The Chinese Water Torture Cell was one of Harry Houdini’s famous acts of escape. He was suspended upside down in a locked cabinet filled with water. Tim Lee was photographed reading upside down, suspended in the chair by straps. This image appears “right side up” in the Audain Museum catalogue. “Viewing something straight and direct as possible is the most boring way to view something,” Lee says.

See page 7

Tim Lee’s Upside Down Water Torture Chamber, Harry Houdini 1914 is one of the works featured in Ian M. Thom’s book, Masterworks from the Audain Art Museum.
Read the winners of the 32nd annual BC Book Prizes

**BILL DUTHE BOOKSELLERS' CHOICE AWARD**
Susan Musgrave
*A Taste of Haida Gwaii: Food Gathering and Feasting at the Edge of the World*  
Whitecap Books

**ERNEST WILSON FICTION PRIZE**
Alix Hawley
*All True Not a Lie in It*  
Knopf Canada

**RODERICK HAIG-BROWN REGIONAL PRIZE**
Briony Penn
*The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan*  
Rocky Mountain Books

**DOUGLAS AND MARY MACKAY LITERATURE PRIZE**
Alan Twigg  
recipient of the 2016 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR’S AWARD FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE
Established in 2003 by the Honourable Iona Campagnolo to recognize British Columbia writers who have contributed to the development of literary excellence in the province.

**HUBERT EVANS NON-FICTION PRIZE**
Brian Brett
*Tuco: The Parrot, the Others, and a Scattered World*  
Greystone Books

**DOROTHY LIVESAY POETRY PRIZE**
Raoul Fernandes
*Transmitter and Receiver*  
Nightwood Editions

**CHRISTIE HARRIS ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN’S LITERATURE PRIZE**
Annette LeBox and Stephanie Graegin
*Peace is an Offering*  
Dial Books

**SHEILA A. EGGEN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE PRIZE**
Susan Juby
*The Truth Commission*  
Razorbill

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**ECONOMIC INCLUSION**
The Canada Council for the Arts and Creative BC recognize the重要性 of economic inclusion of Indigenous and diverse communities. To learn more about these initiatives visit [ thoughtfulthoughts.ca](http://thoughtfulthoughts.ca) and [creativebc.ca](http://creativebc.ca).
Here are some noteworthy titles upcoming from B.C. publishers.

**JOAN HAGGERTY IN TELKWAGAN**

Despite his health detours—most recently a stroke—Armstrong's dog-and-county partner, Ken, has become a local fixture in Telkwa, the B.C. town where Armstrong is a part-time resident and the author of a memoir, _Retire Happy Wild and Free_.

**POT POWER—A CULTURAL HISTORICAL ATTRACTION**

While living in Telkwa, Joan Haggerty has finally completed _The Dancehall Years_ (Mother Tongue $24.95), twenty years in the making. It’s a family saga that follows the reverberations of the forced evacuation of Japanese Canadians from the coast. Young Gwen Killam has enjoyed her idyllic summers on Bowen Island until the sudden disturbing disappearance of her swimming teacher Takumi Yoshito, along with his parents who have had a solid reputation as gardeners on the island. The novel traces family dynamics from the Depression, to Pearl Harbour, to the 1980s. In an earlier draft it was 186,000 words, later honed to 352 pages.

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**JOY OF NOT WORKING**

Bill Bissett’s latest Talonbooks poetry collection is called _th book_ [sic], celebrated with his appearance at the Future Concrete exhibit at Vancouver’s Unit/Pitt Projects. Metis poet Greg Scofield will return with his tenth book, _Witness, I am_ , from Nightwood.

**DANCESTORY**

Joy Kogawa has a new autobiography forthcoming from Caitlin Press and the founding publisher of Oolichan Press, Ron Smith, will release his memoir, _The Defiant Mind: Living Inside a Stroke_ from Ronnald Press. _The Defiant Mind: Living Inside a Stroke_ from Ronnald Press. _The Defiant Mind: Living Inside a Stroke_ from Ronnald Press. Continued on page 5

**COWBOYS OF THE AMERICAS**

Wade Davis of UBC has a self-titled collection of photography from Douglas & McIntyre. Davis has also provided the text for _Cowboys of the Americas_, a book edited by the Order of A Series of Dogs, from Greystone.

**CHARISMA**

As an introvert coach, Michaela Chung of Nanaimo argues that charisma is not reserved for extroverts. In _The Irresistible Introvert: Harness the Power of Quiet Charisma in a Loud World_ from Skyhorse, _The Irresistible Introvert: Harness the Power of Quiet Charisma in a Loud World_ from Skyhorse, _The Irresistible Introvert: Harness the Power of Quiet Charisma in a Loud World_ from Skyhorse. 

**SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY**

A cat might have nine lives; but three minutes—“If I do I will be asleep in approximately three minutes”—Jay Currie has long advocated complete legalisation of weed. His how-to book for self-Counsel will be _Start & Run a Marijuana Dispensary or Pot Shop._

**BEACH BABY**

Ernie Zelinski, who wrote _The Joy of Not Working and How to Retire Happy Wild and Free_, has more get-yourself-in-a-hammock advice from Sandhill with _Look Ma–Life’s Easy._

**LAFAYETTE**

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INSTANT CURES FOR THE SUMMERTIME BLUES

The Real Thing
The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan
Briony Penn
WINNER of the 2016 Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize, The Real Thing takes the reader on an inspirational and personal journey through BC’s ecology, wilderness and landscape.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30 pb | $16.99 ebook

Warnings Against Myself
Meditations in Life in Climbing
David Stevesen
Personal reflections on climbing with stories from the Bugaboos of British Columbia, Mount Kennedy in the Yukon’s Saint Elias Range, and the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $25.95 | $15.99 ebook

The Family That Conquered Everest
Alan Malley
A fast-paced and engaging story that takes the reader on a remarkable family journey from the fields and suburban to the top of the world.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $25 pb | $15.99 ebook

Popular Day Hikes 3
Northwest Okanagan
Gerry Shea
The 35 essential hikes in this full-colour guidebook are a great way to experience the North Okanagan, from the Kalamalka Lake and Okanagan Lake areas.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $25 pb | $15.99 ebook

Britannia’s Navy on the West Coast of North America, 1812-1914
Barry Gough
This authoritative account sheds new light on the British Navy at Esquimalt, its impact on BC’s coastal First Nations and the role of sea power in BC’s development.
Heritage House | $32.95 HC | $27.99 ebook

Haida Gwaii
A Guide to BC’s Islands of the People
Donn McRae
Now in full-colour, this classic guide equips modern travellers with everything they need to know about these magnificent north Pacific islands.
Heritage House | $29.49 | $19.99

Out of the Orchard
Recipes for Fresh Fruit from the Sunny Okanagan
Julie Van Rosendall
A collection of 85 recipes celebrating the bounty of the Okanagan and the 500 grower families who produce the delicious tree fruits sought by thousands each season.
Touchwood Editions | $19.95 pb | $12.99 ebook

Emily Carr As I Knew Her
A touching tribute to the famed Canadian artist, this biography by her dear friend reveals a gentleness and sensitivity in Carr that has never before been seen or written about.
Touchwood Editions | $19.95 pb | $12.99 ebook

Time to Take Flight
The Sunny Woman’s Guide to Safe Solo Travel
Jadea Seagrave
A reassuring travel guide that encourages women 40+ to take solo adventures. Includes advice, checklists, and profiles of 25 North American and European destinations.
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Lost Nuke
The Last Flight of Bomber 07, Revised Edition
Dirk Eppinger
An updated account of the 1958 crash of US Bomber 07 in northwestern BC and the mystery of its missing nuclear warhead.
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The Butcher, the Baker, the Wine
And Cheese Maker In the Okanagan
Jennifer Isabel
A new collection of recipes and stories commemorating the butchers, bakers, and artisanal community responsible for the Okanagan’s burgeoning culinary scene.
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4 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2016
While in Ottawa for his induction into the Order of Canada, veteran photographer Ted Grant of Victoria met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and provided him with a copy of Ted Grant: Sixty Years of Legendary Photojournalism (Heritage House, 2013), written by Thelma Fayle. Much to the PM’s amusement, the photo album features an iconic cover photo of his dad, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, spontaneously sliding down a bannister at a 1968 Liberal convention in Ottawa before Justin was born.

Justin & Pierre

From Alaska to Zimbabwe, people are glad to be gay. Robin Stevenson’s splashy and jubilant Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community (Orca $24.95) is a tribute to LGBTQ folks around the globe. Designed to appeal to young readers, it contains queer facts (South Africa is the only African country to have legalized same sex marriage) and an astonishing array of international images. In Uganda, we see five brave demonstrators grinning for the camera, one carrying a placard that declares KILLING GAY PEOPLE SOLVES NOTHING. In Russia, Putin’s homophobic laws engender a parade of activists. North American images veer towards celebratory. The 2015 photo (at left), is from Victoria’s annual drag ball game between drag queens and drag kings.

Munro’s Books named one of world’s best

First Alice Munro won the Nobel Prize. Then her ex-husband Jim received the Order of Canada. Now Munro’s Books of Victoria has been included in a Top Ten list of bookstores around the world compiled by National Geographic. To kick off their annual BC Book Day at the Legislature event in April, the Association of Book Publishers of B.C. held a reception at Munro’s on Government Street including these seven publishers [above] with their executive director Margaret Reynolds (front, white shirt).

Arsenal Pulp will soon boast a new title from Ivan E. Coyote called Tomboy Survival Guide. And there’s a biography of ageless Red Robinson forthcoming from Harbour—but it’s not called Deejay Survival Guide.

Richard Cannings is one of three authors bringing out Birds of British Columbia and The Pacific Northwest: A Complete Guide from Heritage House. Chris Harris and Harold Rhenisch are teaming up for another coffee table book on B.C. landscapes, this one to be called Cariboo Chilcotin Coast.

