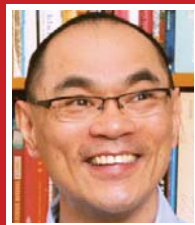


ROBUST



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Paul Yee

How Chinese
labourers in
19th century
B.C. fought for
their dignity.

P.29



**Gerry
Bracewell**

Annie Oakley
of the
Chilcotin

P.13

THE BUZZ

on Robin Stevenson

A mother's zeal clashes
with her children's need for
freedom in the teen novel,
**The Summer We
Saved the Bees.**

See page 31



**David R.
Boyd**

Fighting
for the
environment.

P.9

MINERS' STRIKE P.18 **HOW TO GROW A FARM** P.21 FLOUR POWER P.22

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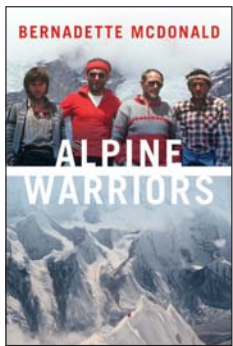
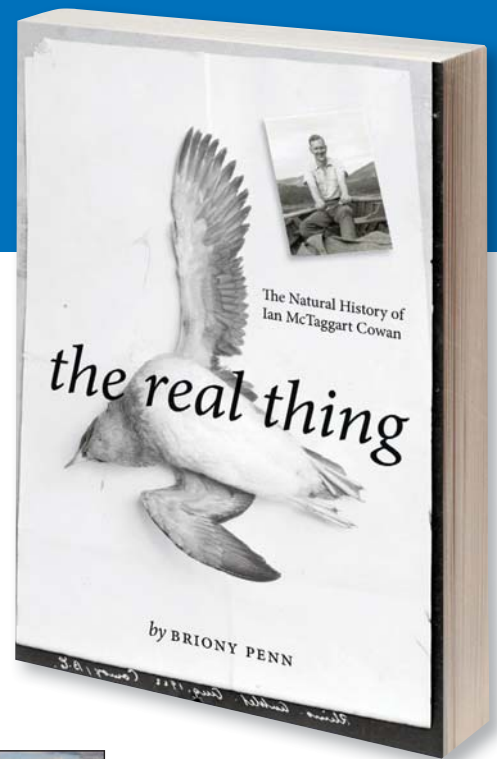


The Real Thing

The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan
Briony Penn

Illustrated throughout with photos from all aspects of Ian McTaggart Cowan's remarkable life, *The Real Thing* takes the reader on an inspirational journey through BC's ecology, wilderness and landscape.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$30 pb | \$14.99 ebook

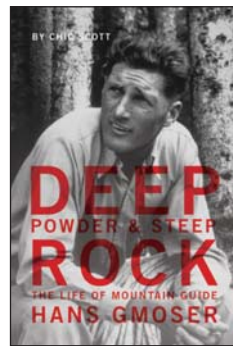


Alpine Warriors

Bernadette McDonald

From internationally renowned mountain historian Bernadette McDonald comes an intense and controversial look at the explosion of Slovenian alpinism in the context of that country's turbulent political history.

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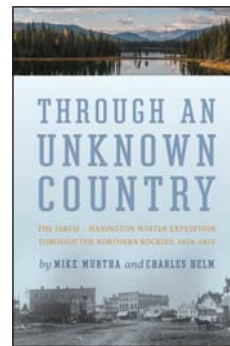


Deep Powder and Steep Rock

The Life of Mountain Guide Hans Gmoser
Chic Scott

Introduces readers to the exciting world of western Canadian heli-skiing and alpine tourism through the life of renowned adventurer and robust entrepreneur Hans Gmoser.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$25 pb | \$12.99 ebook



Through an Unknown Country

The Jarvis-Hanington Winter Expedition through the Northern Rockies, 1874-1875
Mike Murtha and Charles Helm

Based on unpublished reports and journals thought to be lost, this new book details the harrowing and riveting account of a 19th century expedition through the northern mountain ranges of western Canada.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$30 pb | \$14.99 ebook



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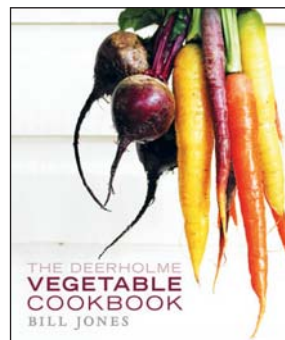


The Butcher, the Baker, the Wine and Cheese Maker by the Sea

Jennifer Schell

The follow up to *The Butcher, the Baker, the Wine and Cheese Maker: An Okanagan Cookbook*, this is a celebration of BC's coastal cuisine with recipes and fork-lore from the farmers, artisans, fishers, foragers, and chefs from Tofino to Vancouver to Pemberton.

TouchWood Editions | \$29.95 pb | \$24.99 ebook

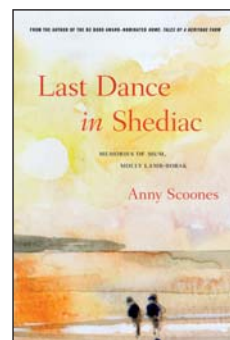


The Deerholme Vegetable Cookbook

Bill Jones

A love letter to vegetables inspired by Jones' travels and experiences, this new collection includes more than 125 unexpected, exciting plant-based recipes to imaginatively use up all the goodness from your garden and revitalize your approach to eating veggies.

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Last Dance in Shediac

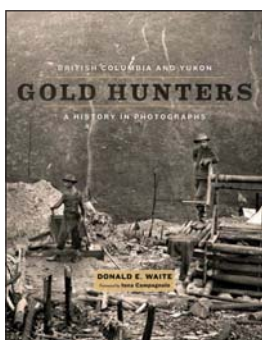
Memories of Mum, Molly Lamb-Bobak
Anny Scoones

In this vividly wrought memoir, Scoones shares personal stories of her mother, celebrated Canadian artist Molly Lamb-Bobak. A tender meditation on life and death, this is the tale of a beautiful relationship between mother and daughter.

TouchWood Editions | \$19.95 pb | \$14.99 ebook



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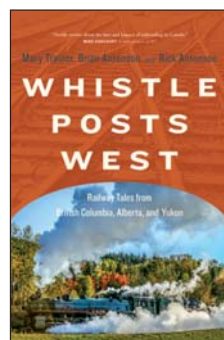


British Columbia and Yukon Gold Hunters

A History in Photographs
Donald E. Waite

This stunning volume, featuring over 200 illustrations along with dramatic stories of greed and glory in the goldfields, is one of the most comprehensive accounts available of the gold rush era in BC and Yukon.

Heritage House Publishing | \$29.95 pb

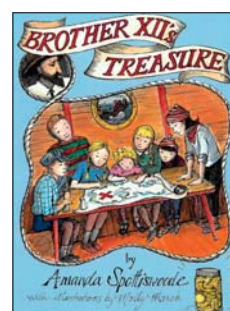


Whistle Posts West

Railway Tales from British Columbia, Alberta, and Yukon
Mary Trainer, Brian Antonson, and Rick Antonson

Climb aboard for an unforgettable ride showcasing 150 years of railroading in the West. These stories of tragedy, triumph, and life on the railroad are a must-read for train buffs and armchair travellers alike.

Heritage House Publishing | \$18.95 pb | \$14.99 ebook



Brother XII's Treasure

Amanda Spottiswoode;
illustrations by Molly March

In the summer of 1936, a group of high-spirited young friends cruise the southern BC coastline in search of a stolen treasure. This enchanting historical adventure will delight young readers aged 8 to 12.

Heritage House Publishing | \$12.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook



heritagehouse.ca

Let them eat canned beans

Food banks, argues **Graham Riches**, are part of the problem, not the solution to food poverty.

AN ARTICLE IN OUR SUMMER issue to publicize journalist **Andrew MacLeod's** *A Better Place on Earth*—an exposé of the growing differential between wealth and poverty in B.C.—resulted in numerous responses, all appreciative.

One of the respondents was food and social policy expert **Graham Riches**, of Qualicum Beach, whose new book, **First World Hunger Revisited: Food Charity or the Right to Food?** (Palgrave Macmillan \$36.99), has also lambasted the neo-liberal agenda of wealthy governments, of all political stripes, for embracing charity as the primary response to domestic hunger.

Graham Riches is professor emeritus and former director of the School of Social Work at UBC. He taught at the University of Northern B.C. from 1994 to 1998 and UBC from 1998 to 2008. His other books are *Food Banks and the Welfare Crisis* (CCSD, 1986); *Unemployment and Welfare* (co-editor, Garamond, 1990) and *First World Hunger: Food Security and Welfare Politics* (ed, Macmillan, 1997).



“THE SAD FACT IS,” WROTE GRAHAM RICHES in *The Guardian* in December, 2014, “that in Canada, with its 30-year track record of increasingly corporatized food charity, recent national data shows that one in eight households or 3.9 million individuals (11.6% of the population) are still experiencing food insecurity.”

To combat increased hunger at home, Riches opposes the long-term institutionalisation of food banking because it diminishes political appetite for progressive reform.

“The long-term entrenchment of the Canadian food charity industry,” he writes, “has fostered the depoliticisation of hunger and its social construction as a matter primarily for community and corporate charity, and not a human rights question demanding the urgent attention of the state.

“Today, Canadian public perception of food charity is that it should take care of domestic hunger. Governments can look the other way.

“Ergo, public policy neglect, an increasingly broken social safety net fed by punitive welfare reforms, the continuing neo-liberal mantra of lower



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID LESTER

taxes and the minimalist state.

“As leading US food policy expert Janet Poppendieck argues, food charity’s primary function is one of “symbolic value” ... “relieving us of guilt and discomfort about hunger,” while serving as a moral safety valve as hunger marches on.

“Food banks are part of the problem, not the solution to food poverty.

“Tellingly, Canada’s nationally institutionalised food bank network lacks empirical evidence that food charity is an effective response to systemic food insecurity. Food banks consistently run out of food, distribution is tightly

rationed, pressures mount to source food, eligibility criteria are vague, volunteer fatigue grows, and the stigma of food aid keeps many away...

Meanwhile income inadequacy (wages and benefits), the key determinant of food poverty, remains unaddressed. Strikingly, 62% of the food insecure have jobs of some kind.

“So what’s to be done? Even Food Banks Canada now acknowledges that food charity is unable to address food insecurity over the long term; and as Finnish food policy expert **Tiina Silvas-ti** says: “In spite of goodwill, charitable food aid is nothing more than a gift. It is not a collective right or entitlement that can be claimed by a hungry person or by a family in need of food.”



Graham Riches

In *First World Hunger Revisited*, Riches explains why first world political parties should revisit the right to food, which Canada ratified at the UN in 1976, and think through its practical application for addressing food poverty.

“Make the moral, legal and political case for its entrenchment in domestic law,” he has written, “and set an international standard for first world wealthy societies. The point is this: charity is never the answer to food poverty.

“In the words of **Louise Arbour**, former Canadian supreme court justice and UN high commissioner for human rights: “There will always be a place for charity, but charitable responses are not an effective, principled or sustainable substitute for enforceable human rights guarantees.”

We need to change the conversation, Riches maintains, to the right to food.

Riches lives in Qualicum Beach where he conceived *First World Hunger Revisited*, co-edited with Tiina Silvas-ti and written with authors from around the world.

It examines responses to domestic hunger and income poverty in twelve rich ‘food-secure’ societies and emerging economies: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, the UK and the USA.

9781137298720

We welcome readers’ responses to books and articles in BCBW. See LETTERS section on p. 41. Write to bookworld@telus.net

Raziel Reid
Everything Feels like the Movies
(Arsenal Pulp Press \$15.95)

Vici Johnstone
This Place a Stranger: Canadian Women Travelling Alone (Caitlin Press \$24.95)

Shelley Adams
Whitewater Cooks with Passion
(Sandhill Book Marketing \$34.95)

Nelly Arcan
Breakneck (Anvil Press \$20)

Sylvia Olsen
Knitting Stories: Personal Essays and Seven Coast Salish-inspired Knitting Patterns
(Sono Nis Press \$28.95)

Kevin Paul
Study Smarter, Not Harder - 4th Edn.
(Self Counsel Press \$21.95)

Susan Musgrave & Esperanca Melo
More Blueberries
(Orca Book Publishers \$9.95)

Alain Deneault
Canada: A New Tax Haven
(Talonbooks \$29.95)

Lisa Kivirist & John Ivanko
Homemade for Sale: How to Set Up and Market a Food Business from Your Home Kitchen
(New Society Publishers \$22.95)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Goethe's Poems
(Ronsdale Press \$18.95)

Paulette Regan
Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada
(UBC Press \$34.95)

Peter Johnson & John Walls
To the Lighthouse: An Explorer's Guide to the Island Lighthouses of Southwestern BC
(Heritage Group of Publishers \$19.95)

George Bowering
The World, I Guess
(New Star Books \$18)

Helen McAllister & Jennifer Heath
Down to Earth: Cold Climate Gardens and their Keepers
(Oolichan Books \$29.95)

Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd
Orca Chief (Harbour \$19.95)

Robert Budd
Ted Harrison Collected
(D&M \$19.95)

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

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The Gold Eaters is more than a heart-pounding epic; it is a brilliant and difficult reflection on the breaking of an Indigenous people on the wheel of 'progress.' Ronald Wright is a storyteller at the height of his powers.

JOSEPH BOYDEN,
bestselling author of *The Orenda* and *Three Day Road*

The GOLD EATERS

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NEW

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George Bowering

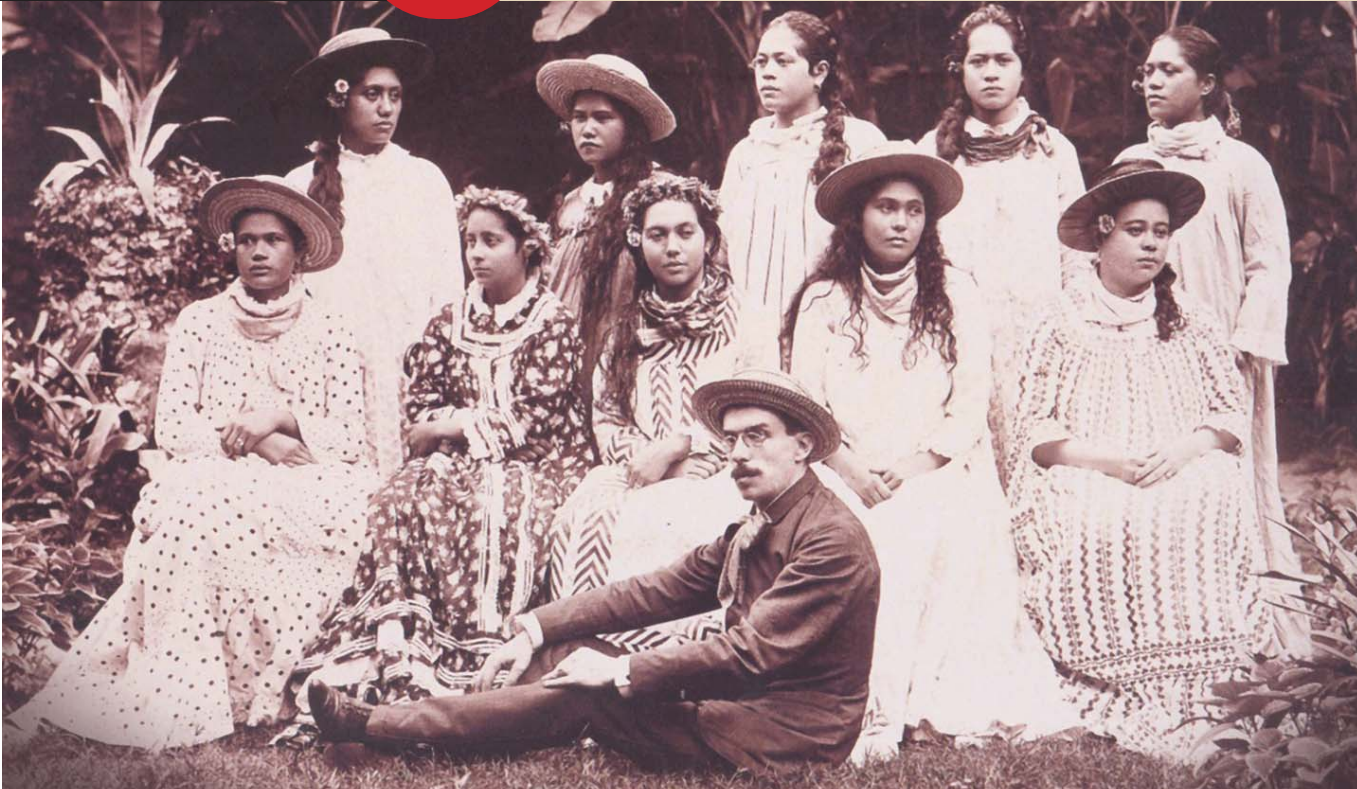
RECOVERING WRITE-AHOLIC

AFTER A NEAR-FATAL CARDIAC ARREST in April, **George Bowering** was rushed to Vancouver General Hospital and induced into a coma for twelve days. By June, despite his broken ribs and broken sternum, the rehab department said Bowering was in better shape post-incident than most other 79-year-olds without an incident. “On the second assessment day they asked George if he could jump,” said his wife, **Jean Baird**. “He jumped. They said they’d never had another before who was able to jump.”



George Bowering: Back to Nat Bailey

The walker was returned in early June and he began using a cane, improving his muscle tone. By the end of June he was back at Nat Bailey watching Vancouver Canadians baseball and with tickets to the jazz festival. And he was working on a new novel. Indefatigable, Bowering has four new books due this fall and he’s sent a long, personal letter to Premier Christy Clark asking her to support a federal plan for a new grasslands national park in the mountains of the South Okanagan where he grew up. “I love the valley,” he wrote to her, “and I hate to see its desecration.” Our fiction reviewer **John Moore** assesses **Ten Women**, Bowering’s new collection of short stories on page 19. Bowering has more than a hundred books to his name.



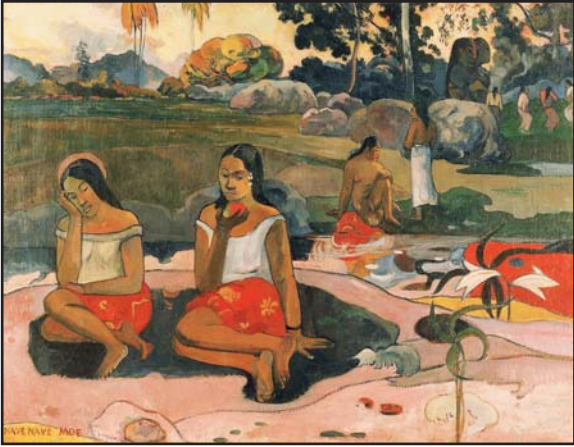
Cover image from *The New Arcadia: Tahiti’s Cursed Myth* — a tourist poses with the local belles

There is more to Tahiti than Paul Gauguin

THE INITIAL REASON **Monique Layton** became interested in French Polynesia was escapism. Having spent about five months in hospital and nine months in rehab following a serious accident, she had started to research and write an ethnography of hospital life—a tad depressing but within her wheelhouse as an anthropologist.

“Then one day, straight out of the antipodal part of my brain,” she says “came up the word Tahiti...” All she knew about it was the cliché of palm trees, beaches, dancing vahines. “I started reading,” says, “and soon fell in love, totally in love, like a teenager. I was in a pretty weakened condition, it’s true, but it was definitely love.”

She went twice (2012 and 2014) and even practised speaking French with a Tahitian accent once she heard it spoken on the islands. Due to limited mobility, she can’t see as much of



French artist Paul Gauguin exoticized Tahiti in such paintings as *Sacred Spring, Sweet Dreams*.

the archipelago as she’d like, but she intends to return. “The Tahitian reality is often grim,” she says, “but the mirage somehow endures. As an anthropologist, she wanted to show how and why eighteenth-

century Otaheite became twenty-first-century Tahiti. Consequently Layton has self-published **The New Arcadia: Tahiti’s Cursed Myth** (FriesenPress \$21.95). Based on historical records, sailors’ journals, Ma’ohi epic poetry, European paintings, folkloric events, the film industry, and novels by modern Tahitian writers, *The New Arcadia* follows the passage from Otaheite’s paradisaical way of life through the disastrous encounters with European civilization, ending with French Polynesia’s modern prospects. People (navigators, missionaries, whalers, slavers) and events (deadly epidemics, atomic testing, and now tourism), all have contributed over time to creating the modern Tahitian quandary: trying to recover an idealized past and losing the benefits of modern life, or continuing as a cog in the French administrative system and losing her soul.

978-1-4620-3649



Sandy Shreve

Back to Jack

Having been given her father’s 1936 diary from his days as an overseas deckhand on a Canadian Steamships freighter at age 21, **Sandy Shreve** has spun the ‘found words’ into **Waiting for the Albatross** (Oolichan \$19.95). “Although I’ve fiddled and tinkered with Dad’s diary,” she says, “the poems I’ve written remain true to the experiences he described and retain his voice.” The diary contains a wealth of sea-going jargon and imagery, historical references, and the thoughts of a young man making his way in the world. Leaving from Halifax, **Jack Shreve** spent five months sailing from Halifax, down the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, and across the wide Pacific to New Zealand and Australia before returning home. 978-0889823044

From cerebral palsy to celebrities

CAM TAIT’S JOURNEY

CAM TAIT WAS INITIALLY UNABLE TO SPEAK, sit up or move his arms or legs. In **Cam Tait: Disabled? Hell No! I’m a Sit-Down Comic** (Harbour \$24.95), co-written by Cam Tait and **Jim Taylor**, we read how Tait, an *Edmonton Journal* sportswriter, overcame cerebral palsy to parasail, play golf and hang out with the likes of **Wayne Gretzky** and cruise alongside **Rick Hansen** for his *Man in Motion* tour. Tait benefited from a radical new type of physical therapy that required unwavering commitment by Tait, his parents and his 116-person-strong group of volunteers. Gradually he learned to speak, move his hands, maneuver a wheelchair—and write.

978-1-55017-697-1



Wayne Gretzky with Cam Tait

"the truest life to live is one crafted by your own hands"

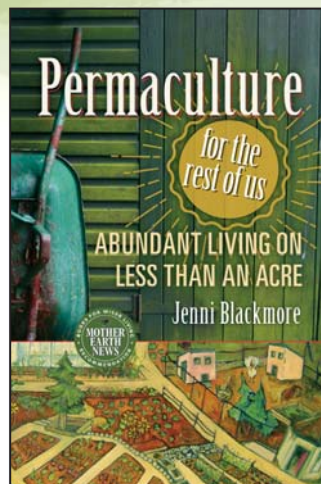
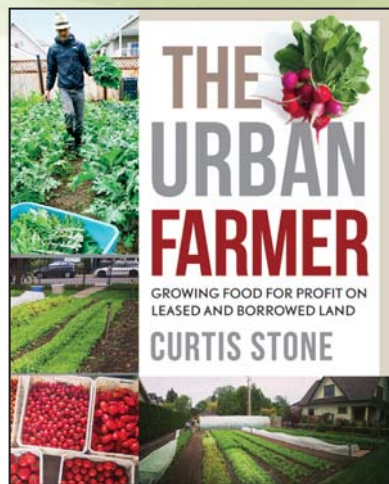
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PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-801-2

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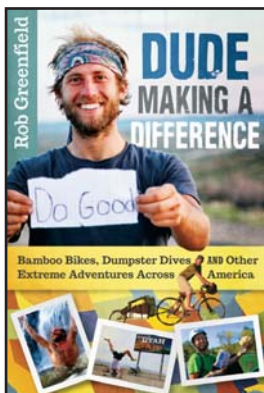
Abundant Living
on Less than an Acre

JENNI BLACKMORE

US/CAN \$19.95

PB ISBN: 978-0-86571-810-4

Not every aspiring permaculturist has access to 5 gently sloping acres of rich, loamy soil. Jenni Blackmore presents a personal account of practicing permaculture in adverse conditions. The book describes how to retrofit even the smallest homestead, illustrating the fundamental principles of this sometimes confusing concept in a humorous, reader-friendly way.



