints, including complaints of sexual harassment. Hence the RCMP is proposing, in essence, to conduct their own investigation of themselves outside the purview of the courts.

Merlo, at 44, was operating a daycare out of her home in Nanaimo before she moved with her two daughters to her native Newfoundland, where she works for the John Howard Society in St. John's.

978-1-55081-434-7

Xweliqwiya: The Life of a Stó:lō Matriarch

Rena Point Bolton and Richard Daly



Teacher, artist, activist, and mother of ten, Rena Point Bolton's inspirational memoir will revive knowledge of and interest in Aboriginal art and ways of knowing – her story breaks an intercultural silence held for decades.

ISBN 978-1-927356-56-2 (paper \$34.95)

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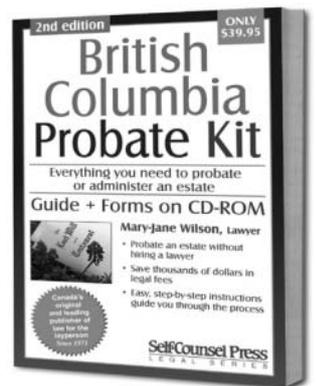
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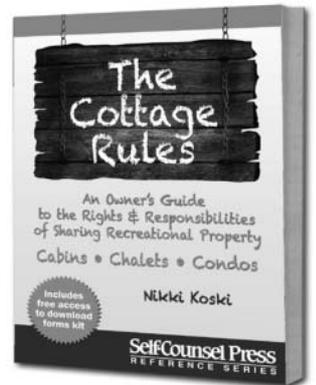


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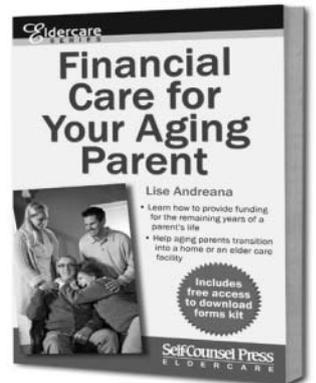


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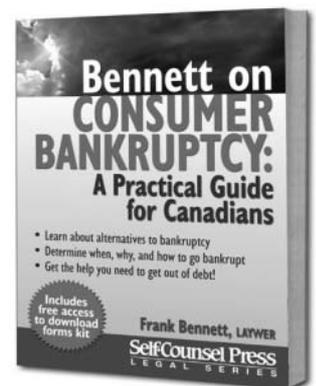


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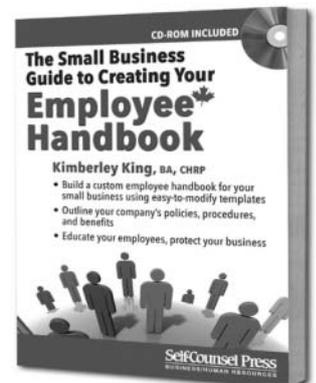


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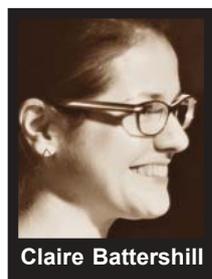


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A is for Arneson

VANCOUVER-BASED COOKING SCHOOL teacher **Bal Arneson** hosts the cooking show *Spice Goddess* on the Food Network in Canada and the Cooking Channel in the U.S., having won a Gourmand World Cookbook Award for Asian cuisine in 2011 for *Bal's Quick & Healthy Indian* (Whitecap). Her new cooking show *Spice of Life*, which first aired in January, has given rise to her third title, **Bal's Spice Kitchen** (Whitecap \$29.95). 978-1-77050-195-9

