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TEN YEARS AGO, CANADA’S PUBLIC SAFETY minister Anne McLellan announced that the federal government was committed to eradicating marijuana growing operations and that people who smoke marijuana are our communities.” Anne McLellan declared.

That’s hogwash, says Susan Boyd, a UBC academic, one of two researchers who have collected and analysed more than 2500 newspaper articles related to marijuana published in national, provincial and local newspapers in BC from 1995 to 2009 and she’s concluded the widespread scare tactics are a government smoke screen for unwarranted invasions of civil liberties.

Co-written by Boyd and Connie Carter, a senior policy analyst for the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Killer Weed: Marijuana Grow Ops, Media and Justice (University of Toronto $28.95) documents fifteen years of exaggeration and scare tactics about marijuana growing fuelled by a few vocal spokespeople, the RCMP and media.

Specifically, on page 146, Killer Weed discusses the so-called smart moves that have been forced upon BC Hydro customers.

Boyd and Carter conclude in their final chapter that the public is being duped into compliance with draconian, anti-marijuana policies. They cite the findings of the federal government’s justice department’s own study on marijuana grow ops that challenges claims made by the RCMP and media regarding organized crime, violence and public safety.

That justice department report is corroborated by scholarly research — but the justice department study was never released. Boyd and Carter obtained a copy of the unreleased study from a reporter who received it following a Freedom of Information request.

“The second important finding,” says Boyd, “concerns civil initiatives and by-laws, municipal multi-party initiatives that have sprung up all over B.C. and elsewhere since 2004. There is little oversight of these initiatives as they are outside criminal justice.

“BC Hydro, the city government, police, RCMP, firefighters and electrical inspectors all work to identify high electrical usage, and then enter homes without a warrant, and there is an assumption of guilt rather than innocence. These homeowners are fined regardless of whether or not evidence of marijuana growing is found.”

According to the authors of Killer Weed, a fifteen-year drug scare about marijuana grow ops has helped to facilitate changes in federal law, mandatory minimum sentencing for some drug offences, including growing more than five plants (resulting in six-month jail sentences), as well as changes in the medical marijuana program (eliminating personal growing and designated growers), and changes to provincial legislation.

“We question these changes,” says Boyd, “and the turn to law and order responses, many that contravene charter rights, and the impact on vulnerable populations such as youth, aboriginal people and the poor.”

HELL NO, WE WILL GROW IN BC

“A ‘No’ uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a ‘Yes’ merely uttered to please on, worse, to avoid trouble.” — Mahatma Gandhi

HAVING INTERVIEWED FIFTY-TWO PEOPLE IN THE KOOTENAYS over the course of three summers for her academic study, Welcome to Resisterville: American Dissidents in British Columbia (UBC $95), Kathleen Rodgers has documented the motives of American refugees who entered Canada between 1965 and 1975 in response to the Vietnam War.

“By believing in peace, justice and meaningful ways of living,” she writes, “they showed subsequent generations that protest is not only waving a placard; it includes refusing to take part in something you don’t believe in.”

The subtitle is a tad misleading: Rodgers has studied a specific group in a specific place at a specific time.

“This book is about the enduriance of idealism,” she writes. Subjects includes Argenta Quakers, New Denver, Doukhobours, tree planting, environmentalism, reaction-
Julie Angus weathers storms, civil war and a colicky baby in search of the origins of the olive.

Julie Angus

Olive Odyssey: Searching for the Secrets of the Fruit that Seduced the World by Julie Angus [Graystone $28.95]

The couple’s odyssey starts in Spain, where for $11,000 they buy Isis, a 28-foot-long, second-hand sailboat. From there they fly to Greece, explore Crete and finally their journey in the Middle East. Along the way they befriend a series of lively characters as they visit olive growers and experts in olive oil factories, museums and laboratories.

In route, Angus extols the health benefits of consuming olive oil—fewer cases of Alzheimer’s and certain types of cancer, as well as greater longevity in regions where its consumption is high. That said, likely few readers will care to follow one centenarian’s recommendation for longevity: drinking a cup of olive oil daily.

Angus also provides good advice on choosing oil. Caution is essential because the olive oil business is one of the most corrupt in the world. Fraud has been rampant from the beginning. A fifth century Roman cookbook lists tricks for disguising rancid or fetic oil, a Greek book gives a remedy for restoring oil into which a mouse has drowned, spoiling the flavour. (Suspend a handful of coriander over it!)

In the 1980s adulterated oil sickened twenty-five thousand people in Spain and killed a thousand. In 2011 two Spanish olive businessmen were jailed for selling thousands of litres of olive oil that was mostly sunflower oil. Others were arrested for selling a mix of avocado, palm, sunflower, and vegetable oil.

Place of origin for both olives and olive oil is often given incorrectly. Kalamata olives sold outside Europe have probably not even been grown in Greece. In order to remedy this situation, the Institute of Plant Genetics in Umbria is working to create markers that detect the source of the oil. Fortunately Canada, unlike the U.S., has an accredited government laboratory that tests olive oil. Even so, inferior oil on the supermarket shelves is commonly mislabelled. Adjectives such as “light,” “pure” and “extra light” are applied to substandard oil that is refined using chemicals, a process that strips away both flavour and nutrients.

The highest grade of oil bears the label “extra virgin” and comes from the first pressing of the olives, done by mechanical means without using heat or chemicals. The acidity level is crucial and should be less than 0.8%. It must also pass a vigorous test. If it falls short, it drops to the next category—”virgin” olive oil, with an acidity level of up to 1.5%. Oil that is really unsatisfactory and not fit for human consumption (this includes 30% of Mediterranean oil) can be used for industrial purposes. Yet it is often chemically refined, sold as cheap oil in supermarkets, and used in restaurants and pizzerias.

Advice for ordinary consumers and cooking experts on the hazards of selecting olive oil is perhaps the most practical aspect of the book, but Julie Angus also provides guidelines for hosting an olive oil tasting party (there are 250 types of olive oil flavours compared with wine’s 450) and also appendes a series of recipes. One is a Provencal recipe for cooking a chicken in a cup of olive oil with forty cloves of garlic.

For those who wish more background information on the food they ingest, Angus outlines the history and mythology of the olive tree and olive oil. Its uses have ranged from the medicinal and sacramental to the military. The Romans used it to lubricate their military machines. In the Middle Ages, boiling oil was poured from the battlements of castles to scalp unwelcome invaders. At the Trevi olive museum in Umbria, she finds a bizarre list of folk remedies that include boiling a lizard in oil to reduce baldness and ringworm and boiling rusty nails in it to cure eye pain.

The travelogue part of the book is no less engaging than the scientific research. The couple weather storms and mechanical difficulties with the boat, and the fact that they bring along their 10-month-old son adds to the personal side of the story. Angus is still breastfeeding and who turns out to be colicky baby, causing his mother many disturbed nights. Nevertheless, along the way he develops a surprising taste for red pepper granit and anchovies on toast. He even contributes to the research by testing the bitter olives from ancient trees. A historic note that there is a similarity between the immature palates of babies and those of early humans.

Angus’s initial interest in olive oil was sparked years earlier by a visit to her Syrian relatives who served fruit and oil from their own olive groves. The greatest disappointment of the trip is that the civil war prevents her from concluding it in Aleppo where it began. Yet she feels triumphant when the bags of samples are examined for their genetic structure at the Institute of Plant Genetics. They are found to provide evidence that it was the Phoenicians who spread the olive tree throughout Europe.

Since reading Olive Odyssey, Julie Givner says she has become very discriminating in her selection of olive oil. Her latest young adult novel is The Hills Are Shadows (Thistledown Press).
THE BEST OF SUMMER READING

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Don Genova
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Bernadette McDonald, with images by Karolina Barn-Tuchtenhoin
Exploring the entire length of the Okanagan Valley, this guide to the region’s best food, drink, and recreation reveals local culinary secrets, famous vintages, and favourite activities to be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike.

Camping British Columbia and Yukon
Jayne Seagrave
Heritage House Publishing | $19.95 pb | $9.99 ebook

Canoe Crossings
Sanford Doler
The complete guide to the art, craft, and stories of the canoe. Here weaves a fascinating account of the origins of the canoe in BC and its potential for bringing people together.

The Cuckoo’s Child
Margaret Thompson
Searching for her family, Livvy embarks on a journey that takes her from small-town British Columbia to the English countryside and teaches her about loss and grief, secrets and guilt, and the transcendent importance of family and love.

Haida Gwaii Islands of the People, Fourth Edition
Dennis Horwood
This updated guide, complete with maps, regional histories, wildlife descriptions, and recreation tips, will prepare travellers with everything they need for a successful visit to these glorious gems of the Pacific.

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 coastal stretches of sandy beach, hiking along rugged cliffs, or strolling through quiet estuaries, each walk is illustrated with colour photos and step-by-step directions.

Great Walks of the World
D. Larraine Andrews
An eclectic collection of 12 global walks, the book includes destinations on every continent but Antarctica. From one-day saunters to two-week odysseys, readers will find the story behind each trail, with detailed maps and colourful photos. The author has also included information on Internet resources, reading lists, food specialties, and unique customs.

The Deerholme Foraging Book
Wild Foods and Recipes from the Pacific Northwest
Bill Jones
This unique and colorful guidebook sorts through the various possibilities and selects for the reader the very best day hikes on Vancouver Island. Ranging from 6 km to 35 km and from easy to challenging, each hike is accompanied by a clear map, step-by-step directions, and colour photographs.

A Family by Any Other Name
Exploring Queer Relationships
Edited by Bruce Gillespie
This collection features twenty-one reflective essays on relationships from lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered writers, and explores how they have reclaimed the word “family.”

Haida Gwaii, the Spanish on the Northwest Coast
The Deerholme Foraging Book
Wild Foods and Recipes from the Pacific Northwest
Bill Jones
This updated guide, complete with maps, regional histories, wildlife descriptions, and recreation tips, will prepare travellers with everything they need for a successful visit to these glorious gems of the Pacific.

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Gerry Shea
Camping the interior of British Columbia, from Kelowna in the north to Vernon in the south, 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.

Popular Day Hikes 4
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Theo Dombrowski
This unique and colorful guidebook sorts through the various possibilities and selects for the reader the very best day hikes on Vancouver Island. Ranging from 6 km to 35 km and from easy to challenging, each hike is accompanied by a clear map, step-by-step directions, and colour photographs.

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I was so nervous, the secretary at the reception desk looked at me with softening eyes and told me everything was going to be okay. I had barely spoken to her, but it was just that obvious, I guess.

First of all, it didn’t feel like there was any possible way this could really be happening. Nineteen years of binding my breasts, even more years trying not to hate them, a psychologist’s appointment, a psychiatrist’s appointment, a psychological assessment, two doctor’s appointments, several letters back and forth between doctors and shrinks and bureaucrats, phone calls, more phone calls, twenty months since I had actually cranked the whole machine into gear, and here I was. Meeting the surgeon. He was fourteen minutes late. But who was counting?