Having brought classes in the liberal arts and social sciences to Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, Peter Bahiak will cast a gimlet eye at the world in his first non-fiction book, Garage Criticism from Anvil.

Not a lot of B.C. authors are invited to give TED talks. Victoria-based paleoanthropologist Genevieve von Petzinger was the only Canadian invited to speak at the 2011 TEDGlobal Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her TED talk, “Why Are These 32 Symbols Found in Ancient Caves All Over Europe?” had over 1.5 million views by the end of 2015. Her database contains 5,000 examples of symbolic art from 400 sites across Europe that mark the beginnings of symbolic meaning and language. Von Petzinger has now documented her findings about prehistoric European cave art in The First Signs: Unlocking the Mysteries of the World’s Oldest Symbols (Atria Books $36).
PRIDE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & COMMUNITY

PRIDE DAY LOOKS LIKE A PARTY—
BUT IT BEGAN WITH A RIOT

For lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the world, Pride is both protest and celebration. It’s about embracing diversity. It’s about fighting for freedom and equality. It’s about history, and it’s about the future. It’s about all of us.

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“Timely...Using Pride as a way to talk about LGBTQ gives the information a new slant.”
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Collecting art can become a passion more powerful, and more persistent, than the often erratic drive to create it. Artists suffer creative blocks, endure fallow periods, detour up stylistic back alleys that waste precious energy and time before proving to be dead ends.

Less ego-driven, more objective, collectors have the luxury of picking and choosing what their judgement and taste tells them is the best of a field that is as wide as the human imagination. Some collectors have been as willing to starve as the artists they admire in order to possess a work that nourishes the soul.

Michael Audain got the collecting bug when he was a university student, buying prints on an undergraduate budget to feed his Art Monkey.

Becoming a successful real estate developer provided the wherewithal to move up to the hard stuff: museum quality pieces by often anonymous First Nations carvers, complemented with works by contemporary First Nations artists like Bill Reid and Robert Davidson, and works by landmark B.C. painters like Emily Carr and E.J. Hughes.

Audain was also lucky to find a woman, his wife Yoshi Karasawa, who shared and encouraged his passion for art instead of pointing out that they could have bought a villa in the south of France for what some of these pieces cost.

Together they assembled an unrivalled collection of works by British Columbian artists that spans more than 200 years, a collection unique in the world in scope and depth.

The Audain Art Museum can be exhilarating. This new $43.5 million facility proves that our artistic output—just like our province’s literary output—is vibrant, stupendously original and prodigiously alive.

We don’t need to take second place to anyone. People from all over the planet can now see the proof in an afternoon.

Not only have Michael Audain and his wife Yoshiko Karasawa miraculously bought nearly all the artworks on display, they have generated enough support from co-believers to share their art in a fabulous facility (free admission to humans under age 16)—and they have performed this public service with zero help from the provincial or federal governments.

The Audain Art Museum is so new there aren’t any directions yet to find it in Whistler village; let alone a single promotional sign along the Sea to Sky Highway.

Our Squamish-based correspondent John Moore sends this report on the museum and a new book about it by Ian Thom.

But do yourself a favour—see it for yourself. — A.T.
It’s not quite Game of Thrones. But the success of Nick Bantock’s ‘cult’ series of art books, *Griffin & Sabine*, featuring illustrated postcards and removable letters, has no equal in B.C. literature. Bantock’s first three titles in 1991, 1992 and 1993 spent 100 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Now Bantock reveals the fate of the two estranged lovers, who are both artists, with *The Pharos Gate: Griffin and Sabine’s Lost Correspondence* (Chronicle / Raincoast $34.95). Griffin Moss in London vows to finally meet Sabine Strohem who lives in the South Pacific. It’s touted as the final volume in the series, in tandem with a 25th anniversary edition of the first volume.
Kah-Lan the Adventurous Sea Otter
Karen Autio
Illustrated by Sheena Lott

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

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Sylvia Olsen

Have you ever told a lie, then told another to cover up the first? Is failing to correct a misunderstanding lying at all? A complex novel of love, gender relations, friendship, betrayal, truth, and lies.

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Kristie Hammond

When a devastating train accident results in the loss of his leg, James cannot imagine ever leading a ‘normal’ life again. As James struggles to adapt to his new life, he’s helped by true friends he didn’t know he had.

3 Chocolate Lily Award (Nominee)
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Celebrating 48 Years of Publishing in Canada
The unsullied HEROINE

LILIAN BROCA'S HISTORY IN MOSAICS

Vancouver artist Lilian Broca (above) has now depicted the lives of three legendary, wise and fearless women—Lilith, Esther and Judith.

Shocked by the assassination, the Assyrians flee. Judith takes the head of Holofernes to the Temple of Jerusalem where she is accorded the honours of a male hero. Instead of accepting riches, Judith chooses the independent life of a devout widow, refusing to remarry, remaining childless.

Panoptes throughout history have depicted how a chaste Jewish temptress named Judith beheaded an oppressive invader named Holofernes to save her people from oblivion.

Heroine of A Thousand Pieces: The Judith Mosaics of Lilian Broca (Italian Cultural Centre $25) explores the Judith story—including how Judith can be viewed as personification of chastity, ingenuity and courage are as much as it was her beauty.

"May we continue to be inspired by the study of Judith’s exploits and the telling of her story—mosaic and archetypal themes. Other contributors to the book are Sheila Campbell, Angela Clarke, with a foreword by Rosa Graci.

ART

From teapot to war canoe

The three phases in the life of Haida carver Bill Reid.

BOTH HE KNEW ABOUT HIS HAIDA HERITAGE, Bill Reid turned to carving ship models and miniatures at the age of 12. Bill Reid Collected (OVM $19.95) by Martine J. Reid reveals his second wife, introduces a three-tiered classification sequence for his works: Pre-Haida (1948–1951), Haida (1951–1968) and Beyond Haida (1968–1998). MARTINE REID WAS MARRIED TO BILL REID FOR THE LATTER half of his life when he created most of his monumental works such as The Spirit of Haida Gwaii (also known as The Jade Canoe) at the Vancouver International Airport and The Raven and the First Man, both of which have been featured on the Canadian $20 bill.

Bill Reid carving Skidegate Totem Pole, 1976

Presented for the largest chronological collection of colour photographs of Bill Reid’s art pieces to date—including jewellery, paintings, serigraphs and large carvings. Martine Reid, who recalls that Reid was raised by his Haida mother, a residential school survivor who hid her family’s First Nation roots. “It would take Reid a lifetime,” she writes, “to unearth what his mother had been forced to bury.” 978-1-77162-115-1
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Bill Graham... learned politics the tough way, dedicated himself to the building of a bilingual Canada, and put his ideas about global trade and international law to the fire in government. A classy guy, a hard-working MP, a first-rate minister, a remarkable Canadian.

— Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien

Good political memoirs are all too rare in Canada. In this witty, thoughtful, and perceptive book, Bill Graham combines insider knowledge with a cool analytical approach. An enjoyable read, The Call of the World gives much-needed insight into Canadian politics, government, and society during the last half century.

— Margaret MacMillan, author of History’s People: Personalities and the Past

The Call of the World
A Political Memoir
Bill Graham

With candour and wit, Bill Graham – Canada’s minister of foreign affairs and minister of defence during the tumultuous years following 9/11 – takes us on a personal journey from his Vancouver childhood to important behind-the-scenes moments in recent global history.

April 2016 | 978-0-7748-9000-7 | trade hardcover

www.ubcpress.ca
Pulses are a term for chickpeas, fava beans, lentils, beans. As one of the forefathers of ecological awareness in B.C., Dan Jason has roots and tendrils in B.C., publishing that go deep. And with his The Power of Pulses (Q&A $24.95), co-authored with Hilary Malone and Alison Malone Ethorne, he remains on the cutting edge.

Jason first broke new ground with Your Own Food (intermedia, 1972), followed soon thereafter by a now-hard-to-find bestseller Some Useful Wild Plants for Nourishment and Healing (Talonbooks, 1974, 1975), co-authored by Nancy Jason and Tom Perry. What began as a project to record some edible and medicinal plants of the Slocan Valley grew into a larger compendium with sections about herbs of southern B.C., trees, berries, seaweeds and poisonous plants.

It was during those post-woodstock early 1970s that the back-to-land movement started getting serious in B.C. Coincidentally a young Mayne Island lander named Vic Marks, a former editor of B.C. Anoos Catalogue, produced a practical hippie bible for rural living, Cloudburst: A Handbook of Rural Skills and Technology (Cloudburst Press, 1973). We were starved, we were gone, and we had to get ourselves back to the garden.

In 1976, Jason moved to Salt Spring Island and started to grow large gardens. He created the mail-order seed company Salt Spring Seeds in 1986, initially selling packets of a dozen bean varieties, as well as quinoa and amaranth. Jason continues to grow much of the food his family eats and he now sells more than 700 different herbs, vegetables, beans, grains and flowers. With fifty recipes from the foodie-sister team of Hilary Malone and Alison Malone Ethorne, The Power of Pulses is an informative and inspirational guide to growing and eating pulses that coincides with the United Nations’ International Year of Pulses.

In a world where the environmental costs of sustaining meat-based diets have given rise to movements such as Meatless Monday, pulses are now being touted as an earth-saving substitute for meat or tofu as a source of protein.

Both Rubin’s book and the U.N. declaration are devoted to promoting the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses which are rich in fibre, high in vitamin B, and remarkably low on the glycemic index—helping to reduce the risk of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses. Pulses are gluten-free and ideal for grinding your own flour for non-gluten breads and baking. Perhaps best of all for the planet, self-fertilizing pulses use half the non-renewable energy of most other crops.