B is for Battershill



BORN IN DAWSON Creek, **Claire Battershill** worked briefly as a researcher for **Margaret Atwood**, contributing to Atwood's 2008 Massey Lectures, *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth*. Battershill's short story, "Circus," won the 2008 CBC Literary Award for Short Fiction and shared the Emerging Writers Award from the Canadian Authors Association. With a Ph.D. in English literature and book history, Battershill has signed an international deal to publish her forthcoming debut story collection, **Circus** (M&S \$22) while still teaching at the University of Reading in the U.K. 9780771012785

C is for Chong



KEVIN CHONG'S forthcoming follow-up to *My Year of the Racehorse*, featured on the Summer 2012 cover of *B.C. BookWorld*, requires no subtitle. **Northern Dancer** (Viking \$30) recalls the thoroughbred Canadian horse that won two of the Triple Crown races in 1964, as well as Canada's Queen's Plate. Now he's the most influential stallion in the sport of kings. An estimated seventy percent of thoroughbreds alive today are his descendants. For example, sixteen of the seventeen horses in the Queen's Plate in 2011 were Northern Dancer's grandchildren. Eighteen of the nineteen horses in the 2011 Kentucky Derby were his descendants. To mark the 50th anniversary of Northern Dancer's win at the Kentucky Derby, Chong was hired to provide a novelistic retelling of how Northern Dancer won the hearts of most Canadians in 1964. 978-0-670-06779-4

WHO'S BRITISH COLUMBIA WHO

D is for de Castell

WHILE EMPLOYED AT THE VANCOUVER FILM School, archaeologist-turned-fight choreographer-turned-actor **Sebastien de Castell** has crafted a sword 'n' sorcery fantasy novel **Traitor's Blade** (Penguin \$18) to introduce his new series about the noble but disbanded Greatcoats, specifically Falcio Val Mond and his "fellow magistrates" Kest and Brasti. Corruption and betrayal are rife; the king is dead; and it's up to the Greatcoats to overcome rampant tyranny for all. 978-0-14-318873-5

E is for Eufemia



YET ANOTHER GRADUATE of the SFU Writers Studio, **Eufemia Fantetti** is a playwright and comedien who has gathered five funny and poignant stories of characters "who blend desire, imperfect love and comfort food" for **A Recipe for Disaster & Other Stories** (Mother Tongue \$18.95). Fantetti is a winner of *Event* magazine's creative non-fiction contest and the 7th annual Accenti Writing Contest. Her essay, "Alphabet Autobiografica," was listed under no-

table essays in the 2009 Best American Essay Series. Her work is included in the anthologies *Contours*, *Beyond Crazy*, *Emails from India* and the *2012 Fish Anthology*. A two-time finalist for Theatre BC's National Playwriting Competition, Fantetti has had plays produced across Canada. She has performed stand-up comedy in Toronto, Vancouver and the Catskills. She co-hosted SFU's Studio Reading Series and co-founded the series, *Speakeasy*, in Ontario, where she now lives. She also has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Guelph. 978-1-896949-35-2

F is for Foulkes

AT 46 AND WEIGHING OVER 230 POUNDS, **Bob Foulkes** vowed to retrieve his physical fitness. His stories of travel and discovery in **Off The Couch and Out The Door** (Sandhill / Bunky Press \$19.95) are a follow-up to his first self-published memoir about taking a six-month course at Vancouver's Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts, *Adventures with Knives: Surviving 1,000 Hours of Culinary School* (Sandhill / French Apple Press \$21.95). Knives: 978-0-9866031-2-9 Couch: 978-0-9921207-0-2