He was handsome and tanned in January, and his assistant was tall, blonde, and wearing grey leather stiletto boots. Looked pretty much like what I thought a cosmetic surgeon and his assistant would look like, not that I had ever spent much time wondering. I have to fill out forms, of course, no I don’t smoke or have hemophilia, and no, my religion does not forbid me to have a blood transfusion. The letterhead on the forms is for a cosmetic surgery clinic. I am reminded that most people think that is what this is. Elective. Cosmetic. Unnecessary. My period is due today. My tits are aching. My breast tissue is dense and firm, measurements and observations to his assistant. My breast tissue is dense and firm, I am reminded that most people think that is what this is. Elective. Cosmetic. Unnecessary.

His assistant raises her head, looks over at me, writes it down. I have no idea what this means, whether this number is impressive because it is so small, or so big. “Yep,” I state. “That’s right. Thirteen inches, uncut.” We all crack up. My nipples are standing on their tiptoes now, maybe from the cool air in the examination room, maybe from brushing up against the measuring tape, maybe from fear. Hard to say. I did and still do wonder why he wasn’t using the metric system of measurement. Thirty-three point zero two centimeters sounds way more accurate somehow, even though the metric system is decidedly less sexy. Maybe that is why the United States stubbornly holds on to the standard system of measurement. Its undeniable erotic potential. Thirty-three inches seems impressive, especially when it is a body part of any sort. And ninety miles an hour sounds so much hotter and faster than one hundred and forty-four point four kilometers ever could.

The next morning, I looked long at myself in the mirror. Tried to imagine my new chest. Touched my exquisitely sensitive nipples. Imagined them small, and dull to touch, and stitched back on. I have done this a million times before. But this time there were two blue marks, in the soft crease there, dead centre below my nipples. I had scrubbed and scrubbed and scrubbed in the shower before they came off, they had hardly even faded. The ink the surgeon had used had been very, very permanent.

I hit my forties, my body is changing, and if I hit my forties, my body is changing, and if

He delivers this news deadpan, like he’s had a lot of practice saying these words without any affectation or emotion whatsoever. Insensitive. I looked it up after, later, when I got home. It has two meanings: 1: lacking physical sensation. And 2: lacking sympathy or compassion, unfelt.

The surgeon narrows his eyes at my copious chest hair. “You have never taken testosterone?” he asks me again. I shake my head, no. “Well, there is something going on for you there, then,” he tells me.

“Positive thinking,” I tell him, and he smiles, like this can’t be true, even though I am pretty sure it is.

He measures my nipples from tip to tip, lets out a low whistle. “Wow,” he says, sounding impressed. “Thirteen inches.” His assistant raises her head, looks over at me, writes it down. I have no idea what this means, whether this number is impressive because it is so small, or so big. “Yep,” I state. “That’s right. Thirteen inches, uncut.” We all crack up. My nipples are standing on their tiptoes now, maybe from the cool air in the examination room, maybe from brushing up against the measuring tape, maybe from fear. Hard to say. I did and still do wonder why he wasn’t using the metric system of measurement. Thirty-three point zero two centimeters sounds way more accurate somehow, even though the metric system is decidedly less sexy. Maybe that is why the United States stubbornly holds on to the standard system of measurement. Its undeniable erotic potential. Thirty-three inches seems impressive, especially when it is a body part of any sort. And ninety miles an hour sounds so much hotter and faster than one hundred and forty-four point four kilometers ever could.

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He pulls out a blue Sharpie and makes several marks on my chest, then stands back and surveys them. Like you would if you were trying to hang a picture level on a wall. Then he takes a camera out, snaps several pictures of me from the neck down, and then puts it away.

He explains to me that I will need a double incision/bilateral mastectomy, and that my nipples will be rendered insensitive. He delivers this news deadpan, like he’s had a lot of practice saying these words without any affectation or emotion whatsoever. Insensitive. I looked it up after, later, when I got home. It has two meanings: 1: lacking physical sensation. And 2: lacking sympathy or compassion, unfelt.

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In Miles Olson's guidebook for compassionate hunting, he expresses feelings of deep respect and reverence toward his prey.

**FUTURE PRIMITIVE**

Recently, someone paid $350,000 to kill a rare black rhino in Namibia. Reviewer Giles Slade views trophy-hunting as a perverted act by fools too dumb to operate a camera. But he recognizes that many Canadians can't get to a supermarket easily, and the tradition of finding and killing one's own food runs very deep in rural Canada. Here he responds to Miles Olson's "New Age" manual for conscious living, The Compassionate Hunter's Guidebook.

**THE EXTERMINATION of the American Bison was made possible by an unholy trinity: the monomania of American greed, Spencer's flawless repeating rifles, and the miracle of transcontinental rail travel.**

No one owned the limitless buffalo herds of the Great Plains. At the railhead, the bison’s carcass was worth $3. The single shell to kill one American Bison cost only 25 cents. This 11-fold profit abruptly ended all empathy for the beasts sparking a bloody gold rush that lasted until the plains were completely emptied. At almost the same moment, owners of American slaughterhouses invented assembly lines to kill and butcher cattle in technologically efficient factories of death. It was the assembly line of the abattoir that Henry Ford copied when he first began to manufacture his model T.

So now, if we want to kill for food, can we step outside of the tyranny of our own history and the tradition of finding and killing one’s own food runs very deep in rural Canada. Here he responds to Miles Olson's "New Age" manual for conscious living, The Compassionate Hunter's Guidebook.

You've probably heard of Ellis Island in New York where millions of immigrants were processed as they arrived by sea.

But you might not have heard of two Canadian equivalents, Llawer's Island in Halifax and Grosse Isle.

The latter was a quarantine station in Quebec that processed half a million Irish immigrants from 1832 to 1848. Five thousand never made it off the island. Many were detained to prevent the spread of typhus.

Almost nobody remembers there was an equivalent West Coast quarantine centre, William Head Station, southwest of Victoria, on William Head Peninsula.

Even most coastal history mavens don't know it grew to hold up to 1,000 people in 42 buildings on a 43-hectare site until the 1920s, when the Albert Head station was rebuilt and it did a fine job.

The former interview with Peter Johnson was conducted by Mark Forsythe.

**BCBW:** What was the history of B.C. quarantine stations?

**Peter Johnson:** The first was built in Victoria in 1859. The second was a floating facility on the Fraser River. The third was built in 1902, a bestseller on B.C. Ferries, The Saga of the Bride-Ships. The fourth was built in 1920 at William Head Station, southwest of Victoria, on William Head Peninsula.

The following interview with Peter Johnson was conducted by Mark Forsythe.

**BCBW:** How did the quarantine system work?

**Peter Johnson:** quarantine legislation was used to support policies of deportation or policies of racism. That's a common theme that runs throughout the book. The Chinese were clobbered with a head tax, and in 1903 it doubled to 500 dollars. Often quarantine legislation was used to support policies of deportation or policies of racism. That's a common theme that runs throughout the book.

**BCBW:** How did it all come about?

**Peter Johnson:** The Chinese Labour Corps was organized this fast movement. Think of it to the British War office as they really organized this fast movement. Think of it: little Chinese villages on the northern frontier, they wouldn't be interested in fighting in Europe. Europe was a war-mad continent as far as the Chinese peasants were concerned, but somehow they would recruit thousands of Chinese peasants, many of them illiterate.

**BCBW:** How many of these labourers came over?

**Peter Johnson:** Numbers vary, I would say a minimum of 84,000 went across Canada, probably 40,000 of those came back to William Head Station, where they got rid of them as fast as they could. It became a terrible footnote to the First World War.

**BCBW:** Just providing a service...

**Peter Johnson:** Providing a service and we'll pay them 30 cents a day, whereas a regular soldier would make $1.30 a day. I have to hand it to the British War office as they really organized this fast movement. Think of it: little Chinese villages on the northern frontier, they wouldn't be interested in fighting in Europe. Europe was a war-mad continent as far as the Chinese peasants were concerned, but somehow they would recruit thousands of Chinese peasants, many of them illiterate.

**BCBW:** When they arrived on B.C. shores some were quarantined, and essentially quarantined again as they travelled across the country in sealed railway cars?

**Peter Johnson:** That's how the Prime Minister waived the head tax... if we keep them in sealed trains there won't have to be a head tax. The other reason was not to let the Chinese community across the country know what they were doing because the Chinese communities, still embittered by the CPR not living up to the agreement of paying them properly after the building of the railway, would notify the Chinese Labour Corps on the trains and get them the hell out.

**BCBW:** They were also afraid that the Germans might catch on to this. And so they came by ship, 50 to 60 days from China, another 10 days waiting in a sealed part of William Head Quarantine Station. There were just too many of them, a quarantine station was constructed to handle 1,000 people and many of those would be in tents.

Suddenly by August of 1917 there were 30,000 Chinese labourers at William Head. It was a horror story... they filed out into the community of Metchosin and stole doors and fence posts to lie on, to keep them out of the rain, and raised the gardens for food.

**BCBW:** How many of these labourers transmitted through Canada and came back?

**Peter Johnson:** Numbers vary, I would say a minimum of 84,000 went across Canada, probably 40,000 of those came back to William Head, where they got rid of them as fast as they could. It became a terrible footnote to the First World War.

**Mark Forsythe** is host of B.C. Almanac on CBC Radio, weekdays, noon-1:00 pm.
Foody criminologist
Cathy Ace of Maple Ridge is extending her mystery series, using a precious material in each title, with The Corpse With the Emerald Thumb (Touchwood $14.95). This is the third novel featuring Cait Morgan, a bossy criminologist and gourmet who turns up bodies and solves crimes in varied locations. This time it’s Puerto Valbeta, where a local florist is the victim. Nothing is what it seems, and Cait has a personal stake in discovering the killer. Ace turned to crime writing after a communications career in the UK and Europe. Influenced by the Nancy Drew character of her childhood reading as well as Agatha Christie, she says she strives to create “intricate plotting with a dash of danger.” After dealing with silver and gold in earlier mysteries, Ace has let it be known that platinum will feature in her next Cait Morgan mystery, due this fall.

Mystery, due this fall. 9781771510639

Platinum will feature in her next Cait Morgan novel by newspaper editor and cardinals are aware of the key and its significance to the Papacy. So who made the forgery? And who has the key? An avid sailor and scuba diver, B.R. Bentley has lived in South Africa, Canada and Bermuda, chiefly employed as a banker and corporate executive.

Science fiction trilogy
Yes, there’s a novelist living near 100 Mile House. Samuel Bondahl was born in Victoria, has lived in Vancouver and Kamloops, but has spent most of his life near 100 Mile House. He graduated from the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts with a diploma in game art and design in 2009. He still creates digital art and occasionally puts in its place, was not discovered until an official visit by Queen Elizabeth II to the Maritime Museum in 1975. Bentley’s novel weaves fact and fiction. Divers want the cross for financial reasons; the Bermuda government wants it as an historical artifact but a group of cardinals as the “Silent I” want it for a key that is hidden inside. Only one of the divers and the cardinals are aware of the key and its significance to the Papacy. So who made the forgery? And who has the key? An avid sailor and scuba diver, B.R. Bentley has lived in South Africa, Canada and Bermuda, chiefly employed as a banker and corporate executive.