While the ecological and health benefits of cutting down on meat consumption are widely known, not all meat-replacements are created equal, we are told. “For products have long been a staple of vegetarian diets, but soybeans are often grown in pesticide-heavy monocultures, processed in factories and shipped long distances.”

“By contrast, pulses are easy on the environment: versatile in their unprocessed state, needing no refrigeration and zero packaging, and many are snap to grow organically, even for new gardeners. In addition to being easy to grow at home, millions of tonnes of pulses are commercially harvested across North America, making them an ideal daily food for locavores.”

Vegetarian recipes include Black Bean Brownies with Espresso Ganache; Broad Bean Stocotash with Fresh Ricotta and Poached Eggs on Toast; and Crispy Chickpea Power Bowl with Kale, Quinoa & Dukkah Crunch. Having enjoyed gardening since his childhood in Montreal, Jason graduated from McGill with a degree in anthropology in 1967. Jason has since developed his own Black Jet soybean variety and now specializes in seeds for high-protein plants.

He has been President of the Seed and Plant Sanctuary for Canada since 2002, a national network of organic growers dedicated to preserving heirloom seeds, and he has written several other books including Greening the Garden (New Society, 1991), a guide to sustainable organic growing, and a children’s book, Once Upon A Time I Love You (Intermedia, 1972), illustrated by his daughter Zama.

“My biggest surprise as a seedsman was to learn just a few years ago that Canada is the world’s largest exporter of dried peas and beans, chickpeas, fava and lentils,” he says. “Other countries love our pulses but we consume less than ten percent of what we cultivate. I’ve dedicated myself to popularizing these as something we North Americans should be growing and eating. In the context of climate change, beans have some very powerful things to say!”

Dan Jason’s The Power of Pulses is a guide to growing and eating pulses, coincidental with the United Nations’ International Year of Pulses.

Dan Jason’s been popularizing beans as earth-friendly food since the 70s.

Schell food in the Okanagan

Raised on an apple orchard, local foodie editor Jennifer Schell is raising the stakes for culinary standards grounded in sustainability, irrigated by local wines. Jennifer Schell comes from a multi-generational farming family and was raised on an apple orchard in Kelowna. Schell is an advocate of eating locally-produced food and wine.

After eight years as editor at Food & Wine Trails magazine, launched in 1991 by Dave Gamble, Jennifer Schell has released her first book (from 2012), The Butcher, the Baker, the Wine & Cheese Maker in the Okanagan (Touchwood $29.95) with “70% new content to reflect the region’s current evolution of food production and culture.”

The new version provides 50 recipes, each written by an Okanagan chef and inspired by an ingredient that is locally and sustainably produced. “It might be free-run turkey raised on the Hamblicht Highland Turkey farm, organic vegetables from the urban gardens of Green City Acres, or brie cheese from Upper Bench Cheese in the Naramata.” There’s wine pairing for each recipe from a local Okanagan winery and short profiles on each contributor.

The Butcher, Baker, Wine & Cheese Maker by the Sea (Touchwood, 2015) is a sequel to that first book. It also discovers the people and stories behind the recipes—the chefs, the fishermen, the sea farmers, the foragers and the winemakers. Schell completed the program of the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET), the foremost international body in the field of wines and spirits education, studying under Rhys Pender, master of wine.

Raising the stakes for culinary standards grounded in sustainability, irrigated by local wines. Jennifer Schell is an advocate of eating locally-produced food and wine.

Faux food on the east side

Literary culture vultures lost a favourite hang-out when the bohemian Bukowski’s closed on Commercial Drive in Vancouver after more than 25 years. It was chef Andreas Seppelt’s first restaurant. It was followed by his “sweeety fishy fish” second restaurant, 978-1-77162-102-1 in 2008, then another successful eatery in 2011 called Les Faux Bourgeois (pictured below).

The modest and playful French bistro has garnered critical acclaim, offering up a menu that coincides with the United Nations’ International Year of Pulses, giving rise to Seppelt’s first book, Les Faux Bourgeois: Bon Vivants on the East Side (Anvil Press $26.95). Affectionately known as Les Faubs, the bistro also owns its sister to design Scott Cohen and builder Stephen Gagnon.

More than a traditional cookbook, with recipes often tweaked by West Coast florishes, this volume entices ‘bon vivants on the east side’ with pages and stories about ingredients such as cheese, charcuterie and wine. 978-1-77214-051-4

www.13bcbookworld.com
“Few will fail to be impressed and moved by this new collection, which comprises 17 takes in verse on the multiple relationships between women and war. ... We need poets like Emerson, and books like Twenty Seven Stings. Read this one even if you seldom read poetry.”

— Vancouver Sun
INJUN-NEWITY
JOEY FB INJUN (TALONBOOKS $16.95) is a long poem of "found text" from western novels of pulp fiction published between 1840 and 1950. By gathering all the sentences containing the word "injun" (using the 'Find' function), Abel seeks to destabilize the colonial concept of the "Indian" as it was allowed to grow to the point of being an invisible figure. Abel is a Ni'gaa writer completing his Ph.D. at Simon Fraser University, where his studies focus on digital humanities and indigenous poetics.

X MARKS THE XWISTEN
A XWISTEN FIRST NATIONS ELDER, CHRISTINE Jack is one of twelve indigenous elders whose lives are celebrated in Wisdom from our First Nations (Second Story $10.95) by Lyle Ernst and Kim Sigafoos. Born in Lytton in 1967 as her mother's tenth child, she overcame alcoholic parents and various family tragedies, including her mother's death when Christine was eight, and was raised by her aunt and uncle in Lillooet. Overcoming alcohol and drugs, she became the first girl in her family to graduate from high school in 1985. Christine Jack has since worked to stop violence against women.

BEST SELLARS
AFTER FORTY WEEKS ON THE BC BESTSELLERS LIST, BEV SELLARS won the 2014 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness for They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School (Talonbooks, 2012), and was also shortlisted for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize. Sellers has now released a follow-up in which she retells the life story of Lillian S. Erasmus. A Place Called Kwantlen (Talonbooks $16.95) is a wide-ranging and candid effort to "untangle truth from some of the myths about First Nations." Sellers offers glimpses of foods, medicines, and cultural practices that North America's aboriginal peoples have contributed to the world. For more than twenty years Seller served as chief of the Xat'sull (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake. Currenty she serves as a member of its council.

YOUNGING RETURNS
FORMERLY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Dr. Greg Younging resumed his position as the director/publisher of Theytus Books in 2016. Long associated with Theytus Books and the En'owkin Centre as an administrator and editor (from 1990 to 2004), Younging (formerly Younging) is a member of the Opsakwayak Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. He was replaced at Theytus Books in 2004 by Anita Large after he left to pursue a Ph.D. in the Department of Educational Studies at UBC. He has also served as Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of Creator’s Rights Alliance and variously contributed to The Royal Commission On Aboriginal Peoples, Assembly Of First Nations and Committee Of Inquiry Into Indian Education.

ROLL ON, WAGAMESE
AN OJIBWAY FROM THE WABASEEMOONG First Nation in Northwestern Ontario, Richard Wagamese received the George Ryga Prize for Social Awareness in 2011 for One Story, One Song (D&M). In 2012 he was chosen as a recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award (NAAA) as a representative of media and communications. In 2013 he became the first recipient of the Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature for Indian Horse (D&M). He has now received the Writers’ Trust Matt Cohen Award given in celebration of a body of work. He lives near Kamloops.

INJUN
Cover art of Injun (Talonbooks $16.95) by Jordan Abel

June is Aboriginal History month. Here follows a round-up of new books from or about First Nations people in B.C.
Neil Sterritt’s overview stretches from the mid-1980s. In Vancouver, in Courtroom 53 of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, where most of the Delgamuukw trial took place,” Ray recalls, “distrust prevailed… Certainly searching for nuanced interpretations of the past is not a primary goal of litigation.”

Ray’s sense of frustration and irritation in the witness box in the Delgamuukw trial led him to attend most of the subsequent court proceedings in that case.

Ever since Ray has been active in landmark litigation concerning treaty rights, Aboriginal title and Métis rights, usually as a consultant on First Nations claims.

Now intended to appeal to a broad audience, Arthur J. Ray’s Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History (McGill-Queen’s $29.95) is an unprecedented, comparative overview of Indigenous rights law and claims legislation in the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

A Smithers court clerk receives the writ and statement of claim from the Gitxsan-Wet’suwet’en Tribal Council in 1984. Filing the writ with Neil Sterritt are (L-R) Misilos/Victor Jim (Moricetown), Delgamuukw/Albert Tait (Kispiox) and Gisday Wa/Alfred Joseph (Hagwilget).

The Smithers clerk and other court clerks in British Columbia are being trained to handle First Nation land claims, as the number of cases escalates. In the last quarter of 2015, about 150 claims were active or in process in British Columbia. A similar number were active or in process in the North West Territories, and at least 50 claims were active or in process in the Yukon.

In 1984, the Gitxsan-Wet’suwet’en Tribal Council filed a land claims application in the courts as an expert witness in the Delgamuukw trial. The Gitxsan-Wet’suwet’en Tribal Council from 1981 to 1987. Those years leading up to the precedent-setting aboriginal rights case known as Delgamuukw v. B.C. as one of the principal architects of the 1987 court case, Sterritt was on the stand for 34 days during the Delgamuukw trial, having doubled as land claims director for the Gitxsan-Carrier Tribal Council from 1981 to 1987. Those were key years leading up to the precedent-setting aboriginal rights case known as Delgamuukw v. B.C.

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HISTORY
For nearly a century, from 1871 until destructive fires in the 1960s, the Tsimshian residents of the Port Essington Indian Reservation were assimilated with the non-aboriginal population of the cannery town of Port Essington, located near the mouth of the Skeena River, south of Prince Rupert. Aboriginal children attended day schools there rather than a residential school.