G is for Grubisic

THE BLACK COMEDY **THIS LOCATION OF Unknown Possibilities** (Now or Never \$19.95) by **Brett Josef Grubisic** is not the first novel to arise from the B.C. film industry, and it won't be the last, but it could be the funniest. When an English professor named Marta agrees to serve as a consultant for a week-long, low-budget, biopic film shoot in the Okanagan, she only expects the gig will give her a few stories to tell from the shoestring end of a billion-dollar industry. She is taken aback by her boss, the handsome cynic Jake Nugent, who is an unforgettable, smooth-talking and ingenious Hollywood North rascal accustomed to the shoot dynamics in remote sites. Script changes (massive), on-set mishaps (minor) and after-hours high-jinks (many) lay the groundwork for Grubisic to evoke "the profound foolishness of the human heart." 978-1-926942-60-5

continued on next page



A is for Arneson

H is for Harper

JENNICA HARPER'S THIRD COLLECTION, **Wood** (Anvil \$18), contains six poetry suites, starting with a meditation within the mind of Pinocchio and ending with a meditation within the mind of a coming-of-age character from *Mad Men*, Sally Draper, who struggles to both emulate and rebuff the influence of her philandering father Don Draper, the successful advertising executive in the television series. Somewhat similarly, a suite called Papa Hotel playfully imagines having Jack Nicholson, Robert Redford, Kevin Costner, Roman Polanski, Peter Falk and Steve McQueen as father figures.

978-1-927380-64-2



Jennica Harper

I is for Internodes

AS A SELF-EDUCATED "land-aware" poet in Prince George who is comfortably familiar with places like the unroaded headwaters of the Nass River in the Damdochax Valley, **Ken Belford** examines the mutation of **Marshall McLuhan's** adage "the medium is the message" in the internet and cel phone era with **Internodes** (Talon \$16.95), his eighth poetry collection. "The conventional standards of narrative and lyric poetry give me nothing," he says.

978-0-88922-792-7

J is for Joseph

SOME PUBLISHERS' blurbs can't be improved upon. For **Eve Joseph's** forthcoming **In the Slender Margin: The Intimate Strangeness of Dying** (HarperCollins \$21.99), we are told, "Using the threads of her brother's early demise and her twenty years of work at a hospice, Joseph utilizes history, religion, pop culture, philosophy, literature, personal anecdote, mythology and poetry to discern the unknowable and to illuminate her travels through the land of the dying. This book was written as a way for Joseph to understand what she had seen: the mysterious and the horrendous." Literary references range from **Joan Didion** and **Susan Sontag** to **D.H Lawrence** and **Voltaire**.

978143426718



Eve Joseph

K is for Kaur



Pummy Kaur

JANUARY 30TH MARKS the anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi's** death. April 4th marks the anniversary of the assassination of **Martin Luther King**.

The sixty-four days between the two anniversaries (Jan 31st-April 4th) are becoming globally recognized as the Season for Non-Violence. **Pummy Kaur's** *A Season of Non-Violence* (First Choice \$16) presents sixty-four contemplations and practices for bringing peace into our daily lives during the sixty-four days of the Season for Non-Violence, with recommendations from **Margaret Atwood**, **David Suzuki**, **Dalai Lama**, **Victor Chan** and Dr. **Gabor Maté**. Kaur is the Director of the Global Education Center.

978-1-77084-083-6

L is for Lam

THE ASIAN CANADIAN WRITERS WORKSHOP has given publisher **Brian Lam** and Arsenal Pulp Press its annual Community Builder Award at their concluding gala for the first annual LiterASIAN Festival in Vancouver. Lam took over management of the original Pulp Press imprint from owner and co-founder **Stephen Osborne** in 1992, having initially been hired for a summer internship, as a UVic student, in 1984.



Brian Lam

CHARLIE SMITH PHOTO

M is for Moore

AS THE LEADER OF A BON JOVI TRIBUTE band called Blaze of Glory, **Ted Moore**, born in 1960, has written a memoir, **Tribute** (Artistic Warrior Publishing / Red Tuque \$18.95), touted as the dual stories of himself and rock 'n' roll singer **Jon Bon Jovi**. Moore, who served as a soldier in the Canadian Armed Forces, has a degree in Geography and English and worked as a Grade 4-7 school teacher prior to touring internationally as the vocalist for "North America's Premier Bon Jovi Tribute." He's not all rock 'n' roll glamour and excess. When he's not emulating Bon Jovi, he lives with his wife and two daughters in Chilliwack.