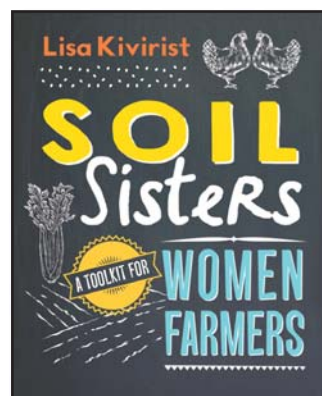
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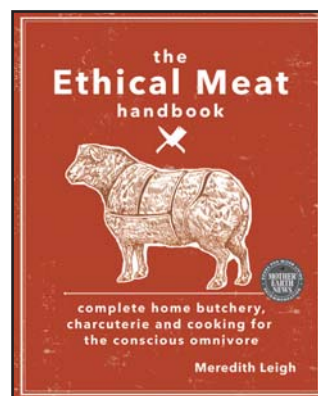
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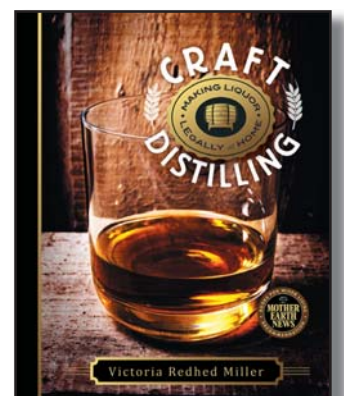
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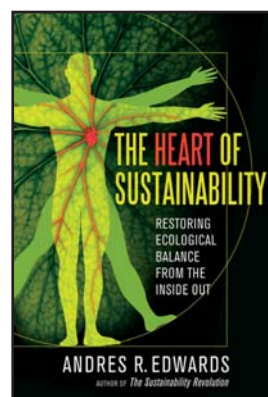
Rethinking the Way We Make,
Market and Buy Our Clothes

MICHAEL LAVERGNE

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Is global fashion a wolf in sheep's clothing?
An industry insider takes a hard look at the
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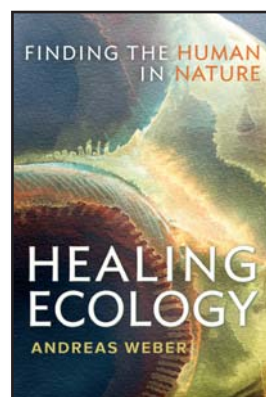
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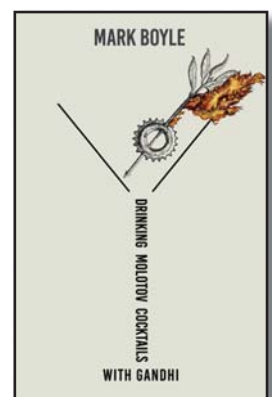
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Fests abound



THIS YEAR'S HEADLINER from back east for the Whistler Writers Festival, October 16-18, will be **Lawrence Hill**, author of **The Book of Negroes**, which won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and CBC Radio's *Canada Reads*. Two years ago the big, imported star was faux intellectual **Jian Ghomesi** who, it turned out, didn't write his own editorials. Lawrence Hill, on the other hand, is the real deal. His new novel **The Illegal** tells the story of a marathon runner who flees from a repressive government and is forced into hiding.



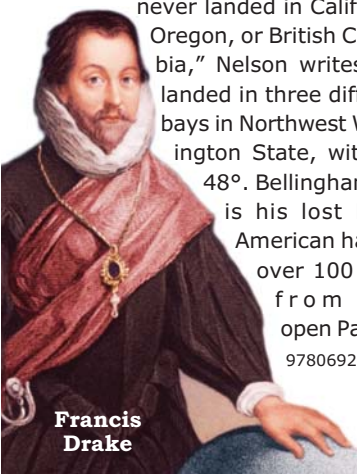
HAVING BROUGHT **Salman Rushdie's** *Midnight's Children* to the screen, **Deepa Mehta** is working on a script based on **Shilpi Somaya Gowda's** first novel *Secret Daughter*, a page-turner about what happens when a white San Francisco family raises a brown-skinned child from Mumbai. It was Toronto-based marketing via Costco and Chapters that vaulted Gowda's book into prominence, even though she is from San Diego. With an MBA from Stanford, Gowda is a publisher's dream-come-true—so she'll be front and centre at the Vancouver Writers Festival, October 20-25.



THE CHERIE SMITH JCC Jewish Book Festival in Vancouver, Nov. 21-26, has **Sean Michaels**, winner of the 2014 Giller Prize for **Us Conductors**, a debut novel inspired by the life of **Léon Theremin**, inventor of the musical instrument called the theremin. Sean Michaels, who first gained prominence as a Montreal-based music critic and blogger, also performs as an improv artist. For more info see ads on pages 15, 16, 18

DRAKE'S WAKE

As an amateur historian, **Laird L. Nelson** of Everson, Washington has claimed to have solved the mystery as to where exactly the English privateer **Francis Drake** landed on the Northwest Coast of America in his 194-page expose, **Port of the Dragon: The Lost Harbor of Sir Francis Drake** (\$14.95). "Drake never landed in California, Oregon, or British Columbia," Nelson writes, "he landed in three different bays in Northwest Washington State, within N 48°. Bellingham Bay is his lost North American harbor, over 100 miles from the open Pacific." 9780692282847



Once upon a more innocent time, **Tomas Ilves** (left) took over management of The Literary Storefront from founder **Mona Fertig** (right). Now Ilves is the president of Estonia.

HISTORY OF The Literary Storefront

LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI. Edward Albee. Tennessee Williams. Earle Birney. George Faludy. Brian Moore. Margaret Atwood. Audrey Thomas. All appeared at **Mona Fertig's** Literary Storefront in Vancouver from 1978 to 1984. **Trevor Carolan** has produced a richly illustrated history, **The Literary Storefront: The Glory Years** (Mother Tongue \$29.95), to enshrine the community centre for posterity. It's an intriguing tribute, only missing the true story about the time **Al Purdy** urinated in the sink. One of Fertig's two locations in Gastown will be added to the forthcoming Literary Map of B.C. 978-1896949529

When **Mandy Bath** left her home on July 12, 2012, she had no idea that only an hour later, her house and community would be destroyed. A massive landslide caused by snow melt and heavy rains hit the tiny hamlet of Johnsons Landing [no apostrophe is correct] mid-morning that day, killing four people and decimating the tight-knit lakeside community. **Disaster in Paradise: The Landslides in Johnson's Landing** (Harbour \$22.95), tells a story of "survival, grief and recovery" as residents try to heal and eventually rebuild. Bath came to live in Johnsons Landing, the site of a former steamboat landing, in 1993. Since her home was destroyed in 2012, she now lives in Kaslo, B.C., with her husband **Christopher Klassen**. 978-1-55017-695-7



MARGARET SMITH PHOTO

Mandy Bath revisits the site of her former home.

Bzzzzzzzz...

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NONFICTION FOR AGES 8-12

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—Booklist

GET THE
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**AUTHORS ROBIN
AND
MERRIE-ELLEN**

are teaming up to offer
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visits (grades 4-8) this fall!

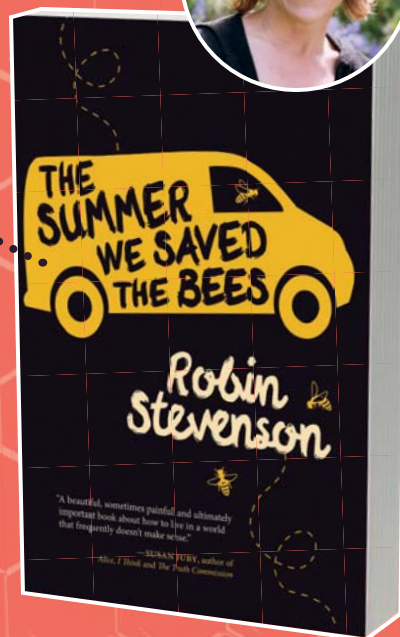


Learn all about bees and what
you can do to help them.
For more info, email
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A worker honey bee's
wings beat more than
400 times
per second. This is
what makes bees buzz,
but it also allows them
to fly fast.

"A beautiful, sometimes painful, and ultimately important book about how to live in a world that frequently doesn't make sense. I loved every page and know it is one of those stories that will stay with me forever."
—Susan Juby, author



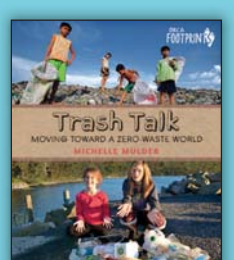
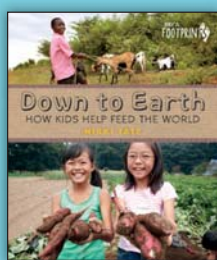
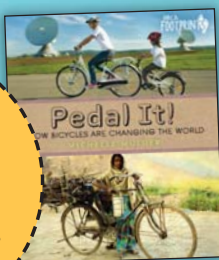
FICTION FOR AGES 9-12



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been found in Egyptian tombs
that are more than
3,000 years old,
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Meredith Boyd, in the middle, with her friends Annika (left) and Jessie (right), participating in the bird count at Brooks Point on South Pender Island.

GREEN VISIONS

DAVID R. BOYD EXPRESSES GREEN OPTIMISM IN one book but alleges Canada’s climate policies are second-rate in another. There are also two new books about **Ian McTaggart-Cowan**, father of Canadian ecology.



Ian McTaggart-Cowan (1910–2010)

ACCORDING TO **DAVID R. BOYD**, it’s important to stop and realize that many environmental problems have been successfully identified and combated in the past fifty years.

That’s the rationale for **The Optimistic Environmentalist: Progressing Toward a Greener Future** (ECW \$19.95) in which he inspires hopefulness, particularly for young people, by citing how many billions of hectares of land and water have been protected by the creation of new parks.

Gray whales and bald eagles are no longer in dire danger of extinction. Progress has been made on protecting the ozone layer and renewable energy from wind, water and sun has entered the mainstream dialogue. Dozens of toxic chemicals have been banned.

Meanwhile Boyd is realistic about Canada’s environmental challenges and concludes Canada has devolved from being a world leader to having second-rate standards in **Cleaner, Greener, Healthier: A Prescription for Stronger Environmental Laws and Policies** (UBC Press \$34.95).

Like Nero who fiddled while Rome burned, Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** can be objectively viewed as part of the problem, not part of the solution, particularly now that Canada and Japan have publicly stalled the rate of environmental progress among G7 countries at the G7 summit in 2015.

“Canada’s position at the G7 summit on long-term decarbonization of the economy is nothing more than grandstanding,” says Boyd. “While the world is already shifting towards a clean, renewable future (demonstrated by rapid growth in wind, solar, and geothermal energy), the Canadian government has been doggedly prioritizing the interests of the fossil fuel industry.

“This is terrible public policy and will cause substantial economic, social, and environmental losses for Canada. Canada has a long and sorry track record of obstructing international

negotiations about environmental issues. While once upon a time we were leaders, in the Trudeau-Mulroney era, we are now widely recognized as international environmental reprobates.

“Media reports of Canada’s role in watering down the recent G7 commitments are consistent with our lousy reputation, and I witnessed this kind

of malicious interference firsthand in 2005 while working in the Privy Council Office at Prime Minister **Paul Martin**’s request. [Prior to the G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, Canada was also reluctant to commit to strong climate change and foreign aid commitments, according to Boyd.]

“Unless the federal election results

in a different government taking power in October, Canada can be expected to continue its dark and dastardly deeds at the crucial Paris negotiations on climate change in December.”

In *Cleaner, Greener, Healthier*, Boyd compares Canada’s environmental policies with those of the European Union, Australia and the U.S. and diagnoses why Canada has fallen behind, focussing on how the health of a population is inextricably linked to the environment—a subject he researched for an earlier book, *Dodging the Toxic Bullet: How to Protect Yourself from Everyday Environmental Health Hazards* (Greystone, 2010).

Boyd maintains that implementing the recommendations in *Cleaner, Greener, Healthier* would prevent thousands of premature deaths, avoid hundreds of thousands of preventable illnesses, and save billions of dollars in unnecessary health care expenditures.

He concludes *Cleaner, Greener, Healthier* by prescribing legal remedies that will enable Canada to regain its former leadership role within the global community without harming the economy.

Boyd first explored the differences and similarities between U.S. and Canadian environmental laws in *Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy* (UBC Press, 2003) with a foreword by **Thomas R. Berger**. In that book Boyd similarly prescribed the changes that he believed Canada must make to achieve a sustainable future. Shortlisted for the Donald Smiley Prize from the Canadian Political Science Association, it was hailed as a “monumental work” by **David Suzuki** and **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** praised its “clarity, authorial grace and welcome concern.” Suzuki subsequently provided the foreword for *Dodging the Toxic Bullet* (Greystone Books, 2010).

At the time of writing *Unnatural Law* in 2003, Boyd was a senior associate

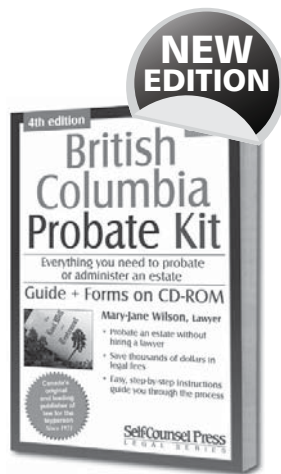
continued on page 10

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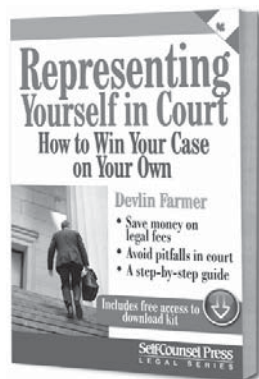


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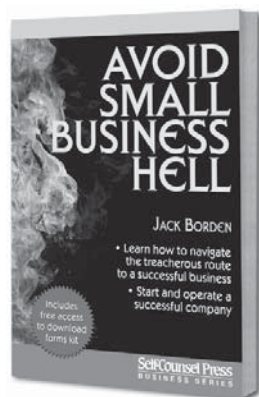


Avoid Small Business Hell

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- Avoid the challenges while quickly becoming profitable and sustainable.

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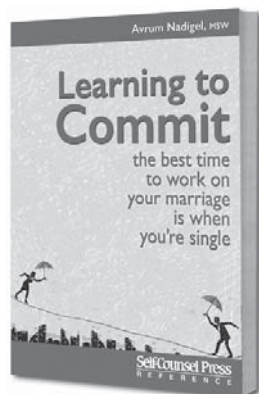


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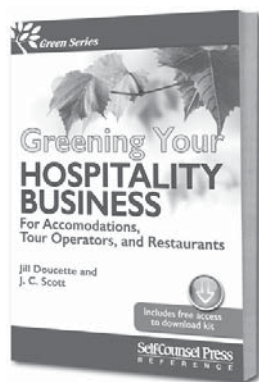


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David R. Boyd with daughter Meredith holding key rack on Pender Island.

continued from page 9

with the University of Victoria's POLIS Project on Ecological Governance and adjunct professor with SFU's graduate Environmental Resource Management Program. By 2007, he had added a stint as a Trudeau Scholar at UBC's Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. As of 2015, Boyd retains his SFU affiliation and lives on Pender Island.

As an environmental lawyer, Boyd has advised the governments of Sweden and Canada and served as executive director of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund.

Two of his recent books in particular, *The Environmental Rights Revolution: A Global Study of Constitutions, Human Rights, and the Environment* (UBC Press, 2011) and *The Right to a Healthy Environment: Revitalizing Canada's Constitution* (UBC Press, 2012) have been influential in the drafting of environmental provisions for new constitutions in Iceland and Tunisia. They also inspired the David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot campaign to secure legal recognition of the right to a healthy environment for all Canadians.

Optimistic: 978-1-77041-238-5
Cleaner: 978-0-7748-3047-8



LIKE TWO WOMEN WEARING THE SAME NEW dress to a wedding, publishers can release books on the same subject at the same time. It doesn't matter who brought the dress first. The wedding must go forward.

Replete with photographs from various stages of **Ian McTaggart Cowan's** remarkable life, **Briony Penn's** ***The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan*** (Rocky Mountain Books \$30) is touted as the first official biography of "the father of Canadian ecology." Authorized by McTaggart Cowan's family, it was completed with the support of the University of Victoria.



Briony Penn has chosen the unhyphenated spelling of McTaggart Cowan's surname; Harbour Publishing's book has opted for the hyphenated version. The revered scientist used both spellings.

A pioneer of community mapping, Briony Penn of Salt Spring Island is a writer, artist and lecturer who holds a Ph.D. in geography from Edinburgh University.

9781771600705



COINCIDENTALLY, HARBOUR PUBLISHING HAS released **Ian McTaggart-Cowan: The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist** (Harbour, \$49.95), co-edited by **R. Wayne Campbell** with **Ronald D. Jakimchuk** and **Dennis A. Demarchi**, slightly in advance of Penn's book.

Ian McTaggart-Cowan died on April 18, 2010, at the age of 99. The co-written biography from Campbell *et al.* was commenced as a project to mark his hoped-for 100th birthday.

McTaggart-Cowan's milestones were many: he was the founder of the first Canadian university wildlife department and his early work in Canada's national parks became the basis for wildlife conservation and environmental education.

McTaggart-Cowan addressed issues from climate change to endangered species before these topics were on the public's radar.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910, McTaggart-Cowan came to Canada in 1913. He taught in the zoology department of UBC from 1945 to 1975, serving as head of the faculty from 1953 to 1964.

At UBC, where McTaggart-Cowan became dean of Graduate Studies from 1964 to 1975, he served as an inspiration for **David Suzuki's** populist approach to science and environmental activism. McTaggart-Cowan's two widely-seen programs on national television in the 1960s, *The Living Sea* and *The Web of Life*, prompted Suzuki to create *The Nature of Things*.

McTaggart-Cowan was similarly a scientific forefather for prolific naturalist and bird expert R. Wayne Campbell, one of the editors of *The Birds of British Columbia* (UBC Press 2001).

978-1-55017-623-0.



J. FENWICK LANSDOWNE (POMEGRANATE \$65) is an intimate look at Lansdowne's life and artwork from the 1970s onward, including more than 160 full-colour reproductions and 15 photographs. It features images from *Rare Birds of*

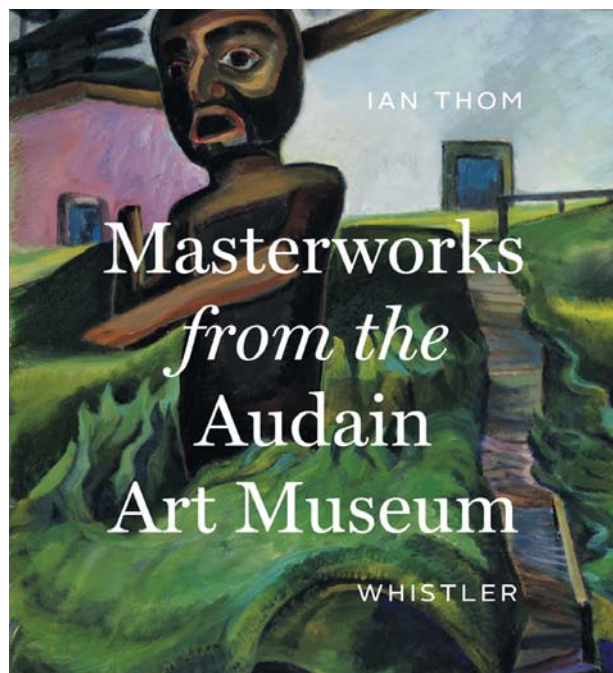
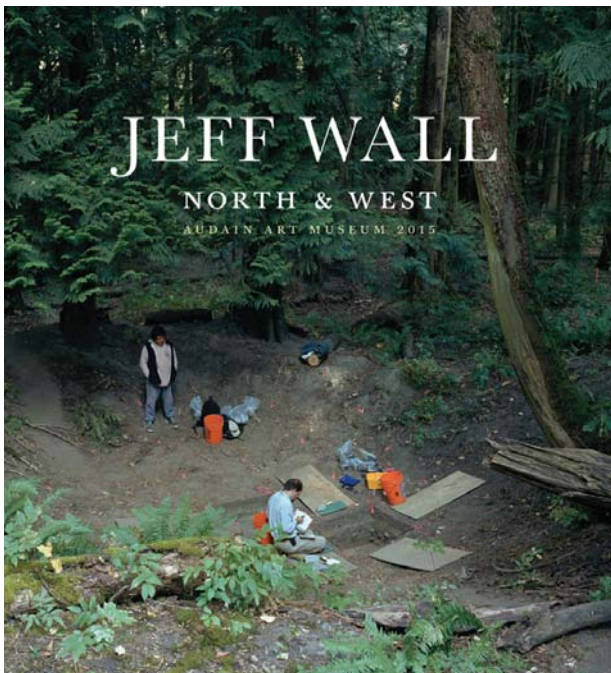
China (Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1998), the result of Lansdowne's trip to China in 1984 during which he met with noted ornithologists to identify rare birds for painting.

A foreword by **Graeme Gibson** leads to essays by **Tristram Lansdowne, Tony Angell, Patricia Feheley, Robert Genn, Robert McCracken Peck** and **Nicholas Tuele**.

978-0-7649-6670-5

Figure.1

Contemporary. Innovative. Beautiful. Books.



- **Jeff Wall**
North & West
Aaron Peck

A stunning selection of photographs from one of Canada's most celebrated contemporary artists.

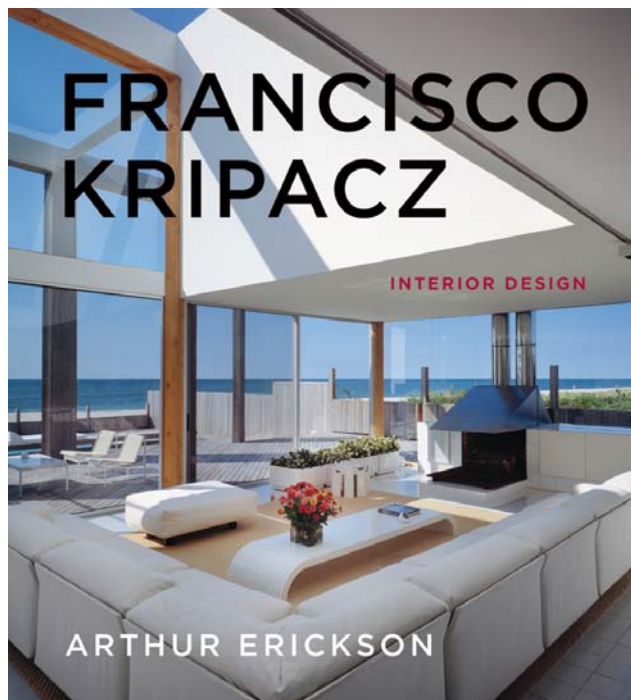
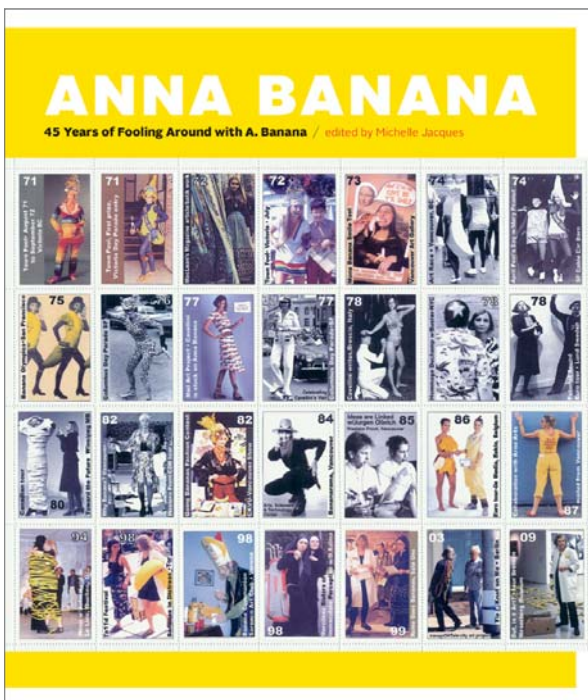
\$25.00 OCTOBER

Co-published with the Audain Art Museum

- **Masterworks from the Audain Art Museum, Whistler**
Ian M. Thom

A sumptuous celebration of the remarkable permanent collection of B.C. art at Whistler's new Audain Art Museum.

\$45.00 OCTOBER



- **Anna Banana**
45 Years of Fooling Around with A. Banana
Michelle Jacques

Discover one of the country's most intriguing, influential and unheralded artists in this groundbreaking retrospective.