First Nation have extensively recollected their childhood memories of classroom and playground and examined the schooling for two generations of Tsimshian students—elders born in the 1930s and 1940s, as well as middle-aged adults born in the 1950s and 1960s—for What We Learned: Two Generations Reflect on Tsimshian Education and the Day Schools (UBC Press $32.95). See below.

MARY TASI RAPTS, PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNTHIA BOHN

FIRST NATIONS

YOUNG READERS
A member of the Williams Lake Indian Band (T'éxelc), Bev Sellars—granddaughter of Chief Qwuyupenluwin in 1792—and her daughter, Willie Sellars, were seven when they first went dipnetting with their dad and uncles. Set in the Cariboo Chilcotin, their children’s book, Dipnetting with Dad (Caitlin $16.95) is a coming-of-age story about a boy learning the Secwepemc method of fishing. First he visits a sweat lodge, then he learns how to mend nets.

But finding the perfect fishing spot and packing the fish back to the lodge pale in comparison to the real lessons learned—family values, the importance of storytelling and the meaning of community living.

In his position as a second term band councillor, Sellars works closely with the Economic Development and Natural Resources department. Dipnetting is illustrated by artist and musician Kevin Earle, born and raised in Williams Lake, who earns his living fighting forest fires in B.C.

ORCA CHIEF (Harbour, 2013) and Cloudwalker (Harbour, 2014), went on to become national bestsellers.

Julie Flett illustration from My Heart Fills with Happiness.

FICTION
EIGHTY YEARS AFTER SHE WAS RAPED IN A residential school, an elderly, roll-your-own smoker and Cree painter in Saskatchewan named Elinor Greystone searches for the child taken from her at birth with the help of her daughter and granddaughter in Tears in the Grass (Dundurn 2016), a first novel by Lynda A. Archer of Gabriola Island.

Having taught elementary and high school students of the Tahltan and Nuu-Chah-nulth First Nations, Jennifer Manuel has fashioned a debut novel about a woman who has lived for forty years on the periphery of a West Coast First Nations community as a nurse in a medical outpost, gaining intimate knowledge of local secrets. Weeks from retirement, Bernadette hears the news over VHF radio that Chase Charlie, the young man she has loved like a son, has gone missing. In a world “too small for secrets,” she must come to terms with her loneliness in The Heaviness of Things that Float (D&M $22.95).

POETRY
GARRY GOTTFRIEDSON Compulsed us and Heaven to listen to the challenges facing First Nations communities in Dead Heaven (Ronsdale $15.95), incorporating Secwepemc (Shuswap) images and stories. He speaks of “the smell of grandmothers and grandfathers / breathing the stories into our blood” so as to “wrap our newborn in freshly made Star Quilts.” Whether inside the rez or in downtown rooming houses, people take strength from the land.

GA-ryn Gottfriedson

SMALL CHILDREN
Walking barefoot on grass. A hand to hold. Bannock baking in the oven. Written to support the wellness of aboriginal families in the classroom, Monique Gray Smith’s board book for small children, My Heart Fills with Happiness (Orca $9.95), illustrated by Julie Flett, encourages young people to reflect on what brings happiness.

Orca Chief ($19.95), a third collaborative book of Northwest Coast legends featuring Roy Henry Vickers’s illustrations and text by Robert Budd, gained two B.C. Book Prizes nominations this year. It’s a story in which four careless fishermen are taught, by Orca Chief, to respect the oceans and sustainably harvest their seaweed and salmon.

Orca Chief has remained on the BC Bestseller list for months. The first two books in the series, Raven Brings the Light (Harbour, 2013) and Cloudwalker (Harbour, 2014), went on to become national bestsellers.

978-1-55017-693-3

978-1-77162-087-1

978-1-459732117

978-1-55380-449-9

978-1-55017-490-3

978-1-7746-3020-1

978-1-459809574

9781459809574

978-0-7748-3020-1

9781495800574

Julie Flett illustration from My Heart Fills with Happiness.
The Grandkids are Coming!

Maureen Goulet & Diana Budden

How to Have Fun with Granny

Calling all young children! Whether you’re a great grandchild or a grandchild, you’ll appreciate this essential book that will help you have fun with your ‘Granny’. Included are fun ideas (dancing ping pong balls, a treasure hunt), play great games (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), play great games with your Gramps (wine cork boats), make things in the kitchen (chocolate 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Paul Wood

Here’s a long distance cycling guide that details the highways of BC from the coast, the islands and mainland, to the Cariboo, Rocky Mountains, Kootenays, and much more. It includes maps, vertical profiles of the terrain, and road descriptions so you know what to expect ahead. This handy take-anywhere guide will help cyclists enjoy some of the most beautiful, diverse and challenging cycling found anywhere.

18 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2016
A FAR CRY FROM THE GLOBE & MAIL

THE NATIVE VOICE NEWSPAPER MADE SURE "NAIVES" OF B.C. COULD NOT BE SILENCED.

Other significant contributors were:
- Chief William Scow, president of the NBBC.
- Alfred Scow (son of William), a business agent for the NBBC who became a provincial court judge.
- Harold Sinclair, from Skeena, a vice president of NBBC and an expert on fishing issues.

whose story in The Native Voice in the June and July 1948 issues was the basis for Evans' important novel, Mist on the River (1954), about First Nations on the Skeena River. His great novel was written after he became friends with Guy Williams who urged Evans and his Quaker wife to come north as teachers.

Prince Ruper alderman Dr. R. Cariboo Country, starting Chief Dan George, had some of his Vancouver Sun columns reprinted in The Native Voice.

When St. Pierre worked for the Vancouver News Herald, he and Maisie dreamed up a spoof that had Chief William Scow become premier and take over B.C. "from the whites."

BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE, who wrote the anti-war anthem Universal Soldier, wrote an article in The Native Voice in 1964 titled, "A Fresh Look at Reality." It was written in response to a 1963 article in The Native Voice by Alvin S. Relsey in which he stated; "The problem of the Indian is that he doesn’t face reality."

Buffy Sainte-Marie responded: "I have heard this trickly two-edged phrase countless times. Now I want to tell you what I think about facing reality and being an Indian."

She went on to write; "In the first place, I do not believe there is such a person as an Indian. ... The Native Voice was one of the few Indian publications that I have seen. We have made up these tribes are as different from one another as salt is from sugar."

When Eric Jamieson recently contacted her, Sainte-Marie advised that although she didn’t know Maisie well, she knew Crees, Apaches, Tsimshian etc. etc. etc. but the individuals who "make up these tribes are as different from one another as salt is from sugar."

In terms of the evolution of political and civil rights for First Nations in B.C., it was The Native Voice that got the ball rolling in the modern era.

BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE

Eric Jamieson's Story of the Collapse of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge in Vancouver, Tragedy on Second Narrows (Harbour), won the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for History in 2009.

978-1-987915-17-4
BRIAN BRETT

“A day melodic as a day in China, and nature running, funny, present in universal.”
—Harold Budd, author of A Short History of Progress

Tuco

The Parrot, the Others, and A Scattershot World

BRIAN BRETT

“A view of the human predicament that is hilarious, sobering and profound.”
—THE GLOBE AND MAIL

THAT LONELY SECTION OF HELL

The Botched Investigation of a Serial Killer Who Almost Got Away

LORI SHENHER

A GLOBE AND MAIL 100 BEST BOOKS OF 2015

Resetting the Range

Animals, Ecologies, and Human Communities in British Columbia

JOHN THISTLE

The ranchers who resettled British Columbia’s interior in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries depended on grassland for their cattle, but in this they faced some unlikely competition from grasshoppers and wild horses. With the help of the government, settlers resolved to rid the range of both. Resetting the Range explores the ecology and history of the grasslands and the people who lived there by looking closely at these eradication efforts. In the process, the author uncovers in claims of “range improvement” and “rational land use” more complicated stories of dispossession and marginalization.

978-0-7748-2838-3 | paperback
An internationally-sought speaker for and about indigenous cultures, Jeannette Armstrong, Ph.D., grew up in rustic circumstances. This year she becomes the first First Nations recipient of the Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for an outstanding literary career in B.C.

Maracle’s earlier Bobbi Lee, Indian Rebel (1975), as a synthesis of autobiography and fiction, provides grounds for disputing that claim. In 1989, Jeannette Armstrong overtook the creation of the En’owkin International School of Writing for Native Students in conjunction with Theytus Books, Okanagan College and the University of Victoria’s Bachelor of Fine Arts Program. Situated in downtown Penticton, it became a focal point for aboriginal writing throughout North America. The school has since re-located to Green Mountain Road on the Penticton Indian Reserve.

Theytus Books, a First Nations-owned-and-operated book publishing company, also migrated to Penticton in the mid-1980s. Started by Randy Fred in Nanaimo, Theytus Books is named for a Salish word meaning “preserving for the sake of handing down.” The word En’owkin is an Okanagan conceptual metaphor “which describes a process of clarification, conflict resolution and group commitment. With a focus on coming to the best solutions possible through respectful dialogue, literally through consensus.” Theytus Books and aboriginal-owned Penni-can Books in Winnipeg, created by the Manitoba Metis Federation, were both started in 1980.


Fluent in the Okanagan language, Armstrong has participated in international conferences around the world. She received the Mungo Martin Memorial Award in 1974, the Helen Pitt Memorial Award in 1978, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from St. Thomas University in New Brunswick in 2000 and the 2003 EcoTrust Buffet Award for Indigenous Leadership. She was appointed one of seven indigenous judges to the First Nations Court of Justice called by the Chiefs of Ontario. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from UBC Okanagan in 2006.

As an assistant professor of Indigenous Studies in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC’s Okanagan campus in 2013, Armstrong was appointed a Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Philosophy, an award of $100,000 for five years to research, document, categorize and analyze Okanagan Syilx oral language literature.