9780968169490



Ted Moore

continued page 36

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continued from page 35

N is for Nexw-áyantsut

UTSÁM' WITNESS WAS A SERIES OF CAMPING weekends held in Nexw-áyantsut—meaning “place of transformation” in the Squamish language—that mixed Coast Salish peoples with “settlers” on disputed territory. This exercise in cross-cultural activism, supporting the preservation of 50,000 hectares of forest, has been documented and celebrated in **Picturing Transformation: Nexw-áyantsut** (Figure 1 \$39.95), a self-published coffee table book jointly credited to Chief **Bill Williams**, artist **Nancy Bleck** and **Katherine Dodds**. According to publicity materials, “It’s both a visual testament to the power of collaboration and a lesson in the possibilities for resolving conflict peacefully, now and in the future.” 978-0-9918588-0-4

O is for Olson

DUE IN MAY, AS A SEQUEL TO HIS RADICAL guide to living off the land, *Unlearn, Rewild: Earth Skills, Ideas and Inspiration for the Future Primitive*, the Courtenay-based forager and hunter **Miles Olson** offers **The Compassionate Hunter's Guidebook: Hunting from the Heart** (New Society \$19.95) which goes beyond “how-to” advice about hunting for food. It asks why one would choose to hunt, and “delves into the profound, humbling and serious reality of death, killing and the transformation that hunting brings one in to contact with.” Look for a feature review in the summer issue of *BC BookWorld*. 9780865717701



DebiLyn Smith

P is for Provence

IN HIS FOLLOW-UP TO *PROVENCE, JE T'AIME* (Granville Island, 2008), retired Vancouver lawyer **Gordon Bitney** shares his personal journey by bicycle through the villages of southeastern France in **Provence For All Seasons** (Granville Island \$19.95), describing the countryside that inspired **Cézanne**, **Picasso** and **Van Gogh**, as well as the outdoor marchés and the ruins from the Roman times and the Middle Ages. 978 1 926991 1 39

Q is for Quixote

SEVERAL GULF ISLANDS HAVE SPANISH source names (Galiano, Saturna, Quadra), so **V.L. Greene** has chosen “Quixote Island” as the fictional setting for his distinctly West Coast debut novel, **A Quixote Island Saga** (Llumina Press \$19.95). After two young lovers take an idyllic sailing trip among the islands, life on Quixote Island becomes problematic when land-use squabbles splinter the community.

Newcomers and old-timers can't agree on how best to protect the island's forest.

An excellent epilogue outlines the twenty-year struggle of ‘quixotic’ forestland owners to have the right to build dwellings on their land. Parallels between Quixote Island and Galiano Island are apparent.

V.L. Greene is a pseudonym.

9781625500045

R is for Robertson

THE PUMP IS BEING PRIMED FOR A NEW WRITING starlet. According to promotional materials: **Eliza Robertson** of Victoria was born in Vancouver and studied creative writing at the University of Victoria. She pursued her M.A. in prose fiction at the University of East Anglia, where she received the Man Booker Scholarship and the Curtis Brown Prize for best writer. In 2013, she won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize for ‘She Walked On Water,’ which appeared in *Granta*, and was a finalist for the Journey Prize and the CBC Short Story Prize. Her debut story collection, **Wallflowers** (Hamish Hamilton \$22) will be followed by a novel in 2015. Nomadic and ambitious, she previously set her sights on being a lawyer. 978-0-14-319140-7