978-1-4602-4021-2

Bermuda heist
B.R. Bentley’s first novel, The Cross (Priesen $19.99) is about an emerald-studded, 22 karat gold pectoral cross that was lost at sea in 1596 and salvaged from a sunken Spanish galleon by Bermudian diver Teddy Tucker in 1955, then stolen from the Bermuda Maritime Museum. Its theft and the fact that a replica had been put in its place, was not discovered until an official visit by Queen Elizabeth II to the Maritime Museum in 1975. Bentley’s novel weaves fact and fiction. Divers want the cross for financial reasons; the Bermuda government wants it as an historical artifact but a group of cardinals as the “Silent I” want it for a key that is hidden inside. Only one of the divers and the cardinals are aware of the key and its significance to the Papacy. So who made the forgery? And who has the key? An avid sailor and scuba diver, B.R. Bentley has lived in South Africa, Canada and Bermuda, chiefly employed as a banker and corporate executive.

continued on page 15

UNEASY RIDER ON THE DEASE

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

Graying by Gillian Wigmore (Mother Tongue $18.95)

There is a longstanding Canadian practice that when things get too messy, painful and intensely complicated, we head for the bush. This rite of passage is evoked in Gillian Wigmore’s new novella, Graying, a runner-up in Mona Fertig’s annual “search for a great Canadian novel” contest, and reviewed here by Caroline Woodward.

To clear the head, cleanse the soul and toughen our bodies, we Canadians often like to go north and add the element of water. As we are thoughtful Canadians in anguish, we typically choose one of the non-winter seasons to launch ourselves in our iconic canoes.

We proceed to do battle with epic numbers of blackflies and mosquitoes, coping with clouds of no-see-ums, lost bait and blackened frying pans. Large mammals make their presence known but except for Marian Engel’s novel Bear, most of us tend to leave other species discreetly alone.

A long list of our writers have made eloquent contributions to what might be called the Canadian Transformative Journey genre. In the case of Gillian Wigmore’s novella Graying, the protagonist named Jay heads north to Dease Lake.

Wigmore doesn’t let us know how exactly he got there—or why. Prior to page one, having overcome a major health scare, Jay, a city veterinarian, has reached Terrace on Highway 16 and moved east to Kitwanga, turned and headed north on Highway 37, and found Dease Lake.

Why he wants to undertake a solo, two-week canoe and fishing journey into the Dease River (which empties into Liard River, which leads to the great Mackenzie and the Arctic) is also not made clear. He’s been unwell, he’s still unhappy and he’s no Boy Scout. He only takes along a road map, not a topographical map. He plans to catch a grayling, he doesn’t “plan to snap a girl.”

Enter a tall, competent woman on Day One who saves his hypothermic bacon. In fact, she offers bacon, coffee and tobacco and wants to join him. He’s not thrilled but he owes her and off they go in the same canoe. Their intimacy grows—but for what purpose?

Graying is a page-turner that wears its dense layers lightly. Wigmore’s pitch-perfect language and brilliantly-paced unspooling of the plot (think fishing line, dancing lines) makes for a deceptively slim book that packs a mighty wallop.

The cover is exceptional and worthy of commendation. The publisher has commissioned an evocative painting of the locale called Dease River, 2013 by Prince George-based Annerose Georgeson.

Caroline Woodward is the author of Penny Loves Wade, Wade Loves Penny (Oolichan 2010), a novel set in the Peace River.

continued on page 15
Imagine being born someplace north of Quesnel, deep in the inland rainforest of the Rocky Mountain trench, back in the early 40s, back when BC Rail was still called the PGE and everyone called it Please Go Easy. Everything you know about your parents comes from snippets of conversation you weren’t meant to hear. Your grandparents died in a collision with a train, your mother inherited the farm that is your childhood home; your father was specifically excluded, a continuous source of acrimony between your parents. Then your father, injured in a bus accident, loses his source of income (and pride) and becomes a very heavy drinker.

You’ll never know for certain, but maybe it is the bar bills at the local hotel that one day persuade your parents to give you up to the local hotel owners, a German couple, or maybe they are Austrian, and so you never get past the tenth grade.

Essentially you are traded, like chattel, forced to work as a permanent, live-in employee, working in the kitchen and cleaning the hotel rooms. You don’t get paid. You wonder why your protective older brother Garth doesn’t come to your rescue but, of course, by this time he has finished his grade twelve and is off working in the bush. You hate it. You run away twice.

The only thing unusual about you is your name, Adare. “She wanted to go to the city,” writes Maureen Brownlee, in her first novel, Loggers’ Daughters. “Get a job in a bank. Or an office. Type. Smoke cigarettes in an ebony holder. Cigarettes lit by a gentleman in a black fedora.”

Years go by. You marry a young construction worker, a decent guy who has been to university, who works in the lumber industry and you have two kids. You get to do all the traditional things a young construction worker wife does, like want a car. But you thrive here, save the family farm, improve it. You can remember when you got indoor plumbing. While your husband, Dave, was off taking seasonal work for much of the year, you eke out a living on 160 acres of rock and pine and a triangle of sweet loam that touches upon the Fraser.

Then your mean-spirited mother gets squiggly with dementia, and you get stuck with that too. Your brother Garth is a busy logging contractor, living well beyond his means. Your sister Nancy, who married early, now lives safely distant in Kamloops.

When your cancer-ridden mother dies in 1983—after three months in hospital—during which you take the brunt of enduring the drizzly, pain-ridden, guilt-ridden vigil typical for so many families, nobody deeply acknowledges your sacrifice because, after all by now, it is expected of you.

The worst thing happens. Even your wise and usually considered brother Garth thinks the family farm should be sold four years. There is no will. Your siblings need and want a share. Everyone has delayed talking about your sacrifice because, after all by now, it is expected of you. Your grandparents specifically excluded in your father’s estate.

At this monumental gathering of a thousand women, you learn about the fire-bombings of pornographic video stores by a secret group called the Wimmins’ Brigade. You also visit a women’s shelter where Brianne volunteers a refugee for countless women who invariably go back to violent and abusive households for the sake of their children.

More importantly, you learn about the Supreme Court decision made against a Canadian farm wife named Irene Murdoch in 1973 who to legally claim her fair share of the family ranch following a divorce. Listening to passionate women debating the inequity of the Murdoch case, denying the court’s paternalistic legal decision as “bourgeois bullshit,” it strengthens your resolve to stand up for what is owed to you.

That’s just a glimmering of the deep dignity of perseverance that permeates the text of Loggers’ Daughters. Anyone who sticks with the novel will be back and forth between past and present will probably agree Maureen Brownlee’s long-in-creation, fully-fledged first novel deserves to be heralded as a triumph.

Quite likely this manuscript has endured previous incarnations. No matter. It is now a mature work. For those old enough to remember a Canadian writer named Margaret Laurence, it can be likened to an old fashioned Margaret Laurence novel. If you are not thirtieth for mere cliche, if you can appreciate instead how each anecdote has been forged from experience, you will never forget the protagonist, Adare Wilkins, in much the same way you will always recall the likes of Hagar Shipley in The Stone Angel or Rachel Cameron in A Jest of God.

The title Loggers’ Daughters and a cover image of a choker cable around a tree are far from beguiling, and likely few readers beyond rural BC are going to be comfortable with a novel that doesn’t explain what a choker is, but Brownlee has wrangled and honed a family saga until it has finally emerged as a sublime testament to the strength of the women who maintain families within the timber, ranch and constructions industries of the province.

Maureen Brownlee grew up in Dunster and went to school in nearby McBride in the Robson Valley. She lived in Arrow Lakes and Prince George before moving to Valemount (also in the Robson Valley) where she founded and operated The Valley Sentinel from 1985 to 1994.

Brian Fawcett, who left his hometown of Prince George at age twenty-two, has recently written his own novel about central B.C. with a similar prosaic title, The Last of the Lumbermen (Cormorant $21.95), examining much of the same territory from a male perspective.

Peter Trower’s trilogy of logging novels has also been largely overlooked. The earliest classic B.C. logging novel that literary folks tend to acknowledge is M.A. Grainger’s Woodsmen of the West (1908). Roderick Haig-Brown wrote logging novels, Timber (1942) and On the Highest Hill (1949). Arguably the first B.C. graphic novel ever is Bus Griffith’s unparalleled Now You’re Logging (1978; 2013).


Maureen Brownlee’s book launches were at the Caribou Grill in Valemount, Dunster Hall and McBride Library.

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A panel from Bus Griffith’s ‘Now You’re Logging’
Brutal murder in London
Janet Brons of Vancouver Island draws on her background as a member of the Canadian foreign service, and later as a consultant for the Canadian government’s foreign affairs department, for her mystery debut, A Quiet Kill (Touchwood $14.95). Detective Chief Inspector Stephen Hay of Southend Yard, and RCMP Inspector Liz Forsyth, assisted by Sergeant Gilles Ouellette, must work together when a Canadian trade commission officer in London is brutally murdered. Hay and Forsyth are faced with many suspects, and a second death raises the stakes. Press materials note “The two investigators must overcome insecurities and suspicions as they find themselves wading into the murky waters of the diplomatic community, and navigating through a melee of international conspiracy, nationalism and murder.”

Stalin world
Never one to shy away from the truth in his fiction, Grant Buday recalls Josef Stalin’s systematic starving of two million people in the Ukraine in the 1930s—known as the Holodomor—in his novel about Cyril Andrachuk, a Canadian-born son of immigrant parents, set in Vancouver in 1962. In The Delusionist (Anvil $20), Cyril struggles with menial labour jobs during the day but draws incessantly and longs to attend art school. His mother can and questions his sanity when he begins a series of large, commemorative hammer, wrenches—‘he is known for the mystical qualities of her breast milk, goes missing. Cyril, a struggling social worker who is drawn into the mind of a former patient, now a kidnap and murder suspect. Soon violence threatens the protagonist, his family and friends. The Killer Trail has been shortlisted for the Crime Writers’ Association Debut Dagger Award. Originally from Newfoundland and Labrador, D.B. (Derrick) Carew came to B.C. with his family in 1996. He is a social worker at a forensic psychiatric hospital.

Afterlife entrance fee
The venerable UBC creative writing program will soon be offering an infusion of $75,000 from Penguin Random House; meanwhile the SFU Writers Studio is the hotbed on the rise. Taiwanese-born Janie Chang is their latest SFU grad to make a major splash, drawing on 36 generations of her family’s recorded genealogy for her debut novel Three Souls (HarperCollins $19.99), inspired by her grandmother. The main character is the ghost of Leiyin who was captivated by a left-wing poet as a teenager during Chinese civil strife in the 1930s.

Mystical breast milk
Set during the set of the French Revolution, Lissa M. Cowan’s debut novel Milk Fever (Demeter $19.95) explores early feminist roots and the rise of explicit, forbidden literature. It’s a story of love and the magical power of books to transform lives. “In 1789, Armande, a wet nurse who is known for the mystical qualities of her breast milk, goes missing. Céleste, a cunning servant girl who Armande once saved from shame and starvation, sets out to find her. A snuffbox found in the snow, the unexpected arrival of a gentleman and the discovery of the wet nurse’s diary, deeply mystery. Armande’s diary as a map to her secret past. Céleste fights to save her from those plotting to steal the wisdom of her milk”

Denied entrance to the afterlife, she must reconcile her three souls: her scholarly yung soul, her romantic yin soul and her wise hun soul.