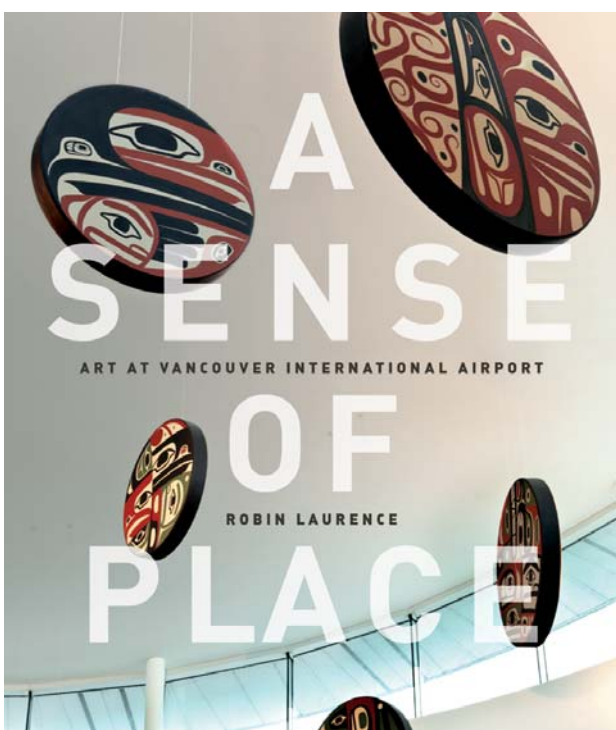
\$40.00 SEPTEMBER

Co-published with Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

- **Francisco Kripacz**
Interior Design
Arthur Erickson

Arthur Erickson's posthumous tribute to his muse and partner, the flamboyant, controversial, one-of-a-kind designer—Francisco Kripacz.

\$50.00 OCTOBER



- **A Sense of Place**
Art at Vancouver International Airport
Robin Laurence

A spectacular overview of one of the world's most acclaimed collections of Northwest Coast aboriginal art.

\$24.95 SEPTEMBER

- **Heaven, Hell and Somewhere in Between**
Portuguese Popular Art
Anthony Alan Shelton

A dazzling compilation of popular artworks that captures the playful, subversive culture of Portugal.

\$45.00 SEPTEMBER

Co-published with UBC Museum of Anthropology

Talonbooks Fall 2015

Scree

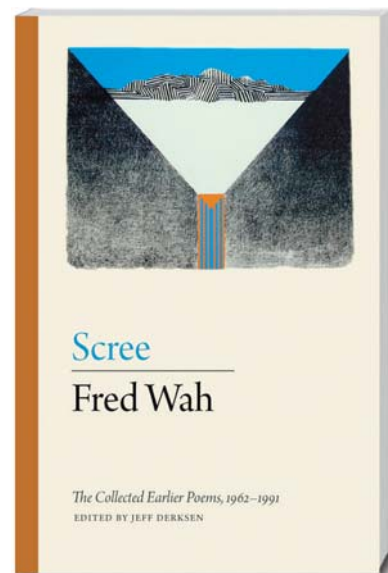
The Collected Earlier Poems, 1962-1991
Fred Wah

Fred Wah's career has spanned six decades and a range of formal styles and preoccupations. *Scree* collects Wah's concrete and sound poetry of the 1960s, his landscape-centric work of the 1970s, and his ethnicity-oriented poems of the 1980s. Wah was a founding member of the avant-garde TISH group, which helped turn Canadian poetry, in the West in particular, to a focus on language. He has said that his "writing has been sustained, primarily, by two interests: racial hybridity and the local."

Most of Wah's early work is out of print. This collection allows readers to (re)discover 13 of his early books. The volume contains:

Lardeau (1965)
Mountain (1967)
Among (1972)
Tree (1972)
Earth (1974)
Pictograms from the Interior of B.C. (1975)
Loki Is Buried at Smoky Creek (1980)
Owner's Manual (1981)
Breathin' My Name with a Sigh (1981)
Grasp the Sparrow's Tail (1982)
Waiting for Saskatchewan (1985)
Rooftops (1988)
So Far (1991)

\$45.00 CAN / 592 pages / Literary Collections: Memoir / 978-0-88922-947-1



Writing the Okanagan

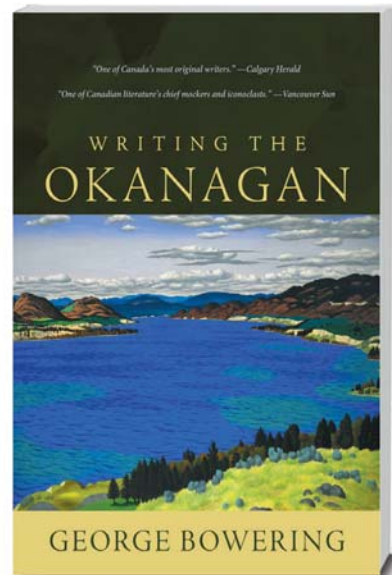
George Bowering

George Bowering was born in Penticton, where his great-grandfather Willis Brinson lived, and Bowering has never been all that far from the Okanagan Valley in his heart and imagination. Early in the twenty-first century, he was made a permanent citizen of Oliver. Bowering has family up and down the Valley, and he goes there as often as he can. He has been asked during his many visits to Okanagan bookstores over the years to publish a collection of his writing about the Valley.

Writing the Okanagan draws on forty books Bowering has published since 1960 – poetry, fiction, history, and some forms he may have invented. *Selections from Delsing* (1961) and *Sticks & Stones* (1962) are here, as is "Driving to Kelowna" from *The Silver Wire* (1966). Other Okanagan towns, among them Rock Creek, Peachland, Vernon, Kamloops, Princeton, and Osoyoos, inspire selections from work published through the 1970s and on to 2013. Fairview, the old mining site near Oliver, is the focus of an excerpt from *Caprice* (1987, 2010), one volume in Bowering's trilogy of historical novels. "Desert Elm" takes as its two main subjects the Okanagan Valley and his father, who, as Bowering did, grew up there. With the addition of some previously unpublished works, the reader will find the wonder of the Okanagan here, in both prose and poetry.

"A lyricism that is spring-sweet and without boast or threat ... Bowering has poured all his considerable power into one vessel, and he must be read." – *Globe and Mail*

\$24.95 CAN / 400 pages / Literary Collections: Memoir / 978-0-88922-941-9

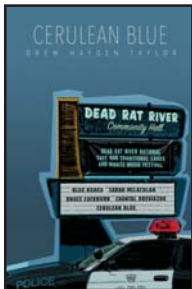


Cerulean Blue

Drew Hayden Taylor

A struggling blues band is invited to participate in a benefit concert for a Native community in conflict with governmental authorities. Cast of ten women and ten men.

ISBN 978-0-88922-952-5
Drama / \$18.95 / 144 pp



Jabber

Marcus Youssef

When anti-Muslim graffiti appears on the walls of her school, Fatima, an Egyptian-born girl who wears a hijab, transfers to a new school. There, she starts an unlikely friendship with a boy who has a reputation for anger issues.

ISBN 978-0-88922-950-1
Drama / \$16.95 / 96 pp



Sila

Chantal Bilodeau

Sila is first in The Arctic Cycle – eight plays that examine the impact of climate change on the eight countries of the Arctic – and it poignantly addresses this issue.

ISBN 978-0-88922-956-3
Drama / \$17.95 / 128 pp

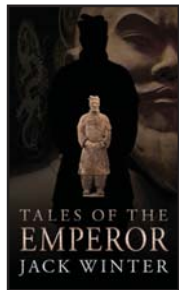


Tales of the Emperor

Jack Winter

In a non-linear, mixed narrative, *Tales of the Emperor* takes the reader to a momentous period in Chinese history. The book is based on the life of Qin Shi Huang (c. 260-210 B.C.), the "First Emperor," he who unified China, gave it his name.

ISBN 978-0-88922-944-0
Fiction / \$19.95 / 224 pp

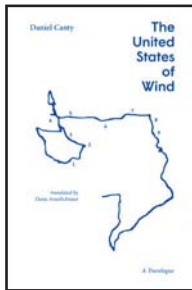


The United States of Wind

A Travelogue

Mixing road narrative and philosophical memoir, *The United States of Wind* follows Daniel Canty, wind seeker. Aboard a Ford Ranger fitted with a weathervane and wind cone, he surrenders to air currents.

ISBN 978-0-88922-942-6
Fiction / \$16.95 / 192 pp



Cosmophilia

Rahat Kurd

Cosmophilia means love of ornament. The central poems are drawn from the poet's memories of time spent with her family in Kashmir and, in particular, from contemplations of traditional Kashmiri handicrafts.

ISBN 978-0-88922-946-4
Poetry / \$16.95 / 96 pp

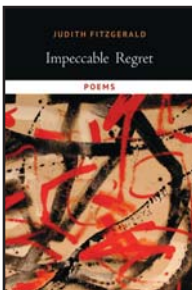


Impeccable Regret

Judith Fitzgerald

In the words of Arthur Miller, "all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets." *Impeccable Regret* travels terrain demonstrating that culture has replaced nature as humanity's defining context.

ISBN 978-0-88922-949-5
Poetry / \$16.95 / 80 pp



Prairie Harbour

Garry Thomas Morse

Morse continues the long-poem tradition with strength and energy, exploring notions of inner landscape and a "harbour" for the mind.

ISBN 978-0-88922-940-2
Poetry / \$18.95 / 176 pp

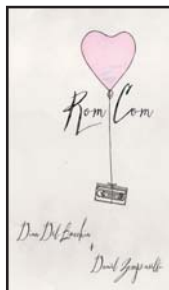


Rom Com

Dina Del Bucchia & Daniel Zomparelli

These collaboratively written poems engage with romantic comedy films and the pop culture, celebrities, and narrative tropes associated with them.

ISBN 978-0-88922-960-0
Poetry / \$17.95 / 128 pp



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Staff
Pick

The Pride of Tatlayoko

Gerry Bracewell
has been described as the
“Annie Oakley” of the Chilcotin.

IN ADDITION TO BEING A RANCH HAND AND SPENDING 50 years guiding visitors through the wilderness, **Gerry Bracewell** helped create the area’s early school system, she wrote articles for the *Williams Lake Tribune*, she ran her own ranch and she raised four children. In 2004, she was inducted into the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame as a Pioneer Rancher. The claim has been made that Gerry Bracewell was the first accredited female hunting guide in B.C. Now Gerry Bracewell, age 92 is making her mark with her memoirs, **Gerry Get Your Gun: My Life as a Hunting Guide and Other Adventures** (Caitlin \$24.95).

GERRY BRACEWELL WAS BORN **ETHEL LOVELL** in the northern Alberta farm country where she was raised. She came to Vancouver as a 16-year-old in 1938, getting a job as a nanny and housekeeper. One day she and another nanny her age decided to attend a dance in Vancouver’s Moose Hall. While riding in the streetcar, they hatched out a scheme not to give out their real names at the dance. Ethel said she would be Gerry, and Elsa decided on the name **Jacquie**. The names stuck.

She spent the following summer working on a ranch at Big Creek [where she took a “selfie” at the time—see next page]. She told Jacquie about all the fun she had in ranching country.

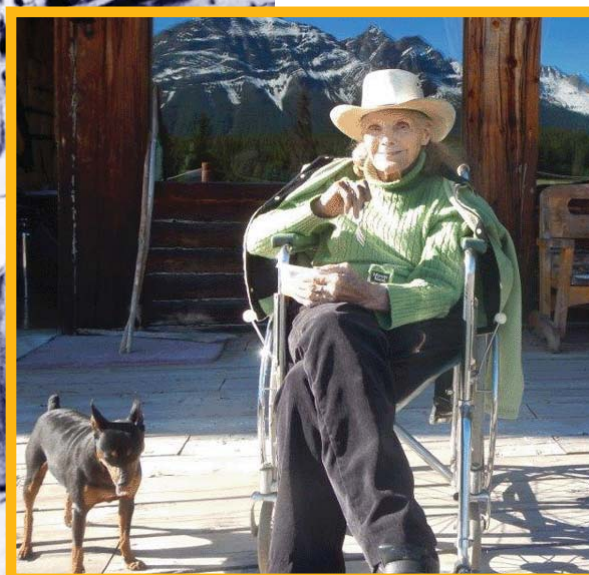
When Bracewell returned to the Chilcotin to work for **KB Moore** in Tatlayoko, Jacquie followed her lead and checked out Big Creek for herself. Bracewell married KB Moore’s son, **Bev**, and Jacquie married local cowboy and rancher, **Duane Witte**.

Bracewell’s mentor, KB Moore, trained her and she became the first female hunting guide in the province. Since then she has had more than her share of hard-core adventures—such as encounters with grizzly bears in the high alpine while leading a half-broke packhorse on a rugged trail.

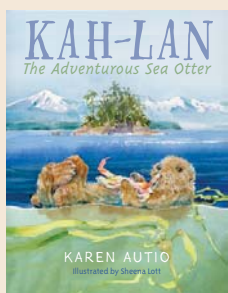
When she was pregnant with her first child, she had to make a January sleigh ride through a foot-and-a-half of snow, from Tatlayoko Valley to Tatla Lake, to meet the doctor who had driven 225 kilometres west from Williams Lake to deliver her breech-birth first child.

Her community occupied a broad footprint from Tatla Lake to West Branch, Kleena Kleene, Tatlayoko Valley, Eagle Lake and the Upper Chilko River—landscape so foreign to most British Columbians that it might as well have been the moon. Everyone helped one another, in-

continued on page 15



Gerry Bracewell on the porch of her home and (left) at a friend’s cabin.



Kah-Lan the Adventurous Sea Otter
Karen Autio
Illustrated by Sheena Lott

The heroic travels of two dynamic and realistic sea otter characters are a wonderful introduction to sea otters, and to the human activities that threaten them. Warm and appealing illustrations by Sheena Lott and a triumphant ending will inspire readers to learn more about these remarkable animals.

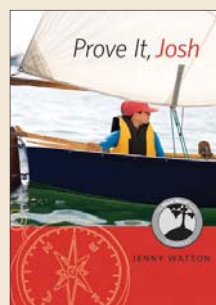
JUVENILE FICTION • Ages 7–10
978-1-55039-244-9 • \$9.95



Shack Island Summer
Penny Chamberlain

It's the summer of 1969, the summer of flower children and the first moon landing. 12-year-old Pepper knows she's adopted and decides this summer will be an excellent time to find out who her birth family is, along with exploring ESP, dreams, friendship and infatuation.

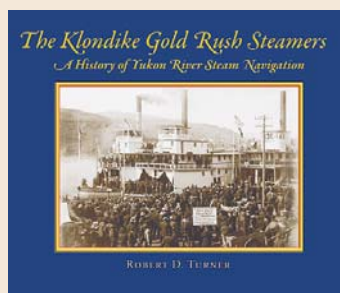
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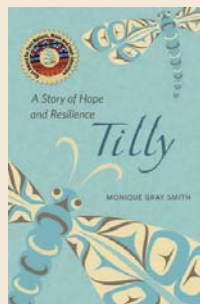
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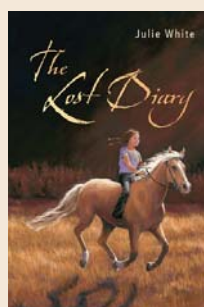
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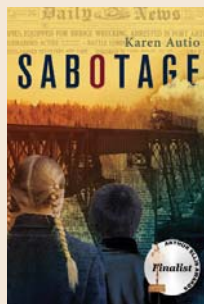
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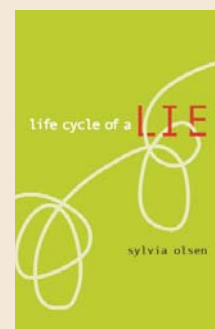
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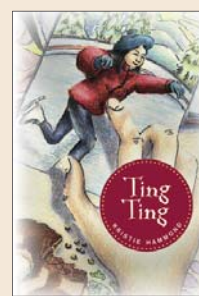
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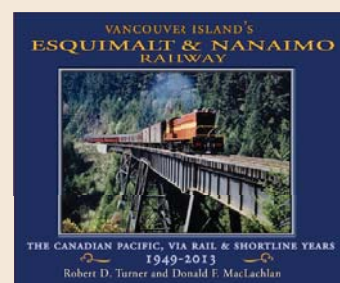
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continued from page 13

cluding elders, bachelors, families with newborns, families with teens, wealthy ranchers, dirt-poor bush hippies, First Nations, loggers, trappers, stump farmers, lodge owners, professionals of all stripes and retirees. Age was no barrier, race was not an issue, social status was insignificant.

Everyone mixed. Bracewell later become friends with her fellow *Williams Lake Tribune* contributor, **Sage Birchwater**, even though they couldn't have been further apart politically. "She was right wing conservative," he says, "and I was a bleeding heart lefty. She was building a great lodge, and I was raising goats on my trapline and having babies born at home. But these differences were minor. We had bigger things in common. Our abiding love for the Chilcotin was perhaps our biggest bond."

Sage Birchwater has commented on *Gerry Get Your Gun*:

"Gerry Bracewell has always courted a strong sense of destiny. When she was a 31-year-old single mom, she felt compelled to drive her pickup truck to the end of the dirt road at Anahim Lake and rent two horses to take her and her two young sons to the construction site on the Bella Coola Hill.

"It was September, 1953, and two bulldozers were coming from opposite directions pushing a road through the Coast Mountains. They were on the verge of meeting, and Gerry wanted to be there to record this historic moment for all posterity with her fixed-lens windup 8mm movie camera.

"When she got there with her two sons, **Marty** and **Barry**, the fateful meeting of the Cats was still two weeks away, but Gerry was undaunted. She took some spectacular footage of the construction activity in the mountain landscape and left her camera with one of the Cat drivers, **Alf Bracewell**, to capture the moment when it occurred.

Gerry and Alf barely knew each other at the time, but four months later they were man and wife.

"Gerry and Alf barely knew each other at the time, but four months later they were man and wife."

Eventually the Bracewells created Alpine Wilderness Lodge, nestled against the south end of Potato Mountain, south of Tatlayoko Lake, in Tatlayoko Valley, four hours west of Williams Lake; east of Mt. Waddington. The Bracewell family obtained the lease for building their family-run lodge on a 360-acre property in 1976, the year they sold their Circle X Ranch. The

following spring, in 1977, they started developing the property. It wasn't until the winter of 1982-83 that the plans for the main lodge were drawn up by **Kevin Bracewell**. Work began the following spring, once the frost came out of the ground after breakup.

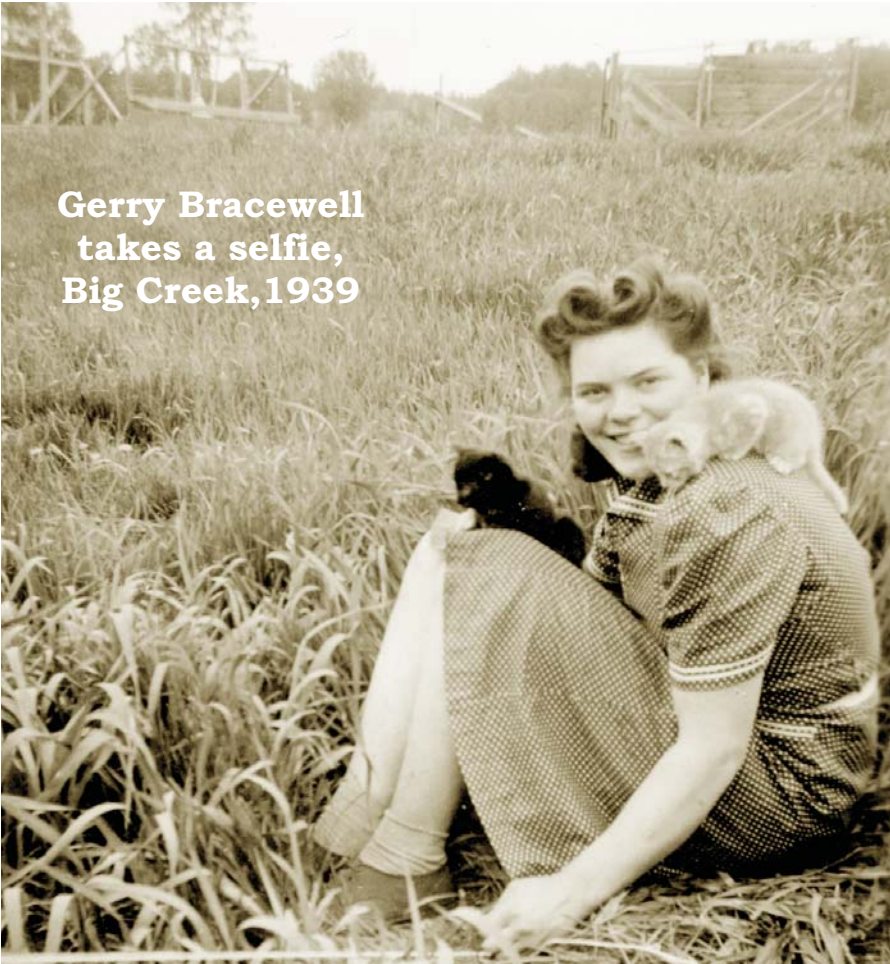
It took three years to finish the lodge, carved out of the wilderness by hand. Logs and timbers milled on site by Alf Bracewell's sawmill. Now, two husbands, four children, nine grandchildren,

and two great grandchildren later, Gerry Bracewell's *Gerry Get Your Gun* reveals a powerful tale of one of the toughest, gender-busting pioneers in B.C.'s backcountry. It depicts Bracewell's adventures as she perseveres and pioneers through the harsh life of ranching. Snippets of her book were written when she had spare time.

"I'm overwhelmed that the book is finally out," she recently confessed. "That's the best word I can think of at the moment. I didn't think it would happen because I was always such a busy person. I'd do it piecemeal. I'd write what I could then I'd have to go out and milk the cow or feed the chickens, then I'd come back and write a bit more."

Gerry Bracewell, having lived in the Chilcotin Valley for over 75 years, can still be found at her Alpine Wilderness Lodge in Tatlayoko Valley, her resort and guiding outfit.

www.bracewell.com
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Gerry Bracewell takes a selfie, Big Creek, 1939

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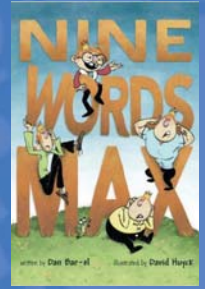
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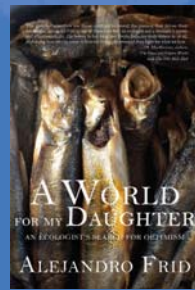
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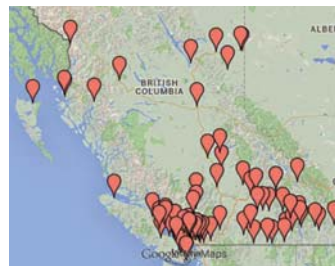
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VANCOUVER ISLAND

PAINFULLY SHY, BENIGNLY GOOD-NATURED, AND embarrassed by facial disfigurement dating back to a childhood injury in England, **Fred Tibbs** was one of Tofino’s best-known eccentrics.

He settled at Long Bay (Long Beach) in 1908, and later moved to his Dream Isle, off Tofino, where he clear-cut the island and erected a three-story wooden castle.

Staff
Pick

Most famously, Tibbs left only one tree in the centre of the island, an enormous spruce that he topped at 100 feet. Every morning Fred Tibbs would climb to the platform with his cornet and serenade Tofino with tunes.

Here’s an excerpt from **Raincoast Chronicles 23** (Harbour \$24.95), a collection of stories and history culled from forty years worth of West Coast titles from Harbour Publishing.

Edited by **Peter Robson**, this ‘best of’ compendium could easily compete for the title of *The Least Boring Book Ever Published in B.C.*

FRED TIBBS ECCENTRIC PIONEER

KEEN ON PHYSICAL EXERCISE, FRED TIBBS took a plunge in the breakers at Long Bay every morning, followed by an energetic run around and round a huge tree stump on the beach. Locals shook their heads. Tibbs gave his return address as “Tidal Wave Ranch.” He did no ranching there, but built a little cabin out of driftwood.

A president of the Clayoquot Conservative Association, Tibbs bought a 2 ½-acre island in the Tofino harbour which he christened Dream Isle, painting the name in huge white letters on the rocks. Tibbs set about clear-cutting the entire island, blasting out stumps. He had a fondness for using large amounts of dynamite; loud explosions from Dream Isle became commonplace. Ignoring [fellow settler] **Jacob Arnet’s** kindly suggestion that he leave at least some trees for wind protection, Tibbs left only one tree in the centre of the island, an enormous spruce that he topped at 100 feet.

He removed every limb, leaving a tall, standing spar. Up this he built a sturdy ladder, almost a small scaffold, mounting all the way, step by step, to the top, where he constructed a narrow platform. According to local legend, he would climb to the platform every morning with his cornet and serenade Tofino with lively tunes, in particular *Come to the Cookhouse Door, Boys*.

Tibbs gradually built his dream home, a wooden castle, three storeys high, complete with a crenellated tower and battlements. Painted red, white and blue and held to the rocks with steel guywires, the castle

eventually housed a piano and a phonograph, with a garden alongside featuring trellised roses, a loveseat and a sunken well.