Since 1995, the City of Vancouver (Mayor of Vancouver’s office), the Vancouver Public Library and Pacific BookWorld News Society have worked in partnership to present an annual prize to a B.C. author for outstanding and enduring contributions to B.C. society. Each year the mayor of Vancouver proclaims BC Author Achievement Day in honour of the new recipient. The Writers Trust of Canada and You!Wok have contributed sponsorship since 2009. For more information about The George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award, contact 604-736-4011. Or visit www.bcbookawards.ca
The BC Book Prizes were established in 1985 to celebrate the achievements of British Columbia writers and publishers. This year’s gala at Government House was emceed by CBC broadcaster Gregor Craigie and attended by the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

“It’s a dream to be here,” said Alix Hawley, winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for All True Not a Lie in It (Knopf), a novel about Daniel Boone. She thanked her editor Anne Collins, her agent Denise Bukowski and “also my mom, who introduced me to Ethel Wilson many years ago.” She added, “Let’s party like it’s 1969.” But this year’s bun-toss, at $120 per ticket, was devoid of any raucous behavior.

“This is a strange and surreal and nerve-wracking thing,” said newcomer Raoul Fernandes, the surprised winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for his first book, Transmitter and Receiver (Nightwood Editions), “for someone who normally sits in a room and writes poetry.” He thanked event organizers for his pre-event reading tour, SFU Writers Studio and Nightwood Editions for taking a chance on a debut writer.

“I’m hugely honoured,” said Susan Juby, winner of the Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Literature Prize for The Truth Commission (Razorbill). “I feel like everyone needs to drink a lot of wine,” she said, “and get in that [swimming] pool.” She concluded, “We are blessed in this province with all this talent, and with all the people who make publishing in this province so exciting.” Like Fernandes, she said she hadn’t prepared a speech.

The book prize winner who most rose to the occasion was Briony Penn whose The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan (Rocky Mountain Books) won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize for the book that contributes most to the enjoyment and understanding of British Columbia. It’s touted as the first official biography of “the father of Canadian ecology,” Ian McTaggart Cowan (1910–2010), a UBC-based scientist who, as a popularizer of science, was the forerunner of David Suzuki.

“Many of you won’t know who Ian McTaggart Cowan is,” Penn said. “He lived so long that he outlived most British Columbians. He’s the most famous British Columbian that some people have never heard of... I hope I’ve achieved just an inkling of Ian’s fascination and enthusiasm for this most incredible province.”

Half the time the Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize for best illustrated book goes to a non-B.C.-published title, as was the case again this year for Peace is an Offering (Dial Books, Penguin), illustrated by Stephanie Graegin. It was accepted by the B.C.-based author of the text, Annette LeBox. Two winners were unable to attend. In absentia, Brian Brett of Salt Spring Island won the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize for his second memoir, Tuco: The Parrot, the Others, and a Scatter-shot World (Greystone Books). It was accepted for him by his editor, Nancy Flight.

Susan Musgrave and Whitecap Books won the Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award for A Taste of Haida Gwaii: Food Gathering and Feasting at the Edge of the World. This dual award annually goes to the originating publisher and the author(s) of the best book in terms of public appeal, initiative, design, production, and content. Musgrave couldn’t make it; nobody from Whitecap showed up either.

Presented for an outstanding body of work, the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence went to Alan Twigg, author of seventeen books and publisher of BC BookWorld.

Gee, I won

Some winners at a loss for words at high-end bun toss.
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Carlo Gentile
Carlo Gentile: Gold Rush Photographer, 1863-1866

Byrd Johnson
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Eve Lazarus
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Rika Ruebsaat

The Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for Historical Federation Prize
Roderick Haig-Brown
Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize

Ryga winner speaks for have-nots

having grown up very poor in rural Alberta, George Ryga would surely approve of this year’s decision to present the twelfth annual George Ryga Award for Social Awareness to Andrew MacLeod.

David Boyd for The Optimistic Environmentalist: Progressing toward a Greener Future (BCW, $19.95)
Larry Gambone for No Regrets (Black Cat Books, $18)

Carrie Saxifrage for The Big Swim: Coming Ashore in a World Adrift (New Society, $16.95)
David Suzuki for Letters to My Grandchildren (Greystone, $27.95)

Judges were librarian Jane Curry (Branch Head, Kerrisdale Branch, Vancouver Public Library), author Trevor Carolan (professor of English and Asian Religion at University College of the Fraser Valley) and author George Johnson (professor of English at Thompson Rivers University, and a long-time chair of the Global and Community Action Committee at Kamloops United Church).

Supported by Yosef Wosk and Vancouver Public Library, the Ryga Award is administered by Pacific BookWorld News Society.

Inspired by Summerland playwright George Ryga, the first annual Marginal Arts Festival will be held at venues throughout Summerland on the Labour Day long weekend, September 1-4. One headliner will be Ryga’s eldest son, Campbell Ryga, an internationally-known jazz musician who apprenticed with the legendary Miles Davis sideman George Coleman. See marginalarts.ca

Also, George Ryga’s sister, Anne Chudyk, along with her husband Ted Chudyk, have established two annual awards in Memory of George Ryga for fulltime Okanagan College students interested in creating awareness of social issues.

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unauthorized. Biographies, while not necessarily negative, tend to include facts and rely on sources the subject might not like. Conversely, authorized biographies, while not necessarily puff pieces, tend to avoid such facts and sources.

What, then, to call Christy Clark? Behind the Smile?

In her introduction, Jodi Tyabji insists it is not an authorized biography. She decided to write it whether Clark co-operated or not, had the contract with Heritage House in hand before speaking to the premier, and did not provide Clark with a draft copy of the book.

“To my relief, she agreed to co-operate.”

Did she ever. Each chapter begins with a quotation chosen by Clark from one of her favourite books. The Road to Character by David Brooks. The pre-publication draft I was given to review was accompanied by a welter of photographs of Premier Clark, from childhood to present day—most of them credited either to Christy Clark herself or the government of B.C. They are unrelied bland. Of the three dozen or so people Tyabji thanks for interviews or “input,” at least a third have some connection to the Liberal Party, either provincial or federal. I recognized only two with outright NDP affiliations, but there may be a few more.

In short, this is an affectionate profile. Once you accept that, Tyabji’s book is a serviceable, mostly chronological account of Clark’s rise from campaigning and inspiring the troops. Will you find many pithy quotes from friend or foe. This may be due to Tyabji’s practice of conducting interviews by email, then letting interviewees vet the results—not the likeliest route to spontaneity.

The liveliest description of Clark as a political rookie comes from press gallery veteran Keith Baldwin, whose first impression was “a bit of a party girl (who) smoked a lot, partied hard and worked hard.”

No bio of Clark would be complete without a look at the sexism she has weathered, and Tyabji, to her credit, addresses her husband Gordon Wilson’s ill-considered reference to brooms as Clark’s vehicle of choice. But should that chapter include 12—12—pages of an essay from a retired Halifax psychologist whom Tyabji encountered on social media?

Of Clark’s 2001 cabinet debut, Tyabji writes: “Christy Clark, as education minister, changed policies to help working mothers and moved forward with an agenda to change the education system to expand the role of parents and introduce a rating system, which was not something welcomed by the BCFTF.” Tyabji writes: “Um, yes . . . but she also tore up a legal contract, stripping the teachers’ union of its right to bargain on class size and composition and sparking a legal battle that is awaiting a hearing in the Supreme Court of Canada. This is glossed over.

Clark’s enthusiastic embrace of liquefied natural gas as a cure-all for B.C. economic woes also escapes close scrutiny, even as world demand and prices tumble.

One of Clark’s sharpest political shivs was directed at former cabinet colleague George Abbott, who ran against her for the party leadership. She bounced him as treaty commissioner two weeks before he was due to take the job. Tyabji mounts a barely coherent defense of this.

And yet, that same chapter, dealing with Clark’s relationship to First Nations is one of the best in the book, benefiting from Tyabji’s interviews with a dozen or more First Nations and Metis leaders.

251-772-01345

Former Province columnist and editor Shane McCune writes clearly from Comox.

Shane McCune responds to Judi Tyabji’s serviceable and affectionate biography of B.C.’s first elected female premier, Christy Clark.
As Parliament considers Bill C-14, Gary Bauslaugh’s poignant stories make us ask: How do I want to die?

The Right To Die: The Courageous Canadians Who Gave Us The Right To A Dignified Death by Gary Bauslaugh (Lorimer $25.95)

The heart-wrenching stories that Gary Bauslaugh tells in The Right To Die: The Courageous Canadians Who Gave Us The Right To A Dignified Death, begin with the Ramberg case in 1941.

That was when parents of a toddler living with a painful, incurable tumour “connected the exhaust pipe from their vehicle into the bedroom where the child’s crib was and turned on the ignition.” The boy died and his parents stood trial for murder, facing a possible death sentence.

The jury took ten minutes to find them both not guilty, nullifying the enactment and sending a powerful message about the limitations of the law around mercy killing.

This reluctance to find defendants guilty of murder has occurred in numerous instances.

The high profile case of farmer John Latimer, who killed his severely disabled daughter Tracy with carbon monoxide, is more complicated.

Involuntary euthanasia is murder in the eyes of prosecutors and advocates for people with disabilities, who argue such killings devalue the lives of the disabled and are open to abuse. Latimer was convicted of second degree murder, served ten years in prison and became the subject of a book by Bauslaugh. (The author also helped Latimer get a job as an electrician.)

Bauslaugh thinks the Latimer case and ruling set back the cause for “compassionate assistance in ending of life.”

Many Canadians were conflicted by this case, at a time when countries like the Netherlands and Belgium were opening up new options for assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Overall, Gary Bauslaugh examines 40 cases of assisted dying—many of which involve right-to-die advocates in B.C.