Bookselling bankrobber
Real life bank robber and author Trevor Clark’s novel containing an armed bank robbery and a drive-by shooting, Hair-Trigger (Now or Never $17.95), it’s about a struggling bookstore manager and bank robber in his forties, Derrick Rowe, who bails out a friend, Jack Lofton, from jail. After Lofton’s bedding of a stripper proves highly problematic, Rowe enlists Lofton and a fellow bookstore employee for a bank heist that generates heat from both police and gangsters. Meanwhile Clark has had his last story collection, Escape and Other Stories, from Vancouver-based Now or Never Publishing, recognized with a Relit Prize nomination. The Relit Prizes are for literary works from presses outside the (mostly) Toronto-based literary establishment. [Stephen Reid recently won Victoria’s Butler Prize for his story collection, A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden: Writing From Prison.

Garey Gottfriedson, Donna Morrissey, Mary Pinkoski, Craig Shemilt

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15 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2014
ZACHARY HIDES AGAIN

Historical fiction about early B.C. receives a boost from Stan Krumm’s undercover fugitive

FEW BRITISH COLUMBIANS CAN tell you the first explorer to have reached B.C. waters, for certain, was Juan Pérez in 1774. Almost no one can tell you the first B.C. premier was John McCreaigt. The relative ignorance of our past explains why we have had so few historical novelists about life in B.C. prior to 1900...

Back in 1971, Ian Mahood of Nanoose Bay self-published a fictional and life times of Nuu-chah-nulth Chief Maquinna and...
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Sophie & the Magic of Dance

Alida Hilbrander


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17 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2014
Allan Safarik's rogue western has bawdy humour, guns and a bank heist gone wrong.

Specifically, she asked for a story about the prairies. “He came into the country on a stolen horse,” he replied. “That’s a good start,” she said. “Now go and write me a first chapter.”

As a boy growing up in Burnaby, Safarik had devoured pulp westerns and recently he had edited collections of western stories. It also didn’t hurt that he and Reimer lived in an historic house on the Louis Riel Trail in Dundurn. Safarik poured his heart into the new work, sometimes working 12 to 15 hours a day, enjoying the rollicking ride.

It was such a joyful experience writing this book," he said. While the writing has the freshness of a tall tale, Safarik also focuses his poet’s eye on quirky details in his fictional world of travelling preachers who are actually conmen, and prostitutes who double as undercover detectives.

Well-drawn characters include historical figures like financial mogul James J. Hill, founder of the Great Northern Railway, and William Pinkerton of the notorious Pinkerton Detective Agency. These are mixed with memorable creations like the horse traders Bud Quigley, Alphonse Pointed Stick, and Les Simpson, the conflicted protagonist who is forced to lead a double life.

Dolores Reimer died of cancer in April of 2013; Swede’s Ferry was published in October of 2014.


An undeniably infectious read.

London, 1665. The Plague is back.

Thousands are dying, thousands more forcibly confined to their houses, the red crosses painted on their doors announcing the sickness within. But pestilence is not the only killer on the loose...
Since her arrival in B.C. in 1971, Jean Barman has written the standard, modern history of the province, *The West Beyond The West: A History of British Columbia* (UTP 1991), and twenty other books, including her forthcoming *French Canadians, Furs, and Indigenous Women in the Making of the Pacific Northwest* (UBC Press 2014). Jean Barman was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2002 in recognition for her prolific work in Canadian history, particularly in the history of the West.

For additional info, visit abcbkworld.com

**RYGA AWARD FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS IN LITERATURE**

**BEV SELLARS**

Bev Sellars is the 2014 recipient of the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature for her powerful memoir *They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School* (Talonbooks). Other finalists were Adrienne Fitzpatrick’s *The Earth Remembers Everything* (Caitlin) and Gillian Wigmore’s *Dirt of Ages* (Nightwood Editions). INFO: bcbookawards.ca

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

**THE BASIL STUART-STUBBS PRIZE**

David Stouck’s *Arthur Erickson: An Architect’s Life* (Douglas & McIntyre) reveals a man of international reputation who was touted as “Canada’s national treasure as a designer” but who, at the height of his career, went bankrupt. The award ceremony is hosted by UBC Library.

INFO: about.library.ubc.ca/awards/basil-stuart-stubbs-prize

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

**GRAY CAMPBELL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award is presented annually for a significant contribution to the book publishing industry in B.C. In 2014, the award went to Jim Deva and Janine Fuller whose *Little Sister’s Book & Art Emporium* fought significant battles versus Canada Customs and prevailed in a Supreme Court decision in 2000 to safeguard freedom of expression and equality rights for literary materials.

**JIM DOUGLAS PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award is presented annually to a BC book publishing company that has earned the respect of the province’s community of publishers. It is named after Jim Douglas, founder of J. J. Douglas Publishers, and was presented in April, 2014, by the Association of Book Publishers of B.C. to Ron Hatch and his Ronsdale Press.

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The 37th annual gala mark the first time two authors took home two prizes each.

1. Marked the first time one author won two prizes for two different books.
2. Of the first time all seven prizes went to books published by B.C. publishers.
3. It was the first time police cordoned off the venue for two blocks in all directions (for 5,000 runners to participate in the Vancouver Marathon the following morning).
4. It was the first time permanently dominant Harbour Publishing and Douglas & McIntyre had one publisher, Howard White, who hosted the after-party for Harbour’s 40th anniversary.

Ashley Little won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for Anatomy of a Girl Gang (Arsenal Pulp Press) and the Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Prize for her young adult novel, The New Normal (Orca Book Publishers). In thirty years, nobody else has ever had this “double-double,” winning with two different titles in the same year.


David Stucch won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize for The Robert Evans Non-Fiction Prize for his biography, Arthur Erickson: An Architect’s Life (Douglas & McIntyre). This book was also shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize and has also won the BC Book Prizes for Outstanding Scholarship on B.C. (presented June 9 at UBC Library).

Shack thanks Ethel Wilson fiction winner, Mary Suckfield White, for suggesting she should write the biography of her friend, Erickson, after Barbara Pulling for producing the original manuscript.

The biography was published because of two remarkable figures in this province’s publishing industry,” he said. “Scott McNeil responded enthusiastically to the manuscript when he submitti it in 2011, and after Douglas and McIntyre closed, Howard White in 2013 made it possible for her to go forward. Erickson himself, would also like to pay tribute to Roderick Haig-Brown, for whom this prize is named, by quoting something that Ethel Wilson wrote: “A man writes about a river,” she says, “but Roderick Haig-Brown wrote about a river that never sleeps. That is to say, there is truth and there is creation, the outward eye and the inward eye. And that is one of the mysteries that make Harriet.”

Dorothy Lowney Poetry Prizer, publisher Billieh Nickerson piloted each nominee’s book through the air as his cell phone played the original TV theme to Star Trek before he announced the winner was first-time, First Nations author Billeh Nickerson for his critically acclaimed novel, The Reluctant Goalie (Arsenal Pulp Press) and the Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Prize winner, Julie Morstad, for her illustrated picture book, Athena.

Other prize winners include:

Double winners: Ashley Little and David Stucch

Theleth Wilson Fiction Prize

Julie Morstad, Christa Harris Illustrated Prize winner

Thaddeus Armstrong, Wilson Fiction Prize winner

The 2012 Lieutenant Governor’s Award winner Brian Brett publicly criticized the paucity of female recipients for the annual Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence since 2004, this year Kit Pearson received the $15,000 honor. It was split last year between Sarah Ellis and Lorna Crozier. Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Honourable Judith Guichon, was in attendance for the second time. If Brett and others are keeping score, that’s nineteen women and four men.

Last year’s winner, Grant Lawrence, made the best and worst joke of the evening as co-recipient of the Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award for The Lovely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie (Douglas & McIntyre). Having won this same prize for his first book in 2012, with Harbour Publishing, the smooth-talking rock ‘n’ roll turned CBC broadcaster Lawrence opted to sign a contract with Harbour’s main rival, Douglas & McIntyre. After D&M went horrendously belly-up and the firm’s inventory and imprint was bought by Harbour, Lawrence found himself back where he started from, with Howard White. No other author has won the Booksellers’ Choice award, twice, with only two books—with two imprints—and the same publisher.

Add a welcome closure of the year after some less than inspiring speeches, Howard White told the audience about Lawrence’s career building. Unfazed, Lawrence referred to his winning book in reference to two recent hockey books by Bobby Orr and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He said they were two teams of sorts. He was the goalie. Orr was the defenceman. Harper was the right winger.

After thirty years of prize giving, some analysts might be in order. The Duthie Booksellers Choice Award has won by books from either the Douglas & McIntyre/Greystone imprint or the Harbour Publishing imprint. The Duthie Booksellers Choice Award is a Simply Read title. Savoff’s imprint has had the winning entry in this category for three of the past four years.

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After thirty years of prize giving, some analysts might be in order. The Duthie Booksellers Choice Award has won by books from either the Douglas & McIntyre/Greystone imprint or the Harbour Publishing imprint 22 times out of 30.

In terms of individual publishers since 1985, here are the cumulative totals for B.C. Book Prizes awards, Howard White 27, Scott McIntyre (D&M) 26, Patsy Aldana (Groundwood) 13, Bob Sandura (Mosaic Press) 12.

If one includes the Roderick Haig-Brown Prize for best book about B.C.—always won by a B.C. publisher—and if one includes the Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award—which must be published by a B.C. publishing house—the breakdown since 1985 for women published from B.C. versus winners not published from B.C. is almost fifty-fifty. To be exact, it’s 50-49.

The winning fiction title has been published from within B.C. only one-sixth of the time. Women win the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize two-thirds of the time.
Cristie Harris: Illustrated Children's Literature Prize
Julie Morstad: How To Simply Read Books
SHEILA A. EGGEY: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRIZE
Ashley Little: The New Normal
BILL DUTHIE BOOKSELLERS' CHOICE AWARD
Grant Lawrence: West End Murders
DOROTHY LIVESAY POETRY PRIZE
Jordan Abel: The Place of Scraps

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While closely observing a nearby bog’s seasonal transformations, Szanto explores his parents’ escape from Hitler’s Vienna, meeting his future wife and becoming a parent, as well as adventures in Mexico.

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Straight from the horse’s mouth, the true story of James Pigg, a pony who went exploring with Captain Scott.

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Author's Island

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The Place of Scraps
Jordan Abel

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Dorothy Livesay

Attempts leap from the page and the writing is exceptional. The text abounds with political and personal revelations. As a slice of left versus right in Canadiana, you could not do better.”

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Author's Island

Gabriola Island.
FICTION

Zombies in the Okanagan
Peaceful little Peachland in the Okanagan might strike most people as an unlikely locale for undead havoc, but local resident and travel writer Jim Couper has imagined otherwise in his first horror novel, *Zombie Angst* (Severed Press $14.75). A bundle of rags washes ashore, and in a twist that echoes the first line of *Frankenstein*, a young woman named Teal, mother of two, investigates the suspicious death of her boss and becomes enmeshed in a battle set RCMP versus zombies versus army donors. School kids get taken hostage. The ensuing homicides in a century. Was it a drug deal gone bad? Our heroine must find out. *Teal, mother of two,* investigates the suspicious death of her boss and becomes enmeshed in a battle set RCMP versus zombies versus army donors. School kids get taken hostage. The ensuing homicides in a century. Was it a drug deal gone bad? Our heroine must find out.