Tibbs lived on the ground floor; the upper levels remained unfinished and accessible only by ladder. When Tibbs enlisted for World War One, joining the Canadian Forestry Corps, he sounded one final blast on his cornet from his treetop platform, saying goodbye to his island domain. He told no one he was going, simply boarded up the windows of his wooden castle and left.

On one window, up in the tower, he painted a picture of a beautiful princess; some say she looked like **Olive Garrard**. No one knew at the time, but Tibbs harboured secret romantic attachments, not only to Olive but also to **Alma Arnet**. Some thought he also fancied **Winnie Dixon**. “Oh, he tried all of us, all the different girls,” Winnie later commented. “I didn’t have much interest... I had about 300 chickens.”

Tibbs had made his will before setting off to war, leaving the island “and everything thereon, excepting the house and ten feet of land on either side of the house site,” to Alma Arnet, “because she is the nicest girl I know.” And he left the house and contents, except for his gramophone, to Olive Garrard, “because it was built for her.” If Olive married, the house should go to Alma “if she is still single.”

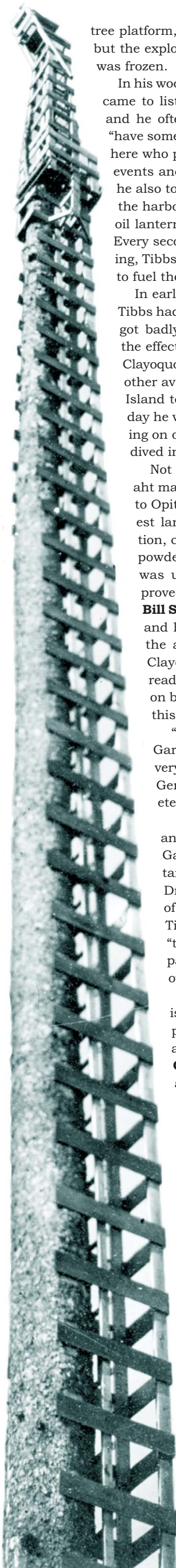
Returning intact from the war in 1919, Tibbs resettled on his island and resumed his land-clearing, his gardening and his risky experiments with explosives. On New Year’s Eve in 1919, he tried to explode dynamite from his



Frederick Gerald Tibbs

IMAGE P-03427 COURTESY OF THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM, BC ARCHIVES

IMAGE P-03431 COURTESY OF THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM, BC ARCHIVES



tree platform, to “blow the old year to the four winds,” but the explosion did not go off because the dynamite was frozen.

In his wooden castle, Tibbs entertained visitors who came to listen to his gramophone and drink cocoa, and he often went to Tofino to collect mail and to “have some music, as there are two or three damsels here who play very nicely.” He attended community events and dances—though he never danced—and he also took up a new job. Rowing his skiff around the harbour, he tended the navigation lights, coal oil lanterns mounted on tripods on wooden floats. Every second day when the lanterns required refilling, Tibbs would tie up to the floats and clamber on to fuel the lights.

In early July 1921, **Francis Garrard** noted that Tibbs had been blasting rock on his island; “he had got badly powdered and had been quite ill from the effects.” Immediately after this, on July 4, the Clayoquot Hotel went up in flames. Along with every other available man, Tibbs rushed over to Stubbs Island to assist in fighting the fire. The following day he went out to tend the lights, but after landing on one of the floats, his skiff drifted away. He dived in to swim after the boat.

Not realizing what had occurred, a Tla-o-qui-aht man who saw the empty skiff towed the boat to Opitsat. Tibbs turned and made for the nearest land, on Stubbs Island. Perhaps overexertion, combined with the effects of the dynamite powder, had weakened him, for although he was usually a powerful swimmer, the effort proved too much. “He made the spit alright,” **Bill Sharp** recalled. “He crawled up on the sand and lay there.” A Japanese fisherman alerted the authorities; the telegram sent from the Clayoquot police to their superiors in Victoria read “Frederick Gerald Tibbs found exhausted on beach at Clayoquot by Jap fisherman early this morning.” Tibbs could not be revived.

“When the Doctor arrived...,” wrote Francis Garrard, “Tibbs was already dead...it was a very sad affair.” The gravestone for Frederick Gerald Tibbs stands in the old Tofino cemetery, on Morpheus Island.

The Garrard and Arnet families reached an agreement about his unusual will. Olive Garrard relinquished her share of the inheritance, his castle home, to the Arnets, and Dream Isle became Arnet Island. A group of men went over to the island shortly after Tibbs’s death to cut down the 100-foot-high “tree rig,” deeming it unsafe, and as time passed the clear-cut island slowly greened over.

A few others attempted to live on the island, renting out Tibbs’s castle, but the place became associated with bad luck and sudden death. According to **Anthony Guppy**, after several unfortunate fatalities and mishaps there, the “strange little castle remained unoccupied for a long time... People began to believe it was haunted. It became a sort of game for young people to go over there, get inside, and make the most hair-raising ghostly noises.”

The year after Tibbs died, Alma Arnet married; Olive Garrard also married in 1923. Had Tibbs lived a bit longer, perhaps he would have reconsidered his will. In 2015, Tibbs Island was listed for sale for \$698,000.



EXCERPTED FROM *TOFINO AND CLAYOQUOT Sound: A History* (Harbour, 2014), by **Margaret Horsfield** and **Ian Kennedy**. Previously Horsfield had compiled *Voices from the Sound: Chronicles of Clayoquot Sound and Tofino 1899-1929* (Salal Books, 2008), based on long-forgotten letters, diaries and memoirs.

978-1-55017-681-0

Fred Tibbs built a ladder up this spruce tree. He would regularly climb the tree and sit on the narrow platform at the top.

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OKANAGAN

Rika Ruebsaat and Jon Bartlett are mining the Princeton archives.

When reds bled

Couple recalls how kidnapping, Ku Klux Klan and police brutality were used to stymie Dirty Thirties miners’ strike in Princeton.

PAUSE, IF YOU WILL, TO consider the value of your local archives.

All over B.C. there are repositories of history that are used by researchers and authors such as long-time partners **Jon Bartlett** and **Rika Ruebsaat** who are board members of the Princeton and District Museum and Archives (PDMA).

As musicians they’ve released seven albums of mostly traditional Canadian heritage songs, and they have produced two books pertaining to Princeton and the Similkameen Valley.

The first was *Dead Horse on the Tulameen: Settler Verse from BC’s Similkameen Valley* (Canadian Folk Workshop, 2011), a collection of vernacular verses from the pages of the local presses.

The second is **Soviet Princeton: Slim Evans and the 1932-33 Miners’ Strike** (New Star \$19), recalling the most turbulent period of the town’s history when aggrieved coal miners brought labour organizer Slim Evans to town to help them protest a 10% pay cut during the Great Depression.

★
SOVIET PRINCETON REVISITS THE VOLATILE winter of 1932-33 when coal miners felt they had no recourse other than to import labour organizer **Arthur “Slim” Evans** from the Workers Unity League to help them unionize. When miners from two of the three coal mines in the area responded to Evans’ leadership, town fathers predictably denounced “outside agitators” and the “Communist menace.” In fact, the most menacing forces were the mounted police who charged into picket lines, members of the Ku Klux Klan in British Columbia who assaulted and threatened workers, and a gang led by the president of the Board

of Trade who kidnapped Evans, and bundled him onto a train out of town.

Evans soon returned. The labour strife was heightened by the federal government’s creation of a Relief Camp north of town that had also attracted organizers from the Canadian Labour Defence League. The local newspaper, *The Princeton Star*, predictably sided with its advertising base, the business community.

Bartlett and Ruebsaat gleaned the gist of the tense standoff between the town’s establishment and the would-be unionists from the local archives that afforded access to the Depression-era issues of *The Princeton Star*.

The strife served to strengthen the resolve of the undeniably heroic Slim Evans who led the On-to-Ottawa Trek of homeless and unemployed Canadians protesting the relief camps and their conditions.

The Princeton and District Museum and Archives started from a log cabin in 1958. The town erected the existing building as a centennial project in 1967. Livery stables and a farm implement shed were added to the museum in 1985. Its Joe Pollard Wing was built in 1999 to house 40,000 fossils and minerals. The museum boasts a First Peoples basket display, a complete Princeton newspaper collection from 1900; approximately 10,000 photographs from 1880 to present; more than 200 audiotope recordings (interviews with Princeton pioneers); historic maps, mining reports from 1858; some 83 Notman Studios glass plate photos

(late 1800s-early 1900s); and an 1880s cabin which housed **John Fall Allison’s** daughter **Lily** and her family.

★
PRINCETON AND DISTRICT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, at 167 Vermilion Avenue, is one of 150 locations that will be included in The Literary Map of B.C.

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1

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dian gov-
ernment
decided to
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tary Poet Laureate. In 2002
George Bowering became
the first poet to be honoured
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ing remains a poet, first, last
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2

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R o m e
surfaces
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levolence from a centuries-old,
secret organization known as
the Toga Club.

4

I EXPECT
all three
of those
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b o o k s
this fall
will be

worth a gander, when they
appear. For now, I've been
reading his latest fiction.

The narrator of one of
the stories in Bow-

GOES FOUR-FOR-FOUR

John Moore provides the play-by-play

ering's new collection, **Ten
Women**, (Anvil Press \$20)
says, "I have been reading
Dickens again. He seems to-
tally different when you come
back after all these years."

Bowering, who will be turn-
ing 80 in December, has pub-
lished about one hundred
books in just about every
genre, so you could probably
say the same about him.

He said as much in a 2012

Globe & Mail in-
terview when he
admitted to having
on occasion read a
story and thought,
"I wish I'd written
that" only to dis-
cover he did.

If he makes it
to 90 or a century,
he'll probably say the same
about his tenth collection of
short stories, *Ten Women*, and



**JOHN
MOORE**

with good reason.
This is a rarity in
such collections;
an elegantly struc-
tured book with
a central theme
general enough to
let the author run
totally amok while
maintaining a sat-
isfying sense of unity overall.

Most short fiction collec-
tions consist of stories linked
only by their having been
pre-published in literary
magazines, duly listed on
the inside front page like
film credits; mini-CVs to
impress other writers
and perhaps more
prestigious poten-
tial publishers. The
randomness of the
contents usually
helps to explain
why these vol-
umes sell poorly.

Ten Women
consists of ten sto-
ries, each bearing
a woman's name
as a title. Each sto-
ry explores some
aspect of the infi-
nitely variable fas-
cination one gender
of our species exerts
on the other.

Bowering is old-
fashioned enough
to be shamelessly
straight and sensibly
leaves The Love Whose
Current Acronym We
Can't Decode in young-
er, more flexible hands.

The point of view in
these stories is consistent-
ly male, but leavened by
an objective authorial

passivity that listens, records
and thinks about what women
say and do: e.g. the ostensible
narrator may be handcuffed
to a chair, blindfolded and
sexually teased to obsession
by a female poet he met at a
reading, but the author is try-
ing to figure out what makes
both of these characters rev to
the red-line.

[I've attended lots of po-
etry readings and never once
been taken home, blindfolded,
chained to a chair by a gor-
geous female poet and re-
quired to identify her body
parts by their scent. What am
I doing wrong, George?]

Within this loose structure,
Bowering goes on a tear like a
cowboy in a cathouse. "Profes-
sor Minaccia," the only story
not titled by a woman's fami-
liar first name, owes something
to **Elmore Leonard's** novel,
Gold Coast, about a woman
forced into respectably chaste
widowhood by her deceased
husband's mob cronies. Bow-
ering's version is more liter-
ate, less lurid, but equally
unflinching about the power
that hard men in dark cars,
men who don't read Proust,
can exert on our lives.

The Canadian literary com-
munity comes in for some fine
ass-kicking in "Dodie", about
a female SPCA worker who
stalks poets who have made
careers out of using images of
innocent animal agony to give
their work shock power. Pos-
sibly **Patrick Lane** will cringe
reading this one.

Grammarians will love the
wildly funny "Ichiko," in which
a performance artist achieves
fame by inserting neglected
apostrophes in iconic corpo-
rate logos, only to discover in
a biker bar that punctuation
can be the real thief of time.

Writing has the distinction
of being one of the few occupa-
tions at which you can be 80
years old and be at the top of
your game.

Play on, George.

Women 9781772140316
World 978-1-55420-096-2
Okanagan 978-0-88922-941-9
Attack 978-1-77086-442-9

*John Moore regularly writes
for B.C. BookWorld from
Garibaldi Highlands.*

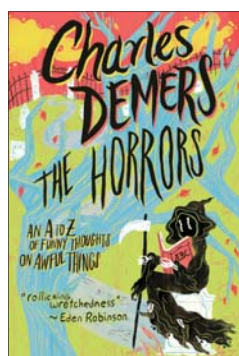
Archive photo of
George Bowering



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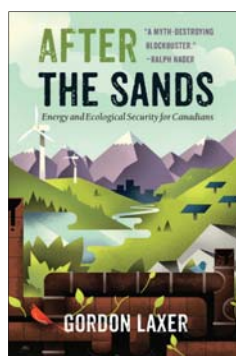


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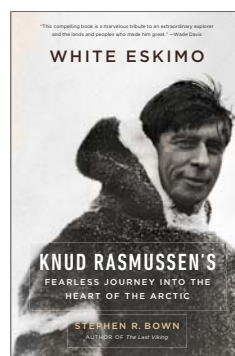


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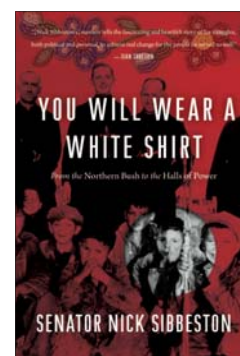


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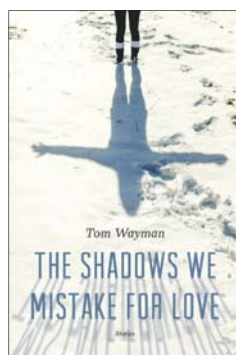


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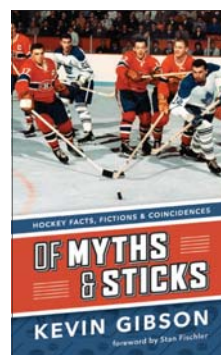


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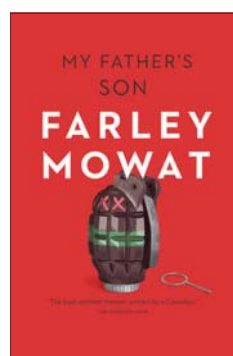


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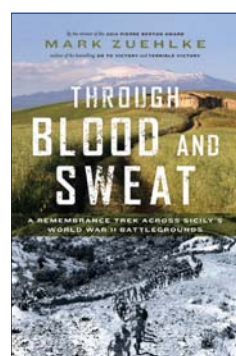
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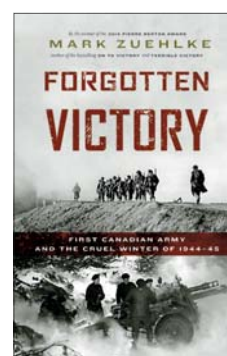


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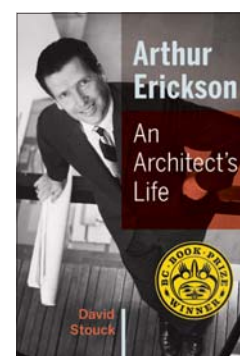


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Flour power

Bringing pedal-powered milling technology from Roberts Creek to a South Sudanese village

CHRIS HERGESHEIMER WAS hand-milling flour at Sechelt's Farmer's Market when he came up with a simple idea: build a bicycle-based mill. It would speed up the milling process and give his arms and hands a well-deserved rest.

His subsequent invention produced flour in a fraction of the time. His brother, **Josh Hergesheimer**, a journalist, shared his vision and enthusiasm. They imagined how their bicycle mill could benefit people half a world away.

The Flour Peddler (Caitlin \$24.95) recounts how the brothers realized their high hopes for low tech, transporting Chris' pedal-powered milling technology from Roberts Creek to a woman's cooperative in the South Sudanese village of Panlang.

During their trek, there were challenges and obstacles, from the outbreak of war, to broken down vehicles, to encounters with wild animals. More than just an inspiring travelogue, *The Flour Peddler* offers insights into local food system trends and the benefits of alternative food movements.

When not peddling locally milled flour, Chris Hergesheimer is a research, policy and project management consultant specializing in issues around food and farming. He obtained a Master of Arts in sociology from SFU, and is a Ph.D. candidate in UBC's Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Hergesheimer, who still lives in Roberts Creek, is also the director of research education and a co-teacher of research methodology at the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine. He has conducted research for a number of organizations, including the University of Northern B.C., the B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets and FarmFolk CityFolk.

Josh Hergesheimer is a writer and photographer whose work has appeared in the *Vancouver Sun*, *The Georgia Straight*, *This Magazine*, *Al Jazeera International*, *The Globe & Mail* and *The Vancouver Observer*. He earned a Master of Arts at the University of Sussex, a Master of Science from the London School of Economics and stud-

ied journalism at Langara College. A proponent of multimedia, he likes incorporating photos, video, audio and text to tell stories and create conversations. Hergesheimer is a self-described world traveller and adventure motorcyclist who lives in Vancouver. 9781927575864

FOOD BOOKS ABOUT HOW WE CAN MAKE THE MOST OF IT, AND FEEL GOOD DOING IT.

A VEGAN FOR TEN YEARS, **CARLA KELLY** HAS FOLLOWED *Vegan Al Fresco: Happy & Healthy Recipes for Picnics, Barbecues & Outdoor Dining* with **True to your Roots: Vegan Recipes to Comfort and Nourish You** (Arsenal \$26.95), a collection that provides inventive ways to produce root vegetables—roots, tubers and rhizomes. Having cooked at hotels around the world, she has written two other titles along the way, *Quick and Easy Bake Sale* and *Quick and Easy Vegan Slow Cooking*, and she operates a website called *The Year of the Vegan*. 9781551525327

★
ALISA GORDANEER'S FOURTH COLLECTION OF POETRY, **Still Hungry** (Signature Editions \$14.95) explores the complicated relationship that contemporary foodies have with food, hunger and desire. The poems reflect on a society where food abundance and starvation co-exist; a world in which we 'Instagram' our meals and then resist eating to pay penance for having eaten at all. Food is not just about eating and survival. It plays an essential role in our well-being. Beyond conjuring the many metaphors of food, Alisa Gordaneer of Victoria has taught at UBC, University of Victoria, Camosun College and Royal Roads University. She has also worked as a newspaper editor for both Victoria's *Monday Magazine* and Detroit's *Metro Times*. 978-1927426-64-7

★
MANY NORTH AMERICANS WASTE 40 PERCENT OF THE food they purchase. It's like throwing away a bag full of groceries every week. Besides being a waste of money, this waste contributes to global warming. **Cinda Chavich's Waste Not, Want Not Cookbook** (Touchwood \$22.95) offers over 140 recipes that will "show you how

to shop, cook, and eat with zero waste." Savvy shoppers learn how to interpret "best-before" dates, store food so it lasts longer and turn leftovers into meals you want to eat. Cinda Chavich of Victoria is a freelance journalist and photographer whose writing has been published in *Maclean's*, *Canadian Living*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Access*, *Canadian Geographic* and *Chatelaine*. Her six cookbooks include *The Girl Can't Cook* and *The Guy Can't Cook*. 9781771511117

★
WITH THE PRICE OF LIVING IN VANCOUVER rising to the point where few bookstores can afford to exist, **Emily Wight**, a graduate of UBC's creative writing program, has generated a food blog called *Well Fed, Flat Broke*. Self-described as someone who is "almost always broke, but practically never hungry," Wight has subsequently concocted her first book, **Well Fed, Flat Broke: Recipes for Modest Budgets and Messy Kitchens** (Arsenal \$24.95) for those who want to eat well on a limited budget. It offers recipes organized by ingredient so readers can prepare meals based on items they have on hand. From orechiette with white beans and sausage, to Salvadoran roast



chicken, to scrambled eggs, rice and lentils, Wight provides advice for healthy and delicious dishes that don't cost the moon. Processed foods and refined sugar are avoided as much as possible, but there is room for comfort foods that can be made and enjoyed in moderation.

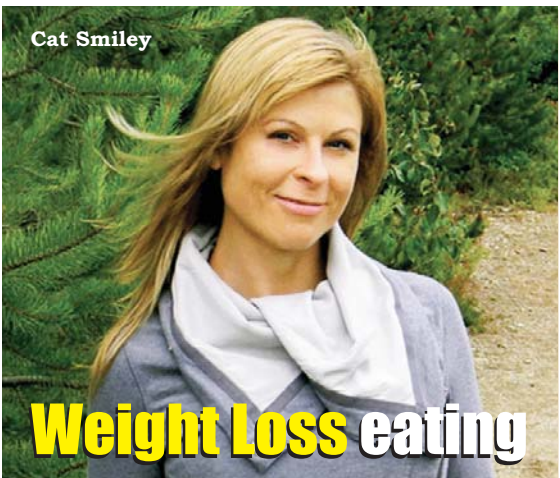
There is also a nod to the trend of global cuisine, with a number of recipes that call for ethnic ingredients that are often inexpensive and readily available.

Wight also suggests places to shop for those who don't wish to spend five bucks for an organic, free trade, conversation-worthy cumquat-carrot-whatchamacallit status symbol at places like Choices and Whole Foods. 9781551525792

★
FOOD WRITER FOR THE *VICTORIA TIMES* since 1997, **Eric Akis** has doubled as a food consultant and recipe developer for the Thrifty Foods supermarket chain owned by Sobeys. He previously worked as a trained chef and pastry chef for fifteen years before turning his hand to journalism. He has lived in six Canadian provinces. His new book is **The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook: More than 100 Delicious Ways to Enjoy Storebought and Homecooked Chicken** (Random House \$24.95). 978-0-449-01640-4



Even for people who don't read or like cookbooks, **Jeffrey Alford's Chicken in the Mango Tree** (D&M \$26.95) is a fascinating, fish-out-of-water story about a food writer who left his Toronto marriage and now lives in the remote, rural village of Kravan in northeastern Thailand with his Thai partner named **Pea**, who is "better with a slingshot than anyone I have ever seen." Subtitled *Food and Life in a Thai-Khmer Village*, the book is described by Alford as an exercise in "culinary anthropology." It highlights Pea's cooking instructions for a myriad of creatures and free food that she finds by foraging near their Khmer village, 19 km. north of the Cambodian border—including grasshoppers, snakes, red ant eggs, crabs, shrimp, tree leaves and scorpions (eaten raw). She also raises crickets, frogs, fish, ducks, chickens and pigs. Alford claims Kravan food is neither Thai food nor Cambodian food. 978-1-77162-060-4



Whistler-based **Cat Smiley's The Planet Friendly Diet: Your 21-day Guide to Sustainable Weight Loss and Optimal Health** (New Society \$29.95) presents a diet that is meat, dairy, wheat and gluten-free, and comes with a weekly shopping list to ensure zero-waste. Her recipes use fresh, everyday ingredients that cost less than \$5 and are under 500 calories and take only 20 minutes to prepare. 9780865718111

OFF GRID ROAD KILL

The Lasqueti Island Cook Book (Anniekathysue \$25) is a trove of recipes, photos, writing, and artwork edited by **Kathy Schultz, Sue Wheeler and Annie Carruthers**. The recipes were created by local residents, with many using local ingredients, including bullfrog legs and road kill deer (lots of rosemary). 978-0-9948027-0-5
More info: www.cookingandcommunitylasqueti-island.com



Kathy Schultz, Sue Wheeler and Annie Carruthers

Fairy Tales win big in far-off Yangtai

Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts: **A Literary Cookbook** (Tradewind \$24.95) was a triple winner at the international Gourmand Cookbook Awards held this year in Yangtai, the most northern major city in China, but who could accept them?

So when B.C. publisher **Michael Katz** learned his Tradewind title *Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts* had won three Gourmand awards, he had a good problem on his hands.

Who could accept the prizes on behalf of co-authors **Paul Yee** (text), **Judy Chan** (recipes) and **Shaoli Wang** (illustrations)?

Through a professor at UBC, he managed to hook up with an agreeable English teacher at Yangtai University, **Peggy Macdonald** from Nova Scotia, who happily accepted the task of attending the banquet.

Launched earlier this year at Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens in Vancouver, *Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts* won for best book for Chinese cuisine in the world as well as best cookbook from Canada and best children's food book.

Veteran author Paul Yee of Toronto provided original stories as well as his interpretations of Chinese folklore. Each story is followed by a recipe for a traditional Chinese dish.