In 2015, the Supreme Court unanimously struck down the ban on medically assisted dying, ruling that the law was not constitutional and breached the Charter. This was the provision Sue Rodríguez challenged. According to polls, the highest court got it right.

A majority of Canadians now support death with dignity.

The federal new government was given an extra six months to craft a law that balances civil rights and the need to protect the most vulnerable. Bill C14 will now provide support to consenting adults with “grievous and irredeemable” medical conditions that are incurable and intolerable.

Lee Carter, whose mother Kay Carter was central to the groundbreaking assisted dying litigation launched by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, believes the new law will be too narrow and restrictive. Lee Carter’s mother travelled to Switzerland to legally end her life but she would not have qualified for medical assistance in Canada under the proposed new law.

The Canadian Medical Association believes the bill strikes the proper balance, restricting access for minors, people with mental disabilities and those whose deaths are not imminent.

Gary Bauslaugh, a former Humanist Association of Canada president, ably recalls the stark, painful circumstances people have faced in the fight for assisted dying—from Sue Rodríguez to Kay Carter and Gloria Taylor. The book inevitably includes lawyers Chris Considine and Joe Arvay, civil libertarians John Dixon and ethicist/philosopher Eike Hennen Kluge.

Bauslaugh also details the efforts of B.C. activist John Hofess and his Right To Die Society. Hofess began thinking about a more dignified death when his filmmaker friend Claude Jutras jumped from the Jacques Cartier Bridge in Montreal after facing early onset Alzheimer’s.

“Hofess felt guilty for not doing more to help his friend,” Bauslaugh writes, “backing away from helping him die partly because it was difficult to let go of his friend, and partly because he feared prosecution. Never again, he vowed, would he let that happen again.”

When Hofess moved to Victoria and learned of an elderly couple who jumped from their balcony, he thought there must be a better way to end lives. Hofess created an underground railroad to assist people with the decision to take their own lives by providing information, so called “Exit Bags” and, on occasion, direct assistance.

This continued until one of his colleague’s Evelyn Martens, began to operate on her own and went to trial. Bauslaugh documents the twists and turns of Martens’ trial, which he attended in 2004, at the end of which she was found not guilty.

It was the Gloria Taylor/Lee Carter B.C. Civil Liberties challenge that ultimately changed the law. Suffering from ALS, lead plaintiff Taylor wrote: “I do not want my life to end violently. I do not want my mode of death to be traumatic for family members. I want the legal right to die peacefully, at the time of my own choosing, in the embrace of family and friends.”

Taylor was granted an exemption to seek doctor-assisted suicide by the B.C. courts, but didn’t use the exemption as she died from a sudden, serious infection at the age of 64. 978-1-55841-166-3

Mark Forsythe is a former CBC radio host and has written four books.

http://kat-rosetc1r1.squarespace.com/artists

A self-described country girl at heart, Kat Rose prefers a non-urban lifestyle that includes her dog and her horse, baking and reading. She took creative writing at university and now makes her living in the health care field. Her novels stress the importance of hard work and perseverance. In The Loss, a 23-year-old dreamer, Ryleigh Carter, struggles to maintain a positive attitude after the break-up of a romance. Building It Up recounts how two friends, Jensen Owens and Autumn Miller, must learn to cope in the aftermath of a tragedy.

A Father’s Daughter describes the protagonist’s difficult need to help her younger sister who is forced to live with their estranged father Jack.

The Loss (CreateSpace / Red Tuque 2015) 978-1-51764686-1 $12.99, 251 pages, 6x9

Building It Up (CreateSpace / Red Tuque 2015) 978-1-517061401 $12.99, 219 pages, 6x9

A Father’s Daughter (CreateSpace / Red Tuque 2016)
Claudia Casper’s *The Mercy Journals* is a post-apocalyptic novel about life after a third world war has been waged due to a water crisis. One of the few survivors, Allen Quincy, is an ex-soldier nicknamed Mercy who has participated in a genocide on the Mexican border. He goes on a long journey to find his children. Here is Joan Ginver’s review.

The Mercy Journals by Claudia Casper (Arsenal Pulp $17.95)

Claudia Casper’s new novel adds to a growing body of work designated as “cli-fi,” a genre distinct from sci-fi and fantasy, because the horrors described are not futuristic fantasies but predictions of a certain future.

Fans of Casper’s highly successful first novel, *The Reconstructions*, will find *The Mercy Journals* darker and more complex.

Both explore what it means to become fully human and, specifically, the part played by memory in that process.

In the earlier novel, Casper focuses on the memory of humanity’s evolutionary past. Her main character, a sculptor, reconstructs her shattered life as she assembles an anatomical replica of the primate, Lucy, for an anthropological museum. “We want an anatomical replica of the primate, Lucy, for a memorial to her shattered life as she assembles a character, a sculptor, reconstructs man’s evolutionary past. Her main focus is on the memory of human species but predictions of a certain future.

In the earlier novel, Casper’s focus shifts from the distant past to the future; memory is not a benign but rather a crippling force.

The year is 2047; climate change, “a threat multiplier,” has spawned hundreds of global catastrophes—floods, fires, food shortages, new diseases, war and genocide.

We meet Allen Levy Quincy, a veteran of the Third World War and an amputee, who lives amid the remnants of a ruined world. Most of his family has disappeared or perished in the big die-off. It is Quincy’s psychic wound rather than the lost limb that threatens to destroy him. He carries a heavy burden of guilt for his part in an atrocity—the genocidal slaughter of migrants who were trying to breach the wall that was built between Mexico and the United States.

Can there ever be forgiveness for such cruelty?

Casper’s study of humanity involves a comparative look at non-human behaviour. In the first half of the novel she describes Allen finding solace in observing three beautiful golden fish he keeps in a tank (an illegal possession since pets are forbidden). His pleasure wanes when he sees the two healthy, well-fed fish tormenting a sick one by taking bites out of its flesh. This image of gratuitous savagery resonates throughout the book, a possible commentary on both species.

As he sinks into a suicidal stupor of drugs and alcohol, Allen stumbles on a way to obliterate his nightmares. On his mobile, he learns of the idea, attributed to Socrates, that writing weakens the mind by making people cease to exercise memory. It also falsifies inner processes, turning them into artificial, manufactured things.

Trees are no longer cut down, and paper and pens are unavailable in the new world order, policed by The Green Planet Brigade and vigilantes. Luckily, Allen finds two blank notebooks and some pencils among his mother’s remains. He hopes that writing a diary will pry loose the death grip of memories on his mind. And there is another element in his healing process—a vital sexual relationship. Allen appears to be on the way to recovery until he discovers that intimacy precludes secrecy and he can’t avoid confessing the enormity of his guilt to his lover. His confession precipitates a crisis, alienating her and reviving his despair.

Even the act of writing, formerly therapeutic, becomes repellent when applied to the atrocities in his past. He concludes that describing the agony of helpless and desperate people is a violation of their most private moments, a form of pornographic voyeurism. In another powerful image he compares it to a death-camp guard’s demand for a striptease performance before sending a victim to her death.

“Salvation comes in many ways,” Allen writes in his diary, and for him it is the reappearance of his brother and nephew and the prospect of finding his lost sons that once again revives his will to live.

The second half of the novel is more subdued in tone, and framed in references to ancient myths. With his newfound relatives, he travels to the family’s cabin in a remote northern corner of Vancouver Island, hoping that his sons might have made their way there. Although the cabin is named Nirvana, it is echoes of the Old Testament that predominate. Life on the island starts out as a kind of Eden, in which they live simply, tilling the soil and living off the land. A young woman, already there, adds to the sense of a new beginning because, in violation of the one-child law, she is about to give birth.

The ending is rich in moral ambiguity and irony arising from Allen’s statement that, although bearing the mark of Cain, he has survived. A theme throughout is the healing potential, the morality, the danger and the power of writing. Alone on the island, Allen finds a different method of writing; he laboriously chisels in the word that will endure.

Although Allen sustains new injuries, inflicted by a predatory cougar, the wounds, can be viewed as fortuitous. His three companions tend to him protectively, and Allen, in turn, rather than hating the beast becomes protective of the cougar and her cubs.

Echoes of the book of Genesis, and especially the references to the story of Cain and Abel, give the violent climactic events in *The Mercy Journals* a sense of inevitability. “Were we ever going to act differently?” Allen asks rhetorically when he contemplates the global devastation. It appears humans are programmed to cause universal destruction.

The ending is rich in moral ambiguity and irony arising from Allen’s statement that, although bearing the mark of Cain, he has survived. A theme throughout is the healing potential, the morality, the danger and the power of writing. Alone on the island, Allen finds a different method of writing; he laboriously chisels in the word that will endure.

In the beginning was the Word, and it seems that after all the destruction, devastation, and death, it is the word that will endure.

978-1-55152-633-1

Joan Ginver reviews from Victoria.
Salt Chuck Stories from Vancouver Island’s West Coast
by Eleanor Witton Hancock

During the early 1980s, Eleanor Hancock interviewed 120 people about the pioneers at Nootka Sound, Zeballos and Kyuquot, publishing several articles about old-timers in the Times-Colonist, the Journal of the BC Historical Federation, the Seniors Review and the Bank of British Columbia’s Pioneer News.

Now her Salt Chuck Stories from Vancouver Island’s West Coast recalls the 1920s to 1940s when the area opened up through fishing, trapping, logging and mining as seen through the experiences of five pioneers. Characters include Eva Benjamin and the Zeballos gold boom, and the highballing Gibson Brothers who logged airplane spruce at Zeballos back in the days when a house of prostitution openly operated between the town and the mines.

Born in Viking, Alberta in 1942, Eleanor Hancock grew up in Zeballos from age three onwards, in a general store business purchased by her grandfather in 1939. She later settled in Kamloops.