S is for Smith

ACCORDING TO **DEBILYN SMITH** OF Houston, B.C., her non-fictional **Running from Cancer: A Tilted Memoir** (Queen Bee / Red Tuque \$19) is for people who admit they don't like to read. Her memoir is self-described as a “blunt, no-holds-barred adventure... for anyone wanting to know more about the Chemo Freeway and Hair Loss 101.” After describing vacuuming your head and wearing someone else's hair for six months, it concludes with six appendixes of Weapons to Arm Yourself With, recipes, resources and Cancer-Killing Tips. There's also a love story. It was edited by **Lynn Shervill**, publisher/editor of Creekstone Press, who is a retired oncology nurse. Royalties support Smith's local BV Hospital Fund in the hopes of funding a portable MRI scanner for Northern B.C. “This dream I'm pursuing started,” says Smith, “when the main doctor in the book, my best friend

Sandi, stated she could really use an MRI to save more lives when doing ER shifts.” 978-0-99190930-8



Eliza Robertson

T is for Tsiang

IF **BILL RICHARDSON** CAN WRITE A HIT PLAY about postings on Craigslist, **Sarah Yi-Mei Tsiang** can deliver a collection of intimate, sassy and perverse “epigram poems,” **Status Update** (Oolichan \$17.95), composed in response to real status updates on Facebook. It's her follow up to *Sweet Devilry* (Oolichan) which won the Gerald Lampert Award for best first book of poetry in Canada. She's also got a new YA novel *Breathing Fire* (Orca Books) this spring and she has edited a forthcoming anthology, *Tag: Canadian Poets at Play* (Oolichan). Status 978-0-88982-296-2

U is for Uprising



Heather McLeod

HEATHER MCLEOD, as the co-owner of Makaria Farm in the Cowichan Valley, has co-founded the community grain-growing project, Island Grains. She has also founded Renaissance Women, a group dedicated to relearning basic skills, and she contributes a farming column to *The Winnipeg Review*. Her first book is **Uprisings: A Hands-On Guide to the Community Grain Revolution** (New Society \$19.95), co-written with journalist **Sarah Simpson**. To aid community self-sufficiency, their book provides step-by-step details for small-scale grain production, using ten community models. 9780865717343

V is for Vermeer

AFTER TWELVE BOOKS ON CHINESE HISTORY, UBC-based world historian **Timothy Brook** spins the globe half-way round to Europe for **Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World** (Penguin \$18).

Brook digs into the details of **Johannes Vermeer's** paintings to reveal how the web of trade began expanding worldwide with Dutch commerce. Last fall he published another fascinating work of expansive global research, **Mr. Selden's Map of China** (Anansi \$29.95).

Vermeer 978-0-14-316769-3; Selden 978-1-77089-353-5

W is for Wilson

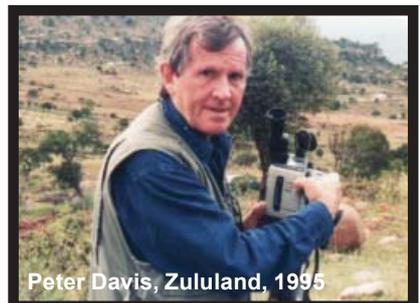
YOU DON'T NECESSARILY NEED A LAWYER to probate an estate; you might only require the second edition of **The British Columbia Probate Kit** (Self-Counsel \$39.95) by **Mary-Jane Wilson**. All the required forms are included on a CD-ROM (in MS Word and PDF formats) with step-by-step instructions in keeping with the new Wills, Estates and Succession Act effective as of March 31, 2014. Wilson, of the firm Wilson Rasmussen, has practiced law since 1987 and speaks on estate planning matters for the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia. 978-1-77040-186-0

X is for Xtraordinary

THE THREE SHORTLISTED NOMINEES FOR THE 2014 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature are **Gillian Wigmore's** poetry collection, *Dirt of Ages* (Nightwood), **Adrienne Fitzpatrick's** fictionalized travel narrative, *The Earth Remembers Everything* (Caitlin Press) and **Bev Sellars' They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School** (Talonbooks), a non-fiction account of three generations of women in the same residential school.