Born in China, Shaoli Wang graduated from the Department of Fine Arts of Qingdao Normal College, specializing in children's book illustration. She immigrated to Canada in 1995 and now lives in Coquitlam.

Judy Chan teaches at Eric Hamber Secondary in Vancouver. The book has an introduction by **Jane Yolen**. 978-1-896580-68-5



Peggy Macdonald accepts 3 Gourmand Awards for Tradewind Books in Yangtai

The allure of a bestselling cookbook

After **Shelley Adams'** fourth recipe collection, **Whitewater Cooks with Passion** (Alicon/Sandhill \$34.95) topped the BC Bestsellers List longer than any other title, distributor **Nancy Wise** of Sandhill Books was asked to explain Adams' unprecedented success as a self-publisher. "At the heart of it all are the recipes themselves," Wise said, "and the ultimate power of word-of-mouth... They become the "go to" cookbooks when people are entertaining. I know some people who have cooked every recipe out of each of the first three books. They swear by them... There's also allure in her lifestyle. The books are full of photos showing a lifestyle that some of us might envy." 978-0-9811424 -2-5

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Miranda Pearson

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~ HELEN MORT

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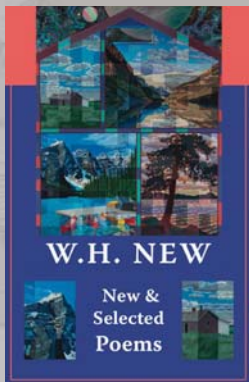


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Steve Noyes

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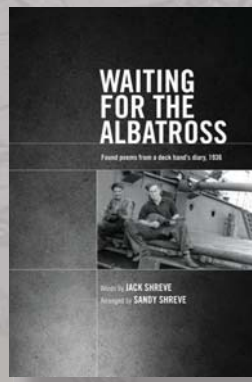


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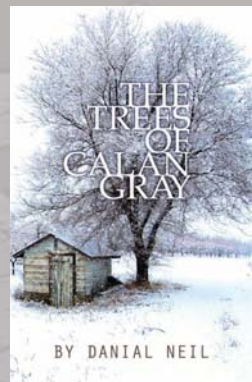
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Sandy Shreve

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~ JANE EATON HAMILTON



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Danial Neil

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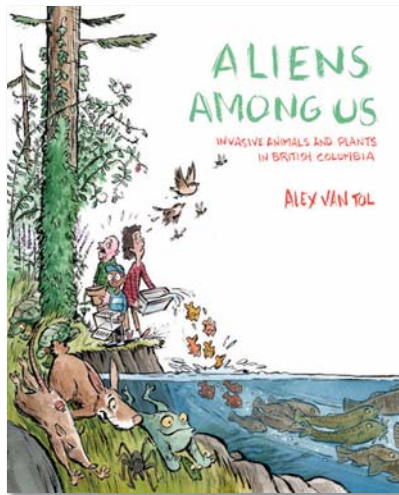
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NEW from the Royal BC Museum

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Written by Alex Van Tol
Illustrated by Mike Deas
For children aged 8 – 12

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For this readable and alarmingly informative book, Van Tol has harvested the knowledge of museum biologists to arm young people with the tools they need to stop the spread of these unwanted aliens.

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review

FICTION

GOING COASTAL

R.J. McMillen's detective series stresses coastal climes and cultural connections.

Black Tide Rising
by **R.J. McMillen**
(TouchWood \$14.95)

BY **CHERIE THEISSEN**

WITH THE COMINGS AND GOINGS of four unsavoury villains, Nootka Island's Friendly Cove is not living up to its name in **R.J. (Rachel) McMillen's** second crime novel.

Here, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, Chief **Maquinna** and Captain **James Cook** had the first documented on-land contact between Europeans and coastal First Nations.

Now this spooky beach is almost deserted except for a lighthouse and a self-elected First Nations caretaker named Ray Williams and his wife Terry who greet the tourists who arrive on the *MV Uchuck III* from Gold River.

When retired cop Dan Connor arrives in his converted fish packer, *Dreamspeaker*,* he's hoping to revisit some happy childhood memories of fishing in the area with his father, visiting the lighthouse and its long-time keepers, Gene and Mary Dorman. It has been 30 years since he saw them, as a child of ten.

But as soon as he arrives, he learns that Margrethe, the wife of the assistant lighthouse keeper, has gone missing.

Was she mentally unstable? Was there a bear attack?

The risk of foul play has to be considered when Dan Connor finds blood near a mysteriously defaced totem pole. Who the hell would want to carve up a Nuu-chah-nulth totem? Surely not Ray and Terry's son Sanford, himself a carver, who is visiting his parents from his home in Campbell River.

Short-staffed and under the gun to solve the case, Dan Connor's old boss is soon deputizing the retiree who had been looking forward to his get-together in Kyuquot with the new romance in his life.

Soon there is news of a body found near Kyuquot, identified as a missing troubled native youth from Gold River. The 14-year-old kid often ran away to Nootka Island, the traditional territory of his people. So did the currents take his body from Nootka to where it was found?

★
IT'S CLEAR THE AUTHOR KNOWS THE AREA, the waters and the people tucked into remote coastal areas. R.J. McMillen and her husband have explored B.C.'s coastal waters for the past 30 years on a 36-ft. sailboat they built, called *Maquinna*. Her insider knowledge and experiences bring a confidence and authenticity that add a documentary dimension to the book.

Even some of McMillen's characters,

mostly notably the Nuu-chah-nulth carver, **Sanford Williams**, are real people (he granted McMillen consent for him to appear in the novel.)

"I realized that if I continued to ignore all the knowledge and richness that other cultures offer," says McMillen, "my life would be much poorer."

In both her mysteries we are introduced to Walker, a First Nations protagonist who helps Connor solve the murders. He's a loner, someone who was severely disabled years before. (It happened when he fell off a roof while he was being chased by Connor for a robbery.)

Now Walker mostly lives in accordance with the old ways, living off the land and sea, embracing the mythology and spirituality of his ancestors, and somehow showing up whenever Connor heads into western waters and finds himself embroiled in crime.

"While the plot may be that of a thriller, the story is also about the conflicts between two cultures—represented by Dan and Walker—and different lifestyles," McMillen says. It's also a tale rich in the supernatural. Justice can be meted out in different ways and nature is always a palpable force."

McMillen gives us the bad guys from the get-go. So the suspense that arises from not knowing the criminals and their designs, so often the driving force in mysteries, is missing from *Black Tide Rising*.

Conversely, there is also a mysterious fourth man, who remains an unknown figure. Possibly his identity will be divulged as the series continues.

Regardless, readers will find the rain, the squalls, the currents, and the tang of the sea stay with them after putting the book down.

★
TABLES WILL BE TURNED IN THE THIRD MYSTERY in the series, *Green River Falling*, in which Walker will be asking Dan for help in finding a friend of his who is a suspect in a series of murders. These murders will occur along the proposed route of the northern pipeline.

"The quest takes them from Haida Gwaii to Prince Rupert," says McMillen, "and onto the revived ghost town of Kitsault. It will challenge them both on three levels: physical, mental and spiritual."

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

Dreamspeaker* is also the name of a 1977 **Claude Jutra film featuring **George Clutesi**, that won 7 Canadian Film Awards. It was written by **Anne Cameron** of Tahsis, who released *Dreamspeaker* as a novel in 1979. **Laurence Yeadon-Jones** and **Anne Yeadon-Jones** [see Who's Who entry page 40] sailed across the Atlantic from England in 1985 in their 36-foot sail boat named *Dreamspeaker* and have since published their *Dreamspeaker* sailing guides.

Late Company by Jordan Tannahill, GG Award-winning author of Age of Minority: Three Solo Plays

Late Company
A play by Jordan Tannahill



Pig Girl by Colleen Murphy, GG Award-winning author of The December Man (L'homme de décembre)

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THE TICK RIDER

WILLIAM STREET

For decades, cowboys known as 'tick riders' have patrolled the U.S.-Mexico border to prevent cattle carrying 'fever ticks' from crossing. In former B.C. rancher William Street's first novel, *The Tick Rider*, the protagonist is a Texas cowboy who works for the the Texas Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, along the Rio Grande near El Paso, as a tick rider.

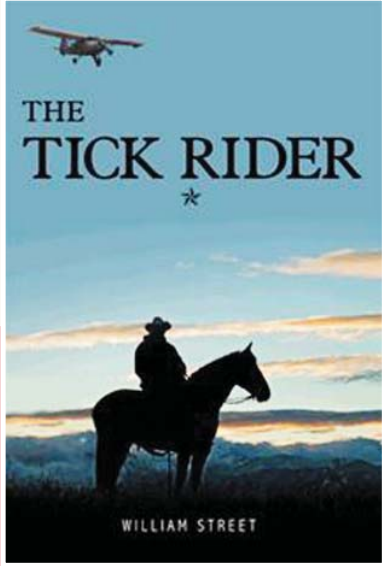
All the main characters are introduced on the same day in May of 2009, in various locations in Mexico and Texas.

The tick rider falls in love with the daughter of a successful Mexican rancher whose land lies along the river. Their lives are complicated by drug smuggling when a cartel boss and his henchmen want to set up a new drug crossing plaza along the river in Coahuila.

William Street managed Elkhorn ranch at Lake Windermere from 1951 to 1962. He and his wife own a cabin at Bliss Landing, north of Powell River. It's his first novel, preceded by a memoir that recalls his first job on a farm near Briscoe, B.C.

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Our Whole Bamfield Saga

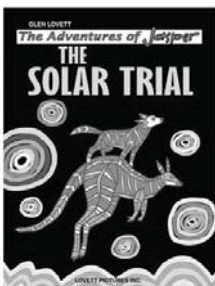


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Judith Phillips

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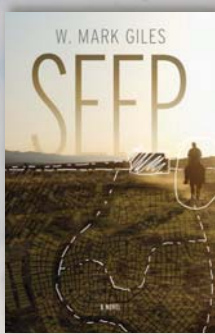
FALL 2015



10 WOMEN (STORIES)
by George Bowering

10 Women is a collection of ten new stories from one of Canada's pre-eminent writers. These ten characters remind us that for every fetish there's a partner.

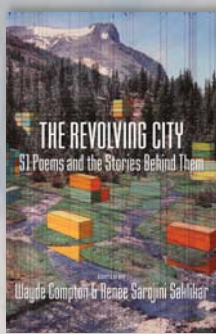
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SEEP by W. Mark Giles

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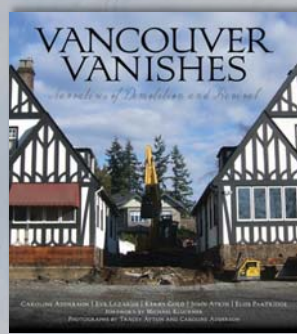
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ESSAYS, POEMS, PHOTOGRAPHS | NOVEMBER



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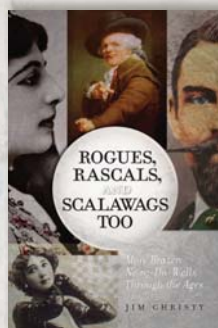
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M IS DEAD:
A COLLABORATIVE NOVEL
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M Is Dead is a collaborative novel about a transgender performance artist known only as M. Through five narrative threads, M is Dead explores gender identity, loss, the notion of friendship, and the idea of "self."

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ROGUES, RASCALS, AND SCALAWAGS TOO:
MORE NE'ER-DO-WELLS THROUGH THE AGES
by Jim Christy

Never before have as many outrageous and out-sized characters appeared in one place at the same time. Words like rogues, rascals, rapsallions, reprobates and rodomontades don't completely describe these individuals; they are more than each or any combination thereof. They are scalawags.

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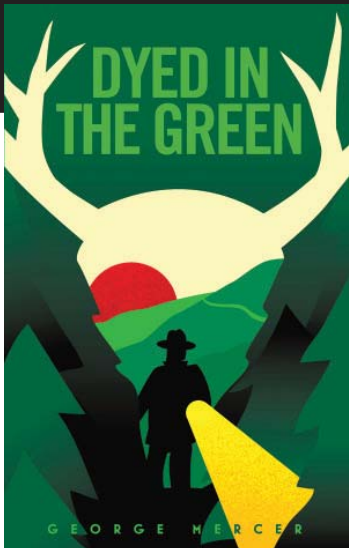


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THREE SISTERS

Mom is dead;
Dad's a drunk;
guys are bad;
dreams are sunk

Those Girls by Chevy Stevens
(St. Martin's Press /
Raincoast Books \$21.99)

SO FAR, THE GREATEST danger facing the three teenage sisters in **Those Girls**, after their mother has died, has been their father when he reappears on one of his infrequent trips back from the Alberta oilrigs. But the world can turn into an exceptionally nasty place when you're young, female, and prone to making very foolish decisions. Dainelle (Dani) is almost 18, Courtney is 16½, and Jess is about to have her 15th birthday. They live in an old ranch-hand's house in a small town called Littlefield in British



Chevy Stevens will appear at the Surrey International Writers' Conference, October 24-26.

Columbia's interior.

Five years earlier they lost their home when their mother was killed and their father took off, presumably on a five-month binge. Each sister was sent to a separate foster home until their father staggered home and somehow managed to get them back. The sisters were happily re-united, but unhappily their father was still a brutal drunk.

They could relax when their father was off on the rigs. They could work hard on the neighbour's ranch on the weekends and make scant money stretch for food. They could steal the odd egg, or some makeup. They could go about their lives. While occasionally the



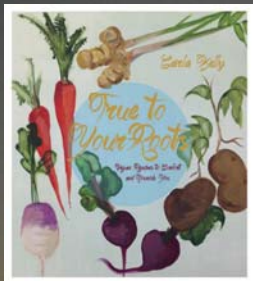
CHERIE THEISSEN

neighbours would look in on them, those girls must have been excellent liars, as no one followed up after seeing the bruises, the black eyes and the various injuries the girls suffered whenever their father returned home; not the teachers, not anyone from foster care services, and not even those

neighbours, who accepted the explanations with some suspicion but no action. Dani, Courtney and Jess wouldn't have wanted action anyway. It would probably have led to still more foster homes, and another separation from one another, which would have devastated them. If only they could have hung on a little longer. Dani was responsible and could have taken care of them and she was almost of age. Jess was a serious, dreamy adolescent. But then there was Courtney—sexy, beautiful, Courtney, who ran around with the boys, drank, partied and frequently stayed out all night. Then Courteney took up with the wrong man and her father found out. You could say that everything that subsequently happened was her fault. The girls lost more than their home when they drove away in the old truck with the gun under the seat. They lost their dreams. Dani had dreamt of a serene home and a marriage to her steady beau, Corey, and now she had to break up with him and invent a reason. Jess had her precious camera and was going to travel

continued on page 29

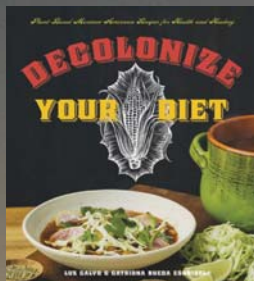
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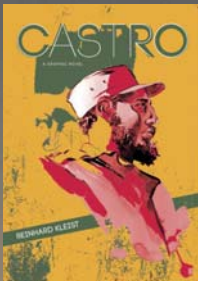
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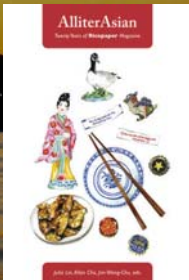
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A SUPERIOR MAN
Paul Yee

Paul Yee's first novel for adults: a Chinese man on an epic search in the 19th-century British Columbia.

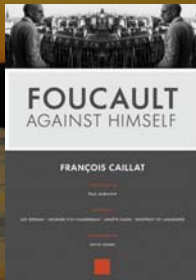
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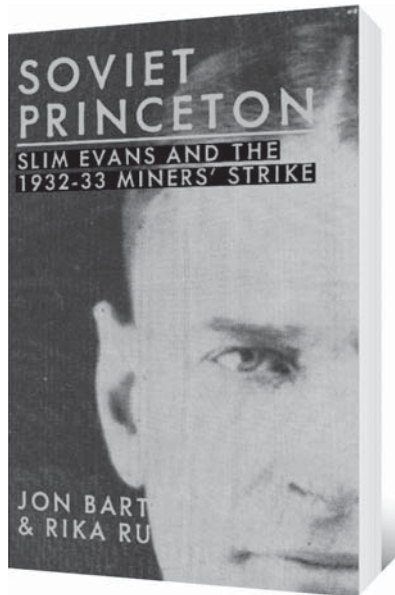
Soviet Princeton

Slim Evans and the 1932–33
Miners' Strike

**JON BARTLETT &
RIKA RUEBSAAT**

When mine owners slashed wages in Princeton, B.C., the miners called in notorious labour activist Slim Evans, who led the newly formed union in a dramatic months-long battle against the owners, the police, the local board of trade, and the KKK.

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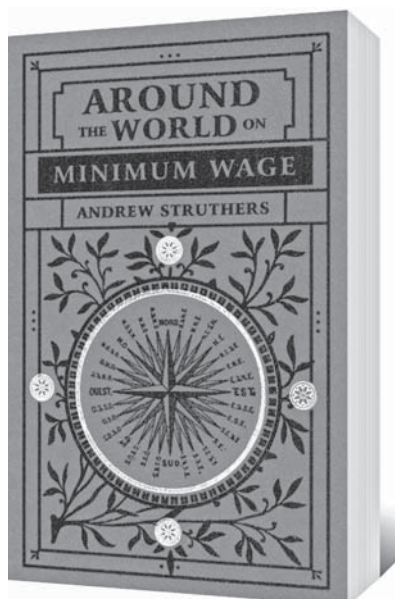


Around the World on Minimum Wage

ANDREW STRUTHERS

"Struthers breaks new literary pathways into the genre of travel memoir. Almost crazily clever... A true trip of the body, mind and soul."
— *Vancouver Sun*

Andrew Struthers will be reading from Around the World at WORD Vancouver on Sunday, Sep. 27.

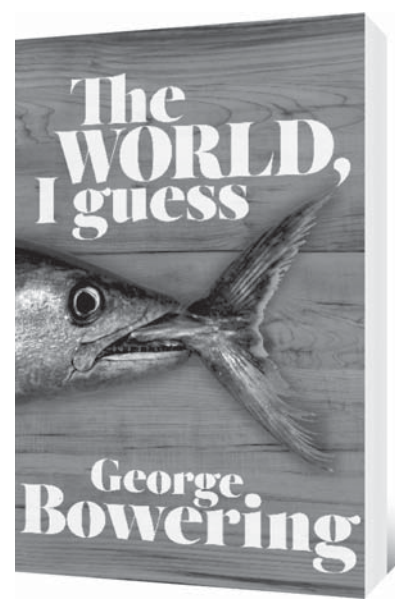


The World, I Guess

GEORGE BOWERING

"A book about the writing life that manages to be affable, astute, and cohesive... George Bowering's candour is beguiling. He gives you a good time with his writing, you feel comfortable, even chummy, in his presence; he's playful, but then he nails you with some hard truths."
— *Vancouver Sun*

George Bowering will be appearing at the 2015 Vancouver International Writer's Fest, which runs Oct. 20–25.



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A Superior Man by Paul Yee
(Arsenal Pulp Press \$21.95)

Marilyn Bowering’s To All Appearances A Lady in 1989 was a rarity—an adult novel set in B.C. with Chinese characters as protagonists. More than twenty-five years later, **Lily Chow**, one of the leading authorities on the Chinese in B.C., is enthusiastic about the authenticity and storytelling in **Paul Yee’s** first novel for adults, **A Superior Man**, that emanates from the world of Chinese labourers in the 19th century.

YANG HOK, PAUL YEE’S protagonist, is introduced as a bodyguard in a frenzied gambling hall amid the chaos of Victoria’s Chinatown in 1885. There were “hordes of jobless railway men jammed into town... [They] ate in cook-houses and vowed to pay later ... [They] lacked passage money... [They were] kicked out of their lodgings and napped in back alleys.” Shouting gamblers plead for the fan tan beads to favour them, yelling at the dealers, disputing their winnings with Boss Long (the cheating owner), leading to a riot.

Taller than most men, Yang Hok never feared a fight. Once a bandit in his home village, Hok wanted to go to the States but landed a job as a labourer in the CPR construction gangs. From 1881-1885, he worked at different jobs, smuggling Chinese labourers to the States and selling liquor at construction campsites. With winnings from gambling, he had amassed a handsome bankroll, enough to buy his ticket home with extra money to purchase gifts for family members.

He was also literate, savvy and bold. Hok wrote and carved out names in Chinese characters on markers for casualties in makeshift cemeteries; he understood that giving a Chinese name for a child required the knowledge and understanding of the traditional naming systems of Chinese families; and he once ventured to blow up a bridge supported by trestles, with a fellow-worker, soon

SEARCHING FOR MARY

Paul Yee’s debut adult novel is absorbing and realistic.

after its completion to avenge the deaths of so many Chinese labourers, as well as the maiming of many who were then left stranded.

Hence Paul Yee’s title *A Superior Man* describes someone who is resourceful, ambitious and courageous—but not without problems.

Hok’s wife Mary left their three-year-old son Peter with him and disappeared, hoping he would take Peter to China. Hok believes his son should remain with his mother in order to protect him “from spiteful stepmothers and humiliation in China.” Determined to find Mary and deliver Peter to her, he sets off for Lytton on the Fraser River.

On the journey from Vic-

toria, Peter falls overboard into the river. Hok cannot swim. He is astonished and ashamed when a white man saves his son from drowning.

Needing a guide upon their arrival

in Yale, Hok reluctantly accepts the recommendation of Soohoo, owner of a brothel, to hire Lewd Bing Sam, a First Nations man with Chinese ancestry who speaks different Chinese dialects. Sam agrees to help Hok and won’t charge a guiding fee on the condition that Hok carry his merchandise. Even though Hok believes, “a man with

self-respect doesn’t porter for a mix-blood,” he has no choice.



LILY CHOW

Amusements and delights commence through the conversations and interactions between these two characters as they travel together. Hok becomes jealous when he notices Peter is becoming increasingly attached to Sam because “no father should look weak in front of his son,” but Hok admires Sam for being able to perform correctly the rituals of showing respect to the Chinese who were buried in a cemetery, and reciting the names of ancestors in five generations of his Chinese family.

For his part, Hok can hardly remember the names of his extended family members, let alone the earlier generations. The two men retrieve

a dead body floating on the Fraser River and bury the corpse. Hok wants to return to China to show his success and achievements; Sam wants to go to China to find his roots.

Paul Yee does a wonderful job describing the striking features of the Fraser River, the majestic yet dangerous landscapes at Hell’s Gate, and the arid and dusty setting of Lytton at the confluence of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers.

The Chinatowns in Yale and Lytton present a remarkable contrast to that of Victoria. In Yale, Chinatown was peaceful and orderly. In Yale, the reader is introduced to a clever prostitute, named Goddess, who sent men from her bed beaming with satisfaction. Details of colourful sex and other sexual encounters—including the sexual activities of other prostitutes, Chinese, First Nations, and whites and the sexual desires among Chinese men—are boldly and frankly presented.