Hardly the Klondike—the 1938 Zeballos Gold Boom is her work-in-progress, the story of Canada’s last significant gold rush.

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Figure 1

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In the fictional realm of Billie Livingston, dysfunction is ground zero.

THE DIM LIGHT OF REDEMPTION

The Crooked Heart of Mercy by Billie Livingston (Random House $29.95)

BY JEREMY TWIGG

In the world of Facebook, everybody's life appears shiny and perfect: happy couples vacation in exotic locales; jubilant families revel in wholesome activities; freshly-baked cookies are pulled from the oven. In contrast, Billie Livingston's characters are riddled with flaws and anxieties, but their authenticity is appealing; so much so it's hard not to like them.

In 2011, Livingston won the Danuta Gleed Award for short fiction for Greedy Little Eyes. Her 2012 novel, One Good Hustle, was nominated for the Giller Prize. The 2014 movie Sitting on the Edge of Marlene was based on Livingston's novella about an intimate and dysfunctional couple vacation in Hollywood-style plot, in which characters strive to achieve tangible or clearly defined goals. Maggie seeks faith to heal her psychological wounds, experimenting with Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist and Pentecostal churches. Not even visits to synagogues or Buddhist temples bring relief until Maggie accompanies Lucy to The United Church of Spiritualism, where she experiences a positive connection to the memory of her son: "Recalling the sense of him is like rolling in warm cotton." Maggie's spiritual flirtations are cut short when she figures out that a subsequent session with a psychic is rigged. There is no clear path to redemption. Ben's unfor-tuning dislike of his abusive father comes across as entirely reasonable, but his psyche remains dark. He calls one of Maggie's past clients, telling the senior on the other end of the line that sedatives she gave to Maggie as a 'tip' caused their child's death.

Maggie's priest-brother Francis is plagued by binge-drinking tendencies and a rocky relationship with the church, not to mention a penchant for one-night-stands with men. Following a night of debauchery, Francis finds himself the unwelcome subject of an internet video called 'Drunk Priest Propositions Cop' that goes viral. Yet Francis will play a key role in cracking Ben's shell of guilt-induced purgatory. The reader sticks with them, wondering whether or not Maggie and Ben will be able to successfully unite and regain tenderness. There's also a sub-plot involving sto-lem veterinarian pharmaceuticals.

Livingston's knack for dia-

logue makes every encoun-
ter believable. Her prose is consistently un-fla
dishy, then suddenly she'll describe Mag-
gie's eyes as "Acid eyes, kalei-
doscope eyes that tripped and burned and saw it all." According to ABCBookWorld, Livingston has worked as a file clerk, receptionist, cocktail waitress, model, ac-
tor, chocolate sampler and booth-host at a plumber's convention. She has sold diamonds, done PR for a beer company, and dressed up as both Garfield for a kitty lit-
ter company and 'Bingo the Banana Split' for a Teletoons promotion.

As the daughter of an al-
coholic mother, Billie Liv-
ingston, as a writer, seems to accept that people don't need to be perfect to be good—a fact that underpins her disturbing but deeply compassionate fic-
tion. She has called Vancou-
ver home since 1965.

Jeremy Twigg, a gradu-
ate of UBC's creative writ-
ing program, works in the pub-
lic relations industry.
Spirit Level presents long-hidden truths that are now exploding out of the collective social closet and puts evocative faces on them.

“It’s that whole nature/nurture thing,” says Harvey. “That part of what I wanted to talk about with this book.” Equally important, Harvey explores how the hunger to belong—to know where we’re from and who we belong to—is a universal urge. “Who is my tribe? That is really the driving force,” she says. “Spirit Level is about the tribes, and the variety within those tribes.”

So it is that Harvey populates her story with a fistful of dynamic, non-mainstream characters rendered in vivid strokes: lesbian moms; a single mother risen from the ashes of addiction and abuse; a compulsive liar with a real possessiveness problem; and a transgendered character. No stranger to digging into life’s thorny issues, Harvey has written about plastic surgery, teen pregnancy, aging and death, and mental illness. Although Harvey makes her living as an editor, she says “But my writing style for a first draft is not to just ‘get it all out onto the page.’ My style is to write a chapter, go back over and revise it, and then write the next. I revise heavily as I go along, so my first drafts are pretty clean.” It amounts to what she calls her slynky method: drafting freely, looping back to revise, then unrolling the new words. Just like that this approach helps her remember where she’s at in the story, it develops the nuances of her characters, who start out as mere pencil sketches. Families are complicated. They are beautiful things, ever-evolving things, safe things, where soft bonds keep everyone knitted together in mutual harmony. Families are also terrible things, warped things, immovable things where blood or marriage ties bind enough to be strange. Either way, families are not always defined by blood. Courageous types who follow their truths and break with others’ expectations can free themselves of toxic bonds and form their own healthy tribe—consisting of people who actually make them feel good.

This is the central tenet of Harvey’s newest, 233-page novel, a tension-rich, conflict-a-minute ride that packs a helluva didn’t see that coming, didja? whallop about halfway through. Complex and delicately layered, Harvey’s characters—and their families—stay with you. Nobody’s story is straight. The dynamism and unconventionality of Harvey’s characters reflect today’s realities. Nobody’s family—indeed, nobody’s inner world—is entirely conventional, at least not once you look under the hood.


Sarah N. Harvey: For the past 10 years or so, she has been a writer and children’s book editor. Before that she was a bookseller for many years.

Alex Van Tol is a freelance editor and author who lives in Victoria.
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I was a time of big bands, an uncrowded B.C. coast, a war weary world and young love. Meg is 17, going into her last year at high school. She is determined to graduate, not to waste time and energy on an education—because she’ll just wind up getting married anyway. It’s the 1940s. She is not supposed to have both.

Meg is not like her cautious best friend, Amy Miller. Meg is curious. Her body is starting to feel right. She is determined not to be forced into anything that doesn’t feel right.

Around her she sees adults behaving badly. In a coastal town called The Landing (think Sechelt or Gibsons), the adults all seem to be having affairs, contemplating divorces, sharing their spouses. Her small community is a mini-world and young love.

The life of a girl in a time of world war and family pressure to conform.

The story is poignant because the heroine’s seemingly perfect time existed when a world war was decimating an exhausted world. Girls such as Meg had far fewer opportunities to choose the direction of their lives. It is difficult not to presume that much of this convincing story is autobiographical.

Mary Razzell’s first novel, Taking a Chance on Love, was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award in 1984. 978-1-55380-455-0

Cherie Thiessen reviews from Pender Island.
INSPIRED BY THE CITY OF COURTENAY’S 100TH anniversary, the Comox Valley Writers Society decided to compile a reference book about 100 authors associated with the region in the past 100 years. It grew to include 180 authors over 150 years for Writers & Books: Comox Valley 1865-2015 (Poplar Publishing $22). In alphabetized listings that range from Pamela Anderson (Comox) to Joe Ziner (Courtenay), lots of little-known authors are given due along with the likes of Alice Munro, Jack Hodgins, Bus Griffiths and Richard Mackie.

IDENTITY POLITICS AND SOCIETY ARE THE concerns voiced in Twoism (Goose Lane $19.95), the first poetry collection by Ali Blythe of Victoria. Shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, the poems are “erotically charged by the myth of completeness.” Blythe previously received the Candis Graham Writing Scholarship from the Lambda Foundation for excellence in writing and support of the queer community. He has had a residency at the Banff Centre and gained a writing degree at the University of Victoria. 978-0-9655358-8-3

TREVOR CAROLAN HAS LONG BALANCED HIS literary life with his spiritual concerns. Five years after The Beatles famously hung out with the Maharishi and Mia Farrow in India, Trevor Carolan first encountered Buddhism in Calcutta in conversation with a pilgrim monk on the banks of the Hooghly River. Having since written and edited an excellent history of the Literary Storefront in Vancouver, Carolan has revisited his Buddhist affinities with New World Dharma: Interviews and Encounters with Buddhist Teachers, Writers and Leaders (SUNY Press $75). Including his encounter with poet Allen Ginsberg on Cortes Island, Carolan has chapters on the Dalai Lama, Governor Jerry Brown and poets Gary Snyder and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, among others.

VOTED THE YEAR’S HERO OF THE YEAR in 2001, Amber Dawn has delved into trauma, memory and unblushing sexuality through the prism of poetry for Where the Words End and My Body Begins (Arsenal $14.95), nominated for this year’s Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. Previously she won the 2013 City of Vancouver Book Award for her frank, non-fiction portrayal of her years spent hustling sex on the streets. How Poetry Saved My Life: A Hustler’s Memoir (Arsenal $13.95).

ONE OF THE PROVINCE’S MOST UBIQUITOUS COUPLES, chanteuse and kidlit author Jill Barber and CBC host and author Grant Lawrence, are just two of the headliners at the diverse Elephant Mountain Festival, July 7-10, in Nelson. Carolinian Richard J. Hebda will give writerly advice at the Blue Pencil Critique sessions, named in honour of the late Holley Rubinsky, and literary personalities will include Bill Richardson (The Place Little Bustard to Call Me Gramps), J.B. McKinnon (100 Mile Diet, The Once and Future World), naturalist Richard Cannings (British Columbia: A Natural History) and Briony Penn, author of the Haig-Brown Prize-winning bio The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan. Info: www.emlfeval.com

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The Skeleton Tree

(In Press)

Dana Sturmanis

Respected and loved as a teacher, editor and publisher, Dana Sturmanis (1925-2016) died in the Okanagan of cancer at age 60 on March 8. Among the many significant titles she published was Terry Gould’s first book, How the Blind Make Love (1968) and a poetry collection by Pat Lowther, Final Instructions (1980), edited by Fred Candelaria. Her own first book was The Coffee Lover’s Handbook (Intermedia, 1979), co-written with Cathy Ford. “She was a positive presence on our scene,” says George Bowering. “Of course she will be missed.” For a full obit, visit BCBookLook.com

The Dancerhall Years

Joan Haggerty

A spellbinding family saga and an interracial drama that begins one summer on Bowen Island, in 1939.