Y is for Yperanthrōpos

YPERANTHROPUS IS THE GREEK TITLE FOR **Manolis' bilingual** (English/Greek) reverie about his own spiritual journal in **Übermensch** (Ekstasis \$23.95), a work inspired by the concept of the Superman posited by **Friedrich Nietzsche** in his 1883 book *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Dante is led on his midlife journey, with the Übermensch as his guide through modernity. 978-1-897430-97-2



Peter Davis, Zululand, 1995

Z is for Zululand

HAVING MADE APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY documentary films, including portraits of **Nelson Mandela**, **Fidel Castro** and **Johnny Cash**, **Peter Davis** has self-published a book of still photographs depicting the first use of Zulus as primary characters in a silent film. These rare images from 1927 were generated by an Italian film crew that had originally intended to make a feature film in Angola. Davis' **On Location, Zululand** (2013) recounts how the Italian crew landed in South Africa intending to make a film about a white woman abducted by Zulus. When this was forbidden by white authorities, director **Attilio Gatti** decided instead to make a film about Zulu life. Gatti designed a melodrama that had little to do with Zulu culture, but which contained the first authentic scenes of Zulu life to be recorded at that time. This film was called *Siliva the Zulu*.

For more info see www.villonfilms.ca

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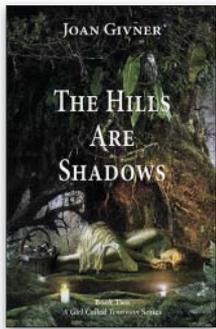
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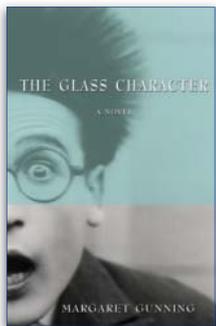
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LETTERS

Blackfootnote

CHEERS FROM THE PEACEFUL WILDS OF THE Kootenay River! I was reading the *BCBW* winter edition and enjoying it—as always—when I noticed a comment related to *Native Art of the Northwest Coast*. It was described as “one of the biggest books ever published in B.C., if not the biggest.”

I don't want to detract from this grand work, nor nitpick, nor brag... But my leather-bound limited edition of *The Blackfoot Papers*, at 15 pounds, containing all four volumes in one, could well be the largest book ever published about any single Native tribal group in the world. At 1,524 pages, it is somewhat bigger than 960 pages...

Adolph Hungry Wolf
Skookumchuck

Honoured

TODAY WHEN I WALKED INTO OUR LOCAL bookstore on Pender Island, Talisman Books, to attend the launch of my friend Gord Bailey's new book, *The Prayer-Book Cowboy*, I heard a couple of people mention my name as they peered into the pages of the latest *BC BookWorld*. As I approached I noticed they said “speak of the devil”... and showed me the feature on the origins of my “Crows” poem. Wow! I knew you were adding it to my [abcbookworld](http://abcbookworld.com) page, but this is a lovely surprise. I am honoured. And deeply pleased.

Sandy Shreve
Pender Island

Encouraged

THE NEW BC BOOKLOOK news site looks great. I'm so glad to see you moving forward in this way. Please accept my thanks as a poet, a writer and translator, and reader. Sometimes I begin to feel that the marginalization of literature of any kind I care to produce or receive has increased to the point where it soon will cease to be found. Why think otherwise given the culture, so-called, at hand? But your work encourages me and reminds me of the Fifties,



Novelist Anne DeGrace at the Nelson Public Library

Hotcakes

AS THE ADULT SERVICE COORDINATOR AT THE Nelson Library, I use *BC BookWorld* as an important tool for ordering books. We are absolutely committed to fostering B.C. culture, Canadian culture, and—as with all libraries—culture, generally. The Nelson Public Library gratefully receives *BC BookWorld* and makes it freely available to our members. They go like hotcakes—so we've asked for more.