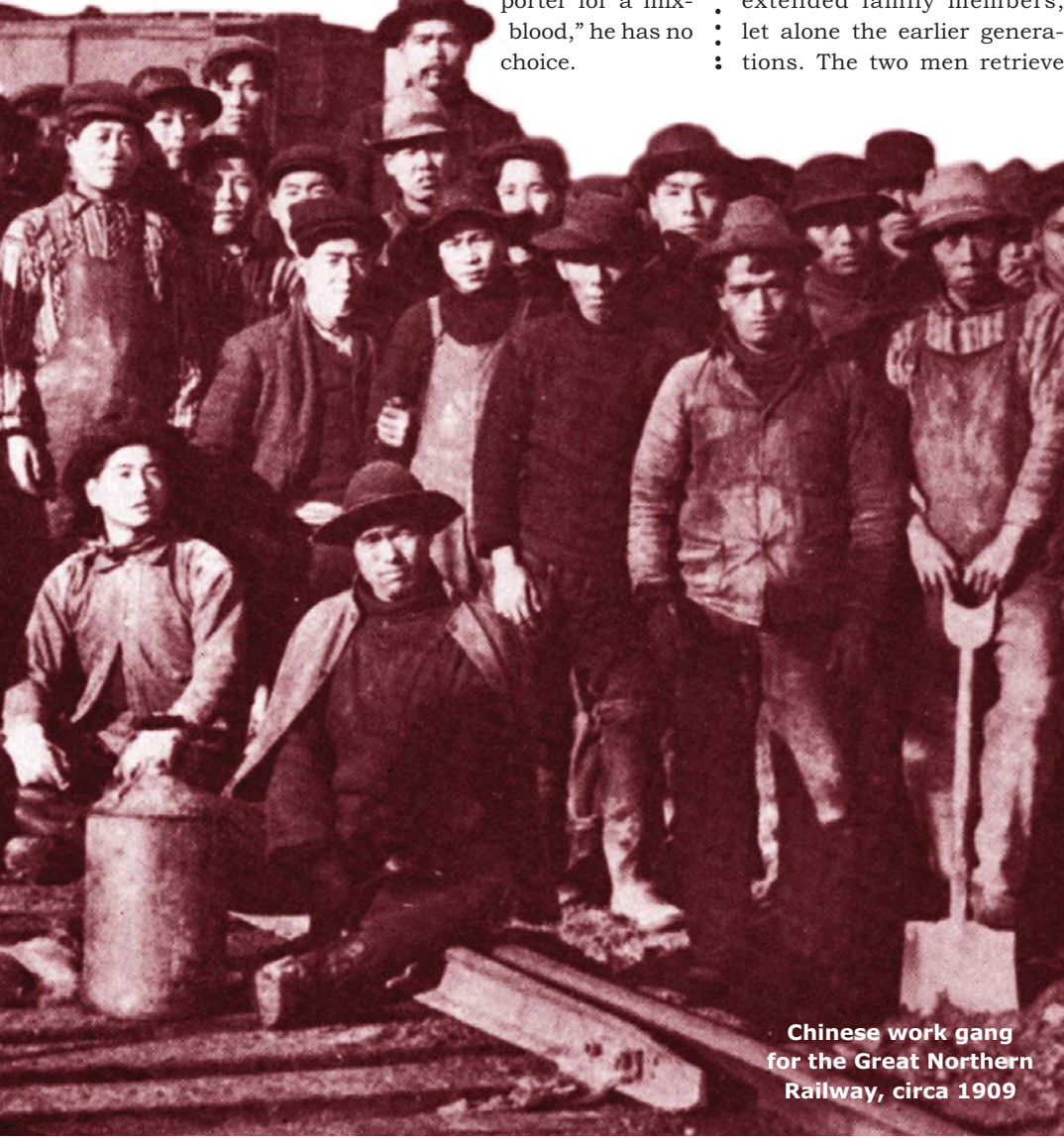
Yee is also adept at describing First Nations people, their love of children, especially among the female elders, and the hardship and sufferings of the Chinese labourers who bore the brunt of the challenges in railway construction.

To tell more would be to ruin the plot.

Throughout the narrative, Paul Yee has appropriately used colloquial dialects, slang, and proverbs to reveal the ways of thinking and expressions of the Chinese old-timers. Many of the Chinese proverbs such as “falling leaves land on the roots” or “at low door bend down” project the dreams and tolerance of the sojourners respectfully.

Besides historical authenticity, this novel is replete with Chinese culture as indicated by the rituals of preparing a dead body for burial and planning a funeral, and by the filial piety and moral values of Chinese families. *A Superior Man* is a delightful, captivating, and lively novel that is especially welcome for its rare depiction of the fragile relationship between the Chinese sojourners and the First Nations people. 978-1-55152-590-7

Lily Chow lives in Victoria.



Chinese work gang for the Great Northern Railway, circa 1909

THOSE GIRLS

continued from page 27
and be a photographer. Until her camera was ripped from her hands and smashed on the ground along with her future.
Courtney had been going to hit the big city and break into the music world. She had the voice, the looks and the guitar. Until she had to sell the guitar for money to help the sisters get away and use her good looks for more nefarious purposes.
People do very bad things in **Chevy Stevens’** books. Once again, the foster parents, the fathers and the strangers in *Those Girls* are often despicable. Or incredibly inept.
The Cash Creek police and the Ministry of Chil-

People do very bad things in **Chevy Stevens’** books.

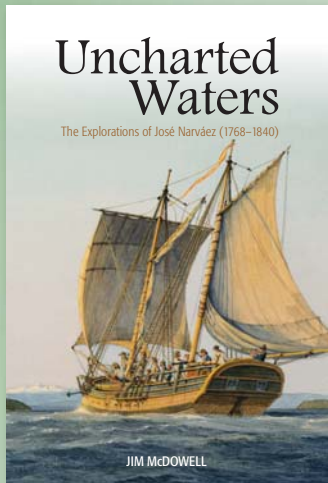
dren and Family Development (foster care services) don’t get high marks. And kindly Sergeant Gibbs in Littlefield should have sent Courteney to the hospital when he saw the burn on her face.
Balanced with all the evil and ineptitude, however, there are heroes. There’s the pub owner in Cash Creek, Allen, and his son, Owen, who help “those girls” when they are again running away—this time from an even worse situation than the first time.
Patrick and his wife, Karen, give the Campbell sisters a new lease on life in Vancouver, with new

identities. Dani becomes Dallas, Courtney becomes Crystal and Jess becomes Jamie.
Nine months later, it all unravels into another nightmare.



CHEVY STEVENS, **RENE UNISCHEWSKI’S** PEN NAME, NOT surprisingly, was inspired by **Stephen King**. She lives on Vancouver Island with her husband and daughter, having made a very successful transition from a realtor to a writer of thrillers, penning *Still Missing* in 2010, which won the International Thriller Award for Best First Novel, and was a *New York Times* bestseller. Her books have been published in more than 30 countries. 978-1-250-03458-8

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.



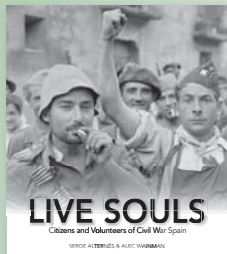
Uncharted Waters

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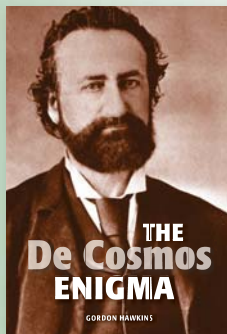
Live Souls

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Serge Alternès & Alec Wainman

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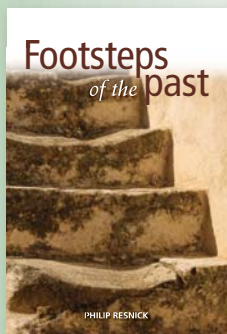


The De Cosmos Enigma

Gordon Hawkins

A fascinating account of B.C.'s second premier, the man who did much to unify the two Pacific colonies and bring B.C. into Confederation — but who is now largely forgotten.

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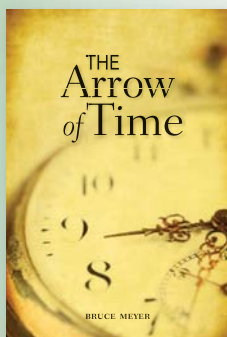


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Philip Resnick

These poems reflect on the modern human condition, probing its cultural and political underpinnings with cool detachment and unrelenting honesty.

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116 pp \$15.95

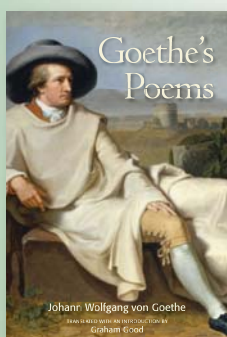


The Arrow of Time

Bruce Meyer

In these poems, Meyer explores how a random element — love, beauty or desire — changes the flow of events, allowing us to gain small victories in life's challenges.

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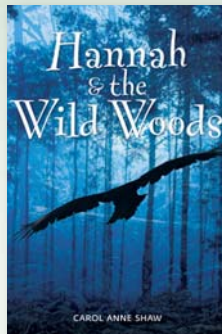
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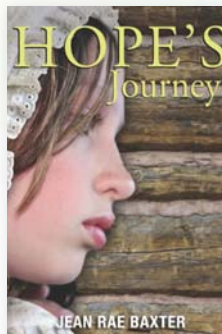


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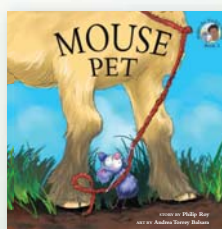


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BUMBLING TRUTHS

Robin Stevenson's 18th book in less than a decade combines family tension and humour to illuminate the plight of bees.

The Summer We Saved the Bees by Robin Stevenson (Orca \$9.95)

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE JAMMING a stocky, unwilling pre-teen boy into a bumblebee costume to generate first-rate literary tension.

Especially when said boy is being strong-armed into staging public performances in the interests of communicating a dire eco-political message.

Oh, it's dire, all right. The bees are dying, and nobody seems able to stop it. Twelve-year-old Wolf Everett, protagonist of **Robin Stevenson's The Summer We Saved the Bees** knows all about it; he did a website project on it last year. What Wolf didn't anticipate was his activist mother exploding his project into a summer-long guerrilla-theatre-fest in an attempt to spread a distinctly alarmist message across the country.

As an environmental activist, Wolf's mum Jade thinks it's up to her family—her boyfriend Curtis, Wolf, his step-sister Violet, and twin half-sisters Whisper and Saffron—to save the bees. And it's not like Wolf can argue; while he's ticked at having been pulled out of school and crammed into a stinky, biodiesel-powered van with five other people for weeks on end, his problems pale in comparison to the epic crop failure and widespread starvation that his mother is prophesying.

Or so he keeps telling himself. As the family's trip hitches and stalls its way across British Columbia, the emotional toll erodes Wolf's belief that they're actually doing the right thing. His friends back home think his mother's a crazy zealot; the van breaks down almost as soon as the tires hit the road; 14-year-old Violet seethes under what she sees as a prison sentence (not even her tagalong boyfriend, Ty, can skip her out of her funk); and six-year-old Whisper—a quiet kid by

nature—stops talking altogether.

After a brief performance tour of Vancouver, where the family stays with friends from Jade's university days, the van breaks down in Chilliwack, leaving the group stranded, broke and camped out on a friendly stranger's lawn. On the heels of their Vancouver gig, Wolf draws the line on dressing up like a bee, and defends Whisper from having to do so as well.

As his mother presses single-mindedly on with the performances, Wolf begins to doubt



ALEX VAN TOL

both her information (maybe things aren't as bad as Jade claims?) and her motives (why does she care more about the bees than about us?). Whisper is unwell, nobody is happy, and Jade doesn't even

hear Wolf when he tries to tell her it's not working.

The tension mounts until finally Wolf, Violet and Ty hatch a plan to better protect the twins from their mother's blind crusade: they will catch the Greyhound to Nelson, and ferry the twins to the safety of their paternal grandmother. What they aren't banking on is their grandmother's unwillingness to be a co-conspirator in their plot.



WHILE THE BOOK—ROBIN STEVENSON'S eighteenth since her first book in 2007—is anchored in the bees' plight, the award-winning author acknowledges it's less about the bees than it is about families, and how we can lose sight of what's happening right now because we're so focused on our fears about the future.

"I think it's easy to underestimate how much a parent's world view can affect a child," says Stevenson. "Kids need to feel safe, secure, and protected—not protected from the world or from learning, but protected from being overwhelmed by the concerns and fears of the adults in their lives."

It's important to foster a sense of hopefulness and optimism about our children's future and the future of their

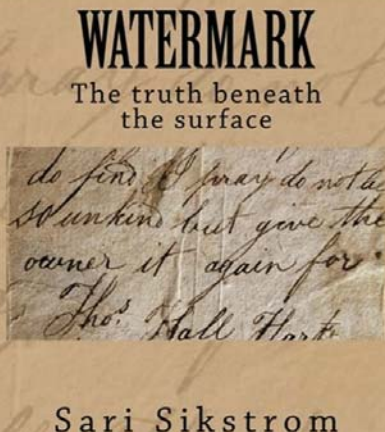
continued on page 32

Robin Stevenson

A forensic librarian reads between the lines to solve a mystery.

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KIRKUS REVIEW



WATERMARK: The truth beneath the surface by Sari Sikstrom
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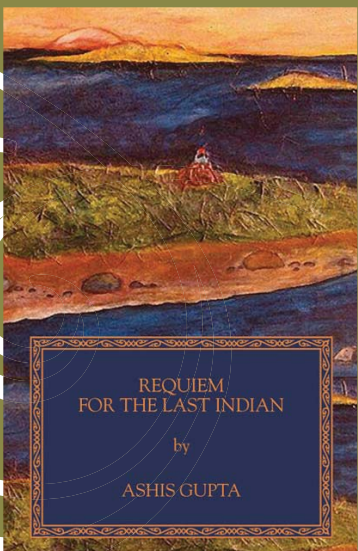
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review

The Way Back by Carrie Mac (Orca \$9.95)

Carrie Mac's experiences in the Downtown Eastside continue to fuel her work. Homelessness, addiction, teen pregnancy and crime are the backdrop for her latest novel, **The Way Back**, in which Colby Wyatt is alone, homeless and addicted to meth. Taken in by her friend Gigi's grandma, she joins the family business, a pawnshop where Colby, Gigi and Gigi's brother keep the shelves stocked by breaking into houses and stealing things. When Colby discovers she's pregnant, she swears she'll get clean, keep the baby and have a real family. Checking into rehab, Colby is determined to make things work and save Gigi at the same time, but sometimes no matter how much you want something, it doesn't work out. Carrie Mac's previous book was *The Opposite of Tidy* from Penguin Books. She has now released eleven titles in ten years.

9781459807150

Shadow Scale by Rachel Hartman
(Doubleday \$23)

Rachel Hartman's first fantasy novel *Seraphina* (Doubleday 2012) was a finalist for the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize awarded to the best non-illustrated book written for



Rachel Hartman

children by a B.C. author, a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the William C. Morris YA Debut Award. Hartman's 596-page sequel **Shadow Scale** continues to follow the half-dragon, half-human Seraphina as she struggles to unite the kingdom of Goredd by first looking for half-breed brethren.

Born in Kentucky in 1972, Rachel Hartman is a cellist and former book-seller with a degree in comparative literature. She has lived in Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, England and Japan prior to arriving with her family to live in Vancouver in 2003.

978-0-38566-860-6

Ten Ships That Rocked the World
by Gillian Richardson (Annick \$14.95)



Gillian Richardson

Former teacher-librarian **Gillian Richardson** of Shuswap Lake, near Sorrento, B.C., won the 2010 Science Writing Award from the American Institute of Physics for her

book *Kaboom! Explosions of All Kinds*.

Richardson's latest book, **Ten Ships That Rocked the World** is a fascinating introduction for young readers to: ancient treasure ships from China; **Vasco da Gama's** *Sao Gabriel*; convicts taken from England to Australia on the *Lady Penrhyn*; the *USS Susquehanna* that sailed to Japan in the 1800s; the Civil War submersible *H.L. Hunley*; the *Komagata Maru* that brought Sikhs as would-be immigrants to British Columbia; the *SS Exodus 1947* that played a key role in the creation of Israel; the *Granma* hired by **Fidel Castro** that led to his overthrow of the dictator **Batista** in Cuba (even though the voyage of the *Granma* resulted in a botched landing); the *Rainbow Warrior* that was essential for the creation of Greenpeace and the oil tanker *Sirius Star* that was hijacked off the east coast of Africa.

Ten Ships That Rocked the World is illustrated by **Kim Rosen**.

978-1-55451-444-1

BEES

continued from page 31

world, she says, rather than constantly wringing our hands about the mess that surrounds us.

Conflicted, tender, and frustrated as hell, Wolf is a truly likable character whose heart and values are squarely in the right place. Peppered with real facts about bee depopulation—how there are no bees in one part of China and workers have to hand-pollinate plants; how the pesticides our current monoculture practices demand are decimating bee populations—the book gently educates while at the same time raising key ethical questions.

Does the threat of crop failure trump the wellbeing of a family? Is it better to save the bees, or to restore some balance to the family in order to ease Whisper's anxiety? Sure, the twins look adorable in their bee costumes, but Wolf feels that forcing them to hand out flyers to strangers on the street is not worth Whisper's meltdowns.

Wolf just wishes his mother could see it, too. But she's too far gone, her head firmly in the clouds of her singular mission.

"I think adults and kids will take different things away from this book," says Stevenson. "I hope adults will be thinking and talking about how we can support kids who are interested in activism without letting adult agendas become the driving force."

Perfect for a class novel study, *The Summer We Saved the Bees* will spark conversations about family relationships as well as how to live with a lighter footprint. But it will also open the door to talking about environmental concerns in a way that supports hopefulness and a belief in human ingenuity and resilience, rather than simply adding to the fast-growing epidemic of childhood anxiety.

9781459808348

Alex Van Tol's latest book is **Aliens Among Us: Invasive Animals and Plants In B.C.** (Royal B.C. Museum).



A photo-conceptual work called *Monologue* by Jeff Wall (240.0 x 282.3 cm) 2013.

Wall-to-wall Wall

“His work encompasses the heroic and the banal, the kitsch and the lyrical, the epic and the miniature.” — **Melissa Denes, The Guardian**

SOMETIMES REGARDED internationally as one of the world’s leading contemporary artists, **Jeffrey David ‘Jeff’ Wall** is a photo-conceptualist born in Vancouver in 1946. Wall has called Vancouver home for all but four years of his life. Wall studied at UBC and the Courtauld Institute in England where he was exposed to the work of **Degas, Manet** and **Gericault**. He then taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art for a year before returning to Vancouver to teach at SFU (1976-1987) and UBC (1987-1999).

ArtsNews named him one of the world’s 10 Best Living Artists and he was touted as “Canada’s most famous living artist” by *The Globe & Mail* newspaper in 1999. His art has resulted in exhibitions at MoMa in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Wall will reputedly spend up to a year composing a single photographic tableaux--see example above--but many of his huge, backlit Cibachrome transparencies (photographs) of contrived scenes, indoor and outdoor, leave the average Joe and Jill scratching their heads, wondering what the fuss is about.

A retrospective of Wall’s work, *Jeff Wall Photographs 1978-2004*, featured 50 works at the Tate Modern art museum in London in 2005.

Now **Jeff Wall: North & West** (Figure 1 \$25), a book-length catalogue to accompany the inaugural exhibition at Whistler’s Audain Art Museum in November, 2015, explores the themes of history and memory with text by **Aaron Peck**. In a nutshell, “Urban landscapes constantly change but the remnants of the past remain and history’s influence never ends.” Nearly all the images were created in and around Vancouver.

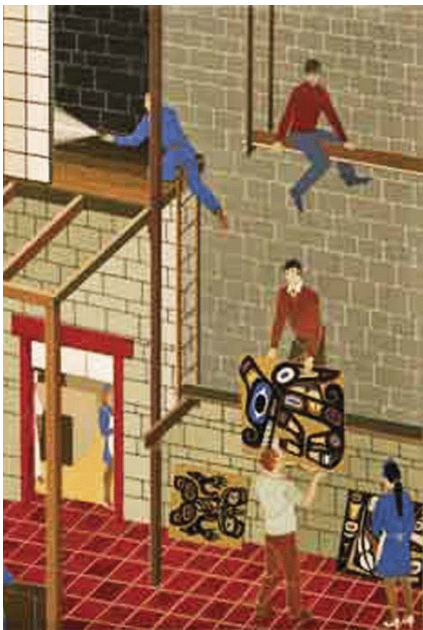
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Jack Akroyd

SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE OF A BACKWATER

In March of 1996, **Jack Akroyd** had a massive heart attack while riding home on the bus from a movie. He was seventy-five years old. **Peter Busby’s The Life and Art of Jack Akroyd** (Mother Tongue \$35.95) brings Akroyd’s work back to life. A half century ago, Vancouver wasn’t especially kind to avant-garde artists. Busby describes it as a “defensive, narrow-minded and cheap” provincial backwater. Yet Vancouver provided Akroyd with a supportive group of fellow artists living in the Kitsilano area in the early 1960s including sculptors **Paul Huba, Elek Imredy** and **David Marshall**, photographer **Jack Dale** and painters **George Fertig** and **Frank Molnar**. As former *Vancouver Sun* arts critic **Max Wyman** notes, we are left with a glimpse of Akroyd’s corner of this backwater “...and a glimpse, too, of the groundwork that was being laid for the creative powerhouse the city was to become.”

978-1-896949-43-7



Detail of Jack Akroyd’s First Nations Art Show at the Bay (gouache on paper) 1969.



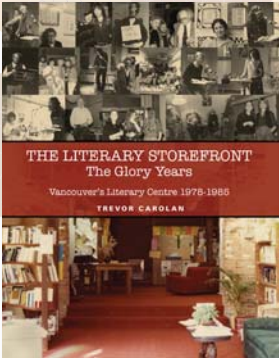
Panel from the graphic novel *Toshiko* by Michael Kluckner

Graphic internment romance

Artist and heritage expert **Michael Kluckner** has turned a new page for his first graphic novel, **Toshiko** (Midtown \$19.95). Set during World War II, Toshiko Yesaki and her cousin have been sent to B.C.’s interior from ‘Japtown’ in Vancouver due to the internment of Japanese Canadians. They go to school and also work on Calhoun Farm near an unfriendly town [Salmon Arm] where most residents view them as enemies. But one of Toshiko’s classmates is curious and sympathetic about the exile of Japanese-Canadians, and romance develops. “Remember Romeo and Juliet in the first term?” she says, during one of their secret meetings. “That’s us.” The scandal of this relationship between Toshiko and a local boy, nicknamed Cowboy, who doubles as the novel’s narrator, pushes the couple out of B.C.’s interior and back to Vancouver when his racist father objects. The two love-struck teenage runaways know they will be forced to face the racial, moral and social realities of wartime Canada but they head to the coast anyway. Klckner notes there was a Calhoun Farm, on Carlin Road, in the Tappen Valley, near Shuswap Lake, where Henry and Hilda Calhoun welcomed Japanese Canadian families during the internment. Most were the extended family of Kumazo Nagata of Mayne Island. Kluckner’s teenage characters are fictional, but Cowboy’s side of the story is partly inspired by an acquaintance, born in 1934, who worked on the Calhoun Farm in 1952.