Kayaking thriller
Born in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden in 1941, Ulla Hakanson of Nannoos Bay came to British Columbia in 1996. She is already planning a sequel to her first thriller that was inspired by a kayaking trip, *The Price of Silence* (BroadPen $15), about a woman who is stalked by her criminal husband. He’s on the run from drug gangs and desperately wants to get his hands on the cash that the heroine has saved for her expanding hair-salon business. She is captured by the criminals chasing her husband. *Teal, mother of two,* investigates the suspicious death of her boss and becomes enmeshed in a battle set RCMP versus zombies versus army donors. School kids get taken hostage. The ensuing homicides in a century. Was it a drug deal gone bad? Our heroine must find out.

Feminist modern
Her eyes have been described as "crystal sharp." Cynthia Flood’s fourth collection of short stories, *Red Girl Rat Boy* (Biblioasis $18.95) once more focuses on the lives of women with a feminist clarity that is modern, shrewd and sophisticated. *Fiction* has provided the English translation for 8:17 pm, rue Darling (Guernica $20), a first novel by Quebec film-maker Bernard Émond that served as the basis of Émond’s second feature film. Trained as an anthropologist, Émond has written and directed six feature films since 2000, several of which have been selected for Cannes and other festivals. The film and book recount how the life of an alcoholic, former crime reporter named Gérard is mysteriously spared because he deys his return to his apartment one night by stopping to tie his shoelace, thereby avoiding a tragic fire that consumes his apartment building, resulting in the death of six neighbours and the inexplicable disappearance of others. Why was his life spared? Born in Montreal in 1951, Gilmore knows the city intimately, having written *Swinging in Paradise: The Story of Jazz in Montreal* (also available in French as *Une histoire du jazz à Montréal*) and *Who’s Who of Jazz in Montreal: Ragtime to 1970*.

Experimental noir
Michael Hetherington’s third fiction release, *The Playing Card* (Passfield $19.95), is described as a suspenseful experimental novel in which a deck of playing cards is discovered, each card inscribed with a fragment of a story. The character of S has kept one playing card face down in his hand for 26 years without looking at it. *The Glass Character* has kept one playing card face down in his hand for 26 years without looking at it. *The Glass Character* has kept one playing card face down in his hand for 26 years without looking at it. *The Glass Character* has kept one playing card face down in his hand for 26 years without looking at it.

The coroner and the killer
After eight novels, Nicola Furlong has re-released her first mystery *Teed Off!* (Dark Oak $15.95) in which a chocholoc golf club pro discovers that not all bad lies are on the golf course... Conner Riley Quinn is forced to unravel her own past when she investigates the suspicious death of her boss and brother-in-law in order to catch a cunning killer. The protagonist finds herself “sandwedged” by a villainous environmental group, a mysterious Japanese consortium and her estranged sister. There are no penalty strokes for golf puns.

Alcoholic crime reporter
Jazz aficionado John Gilmore of Victoria has provided the English translation for 8:17 pm, rue Darling (Guernica $20), a first novel by Quebec film-maker Bernard Émond that served as the basis of Émond’s second feature film. Trained as an anthropologist, Émond has written and directed six feature films since 2000, several of which have been selected for Cannes and other festivals. The film and book recount how the life of an alcoholic, former crime reporter named Gérard is mysteriously spared because he deys his return to his apartment one night by stopping to tie his shoelace, thereby avoiding a tragic fire that consumes his apartment building, resulting in the death of six neighbours and the inexplicable disappearance of others. Why was his life spared? Born in Montreal in 1951, Gilmore knows the city intimately, having written *Swinging in Paradise: The Story of Jazz in Montreal* (also available in French as *Une histoire du jazz à Montréal*) and *Who’s Who of Jazz in Montreal: Ragtime to 1970*.

Missing women
First Nations leaders have suggested that as many as fifty women have gone missing or been murdered on the 500-mile stretch of highway connecting Prince Rupert and Prince George between 1969 and 2011, but the official number of missing women is eighteen. Regardless of the numbers, the social trauma of the missing women from the Highway of Tears is reflected in Adrienne Harun’s debut novel, *A Man Came Out of a Door* (Penguin $17). Harun’s first book, *The King of Limbo*, was a Washington State Book Award finalist, and her second collection of fiction, *Lost in the War of the Beautiful Ladies*, was a Grace Paley Award finalist. Harun teaches at the Rainier Writing Workshops at Pacific Lutheran University.

Stalked in Alabama
Twice winner of the Surrey International Writer’s Conference Storyte’s Award, Michael Hiebert has been published in *The American Mystery Series*, edited by Joyce Carol Oates. In his second novel, *In Close to the Broken Hearted* (Kensington $16.95), a killer’s release from prison prompts revelations in an Alabama town. As the only detective in Alvin, Alabama, Leah Teal, mother of two, investigates the fears of a young woman who believes she is being stalked by a released murderer named Preacher Eli.


Michael Hiebert
**THE SOBO COOKBOOK**

Recipes from the Tofino Restaurant at the End of the Canadian Road

*Available wherever books are sold.*

**Lisa Ahier**

*with Andrew Morrison*

*photography by Jeremy Koreski*

Foreword by Sarah McLachlan

More than 100 of the restaurant’s all-time favourite recipes – recipes that have fed surfers, hungry locals, curious visitors and die-hard foodies alike.

“I could eat there every day.”

*Vancouver Sun*

“Lisa is one of Canada’s top chefs... Her food is adventurous, street smart, dripping with freshness, local character and drop dead top of the line flavor.”

*Calgary Herald*

Available wherever books are sold.

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— Angie Abdou, author of *The Bone Cage*

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Hiromi Goto’s landmark work of Asian-Canadian fiction returns in a beautiful new 20th anniversary edition.

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A psychiatric social worker’s life unravels at the hands of a psychotic former patient in this gripping cat-and-mouse thriller.

“An intense psychological thriller with a bold twist of an ending.”

— Robin Spano, author of *Death’s Last Run*
Reconciling the past

**Thomas Wolfe** famously wrote *You Can't Go Home Again*, but professor Sidonie Von Taler makes the attempt in *After Alice* (NeWest $19.95) a first novel by Karen Hofmann. After a career in Montreal, the character retires to her Okanagan hometown, still in the shadow of her late sister Alice. There is unfinished business. Sidonie must both reconcile the past and try to re-connect with people she left behind. Hofmann, who was raised in the Okanagan Valley, teaches English and creative writing at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.

Lost child and a Victorian asylum

Due in the fall, **Aislinn Hunter**'s second novel is disturbing even when condensed into one paragraph. When she was fifteen, Jane Standen, the protagonist disturbing even when condensed into one paragraph. Writing at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.

**Shuswap murder**

Having worked for thirty years as a social worker and supervisor with Aboriginal communities, and resided in the Cariboo for twenty years, **Steven Hunter** of Big Lake Ranch has self-published his first novel *The Cameron Ridge Conspiracy* ($17) about a young Shuswap (Secwépemc) girl who witnesses the murder of her brother and sister at the hands of three miners in 1859 during the Cariboo Gold Rush. He acknowledges the assistance of the Secwépemc Museum in Kamloops.

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**Climate fiction**

Coquitlam-based Moon Willow Press has released a novel *Back to the Garden* ($15.95), by **Claire Hume** (pen name), that is part of a new genre dubbed Ci-Fi by Wired magazine. Climate fiction is described as “dystopian fiction set in the near future, in which climate change wreaks havoc on an otherwise familiar planet.” Ci-Fi has attracted literary authors like Ian McEwan and Barbara Kingsolver.” In the near future, on a warmer, ecologically degraded Earth, post-apocalypse survivors leave their mountain refuge in Idaho to traverse much of the U.S. in order to find family in Georgia and South Carolina. *Back to the Garden* is told as a series of first person narratives by different characters.

**War, spying and love**

**Elinor Florence** of Invermere is slated to publish her first novel in October. Set during the Second World War, *Bird’s Eye View* (Dundurn $24.99) will follow an idealistic young Canadian woman, Rose Joliffe, as she joins their force and becomes an aerial photographic interpreter who views the war through a microscope. As part of an intelligence system that spies on the enemy from the sky from a converted mansion in England, she is also on the lookout for love. Located north of London, the mansion was requisitioned by the Royal Air Force and renamed RAF Medmenham. Nowadays it’s a luxury hotel called Damesfield House.

**Shane rides again**

Long after **Jack Schaefer**’s 1949 Western novel *Shane* was made into a famous 1953 movie starring **Alan Ladd** and **Jean Arthur**, and the boy Joe was heard shouting, "Shane! Come back!" as the wounded man rides away from Cemetery Hill, *Shane* has come back—sort of. **Sean Johnston** has picked up the story and imagined its continuation through the life of a young boy named Billy on a North Dakota ranch with his lonely mother and wheelchair-ridden father in *Listen All You Bullets* (Gaspereau $27.95). We meet a traveling bookseller one year after the gun-slinger’s disappearance, and a Métis girl from Saskatchewan.

**Stonehenge, Freud and Nobel**

After his first novel *The Evolution of Inanimate Objects: The Life and Collected Works of Thomas Darwin (1857-1879)* was republished in hardcover (2012) and paperback (2013) by HarperCollins UK, **Harry Karlinsky**, a Winipeg-born professor of psychiatry at UBC, has published an equally audacious novel, *The Stonehenge Letters* (Coach House $17.95) about, among other things, why the world’s most renowned psychoanalyst, **Sigmund Freud**, never received the Nobel Prize even though he was nominated 33 times. Weaving fact and fiction, Karlinsky also describes a secret competition created by **Alfred Nobel** to solve the mystery of Stonehenge.

**Shanghai, Nazis and resistance**

Van couver physician **Daniel Kalla** continues his trilogy about German Jews in Shanghai with his eighth novel *Rising Sun, Falling Shadow* (HarperCollins $24.99) with the story of Dr. **Franz and Soo** (Sunny) Adler through 1943, the bleakest year of the war in Shanghai, when Allied citizens were interned and tens of thousands of German Jews were crammed into a ghetto already teeming with impoverished locals. The Adlers risk their lives to support the cause of the Chinese Resistance while staving down a threat from local Nazis. The story delves into both heroism and the treachery that can result when ordinary people find themselves facing extraordinary dangers.

**Vancouver’s underbelly**

In the debut crime novel by West Vancouver’s **Dietrich Kalteis**, *Ride the Lightning* (ECW $24.95), a disherabed Seattle bounty hunter named **Miro Klein** comes to Vancouver to work as a process server. Impressed by a city in which “people settle things with middle fingers instead of guns,” Miro nonetheless finds himself immersed in the city’s underbelly when he crosses paths with the scumbag from Seattle who has had his license revoked, **Miro Knott**, a dope dealer.