“A major accomplishment.” — Jack Hoggins

“An elegy to a coastal culture almost lost.” — Teresa Kishkan

LAUNCHES

Vancouver — June 23 Cottage Bistro, 7:30pm
West Vancouver Library — June 29, 7pm
Bowen Island — The Gallery, Artisan Square, Aug 13, 6:30pm

J is for Johel

Jan Drabek’s biography of Vladimir Krajina, the World War Two Czech resistance hero and founder of B.C.’s Ecological Reserve Program and holder of both the highest Canadian and Czech decorations, has been published in Prague.

Originally published by Ronsdale Press in 2012 as Vladimir Krajina: World War II Hero and Ecology Pioneer, it was re-launched in a Czech version at the Canadian Embassy in Prague as Dva Zivoty Vladimira Krajiny (Two Lives of Vladimir Krajina).

Jebb undertook the translation himself.

K is for Krajina

In 1988, Donra Macdonald won for Nelson City Council and began her longest job ever—19 years as a city councillor. “Being a city councillor is like doing a dozen different jobs,” she says. Her Surviving City Hall (Nightwood $22.95) is a memoir about civic government with stories that explore both the mechanics of local government and the humanity of that work.

L is for Lawrence

Iain Lawrence

in memoriam

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M is for Macdonald

Fraser Nixon

Fraser Nixon’s second noir crime novel, Straight to the Head (Arsenal $17.95), evolves from the theft of a drug shipment in Vancouver in 1983. Corrupt cops, bounty hunters and scam artists cavort in sushi bars, nightclubs and New Wave art galleries. “Back then there were ashtrays and payphones, but no ATMs. We forget what it was like to carry cash around,” Nixon says. “For my second book, I wanted to step back into that time. To drink bad coffee and not know what the hell sushi is.”

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neighbourhoods in the United States. Specifically, he examines gayborhoods such as the Castro District in San Francisco and New York’s Greenwich Village in the face of their increased integration with straight culture. How such clearly designated gayborhoods will cope with “post-gay culture” has yet to be determined.

WITH GLENNNA COLLETT, BOOK DESIGNER


KAREN SHKLANKA IS A POET, A FAMILY PHYSICIAN and an Argentine Tango dance instructor. With an MFA in creative writing from UBC, Shklanka first recalled her experiences as a practitioner of family medicine in Sumach’s Red Arms (Coteau, 2008) with unsentimental poems about “stitching a fight victim back together in Moose Factory” and other medical rites of passage. Ceremony of Touching (Coteau $16.95) continues her work in the same vein, exploring and celebrating the preciousness of human contact, whether on a dance floor or an emergency ward.

JULIANE OKOT BITEK’S POETRY PROJECT on the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Rwanda genocide is 100 Days (University of Alberta $19.95), part of a literary series dedicated to Robert Kroetsch. As someone who has lived in both her native Kenya and Uganda, Okot Bitek recalls her family’s displacement under the vicious regime of dictator Adi Amin while reflecting on the horrific and tragic genocide in Rwanda. Her work incorporates the Ugandan Acholi oral tradition of her father, the poet Okot p’Bitek, as well as Anglican hymns; slave songs from the Americas, and the contemporary styles of spoken word and hip-hop.

IAN MCTAGGART COWAN’S MILESTONES were many: he was the founder of the first Canadian university wildlife department, he was a pioneer of nature-based television shows, and his early work in Canada’s national parks became the basis for wildlife conservation and environmental education. He addressed issues from climate change to endangered species before these topics were on the public’s radar. Briony Penn’s biographical tribute to McTaggart Cowan, The Real Thing (Rocky Mountain $30) was nominated for two B.C. Book Prizes, winning one. See pages 22-23.

AS A SCHOLAR WITHIN THE PETER WALL Institute at UBC, sociologist Amin Ghaziani has published There Goes The Gayborhood (Princeton University Press $35), an overview that looks at the evolution of distinctly gay...
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THE FIRST AUTHOR PUBLISHED IN B.C., Alfred Waddington has a mountain named after him. So does author Warburton Pike. There’s a Bruce Hutchison Library in Victoria. Godwin Drive in Whonnock is named for Fraser Valley novelist George Godwin, thanks to efforts of historians Fred Braches and Robert Thomson. Now the efforts of Sechelt town councillor and publisher Robert Thomson fortu- nes of historians will be recognized by the provincial government with the naming of “burton Pike Drive” in Sechelt. Sechelt resident Burton Pike is known for his work as a biographer of Alexander Muir and his political activism. Pike was also an early advocate for Aboriginal rights and reconciliation. 

The Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award Trower Sechelt town councillor and publisher Robert Thomson is one of the 2016 recipients of the Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for B.C. writing in 2002.

Sechelt is located on the northern part of the Sunshine Coast, a region that has seen significant development in recent years. The town is known for its beautiful beaches, hiking trails, and scenic landscapes. The Town of Sechelt was incorporated in 1953 and has a population of around 12,000 people. It is a popular destination for tourists and outdoor enthusiasts.

Robert Thomson is a well-known figure in the Sechelt community. He is a local historian and has written several books on the history of the area. Thomson is also a past president of the Sechelt Historical Society and has been involved in various community projects. His dedication to preserving Sechelt’s history and promoting local culture has earned him many awards and accolades.

The Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the arts in B.C. The award recognizes excellence in writing, music, dance, theatre, and other artistic fields. The recipient is chosen by a panel of judges and is presented with a certificate and a cash prize.

In this year’s award ceremony, Robert Thomson was one of the recipients. He was recognized for his contributions to the local community and his dedication to preserving the history of Sechelt. The award highlights the importance of recognizing and celebrating the achievements of individuals who have made a positive impact on their communities.

Overall, the naming of “burton Pike Drive” in Sechelt is a fitting tribute to Burton Pike and his work as a biographer and advocate for Aboriginal rights. It is a reminder of the importance of preserving our history and recognizing the contributions of those who have helped shape our communities.

Xan Shian at Morar, looking over to Skye from the mainland of Ireland, 2013. Photo by Michael Elcock.
LONGSHORING on the Fraser
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“Longshoring on the Fraser: Stories and History of ILUW Local 502” is a fascinating book that chronicles the experiences of Canadian longshoremen who faced decades of employer intransigence, government interference, and industrial disputes. The book highlights the resilience and strength of these workers, who held their ground against the odds.

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— Andrew Parnaby, Author of “Citizen Docker”

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Letter from Dolly Bach of Kamloops

Happy Bravo

I have just learned of Alan Twigg’s winning the Lieutenant Governor’s Award. I write at once to say how happy I am. My only criticism is that it shows just how far too long this recognition has been delayed. I have admired for decades what he’s done for B.C. Bravo!

Gord Ganenby
Toronto

No rest for the literary

I was (and am) delighted to read that Alan Twigg has been named winner of this year’s Lt. Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence! It probably should have happened long ago but I hope this is happening at a time when it has the most meaning for him.

There must be a good deal of satisfaction in knowing that writers all over B.C. must be especially pleased, knowing how much he has done for us all. He probably won’t rest on his laurels for long, but I do hope he takes some time to consider how very wide the circle of grateful and admiring writers has become.

Jack McGinnis
Victoria

Defiant love

I’m so pleased to see that Alan Twigg was awarded the Order of Canada—it’s truly a well-deserved honour that speaks to the longevity and diligence of his efforts over B.C. must be especially pleased, knowing how much he has done for us all. He probably won’t rest on his laurels for long, but I do hope he takes some time to consider how very wide the circle of grateful and admiring writers has become.

Susan Yates
Gabriola Island

Representative news

So nice to hear about the Lt. Governor’s Award; it really hit home for me because it was when I was reading the latest BC BookWorld cover. Biblio-faithfully yours.

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In June 19, 1939, about 5,000 striking longshoremen set off from Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver, marching to battle against Ballantine Pier to confront scabs. Singing songs, World War One veterans joined the marchers. The police chief yelled: “OKAY BOYS, YOU ASKED FOR IT.” Police fired tear gas and charged into the crowd with nightsticks raised. There was an onlooked of police tear gas, bullets, and clubs. Spectators were also attacked by police.

The injured staggered around blood streaming from their wounds. Police on horseback chased marchers over ten city blocks. Tear gas bombs were thrown by police on motorcycles.

Inside the union hall on Hastings Street, a women’s auxiliary set up a first aid station to help the wounded. The battle of Ballantine Pier raged on for three hours and was reported in newspapers across North America. After the battle, the union moved their strike headquarters to the Bow and Arrows Hall (once home to the IWW).

**The Grandfather of Graphic Artist and Musician David Lester, named Frederick Bruno Lester, was one of the longshoremen who fought. After he died in the 1970s, they found a blackjack and brass knuckles in his closet.**

“In retrospect, the battle of Ballantine Pier was not a defeat,” says Lester. “It was a victory of workers engaged in the fight for a better world.”

Lester has now contributed a 12-page graphic story about the ‘Battle of Ballantine Pier’ to Drawn: Changing Graphic History of Work-Class Struggle (Between the Lines $29.95), an anthology of nine comics outlining Canadian labour struggles.

In the 1950s, the Bow and Arrows Hall became a punk rock venue where Lester went to see bands. He subsequently formed his political band called Mecca Noir.

Also newly available is a history of ILWU Local 502, Longshoring on the Fraser (Granville Island $24.95), an essential reference for anyone interested in B.C. labour history.

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**Where Grampa got his brass knuckles**

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