Your reader Adrian Rollins [LETTERS, Winter 2013] may have indeed had some difficulty locating the last issue, as we were reorganizing our library. *BC BookWorld* is now back where it should be, on the coffee table by the comfy chairs. I've put a copy aside for Mr. Rollins.

We will continue to buy books by B.C. and Canadian authors and regularly host author readings, among other things. The Kootenay Library Federation also hosts One Book, One Kootenay, a region-wide book club celebrating Kootenay authors with 19 libraries participating.

Anne DeGrace
Nelson Public Library

Sixties and early Seventies when doing it ourselves kept the margins where they belonged (eg. outside the central text of things, nothing more than a frame for the action, the real).

Peter Levitt
Saltspring Island

London calling

YOUR NEW BOOK OF ARTICLES, *UNDAUNTED: The Best of BC BookWorld*, gives a sense of both B.C. and the world. It has a much wider range than I had realized the paper has, reading it from issue to issue. Congratulations! It is a fantastic collection. I was most pleased by the precise and concise piece about Earle Birney.

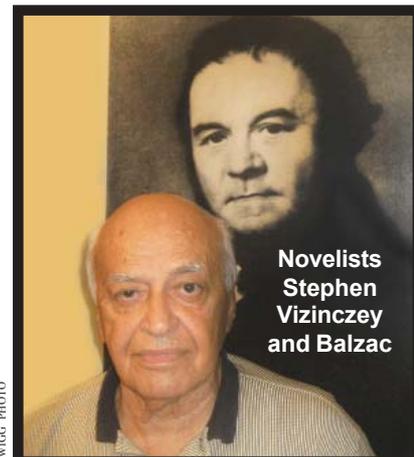
Earle was also the most unselfish poet/writer I had ever known, and, judging by the way the women adored him even after they parted, Earle was also the most unselfish lover. There was a period when Earle tried to be a “with-it” poet later on, but his earlier work is the best. For me, Earle remains a better poet than Leonard [Cohen] and all the rest.

Stephen Vizinczey
London, England

Promoted

I'M ON THE FERRY, ON THE WAY BACK FROM my cross-North America drive to promote *I Want To Tell You A Story* (Toronto, New York, Regina, Calgary and Vancouver). I have just seen the current issue. Thank you SO much for your article prominently placed on page three. Not many publications would do that for a small-scale, bilingual book from Chile. I really appreciate that. I have shipped 60 copies of the book to my Yagan collaborators in Tierra del Fuego. The money they make from selling their copies will be important income to them before Cristina Zárrega's grandmother passes.

Jackie Windh
Port Alberni



Novelists Stephen Vizinczey and Balzac

TWIGG PHOTO

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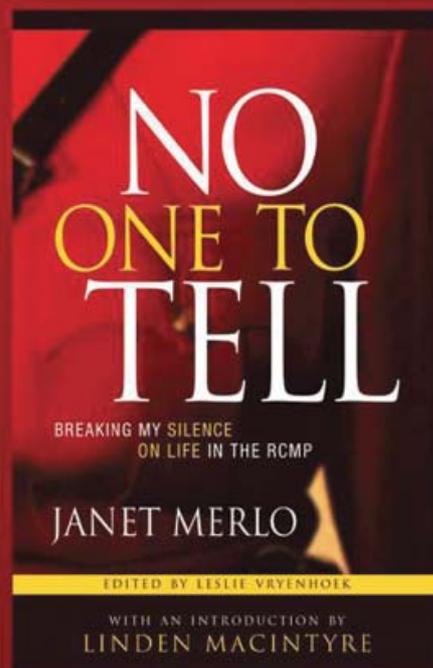
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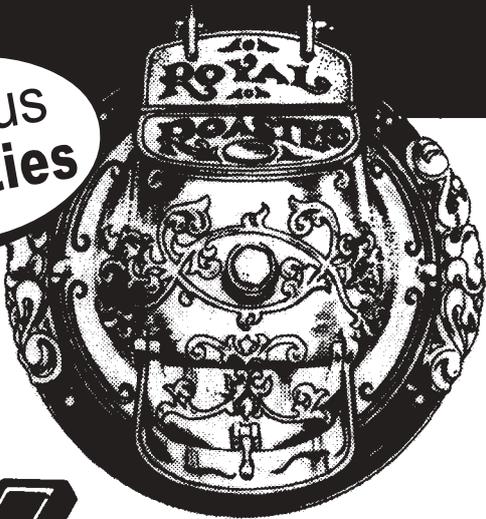
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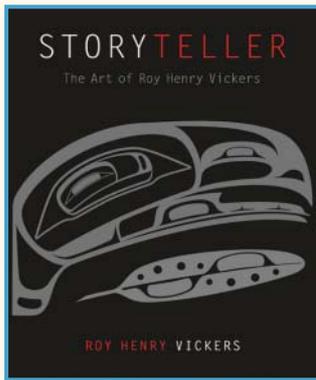
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Roy Henry Vickers, with an introduction by Jennifer Steven