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Founded by poet Mona Fertig, the legendary Literary Storefront was Canada's first non-profit literary centre and flourished in Vancouver's colourful Gastown district. The Storefront housed the regional offices of The Writers' Union of Canada, The League of Canadian Poets, an editing & printing company, and was the birthplace of the Federation of B.C. Writers. Rich in stories, Carolan's masterful account brings alive the passions, origins, achievements and tribulations of this visionary literary institution. Margaret Atwood, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Joy Kogawa, Stephen Spender, Edward Albee, Dorothy Livesay, Douglas Coupland, Elizabeth Smart, and Tom Ilves, now President of Estonia are some of the hundreds of writers who passed through its doors. **A must read for lovers of BC and CanLit!**

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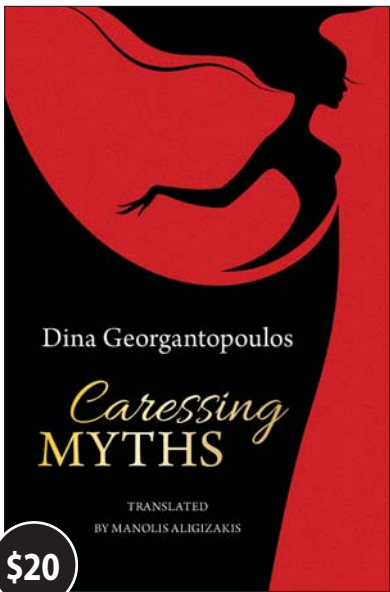
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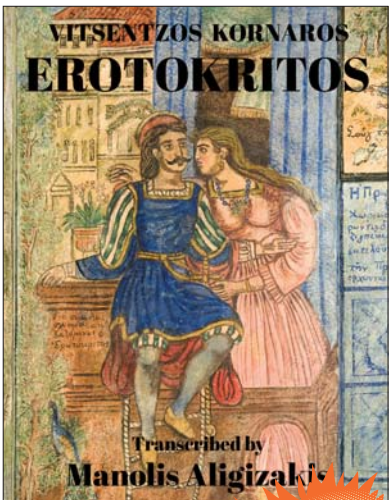
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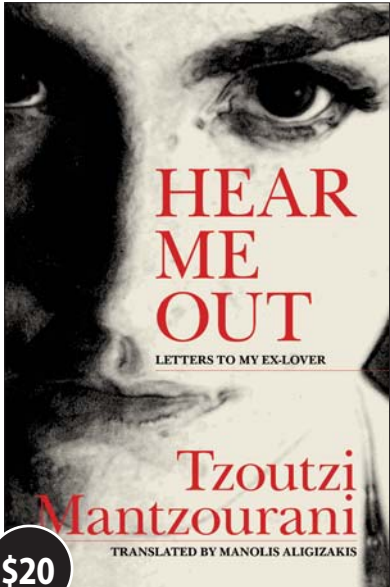
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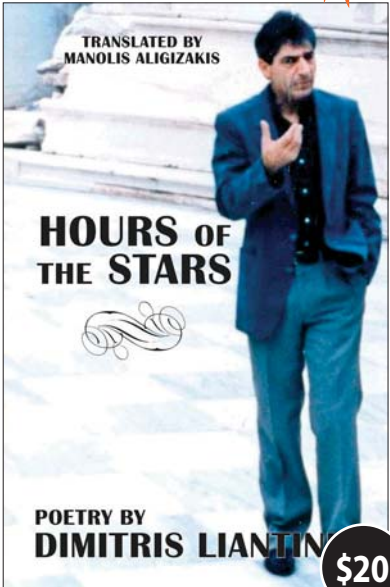
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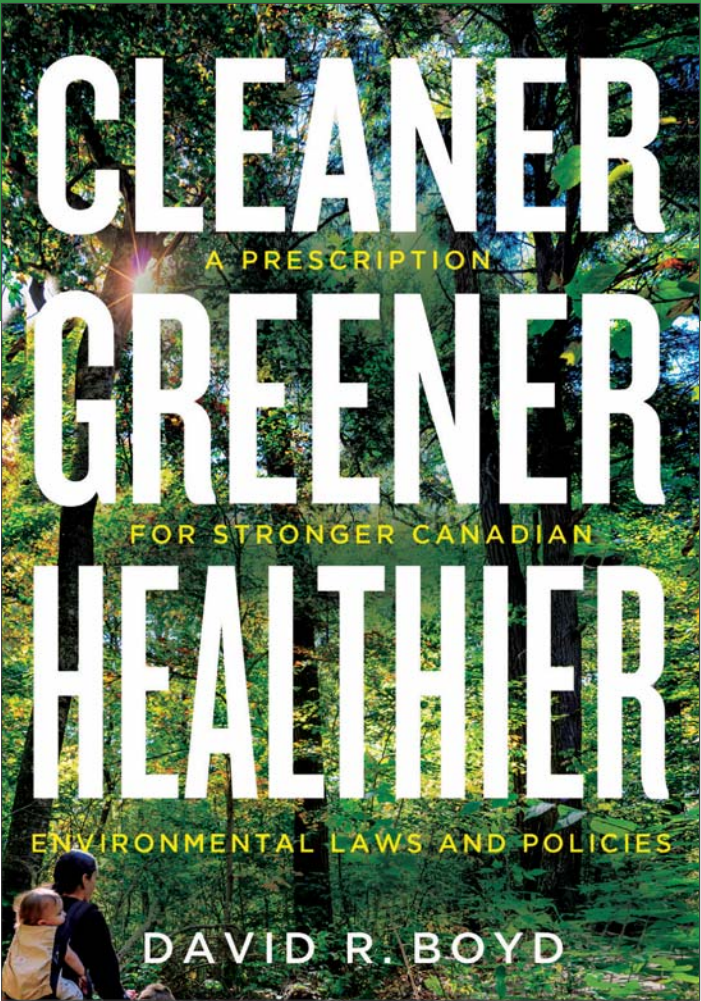


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Money is our underlying great divide

Co-written and co-performed by two friends, *Winners and Losers* has been described by the *New York Times* as “a frisky theatrical symposium” and “articulate, funny and breezily charming.”

Marcus Youssef and James Long performing *Winners and Losers* at the Soho Rep in New York City, 2014.

LIKE SO MANY FRIENDS, James and Marcus are certain they have interesting conversations. They invent a parlour game in which they toss out subjects at random and judge them as winners or losers.

Mother Teresa, Marilyn Monroe, Sylvia Plath, Pamela Anderson. Microwave ovens, Mexico, Canada. Winner or loser?

As both are well-connected theatre professionals, they decide to transform their two-man debating game into a two-man play called **Winners and Losers** (Talonbooks \$16.95) during which they will appear to debate the pros and cons of, well, just about anything.

After drawing a chalk rectangle, the actors and co-authors **Marcus Youssef** and **James Long**, casually dressed, simulate off-the-cuff debates on a bare stage, sitting across from each other at a table, using that table for a ping pong game to seven points, then removing it entirely.

They accept one topic per night from the audience to appear spontaneous. Lack of a conventional plot makes the audience nervous. As they barge ahead into world politics and history, we begin to worry these two guys might not be quite as smart as they like to think they are.

Their opinions are just not that interesting. **Stephen Harper** is called a winner, without any debate. Being guys, they each open a beer and their banter turns into a proverbial pissing contest. They attack one another's integrity. Who is more inventive?

They try to outdo each other with confessional candour, discussing their masturbation techniques. One says he likes to masturbate using im-

ages of women who resemble his wife. Okay, so these guys definitely aren't as smart as they think they are. Or are we supposed to admire them for being so brave?

The awkwardness of a faux wrestling skirmish contrasts with the conceit that their dialogue is unrehearsed, so we start to look askance. But our inclination to distance ourselves from this onslaught of male posturing suddenly evaporates as soon as our debaters start to talk seriously and candidly about money.

It's at this point that *Winners and Losers* shifts into a higher gear, and none too soon.

The late **Jane Rule**, a novelist and moralist, used to say that money is something that people should discuss more openly, more often. It's a huge part of life and yet, in many households, it's kept secret. In keeping with the mandate of James Long's company, Theatre Replacement—to build performances that react to contemporary existence—*Winners and Losers* is ground-breaking when these two friends honestly debate their economic differences.

Both men live on the east side of Vancouver. Both are married with two children. One drives a Mazda, the other a Toyota. They appear to be theatrical brethren. But their economic differences lead them to make accusatory attacks.

Marcus's father has been the vice-president of a Canadian bank. Even though Marcus likes to shop for clothes at Value Village, and he works as a community activist for COPE, his family has easy access to airplane tickets and he is going to inherit lots of dough. Although he is the son of an Egyptian

immigrant, he comes from a privileged background. His father helped him buy a house.

James wears \$200 jeans but he rents. James' father was an ex-cop who called his wife Shithead in front of his sons. Marcus has cocktail smarts, enabling him to schmooze at parties at the American consulate, whereas James tells a story about hanging out with First Nations guys in a bar, almost getting into a fight, thereby boasting about his street smarts.

We want to accept James' argument that privileged Marcus works with

COPE out of residual guilt. But then Marcus points out that the combined income for James' household is \$120,000 per year. This information pops the bubble of the staged conflict.

Obviously both men are leading comfortable lives compared to most people in the Downtown Eastside community in which the play was presented during the PuSh Festival (in the revamped Woodward's complex), but anyone who has the

smarts to successfully earn a full-time living as an artist is, when one stops to consider the number of people who would like to do so, a relative aristocrat.

Our truth-daring creative types are doing quite nicely, flying off to festivals, etc., so their attempts to claim the higher moral ground over one another are arguably contrived. But, for that matter, on a larger demographic scale, most people who can afford to live in Vancouver are part of an elite constituency.

Forced to admit that he comes from a monied background, Marcus agrees to give James some of his inheritance. Unfortunately it is not specified how much will be given, or how much money

Marcus could inherit. The audience is left wondering whether such a promise was ever made in 'real life,' and whether or not this act of generosity arising from guilt will ever come to pass.

We have to ask ourselves: If the promise to share the wealth has not been seriously made off-stage, and if this promise is therefore a theatrical contrivance, does that make *Winners and Losers* into a phoney play?

This intrigue—even if it's inadvertent on their part—sets our minds racing in new directions. What is going to happen to this relationship between James and Marcus now that it has been redefined in terms of class warfare? If play ends with the two friends estranged from one another, and angry, could that be for real?

We are most grateful when they retain this adversarial distance during the curtain call, rather than hugging one another and grinning at the audience. But how much of the verbal boxing is bogus?

It ends up being a fascinating, disturbing and original experience.

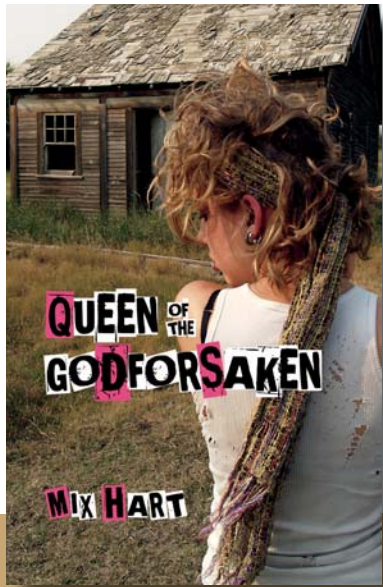
It is easy to imagine a second act for *Winners and Losers*, introducing wives and children, during which one of the friends is forced to consider saving the other from financial ruin.

More importantly, *Winners and Losers* forces us to imagine ourselves having similarly invasive encounters with our own friends.

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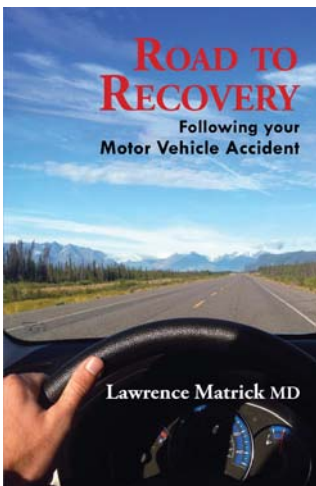
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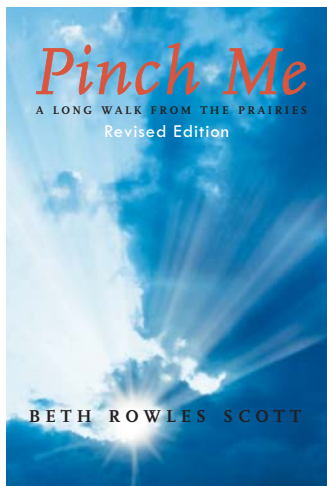


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review POETRY

438 DAYS IN SPACE

A round-up of recent and forthcoming poetry titles

IN SHERYDA WARRENER'S SECOND poetry collection **Floating is Everything** (Nightwood \$18.95), a retired cosmonaut returns from a record-breaking 438 days in space and attempts to re-immense himself in the world; **Morrissey** and **Cindy Sherman** make cameo appearances; and influence and personal lineage are traced back to the Vikings. Warrener's work has previously been shortlisted for the Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry. She teaches at UBC.

978-088971-315-4

Cosmophila by Vancouver's **Rahat Kurd** (Talon \$16.95) is drawn from the poet's memories of time spent with her family in Kashmir and contemplations of traditional Kashmiri handicrafts, family history, and Islamic imagery, and reflections on living and walking in Vancouver through the end of a marriage.

Rahat Kurd has studied Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Spanish, German and French. She was a finalist for the Gwendolyn MacEwen Poetry Prize in 2014. Currently Kurd is working on a memoir about the making of Muslim culture in North America.

9780889229464

Born in Victoria, **Elizabeth Ross** completed an MFA in creative writing at UBC and has been a poetry editor of PRISM International. Her first book of poetry, **Kingdom** (Palimpsest Press \$18.95), takes a confessional approach in which she

asks questions and argues with the answers. In Prayer, Ross asks for all things a 'good girl' should aspire to be: "Raise me to cook a healthy diet. To write thank you letters. To set and unset the table. Carry things. Fetch things...." She continues her wish list to include avoiding boyfriends with long hair, to learn how to teach herself and how to respect others, but ends with the cryptical, "Teach me how to tell a lie."

978-1-926794-24-2

Michael Turner's Kingsway (Arsenal Pulp \$14.95) is being re-issued for a 20th anniversary edition that includes a new essay and photographs by the author. First published in 1995, *Kingsway* is a collection of linked poems that revolve around Vancouver's oldest thoroughfare.

9781551526263

John Pass' Forecast: Selected Early Poems, 1970-1990 (Harbour \$18.95) includes out-of-print poems that ruminate around the potential of travel, an orchard he cares for, evolving relationships, house-building, becoming a poet, husband and father. Pass' *Stumbling in the Bloom* (Oolichan, 2005) won a Governor General's Award. He lives on the Sunshine Coast. 978-1-55017-731-2



Having lived for several years in Larissa and Thessaloniki, Greece, **Russell Thornton** has included poems set in the eastern Mediterranean for his sixth collection, **The Hundred Lives** (Quattro \$18). Some of his previous work has appeared in Greek translation in the anthologies *Foreign Language Poems on Thessaloniki* (Kedros, Athens, 1997), *Into a Foreign Tongue Goes Our Grief: Poems On or After Cavafy* (Bilieto, Peania, 2000) and *Thessaloniki: A City*

in Literature (Metaixmio, Athens, 2002).

978-1-927443-68-2



Footsteps of the Past (Ronsdale \$15.95) by **Philip Resnick** is a meditation on the modern human condition. Resnick uses critical political insights and cultural and philosophical ideas to reflect on the wounds that chronic illness and disability instill. He even references "Je suis Charlie." 978-1-55380-431-4



Make It True: Poetry from Cascadia (Leaf Press \$30) contains writing from Cascadia, the

bioregion lying west of the continental divide and spanning from Mt. Logan in Canada to the north and Cape Mendocino in California to the south. Edited by **Paul Nelson**, with **George Stanley**, **Barry McKinnon** and **Nadine Maestas**, the collection is an attempt to take back poetry culture from the trance cast by pop, consumer and industry-generated culture.

978-1-926655-81-9



Mayne Island's **Julie Emerson's Twenty Seven Stings** (New Star \$18) is a suite of poems that pursue aspects of war, the rules of warfare; the roles of women as pawns or inspirations; battles, and the use of poisons and bees as weapons. Illustrated by **Roxanna Bikadoroff**.

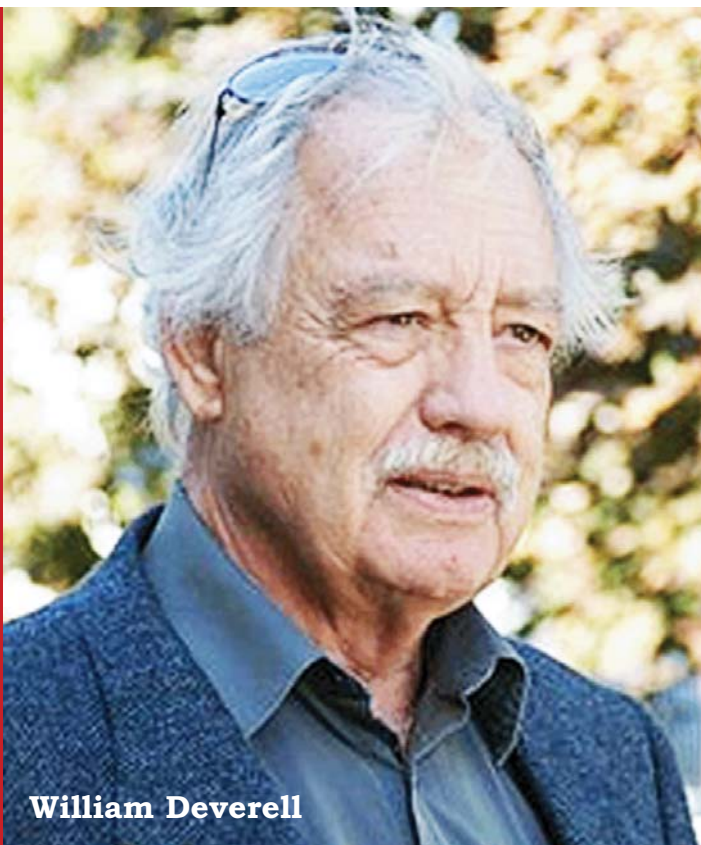
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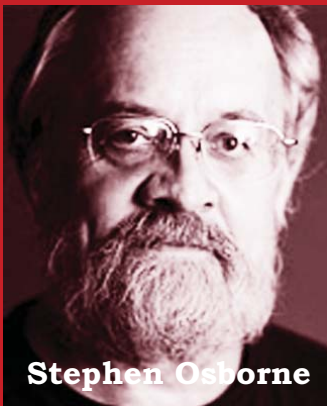
Sheryda Warrener



Marie Annharte Baker



William Deverell



Stephen Osborne



Mary Schendlinger

A is for Annharte Baker

Marie Annharte Baker is the inaugural winner of the \$5000 Blue Metropolis First People’s Literary Prize, mainly for her 2012 poetry collection, **Indigena Awry** (New Star, 2012). Born in 1942, she was raised as a neglected child in Winnipeg. Her alcoholic mother disappeared when she was nine. After studying at universities in Brandon, Vancouver and Minneapolis (centre of the American Indian Movement), she split from an abusive husband and turned to social work and activism. A former Vancouverite, Annharte Baker is Anishinabe from the Little Saskatchewan First Nations.

B is for Baron



Ethan Baron

The big day need not cost big bucks. Yes, Virginia, a sensible, affordable, quickly-planned wedding is possible. In his **Wedding Bliss on a Budget** (Self-Counsel \$14.95), Province columnist **Ethan Baron** guides couples on how to create a great event without a great budget. Baron’s work has taken him to crime scenes, courtrooms, carnivals and war zones—all ideal training grounds for writing a book about weddings. He now teaches at Langara College in Vancouver.

9781770402225

C is for Cook

Tsilhqút’in is a complex northern Athabaskan tonal language comprised of 47 consonants and six vowels. Also known as Chilcotin, it is spoken by the people of the Chilco River (Tsilhqóx) in B.C.’s interior. **A Tsilhqút’in Grammar** (UBC \$165) by **Eung-Do (Ed) Cook** is

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Who’s Who

the first book to examine the grammar of this language, covering all aspects of linguistic structure – phonology, morphology, and syntax. Eung-Do (Ed) Cook was born in Seosan, Chung-Nam Province, Korea, in 1935. He received his PhD in linguistics from the University of Alberta. 978-0-7748-2516-0

D is for Deverell

In the sixth crime novel in **William Deverell’s** series featuring defence lawyer Arthur Beauchamp, **Sing a Worried Song** (ECW Press \$24.95), we revisit the one time in Beauchamp’s career when he restlessly decided to switch sides and serve as a prosecutor. When a young man was charged with murdering a clown, Beauchamp was confident he could prove Randolph Skyler was guilty. Meanwhile his own personal life was coming apart... Beauchamp cannot forget this case, not even years later when he’s happily remarried and retired to Garibaldi Island on the West Coast. 978-1-77041-245-3

E is for Evenden

Following World War II, Canada became a world leader in hydro-electricity production. Only Norway produced more per capita and only the U.S. generated more in terms of total output. **Allied Power: Mobilizing Hydro-electricity during Canada’s Second World War** (UTP \$32.95) by UBC’s **Matthew Evenden** explores how the climate of war



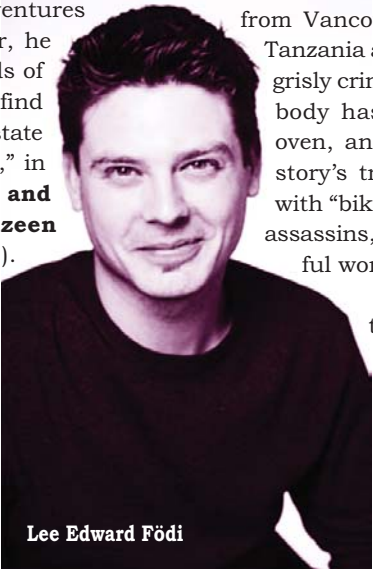
Matthew Evenden

influenced Canada’s hydro-electric development and expansion and led to the introduction of greater government controls. Evenden is a co-leader of *The Water History Project* which looks at the many ways humans interact with the hydrological environment.

9781442626256

F is for Födi

Magical monsters, talking animals and enchanted mythology abound in the stories and art of daydreaming specialist **Lee Edward Födi**. For his sixth fantasy title, and his fifth as the chronicler of the adventures of Kendra Kandlestar, he describes how wizards of Een are on quests to find Arazeen, “a mythical state of peace and wonder,” in **Kendra Kandlestar and the Search for Arazeen** (Simply Read \$9.95). But the heroine Kendra Kandlestar is on the search for something very different—her long-lost family. Born in Oliver, Lee Edward Födi studied at UBC and has a degree in Eng-



Lee Edward Födi

lish literature and a diploma in fine arts. Födi lives in Vancouver where he is the facilitator and mentor for Dream Workshop, a program designed to unleash the creative energies of children.

978-1-927018-29-3

G is for Geist

Co-founder of Pulp Press in 1971, **Stephen Osborne** became the founding editor and publisher of *Geist Magazine* in 1990. Osborne and editor **Mary Schendlinger** have now handed over the reins to publisher and editor-in-chief **Michal Kozlowski** who first worked at *Geist* in 2006. *Geist* has won some two dozen awards, including (three times) Magazine of the Year for Western Canada.

H is for Hauka

Donald J. Hauka’s Pizza 911 (Dundurn \$11.99), the third in Hauka’s *Mister Jinnah* mystery series, takes politically incorrect newspaper reporter Hakeem Jinnah from Vancouver to



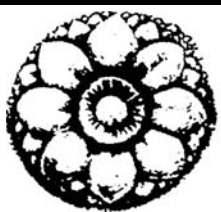
Donald J. Hauka

Tanzania as he investigates another grisly crime. A burnt, dismembered body has been found in a pizza oven, and Jinnah’s quest for the story’s truth leads to encounters with “bikers, drugs lords, shadowy assassins, and a mysterious, beautiful woman.”

Pizza 911 is based on the 2002 Gemini-nominated made-for-TV movie of the same name, also written by Hauka.

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continued on page 38



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I is for Isabella

The Red Bicycle (Kids Can \$18.95) by **Jude Isabella** follows the journey of Big Red, Leo's cherished bicycle, as it makes its way from North America to Africa. Leo is too big for his bike and donates it to a charity that ships it to Alisetta, a young girl in Burkina Faso. Alisetta can now travel much more quickly to her family's farm and to the market. The next owner of Big Red is Haridata, a young woman who uses it to deliver medicine and carry sick people to the hospital. *The Red Bicycle* reveals how something as simple as a bicycle can have a powerful impact on lives half a world away. Illustrated by **Simone Shin**. Jude Isabella of Victoria was a managing editor of *YES Magazine*, a science magazine for kids, for twelve years.



Jude Isabella

78-1-77138-023-2

J is for Judson



Gillian Judson

Gillian Judson's Engaging Imagination in Ecological Education (Pacific Educational \$29.95) illustrates how to connect students to the natural world and encourage them to care about a more sustainable, ecologically secure planet. With her Ph.D. from SFU, where she now teaches, Judson is a director of the Imaginative Education Research Group and coordinator of the Imaginative Ecological Education program.

978-1-926966-75-5

K is for Konyves



Tom Konyves

Born in Budapest, **Tom Konyves** escaped Hungary in 1956 and settled in Montreal where he published a Dadaist magazine and operated his own small press as one of the original "Vehicle Poets." Since 2006, Konyves has been teaching at the University of the Fraser

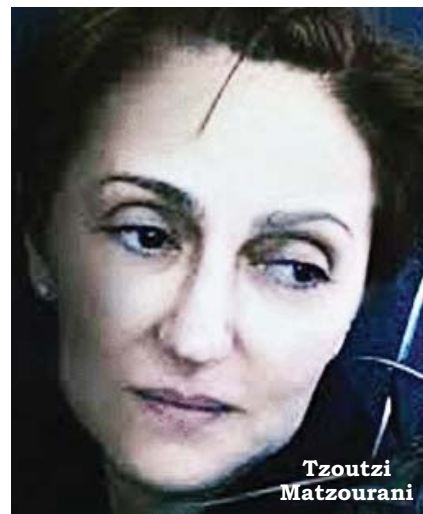
Valley in Abbotsford. Described by poet **Lionel Kearns** as "a film-maker by day, a poet by night," Konyves has released a new poetry collection, **Perfect Answers to Silent Questions** (Ekstasis \$23.95).

978-1-77171-107-4

L is for Levine

It's a common misconception that marine creatures, like fish, shrimp and seahorses, live silently in the sea. These water-dwellers actually make "some of the most interesting sounds you've never heard," according to the co-authors of **What Sound Does a Seahorse Make?** (Ronsdale \$18.95). Thanks to **Shar Levine**, **Leslie Johnstone** and **Aran Mooney**, readers can learn more about these critters and scan QR codes to access audio and video recordings of the surprising noises made underwater. Also included are interactive science projects that illustrate various aspects of sound, such as waves and frequencies.

978-1-55380-359-1



Tzoutzi Matzourani

M is for Matzourani

Three months after asking her lover to leave, **Tzoutzi Matzourani** is tormented by his absence. Crazyness took hold of them when they were together; now an equal crazyness pervades her passionate longing for him to reappear. Her reminiscences and pleadings are addressed directly to him in **Hear Me Out: Letters to My Ex-Lover** (Libros Libertad \$20), translated by **Manolis Aligizakis**. The urgency of Matzourani's poetic bereavements reveals how sexual desire can seem like a form of illness, a cruel intoxication. Love lifts us; love debases us. And nothing else matters. Tzoutzi Matzourani lives in Athens; Aligizakis is a publisher in White Rock.