**1984 Vancouver**

**Nancy Lee**’s highly-charged debut novel *The Age* (M&G’s $22.95) is about a troubled teenage girl, Gery, who takes refuge in a gang of misfits in response to an absent father and a mother who is distracted by a new relationship. As Gery becomes embroiled in the gang’s plot to violently disrupt a peace march, she becomes enthralled with the group’s leader. Increasingly divided by her fantasies and reality, Gery’s need to be loved leads her towards tragedy. *The Age* is “set amidst nuclear tension in 1984 Vancouver.”

**Recovering a marriage**

Narated by a former real estate agent **Dona Milner**’s highly credible *Somewhere In-Between* (Caitlin $21.95) follows the efforts of a couple to purchase an idyllic but remote ranch in the Chilcotin. In gradually they are attempting to recover their marriage after a tragic family loss. Julie O’Dale tries to support her husband Ian’s dream to escape from the big city in favour of a small, old ranch and a new life.

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CanLit with a distinctly urban twist!

I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU OR ANYTHING Stories by Jon Paul Fiorentino Illustrations by Maryanna Hardy This collection of comical, short stories and exploratory essays features vignettes, false martial arts experts, hookers, competitive pillow fighters, drug runners, and, of course, grad students.

"I was sure something was Jon Paul Fiorentino, and maybe it drives him to the deadpan might be delivered so masterfully in these pages. This is a daring and funny collection.

—SAM LINSLEY

"This book is one of my favourite reads in 2014."

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HYSTERIC a novel by Nelly Arcan Translated by David & Jacob Horne In this dashing act of self-examination and confession, the last novelist Nelly Arcan explores the tortured end of a love affair. "Told in the same voice that made her first novel, When an international success, Hysteric chronicles life among the twenty- and thirty-somethings, a life structured by broken promises and missed phone calls, the latest DIY, and Internet porn.

"A tremendously strong current runs through the story, a mixture of breath, and the desire to reach down to the bone and discover the truth about relationships between men and women."

—JOCELLE LLAPPEG, 1st Press

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THE DELUSIONIST a novel by Grant Hood Vancouver, summer 1962. Cyril Andradner and Connie Chow are both seventeen, and they’re both falling in love. The Delusionist is a funny, sad, and heartwarming novel about love, loss, creatvity, and coming to terms with the horror of history.

"Reviewers on Grant Hood’s writing: "Brady’s writing is low, crisp, thoroughly engaging, and inci- dence, an exceptional talent." —QUILL & QUIRE

"...a great storyteller." —DANAWORTH REVIEW

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MIRROR ON THE FLOOR a novel by George Bowering Originally published in 1967, Mirror on the Floor was the debut novel of emerging young writer named George Bowering. Now with over 100 publications to his credit, we are proud to be releasing Bowering’s first novel.

"Vancouver, the small and fast of its fag, the beach, the bridge, Stanley Park, the denser bars of the dock area are all absolutely there in a way that has been seri- ously difficult for other novelists to capture..."

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$18 • 160 pages
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New from University of Toronto Press

Engaging China Myth, Reputation, and Strategy in Canadian Policy toward China by Paul Evans

For more than four decades, engagement has been the bedrock of Canada’s policy toward China. Author Paul Evans provides a concise account of the evolution and state of the Canadian approach to China, its achievements, disappointments, and current dilemmas.

On Being Here to Stay Treaties and Aboriginal Rights in Canada by Michael Asch

Why should Canada’s original inhabitants have to ask for rights to what was their land when non-Aboriginal people first arrived? Addressing this question, Michael Asch proposes a way through which First Nations and settlers can establish an ethical way for both communities to be here to stay.

Killer Weed Marijuana, Weed, Media, and Justice by Susan C. Boyd and Conni Carter

Marijuana cultivation has been identified by the media and others as a dangerous criminal activity of epidemic proportions. Killer Weed examines how this anti-drug campaign has troubling consequences for a shrinking Canadian civil society.

The Force of Family Repatriation, Kinship, and Memory on Haida Gwaii by Cara Kirmopolc

The Force of Family is an ethnography of the Haida Nation’s efforts to repatriate ancestral remains from museums around the world and explore how memory, objects, and kinship connect and form a cultural archive.
**West Coast mystery**

As a Sumnerland business owner and free lance magazine writer who has sailed for years in the Inside Passage, R.J. McMillen has created a new B.C. mystery detective, Dan Connor, a former cop who explores the mid-West Coast by boat. In the debut novel, *Dark Moon Walking* (TouchWwood $14.95), Connor works alongside a First Nations man he once busted in order to track down a missing biologist—while encountering a wide range of eccentric coastal characters. A sequel will be published next spring.

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**Literary gothic romp**

*Peter Norman’s* first novel, *Emberton* (Douglas & McIntyre $19.95), takes its title from a fictional dictionary publisher, Emberton Publishing, and manages to combine lexicography and etymology—along with an illiterate protagonist named Lance Blunt and a malevolent entity that is bent on draining the illiterate protagonist to drain. When he was proclaimed an outlaw in 1681, he was swept up in the Irish Rebellion of 1641. *Tough Tiddlywinks* (A Picture’s Worth $29.95), a hybrid between a graphic novel and a traditionally illustrated adult novel, *Tough Tiddlywinks* is a whodunit about the murder of a sleazeball Vancouver real estate developer named “Condo King” Donald Dickerson in the wake of the 2008 U.S. stock market crisis. Even though many people would have liked to see this philanthropist off the planet, police arrest a First Nations man, Ryan Ghost keeper, who is found with the murder weapon, a knife. A hung jury prompts Vancouver Police Sergeant Sandra Wolchenski to reevaluate the case and investigate Slim Jimmy, a member of an anti-development group called The Resistance, a cadre of hard-core bicyclists. Two wheels good; four wheels bad. Nowlin’s background in law permits the inquiry.

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**Murdering the Condo King**

Having taught himself to paint while teaching law in Newcastle-under-Lyme, England, lawyer Christopher Nowlin now lists his painterly influences as “Surrealism, shadows and the Spaghetti Western shot.” He launched his latest exhibit in March along with *Tough Tiddlywinks* (A Picture’s Worth $29.95), a hybrid between a graphic novel and a traditionally illustrated adult novel. *Tough Tiddlywinks* is a whodunit about the murder of a sleazeball Vancouver real estate developer named “Condo King” Donald Dickerson in the wake of the 2008 U.S. stock market crisis. Even though many people would have liked to see this philanthropist off the planet, police arrest a First Nations man, Ryan Ghost keeper, who is found with the murder weapon, a knife. A hung jury prompts Vancouver Police Sergeant Sandra Wolchenski to reevaluate the case and investigate Slim Jimmy, a member of an anti-development group called The Resistance, a cadre of hard-core bicyclists. Two wheels good; four wheels bad. Nowlin’s background in law permits the inquiry.

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**Irish rebellion**

Only seven years of the life of Irish highwayman Redmond O’Hanlon are documented from 1674, when he was proclaimed an outlaw, to 1681, when he died. According to Ron Duffy, “This gives the novelist free rein to indulge his imagination.” In his novel *O’Hanlon* (CreateSpace $21.91), Duffy has created a figure, who, at twenty, is swept up in the Irish Rebellion of 1641. “The aim of the Rebellion is to win religious freedom and the return of lands confiscated from traditional chieftains, including the O’Hanlons. They go down to defeat by the disciplined forces of Oliver Cromwell. O’Hanlon flees to France and serves with distinction in both the French and Spanish armies at war in Flanders. O’Hanlon returns to Ireland. Expecting no restitution of his family’s lands under the restored Charles II, O’Hanlon takes to the hills and woods of southern Ulster; the leader of a band of outlaws, famed as far as France as for his daring exploits and his bold flaunting of attempts by the government in Ireland to capture him and rid the country of this most cunning and notorious challenge to their authority.” All in accordance with Duffy’s imagination and research.

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**Ruth Ozeki**

A woman of mystery

Andrew Parkin’s 2nd4 book, *Private Dancers or Responsible Women*, a Novel of Intrigue (Strategic Book Publishing $21.95) is a rare B.C. novel for two reasons: it unabashedly includes sex and it shows that, hey, B.C.小说家 could make a go of it. The book is set around a military man who sounds very much like the author herself. Ruth Ozeki, who has sailed for years in the Inside Passage, wrote *Private Dancers or Responsible Women* (Douglas & McIntyre $19.95), about the return of land seized from traditional chiefdoms, including the O’Hanlons. They go down to defeat by the disciplined forces of Oliver Cromwell. O’Hanlon flees to France and serves with distinction in both the French and Spanish armies at war in Flanders. O’Hanlon returns to Ireland. Expecting no restitution of his family’s lands under the restored Charles II, O’Hanlon takes to the hills and woods of southern Ulster; the leader of a band of outlaws, famed as far as France as for his daring exploits and his bold flaunting of attempts by the government in Ireland to capture him and rid the country of this most cunning and notorious challenge to their authority.” All in accordance with Duffy’s imagination and research.

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**A Tale for the Time Being**

Viking Canada), about the relationship between two people who never meet, but who are connected by the proverbial message in a bottle. One is a middle-aged writer in Desolation Sound, B.C. who is struggling to write a memoir just as she discovers the secret diary of a 16-year-old Tokyo girl, Nao, which is washed ashore after the 2011 tsunami.

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**Message in a bottle**

Ruth Ozeki, who divides her time between Cortes Island, B.C. and New York City, was one of six authors shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for her novel, *A Tale for the Time Being*. Canada), about the relationship between two people who never meet, but who are connected by the proverbial message in a bottle. One is a middle-aged writer in Desolation Sound, B.C. who is struggling to write a memoir just as she discovers the secret diary of a 16-year-old Tokyo girl, Nao, which is washed ashore after the 2011 tsunami.

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**Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.**

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This is Our Life
Haida Material Heritage and Changing Museum Practice
Cara Krmpotich and Laura Peers, with the Haida Repatriation Committee and staff of the Pitt Rivers Museum and British Museum
This is the story of a transformative visit by members of the Haida Nation to the museums housing their cultural treasures.
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Chinese Comfort Women
Testimonies from Imperial Japan’s Sex Slaves
Peipei Qiu, with Su Zhiliang and Chen Lifei
Through personal narratives from twelve survivors, this book reveals the unfathomable atrocities committed against Chinese women, abducted and enslaved as “comfort women” by the Japanese military, during the Asia-Pacific war.
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The Sikh Challenge to Canada’s Colour Bar, Expanded and Fully Revised Edition
Hugh J.M. Johnston
A sweeping revision and reconsideration of the Komagata Maru incident as a defining moment in Canadian, British Empire, and Indian History.
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“For me, historical fiction is always a trip in a time machine, a fantasy lived.” — C.C. Humphreys

Anyone who thinks writers are withdrawn, stay-at-home types who think up a bunch of stuff in the safety of their pajamas might want to meet C.C. Humphreys — he would change their way of thinking.