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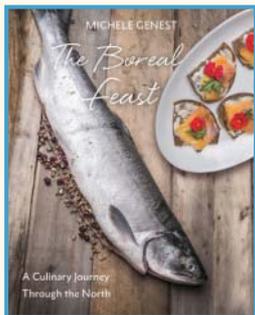
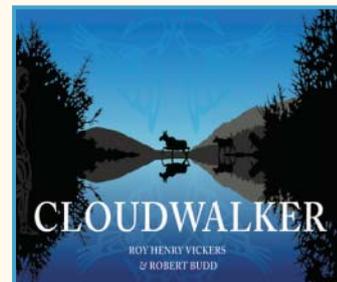
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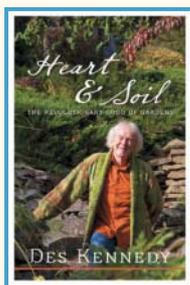
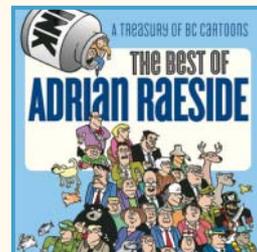
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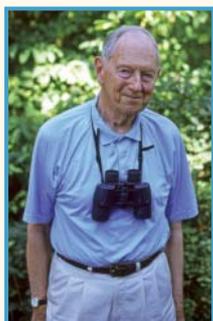
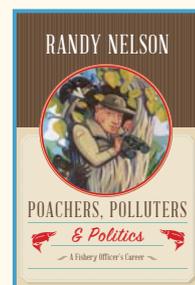
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IAN McTAGGART-COWAN

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Ronald D. Jakimchuk, R. Wayne Campbell and Dennis A. Demarchi, editors

A born naturalist, Ian McTaggart-Cowan grew up exploring the woods around his North Vancouver home and went on to embrace his passion and energize others with his enthusiasm and knowledge. As a gifted and caring professor of zoology at UBC he motivated his students to dedicate themselves to expanding our biological knowledge. With over three hundred photographs and testimonials from those he mentored, this book is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Ian McTaggart-Cowan's life and the evolution of conservation in the province.

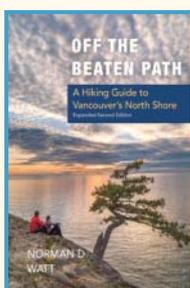
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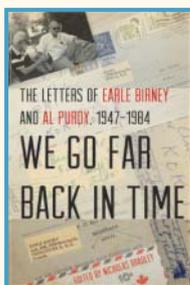
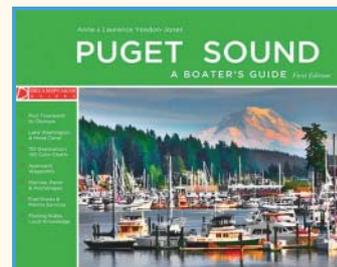
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