978-1-926763-40-8



Leslie Johnstone and Shar Levine

who's who

BRITISH COLUMBIA

N is for Nozick



Nicole Nozick

Nicole Nozick is the new executive director of the Vancouver Writers Festival, taking over from **Camilla Tibbs** who has become the executive director of the Richmond Gateway Theatre. Nozick

holds a B.A. in English from University of Cape Town, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Journalism from Tel Aviv University. Most recently, she was director of the Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival.

O is for Olga



Susan McCaslin

A spiritual memoir in poetic prose, **Susan McCaslin's Into the Mystic: My Years with Olga** (Inanna \$24.95) focuses on McCaslin's spiritual mentor, **Olga Park** (1891-1985), who self-published several titles about her mystical experiences "grounded in and moving out from the Christian tradition." McCaslin mixes Park's life story with her own, through a series of vignettes and poems written by the author and by Park, with some of Park's spiritually-inspired illustrations. The text explores the relation of time to eternity, the nature and emergence of consciousness and mystical experiences.

Into the Mystic was launched at the Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace in Vancouver. For further info, visit ABCBookWorld.com 978-177133-188-3

P is for Paleja

The first non-fiction book for kids aged 9-12 by Vancouver actor and writer **Shaker Paleja**, *Native Americans: A Visual Exploration* (Annick Press, 2013) was chosen for the White Ravens Collection at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany. Paleja's latest kid's book is **Power Up!: A Visual Exploration of Energy** (Annick Press \$19.95), illustrated by **Glenda Tse**, which covers topics such as how sources of energy are harnessed; the



Mix Hart: writer, visual artist and fitness junkie



Shaker Paleja

reasons and effects of climate change; hot issues like the oil sands, fracking, greenhouse gases; future sources of energy and answers: what's vampire power, and why does it suck? Using brightly

coloured pages filled with charts, graphs and diagrams, *Power Up!* is designed to appeal to visual learners and reluctant readers. 978-1-55451-726-8

Q is for Queen

Queen of the Godforsaken (Thistle-down \$14.95) by **Mix Hart** of Kelowna is a coming-of-age debut novel in which Lydia moves with her family from Vancouver to an isolated farmhouse in Batoche, Saskatchewan, in the 1980s. Her father has difficulty finding steady employment and her mother becomes suicidal. They start drinking and fighting. To make things worse, Lydia can't relate to her classmates. She finally gets to know a handsome, hockey-mad farm boy, Brady, and two elderly Francophone neighbours. Lydia learns to adapt by looking after her sister and her parents. 978-1-771870-63-4

R is for Roberts

As a University of Victoria instructor, **Jillian Roberts** first co-wrote *School Children with HIV/AIDS* (Detselig, 1999) with **Kathleen Cairns**. She has since created an app called Facts of Life and written a book for ages 3-to-6, **Where Do Babies Come From?: Our First Talk About Birth** (Orca \$19.95), illustrated by **Cindy Revell**. It's the first book in her *Just Enough* series to include topics such as death, cultural diversity, and parental separation or divorce. Jillian Roberts' work specializes in medically fragile children. 9781459809420

S is for Simmers

Bren Simmers' book-length poem **Hastings-Sunrise** (Nightwood \$18.95) is a tribute to the neighbourhood of Vancouver in which she lived from 2010-2013. It reflects her attempts to find home in a city where she couldn't afford to own one. She tracked seasonal and cul-



our the life and work of **George Woodcock**, a project kickstarted by a fundraising campaign organized by *BC BookWorld*.

Bren Simmers reads at the Whistler Writers Festival on October 17

tural changes from one spring to the next and subsequently left Hastings-Sunrise in favour of the natural, wooded environment of the Squamish area. 978-0-88971-310-9

T is for Takeda



Louise Takeda

Louise Takeda is a research affiliate with the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance. Her Master's degree in environment and development focused on land use planning in Haida

Gwaii. In her book, **Islands Spirit Rising: Reclaiming the Forests of Haida Gwaii** (UBC Press \$95) Takeda examines how the local indigenous environmental community faced the multi-national forest industry and political bodies to gain control of forest resources. 9780774827652

U is for UBC



Bud Osborn

Students of the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies at UBC have created a digital archive called *The Bud Osborn Collection* to honour the work of Downtown

Eastside activist and poet **Bud Osborn** who died in 2014 at age 66. The Osborn poems are accompanied by images by **Richard Tetrault**, and in collaboration with designers **David Lester** and **David Bircham**. *The Bud Osborn Collection* archive can be found on the UBC School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies website. A short film about Osborn can be seen on the *BCBookLook* news site.

UBC Library has simultaneously mounted a permanent exhibit to hon-

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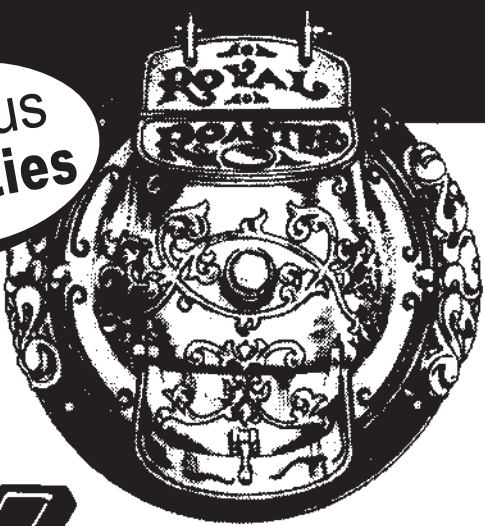
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WHO'S WHO



Barbara Nickel explores
winds of the Canadian
west, Nicaragua, Cape-
town and the Middle
East in *A Boy Asked the
Wind* (for ages 7-10).

V is for van Eijk

Having studied the Lillooet (Lil'wat) language for forty years, **Jan van Eijk** has transcribed and translated narratives from Lillooet elders for **These Are Our Legends** (University of Regina Press \$24.95), due in November. Along with English translations, a glossary and grammar, he presents texts with transcriptions that can be used by linguists or Lillooet speakers. Illustrated by **Marie Abraham**, the First Nations' title is Nilh Izá Sptákwłhkalh.

9780889773967

W is for Wyatt



Rachel Wyatt

A woman holding a sign that asks "Are you content to be nothing?" is our guide as we make our way through **Street Symphony** (Coteau \$18.95), **Rachel Wyatt's** collection of short stories.

It's a series of interconnected tales that takes us from "Café Society," to "The Companion's Tale," to "Aquarium." With her biting humour, Wyatt creates a thought-provoking cast of characters, many of them seniors, who are not content to be overlooked or ignored.

9781550506181

X is for Correction

Fortunately we goofed. At the end of an article on Yarrow on page 42 of the *BC BookWorld* summer issue, author **Robert Martens** was identified as a physician married to author **Barbara Nickel**. He is neither. So this clarification affords an opportunity to let the world know Nickel has a new picture book this fall, **A Boy Asked the Wind** (Red Deer Press \$19.95), illustrated by

Gillian Newland. In October, Nickel will be appearing at the Yarrow Library, the Chilliwack Library and the Vancouver Writers Festival.

9780889954809

Y is for Yeadon-Jones



Anne and Laurence Yeadon-Jones

Veteran writers **Anne** and **Laurence Yeadon-Jones** have continued sailing into the publishing realm with their seventh *Dreamspeaker Guide* titled **Puget Sound: A Boater's Guide** (Harbour \$49.95) with a new format designed to be read on an iPad, Tablet and eBook. In *Puget Sound* the authors travel from Port Townsend to Olympia, Lake Washington and Hood Canal. Illustrations highlight the shoreline plans of selected marinas and boat anchorages. *Dreamspeaker Guides* is an imprint of *Dreamspeaker Publishing Ltd.*, established in 2005. While still living in England, the couple coincidentally named their 36-foot sailboat *Dreamspeaker* in the same year **Anne Cameron** published a novel with that title in 1978.

978-0-9739865-1-8

Z is for Zuberi

Dan Zuberi's Schooling the Next Generation (University of Toronto \$32.95), chronicles ten East Vancouver elementary schools located in neighbourhoods with diverse populations and lower income levels. The book focuses on the challenges that principals, teachers, parents and students face, and Zuberi also explores how they are overcoming those difficulties.

9781442626843

Hunter hunter

I always look forward to pouring through the pages of your publication while I am on a B.C. ferry coming and going to Vancouver from Nanaimo. I learn so much about the amazing number of B.C. writers, we have such a wealth. Given the size of the photo of Aislinn Hunter on the cover for the BC Book Prizes, I was disappointed not to find a good article on her book. I still love the publication and always take it home to use as a resource.

Ian Niamath
Nanaimo

[As mentioned in the article, we previously ran a full-page review of her novel. You can find it on the ABCBookWorld reference site. — Ed.]

Pride before a fall

BC BookWorld's recent piece on Andrew MacLeod's new book, *A Better Place on Earth*, rang some loud bells. For the past two decades my pride in being a British Columbian has waned dramatically. It's a truth that feels disloyal to relatives who were original settlers of the province, but the truth is that Canada's western Eden is now well past its glory.

I hope your *Opinion* piece attracts those readers who continue to wear their blinkers so fiercely. With any luck, MacLeod's words will give them sight again, something they'll need on the steep pitch of the downward slide...

A.S. Penne
Sechelt

News comes first

Whenever I go to Vancouver, I always pick up a copy of *BC BookWorld* on the ferry to read. Your newspaper not only informs but also helps writers and publishers to promote their books. I appreciate that *BC BookWorld* is not a forum for literary debate so much as it is a vehicle for letting the public know what books exist about their society. My sincere appreciation to you and your staff.

Lily Chow
Victoria

O'Hagan landmark

Saw your item in the new *BC Historical News* about the need for a literary map of B.C. One suggestion is the area around the summit of the Yellowhead Pass, which is where Howard O'Hagan spent his teenage years. He grew up in Lucerne, B.C., which has disappeared today but was effectively the 'twin' of Jasper, AB. He incorpo-

rated Lucerne into the novel *Tay John* and his story 'The Woman Who Got on at Jasper Station' is set at Lucerne. He also wrote about nearby Red Pass, BC (also disappeared), Mount Robson, BC and other places in that area, which has generally been neglected by historians of the province.

Ben Bradley
Toronto, ON

Ryga landmark

I've heard about the literary landmarks program and I've talked about it with the George Ryga Society people in Summerland. We'd like to contribute and be associated with an Okanagan campaign. Our collections person, Barbara Jo May, would likely be our main person involved and we were thinking of approaching the OK College librarian as well, as they have campuses throughout the Okanagan.

Steph Hall
Okanagan Regional Library

Order of Canada

I have been enjoying *BC BookWorld* for more than twenty years now. I can't imagine how people in B.C. could ever manage without it. About a year ago I was delighted to hear that the publisher of *BC BookWorld* was accorded the Order of Canada. Since then I have been expecting some sort of announcement in the paper, but there has been nothing. Have you been erring on the side of modesty? Please fill us in. I think loyal readers—like me—deserve to know.

Cecily May
Naramata



BC BookWorld publisher Alan Twigg receiving the Order of Canada from Governor General David Johnston at Rideau Hall.

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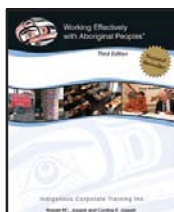
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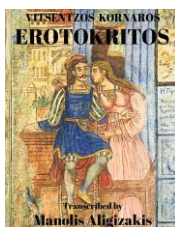
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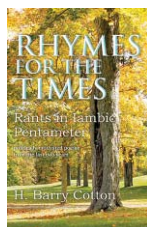


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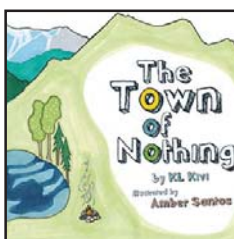
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Holley Rubinsky 1943-2015

HOLLEY RUBINSKY RESIDED IN KASLO, B.C. for more than thirty years prior to her death at age 72, due to cancer, on August 1. Born in Los Angeles on May 18, 1943, Rubinsky was predeceased by her second husband, Yuri Rubinsky, whom she met in Banff, where she also befriended writers Alistair McLeod, Sandra Birdsell and W.O. Mitchell. She is survived by her daughter Robin Ballard, who lives in Switzerland.

Her second novel, *At First I Hope for Rescue* (Vintage, 1998) was nominated for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. The title story in *Rapid Transits and Other Stories* (Polestar, 1991) won the \$10,000 McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize and the National Magazine Award Gold Medal for Fiction (first published

by *Malahat Review*). Set in the interior of B.C., Rubinsky's novel *Beyond This Point* (M&S, 2006) examined the lives of five women dealing with unavoidable change. It was



Holley Rubinsky

followed by her short story collection, *South of Elfrida* (Brindle & Glass, 2013).

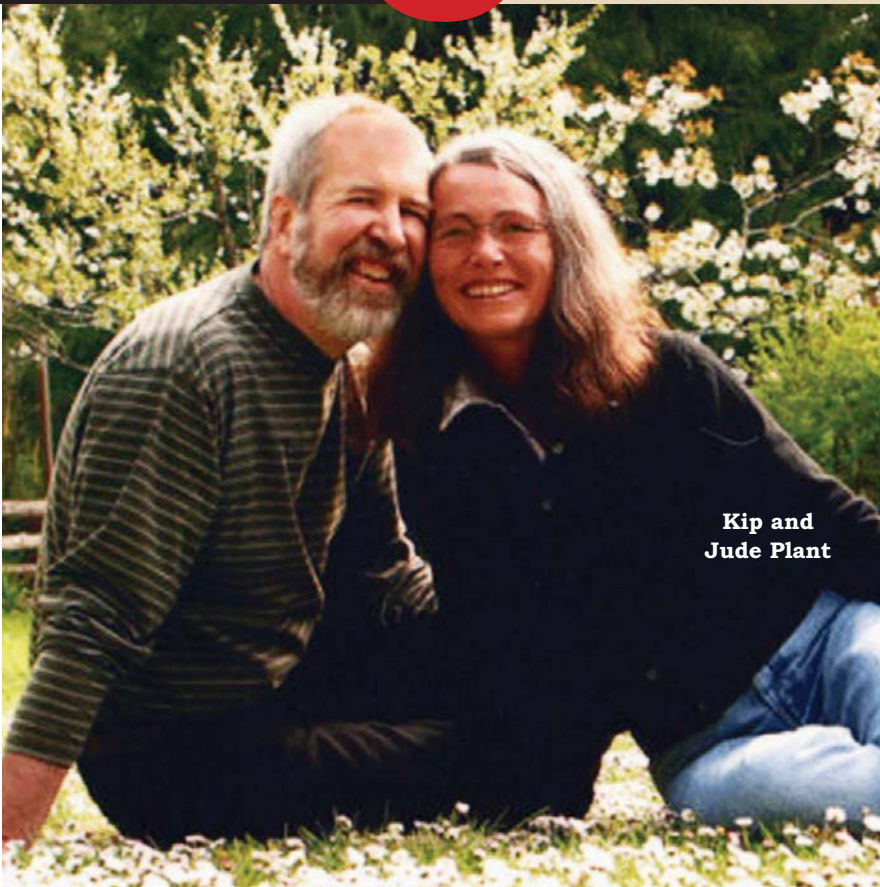
Rubinsky first visited Canada in 1970 and immigrated in 1976. From 2006 to 2008, she was the host of *The Writers' Show* for writers and readers, produced by Kootenay Coop Radio CJLY in Nelson. With her M.Ed from U.C.L.A., Rubinsky also hosted literary retreats and enjoyed teaching children with disabilities at the local school. As a young woman she gained a single-engine private pilot's license. Later in life she practiced Mahayana Buddhism as taught by the Dalai Lama.

Her final publisher, Ruth Linka, commented upon Rubinsky's death: "I was honoured to work with Holley at Brindle & Glass, first to publish *South of Elfrida* and then later when she edited for us. In *South of Elfrida* Holley wrote about women on the move, physically and emotionally, and even though community and her home were clearly important to her, I will always remember Holley as a person open to others, to new experiences and to travelling in every sense of the word."

Ed Griffin 1937-2015

FORMER PRIEST **ED GRIFFIN** FOUNDED THE Surrey International Writers' Conference in 1993 after attending a writers' conference in Seattle. He subsequently helped establish a Surrey Creative Writing Diploma Program.

A former U.S. city councillor and social worker, he first published a novel based on his life, *Beyond the Vows*, about a priest named JP Lacey who is deeply troubled by social injustice. It was followed by a novel about the fate of three hundred convicts released onto Adak Island in *The Aleutians, Prisoners of the Williwaw* (Trafford, 2000), reflecting Griffin's abiding concern for prison reform. It was written after Griffin had been visiting Matsqui Prison to encourage inmates to become better writers. He had undertaken similar work at



Kip and
Jude Plant

Christopher Plant 1950-2015

B.C. LOST ONE OF ITS BRAVEST AND MOST essential publishers, **Christoper (Kip) Plant** of Gabriola Island, when he died on June 26 in Nanaimo after courageously living with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Multiple System Atrophy for nine years. As the publisher and co-founder of New Society Publishers (Canada), Plant and his wife Judith (Jude) were decades ahead of their time, pioneering 'bioregionalism' in the early 1970s, then leading the way for books to be pub-

lished on recycled paper in Canada. Together they consistently regarded organizing for a post-carbon future to be the single most urgent task for humankind.

The Plants started by publishing *The New Catalyst* magazine, a quarterly bioregional journal, from 1985 until 1992. Begun at the start of the computer era, *The New Catalyst* office was located 20 kilometres from the nearest town, used power generated from the nearby creek and depended

Waupun prison, a maximum security prison in Wisconsin.

Griffin proceeded to self-publish five more books, including an autobiographical work, *Once a Priest*, in which he recalled marching as a young, Cleveland-based Catholic priest from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery with Martin Luther King.

Griffin left the priesthood in 1968 to obtain a Masters degree in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Elected to Milwaukee's city council in 1972, he and his family came to B.C. in 1988. Having been officially named a Civic Treasure by Surrey in 2012, Ed Griffin died at age 78 in July of 2015 from complications arising from a stroke.

Jamie Reid 1941-2015

JAMIE REID WAS A MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL five-member editorial board of *TISH*, the Vancouver poetry newsletter at UBC, in 1961. He became a co-organizer (with many others), and a spokesperson for, the first Vancouver Human Be-In in Stanley Park, in 1967. That year he also visited the Okanagan Valley and produced poems that appeared in his first book, *The Man Whose Path Was On Fire* (Talon 1968). Reid became thereafter, in his own words, "a fierce communist for almost twenty years,"



**Jamie Reid had
the guts to exchange
poetry for politics.**

mainly in central Canada, where he had been born in Timmins in 1941. Until 1987, Reid renounced and left behind the somewhat insular concerns of former literary friends who mostly turned to university teaching jobs.

Jamie Reid returned to the West Coast with an open mind in 1987, producing a biography of Diana Krall in 2002. A cumulative collection of

upon a radiotelephone for its communications.

Their New Society book publishing imprint evolved from the Movement for a New Society, a radical anti-Vietnam war organization in Philadelphia that published materials to support peace. After the Plants co-edited and published *Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism* in 1989, Kip and Jude opened a Canadian office of NSP, and began publishing books focused on sustainability. After purchasing the whole company in 1996, they ran the publishing house until it was bought by Douglas & McIntyre in 2008. In that time, they shepherded over 275 new books into the public realm.

They continued active involvement with New Society Publishers for four years. Then, when Douglas & McIntyre was forced to almost declare bankruptcy in 2013, Chris and Judith reached out to their former partner, Carol Newell, and, together, bought back the publishing company, relatively unscathed. Once again New Society is headquartered on Gabriola Island.

Prior to publishing, Kip Plant had lived in the South Pacific and worked as an editor at The Institute for Pacific Studies. He edited *New Hebrides: The Road to Independence* (Institute for Pacific Studies, 1977) and *Rotuma: Split Island* (Institute for Pacific Studies, 1978.) He also translated from French the book, *Kanaké: The Melanesian Way* (Editions du Pacifique, 1979) and published his MA thesis from SFU, *PEACESAT: Communications and Development in the Pacific Islands* (1982).

For New Society, he also co-edited *Home! A Bioregional Reader* (1990), *Turtle Talk: Voices for a Sustainable Future* (1990), *Green Business: Hope or Hoax?* (1991) and *Putting Power in its Place: Create Community Control!* (1992).

poetry, *I. Another. The Space Between: Selected Poems* (Talon 2004), was followed by a chapbook, *Homages* (Pooka Press 2009).

Influenced by three teachers at King Edward High School, Reid began to read Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, leading him to the works of Rimbaud, Baudelaire, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Irving Layton and Raymond Souster. UBC professors Jake Zilber and Tony Friedsen encouraged Reid during an undergraduate writers' workshop.

Jamie Reid's formative experiences with *TISH* at UBC led to him being influenced by local writers such as George Bowering, Frank Davey, Fred Wah, Gladys Hindmarch and Lionel Kearns. In turn, he came to know and respect other Vancouver poets that included John Newlove, Gerry Gilbert, bill bissett, Peter Trower, Barry McKinnon, Maxine Gadd, Judith Copithorne and many others. Poets who came to Vancouver and influenced him have included Robert Duncan, Robert Creeley, Jack Spicer, Al Purdy, Milton Acorn and Louis Dudek. "All of these poets gave something to me," he said, "showed me something about life and about poetry."

Jamie Reid died at home on June 25. According to his wife, Carol, "his last day was filled with happiness and healing energy, and he was vibrant."

A gathering of appreciation was held at the the Wise Hall in Vancouver in August.

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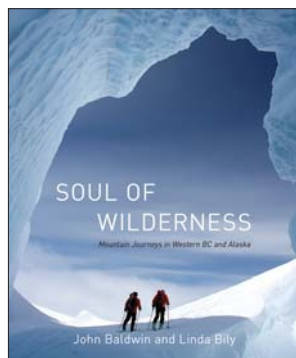
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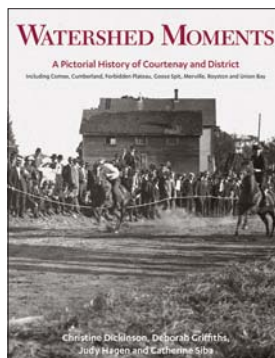


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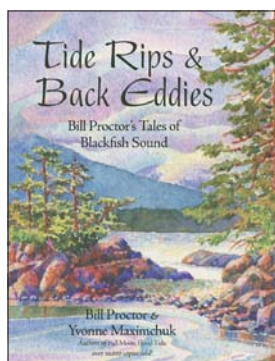


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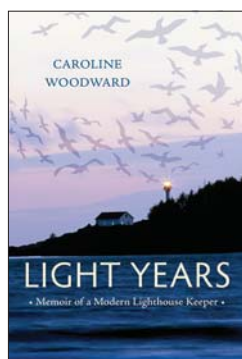


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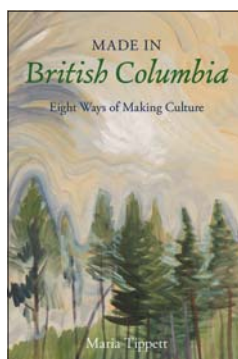


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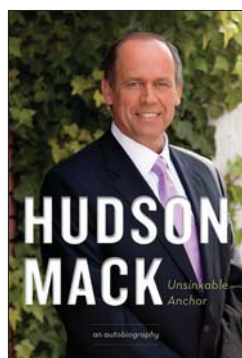


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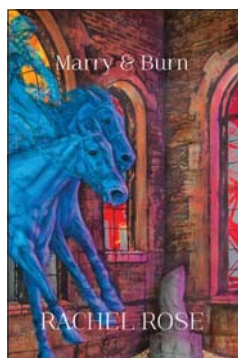


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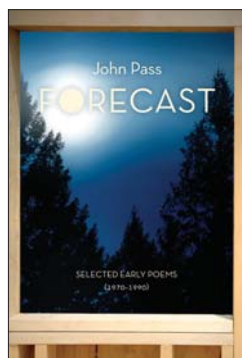
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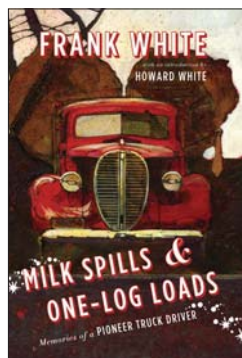
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