Prior to turning his hand to historical novels, Humphreys, during 35 years as an actor, has played Hamlet, Clive Parnell in Coronation Street and Jack Absolute in Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s The Rivals. And let’s not overlook Caleb the Gladiator. For his gladiator gig in the 1980s NBC/BBC mini-series, AD—Anno Domini, C.C. Humphreys spent ten months filming in Tunisia, playing Mallius, Gladiator (aka Caleb the Zealot), flexing his pecs like Russell Crowe and using a variety of weaponry.

“For a swordsman, historical nut and all-round fantastick time traveller,” Humphreys says, “it didn’t get much better.” He also got to hang out with Susan Sarandon and Ian MacShane — born in Toronto, C.C. Humphreys grew up in Los Angeles until age seven, then lived in London and the U.K. A third-generation actor and writer on both sides of his family, he was a schoolboy fencing champion before he became a fight choreographer for actors. All of which has led in Shakespeare’s Rebel (Orion 2013). C.C. Humphreys has integrated his knowledge of Hamlet and Shakespeare, along with his experiences with swordplay, to craft a novel that could have been called Shakespeare in Joust, except Shakespeare is not the hero, only a supporting character. Overly fond of whiskey and women, John Lawley, England’s finest swordsman, just wants to cool his Elizabethan jets and help his old pal, Will Shakespeare, put on a new tragedy about a Danish prince down at the new Globe Theatre.

“I grew up with the Plague,” he says. “Every English schoolboy hears the lurid cries of ‘Bring out yer dead!’ The buboes! The ghastly effects of disease became a vivid backdrop to another story—this essentially: a religious fundamentalistaran absolute, as he cavorts from battlefields to bedrooms. Along the way he becomes a spy at the Jacobite Court in Rome. In Humphreys’ young adult fantasy novel, The Hunt of the Unicorn (Knopf, 2011), a girl falls into a tapestry at a New York City museum, and finds herself taken prisoner by a tyrant king. His earlier trilogy for young adults, The Runestone Saga, combines Norse myths, rune magic, time travel and horror. The trilogy consisting of The Fetch (Knopf 2006), Vendetta (Knopf 2007) and Possession (Knopf 2008) has been published in Russia, Greece, Turkey and Indonesia. Humphreys’ historical novels have been translated into a dozen languages. The Fetch (Knopf 2006), has been translated into a dozen languages.

But, no, there is much rotten in the state of England. John’s main rival for being the best jouster in the quest is also Queen Elizabeth’s lover, the charming and somewhat demented Robert Devereaux, Earl of Essex. Meanwhile John must evade the equally deadly machinations of Robert Cecil, another of Queen Elizabeth’s favourites. Ultimately, in Shakespeare’s Rebel, our hero must not only choreograph the fight scenes for The Tragedy of Hamlet, he is called upon, by fate and honour, to choreograph the rescue of the realm itself.

Humphreys’ first novel, The Scottish Executioner (Orien 2002), is about the man who killed Anne Boleyn. It was shortlisted for the CWA Steel Dagger for Thrillers in 2002. Its sequel was Blood Face (Orion 2003). More recently, A Place Called Armageddon (Orion 2011) recalls the fall of Constantinople in 1453. He has also written a trilogy of fictional, “rip-roaring” historical novels featuring Jack Absolute as the “007 of the 1700s,” adopting the hero’s name from the aforementioned Sheridan play. The third in this series, Absolute Honour (McArthur 2006) typically follows the swashbuckling British soldier, Jack Absolute, as he cavorts from battlefields to bedrooms. Along the way he becomes a spy at the Jacobite Court in Rome. In Humphreys’ young adult fantasy novel, The Hunt of the Unicorn (Knopf, 2011), a girl falls into a tapestry at a New York City museum, and finds herself taken prisoner by a tyrant king. His earlier trilogy for young adults, The Runestone Saga, combines Norse myths, rune magic, time travel and horror. The trilogy consisting of The Fetch (Knopf 2006), Vendetta (Knopf 2007) and Possession (Knopf 2008) has been published in Russia, Greece, Turkey and Indonesia. Humphreys’ historical novels have been translated into a dozen languages.

C.C. Humphreys as Jack Absolute in Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s The Rivals. Humphreys returned to Canada in the 1990s, began writing in Vancouver, lived in London for twelve years, then returned to SaltSpring Island in 2006.
A Royal BC Museum Classic

The Indian History of British Columbia
The Impact of the White Man

Wilson Duff

First published in 1964, The Indian History of British Columbia celebrates 50 years in print!

It has sold more than 20,000 copies in three editions and a dozen printings. Wilson Duff's seminal work is a classic summary of the effects of immigrant settlement on the populations, cultures, economies and religions of First Nations in British Columbia.

"In the 50 years since Duff’s classic study was first published there have been many changes in the way interactions between First Nations and colonial cultures are conceptualized and discussed. The Indian History of British Columbia is now a historical record in itself: a benchmark for the profound changes that have taken place in our understanding of the topic over half a century. At the same time, it remains a useful source of information for researchers, students and the general public."

— Martha Black, from her Foreword

$15.95
978-0-7718-9483-1

Distributed by Publishers Group Canada—Orders to: orders@raincoastbooks.com and aydin@avsalesandmarketing.com
Depression-era Prairies
Set largely in Stettler, Alberta, and echoing some of the bleakness of Sinclair Ross’ view of the Prairies, Meredith Quartermain’s Depression-era first novel Rupert’s Land (NeWest $20.95), unites two, young and restless spirits. Growing up in the agrarian dustbowl Cora Wagoner wants to study science rather than a pig-sty procreation; Hunter George is a Cree who prefers his grandmother’s stories of the legendary Wishakakecath to the demeaning policies of the Indian Agent. On page 233, they ride her horse Arrow past the Nuisance Grounds to share the challenging freedom of scrubwild for the final fifth of the story.

Grief, lust, infidelity, madness
Having emigrated from Dublin to Canada in 1999, Anakana Schofield won the 2013 Amazon.ca First Novel Award for her novel, Malarky (Biblioasis $19.95). Structured as a series of 20 episodes, Schofield’s drolly comic first novel is mainly narrated by an Irish mother who is coping with grief, lust, infidelity and madness while scrubbing the floors of her country farmhouse. The novel received advance attention due to its selection for the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers program. It was published by Oneworld in the UK and other Commonwealth countries in 2013, the same year in which it was shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize awarded for the best work of fiction by a B.C. writer.

A murderer returns
Ex-realtor Chevy Stevens’ fourth novel, That Night (St. Martin’s $19.95) is not about the fictional realtor Annie O’Sullivan, the protagonist in her earlier thrillers. Instead it’s about Tony Murphy who, at eighteen, was wrongly convicted of the murder of his younger sister. Her boyfriend at the time was also convicted. Out of prison by age thirty-four, Tony returns to her hometown on Vancouver Island, very anxious not to violate any terms of her parole. While her former boyfriend, Ryan, is convinced he unravel the murder case, her own mother is less sure about her innocence. In order to clear her name, Toni must re-engage with a nasty cabal of women who once made her life miserable in high school.

Life after prostate cancer
Aaron Shepard of Victoria has used his Shuswap childhood, his experiences as a wildlife technician and his outdoor knowledge to create a fictional valley in the B.C. Interior for his debut novel, When is a Man (Brindle & Glass $19.95). It details Paul Rasmussen, an ethnographer, who attempts to restart his life after surviving prostate cancer. Rasmussen’s interviews with locals stir up bitter memories about language flooding for a hydroelectric dam. Aaron Shepard is not to be confused with a Washington State storyteller and children’s book author with the same name.

The mystery of a false identity
A former president of the Federation of BCWriters, Margaret Thompson has published her first novel for adults, The Cuckoo’s Child (Brindle & Glass $19.95), about middle-aged Livvy Alvarsson who, in trying to save her brother, discovers her own identity is false. The Cuckoo’s Child follows Livvy on her travels to the U.K. to uncover her actual heritage. Thompson has written six other books, including collections of essays and short stories. A former English teacher, she immigrated to B.C. in 1967, and taught in small communities before settling in Victoria.

From B.C. to Dachau
A DNA test in Danny Unrau’s first novel entitled You are the Boy (Friesens $19.86) sends the protagonist Ben Ruhe on a search for his roots. He discovers that a Jewish infant was mysteriously left on a Menno nine doorstep in the Ukraine nearly eighty years before he was born. It turns out this child was his maternal grandmother who was adopted secretly into a Mennonite family in the 1970s. He explores Mennonite and Jewish history, from southern Manitoba to British Columbia, from the Ukraine to Siberia, from Jerusalem to Dachau. As the author of previous collections Saints, Sinners & Angels and Rogues, Rascals & Rare Gems, Unrau has a BA in sociology, English and religious studies, and an MA and Ph.D in Jewish studies.

Rescuing an Ojibway father
In Richard Wagamese’s Medicine Walk (M&S $2995) we meet 16-year-old Frank Starlight as he saddles up to ride into town, feeling compelled to rescue his dissolute father, Eldon, someone he doesn’t even know very well. Eldon is a drunk, dying of liver cancer in a one-room cabin. Frank dutifully accedes to his father’s request to be taken into the mountains, so that he can be buried in a traditional Ojibway way. As they ride into the backcountry, Eldon’s past comes to light: his poverty-stricken childhood, and his service in the Korean War. Frank finally gets to know the father he hardly ever saw.

Teen fantasy island
Joanna Wiebe’s teen fantasy-suspense novel The Unseemly Education of Anne Merchant (BenBella $19.95) is set on a small mysterious island that houses a boarding school for some of the world’s wealthiest teenagers. The protagonist, a gifted art student named Anne Merchant, can’t understand her father’s request that she attend the exclusive school called Cania Christy. No one will tell Anne why a line is painted across the island or why she is forbidden to cross it.

Women and small towns
Sunshine Coast-based UBC creative writing student Janine Alyson Young was born to backpacking ski bums during the 1980s. As a child, she read every book she could in her local library. Her debut collection of fiction Hideout Hotel (Caitlin $18.95) contains several stories of small-town women taking refuge in unusual places, set in coastal BC, the Yukon and Western Australia. Young is young—at 28—married, with a son, and works as a Generation Y taco stand operator.

continued on page 33
NORTH OF CALIFORNIA ST
Selected Poems
George Stanley

“George Stanley demonstrates that [poetry] can still be a powerful, moving experience for the reader and exercise for both the mind and the heart. [He writes with] lapidary precision, crafting poems that give a sharply, utterly distinctive voice to the workings of a remarkable mind and sensibility.”
—Vancouver Sun

SEIZE THE TIME
Vancouver Photographed 1967–1974
Vladimir Keremidschieff

Seize the Time captures a moment of profound change in Vancouver, when the social and cultural wave of the Sixties washed over the buttoned-down city of developer/mayor Tom “Terrific” Campbell.

It also features a fantastic selection of musicians, including Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Bob Dylan, and more.

REBEL LIFE
The Life and Times of Robert Gosden, Revolutionary, Mystic, Labour Spy
Mark Leier

“One of the finest books on Canadian labour to appear in recent years ... Rebel Life stands out as a true diamond.”
—Canadian Historical Review

“An exciting slice of BC history ... a complex and engaging character study.”
—Columbia Journal
I

\textbf{Franz Kafka’s Metamorphosis, a traveling salesman named Gregor Samsa wakes to find himself inexplicably transformed into a huge, monstrous bug.}

Ninety-nine years later, in Adam Pottle’s Mantis Dreams, the narrator of a private journal has been having a recurring dream in which he has been transformed into a giantic “King Kong” Mantis, stomping on buildings and people who appear to be smiling and waving at him. In fact, their attack upon him is immediate.

Confined to a wheelchair, Pottle’s protagonist, Dr. Dexter Ripley (believe it or not) could be likened to Kafka’s bedridden protagonist if it weren’t for his stoicism and wit. And if it weren’t for the double tragedies in his impressionable years that yanked both his parents out of his life… and if it weren’t for the emotional trauma he suffered when his sister held a red-hot branding iron over his face… And if it weren’t for his scientifically explainable disability.

In his mid-40s, Ripley has been hammered by Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT), an inherited and incurable disorder of the peripheral nervous system characterized by a progressive loss of muscle tissue and touch sensation. He’s wracked by pain and tremors and confined to a wheelchair.

But Ripley, our narrator, has made a choice to refuse the medication that would slow his deterioration, relieve some of his pain, and even allow him to walk again. Dexter could be independent but he chooses instead to take one of the much-needed beds in a care home, gloating over the fact that it frees him to devote himself totally to his work with no distractions, great meals, massage therapy as needed, 24-hour help, and even a driver who takes him to the university where he teaches English literature.

His doctor calls his decision unorthodox. Ripley’s reason for refusing treatment are complex. The professor’s complaint is that his illness has enabled him to see himself in a deliciously wonderful but wayward manner; it has opened the door to a privileged perspective, the more disabled he becomes, the clearer he sees the world.

\textbf{Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.}
Anywhere But Here by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (Simon Pulse $11.99)

She's not a bookworm. She's not a prodigy. She's not one who arranged to have her name added to a literary competition. She's Tanya Lloyd Kyi, a bookseller in Vancouver who has just published her first young adult novel, Anywhere But Here, with Simon & Schuster. Her previous experience has been in marketing and editing, and she just looked so darned friendly in her photo. She's the one who arranged to have Anywhere But Here published by Simon Pulse [an imprint of Simon & Schuster].”

[For more on Tanya Lloyd Kyi, visit abcbookworld.com]

HER parents taught her how to find her away around a vegetable garden and a restaurant that was opened when she was ten. “I can balance a lot of cakes on a tray,” she says, “and translate 2 eggs, white into two eggs, sunny-side up, white toast.”

The limitations of small town life led her to skedaddle to Vancouver where, by age 21, she became one of the province’s bestselling authors by ghostwriting and assembling travel and photography books for Whitecap Books, “raving about the beauty of places that I had never actually visited.” Her main uncredited accomplishment was Canada: A Visual Journey. After a stint as a staff writer for the Commonwealth Games in 1994, Kyi attended the University of Victoria.

Kyi’s first book not dominated by photographs was an inspirational anthology entitled Canadian Girls Who Rocked the World (Whitecap, 2001), illustrated by Joanna Clark. It profiles more than 25 unusual, creative and courageous women born in Canada.

Promotional material notes she was an avid Ultimate player who married “the world’s only Burmese occupational therapist.” In the 21st century she bumped her surname Lloyd in favour of her Burmese married name when she published her first young adult novel, Truth (Orca, 2003) as Tanya Lloyd Kyi.

Anywhere But Here was written as Kyi was preparing to send her youngest child to kindergarten. “I knew I wanted to spend more time writing fiction,” she says, “so I shipped a draft off to Patricia Ocampo in Toronto. She was my cross-my-fingers-and-pray-hard agent choice because she had great publishing know-how, experience in marketing and editing, and she just looked so damned friendly in her photo. She’s the one who arranged to have Anywhere But Here published by Simon Pulse [an imprint of Simon & Schuster].”

WORK HARD, BE GOOD TANYA

Sixteen-year-old Cole Owens wants to escape his small-town life and pursue his passion for filmmaking, but instead of spending time behind the lens, Cole finds himself cooking for his drunken dad, guarding the local stripper a safe ride home and acting as a dating service for his best friend. Everything seems to be conspiring to hold Cole in his hometown forever, including a wounded deer, the wacky ex-girlfriend, the pushy school counsellor. Are his relationships a spider web, waiting to trap him, or a net, ready to save him?

Born in Vancouver in 1973, Tanya Lloyd Kyi’s first book not dominated by photographs was an inspirational anthology entitled Canadian Girls Who Rocked the World (Whitecap, 2001), illustrated by Joanna Clark. It profiles more than 25 unusual, creative and courageous women born in Canada.

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[For more on Tanya Lloyd Kyi, visit abcbookworld.com]
Vancouver Poet and Downtown Eastside activist Bud Osborn, the unofficial archivist of Canada’s poorest neighbourhood and its most eloquent and forceful author and spokesman, died on May 6, 2014, at age 66, after being diagnosed with pneumonia.

Bud Osborn was a hero to the people of the DTES who understood that harm reduction and safe injection sites are important health measures and a fundamental human right. “I credit him with being able to change the way people perceive drug users,” Davies said.

People living on the street and those involved in the community were “amid our peregrinations lost and listless,” one of Osborn’s books: raw, brave, human, difficult to read in some ways but necessary reading. Davies said of Osborn, “He never shied away from it.”

His first publisher, Brian Kaufman of Anvil Press, recalls: “In 1994, Bud delivered his typewritten manuscript, The Some Monsters, to the Anvil offices on the second floor of the Lee Building at Main and Broadway. And what I saw in Bud’s work then was the same thing I see now when I open one of his books: raw, brave, human, unadorned depictions of people caught in the meat-grinder life of poverty, homelessness, addiction, and violence.”

A chapbook by Bud Osborn called Keys to Kingdoms (Get To The Point Publishing 1998) received the City of Vancouver Book Award. “Bud was an eloquent and passionate spokesperson for the dispossessed,” said publisher Brian Lam of Arsenal Pulp Press. “As a recovering addict, he knew all too well the struggles of those who live with poverty and addiction, and dedicated his life to documenting their experiences, including his own, using the medium of poetry to move and educate others.”

Bud Osborn was born in Battle Creek, Michigan and raised in Toledo, Ohio. His father, a reporter for the Toledo Blade, was a Second World War bomber pilot whose plane was shot down and he became a prisoner of war. He received his father’s exact name, Walton Homer Osborn. His father committed suicide in jail, as a traumatized alcoholic, when Bud was three. Osborn himself tried to commit suicide with 200 Aspirins when he was 15. “Amid our peregrinations through poverty neighborhoods, I was so afraid of my name that when a tough alley urchin gang leader in another new location asked me my name, I said my name was Raymond or something, but this raggedy kid replied, ‘No, it isn’t. It’s Bud!’ And I have insisted on being called ‘Bud’ ever since.”

Osborn began to consider himself a perpetual bad on a tree never to bloom or come to life. He briefly attended Ohio Northern University and took a job with VISTA in Harlem as a counselor. He became a drug addict, married and had a son. His family accompanied him to Toronto, but then his wife and son left him to go to Oregon. Osborn lived on the mean streets of Toronto, Toledo and New York until he moved to the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver where he eventually entered detox. “I stopped running and tried to face myself,” he says. “As a former addict who was ‘seven years clean,’ Osborn became a board member of the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, the Carnegie Centre Association Board and VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users). In the process he began working closely with Libby Davies and advocating for the introduction of free injection sites.

“I realize there are not many people who can advocate from the bottom, who have lived at the bottom,” said Osborn. As a city council candidate for COPE in 1999, Osborn became a fierce adversary of Mayor Philip Owen and met with federal Health Minister Allan Rock. He did remarkably well at the polls for someone who could have been dismissed as a former alcoholic and drug addict.

Although Osborn didn’t win election, Mayor Owen reversed his stance and accepted most of the policies that Osborn and Davies had been advocating. His collection of poetry from Arsenal Pulp and a CD of songs, both called Hard as a Rock, were released to coincide with his performance at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival with guitarist David Lester, followed by a cross-country tour.

See abcbookworld.com for more info, including a Bud Osborn interview. A commemorative video is in the works. “He could communicate with people,” Libby Davies told the Georgia Straight, “and get them to understand what was going on, and he always spoke the truth, always. He never shied away from it.”

New books from NIGHTWOOD EDITIONS

How Does a Single Blade of Grass Thank the Sun?, by Journey Prize nominated author Dorette Loui, is a collection of short stories that represent a new perspective from young Asian-Canadian characters. Rob Winger, a Governor General’s and Trillium Award winner and author of critically acclaimed and popular collection of poetry, the poems in Pluck, by bestselling novelist and award-winning poet Leisha Ramson, tackle issues of sexuality, female vulnerability and parenthood.

Adrienne Weiss, a member of Toronto’s first all-female sketch comedy troupe, explores the nature of performance, identity, self-mythology and the desire to find a happy ending. There are No Solid Gold Dancers Anymore. Mauli munro and Bennett are the world’s most important Suddenly famous, she becomes an overnight sensation and must deal with the consequences of fame. She’s a very private person, forced to deal with the demands of attention. A road movie about fame, friendship, the cult of personality and self-mythology.

www.nightwoodeditions.com

The Hills Are Shadows by Joan Givner

Lost in an unfamiliar world, a girl named Tennyson and her friends search for home and have strange, dangerous encounters with humans and non-humans. A story of strength, determination and friendship.

C. M. Mckee

35 BC BOOKWorld SUMMER 2014
The novel turns again to the Creswell family. In this novel, the family, led by the patriarchal figure of Doctor Geneva Song, navigates the complexities of family ties, loyalty, and stability. The family's trajectory includes medical challenges, legal disputes, and personal transformations. Through the lens of the Creswell family, the novel explores themes of family, loyalty, and resilience.

CTVeee & Mike

The article on me was super and I’ve got good comments on it. But I hasten to add that the Global TV network is not involved in the project, and I separated in August of 2013.

Thirteen-seven years ended in three minutes. No warning, no compensation. I am now very happy doing stories for CTV. The article failed to mention I also work with CTV. Other than that, the story and exposure was wonderful.

Mike McCarrick

Viz is a wiz

I was pleased to see Stephen Vizinczey’s letter in the Spring 2014 issue of BCBW. I recall reading a few reviews and essays by Mr. Vizinczey in B.C. BookWorld over the years, and I hope he writes more for the pages. He is best known as a novelist, especially for In Praise of Older Women, but is also a brilliant essayist, as can be seen in his book The Rules of Chaos and Truth and Lies in Literature. Let’s hope another book of essays is on the way. By the way, wasn’t that portrait in the photo of Stendhal, not Balzac?

Carl Rosenberg

Vancouver, BC

[Vizinczey has pictures of Stendhal and Balzac in his writing room. Photos were taken in front of both. Photos msnamed....Ed.]
Federation of British Columbia Writers Up-coming Events

- Literary Writes Competition: Prize money up to $2,500. Grand prize of $1,000. Deadline: August 15, 2014. See our website (bcwriters.ca) for the official rules, categories and submission criteria.
- September 28, 2014: Vancouver Island Self-Publishing Fair in Nanaimo, BC
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